



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 109 No. 75

Sunday, June 24, 2018

75¢ plus tax

**Meet OPD
Officer Francis**
... Page 2

**Ballard leaves
state with
monkey ... Page 3**

**SFWMD moves
more water south**
... Page 7

**Rotary presents
awards**
... Page 8

UF has bee lab
... Page 11

Backup plans protect water supply

By Katrina Elsen
Okeechobee News

As the summer heat brings the threat of algae blooms on Lake Okeechobee, the Okeechobee Utility Authority (OUA) is ready with its own testing, water treatment and back-up plans.

OUA pumps about 2.5 million gallons a day from Lake Okeechobee, explained OUA Executive Director John Hayford. The water pumps at the Clif Betts Jr. Lakeside Recreation Area (Lock 7) draw water from pipes that run out about 100 feet from shore.

OUA staffers watch the water intake areas for any sign of algal blooms, he said. They also watch for signs of algae in the water by sight and smell and periodically test for microcystins.

See OUA— Page 5



Okeechobee News
The pump station at the Clif Betts Jr. Lakeside Recreation Area (aka Lock 7) draws in about 2.5 million gallons of water each day.

Lake Levels

14.00 feet
Last Year: 12.23 feet

Sponsored By:

Pogey's Family Restaurant
1759 S. Parrott Ave.
763-7222

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

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

okeechobeenews.net

Free Speech Free Ads



Special to the Okeechobee News
Executive director of the Treasure Coast League of Cities, Patricia Christensen, presented City of Okeechobee Mayor Dowling R. Watford Jr. a 2018 Home Rule Hero Award on behalf of the Florida League of Cities at the Okeechobee City Council regular meeting Tuesday, June 19.

Mayor Watford is 'Home Rule Hero'

By Matteo Tullio
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee City Council meeting on Tuesday, June 19, kicked off with a surprise, last-second addition to the agenda. Mayor Dowling R. Watford Jr. was surprised he was named a 2018 "Home Rule Hero" by the Florida League of Cities for his work to protect the home rule powers of Florida's cities during this year's legislative session.

The Florida League of Cities recognized 89 city officials with the 2018 Home Rule Hero Award. Mayor Watford was presented the award from Treasure Coast League of Cities Executive Director Patricia Christensen.

"It's one of those additions we

didn't want you to know about," City Administrator Marcos Montes De Oca jokingly said to Mayor Watford, of the agenda add-on.

Home Rule is the ability for a city to address local problems through and by local decision-makers with minimal state interference. The Home Rule Hero Award recipients are local government officials — both elected and nonelected — who consistently responded to the League's request to reach out to members of the legislature and help give a local perspective to an issue.

"These dedicated municipal officials are some of the Florida League of Cities' biggest advocates for municipal issues," said Florida

See HERO — Page 10

Savannah sez...
"Daddy's focus has been keeping customers comfortable for nearly 35 years"

QUALITY A/C
and Heating of Okeechobee
"Our Focus Is To Make You Comfortable"
467-1545
www.QualityACokee.com

33RD ANNIVERSARY
1984-2017

American Standard
0% Interest Financing Available

LIC# CAC029420

Meet the Officer: Jessica Francis of OPD

By Matteo Tullio

Okeechobee News

Officer Jessica Francis was born 1981 in Bradenton and spent her childhood, up to 9 years old, in Palmetto before settling in Okeechobee. During her summers she would go to the beach with friends and family and, as she got older, would spend her time babysitting for family friends who lived in the Palmetto area. Some of her other activities included being outside riding her bicycle and climbing trees.

Officer Francis graduated from Okeechobee High School in 1999, with her favorite subject being art and drama classes “mainly because it was where I found the best chance to express myself freely,” she said. Officer Francis continued, “I was also in Diversified Cooperative Training (DCT), which allowed me to gain credits toward graduation while I worked. School was awesome for me because I was a very social person and loved to see my friends.”

Shortly after her graduation, Officer Francis began to pursue an associate’s degree in 2003. She was only able to take a few classes intermittently due to her family, which was growing at the time. “I had my first daughter in 2001 and then my second in 2003. Juggling kids and home life slowed my ability to take classes.” However, she did

not let any of this discourage her. “In 2012, yes, nine years later,” she said humorously before continuing, “I graduated with my AA and began to pursue my bachelor’s degree in human services.”

Officer Francis inquired about a career in the military with a recruiter — after she separated from the father of her children — with aspirations to be like her dad, stating, “My father is a Marine, and I felt an internal desire to follow in his footsteps.” Unfortunately for Officer Francis, she was told she could join the service but would have to relinquish custody of her daughters to their father, which she stated she was not interested in doing, so she continued with her schooling in the human services field instead.

When asked why she chose the career of law enforcement, Officer Francis replied: “While I was attending classes at the Indian River State College Safety Complex in Fort Pierce, I saw the academy cadets and, after watching them, realized the answer to my quest was law enforcement. It would allow me to stay local while serving my community, so I started the enrollment process. I was enrolled in full-time classes working toward my bachelor’s, so I took the long route and did the part-time academy at night, which took an entire year.”

Officer Francis continued, “I had a job offer from the Okeechobee County Sheriff’s Office before graduation, which I accepted. I stayed with OCSO for three years before making the switch to the Okeechobee Police Department just this year in May.”

In her spare time, Officer Francis likes to go to the beach, spend time with her family and exercise. “I love to train and compete in bodybuilding competitions. It is my form of therapy, which has kept me sane in all my chaos. I also love to paddle-board and hang out at the beach along with spending as much time (as possible) with my children and two dogs — which are my world!”

Officer Francis said if she could live in another time period, it would be the 1950s because “people just seemed to be so much happier then, and things were so much simpler.” She said that if she could meet any influential figure, it would be King Leonidas I, the ancient king of the city-state of Sparta. “His incredible show of honor and courage, even when facing imminent death, is intriguing to me, a guiding light of sorts in my life.”

Officer Francis concluded her interview with the chosen superhuman power of the ability to fly, stating, “The freedom flying offers has always captivated me!”



Special to the Okeechobee News
Jessica Francis joined the Okeechobee Police Department in May.

Okeechobee Forecast

Brought to you by:
QUALITY A/C
and Heating of Okeechobee
“Our Focus Is To Make You Comfortable”
www.QualityACokee.com 467-1545



Today: Partly cloudy in the morning. Thunderstorms developing later in the day. High 88F. Winds NE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 90%.

Tonight: A few clouds. Low 72F. Winds light and variable.

able.

Extended Forecast

Monday: Partly cloudy skies during the morning hours. Thunderstorms likely in the afternoon. High 88F. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 80%.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy. Low 72F. Winds light and variable.

Tuesday: Isolated thunderstorms in the morning. Skies will become partly cloudy later in the day. High 88F. Winds ENE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 30%.

Tuesday Night: A few clouds. Low 72F. Winds light and variable.

FWC offers alligator safety advice for all year round

Report nuisance alligators by calling 866-FWC-Gator (392-4286)

Alligators become more active during warm weather months, and it’s not uncommon to see them throughout the state. Most interactions consist of seeing alligators at a distance. However, if you have a concern about a specific alligator, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) urges you to call their toll-free Nuisance Alligator Hotline at 866-FWC-GATOR (392-4286).

“The FWC places the highest priority on public safety,” said Eric Sutton, FWC’s executive director. “When someone calls our Nuisance Alligator Hotline to report an alligator they believe poses a threat, we dispatch one of our contracted nuisance alligator trappers to resolve the situation.”

Although alligator bite incidents resulting in serious injury are rare in Florida, the FWC recommends taking precautions when having fun in and around the water. Alligators inhabit all 67 counties in Florida and can be found anywhere there is standing water. Reduce the chances of conflicts with alligators by swimming only in designated swimming

areas during daylight hours. Also, keep pets on a leash and away from the water.

Because alligators control their body temperature by basking in the sun, they may be easily observed. However, the FWC urges people to keep their distance if they see one. And never feed alligators because it is dangerous and illegal.

The FWC also works to keep Floridians and visitors informed, including providing advice in “A Guide to Living with Alligators,” online at <http://myfwc.com/media/152524/alligator-brochure.pdf>.

Learn more about alligators at MyFWC.com/Alligator.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Because alligators control their body temperature by basking in the sun, they may be easily observed. However, the FWC urges people to keep their distance if they see one.

Roofing with the name you trust!

BIG LAKE
ROOFING & REPAIRS
Residential Commercial

FREE Estimates

Licensed and Insured St. Lic. CCC046939

Don't make a Mistake!
Call Big Lake
863-763-ROOF (7663)

Ballard leaves state with spider monkey

By Matteo Tullio
Okeechobee News

A bond hearing was set to be held at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 21, in Courtroom D of the Okeechobee County Judicial Center for Tina Ballard — the owner of Spanky, the spider monkey that has been alleged to have attacked two separate Home Depot employees on Sunday, May 27, and Monday, June 4.

Ballard was not present at the bond hearing.

Ballard is being charged with misdemeanors of two counts of maintaining captive wildlife in a neglectful manner, and one count on failure to vaccinate an animal for rabies, improper caging of captive class I, II, or specified III wildlife, and culpable negligence causing harm. She is also being charged with failure to have a safety entrance for captive class I, II, or specified III wildlife which is a violation of Florida Administrative Code 68A-6.003(1)(a).

19th Judicial Circuit County Court Judge Jerald D. Bryant, who presided over the bond hearing, set Ballard's bond amount to \$29,000 on the aforementioned charges.

He also informed Ballard's attorney, Alex Weintraub, that she is now given a court order stating she could not be in possession of the spider monkey but that Spanky could remain in the possession of another authorized entity. "If law enforcement finds her (Ballard) in possession of it (Spanky), then they can seize the monkey at that point and give it to someone who is authorized to possess it," Judge Bryant said.

In an email sent on Wednesday, June 20, at 11:52 a.m. from Ballard to Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Officer Bradley Toby, she stated, "I do not trust that the state will not try and take Spanky, as you know. So I have taken her and my other animals home to assure they are not confiscated ... I have been caring for my injured mother and my 19-year-old daughter (who needs a heart transplant) in North Carolina and feel it is more important to be there for them."

Ballard's email to Officer Toby also stated, "I have a phone interview set up with my attorney to handle bail and all that, I stayed in Florida while on quarantine and complet-

ed all health issues with Spanky. I showed up for my hearing and will do so again on July 16. I was to complete Spanky's habitat within the next two days, however, felt it more important to get her to safety with my daughter and mother after hearing how full-on they are coming after me. I have no one here to care for the animals and legally for Spanky. I am doing my best to comply with all requirements and have no desire to be a fugitive."

Assistant State Attorney Ashley Albright stated to the court, "If you read the context of the email sent yesterday, not only does she indicate she was called by an attorney but that she was also aware of a bond hearing today and she's intentionally leaving the state in order to hide the monkey."

In a Facebook post by Ballard, she stated, "My license is in jeopardy, Spanky and I literally have to move out of the state of Florida because of that."

Ballard did have a prior case set for arraignment on Monday, June 18, which she was present for, prior to her apparent departure.

Judge Bryant noted, in the acquisition documents for Spanky, a North Carolina address for a veterinarian was listed where the spider monkey received examinations.

According to FWC Officer Jesse Alford's testimony, through his investigation on May 27 (the first incident that went unreported to law enforcement), he found that a store manager had instructed Ballard not to come to the store with the monkey.

Per testimony from Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office Civil Division — whose purpose and function is to serve and execute the various legal processes issued not only by and for the several non-criminal courts of the state and its subdivisions, but also for the legal community and the general public — Deputy Rodney Rucks attempted to serve Ballard "at least six times" between Tuesday, June 19, and Thursday, June 21. He stated there was a locked gate at the front of Ballard's property and, upon conversation with a neighbor, discovered Ballard was either hiding or had left the county.

Ballard's arraignment has been set for 9 a.m. on July 16.

Audubon Florida presents sustainable rancher award to Buck Island Ranch

Special to the Okeechobee News

ORLANDO — On Wednesday, June 20, Audubon Florida announced Buck Island Ranch as the recipient of the 2018 "Sustainable Rancher of the Year" award. A 10,500-acre cattle ranch, Buck Island is part of Archbold Biological Station located in Highlands County. Audubon's Charles Lee presented the award at the Florida Cattlemen's Association's annual convention at the Omni Resort near Orlando.

"The important work at Archbold's Buck Island Ranch not only conserves this beautiful ranch but also showcases how cattle ranching and our natural environment can

coexist successfully," said Mr. Lee, Audubon Florida's director of advocacy. "Working lands and collaborative partnerships like this one represent one of the best hopes for advancing conservation in Florida."

Since 1988, under a lease from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Archbold has successfully managed Buck Island Ranch as a site for scientific research, education and conservation. It hosts outstanding wildlife populations; Archbold scientists have documented more than 722 plant and animal species at the ranch, including six federally threatened or endangered species.

The ranch is also an important innovator, pioneering new ways to clean and retain water on working ranches, conducting research on water management and implementing water retention projects on-site.

To ensure that Buck Island Ranch will always be used for ranching and protection of wildlife habitat, 3,746 acres of it are enrolled in conservation easements under the USDA's Wetland Reserve Program. An additional 6,754 acres of ranch are ranked on the Tier 1 priority list for easement acquisition under the state's Rural and Family Lands Protection Program, a key program to engage ranchers in conservation easements.

While achieving outstanding and large-scale benefits for conservation, Buck Island Ranch succeeds as a commercial cattle ranch. It is among the top 20 commercial cow-calf producers in Florida, with approximately 3,000 Brahma-cross cows bred to 150 Angus or Charolaise bulls. Historically, the ranch produced about 2,300 calves, but today it works with other Florida ranchers, retaining ownership of its calves in-state and marketing the beef in Florida markets.

Audubon collaborates with landowners, land managers, government agencies and private industry to increase the quality of habitat on privately managed lands. Audubon also helps landowners and land managers apply bird-friendly practices on their lands and develop market-based solutions to advance conservation. Each year, Audubon Florida recognizes responsible ranchers with the Sustainable Rancher of the Year award.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Carlton Ward Jr.
Audubon Florida has chosen Buck Island Ranch as the recipient of the 2018 "Sustainable Rancher of the Year" award. A 10,500-acre cattle ranch, Buck Island is part of Archbold Biological Station in Highlands County.

"Always on Top of the Job"

LUVIANO ROOFING

Re-Roofing Specialists

- Metal & Shingle Roofs
- Flats & Leaks Repair

FREE ESTIMATES

State Lic. #CCC1327338

863-357-3838

Public Forum/Speak Out

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

School days

The Okeechobee County School Board considered starting the high school day later but opted to delay the decision until January. Readers had these comments.

• "If you want teenagers to actually learn anything, high school should not start before 9 a.m. Teenagers' brains are not functioning properly until at least 9 a.m. Starting class at 7 a.m. is not good for their health or for their education. Education should come first, not concerns about after-school activities." — M. Haus

• "In Texas, I was in a school that was year long, 8 a.m. start, 5 p.m. finish, Monday through Friday. Best school I was ever in, and I moved a lot and have been to more schools than most." — Joshua Walker

• "Almost a year in deciding this? Why?" — Kelly Brennan

• "There's always a delay in everything. With traffic lights, usually a death has to happen before the lights are placed. Sad but true." — Johnny Flynn

• "Schools that have switched to a 9 a.m. start have fewer absences and higher test scores. Teens learn more and faster when you start school at 9 a.m. If sports team practices are the concern, why not hold sports practice at 7 a.m. Instead of after school? They could get that exercise when it is still cool instead of risking heat stroke on

the practice field after school." — J. Zimpel

• "Why is it so difficult to just make a decision?" — Shannon Thomas Stripling

Governor's order

On Wednesday, Gov. Rick Scott issued an executive order that more water from Lake Okeechobee should be sent south, instead of east and west. On Thursday, the Army Corps of Engineers explained that it operates under the established schedule and, since the corps is a federal agency, the governor's order will not change its procedures. Readers had these comments.

• "Looks like Scott's senatorial campaign is trying to green up his incredible indifference to Florida's environment. Aren't election-year conversions sweet?" — Louis Brouillard

• "Big talk, no action. That's right, huh? A politician running for office will promise anything." — Johnny Flynn

• "The governor of Florida can't order the federal Department of the Interior to change the rules about sending water through the nesting grounds of the Cape Sable sea sparrow. The only way to send more water south is to open all of the S-12 gates to let water under the Tamiami Trail, and the Department of the Interior has the power to keep them closed. Nice speech, Gov. Scott, but it doesn't change anything. State governors do not have power over the federal agencies." — K. Booker

Father-daughter dance

• "This event has become a tradition in our house, and every year, my little girl can't wait for me to help her get ready. I think it has to be one of the best events the B.R.A.T. Club puts on. So thankful to everyone who puts their heart and soul into it." — Jocelyn Weeks Elliott

Help save lives by donating blood

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

June blood drives in Okeechobee include:

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

Letter to the Editor

Where is the outrage?

I am a retired snowbird living in West Virginia in the summer and Florida in the winter. I, like many people, had great misgivings about the incoming 2017 administration. Unfortunately, those misgivings have been justified far beyond expectations of many, including me. I can no longer limit my disappointments and fears to local conversation. I have the sent the following to [multiple news outlets].

WHERE IS THE OUTRAGE?

This administration of the United States of America has instituted a policy of taking a child from the arms of its mother and placing it in a makeshift detention center.

WHERE IS THE OUTRAGE?

The justification asserted is to deter a refugee from appearing at our border with a child. They apparently choose to ignore the trauma to a 3-year-old child (or younger or older) being taken from its mother and placed in an abandoned Walmart building. The staff in the detention centers are

ill-equipped to handle the psychological trauma and damage to a 3-year-old child crying for its mother among hundreds of other children.

WHERE IS THE OUTRAGE?

This horrible treatment of children is an excessive and foolish policy that requires immediate cessation. Our nation has long been the leader in the advocacy of human rights around the globe. Yet, embarrassingly, it takes the United Nations to declare that our actions constitute a violation of human rights. Where is our Congress?

WHERE IS THE OUTRAGE?

If our elected representatives do not possess the character to be placed in "Profiles of Courage," could they not muster the fortitude to require the common decency of human rights that we have so long advocated around the world? Or are they and we to be placed in a dark chapter of our nation's history?

WHERE IS THE OUTRAGE?

Cassius H. Toon

Road Watch

Motorists are reminded to wear safety belts and drive with caution, courtesy, common sense, and patience as they travel through work zones. Remember, speeding fines are doubled in work zones. Travelers can visit www.FL511.com or dial "511" from their phone to learn about traffic conditions on major roadways across the state. Roadwork planned this week includes the following:

Okeechobee County

• **U.S. 441 from south of NE 131st Lane to south of NE 224th Street:** Construction project: Crews will begin to make improvements along 5.8 miles of US 441 from south of NE 131st Lane to south of NE 224th Street in Okeechobee County. The project includes milling and with resurfacing, adding a southbound left turn lane, drainage improvements, signing and pavement markers and signalization on State Road 15 from NE 131st Lane northerly to south of NE 224th Street. The contractor is Ranger Construction. Estimated completion date is fall of 2018. Motorists should anticipate daytime and nighttime single-lane closures and follow flagger direction. Expect delays and use caution – watch for workers

in the construction zone. Motorists should expect single-lane closures and be prepared to follow flagger direction at the intersection of Potter Road and U.S. 441 from Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. through 5:30 p.m.

• **U.S. 98/U.S. 441, S.R. 78 and the access road to Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail:** Construction project: Crews are making improvements at various locations along U.S. 98/U.S. 441, State Road 78 and the access road to the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail in Okeechobee. Work includes sidewalk construction, shoulder widening, base work, drainage improvements, curb & gutter, guardrail removal, signing and pavement marking, signalization and lighting. The contractor is American Lighting & Signalization. Estimated completion date is spring of 2018. Please watch for workers in the construction zone and use caution.

• **S.R. 70 from SW 78th Terrace to North Parrott Avenue/U.S. 441 from S.R. 70 to Osceola County:** Maintenance permit project: Utility work will be close to the roadway in urban areas but further away in rural areas. Please use caution in these areas and watch for crews working close to the roadway.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

Address: 107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D
Okeechobee, FL 34974

Website: florida.newszap.com

To Submit News

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

E-Mail: okeeneews@newszap.com

To Place A Display Ad

Phone: 863-763-3134
E-Mail: okeeadsales@newszap.com

To Place A Classified Ad

Call 877-353-2424 to place a classified advertisement from home.

Fax: 877-354-2424

E-Mail: classads@newszap.com

Billing Department

E-Mail: billteam@newszap.com

To Start or Stop A Paper

Phone: (800) 282-8586

E-Mail: readerservices@newszap.com

The Okeechobee News is available three times a week via home delivery and is on sale at rack and store locations throughout Okeechobee County. Call the office to find out if your home is within our present home-distribution boundaries.

Call 800-282-8586 to report a missed newspaper or poor delivery.

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

Okeechobee News

USPS 406-160

Published 3 times a week: Sunday, Wednesday and Friday by Independent Newspapers, Inc.

107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D • Okeechobee, FL 34974
Periodicals Postage Paid at Okeechobee, FL 34974

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Okeechobee News

Circulation Administration

110 Galaxy Road • Dover, DE 19901

Staff

Publisher/Editor: Katrina Elsen

Circulation Manager: Cindy Eckert

Our Purpose...

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

We Pledge...

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

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



Blue-green algae toxins found in freshwater all over the world

By **Katrina Elskén**
Okeechobee News

It's common knowledge that there is algae in Lake Okeechobee. That's no surprise, since Lake Okeechobee is a freshwater lake. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, algae and cyanobacteria are common in freshwater worldwide.

Algae is in freshwater all the time, not just when it grows fast enough to be considered a "bloom."

Blooms — visible clumps of algae — often contain more than one type of algae and may contain a mixture of algae and cyanobacteria.

In common speech, cyanobacteria are often referred to as "blue-green algae," but they aren't technically algae. Cyanobacteria are prokaryotic organisms. Green algae are eukaryotic organisms.

What's the difference?

A prokaryote is a microscopic single-celled organism that has neither a distinct nucleus with a membrane nor other specialized organelles. A eukaryote is an organism consisting of a cell or cells in which the genetic material is DNA in the form of chromosomes contained within a distinct nucleus.

According to the EPA, cyanobacteria that can produce toxins does not always do so. Many factors are involved in turning an algal bloom into a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB).

According to "Health Effects Support Document for Cyanobacterial Toxin Mycrocystins," published June 2015 by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, factors that may contribute to a HAB include temperature, nutrient load and salinity levels.

"Mycrocystins are the most common cyanotoxins found worldwide and are relatively stable in the environment," the report states.

When HABs happen in nature, nature usually takes care of it.

The report explains: "They are susceptible to degradation by aquatic bacteria found naturally in rivers and reservoirs. In aquatic environments the toxin tends to remain contained within the cyanobacterial cell and is released in substantial amounts only upon cell lysis (breaking the membrane of the cell)."

But the excess nutrients added to a waterway by human action — by fertilizing a lawn or garden, or from a leaking septic tank or sewer system — can result in a HAB too large to be neutralized by the natural bacteria.

According to the EPA, concentrations associated with blooms in surface waters in the U.S. and Europe typically range from very low levels (below the measurable detection limit) and have been measured as high as 150,000 micrograms per liter.

"Exposure to cyanobacteria and their toxins may also occur by ingestion of toxin-contaminated food, by inhalation and dermal contact during bathing or showering, and during recreational activities in waterbodies with the toxins," the report continues.

"Under the optimal pH, nutrient availability, light and temperature conditions, cyanobacteria can reproduce quickly, forming a

bloom," the EPA states.

Nutrients are key environmental drivers that influence the proportion of cyanobacteria in the phytoplankton community, the cyanobacterial biovolume, toxin production and the impact that cyanobacteria may have on ecosystem function and water quality.

"Different cyanobacteria species use organic and inorganic nutrient forms differently. Loading of nitrogen and/or phosphorus to water bodies from agricultural, industrial and urban sources influence the development of cyanobacterial blooms and may be related to cyanotoxin production.

While the EPA study found that cyanobacteria needs both phosphorus and nitrogen to grow, high nitrogen levels seem to be linked to the toxicity of the blooms.

According to the EPA report, studies indicate that "the dominance of mycrocystin blooms during the summer is linked to nitrogen loading, which stimulates growth and toxin synthesis.

"Some studies have observed a decrease in toxicity of mycrocystin after removal of nitrogen or inorganic carbon, but no changes were observed when phosphorus was removed from a cyanobacteria culture," the report continues.

"Eutrophic systems already subject to bloom events are prone to further expansion of these blooms due to additional nitrogen inputs, especially if these nutrients are available from internal sources," the EPA report states. It adds that recent studies have found as a lake becomes more eutrophic, the aquatic systems are able to absorb higher concentrations of nitrogen.

The studies "strongly suggest that reduction in both the nitrogen and the phosphorus inputs are needed to stem eutrophication and cyanobacterial bloom expansion."

Mycrocystins are produced by a variety of cyanobacteria. Currently around 100 different congeners of mycrocystins have been identified, with mycrocystin-LR the most common and best known worldwide.

Mycrocystins are also degraded by aquatic bacteria found naturally in rivers and reservoirs.

According to a survey conducted in Florida in 1999 between the months of June and November, the most frequently observed cyanobacteria were mycrocystin (43.1 percent), cylindrospermopsis (39.5 percent), and anabaena spp (28.7 percent). Of 167 surface water samples taken from 75 waterbodies, 88 samples were positive for toxins from cyanobacteria. Microcystin was the most commonly found cyanotoxin in water samples collected, occurring in 87 water samples.

The World Health Organization considers toxin levels about 10 micrograms per liter to be a "moderate risk" for recreational exposure.

"The occurrence of cyanotoxins in drinking water depends on their levels in the raw source water and the effectiveness of treatment methods for removing cyanobacteria and cyanotoxins during the production of drinking water," the EPA states.

Mycrocystins have been found in raw and in finished drinking water. In a study done in 2007 in 33 lakes across the U.S., mycrocystins exceeded 1 microgram per liter levels in

7 percent of the raw water samples. A survey conducted in 1999 in Florida found microcystin concentrations in finished water ranging from below detection levels to 12.5 micrograms per liter.

OUA

Continued From Page 1

Mr. Hayford said microcystin tests are not among the water quality tests required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The tests are an added precaution.

Mr. Hayford said the South Florida Water Management District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection also check the lake for algal blooms and keep them updated on any problems.

So far, no algae has been reported near the water intake and tests have not shown any problems, he said.

If toxins were to be detected, he explained, OUA would switch to its backup plan, pumping water from the Rim Canal and from wells. OUA prefers to use surface water, he explained, because the well water is "hard water" and customers do not like it, as it leaves spots on surfaces and causes equipment such as water heaters to wear out more quickly.

In addition, the ground well pumps can only provide 1 million gallons of water per day, which is less than half of the current demand.

The north area of the lake where the OUA water intake is located usually has cleaner water than is found near the center of the

lake, he said, as it picks up freshwater flowing in from the Kissimmee River.

Algal blooms are more commonly seen near the center and on the east shoreline of the lake, which is about 40 miles across.

Mr. Hayford said they have never had to go to the backup plan due to algae, but they have switched to the Rim Canal pumps and wells when hurricanes churned the lake waters, leaving them muddy.

In 2004 and 2005 when hurricanes hit the area, the water intake lines from the lake were so fouled with mud that many Okeechobee Utility Authority customers were without water for several days.

Now, when a storm approaches, OUA turns off the lake intake pumps and switches over to the backup system, which also has backup generators in case of power outages.

The surface water plant treats water from Lake Okeechobee by coagulation, filtration, ozonation and chloramines for disinfection.

Mr. Hayford said the ozone takes out the color, turbidity and odor, and has the added benefit that it inactivates toxins.

The EPA publication "Cyanobacteria and Cyanotoxins: Information for Drinking Water Systems" states that ozone is "very effective for oxidizing extracellular microcystin, anatoxin-a and cylindrospermopsin."

Practice patience when driving on the road

Special to the Okeechobee News

TALLAHASSEE — Through June 28, the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) commercial vehicle enforcement troopers will begin the safety campaign Ticketing Aggressive Cars and Trucks (TACT). The campaign seeks to educate motorists about the dangers of aggressive driving around large trucks and reducing commercial motor vehicle related crashes.

"Saving lives on Florida's roadways is FHP's number one priority," said Colonel Gene Spaulding, director of the Florida Highway Patrol. "We can reduce crashes if we all share the road safely, avoid aggressive driving behaviors and exercise additional caution when driving near larger vehicles."

Motorists are at a serious disadvantage if they are involved in a crash with a large commercial vehicle. Commercial vehicles can be as long as 80 feet and weigh up to 20 tons. To keep motorists safe on Florida roads, troopers will be looking for car and truck drivers who display aggressive driving behaviors such as following too closely, speeding and unsafe lane changes.

Motorists should protect themselves and their passengers by learning how to share the road safely. FHP offers these tips for driving around large trucks:

- Stay out of the No Zone: Be aware that large trucks have large blind spots (also known as "No Zones").

- Pass trucks with caution: Pass on the left side for maximum visibility and maintain a constant speed.

- Do not cut trucks off: Be sure to leave plenty of room when you pull in front of a truck. Large trucks simply cannot stop as quickly as cars.

- Practice patience around larger vehicles that are not traveling at the same speed as your vehicle.

- Don't drive distracted: Anything that takes your full attention off of the road, even for a second, could be deadly. This includes texting, changing the radio station, talking to passengers and much more.

For more information about TACT, FHP Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement and No Zones, visit: <http://www.flhsmv.gov/florida-highway-patrol/about-fhp/>.

Community Events

Brought
to you
by:



863.763.6461
Plumbing • AC
Septic
Lic#CAC053793 • Lic#CFC022585



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 State Road 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 U.S. 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.

Awareness group to meet

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. The next meeting will be Tuesday, **June 26**.

Auxiliary will serve dinner

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

Town hall meeting set

Sheriff Noel E. Stephen will present a town hall meeting on Wednesday, **June 27**, at the Okeechobee Historic 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@okeesherriff.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.

Breakfast fundraiser set

Hospice of Okeechobee is hosting a flapjack fundraiser breakfast at Applebees, 1210 SR 70 E. on Saturday, **June 30**, from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each. For information, call 863-467-2321.

Summer reading camp set

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

Flea Market hosts car show

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

Fourth of July at Lakeport

Lakeport Community Association, 1059 Red Barn Road, Lakeport, Fla. 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.

Arts and crafts show set

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

Chicken workshop set

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

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

Take the reading challenge

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

Class of 1999 raising money

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

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

Obituaries

Rita Z. Sanford

OKEECHOBEE — Rita Z. Sanford entered into rest Sunday, June 17, 2018 in Okeechobee. Rita Theresa Madeline LaCroix was born on Sept. 2, 1925, in Marlboro, Mass. to the late Charles and Gertrude (Richard) LaCroix.

She had previously resided in Derby, N.Y. and had been an owner operator for Zabel's Amusements for many years before relocating to Okeechobee in the early 1990's.

She will be greatly missed by her husband, Ray of Okeechobee; children; stepchildren; grandchildren; great grandchildren; sisters; and friends.

Her love, laughter and wisdom will always remain.

Interment will be at a later date in West Palm Beach.

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.



Mary Lee Dennis, 99

OKEECHOBEE — Mary Lee Dennis died June 20, 2018. She was born Sept. 25, 1918 in Dublin, Ga. to the late Nathaniel Jackson and Lizzie Coney. She held the position of President of the Usher Board for many years at Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church, where she was a faithful member.

Mrs. Dennis was preceded in death by her husband, Horace Dennis, Sr.; son, Freddie McKinnon; daughters, Alberta Josey, Nadean Dixon, and Mary Etta Walker.

She is survived by her sons, Horace Dennis, Jr., of Tennessee, Vonnis Dennis, of Okeechobee, Clarence Dennis, of Okeechobee, John Dennis, of Ft. Pierce, James Dennis, of Ohio, and Eugene Dennis, of Okeechobee; daughters, Betty Kinsey, of Dublin, Ga., and Atha Dean Dennis, of Okeechobee; and a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be 4 to 6 p.m., Monday, June 25, 2018 at Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home and also 10 a.m. until services at 11 a.m. Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church, 1057 NE 14th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. Pastor Maurice Alexander will be officiating. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery.

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

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

View obituaries from
the past month at
<http://www.legacy.com>

SFWMD takes additional action to send water south

Special to the Okeechobee News

WEST PALM BEACH — Following decisive direction from Gov. Rick Scott and an emergency order from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection on June 20, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Thursday implemented an array of new actions adding to current efforts already underway to lower lake levels and move more water into the conservation areas because of record May rainfall.

These measures, which would have been slowed by typical agency approval processes, will now move forward on an expedited basis to help reduce the severity of and need for flood releases that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is making from the lake to the northern estuaries.

"We are taking every opportunity to remove water from the conservation areas through our regional flood control system," said SFWMD Governing Board Chairman

Federico Fernandez. "These measures, combined with necessary actions by our federal partners, will help reduce the water levels caused by the record-setting rainfall we have seen so far this wet season."

Record rainfall in May dropped more than 300 percent of the average monthly rainfall across South Florida. This rainfall caused the lake to rise more than a foot prior to the onset of the wet season, which led the USACE to begin releases from the lake on June 1 to the northern estuaries to ensure flood protection for the citizens who live south of the lake. At the same time, this record rainfall inundated the water conservation areas, causing them to rise above their regulation schedules.

Gov. Scott visited SFWMD's headquarters Thursday to discuss his emergency order and what actions the district is proposing to aid the USACE in alleviating the high-water emergency. These new measures enabled

by the emergency order include:

- Moving water out of the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area in Palm Beach County into the C-18 Canal to create additional capacity to move water south.

- Installation of temporary pumps near the S-39 structure to move additional water out of Water Conservation Area 2 to the Hillsboro Canal on the Palm Beach-Broward county line, creating capacity in the conservation area.

- Installation of temporary pumps at the S-151 structure to move an additional 200 cfs of water out of Water Conservation Area 3A in Miami-Dade County.

- Operation of the S-152 structure to move 400 cfs out of Water Conservation Area 3A.

- Installation of temporary pumps at several locations in Broward and Miami-Dade counties that will move water from the conservation areas into the L-29, L-28 and C-4 canals.

All of these actions, coupled with the actions SFWMD already had underway, help create capacity in the conservation areas to take water south from Lake Okeechobee. SFWMD Chief Engineer John Mitnik gave a video update this week on current water conditions and ongoing district actions to lower water levels.

These actions include:

- Using the S-5A Pump Station in Palm Beach County to move 400 cubic feet per second (cfs) out of the L-8 Canal to prevent

water from gravity-flowing back into Lake Okeechobee.

- Moving water to tide through every available structure, including the Hillsboro, North New River and Miami canals.

- Using the S-34 structure to move 200 cfs out of Water Conservation Area 2A into the North New River in Broward County.

- Fully utilizing the A-1 Flow Equalization Basin and L-8 Flow Equalization Basin, both components of Gov. Scott's Restoration Strategies Plan, to store water.

- Storing water on public lands through the Dispersed Water Management program.

- Working with private landowners to store water on their properties.

In addition, the USACE officials agreed to lower the levels of the C-111 Canal in Miami-Dade County by utilizing the S-176 and S-177 structures. This temporary canal lowering will aid the USACE in finishing needed levee construction to allow for the expedited completion of a detention area project.

The completion of these projects sooner will allow more water to be moved south out of the water conservation areas. Freeing capacity in the conservation areas will allow them to take more Lake Okeechobee water south and reduce the need for damaging releases being made by USACE.

"We appreciate our federal partners helping us do whatever is within their power to lower water levels," Mr. Mitnik said. "Working together, we can all address this unfortunate situation as quickly as possible."

OCSO Investigations

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

ASSAULT

- 15200 block of Northwest 300th Street
- 400 block of Northwest 36th Street
- 7200 block of U.S. 441 North
- 500 block of Northwest Fourth Street
- 500 block of Northwest Fourth Street
- 10200 block of U.S. 441 Southeast
- 400 block of Northwest 36th Street
- 42600 block of U.S. 441 North
- 1100 block of Northeast 16th Avenue
- 3600 block of Southeast 36th Avenue
- 11500 block of U.S. 441 Southeast
- 100 block of Southeast 68th Avenue

BURGLARY

- 5200 block of U.S. 441 Southeast
- 5000 block of Southeast 43rd Street

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

- 1500 block of Northwest 42nd Avenue
- 1000 block of Northeast 304th Street
- 1600 block of Southeast 40th Avenue

FRAUD

- 1200 block of Northwest 36th Street
- 4100 block of U.S. 441 Southeast
- 5300 block of U.S. 441 Southeast
- 500 block of Northwest Fourth Street
- 6000 block of Southeast 97th Trail

THEFT

- 3500 block of Southeast 24th Terrace
- 500 block of Northwest Fourth Street
- 200 block of U.S. 98 North
- 1400 block of Northwest 47th Terrace
- 500 block of Northwest Fourth Street
- 5800 block of Southeast 86th Boulevard
- 500 block of Northwest Fourth Street
- 3300 block of Southeast 33rd Terrace

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.

Join a Community Who Cares Moore Haven Correctional Facility Moore Haven, FL

Full Time Registered Nurses
Full and Part Time Licensed Practical Nurses
Mental Health Specialist

The GEO Group is the world's leading provider of evidence-based rehabilitation across a diversified spectrum of correctional and community reentry services.



Apply Online

www.jobs.geogroup.com

Text keyword 'geojobs' to 51893 to join our Talent Network and get emails about jobs near you!

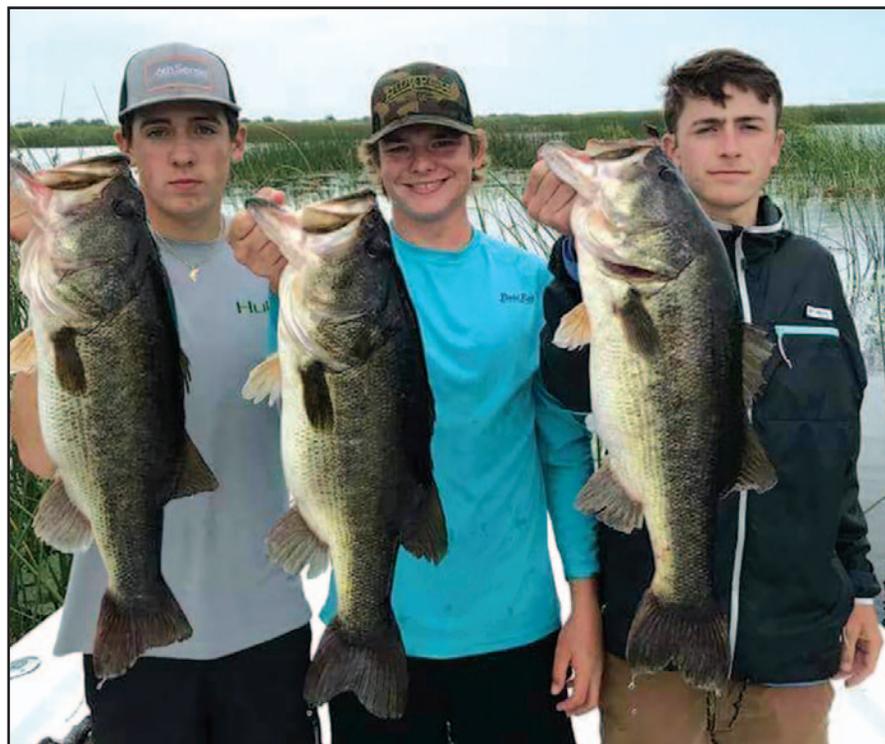
Equal Opportunity Employer



Special to the Okeechobee News

Rotary Club installs officers

The Rotary Club of Okeechobee installed new officers and board members at the Rotary Awards on June 19 at Nutmegs of Okeechobee. From left to right, board member Myranda McAllister, past president Tod Hardacre, board member Dawn Hoover, treasurer Mickey Bandi, president-elect Amy Daniel, president Dallon Boyd and Donna Gaiser.



Special to the Okeechobee News

#Lake Okeechobee

Trent Nelson, Justin Hevey and Wyatt Cannon were all smiles showing off the bass they caught in Lake Okeechobee on May 20. Local anglers, boaters and everyone who loves Lake Okeechobee are encouraged to share their photos this summer by emailing them to okeeneews@newszap.com and posting online with #LakeOkeechobee. With so much misinformation circulation in the coastal media, share photos to show everyone what you see in the Big Lake.



RotarySpecial to the Okeechobee News

Rotary honors members

Tod Hardacre (left) and Denise Hardacre (center) accept the Carl T. Durrance Award from Dallon Boyd (right).



Special to the Okeechobee News

Rotarian of the Year

Amy Daniel (left) accepts the Rotarian of the Year Award from Tod Hardacre (right).



Special to the Okeechobee News

President's Award

Myranda McAllister accepts the President's Award from Tod Hardacre.

Experience the joy!
Become a Foster Grandparent Volunteer in the Okeechobee schools and receive a stipend.

We provide the training, lunch allowance, mileage reimbursement and you may receive a non-taxable stipend in return for sharing your life experience, wisdom and love.

Call Sara Humphries @ 561-684-5885 or visit www.YourADRC.org

Boating safety tips help manatees this holiday

Special to the Okeechobee News

The Fourth of July is a busy boating holiday, with Florida's appealing waterways beckoning in-state and out-of-state boaters to enjoy their many charms, including the manatees. Save the Manatee Club urges residents and visitors to watch out for manatees throughout the holiday and beyond.

The largest known cause of manatee mortality is from collisions with boats. Additionally, most living manatees have been hit by boats — many manatees have been hit multiple times — and most suffer through these injuries that can negatively affect their ability to eat, swim, mate and take care of their young. Manatees must surface to breathe and prefer shallow waters. Any boat, moving fast, can injure and kill a manatee if there is not enough clearance for the boat's hull to pass safely over a manatee's back. Slowing down in manatee habitat is one of the best ways to reduce the risk of watercraft-related injury and death.

In order to safeguard manatees and to curb the number of manatee injuries and deaths from boat collisions, Save the Manatee Club offers a number of free public awareness materials to help boaters protect manatees. One of these is a Boating Safety Packet, which contains a weatherproof boat decal with a hotline number for reporting manatee injuries, deaths or harassment. It also includes a waterproof waterway card that was created in conjunction with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the U.S. Fish and Wild-

life Service. It can easily be hung and kept on board a vessel and features examples of regulatory signs posted for manatee protection, with information in English, French, Spanish and German.

Save the Manatee Club also provides free waterproof banners for boaters and public awareness signs for Florida shoreline property owners. The bright yellow banners read "Please Slow: Manatees Below," and can be used to warn other boaters if a manatee is spotted in the area. Aluminum dock signs with a similar message are available for Florida shoreline property owners. Family-friendly "Buddy" manatee signs, designed to teach manatee manners, are available to state, municipal and county parks; marinas; and other busy sites where human/manatee interaction can be a problem, resulting in manatee harassment.

Remember, it is always important to report a sick, injured or orphaned manatee to the FWC. Here's how to recognize if something is wrong:

- A manatee floating high in the water that is unable to submerge may indicate a serious problem.
- An adult manatee not resting or traveling rapidly should surface to breathe every two to three minutes.
- Manatees entangled in crab traps or fishing line should be reported to the FWC — do not try to cut the entanglement.
- A pink scar or open wound on a manatee needs to be reported.
- Thrashing and splashing manatees are

usually a mating herd and need their space, however a lone manatee that has beached itself should be reported to the FWC — do not push the manatee back into the water.

• A small, lone manatee with no larger manatees around could be an orphan and the FWC should be called at 1-888-404-FWCC (3992).

To view the Club's new video, "How to Report Distressed Manatees," and get more information, including how to report manatees outside of Florida, go to savethemanatee.org/rescue.

"We greatly appreciate the help of the boating community to be extra vigilant on Florida's waterways during the July fourth holiday and every day," says Patrick Rose,

the Club's Executive Director & Aquatic Biologist. "The risks and threats to the manatee's survival remain uncontrolled and accelerating, and we need everyone to be good stewards and help ensure that manatees continue to roam free for future generations to enjoy."

The free public awareness and education materials are available by emailing Save the Manatee Club at education@savethemanatee.org or by calling toll free at 1-800-432-JOIN (5646). More Manatee Protection Tips for Boaters can be found on the Club's website at savethemanatee.org/boatertips. You can also view the Club's new "Safe Boating Tips to Protect Manatees" video.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Slowing down in manatee habitat is one of the best ways to reduce the risk of watercraft-related injury and death.



U.S. Sugar Employees Give Back

U.S. Sugar and our employees are firmly planted in communities throughout South Florida. Since 1931, our people have been dedicated to feeding American families and helping neighbors in need.



Habitat for Humanity

At work, our employees are producing food to feed American families. In addition, the people of U.S. Sugar continue to partner with Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties, helping build new homes for local families. We stand proudly with all of our employees who volunteer their time to make these homes a reality.



Farming-Naturally!

Find out more about U.S. Sugar at www.ussugar.com



#USSugar

SDV virtual reality experience donated to Navy SEAL Museum

Special to the Okeechobee News

FORT PIERCE – The Navy SEAL Museum now offers a SEAL Delivery Vehicle (SDV) virtual reality experience for guests. The interactive computer-generated software was graciously donated to the Museum by Mass Virtual of Orlando, Fla.

The program incorporates auditory and visual feedback to simulate a realistic underwater SDV experience. From the initial launch at the mother submarine dry deck shelter into the open ocean, guests experience an authentic Navy SEAL mission along the ocean floor. The two-minute program can be adjusted to mimic a nighttime mission, as it would be conducted in SEAL training or combat. Museum Assistant Executive Director Ken Corona, who served on SDV Team TWO out of Little Creek, Va. for several years, acknowledges the accuracy of the new system.

“Any [SEAL] team guy who has completed a tour at an SDV Team will attest it’s one of the most demanding – and maybe the toughest job – in the Naval Special Warfare community,” said Corona. “The operations are always extremely long and very arduous; they are always at night and usually in

extremely cold water, which is difficult and challenging, but SEALs wouldn’t have it any other way. This technology does an authentic job recreating that experience.”

Mass Virtual creates various applications to aid and evaluate military training. The company donated the software to help educate Museum guests by immersing them in a realistic SEAL operation.

“Mass Virtual is dedicated to supporting technological and training advancements in our military community,” said John Brooks, CEO of Mass Virtual. “Given the platform, our SDV Virtual Reality Experience was an obvious fit for the Navy SEAL Museum. With our robust background in providing technology to support military training, it is our pleasure to donate a VR experience that will help educate guests on the work of US Navy SEALs and support the mission of the museum.”

The SDV Experience is operable during select museum business hours. Please call 772-595-5845 in advance to confirm availability.

The National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum is the only museum dedicated solely to preserving the history of the U.S. Navy SEALs and their predecessors.



Special to the Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee City Council was presented with 25 “No Smoking/No Vaping” signs to be placed throughout the city designating smoke-free facilities. The signs were presented by Courtney Moyett on behalf of the Tobacco Free Partnership of Okeechobee. Pictured (left to right) are Councilman Noel Chandler, Councilwoman Monica Clark, Courtney Moyett, Mayor Dowling R. Watford Jr. and Councilman Gary Ritter.

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).

- Andrew Mark Mitchell, 18, Northwest 17th Court, Fort Lauderdale, was arrested June 20 by Deputy Kenneth Hernandez on two take and hold juvenile felony warrants out of Monroe County charging him with burglary with criminal mischief (\$1,000 or more in property damage), grand theft of firearm, grand theft of motor vehicle, grand theft (more than \$300 but less than \$5,000), trespass on property other than structure or conveyance, fleeing or attempting to elude a law enforcement officer, and a misdemeanor charge of reckless driving. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail and then transported to St. Lucie Regional Detention Center in Fort Pierce.

- Steven Wayne Hungerford, 33, Northwest Third Street, Okeechobee, was arrested June 21 by Deputy Matthew Huffman on an Okeechobee County felony warrant charging him with two counts of driving under the influence with prior convictions and damage to property or person and one count of knowingly driving while license suspended, revoked, canceled or disqualified with prior convictions. His bond was set at \$44,000.

- Christopher Earl Masters, 35, Northeast 103rd Avenue, Okeechobee, was arrested June 21 by Deputy Corporal Bryan Lowe

on an Okeechobee County felony warrant charging him with dealing in stolen property and a misdemeanor charge of petit theft. His bond was set at \$6,000.

- Emma Jean Thigpen, 58, East Center Street, Okeechobee, was arrested June 21 by Deputy Jonathon Gove on an Okeechobee County felony warrant charging her with failure to appear - possession of a controlled substance (oxycodone) without a valid prescription and failure to appear - resist arrest without violence. She was also arrested on two Okeechobee County warrants charging her with failure to appear - driving under the influence and violation of probation - driving under the influence. She is being held without bond.

- Edgar J. Dominguez-Roviroso, 39, Southeast 28th Street, Okeechobee, was arrested June 21 by Deputy Sergeant Aric Majere on two Okeechobee County felony warrants charging him with aggravated battery, aggravated assault and grand theft of motor vehicle. His bond was set at \$45,000.

- Ronald Keith Sage Jr., 42, Southeast 117th Trail, Okeechobee, was arrested June 22 by Deputy Robert Gonzalez on three counts of felony charge of aggravated assault. His bond was set at \$4,500.

- Sylvia Gayle Wilma Saenz, 24, Southeast 23rd Court, Okeechobee, was arrested June 22 by Deputy Robert Gonzalez on a felony charge of battery on person 65 years of age or older. Her bond was set at \$5,000.

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

HERO

Continued From Page 1

League of Cities President Gil Ziffer. “Their efforts during the 2018 legislative session were extraordinary. The league and its legislative team are proud to recognize and thank them for their service.”

Founded in 1922, the Florida League of Cities is the united voice for Florida’s municipal governments. Its goals are to promote local self-government and serve the needs of Florida’s cities. Florida’s cities are formed by their citizens and governed by their citizens. The league is founded on the belief that local self-government is the keystone of American democracy. For more information, visit floridaleagueofcities.com.

In other business at the June 19 meeting, Ordinance No. 1169 was adopted by the council. Per the ordinance, the following persons are entitled to an exemption from a business tax and any fees: a veteran of the United States Armed Forces who was honorably discharged upon separation from service, or the spouse or unremarried surviving spouse of such a veteran; the spouse of an active duty military service member who has relocated to the county or municipality pursuant to a permanent change of station order; a person who is receiving public assistance as defined in Florida State Statute Section 409.2554; or a person whose household income is below 130 percent of the federal poverty level based on the current year’s federal poverty guidelines.

The ordinance also makes mention of acceptable forms of identification for an applicant seeking the veterans exemption

from the permit fees. The word “veteran” must be exhibited on the identification card of a veteran. Acceptable forms of identification consist of: a DD Form 214, issued by the United States Department of Defense; veteran health identification card, issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; veteran identification card, issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to the Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015 or; other acceptable form specified by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

In business actions at the Tuesday meeting:

- The council was presented with “No Smoking” signs by Courtney Moyett from the Tobacco Free Partnership of Okeechobee. There were a total of 25 signs that will be placed throughout the city.

- The council also reviewed and approved the 2017 Fiscal Year Audited Financials that was presented and put together by Debbie A. Goode on behalf of Carr, Riggs & Ingram LLC and by Okeechobee Finance Director India Riedel. During the discussion, the council was informed that the city’s total assets exceeded its liabilities on Sept. 30, 2017, by \$18,166,670, and that the city’s total revenues were \$6,172,735 for the year ended on Sept. 30, 2017, compared to total expenses of \$6,537,295, which resulted in a \$364,560 decrease in net position. Expenditures for the fiscal year 2018 adopted budget for all funds of the city total approximately \$8,956,414, an increase of 1.2 percent or \$112,078 from the prior year budget. The decrease in expenditures is based mostly on the decrease in capital expenditures.

Grimsley seeks election as commissioner of agriculture

Special to the Okeechobee News

ZOLFO SPRINGS — State Sen. Denise Grimsley on Friday, June 22, announced that she has qualified to run for Florida commissioner of agriculture and consumer services.

“I am excited to announce that I have qualified to appear on the ballot for Florida commissioner of agriculture and consumer services,” said Sen. Grimsley. “From individ-

ual Floridians, to state and local organizations, to current and former Florida lawmakers who have witnessed my dedication to Florida, my team and I have worked tremendously hard to earn the amount of support we have.”

“With a proven track record in our state’s legislature, I stand ready to work alongside Florida’s next governor and Cabinet to help

better the lives of Floridians,” said Sen. Grimsley.

“As a fifth-generation Floridian with deep roots in Florida agriculture as a cattle rancher and citrus grower, I understand the challenges Florida’s farmers face and will begin to tackle them on day one if elected. As someone who has run a small business, I, too, have experienced the problems and frustrations business owners face when trying to cut through bureaucratic red tape. If elected, I will address these issues and many more,” she said.

“The Grimsley campaign is proud to be running a true grassroots campaign and, in doing so, receiving the financial support of more than 2,400 contributions to the campaign — nearly twice as many as the other Republican candidates in the primary combined,” said campaign manager Andrea Jahna. “Denise is uniquely qualified to serve as Florida’s next commissioner of agriculture and consumer services, and we are excited that her message and candidacy are

resonating with voters and earning the campaign the tremendous amount of support it has received so far.”

As a conservative Republican from Florida’s Heartland, Sen. Denise Grimsley is running for Cabinet office of agriculture commissioner. Her Senate district includes all of DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee and Glades counties, as well as parts of Polk, Charlotte and Lee counties.

Ms. Grimsley was elected to the Florida Senate in 2012 after serving eight years in the Florida House. During the 2018 legislative session, she served as chairwoman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Before entering politics, Ms. Grimsley served as vice president and chief operating officer of her family business, Grimsley Oil Co., and is a fifth-generation Floridian involved in the citrus and ranching industries. She is also a registered nurse and hospital administrator, as well as a businesswoman. She has one daughter and two grandchildren.

Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

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

COWS	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG
900-1600	54.00	- 59.00	HIGH
1000-2000	59.00	- 64.00	LOW
900-1400	51.00	- 54.00	

BULLS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG
1100-1700	79.00	- 83.00	HIGH
1100-2200	84.00	- 88.00	LOW
1200-1600	74.00	- 78.00	

STEERS MED & LARGE 1:	LOW:	HIGH:
200-250	0.00	- 0.00
250-300	222.00	- 237.00
300-350	172.00	- 188.00
350-400	164.00	- 180.00
400-450	155.00	- 170.00
450-500	150.00	- 162.00
500-550	153.00	- 162.00
550-600	149.00	- 159.00
600-700	0.00	- 0.00

STEERS MED & LARGE 2:	LOW:	HIGH:
200-250	0.00	- 0.00
250-300	215.00	- 217.00
300-350	174.00	- 180.00
350-400	155.00	- 164.00
400-450	147.00	- 156.00
450-500	141.00	- 147.00
500-550	142.00	- 151.00
550-600	139.00	- 148.00
600-700	136.00	- 138.00

STEERS MED & LARGE 3:	LOW:	HIGH:
200-250	0.00	- 0.00
250-300	192.00	- 200.00
300-350	166.00	- 174.00
350-400	150.00	- 159.00
400-450	144.00	- 149.00
450-500	136.00	- 138.00
500-550	132.00	- 141.00
550-600	0.00	- 0.00
600-700	122.00	- 125.00

Prices held steady this week on most all classes of cattle. Volume was good with a little over 2000 head for the week. There was some good rain out west in grazing areas that were really dry and that could give the calf market a little push. There is only one more week of sales across Florida before July 4th holiday where all markets will be closed for the week. Buyers may be needing some cattle, hopefully.

Joe Guillot, Okeechobee, topped the calf market with a high of \$2.45 bought by Foy Reynolds.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY
CLFS	545	1118
COWS	84	302
BULLS	20	16
TOTAL	649	1436

HEIFERS MED & LARGE 1:	LOW:	HIGH:
200-250	170.00	- 180.00
250-300	158.00	- 182.00
300-350	154.00	- 164.00
350-400	146.00	- 156.00
400-450	144.00	- 158.00
450-500	138.00	- 148.00
500-550	136.00	- 146.00
550-600	0.00	- 0.00
600-700	0.00	- 0.00

HEIFERS MED & LARGE 2:	LOW:	HIGH:
200-250	0.00	- 0.00
250-300	150.00	- 166.00
300-350	142.00	- 152.00
350-400	136.00	- 145.00
400-450	136.00	- 147.00
450-500	128.00	- 136.00
500-550	128.00	- 133.00
550-600	0.00	- 0.00
600-700	0.00	- 0.00

HEIFERS MED & LARGE 3:	LOW:	HIGH:
200-250	0.00	- 0.00
250-300	0.00	- 0.00
300-350	134.00	- 142.00
350-400	126.00	- 134.00
400-450	128.00	- 136.00
450-500	127.00	- 127.00
500-550	120.00	- 124.00
550-600	0.00	- 0.00
600-700	0.00	- 0.00

Old River Cattle, Okeechobee, topped the slaughter cow market with a high of \$.6450 bought by Brown Packing.

Producers Cattle Auction will be having a Big Internet Auction this Thursday at 10 a.m. at the FCA Convention.

See ya there!

For sale: Six Brahman bulls, 2-3 years old, 70 pairs, crossbred, 6-10 years old, Angus & Charolais Sired \$1150, 40 bred cows.

Call Matt or Jeff

Zipperer Beefmasters has 20 purebred and 20 commercial heifers for sale. Call 239-691-4803.

New honey bee lab will support beekeeping

Special to the Okeechobee News

GAINESVILLE — Twenty percent of the food we eat is made possible by honey bees. And behind each of these hardworking pollinators is an equally hardworking beekeeper or scientist who helps them thrive.

The University of Florida’s honey bee program has been around since the 1920s, but this June will mark the completion of a new honey bee headquarters on the UF campus, said Jamie Ellis, the Gahan Endowed Associate Professor of Entomology in UF’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

“The Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory is a series of three buildings — it’s a mini bee campus. One of the buildings, the Amy E. Lohman Apiculture Center, will house the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ Apiary Inspection team, a beekeeping museum, a honey extraction and processing facility, and workshop space,” said Ms. Ellis, who heads the lab.

The Amy E. Lohman Apiculture Center is named for one of the project’s key supporters, Ms. Ellis said.

“The Lohman Center will serve our research, Extension and instruction efforts related to honey bees and beekeeping,” Ms. Ellis said. “We will be able to teach students and beekeepers how to build beekeeping equipment, extract and process honey, develop strategies for adding value to their beekeeping products, control honey bee pests and pathogens, and run a beekeeping business.”

Ms. Lohman’s gift has helped establish a lasting resource for honey bee research, education and outreach, Ms. Ellis said.

“I think it is important to highlight that Ms. Lohman’s gift is a legacy gift. Sure, Ms. Lohman and other beekeepers like her will benefit from this today. However, this facility will survive well into the future and be a place where thousands of students and beekeepers are trained,” Ms. Ellis said. “This education will translate into healthier bees that, in turn, will continue to provide the pollination services that our crops so desperately need. Thus, I feel that Ms. Lohman’s gift is an example of selfless altruism. She really is working to save the beekeeper and the bees.”

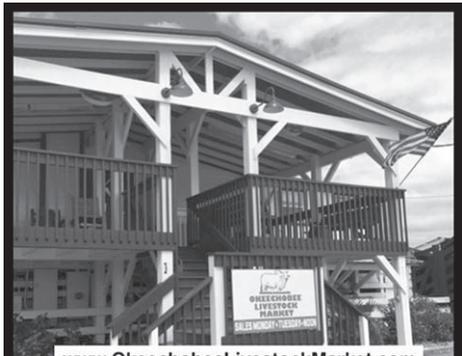
In addition to Ms. Lohman, hundreds of beekeepers, industry supporters and businesses from around the country, the Florida State Beekeepers Association, FDACS and UF have come together to fund the entire Honey Bee Lab, Ms. Ellis said.

The lab is located next to Steinmetz Hall on the southwest corner of the UF campus. One of the buildings will have a room in which glass bee hives are kept, allowing visitors to look directly into the active hives, Ms. Ellis said. The complex will also house hundreds of thousands of bees in its outdoor apiary.

“In addition to providing a space for our outreach programs, researchers and students, we have been intentional in making this a space where the public can learn about beekeeping and the importance of bees to our food system,” Ms. Ellis said.

If you would like to support honey bee programs at UF/IFAS, visit the UF/IFAS honey bee research, and Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory pages on the UF/IFAS Advancement website (<http://give.ifas.ufl.edu>).

For more information on giving to UF/IFAS, contact Julie Conn, director of corporate relations, at jconn@ufl.edu or 352-273-2099.



www.OkeechobeeLivestockMarket.com

Okeechobee Livestock Market
Cattle Auction Monday & Tuesday
Restaurant Open Monday - Wednesday
“Best Burgers in South Florida!”
863.763.3127

Online Classifieds

FloridaClassifieds.newszap.com Free Speech & Free Ads

Create Your Own Ads Online! Four weeks FREE... It's Easy!

Submit Your Free Online Classified Ad Today at FloridaClassifieds.newszap.com - Click on Classifieds

To place a classifieds ad in any of the following newspapers over the phone, call 877-353-2424

Okeechobee News • Caloosa Belle • Clewiston News • Glades County Democrat • Immokalee Bulletin • The Sun

FREE!
Absolutely
FREE!

· Online for 4 weeks - 400 words + 4 photos
· Absolutely FREE!
· Post your ads in our papers for as little as \$8 each
email:
classads@newszap.com

Miscellaneous
Notices

Miscellaneous
Notices

Employment -
Full Time

Employment -
Full Time

Business
Opportunities

Business
Opportunities

Jonathan Sanders, MD, JD will be retiring from the day-to-day practice of medicine and closing his practice as of July 31, 2018. Until August 31, 2018, medical records may be obtained by contacting the office at 772-778-7782. After that date, contact Clary Document Management by calling 763-548-1320, or emailing chartcontrol@clarydm.com, or faxing 763-548-1325, or mailing: 5600 Pioneer Creek Drive Minneapolis, MN 55359.

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Service Technicians,
Installers & Helpers

Full Time,
Experience Required

Apply within
312 SW 2nd St.
Okeechobee EOE/DFWP

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

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

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



Need EXTRA MONEY?



MOTOR ROUTE AVAILABLE

KEECHOBEE NEWS

107 SW 17th St • Suite D

Inquire Within

NO PHONE CALLS

Reading a newspaper makes you a more informed and interesting person.

No wonder newspaper readers are more successful!



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.

FOR RENT
Rentals

Apartments

1BR, 1BA, Unfurnished \$750 mo. Water & Power included. Sec. dep. & background check required. 863-634-0024

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

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

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

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

Commercial
Property

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

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

Mobile Homes

Mobile Homes -
Rent

BHR-MOBILE HOME 2BD/2BA \$625.00/MO. PLUS SECURITY, 1YR LEASE, NO PETS CALL 863-763-4031

Recreation

Campers / RVs

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

Announcements

Auctions

AUCTION
Every Friday & Saturday nights at 5:30
917 SW Park St.
(Behind Elfs Western Wear)
Quality Consignments Accepted.
Watford Auction
10% BP
863-697-8906
AU1843 AB1583

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

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

Miscellaneous
Notices

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

Employment

Employment -
Full Time

CDL DRIVERS
CALL TODAY

CLASS A Must have DOT medical, drug free, clean driving history & tanker endorsement.
Call M-S(863)467-9800

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

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

Clothing Allowance
If you are interested in applying, please visit seminolepd.com and click under employment to download the application.



Automotive

Autos Wanted

AAA Auto Analysis- All makes, all price ranges. We buy cars, trucks, and motorcycles. Established 1981. 772-260-9707

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



Public Notices

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA JUVENILE DIVISION CASE NO: 47-2016-DP-000118

IN THE INTEREST OF
**J.A. DOB: 07/23/2004
C.A. DOB: 08/18/2000**
Minor Child

TO: CARLA SHROUT
Mother, address unknown

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT A PETITION UNDER OATH HAS BEEN FILED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN THE ABOVE STYLED COURT FOR THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS RELATIVE TO THE ABOVE NAMED CHILDREN, **J.A.** WHO WAS BORN IN OSCEOLA COUNTY, STATE OF FLORIDA, ON THE 7TH DAY OF JULY, 2004 AND **C.A.** WHO WAS BORN IN OSCEOLA COUNTY, STATE OF FLORIDA, ON THE 18TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2000. YOU ARE COMMANDED TO BE AND APPEAR BEFORE THE CIRCUIT COURT IN THE ABOVE-STYLED COURT LOCATED AT 312 NW 3RD STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972 ON **JULY 9, 2018 AT 1:15 P.M.** FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS ADVISORY HEARING. YOU MUST APPEAR ON THE DATE AND AT THE TIME SPECIFIED. FAILURE TO PERSONALLY APPEAR AT THE ADVISORY HEARING CONSTITUTES CONSENT TO THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THE CHILD. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR ON THE DATE AND TIME SPECIFIED, YOU MAY LOSE ALL LEGAL RIGHTS AS A PARENT TO THE CHILD NAMED IN THE PETITION ATTACHED TO THIS NOTICE.

BE ADVISED THAT YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO HAVE AN ATTORNEY REPRESENT YOU IN THIS MATTER. IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD AN ATTORNEY, ONE MAY BE APPOINTED FOR YOU.

WITNESS MY HAND AS THE CLERK OF SAID COURT AND THE SEAL THEREOF, THIS 4TH DAY OF JUNE 2018.

Sharon Robertson, Clerk
Kimberly
DEPUTY CLERK
267218 ON 6/10,17,24/7/1/2018

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

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

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

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

Public Notice

GLADES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

DEMOLITION & REBUILD OF ONE (1) HOME,

The Glades County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) requests that interested parties submit formal sealed proposals for the above-referenced project. This project will be undertaken as part of the Glades County SHIP Program. Contractors must be qualified to bid on SHIP projects. If not pre-qualified, the Contractor's Application Documents may be obtained from the SHIP Administrator or <http://www.myglades.com/departments/communityservices/ship.php>

A mandatory meeting and contractor review of these projects will be held on **Friday June 29th, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.**, at 1882 Linda Drive, Okeechobee, FL (Buckhead Ridge - JobSite) 34974. Any firm not represented at this meeting will not be able to bid. All potential bidders must be in meeting no later than 4:00p.m. in order to participate in these RFPs.

The specifications and requirements informational package must be obtained from Cindy Ricker, SHIP Administrator 863-946-6124, cricker@myglades.com

Due date/time: **July 20th, 2018, 1:00 p.m. EST.** All responses (7 copies and 1 digital copy) shall be placed in separate, sealed envelopes with the titles clearly indicated on the outside: **GLADES COUNTY SHIP PROGRAM - RFP #2018-DEMO/REPLACEMENT-2-Hoyt** with delivery to the SHIP Administrator, in SHIP Administrator's office at Court House, Moore Haven, no later than deadline time of 1:00 p.m. RFPs received after such time will not be accepted and will be returned unopened. Responses delayed for any reason shall not be considered. Faxed and electronically mailed responses will not be accepted.

All prospective respondents are cautioned not to contact any member of the BoCC. All questions should be directed to Cindy Ricker, SHIP Administrator, 500 Avenue J, (P.O. Box 1527) Moore Haven FL 33471 Phone 863-946-6124. EMAIL: cricker@myglades.com.

It is anticipated that the qualified responses to this RFP will be considered and a decision on the selection of a qualified responder will be made by the BoCC. The County reserves the right to reject any or all responses in its sole discretion. The County also reserves the right to waive irregularities and technicalities, to re-advertise for additional responses, and to select the responder, who, in the BoCC's sole opinion, is in the best interests of Glades County.

Glades County does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, or marital status. Glades County is an Equal Opportunity Employer, actively seeking Minority Contractor Participation and promotes Fair Housing. 270113 ON 6/24; GCD 6/28/2018

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

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

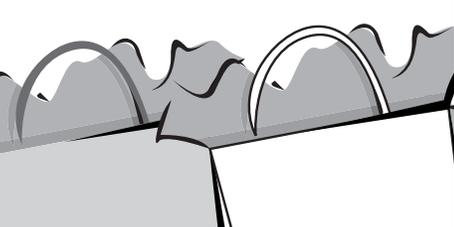
Prior to each meeting, the agenda for that meeting will be available at the Community Development Department, 1700 NW 9th Avenue, Suite A, and on the Okeechobee County website.

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

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

Reading a newspaper leads you to the best products and services.

No wonder newspaper readers earn more money!



View obituaries from the past month at <http://www.legacy.com>

Public Notice

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA JUVENILE DIVISION CASE NO: 47-2016-DP-000118

IN THE INTEREST OF
**J.A. DOB: 07/23/2004
C.A. DOB: 08/18/2000**
Minor Child

TO: WILLIAM ADAMS
Mother, address unknown

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT A PETITION UNDER OATH HAS BEEN FILED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN THE ABOVE STYLED COURT FOR THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS RELATIVE TO THE ABOVE NAMED CHILDREN, **J.A.** WHO WAS BORN IN OSCEOLA COUNTY, STATE OF FLORIDA, ON THE 7TH DAY OF JULY, 2004 AND **C.A.** WHO WAS BORN IN OSCEOLA COUNTY, STATE OF FLORIDA, ON THE 18TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2000. YOU ARE COMMANDED TO BE AND APPEAR BEFORE THE CIRCUIT COURT IN THE ABOVE-STYLED COURT LOCATED AT 312 NW 3RD STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972 ON **JULY 9, 2018 AT 1:15 P.M.** FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS ADVISORY HEARING. YOU MUST APPEAR ON THE DATE AND AT THE TIME SPECIFIED. FAILURE TO PERSONALLY APPEAR AT THE ADVISORY HEARING CONSTITUTES CONSENT TO THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THE CHILD. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR ON THE DATE AND TIME SPECIFIED, YOU MAY LOSE ALL LEGAL RIGHTS AS A PARENT TO THE CHILD NAMED IN THE PETITION ATTACHED TO THIS NOTICE.

BE ADVISED THAT YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO HAVE AN ATTORNEY REPRESENT YOU IN THIS MATTER. IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD AN ATTORNEY, ONE MAY BE APPOINTED FOR YOU.

WITNESS MY HAND AS THE CLERK OF SAID COURT AND THE SEAL THEREOF, THIS 4TH DAY OF JUNE 2018.

Sharon Robertson, Clerk
Kimberly
DEPUTY CLERK
267222 ON 6/10,17,24/7/1/2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA JUVENILE DIVISION CASE NO.: 472016DP000093

IN THE INTEREST OF:
**C.D. DOB: 12/4/2012
H.D. DOB: 12/30/2013**

Minor Children
TO: **Jessica Dunn**
Mother, address unknown

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT A PETITION UNDER OATH HAS BEEN FILED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN THE ABOVE STYLED COURT FOR THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS RELATIVE TO THE ABOVE NAMED CHILDREN, **C.D.** WHO WAS BORN IN INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, STATE OF FLORIDA, ON THE 4th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2012 AND **H.D.** WHO WAS BORN IN SAINT LUCIE COUNTY, STATE OF FLORIDA, ON THE 30th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2013. YOU ARE COMMANDED TO BE AND APPEAR BEFORE THE CIRCUIT COURT IN THE ABOVE-STYLED COURT LOCATED AT 312 NW 3RD STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972 ON AUGUST 13, 2018 AT 1:15 P.M. FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS ADVISORY HEARING. YOU MUST APPEAR ON THE DATE AND AT THE TIME SPECIFIED. FAILURE TO PERSONALLY APPEAR AT THE ADVISORY HEARING CONSTITUTES CONSENT TO THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THE CHILD. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR ON THE DATE AND TIME SPECIFIED, YOU MAY LOSE ALL LEGAL RIGHTS AS A PARENT TO THE CHILD NAMED IN THE PETITION ATTACHED TO THIS NOTICE.

BE ADVISED THAT YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO HAVE AN ATTORNEY REPRESENT YOU IN THIS MATTER. IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD AN ATTORNEY, ONE MAY BE APPOINTED FOR YOU. WITNESS MY HAND AS THE CLERK OF SAID COURT AND THE SEAL THEREOF THIS 10th DAY OF JUNE, 2018.

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK
KIM SARROS, DEPUTY CLERK
269542 ON 6/17,24/7/1,8/2018

Administration of Estates

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No. 2018CP95

IN RE: ESTATE OF
JEAN-LOUIS LACERTE
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of JEAN-LOUIS LACERTE, deceased, whose date of death was April 8, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

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

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

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

The date of first publication of this notice is June 17th, 2018.

Personal Representative:
Evelyn Lacerte
17605-202, Place Despres
Becancour, G9H 0L9

Attorney for Personal Representative:
Fernando M. Giachino
Florida Bar No. 0180660
Fernando M. Giachino, P.A.
3601 SE Ocean Blvd., Suite 204
Sewells Point, Florida 34996
269328 ON 6/17,24/2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No. 18000094CPAXMX

IN RE: ESTATE OF
SARAH LOUISE EDLER aka SARAH LOUISE BORDELON,
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of SARAH LOUISE EDLER aka SARAH LOUISE BORDELON, Deceased, whose date of death was March 11, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW Third Street, Okeechobee FL 34972. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

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

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

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 June 17th, 2018.

SANDRA DECK
Personal Representative

Attorney for Personal Representative:
Scott R. Bugay, Esquire
Florida Bar No. 5207
Citicentre, Suite P600
290 NW 165th Street
Miami FL 33169
Telephone: (305) 956-9040
Fax: (305) 945-2905
Primary Email:
Service@sbglawyers.com
Secondary Email:
Angelica@sbglawyers.com
269294 ON 6/17,24/2018

Administration of Estates

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No.: 18-CP-000091

IN RE: ESTATE OF
MATTHEW HUME PAYNE FERGUSON, JR. a/k/a MATTHEW H.P. FERGUSON, JR.
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of MATTHEW HUME PAYNE FERGUSON, JR. a/k/a MATTHEW H.P. FERGUSON, JR., deceased, whose date of death was February 14, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida, 34972. The names and addresses of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

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

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

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

The date of first publication of this notice is June 24th, 2018.

Personal Representative:
ROBERT H. FERGUSON
14237 S. HWY 71
West Fort, Arkansas 72774

Attorney:
/s/ DENNIS J. SZAFRAN
DENNIS J. SZAFRAN, ESQUIRE
Attorney for Personal Representative
Florida Bar No. 118448
E-Mail: Dennis@DJSLaw.org
The Law Offices of Dennis J. Szafraan
401 Corbett Street, Suite 340B
Clearwater, FL 33756
Telephone (727) 266-3431
269719 ON 6/24/7/1/2018



FREE TRAFFIC INFO

FLORIDA 511

DOOR-TO-DOOR DIRECTIONS
TRAVEL TIMES
PERSONALIZED ALERTS
TRAFFIC CAMERA VIEWS



FREE APPS FL511.COM



CALL 511 #FL511



A toll-free service of the Florida Department of Transportation. Standard mobile phone minute, text message and data charges may apply.

ADVERTISE and Get Results

www.newszap.com
click on classifieds

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**

1200 S. Parrott Ave. • Office: 863-763-2104
Visit our website to view more listings | www.Century21okeechobee.com | admin@c21okee.com

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**





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**

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





Are you a local realtor looking to maximize your reach to potential clients?

Feature your best properties in this weekly real estate directory.

Contact 863.763.3134 to discuss advertising today!

COLDWELL BANKER
 863-763-5335
 425 SW Park Street
 Phillip Y. Berger • Lic. RE Broker
 BERGER REAL ESTATE www.cbbergerrealestate.com

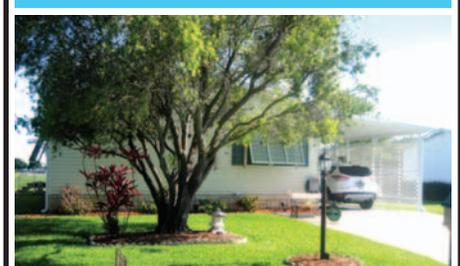


TAYLOR CREEK ISLES 2BD/2BA DWMH.
 Large Florida room, lots of storage. Boat lift and patio. Must see! 10 minutes by water to lock. **\$174,900**
 Call Jeff Anderson 863-697-2424

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**

THE TUCKER GROUP LLC
 VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
www.Tucker-Group.com
 Office: (863) 763-4010
THE TUCKER GROUP LLC
 Ag Team

Brandon D. Tucker Owner / Lic. R.E Broker of Record
Service • Integrity • Experience
Bobby H. Tucker Owner / Lic. R.E Broker Associate

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.

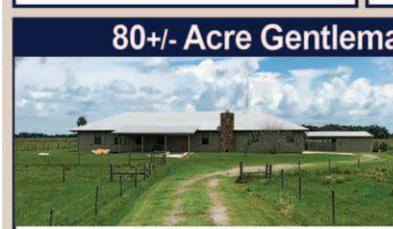


TREASURE ISLAND Spacious 3/2 MH located on deep canal in Treasure Island. This property features a large CBS addition, screened in dock, 2 shed and more. MLS 212224 **\$121,000 Call Kaydee Yates (863) 623-8863**



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**

CONSIDERING BUYING OR SELLING? CALL US TO FIND OUT MORE (863) 763-4010

"Give me a Call"

For the best deal, Come See Roxana



Roxana Reichert
Sales

4224 U.S. Hwy 441 S
Okeechobee, FL 34974
Office: 863-357-0500 EXT:117
Cell: 863-634-9974 • Fax: 863-357-0802
Toll Free: 800-329-4926

Email: roxanar@Ja-ag.com www.OkeechobeeDodgeChryslerJeep.com

Lighthouse "At Home Care"
Companion Homemakers who are Compassionate and Skilled!



We offer:

- Fall Prevention Care
- Medication Prompting
- Small Group Outings
- Doctor Appointments
- Hospital Discharge Assistance
- Companion/Sitters
- Homemaking
- Meal Preparation and more

(863) 532-5976
Call for a free Consultation!

We are a provider (APD) for persons with disabilities. Reg #234809

ALUMINUM SERVICES
Assistant in: Owner Builder Permits
Discount Aluminum
Screen Room Kits ~ Carport Kits ~ Patio Kits
DAY LABOR ~ PIECE WORK
Repair Work for Licensed Contractors
FOR ALL YOUR ALUMINUM NEEDS!

EXPERIENCE • PRIDE • QUALITY
(863) 697-1447
40 years experience #11309

THE OKEECHOBEE BUILDING COMPANY
CBC#1256185

ALL PHASES OF ALUMINUM

- Screen Rooms • Patios • Storm Protection
- Carports • Repair Work • And More

Aaron (863) 697-3898 **Michael (863) 697-1447**



Accident?

Law Offices of Lefebvre & Dixon
OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA
763.3333

Tree Trimming & Removal
Debris Removal & Hauling • Bobcat Services
Stump Grinding • Commercial & Residential



XTREME
PROPERTY SERVICES, INC.
Mike (863) 634.7512
Owner/Operator Email: Mike@xpsinc.com

NEAL LONG CONSTRUCTION Co.
Top Quality - Attention to Detail
On Time - Reasonable Prices

GENERAL CONTRACTORS
PLUMBING, MECHANICAL & ROOFING CONTRACTORS

CGC1518089 • CMC1249343 • CFC058088 • CCC1328973

863.357.3313
neallongconstruction.com • neallong@contractor.net
11781 SE Hwy 441 • OKEECHOBEE, FL 34974



JT Guttering Systems Inc.
Aluminum Seamless Guttering
Installations & Repair
"Serving Okeechobee since 1999"

Johnny Trent
1677 SW 8th Street
Okeechobee, FL 34974

Office: (863) 763-7704
Mobile: (863) 634-7125
Email: 4gutter@gmail.com

Residential Commercial

CS Cooling Refrigeration SERVICES
Heating & A/C Service
863.467.4733

Call TODAY for your A/C Tune-up!
24 hour emergency service
Sales, Service and New Installation

Estate Planning, Trusts, Wills, and Probate

WILLIAM H. NEWTON, III, P.A.
Attorney

1256 Oak Tree Lane
Moore Haven, Florida 33471
Newtonintl@att.net

305-798-3001

CHOICE AUTOMOTIVE & CUSTOM EXHAUST
AIR CONDITIONING
Roger Elgin (863) 467-6633
704 NE 2nd AVE - OKEECHOBEE, FL

COMPUTER DIAGNOSTICS
SERVICE ENGINE
TRANSMISSION
4X4 SERVICE
BRAKES
NEW & USED TIRES

Trading Post Flea & Farmers Market
Celebrating Over 30 Years
of Good Old-Fashioned Family Fun!

QUALITY MERCHANDISE **AND LOW PRICES**



Market Open 8am - 3pm EVERY Saturday and Sunday
3100 Highway 441 South
863-763-4114 familyfunfleamarket

HOSS ALUMINUM LLC

CARPORTS, SCREEN ROOMS & MORE!

(863) 634-7442
Lic# OCSL 1583-01 INSURED

QUALITY A/C
and Heating of Okeechobee
"Our Focus Is To Make You Comfortable"

34th ANNIVERSARY 1984-2018
467-1545
www.QualityACokee.com

Affordable Websites.
Digital/Print Marketing.
Business Sales Coaching.
Social Media Training.

863-447-1417
Kevin Kline | Business Development

Free One Hour Consultation