



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 109 No. 77

Friday, June 29, 2018

50¢ plus tax

Help Martha's House and you could win mower ... Page 2

Corps cuts lake releases to St. Lucie Canal ... Page 5

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Former Brahmans on college teams ... Page 12

Lake Levels

14.10 feet

Last Year: 12.05 feet



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

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Algae doesn't hamper fishing

Local anglers report great fishing on lake

By Katrina Elsken
Okeechobee News

The water may be green in some parts of the lake, but fishermen on both the north and south sides of Lake Okeechobee report the summer has been a good one for fishing.

"The fishing is pretty good first thing in the morning," said Mike Krause at Okeechobee Fishing Headquarters on Thursday. "I fished this morning at Henry Creek and caught 23 fish between 6:30 and 8 a.m."

"Do we have an algal bloom? Yes, we do," he said. "It's not affecting the fishing at all."

"The lake is alive and thriving and well," said Mr. Krause.

"We'd like to see a lot more grass," he added, noting that the combination of Hurricane Irma and the chemical spraying done through the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission have reduced the vegetation that

cleans the water and provides cover for fish.

From the south end of the lake comes another positive report.

"The fishing is great," said Mary Ann Martin of the Roland and Mary Ann Martin Marina & Resort. She said they are seeing a good number of fish caught and released.

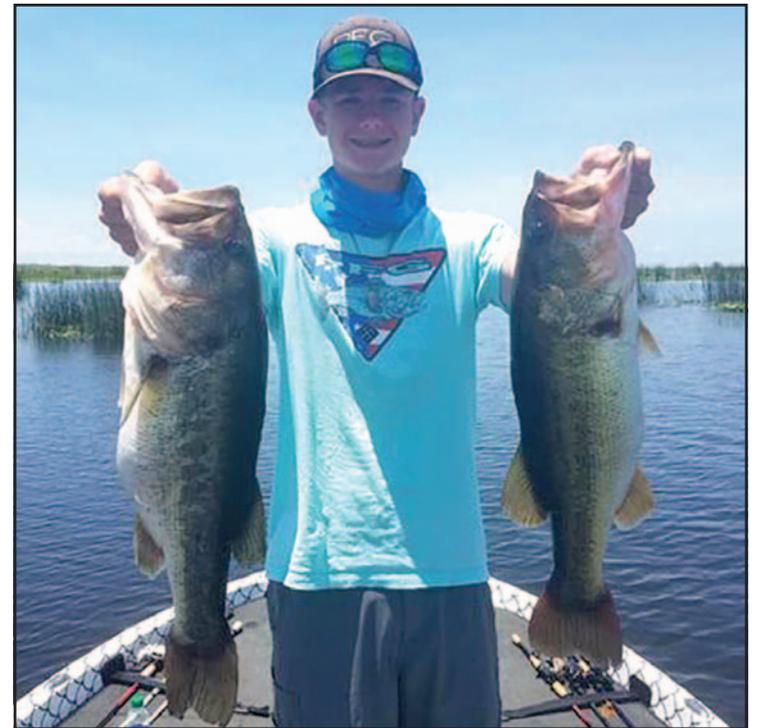
No fish kills have been reported anywhere on the lake this summer.

Dr. Karl Havens, director of Florida Sea Grant and a professor at the University of Florida, said the conditions were right for algal blooms this summer on Lake Okeechobee, as well as on lakes and waterways throughout Florida and other parts of the United States.

"There's a lot of nitrogen and phosphorus in the lake," he said. "If you get the right kind of weather in the summer, you can get big blooms."

He said algal blooms in the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers may or may not be connected to lake releases.

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Special to the Okeechobee News/ Terry Garrels
Roland and Mary Ann Martin's Marina & Resort shared this photo of a recent catch on Lake Okeechobee with an 8.65-pound bass on the left and a 6.5-pound bass on the right. Send your fishing photos to okeeneews@newszap.com.

County considers limits on farm animals

By Katrina Elsken
Okeechobee News

Is a 1.25-acre lot big enough to accommodate farm animals?

At their June 26 meeting, Okeechobee County commissioners discussed limits on farm animals under various types of zoning.

"Currently, we have several residential zone districts that have farm animals," explained Okeechobee County Planning Director Bill Royce. For example, in Country Hills Estates, which is residential-mixed zoning, residents with 5-acre lots are allowed to have a horse or

a cow, he explained.

In residential rural zoning, there is no limit on how many animals you can have, he continued.

Viking (also known as "The Prairie") is zoned for agriculture, he continued. But in areas designated for agricultural uses, if the property is less than 5 acres, there are limits on animals.

"We have areas in Taylor Creek Isles zoned agriculture, and up and down main roads have lots still zoned ag," he said.

He said that if a lot zoned for agriculture is smaller than 5 acres, it follows the same zon-

ing rules as Residential Single Family (RSF) Estate, which allows a horse or a cow on lots of at least 1 acre.

No farm animals are allowed if the lot is less than 1 acre.

This means that in Viking, where property was sold as 1.25-acre lots, the only farm animals you can have are horses or cows, unless you own at least four of the lots to meet the 5-acre requirement.

"I can see both sides of this," said Mr. Royce. If someone in Viking wants to have a chicken,

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Special to the Okeechobee News

This year Martha's House will serve 600 women and children in Okeechobee — victims of abuse in their own homes. They aren't statistics; they aren't "those" people. These are your daughters, nieces, neighbors, sisters and friends.

It is always a challenge for Martha's House to provide their services, and they get excited when people realize the deep and painful nature of family violence and decide to stand alongside them. Martha's House is extremely thankful and grateful to the Gilbert Family of Companies for recognizing this.

Martha's House is thrilled to be giving away an Arctic Cat Wild Cat side by side valued at almost \$11,000, and a Hustler 42-inch zero turn mower valued at just under \$3,000. The Gilbert Family of Companies is providing these really cool prizes, and 100 percent of ticket sales goes to Martha's House.

Please help Martha's House — and help yourselves, too — to a great opportunity, and both will win. Drawings will take place

July 7 at Gilbert Ford's fifth anniversary celebration. You do not need to be present to win. Tickets are available by calling Martha's

House at 863-763-2893; or Gilbert Outdoors, 315 S. Parrott Ave. in Okeechobee. Suggested donation is \$20.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Courtesy photo
Left to right are Deyaneira Castillo, Cat Lister, Salina Walker, Gil Culbreth, Christa Culbreth Luna, Mark Luna, Marie Culbreth, Jonathan Bean, Bert Culbreth, Krissy Culbreth, Alex Luna, Madelyn Culbreth and Ron Carl.

IRSC fall registration opens July 9

Special to the Okeechobee News

Fall registration at Indian River State College (IRSC) opens for all students on Monday, July 9. Students are encouraged to register early to ensure they are ready for class on Aug. 20.

IRSC offers more than 100 programs leading to bachelor's degrees, associate degrees, technical certificates and applied technology diplomas. Students can choose educational options that range from Quick Job Training (developing skills in a year or less) to four-

year baccalaureate degree programs.

Five IRSC campuses are within a 20-minute drive for every Treasure Coast resident, and through its Virtual Campus, students may choose from hundreds of online courses each semester. Recognizing that many students have full-time jobs and family obligations that divide their attention between work, family and school, all IRSC branch campuses have expanded Friday, evening and weekend course offerings. Students are encouraged to view the online course catalog at www.irsc.edu prior to registration.

IRSC is identified by the United States Department of Education as the most affordable college in Florida and the third-most affordable college in the country. Tuition is 40 percent less than at public universities and thousands of dollars less than at private universities and career colleges or institutes. Financial aid and scholarship programs are readily available to eligible students. More than 85 percent of IRSC students receive financial aid they don't need to pay back.

New students can follow these five steps to get started at IRSC:

- Visit www.irsc.edu to complete the application for admission;
- Submit their official transcripts from high school and other colleges;
- Apply for financial aid and scholarships;
- Sign up for new student orientation;
- Meet with an advisor and register for classes.

Important dates to remember for fall semester:

- Aug. 1: Registration deadline;

- Aug. 17: Late registration deadline;
- Aug. 20: Classes begin;
- Aug. 24: Last day to drop and add classes.

For more information, visit www.irsc.edu, email info@irsc.edu or call the IRSC Information Call Center at 866-792-4772.

About IRSC: Indian River State College is recognized as one of the top colleges in the nation, earning a spot as a finalist for the prestigious Aspen Prize in 2015, 2017 and 2019. This is due to the college's continual focus on quality of instruction, student services and academic support, and its commitment to providing a broadly accessible, superior learning environment that is broadly accessible.



Special to the Okeechobee News/IRSC
Students are encouraged to register early at IRSC to ensure they are ready for class on Aug. 20.

Okeechobee Forecast



Today: Showers and thunderstorms likely after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 89. Calm wind becoming south southwest around 5 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

Tonight: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 72. Southwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Showers and thunderstorms likely. Partly sunny, with a high near 88. Calm wind becoming south around 5 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

Saturday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 70. Calm wind becoming east southeast around 5 mph after midnight. 73F.



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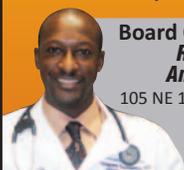


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Public Forum/Speak Out

Speak Out comments can be shared in several ways. Comments on local issues are welcome on the newspaper's website at okeechobee.com, 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 Okeechobee@newszap.com. Thanks for participating in our discussion of local issues!

Lake levels

• “The original lake was like a puddle in a parking lot ... it was lower because it spread over a vast area ... and when a storm event occurred it did not get a lot deeper ... it just spread out over a larger vast area ... like a puddle in a parking lot getting rained on ... The depth would exceed about where the base of the Herbert Hoover Dike is today. I believe that is about 14 feet ... and on the south end there were small creeks and ridges and sloughs that would turn into torrents moving south ... around the lake, a truly large rain event would basically flood almost everything west of what is now U.S. 1.” – Newton Earl Cook

• “In my opinion, the lake levels are kept waaaay too high (year-round), leaving no alternative but to release east/west when rains come early. Build the storage south of the lake and release stored water year-round as needed. Keep the lake level lower.” – Lee Scott Jones

• “Lake levels are managed by the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (LORS) to accommodate many different needs throughout the year. Levels are maintained between 12.5 and 15.5 feet. Too high or too low, and the ecology of the lake is threatened. Too high, and the safety of the dike and people are threatened. A reservoir south of the lake will do wonders during the dry season but will do very little to limit discharges to the estuaries during the wet season.” – Mike Elf

• “The problem is the water flows into the lake too quickly due to the ditches and channels north of the lake. Mother Nature intended the water to sheetflow slowly, which means much of the water would evaporate and much would percolate down

into the aquifer. When the water is moved quickly off the land by ditches and canals to prevent flooding, it just goes into the lake too fast and the lake rises much faster than it should. Storage north of the lake could be used to slow the flow into the lake and clean the water before it goes into the lake. We can't store our way out of this problem, but storage north is part of the solution.” – K. Booker

• “Every STA and conservation area was at full level by June 1, all from higher than average rain in May. Another reservoir would do nothing to affect that. Mind you, this was before any discharges east and west of Lake O.” – Don R. Clark

• “The water should never be held back ... stacking or stopping the flows because of the sparrow causes more damages to the system as a whole.” – Eric Kimmel

• “The problem with the lake and the estuaries is simple. There are too many people living where people don't belong. The artificial drainage system they rely on to keep their homes dry is the same system that create the problem with excess freshwater flow to the coastal estuaries. It also creates the issue with high nutrient levels into the lake. Most of the land from Orlando south should be under water a few months of the year, with the exception of the high ground areas where the pioneers built homes before the 1940s. Areas that were not developed before the flood control project started in 1948 are areas that Mother Nature designed to be flooded part of the year.” – J. Zimpel

Scams

• “I received a Publishers Clearing House winner call. As someone who has entered, I was curious but realized it was definitely a scam when I was told I would need to go to Walmart. He never said why, that I recall, but why else would I need to go to the Walmart service desk but a money order? I feel bad someone did trust this lowlife. I reported my scam call on the PCH website and called Walmart and told them the store was being used in a scam. Maybe places that deal in money orders should post a sign at the desk about what to watch for in a scam.” – Laura Murray

Social Security Matters

By AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor, Association of Mature American Citizens

Dear Rusty: *I'm trying to assist my spouse with her rapidly approaching age 62 when she can get her Social Security benefits. Currently she is working almost a full 40-hour week and her 2017 gross earnings were \$29,000. If she continues to work, she will probably earn approximately \$29,500 in 2018. She is also contemplating beginning to work only part-time, which will reduce her earnings to about 40 percent of what she currently earns. She is concerned that if she continues to work full-time, she will have her monthly SS payment reduced significantly and will not recoup that difference. I understand that if you continue to work full-time there will be some reduction in the monthly, but when you finally retire you will get the difference back at your full retirement age. Can you enlighten me/her? Signed: Helpful Husband*

Dear Helpful: If your wife starts her Social Security benefits at age 62 and continues to work, she will be subject to Social Security's annual “earnings limit” (\$17,040 for 2018) which, if she exceeds it, will result in Social Security withholding benefits of \$1 for every \$2 she earns over the limit. To use your example, if she earns \$29,500 in 2018 she will be \$12,460 over the limit and they will withhold all future benefits until they recover the \$6,230 that is owed from exceeding the limit (see my note below re: the first year of collecting). This will continue each year until the year she attains her full retirement age (her “FRA”) when the earnings limit goes way up (about 2 1/2 times

the earlier limit) and the withholding is less (\$1 for every \$3 over the limit); once your wife reaches her full retirement age there is no earnings limit and they will re-compute her benefit amount, giving her time credit for the number of months they withheld benefits due to exceeding the limit; they'll then raise her benefit amount as though she claimed benefits later than she actually did. So, over time, the higher benefit starting at her FRA could help her recoup some or all of the benefits withheld — but she doesn't get that withheld dollar amount back in a lump sum; they just increase her benefit amount at her full retirement age.

NOTE: There is a special rule which applies during the first year SS is claimed so, in your wife's case, if she claims benefits to start in June, instead of the annual earnings limit she'll be subject to a monthly earnings limit for the remainder of 2018. After her benefits start, her earnings limit will be \$1,420 per month for the rest of the year, and if she exceeds that, they will withhold benefits for a following month. The regular annual earnings limit will then go into effect the following year. Social Security requires that you inform them when you will exceed the earnings limit, but if you don't they will eventually catch up to you when your income tax return is filed. Also, please note that Social Security recommends that you apply for benefits three months before you wish them to begin, so if your wife wishes to start her Social Security earlier than her full retirement age, when she applies for her benefits she should select the option to “Start My Benefits Now” in order to have them start as soon as possible.

Letters to the Editor

Scholarship offered

My name is Emma Howard, and I work for an online dental blog that strives to increase awareness of dental health and good oral hygiene practices.

For the third straight year, we're offering \$1,500 in scholarship money to students of all majors in college or high school.

For this year's scholarship, students are asked to tell us (or act out for us) what superpower you would love to have and how you would use it to help create better

dental health in all people! This is a video submission contest, and we are looking for the most creative and innovative ideas that focus on entertaining us.

You can read more about the contest rules and further instructions here: <https://www.emergencydentistsusa.com/dental-scholarship/>.

Emma Howard

Our Dental Care Blog

ourdentalcareblog.com

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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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.



Corps to reduce lake releases to St. Lucie Canal

Special to the Okeechobee News

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District will temporarily reduce flows from Lake Okeechobee over the coming days.

Starting Friday (June 29), the target flow for the St. Lucie Estuary will be reduced to a 14-day average of 585 cfs as measured at St. Lucie Lock & Dam (S-80) near Stuart. The target flow for the Caloosahatchee Estuary remains unchanged at a 14-day average 3,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) measured at W.P. Franklin Lock & Dam (S-79) located near Fort Myers. However, the corps will release water to both estuaries in "pulse" patterns, meaning flows will vary over the

14 days.

"We will pause discharges to the east for a nine-day period to allow additional tidal flushing to take place within the estuary," said Lt. Col. Jennifer Reynolds, Jacksonville District deputy commander for South Florida. "However, with the lake rising, we anticipate having to resume flows at previous rates."

Thursday, the lake stage was 14.10 feet. Additional runoff from rain in the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie basins could also occasionally result in flows that exceed targets.

"Water levels in the lake remain high for this time of year," said Lt. Col. Reynolds. "The water conservation areas south of the

lake are also above their preferred ranges. We continue to work with the South Florida Water Management District to move water through multiple canals to create storage throughout the region to handle the near daily rainfall events we expect during wet season."

The corps is monitoring state water quality reports regarding findings of microcystis at locations in and around the lake. The corps will post any advisories issued by the Florida Department of Health that apply to its recreation areas. Additionally, specific information on microcystis is available at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection website: <https://floridadep.gov/dear/algal-bloom>.

"As we make the system decisions to manage water levels, we've found pulse discharges enable tidal flushing, which can improve conditions for estuary health," said Andrew LoSchiavo, a supervisory biologist with the Jacksonville District.

The corps manages water in the lake based on the 2008 Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (LORS). LORS helps inform decisions on water management with a focus on water levels and the safe carrying capacity of the Herbert Hoover Dike and the system's canal levees. The corps will continue to monitor conditions throughout the system and make adjustments as necessary.

Local student on dean's list at Baptist College of Florida

Special to the Okeechobee News

GRACEVILLE — Korey Allan Walters has been named to the dean's list at The Baptist College of Florida in Graceville for the Spring 2018 semester. The dean's list is published each semester to honor those students who maintain a 3.25 to 3.99 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Mr. Walters is a student at The Baptist College of Florida pursuing a major in youth ministry. He is active in First Baptist of Graceville's youth and basketball.

Mr. Walters is the son of Scarlett Walters of Okeechobee.

He is a 2013 graduate of Okeechobee High School. The honor student is a former member of First Baptist Church in

Okeechobee.

The Baptist College of Florida is an agency of the Florida Baptist Convention and accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to offer associate degrees in the areas of Christian education, music and divinity; baccalaureate degrees in the areas of biblical studies, business leadership, Chris-

tian studies, elementary education, English, English secondary education, history and social studies, history and social studies secondary education, leadership and Christian education, ministry, ministry contemporary, worship ministry and psychology; and master's degrees in Christian studies and music and worship leadership.

Worn-out flags to be properly retired in ceremony

Seawinds Funeral Home has launched its "Stars & Stripes Flag Retirement Program." People in the community who are looking for proper flag disposal can bring their flags to Seawinds Funeral Home, located at 3833 S.E. 18th Terrace, during normal business hours. Flags will be stored safely and disposed of in the proper, dig-

nified manner as outlined by the United States Flag Code. Flag donors will have the opportunity to attend an official Flag Retirement Ceremony to be conducted at a future date. The Flag Retirement Ceremony is a special, unique presentation conducted by the Boy Scouts of America. For information, call 863-357-7283.

LAKE

Continued From Page 1

Dr. Havens noted that there have been big algal blooms in the Caloosahatchee during droughts, and during those years, they release water from the lake to help move the water to break up the blooms.

"It's a really hot summer," he said. Blooms are happening everywhere.

The heavy rainfall in May was also a factor, he continued. It washed a lot of nutrients off the land.

The canal system, which provides flood control, moves the water quickly into the lakes and waterways. Before people dredged, ditched and diked much of South Florida, the water sheet-flowed slowly, which meant more of the nutrient load stayed on the land. The millions of people living in South Florida increase the nutrient loads into the watershed.

Hurricane Irma, which churned the lake with high winds, left a high level of dissolved nutrients in the water. Because the lake did not get low enough, long enough for the marshes around the edges to recover, the nutrient levels in the water still are high.

"It's a perfect recipe for a bloom," said Dr. Havens.

As of June 28, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection had only found very low levels — barely detectable — of toxins from two samples of the cyanobacteria in Lake Okeechobee.

Dr. Havens said some types of cyanobacteria sometimes release toxins. Not all cyanobacteria release toxins, and cyanobacteria that can release toxins do not always do so.

"You could go to a small lake or pond. On one side the toxin levels could be different from the other side," he said.

In a large ecosystem such as Lake Okeechobee, sometimes the cyanobacteria won't produce toxins at all, Dr. Havens continued.

Even if no toxins are released, there is a potential danger to fish from a large algal bloom. When the algae dies, it pulls oxygen from the water. If fish can't get out of the area in time, they could be trapped in oxygen-depleted water and suffocate. Dr. Havens said that is unlikely to happen with the bloom in the lake because if oxygen levels start to drop, the fish can just swim away. Fish kills due to algae die-off are more common in canals or areas where fish are confined.

ANIMALS

Continued From Page 1

it does not seem unreasonable.

"I also see if you have less than an acre, you shouldn't have farm animals," he said.

Commissioner Brad Goodbread said it does not make sense that a homeowner in Viking can own a 1,200-pound horse but is prohibited from owning a 6-pound chicken.

Commissioner David Hazellief said the rule regarding lot size goes back to 2005.

"Anything under 5 acres was changed to meet same rules as RSF Estate," he said.

"A lot of things go on out on The Prairie," he continued. "But people who live out there want to have a chicken or a pig."

People who move out to Viking go there for a country lifestyle, Commissioner Hazellief said.

"If you want to say someone in the middle of Treasure Island can't have chickens, I can understand that," he said.

"I wouldn't mind seeing limits," said Commissioner Kelly Owens. "Where I live, I am surrounded by lots of farm animals. There are a whole lot of chickens and ducks."

She said that if farm animals are allowed on parcels smaller than 5 acres, there should be some kind of limit on the number of animals. She explained that the issue isn't always the animals you are surrounded by but the inability of people to care for them adequately.

"If it is a 1-acre lot, if a person decides to get a lot of chickens and doesn't care for them appropriately, it can be a big problem for the neighbors," she said.

Commissioner Bryant Culpepper said his concern is about the odor from the manure

and also about the welfare of the animals if there are a lot of animals on a small lot.

"On Fourth Street we've got a guy with two horses on a residential lot. It's a mud pit all the time," he said. "There has to be some common sense involved in the impact it has on the neighbors."

Mr. Royce said he will ask the planning board come up with some limits. He said that if the planning board suggests a change, it would be done by ordinance, which would require public hearings.

Commissioner Goodbread said the U.S. Department of Agriculture publishes stocking rates, which provides the recommended space per animal. That would be a good place for the planning board to start, he suggested.

"It could be used to establish the limits on how much acreage is needed for various types of animals," he said.

Commission Chairman Terry Burroughs said asking the planning board to come up with limits is following the normal county process.

In other business at their June 26 meeting, the board appointed Tammy Hollander from KOA and Mike Krause of Okeechobee Fishing Headquarters to fill two vacancies on the Tourism Development Council Advisory Board. They also approved the appointment of Monica Clark to the board as the representative of the Okeechobee City Council.

The commissioners nominated four applicants to continue to serve on the Children's Services Council: Melisa Jahner, Heather Hancock, Wendy Coker and Pat McCoy. These nominations will go to the governor's office for approval. All four have been longstanding members of the Children's Services Council; their terms have expired or will expire soon.

Students show improvement on state tests

By Richard Marion
Okeechobee News

The Florida Department of Education has released the results of students' performance on Florida State Assessments (FSA) for 2018, and students in Okeechobee have shown double-digit improvement in some areas.

Central, South and Seminole elementary schools increased the percentage of third-grade students scoring proficient or above on the English language arts (ELA) assessment by seven, six and 11 points, respectively. Fifth-grade students at Central, South and Seminole also improved the percentage of students who scored level three or above in mathematics in 2018 over fifth-grade students in 2017.

And on the science assessment, fifth-grade students showed some of the biggest increases in proficiency in the elementary schools.

At Central Elementary alone, the percentage of students scoring a level 3 or above on the FSA science assessment in fifth grade increased from 39 percent in 2017 to 55 percent in 2018. Both Everglades and Seminole elementary also increased the percentage of students scoring a level 3 or above on the fifth-grade FSA science exam from 33 percent in 2017 to 47 percent in 2018 and from 23 percent in 2017 to 42 percent in 2018, respectively.

Students at Yearling Middle School increased their level of proficiency in the area of mathematics, with 52 percent of students earning a level 3 or above in 2018 compared with only 33 percent of students earning the same level of achievement in 2017.

Eighth-grade students at both Yearling and Osceola middle schools showed their largest increases in mathematics, with the district proficiency average for math increasing from 39 percent in 2017 to 54 percent in 2018.

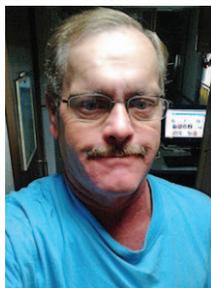
Students at Okeechobee High School increased their proficiency in the tested subjects of Algebra 1, English language arts, geometry and biology. The percent of students scoring a level 3 or above in ninth-grade ELA increased by 12 percent in 2018. Tenth-grade students also increased the percentage scoring proficient by 8 points over the 10th-grade students who tested in 2017.

Okeechobee Superintendent of Schools Ken Kenworthy credited a focus on standards-based instruction and engaging students in the learning process for the increases. While there still remain some grade levels or subject areas that will need to be targeted for improvement, overall, a greater number of students are showing that they have mastered the standards for their grade level.

Obituaries

George Cleveland Leonard, 57

OKEECHOBEE — George Cleveland Leonard died June 27, 2018. He was born Nov. 14, 1960 in Okeechobee to Joel Raymond and Avalou (McCartney) Leonard. A lifetime resident of Okeechobee, he was a member of the Church of the Nazarene. He enjoyed building cars, specializing in hot rods and mud trucks. He was an avid fisherman, loved the Lord, and was well known for sharing his testimonies. He was a well-known third generation well driller with Leonard's Well Drilling for over 40 years.



Mr. Leonard was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his sons, Jeffrey Leonard, of Madison, Wis., Jesse Leonard (Amber), and John Summerall, all of Okeechobee; brothers, Joel Leonard, of Okeechobee, and David Leonard (Susie), of St. Petersburg; sister, Becky Leonard, of Okeechobee; grandsons, Jeremiah Leonard and Jeffrey Price; beloved Chihuahua, Gizmo; and the mother of his children, Lynette Leonard.

Visitation will be 4 p.m. until services at 5 p.m. Monday, July 2, 2018 at Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Okeechobee, PO Box 1548, Okeechobee, FL 34973.

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.

Judith Kay Cracraft, 64

OKEECHOBEE — Judith Kay Cracraft died June 27, 2018. She was born July 23, 1953 in Columbus, Ohio to the late Paul E. and June (Katzenbach) Hashman. A resident of Okeechobee since 2000, she was a case manager at Raulerson Hospital and a patient advocate at Nurse on Call. She was a member of the Moose Lodge and Eastern Star.



Mrs. Cracraft is survived by her husband of 43 years, Dennis Cracraft, of Okeechobee; daughters, June Cracraft, of Hendersonville, N.C., and Kelly Diaz (Jesus), of Coral Springs; four grandchildren, Christian, Andrew, Logan, and Blake; sister-in-law, Carol Susie Thomas, of Reynoldsburg, Ohio; and nephew, Mike Thomas, of Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

Visitation will be 2 p.m. until services at 3 p.m. Sunday, July 1, 2018 at Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home.

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.

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

Susan Marie Lewis, 66

OKEECHOBEE — After a very short battle with cancer, Susie Lewis died on June 23, 2018 in Okeechobee, at the age of 66.

She leaves behind her husband, Rick "Roaddogg" Lewis; her daughters, Stacey Teves and Terri Downs; and her stepson, Chevy Lewis.



Susie was born on Feb. 22, 1952 in Michigan to father Jack Ferguson and mother Ygonda Crane, who predeceased her. She settled in Okeechobee in 1995. Susie always loved having a good time with all of her friends in Okeechobee.

Susie is survived by her husband and children, as well as her sister, Linda Croft; her grand kids Ryan and Randy Teves, Michael Haynes Jr., Nikolaus "Bubby" Mahan, Caitlin "Diddy" Mahan; step-grandson, Derrick Mahan; and step-granddaughter, Cadence Kirkhouse. She was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Bobby Crane; her sister, Jackie Driffill; and her step-daughter, Holly Lewis Kirkhouse.

Susie requested to be cremated. At Susie's request, no services will be held.

Michael Shane Bullock, 56

OKEECHOBEE — Michael Shane Bullock died June 25, 2018. He was born Aug. 1, 1961 in Ft. Pierce. A lifetime resident of Okeechobee, he was a heavy equipment operator. He proudly served our country in the United States Air Force.



Mr. Bullock was preceded in death by his father, Army Gene Bullock, Sr.; and his daughter, LeAnn Bullock.

He is survived by his mother, Patricia M. Sepeda (Ray), of Okeechobee; daughter, Kerry Phillippe, of Washington State; sister, Patty Gail Rassman (Donald), of Melbourne; brother, Army Gene Bullock, Jr. (Trish), of Venus; uncle, Ray Bullock, of Ft. Pierce; and numerous nephews.

Visitation will be 10 a.m. until services at 11 a.m. Monday, July 2, 2018 at Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Basinger Cemetery with Pastor Monroe Arnold.

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.

Nancy Kirchner, 78 Loving Caregiver

WAYNESVILLE — Nancy Kirchner passed away on Tuesday, June 26, 2018.

Nancy is survived by her husband of 55 years, Don Kirchner.

She attended Oakview Baptist Church. Nancy was a winter resident of Ancient Oaks RV Park.

Funeral Services will be held at 3 p.m., Saturday, June 30, 2018, at Smoky Mountain Chapel. Burial to follow services at Greenhill Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers memorials are suggested to Gideons International, P.O. Box 634, Waynesville, NC, 28786.

Smoky Mountain Cremations and Funeral Service of Clyde is caring for the family and the online register is available at www.smokymountaincremations.com

Kellie Christine Travers, 23

NORTH CAROLINA - Kellie Christine Travers, of Matthews, N.C., passed away June 23, 2018 in New York while on vacation.



Kellie was born in Ft. Pierce and grew up in Okeechobee. She had been living in Matthews, N.C. since 2013. She was a beautiful young lady and loved life. She was an amazing daughter, granddaughter, sister, and friend. She loved the beach, fishing, hunting, riding airboats, and dressing up for any occasion. Above all she loved her family. She was an animal lover and left no critter without a home. She ran an animal rescue and always made room for any animal in need. Her favorite quote was "Always stay humble and kind." She was loved by all and will be greatly missed. RIP KK.

She was preceded in death by her grandfather, Thomas Travers.

She is survived by her parents, Patrick Travers (Natalie), of Sebring, Andrea Bostic Travers (Jesse) of Matthews, N.C., and Leanna Lowe, of Port St Lucie; maternal grandparents, WL and Lucy Bostic, of Williamson W.Va.; paternal grandmother, Heidi Vogt, of Okeechobee; siblings, Logan Travers (Amanda), of Port St Lucie, Garrett Travers (Kes), of Matthews, N.C., and Makilyn Travers of Sebring; stepsiblings, Elliott Damos, Cassie Damos Garcia (Colby), Lauren Mullis, Jamie Curlee, Seth Pressley, Amanda Lowe, Kellee Smith, Brenden Christmas, Jordyn Katz, and Destyn Katz; nieces and nephews, Landon Travers, Ezekiel Garcia, Ellianna Garcia, and Ellannah Garrity. She also has many aunts, uncles, and cousins who will miss her greatly.

Visitation will be 10 a.m. until services at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 30, 2018 at Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home.

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.

Community Events

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Legion will host dinner

On Friday, **June 29**, come and enjoy dinner at the American Legion, 501 S.E. Second St. Everyone is welcome. Dinner will be fish, shrimps or chicken and french fry baskets, for a \$6 donation and is served from 5 until 8 p.m. with music from 6 to 9 p.m. For information, call 863-763-5309.

AYCA Catfish dinner severed

The Buckhead Ridge Moose, 1016 Lind Road, will serve an all-you-can-eat catfish or sharpies on Friday, **June 29**, from 4 to 7 p.m. Dinner is a \$10 donation. There will also be steak and shrimp dinners available. Live entertainment will be provided and the public is welcome.

Butterfly Garden to open

Okeechobee Main Street invites all 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 State Road 70 E., on Saturday, **June 30**, from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each. For information, call 863-467-2321.

Oasis Lounge opens

The Okeechobee Shrine Club Oasis Lounge, 1855 S.W. 53rd St., will be open Friday, June 29, and Saturday, June 30, from 5 to 10 p.m. For the first hour and a half, all drinks are \$1 off. There will be hot dogs for sale. Popcorn is free! For information, call Keith at 863-643-2682.

Cheer sign-ups set

Okeechobee "STORM" cheer and dance will hold sign-ups for their upcoming season on Saturday, June 23, through June 30 from

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sign-ups will be held at the gym in the Ceder Plaza on Southwest Third Terrace. Kids ages 4 through 16 are welcome to join. The cost is \$50 per child. For information, call 863-697-3211 or 863-634-4327.

Summer reading camp set

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

Flea Market hosts car show

The Big O Flea Market, 3600 U.S. 441, will host a Classic Car & Truck Show on Sunday, **July 1**, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission, registration and parking 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!

Legion has Sunday bingo

American Legion 64, 501 S.E. Second St., will host Sunday night bingo on July 1, at 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. in the bingo area. The kitchen will be open from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the American Legion veterans' programs. The event is open to the public.

AMVETS hosts 5 card bingo

Amvets Post 200, 3651 Hwy 441 S.E. Suite 6, will host 5 card bingo on Sunday, July 1, at 2 p.m. and 5 card bingo on Tuesday, July 3, at 2 p.m. The event is open to the public. For information, call 863-484-8135.

Breakfast at BHR VFW

The VFW Auxiliary, 29012 SR 78 E. in

Buckhead Ridge, will serve a full breakfast on Sunday, July 1, from 8:30-11 a.m. to benefit veteran's services. For information, call 863-467-2882.

Legion hosts 5-card bingo

American Legion Post #64, 501 S.E. Second St., will host five-card bingo on Monday, July 2, from 1 to 3 p.m., with lunch served at 12:30. For information, call 863-763-5309.

Widows and Widowers meet

The Okeechobee Widows and Widowers Group will meet Tuesday, **July 3**, at 8 a.m. at Lakeside Grill, 1111 S. Parrot Ave. New members are welcome. For information, call Jane at 863-824-8700 or Connie at 863-801-0482.

Fourth of July at Lakeport

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

BHR VFW serves chicken

In celebration of the 242nd anniversary of our founders' declaration, the VFW Post 9528, 29012 SR 78 E. in Buckhead Ridge, will serve a Southern fried chicken, cobbed corn, and baked potato dinner on Wednesday, **July 4**, at 5 p.m. to benefit veteran services. Fireworks begins at dark. For information, call 863-467-2882.

City Hall offices closed

City Hall offices will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, in observance of the Independence Day Holiday. Their website, cityofokeechobee.com, allows you access 24/7. City Hall offices will reopen on Thursday, July 5, at 8 a.m.

BHR VFW serves dinner

The Buckhead Ridge VFW Post 9528, 29012 SR 78 E. in Buckhead Ridge, will serve dinner on Friday, July 6, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The menu will include grilled boneless rib eye steak, grilled pork tenderloin, fried fish and shrimp, baked and french fried potatoes, baked sweet potatoes, onion rings, salad and desert to benefit homeless veterans.

Live music by Crystal. For information, call 863-467-2882.

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.

BHR VFW serves breakfast

The VFW Post 9528, 29012 SR 78 E. in Buckhead Ridge, will serve a full breakfast on Sunday, July 8, from 8:30 to 11 a.m. to benefit veterans services. For information, call 863-467-2882.

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De Palma honored for protecting wildlife refuge

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Wildlife Refuge Association has named Celeste De Palma as their first-ever National Wildlife Refuge System Advocate of the Year. Ms. De Palma is the director of Everglades policy at Audubon Florida and was instrumental in mobilizing her community to help stop the licensing revocation of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.

“We are thrilled to present Celeste with our first-ever Refuge Advocate Award,” said Geoffrey Haskett, president of the National Wildlife Refuge Association. “Her tireless efforts to protect the Loxahatchee refuge from lease termination went above and beyond her job description at Audubon. We could not ask for a more dedicated advocate for the refuge system.”

In August 2016, Florida Gov. Rick Scott took legal action attempting to end a 66-year-old agreement between the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the South Florida Water Management

District (SFWMD). In response, Ms. De Palma began gathering refuge advocates from the local, state and national levels to protect the refuge. She rallied community members, flew into Washington, D.C., to speak with Florida delegators, and organized weekly conference calls with stakeholders. In all, over 67,000 emails were sent to Gov. Scott defending the refuge.

Ms. De Palma even sought out unconventional means to help protect the refuge. Not only did she band together conservationists to advocate for the refuge, she also called upon teachers, students, ex-Governing Board members of SFWMD, local garden clubs, homeowners associations, recreational groups and local, state and national NGOs. She successfully leveraged these voices to draw public attention to the issue.

On Nov. 9, refuge advocates won a victory when the SFWMD Governing Board approved a resolution delegating SFWMD Executive Director Ernie Marks the authority to enter into a new license agreement

with the USFWS. This agreement was officially signed in February of this year. Ms. De Palma’s campaign to protect Loxahatchee NWR was not only a success but a demonstration of how hard work and perseverance during hard times pay off in a big way for conservation.

Ms. De Palma’s dedication to protecting the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee Nation-

al Wildlife Refuge, the overall Everglades ecosystem and the surrounding community is inspirational; for these reasons, we are proud to present this award to the very deserving Celeste De Palma.

Ms. De Palma’s award was presented on May 24 at the National Wildlife Refuge Association’s Annual Awards Dinner in Washington, D.C.



Special to the Okeechobee News/Courtesy of National Wildlife Refuge Association
Celeste De Palma was named the 2018 National Wildlife Refuge System Advocate of the Year by the National Wildlife Refuge Association at their annual awards dinner in Washington, D.C., on May 24. Left to right: Cynthia Martinez, chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System; Greg Sheehan, principal deputy director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Celeste De Palma, Everglades policy director of Audubon Florida; Geoff Haskett, president of the National Wildlife Refuge Association; and Jim Kurth, deputy director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Blood drives planned in July

The need for blood donations doesn’t take a vacation. Blood donations are needed year round in order for area hospitals to maintain a safe blood supply, tested, processed and ready to use when the need arises. Because blood is processed into blood components, such as plasma and red cells, and each patient only receives the blood components he or she needs, one donation may help to save three lives. The bloodmobiles will be in Okeechobee in July at the following locations.

- Wednesday, July 4, at the Ag Center from 3:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Friday, July 6, at Okee Discount Drugs from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Friday, July 6, at Walmart from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

- Thursday, July 12, at Walmart from 2 to 7 p.m.
- Saturday, July 14, at the Trading Post Flea Market from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Sunday, July 15, at Golden Corral from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Saturday, July 21, at Walmart from noon to 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday, July 22, at Walmart from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Thursday, July 26, at Dr. Brown’s Clinic from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Friday, July 27, at Walmart from 2 to 7 p.m.
- Saturday, July 28, at the Back to School Bash at OHS from 8 to 11 a.m.
- Saturday, July 28, at Walmart from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
- Sunday, July 29, at Publix from noon to 5:30 p.m.



Okeechobee News/Total Roadside Services

No one is injured in tractor-trailer accident

According to the Okeechobee County Sheriff’s Office, at 8:58 a.m. on Tuesday, June 26, a tractor-trailer turned over on the northbound side of the road in the 4700 block of Northeast 128th Avenue, a quarter-mile south of State Road 70 East. The truck reportedly was carrying trash and had left debris on the road when it turned over. No injuries were reported in the incident, and Total Roadside Services was on scene to recover the overturned vehicle.

Eastpoint wildfire started with prescribed burn

Special to the Okeechobee News

TALLAHASSEE — Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam H. Putnam has announced that, following an investigation led by his Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement, a prescribed burn conducted by Wildland Fire Services Inc. on behalf of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) caused the wildfire in Eastpoint, which burned more than 800 acres and destroyed 36 homes.

“My heart goes out to those affected by this

devastating wildfire, and I thank all of our partners in the response effort to stop the spread of the fire,” stated Commissioner Putnam.

The Florida Forest Service led response efforts to contain and extinguish the wildfire with assistance from the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office, the FWC, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Eastpoint Volunteer Fire Department and other local fire departments.

During the course of the investigation, other possible causes, such as lightning, arson and fire accidentally caused by man, were eliminated.

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2010 Ford F-250 XL
5.4L V8, CREW CAB,
42K MILES #18240A
\$23,983



2011 Ford F-150 XL
3.7L V6, CREW CAB,
54K MILES #18017B
\$23,983



2013 Chevy Silverado 1500
5.3L V8, CREW CAB,
76K MILES #18436A
\$26,877



2013 Ford F-150 XL
3.5L V6, CREW CAB,
50K MILES, #18022A
\$26,983



2017 Ford F-150 XL
2.7L V6, SUPERCAB,
24K MILES #18733A
\$28,475



2015 Dodge Ram 3500
6.4L V8, CREW CAB,
43K MILES, #18366A
\$28,951



2014 GMC Sierra 1500
5.3L V8, CREW CAB,
69K MILES, #18497B
\$29,893



2017 Chevy Silverado 1500
5.3L V8, CREW CAB,
15K MILES, #18835A
\$31,886



2014 Chevy Silverado 1500
5.3L V8, CREW CAB,
54K MILES #171392B
\$32,983



2015 Ford F-150 XL
5.0L V8, CREW CAB,
37K MILES, #18812A
\$33,983



2016 Ford F-150
5.0L V8, CREW CAB,
16K MILES, #P6308
\$42,666

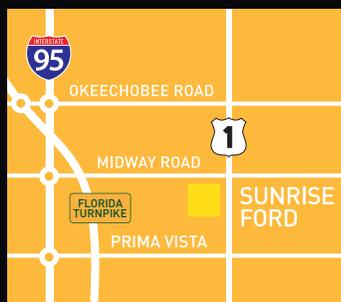


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Two Lady Brahmans to play soccer in college

By Richard Marion
Okeechobee News

Two 2018 Okeechobee High School graduates and teammates on the Lady Brahmans soccer team have accepted offers to continue their education and soccer career at the collegiate level.

Brook O'Hagan has accepted a scholarship to play at Feather River College in Quincy, Calif., and Denise Garcia has accepted a scholarship to play at John Wood College in Quincy, Ill.

Both players were part of the 2016-17 girls soccer team that secured the best record in school history. Head coach Eric Swant is proud of his two former players but admits it's going to be hard to replace them.

"They were the two constants on all the teams I have been associated with in Okeechobee since I started," said Swant. "Going to be so hard to replace them. There is no doubt they will both do well at the next level as they start their college careers. They are the first two scholarships we have gotten in girls soccer in recent memory, if not ever."

The pair have been friends since they met in the first grade, where they would play soccer together at recess. Once middle school began, the two young ladies joined the soccer team as well as the basketball team.

"We helped each other throughout the years and always pushed one another,"

explained O'Hagan. "I'm glad she was my right back for four years and has had my back for more than 10 years."

Garcia echoed that sentiment, and also noted the coincidence of both players moving to different cities that share the name Quincy.

"Brook has always been playing some kind of sport with me since middle school," said Garcia. "It has been an amazing ride with her. We both had mentioned that we wanted to play college ball ever since we started soccer, and we finally made it. I couldn't have done it without her, either. We are both playing in different cities named Quincy, which I think is pretty funny. I hope she succeeds in her college goalkeeping, and I wish her nothing but the best."

Swant says getting access to video hosting service Hudl this year was crucial in getting scholarship offers for players. Hudl offers the tools to edit and share video, interact with stats, and create quality highlight reels for recruiting purposes online. The Lady Brahmans were able to afford the service this year due to support from their sponsors.

Both players gave credit to coach Swant for helping them, on and off the field.

"I couldn't thank him enough for the work and time he has put in for our team the past four years," said Garcia. "He never gave up on us, and now we are going to the next level because of him."

The leadership on the Lady Brahmans

soccer team will now fall to the underclassmen on the team. Leading scorers Janel Aponte, Ashton English and Alani Garcia all seem capable and ready to lead next year's team as Okeechobee attempts to secure a playoff spot in the tough 4A District 13.

"All I want to say to my younger team-



Special to the Okeechobee News
Brook O'Hagan (left) and Denise Garcia (right) hold trophies awarded to them at the OHS Lady Brahmans soccer banquet.

mates and any other younger female athletes is that even when you think you can't, you absolutely can," said O'Hagan. "Don't let anything hold you back."



Special to the Okeechobee News
Brook O'Hagan (left) and Denise Garcia (right) spent four years on the OHS Lady Brahmans varsity soccer team and are now moving on to the collegiate level.

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IRSC names Dr. Belmont VP of academic affairs

Special to the Okeechobee News

Indian River State College (IRSC) has named Dr. Heather J. Belmont its new vice president of academic affairs. Dr. Belmont will lead the college's efforts in the areas of liberal arts, mathematics and natural sciences, education, library services, curriculum, professional development for faculty, and more. She also serves as a member of the president's Cabinet.

Dr. Belmont comes to IRSC from Miami

Dade College (MDC) where, during past 13 years, she served in numerous leadership capacities as both a faculty member and administrator. Since 2011, Dr. Belmont has led as the dean of the School of Science, overseeing a vast array of programs at all seven MDC campuses. Initiatives spearheaded by Dr. Belmont include: in-house advisors in STEM programs, enhanced active-learning curricula in the classrooms, course-embedded research, and advanced research programs. Additionally, Dr. Belmont was

instrumental in the significant increase in the college's internship opportunities and applied learning experiences. She also has experience with success with grant development — managing a portfolio of over \$10 million in federal awards from agencies including the U.S. Department of Education and the National Science Foundation.

"Dr. Belmont has an excellent record of collaborative leadership, working across disciplines with fellow administrators and faculty to provide a comprehensive support network for students," said Dr. Edwin Massey, IRSC president. Continuing, he stated, "In her administration and faculty chair roles with MDC, Dr. Belmont built partnerships, connecting the private sector and business community with academia in multiple, innovative ways, and we look forward how she will expand on her accomplishments at IRSC."

Prior to her time with Miami Dade College, Dr. Belmont served as a researcher and scientist with multiple firms in South Florida's expanding bio-tech industry. She earned her B.A., magna cum laude, in psychology and neuroscience from Ithaca College in 1994, and her Ph.D. in interdisciplinary neuroscience from the University of Miami in 2001. Also, Dr. Belmont is a published author in journals ranging from PLOS ONE to the Journal of Applied Psychology and has two U.S. patent applications.



Special to the Okeechobee News/
Courtesy photo
Dr. Heather Belmont

IRSC names Dr. Anthony Dribben assistant dean

Special to the Okeechobee News

Indian River State College (IRSC) has announced the appointment of Dr. Anthony Dribben as assistant dean of mathematics and natural sciences. In this role, Dr. Dribben leads the Mathematics and Natural Science departments of the college.

Dr. Dribben comes to IRSC from Tallahassee Community College (TCC) in Tallahassee, Florida, where he served as science program chair since 2014, and as a professor of chemistry since 2005. During his time at TCC, Dr. Dribben also served as chairman of the STEM Council, an outreach arm of the TCC with oversight into coordinating outreach and service

activities of the STEM programs as well as scholarship opportunities for students in the STEM programs.



Special to the Okeechobee News/
Courtesy photo
Dr. Anthony Dribben

Prior to joining TCC, Dr. Dribben spent seven years at Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss., serving as an associate professor of chemistry. His educational background includes a B.S. in chemistry from Mississippi College, a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Florida, and a postdoctoral fellowship in biochemistry at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Dr. Dribben is also a member of the 2012 graduate class of the Chair Academy Leadership Academy, an international leadership development program for college and university faculty and administrators.

New website to keep public informed

Webpage contains latest SFWMD measures underway to help lower water levels, reduce need for Lake Okeechobee releases to northern estuaries

WEST PALM BEACH — During the week of June 25, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) unveiled its latest tool to inform the public about the ongoing efforts to alleviate the high-water emergency caused by record rainfall throughout South Florida.

The new website, www.sfwmd.gov/managinghighwater, will contain weekly video updates from SFWMD Chief Engineer John Mitnik on the latest water conditions and measures implemented to lower lake levels and move more water through the conservation areas. To view the latest update filmed this week, visit vimeo.com/277309000

The Managing High Water Website also contains more detailed information on the ongoing efforts to protect the public and the environment after 300 percent of the average amount of rainfall fell throughout South Florida in May.

This record rainfall caused Lake Okeechobee to rapidly rise by more than a foot, which led the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to begin releases from the lake on June 1 to the northern estuaries to ensure flood protection for the citizens living south of the lake. At the same time, this record rainfall inundated the water conservation areas, causing them to rise above their regulation schedules.

In response to this record rainfall, Gov. Rick Scott directed the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to issue an emergency order which expedites the ability of SFWMD and other agencies to take action to lower water levels in the conservation areas, creating capacity to take water from Lake Okeechobee to reduce the need for estuary releases.

SFWMD is taking every action within its authority to lower water levels, including storing water on public and private lands, utilizing every available structure to store water and installing temporary pumps to move water.

As more measures are implemented, details will be available on the Managing High Water Website.

Virus found in Fl resident may be widespread

Special to the Okeechobee News

GAINESVILLE — A virus first found in Tampa Bay-area mosquitoes that can cause a rash and mild fever has been identified in humans for the first time, according to University of Florida researchers.

The findings are yet another indicator of the range of diseases that can be caused by mosquito bites in Florida, in keeping with a recent study by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that highlighted the almost doubling of vector-borne disease cases in the United States since the early 2000s.

"Although the virus has never previously been found in humans, the infection may actually be fairly common in North Florida," said J. Glenn Morris, M.D., M.P.H., director of the UF Emerging Pathogens Institute and corresponding author of the report on the virus published June 9 in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.

"It's one of these instances where if you don't know to look for something, you don't find it," he added.

The virus, called "Keystone virus" after the location in the Tampa Bay area where it was initially identified in 1964, has been found in animal populations along coastal regions stretching from Texas to the Chesapeake Bay.

While there were no reports of human infection until now, human infection has long been suspected. A 1972 article in the *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene* reported Keystone virus antibodies in 19 to 21 percent of the people tested in the Tampa Bay region.

The new report, titled "Keystone Virus Isolated from a Florida Teenager with Rash and Subjective Fever: Another Endemic Arbovirus in the Southeastern United States?" says a teenage boy went into an urgent care clinic in north-central Florida with a rash and fever symptoms in August 2016, during the Zika virus epidemic in Florida and the Ca-

ribbean. Because of concerns about Zika, laboratory samples were collected from the patient; however, all studies were negative for Zika or related viruses.

Unexpectedly, UF researchers did find Keystone virus when they did viral cultures from the patient samples. Although the patient did not report symptoms of encephalitis, researchers report that the virus grew well in Neuro-2A cell cultures. Neuro-2A cells are mouse brain cells, and the ability of the virus to grow in these cells suggests that Keystone virus can infect brain cells, and may pose a risk for brain infections.

"This virus is part of a group commonly known as the California serogroup of viruses," said John Lednicky, Ph.D., a research professor in the UF College of Public Health and Health Professions' department of environmental and global health and a member of the Emerging Pathogens Institute. Dr. Lednicky is the first author of the report.

"These viruses are known to cause encephalitis in several species, including humans," he added.

Jamestown Canyon virus and La Crosse encephalitis virus are two of the most commonly known viruses in the California serogroup.

Due to the likelihood that Keystone virus is a common though previously unidentified pathogen among people in the region, Dr. Morris emphasized the need for additional research into the prevalence of vector-borne diseases in the United States.

"All sorts of viruses are being transmitted by mosquitoes, yet we don't fully understand the rate of disease transmission," he said. "Additional research into the spread of vector-borne diseases will help us shine a light on the pathogens that are of greatest concern to both human and animal health."

Dr. Morris also stressed the importance of minimizing the risk of mosquito bites by using mosquito repellent at times and places where mosquitoes are present.

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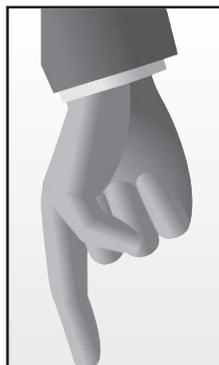
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Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2018TD787

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

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

Description of Property: **BEING A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN SECTION 35 TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH RANGE 35 EAST OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA AND BEING A PORTION OF PARCEL A TAYLOR CREEK ISLES SECTION FIVE ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3 PAGE 92 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID PARCEL A TAYLOR CREEK ISLES SECTION FIVE SAID POINT LYING ON THE NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF US HIGHWAY 441 AKA STATE ROAD NO 15 THENCE BEAR SOUTH 67 DEG 36 MIN 04 SEC WEST ALONG THE SOUTHERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID PARCEL A AND ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF US HIGHWAY 441 FOR A DISTANCE OF 400.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 67 DEG 36 MIN 04 SEC WEST ALONG SAID SOUTHERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF PARCEL A AND ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF US HIGHWAY 441 FOR A DISTANCE OF 213.45 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THAT CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND AS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS OR BOOK 343 PAGE 1496 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA THENCE BEAR NORTH 56 DEG 17 MIN 12 SEC WEST ALONG THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID OR BOOK 343 PAGE 1496 FOR A DISTANCE OF 58.13 FEET TO THE NORTH CORNER OF SAID OR BOOK 343 PAGE 1496 SAID POINT LYING ON THE WEST BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID PARCEL A BEING ALSO THE EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SE 18TH TERRACE THENCE BEAR NORTH 00 DEG 10 MIN 27 SEC WEST ALONG SAID BOUNDARY LINE OF PARCEL A AND ALONG SAID EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SE 18TH TERRACE FOR A DISTANCE OF 385.59 FEET TO THE POINT OF CURVATURE OF A CURVE CONCAVE TO THE SOUTHEAST AND HAVING FOR ITS ELEMENTS A RADIUS OF 35.00 FEET AND A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 67 DEG 46 MIN 31 SEC THENCE ALONG SAID CURVE FOR AN ARC LENGTH OF 41.40 FEET TO THE POINT OF TANGENCY OF SAID CURVE SAID POINT LYING ON THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID PARCEL A BEING ALSO THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SE 38TH TRAIL THENCE BEAR NORTH 67 DEG 36 MIN 04 SEC EAST ALONG SAID NORTHERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF PARCEL A AND ALONG SAID SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SE 38TH TRAIL FOR A DISTANCE OF 67.61 FEET TO A POINT THENCE BEAR SOUTH 22 DEG 23 MIN 56 SEC EAST PARALLEL WITH THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID PARCEL A FOR A DISTANCE OF 426.97 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. 1.717 ACRES**

1-35-37-35-0100-0000-000A
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

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

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

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

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2018TD792

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

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

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

1-18-38-35-0A00-00009-B000
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:

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

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

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

Public Notice

Public Notice

Public Notice

**SR15/ 700 (U.S. 441) AND SR 78 INTERSECTION
BEAUTIFICATION IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT NO. 2018-19
INVITATION TO BID**

Sealed BIDS will be received by Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners at the **Okeechobee County Historic Courthouse, 304 NW 2nd Street, County Administrator's Office, Room 123, Okeechobee, FL 34972 until 3:00 p.m. on August 3, 2018**. Bids will be publicly opened in room 201, same address and read aloud. Any BIDS received after the time specified will not be accepted.

The BIDS shall be based on Bid Documents, Plans, and Specifications for the SR15/ 700 (U.S. 441) AND SR 78 INTERSECTION BEAUTIFICATION IMPROVEMENTS Project, County Project No. 2018-19

Bid documents may be downloaded from the Okeechobee County website at: <https://www.co.okeechobee.fl.us/> under Bids and Proposals tab.

All materials furnished and all work performed shall be in accordance with the Drawings, Specifications and Contract Documents pertaining thereto.

Any questions pertaining to the project specifications or scope of work will be addressed to John Howle, in writing to the physical or e-mail address noted below, no later than July 26, 2018, **5:00 pm**.

Okeechobee County
John E. Howle, County Engineer
804 NW 2nd Street
Okeechobee, FL 34972
863-763-3514 (phone)
863-763-3031 (fax)
jhowle@civilsurv.com

If it becomes necessary to revise or amend any part of this bid, an addendum will be issued and will be posted on the County's website.

It is the sole responsibility of the bidders to check the website to ensure that all available information has been received prior to submitting a bid.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the **Okeechobee County Historic Courthouse, Room 201 located at 304 NW 2nd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972 on July 19, 2018 at 2:00 pm**.

Each bid must be accompanied by an acceptable Bid Security in the form of a Bid Bond, or Certified Check, made payable to "Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners", in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the total Bid Amount. The Bidder, if awarded the Contract and the bid amount is \$100,000 or more, will execute and file acceptable performance and payment bonds equal to 100% of the contract price within ten (10) days after written notice of the award of contract. No bidder may withdraw their bid for a period of ninety (90) days after the date set for opening of bids.

Okeechobee County reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, accept Bids in any order or combination, accept or reject portions of Bids, make modifications to the work after bidding, and waive any formality in the Bids if they deem it in their best interest to do so. Okeechobee County accepts no responsibility for any expense related to preparation or delivery of proposals.

The General Contractor will provide additional information including, but not limited to, a list of similar projects constructed within the past five (5) years, client references, or other financial references deemed appropriate to Contract Award.

Bidders will confine their bids to the project in its entirety. Partial bids will not be accepted.

Each bidder will submit with this bid, evidence that the bidder complies with all state and local requirements, to perform the work described in said Bid.

If in the opinion of the bidder, inconsistencies appear to exist in the specifications, it is the bidder's responsibility to seek clarification from the Owner, John E. Howle, County Engineer, as shown above. Additionally, it is incumbent upon all bidders to conduct a personal investigation as to requirements of the County.

Bids must be sealed and the outside of the envelope MUST be marked: **"BID - SR15/ 700 (U.S. 441) AND SR 78 INTERSECTION BEAUTIFICATION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT NO. 2018-19"**

BIDDER MUST SUBMIT (1) ORIGINAL AND (2) COPIES OF THE BID.

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

Sharon Robertson, Clerk of Court
Okeechobee County, FL

271799 ON 06/29/2018

Public Notice

Public Notice

Public Notice

SECTION 0001

**OKEECHOBEE COUNTY
HRS BUILDING
PATIO ROOF REPLACEMENT
PROJECT NO. 2018-18**

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed BIDS will be received by Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners at the **Okeechobee County Historic Courthouse, 304 NW 2nd Street, Room 123, Okeechobee, FL 34972 until 3:00 pm on July 27, 2018**. Bids will be publicly opened in room 222 and read aloud. Any BIDS received after the time specified will not be accepted.

The BIDS shall be based on the following: Scope of work includes, but is not limited to, furnishing all materials, equipment, and labor for the HRS Building Patio Roof Replacement as shown in the Drawings and described in the Specifications and Bid Documents. For complete requirements, please see Bid Documents and Drawings.

Bid Documents may be downloaded from the Okeechobee County website at: <http://www.co.okeechobee.fl.us/> under Bids and Proposals tab.

All materials furnished and all work performed shall be in accordance with the Drawings, Specifications and Contract Documents pertaining thereto, which may be examined at or obtained from the County Website or from:

Okeechobee County, Facilities Maintenance & Development Services, Donnie Oden, FMDS Director, 1700 NW 9th Avenue, Ste C, Okeechobee, FL 34972 (863) 763-0805 Email: sselvey@co.okeechobee.fl.us

If it becomes necessary to revise or amend any part of this bid, an addendum will be issued and will be posted on the Okeechobee County website at: <http://www.co.okeechobee.fl.us/> under Bids and Proposals tab.

It is the sole responsibility of the bidders to check the website to ensure that all available information has been received prior to submitting a bid.

A **MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING shall be held at 9:00 a.m. on July 12, 2018 at the HRS Building Auditorium, 1700 NW 9th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972. Bidder's attendance is mandatory.** All Bidders are strongly advised to attend the pre-bid meeting to inspect the site conditions and to receive questions from respondents on any issues considered relevant to the requirements of the project.

Any questions pertaining to the project specifications or scope of work will be addressed to the Okeechobee County Facilities Maintenance, Donnie Oden in writing via email at sselvey@co.okeechobee.fl.us or fax at (863) 763-5529 **no later than July 17, 2018, 5:00 pm**.

Each Contractor who has made a written request will be furnished with one (1) electronic version of the Bid Documents via email at no cost by sending a request via email to: Email: sselvey@co.okeechobee.fl.us. Only Bid documents obtained from Okeechobee County are acceptable for bidding.

Each bid must be accompanied by an acceptable Bid Security in the form of a Bid Bond, or Certified Check, made payable to "Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners", in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the total Bid Amount.

The Bidder, if awarded the Contract and the bid amount is \$100,000 or more, will execute and file acceptable performance and payment bonds equal to 100% of the contract price within ten (10) calendar days after written notice of the award of contract. No bidder may withdraw their bid for a period of ninety (90) calendar days after the date set for opening of bids. **The Payment and Performance Bonds must show the Owner's name, Project Name and Project Number.**

Okeechobee County accepts no responsibility for any expense related to preparation or delivery of proposals. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, accept Bids in any order or combination, accept or reject portions of Bids, make modifications to the work after bidding, and waive any informality/inconsistency in the Bids if they deem it in their best interest to do so.

Unless specifically prohibited by law or regulation, said bid includes an assignability clause that allows for the assignment of all or part of the specified deliverable items.

Okeechobee County has a local vendor preference which is contained within the County's current procurement policy. Definitions, allowances and exemptions can be found in this policy. You are encouraged to review the latest version to ensure compliance with and exceptions to the local vendor preference policy. The County's vendor preference policy can be found on the County's website at <http://www.co.okeechobee.fl.us/government/county-procurement-policy>.

Bidders will confine their bids to the project in its entirety. Partial bids will not be accepted.

Each bidder will submit with this bid, evidence that the bidder complies with all state and local requirements, to perform the work described in said Bid.

If in the opinion of the bidder, inconsistencies appear to exist in the specifications, it is the bidder's responsibility to seek clarification from the Okeechobee County Facilities Maintenance. Additionally, it is incumbent upon all bidders to conduct a personal investigation as to requirements of the County.

The Board of County Commissioners has the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Bids must be sealed and the outside of the envelope MUST be marked: **"BID - OKEECHOBEE COUNTY HRS BUILDING PATIO ROOF REPLACEMENT, PROJECT NO. 2018-18"**.

BIDDER MUST SUBMIT (1) ORIGINAL AND (2) COPIES OF THE BID.

Sharon Robertson, Clerk of Court
Okeechobee County, FL

Terry W. Burroughs, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Okeechobee County, FL

272177 ON 6/29/2018

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2018TD786

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

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

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

1-01-35-35-0020-00000-0190
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
MILLER PC LLC

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

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

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

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**INVITATION TO BID NO. PW 02-00-05-18-RB
OKEECHOBEE CITY HALL DOOR REPLACEMENT**

**Mandatory Pre-Bid: July 10, 2018, 3:00 PM
Opening Date and Time: July 18, 2018, 3:00 PM**

The City of Okeechobee, Florida is currently soliciting bids to provide construction services needed to replace five (5) existing exterior doors and one (1) double exterior door with side lights and transom at City Hall located at 55 SE 3rd Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34974.

Sealed bids must be received within the **General Services Department at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Avenue, Rm 101, Okeechobee, FL 34974, no later than 3:00 PM EST on or before Wednesday, July 18, 2018.** All responses received by the deadline will be opened and recorded in the presence of one or more witnesses within the Council Chambers, Rm 200, at the address listed above. Any bids received after the above noted date and time will not be opened or considered. Facsimile or emailed bids will not be accepted.

A **MANDATORY Pre-Bid Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, July 10, 2018, at 3:00 PM EST** in the Council Chambers, Rm 200, at the address listed above. Bidders **MUST** attend this meeting in order to submit for this bid.

Product specifications are available in the Bid Packages that may be obtained from the General Services Department at City Hall during normal office hours, Mon-Fri, 8 AM-4:30 PM, except holidays, or by contacting Patty Burnette, 863-763-3372 x 9820, or via email at pburnette@cityofokeechobee.com. A \$25.00 non-refundable deposit per set of documents is required, made payable to the City of Okeechobee (checks & cash only accepted). Questions concerning the scope of work are to be directed to Public Works Director David Allen, 863-763-9790, or dallen@cityofokeechobee.com. **NOTE: Bonding Requirements Apply to this Bid Opportunity.**

Submittals must be within a sealed envelope and contain two (2) clearly identified originals and one (1) copy of the bid, with the outside of the envelope clearly labeled **"BID NO. PW 02-00-05-18-RB OKEECHOBEE CITY HALL DOOR REPLACEMENT, 7-18-18, 3:00 PM"** with the submitting **Company Name and Return Address.** Bids may be mailed, hand delivered, and/or express mailed to the address listed above. Firms properly registered in the State of Florida are encouraged to submit their bid for consideration.

It is the sole responsibility of the Bidder to deliver personally or by mail, their bid to the General Services Department on or before the closing hour and date for the receipt of bids as noted above.

This solicitation does not commit the City of Okeechobee to award any contracts, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this bid, or to contract for any services. The City Council reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive informalities and to accept or reject all or part of any bid, as they may deem to be in the best interests of the City of Okeechobee. Responses to this bid, upon receipt by the General Services Department, will become public records subject to provisions of Florida Statute Chapter 119 Florida Public Records Law.

EEO/ADA/GINA/VP/DFWP

By: Mayor Dowling R. Watford, Jr.
272171 ON 6/29/2018

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2018TD789

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

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

Description of Property: **SUNSET STRIP AIRPARK LOT 22**

1-23-37-34-0020-00022-0000
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**ANDY GODWIN
ANGEL GODWIN
BRIAN GODWIN
CHARLES D GODWIN
ESTATE OF CHARLES D GODWIN
KIPPY GODWIN
RYAN GODWIN**

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

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

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS
Change in Schedule**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the regular City Council Meeting scheduled for Jul. 3, 2018, has been postponed to **Tues, Jul. 10, 2018, 6 PM**, or as soon thereafter as possible, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, FL. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. The agenda may be obtained from cityofokeechobee.com or by calling the Office of the City Administrator, 863-763-3372 ext. 9812.

ANY PERSON DECIDING TO APPEAL any decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need to ensure a verbatim record of the proceeding is made and the record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal will be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), any person with a disability as defined by the ADA, that needs special accommodation to participate in this proceeding, contact the City Clerk's Office no later than two business days prior to proceeding, 863-763-3372 ext. 9814.

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

By: Mayor Dowling R. Watford, Jr.
271771 ON 6/29/2018

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

2018TD790

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

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

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

3-16-37-35-0160-00240-0150
Said property being in the County of Okeechobee, State of Florida

Name in which assessed:
**ALLEN ALDRIDGE
ALLEN HOWARD ALDRIDGE
ANN ALDRIDGE
HEATHER ALDRIDGE
MARY BULLINGTON**

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

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

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

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Lobsters' sense organs
 - 6 Celebs
 - 10 Flight from the law
 - 13 Poker declaration
 - 14 "___ my guard down"
 - 15 Famille patriarch
 - 16 Form by combining elements
 - 18 One-piece garments, slangily
 - 19 Rome-based carrier
 - 20 Toll road timesaver
 - 22 "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" singer
 - 24 Performer's supporters
 - 28 Guacamole, e.g.
 - 29 Twisty letter
 - 30 Diva delivery
 - 31 Snoozed
 - 33 Fictional voyager
 - 40 Retired New York senator Al D'___
 - 41 Rational
 - 42 DDE rival
 - 45 Esteemed league member
 - 46 N, in Morse code
 - 49 Sparkle
 - 52 Currencies
 - 53 Irrationality
 - 58 Bravo preceder
 - 59 Host of the 2015 MLB All-Star Game
 - 61 Not masc. or fem.
 - 62 Prod
 - 63 Gold brick
 - 64 Fashion monogram
 - 65 Jury member
 - 66 Fluff, as hair
- DOWN**
- 1 Italian capital of its own province
 - 2 Kind of nitrite
 - 3 Actress Anderson
 - 4 Golf stroke that can be practiced in a hallway
 - 5 Cornell University city
 - 6 Brand that "gets the red out"
 - 7 Epic with a very big horse
 - 8 Refillable candy
 - 9 Metal playing marbles
 - 10 Delaware Valley tribe
 - 11 Comes into view
 - 12 Salutation abbreviation
 - 15 Bite-size Chinese appetizer
 - 17 Tarzan portrayer Ron et al.
 - 21 Mothers of Invention musician
 - 23 Empty, as threats
 - 24 Fourth notes
 - 25 "Entourage" agent Gold
 - 26 Diarist Anaïs
 - 27 Rum-soaked cake
 - 31 "The Affair" aier, briefly
 - 32 Morticia, to Gomez
 - 34 Peaceful relations
 - 35 Annual tennis team event
 - 36 Texting farewell
 - 37 Chap
 - 38 Lennon partner
 - 39 On Soc. Sec.
 - 42 The same number
 - 43 Places where élèves study
 - 44 Wicked ... and, homophonically, like five long puzzle answers
 - 46 One of the reindeer
 - 47 "The Bell of ___": Longfellow
 - 48 "Don't need to watch that movie again"
 - 50 Spiffy
 - 51 Fencing attack
 - 54 Celebrity chef Burrell
 - 55 Lengthy story
 - 56 Nebraska natives
 - 57 Evening, in ads
 - 60 Anger

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xwordeditor@aol.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13					14				15				
16					17				18				
19							20	21					
					22		23						
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52							53			54	55	56	57
58							59	60					
61							62						
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65							65						
66										66			

By Kenneth J. Berniker
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David Hazellief, 863-610-1553
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NEW LISTING
4001-M: Blue Cypress 1BD/1BA, 1,112 Total Sq Ft, Merit Park Model. Neat, clean and cute! Screened porch, shed, paved driveway. HOA, Active comm w/ amenities including golf course, pool, clubhouse, fishing and lots more **\$69,000** MLS # 212782



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

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Offered at \$85,000 Call Julia Parker at 863-801-3489



Julia Parker
863.801.3489 | Office: 863.763.6000




PALM VILLAGE - 55+ COMMUNITY. Waterfront 3B/2Ba with a view that's breathtaking! Enclosed FL room with glass sliders. Large screened porch w/utility room and huge shed. Plenty of parking (pavers) for trucks and boats or cars. MLS #212620 **\$158,000** Call Jody 863-634-1285



SEMINOLE COVE - 55+ COMMUNITY. 3 BED 2 Ba. Master bath custom built! Tile floors/Laminate. Brand new roof, newer AC/water heater. Screened FL rm. Living rm, separate den. Furnished! Quaint neighborhood. MLS #212612 **Enjoy the good life! \$132,500** Call Jody 863-634-1285



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40 +/- ACRES

HOME ON 40 LUSH ACRES of Bahia pasture with less than 5% wetlands. Beautiful 2,675 sq foot mobile home furnished and ready to move-in. Pole barn for all of your toys. Excellent weekend getaway or gentlemen's ranch. Call today for more info. **\$399,000** Call Brandon D. Tucker (772) 201-8722



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



PROFESSIONAL OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT — \$850 per month — 840 square foot of professional office for rent in prime location. Please call Vicki for more information or to schedule a showing.



FOR RENT — \$900 per month — CBS home on the water in Buckhead Ridge.

Anderson REALTY CO.
Vicki Anderson,
Lic. RE Broker
863.634.4106



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



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 Hill (863) 634-6796



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

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



New Price! Owners Super Motivated!
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 **\$185,000** 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

Gilbert Realty GROUP



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 Dallon at 863-697-2139

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



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

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

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\$899/MO
FOR 36 MO

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SAVINGS: \$4,000

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*See dealer for complete details.



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MSRP \$39,985
SAVINGS: \$6,600

\$33,385

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*See dealer for complete details.



NEW 2017 BUICK REGAL

MSRP \$31,400
SAVINGS: \$4,000

\$27,400

STOCK #17211
*See dealer for complete details.



NEW 2018 BUICK CASCADA

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

\$33,535

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*See dealer for complete details.



NEW 2018 BUICK ENCLAVE ESSENCE

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

\$43,845

STOCK #18337
*Must own conquest vehicle under Select Brand Program.



NEW 2018 GMC TERRAIN SLE

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SAVINGS: \$2,347

\$29,624

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*See dealer for complete details.



NEW 2018 GMC SIERRA 1500 CC SLT

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SAVINGS: \$10,056

\$39,969

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*See dealer for complete details.



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

\$31,583

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*See dealer for complete details.



NEW 2018 GMC YUKON SLE

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

\$50,865

*See dealer for details.



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