



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 109 No. 78

Sunday, July 1, 2018

75¢ plus tax

Salute to military service members
... Pages 3, 4

EAA reservoir plans move forward... Page 7

FWC approves new airboat course ... Page 8

Honoring the Fourth of July
... Page 9-12

Meet OPD Officer Gavern
... Page 14

Lake Levels

14.13 feet
Last Year: 12.22 feet



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

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

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Special to the Okeechobee News
Artha (center) with her parents, Mac and Lison Jonassaint, is proud to be Florida State FFA president.

Inspiring Okeechobee:

Artha Jonassaint is state FFA president

By Lean Suarez
Okeechobee News

What a whirlwind June for 2018 Okeechobee High School graduate Artha Jonassaint or, shall we say, Madame President. At June's Florida Future Farmers of America State Convention, Miss Jonassaint was elected state president, and donned her association jacket for the coming year.

Artha will delay her enrollment for one year at Harvard University to work on behalf of Florida FFA members. Artha said at the moment she won, her family went "nuts" in the crowd.

She is the first African-American young woman elected to lead the organization in its 90-year history.

Getting to know Artha this past year has just been incredible. Not only is she a top student, but her heart and soul are worn on her sleeve. She is one of the guiding forces behind the continuation of the End the Hunger Project. She graduated at the top of her class, is a scholar athlete and just an overall great person. When I asked her why End the Hunger was so important to her, she clearly spoke with

See FFA — Page 5

Sheriff asks for budget increase

By Matteo Tullio
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee County Sheriff Noel E. Stephen presented his agency's 2018-19 fiscal year budget in a town hall meeting on Wednesday, June 27, in the Okeechobee County Historic Courthouse.

The event was broadcast live on

the Board of County Commissioners website and can be viewed in its entirety via www.co.okeechobee.fl.us.

During the meeting, Sheriff Stephen outlined his request for the budget.

"With this town hall meeting I want to maintain my transparency,

See SHERIFF— Page 13

Toxic algae found in the Caloosahatchee

By Katrina Elsen
Okeechobee News

Low levels of the toxin microcystin were detected in water collected in Lake Okeechobee where a large algal

bloom has been reported, according to the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation. Higher levels of microcystin were detected on the Caloosahatchee River in Glades County and in Lee County.

The highest level of toxins detected this week was in a sample collected on the Caloosahatchee River at the Alva bridge on June 25, with microcystin levels of 308.07 micrograms per liter.

To date, most of the samples from Lake Okeechobee have had no toxins detected or very low levels.

The World Health Organization (WHO) considers microcystin levels below 10 micrograms per liter to be safe for recreational contact.

Most of the water flowing into the Caloosahatchee River is from local basin runoff. On Thursday, the flow from Lake Okeechobee at Moore Haven was only 544 cubic feet per second (cfs). The flow at the Franklin Lock was 3,574 cfs. So of the 1.9 billion gallons of freshwater that flowed

See ALGAE — Page 5



Photo courtesy FDEP
An algal bloom in the Caloosahatchee River in Lee County has tested positive for toxins from cyanobacteria.

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Saluting our Soldiers



In Honor of:
James "Tommy" Tucker
U.S. National Guard



In Memory of:
Jerald E. Acheson
U.S. Air Force

Thank you for your Superior Service! You we're a true HERO!

*Love and Miss You,
Acheson Family & Friends*



In Honor of:
Brett Bridges
U.S. Army Ranger
75th Ranger Regiment
2nd Battalion

Thank you for your service.

Love, Your Family



In Honor of:
James Trey Thomas

Strong. Daring. Brave. Loyal. All words many use to describe you. Your family would like to add missed and loved beyond measure to the list.

From Your Family



In Honor of:
Lonnie "Goose" Cason Sr.

Best friend and husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. Known as "POP" to so many. **We salute you! Love you always.**

Your family and friends.



In Honor of:
Chris Quesinberry
United States Marine

"Greater love has no one than this that he lay down his life for his friends."

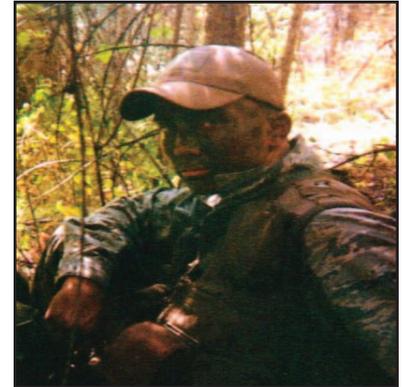
Thank you



In Honor of:
Stephanie Quesinberry
United States Navy

Bravery is just determination to do a job that you know has to be done!

Proud of You!



In Honor of:
Jason Viens
U.S. Air Force

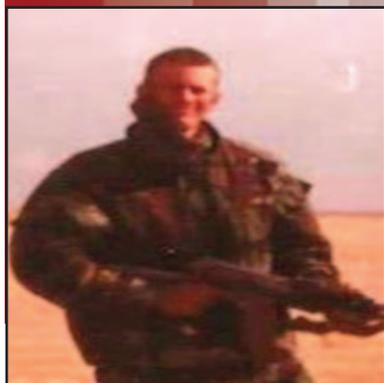
The task ahead of you, is never as great as the power behind you.

So Proud of You!

WE STAND BEHIND OUR SOLDIERS

Past and Present ~ Your Friends at the Okeechobee News

Protecting our Freedom



In Honor of:

Scott Viens

United States Army

Home of the free because
of the brave.
Proud of you my love



In Honor of:

Dale Nowlin

United States Marine

Once a Marine,
Always a Marine!
SEMPER FIDELIS
Thank you for your service!



In Honor of:

SPC Lamb

Soldier, Son, Grandson,
Brother, Hero!
You are in our hearts and
prayers every day!
Thank you for your service!



In Honor of:

LCpl Lamb

Marine, Son, Grandson,
Brother, Hero!
You are in our hearts and
prayers every day!
Thank you for your service!



In Memory of:

Patrick Rix

United States Army

You'll always be my hero dad,
love you and miss you with all
my heart,
Tamara.



In Honor of:

Jesse Belfi

Thank you for serving
our country!
Honor, Courage, Commitment
Love, Mom and Dad



In Memory of:

CPL. Earl H. Hansel

Our "Hero" served in the Navy
in WWII and in the Korean
Conflict. He died in a Korean
Prison Camp in 1951. We are
waiting for his remains to be
returned.



In Honor of:

Samuel C. Davis

Viet Nam 68'-70'
"Thank you for your service,
Love your family"



In Honor of:

Will Zapata

Thank you for your service son.
We are very proud of you and
your accomplishments!
Love, Mom and Dad



In Honor of:

Bobby Harrison

Bobby Harrison
Thanks for your years of
service Papa.
I love you. Lindsey



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**This Independence Day,
we salute all soldiers,
current, veteran
& fallen.**

**Go see Mitch! He's a sweetheart guy
and he'll work with you!**



Public Forum/Speak Out

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

Grand Oaks fishing

• "I loved the photos of the Grand Oaks residents catching fish on Lake Okeechobee. The fishing is great on the Big O this summer, and those folks sure look like they were having a wonderful time." – K. Booker

• "Grand Oaks is a fantastic assisted living facility. My mother is there, and they have so many wonderful activities nonstop. The residents are never bored, and the care they are given is above and beyond. My family is so thankful for Grand Oaks." – Judy Demeter

Lake releases

• "The Everglades Agricultural Area reservoir, if it was built today, would not stop the discharges east and west from the lake. A reservoir south of the lake would have already been full from direct rainfall when the lake level started to rise. What we need is more water conveyance south under the Tamiami Trail. The water is stacked up north of the trail now. There is plenty of clean water they could send south, but they can't get it there." – J. Zimpel

Letter to the Editor

Hatred for America

In the never-ending battle against ISIS, has no one realized that the children separated from their parents will have nothing but

hatred for America? Nice going, Trump! The solution to immigration is keeping him in office. No one will want to come here, including the current citizens.

J.T. Martin

Okeechobee Forecast



Extended Forecast

Monday: Variable clouds with scattered thunderstorms. High 89F. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 50%.

Monday Night: Scattered thunderstorms during the evening, then cloudy skies overnight. Low 71F. Winds light and variable. Chance of rain 50%.

Tuesday: Partly to mostly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. High 88F. Winds NE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 40%.

Tuesday Night: A few clouds. Low 71F. Winds NNE at 5 to 10 mph.

Today: Partly cloudy early. Scattered thunderstorms developing in the afternoon. High around 90F. Winds SSE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 60%.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Low 72F. Winds light and variable.

Fire/Rescue offers free blood pressure checks

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

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

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

Reflections from the Pulpit

By Rev. Don Hanna

First UMC, Okeechobee

This week, we celebrate America's 242nd Independence Day, the official anniversary of our Declaration of Independence. It seems just a few years ago that we were 200 years old! Many years ago I read that, according to John Adams, July 2 should be the day celebrated by Americans with fireworks because it is the day that the Continental Congress approved the Declaration even though it was dated as July 4th. The National Archives website confirmed my memory, but I doubt we will ever change tradition. Nevertheless, it is a reminder to us as Americans that our independence was a long and bloody process. According to the Archives.gov website, the Declaration was not signed until Aug. 2, and not all the delegates were present that day. The War of Independence began in 1775 and continued until 1783 when the Treaty of Paris was signed. We forget the price of freedom involved a long struggle and was not simply making a declaration.

Independence Day is a time that I am reminded of those who sacrificed so much for our freedom. There are barbeques and fireworks on July Fourth, but I try to take a few minutes each year to give thanks for those who mutually pledged "to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our Sacred Honor." And it was not just the signers of the Declaration, but all who gave so much in that long struggle.

Most of my life, I believed that all of my family were immigrants drawn to the American Dream and simply beneficiaries of those who sacrificed at the beginning. My line of Hannas came from Ireland in 1831, and my mom's family came in 1879 from Switzerland. I never felt any shame in missing the Revolution, but at the same time, I felt it would have been nice to be connected personally to those who "made" America. I was shocked in 2002 to learn that one line of my family on mom's side had been here since just after the Mayflower! As the years have gone by, I have found that I have multiple patriot ancestors on both sides who fought in the Revolution. I had always been grateful to those who prepared the way and also for those immigrants who arrived later. But it is nice to have a foot in both camps, those who started this American Dream and those who have come to find it for themselves. I am confident that there is not a family among us that doesn't share some part of the immigrant story, except maybe our Seminole neighbors. We have come from many places, to a place we can call home. This Fourth, as we celebrate, may we give thanks to the many streams of people that have come to America and may we seek to live up to the ideals of the Declaration: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Not a bad start, but we are not finished yet!

OCSO Investigations

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

ASSAULT

- 100 block of Northwest 36th Street
- 1000 block of Northeast 13th Avenue
- 7200 block of U.S. 441 North
- 100 block of Northeast 64th Avenue
- 500 block of Northwest Fourth Street
- 7200 block of U.S. 441 North
- 8800 block of Southeast 67th Way
- 1400 block of Northwest 141st Street

BURGLARY

- 1100 block of Northeast 29th Terrace
- 2800 block of Northwest 46th Avenue
- 900 block of Northeast 31st Terrace
- 6300 block of Northeast Fifth Street
- 3100 block of Southeast 39th Avenue
- 6600 block of Southeast 56th Lane

- 16100 block of Northwest 266th Street

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

- 300 block of Southeast 15th Avenue
- 4000 block of Southeast 14th Terrace

FRAUD

- 2200 block of Northwest 42nd Avenue
- 8100 block of U.S. 441 Southeast
- 3400 block of Southwest 20th Street
- 500 block of Northwest Fourth Street

IDENTITY THEFT

- 2200 block of U.S. 441 North

THEFT

- 200 block of Northwest 34th Street
- 4900 block of U.S. 441 South
- 2700 block of U.S. 441 South
- 1700 block of Southwest Third Avenue
- 3300 block of Southeast 34th Avenue
- 3600 block of Northwest Sixth Avenue
- 4000 block of U.S. 441 North

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

Address: 107 S.W. 17th Street, Suite D
Okeechobee, FL 34974
Website: florida.newszap.com

To Submit News

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

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To Start or Stop A Paper

Phone: (800) 282-8586

E-mail: readerservices@newszap.com

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

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

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

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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.



FFA

Continued From Page 1

passion about food insecurity not just here in Okeechobee, but across the globe.

She hopes to work on hunger issues on a global level. I have no doubt she will.

Artha's graduation speech excerpt speaks to her passion and drive. She noted, "We need to choose love, choose agape love at that, so that we can shine our lights in the darkest parts of the world." She was challenged in high school by teacher Beth Box Wise to develop a mission statement, and Artha says that she uses this mission statement to remain focused. "I am Artha Kristie and my mission is to be a reflection of Christ and to exhibit competence, strength and agape love. I will use my intellect, likeability, communication skills to ensure the safety and prosperity of marginalized people. Through acts of service, and impacting legislation, I intend to make this world and specifically this country a place where all can be happy and prosperous."

Her mom, Lison, posted on Facebook after Artha's historic election: "Ninety years after it was chartered, the Florida FFA Association elected its first African-American female president. That young woman just so happens to be my daughter. Artha Kristie Jo-

nassaint, proud doesn't even describe it. Go set the organization and the world on fire."

OHS Principal Dylan Tedders, wrote as part of her recommendation for state office: "I humbly write this letter of recommendation for Artha Jonassaint in her pursuit of becoming a Future Farmer of America state officer. Attempting to summarize her accomplishments in a single letter will be impossible to do. As I reviewed her resume, I was forced to reflect and challenge myself to serve and provide more opportunities of service through my position as leader of the school. Artha has the unique ability to lead others to achieving ambitious goals and believing that achieving these goals is within reach."

Mr. Tedders continued: "Artha exemplifies The Brahman Way. Our mission, constructed by students and staff, was developed to match what it means to say, 'The Brahman Way.' I believe Artha is a model of everything this slogan represents. She has a sense of ownership and pride in the culture we are attempting to build. Her high school journey has been one of service and putting others before herself. That is The Brahman Way!" He concluded: "There is no doubt in my mind that when I see Artha, I am looking at a natural born leader. Her pleasant demeanor, relentless pursuit of excellence, and effortless ability to influence others has her in elite air when it comes to comparison of

past Brahman student leaders. I would not rule out the possibility that I might be lucky enough in the future to apply for a position in an organization that she is leading. Whatever the organization, it will have a mission of solving issues to make this world a better place. I will be a better principal because I had the opportunity to witness the growth in a person as special as Artha. She makes us all strive for greatness!"

FFA Advisor Jared Prescott said of Artha: "It is a true privilege to be one of Artha's advisors for the past two years. Artha is the definition of a leader. She is honest and fair and treats her peers and advisors with the utmost respect. In my opinion, one of the greatest qualities that Artha possesses are that of a motivator. I have watched her push those around her to set goals that, at the time, they may look at as unachievable, and then push and encourage them to achieve it."

Mr. Prescott continued: "This year was my first FFA State Convention as an advisor, and what an exciting one it was! Just to be able to experience such an emotional moment, and next step in Artha's future, with her was absolutely amazing. This is a dream come true for her, and the FFA is better for it. As State FFA President, I believe that Artha will lead the Florida FFA Organization to new heights during the coming year. I'm excited to see the growth that this year brings

to both her and the FFA."

Advisor Clint Thompson wrote: "It has been my great privilege to serve as one of Artha Jonassaint's FFA advisors for the last three years. I have only been a teacher for a few short years now, but neither in that time or any time before it have I met such a driven, intelligent, and charismatic young lady."

Thompson noted: "Artha is a natural leader, and commands the room anytime she stands at the front of it. She has the rare ability to help her peers work together as equals in a casual setting, while still keeping things moving down a predetermined path in an orderly fashion. She has served as our chapter president for two years running, and our district president for the past year, and has done so with great poise and seemingly unlimited support from her peers both at home and around the district. We have had state officers and even state presidents come from our chapter in the past, but Artha is the first in my time as an advisor, and I have to say, what a great first experience for me! I can think of no one better to represent myself, my fellow advisors, our FFA chapter and its members, and the great state of Florida as our state FFA president than Miss Artha Jonassaint. This is not the first election that Artha has won, and I guarantee that if she is so inclined, it will not be the last."

Artha is off learning about her new position with her fellow FFA officers and enjoying her first weeks as "Madame President."

Artha, the world is yours and your fan club is here to cheer you on! Thank you for inspiring us.

ALGAE

Continued From Page 1

into the west coast estuaries on June 28, only 292 million gallons came from Lake Okeechobee. Basin runoff is also as high or higher in phosphorus and nitrogen as the lake water.

- On June 21, a sample from the St. Lucie Lock in Martin County had *Microcystis aeruginosa* (a cyanobacterium) as the dominant taxon. No microcystin was detected.

- A sample taken June 25 on Lake Okeechobee at Moore Haven found *Microcystis aeruginosa* was dominant. Microcystin levels were 3.3 micrograms per liter. No other toxins were detected.

- On June 25, dense mats of algae were observed on the surface of the Caloosahatchee River at Ortona; *Microcystis aeruginosa* was dominant in the sample. Microcystin levels were 26.3 micrograms per liter. No other toxins were detected.

- On June 25, a sample taken at the Port Mayaca lock in Martin County had *Microcys-*

tis aeruginosa dominant. Total microcystin level was 2.2 micrograms per liter, No other toxins were detected.

- On June 25, FDEP sampled an algae bloom at Port Mayaca in Martin County. The dominant taxon was *Microcystis aeruginosa* (a cyanobacterium). Microcystin levels were measured at 2.2 micrograms per liter

- On June 25, an algal bloom on the Caloosahatchee near S. Olga Road in Lee County had *Microcystis aeruginosa* dominant. Microcystin level was 25.41 micrograms per liter. No other toxins were detected.

- On June 25, microcystin levels of 308.07 micrograms per liter were detected in an algal bloom on the Caloosahatchee River at the Alva bridge. *Microcystis aeruginosa* was the dominant taxon. No other toxins were detected.

- On June 26, microcystin levels of 463.34 micrograms per liter were detected in an extensive algal bloom on the Caloosahatchee River in Lee County. *Microcystis aeruginosa* was dominant. Anatoxin level was 0.34 micrograms per liter.

- On June 26, a sample collected at the Swim Beach downstream of the S-79 water

control structure on the Caloosahatchee River had microcystin levels of 6.5 micrograms per liter; *Microcystis aeruginosa* was the dominant taxon.

- On June 26, microcystin levels of 4 micrograms per liter were detected in an algal sample at the Tiki Hut at State Road 31 in Lee County.

- On June 26, microcystin levels of 6.06 micrograms per liter were detected in a sample taken near the Orange River Tree Farm on the Caloosahatchee River in Lee County. Dominant taxon was *Microcystis aeruginosa*.

- On June 26, an algal bloom on the C-44 Canal in Martin County below the S-80 water control structure had mixed algae with no dominant species. Microcystin levels were 0.59 micrograms per liter. No other toxins were detected.

- FDEP also found visible algae on the surface of the water and in the water column in the C-44 Canal below the S-80 water control structure on June 26. Test results are not yet available.

Algae blooms are also reported in other waterways in Florida in the past two weeks.

Arrest Report

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

- Robert Wade Hardister, 26, Southeast Federal Highway, Stuart, was arrested June 25 by Deputy Matthew Huffman on a felony charge of battery by a person who is being detained in a jail upon other detainee. His bond was set at \$5,000.

- Walter Frank Jackson, 59 Northeast 16th Avenue, Okeechobee, was arrested June 26 by Deputy Jonathan Kemp on an Okeechobee County felony warrant charging him with sale, manufacture or deliver a controlled substance (hydromorphone) within 1,000 feet of a physical place for worship or convenience business and possession with intent to sell, manufacture, or deliver a controlled substance (hydromorphone) within 1,000 feet of a physical place for worship or convenience business. His bond was set at \$5,000.

- Angela Helen Kukulka, 36, Southwest Ninth Street, Okeechobee, was arrested June 26 by Deputy Jonathon Gove on two

counts of felony charge possession of a controlled substance (dextroamphetamine-amphetamine) without a valid prescription. Her bond was set at \$5,000.

- Cornelia Denise Ash, 22, Northeast 13th Avenue, Okeechobee, was arrested June 29 by Deputy Ben Vuleta on a felony charge of fleeing or attempting to elude a law enforcement officer. Her bond was set at \$2,500.

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

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Summer reading camp set

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

Flea Market hosts car show

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

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 U.S. 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 State Road 78 East in Buckhead Ridge, will serve a full breakfast on Sunday, July 1, from 8:30 to 11 a.m. to benefit veterans 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 p.m. 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.

Shrine Club hosts dinner

The Okeechobee Shrine Club, 1855 S.W. 53rd St., off of SR 78 West, will host a spaghetti dinner Tuesday, **July 3**, from 4 until 7 p.m. Suggested donation is \$8. The event is open to the public. Music will be provided by Jay and Patty. For information on the activities of the Okeechobee Shrine Club or to lease the club, contact the Shrine Club at 863-763-3378.

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, cityfokeechobee.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 East in Buckhead Ridge will serve dinner on Friday, July 6, from 5:30 - 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 East in Buckhead Ridge, will serve a full breakfast on Sunday, July 8, from 8:30-11 a.m. to benefit veteran's services. For information, call 863-467-2882.

Tai Chi at the Senior Center

Starting Monday, **July 9**, Okeechobee Senior Services will again offer Tai Chi classes on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Lottie Raulerson Senior Center, 1690 N.W. Ninth Ave. These classes are offered to beginners and the experienced at no cost. For information, please call Senior Services at 863-462-5180.

BHR VFW Aux serves dinner

The VFW Auxiliary, 29012 SR 78 East in Buckhead Ridge, will host a dinner comprised of Sally's Big Balls and other items on Wednesday, July 11, at 5 p.m. to benefit veteran services. For information, call 863-467-2882.

BHR VFW serves dinner

The Buckhead Ridge VFW Post 9528, 29012 SR 78 East in Buckhead Ridge, will serve dinner on Friday, July 13, from 5:30 - 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. Live music by Travis. Proceeds to homeless veterans. For information, call 863-467-2882.

Chicken workshop set

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

Labor Day parade is Sept. 1

The 2018 Labor Day parade will be held Saturday, **Sept. 1**. A poll was conducted through Facebook and the community voted to change the event from traditional Monday to Saturday to help kick off Okeechobee Main Street's festival in the park and Cattle-men Association's weekend rodeo events.

Obituaries

Reta Rebecca Tyner, 91

BASINGER — Reta Rebecca Tyner died June 27, 2018. She was born Sept. 2, 1926 in Basinger to the late Samuel Fred and Lottie (Norman) Sparkman. A lifetime resident of Basinger, she was a member of Church of God of Basinger. She loved music, sewing, and cooking.

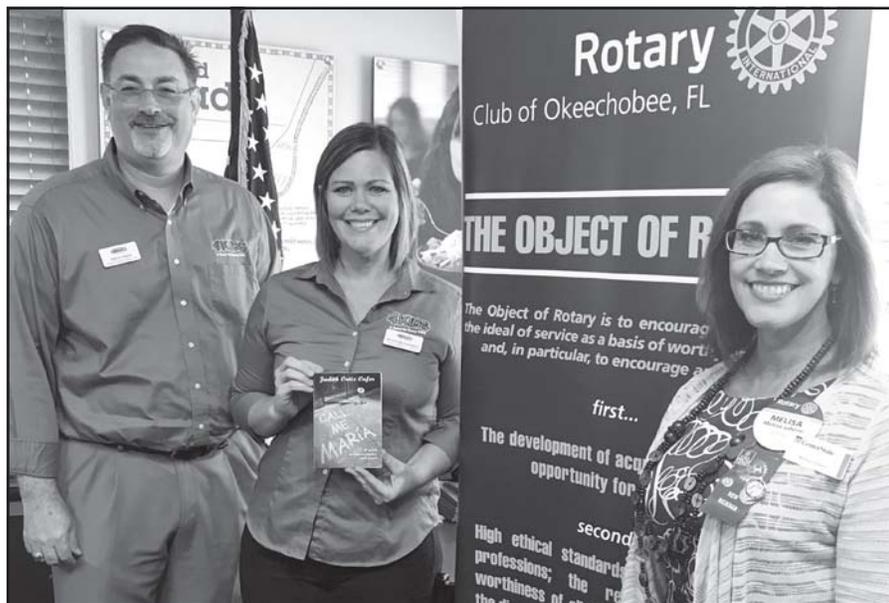
Mrs. Tyner was preceded in death by her husband, Edward Tyner; son, Dellen Tyner; and daughters, Denita Tyner, Dale Tyner, and Delta Tyner Deadwyler.

She is survived by her son, Durwin Tyner (Pat), of Okeechobee; daughters, Deanna Tyner, of Bartow, and Dorinda Tyner Mixon (Gerry), of Okeechobee; seven grandchildren; and ten great grandchildren.

Visitation will be 9 a.m. until services at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 3, 2018 at Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Basinger Cemetery.

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

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



Special to the Okeechobee News

Rotary Club learns about foster families

Tim Putnam and Kenya Reinhardt of Four Kids, an agency needing foster parents, spoke at the June 12 meeting of the Rotary Club of Okeechobee. There were 40 cases last year of abused or neglected children in Okeechobee zip code 34972 and 25 in 34974. In such instances, the children are removed from the unstable home environment and placed, hopefully, with a secure foster family until their home crisis can be resolved. Pictured are Tim Putnam, Kenya Reinhardt and Rotarian Melisa Jahner. Rotary meets on Tuesday at noon at Golden Corral.

Public invited to comment on EAA reservoir plan

By **Katrina Elsken**
Okeechobee News

Plans for a reservoir south of Lake Okeechobee continue to move forward.

The public had another chance to ask questions and comment on the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) reservoir project June 27 at a meeting in Clewiston sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Similar meetings took place June 26 in Le-High and June 28 in Stuart.

Only two members of the public spoke at the Clewiston meeting, which attracted about 30 people. Both speakers expressed support of the project.

Celeste De Palma of Audubon Florida spoke in favor of the project.

"We have been trying to push water away for a really long time, and we're living with the consequences," she said. "Everglades restoration puts the water back where it belongs."

"We urge the corps to make sure Congress gets to review this project and consider it for this year's Water Resources Development Act," said Ms. De Palma.

"Moving forward with this project, it's important that we all came together and worked out something that seems to work for all of the communities," said Nyla Pipes of One Florida.

A lot of people still question whether the project will meet the water quality standards required for water entering Everglades National Park, Ms. Pipes explained.

She added that she is confident the South Florida Water Management District and Army Corps of Engineers will make the project work and that it will meet water quality standards.

She said more public outreach and education about the project may be necessary to assure people that water entering the Everglades will meet the required water quality standards.

Marci Jackson of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers explained that the EAA reservoir is proposed as a change to the already approved Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP).

In December 2014, the corps and SFWMD completed planning of CEPP, she explained.

The project, authorized by Congress in 2016, included a flow equalization basin (FEB) on the A-2 parcel in the EAA. That land is already in state ownership. This FEB was a shallow storage feature.

In 2017, the Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill 10, which called for a deep-water reservoir in the EAA.

The current proposal asks Congress to approve changing the CEPP plan to build a deep-water reservoir on the A-2 parcel instead of the FEB. The reservoir site is about 10,500 acres and the reservoir will be 23 feet deep. The project includes an additional 6,500 acres of stormwater treatment area. Vegetation in the STAs helps remove nutrients from the water.

CEPP would increase the canal capacity

to move more water from the lake through the stormwater treatment areas and on to Florida Bay, explained Leslie Waugh of the corps.

As originally approved, CEPP would provide an additional annual flow of 210,000 acre-feet (about 59 billion gallons of water) to the Everglades and Florida Bay, she said. Changing the shallow reservoir project to a deep reservoir would increase the annual flow to about 370,000 acre-feet per year (about 104 billion gallons of water).

CEPP provides the additional conveyance from the lake to the reservoir and the STAs, then through the Water Conservation Areas (WCAs) and under the Tamiami Trail to Everglades National Park and Florida Bay.

Without the other CEPP projects, the EAA reservoir would be static storage, Ms. Waugh said.

The FEB in the A-1 parcel, already in place, will not change.

The new reservoir, existing A-1 FEB and new STAs will all work together to store and clean water, she said. The reservoir will provide environmental benefits and also be available for some recreational uses, she said.

The project provides additional storage and treatment, decreases extreme low lake events and reduces water supply cutbacks. By sending more water south, the project also reduces the freshwater releases from Lake Okeechobee, Ms. Waugh explained.

The corps will accept comments on the

EAA reservoir plan through July 24.

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

Comments are being accepted through July 24 and can be sent electronically to Stacie.J.Auvenshine@usace.army.mil, or mailed to:

Stacie Auvenshine, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019.

Suicide awareness group has regular meetings

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

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FWC approves new course for airboats

Special to the Okeechobee News

At its June 19-20 meeting in Sarasota, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) approved new course requirements for airboat operators carrying passengers for hire. A tragic airboat accident in South Florida was the impetus behind House Bill 1211, known as "Ellie's Law," requiring all airboat operators carrying passengers for hire to complete an Airboat Operators Course.

FWC staff worked with the airboat education industry and stakeholders to gather public input and develop the rule, which details minimum course requirements for instructor qualifications, student requirements, airboat operators course requirements, basic course topics, proof of comple-

tion and refresher course requirements. The rule is supported by the airboat education industry, stakeholders and the public as indicated from input at three public meetings and meetings with the Florida Airboat Association.

"Public safety is important to the FWC, and with the Legislature's guidance, this new rule provides additional requirements for airboat operator courses, which will improve safety measures for passengers aboard an airboat for hire," said Commission Chairman Bo Rivard.

Implementation of the new rule will go into effect by July 1, 2019. The entire rule can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/2MBC9nQ>.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Summer cheer camp a hit

Okeechobee "STORM" summer cheer camp was held this past week, and everyone had a great time. With 42 children in attendance for most of the week, there was never a dull moment. We would like to thank the Okeechobee County Children's Services Council for sponsoring this camp for another year, and thank you to Kathleen Blair for coming out Friday to see what the kids had learned. Also, a big thank you to the Yearling Kitchen Crew for providing all of the lunches to the kids.

Happy Independence Day!

2018 Independence Day Celebration
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INDEPENDENCE DAY
JULY 4TH

- LOCAL FESTIVAL INFORMATION
- FESTIVE PARTY TIPS
- FUN FACTS

SUPPLEMENT TO THE JULY 1ST
OKEECHOBEE NEWS

**The Fraternal Order of Police hosts
the annual Fourth of July festivities at
the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center on
Wednesday, July 4.**

The Fraternal Order of Police will be hosting the annual Fourth of July festival at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center on Wednesday, July 4.

Gates open at 5 p.m.

Contests will take place from 5:30 to 6 p.m.

Contests will include hula hoop, water balloon toss, ice cream eating, watermelon eating and more.

Veterans will be honored with a ceremony at 8 p.m.

The fireworks show will start at 9 p.m.

There will also be a kids activity area, an inflatable obstacle course and booths from area businesses and organizations.

Pictured at right are fireworks from last year's festival.



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Host your own fun 4th of July party with these tips

The Fourth of July is a day to celebrate in the United States. Much about July makes the fourth day of the month the ideal time to celebrate. School is out, the weather is warm and the generally relaxed attitude of summer has typically set in by the first week of July.

People tasked with hosting Fourth of July festivities may not feel the same pressure when hosting such gatherings that they would when hosting more formal affairs. The relaxed nature of summer often pervades Fourth of July festivities, but hosts can still take a crash course in summer hosting to ensure everyone has a good time.

- Don't try to break the mold. Some hosts may be tempted to think outside the box in regard to the foods and beverages they'll serve at their Fourth of July parties. While hosts can still experiment and serve new foods and creative cocktails at their parties, many guests will be anticipating some Fourth of July staples, such as grilled hot dogs and hamburgers and cold beer and lemonade. Making sure such foods and beverages are served alongside more experimental fare won't disappoint traditionalists, and those looking for something beyond the norm won't be disappointed, either.

- Embrace the red, white and blue. When decorating, opt for red, white and blue decorations. This gives the party a distinctly Fourth of July feel. Red, white and blue napkins and tablecloths are readily available come July, and hosts with a gift for crafts can even create their own decorations to use year after year.

- Prepare to entertain. Unlike holiday season gatherings that typically begin in the evening, Fourth of July parties tend to begin in the afternoon and extend into the night. That means hosts must not just feed their guests, but entertain them as well. Since Fourth of July parties tend to take place outdoors, plan lots of backyard games, such as badminton, bocce, Wiffle ball, horseshoes, and more. Hosts with swimming pools should have pool games readily available as well.

- Leave the fireworks to the professionals. Hosts should not succumb to pressure, real or perceived, to supply fireworks at their Fourth of July parties. Fireworks can lead to injuries and accidents and are best left to the professionals who put on community fireworks shows. Discourage guests from bringing their own fireworks by making it known they will be asked to leave the party if they do.

- Arrange transportation home for guests. To make sure everyone gets home safe and sound, arrange in advance for some guests to serve as designated drivers. Hosts also should abstain from consuming alcohol during the party so they can get people home safe if necessary. Keep a list of local taxi company phone numbers on hand and encourage guests who plan to consume alcohol to use ridesharing apps to get to and from the party.

Fourth of July festivities typically are less formal than other celebrations, but hosts still must plan their parties to ensure everyone has a fun, safe Independence Day. TF186060



Special to the Okeechobee News

While hot dogs and hamburgers may be among the Fourth of July party staples, it doesn't hurt to try a little experimentation. Appease all your guests by serving the traditional right alongside the new.

Did you know?

The Fourth of July has been a federal holiday since 1941. Though that may seem like a long time for the country to wait to celebrate the independence it declared in 1776, the tradition of the Fourth of July, often referred to as Independence Day, dates back to the dawn of the American Revolution and the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

Since then, July 4th has been recognized as the dawn of American independence, and celebrations that included fireworks and parades can be traced back to the 18th century. On July 4, 1777, the city of Philadelphia, which would become the first capital of the United States of America, hosted the first annual commemoration of American independence, and exactly one year later George Washington ordered that all of his soldiers be offered double rations of rum to commemorate the anniversary.

In 1781, Massachusetts was the first state to make July 4th an official state holiday, and the day was actually declared a federal holiday by the U.S. Congress in 1870. However, that declaration did not grant a paid holiday to federal employees. That benefit came in 1941, which is why that year is now recognized as the first year when the Fourth of July officially became a federal holiday.

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to Soldiers on
pages 2 & 3



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Festive facts for

July 4TH



Each year on July 4, Americans celebrate the birth of their nation and independence from Great Britain. This day marks the anniversary of the presentation and acceptance of the Declaration of Independence, signed 242 years ago on July 4, 1776.

The Declaration of Independence began as a letter to Britain's King George to explain why the Continental Congress was interested in declaring independence from Great Britain. The writing of the declaration began on July 2, and the final wording was established on July 4.

Independence Day is full of opportunities to celebrate and enjoy oneself. Parades, fireworks, parties, barbecues and much more are part of the festivities.

Another way to commemorate Independence Day is to educate oneself about the many historical and entertaining facts that surround the day. The following are some interesting details about the origins of Independence Day and the celebrations that surround it.

- Although 56 people eventually signed the Declaration of Independence, only John Hancock signed the document on July 4, 1776. The rest added their names later on. John Hancock's signature is ornate and widely recognized. "Putting your 'John Hancock'" on a document has become synonymous with the process of signing something.

- The Declaration of Independence was adopted while the Continental Congress met in Philadelphia at the Pennsylvania Statehouse. That building is now known as Independence Hall.

- The average age of the signers of the Declaration of Independence was 45. The youngest person to sign was Thomas Lynch Jr., who was 27 when he signed the document. Benjamin Franklin, at age 70, was the oldest signee.

- John Adams and Thomas Jefferson were the only signees who went on to serve as presidents. Coincidentally, Jefferson and Adams both died on July 4, 1826, within hours of each other.

- Philadelphia is the birthplace of much American history and is home to the Liberty Bell. Each Independence Day, the Liberty Bell is tapped (not rung, as the vibration would further damage the cracked bell) 13 times in honor of the original 13 American colonies.

- The original 13 American colonies were located all along the Eastern Seaboard. They were Virginia, New York, New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Maryland, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Georgia.

- The stars on the original American flag were placed in a circle. This was so all of the colonies would be equally represented.

- Independence was gained in 1776, and the first celebration took place in Philadelphia four days later. The White House held its first Independence Day festivities in 1801.

- Benjamin Franklin proposed that the turkey be the national bird of the United States. However, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson overruled him, and the bald eagle became the national bird.

- The only copy of the engrossed and signed Declaration of Independence is in the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

Independence Day is a time for hot dogs, ice cream and, of course, revisiting America's history.



Okeechobee News/Tammi Kelly
In the top photo from last year's celebration, Jaylah Nolan works hard to open her T-shirt in the Frozen T-Shirt Contest. The contest was part of the Independence Day Celebration.

Okeechobee city police officers have a hidden talent for making balloon animals! Detective Jack Boon and Officer Manny Cisneros made swords, dogs, flowers and more for the Independence Day Celebration.

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Did you know?

While July 4th is synonymous with American independence, one of the United States' Founding Fathers felt that July 2nd was a more appropriate date to celebrate the colonies' declaration of independence from Great Britain.

John Adams, who would serve as the second president of the United States, believed July 2nd was the correct date to celebrate the colonies' independence and even protested July 4th by refusing invitations to appear at events on that day during his lifetime. Adams' contention dates back to June 7, 1776, when Richard Henry Lee, the Virginia delegate of the Continental Congress, first introduced a motion calling for the colonies to declare their independence.

Voting on Lee's motion was postponed, though a five-man committee consisting of Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert R. Livingston and Roger Sherman was appointed to draft a statement justifying independence from Great Britain. Lee's motion was approved on July 2nd, and Adams even wrote his wife, Abigail, that the day would be celebrated as the anniversary of the colonies' independence for many years to come.

But that was not to be, as American independence is instead celebrated on July 4th, the day when the Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence.



What's a Fourth of July celebration without fireworks? The fireworks show at the Agri-Civic Center begins at 9 p.m.

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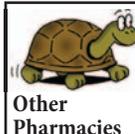
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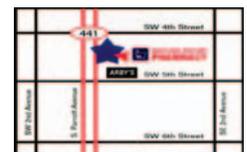


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SHERIFF

Continued From Page 1

take input and discuss what needs to happen with our agency with members of the community. The budget that I've submitted for 2018-19 is a little over a 14 percent increase," explained the sheriff.

Almost 8 to 9 percent of that increase is to adjust the starting salary of the deputies, and changing the pay has to be consistent through to the rank of lieutenant. Three percent of the increase is due to the recent state-mandated School Resource Officer requirement. Less than 3 percent will be to bring on an additional seven staff members, two on the Criminal Apprehension Team (CAT), an additional crime scene evidence technician along with a detention deputy for the jail.

Prior to the meeting, Sheriff Stephen also addressed the perceived difficulty community members were going to have with accepting the proposal.

"I know the struggle with the 14 percent increase is going to be very hard for people to accept, but the problem is that we are losing our average five or six-year employees to agencies that can provide them with \$15,000 more per year. I understand we can't pay what the coastal agencies do — that we are losing our deputies to — but if I can at least halfway bridge the gap, from currently losing two deputies per month to one per month, that will be a considerable cost savings to the taxpayers of the county and to the agency."

According to the Florida Department of

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

At the meeting, Sheriff Stephen's slide show presentation highlighted the four challenges his agency is currently facing in aspects of hiring, employee retention, quality law enforcement personnel and return on investment of new-hire training. The presentation included causation factors in acknowledgment of the current problem the agency faces, noting starting salary differences, the unattractive aspects of the profession, Florida legislation mandating all law enforcement officer organizations increase their presence in the schools, larger agencies that are in close geographical proximity targeting the experienced employees of smaller agencies, and the value of the training and time the taxpayers have put into each employee who leaves for another agency.

By comparison, OCSO has a starting salary of \$34,000. The average starting salary from the surrounding coastal agencies that are competing for applicants in the job pool is \$45,981 with various attractive incentive, bonus and benefits packages. Excluding the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, the average salary is \$42,264. Law enforcement's unattractiveness to the population according to the presentation is threefold, with negative media portrayals, high mortality rate in the profession and the availability of other, less stressful means of employment.

The presentation by the sheriff also listed training costs. All certified employees are required (at a minimum) to complete 40 hours of continuing education every four years. This minimum does not contribute to their expanse of knowledge but rather their continued proficiency in the basic skills as required by the FDLE. This averages to a cost of \$324 per year per employee (\$35,640 for 110 employees per year). With the average of the initial training cost at \$25,866, yearly minimum training cost of \$324 over a three-year period, and including the base salary of \$34,000, the total investment equals \$42,946 per year in a new hire employee, excluding benefit package. Every time an employee is lost to another agency after three years of experience for an average of an \$8,264 increase in salary, the taxpayers of the county lose \$128,838.

Of the 40 nonsupervisor road patrol deputies, 20 have less than a year of experience.

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

Sheriff Stephen explained: "We're operating as reactive, not proactive. The two CAT operatives will allow us to target high crime areas where burglaries, vandalism, thefts, and traffic violations are reported to occur. The addition of these two positions will benefit our regular shift deputies to for them to be able to answer calls and allow them to be proactive in their duties. If we don't add to

our numbers as the community grows, we are becoming reactive everyday. We know who the burglars are but we don't have the time to catch them, we know who the dopers are but we don't have the time to isolate them unless there is an operation conducted on them."

Mack Whorley addressed Sheriff Stephen, stating: "I appreciate what you're trying to do. I appreciate every person in here, the problem we have is that there is not enough tax base to pay for the services the people demand. Our problem is we have too many people paying too few taxes. We made a decision several years ago to do away with impact fees. That alone tells me that we are not planning for growth. An impact fee is a tax that somebody who is making the impact pays 25 percent of; because we are afraid we can't get people to move here they did away with impact fees, and that's a source that could help you. We've got to make better decisions. Noel, it sounds like you did a lot of hard work to get these numbers right, and I appreciate it. I've got the same thing in my business of trying to hire good people wehn someone else is able to pay them more money. It's a tough situation to be in, but often times at my home I've had to say, 'Honey, we just don't have the money,' so you might be hearing that."

Okeechobee City Administrator Montes De Oca commented: "In this community we all work together, and I know everyone will continue to do the best we can. I appreciate the sheriff publicly going over his challenges. The pay gap for the coastal communities continues to grow, and we need to stay relevant while minding our taxpayers' dollars."



U.S. Sugar Employees Give Back

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



Habitat for Humanity

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



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#USSugar

Meet the officer: OPD's Jason Gavern

By Matteo Tullio
Okeechobee News

Officer Jason Gavern was born in April 1977, in Harrisonburg, Va., but grew up in Scranton, Pa. During the summers when not in school, he stayed busy with working and going on vacations.

"My father owns a tree-cutting company, so I worked mostly but went on lots of family vacations," including a lot of cruises, he said. "We must've gone to Bermuda at least 10 times. My parents worked really hard for us to have a good life."

Officer Gavern was very active in sports as a youth. "I played football, baseball and basketball, I was never inside and was always outdoors doing something." He has been a resident of Okeechobee for six months since he moved from Kissimmee, which he had called home since 2006.

Officer Gavern graduated in 1995 from North Pocono High School in Moscow, Pa. His favorite subject was United States history. As he became older, the time spent playing sports transitioned to work. "When I was 12 years old, I started to work for my dad, which was my first job. I ended up buying my first car at 16 and my own house at 18," he said. Officer Gavern — while still in his teens — had accomplished what takes others years into their adult lives to attain.

His favorite aspect about attending school was being able to socialize with his friends.

While in high school, Officer Gavern's interest in joining the military was piqued when a recruiter came to visit and speak to the students of his class. He enlisted to serve for a period of eight years in the United States Army Reserves in Pennsylvania, with a primary military occupational specialty — which identifies a specific job — as a cavalry scout. He spent time stationed at Fort Knox in Kentucky, completed his contract with the rank of Specialist (E-4) and said the most difficult aspect of his time spent in the military was "cold weather training."

Officer Gavern continued his education when he enrolled at Lackawanna College in Scranton in 1997. He recently graduated in 2017 with his associate's degree in criminal justice — and, as he laughingly stated, "Yes, it took me that long!" He said his most memorable moment of his time spent in college was "graduating!" Unlike most college students, Officer Gavern attended college after he already had graduated from the police academy.

Prior to his time in law enforcement, Officer Gavern also delivered pizzas for Little Caesars. When asked why he chose the profession of law enforcement, Officer Gavern said, "Public safety is in my family," noting he is one of at least 10 family relatives who are either firefighters or law enforcement officers. He has almost eight years working on the streets, with seven of them in Scranton and less than one as a new addition to OPD.

When asked how his career has created value in his life, Officer Gavern responded: "I love people and I love to help them. Law enforcement provides me with a good and steady platform to accomplish that." Officer Gavern credited his retired firefighter grandfather, Louis Gavern, as his biggest career influence.

Aside from being a law enforcement officer and serving in the armed forces, Jason "The Sensation" Gavern is also a professional heavyweight boxer. He began his career as an amateur in 1998 and lost his first seven fights, but that was not enough to overcome his competitive drive and pure love for the sport.

In 2001, he competed in the National Police Athletic League, was a quarterfinalist for the United States championships, became the Pennsylvania Golden Gloves champion and won a bronze medal in the National Golden Gloves championships. In 2002, he again became a quarterfinalist for the U.S. championships, won a bronze medal at the National Golden Gloves championships and a silver medal at American Boxing Classic tournament. All of the accolades mentioned were in the super-heavyweight division and accomplished while Officer Gavern was employed as a law enforcement officer. He continued the dual stint for his first seven professional fights before he chose to put away his cuffs, holster his firearm and don his gloves for the long haul of his boxing career.

Officer Gavern stated that while he was employed with the Scranton Police Department, the mayor and police chief would allow him to represent the city while on his boxing travels without having to take any vacation or sick leave for approximately four years, but when a new mayor and chief were appointed, the ambassadorship ceased.

He then told a story about an incident that occurred under the new management. "I was contacted to fight at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, on Friday, Oct. 3, 2003, on the under card of James Toney vs. Evander Holyfield. I requested time off from work for the fight and was told 'no,' so I called out sick and flew to Vegas for the fight. Well, when I showed back up for work, they asked, 'What did you do this weekend?' and I replied 'hung out at the house.'" Officer Gavern continued his story, "They then popped in a video, and I saw and heard Jimmy Lennon Jr. announce my name as I prepared to fight that was aired on television. I was then written up for misuse of sick leave," Officer Gavern chuckled as he reminisced.

He won his four-round fight that night by way of unanimous decision against Larry Dawson.

Officer Gavern's fight record sits at 27 wins, 21 losses, with four draws for a total of 52 professional fights, with 23 percent of those fights ending in a knockout by Jason "The Sensation." He won the World Boxing Council (WBC) Caribbean Boxing Federation heavyweight title on April 8, 2010, and later fought the 6-foot-8-inch Alexander "Sasha" Ustinov on April 26, 2012, for the vacant International Boxing Organization (IBO) Inter-Continental heavyweight title but fell to a loss in the seventh round. Of-



Special to the Okeechobee News

Officer Jason Gavern

Officer Gavern was also ranked 13th at one point by the WBC and, when asked about a possible future bout, he said: "The fire is still there, but I'm not in the gym like I need to be. However, boxing has been very good to me, and if a fight offer came, I'm available."

Officer Gavern is no stranger to taking fights on short notice, going all the way back to his amateur days — when he had trained for only two weeks before taking his first bout — and into his professional time, agreeing to only having six days to prepare for a bout with the current International Boxing Federation, IBO, World Boxing Association and recently World Boxing Organization heavyweight champion Anthony Joshua. He is one of two people to step into the squared circle with both current champions in Joshua and WBC heavyweight champion Deontay Wilder, with both Joshua and Wilder set to face one another in the near future of the sport to decide the undisputed heavyweight champion since the days of Lennox Lewis. That alone is sufficient as a testament to his "I will go and fight anybody, anytime and anyplace" mentality.

In his spare time, Officer Gavern enjoys doing crossfit exercises, boxing and spending quality time with his girlfriend. Other than the present time period, Officer Gavern said, "I would like to see the future 100 years from now with how technology advances and how it will be integrated with society of the time."

When asked who it would be, if he could meet anyone of the past or present, he answered, "I'd like to spend more time with my grandpa, who recently passed." Officer Gavern's final response came to the question of which superhuman power he would like to possess and why, comically relating: "I want to be like Mel Gibson's character in the movie, 'What Women Want.'" In the movie, the character can hear the thoughts of women without their knowing. Officer Gavern offered, "Wouldn't that be absolutely great to know those answers?"



Courtesy photo/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Please don't release balloons

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service urges the public to refrain from releasing balloons into the air. Birds, turtles and other animals commonly mistake balloons, which can harm or even kill them, for food. In addition, many animals can become entangled in balloon strings, which can strangle or hurt them.

Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

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

COWS	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG
900-1600	56.00	63.00	
900-1600	61.00	68.00	HIGH
900-1500	51.00	58.00	LOW

BULLS:	LOW:	HIGH:	AVG
1100-2000	78.00	84.00	
1100-2200	84.00	89.00	HIGH
1200-1600	75.00	79.00	LOW

STEERS MED & LARGE 1:			
200-250	235.00	-	255.00
250-300	230.00	-	245.00
300-350	190.00	-	198.00
350-400	166.00	-	180.00
400-450	150.00	-	174.00
450-500	154.00	-	168.00
500-550	154.00	-	162.00
550-600	138.00	-	154.00
600-700	132.00	-	142.00

STEERS MED & LARGE 2:			
200-250	0.00	-	0.00
250-300	0.00	-	0.00
300-350	178.00	-	186.00
350-400	156.00	-	167.00
400-450	141.00	-	162.00
450-500	146.00	-	157.00
500-550	140.00	-	151.00
550-600	128.00	-	141.00
600-700	121.00	-	126.00

STEERS MED & LARGE 3:			
200-250	0.00	-	0.00
250-300	0.00	-	0.00
300-350	169.00	-	176.00
350-400	148.00	-	158.00
400-450	130.00	-	150.00
450-500	138.00	-	144.00
500-550	136.00	-	140.00
550-600	119.00	-	132.00
600-700	114.00	-	114.00

	MONDAY	TUESDAY
CLFS	1582	1098
COWS	123	355
BULLS	8	17
TOTAL	1713	1470

HEIFERS MED & LARGE 1:			
200-250	156.00	-	170.00
250-300	158.00	-	170.00
300-350	139.00	-	160.00
350-400	140.00	-	156.00
400-450	140.00	-	150.00
450-500	136.00	-	146.00
500-550	126.00	-	137.00
550-600	116.00	-	129.00
600-700	112.00	-	124.00

HEIFERS MED & LARGE 2:			
200-250	142.00	-	150.00
250-300	140.00	-	150.00
300-350	140.00	-	149.00
350-400	132.00	-	147.00
400-450	130.00	-	139.00
450-500	128.00	-	131.00
500-550	109.00	-	125.00
550-600	109.00	-	118.00
600-700	104.00	-	112.00

HEIFERS MED & LARGE 3:			
200-250	0.00	-	0.00
250-300	0.00	-	0.00
300-350	130.00	-	138.00
350-400	122.00	-	132.00
400-450	120.00	-	129.00
450-500	120.00	-	124.00
500-550	108.00	-	115.00
550-600	100.00	-	108.00
600-700	100.00	-	102.00

Large run of cattle and prices were strong on most all classes. Maybe buyers stocking up before the July 4 shutdown next week. Steers up \$2-\$3. Heifers up \$1-\$2. Slaughters up \$2. Don't really expect

prices to get better going into summer runs of cattle.

Remember, we receive cattle on Sunday and give them hay & water at no charge. We appreciate your patronage. Let's all remember we're blessed to live in the USA! Happy Independence Day!

H & H Sod, Kenansville & Prem Nandial, Fort Pierce, both topped the calf market with a high of \$2.55 bought by Foy Reynolds.

Silent K Ranch, Boca Raton & Olivera Lopez, Naples, both topped the slaughter cow market with a high of \$.68 bought by Brown Packing.

We will be CLOSED July 2 through the 6th. We will be accepting cattle on Sunday, July 8.

For Sale: 74 Pairs, Crossbred, 6-10 years old, Angus & Charolais Sired \$1,150.
29 Bred Cows - Calving Oct-Feb \$900
Call Matt or Jeff
Zipperer Beefmasters has 20 purebred & 20 commercial Heifers for sale. Call 239-691-4803



www.OkeechobeeLivestockMarket.com

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

Crossword Puzzle

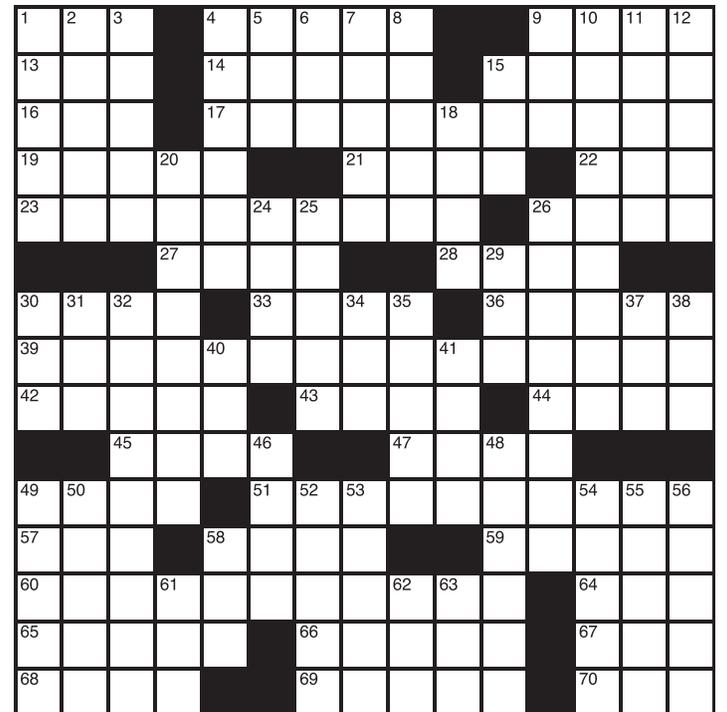
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Beach tube letters</p> <p>4 Tube in Paris</p> <p>9 ___ butter: cosmetic moisturizer</p> <p>13 Roofing sealant</p> <p>14 Gem weight unit</p> <p>15 Home extension?</p> <p>16 ___ standstill</p> <p>17 Intensive study program</p> <p>19 Classic laundry soap</p> <p>21 They're drunk at socials</p> <p>22 Fish in hamo, a Japanese delicacy</p> <p>23 It's the opposite of a flying one</p> <p>26 Auto racer Busch</p> <p>27 "Uh-huh"</p> <p>28 Miscellany</p> <p>30 Faux pas</p> <p>33 Certain king's pride</p> <p>36 Nunavut people</p> <p>39 Mighty clash</p> <p>42 Simple type of question</p> <p>43 "Good one!"</p> <p>44 Dumped, perhaps</p> <p>45 Sister brand of the Sensor razor</p> <p>47 "You've found the right person"</p> <p>49 D.C. bigwigs</p> <p>51 2014 WNBA Finals runner-up</p> <p>57 Wood-scratching tool</p> <p>58 Pakistani bread</p> <p>59 Loosen, as laces</p> <p>60 Award to be announced February 28, previously won by the first words of 17-, 23-, 39- and 51-Across</p> <p>64 Cellular messenger</p> <p>65 Take the helm</p> <p>66 Trees yielding caffeine-rich nuts</p> <p>67 Staples of many websites</p> <p>68 Giveaway bag</p> <p>69 One-for-one deals</p> <p>70 Touch gently</p>	<p>DOWN</p> <p>1 British Invasion drummer</p> <p>2 Hibachi spot</p> <p>3 Mali money</p> <p>4 Real people?</p> <p>5 Maestro's forte</p> <p>6 Refrain bit</p> <p>7 Many a reggae musician</p> <p>8 Additional</p> <p>9 "Fifth Beatle" Sutcliffe</p> <p>10 "Sure, take it!"</p> <p>11 Picasso supporter</p> <p>12 "Set Fire to the Rain" singer</p> <p>15 Call for help</p> <p>18 "The Censor" of Rome</p> <p>20 Part of a winter suit</p> <p>24 Penultimate contest, for its winner</p> <p>25 Work with pupils</p> <p>26 Bob Marley Museum city</p> <p>29 The Blackbirds of the NCAA's Northeast Conf.</p> <p>30 Babe's pen</p> <p>31 Falsity</p> <p>32 "Everything's ready to go!"</p>	<p>34 Surveillance org.</p> <p>35 Moral principle</p> <p>37 Not close to 100%</p> <p>38 Texas senator Cruz</p> <p>40 Neither partner</p> <p>41 Avatar of Vishnu</p> <p>46 Faddish berry in smoothies</p> <p>48 Hesitant okay</p> <p>49 Old Milwaukee maker</p> <p>50 Have because of</p> <p>52 Accesses illegally, in a way</p> <p>53 Hitched behind</p> <p>54 Camera holder</p> <p>55 In a way, slangily</p> <p>56 Old Milwaukee-making ingredient</p> <p>58 "Morning Edition" aier</p> <p>61 Links supporter</p> <p>62 Suffix with form</p> <p>63 Criticize</p>
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

P	A	L	P	I	V	I	P	S	L	A	M
I	M	O	U	T	I	L	E	T	P	E	R
S	Y	N	T	H	E	S	I	Z	E	U	N
A	L	I	T	A	L	I	A	E	Z	P	A
C	Y	N	D	I	L	A	U	P	E	R	
F	A	N	B	A	S	E	D	I	P	E	S
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S	I	N	B	A	D	T	H	E	S	A	I
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A	E	S	I	V	Y	D	A	S	H	D	O
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Y	S	L	P	E	E	R	T	E			

xwordeditor@aol.com 02/25/16



By C.C. Burnikel
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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.

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

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

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

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



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

Miscellaneous Notices

Miscellaneous Notices

Employment - Full Time

Employment - Full Time

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

Announcements

Auctions

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

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

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Garage/
Yard Sales

YARD SALE Okeechobee
Christian Church - 3055
SE 18TH TERRACE,
JUNE 29 & 30,
8AM-2PM BENEFIT
FOR SPECIAL NEEDS
ACTIVITIES

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

Employment

Employment - Full Time

CDL DRIVERS CALL TODAY

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

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

Employment - Medical

Administrative Assistant

STRONG organizational skills; must be computer literate; have exp. working with MS Word and Excel. Type 60 wpm. Must be Culturally Sensitive. Fax resume to (561) 472-9692 or apply at Dr. Fred Brown Children's Health Center, 2015 US Highway 441 North, Okeechobee, FL. EOE/DFWP. e-mail jobs@fchcinc.org

Your new home could be in today's paper. Have you looked for it?

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Service Technicians, Installers & Helpers

Full Time,
Experience Required

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

Now Hiring
www.cityofokeechobee.com

FULL-TIME MAINTENANCE OPERATOR

Deadline is Fri., Jul. 13, 2018, 4:30 PM. See website for Job Description and Application packet, or in person at City Hall, City Clerk's Office, 55 SE 3rd Ave., Okeechobee, FL 34974, 863-763-3372 ext. 9814. Successful candidates are required to pass a background screening and a physical.
EEO/ADA/GINA/VP/DFWP

Employment - Medical

Medical Assistant

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

Employment - Part Time

Wanted-Retired Electrician looking for part time work.
Fax resume to 863-763-7874 or apply in person at 269 NW 9th Street.

When doing those chores is doing you in, it's time to look for a helper in the classifieds.

Buying a car? Look in the classifieds. Selling a car? Look in the classifieds.



Financial

Business Opportunities

NOTICE

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

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

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



Rentals

TIRED OF STAYING IN A MOTEL, WORKING IN OUR AREA- FULLY FURNISHED 1 and 2 BEDROOM PROPERTIES. WEEKLY OR MONTHLY RATES AVAILABLE (863) 467-4371



Rentals

Apartments

1/1 APTS, Furnished & Unfurnished for rent - includes water & power, prices from \$750 - \$900/mo. No pets. Background check & dep. req. Call 863-634-0024.

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

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

Very Clean and well maintained. Situated 12 min. outside of town off Hwy 70 East. Great setting, lawn service, onsite management, pest control included, w/d hook-up.
Sorry, NO PETS.
Call M-S 9am-6pm
813-956-5150

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Commercial Property

TREASURE ISLAND
21,000SQ. FT. METAL BUILDING 2 ROLL UP DOORS BEHIND LAKESIDE CARWASH. \$1,000/MO. YEARLY LEASE, FIRST-LAST+ SEC. CALL TAB 863-610-1027

Houses - Rent

3BD/2BA HOME WITH 2 CAR GARAGE ON 1/2 ACRE LOT IN OAK PARK \$1,200 MONTHLY AVAILABLE AUGUST 1ST CALL 863-467-8559 OR 226-339-6303



Recreation

Campers / RVs

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



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saves you money by providing information about the best buys.

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Automotive

Autos Wanted

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

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



Public Notices

Public Notice

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

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

TO: CARLA SHROUT
Mother, address unknown

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

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

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

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



READING A NEWSPAPER MAKES YOU A MORE INFORMED AND INTERESTING PERSON.

No wonder newspaper readers are more popular!

Public Notice

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATION TEXT AMENDMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a PUBLIC HEARING will be held before the City of Okeechobee Planning Board, meeting as the Local Planning Agency on **Thurs, July 19, 2018, 6:00 PM**, or as soon thereafter as possible, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, FL, to consider and receive input on amending Subpart B Land Development Regulations. Petition No. 18-001-TA proposes to amend the following areas in the Code of Ordinances:

CHAPTER 78 DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS: Article III Utilities, by adding a new Section 78-73, entitled Mandatory Water and Wastewater Connections.

CHAPTER 86 SUBDIVISIONS: Article I In General, adding definitions for Lot Split/De Minimis Subdivision and Joinder of a Lot to Section 86-4 Definitions, Article II Plans and Data, add a new Division 3 entitled Simple Lot Split/De Minimis Subdivisions; add a new Section 86-90 entitled Procedure for Application Submission and Approval of a Simple Lot Split/De Minimis Subdivision. Add a new Division 4 entitled Joinder of Lots; add a new Section 86-91 entitled Procedure for Application Submission and Approval of a Joinder of Lots.

CHAPTER 90 ZONING: Article III District and District Regulations, Division 6 Commercial Professional and Office District, amending Section 90-223 by adding item (12) One Dwelling Unit per commercial building, with conditions, to the list of Special Exception Uses. Division 7 Light Commercial District, Section 90-253, amending the Special Exception Uses, item (3) Private club, nightclub to include bar; and amending item (15) One dwelling unit per commercial building to include, provided that the dwelling unit is located either above or behind the ground floor commercial use. Division 8 Heavy Commercial District, Section 90-282 amending the Permitted Uses, item (8) Private club, nightclub to include bar; and Section 90-283, amending the Special Exception Uses, item (L7) One dwelling unit per commercial building to include, provided that the dwelling unit is located either above or behind the ground floor commercial use. Article IV Supplementary District Regulation, Division 1 Generally, amend Section 90-447 Yards on Corner Lots, by identifying that the yard the property address is the primary front yard. Division 3 Off-Street Parking and Loading, amending Section 90-512 Space Regulations by adding bar to the list of uses requiring one parking space per 75-square feet of floor area. Division 7 Accessory Uses and Structures, Section 90-632, adding a new subsection "(e)" requiring that structures or containers used for storage be treated as an accessory structure. Division 9 Special Exception and Supplemental Use Regulations, adding a new Section 90-705, entitled Temporary Portable Storage Containers, and setting forth the restrictions and limitations of their placement in Single-Family Residential Zoning Districts.

The proposed amendment may be reviewed at the address above during regular business hours, Mon-Fri, 8 AM-4:30 PM, except for holidays. The public is encouraged to attend.

The Planning Board will issue a recommendation on Petition No. 18-001-TA that will be forwarded to the City Council for consideration at Public Hearings tentatively scheduled for 6:00 PM on August 21, 2018 and September 4, 2018.

ANY PERSON DECIDING TO APPEAL any decision made by the Planning Board 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 General Services Office no later than two business days prior to proceeding, 863-763-3372.

BE ADVISED that should you intend to show any document, picture, video or items to the Planning Board in support or opposition to any item on the agenda; a copy of the document, picture, video, or item must be provided to the Board Secretary for the City's records.

By: Zoning Administrator Marcos Montes De Oca, Petition No. 18-001-TA 272232 ON 7/1,11/2018

NOTICE OF QUA MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Okeechobee Utility Authority will meet in regular session on Tuesday, July 10, 2018 at 8:30 A.M., at the Okeechobee County Historic Courthouse (A.K.A. Board of County Commissioners Chambers), 304 NW 2nd St. Room 270, Okeechobee, Florida.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Okeechobee Utility Authority will hold a Public Hearing as soon after 8:30 A.M., as possible to consider the of the Non-Ad Valorem Assessments.

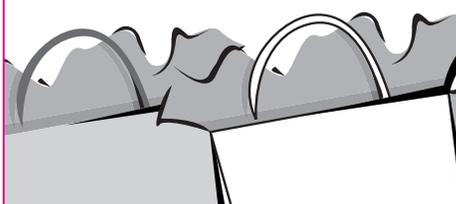
The needs of hearing or visually impaired persons shall be met by contacting the Executive Director's Office at 863-763-9460 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting, by any person wishing assistance.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Authority with respect to such meetings, he or she will need a record of proceedings and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made; which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based. Such person may provide a court reporter, stenographer, or tape recorder for such verbatim record.

BY ORDER OF THE OKEECHOBEE UTILITY AUTHORITY

John F. Hayford
Executive Director
272238 ON 7/1/2018

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Public Notice

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

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

TO: WILLIAM ADAMS Mother, address unknown

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

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

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

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

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

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

Minor Children TO: Jessica Dunn Mother, address unknown

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

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

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

Administration of Estates

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

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

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

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this notice is June 24th, 2018.

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

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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO: 47-2018-CP-021

IN RE: The Estate of WILLIAM THOMAS ROSEWALL, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Formal Administration

The administration of the Estate of WILLIAM THOMAS ROSEWALL, Deceased, whose date of death was December 6, 2017, and whose last four digits of his social security number is 4762, Case Number 47-2018-CP-021 is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, Suite 125, Okeechobee, FL 34972. The name and address of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's attorney are set forth below.

If you have been served with a copy of this notice and you have any claim or demand against the decedent's estate, even if that claim is unmaturing, contingent or unliquidated, you must file your claim with the court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF A DATE THAT IS 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER YOU RECEIVE A COPY OF THIS NOTICE.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate, including unmaturing, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with the court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

EVEN IF A CLAIM IS NOT BARRED BY THE LIMITATIONS DESCRIBED ABOVE, ALL CLAIMS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN FILED WILL BE BARRED TWO YEARS AFTER DECEDENT'S DEATH.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is: July 1st, 2018.

KELLY MALISSA LYNN JAMES Personal Representative 1025 SE Salerno Road Stuart, FL 34997

Administration of Estates

Law Office of CASSELS & McCALL BY: JOHN D. CASSELS, JR. Attorney for Personal Representative FBN: 0261521 Post Office Box 968 Okeechobee, FL 34973-0968 (863) 763-3131 jdc@legal-one.com pleadings@legal-one.com 271626 ON 7/1,8/2018

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				8		3		
7					6			
1				9	8	6		
	7				4	9		
	2		7					
							5	
6	9			5	3			
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Level: Advanced

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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!

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

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

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





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

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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



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



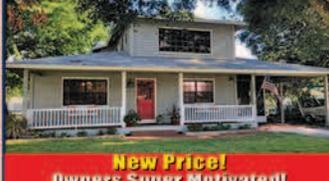
8.89 ACRES
BRAND NEW - STILL IN CONSTRUCTION PHASE-Located in exclusive Sherman Wood Ranches. 3Br/2Ba with 2,450 sqft living and 3,218 sqft TLA. Recessed lighting, hybrid elec water heater, hurricane windows, all wood cabinets, granite countertops, ss appliances. ALL THE UPGRADES! **\$549,900** Call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

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From all of us at the Okeechobee News**