



OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 109 No. 108

Sunday, September 9, 2018

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Meet firefighter Austin Bohn

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Study abroad with IRSC

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Glades County to hire manager

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Church school celebrates 90th year

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Planetarium shows planned

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Lake Levels

14.65 feet

Last Year: 13.67 feet



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Keith Morgan (left) and Cody Wojcieszak (right) along with their captain, Stephen Wojcieszak (center), were awarded anglers of the year for 2018 at the OHS Bass Club banquet.

Special to the Okeechobee News

Bass club kicks off new season

By Richard Marion
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee High School Bass Club will be hitting the waters of Orange Lake on Sept. 9 to kick off the 2018-19 season of Florida B.A.S.S. Nation, with first weigh-in scheduled to be held at the Bass Pro Shop in Gainesville.

OHS Bass Club is entering its third year and will be competing against as many as 200 other teams both on Lake Okeechobee and throughout the state with the ultimate goal of earning

a trip to nationals to fish Lake Kentucky against the top teams in the country.

The OHS Bass Club qualified for the national finals in 2017, which took place in Alabama, and was honored by the Okeechobee County School Board for their achievement.

Kimberly Wojcieszak helps organize OHS Bass Club and says that the club offers a way for some teens to participate in a sport who normal-

See BASS — Page 10

Schools must address rules for medical marijuana

By Richard Marion
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County School Board is planning to define its medical marijuana policy and vote to approve it in one of the upcoming monthly meetings.

The Florida legislature is requiring each school district in the state to adopt a policy and procedure for allowing a student who is a qualified patient to have access to his or her medical marijuana and identify how the marijuana will be received, accounted for and stored.

"I'm bringing this to you because it is required by law that we have a policy," explained Superintendent Ken Kenworthy to school board members at their meeting on Sept. 6.

Under the proposed policy, an individual who has been legally prescribed medical marijuana or low-THC cannabis would have it administered to them from their primary caregiver on campus. The policy would exclude any school personnel or other students from handling the medical marijuana.

See SCHOOL — Page 10

Lake Okeechobee News: We're stronger together

Newspaper merger planned for publications around lake

By Katrina Elsen
INI Florida

In the pioneer days when new cities were founded all around Lake Okeechobee, newspapers were established to bring community members together.

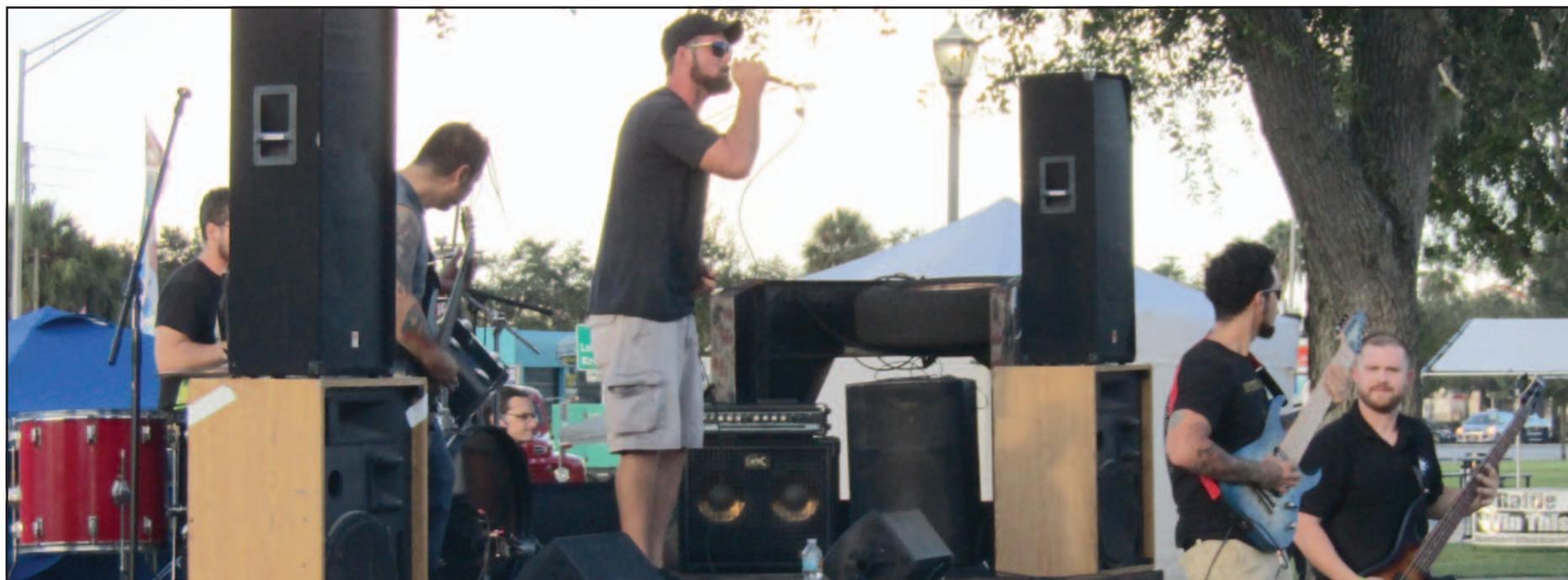
In order to organize a new city, town or county, they needed a way to communicate with the people. The newspapers in Okeechobee, Clewiston, Moore Haven and Belle Glade/Pahokee were founded for that reason. For decades they have carried out that mission.

Times have changed, and the newspapers have changed with them, while holding true to their core mission to give community members the information they need to make decisions

on issues that affect their families, homes and businesses. In addition to the print editions, the newspapers around Lake Okeechobee now have websites updated regularly throughout the week, reaching a broader audience than ever before and giving the readers more information than ever before. The publications also have social media pages that draw readers to

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Okeechobee News/Katrina Elsken

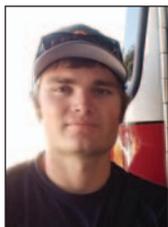
Festival hosts Battle of the Bands

The band named "I killed Anubis" won the Okeechobee Battle of the Bands at the Labor Day Festival on Sept. 1 in Flagler Park. The band members are: Charles Sadler (guitar), Chris Chaos (guitar), Colton Norsworthy (bass), Nick Valcanient (drums and vocals) and Jaycee Shipman (vocals). The band now has a chance to audition at Destination Okeechobee in Orlando in February, for the opportunity to win a spot to play at the Okeechobee Music Festival in March.

Okeechobee's newest first responder: OFD's Austin Bohn

By Matteo Tullio
Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee Fire Department's newest firefighter/EMT, Austin Bohn, was born in 1996 in Salt Lake City, Utah, before he and his family moved to Plano, Texas, and eventually, by the age of 6, to Wellington, where he has resided ever since. He is the firstborn of five, having three brothers and one sister younger than himself. When he was not attending school during his summers, fireman Bohn stated: "I enjoyed playing lots of golf and baseball. I loved to fish and also ride dirt bikes." Playing kickball with members of his family and his



Austin Bohn

friends was one of his favorite games to play as youth, conveying: "Sunday afternoons, we would usually have a big kickball game involving my brothers and friends."

Mr. Bohn graduated from Palm Beach Central High School in 2015, with his favorite subject to study being economics. He said his favorite sport to play while in school was golf but that his favorite to spectate was football. "During school, I played for the golf and the basketball team. I have always wanted to play the guitar and since decided to begin teaching myself how to play," firefighter Bohn explained. He said that his favorite aspect of school was being able to be around his friends but his least-liked thing about it was that it took time away from his ability to work, expressing: "I started working at a young age and I loved to work and make money."

Shortly after his high school graduation, he was able to earn his Associate of Arts degree in 2017 from Palm Beach State College, explaining: "I was ahead in classes in high school, so I was able to take all college classes my senior year at Palm Beach State College. So, I decided to continue to pursue my degree after graduation from high school in 2015."

Before becoming a first responder, Mr. Bohn took up his first job working at a golf course at the age of 15, which he said was also his worst job.

When asked why he chose to be a firefighter, he replied: "I decided I was going to pursue firefighting when I was 20. I am not the type of person to sit at a desk well. It's a profession that I've always admired as a child, and I really wanted to get out and help my community." Fireman Bohn continued: "I've been with the City of Okeechobee for almost three months now, and this is my first job as a firefighter/emergency medical technician (EMT). Even though I am from the east coast, I have always liked the Okeechobee area and I felt like it would be a good fit for me, even before I saw the job opening, so the timing worked out perfectly."

He was then asked how his job, as a first responder, has created value in his life, firefighter/EMT Bohn responded: "Since this is my first job as a firefighter, the job here has created a lot of value in my life. I am learning something new every day I come to work, and I work with some really great people. I am really enjoying helping the community of Okeechobee." When faced with the inquiry of who or what was his biggest influence in his career, he replied: "I have a family friend that I have known for a long time who is a firefighter. He made a huge impact on my

decision to pursue this career. He used to let me come into the station a few times to look around, check the place out and see how things work."

Not only is this Mr. Bohn's first job as a firefighter/EMT, but he is also the first member of his family ever to become a first responder.

In his spare time, Mr. Bohn said he loves to work out, play golf, work on his truck and ride his motorcycle. If he could choose to live in another time period, he said, "It would be growing up in the '50s. I have always felt like I would fit in well with that time period." He said if he could meet anyone that it would be his great-grandfather, stating, "I am told our personalities are similar and that I remind others of him." When he was asked, if he was able to possess one superhuman power, what it would be, firefighter/EMT Bohn replied: "My one superpower would be super strength, which would be useful in many aspects of firefighting."

Okeechobee Forecast

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Today: Partly cloudy in the morning followed by scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon. High near 90F. Winds SW at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 50%.

Tonight: Partly to mostly cloudy skies with scattered thunderstorms before midnight. Low 69F. Winds light and variable. Chance of rain 50%.

Extended Forecast

Monday: Partly cloudy in the morning

followed by scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon. High around 90F. Winds light and variable. Chance of rain 50%.

Monday Night: Isolated thunderstorms during the evening, then partly cloudy overnight. Low near 70F. Winds light and variable. Chance of rain 30%.

Tuesday: Scattered thunderstorms. High near 90F. Winds light and variable. Chance of rain 50%.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy. Low near 70F. Winds light and variable.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny early. Scattered thunderstorms developing later in the day. High near 90F. Winds light and variable. Chance of rain 60%.

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

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Okeechobee News/Matt Tullio

City earns Main Street Merit Award

At its Sept. 4 meeting, the Okeechobee City Council was presented with a Merit Award from Okeechobee Main Street. The award was delivered by Okeechobee Main Street President Angie Griffin (left) and was awarded for the median beautification project that took place on Park Street in the downtown business district of the city.



Okeechobee News/Matt Tullio

September is Hunger Action Month

Mayor Dowling R. Watford Jr. (right) proclaimed the month of September 2018 as "Hunger Action Month" and presented the certificate to the Treasure Coast Food Bank representative, Chief Strategy and Advocacy Officer Krista Garofalo, at the Sept. 4 Okeechobee City Council meeting.

Study abroad with IRSC

Special to the Okeechobee News

Experiences of a lifetime await students and community members who travel the world through Indian River State College (IRSC) Study Abroad. IRSC will offer eight fascinating trips during 2019, with the opportunity for participants to earn college credits related to each trip's area of emphasis. The new slate of Study Abroad opportunities explore the people, culture, history, and economics in a variety of locations.

• **Switzerland: Health and Happiness (May 8–15, 2019)**

Visit Zurich, Bern, Geneva, and Lucerne, and learn why Switzerland is consistently listed as one of the top five happiest countries in the world. Included in the trip is a special stop at the International Red Cross Museum.

• **England: London Fire Service (May 13–20, 2019)**

Explore London and spend two days working with the London Fire Brigade. Participants will also visit museums, attend a theater performance and tour historical sites.

• **Switzerland, Italy and France: Economics, Math and Sociology (May 16–28, 2019)**

Immerse yourself in the inner workings, history, and culture of four European countries while applying social science and math concepts that influence the United States and European global, social, and cultural points of view. Visit Lucerne and Zurich in Switzerland; Venice, Florence and Pisa in Italy; Monaco; Cinque Terre and the French Riviera, with extension to Paris, in France.

• **Czech Republic and England: In-**

ternational Relations and Diplomacy in Prague (May 16–June 13, 2019)

Live on a university campus in Prague while studying with an international group of students. Learn about global business, diverse cultures and political influences and their impact on the world. Share ideas and knowledge on how to make a better world.

• **Japan: Urban Environment and Culture (May 20–30, 2019)**

Visit Osaka, Hiroshima, Kyoto, Hakone, Kamakura and Tokyo. Experience the inner workings, history and culture of Japan while appreciating the blend of culture and technology in all aspects of the Japanese lifestyle. Explore, compare, learn and appreciate the wide range of global, social and cultural differences between the United States and Japan.

• **Caribbean: Constellations, Celestial Navigation and Mayan Archaeoastronomy (May 26–June 2, 2019)**

Cruise from Port Canaveral to ports in the Bahamas, Mexico, Honduras and Costa Maya, and learn to identify seasonal stars and constellations — including the Southern Cross and other southerly patterns not visible from the U.S. — and learn the basics of celestial navigation and sextant use. Tour Mayan ruins and discover Mayan archaeoastronomy and rudiments of Maya glyphs, Maya calendar construction, and base 20 counting system. Examine astronomy features of Maya buildings and the use of MesoAmerican pyramids and other ancient observatories.

• **Guatemala: Honors Program Cultural Experience (June 14–23, 2019)**

Guatemala, "the land of eternal spring," is a breathtaking land of magnificent lakes, towering volcanoes and ancient ruins. IRSC

honors students will have the opportunity to compare and contrast the political and cultural differences between the United States and Guatemala, while also learning about one of the Mayan civilizations and the diverse Guatemalan ecosystem. Visit Guatemala City, Petenchel, Antigua and Lake Atitlán, Guatemala. This trip is open exclusively to IRSC honor students.

• **Costa Rica: Service Learning and Spanish Language Classes (June 24–July 7, 2019)**

Students will live with Costa Rican families, attend language classes and participate in cultural excursions and service activities that will enhance the learning experience. They will visit and explore San Joaquin de Flores, Heredia, La Fortuna and La Carpio.

The Study Abroad program is presented in support of the IRSC International Studies and Global Initiatives. For more information visit www.irsc.edu or call 1-866-792-4772 and indicate your trip of interest.

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Social Security Matters

By AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor

Association of Mature American Citizens

Ask Rusty – Working while collecting Social Security disability

Dear Rusty: My husband started getting Social Security disability in 2016 at the age of 61; he is now 63. Did it automatically switch over to regular Social Security? Also, he is feeling bored and would like to have a little job. Is he allowed to work just so many hours per week, or does it go by how much you make per month? Is it just reported at tax time next year? Signed: Helpful Wife

Dear Helpful: Your husband's SS disability (SSDI) will automatically switch to his retirement benefits when he reaches his full retirement age (66 years and 2 months if he was born in 1955). Regarding his working while still collecting SSDI benefits, Social

Security encourages those on disability to attempt to return to the workforce, so your husband should consider enrolling in the Social Security "Ticket to Work" program, which will provide him the chance to test his ability to work for at least nine "trial work months" during a 60-month time frame. During this trial work period he'll receive his full SSDI benefit regardless of how much he earns. Briefly, any month he earns more than \$850 (for 2018) counts as a trial work month (if he earns less than that it doesn't count as a trial work month). After he has reached nine trial work months, he can still receive his SSDI benefits for another 36 months, except that he won't receive benefits for any month that his earnings exceed what Social Security considers "substantial gainful activity," or "SGA," which for 2018 is \$1180. If his benefits stop because his earnings regularly exceed "SGA," and within 5

years he is once again unable to work due to his disability, his disability benefits can be restarted (without having to re-apply). You can get full details about Working While on Disability and the Ticket to Work program by going to this link: <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10095.pdf>. The Ticket to Work program should allow your husband to work and test his physical limits without having a negative impact to his Social Security disability benefits. As for reporting his earnings, your husband must notify Social Security when he starts to work and must, as well, report his monthly earnings to Social Security at 1-800-772-1213. Once he has entered the Ticket to Work program, he should also report to Social Security if he stops working. And, of course, once his disability benefits convert to regular retirement benefits at his full retirement age, there is no restriction on how much he can earn.

The information presented in this article is intended for general information purposes only. The opinions and interpretations expressed are the viewpoints of the AMAC Foundation's Social Security Advisory staff, trained and accredited under the National Social Security Advisors program of the National Social Security Association, LLC (NSSA). NSSA, the AMAC Foundation, and the Foundation's Social Security Advisors are not affiliated with or endorsed by the United States Government, the Social Security Administration, or any other state government. Furthermore, the AMAC Foundation and its staff do not provide legal or accounting services. The Foundation welcomes questions from readers regarding Social Security issues. To submit a request, contact the Foundation at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org, or visit the Foundation's website at www.amacfoundation.org.

Letters to the Editor

Open letter

Dear Col. Kelly, sir:

Welcome to your initial month serving as the commander of the SAJ Jacksonville District.

As you should know, the U.S. Army Engineers began working in Lake Okeechobee in the mid-1880s, as is noted in the annual reports of the chief engineer.

What is less known, the water level of Lake Okeechobee began being regulated in August 1924, in accordance with a permit issued by the chief engineer as is noted in the correspondence referenced below.

I bring this to your attention so that the record of U.S. Army Engineers can accurately convey the history on Lake Okeechobee.

This is important because the deadly hurricanes of 1926 and 1928 occurred while the U.S. Army Engineers were controlling the lake.

Respectively yours,

Bob Mooney

Lowering the Lake

FROM: Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C.

Refer to File No. 7432 (Okeechobee Lk.)

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WAR DEPARTMENT: Office of the Chief Engineer, Washington, Aug. 23, 1926.

To: Mrs. Minnie Moore Wilson, Room

245, Grand Hotel, Broadway & 31st Street, New York City.

Dear Madam:

1. The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of Aug. 14, 1926, requesting information as to whether the elevation of Lake Okeechobee, Florida, has been lowered by a permit beyond the point it was held in 1915.

2. In reply I would inform you that a revocable permit was granted by the Acting Secretary of War, Aug. 21, 1924, in which condition No. 13 read as follows: "That while elevation 15 feet above mean low water at Punta Rasa, Gulf of Mexico, I authorized as a standard lake full elevation of the surface of the Lake, the said District Engineer may require the closing of any or all controlling works when the Lake level is still above 15, if, in his opinion, such action is necessary for the conservation of navigation interests; and the permittee shall not, without the specific prior approval of the said District Engineer, knowingly or intentionally permit the evaluation of Lake Okeechobee to fail below said elevation 15, provided (underlined), that upon application to said District Engineer, the letter may in his discretion authorize the permittee to lower the water surface in Lake Okeechobee to a stage below said 15, whenever, in the opinion of said District Engineer, such lowering may be necessary or advisable to provide additional reservoir capacity or to reduce injury to agricultural or

other non-navigation interests influenced by the level of the water in Lake Okeechobee, and will not cause unreasonable interference with navigation. For the administration of this permit the gauge established and maintained by the United State Engineer

Department at Moore Haven, Florida, shall govern in the measurement of lake levels.

For the Chief of Engineers:

Very respectfully,

**R. Park, Major
Corps of Engineers**

Reflections from the Pulpit

by Mark Mayers, LMFT
CAP of Real Life Children's Ranch

As we move toward celebrating Thanksgiving, we begin to reflect more on being thankful. Like the early pilgrims, most of us will set aside some time to reflect on the blessings that we have. Hopefully this is an overwhelming acknowledgment that God is the provider of all good things in our life, nation and world. Joseph demonstrates for us an example of God's providing love when he says to his brothers in Genesis 20:21, "So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children. And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them." God wants us to be reassured that he will provide for our needs.

God shows us His providing love in His creation, Luke 12: 27-31...27 Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 28 If that is how God clothes the grass of the

field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you — you of little faith! 29 And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. 30 For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

As we approach the holiday season, may we prayerfully and permanently incorporate an attitude of thanksgiving into our hearts and our lives as we grow to understand God's incredible love toward us. Ephesians 3:17-19...17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

OKEECHOBEE NEWS

To Reach Us

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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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Our Purpose...

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

We Pledge...

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

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



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).

- Mikel Chaden Wood, 38, Northwest Fourth Street, Okeechobee, was arrested Aug. 30 by Deputy Brian Cross on felony charges of escape, false imprisonment of child under age 13, interference with custody and resisting officer with violence. His bond was set at \$20,000.

- Taylor Michelle Simpson, 26, Harvey Road, Kenansville, was arrested Sept. 5 by

Deputy Daniel Eng on a Brevard County felony warrant charging her with violation of probation - possession of a controlled substance. Her bond was set at \$7,000.

- Christopher Earl Masters, 35, Northeast 103rd Avenue, Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 5 by Deputy Nathaniel Mitchell on an Okeechobee County felony warrant charging him with failure to appear - dealing in stolen property and a misdemeanor charge of failure to appear - petit theft. He is being held without bond.

- Expavious Ceon Mills Jr., 21, South Palmetto Avenue, South Daytona, was arrested Sept. 6 by Deputy Tyler Ott on a DOC felony warrant charging him with violation of probation grand theft (motor vehicle). He is being held without bond.

- Christopher Paul Ponzo, 43, Southwest

Third Avenue, Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 6 by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on felony charges of possession of a controlled substance (cocaine) without a valid prescription, tampering with evidence and a misdemeanor charge of driving a motor vehicle without a valid driver license. His bond was set at \$10,500.

- Thomas Wayne Gibson, 33, Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 7 by Deputy Nathaniel Mitchell on two DOC felony warrants charging him with two counts of violation of probation - dealing in stolen property, one count of violation of probation - giving false information to a secondary metals recycler and one count of violation

of probation - giving false information to a pawnbroker. He is being held without bond.

- Arianne Michelle Abdelrazeq, U.S. 441 Southeast, Okeechobee, was arrested Sept. 7 by Deputy Joel Lacerte on an out of county warrant charging her with violation of probation - driving under the influence with property damage. Her bond was set at \$1,000.

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.

Okeechobee Livestock Market Report

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

COWS	LOW:	HIGH:	
800-1600	45.00	49.00	AVG
800-1600	50.00	54.00	HIGH
800-1500	42.00	44.00	LOW

BULLS:

1100-2000	75.00	77.00	AVG
1100-2200	80.00	84.00	HIGH
1200-1600	71.00	74.00	LOW

STEERS MED & LARGE 1:

200-250	0.00	0.00
250-300	240.00	240.00
300-350	200.00	205.00
350-400	188.00	198.00
400-450	174.00	184.00
450-500	160.00	168.00
500-550	148.00	158.00
550-600	142.00	152.00
600-700	140.00	149.00

STEERS MED & LARGE 2:

200-250	0.00	0.00
250-300	210.00	210.00
300-350	195.00	195.00
350-400	178.00	184.00
400-450	164.00	172.00
450-500	148.00	156.00
500-550	138.00	144.00
550-600	140.00	140.00
600-700	136.00	136.00

After a holiday-shortened week and dodging tropical storm Gordon, not much to report on this week. Only 970 head on Tuesday. Slaughter prices unchanged and feeder calf prices a little lower. Next week we'll be back into full swing and I suspect there'll be a lot of cattle coming to town. Rain out west could help spark some new buying interest ... let's hope so!

Bronson Family, Apopka, topped the Calf

	MONDAY	TUESDAY
CLFS	HOL	726
COWS	I	229
BULLS	DAY	15
TOTAL	0	970

HEIFERS MED & LARGE 1:

200-250	145.00	160.00
250-300	150.00	160.00
300-350	142.00	150.00
350-400	138.00	148.00
400-450	130.00	140.00
450-500	128.00	138.00
500-550	124.00	133.00
550-600	121.00	129.00
600-700	120.00	124.00

HEIFERS MED & LARGE 2:

200-250	0.00	0.00
250-300	142.00	142.00
300-350	130.00	138.00
350-400	128.00	136.00
400-450	124.00	128.00
450-500	120.00	126.00
500-550	119.00	122.00
550-600	114.00	114.00
600-700	106.00	106.00

Market with a high of \$2.40 bought by Oak Lake Cattle.

Roberts Ranch, Immokalee, topped the Cow Market with a high of \$.5350 bought by Florida Beef.

For Sale:
74 pairs, crossbred, 6-10 years old, calves 250-350#, Angus & Charolais Sired \$1150
45 Brahma cross heifers bred to Angus Bulls - \$1600

Call Matt or Jeff

OCSO Investigations

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

ASSAULT

- 1500 block of Northwest 36th Street
- 600 block of Northeast 14th Avenue
- 42600 block of U.S. 441 North
- 200 block of State Road 78 West
- 500 block of Northwest Fourth Street
- 1100 block of Northeast 39th Boulevard
- 1200 block of Northeast 11th Street

BURGLARY

- 1400 block of Southeast Sixth Street
- 300 block of Northwest 34th Terrace
- 3600 block of Southeast 33rd Terrace

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

- 400 block of South Parrott Avenue
- 700 block of Northeast 15th Avenue

FRAUD

- 500 block of Northwest Fourth Street
- 2700 block of Northwest Fourth Street

THEFT

- 1600 block of Northwest Seventh Avenue
- 2800 block of Northeast 103rd Avenue
- 3400 block of U.S. 441 South
- 3200 block of Southeast 23rd Street
- 3200 block of U.S. 441 Southeast
- 3200 block of U.S. 441 Southeast
- 1600 block of U.S. 441 North

Old blackmail scam returns with a new modern twist

Special to the Okeechobee News

"Revenge porn" is the distribution, or threat of distribution, of explicit photos or videos of a victim in order to blackmail them. Sometimes the victim knows the perpetrator, and it's personal. But often the scammer is a stranger and the goal of the blackmail can be phishing or smishing (to obtain money now), identity theft (to later impersonate the victim), or installation of malware on a computer (to steal passwords).

This can happen via email, letter or text. If you are threatened with this, do not click on any unknown links or download any attachments. A new twist on this scam presents victims with threats of revealing they

watched or downloaded porn. The scammer will contact people and claim they have hacked their computer and activated their webcam, then threaten to send that information to family, friends, co-workers, and more if a payment is not made.

Protect yourself: Never send money; install security software; change passwords immediately; don't respond to threats; never send compromising images of yourself to anyone; and do not open attachments from people you do not know.

Library photos sought

The Okeechobee County Library is looking for photos of the "old library," the building currently housing the Okeechobee City Police Station. These photos will be used for the 20th anniversary celebration of the current building. Anyone with photos of the old library is asked to please bring them to the Okeechobee Library. Originals will not be kept; copies of the photos will be taken instead. Any questions, please call 863-763-3536 and ask for either Debra or Sonya.



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Amvets host 5-card bingo

Join Amvets Post 200, 3651 U.S. 441 S.E. Suite 6, on Sunday, **Sept. 9**, at 2 p.m. and Tuesday, Sept. 11, at 2 p.m. for five-card bingo. For information, call 863-484-8135.

BHR VFW serves breakfast

The VFW Auxiliary will serve breakfast on Sunday, **Sept. 9**, at VFW Post 9528, 29012 State Road 78 W., from 8:30 to 11 a.m. All benefits go for veterans services. For information, call 863-467-2882.

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.

Retired Educators to meet

The Okeechobee Retired Educators will meet on Monday, **Sept. 10**, at 11 a.m. in the meeting room of Beef O'Brady's. Anyone who has retired from working in any school system, in any capacity, is eligible to join us!

Legion host 5-card bingo

American Legion Post #64, 501 S.E. Second St., will host five-card bingo on Monday, **Sept. 10**, from 1 to 3 p.m. with lunch served at 12:30 p.m. For information, call 863-763-5309.

Big Lake post honors responders

Big Lake Post #10539, 3912 U.S. 441 S.E., will host a first responders luncheon and awards on Tuesday, **Sept. 11**, the luncheon is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Awards start at noon. The public is welcome. Five-card bingo will be held at noon on Thursday, Sept. 13, with a pot luck dinner from 5 to 7 p.m.

Shrine Club hosts dinner

The Okeechobee Shrine Club, 1855 S.W. 53rd St., off of SR 78 W. next to Fast Break, will hold a spaghetti dinner Tuesday, **Sept. 11**, from 4 until 7 p.m. for your \$8 donation. The dinner is open to the public and all members of the Shrine Temple. Entertainment will be provided by Jay and Patty. For information on the activities of the Okeechobee Shrine Club or to lease the club, contact the Shrine Club at 863-763-3378 or Keith at 863-634-2682.

VFW serves spaghetti dinner

The Buckhead Ridge VFW Auxiliary will serve a spaghetti dinner on Wednesday, **Sept. 12**, at Post 9528, 29012 SR 78 W. All proceeds to benefit Florida military veterans in distress. For information, call 863-467-2882.

Children's Council to meet

The Children's Services Council of Okeechobee will have its first public budget hearing for the year 2018-2019 on Thursday, **Sept. 13**, at 5:01 p.m., in the Okeechobee County School Board office, Room 303 at 700 S.W. Second Ave.

Cub Scouts meeting set

Come join the fun and adventure of Cub Scouts Pack 964, for boys and girls grades kindergarten through fifth. A meeting will be held on Thursday, **Sept. 13**, at 6 p.m. at the American Legion, 501 S.E. Second St. For information call David at 863-634-5255 or Melissa at 863-697-6459.

BHR VFW serves dinner

The Buckhead Ridge VFW Post 9528, 29012 SR 78 W. in Buckhead Ridge, will serve dinner on Friday, **Sept. 14**, 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.

Shared Services to meet

The Executive Roundtable of the Shared Services Network of Okeechobee County will conduct its bimonthly meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, **Sept. 14**, in the board room of the Okeechobee County School Board office, 700 S.W. Second Ave. This forum provides a mechanism for dialogue and problem solving in our community through the collaborative efforts of our local decision makers. The public is invited to attend. For more information, please call Erin Moore 863-462-5000, Ext. 257.

Community cookout set

Come out and join your local Okeechobee Walmart, Store #814, and the sheriff's office fundraiser for Children's Miracle Network for their community cook out with pulled pork, hamburgers and hot dogs on Saturday, **Sept. 15**, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 2101 S. Parrott Ave.

Historical Society to meet

The Okeechobee Historical Society will hold its first meeting after the summer break on Monday, **Sept. 17**, at noon in the museum, 1850 U.S. 98 N. Bring a covered dish to share, \$10 for your yearly dues and get caught up on all the projects that have been occurring since our last meeting in June! We hope to have a good turnout to hear Dale Barrett speak on his experiences in uncovering the logs at the Raulerson Log Cabin.

Democrats chapter to meet

The Okeechobee Chapter of the Democratic Party of Florida welcomes you to attend their monthly meeting held on Wednesday, **Sept. 19**, at 6:30 p.m. in the meeting room of Beef O' Bradys, 608 S. Parrott Ave.

Sew-a-thon set

"A Case for Smiles" (formerly Conkerr Cancer) is having a charity pillowcase sew-a-thon on Wednesday, **Sept. 19**, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. This is in coordination with the annual MOPS (Miles of Pillowcase Smiles) held every September. (Did you know that it takes 2112 pillowcases to make one mile of smiles?) This year it will be held at the Church of Our Saviour Parish Hall, 200 N.W. Third St. Bring your sewing machine or serge and sew with other ladies of our community who want to help make a difference in the lives of children with cancer or other life-changing illnesses. Bring 100 percent cotton child-friendly fabric or sew up a pre-cut kit. Bring a lunch and join in on the fun! Call Peggy at 863-763-4972 or Joan at 561-385-8216 for further information.

Healthy Start to meet

Okeechobee County Healthy Start Coalition Board of Directors will meet Wednesday, **Sept. 19**, at noon at The White House Plaza, 1132 S. Parrot Ave. The meeting is open to the public. The Coalition is part of a statewide network responsible for planning and implementing services for pregnant women and infants. The Coalition is made up of citizens interested in promoting healthy pregnancies and healthy birth outcomes for Okeechobee County Residents. For information, contact Kay Begin at 863-462-5877.

Caregiver Conference set

An Okeechobee Fearless Family Caregiver Conference will take place Thursday, **Sept. 20**, at the IRSC Williamson Conference Center, 2229 N.W. Ninth Ave., from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with lunch included. Learn to balance family, work and caregiving, plus much more. There are limited free tickets for caregivers. For information or to register, call 877-829-2734 or visit caregiver.com.

Diabetes class offered

A free class on diabetes management will be offered Friday, **Sept. 21**, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Okeechobee Public Library, 206 S.W. 16th St. Whether you have just been diagnosed, or have had diabetes for many years and are finding it more difficult to manage, this class is for you. For more information, call Noreen Williams, CDE at 321-615-1901.

National Public Lands Day set

Enjoy the beautiful fall weather and have fun helping us protect your Historic Okeechobee Battlefield! We will be hand-pulling or clipping invasive exotic weeds and picking up trash on Saturday, **Sept. 22**, from 9 a.m. to noon. You will be provided with gloves, garbage bags, water and snacks. All volunteers will receive a free Florida state park day pass! For information, call the park office at 863-462-5360 or email Ashley.haymond@floridadep.gov.

Notice of increased tax

The Children's Services Council of Okeechobee County has tentatively adopted a measure to increase its property tax levy. All concerned citizens are invited to attend a public hearing on the tax increase to be held on Tuesday, **Sept. 25**, at 5:01 p.m. in the Okeechobee County School Board, 700 S.W. Second Ave., Room 303. A FINAL DECISION on the proposed tax increase and the budget will be made at this hearing.

Luncheon honors donors

Okeechobee Educational Foundation invites you to a luncheon honoring donors on Wednesday, **Sept. 26**, at noon at the First United Methodist Church in the Fellowship Hall, 200 N.W. Second St. Please RSVP by Wednesday, **Sept. 19**, to 863-462-5000 EXT 257 or email erin.moore@okee.k12.fl.us.

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

Obituary

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

Dorothy 'D' Jane Bailey, 85

OKEECHOBEE — Dorothy "D" Jane Bailey, surrounded by her family, went to be with the Lord on Sept. 5, 2018. Dorothy was born Oct. 15, 1932 to John Eli and Hattie Mae Pope in Hapeville, Ga. She married Leo Bailey, Jr. on May 1, 1949, and they were married 61 years until Leo passed on Oct. 16, 2011.



Mrs. Bailey was preceded in death by her parents, siblings, spouse, and grandson, Cutter Pearce.

She is survived by her children, Vickie Teagle (Wayne), Sharon Ridpath (Greg), Gary Bailey, and Patricia Pearce (Mark Hunter); grandchildren, Austin Cole (Missy), Monique Clay (Tommy), Caleb Pearce, Tasha Toy (Wes), Chase Pearce (Kattie), Kevin Bailey, Kelly Bailey, Dina, Shannon, Eden, and Erin; her loving partner, Chris Antonopolous, whom she loved dearly and enjoyed traveling the world and gaming with for the past six years; seven great grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Visitation was 11 a.m. until services at 12 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, 2018 at Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home. She was laid to rest at Evergreen Cemetery following the funeral services.

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.

Property owners cited for code violations

By **Katrina Elsen**
Okeechobee News

A dozen code enforcement cases were on the agenda for consideration at the Aug. 21 Okeechobee County special magistrate hearing in the Health Department Auditorium, 1728 N.W. Ninth Ave., at 2 p.m.

In two cases, the property owners cleaned up the properties and addressed any violations to bring the properties up to code before the hearing. Those cases were dismissed.

- The 1694 N.W. Seventh St. property owned by Deborah Yvonne Saunders (formerly known as Deborah Parker) was found to be in compliance with county code. Because the property owner corrected the violations, the case was dismissed.

- The 1523 S.W. 35th Circle property owned by Joylyn M. Unruh was cited for code violations. Because the property owner corrected the code violations prior to the hearing, the case was dismissed.

Ten of the properties cited were found to still be in violation of county code.

- The 31650 N.W. 23rd Way property

owned by Teresa Hathaway was cited for overgrown weeds and grass and damaged mobile home skirting. The property owner was ordered to bring the property into compliance by Sept. 13. Failure to do so will result in a fine of up to \$250 per day.

- The 10500 N.E. 12th Lane property owned by U.S. Bank National Association was cited for overgrown weeds and grass. The property owner was ordered to bring the property into code compliance by Sept. 13 or face a fine of up to \$250 per day.

- The 1327 N.W. 35th Lane property owned by Venacio Aldana and Felicitas Lopes Calderon was cited for trash and debris, obstruction of right of way and construction without a building permit. The property owner was ordered to bring the property into code compliance by Sept. 13 or face a fine of up to \$250 per day.

- The 3415 S.E. 36th Avenue property owned by Mobile Home Park Manager Inc. was cited for construction without a building permit. All applicable permits for the mobile home installation must be obtained or the unit must be removed. The property owner was ordered to bring the property into code

compliance by Sept. 13 or face a fine of up to \$250 per day.

- The 7650 State Road 78 W. property owned by Cloverport Mobile Home Park LLC was cited for seven mobile homes in disrepair and unfit for human occupancy. These mobile homes, which have been posted with “condemned” notices, must be removed from the property. The property owner was ordered to bring the property into code compliance by Sept. 13 or face a fine of up to \$250 per day.

- The 14869 N.W. 304th St. property owned by Earl Hoover and Kristal Hoover was found to be in violation of county code. The property owners were ordered to complete the windows. The property owner was ordered to appear at the code enforcement hearing on Sept. 18 at 2 p.m. for a status update. The property owner was ordered to bring the property into code compliance by Sept. 13 or face a fine of up to \$250 per day.

- The 17608 N.W. 260th St. property owned by John Palacio and Ana Palacio of Port St. Lucie was cited for code violations. The property owners were ordered to bring the property into compliance by remov-

ing two unpermitted sheds and decking or obtaining the required permits to keep the structures. The property owner was ordered to bring the property into code compliance by Sept. 13 or face a fine of up to \$250 per day.

- The 7610 SR 78 property owned by Penny Lane LLC was cited for code violations. The property owner was ordered to bring the property into compliance by removing three derelict mobile homes with applicable permits and fees. The case was tabled until Oct. 16.

- The 984 102nd St. property owned by Daniel Clements and Ana Hoskins was cited for code violations. The property owners were ordered to bring the property into compliance by removing or providing indoor storage of unlicensed vehicles, removal of scrap and debris and removal of outdoor storage. The property was also cited for unauthorized occupancy of an RV. The property owner was ordered to bring the property into code compliance by Sept. 13 or face a fine of up to \$250 per day.

- The 2319 U.S. 98 N. property owned by Mauro Tovar of Boca Raton was cited for wrecked unlicensed vehicles and parts. The property owner was ordered to cease storage and salvage use on this property. The case was tabled until Oct. 16.

SFWMD unveils new public geospatial data website

Webpage gives public greater access to the SFWMD GIS datasets

Special to the Okeechobee News

WEST PALM BEACH — The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) this week unveiled a new web page to provide the public with easy access to its geospatial/GIS datasets. The public can browse, search, filter, preview and download the GIS datasets in a variety of formats.

The South Florida Water Management District Open Data Portal website offers GIS datasets in many different categories from environmental to hydrography to land resources to permits to regulatory datasets.

These datasets are maintained by SFWMD and are used by water managers to make operational decisions for the agency’s critical missions.

Data available for public viewing include maps of watershed and basin boundaries, sites of district facilities, water utility service boundaries and maps of vegetation in the Kissimmee River floodplain dating back to 1952.

“This Governing Board wants the public to have as much access to the data that goes into water management decisions as possible, so they can understand and play a valuable role in the process,” said SFWMD Governing Board Chairman Federico Fernandez. “This new geospatial website puts crucial data just a click away for the 8.1 million residents we serve.”

The Open Data Portal Geospatial website is just the latest online platform created by SFWMD to further public access to information. The district has also launched the Strategic Projects Interactive Maps website which allows the public to get information on dozens of ongoing projects, the SFWMD TV YouTube channel for informational videos and the Managing High Water website to give the public access to information on steps being taken to address the current high water emergency situation.

For more on this site online, visit <https://geo-sfwmd.opendata.arcgis.com/>.

See also, <https://www.sfwmd.gov/science-data/gis>.

Glades commissioners to take up deal with new manager

By **Chris Felker**
Okeechobee News

MOORE HAVEN — Glades County commissioners Tuesday will consider the deal that their attorney took great care in structuring for their choice, Martin Murphy of New York state, to run the county government as their new manager.

County Board Chairman John Ahern said Wednesday, Sept. 5, that he’d been told Mr. Murphy has accepted the stringent terms the five commissioners had agreed by a 3-1 vote to offer him during their reconvened regular meeting on Thursday night, Aug. 30.

“I believe he has,” Mr. Ahern said. County Attorney Richard Pringle laid out the commission’s specifications in the document, which he emailed to Mr. Murphy earlier last week, he said.

“I have not seen the signed contract yet,” Mr. Ahern added. “According to our attorney

... this morning he had got a contract back, but Richard had to add a little language to the new one saying that electronic signatures could be used on the contract because they were emailing back and forth. Mr. Murphy was on vacation someplace. As far as I know, I think we have a deal.”

Commissioner Donna Storter Long confirmed Thursday that she’d also learned as much, from Deputy County Manager Bob Jones. Mr. Murphy is to relieve him when he starts as county manager, which Commissioners Ahern and Long said would be Monday, Sept. 17.

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.

Buckhead Ridge Moose Lodge #2417

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863.763.2250



MONDAYS	5 Card Bingo - 6pm Spaghetti Dinner \$7 5 to 7pm
TUESDAYS	5 Card Bingo - 2 to 4pm
WEDNESDAYS	3 Card Bingo - 6pm Pork Chop Dinner \$7 ⁵⁰ 5 to 7pm
THURSDAYS	5 Card Bingo - 6pm Chef's Choice Dinner 5 to 7pm
FRIDAYS	Live Music - 8pm to 12am A.U.C.E. Catfish \$10 Steaks & Shrimp Dinners 5 to 7pm
SATURDAYS	Meat Bingo - 4 to 7pm
SUNDAYS	Cornhole - 2pm Full Breakfast \$5 Omelets \$6 8 to 11am

Open to Members and Qualified Guests
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Adventist Christian School celebrates birthday!

Special to the Okeechobee News

On Sunday, Aug. 12, many friends, former students and one current student gathered together to reminisce and celebrate another year of Christian education in

Okeechobee at the Okeechobee Adventist Christian School. According to state records, this school opened in 1933 and is now turning 85 years old! However, according to our local church historian, Esther Hair, the



Special to the Okeechobee News

On Aug. 12, former and current students gathered to celebrate at Okeechobee Adventist Christian School.

FWC aims to remove Northern African pythons in South Florida

Special to the Okeechobee News

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is asking for the public's help with continuing efforts to locate and remove nonnative Northern African pythons in South Florida. The Northern African python (also called an African rock or rock python) has been documented living in the Bird Drive Recharge Area, which covers approximately 6 square miles in western Miami-Dade County. "Recently, the FWC received a report of a large Northern African python found and killed in a vacant lot on the corner of S.W. 144th Ave. and 26th St./Coral Way near Kendall West in early July," said Sarah Funck, non-native fish and wildlife program coordinator for the FWC. "We are asking residents and visitors in this area to report sightings of these large constrictors as soon as they see them. The more reports we receive, the more likely we will be successful in removing these non-native snakes from the wild." In Florida, the average size of a Northern African python is 10 feet in length, posing a threat to human safety and native wildlife. They can grow up to 20 feet in length in their native range.

How to help:

- Immediately report any sightings of live Northern African pythons to the the FWC's Exotic Species Hotline at 888-Ive-Got1 (888-483-4681). Include a picture if possible.
- Report past sightings, roadkill, shed skins and other remains of Northern African pythons to Ivegot1.org.
- If you own land in the identified area where this species lives, allow wildlife managers to search for pythons on your property.
- Deter pythons from your property by cutting back vegetation, clearing debris and securing small pets.

The FWC listed the Northern and Southern African pythons as conditional species in 2010, with the result that an individual may no longer legally acquire these species in the state for personal pets.

While Northern African pythons are very similar in appearance to Burmese pythons, the skin pattern on their backs is less defined. Additionally, the belly scales of a Northern African python are a pattern of black and white markings, while those of the Burmese python are white.



Special to the Okeechobee News

In Florida, the average size of a Northern African python is 10 feet in length, posing a threat to human safety and native wildlife. They can grow up to 20 feet in length in their native range.

school actually opened in 1928, so we are celebrating 90 years here in Okeechobee. Esther Hair's mother was one of the original students in the school. Present at the party was Dr. Edward Douglas, who started school when he was 5 years old, making him the oldest student there.

Cake, food and refreshments were served to more than 30 attendees. Many stories were swapped and picture boards displayed history throughout the years.

We are very proud to be part of Okeechobee's history and look forward to serving Okeechobee families for many more years.

The Okeechobee Adventist Christian School, located at 412 N.W. Sixth St., is a small, one-teacher, multigrade school. It is a part of the Seventh-day Adventist system of schools and is the only remaining one-room school in the state of Florida. This is the second-largest religious-based school system in the world, operating 941 schools from pre-K through university. Last year there were 80,823 students enrolled in the North American Division of the church.

If you would like information about them, call 863-763-0763 or 863-610-1291. Or, just come on by and say "Hi!"



Special to the Okeechobee News

The first school opened in 1928, according to church historian Esther Hair.

THANK YOU!



Thank you for your
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Nearly half of Floridians do not have life insurance

Special to the Okeechobee News

TAMPA — Most people do not like to think about their mortality, but in order to have a more secure financial future for your family, having a plan in place for the inevitable is essential. According to a recent AAA Consumer Pulse™ survey, nearly half (42 percent) of Floridians do not have a life insurance policy.

“Life insurance is a crucial part of financial and insurance planning,” said Michael Fletcher, assistant vice president of life

insurance sales for AAA – The Auto Club Group.

Many people either don't have a policy or not enough coverage, and all it would take is one accident or terminal illness to leave your family in financial peril.”

Many people have preconceived notions about life insurance which may prevent them from obtaining important coverage. Some common misconceptions include:

1. Myth: Life insurance costs too much.

Fact: Many people tend to overestimate the cost of a life insurance policy. Floridians

cite cost as the number one reason they have not purchased a policy. In reality, a life insurance policy can be quite affordable. For instance, a 35-year-old woman in excellent health who has never used nicotine may get \$100,000 of coverage for as little as \$8 per month. That's less than \$1 a day.

2. Myth: You can't have multiple life insurance policies.

Fact: You can have more than one life insurance policy. Someone with coverage through work, or a policy with a shorter term period, might decide to supplement it with additional coverage from another policy that can provide coverage for life. Employer coverage is often not portable. Half (50 percent) of Florida life insurance policyholders have coverage through their employer. The majority (76 percent) of those individuals with employer coverage do not have another life insurance policy and nearly half (48 percent) are concerned about losing their life insurance benefits if they lose their job.

3. Myth: I don't need life insurance; I'm single.

Fact: There are many scenarios that make life insurance a good idea for single people. You may have aging parents who depend on you for their care (or will in the future). You may want to leave funds for a family member, such as a niece or nephew, or even make a financial contribution to an alma mater or a favorite charity. And, some life insurance policies can have value other than a death benefit. Universal life insurance, for example, can grow cash value

over time, and loans can be taken out for emergencies on the value of the policy at a fixed rate (just make sure to pay it back).

4. Myth: I can't get life insurance because I'm over age 65.

Fact: There are many types of policies, such as Whole Life insurance available to individuals over age 65, that can play an important role in the handling of final expenses, which might otherwise burden a surviving spouse or other family members. The sooner you take action to obtain a policy, you will receive more coverage choices and more attractive premiums.

“These are just a few of the common misconceptions some have about life insurance. The best thing you can do is talk with your life insurance agent about the right coverage for you,” said Matt Nasworthy, public affairs director for AAA - The Auto Club Group.

Of those Floridians who have a life insurance policy, nearly half (42 percent) have a policy valued between 1-3 times their annual salary. Selecting the amount of coverage you need will vary greatly from person to person. AAA Life Insurance Company offers planning tools such as the Life Insurance Needs Calculator, to help calculate items to consider when looking for a policy, such as final expenses, debt, and replacement income.

For more information on AAA Life Insurance products, talk to a AAA Life Insurance Specialist at your local AAA branch or visit AAA.com/life.

Brian Mast introduces legislation to lower lake

By Katrina Elsken
Okeechobee News

On Sept. 4, U.S. Rep. Brian Mast, who is seeking re-election in Florida's 18th Congressional District, announced the introduction of new legislation he calls the “Stop Harmful Discharges Act.”

If passed by Congress, the act could change the criteria used by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to release water from Lake Okeechobee.

“The Army Corps is keeping an artificially high level of water on Lake Okeechobee, risking dike failure and putting special interests ahead of the health and human safety of the communities east and west of the lake,” Rep. Mast said. “We will not tolerate mismanagement of Lake Okeechobee that results in toxic discharges destroying our community and putting people's lives at risk.”

Rep. Mast has called for changing the lake level schedule to keep the lake lower during the dry season.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers currently manages the lake according to the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (LORS), with lows of 12.5 to highs of 15.5 feet. Under LORS, the lake is managed for flood and storm risk management, navigation, water supply for salinity control in the estuaries, water supply for regional groundwater, agricultural irrigation, municipalities and industry; fish and wildlife; and recreation.

LORS includes a seasonally adjusted schedule to help guide water management decisions. The three primary bands are as follows:

• High Lake Management Band — This band includes lake levels above 16 ft. in advance of the wet season, or levels above 17.25 ft. during the dry season. In this band, operations are focused on reducing the lake level, freeing up additional capacity for run-

off from future heavy rain events. Maximum water releases typically take place in this band.

• Operations Band — This band consists of five sub-bands that help guide water managers to appropriate decisions that balance the needs of all users, while maintaining a lake level in the corps' preferred range of 12.5 to 15.5 ft. Toward the lower end of this range, the corps relies heavily on input from the South Florida Water Management District to assist with water allocations.

• Water Shortage Management Band — This band includes lake levels below 10.5 ft. in advance of the wet season, or levels below 13 ft., at the start of dry season. In this band, the corps generally defers decisions on all water releases to the South Florida Water Management District.

Lauren Baer, the Democratic candidate for U.S. House in Florida's 18th District, released the following statement in response: “The year that Brian Mast was elected, toxic algae covered 200 square miles of Lake Okeechobee. Today it covers over 650. Mast made countless campaign promises about what he'd do to protect our water, then spent over 19 months in office without drafting any meaningful legislation to follow through. Now Mast is campaigning once again — and just 62 days before the election, he's scrambling to take action. This crisis won't be solved with politically motivated half-measures. We must immediately put hard limits on pollutants entering our water. We must hold big sugar accountable. We must work to authorize and fund the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and restore the flow of water south to the Everglades. We must stop the discharges and repair the dike. And we must treat this crisis, from day one, with the urgency it deserves. Any representative that doesn't, doesn't deserve to be our representative.”

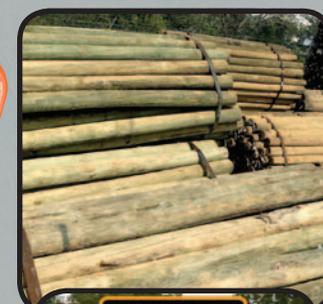
Raulerson Hospital offers Quit Your Way classes

Quit Your Way classes will be held at Raulerson Hospital, 1796 U.S. 441 N. Classes will be held in the North dining room on Aug. 22, Sept. 5, Sept. 12 and Sept. 19. Classes will also be held in the In-service classroom on Aug. 29 and Sept. 26. Classes are from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. For information call 1-877-819-2357.

CHAMBERS Fence Wholesale



2" - 2½" x 6.5'	\$2 ¹⁰
2½" - 3" x 6.5'	\$2 ⁸⁸
3" - 3½" x 6.5'	\$3 ⁹⁹
3½" - 4" x 6.5'	\$4 ⁹⁸
4" - 5" x 6.6'	\$6 ⁸⁵
4" - 5" x 8'	\$7 ⁷⁶
6" - 7" x 8'	\$15 ⁶⁷
6" - 7" x 10'	\$23 ⁰⁰



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OHS Bass Club seniors after receiving their scholarship checks from Florida B.A.S.S. Nation, (From left to right: Glenn Cale, Jorden Reyna, Keith Morgan, Justin Drawdy and David Driggers.

Special to the Okeechobee News

BASS

Continued From Page 1

ly wouldn't if the club didn't exist.

"Some of these kids have never played sports before," explained Mrs. Wojcieszak. "Or they haven't had the opportunity to play sports before. And this is their sport. The high school has supported the club 150 percent. They've been amazing. We just want the community to know that we're out there, and that these kids are representing the community of Okeechobee all across the state, and they're doing a great job."

Mrs. Wojcieszak's husband, Stephen Wojcieszak, captained the boat for the two teens who were awarded anglers of the year at the bass club banquet in 2018, Keith Morgan and Cody Wojcieszak. Seniors Jorden Reyna, Keith Morgan and Justin Drawdy also received scholarship checks from Florida B.A.S.S. Nation at the OHS Bass Club awards banquet.

Mrs. Wojcieszak also stated that the club wouldn't be possible without the support of Garrard's Tackle Shop, Okeechobee Fishing Headquarters, Fast Break, Okeechobee County Sheriff Noel Stephens and the OHS Administration and Athletics departments.

"They've all gone out of their way to sup-

port and help our teams with anything we need," said Mrs. Wojcieszak. "They, along with our captains, play a vital role in the success of our club."

If you'd like to reach out to help support the OHS Bass Club or are in high school and interested in joining or forming your own team you're encouraged to reach out to Kimberly at kwojciezak@aol.com for more information.

NEWS

Continued From Page 1

the websites, and allow others to share website information through their own use of social media.

As the Florida population grows, it is more important than ever for those who live and work around the big lake to stay informed, to work together to protect Lake Okeechobee as a precious natural resource, and to protect our way of life. While the future of Lake Okeechobee is important to all of South Florida, the communities around the lake have a special and personal interest in protecting the Big O. The lake is essential to fishing, tourism and agriculture, the mainstays of the local economy. For some, it provides the water we drink. For others, it is the source of water to irrigate crops. The lake is home to native fish and wildlife and provides critical habitat for endangered species.

Each of the communities around the lake has its own local traditions and history. While there are some good-natured rivalries (particularly among the high school sports teams), the small towns around the lake have much in common. We share a rural lifestyle and a pioneer spirit.

Starting Sept. 12, the communities

around Lake Okeechobee will also share a newspaper. The *Lake Okeechobee News* will combine the circulation of the *Okeechobee News* Wednesday edition, *The Sun* (which serves South Bay, Belle Glade and Pahokee), *The Clewiston News* and the *Glades County Democrat*. This larger around-the-lake publication will focus on issues important to all the Big Lake communities, while still including the local news important to each community.

The newspapers will continue to be newspapers of record for Okeechobee, Palm Beach, Hendry and Glades counties, meeting the Florida Statute requirements for the publication of legal advertising.

In addition to the print publication, we will maintain online web pages for Okeechobee, Clewiston, Glades County and the Glades, along with our social media pages, so that we can continue to provide news updates throughout the week.

Longtime Okeechobee News readers know this is not the first time the newspaper name has changed. The original name of the newspaper, when it was established in 1915, was *The Okeechobee Call*. It's also not the first time other newspapers were merged into the publication.

SCHOOL

Continued From Page 1

"We're not going to store it, we're not going to administer it; all we would do under this policy is provide the location so that primary caregiver could come and administer it to that qualified patient if it is required to do so during school hours," said Mr. Kenworthy.

School board member Dixie Ball asked whether Mr. Kenworthy was aware of any student currently enrolled in the school district who would qualify under the new policy, and the superintendent responded that as of this time no student has approached any school officials with a prescription.

Also at its meeting, the school board voted to approve the Okeechobee County Sheriff's guardian program agreement.

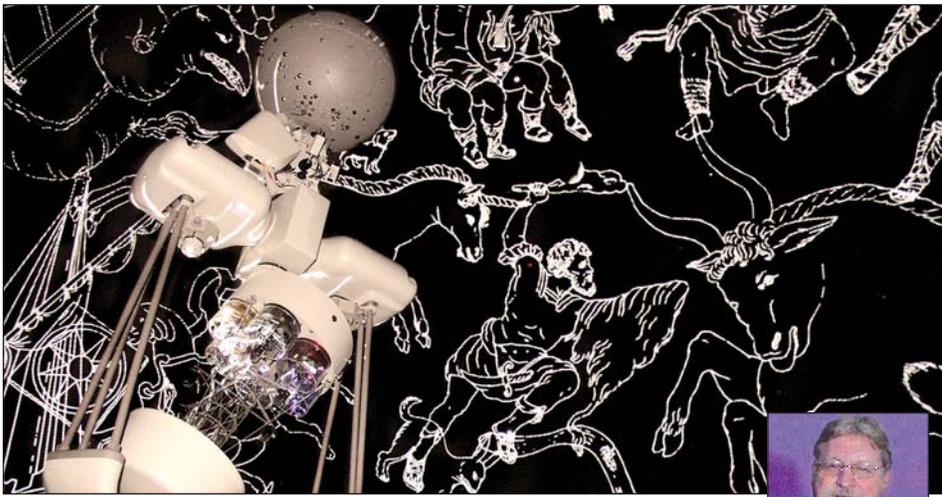
"This agreement for the guardian program needs to be put in place in order to draw down funds and adequately assign roles between the school boards and the sheriff's office," said Mr. Kenworthy. "We appreciate the sheriff for putting this together and allowing the guardian program to operate in our district."

Okeechobee County Sheriff Noel Stephen was present at the school board meeting and reported that the sheriff's office has already received just under 10 applications from school staff in Okeechobee for the guardian program and that they have reviewed those applications and are moving into the interview process now.

Thank You Okeechobee!

Your candidate with the right tools!

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT PAID FOR AND APPROVED BY WILLIAM "BILL" WALLACE FOR COUNTY COURT JUDGE



Special to the Okeechobee News

IRSC Planetarium Director Jon Bell will launch the 2018-19 planetarium season of shows and events at the inaugural "Saturday Afternoon STEAM Talk, A Year Full of Stars," Sept. 15, at 4 p.m. in the Hallstrom Planetarium in the Brinkley Science Center located on the IRSC Main Campus in Fort Pierce.



IRSC planetarium launches 'A Year Full of Stars'

Special to the Okeechobee News

FORT PIERCE — The Hallstrom Planetarium at Indian River State College (IRSC) is ready to launch "A Year Full of Stars" with a season of planetarium shows in the "Starlight Series," continue the popular "KIDS SPACE" series and introduce a unique new series of talks addressing Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) and the humanities.

The community is invited to learn more about all the upcoming shows and events offered by the Hallstrom Planetarium at the inaugural "Saturday afternoon STEAM Talk, A Year Full of Stars" taking place on Saturday, Sept. 15, at 4 p.m. at the Hallstrom Planetarium in the Brinkley Science Center on the IRSC Main Campus in Fort Pierce. IRSC Planetarium Director Jon Bell will preview some of the awesome, upcoming sky events and the new season of planetarium shows. Telescope viewing provided by the Treasure Coast Astronomical Society will be available to guests following the talk — weather permitting.

The upcoming eight-show 2018-19 "Starlight Series" is sure to delight both experienced and novice stargazers with shows such as "Saturn: Jewel of the Heavens" (Oct. 19, 20, 26 & 27 and Nov. 9 & 10), "Star of Wonder" (Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, 7 & 8) — a Hallstrom holiday tradition since 1993 — "Eclipse!" (Jan. 11, 12, 18 & 19) and more.

The new "Saturday afternoon STEAM Talks" introduce a broad range of topics from the moon and stars — and even the connections between mythology and some of today's most celebrated "superheroes." Free and open to the public, these 45-minute presentations will take place at 4 p.m. at the planetarium on select Saturdays.

Discussing the new series of STEAM talks, Hallstrom Planetarium Director Jon Bell shares, "The talks will be a way to facilitate discussions of the mythical roots of some of today's superhero stories, the actual facts behind the development of artificial

intelligence, some of our earliest attempts to provide painless surgery to those in need, and discuss the actual possibility of building a colony on the moon and people traveling outward toward the stars." Talking about the Sept. 15 "A Year Full of Stars" STEAM talk, Bell adds, "We will share some great conversations about science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics, learn about some stars and constellations and view the heavens from the comfort of an armchair."

Starting Oct. 20 and continuing through the season, the planetarium's popular "KID SPACE" public sky shows, held on select Saturdays at 11 a.m., will introduce young astronomers to the skies. Children can take a scientific voyage of discovery where they learn about stars and constellations, Earth, the moon and other planets, and how outer space is being explored. All adults must be accompanied by at least one child ages 4 to 12.

"Starlight Series" planetarium shows, "Saturday Afternoon STEAM Talks" and "KID SPACE" are presented in the IRSC Hallstrom Planetarium. The planetarium features a 360-degree immersive digital Omni-Star projection system and a state-of-the-art Spitz automated planetarium projector used to re-create the sky, sun, moon and planets among the stars on the 40-foot, domed ceiling during planetarium shows. Visit www.irsc.edu for a complete schedule.

Most planetarium shows are just \$5, and tickets can be purchased online at www.irsc.edu or at the box office located in the McAlpin Fine Arts Center lobby on the IRSC Main Campus at 3209 Virginia Ave. in Fort Pierce, Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., or by phone. Call the McAlpin Fine Arts Center Box Office at 800-220-9915 to reserve seats.

Planetarium shows are recommended for adults and children over the age of 10. The air temperature is maintained at 72 degrees. Guests may wish to bring a sweater or light jacket.

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Full Time

Employment -
Full Time



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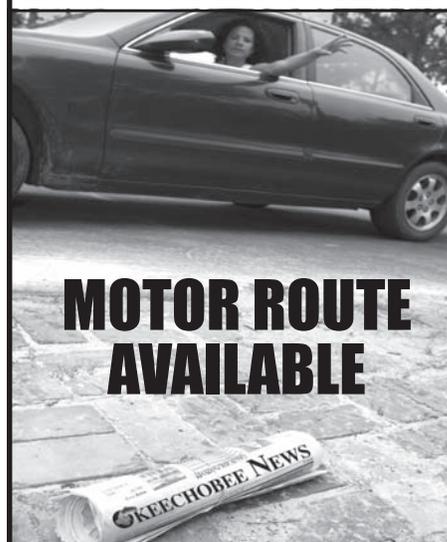
X- Ray Tech & Medical Assistant/ CNA - Please fax resume to 863-467-6833 or complete application at 111 NE 19th Drive, Okeechobee, FL 34972

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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.

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Public Notices

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA JUVENILE DIVISION CASE NO.: 472016DP000112

IN THE INTEREST OF: **K. R. DOB: 3/7/2005 K. R. DOB 3/27/2007**

Minor Children
TO: Laura Molina a.k.a. Laura Stevenson Mother, address unknown

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT A PETITION UNDER OATH HAS BEEN FILED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN THE ABOVE STYLED COURT FOR THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS RELATIVE TO THE ABOVE NAMED CHILDREN, **K.R.** WHO WAS BORN IN HIGHLANDS COUNTY, STATE OF FLORIDA, ON THE 7TH DAY OF MARCH 2005 AND **K.R.** WHO WAS BORN IN PINELLAS COUNTY, STATE OF FLORIDA, ON THE 27TH DAY OF MARCH 2007. YOU ARE COMMANDED TO BE AND APPEAR BEFORE THE CIRCUIT COURT IN THE ABOVE-STYLED COURT LOCATED AT 312 NW 3RD STREET, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972 ON **OCTOBER 22, 2018 AT 1:15 P.M.** FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS ADVISORY HEARING. YOU MUST APPEAR ON THE DATE AND AT THE TIME SPECIFIED. FAILURE TO PERSONALLY APPEAR AT THE ADVISORY HEARING CONSTITUTES CONSENT TO THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THE CHILD. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR ON THE DATE AND TIME SPECIFIED, YOU MAY LOSE ALL LEGAL RIGHTS AS A PARENT TO THE CHILD NAMED IN THE PETITION ATTACHED TO THIS NOTICE. BE ADVISED THAT YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO HAVE AN ATTORNEY REPRESENT YOU IN THIS MATTER. IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD AN ATTORNEY, ONE MAY BE APPOINTED FOR YOU.

WITNESS MY HAND AS THE CLERK OF SAID COURT AND THE SEAL THEREOF, THIS 29th DAY OF AUGUST, 2018.

SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK
KIM SARRCOS, DEPUTY CLERK
284897 ON 9/9,16,23,30/2018

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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA JUVENILE DIVISION CASE NO.: 472016DP000112

IN THE INTEREST OF: **K. R. DOB: 3/7/2005 K. R. DOB 3/27/2007**

Minor Children
TO: Mark Rix Father, address unknown

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SHARON ROBERTSON, CLERK
KIM SARRCOS, DEPUTY CLERK
284896 ON 9/9,16,23,30/2018

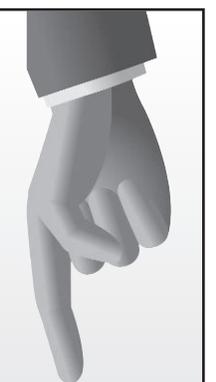
Public Notice

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

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Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- See 44-Across
 - Bremen or Hamburg, locally
 - Fast-food order
 - Joie de vivre
 - Circus Maximus attire
 - Pizza chain started in Chicago, informally
 - Rich and Chris in a capital?
 - Pond denizen
 - Stumped
 - Fragrant hybrid
 - Billy and Minnie on a road?
 - Pub order
 - Cause harm
 - Capt.'s direction
 - Family member
 - "__ Mir Bist Du Schoen": Andrews Sisters hit
 - Come out
 - i follower
 - Vida and John in a ballpark?
 - i follower
 - Nicks on albums
 - 1980s-'90s gaming console
 - With 1-Across, woodcutter who stole from thieves
 - River island
 - "I gotta run!"
 - Animal in the Chinese zodiac
 - Karen and Adam on a hill?
 - Eellike fish
 - Brand with classic "beep beep" commercials
 - Forte
 - Eddie and Arsenio in a concert venue?
 - Scams
 - __ firma
 - Exam type
 - Some honored Brits: Abbr.
 - Aerosol targets
 - Europe's highest volcano
- DOWN**
- Composer Bartók
 - Settled down
 - Cricket equipment
 - Starting stakes
 - Jeanne d'Arc, e.g.: Abbr.
 - Craggy crest
 - Earlier
 - Three-syllable foot
 - Expressed disdain for
 - Often photogenic event
 - A round of 73, usually
 - Use a divining rod
 - Fall flower
 - Acclaim
 - "You __ Destiny"
 - To the manor born
 - Dijon deity
 - Property recipient, in law
 - Nile threats
 - Hot stuff?
 - Affection
 - Campus breeze
 - Golden calf maker, in Exodus
 - "Peachy-keen!"
 - Second-deepest U.S. lake
 - Trading center
 - Feud faction
 - Clay crock
 - Good bud
 - Guess wrong
 - Dorm deputies: Abbr.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

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By Mel Rosen
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Ranch Style home on 5.66 Acres



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NEW LISTING
3001-H: TREASURE ISLAND - LAKE ACCESS
 Split plan 4 bd, 2 ba. 2,840 Total SF/1,564 under air, living room and family room, screened porch, carport, concrete seawall, large driveway, 2 septic tanks and city water. **\$179,000** MLS # 212993



NEW LISTING
5048-H: BASSWOOD Split plan 3BD/2BA, 1,492 Total SF/1,392 under air, spacious kitchen with lots of cabinets & counter space, tile/wood flooring, bathroom with shower/tub, utility room, concrete driveway and more to offer. **\$139,000** MLS # 213001

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OAK LAKE ESTATES~ POOL HOME



Cyprus two-story home. 3 Bd/ 2Ba. Circle drive and Florida foliage greet you as you arrive at this One owner Beautifully maintained home. 1622 Sf under air- 2409 TLA. 2 story great room w/cedar wall and Newer Oak cabinets, granite counters, breakfast bar, walk in pantry. Ceramic tile and solid wood bamboo flooring. Fresh paint. Balcony in Master suite, seamless shower, 24' long (3) closets plus walk-in closet. 14x28 gunite pool, 14x24 Screened lanai. Tankless HWH. Lennox A/C. Half Acre. PERFECTION!
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3/2 Fully furnished with everything including dishes & linens. Large island kitchen with breakfast area. Home has carpet & tile. Split bedrooms and large master bath with walk-in closet. Inside laundry room. Screened porch. This one is a must see MLS# 212665 **\$95,000**
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TONS OF WATERFRONT with 21 spaces, 17 boat slips, boat ramp, bait shop, and bar which could easily be turned into a clubhouse. One Mobile Home and 15 RVs are owned by the park which gives immediate return investment. New electric service throughout the park. It is located right on the Rim Canal only 10 minutes from Taylor Creek Locks. Call today for more information. **Contact Katie McFarland (863) 261-8338**



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CATTLEMEN'S RV PARK

PRISTINE- TURN-KEY operation with no deferred maintenance. High stable occupancy. Located directly on the rim canal of Lake Okeechobee seven minutes to open water on Lake O! 24 rentable RV spaces with 4 apartment units and a nice 3 bedroom / 1 bath mobile home. All tenants pay their own electric on separate meters. Landlord pays for water and garbage collection. (16) units are on annual leases at an average of \$3600.00 annual rent. (8) units are on 4 month minimum leases Apartment units are 1/1 and 1/1.5 along with the 3/1 mobile home all rent for \$800.00 per month. Current Gross Revenue at \$113,600.00.

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\$495,000



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