



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 109 No. 82

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

50¢ plus tax

Motorcyclist killed in crash

... Page 2

Permit required for palmetto berry harvest

... Page 3

Drain and cover to protect family from mosquitoes

... Page 7

Gov. Scott declares an algae emergency

... Page 11

Lake Levels

14.46 feet

Last Year: 12.44 feet



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

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

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There's no quick fix for algal blooms

By Katrina Elsken

Okeechobee News

Blue-green algal blooms on Florida's largest lake are "by no means new," according to Dr. Edward Phlips of the University of Florida's Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Department.

There's no silver bullet to the algal bloom problems in the lake and its connecting waterways, he said.

"There's no quick fix, but that doesn't mean you should hold up your hands and do nothing," he added. "There are things that can be done, that, over the long term would help."

Cyanobacteria, often called "blue-green algae," are the oldest life form on the planet, and are found all over the world.

Many lakes have cyanobacterial blooms, he explained. It's a very common occurrence

See ALGAE — Page 15



Okeechobee News/Richard Marion
Okeechobee 6U T-ball All Star coaches Saul Tijerina, Justin White, Cody Storey and Mundo Cruz give their players a short speech at the end of their practice on July 9.

T-ball team wins district

By Richard Marion

Okeechobee News

Another district tournament, another district championship for Okeechobee, this time in the 6U T-ball division.

Fresh off the heels of the 2018

8U Okeechobee All-Stars winning their district championship, the 6U T-ball All Stars have won their district championship as well.

The team went undefeated in

See T-BALL — Page 15

Florida Cattlemen's Association elects Alex Johns president

By Richard Marion

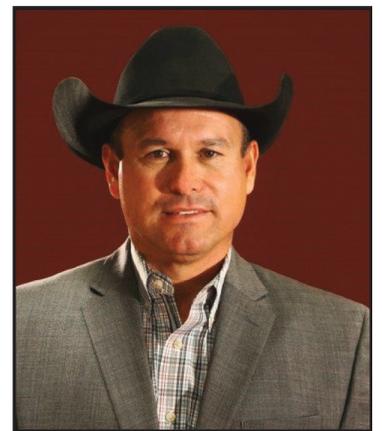
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee-born Alex Johns has spent his entire life working in cattle ranching. He is a founding member of the Florida Cattle Ranchers, and his family has a ranching heritage of close to 500 years. That history and experience in ranching has helped him to be elected as the new Florida Cattlemen's Association (FCA) president at the annual Cattlemen's Convention held in Orlando in June.

He replaces outgoing president Ken Griner, who was elected in 2017.

"I am humbled and proud to serve the Florida cattle industry for the next year," said Mr. Johns after becoming the FCA president. "It just goes to show you with a grass-roots organization such as the FCA that anyone can rise to a leadership position if they have the passion and want to."

At the age of 25, Alex Johns began to oversee every aspect of the commercial beef herd owned by his father. He has worked within the Seminole Tribe's cattle program for 18 years and has served as the director of natural resources for the Seminole Tribe of Florida



Alex Johns

Inc. for the past eight years.

In his first message to FCA members as president, Mr. Johns laid out his vision for the group.

"I would like to see the number of quality cattle on Florida soil sustained, and the growth of urban areas into our healthy, natural land slowed," said Mr. Johns. "The habitat is needed for wildlife, cattle and the proper filtration of water back into our aquifers. Our cattle land is extremely important to everyone in Florida, not just

See JOHNS — Page 15



INJURED?



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Okeechobee, Florida

Chamber of Commerce News

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

The cost of lunch is just \$15 and can be paid by credit card when you pre-register online or stop by the chamber and pay by

cash or check, 55 S. Parrott Ave., 863-467-6246. This event is brought to you courtesy of Green Design Construction & Development, one of the chamber's newest corporate sponsors. Thank YOU, Green Design Construction & Development!

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

• We've already started on next year's, 2019 Business After-hours schedule, and ... January and February are already booked! If you're interested in having your business host one of our after-hours for next year, please call the chamber. We'll get you on the schedule! We want to showcase as many of our chamber businesses as possible, wheth-

er it's a ribbon cutting for a new business, an anniversary, renovation, or a move to a new location, let us help you!

• The next Rise Up With the Chamber will be Tuesday, July 24, and will be held in the chamber conference room, 55 S. Parrott Ave., from 7:45 to 8:30 a.m. Our host for the morning will be the Okeechobee Police Department with Major Donald Hagan. We will again have three scheduled speakers talking about their organizations. Mariah will post each on a live feed and then post their presentations on Facebook later. You can find them at #ChamberCandidCamera. Donald has promised that good, lite morning refreshments will be served. I don't think he's cooking, though. Come and learn more about our local businesses and organizations. And I'm sure you'll learn, as I always do, something new about each of the presenters. It's important for us to understand the work these organizations do.

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

Motorecyclist killed in accident on Sunday

By Matteo Tullio

Okeechobee News

On Sunday, July 8, at approximately 2:26 a.m., motorcyclist Cody Nicholas Gor-

ham, 28, was killed in a vehicular accident in the 4200 block of State Road 70 East.

The fatality is currently an active investigation with the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office.

Okeechobee Forecast

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Today: Mostly sunny skies during the morning hours. Scattered showers and thunderstorms developing in the afternoon. High 88F. Winds ENE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 40%.

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

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Partly cloudy skies. High around 90F. Winds light and variable.

Thursday Night: Partly to mostly cloudy skies with scattered thunderstorms before midnight. Low 72F. Winds light and variable. Chance of rain 50%.

Friday: Partly cloudy with afternoon showers or thunderstorms. High 91F. Winds light and variable. Chance of rain 50%.

Friday Night: A few clouds from time to time. Low 71F. Winds light and variable.

Saturday: Mostly sunny in the morning then increasing clouds with some scattered thunderstorms later in the day.

Flags to be retired in ceremony

Seawinds Funeral Home has launched its "Stars & Stripes Flag Retirement Program." People in the community who are looking for proper flag disposal can bring their flags to Seawinds Funeral Home, located at 3833 S.E. 18th Terrace, during normal business hours. Flags will be stored safely and disposed of in the proper, dignified manner as outlined by the United States Flag Code. Flag donors will have the opportunity to attend an official Flag Retirement Ceremony to be conducted at a future date. The Flag Retirement Ceremony is a special, unique presentation conducted by the Boy Scouts of America. For information, call 863-357-7283.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Boys and their toys

This is Leif Ledferd on the cannon in the Battle of Okeechobee booth at the FOP Independence Day celebration on Wednesday, July 4. Boys always like guns, especially big ones!

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17-year-old hospitalized after electric shock

By Matteo Tullio
Okeechobee News

On Saturday afternoon, a 17-year-old male, who was helping his parents install new appliances, was injured by a serious electric shock, according to an Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office report.

According to an incident report by Deputy Joel Lacerte of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), at 2:11 p.m. on July 7, he responded to a Northwest Fourth Street home in regard to a person being electrocuted. (Electrocution refers to death or serious

injury caused by electric shock, electric current passing through the body.)

Upon his arrival, Deputy Lacerte found a 17-year-old white male on his back on the ground, with his eyes closed and taking short breaths but otherwise unresponsive. The teen appeared to have vomit in his mouth and near his head on the ground and fresh blisters on the center of his chest, stated the report.

The report continued that according to the 17-year-old's parents, a new washer and dryer had been delivered earlier in the day. The father went outside to turn on the electricity for the dryer and approximately

10 minutes later, the stepmother found their son lying on the ground and called 911.

Deputy Lacerte's report also stated that he went to the store and spoke with the sales manager, who said he and another employee delivered the new washer and dryer to the incident address. The manager said they put the appliances in the living room and removed the old washer and dryer from the same location. The manager affirmed that he provided the resident with a socket for the dryer, per the resident's request, but stated that he did not do any type of electrical work while at the residence.

The other employee from the store gave a similar account of the events that transpired in his presence, and the store documented the delivery with a time of 1:24 p.m., less than one hour before Deputy Lacerte's dispatch for the incident.

According to an Okeechobee County Fire Rescue report, they responded to the home for an electrocution medical call. Emergency Medical Services stabilized the 17-year-old and transported him to the landing zone site at the Okeechobee County Emergency Operation Center. He was airlifted to Orlando Regional Medical Center.

Saw palmetto berry harvesting now requires state permit

Requirement applies to landowners as well as contracted harvesters

By Chris Felker
Okeechobee News

As of next Tuesday, July 17, anyone harvesting saw palmetto berries in Florida will be required to have a "Native Plant Harvesting Permit" issued through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS), its Division of Plant Industry has announced.

Extract derived from the saw palmetto plant's berries has been the subject of research as a possible treatment for men with prostate cancer. The American Cancer Society says, however, that "available scientific studies do not support claims that saw palmetto can prevent or treat prostate cancer in humans."

But that has not stopped makers of nu-

tritional supplements from producing one that they claim "may help prevent prostate cancer." As long as the manufacturers don't say the saw palmetto supplement "does" prevent cancer, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration cannot regulate its production and distribution. Thus, saw palmetto has become a popular supplement in recent years, raising global public demand for the product.

As a result — and after receiving comments from private and public landowners, conservation groups and other interested parties — the Florida Endangered Plant Advisory Council recently unanimously recommended that the state DACS put the saw palmetto on the department's list of commercially exploited plants and to require the permit for harvest.

Any person wishing to take and sell the berries must submit an application for a Native Plant Harvesting Permit a full two weeks, or 14 days, before they intend to conduct the harvest.

Violators may be prosecuted on a misdemeanor charge if caught transporting saw palmetto berries for sale without the permit. In addition, any illegally harvested berries will be confiscated and returned to the owner. If the owner cannot be identified or located, the berries will be destroyed, according to the DACS news release.

Gene McAvoy, Hendry County director of the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension Service, says this prohibition of harvesting without a permit means that "it is unlawful for any person to willfully destroy or harvest such plant without first obtaining written permission from the landowner and a permit from the state."

Furthermore, he said, anyone transporting saw palmetto berries "for the purpose of sale, selling or offering for sale such plant must have a permit in his/her immediate possession." And, according to an email from him, "It is unlawful for any person to falsify any paperwork/document that per-

mits another person to destroy or harvest such plant."

The native plant harvesting permit requirement also will apply to anyone transporting the berries via any public road or highway, who will be subject to a first-degree misdemeanor charge and may be arrested.

UF/IFAS Extension and the Florida DACS are advising that any landowners who are having problems with trespassers harvesting the berries should contact their local sheriff's office or call the Florida DACS at 800-342-5869.

Information on how to obtain a permit is available at www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Plant-Industry/Business-Services/Plant-Pest-Permits/Native-Plant-Harvesting-Permit.

For any other questions, contact Tyson Emory at 352-395-4709 or email Tyson.Emory@FreshFromFlorida.com.

FWC offers educational lionfish program

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) program recently announced a new program. The 2018-19 Lionfish Educational Exhibit Program offers public facilities the opportunity to apply for financial assistance in creating educational exhibit displays about the lionfish invasion. The goal of the program is to increase awareness and ensure consistent, accurate messaging.

Facilities with existing lionfish educational exhibits or an interest in creating one are encouraged to apply. Approved applicants may be eligible for up to \$2,499 in assistance for the creation of educational displays about lionfish.

To learn more and apply for the program, visit MyFWC.com/Lionfish. Applications will be accepted from now until March 29, 2019. FWC hopecommunity organizations will participate in this exciting program and help increase public awareness of the lionfish invasion.

The FWC Lionfish Challenge rewards lionfish harvesters with prizes for their lionfish removals, tagged or not. The tagged lionfish component is new this year and includes cash prizes up to \$5,000. Lionfish were tagged at 50 public artificial reefs across the state between the depths of 80 and 120 feet.

Sign up and learn more today by visiting MyFWC.com/Lionfish.

All qualified participants (submission of 25 lionfish or 25 pounds for commercial) will be entered into drawing. Prizes include a 4-foot JBL pole spear, Dive Rite surface marker tube, Lionator pole spear prize pack, Enriched Air Diver Class from Narked Scuba, and Color-Dive Lenses from Customatic Optics.

There's still time to submit your qualifying 25 lionfish and receive a commemorative coin that allows you to take one extra spiny lobster per day during the two-day mini-season July 25-26.

Mobile home catches fire

By Matteo Tullio
Okeechobee News

A structure fire was reported Friday afternoon.

According to an Okeechobee County Fire Rescue (OCFR) report, at 5:58 p.m. on July 6, a structure fire was reported in the 17600 block of Northwest 38th Avenue. A total estimated property and contents financial loss of \$40,000 was assessed. Three engines, three tankers and three rescues of OCFR responded to the incident scene. Approximately 3,500 gallons of water was used in the fire's extinguishment.

Units responded to the above location to find a double-wide mobile home with fire seen coming from one of the corners of the residence. Crews made entry through the front door and made their way to the northwest corner of the mobile home and found the fire in the bedroom that had vented through the roof, stated the report.

The report noted that crews saw a total loss of the bedroom after the fire was extinguished and before proceeding toward the kitchen and laundry areas. Firefighters then exited the interior of the building and

entered through the rear door of the mobile home, where they then extinguished a fire in the middle of the kitchen and laundry area near the bedroom.

The report stated that the fire was controlled by 7 p.m. and the scene was turned over to the state fire marshal. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

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Public Forum/Speak Out

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

Water farming

• "We should be doing more projects like this in strategic locations south of Orlando with willing landowners." – Katie Edwards-Walpole

Cyanobacteria bloom

• "The whole of South Florida was a big old swamp, until that railroad dude wanted to turn it all into farmland. We created the water mess. We're an industrious lot. All's well, though. Most of the state will be underwater in about a century." – Adam Steidl

Algae

The article about the cyanobacteria in Lake Okeechobee brought these comments from readers.

• "You might try water hyacinths to control the algae. I put them in my pond, and just one clears my water in one day. Maybe a lot of them would do it. They multiply fast. What do you have to lose?" – Alexis Lee

• "So this isn't necessarily bad? It just looks bad?" – Rick Battle

• "Algae is the oldest life form on Earth, and it's always present in water bodies. When it grows out of control, which happens when too many nutrients (food) are present, it becomes a nuisance for sure. It ISN'T always 'toxic' and as this article explains; keeping an eye on the toxicity is challenging at best. My rule of thumb is to stay away from it when it's visible." – Nyla Pipes

• "Cyanobacteria usually grows on the bottom floor of the fish tank, all over everything. Fish tanks are filtered usually by some form of carbon substance. I wonder if they could do the same thing here, slowly over time." – Heath Brewster

• "Where is the collective outrage over

our water issues, which will ultimately destroy more lives, property values, businesses and our way of life in paradise. If Florida politicians were the answer, this cycle would have been getting the attention that's necessary 20 years ago." – E. J. Bach

• "Cyanobacteria can create microcystins, which are hepatotoxins (liver toxins). The Treasure Coast has one of the highest levels of liver cancer in the country. The water in our canals is used by water crops. Cyanobacteria can be absorbed by plants — so we eat it and breathe it in the air. It is hard to kill; even boiling water does not kill the toxin. This stuff can be deadly." – Robin Dannahower

Dike repairs

• "What does this mean? Will SFWMD keep the lake levels higher with a stronger dike?" – Louis Brouillard

Estuary protection wells

• "The coasts are crying about the lake releases. There is a temporary fix that could mean no releases east and west until the flow south is restored. Deep Well Injection, or estuary protection wells, could be built to send that water through the earth to the boulder zone instead of bombing the estuaries. We hate to waste water, but we're wasting it now. It will be at least eight years for the EAA reservoir to be built. Estuary Protection Wells could get rid of that excess water until the reservoir is finished. Why make the coasts wait eight years for relief when there is a proven technology that could be done now? Fund the wells. Put them in ASAP. Stop the harmful releases." – K. Booker

Protests

• "I was shocked and saddened at what occurred last February in Parkland. Does it get worse than an attack on our children? What's bothersome is the obvious attempt at political gain from such tragic events. Imagine a parent who parades their 9-year-old down the sidewalk holding a sign that reads 'I don't want to be next.' Do you honestly believe that, in most cases, it was the child's decision to be a part of the 'protest?' What psychological effect does that have? Adults in our society certainly have freedom of expression. But c'mon, using our youth for political purposes is so wrong! Let those kids stay at home and finish playing their Mortal Kombat video games." – Anonymous

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | 31 Sunscreen letters | 49 Religious doctrine |
| 1 Frequent-flier no., e.g. | 1 "Encore!" | 33 Uncertain words | 50 Ryder rival |
| 5 Rental agreement | 2 Rich pasta dish | 34 Happy days | 51 All too familiar |
| 10 Many GRE takers | 3 New England shellfish sandwiches | 35 Sweetie | 52 Timid person's lack |
| 13 Big, fancy dinner | 4 It's picked up in bars | 38 Baseball's Felipe or Moises | 54 Yank in China, maybe |
| 14 Finalize, as a comic strip | 5 Cosmetic surg. option | 39 Naval petty officers | 57 Chewy caramel candy |
| 15 Tiny pest | 6 Dress like Judge Judy | 42 "Have a sample" | 60 ___ station |
| 16 Mideast protest movement that began in 2010 | 7 Curly-tailed guard dog | 45 Org. concerned with pesticides | 61 Flowery poem |
| 18 Mount St. Helens outflow | 8 Envy or lust | 47 Tidal retreat | 62 Quick punch |
| 19 Cloud computing giant | 9 An official lang. of Hong Kong | 48 "Ta-da!" | |
| 20 Crotchety oldster | 10 Big mess | | |
| 21 Postpone | 11 "Bolero" composer | | |
| 22 "Little Broken Hearts" singer Jones | 12 Set in motion | | |
| 24 Cash cache | 15 Collects bit by bit | | |
| 27 Win-win | 17 Where subjects are taught | | |
| 29 Tall tale | 21 TiVo, for one | | |
| 30 Run fast | 23 Every bit | | |
| 31 Bond or Bourne | 25 "Cagney & Lacey" law-enforcing gp. | | |
| 32 [Oh, well] | 26 Paddled boats | | |
| 36 E-tailer's address | 28 Swim team swimsuit | | |
| 37 February 29th ... and, based on the ends of 16-, 24-, 49- and 60- | 30 Orbit, e.g. | | |

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

C	A	R	A	D	A	W	E	D	S	N	I	P		
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By C.C. Burnikel
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OKEECHOBEE NEWS

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- 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.
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- 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.



Algae experts respond to frequently asked questions

Special to the Okeechobee News

The heavy rainfall that came with Hurricane Irma in September 2017 and the above-average rainfall in spring 2018 set the stage for another large-scale summer algal bloom in Lake Okeechobee and the St. Lucie (SLE) and Caloosahatchee (CE) Rivers and Estuaries. Residents and visitors are concerned, upset and confused, and these emotions are nowhere more present than on social media. Over the last couple of weeks, the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Services scoured social media for Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) that were seen on the comment feed of numerous posts and pages.

FAQ answers were provided by Karl Havens, director of Florida Sea Grant College Program, University of Florida; Edward Philips, professor of algal physiology and ecology, University of Florida; and Lisa Krinsky, water resources regional specialized agent, University of Florida IFAS.

Why is there a massive algal bloom this year in Lake Okeechobee?

In order to answer this question, we first have to provide some background about algal blooms and Lake Okeechobee. For algal blooms to occur, two things must be present: high concentrations of nutrients (most importantly nitrogen and phosphorus) and adequate sunlight. Warm water temperatures also accelerate the formation of blooms. Lake Okeechobee is a large, shallow, nutrient-enriched lake. The shallow depths, particularly around the edges of the lake, provide the light needed to support high algae growth rates. The location of the lake in the subtropical environment of South Florida provides a long season of high water temperatures.

This year, South Florida received record rainfall in May which delivered extra nutrients from the local watershed into the lake, adding to the ingredients that already had been built up from the rainfall and runoff during Hurricane Irma. It created perfect conditions for an intense algal bloom. As with many lakes and reservoirs around the world, blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria, are common in Lake Okeechobee. These algae have special adaptations that help them dominate blooms, such as the ability to adjust their position vertically in the water column through buoyancy regulation, thereby allowing them to find the depth of optimal light or nutrient availability.

Why are there blooms in the estuaries?

Algal blooms in estuaries are dependent on the same basic ingredients as blooms in lakes, including high nutrient levels and sufficient light availability. However, estuaries can be subject to high rates of tidal flushing with the ocean, which limits the time needed to allow large accumulations of algal biomass. The latter factor helps to explain the intense blooms that have been observed in the northern Indian River Lagoon, which has very low rates of flushing.

Two major estuaries in South Florida are directly connected to Lake Okeechobee via canal systems; the St. Lucie Estuary (SLE) on the east coast of Florida and the Caloosahatchee Estuary (CE) on the west coast. As with Lake Okeechobee, record rainfall in May washed nutrient-laden stormwater runoff from the surrounding land into the estuaries. Additionally, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers discharged large volumes of lake water to the east and west as per the requirements of the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule to prevent the Herbert Hoover Dike from being compromised.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers initiated large-scale discharges out of the S-77 Canal (west coast) and S-380 Canal (east coast) on June 2. This discharged water is rich in nutrients and algae, as indicated by NOAA imagery. The amount of freshwater that was released turned the normally saline estuary primarily fresh, providing conditions favorable for the growth and survival of freshwater cyanobacterial blooms that otherwise would not occur in saline water. Intense blooms of freshwater cyanobacteria in the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries, possibly related to discharges from Lake Okeechobee, are a recurring phenomenon, most recently in 2005 and 2016, both periods of exceptionally high rainfall.

On average, over 60 percent of the water and nutrients that go into the estuaries come from their own watersheds, not from the lake. During the month of May, only 11 percent and 10 percent of the water that was flowing into the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries, respectively, was from the lake.

Is the algae in the estuaries from the lake?

When water is discharged from lakes, rivers and canals into estuaries, it can introduce bloom concentrations of algae to the receiving estuary. Anecdotal and pictorial evidence of algae-bloom water flowing through the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee canal systems suggest that Lake Okeechobee was a contributor to at least some of the algae blooms that have sprung up in the SLE and CE. Research is needed to definitively confirm or deny this link.

What kind of algae make up the blooms?

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has been collecting water samples at sites with visual indication of a surface water algal bloom throughout the SLE and CE. Data from Lake Okeechobee water samples is limited to a few sites along the shoreline.

The cyanobacterium *Microcystis aeruginosa* was identified as the dominant taxon in six of eight samples collected along the shore of Lake Okeechobee and 38 percent of the 66 total samples collected throughout the entire region in the last 30 days (as of July 2).

The scope and results of the research associated with the 2018 blooms in Lake Okeechobee have not yet been fully report-

ed by the groups involved, so further details will likely be forthcoming.

Are they toxic? Are they harmful to people?

Blue-green algae (aka, cyanobacteria) are some of the most common kinds of bloom-forming algae in Florida's aquatic ecosystems. Some, though not all blue-green algae can produce toxins. *Microcystis aeruginosa*, one of the dominant bloom-forming species in Lake Okeechobee, has been shown to produce the hepatotoxin (liver toxin) microcystin, which can result in gastrointestinal problems associated with oral intake of untreated contaminated water and, in extreme cases, result in liver damage. Impacted water resources used for human consumption are typically treated with chlorine or ozone to destroy the toxin. In addition to hepatotoxins, some blue-green algae can produce other types of toxins, including neurotoxins (nervous system toxins) that also can cause respiratory distress and eye irritation, and dermatotoxins associated with skin irritation, although they appear to be less prominent and less commonly occurring than hepatotoxins in Florida.

In Florida, FDEP coordinates water sampling and tests for algal species and toxicity in both freshwater and marine environments, and the Florida Department of Health takes the lead in determining if an algal bloom presents a human health risk. For whatever the reason might be, many of us who have conducted research on Florida lakes with cyanobacteria blooms have found that some people develop a rash when their skin contacts the bloom. To avoid possible adverse symptoms and effects of exposure to toxins, avoidance by humans and pets is the best practice when water is contaminated with blue-green algal blooms.

Why do toxin levels vary in time and space?

Concentrations of algal toxins in ecosystems are often roughly proportional to the amount of toxin-producing algae present. However, environmental conditions and the condition of algal cells (such as age and health) can affect toxin levels. For example, blooms of *Microcystis aeruginosa* frequently form surface scums, which can be driven by wind onto shorelines, resulting in massive accumulations of biomass and very high, but spatially restricted, toxin levels.

Methods used to collect samples for analysis can also affect the level of toxins detected. For example, monitoring efforts focusing on the collection of samples from hot spots in algal biomass accumulation can overestimate the average and total toxin levels in an ecosystem.

Is this a wider-spread issue right now in the USA?

Algal blooms, including cyanobacteria blooms, are a problem not only in Florida but throughout the United States and the world. Although algal blooms are naturally occurring, human activities and inputs (stormwater, agriculture, urban landscapes, sewer and septic) have significantly increased the amount of nutrients available for bloom formation in many environments around the world.

In addition to Florida, algal blooms have been reported this year in Utah, Lake Erie, New York, North Carolina, Oregon and as far away as New Zealand, Australia, the Philippines and the Middle-eastern country of Oman. The problem of harmful algal blooms is expected to grow with continuing increases in nutrient loads and warming climate, particularly those involving cyanobacteria, which are known to favor high temperature conditions.

Class of 1999 raising money for scholarships

A Class of 1999 - Scholarships page has been set up on [GoFundMe.com/](https://www.gofundme.com/).

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

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

Fire/Rescue offers free blood pressure checks

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

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

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

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.

Obituaries

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

Cody Nicholas Gorham, 28

OKEECHOBEE — Cody Nicholas Gorham died July 8, 2018. He was born April 17, 1990 in Waukesha, Wis. to Roger B. Gorham and Christi Gorham. A resident of Okeechobee for 12 years, he was an iron worker and heavy equipment operator for 16 years. He enjoyed spending time with his children, spending time with his family, and riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle.



Cody Gorham is survived by his father, Roger Gorham, of Hobe Sound; mother, Christi Gorham, of Okeechobee; sons, Ryder

Nicholas Gorham and Hunter Cole Gorham; daughter, Khloe Lynn Gorham; fiancée, April Vinson, of Okeechobee; brother, Adam Dalton Gorham, of Jupiter; sister, Jennifer Meilicke (Aaron), of Fredericksburg, Va.

A celebration of life will be held beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 14, 2018, at 7814 NW 93rd Court, Okeechobee FL 34972.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to a trust fund for Cody's children that will be set up at MidFlorida Credit Union.

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.

Margaret Christina Swabey Smith, 93

OKEECHOBEE — Margaret Christina Swabey Smith was born in Columbus, Ohio on Jan. 24, 1925. She traveled with her mother, Ada E. Swabey, father, William A. Swabey and sister, Mary E. Swabey (all preceded in death) to Hollywood, Fla. In 1942, she married Walter Lee Smith Jr. (preceded in death, married 62 yrs.) and they had three children, Peggy Ann Smith Fulp Martinez (Ft. Myers), William Lee Smith (preceded in death) and Marci Christina Smith Downing Boswell (Okeechobee). She was a homemaker and seamstress before retiring to live in Okeechobee in 1988 (resided in Okeechobee for 30 yrs.).



Margaret passed away on Sunday, July 8, 2018 at the age of 93, she had an indomitable spirit to live and fought a brave battle with congestive heart failure. Her work here is now done and she has been called to quilt, sew, garden, and be reunited with family and friends that she has not seen in a while.

She was a member of the Okeechobee First United Methodist Church, Order of the Eastern Star #128 (Past Matron Okeechobee Chapter #128 and Hollywood Chapter #150 along with Past Grand Representative to Maine), Order of Amaranth, Okeechobee Historical Society, Tantie Quilters and Daughters of the American Revolution. Margaret was a tireless and selfless volunteer for many organizations that she held close to her heart, including the Okeechobee Shrine Club.

Margaret will be lovingly remembered by many family members and friends, including David Boswell (Okeechobee), Marguerite

C. Smith (St Pete), Betty Jo Weidner (Coral Springs), Paul L. Smith (Lynhaven), Sally Taylor (Ft. Lauderdale), Patsy Black, Bettyjo Caudill, Molly Johnson and Terry Hoehne (Okeechobee); her grandchildren, Kimberly A. Nodzak, Robert G. Fulp (Ft. Lauderdale), Rebecca M. Fulp (Las Vegas, Nev.), William L. Smith Jr., Micheala Coffin (St Pete), Amanda L. Downing Cooper, Shawn Cooper (Orlando); seven great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Mom used to say that the one with the most fabric at the end wins. Along with her many ribbons for quilts at the Okeechobee County Fair, we believe she may have won for the most fabric as well. Blessed are the family and friends of the piece makers for they will inherit the quilts.

In memory of our Mom, make time to treasure your mom as the end does not wait until you have time. Also, in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Order of the Eastern Star #128 or any of the organizations that mom held close to her heart.

Margaret's life will be celebrated at Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home, 400 N. Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972 on Friday, July 13, 2018 with visitation from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Order of the Eastern Star services at 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. and religious services on Saturday, July 14, 2018 at 11 a.m., with Pastor Don Hanna officiating. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery.

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

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

Irene McGuire, 87

OKEECHOBEE — Irene McGuire, age 87 of Hamilton, Ohio went home to be with the Lord and passed away at her home on Sunday, July 8, 2018. Irene was born in Hamilton, Ohio on January 31, 1931 to John Croucher and Ella Saylor Croucher.



Irene married Marion in Newport, Ky. on Aug. 4, 1948. She was an active member of the Civitan Club of Fairfield. Sis. Irene attended the Pentecostal Highway of Holiness Church and Victory Pentecostal Tabernacle for many years.

Irene is survived by her daughter, Ella Mae "Maisie" (Richard) Lawson; brother, Jack Croucher; granddaughter, Lisa (Darrell) House; great niece, Sidney "Squid" (Skylar) Drew; numerous nieces, nephews and friends; Rev. Donald and Jennifer Pierce, Andrea (Corey) Canton, Jackson Canton,

Jessica, Jaydon and Madison Pierce, and two special girls, Katie and Hannah of Okeechobee, Fla. A special thank you to Judy Ferguson, Mary Day, Diane DeLorenzo, Deborah Meyer, Sheila and Cotton Reynolds. A special thank you to our extended family in Okeechobee, Fla. Schoonmaker family.

Irene was preceded in death by her parents, John and Ella Croucher; husband, Marion McGuire; brothers, Harry "Okie" Croucher, Raymond "Red" Croucher and Paul "Beaver" Croucher; sister, Opal Trammell.

Visitation and celebration of her life will be held on Thursday, July 12, 2018 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Brown Dawson Flick Funeral Home, 330 Pershing Ave., Hamilton, Ohio and 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Friday before the funeral. Funeral service on July 13, 2018 at 11 a.m. with Rev. Donald Pierce and Rev. Don Leon pastor of the North Okeechobee, Fla. Church of God officiating. Burial will follow at Greenwood Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be made to your favorite charity.

www.browndawsonflick.com

Haynes E. Williams, 90

Haynes E. Williams, 90, died July 6, 2018 at his home surrounded by his loving family. He was born February 25, 1928 in Crewsville, Fla. to Zibe King Williams and Eva Mae Whidden Williams.



Haynes attended schools in Frostproof, Sebring, Brighton and Okeechobee. He was on the football team and played in Okeechobee High School's first band. He graduated from Okeechobee High School in 1946 as Class President. He then attended the University of Florida where he graduated in 1950 with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. Following graduation, he was the fourth person hired by the Florida Flood Control District now known as South Florida Water Management District. In 1954, Haynes was appointed by the governor as the Clerk of Court of Okeechobee County. He served that position for 18 years. In 1965, Haynes began his highly successful career as a real estate broker, and maintained an office for 53 years. In the early 1970s, Haynes and other local business leaders formed Commercial Bank of Okeechobee where he served as Chairman of the Board until the bank was sold to SunTrust Bank.

He was a fifth-generation cattle rancher. As a young boy when there were no fences, he helped drive cattle for his grandfather, Fitz Williams and father, Zibe as depicted by the mural on Haynes's office building. For many years he owned and operated 101 Ranch located out on the prairie, where at one time his grandfather Williams once owned 10,000 acres.

Haynes lived a very full life. He loved hunt-

ing and fishing, was an avid Florida Gator fan, enjoyed working cows and negotiating real estate deals. He will be greatly missed by his wife and family and will be fondly remembered by those who knew him, especially his long time friend, Mike O'Connor.

Haynes was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Paul Revere Williams and William "Bill" Williams; and his grandson, Carson Williams.

He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Susan Williams; daughters, Debbie Rogers of Tampa, Connie (Marcus) Lowe, Celeste (Ron) Ripple all of Okeechobee; son, David (Pam) Williams of Okeechobee; grandchildren, Travis, Traci, Trent, Pam, Missy, Rachel, Raymond, Nikki, Dane, Cody and Channing; step-daughter, Cheri Stevens; step-grandsons, Justin and Shane; twenty great-grandchildren; sisters, Grace (Joel) Taylor of Bogue, NC, Wanda Sue (Larry) Wolford of Jacksonville, Mary Helen Fulford of Lake Wales and Betty Lou (David) Hazellief of Okeechobee; first wife, Hazel Williams of Lake Placid; mother of his children and second wife, Marcie Fewell Williams of Cody, WY; and many nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held from 10:00 AM until Masonic services begin at 12:00 PM on Tuesday, July 10, 2018 at Buxton and Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home, 400 N. Parrott Avenue. A graveside service and burial will follow at Evergreen Cemetery in Okeechobee.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Haynes's name to Hospice of Okeechobee, PO BOX 1548, Okeechobee, FL 34973.

Arrangements are under the direction and care of Buxton and Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home. Those wishing to leave a message of condolence may sign the register book at www.OkeechobeeFuneralHome.com

View obituaries from the past month at **Legacy.com[®]**



For the health of it!

Protect your family from mosquito-borne illness

Special to the Okeechobee News

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida Department of Health reminds residents and visitors that it is important to “Drain and Cover” this National Mosquito Control Awareness Week. The department encourages everyone to take simple precautions to protect themselves and their neighbors from mosquito-borne illnesses, which have received increased attention recently in Florida.

“While there is currently no active, ongoing transmission of Zika in Florida, residents and travelers should always take precautions to protect against mosquito bites,” said State Surgeon General and Secretary Dr. Celeste Philip. “Zika is one of several mosquito-borne illnesses that occur in Florida, so be sure to drain water from any containers around your home, cover your skin with clothing and mosquito repellent and cover doors and windows with screen to keep mosquitoes out of your home or business.”

T. Wayne Gale, president of the Florida Mosquito Control Association said: “Summer is a crucial time to protect yourself and your loved ones from mosquitoes. Mosquito surveillance

and control happens year-round in Florida, but the hotter, wetter months produce ideal conditions for disease-spreading mosquitoes, so be sure to lessen your risk of being bitten and eliminate potential breeding sites.”

In addition to Zika, Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus, West Nile virus (WNV) and St. Louis encephalitis (SLE) virus are also present in mosquitoes in Florida. The risk of disease transmission through bites of infected mosquitoes to humans has increased.

To protect against mosquitoes, the department urges the public to “Drain and Cover:”

DRAIN standing water:

- Drain water from garbage cans, buckets, pool covers, coolers, toys, flowerpots or any other containers where sprinkler or rainwater has collected.

- Discard old tires, drums, bottles, cans, pots and pans, broken appliances and other items that aren't being used.

- Empty and clean birdbaths and pets' water bowls at least once or twice a week.

- Protect boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don't accumulate water.

- Maintain swimming pools in good condition and appropriately chlorinated. Empty plas-

tic swimming pools when not in use.

COVER your skin with:

- Clothing — If you must be outside when mosquitoes are active, cover up. Wear shoes, socks, long pants and long sleeves.

- Repellent — Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing. Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with 10-30 percent DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus and IR3535 are effective.

- Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months old.

COVER doors and windows with screens:

- Keep mosquitoes out of your house. Repair broken screening on windows, doors, porches and patios.

Tips on eliminating mosquito breeding sites:

- Clean out troughs and gutters;
- Remove old tires or drill holes in those used in playgrounds to drain;

- Turn over or remove empty plastic pots;
- Pick up all beverage containers and cups;

- Check tarps on boats or other equipment that may collect water;

- Replace water in birdbaths and pet or other animal feeding dishes at least once a week;

- Change water in plant trays, including hanging plants, at least once a week; and

- Remove vegetation or obstructions in drainage ditches that prevent the flow of water.

For more information on mosquito-borne illness prevention, visit our website at www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/prevention.html



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Snoring may be killing your love life

Special to the Okeechobee News

If you have been banished to the guest room because when you snore your neighbors think there is a 747 landing in the cul-de-sac, you might want to see the dentist.

The sleep disorder most associated with loud snoring is called obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). Studies have found that it is associated with an increased risk of stroke, cancer and death. But why go to the dentist? Because dental care affects the entire body, says dentist Dr. Steven Freeman, author of the book “Why Your Teeth Might Be Killing You”

“People have a tendency to think that the dentist is only about filling cavities and creating a beautiful smile,” Dr. Freeman says. “But your oral health can impact your physical well-being of your entire body. Sleeping disorders are

frequently diagnosed and treated by dentists.”

OSA wasn't diagnosed as a condition until the 1960s. Every year the number of sleep apnea cases increases due to increased awareness and the condition's connection to obesity.

For years, people who had sleep apnea had only one choice — the “CPAP,” which stands for “continuous positive airway pressure.” It looks like something a jet pilot would use at high altitude, and only 20 percent of people who are prescribed for it actually use it because it is so uncomfortable. However, there are other devices that are now available, including something called an “oral appliance therapy” that is more like a mouthpiece than a gas mask. It is recommended by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, an organization that includes dentists.

Dr. Stevens says causes of sleep apnea include:

- Excess weight/diabetes. The cheapest way for some people to cure sleep apnea is to lose weight.

- Smoking. Smokers are three times more likely to develop sleep apnea than non-smokers.

- Hypertension. OSA episodes produce surges in systolic and diastolic pressure that keep mean blood pressure levels elevated at night. In many patients, blood pressure remains elevated during the daytime, when breathing is normal.

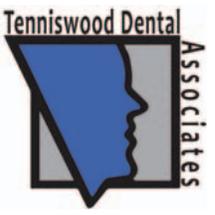
- Asthma. Obstructive sleep apnea occurs when the upper airway closes during sleep, which causes the reduction of airflow and oxygen to the lungs. This may lead to increased inflammation in the body, including the lungs.



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Jenna Tenniswood Bryan, D.M.D.
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Wetlands restoration planned north of lake

Special to the Okeechobee News

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Jacksonville District is accepting comments on the draft integrated Project Implementation Report (PIR) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project (LOWRP).

USACE proposes an above-ground wetland attenuation feature (WAF) and several aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) wells in an area north of the lake. The proposed plan also calls for restoration of 5,300 acres

of wetlands in the area. The draft document was released for review July 6. USACE will accept comments through Aug. 20.

"This plan provides additional flexibility for managing water north of the lake in a manner consistent with Everglades' restoration goals," said Lisa Aley, planning technical lead for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project. "We look forward to hearing from people living and working in the area on this proposed plan."

The draft report is available at <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Ecosystem-Restoration/Lake->

Okeechobee-Watershed-Project/. Those interested in submitting comments may do so electronically at OkeechobeeWatershedRestoration@usace.army.mil. Written comments can be mailed to:

Dr. Gretchen Ehlinger

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District

P.O. Box 4970

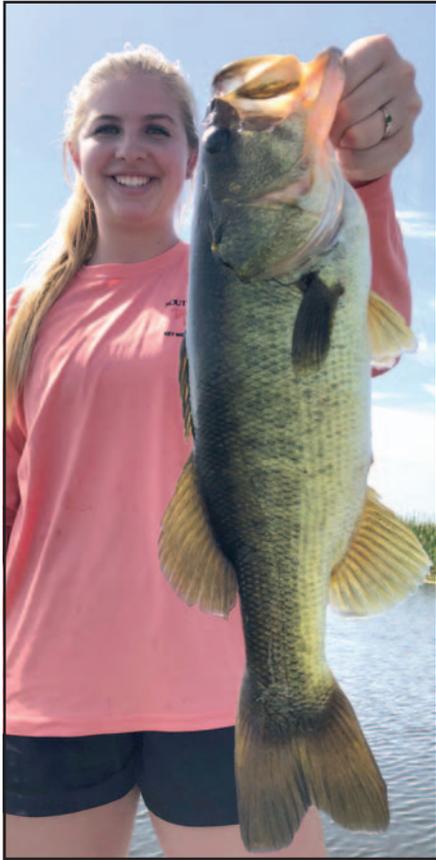
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Jacksonville District staff are scheduling a series of public meetings to provide those interested with another forum to submit their comments on the study. It is anticipated that the meetings will take place during the week of July 30. Additional information will be

available once venues are confirmed.

The LOWRP study began during the summer of 2016 with a goal to identify opportunities to improve the water storage capacity in the Lake Okeechobee watershed in a manner that would improve lake stage levels for environmental and water supply purposes while reducing undesirable discharges to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries, and restoring wetlands along Kissimmee River.

More information on Jacksonville District's ecosystem restoration efforts is available at <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Ecosystem-Restoration/>.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Bass fishing on Lake O

Bass caught on Lake Okeechobee by Alex Vandegrift and Kendall Higgs.

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.

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

GAS SAFETY INFO

Did you know gas pipelines may be located in your area? Here's how to recognize a leak.

SMELL!

Natural gas and propane are naturally odorless. A "rotten egg" odor is added for easy detection.

SEE!

Blowing dirt or bubbling creeks or ponds. Natural gas is lighter than air and rises whereas propane gas is heavier and settles.

HEAR!

Listen for hissing sounds near a gas appliance or line.

Do not smoke, light a match or do anything that may result in an explosion or fire.



FPU Emergency Response is available 24/7. If you suspect a gas leak or related emergency, LEAVE THE AREA IMMEDIATELY and call FPU at **800.427.7712**. (Or dial 911 if needed.)



Pipeline markers along mains and transmission lines have phone numbers in case of emergency. They don't show exact locations/depths, so please call 811 to locate and mark utility lines. Some segments along transmission pipelines may be designated as High Consequence Areas (HCAs). Call **800.427.7712** for FPU's Integrity Management Program.



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Area churches host special events and VBS

Believers Fellowship Church, 300 S.W. Sixth Ave., will host a Vacation Bible School on July 9 through the 13 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. each night. All children from grades fourth through ninth are welcome to attend. For information, call 863-634-4327.

Seventh Day Adventist Church, 412 N.W. Sixth St., will host a Vacation Bible School on July 8 through 13, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free for all children ages three to 12. For information call, 863-801-4651.

Peace Lutheran Church will host a VBS program for children age 3-10 and their parents. Please join us July 16 - 20, from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Registration is available online at peacelutheran-school-okeechobee.com, or contact the church office at 863-763-5042.

The **Okeechobee Ministerial Association** will sponsor the next 5th-Sunday Community Service on Sunday, July 29, at 6 p.m. at the Pentecostals of Okeechobee, 405 S.W. 10th Ave. Pastor Ray Warren will be preaching, the Pentecostal praise team will be singing in addition to members of the OMA and other special music. A love offering will be taken for a local ministry. Come and enjoy this unique community Christian experience!

Church of Our Saviour, Episcopal Church, 200 N.W. Third St., would like to extend an invitation for you to come and worship with us. All are welcome. Come as you are. Church services are Sunday 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and Wednesday, 6 p.m. A nursery and a comfort room are available for your use. We offer an Adult Forum and Bible Study on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and Children's Church (ages pre-k through high school) Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Visit our website for more information, churchofoursaviourokeechobee.org, or call the church office Tuesday through Friday 863-763-4843.

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

Okeechobee Missionary Baptist Church, at 4212 U.S. 441 N., would like to invite all to worship in church services. Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m., with Sunday morning worship at 10:45 a.m. Sunday night Baptist Training Course (BTC) is at 5:30 p.m., followed by Sunday evening worship at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday evening

Bible Study is at 7 p.m., with Wednesday evening Youth Discovery Bible clubs at 7 p.m. For more information call Pastor Donny Raney at 863-763-3681.

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

Treasure Island Baptist Church, 4209 U.S.

441 S.E., comes with an exciting message of hope, and a vision to reach out to all people in Okeechobee and the surrounding area. Pastor Douglas T. Ryan graduated from Hobe Sound Bible College. Be looking out for him in your community as he boldly encourages people everywhere to start a new exciting life with Jesus Christ as their guide. We welcome all to our family of friendly people who just seek to show you an outpouring of Gods love. Our service on Sunday starts at 10:30 a.m. with Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. We also invite all to our Wednesday or Sunday evening gathering at 6:30 p.m.

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

Victory Baptist Church, 500 S.W. Ninth St., would like to invite the public to attend any or all of their services each Sunday. Sunday School is at 10 a.m. for all ages. Morning worship service is at 10:45 a.m. and includes old fashioned preaching and singing. The youth band consists of the piano, violin, mandolin and guitar, as well as various singing groups. Sunday evening service is at 7 p.m. Wednesday evening prayer and Bible study and kids bible club is at 7 p.m. The King James Bible is used. For information, please call 863-763-0669. Check out the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/victorybaptistokee.

Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, 1057 S.E. 14th Ct., offers Sunday service at 11 a.m., Sunday school at 10 a.m., and Bible study on Tuesday at 7 p.m. Pastor is Bishop Maurice Alexander. Church phone is 863-467-9355, church email is truthwisdomlove@gmail.com.

Community Events

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BHR VFW Aux serves dinner

The VFW Auxiliary, 29012 State Road 78 E. 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.

Dining-to-donate day is set

Applebee's, 1210 SR 70 E., will host a dining-to-donate day, where 10 percent of your bill will be donated to Hospice of Okeechobee Inc., on Thursday, **July 12**, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. You must present a flyer to your server. You can pick up flyers at the Okeechobee Chamber, 55 S. Parrott Ave., or Hospice of Okeechobee, 411 S.E. Fourth St.

BHR VFW will serve dinner

The Buckhead Ridge VFW Post 9528, 29012 SR 78 E. 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.

BHR Moose serves AYCE fish

The Buckhead Ridge Moose, 1016 Linda Road, offers an all-you-can-eat catfish fillets or sharpies dinner on Friday, **July 13**, from 5 to 7 p.m. for a donation of \$10. Steak and shrimp dinners are also available. There will be live entertainment and the public is welcome.

VFW hosts weekend events

Big Lake VFW Post 10539, 3912 U.S. 441 S.E., will host a steak dinner with baked potato, garlic bread and a salad, on Friday, **July 13**, from 5 to 7 p.m., with entertainment provided by Karaoke Kop from 7 to 11 p.m. Also join them on Saturday, **July 14**, for burgers, hotdogs and Italian sausage on the grill from noon to 5 p.m., with music preformed by Ray Johnson from 2 to 6 p.m. Then on Sunday, **July 15**, they will serve wings from 2 to 5 p.m. And, enjoy music by Lisa Riley from 2 to 6 p.m. For information, call 863-763-2308.

Enjoy breakfast at the Moose

The Buckhead Ridge Moose, 1016 Linda Road, will serve a full breakfast on Sunday, **July 15**, from 8 to 11 a.m. The public is welcome.

Healthy Start to meet

The Okeechobee County Healthy Start Coalition Board of Directors will meet Wednesday, **July 18**, at 12:30 p.m. at The White House Plaza, 1132 S. Parrot Ave. The meeting is open to the public. The coalition is part of a statewide network responsible for planning and implementing services for pregnant women and infants. The coalition is made up of citizens interested in promoting healthy pregnancies and healthy birth outcomes for Okeechobee County residents. For information, contact Kay Begin at 863-462-5877.

Democrats will meet July 18

The Okeechobee Democratic Executive committee invites the public to attend the monthly meeting on Wednesday, **July 18**, at 6:30 p.m. held at Beef O' Bradys, 608 S. Parrott Ave.

Backyard chickens 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 Cattleman Association's weekend rodeo events.

Take the reading challenge

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

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



Places of Worship

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

Okeechobee 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).

- Devin Allen Rexroad, 25, Northeast 60th Avenue, Okeechobee, was arrested July 6 by Deputy Corporal Kristin Gray on a misdemeanor charge of driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$500.

- Rodolfo Jesus Uncein, 48, Northwest 12th Terrace, Okeechobee, was arrested July 7 by Deputy Steven Pollock on a misdemeanor charge of driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$500.

- Serrina Arlene Snyder, 26, Northeast 11th Street, Okeechobee, was arrested July 6 by Deputy Ashley Waskiewicz on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) without a valid prescription and a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. Her bond was set at \$6,000.

- Erica Nicole Fredrick, 24, Northwest 98th Street, Okeechobee, was arrested by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on felony charges of possession of a controlled substance (hydromorphone) without a valid prescription, tampering

with physical evidence and a misdemeanor charge of possession of a controlled substance (cannabis) without a valid prescription. Her bond was set at \$10,500.

- Chris Mujica, 18, Center Road, Traverse City, Mich, was arrested July 9 by Deputy Quinton Speed on an Okeechobee County felony warrant charging him with possession of a controlled substance (cannabis resin) without a valid prescription. His bond was set at \$2,500.

- Jennifer Stacy Garcia, 37, Southeast 22nd Court, Okeechobee, was arrested July 9 by Deputy Quinton Speed on a DOC felony warrant charging her with violation of probation. She is being held without bond.

- Henry Lewis Norman, 62, Northwest 102nd Street, Okeechobee, was arrested July 9 by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) without a valid prescription and a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond was set at \$6,000.

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



Special to the Okeechobee News

Shockwaves compete in swim meet

Joshua Boon was among the Okeechobee Shockwaves swim team members competing in a recreational league swim meet on July 7 at the Darrell Enfinger Sports Complex.

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Governor issues emergency order for algae issues

Special to the Okeechobee News

CAPE CORAL — Gov. Rick Scott on July 9 issued an emergency order in Glades, Hendry, Lee, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties to help combat algal blooms caused by Lake Okeechobee water discharges from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This emergency declaration allows the Department of Environmental Protection and the South Florida Water Management District to waive various restrictions and regulations to store water in additional areas south of the lake.

Gov. Scott said, "As governor, it is my duty to protect Floridians, no matter what it takes. Today, our state is once again facing a crisis from water releases controlled by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This has prompted me to issue an emergency declaration, so our state agencies can do everything in their power to minimize the harmful impacts these releases are having on our communities.

"Last week, we learned that Florida will be receiving its fair share of federal funding

following a devastating hurricane season in 2017. At our urging, part of this money will be used to speed the critical repairs to the Herbert Hoover Dike, a long overdue federal project, to help Lake Okeechobee store more water to protect our communities. But let me be clear — simply providing money for a project that should have been completed decades ago is not enough. Congress and the federal government need to do more to help families who are facing harmful algal blooms because of the water they are releasing into our communities from Lake Okeechobee. This includes approving the acceleration of the EAA Reservoir that I signed into law last year. The fact that Congress has failed to act to solve this problem is frustrating, but not surprising.

"Now, since we are facing more harmful algal blooms from federal water releases, the state is taking a multifaceted approach to protect families. We will stop at nothing to solve this problem — our families deserve nothing less."

The governor announced this action fol-

lowing a tour of the Caloosahatchee River, where he received a briefing on the additional water monitors he directed DEP to deploy to the river last month.

The emergency order includes the following:

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

The governor has directed DEP to dedicate more staffing to water testing and sampling. Other actions include a statewide hotline (855-305-3903) for the public to report issues with algae, and a website so Floridians can be fully informed on the location of algal blooms and results of water testing.

The governor has directed DEP to establish a grant program to provide local governments with funding to contract cleanup services.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

FWC's Research Institute will dedicate more staff to support DEP's water testing and sampling.

The Florida Department of Health (DOH)

The governor has directed DOH to enhance community outreach efforts. Also, DOH is prepared to enhance the use of signage to keep Floridians and the state's visitors informed on the dangers of algal blooms.

VISIT FLORIDA

VISIT FLORIDA will do outreach to tourism partners in the affected areas to identify ways to minimize the impact to the state's tourism industry.

Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)

The governor has directed DEO to identify businesses that could be affected by the harmful algal blooms. DEO will work hand-in-hand with local businesses and business

support organizations to provide resources and assistance to any Florida business impacted by algal blooms.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

The governor has directed FDOT to identify any road work projects that can be initiated or accelerated to assist with flood control and water direction in communities surrounding the lake and its water sources.

South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)

Using this emergency declaration, DEP will work with the SFWMD to identify additional storage north and south of Lake Okeechobee, including the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, to decrease water inflows and help to reduce water levels in the lake. These actions include:

- Using the S-5A Pump Station in Palm Beach County to move 400 cubic feet per second (cfs) out of the L-8 Canal to prevent water from flowing back into Lake Okeechobee;

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

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

- Fully utilizing the A-1 Flow Equalization Basin and L-8 Flow Equalization Basin;

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

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

Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM)

The governor has directed FDEM to host regular calls with county emergency management officials to ensure that all needs are met. FDEM will stand ready to support any local emergency operations.

Social Security Matters

by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor

Association of Mature American Citizens

Dear Rusty: My husband got an overpayment notice from Social Security telling us that his former wife had collected \$32,640.34 in benefits she wasn't entitled to and they want us to repay the overpayment. We knew that his ex-wife had been married another three times, but she was single at 62 when she filed for ex-spouse benefits from my husband. When her current husband went to retire, he asked if he could collect benefits from his wife who had just died; Social Security told him "no" as she was collecting benefits from an ex-husband. He asked, "which husband?" which triggered the overpayment letter to us. If Social Security had an "adverse letter" system like they do for children, we could have answered the letter by stating that she had been married three times. Social Security should have run her SS number and seen how many times she changed her name on the card. End of story. \$32,640.34 is hard to swallow when you are 80 and 85 and we now must repay this amount. Signed: Upset and Angry

Dear Upset: Social Security's rules say that you must be unmarried when you apply for ex-spouse benefits, not that you cannot have remarried and subsequently again divorced, been widowed or had the later marriage annulled. If an ex-spouse collecting benefits from a former husband remarries, they are obligated to inform Social Security they are no longer eligible to collect ex-spouse benefits because they have remarried. It sounds as if your husband's ex-wife neglected to inform Social Security of her several remarriages, each of which made her ineligible to collect from your husband while she was married to another. I suggest that you appeal this Social Security ruling on the basis that the former wife negligently continued to collect ex-spouse benefits from your husband after she had remarried. This

was clearly something that your husband had no control over since his Social Security benefit wasn't affected in any way by his ex-wife collecting benefits on his record. Although there are time limits specified to contest an adverse ruling, you are hopefully within the "3 years, 3 months and 15 days after the year the adjustment relates." Your right to re-appeal continues even if you have been initially and subsequently denied, even taking your appeal to an Administrative Law Judge if need be. Considering the amount of money involved here, and the clarity of the ex-wife's neglecting to inform Social Security of her remarriage(s), I encourage you to immediately appeal Social Security's ruling.

So that you know, there is precedent within Social Security for situations where benefits were overpaid to one person without the knowledge of or benefit to another — for example, your husband's ex-wife collecting benefits she wasn't entitled to because she was remarried. This precedent information can be found at the following Social Security link, which deals with a ruling that is "against equity and good conscience": https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/cfr20/404/404-0509.htm. For your convenience, here is what the Federal Code says about this (please print this and take it with you when you meet with Social Security): "Recovery of an overpayment is against equity and good conscience ... if an individual ... was living in a separate household from the overpaid person at the time of the overpayment and did not receive the overpayment." I believe your husband's situation regarding his ex-wife getting benefits she wasn't entitled to, and that he had no knowledge of, clearly qualifies as "against equity and good conscience." Please make an appointment at your local Social Security office as soon as possible and file an appeal on this ruling, and don't simply accept it if they initially reject your appeal. Your right to appeal continues up to and including consideration by an independent Administrative Law Judge.

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Public Notice

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CIVIL DIVISION:
CASE NO.: 13000458CAAX

FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION,
vs.
UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING AN INTEREST, BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JAMES J. POLICASTRO, DECEASED; FRED POLICASTRO; DEBORAH CERERE; BRANDON POLICASTRO; AMY JUNK; ERIC POLICASTRO; Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated the 19th day of June, 2018, and entered in Case No. 13000458CAAX, of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION is the Plaintiff and DEBORAH CERERE; FRED POLICASTRO; AMY JUNK; ERIC POLICASTRO; BRANDON POLICASTRO; UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING AN INTEREST, BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JAMES J. POLICASTRO; and UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY are defendants. SHARON ROBERTSON as the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the **OKEECHOBEE COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER, 312 NW 3RD STREET, JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34972, 11:00 AM on the 22nd day of August, 2018**, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 90, TREASURE ISLAND UNIT NO. 11, ADDITION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5, PAGE 53, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

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

Dated this 20th day of June, 2018.

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

271527 ON 7/4,11/2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL ACTION
CASE NO.: 47-2017-CA-000240

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION 2011-R1 TRUST, Plaintiff

vs.
DOUGLAS L. CUREY AKA DOUGLAS CUREY, et al,
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated June 19, 2018, and entered in Case No. 47-2017-CA-000240 of the Circuit Court of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida in which The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as Trustee for Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation 2011-R1 Trust, is the Plaintiff and Douglas L. Curey aka Douglas Curey, Bank of America, N.A., are defendants, the Okeechobee County Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in the Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor, Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, Okeechobee County, Florida at 11:00AM on the 1st day of August, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure:

LOT 19, BLOCK 5, BASSWOOD INCORPORATED, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 22, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, A/K/A 3934 NW 18TH AVE, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972

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

Dated in Okeechobee County, Florida this 20th day of June, 2018.

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

Albertelli Law Attorney for Plaintiff
P.O. Box 23028 Tampa, FL 33623 (813) 221-4743 16-014023

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

271562 ON 7/4,11/2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO. 472018DR000161

IN RE THE MATTER OF:
DUSTIN MOODY-FAULKNER,
Petitioner/Father, and
CASEY R. FELDPUSCH,
Respondent/Mother

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PUBLICATION

TO: **Casey R. Feldpusch**
Last Known Address: 321 Jordan Ter, Okeechobee FL 34794

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Paternity, including claims for paternity, payment of debts, division of real and personal property, and for payments of support, has been filed against you. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to this action on Rebecca H. Boltz, Petitioner's attorney, whose address is 180 NW 3rd Ave., Suite C, Okeechobee, FL 34972, within 30 days of first publication, and file the original with the clerk of this court at Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3111 Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, either before service on Petitioner's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

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

DATED this 20th day of June, 2018.

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

271080 ON 7/4,11,18,25/2018

Public Notice

Public Notice

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the Okeechobee County School Board will consider amendment or adoption of the School Board policy listed below at their meeting on Tuesday, August 14, 2018, at 6:00 pm, in Room 303 of the School Board Administrative Office at 700 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee. Copies of the proposed amendments are available in the Superintendent's Office, Room 307, 700 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee.

Amendment of Board Policy 5.27 Homeless Students

I. This policy provides requirements for the education of homeless students.
II. The proposed amendment is required based on changes in statutes.
III. Legal authority for this policy is FS. 1001.41, 1001.42, 1003.21. Laws implemented are FS. 382.002, 743.067, 1000.21, 1001.43, 1003.01, 1003.21, 1003.22, FS. McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, PL. 100-77, Every Student Succeeds Act 2015, PL. 114-95.
IV. This policy amendment will not affect individuals from an economic standpoint.

Amendment of Attendance Procedures and Programs Manual As provided in Board Policy 5.30 - Student Attendance

I. The Attendance Procedures and Programs Manual provides guidance for staff, students, and parents concerning school attendance requirements.
II. The proposed amendment includes updates as well as grammatical and clarification corrections.
III. Legal authority for this policy is FS. 1001.41, 1001.42. Laws implemented are FS. 1001.43, 1003.21, 1003.23, 1003.24, 1003.26; State Board of Education Rules 6A-1.044, 6A-1.09514.
IV. This policy amendment will not affect individuals from an economic standpoint.

Amendment of Student Progression Plan As provided in Board Policy 4.20

I. The Student Progression Plan is included in School Board Policy 4.20 Student Progression Plan.
II. The proposed amendment includes updates as well as grammatical and clarification corrections.
III. Legal authority for this policy is FS. 1001.41, 1001.42. Laws implemented are FS. 1001.43, 1002.3105, 1002.321, 1003.4156, 1003.4281, 1003.4295, 1003.437, 1003.49, 1008.25.
IV. This policy amendment will not affect individuals from an economic standpoint.

Textbook Adoption

The School Board of Okeechobee County will consider adoption of textbooks for Elementary Science, Middle Science, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Marine Science, Physics, Anatomy & Physiology, AP Environmental Science, AP Chemistry and Chemistry II Honors. This will take place at the regular School Board meeting on Tuesday, August 14, 2018, at 6:00 pm in Room 303 of the School Board Administration Building, 700 SW 2nd Avenue. Copies of the textbooks and materials proposed for adoption may be viewed in the office of the Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services or by going to okee.k12.fl.us and clicking on the appropriate link. Public input is invited.
272957 ON 7/11/2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL ACTION
CASE NO.: 2010-CA-000162

DEUTSCHE BANK TRUST COMPANY AMERICAS, AS TRUSTEE FOR DOVER MORTGAGE CAPITAL CORPORATION GRANTOR TRUST CERTIFICATE SERIES 2004-A, Plaintiff,

vs.
LUIS MARTINEZ, et al,
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated June 19, 2018, and entered in Case No. 2010-CA-000162 of the Circuit Court of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida in which Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, As Trustee For Dover Mortgage Capital Corporation Grantor Trust Certificate Series 2004-a, is the Plaintiff and R-Bar Estates Homeowners Association, Inc., Guadalupe Martinez A/K/A Maria Guadalupe Martinez, Unknown Tenant (s) nka Guadalupe Martinez, Bank of America, N.A., Luis G. Martinez A/K/A Luis Martinez, are defendants, the Okeechobee County Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in the Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor, Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, Okeechobee County, Florida at 11:00 AM on the 1st day of August, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure:

LOT 38 OF R BAR ESTATES UNIT NUMBER 1 ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5 PAGES 31 AND 32 PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY FLORIDA A/K/A 2267 NE 54TH TRAIL, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972

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

Dated in Okeechobee County, Florida this 20th day of June, 2018.

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

Albertelli Law Attorney for Plaintiff
P.O. Box 23028 Tampa, FL 33623 (813) 221-4743 16-014023

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

271537 ON 7/4,11/2018

Public Notice

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATON 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 96 SUBDIVISIONS: Article I In General, adding definitions for Lot Split/De Minimis Subdivision and Joinder of a Lot to Section 96-4 Definitions, Article II Plans and Data, and add a new Division 3 entitled Simple Lot Split/De Minimis Subdivisions; add a new Section 96-9 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 96-91 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, night club to include bar; and Section 90-283, amending the Special Exception Uses, item (17) 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 9 Central Business District, Section 90-313 amending the Special Exception Uses, item (10) 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 is 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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 18-CA-000037

TD BANK, N.A,
Plaintiff,

vs.
LARRY E. MANKE, et al,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated June 19, 2018, and entered in Case No. 18-CA-000037 of the Circuit Court of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida wherein TD Bank, N.A., is Plaintiff, and Larry E. Manke, et al., are Defendants. The Clerk of this Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 2nd Floor, Jury Assembly Room, 312 North West 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972 beginning at 11:00 a.m. on August 1, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure, to wit:

LOT 68 OF FOUR SEASONS, AN UNRECORDED SUBDIVISION, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY AS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE 1/4 SECTION CORNER ON THE EAST BOUNDARY LINE OF SECTION 18, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 36 EAST, RUN THENCE SOUTH 00° 05' 07" WEST ALONG THE EAST BOUNDARY LINE OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF SAID SECTION 18, FOR A DISTANCE OF 1472.00 FEET TO A POINT ON THE CIRCULAR ARC OF A SHORT RADIUS CURVE FOR POINT OF BEGINNING. SAID CURVE HAVING FOR ITS ELEMENTS A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 135° 34' 30" AND A RADIUS AT 50.00 FEET, THENCE RUN ALONG THE CIRCULAR ARC OF SAID CURVE FOR A DISTANCE OF 118.31 FEET TO A POINT OF TANGENCY, THENCE RUN NORTH 89° 54' 53" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 112.03 FEET, THENCE RUN SOUTH 00° 04' 22" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 220.00 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 89° 54' 53" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 197.70 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 00° 05' 07" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 255.00 FEET TO POINT OF BEGINNING. LYING IN AND COMPRISING A PART OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF SECTION 18, TOWNSHIP 37 SOUTH, RANGE 36 EAST, OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

TOGETHER WITH 1994 MERI DOUBLEWIDE MOBILE HOME ID # FLHMC48135664A & FLHMC48135664B
Property address: 6378 NE 4th Street,
Okeechobee, Florida 34972-8428

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

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

DATED this 20th day of June, 2018.

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

271611 ON 7/4,11/2018

Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE SALE

WHEREAS, on n, December 14, 2005, a certain Mortgage was executed by Sidna G. Bishop joined by his wife Patricia Bishop as Mortgagor in favor of Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corp. which Mortgage was recorded December 30, 2005, in Official Records Book 586, Page 1405 in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, (the "Mortgage"); and **WHEREAS**, the Mortgage was assigned to MERS as nominee for Financial Freedom Acquisition LLC by Assignment recorded October 2, 2009 in Official Recd Recs Book 676, Page 1301, in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Mortgage was assigned to the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (the "Secretary"), by Assignment recorded November 22, 2012 in Official Records Book 772, Page 1033, in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Mortgage is now owned by the Secretary; and **WHEREAS**, a default has been made in the covenants and conditions of Section 9 of the Mortgage in that one Mortgagor has died and the other has abandoned the Property hereinafter defined and the Mortgage remains wholly unpaid as of the date of this Notice and no payment has been made to restore the loan to current status; and

WHEREAS, the entire amount delinquent as of June 14, 2018 is \$203,337.65 plus accrued unpaid interest, if any, late charges, if a ry, fees and costs; and **WHEREAS**, by virtue of this default, the Secretary has declared the entire amount of the indebtedness secured by the Mortgage to be immediately due and payable; and

WHEREAS, Unknown Tenant (s) may claim some interest in the property hereinafter described, as a/ the tenant(s) in possession of the property, but such interest is subordinate to the lien of the Mortgage of the Secretary; and **NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to powers vested in me by the Single Family Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1994, 12 U.S.C. 3751, et seq, by 24 CFR part 27, subpart B, and by the Secretary's designation of the undersigned as Foreclosure Commissioner, recorded on in Official Records Book, Page of the Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida, notice is hereby given that on August 14, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. local time, all real and personal property at or used in connection with the following described premises (the "Property") will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder:

The West 160 feet of Lot 19, Block 8 of a REVISED PLAT OF FIRST ADDITION TO PINE RIDGE Park, recorded in plat book 3, Page 90 of the Public Records of Okeechobee County, Florida

Commonly known as: 676 NE 28th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The sale will be held at 676 NE 28th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development will bid \$203,337.65 plus interest from June 14, 2018 at a rate of \$23.68 per diem (subject to increases applicable under the Note), plus all costs of this foreclosure and costs of an owner's policy of title insurance.

There will be no proration of taxes, rents or other income or liabilities, except that the purchaser will pay, at or before closing, his/her/its pro-rata share of any real estate taxes that have been paid by the Secretary to the date of the foreclosure sale.

When making their bids, all bidders except the Secretary must submit a deposit totaling ten (10%) percent of the bid amount in the form of a certified check or cashier's check made out to the Secretary of HUD. Each oral bid need not be accompanied by a deposit. If the successful bid is oral, a deposit of ten (10%) percent of the bid amount must be presented before the bidding is closed. The deposit is non-refundable. The remainder of the purchase price must be delivered within thirty (30) days of the sale or at such other time as the Secretary may determine for good cause shown, time being of the essence. This amount, like the bid deposits, must be delivered in the form of a certified or cashier's check. If the Secretary is the high bidder, he need not pay the bid amount in cash. The successful bidder will pay all conveying fees, all real estate and other taxes that are due on or after the delivery of the remainder of the payment and all other costs associated with the transfer of title. At the conclusion of the sale, the deposits of the unsuccessful bidders will be returned to them. The Secretary may grant an extension of time within which to deliver the remainder of the payment. All extensions will be for fifteen (15) day increments for a fee equal to ten (10%) percent of the amount then due, paid in advance. The extension fee shall be in the form of a certified or cashier's check made payable to the Secretary of HUD. If the high bidder does the sale prior to the expiration of any extension period, the unused portion of the extension fee shall be applied toward the amount due.

If the high bidder is unable to close the sale within the required period, or within any extensions of time granted by the Secretary, the high bidder may be required to forfeit the cash deposit or, at the election of the foreclosure commissioner after consultation with the HUD Field Office representative, will be liable to HUD for any costs incurred as a result of such failure. The Commissioner may, at the direction of the HUD Field Office Representative, offer the Property to the second highest bidder for an amount equal to the highest price offered by that bidder.

There is no right of redemption, or right of possession based upon a right of redemption, in the mortgagor or others subsequent to a foreclosure completed pursuant to the Act. Therefore, the Foreclosure Commissioner will issue a Deed to the purchaser(s) upon receipt of the entire purchase price in accordance with the terms of the sale as provided herein. HUD does not guarantee that the property will be vacant.

The amount that must be paid if the Mortgage is to be reinstated prior to the scheduled sale is the principal balance set forth above, together with accrued, unpaid interest, plus all other amounts that would be due under the mortgage agreement if payments under the mortgage had not been accelerated, advertising costs and postage expenses incurred in giving notice, mileage by the most reasonable road distance for posting notices and for the Foreclosure Commissioner's attendance at the sale, reasonable and customary costs incurred for title and lien record searches, the necessary out-of-pocket costs incurred by the Foreclosure Commissioner for recording documents, a commission for the Foreclosure Commissioner, and all other costs incurred in connection with the foreclosure prior to reinstatement.

Date: July 3rd, 2018.

HUD Foreclosure Commissioner
By: Michael J. Posner, Esquire
Ward, Damon, Posner, Peterson & Bleau
4420 Beacon Circle
West Palm Beach, Florida 33407
Tel: 561/842-3000/Fax: 561/842-3626
Direct Dial: 561/594-1452

STATE OF FLORIDA; COUNTY OF PALM BEACH) ss:
Sworn to, subscribed and acknowledged before me this 3rd day of July, 2018, by Michael J. Posner, Esquire, of Ward, Damon, Posner, Peterson & Bleau au who is personally known to me.

Christina Zingman
Notary Public, State of Florida

273508 ON 7/11,18,25/2018

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Okeechobee County Tourist Development Council (TDC) Advisory Board will hold its Regular Session on Tuesday July 17, 2018 at 9 a.m. at the Okeechobee County Historic Courthouse in the Judge William L. Hendry Courtroom located at 304 NW 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida.

Any person deciding to appeal any decision made by the TDC with respect to any matter considered at such meeting will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she 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.

In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing special accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the County Administrator's Office not later than four (4) days prior to the proceeding at 304 NW 2nd Street, Room 123, Okeechobee, Florida 34972, or call 863.763.6441. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call TDD 800.222.3448 (voice) or 888-447-5620 (TTY).

Sharie Turgeon, Tourism Coordinator
Tourist Development Council
Okeechobee County, Florida
273829 ON 7/11/2018

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

Public Notice

Public Notice

Public Notice

Fictitious Name

**PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY PLANNING BOARD MEETING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Okeechobee Planning Board will conduct a regular meeting on **Thur, Jul. 19, 2018, 6 PM**, or as soon thereafter as possible, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, FL. As the Local Planning Agency, the Planning Board may consider offering a recommendation on any proposed amendments to the current Land Development Regulations submitted by City Staff, Board Members, or citizens.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend. The agenda may be obtained from cityofokeechobee.com or by calling the General Services Office, 863-763-3372 x9820.

ANY PERSON DECIDING TO APPEAL any decision made by the PB/BOA 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 PB/BOA 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: Chairperson Dawn Hoover
273661 ON 7/11/2018

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2017CA000171**

TD BANK, N.A.,
Plaintiff,
vs.
MADONNA L. ARNOLD, et al,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated June 19, 2018, and entered in Case No. 2017-CA-000171 of the Circuit Court of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida wherein TD Bank, N.A., is Plaintiff, and Madonna L. Arnold, et al., are Defendants. The Clerk of this Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the **Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 2nd Floor, Jury Assembly Room, 312 North West 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972** beginning at **11:00 a.m. on August 1, 2018**, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure, to wit:

LOT 14, BLOCK 1, OAKPARK SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 3, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Property Address: 3549 SW 17th Street,
Okeechobee, Florida 34974-5407

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

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

DATED this 20th day of June, 2018.

SHARON ROBERTSON
Clerk of Circuit Court
By: Sandra L. Creech
Deputy Clerk

271615 ON 7/4,11/2018

LEGAL NOTICE

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

AUCTION 07/24/18

2002 JEEP
VIN: 1J4GW48N02C200103

AUCTION 08/03/18

2001 TOYOTA
VIN: 1NXBR12E11Z560614

AUCTION 08/03/2018

2013 FORD FOCUS
VIN: 1FADP3K24DL1176

AUCTION 8/4/18

2002 FORD Escape
VIN: 1FMYU01B62KC49378

AUCTION 8/8/18

2013 FORD FOCUS
VIN: 1FADP3K23DL180288

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

Location: 3176 Hwy 710 E
863-357-8772
273657 ON 07/11/2018

NOTICE OF SALE

Rainbow Title & Lien, Inc. will sell at Public Sale at Auction the following vehicles to satisfy lien pursuant to Chapter 713.78 of the Florida Statutes on July 19, 2018 at 10 A.M.

AUCTION WILL OCCUR WHERE EACH VEHICLE IS LOCATED

**2005 FORD,
VIN# 1FMDK0219GA73038**
Located at: 3565 US HWY 441 N, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972

Any person(s) claiming any interest(s) in the above vehicles contact: Rainbow Title & Lien, Inc., (954)920-6020

***ALL AUCTIONS ARE HELD WITH RESERVE* Some of the vehicles may have been released prior to auction.
LIC#AB-0001256**

272978 ON 07/11/2018

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

Earn some extra cash. Sell your used items in the classifieds

Get a quick response to any item you may be selling with a classified ad.

PUBLIC NOTICE

A public auction will be held at BMJ Towing, Inc. at 414 South Parrott Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34974 on FRIDAY THE 27TH DAY OF JULY, 2018 from 10:00-11:00 A.M. Pursuant to Florida statute 713.78 for unpaid towing and storage. Year, Make, Model & Vin's as follows

**1997 MITSUBISHI
ECLIPSE GS
4A3AK44Y3VE153971**

**2001 CHRYSLER
CONCORDE LX
2C3HD46R51H575930**

**2002 JAGUAR X-TYPE
SAJEA51C52WC39203**

**1997 MERCURY COUGAR
XR7
1MELM62W7VH610488**

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

273663 ON 7/11/2018

One man's trash is another man's treasure. Turn your trash to treasure with an ad in the classifieds.

Administration of Estates

**IN THE 19th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
File No. 17-CP-00155
Division Probate**

IN RE: ESTATE OF
JEFFREY ROY BEDWELL,
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Jeffrey Roy Bedwell, deceased, whose date of death was June 24, 2017, 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 on July 11th, 2018.

Personal Representative:
Kathy Sanford
3032 SE 28TH Street
Okeechobee, FL 34974

Attorney for Personal Representative:
BROCATO LEGAL GROUP, PLLC
Chad E. Brocato, Sr. Esq.
SE 28TH Street
110 S.E. 6th Street, Suite 1729,
Fort Lauderdale, FL 3330
Phone: (954) 300-2521
Fax: (954) 827-2370
Primary Email Address:
eservice@brocatolegalgroup.com
272436 ON 7/11,18/2018

NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, pursuant to the "Fictitious Name Statute," will register with Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations the fictitious name, to wit:

Blue Eyed Salmon

Under which we expect to engage in business at:

**505 NE Park St.
Okeechobee, FL 34972**

In the City of Okeechobee/County of Okeechobee, Florida.

That the parties interested in said Business enterprise are:

Rustic Style and Cabins, Inc.
Dated at Okeechobee, Okeechobee County, Florida this 5th day of July, 2018.

By: Emma Petersen
273666 ON 7/11/2018

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

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Air Conditioning & Refrigeration

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ATTORNEYS

Rebecca Boldt Hamilton, P.A.



REBECCA H. BOLDT, Esq.
RICHARD W. SEYMOUR, Esq.
Board Certified Criminal Trial Lawyer

863-467-1894

Rboldthamilton@aol.com 180 NW 3rd Ave. Suite C, Okeechobee FL

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ALGAE

Continued From Page 1

in eutrophic (or nutrient-rich) lakes such as Lake Okeechobee.

"A lot of lakes in Florida tend to be fairly nutrient-rich anyway because of the soils," Dr. Philips said. Florida soil is rich in phosphorus, as evidenced by phosphate mines, he added.

Dr. Philips, who has done research in many of the ecosystems in Florida as well as overseas, worked on a seven-year study of Lake Okeechobee starting in 1988. He also studied the St. Lucie Estuary from 2005 to 2010 and was involved in a two-year study of the Caloosahatchee River.

"Cyanobacteria can be found in almost every freshwater ecosystem in Florida," he said.

The Herbert Hoover Dike, a 143-mile earthen berm that encircles Lake Okeechobee, changed the nutrient loading into the lake and the way the water leaves the lake, Dr. Philips continued. In the 1920s, a smaller dike was used for flood control on the south end of the lake, but in extremely wet years, the lake spread out over a much larger area. The lake's footprint was reduced by about one-third when the Herbert Hoover Dike was built.

Before the lake was diked, high water events regularly flushed the lake out, sending excess nutrients and floating vegetation south, building up the muck that became the "black gold" soil of the Everglades Agricultural Area.

Dr. Philips said during the seven-year study, researchers saw a number of algal blooms in the lake.

"We discovered the blooms don't start in the middle of the lake," he said. "Most of the time, blooms start on the western shore."

Massive algal blooms don't always start on the water surface, explained Dr. Philips. Cyanobacteria is a part of the lake's natural ecosystem and can be in the water column.

"The casual observer may not even notice when the bloom is starting," he said. "As the bloom matures, it starts coming to the surface."

A lot of cyanobacteria can regulate their

buoyancy, using vesicles which can be expanded with gas, causing the cyanobacteria to rise to the surface, or deflated, causing the cyanobacteria to fall down into the water column.

To really understand what is going on with cyanobacteria in Lake Okeechobee would take some fairly intensive monitoring, said Dr. Philips. "There's not a lot of monitoring right now," he added.

He said the satellite monitoring is not sufficient.

"You can't tell if it's toxic from satellite imagery," Dr. Philips said.

"The problem with satellite data is you can tell if a bloom is happening, but you can't tell what is blooming," he explained.

There are thousands of types of cyanobacteria, he said. "There are probably a dozen or so" different types that have been found in Lake Okeechobee. Of those known to live in Lake Okeechobee, a handful can produce toxins, he continued.

External loading

Reducing the nutrient load is key to controlling the blue-green algal blooms in Lake Okeechobee, Dr. Philips said.

"We have to define what portion of the external loads are controllable," he added.

"There is still a lot of development going on north of the lake. It's a challenging issue for areas in Florida where development is expanding."

Development means increased runoff from paved areas and roofs, and less open land to absorb the rain and let it percolate into the aquifer.

Flood control structures move the water swiftly to the lake instead of letting it slowly sheetflow, which means more water from the north goes into the lake. Before the channel system was built to quickly drain the land, much of the water would evaporate or percolate through the earth to recharge the aquifer. The natural sheetflow also meant that before flood control, the vegetation absorbed some of the nutrients before it reached the lake.

Internal loading

In addition to the phosphorus coming into the lake from the watershed between

Orlando and the lake, the Big O has a build-up of muck that contributes to internal loading.

The internal loading has been going on for decades, he said.

Even if the external load was reduced to the annual limit of 140 metric tons of phosphorus, including 35 metric tons of atmospheric phosphorus, set by the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation in 2001, the lake would not respond immediately, he said.

Atmospheric phosphorus comes from direct rainfall into the lake — rainwater may contain up to 8 ppb — and from dust.

Although FDEP initially set 2015 as the goal for meeting the phosphorus loading target, external loading of phosphorus is many times higher. According to the South Florida Water Management District data, in 2017, 484 metric tons of phosphorus entered the lake.

While FDEP's phosphorus target for the lake is 40 parts per billion (ppb), water entering the lake from the north averages 140 ppb.

Dr. Philips said regulating the lake stages can also help with the algal bloom dynamics.

Studies have shown that a deeper lake is a dirtier lake. The marshes around the lake's

edges help clean the water. High lake levels kill off the natural vegetation in these critical wetlands.

Nutrient levels in the water are higher when the lake is higher, according to UF studies.

A cyanobacterial bloom needs warm weather, nutrients and time. Florida summers provide high temperatures.

"If nutrients are there, all you need is time," said Dr. Philips.

"There are always new technologies popping up," he said. They work on the small scale but not on the scale of Lake Okeechobee, or they would be cost-prohibitive.

Many of the projects currently underway, such as the Kissimmee River Restoration, will provide some benefit to the lake, he said. It will take many different projects to make a difference in the nutrient loading into the lake.

"The Kissimmee River Restoration is not a bad idea, but it's not going to solve the algae problem," he said.

"No single thing is going to solve the algae problem."

"You have to do the best you can with controlling external loading. In terms of tax dollars, it's a challenge."



Special to the Okeechobee News/FDEP

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection sampled an algal bloom near the Moore Haven Lock on July 9. Test results are not yet available. So far this summer, tests on the lake water have shown no toxins or very low levels, well under the 10 micrograms per liter limit considered safe for recreational contact by the World Health Organization.

T-BALL

Continued From Page 1

the district championship and earned their ticket to the 2018 Dixie Youth State Tournament being held in Sebring from July 14 through July 19.

Head coach Mundo Cruz is pleased with his team's results.

"I can't say I expected to be where we are now," said Cruz. "I know there is stiff competition in other counties and other districts, so I thought we'd do OK. But they exceeded my expectations. This is the hardest-hitting team I've ever seen, and I've heard similar comments from the umpires in our games as well."

Although the offense has been a strength of the team, Cruz reports that the infield defense has been solid as well.

Some 10 different districts will be competing in the state tournament in Sebring. Okeechobee's first opponent will be West

Volusia at 1 p.m. on July 14; if they can get past them, the All Stars will face either West Seminole or Avon Park at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

"Considering how good we played in our district tournament, I think we are gonna fare very well at the state tournament," said Cruz. "Many districts are a lot stronger than us because they play year-round baseball and we don't."

That playing time advantage that other teams have over Okeechobee is a common denominator among many sports. From swimming to golf, to soccer and even baseball, many young athletes on the Treasure Coast get significantly more playing time due to year-round leagues that aren't available in Okeechobee. Still, even with this disadvantage, Okeechobee athletes are able to go toe-to-toe with many of the Treasure Coast teams.

"The kids put in tremendous work," explained Cruz. "They practice for two hours every day and they give it all they've got. You have to admire their competitive nature, because they all want to play and win."

JOHNS

Continued From Page 1

ranchers and cow men. Every ounce of clean, fresh water is important, especially since the natural aquifers below our state have decreased in volume over the years."

The newly elected president is also asking for cattlemen to be more active in telling their stories on social media by posting pictures of themselves and their ranches with the hashtag "show your passion." He believes these posts will help emphasize the importance of the cattle industry and the farming industry as a whole.

"It is of utmost importance that we promote our industry and heritage as individuals and as a group," Mr. Johns explained to FCA members. "If we do not promote

ourselves, no one else will. For too long we have kept our heads down and worked the land, never wanting to brag. I am not asking you to boast but to humbly promote our story, our heritage and our great industry."

Other measures Mr. Johns would like to pursue during his tenure as president include seeing the United States Department of Agriculture Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) fully funded and the adjusted gross income restrictions lifted completely. LIP provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather.

Mr. Johns joins a distinguished list of past FCA presidents who were born in or hailed from Okeechobee such as Woody Larson, Jim Alderman, Wes Williamson, Mike Milicevic and Joe Pearce.

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