



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 109 No. 103

Wednesday, August 29, 2018

50¢ plus tax

**Berry pickers
were wanted on
felony warrants**

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**Weekend brings
Battle of the
Bands, parade,
tractor racing**

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**Shockwaves
bring home
trophy... Page 15**

**KidCare offers
medical, dental
care ... Page 16**

Lake Levels

14.54 feet

Last Year: 13.50 feet



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

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

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

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Okeechobee News

The crowd-pleasing sport of mutton bustin' will be featured at the Okeechobee Cattlemen's Association Labor Day Bull Bash on Saturday and Monday.

Labor Day brings annual Bull Bash

Looking for something exiting to do this Labor Day weekend? The Okeechobee Labor Day Bull Bash will take place Saturday, Sept. 1, and Monday, Sept. 3, at 2 p.m. at the Okeechobee Cattlemen's grandstand arena on U.S. 441 North.

The Labor Day Bull Bash will be fun for the whole family. The performances will consist of the top two crowd favorites — mutton bustin' and bullriding — plus fans can expect to see professional bull fighters and a specialty act.

See BULL — Page 11

Primary decides 3 local races

Voters choose Jahner, Burroughs, Culpepper: Judge runoff to be between Hooker & Wallace

By Katrina Elsken
Okeechobee News

Two Okeechobee County Commission incumbents retained their seats and a new member was elected to the Okeechobee County School Board in the Tuesday, Aug. 28 primary election.

In the County Commission District 2 race, incumbent Bryant Culpepper won with 2,952 votes. Challenger Noel Chandler received 2,610 votes. In the District 4 race, incumbent Terry Burroughs won

with 3,628 votes. Challenger Fred Brown received 1,848 votes.

In the School Board District 3 race, challenger Melisa Jahner won with 3,110 votes. Incumbent Dixie Ball received 2,448 votes.

In the judge race, the top two finishers, Deborah Hooker and William Wallace, will be in a runoff in the November election. In that race, William Wallace received 2,504 votes; Deborah Hooker, 1,931; Roger Azcona, 779; Rebecca Bolt, 272; and, Donald Chinquina, 223.

Emergency wells could help coastal estuaries

By Katrina Elsken
Okeechobee News

As high temperatures and heavy rainfall continue to make conditions ideal for algae blooms, those who live near the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries are calling out for relief from freshwater releases from Lake Okeechobee. So-called "emergency estuary protection wells" could offer relief.

According to Robert Verrastro, South Florida Water Management District principal hydrogeologist, the emergency wells would use deep injection well (DIW) technology to move excess stormwater 3,000 feet underground into the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estu-

aries from damaging flood-control discharges from the lake.

Mr. Verrastro said the technology has been around for the past 50 years throughout South Florida, with more than 200 DIWs operating dependably and quietly. The Okeechobee Utility Authority uses a DIW for part of its wastewater disposal, when rainfall is too heavy for the sprayfields to accommodate.

These wells would be a vertical option for disposing of water that would otherwise go to tide through the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries, he explained.

When flood conditions give water managers no choice but to

See EPW — Page 11



INJURED?



**Gerald
Lefebvre**

Law Offices of Lefebvre
763.3333
Okeechobee, Florida

Okeechobee Landfill hosts a birthday party to remember



Special to the Okeechobee News

Bryce Izzo proudly shows off his new die-cast Waste Management toy truck.

Okeechobee Forecast

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Today: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. High near 90F. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 50%.

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

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy skies early. Scattered thunderstorms developing late. Low 72F. Winds light and variable. Chance of rain 60%.

Friday: Mixed clouds and sun with scattered thunderstorms. High 89F. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 60%.

Friday Night: Scattered thunderstorms during the evening, then partly cloudy overnight. Low 72F. Winds ENE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 50%.

Saturday: Partly cloudy early. Scattered thunderstorms developing in the afternoon. High 88F. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 60%.

Saturday Night: Partly to mostly cloudy. Low 72F. Winds NE at 5 to 10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Mixed clouds and sun with scattered thunderstorms. High 89F. Winds ENE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 60%.

Special to the Okeechobee News

Waste Management/Okeechobee Landfill donated a "Landfill Birthday" certificate to the Kiwanis of Okeechobee Radio Auction, where local resident Izzy Izzo bid on the certificate and won.

Izzy knew it would be the perfect gift for his nephew, Bryce, who was turning 5 years old. On the day of the party, Bryce arrived at the Okeechobee Landfill with his family and friends, where he had the birthday of his dreams!

Community Relations Manager Teresa Bishop, Senior District Manager Tony Bish-

op, Operations Manager Jason Johns and residential driver Josh Teague were all on hand to make Bryce's party one he won't soon forget.

The party included a garbage truck cake, a tour of the landfill and trucks, a pizza lunch in the pollinator garden, and goodie bags for all with a special die-cast truck for Bryce. The party also included a rehabilitated animal release into the on-site Okeechobee Landfill certified wildlife area, which was hosted by Arnold's Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. Party goers were thrilled to watch the foxes and raccoons enjoying their new home!



Special to the Okeechobee News

Bryce Izzo was thrilled to blow the horn on the Waste Management truck.

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Brahman football outpaced by John Carroll Catholic

By Richard Marion
Okeechobee News

When Brahman football coach Ty Smith got on the bus with his players to head back to Okeechobee after falling to the John Carroll Catholic High School Golden Rams 42-17, he had only one message for his players, "Welcome to varsity football."

"I asked the players on my bus how many of them played varsity last year," said Smith. "There were four that raised their hands on my bus. So I looked at the rest of the kids and said, 'Welcome to your first varsity football game.'"

The game started off with a bang for Okeechobee when quarterback Veyon Washington ran for a 72-yard touchdown on the Brahman's first play on offense. But that would be the only time Okeechobee would have the lead in the game as the high-pow-

ered John Carroll offense took over for the remainder of the game. The Golden Ram offensive line dominated in the trenches, allowing them to run the ball straight through the Okeechobee defense.

By halftime, the Golden Rams would already hold a commanding lead of 28-10.

There were some positives in the game for Okeechobee. OHS senior quarterback Larry Boswell was able to hit senior wide receiver Jalen Pryor for a 9-yard touchdown pass. And OHS senior kicker Gage Ingram was able to connect on 31-yard field goal early in the game.

Ingram took over the kicking job from Jarret Mills, who graduated in 2018.

"Gage isn't a surprise for us," said Smith. "We had Mills last year, but Gage has a strong leg, too. In fact, last year we were trying to get him some reps on varsity at wide receiver. But

we knew we needed to get him more kicking experience. So it's not a surprise that he is performing the way he is for us."

This week, the Brahman's will face another high-powered offense in the Lake Wales Highlanders, who are coming off a 54-44 loss to Treasure Coast. Lake Wales junior running back Johnny Richardson had 177 yards rushing and three touchdowns in that game.

"Our biggest concern defensively is going to be getting lined up, getting in the right spots and finishing plays," Smith said. "Most importantly, we have to stop the run. If we can contain the run, it'll help us pass-wise with our defensive backs."

Okeechobee will travel to Lake Wales to take on the Highlanders on Aug. 31 at 7:30 p.m.



Okeechobee News/Richard Marion
Okeechobee High School junior De'Nirik Whittaker lines up in the Brahman's preseason game against Jupiter.

Chamber of Commerce News

• Ribbon-cutting/Rebranding — Aug. 29, today at noon, for Communities Connected for Kids, which was previously Devereux Community Based Care. It's a rebranding initiative they called "New Name, Same Passion." "The point of our rebranding is to be fully integrated into the communities we serve, so we thought it was important to include those communities in the process," said Christina Kaiser, community relations director for Devereux Community Based Care. "We think this is the name that best captures who we are," Ms. Kaiser said. "We are four counties, four communities working together to ensure the safety, permanency and well-being of abused, abandoned and neglected children." The ribbon-cutting will take place in their office located at 208 N.E. Seventh St., in the Cowboys Plaza.

• Mark your calendar for a ribbon-cutting — at Badcock Home Furniture & More on Thursday, Aug. 30, at noon. Please join us for a 62nd Year Anniversary/Ribbon-cutting, celebrating with them at 512 West N. Park

Street. Linda and her team are eager to share their amazing 62nd-year anniversary with the public. This will also be a kickoff for their Warehouse Sale happening on Friday, Aug. 31, and Saturday, Sept. 1. Come out and celebrate this longtime business that has given so much back to this community, and get a sneak peek at their big Labor Day Sale, too.

Ribbon-cutting/Relocation — Please join us for a Relocation/Ribbon-cutting at Okeechobee Army Surplus located at 420 N.E. Park Street. The ribbon-cutting will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 12, at noon. They are eager to share their new location with the public. Come out and celebrate this longtime business that has been an important part of this community. Hope to see you there.

• Sept. 13, Rise Up With the Chamber at Brown Cow Sweetery, located at 103 S.W. Park St., from 7:45 to 8:30 a.m. Mark and Paulette Bragel have invited us back to their amazing chocolate factory. These coffee connoisseurs have much more to offer

in way of their lunch delights, special teas, lattes, breakfast quiches, soups to die for, ice cream most any way you like it, and with such a friendly, inviting atmosphere, you'll want to keep coming back for more. I can smell the coffee brewing now, can't you?

• OK Corral Gun Club, 9449 N.E. 48th St. You've heard of it, you know it's there, but you just haven't ventured out. Now is your chance. Join us at The OK Corral Gun Club on Thursday, Sept. 27, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and find out what you've been missing. Come early because there is a lot to see. Located on 380 acres, it's Florida's premier shooting club and western town hosting 10 outdoor shooting venues, 24 rustic chic cabins, two banquet venues, a restaurant, a fully stocked pro shop and a staff that never stops smiling. You will leave wanting to book your next event there. A strong recommendation to RSVP, particularly for the tour as space is limited. Beverages and snacks will be served and all attendees will receive a free gift.

5 p.m. — Tours of the Facility

5:45 p.m. — Educational Icebreaker

6 p.m. — Club presentation with the general manager and events director

• Concealed weapons classes are starting up again after a short summer recess. Saturday, Sept. 22, will be the next scheduled class starting at 8:30 a.m. until noon. Cost is \$40 per person and class size is limited. All persons interested must register prior to the class by filling out an application at the chamber or by signing on to the chamber website at okeechobeebusiness.com. Look for concealed weapons class scrolling on the left side of the page under scheduled events. You can click on that area and then go directly to filling out the registration. All persons that have completed the application form and paid in full by Thursday, Sept. 20, will meet here at the chamber office and then travel as a class to the designated range.

Main Street Happenings

• The next Main Street mixer will be held at Mira Realty, 104 Third Ave., on Thursday, Sept. 20, from 5 to 7 p.m. All OKMS mixers are an opportunity to network with other

community business owners, leaders, and residents of Okeechobee. Mixers are open to the public, so be sure to bring all your friends. 50/50 drawing tickets will be on sale.

Drawing will take place at the final mixer of

the year. Door prizes will be drawn as well. So be sure to bring yours!

• Labor Day in the park will host fun new events in the park on Sept. 1 to 3. Saturday, Sept. 1, at 6 p.m. will be a Battle of the

Bands. Monday, Sept. 3, there will be lawn mower races from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and, of course, the Labor Day parade on Saturday, Sept. 1 at 10 a.m.

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Letter to the Editor

Water issues

I am so tired of hearing about the green algae, the releases of water from Lake Okeechobee and everything else that has

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!

Douglas Brown school

• "I think it is a shame that the county was more concerned about getting rent money from the Douglas Brown community center than about providing activities for the people who live in that area. Isn't a community center supposed to be for the community? Seems the county is treating it a like rental property instead of trying to attract or provide programs to benefit the people there. The migrant head start program is a fine program, but it does not serve the children in that community. Why tie up all the classroom space with a program that does not benefit the kids from that community?" – S. Jones

Vote

• "Such a small percentage of the population bothers to vote. Well, if you didn't vote in the primary, then don't go complaining about the folks who were elected. You had your chance to choose who you wanted. If you don't bother to vote, then you give up your voice in government." – Anonymous

Another Dollar store

• "It seems Okeechobee is always getting more of the same, then they go out of business. We had two Winn-Dixies, two Royals, two Burger Kings, etc. Took a drive through Okee-Tantie and there is nothing going on there. It's just falling apart." – Tina Troendle

• "We need jobs and housing. You can get a home." – Michelle Fox

• "Only in this town ... this is why people

laugh at us when we mention Okeechobee." – Tim Fulford

• "How about Chick-fil-A, Sonny's BBQ, a north Publix?" – Lyn Palm

• "Instead of building another Dollar General, which we don't need, why can't they build a Sonic instead?" – Florence Temesan

• "I would love to have a Big Lots in our town." – Rose McDonald

• "I would love to shop local, but I find myself more and more shopping online. The local stores do not have the items I need. I don't have the time to drive to the coast. And Amazon Prime has free delivery. I do try to at least check local stores before I shop online. But I never have and never will shop at a dollar store of any variety, so building another one here won't keep my money in town." – K. Booker

• "The city and county officials preach for us to buy local but yet change zoning to approve ANOTHER dollar store." – Ruthie Solorzano

• "How many of the same stores can we have in this little town? Let's try something we don't have. This is why I travel to spend my money instead of spending it in our own town." – Glenda Griffin

• "It is not government's place to pick winners and losers. We have a free market economy and the free market will decide what type of restaurants/stores and how many in an area. The county commission can't tell a certain store that they can't build here. As long as they purchase property that is zoned for their use and build their building to code and get all permits, they can open. The fact that a business has the confidence in the economy of our community is a good sign." – Bradley Goodbread

• "If you don't like dollar stores, don't shop there. Don't give them any of your money. If people don't shop there, they won't stay open. If you want local mom-and-pop businesses to survive, you need to support them by giving them your business. These business people are trying to make money. They are trying to give the people what they will support. It's your choice where you spend your money." – J. Zimpel

to do with the nutrient problem in the Caloosahatchee and the St. Lucie rivers and all of the many canals associated with them. One of the major problems is the Kissimmee River that feeds into Lake Okeechobee.

From the 1950s to the present, real estate companies advertised and sold property in South Florida as a paradise and, in my opinion, it is just that. Most lots had water and electricity (many had neither) and almost all had no other amenities. There were poorly paved roads, no sidewalks, no storm or sanitary sewers. And today, many still don't have these amenities. Lots were cheap by today's standards. Everyone wanted to live near the water whether it was the seacoast, a river, a lake or a canal. So, properties sold like hotcakes to those who could afford them — particularly those properties near the waterways, and these are still in high demand today.

At first, there was no problem because there were not enough people who could afford to pull up stakes and move to Florida. However, in recent years, more and more people have become able to move to Florida. Now the lakes, rivers and even canals are jammed with homes and businesses nearby. In addition, there are many thousands more snowbirds and tourists coming to Florida each year. Still, in many areas there are no storm sewers or sanitary sewers — only septic tanks.

On the news recently, I heard a man complain that there was raw sewage and fecal matter flowing down the street in his development. He complained that he could not use his toilet, which was full to overflowing. Gee, I wonder where that mess was going. That is, which river or canal is it going into? According to the Florida Department of Health, one-third of all Florida homes have on-site sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDS). In 2011, there were 2.3 million septic tanks in the State of Florida. Imagine how many more there are now with increasing population, snowbirds and tourists.

Well, in my opinion, no one wants to see the most important part of the real problem.

It costs money and no one wants to pay the price. Along all three of these rivers and Lake Okeechobee there are literally thousands and thousands of septic tanks, and every time we have a major storm such as Hurricane Irma, or torrential rains, these septic tanks are inundated with water and many overflow. That water has to go somewhere. So it goes into one of the lakes, rivers, streams or canals. The nutrients of raw sewage flow down the rivers and canals, causing a nutrient-rich soup for algae to feed on.

Lawmakers passed a 2010 law requiring the inspection of all septic tanks in Florida every five years, only to have it repealed in 2012 over concerns with property rights (i.e., the cost of inspection). There was also a bill in 2017 (HB 285) requiring septic tank inspections as a requirement of real estate sales, and it was watered down and finally never passed.

The news media have someone on TV every day complaining about Lake Okeechobee and the water releases. It is easy to complain, cry and moan; however, it is really difficult to take responsible action with regard to the real problem, particularly when it is not popular with most homeowners.

As long as we continue to pour these nutrients (raw sewage) into our waterways, the problem will continue and get worse. In time, it will contaminate our aquifers and therefore our water supply.

Get rid of septic tanks and build sewage treatment plants. Separate sanitary sewers from storm sewers and storm drainage canals and ditches. Condemn septic tanks that are within 2 miles of our rivers, lakes or canals. Instead of building a whole lot of stormwater-holding reservoirs, put the money into sewage treatment plants and sanitary sewers! Contact your state and federal congressmen and women and tell them where the real problem lies. There is funding there, but you have to push to get it coming into your community.

Austin Moorhouse

Correction

The article in the Aug. 24 newspaper headlined "Delagall Foundation seeks space for youth program" contained an error. The article states the organization has obtained a van to be able to provide transportation for children in the program. The organization has not yet obtained the vehicle. They hope to obtain a van for use in the program.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

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

Website: florida.newszap.com

To Submit News

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

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

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

We Pledge...

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

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



Pregnant employee charged on a felony of grand theft

By Matteo Tullio
Okeechobee News

A seven months' pregnant, 20-year-old Okeechobee woman was arrested Friday evening after she allegedly was seen via security surveillance take money from registers at her place of employment.

Zeleste Hernandez Orozco, Southeast 10th Avenue, was arrested Aug. 24 by Deputy Michael Cauley on a felony charge of grand theft (more than \$300 but less than



Zelesre Orozco

\$5,000). She was released on her own recognizance.

According to an arrest report by Deputy Michael Cauley of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, at 8:01 p.m. on Aug. 24, he responded to Home Depot, located in the 2700 block of U.S. 441 South, in regard to a theft complaint.

Upon arrival, he met with the store's asset protection manager, who reported that a cash shortage investigation was initiated on Monday, Aug. 20. It was apparently determined after viewing the store's closed-circuit television footage that Orozco was taking cash from the register. Orozco was reportedly seen via closed-circuit television

on three separate occasions and three separate registers take cash from the register and put it into her apron.

The report stated that Orozco could apparently be seen clearly on all three occasions signing into the register, opening the cash drawer, lifting the cash tray, removing the cash and putting it in her left pocket. The store reported a total loss of \$305.68.

The asset protection manager provided law enforcement with documentation as well as the surveillance footage from the incidents, which were submitted as evidence. Deputy Cauley then spoke with the store manager, who reportedly stated that on Aug. 24, he and the asset protection manag-

er questioned Orozco about cash shortages that had occurred. He reportedly said that an investigation was started and Orozco could allegedly be seen on video taking money out of the registers and putting it in her left front pocket.

Orozco reportedly admitted to remembering at least three times she took money from the registers, dating back to May, adding up to a total of \$700 to help pay her bills.

The report concluded that Orozco was arrested, transported and booked into the Okeechobee County Jail on the aforementioned charge. Due to her lack of criminal history and her pregnancy, she was released on her own recognizance.

Men detained for picking berries charged on felony warrants

By Matteo Tullio
Okeechobee News

Two Okeechobee men were arrested on two separate days for their alleged harvesting of saw palmetto berries without a permit. Both men were also arrested on felony warrants.

George Nelson Timmes Jr., 31, was arrested Aug. 24 on a misdemeanor charge of harvesting an endangered plant without permit. He was subsequently arrested on an Okeechobee County felony warrant charging him with aggravated assault, kidnapping - inflict bodily harm upon or to terrorize the victim or another person, and a misdemeanor charge of battery. His bond was set at \$61,500.

According to an arrest report by Deputy Cody Hurst of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, at 10:03 a.m. on Aug. 24, he was dispatched to Southeast 30th Parkway and the railroad tracks in regard to a suspicious persons complaint.

Upon his arrival, Deputy Hurst saw a white male and female seated on the south side of the road. Deputy Hurst reported that as he exited his patrol vehicle, he noticed an open white bag with what appeared to be saw palmetto berries next to the man.

Deputy Hurst asked the man, who self-identified as Timmes, if he was in possession of a Native Plant Harvesting Permit. Timmes reportedly responded that while he was in the woods he became sick, defecated himself and his permit was in his soiled pants.

The report noted that Timmes was not in possession of either the Native Plant Har-



George Timmes Jr.

vesting Permit or his allegedly soiled pants.

The report concluded that Timmes was arrested, transported and booked into the Okeechobee County Jail on the aforementioned charges. All of the saw palmetto berries were collected, photographed and turned in as evidence.

The second saw palmetto berry-related arrest came on Monday morning.

Thomas Wayne Gibson, 33, Northeast 31st Terrace, was arrested by Deputy Robert Gonzalez on misdemeanor charges of harvesting an endangered plant without permit, trespass on property other than structure or conveyance and resisting officer without violence. He was also arrested on two DOC felony warrants charging him with two counts of violation of probation - dealing in stolen property, violation of probation - giving false information to a secondary metals recycler and violation of probation - giving false information to a pawnbroker. He is being held without bond.

According to an arrest report by OCSO Deputy Robert Gonzalez, at 9:42 a.m. on Aug. 26, he was dispatched to the 32000 block of U.S. 441 North in regard to a suspicious vehicle complaint. Dispatch reportedly informed Deputy Gonzalez that an unknown subject in a red vehicle was illegally harvesting saw palmetto berries.

Upon arrival, Deputy John Fisher and Deputy Gonzalez canvassed the area in an attempt to locate the vehicle and shortly after found a vacant red 2004 Lincoln Nav-



Thomas Gibson

igator in the 2100 block of Northwest 344th Street. As he exited the patrol vehicle, Deputy Gonzalez reportedly saw a man, identified as Gibson, wearing a gray tank top with what appeared to be saw palmetto berries being carried over his left shoulder, in a fenced property at the southwest corner of Southwest 21st Lane and Southwest 344th Street.

Deputy Gonzalez reportedly tried to make contact with Gibson as he walked toward the Lincoln Navigator, but when Gibson saw Deputy Gonzalez he began to run south through the fenced-in property. Deputy Gonzalez then reportedly saw Gibson throw what appeared to be the saw palmetto berries off his shoulder and onto the ground. Deputy Gonzalez began to pursue Gibson on foot before having to relay a description and direction of travel to Deputy Fisher.

The report continued that Deputy Fisher saw Gibson jump the fence of the property and run toward Northwest 21st Lane, but he was apprehended by law enforcement shortly after. The report noted that OCSO dispatch confirmed Gibson had two out-

standing Okeechobee County felony warrants.

The owner of the property then approached Deputy Gonzalez and informed him that he had driven from Palm Beach County to check on his property. The property owner informed law enforcement that no one was supposed to be on the property as he had a "No trespassing" sign posted on his fence line, which apparently was no longer there.

The report concluded that the saw palmetto berries were located in a plastic container on the property left by Gibson. Samples of the berries were collected to be turned in as evidence while the rest were turned back over to the property owner. Photographs of the berries were also taken to be turned in as evidence. The red Lincoln was turned over to John's Towing Service and Gibson was arrested, transported and booked into the Okeechobee County Jail on the aforementioned charges.

Election signs vandalized

By Matteo Tullio
Okeechobee News

On Sunday morning, the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) received a complaint from one of the individuals running for election regarding his campaign signage unexpectedly being damaged.

According to an incident report by OCSO Deputy Cody Hurst, at 9:45 a.m. on Aug. 26, he met with Bryant Culpepper, who reportedly informed him that several of his campaign signs have been damaged. Mr. Culpepper was seeking re-election to the Okeechobee County Board of Commissioners.

One of the damaged signs was located at the 1500 block of State Road 70 West.

Mr. Culpepper reported that the sign by the RaceTrac was slashed and that he did not know who the culprit was, but explained to Deputy Hurst that it was election time and some people really do not like him.

Deputy Hurst reportedly informed Mr. Culpepper that the Okeechobee Police Department would be able to assist with documenting any signs that were damaged within the city.

Deputy Hurst reported the sign that appeared to have been cut by a knife and that it was done from the upper left corner to the lower right corner. Deputy Hurst took digital photographs of the damaged sign and submitted them as evidence.

The report concluded that Deputy Hurst made contact with Mr. Culpepper via phone and informed him of the damaged sign's documentation. Mr. Culpepper responded that with the election ending shortly, he was not concerned with having the other damaged signs investigated, according to the report. He stated the signs that were damaged cost approximately \$100 per sign.

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.

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BHR VFW post serves dinner

The VFW Auxiliary will serve a kielbasa and sauerkraut dinner on Wednesday, **Aug. 29**, at Post 9528, 29012 State Road 78 W. All proceeds benefit Florida military veterans in distress. For information, call 863-467-2882.

BHR Moose serves dinner

Buckhead Ridge Moose, 1016 Linda Road, will have a pork chops dinner, fried or grilled, with all the fixings for a \$7.50 donation. Dinner is served on Wednesday, **Aug. 29**, from 5 to 7 p.m. The public is welcome.

Legion serves tacos

American Legion Post 64, 501 S.E. Second St., will serve margaritas and tacos from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. Wednesday, **Aug. 29**. The grill will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entertainment by Jay and Patty runs from 3 until 6 p.m.

Singles hold potluck

The Christian Singles potluck dinner will be held at the Gathering Church, 1735 S.W. 24th Ave., Friday, **Aug. 31**, at 6 p.m. For information, call Mollie at 863-763-7195.

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's Association weekend rodeo events.

Legion will host dinner

On Friday, **Sept. 1**, come and enjoy dinner at the American Legion, 501 S.E. Second St. Everyone is welcome. Dinner will be fish, shrimps or chicken and french fry baskets, for a \$6 donation and is served from 5 until 8 p.m. with music from 6 to 9 p.m. For information, call 863-763-5309.

Legion opens Sunday bingo

American Legion 64, 501 S.E. Second St., will host Sunday night bingo on **Sept. 2**, at 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. in the bingo area. All proceeds will benefit the American Legion veterans' programs. The event is open to the public.

Legion will host 5-card bingo

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

VFW plays pool this Labor Day

VFW Post #4423, 300 N.W. 34th St., will host a pool tournament starting at noon on Monday, **Sept. 3**. There will be a BBQ dinner served for a \$10 donation. Open to the public. For information, call 863-763-0818.

VFW Auxiliary serves dinner

The VFW Auxiliary will serve steak sandwiches on Wednesday, **Sept. 5**, at Post 9528, 29012 SR 78 W. All proceeds to benefit Florida military veterans in distress. For information, call 863-467-2882.

VFW serves up dinner

The Buckhead Ridge VFW Post 9528, 29012 SR 78 W. in Buckhead Ridge, will serve dinner on Friday, **Sept. 7**, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The menu will include grilled boneless rib eye steak, grilled pork tenderloin, fried fish and shrimp, baked and french fried potatoes, baked sweet potatoes, fried onion rings, salad and desert. All proceeds will go to homeless veterans. For information, call 863-467-2882.

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!

Church will host bingo

Sacred Heart Church, 901 S.W. Sixth St., will host bingo on Monday, **Sept. 10**. Doors will open at 5 p.m. and the fun will begin at 7 p.m.

Obituaries

Lois Davis Harden, 100

SUMMERSVILLE, Ga. — Mrs. Lois Davis Harden passed away Sunday, Aug. 26, 2018 at the Oakview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Mrs. Harden was born in Avon Park, Fla. on April 11, 1918, daughter of the late Samuel Judson Davis and Reecy Ann Smith Davis. She was the owner and operator of the Sandra Dress Shop in Florida, moving to Summerville following her retirement in 1977. She was an active member of the Pennville First Baptist Church and was a member of the Joy Sunday School Class. Mrs. Harden maintained her skills as a seamstress and was very talented in sewing and needlework. She was also an avid birdwatcher. Mrs. Harden was preceded in death by two brothers and sisters-in-law, Glen Davis and Helen Rae Davis, and Hugh and Ruth Davis; and her son-in-law, James E. Hammond.

Mrs. Harden is survived by her daughter, Sandra Hammond of Summerville; grandchildren and their spouses, James Todd and Bonnie Hammond, Ringgold; daughters and sons-in-law, Cathy & Steve Mitchell, and Carla & Clay Skognes of Cumming, Ga.; great-grandchildren, Megan Mitchell, Emily Mitchell, Anna Skognes, Sarah Skognes and Madelyn Skognes; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services for Mrs. Harden will be held Thursday, Aug. 30, 2018 at 2 p.m. in the Pennville First Baptist Church with Rev. Jimmy Tanner officiating. Interment will follow in the Green Hills Memory Gardens.

Pallbearers will be Rex Evans, Robert Williams, Reo Rabon, Michael Davis, Kee Fawley and Steve Mitchell. Honorary Pallbearers will be members of the Pennville First Baptist Church.

Mrs. Harden will lie in state at the Pennville First Baptist Church, where the family will receive friends Thursday, from 12 p.m. until the hour of service.

Coffman Funeral Home, Pettit Chapel is honored to be serving the family of Mrs. Lois Davis Harden. Please visit www.coffmanfh.net to sign our online guestbook and to post condolences.

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 okeechobeenews.net.

Jose Guadalupe Palomar, Jr., 38

OKEECHOBEE — Jose Guadalupe Palomar, Jr. died Aug. 25, 2018. He was born June 18, 1980 in Okeechobee. A lifetime resident of Okeechobee, he was a landscaper and enjoyed hunting and fishing.

Mr. Palomar was preceded in death by his mother, Joyce Palomar.

He is survived by his father, Jose Guadalupe Palomar, Sr.; sisters, Amy Palomar and Tammy Thomas (Vance); nieces, Kelly, Breannah, and Riley; and nephews, Parker and Kole, all of Okeechobee.

Visitation will be 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 30, 2018 at Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home. Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 31, 2018 at Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home. 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.



Bruce Allan Remsburg, 85

PLANTATION — Bruce Allan Remsburg passed away on Friday, Aug. 24, 2018.

Bruce was born in Fort Lauderdale to Luther and Mildred Remsburg. After graduation from Fort Lauderdale High School and Rollins College, he joined his father in the land and cattle business. He owned several ranches in Broward County where he raised cattle and horses, and most recently, at the time of his death, owned X Bar Ranch in Okeechobee.

He was an avid and skilled golfer, and excelled even into his last year of life.

Bruce was predeceased by his parents, Luther and Mildred; his wife, Jege; and his sister, June.

He is survived by his wife, Tyler; his children, Katherine (Chris), Bill (Robbi), Mary Beth (Brian), and Andy; nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Sharon (David); and his stepchildren, Roger (Tanya) and Hattie (Joe) and their children.

He will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.

Funeral arrangements by TM Ralph Funeral Services, Plantation, Florida.

Elizabeth 'Darcel' Roby, 63

OKEECHOBEE — Elizabeth "Darcel" Roby died Aug. 25, 2018. She was born Sept. 11, 1954 in Memphis, Tenn. A resident of Okeechobee since 1991, she was a rural letter carrier. She enjoyed riding motorcycles, watching heavy weight fights, and was an avid FSU Football fan. She was very artistic, and enjoyed arts and crafts. She was a phenomenal cook and loved cooking for her family and friends.

Mrs. Roby was preceded in death by her father, Jack Allen Jenkins, and her daughter, Jessica Roby.

She is survived by her husband of 38 years, Tom Roby; son, Quanton Roby (Karla); mother, Glenda Jenkins, all of Okeechobee; stepdaughter, Carol Hoyt, of Beaver Falls, N.Y.; brother, Jack Allen Jenkins (Candy), of Sebring; sister, Teresa Crose (Michael), of Okeechobee; five grandchildren, Mac, Remi, Jacob, Joshua, and Justin.

Visitation will be 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2018 at Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home.

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

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



Search obituaries nationally at
<http://www.legacy.com>

Lake coverage mired in misinformation

By Katrina Elsen
Okeechobee News

Misinformation, partial truths, vague but colorful descriptions and unfounded statements plague media coverage of the second-largest freshwater lake within the continental United States. Political spin by candidates for local, state and national office add to the confusion about the water released from Lake Okeechobee, and the part those releases play in the coastal blooms of cyanobacteria (also known as blue-green algae).

Lake Okeechobee residents and officials are tired of hearing Lake Okeechobee blamed for all of South Florida's water issues, but they have come to expect it. One reader noted there was recently a cyanobacteria bloom in a lake in Poland and joked, "How did Lake Okeechobee water get all the way over there?"

It's not hard to find examples of articles and broadcasts that oversimplify or misrepresent the issues.

A CBS evening news story headlined "Toxic algae a slimy mess for Florida's Lake Okeechobee," states: "The problem starts at Lake Okeechobee. After heavy rains, the Army Corps of Engineers released millions of gallons to relieve pressure on the lake's old earthen dam. But the water is chock full of chemicals and nutrients — much of it runoff from commercial agriculture and sprawling development."

Lake area residents argue the problem starts not with the lake, but north of the lake, where the man-made drainage system funnels the rainwater from a 2.8 million-acre drainage basin quickly south into Lake Okeechobee. The water flows through the lake, not from the lake. Before the drainage system was built, the water sheetflowed slowly over a vast floodplain, with much of the volume evaporating into the air or percolating into the earth before it reached the lake.

As for the nutrient load, "chock full" is not exactly a measurable quantity; the reporter fails to give the viewer any comparison. Would the CBS viewer be surprised to learn that the water released from the lake is lower in phosphorus than the local basin runoff that flows into the St. Lucie Canal? Would that make the local basin runoff "chock fuller"?

"Sprawling development" is accurate considering the explosion of the human population in the Orlando/Kissimmee area north of the lake. But the reporter doesn't explain where the development is.

As far as "commercial agriculture," it's true that farms are businesses. But why add the description "commercial"? Does the reporter really consider ranches covering thousands of acres, with a ratio of one cow/calf pair per 5 to 10 acres, held by the same families for generations, to be "commercial agriculture"? Or is that "commercial" phrase more likely bring to the reader's mind some kind of factory farming with many animals crammed into a small space? The Wikipedia definition of "commercial agriculture" is: "Intensive farming or intensive agriculture also known as industrial agriculture is characterized by a low fallow ratio and higher use of inputs such as capital and labor per

unit land area." Does that accurately describe the agriculture north of the lake?

A Fox News report "Blue-green toxic algae invades Florida River," stated: "Heavy May rains caused Lake Okeechobee to discharge water containing blue-green algae into rivers and canals. The bright green sludge oozed onto docks, dams and rivers."

Does the water from the lake contain blue-green algae? Of course it does. It is well documented by university studies that a dozen types of microscopic cyanobacteria are commonly found in Lake Okeechobee and are part of the lake's natural ecosystem. But the water leaving the lake was hardly "bright green sludge," as implied by the TV report. Boaters have been photographing the lake all summer, and while they report an occasional feathery bloom on the surface, or windblown algae matted on a section of shoreline, for the most part the algae in the lake has not been visible to the casual observer.

The cyanobacteria concentrations and toxins were much higher in the St. Lucie Canal than in the lake, per FDEP sampling. It is certainly possible that the releases from the lake seeded the blooms in the coastal waterways. (Possible, but not certain, according to Dr. Karl Havens at Florida Sea Grant.) But the blooms in the coastal waterway continued to increase in concentration when the lake releases stopped for nine days. Something besides lake water had to be feeding the algae bloom at the St. Lucie Lock, nearly 24 miles from the Port Mayaca Lock, where lake water enters. That something, according to a study by Florida Atlantic University, is local basin runoff. In particular, the 2017 FAU study found nitrogen levels in the basin runoff much higher than the nitrogen levels in the lake water.

A New York Times report "A Toxic Tide is Killing Florida Wildlife," states: "These blue-green algae, which appear in the lake almost every year, are promoted by stagnant water, high temperatures and nutrients from sources like fertilizers," said Christopher J. Gobler, professor of marine science at Stony Brook University.

"That lake is heavily impacted by citrus agriculture," he said.

It is an interesting development that The New York Times is blaming the nutrient load in Lake Okeechobee on citrus groves. But where is the study that shows a heavy impact on the lake from citrus? Perhaps it would have been more helpful if the reporter had contacted a source from a university in Florida instead of one in New York.

A Politifac.com story by Amy Sherman, posted Aug. 20, states: "A blue-green algae bloom is covering most of Lake Okeechobee, filling it with slimy toxic goop."

That's quite an image, but not one actually seen by lake area residents and visitors. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration satellite maps, there was a large cyanobacteria bloom in July in the lake, which later died back to 10 percent. Another bloom — of a different



species of cyanobacteria — is growing in concentration in the lake this month. The most recent NOAA images showed it in about 48 percent of the lake (not "most"). However, even at its highest concentration in July, the cyanobacteria was in the water column, not "covering" the lake's surface. And eyewitnesses did not describe it as "slimy" or "goop."

Anglers who are out on Lake Okeechobee every day

— and who have been bragging about the great bass fishing on the Big O all summer — read media reports of algae blooms on the lake and shake their heads. Even when visiting the areas of the lake with the highest probability for blue-green algae concentrations according to the NOAA satellite images, they say they have not see any surface scum. The NOAA images are computer-generated using spectrums of light not visible to the human eye.

Also, the author might be interested to know that with the sole exception of one sample taken Aug. 14 near Port Mayaca, which had 11 micrograms per liter of microcystin, the FDEP samplings of algae blooms in Lake Okeechobee this summer have found either no toxins or very low levels of toxins — below the 10 micrograms per liter considered safe for recreational contact by

the World Health Organization.

While The New York Times put the blame on citrus, the Sarasota Herald Tribune blamed sugar farms. The article headlined "As algae slimes waterways, Ron DeSantis open to new business regulations," states: "During a campaign event Monday in Fort Meyers, U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis — who is seeking the GOP nomination for governor against Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam — accused his opponent of being beholden to the sugar industry. South Florida sugar farms are blamed for contributing to fertilizer runoff in the lake that helps fuel the algae blooms."

It is true the "sugar farms are blamed" by some people. But the article does not give the reader any information to determine if the blame is warranted. The sugar farms are south of the lake, and according to SFWMD data, water from south of the lake (back-pumped only in emergencies to prevent flooding in the cities south of the lake) contributes less than 5 percent of the nutrient load going into Lake Okeechobee each year.

Perhaps the reporters have mistaken the 2016 video images of algae blooms in Treasure Coast waterways with the Lake Okeechobee algae bloom. Perhaps they are just repeating each other instead of reading the extensive research available from the University of Florida and Florida Atlantic University. Perhaps they should visit Lake Okeechobee to see the lake for themselves.

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Mitigation is making Florida stronger and safer

Special to the Okeechobee News

ORLANDO — When Hurricane Irma plowed into Florida on Sept. 10, 2017, it was only the latest major hurricane to hit the Sunshine State. Before Hurricane Irma, there were Andrew, Charlie, David, Eloise and Ivan, to name just a few. Hurricanes and tropical storms are inevitable in Florida, but devastating losses don't have to be.

In 1992, Hurricane Andrew devastated South Florida, destroying more than 25,000 homes and claiming 65 lives. In 1996, the Florida Building Codes Study Commission began assessing building codes and looking for ways to improve construction.

Six years later, the Florida Building Code, a statewide code mandating that homes be built to withstand hurricane-force winds, was established. Since then, Florida has continued to toughen its building codes, imple-

menting new rules to strengthen windows, doors and roofs.

When Hurricane Irma roared ashore in the Keys, the strength and structural integrity of thousands of homes were tested by the storm's 132 miles-per-hour winds. As the Evolution of Mitigation video shows, structures built before Hurricane Andrew sustained extreme damage, with most completely destroyed. While houses built after Andrew fared better, the homes constructed in recent years, after the newest codes were adopted, came through the Category 4 hurricane with only minimal damage.

Mitigation offers a way to protect homes, families and businesses by taking action now — before the next disaster — to reduce personal and financial costs later. In fact, a recent study by the National Institute of Building Science found that \$1 invested in mitigation can save \$6 in future disaster

costs. If a hurricane threatens, it may be necessary for people to evacuate and businesses to close, but stronger buildings allow families, businesses and nonprofit organizations to recover faster, once the storm has passed.

The Turtle Hospital in Marathon has been caring for sea turtles for more than 30 years. In 2005, Hurricane Wilma's 5-foot storm surge flooded the turtle enclosure, pushing the turtles out of their pools and damaging valuable medical equipment. The hospital built new, elevated tanks, and managers created an emergency plan. As the storm closed in, the hospital evacuated the turtles and moved medical equipment away from Irma's wind, rain and storm surge.

In the 1980s, the Vizcaya Museum and Gardens in Miami built a large glass canopy to protect art displayed in an outside courtyard. After Florida's new building codes

were enacted, the museum received more than \$1.8 million from FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to replace it with hurricane-resistant glass. When Hurricane Irma forced the closure of the museum, the glass-canopied floor served as staging area and meeting place for staff after the storm.

For many, Hurricane Irma was a wake-up call. It may also be an opportunity, a chance to analyze the impact, build on successes and repair in ways that strengthen homes, businesses and public facilities. Effective mitigation efforts can break the cycle of hurricane damage, repair and damage again during the next storm.

While it's impossible to stop a hurricane, there are ways to mitigate its impact.

Follow FEMA and the Florida Division of Emergency Management on Twitter at @FEMARegion4 and @FLSERT.



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Special to the Okeechobee News

Yatchette Club gives again!

On Tuesday, Aug. 21, members of the Okeechobee Yatchette Club delivered household staples, juices and snack items to the offices of Okeechobee Senior Services. These items were purchased and donated by club members for distribution to homebound seniors in Okeechobee County. The Yatchette Club has generously provided for these seniors in this way for several years now. They clearly have a special place in their hearts for these seniors. On behalf of the seniors who will benefit from these generous gifts, Okeechobee Senior Services would like to thank the Okeechobee Yatchette Club for its generosity. Okeechobee Senior Services provides a variety of services to qualified seniors age 60 and above in Okeechobee County. For information about these services, please call or stop by the Senior Services office located at 1690 N.W. Ninth Ave., Okeechobee. The phone number is 863-462-5180. Pictured with the donated items are Yatchette Club members Arnie and Ellen Whelpley, Kathryn and Roger Rockwell and the Rockwells' grandson, Nate McPike.

The Florida Department of Health in Okeechobee County

invites you to join us as we honor and celebrate **Karen Cooper, ARNP** on her retirement after 29 years serving the community

and welcome our new provider **Shermeika Greene, PA-C**

Friday, August 31, 2018
2 pm - 4 pm

Light Refreshments will be served.

Okeechobee County Health Department

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Karen Cooper, ARNP



Shermeika Greene, PA-C



Special to the Okeechobee News

Political rally in Buckhead Ridge

The Buckhead Ridge Community Center overflowed with 138 people present Aug. 23 to hear candidates for Glades County offices express their comments and qualifications. The meeting began with a potluck dinner. Pictured (left to right) are Glades County Elections Supervisor Aletris Farnam, moderator; John Ahern, District 4 county commissioner; Amira Fox, candidate for 20th Circuit state attorney; Patty Pearce, school board member; Chris Crowley, state attorney candidate; Steve Dobbs, school board candidate; Jerri Lynn Schlueter, District 4 county commission candidate; James Chandler, 20th Circuit judge candidate; Donna Storter Long, District 2 county commissioner; and Jeff Barnes, District 2 county commission candidate.

Thank You Okeechobee!

Your past, present and future support will always be appreciated.

Bill

Okeechobee's Tractor Supply supports FFA

Special to the Okeechobee News

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. — Tractor Supply Company, the largest rural lifestyle retailer in the United States, is funding grants with the National FFA Foundation by selling shirts celebrating the 91st National FFA Convention & Expo.

Beginning Monday, Aug. 27, customers can purchase a limited edition FFA convention-themed shirt for \$12.99 (plus tax) at Tractor Supply stores nationwide. Net proceeds from the shirt sale benefit the National FFA platforms Living to Serve and Alumni Legacy Grants.

This year the annual fundraiser shirt features the 2018 FFA Convention theme "Just One." According to the National FFA Officer Team, the theme was chosen to recognize the importance of each FFA member and each step they take toward growth — a reflection of the work completed by its members and the organization's vision of developing leaders, building communities and strengthening agriculture.

"Both the Tractor Supply team and our customers are dedicated to investing in the future of agriculture," said Christi Korzekwa, senior vice president of marketing at Tractor Supply. "This annual fundraiser, and the FFA initiatives it supports, provides an opportunity to reinforce our commitment to the future leaders of the industry and the communities we proudly serve."

More than 380 Living to Serve projects in

45 states were funded since last year alone. The initiative provides opportunities for FFA chapters to seek funding to support four types of service projects: community safety; hunger, health and nutrition; environmental responsibility; and community engagements.

Alumni Legacy Grants are fulfilled with the purpose of growing the number of local FFA alumni chapters, improving the quality of existing chapters and providing more opportunities for partnership between FFA chapters and chapters for alumni and supporters. Since 2017, more than 60 Alumni Legacy Grants have been awarded to alumni and supporters chapters located in states across the nation.

In 2017, Tractor Supply's annual shirt fundraiser generated more than \$215,000 for the National FFA Foundation, which inspires young adults to become active leaders in their communities through participation in agricultural programs and initiatives.

"Living to Serve and Alumni Legacy Grants are two vital platforms to our organization and our mission," said Mark Poeschl, CEO of the National FFA Organization and the National FFA Foundation. "Through this partnership with Tractor Supply Company, we are able to empower more FFA members with opportunities to make a difference in their communities."

In addition to in-store availability, the shirts will be available at the 91st National

FFA Convention & Expo, held Oct. 24-27 in Indianapolis, to benefit "Give the Gift of Blue," a National FFA program that awards personalized FFA corduroy jackets — articles of faith, honor and pride — to hard-working

FFA youth members with financial hardships.

For more information on the shirt fundraiser, call your local store or visit www.tractorsupply.com/FFA.



Special to the Okeechobee News

Customers can purchase a limited-edition FFA convention-themed shirt for \$12.99 (plus tax) at Tractor Supply stores nationwide.

Grant helps fund SCORE program

Special to the Okeechobee News

On Aug. 14, Michael Strouse, vice president and branch sales leader IV for BankUnited, presented a check for \$2,500 to Ken Koziol, SCORE chapter chair; Tom Turynowicz, past president; George Greenstein, technology chair; and Ruth Fite, administrative chair, to support the chapter's small business education and technical assistance programs.

SCORE Treasure Coast mentors have direct experience in business start-ups, manufacturing, high technology, insurance, public relations, retail operations, textiles, pharmaceuticals, legal, banking, hospitality, restaurants, finance, tax, distribution, information technology, materials, engineering, sales and marketing, specialty retailing, acquisitions, turnarounds and divestitures.

SCORE provides no-cost, confidential business mentoring with expertise in a wealth of business and business-related areas. SCORE Treasure Coast is a resource partner with the Small Business Administration and covers Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, Glades and Okeechobee counties on the Treasure Coast.

Please phone the SCORE office at 772-489-0548 to set up an appointment to discuss your business opportunity with an experienced SCORE counselor, or go to the website www.treasurecoast.score.org.

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Discounted wireless service is provided under the Lifeline assistance program. Lifeline is a government assistance program that provides only eligible consumers with discounted service that is nontransferable and is available for only one line per household. A household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as any individual or group of individuals living at the same address who share income and expenses. T-Mobile offers Lifeline service only in areas where the company has Eligible Telecommunications Carrier status. You may find more information about Lifeline and other wireless services available from T-Mobile USA, Inc., at www.T-Mobile.com.

Limited-time offer; subject to change. Taxes and fees additional. **Unlimited talk feature for direct U.S. communications between 2 people; others (e.g. conference & chat lines, etc.) may cost extra.** Domestic only unless otherwise specified. **Coverage** not available in some areas. **Network Management:** Service may be **slowed, suspended, terminated or restricted** for misuse, abnormal use, interference with our network or ability to provide quality service to other users, or significant roaming. See **Terms and Conditions (including arbitration provision)** at www.T-Mobile.com for additional information. T-Mobile is a registered trademark of Deutsche Telekom AG. © 2018 T-Mobile USA, Inc.

Battle of the bands, lawn mower racing planned

By **Katrina Elsen**
Okeechobee News

Labor Day weekend will bring some time-honored traditions and some new events to Okeechobee County.

Okeechobee Main Street will host Labor Day in the Park Saturday, Sept. 1, through Monday, Sept. 3, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily.

The park will feature local entertainment, arts and crafts vendors and plenty of food.

On Saturday, Sept. 1, the Labor Day parade will be held in downtown Okeechobee,

starting at 10 a.m. The parade will follow the regular parade route, from Aldi's on Parrott Avenue, north to the intersection of Parrott Avenue and State Road 70, then west on State Road 70 to the end of Flagler Park.

Saturday's park events will include a stick horse race and a hula hoop contest.

The first day of Okeechobee Cattlemen's Labor Day Bull Bash will be at the historic Okeechobee Cattlemen's Rodeo Arena on U.S. 441 on Saturday. Gates open at 1 p.m. The rodeo starts at 2 p.m. with the ever-pop-

ular kids' mutton-bustin' competition.

At 6 p.m., head back to Flagler Park for the Battle of the Bands. Entry fee for bands is \$25. Top prize is a chance to audition at "Destination Okeechobee" in Orlando to win a spot to play at the Okeechobee Music Festival. For more information, contact Angie Griffin at 863-697-1105.

On Sunday, the festival in the park will continue with a special feature of church music at the gazebo.

On Monday, festival events will include a

lawn mower race at 11 a.m. The lawn mowers will be provided by Sears Hometown Store in Okeechobee. Sign-ups for the race begin at 10 a.m. Participants must be age 18 or older.

A hot dog eating contest is planned at 1 p.m.; an ice cream eating contest at 1:30 p.m.; and, a watermelon eating contest at 2 p.m.

Monday will also bring the second day of the Cattlemen's Bull Bash, at 2 p.m. at the Cattlemen's Rodeo Arena.

Teacher test-training program offered in Moore Haven

By **Chris Felker**
Okeechobee News

MOORE HAVEN — The legwork that Glades County Schools Superintendent Scott Bass has been doing in trying to set up job training programs at the county's Regional Training Facility in Moore Haven is beginning to pay off, and the first program — aimed at assisting teachers and school districts — will begin within two weeks.

Superintendent Bass announced Monday, Aug. 20, that a university in Fort Myers has committed to a test-preparation tutoring program in September for teachers in the region who need help in passing the state's tests administered for certification. The Florida Department of Education's gen-

eral knowledge and subject area tests for teachers were rewritten in 2015, setting the bar that they must meet to become certified higher than it had been. This has resulted in difficulties for school districts statewide in keeping their teacher corps at full strength.

"It does not mean that teachers aren't intelligent," he explained, "but when you have an elementary teacher and they're having to do trigonometry problems on their test, it's difficult. So everyone across the state is seeing teachers having difficulty in passing their general knowledge test.

"We've partnered with FGCU (Florida Gulf Coast University) to address the teacher shortage and also getting teachers certified. And some of that is taking place at the train-

ing center, and we've actually also opened it up," Mr. Bass said. He explained that FGCU had agreed to provide instruction for 25 enrollees for what essentially will be a crash course for test preparation on two Saturdays in September, tentatively Sept. 8 and 15.

With 19 in Glades County already having signed up, "we've got six spots left, so we're opening it up to other school districts and teachers. We've extended this out to Okeechobee, Highlands and Hendry (coun-

ties). FGCU is sinking a bunch of money into this," Mr. Bass said.

But any teachers, or districts in the region with interested instructors, who are able to come to Moore Haven and might want those spots need to act soon to get in on the first session, he added. The staff member to contact is Andi Canaday, director of secondary academic services, at 863-946-0202, extension 127, or by email at andi.canaday@gladesschools.org.

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).

- James Emory Choquette, 44, Northwest 35th Avenue, Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 23 by Officer Sergeant Belen Reyna on felony charges of introduction, removal, or possession of certain articles into or upon the grounds of a state correctional institution, possession of a controlled substance (hydrocodone) without a valid prescription, possession of a controlled substance (morphine) without a valid prescription and a misdemeanor charge of trespass on property other than structure or conveyance. His bond was set at \$12,000.

- Samuel Foster Jr., 27, Vero Beach, was arrested Aug. 24 by Deputy Joel Lacerte on a felony charge of tampering with a witness, victim or informant and a misdemeanor charge of violation of pretrial release - domestic violence. His bond was set at \$10,000.

- Jamido Joel Bello-Pineiro, 36, Southeast 13th Street, Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 24 by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on a felony charge of possession with intent to sell a controlled substance (cocaine) and a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond was set at \$51,000.

- Yordan Carreras Cespedes, 30, North Santa Fe, LaBelle, was arrested Aug. 24 by Deputy Sergeant Aric Majere on an Okeechobee County felony warrant charging him with five counts of criminal use of personal identification, five counts of forgery of credit card, five counts of grand

theft (more than \$300 but less than \$5,000). His bond was set at \$150,000.

- Dillion Eugene Lee, 29, Northeast 14th Avenue, Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 24 by Deputy Robert Gonzalez on a felony charge of possession of firearm by convicted felon and misdemeanor charges of knowingly driving while license suspended and two counts of possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond was set at \$7,000.

- Matthew Ryan Huddleston, 18, Northwest 35th Drive, Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 24 by Deputy Steven Pollock on a misdemeanor charge of driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$500.

- Tyonne Tyrese Frost, Northeast 13th Avenue, Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 25 by Deputy Matthew Huffman on felony charges of possession of a firearm by person under 18 years of age, unlicensed carrying of concealed weapons or concealed firearms, aggravated assault and a misdemeanor charge of resisting officer without violence. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail and then transported to the St. Lucie Regional Detention Center in Fort Pierce.

- Marc Anthony Rivas, 20, Southeast Sixth Street, Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 25 by Deputy Shane Bogner on an Okeechobee County felony warrant charging him with domestic battery by strangulation. His bond was set at \$25,000.

- Johnny Lee Brunelle, 45, Wellington Drive, Hampton, Va, was arrested Aug. 25 by Deputy Kenneth Hernandez on felony charges of aggravated assault, child abuse without great bodily harm and possession of firearm by convicted felon. His bond was set at \$60,000.

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.

EPW

Continued From Page 1

send freshwater to tide, instead of bombing the coastal estuaries with excess freshwater, DIWs could send the water to tide by pumping it 3,000 feet underground into the boulder zone.

These wells have a very high capacity, on the order of 15 million gallons a day of water, he explained.

The district is considering a plan to install 40 to 80 emergency estuary protection wells north of Lake Okeechobee. These wells could reduce the need to send water east or west to tide, and give the coastal estuaries relief from lake discharges while the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan projects are under construction.

The CERP projects will accommodate about 80 percent of the current flow to tide, he explained.

He said even after CERP is complete, the wells could still be used to prevent harmful freshwater flows to the coastal estuaries during periods of high rainfall.

The water that SFWMD is considering putting into these wells is only water that would otherwise go to tide, he said.

CERP also includes Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) wells, which allow water to be recovered when needed. The ASR wells cannot accept water quickly enough to handle the rapid flow into the lake when there is heavy rainfall north of the Big O.

Mr. Verrastro said SFWMD is conducting studies to determine the right number of wells and the best places to put the DIWs.

DIWs can be constructed on right-of-way SFWMD already owns, he said, so construction would not have to wait for land acquisition.

"It's going to take a year or two for us to get the program underway," he said.

"Over the next few years, these wells could be constructed to give the estuaries some relief from the high-volume harmful discharges of freshwater from the lake," he said.

For a video about emergency estuary projection wells, or more on SFWMD's efforts to manage high water, go online to sfwmd.gov.

and \$15 at the gate. Kids 12 and under are free. Tickets can be purchased in person by cash or check at Eli's Western Wear or with a credit card online at TheOkeechobeeRodeo.com. This year, tickets can also be bought with a special Groupon promotion.

The historic Okeechobee Cattlemen's grandstand rodeo arena is located in the heart of Okeechobee County, at 1885 U.S. 441 North.

BULL

Continued From Page 1

Gates open at 1 p.m., and the event begins with mutton bustin' at 2 p.m.

The Okeechobee Labor Day Bull Bash will have onsite vendors, souvenir T-shirts, shaved ice, concessions and beer.

Tickets for admission are \$12 in advance

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We Buy Estates
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Employment

Employment - Full Time

Badcock Home Furniture & More
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Job requires lifting, unloading, loading, uncrate, assemble and deliver furniture. Keeping warehouse organized and clean and any additional duties assigned by Management. No driving required. Must work on Saturday. Apply in person at 512 NW Park Street.

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

Employment - Full Time

Help Wanted: REPORTER

The Okeechobee News seeks a full or part-time reporter to cover crime, courts, and government, as well as some investigative reporting in Okeechobee County and surrounding areas.

Please email resumé and writing samples to kelsken@newszap.com

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EOE/DFWP

IMMEDIATE OPENING

The **OKEECHOBEE UTILITY AUTHORITY** has an immediate opening for a **Distribution System Operator.**

Applicant must be willing and able to perform heavy physical labor, work well with other employees and the general public. The position will entail working outside with the installation and maintenance of the water distribution and wastewater collection system. Applicant must possess a valid FL Operator's Driver's License (requires clean driving record for the last three years), high school diploma or equivalent, neat legible handwriting and basic mathematical skills.

Please visit our office at 100 SW 5th Ave., Okeechobee, FL 34974 to complete the application paperwork or obtain an application at www.ouafl.com. Applications will be accepted until 6 pm September 4, 2018.

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

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

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

Employment - Part Time

Prenatal/Infant health coalition seeks a part-time, bi-lingual Maternity Care Advisor with experience in health or social service fields. Skills needed include computer proficiency, professional writing, and great organizational skills required. Fax resume to 863-462-5878 or email to hsci2cl@embarqmail.com. Closing date September 7, 2018.

Employment - Part Time

General Laborers (FT) W.R. Smith Land Clearing. We are looking for a crew of efficient, hard-working laborers for a land prepping job. We are offering a consistent work schedule of 40+ hours a week. The ideal candidates will be capable of working with minimal oversight, but willing to follow directions closely. No prior experience is required. Please contact: Will Smith, (863) 445-0026, if interested.

Employment - Full Time

General Laborers (FT) W.R. Smith Land Clearing. We are looking for a crew of efficient, hard-working laborers for a land prepping job. We are offering a consistent work schedule of 40+ hours a week. The ideal candidates will be capable of working with minimal oversight, but willing to follow directions closely. No prior experience is required. Please contact: Will Smith, (863) 445-0026, if interested.

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Tractor Operator (FT) W.R. Smith Land Clearing. We are seeking a tractor operator for a land prepping job. We are offering a consistent work schedule of 40+ hours a week. Ideal candidates have prior tractor operating experience, as well as some heavy equipment knowledge. Candidates will need to ability to operator the equipment for long periods of time, in a safe manner. If interested, please contact Will Smith at (863) 445-0026.

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Financial

Business Opportunities

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

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

Merchandise

FOR SALE- ELECTRIC STOVE BEIGE COLOR \$100.00, REBUILT WESTERN SADDLE W/16" SEAT \$450.00 CALL 863-227-4460

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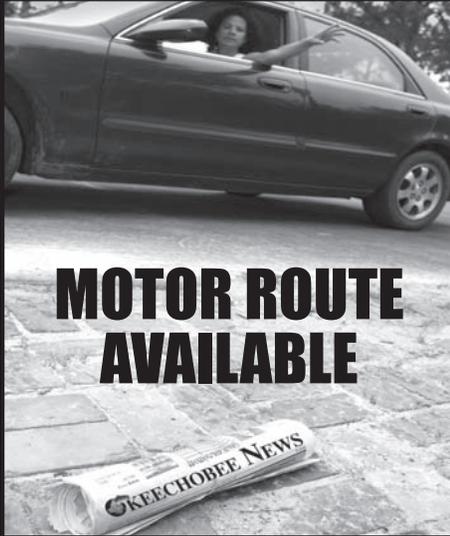
Apartment

Beautiful Samantha's Garden 2bed/2bath, \$900/month. \$600 sec. 1 year lease. 2 person occupancy. 863-634-5780. Credit and background check

FOR SINGLE PERSON OR COUPLE. 2BD/1BA APARTMENT IN TOWN, NEW PAINT & CARPET. NO PETS, \$700.00/MO. F/L/S REFERENCES REQUIRED 863-634-2820

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NO PHONE CALLS

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Business Opportunities

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Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2017-CA-000022
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 April 17, 2018, and entered in Case No. 2017-CA-000022 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, Jury Assembly Room, 312 North West 3rd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972 beginning at 11:00 a.m. on September 26, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure, to wit:
THE NORTH HALF OF LOT 1, BLOCK 1 OF NORTH LAKE COUNTRY ESTATES, UNIT 1, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5, PAGE 71, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.
Property Address: 302 SW 87th Terrace, Okeechobee, Florida 34974-1556
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.
DATED this 25th day of April, 2018.
SHARON ROBERTSON
Clerk of Circuit Court
By: Sandra L. Creech
Deputy Clerk
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. 260358 ON 8/29/9/5/2018

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 17000201CAAXMX
21st MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff,
vs.
UNKNOWN, SPOUSE, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING AN INTEREST BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE ESTATE OF CHARLES A. TAYLOR AKA CHARLES ANTHONY TAYLOR OR AKA CHARLES ARTHUR TAYLOR, DECEASED; SPECIALTY FINANCE, INC.; CHARLES ANTHONY TAYLOR, II; JACQUELINE ANN TAYLOR AKA JACQUELINE ANN KABEL; UNKNOWN TENANT #1; UNKNOWN TENANT #2, Defendants.
CLERK'S NOTICE OF SALE UNDER F.S. CHAPTER 45
NOTICE IS GIVEN that, in accordance with the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated July 19, 2018, in the above-styled cause, the Clerk of the Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash on **September 12, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. in the Jury Assembly Room of the Okeechobee County Judicial Center located at 312 N.W. 3rd Street, 2nd Floor, Okeechobee, FL 34972**, the following described property:
LOT 53, OUSLEY ESTATES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5, PAGES 36 AND 37, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
TOGETHER WITH A 1986 HOMETTE MANUFACTURED HOME; BEARING SERIAL#: P24031181145A AND P24031181145B
Property address: 4031 SW 9th Way, Okeechobee, FL 34974.
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.
SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK
OKEECHOBEE CIRCUIT COURT
By: Sandra L. Creech
Deputy Clerk
276986 ON 8/22,29/2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL ACTION
CASE NO.: 47-2018-CA-000013
PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff
vs.
JEAN BROCKWAY A/K/A JEAN M. BROCKWAY, et al, Defendant(s).
NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated August 1, 2018, and entered in Case No. 47-2018-CA-000013 of the Circuit Court of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida in which PNC Bank, National Association, is the Plaintiff and Jean M. Brockway a/k/a Jean Brockway, Todd Brockway a/k/a Todd A. Brockway, Indian Hammock Hunt and Riding Club, Inc., 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 26th day of September, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure:
LOT 248, INDIAN HAMMOCK HUNT & RIDING CLUB, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGES 25 THROUGH 69, INCLUSIVE, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.
A/K/A 32801 HWY 441 N, LOT 248, 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 2nd day of August, 2018.
SHARON ROBERTSON
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Okeechobee County, Florida
By: Sandra L. Creech
Deputy Clerk
Albortelli Law Attorney for Plaintiff
P.O. Box 23028 Tampa, FL 33623 (813)221-4743
(813) 221-9171 facsimile
eServer: senealaw@albortelli.com
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. 280571 ON 08/29/9/5/2018

Automotive

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Public Notices

Public Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL ACTION
Case#: 2016-CA-000391
Wells Fargo Bank, NA Plaintiff,
-vs-
Florentino Martinez; Wilfredo Martinez; Unknown Spouse of Florentino Martinez; Unknown Spouse of Wilfredo Martinez; Unknown Parties in Possession #1, if living, and all Unknown Parties claiming by, through, under and against the above named Defendant(s) who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said Unknown Parties may claim an interest as Spouse, Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, or Other Claimants; Unknown Parties in Possession #2, if living, and all Unknown Parties claiming by, through, under and against the above named Defendant(s) who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said Unknown Parties may claim an interest as Spouse, Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, or Other Claimants
Defendant s .
NOTICE OF SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to order rescheduling foreclosure sale or Final Judgment, entered in Civil Case No. 2016-CA-000391 of the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein Wells Fargo Bank, NA, Plaintiff and Florentino Martinez are defendant(s), I, Clerk of Court, Sharon Robertson, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in the **Jury Assembly Room, on the Second Floor, of the Okeechobee County Judicial Center, 312 N.W. Third Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972 beginning at 11:00 A.M. on September 26, 2018**, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:
LOT 8, BLOCK 3, BASSWOOD UNIT ONE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 22, OF THE 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.
DATED THIS 27TH DAY OF JULY, 2018
Sharon Robertson
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
Okeechobee County, Florida
By: Sandra L. Creech
DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT
Florida Rules of Judicial Administration Rule 2.540 Notices to 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.
SPANISH: Si usted es una persona discapacitada que necesita alguna adaptación para poder participar de este procedimiento o evento; usted tiene derecho, sin costo alguno a que se le provea cierta ayuda. Favor de comunicarse con Corrie Johnson, Coordinadora de A.D.A., 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 por lo menos 7 días antes de que tenga que comparecer en corte o inmediatamente despues de haber recibido esta notificación si es que falta menos de 7 días para su comparencia. Si tiene una discapacidad auditiva ó de habla, llame al 711.
KREYOL: Si ou se youn moun ki kokobe ki bezwen asistans ou aparey pou ou ka patisipe nan prosedi sa-a, ou gen dwa san ou pa bezwen peye anyen pou ou jwen on seri de ed. Tanpri kontakte Corrie Johnson Co-ordinator ADA, 250 NW Country Club Drive, suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, (772) 807-4370 O mwen 7 jou avan ke ou gen pou-ou parèt nan tribinal, ou imediatman ke ou resevwa avis sa-a ou si le ke ou gen pou-ou ale nan tribinal-la mwens ke 7 jou; Si ou pa ka tande ou pale byen, rele 711. 278751 ON 8/29/9/5/2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL ACTION
CASE NO.: 47-2018-CA-000013
PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff
vs.
JEAN BROCKWAY A/K/A JEAN M. BROCKWAY, et al, Defendant(s).
NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated August 1, 2018, and entered in Case No. 47-2018-CA-000013 of the Circuit Court of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida in which PNC Bank, National Association, is the Plaintiff and Jean M. Brockway a/k/a Jean Brockway, Todd Brockway a/k/a Todd A. Brockway, Indian Hammock Hunt and Riding Club, Inc., 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 26th day of September, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure:
LOT 248, INDIAN HAMMOCK HUNT & RIDING CLUB, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGES 25 THROUGH 69, INCLUSIVE, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.
A/K/A 32801 HWY 441 N, LOT 248, 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 2nd day of August, 2018.
SHARON ROBERTSON
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Okeechobee County, Florida
By: Sandra L. Creech
Deputy Clerk
Albortelli Law Attorney for Plaintiff
P.O. Box 23028 Tampa, FL 33623 (813)221-4743
(813) 221-9171 facsimile
eServer: senealaw@albortelli.com
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. 280571 ON 08/29/9/5/2018

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Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA. PROBATE DIVISION
CASE NO. 2018-CP-143

In re: Estate of **CLAUDE RONNIE MAYES, a/k/a CLAUDE RONALD MAYES, a/k/a CLAUDE R. MAYES.**
 Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS (Ancillary administration)

The ancillary administration of the estate of **CLAUDE RONNIE MAYES, a/k/a CLAUDE RONALD MAYES, a/k/a CLAUDE R. MAYES,** deceased, date of death December 31, 2017, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okeechobee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 312 N.W. 3rd Street, Suite 101, Okeechobee, Florida 34972. The names and addresses of the ancillary personal representative and the ancillary 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 served within three months after the date of the first publication of this notice must file their claims with this Court **WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.**

All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent 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 THE FLORIDA STATUTES 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 first publication date of this notice is: August 29, 2018.

Ancillary Personal Representative:
 Christopher Lee Bowman
 11400 Blade Crest Court
 Louisville, Kentucky 40291

Attorney for Ancillary Personal Representative
CONELY & CONELY, P.A.
 Post Office Box 1367
 Okeechobee, Florida 34973-1367
 (863)763-3825
 Primary E-Mail Address:
 tconely@conelyandconely.com
 Secondary I E-Mail Address:
 blancier@conelyandconely.com
 Secondary 2 E-Mail Address:
 service@conelyandconely.com
 By Tom W. Conely, III
 Florida Bar #096482
 283210 ON 8/29/9/5/2018

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Public Notice

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
TFRA/PUBLIC HEARING

The Miami-Dade County Industrial Development Authority (the "Authority") has been requested to issue its Solid Waste Disposal Revenue Bonds (Waste Management Inc. Project), in one or more series in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$70,000,000 (the "New Money Bonds"), the proceeds of the various series of which will provide financing for (i) solid waste disposal capital expenditures in Okeechobee County, Florida (the "County") and approximately 5 other jurisdictions located throughout the State of Florida and (ii) to pay for certain bond issuance costs (collectively, the "2018 Project"). The 2018 Project will be financed as part of an ongoing plan of financing for the 2018 Project and will be owned and operated by Waste Management, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and/or one or more related and/or affiliated entities (collectively, the "Company").

The 2018 Project consists of financing and refinancing, including through reimbursement, (a) improvements to existing landfill facilities, including (a) improvements to permitted landfill facilities, including but not limited to (i) construction of new disposal cells and liners within currently permitted acreage, (ii) additions and improvements to the leachate collection and treatment system, including leachate trenching, (iii) additions and improvements to the methane gas system, (iv) installation of new liners for intermittent and final closure of completed sections of the landfill facilities, (v) site improvements, (vi) building construction; and (vii) acquisition of equipment to be used at the landfill facilities, (b) improvements to existing collection (hauling) and transfer station facilities, including (i) acquisition of solid waste disposal trucks and support vehicles, (ii) acquisition of solid waste disposal containers and related equipment, (iii) acquisition of solid waste sorting and processing equipment, (iv) site improvements and (v) building construction, and (c) acquisition of other equipment and assets necessary to support the foregoing improvements and to place them in to service. The 2018 Project locations are at existing facilities, owned or managed by the Company. The address and expected aggregate principal amounts of the Bonds to be issued to finance improvements at each location are as follows:

Address	Amount
1. 2700 Wiles Road, Pompano Beach, Florida	\$29,000,000
2. 14415 County Road 39, Duettes, Florida	\$10,000,000
3. 9350 NW 89th Avenue, Medley, Florida	\$8,500,000
4. 10800 NE 128th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida	\$14,000,000
5. 242 Keane Road West, Apopka, Florida	\$5,000,000
6. 1940 East State Road 78 NW, Moore Haven, Florida	\$3,500,000

In addition, the National Finance Authority of the State of New Hampshire has been requested by the Company to issue its refunding revenue bonds, in one or more series in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$48,000,000 (the "Refunding Bonds" and together with the New Money Bonds, the "Bonds"), the proceeds of the various series of which will provide refinancing for all or a portion of (i) solid waste disposal capital expenditures in the County and jurisdictions located throughout the State of Florida (shown below) and (ii) to pay for certain bond issuance costs (collectively, the "Refunding Projects" and together with the 2018 Project, the "Project").

The Refunding Projects will be refinanced and will be owned and operated by the Company and/or one or more related and/or affiliated entities. The Refunding Projects consist of refinancing (a) improvements to permitted landfill facilities, including but not limited to (i) construction of disposal cells and liners within currently permitted acreage, (ii) additions and improvements to the leachate collection and treatment system, including leachate trenching, (iii) additions and improvements to the methane gas system, (iv) installation of liners for intermittent and final closure of completed sections of the landfill facilities, (v) site improvements, (vi) building construction; and (vii) acquisition of equipment to be used at the landfill facilities, (b) improvements to existing collection (hauling) and transfer station facilities, including (i) acquisition of solid waste disposal trucks and support vehicles, (ii) acquisition of solid waste disposal containers and related equipment, (iii) acquisition of solid waste sorting and processing equipment, (iv) site improvements and (v) building construction, and (c) acquisition of other equipment and assets necessary to support the foregoing improvements and to place them in to service.

The Refunding Projects are being refinanced through the Refunding of all or a portion of the Miami-Dade County Industrial Development Authority Solid Waste Disposal Revenue Bonds (Waste Management Inc. of Florida Project), Series 2006 (the "Series 2006 Bonds"). The Refunding Projects are located at existing facilities and are owned or managed by the Company. The address of the solid waste facility located in the County is 10800 NE 128th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida (the "Okeechobee Location"), and the expected aggregate principal amount of the Refunding Bonds to be issued to refinance improvements at that facility is \$7,050,000. All or a portion of the Series 2006 Bonds may be refinanced with proceeds from a series of bonds issued by the National Finance Authority of the State of New Hampshire. The other Project locations where the Refunding Projects are located in addition to the Okeechobee Location are:

1. 9350 NW 89th Avenue, Medley, Florida
2. 8801 NW 91st Street, Medley, Florida
3. 3831 NW 21st Avenue, Pompano Beach, Florida
4. 2700 Wiles Road, Pompano Beach, Florida

The Bonds shall not be a debt, liability or obligation of the Authority, the County or of the State of Florida, or of any political subdivision thereof, but shall be payable solely from payments derived from the Company and its operation of the facilities or the security instruments for the Bonds.

Please take note that the Board of County Commissioners of the County will hold a public hearing on the Project, the nature and location of each Project component and associated issues regarding the proposed issuance of the New Money Bonds and the Refunding Bonds in the Commission Meeting Room at the Okeechobee County Courthouse, 304 Northwest 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida, on Thursday, September 13, 2018, commencing at 9:00 a.m. or shortly thereafter, at which time any person may be heard regarding the proposed issuance of said Bonds and the Project. Written comments may be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners of the County in advance of the hearing. 284128 ON 8/29/2018

ANTENNA STRUCTURE REGISTRATION PUBLIC NOTICE

CTI Towers Assets II, LLC ("CTI") has filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") to register an existing, 195-foot tall mono-pole telecommunications tower that is owned by CTI. The existing telecommunications tower is located at 5125 SW 16th Ave., Okeechobee, Okeechobee County, FL (27° 11' 53.6" N / 80° 50' 30.5" W). No expansion or modification to the existing telecommunications tower is being proposed in connection with this application. FAA obstruction lighting is not required for the existing telecommunications tower. The purpose of this application is to simply register a previously unregistered tower structure with the FCC. This application may be viewed by going to www.fcc.gov/asr/applications and entering Application Number A1111543. Interested persons may raise potential environmental impact concerns associated with this application by filing a Request for Further Environmental Review with the FCC ("Requests"). Requests can be filed online and instructions for filing such Requests can be found at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest. Requests can also be sent to: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington DC 20554. Requests should also be sent to CTI Towers Assets II, LLC, c/o General Counsel, CTI Towers Inc., 5000 CentreGreen Way, Suite 325, Cary, NC 27513. 282885 ON 08/29/2018

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Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 18000115CAAXMX

WELLS FARGO BANK, NA,
 Plaintiff,
 vs.
 UNKNOWN HEIRS BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, SURVIVING SPOUSE, GRANTEE, ASSIGNEE, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING AN INTEREST BY THROUGH UNDER OR AGAINST THE ESTATE OF BERTHA JIMENEZ, DECEASED, et al.,
 Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, SURVIVING SPOUSE, GRANTEE, ASSIGNEE, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING AN INTEREST BY THROUGH UNDER OR AGAINST THE ESTATE OF BERTHA JIMENEZ, DECEASED
 Last Known Residence: Unknown

Unknown Tenant I
 Unknown Tenant 2
 Last Known Residence: 3306 Northwest 34th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Okeechobee County, Florida:
LOT 24, BLOCK 49, BASSWOOD INCORPORATED UNIT NUMBER 5, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 51 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on ALDRIDGE I PITE, LLP, Plaintiffs attorney, at 1615 South Congress Avenue, Suite 200, Delray Beach, FL 33445, on or before 8-20-2018, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiffs attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition. Dated on July 16, 2018.

SHARON ROBERTSON
 As Clerk of the Court
 BY: Arlene Nealis
 As Deputy Clerk

275549 ON 8/22,29/2018

FIRST BUDGET HEARING AND REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council will conduct a **Regular Meeting** beginning at **6:00 p.m. on Tue, Sep. 4, 2018**, or as soon thereafter as possible, at City Hall, 55 SE 3rd Ave, Rm 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The **First Public Hearing** to consider the proposed 2018/2019 Fiscal Year Annual Budget will be conducted at this meeting. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. Contact: City Administration at 863-763-3372, or website cityofokeechobee.com, to obtain a copy of the agenda.

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

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

By: Mayor Dawling R. Watford, Jr.
 284356 ON 8/29/2018

Fictitious Name

NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW

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

James Thomas DeVarenes

Under which we expect to engage in business at:

3039 SE 28th Ave. Okeechobee, Fl. 34974

In the City of Okeechobee/County Okeechobee, Florida.

That the parties interested in said business enterprise are:

DeVarenes, James Thomas

Dated at Okeechobee, Okeechobee County, Florida this 24th day of July 2018
 By: DeVarenes, James Thomas

282128 ON 8/22, 29/2018



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Public Notice

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which 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!

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

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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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Big Lake Athlete of the Week: Joy Whipple

By Richard Marion
Okeechobee News

Okeechobee freshman Joy Whipple is this week's Big Lake Athlete of the Week for her performance in the Lady Brahmans varsity volleyball game against Lincoln Park Academy on Aug. 23.

Whipple had 13 kills and six serving aces against Lincoln Park Academy. The Lady Brahmans won the game in four sets. She has 14 kills, nine serving aces and four digs over the first two games Okeechobee has played so far this season.

Joy gives credit to the Lady Brahman defense for her success against Lincoln Park.

"Our defense was very impressive," said Whipple. "Those girls did an incredible job getting the ball to our setters, so we could be aggressive with our hitting. Our setters worked very hard to fake out the opposing blockers while still having beautiful sets. Our hitting was aggressive and smart. Finding holes in the court, watching the blockers' moves, and all in all putting the ball on the floor in hopes of no return. We worked together as a team, and by the end of this season, we will be a force to be reckoned with."

Lady Brahmans coach Taylor Padrick says that Joy's decisiveness on the court is one of her strengths.

"When she attacks the ball, she takes into account the other side," explained Padrick. "She watches the defense and makes a decision based on her best chance to get the point. Whether going line, cross court, or tipping, she really thinks quickly and usually makes a great decision."

Whipple played volleyball at Osceola Middle School and played for the Chobee Volleyball Academy team, which took home gold medals at both the Gasparilla Volleyball Kickoff and at the 2018 Super Regional Volleyball Tournament in the beginning of 2018.

As a freshman, this is her first year playing varsity volleyball at the high school level.

"So far the transition to high school volleyball has been exciting," Whipple said. "Knowing that I'm going up against seniors and girls that already have been signed to college is a little nerve-wracking. A lot of these other teams have girls that I have never seen before, but it's good to see new girls with different abilities. It keeps the game interesting."

To nominate an athlete for Big Lake Athlete of the Week, email Okeechobee News sports reporter Richard Marion at rmarion@newszap.com.



Okeechobee News/Richard Marion
Okeechobee freshman Joy Whipple serves in the Lady Brahmans' game against Lincoln Park Academy on Aug. 23. Whipple had six aces in the match.

After 11-year drought, Okeechobee Shockwaves bring home trophy

By Richard Marion
Okeechobee News

The office at the sports complex pool has held only one trophy on its shelf for the past 11 years. That trophy, awarded in 2007, marked the first and only time the Okeechobee Shockwaves swim team had been able to place in the top three in a regional tournament.

And it comes as no surprise as Okeechobee faces stiff competition year in and year out from swim teams on the Treasure Coast. These coastal teams have facilities that allow them to swim all year, giving them the opportunity to constantly improve their skills, while Okeechobee swimmers have only a fraction of the pool time.

All of which makes it that much more impressive that Okeechobee was able to finish in third place in the regional tournament in

August and finally bring another trophy to the sports complex.

Shockwaves coach and Okeechobee police Detective Jack Boon says he always had confidence in his team, despite the odds.

"I was extremely happy and proud of the children," said Boon. "I had no doubts that they could perform well because I've watched them grow over the last few years. I'm hoping for second place next year, maybe first."

Assistant coach Michael Muros gave coach Boon credit for being a leader for the team despite missing some time for police training.

"Jack really showed everyone on the team that he was really committed to them," explained Muros. "Even though he missed a couple weeks for his training, he was still the center of the team. He always knew how to talk to anyone in the program, whether

it be a child, a parent or another coach; he knew how to communicate with them. It was really great to learn from him how to be a good coach. Our other assistant coach, Aubrey Reister, also killed it this season. She kept everyone together and made sure the workouts were well-balanced.

"We definitely surpassed a lot of our expectations," continued Muros. "The fact that we were able to perform so well against these really seasoned teams is astounding to us and we love it. We're really excited for the next season."

Next year, the Shockwaves will attempt to bring another trophy home, but for now a good portion of the Shockwaves team will continue swimming for the Okeechobee High School swim team, who will face Sebastian River on Sept. 4.



Okeechobee News/Richard Marion
Shockwaves member Gracie Gamiotea practices in early morning hours at the Okeechobee County Sports Complex pool.

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HOLIDAY DEADLINES

The Okeechobee News will be closed **Monday, September 3 for LABOR DAY**

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 5 DEADLINE
Display Advertising..3 p.m. Friday, August 31. *Have a Safe Holiday!*



Virus found in Florida may be widespread

Special to the Okeechobee News

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

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

“Although the virus has never previously been found in humans, the infection may actually be fairly common in North Florida,” said J. Glenn Morris, M.D., M.P.H., director of the UF Emerging Pathogens Institute and corresponding author of the report on the

virus published June 9 in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.

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

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

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

The new report, titled “Keystone Virus Isolated from a Florida Teenager with Rash and Subjective Fever: Another Endemic Arbovirus in the Southeastern United States?”

says a teenage boy went into an urgent care clinic in north-central Florida with a rash and fever symptoms in August 2016, during the Zika virus epidemic in Florida and the Caribbean. Because of concerns about Zika, laboratory samples were collected from the patient; however, all studies were negative for Zika or related viruses.

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

“This virus is part of a group commonly known as the California serogroup of viruses,” said John Lednicki, Ph.D., a research professor in the UF College of Public Health

and Health Professions’ department of environmental and global health and a member of the Emerging Pathogens Institute. Dr. Lednicki is the first author of the report.

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

KidCare prepares families for healthy school year

Special to the Okeechobee News

Florida KidCare and its partners are reminding parents to take advantage of their child’s healthcare benefits or to sign them up for health and dental coverage.

Most Florida schools require students to have a physical and show proof of insurance to try out for sports teams, and the state requires certain immunizations before children may enroll and attend school. Through Florida KidCare, sports physicals, vision and hearing tests, routine dental cleanings and pediatric checkups are all covered.

“The back-to-school season is the perfect time to remind parents about the importance of having health and dental coverage for their kids,” said Rebecca Matthews, chief executive officer of the Florida Healthy Kids Corp. “The ultimate way to prepare your kids for a successful school year is to send them back to the classroom healthy and

with an insurance plan in place to cover illnesses and any injuries that may arise.”

Studies have shown that a healthy, active child performs better in school, is more focused in the classroom and relates better to their peers. With quality health and dental insurance, children are more likely to stay healthy, which means fewer sick days away from school this year.

For families interested in applying for Florida KidCare, the corporation has recently debuted a free online eligibility calculator. This tool utilizes two key pieces of information — family size and annual household income — to estimate a family’s monthly premium payment for Florida KidCare coverage. Most families pay nothing at all, and many pay only \$15 or \$20 a month for quality coverage. Enrollment is open year-round, and the application is completely free. To learn more or apply for free online, visit floridakidcare.org. Florida KidCare is

the umbrella brand for the four government-sponsored health insurance programs — Medicaid, Florida Healthy Kids, MediKids and Children’s Medical Services Managed Care Plan — that together provide a seamless continuum of coverage for Florida children from birth through age 18. Benefits include doctor visits, checkups, immunizations, prescriptions, emergency care, surgeries, dental care and more. Full-pay options are available for those who do not qualify for subsidized coverage. Enrollment is open year-round at floridakidcare.org.

The Florida Healthy Kids Corp. is a non-profit, public-private partnership created by the Florida Legislature to expand access to affordable, child-centered health insurance. The corporation administers Florida Healthy Kids (healthykids.org), a comprehensive health and dental insurance program for Florida children from age 5 through age 18.



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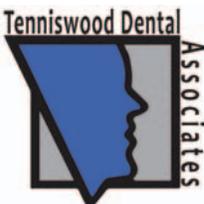


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