Semis mean danger on Berman Road

Semis illegally pass stopped school buses, says bus driver

By Katrina Elsken
Okeechobee News

Berman Road residents appeared before the Okeechobee County commissioners at their Feb. 6 meeting to ask for help from the dangers posed by the semi truck traffic that speeds up and down their rural residential road.

Steve McKinley said after he retired he noticed that daytime traffic on Berman Road is terrible. He said there have been a total of seven accidents in which vehicles wound up on his property. One of those was a fatality.

He said he is tired of picking up recap tires and trash on the county right of way in front of his home. He added that he tried to keep that area mowed, but due to all of the trash he finally gave up.

“I have always wondered why the jail inmates don’t police the road,” Mr. McKinley said.

“I understand the people who are hauling this trash from down south are trying to make two loads a day,” he continued. But the speeding trucks are endangering the people who live on that road, he added.

He said he is especially concerned when he hears the screeching of tires during the times the school buses are running.

School bus driver Melissa Peaden, one of two drivers with routes that include Berman Road, said they had to completely change the school bus routes due to the dangers posed by the speeding semis.

“The semis do not abide by the law,” she said. “They go around us when the kids are crossing the road. They pass us when they are not supposed to.”

She said the drivers are aware that it takes a semi a long time to stop and they start signaling with that in mind.

“If they are coming toward the dump, we know they weigh at least 80,000 pounds. We give them plenty of warning so they can stop,”

2018 Okeechobee Music Festival plans on track

By Katrina Elsken
Okeechobee News

As the dates near for the third annual Okeechobee Music & Arts Festival, county officials appear confident that plans are on track for another successful event.

Okeechobee County Planning Director Bill Royce said the county has received all of the plans for the March 1-4 camping festival at Sunshine Grove (aka Sundance Trails), an 800-acre property in northeastern Okeechobee County off Northeast 120th Street.

“We trying to increase our efficiency, be better community partners,” said Kevin Collinsworth, Soundslinger CEO.

He said a majority of the traffic for the festival will come in on Thursday and Friday as campers arrive for the four-day festival. Most will leave on Sunday night or Monday morning.

The three main stages will be near the lodge, as they were in previous years. However, this year the angle of the stages will be changed slightly to the north/northeast.

Mr. Collinsworth said they will be using new NoizCalc software to manage the sound. The software manufacturer is sending representatives from Germany to the festival. Additional

See MUSIC — Page 5
Museum to host ‘Doc Anna: Swamp Doctor of Florida’

Special to the Okeechobee News

CLEWISTON — “If you’ve never heard the roar of a bull alligator and some night bird answer, you haven’t lived.” So said Dr. Anna Darrow (1876-1959) who, in 1909, became only the second woman doctor licensed in Florida. She often braved swamp-land, alligators, venomous snakes, and some of the most dangerous outlaw gangs this state has ever seen, in order to heal the sick, nurse the wounded and deliver babies.

Chautauqua Scholar, Carrie Sue Ayvar, introduces audiences to this fearless woman, mother, doctor, pharmacist, artist and even veterinarian when needed in a program through the Florida Humanities Council.

The Clewiston Museum will host Ms. Ayvar, on Thursday, Feb. 15, from 7 to 8:30 pm. Her program is titled, “Doc Anna: Swamp Doctor of Florida.” Carrie Ayvar will play and act the role of Doc Anna, a medical doctor from the north, who moved south with her husband and practiced medicine on the wilderness that surrounded Lake Okeechobee in the early 19th century.

The noted Glades Historian, Lawrence E. Will, describes Doctor Anna Darrow in one of his books on the Glades. He noted that Doc Anna was a caring person that traveled wherever people were sick. Her calls could be at some remote fishing camp, cow camp or to a distant settlement.

Doc Anna generally traveled alone using horse and buggy or her Model T. Due to circumstances, she was sometimes forced to travel by motor boat, push pole canoe or by a yoke of oxen pulling a cart. She never refused a call. Doc Anna was also a great artist. Lawrence Will was so impressed with her art that he used one of her paintings on the cover of his well-read book, “A Cracker History of Lake Okeechobee.”

The Feb. 15 program is made possible by the Florida Humanities Council that graciously provided the Clewiston Museum and LaBelle Heritage Museum with a mini-grant. The presentation is free, so bring the family or a friend and enjoy an evening of entertainment at the Clewiston Museum. Please contact the Clewiston Museum at 863-983-2870 or email us at clewistonmuseum@embarqmail.com, if you have questions concerning this historical program.

Aquatic plant meeting set for Feb. 8

The public is invited to a meeting with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to discuss various management programs for aquatic plants, fish and wildlife on Lake Okeechobee on Feb. 8. The meeting will take place from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the South Florida Water Management District Service Center, 3800 N.W. 16th Blvd., Suite A, Okeechobee, FL 34972.

FWC habitat, fisheries and wildlife biologists will provide brief updates on management activities on Lake Okeechobee, and the public will have the opportunity to offer comments following the presentations.

2018-2019 Pre-K registration open for county schools

Will your child be four on or before Sept. 1? If so, your child is eligible to attend Pre-K at South Elementary School and the Okeechobee Achievement Academy (OAA). Registration began Feb. 1. Registration Flyers are available at all elementary schools, Okeechobee Achievement Academy and the Okeechobee County School Board office. For information, call 863-462-5000 ext. 235.

Okeechobee Forecast

Extended Forecast

Thursday: A mix of clouds and sun in the morning followed by cloudy skies during the afternoon. Slight chance of a rain shower. High 82F. Winds ENE at 5 to 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy. Low 63F. Winds NE at 5 to 10 mph.

Friday: Mostly cloudy skies. A stray shower or thunderstorm is possible. High 83F. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph.

Friday Night: A few clouds from time to time. Low 64F. Winds NE at 5 to 10 mph.

Chamber of Commerce News

• The Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting of The Purple Orchid, specializing in therapeutic bodywork including Massage Therapy with stretching, myofascial release and essential oils to promote relaxation, will be held Tuesday, Feb. 13, at noon. The Purple Orchid is located at 609 S.W. Park St. Be sure to stop by and meet owner Marci Lookabill and her amazing staff to celebrate and maybe be you a relaxing day!

• The next Concealed Weapon Permit class, is taught by one of the experienced local officers from the Okeechobee Sheriff’s department. This class will be conducted Thursday, Feb. 15, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the chamber. Your range qualification will take place on Saturday, Feb. 17. You will be in attendance to meet on Saturday during the Thursday evening class and, after you’ve qualified, you’ll be given your Firearm Certificate of completion. You may use your own weapon or you may use the weapon we provide you during qualification. The cost of the class is $40 which must be paid in advance. You may sign up by clicking on “register now” on our okeechobeebusiness.com site. You may pay for the class online with a credit card or stop by the chamber and pay for the class with a check or cash.

Individuals who sign up and do not pay in advance will not be guaranteed a seat in the class.

• The chamber is continuing to take applications for the 2018 Leadership Okeechobee Class. The purpose of the program is to cultivate and prepare future/potential leaders through education, exposure to the community and interaction between class members. Enrollees will meet the third Wednesday of each month and will visit various businesses, local government representatives, farms, dairies, to gain a better knowledge of behind the scene workings of each. You will participate in other activities to better understand the forces which impact the community as a whole. It is a learning experience that is like none other. One fee of $425 is required to cover all meals, transportation and other program expenses. If you’re looking for more information, the chamber will be happy to help you and give you the name of some that have completed the program recently. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the chamber at 863-467-6246. Classes will begin soon.

IRSC has Physical Therapy classes

Special to the Okeechobee News

Physical Therapy is a great career choice for a compassionate and caring person who enjoys physical activity and helping others. The two-year Associate in Science Physical Therapist Assistant program (PTA) at IRSC prepares students for a rewarding career in an in-demand field with a solid, evidence-based education.

Assistant Professor Bernice Cuscura, M.S., P.T. joins the Health Science team as Director of the Physical Therapy Assistant program. Cuscura is a licensed Physical Therapist with 19 years of experience as a dedicated physical therapy clinician including hospitals, home care and outpatient orthopedics.

Prior to starting at IRSC, Cuscura taught 15 years as an adjunct lecturer and has been recognized for excellence in teaching and her dedication to student success.

Applications for the Fall 2018 Physical Therapist Assistant program are now being accepted. The application deadline is June 25. Students may register for pre-requisite courses during Spring and Summer semesters.
Learn about the honors program at IRSC

Special to the Okeechobee News

High school and college students with strong academic performance are invited to attend an honors program information session on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 5:30 p.m. in the Kight Center for Emerging Technologies at the IRSC Main Campus.

The IRSC Honors Program is designed for students committed to high academic achievement, engaging students majoring in a diverse range of subjects. Honors students benefit from enriched learning opportunities and increased scholarship options.

Students receive an honors designation on their transcript for all completed honors courses, a real advantage when applying for university-level studies or when moving into an IRSC baccalaureate program. Honors students are also strong candidates for IRSC Foundation scholarships, exclusively available for honors students for use at IRSC and when transferring to other institutions.

Admission to the honors program requires one of the following: a cumulative GPA of 3.3 for a minimum of 12 college credits, a composite ACT score of 26, a composite verbal and math SAT score of 1100, or a P.E.R.T. score of 350 or higher.

The instructors for the honors program are chosen from among a select group of teachers and scholars on the IRSC faculty. Every member of the honors faculty is committed to the principle of shared inquiry, which seeks to stimulate intellectual interaction among faculty and students.

“Students can learn firsthand how the honors program at IRSC can help their education plans for the future at this special information session,” shares Dr. Sarah Maloney, IRSC English professor.

The Kight Center for Emerging Technologies is located on the IRSC Main Campus at 3209 Virginia Ave. in Fort Pierce. For more information, visit the honors program web page at www.irsc.edu, email info@irsc.edu or call 1-866-792-4772.

DEP celebrates Prescribed Fire Awareness Week

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is celebrating Prescribed Fire Awareness Week this week to recognize the important role fire plays in protecting Florida’s natural communities. Many of Florida’s ecosystems require fire at regular intervals to maintain diversity. Prescribed fire is also a safe way to ensure ecosystem health while reducing wildfire risk.

“The department is committed to protecting, restoring and maintaining Florida’s prized properties,” said DEP Secretary Noah Valenstein. “Land-management tools, such as prescribed fire, are vital to the health of the unique natural areas found within Florida’s state parks, aquatic preserves and national estuarine research reserves.

Prescribed burning, which is guided by detailed plans and must be conducted by specially trained staff, is an important land-management activity that benefits many of the nearly 800,000 acres entrusted to the Florida State Park system. In fiscal year 2016-17, the state of Florida invested more than $12.8 million for resource management in state parks and aquatic preserves, helping the Florida Park Service to set lofty goals for prescribed fire. This fiscal year, the Florida Park Service plans to apply prescribed fire to 86,167 acres across Florida – more than any previous year.

DEP’s Florida Coastal Office also utilizes prescribed burns as a land-management tool for Florida’s Aquatic Preserves and National Estuarine Research Reserves. Prescribed burns are used to reduce fuel loads, manage wildlife habitat, increase ecosystem diversity and assist in invasive plant control within these natural areas. Conducted with the Florida Forest Service, partnering land managers and local fire departments, this coordination ensures burns are conducted safely and efficiently. Prescribed fires are conducted only by highly trained and professional staff and only when weather conditions are suitable. To learn more about the role of prescribed fire, visit www.goodfires.org.

Love is a Chocolate thing

Publix.
Area churches host special events and services

Brian Free and Assurance will perform at Oakview Baptist Church, 677 S.W. 32nd St., on Friday Feb. 9 at 6:30 p.m.

On Friday, Feb. 9, the youth of Believers Fellowship Church will host their seventh annual “Love Banquet” at the church, 300 S.W. Sixth Ave. Tickets are $10 per person and $5 for children. There will be door prizes, music and entertainment. For more information call 863-634-4327.

Mark Trammell Quartet will perform at First Baptist Church of Okeechobee, 401 S.W. Fourth St., on Saturday, Feb. 10, at 6:30 p.m.

There will be adult Bible study on Sunday, Feb. 11, through March 18, at First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St. Jeff and Sheri Easter will perform at First Baptist Church of Okeechobee, 401 S.W. Fourth St., on Sunday, Feb. 11, at 6 p.m.

Buckhead Ridge Baptist Church will host a revival from Feb. 11 to Feb. 14. Services are 11 a.m. on Sunday and 7 p.m. for each evening service. Everyone is welcome to the fish fry at 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 12. Enjoy bluegrass gospel music until services end at 7 p.m. Brother John Holder will bring the message and lead the choir. Come meet Pastor Arlen Cook to receive a blessing and enjoy our fellowship.

First United Methodist Church, 401 S.W. Sixth Ave., will host a blessing and entertainment. For more information call Pastor Donaney at 863-763-3681.

Pastor Douglas T. Ryan, Treasure Island Baptist Church, at 4209 Hwy. 441 S.E., comes with an exciting message of hope, and a vision to reach out to all people in Okeechobee and the surrounding area. Douglas Ryan graduated from Hobe Sound Bible College. He is looking for his way in the community, and he boldly encourages people everywhere to start a new exciting life with Jesus Christ as their guide. We welcome all to our family of friendly people who just seek to show you an outstanding experience of God’s love. Our service on Sunday starts at 10:30 a.m. with Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. We also invite all to our Wednesday or Sunday evening gathering at 6:30 p.m.

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

Northside Baptist Church, 51 N.W. 98th St., will host Grief Share, a directed support group meeting every Thursday afternoon from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Anyone is welcome to attend. For information, call 863-763-3584 or 863-447-3373.

Victory Baptist Church, 500 S.W. 9th St., would like to invite the public to attend any or all of their services each Sunday. Sunday school is at 10 a.m. for all ages. Morning worship service is at 10:45 a.m. and includes old fashioned preaching and singing. The youth band consists of the piano, violins, mandolin and guitar, as well as various singing groups. Sunday evening service is at 7 p.m. Wednesday evening prayer and Bible study and kids bible club is at 7 p.m. The King James Bible is used. For information, please call 863-763-0669. Check out the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/victorybaptistokee.

Public Forum/Speak Out

Speak Out comments can be shared in several ways. Comments on local issues are welcome on the Okeechobee News Facebook page. You can also leave your opinions in the comment box found under each story at okeechobeenews.net. We also accept comments via email to okeenews@newszap.com or via U.S. Mail at the Okeechobee address below. Thanks for participating!

Free fair

• Why do they call it a free fair? It’s $20 to ride the rides.

• The American Legion Free Fair started many, many years ago. It was called a ‘free’ fair because there is no admission price to enter the fairgrounds. Most county and state fairs have an admission price in addition to the ride tickets. When it started, the Legion Fair had a vendor area inside the building with activities every night of the fair. Now it’s just mostly rides and some entertainment. But the name stuck.

Everglades

• So the whole problem with Florida Bay stems from the Tamiami Trail blocking water flow to Florida Bay, an estuary dying from lack of fresh water.

• Water can’t get to Florida Bay as long as the road blocks it. Another problem is that U.S. Fish and Wildlife won’t let the state flood the habitat of the Cape Sable Sea Sparrow during its nesting season.

Scams

• It is sad and disgusting that thieves prey on the elderly with these scams.

Sign up for conservation program

By Cora Fox

Center for Rural Affairs

The 2018 sign-up deadline for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is quickly approaching.

The nation’s largest working lands conservation program, CSP, rewards farmers for their conservation efforts and helps them implement additional conservation measures on their land. With contract payments starting at $1,500, CSP has helped thousands of farmers across the United States plant cover crops, implement buffer strips, develop wildlife habitat, and more.

Interested farmers and ranchers must submit their applications by March 2 to be considered for this year’s sign-up. To apply, producers should stop by their local Natural Resources Conservation Service office and submit the initial application materials.

Last year, we interviewed farmers who have used the program. We heard CSP is a great way to try conservation methods.

“One farmer said, “CSP enhancement activities contribute toward the goals of resource conservation.” He said it reduced nutrient loss and improved water quality. Another uses CSP to maximize conservation practices. He said CSP is most beneficial “for accomplishing overall maintenance and improvements of our land.”

For more information, or if you would like to share your story, contact Cora Fox at 402-687-2100 ext. 1012 or cora@cfra.org, or visit our website at cfra.org.
BERMAN

Continued From Page 1

Ms. Peaeden said.

“Yesterday, I was making my stop,” she contin-
ued. “Semi number 1 was coming around. He did not
stop, and this is in the dark as this is 6:30 in the
morning. I had my interior lights on and I threw my
arms up to say, ‘What do you think you are doing?’

“He ended up stopping beside my bus,” she
finished. However, “semi number two almost rear-
ended that semi and ended up in the ditch,” she
said.

“It took more than an hour to get his truck out,”
she added.

In addition, she saw a third semi approaching
the area, and it was not slowing down.

“I see a semi behind me that is not slowing down,”
she said. “I had to punch it.”

The sudden bus acceleration to avoid being rear-
ended by the oncoming semi threw students back
in their seat, she explained.

“We don't have cops out there,” she said. “The
drive of the road is anywhere from 6 inches to a
straight drop-off. That is why they end up wreck-
ing,” Ms. Peaeden said.

It is getting ridiculous. We need it patrolled, or
witnessed,” she said.

Polly Walker said the semis do not even slow
down when passing children at the bus stops. She
did not her family members were so concerned about
the danger at the school bus stops, they started
homeschooling.

“Semi number two almost rear-ended that semi and
ended up in the ditch,” she said. “The wrecks are be-
coming awful.”

“Since Berman is designated as an agricultural
residential road, is there any way we can make it lo-
ty such as law enforcement, fire and EMT services.

Last year, local nonprofit organizations raised
over $100,000 in donations at the event.

“We're hoping to break that this year,” Mr. Col-
linsworth said.

The festival promotes recycling. Last year the
Warrior Center came out after the festival and col-
lected a “tremendous amount” of camping gear
that they were able to use for homeless veterans.

Mr. Collinsworth said they will continue that tradi-
tional feature, with spots designated for donation of
unwanted items.

A big change this year — all of the remote box
office operations will be at the Okeechobee Agri-
Civic Center.

Mr. Collinsworth said they have been working on
neighbor and community relations. They have
hosted regular neighborhood barbecues to update
and inform the neighbors. This year they will add
more signage, gates, fencing, lights and security to
keep festival fans off the adjoining private property.

Working with the neighbors, they have identified
problem areas where festival fans trespassed over
private property to try to gain access to the site and
worked on ways to prevent that problem from re-
curring.

They have established a hot line which will be
active during the festival.

The hot line (866-834-6870) will be answered by
a live operator during the festival who will route the
call depending on what it is.

Sheriff Noel Stephen said he is happy with the
plan.

“Things are a little bit different each year,” he
said. “I think we are entering into this OMF 18 at a
good spot.

“I feel confident we will work together and work
out any issues as they happen.”

Community Events

Children’s Ranch hosts daily yard sale

Real Life Children’s Ranch, 7777 U.S. 441 S.E., will host a daily yard sale
through Friday, Feb. 9, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come out for great bargains.

American Legion to host Friday dinner

On Friday, Feb. 9, 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 try baskets, for $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.

Okeechobee DAR chapter to meet Feb. 10

The Okeechobee Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will
have their regular monthly meeting on Saturday, Feb. 10, in the Fellow-
ship Hall of the Okeechobee First Baptist Church at 401 S.W. Fourth Street
in Okeechobee. The doors will open at 9:30 a.m. for light refreshments and
fellowship with the meeting beginning at 10 a.m. This will be a joint meet-
ing with the Saint Lucie Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

The meeting will include welcoming of new Okeechobee members into
the Saint Lucie Chapter of the SAR, honoring some of the Okeechobee First
Responders, and a program about the first Okeechobee house, the Raulerson
house, by DAR member Magi Cable. The public is invited.

Catholic church hosts bingo on Monday

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

Okeechobee Retired Educators to meet

The Okeechobee Retired Educators will hold the monthly meeting on Monday,
Feb. 12, at 11 a.m. in the meeting room of Beef O’Brady’s, 608 S.
Parrott Ave. Any retired educator is invited to attend.

American Legion Post to hold 5-card bingo

American Legion Post #64, 501 S.E. Second St., will host 5-card bingo on
Monday, Feb. 12, from 1 to 3 p.m. with lunch served at 12:30 p.m. For
information, call 863-763-5309.

Hospital hosts Lunch & Learn: ‘When Hearts Fail’

Join Raulerson Hospital, 1796 U.S. 441, for a Lunch & Learn called “When
Hearts Fail: Understanding Congestive Heart Failure” featuring cardiologist,
Dr. Oral Waldco on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 11:45 a.m. at IRSC. RSVP to 863-
763-9228 or at RaulersonHospital.com (classes & events).

Sweetheart Date Night to benefit Martha’s House

Jambiscuits presents a Sweetheart’s Date Night on Friday, Feb. 16, at
Freedom Ranch, 11655 U.S. 441 S.E. at 7 p.m. It will be a night of dancing
and BBQ dinner with all proceeds going to Martha’s House. Tickets are $50
per couple and can be purchased at Elf’s Western Wear, 907 N.W. Park St.,
or Okeechobee Livestock Market, 1055 U.S. 98. For information, call 863-
763-2893.

American Legion hosts Valentine’s Day dinner

American Legion Post #64, 501 S.E. Second St., will host Jam Night with
multiple artists on Saturday, Feb. 17, and a Valentine Italian dinner and
dance from 6 to 10 p.m. For information, 863-763-5309.

Okeechobee County Fair seeks contestants

The Okeechobee County Fair Association is seeking adult and youth con-
test participants for the upcoming fair March 13-18, 2018. The contests
consist of food judging, leatherwork, painting, drawing, photography,
horticulture, woodworking and more. There will also be food competitions
such as home baking and canned goods, as well as a vegetable competi-
tion featuring garden vegetable, fruit and vegetable and largest vegetable
categories. New for this year will be a Painted Rocks Division. Individual
youths may enter the educational poster contest and 4-H Clubs or FFA
Chapters may enter the educational display contest. You may download
the entry forms and rules at the Okeechobee County Fair Web site, www.
okeechobeecountyfair.com. Or pick up copies of the 2018 Premium Book at
the Okeechobee County Extension Office at 458 U.S. 98 North. The deadline
for entries is March 2, 2018. If you have questions, please contact Diane
Spann at 863-634-3327.

MUSIC

Continued From Page 1

speakers will provide better coverage for the festival
grounds with less bleed.

He said they will monitor sound levels near the
stage, at various points on the festival grounds and
at neighboring homes.

The main stage concerts will end a little earlier
this year. The late night Area-51 stage will not be
open on Sunday night.

Festival visitors will see more art this year, as
the “found art” scattered around the property
continues to expand with each festival.

Mr. Collinsworth said most festival goers last year
were age 21-25, but there was a range with some
families bringing young children, and folks in their
70s also in attendance.

The music fest attracts a lot of visitors from Mi-
ami, Orlando and the Tampa Bay area and college
kids on spring break, as well as tourists from all over
the world. Last year, there were visitors from every
continent except Antarctica.

Oke-Love is also becoming a tradition, said Mr.
Collinsworth. Last year there were several weddings
at the festival, and they already have requests to
hold weddings at this year’s music fest.

The festival benefits the community with in-
creased sales to local businesses — especially on
Thursday when the fans stop in town to stock up on
food, beverages and camping supplies. Many car-
pool from other states and don't have the room in
the vehicle to bring supplies for the weekend with
them.

The county also receives $3 for every ticket sold.
The festival pays for the actual expenses to the coun-
try such as law enforcement, fire and EMT services.

Last year, local nonprofit organizations raised
over $100,000 in donations at the event.

“We’re hoping to break that this year,” Mr. Col-
linsworth said.

The festival promotes recycling. Last year the
Warrior Center came out after the festival and col-
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Monday, Feb. 12, from 1 to 3 p.m. with lunch served at 12:30 p.m. For
information, call 863-763-5309.
Omie Lean Jenkins, 87
OKEECHOBEE — Omie Lean Jenkins died Jan. 31, 2018. She was born Aug. 11, 1930 in Eastman, Ga. to the late, Coley and Casanelle Hodge. A resident of Okeechobee for 60 years having come from Georgia, she was a member of First Baptist Church of Deans Court.

Mrs. Jenkins was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Herbert Jenkins; and children, Herbert Lee Jenkins, Johnny Jenkins, and Betsy Jenkins.

She is survived by her children, Lou’Ella Murphy (Johnny), Kissimme, William Jenkins (Deingles), Pasadena, Calif., Patricia Jenkins, Brandon, Dorothy Rieck (Paul), Okeechobee, Moses Jenkins (Alberta), Pooler, Ga., Hattie Jenkins, Okeechobee, Joe Jenkins, Okeechobee, and Willie Jenkins, Okeechobee; and a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be Friday, Feb. 9, 2018 from 10 a.m. until services at 11 a.m. at First Missionary Baptist Church of Deans Court. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery.


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

Lois Christine Woods, 68
OKEECHOBEE — Lois Christine Woods died Feb. 3, 2018. She was born March 31, 1949 in Northglenn, Colo. to the late Thomas and Lois (Bend) Maund. A resident of Okeechobee since 1982, she was of the Episcopalian faith. She was a homemaker and devoted wife and mother.

Mrs. Woods was preceded in death by her husband, James Darrell Woods.

She is survived by her children, Darrell Woods (Deanna), Jenny Hickox (Franklin), and Joshua Woods, all of Okeechobee; three grandchildren, Hannah and Emma Hickox, of Okeechobee, and Jared Woods, of Panama City Beach; and nieces, Ashley and Amy.

Services will be held at a later date in Tallahassee.


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

Arthur Lee Durden, 74
FT. PIERCE — Arthur Lee Durden died Feb. 5, 2018. He was born Oct. 17, 1943 in Winter Beach, Florida to Oscar and Melva (Kemp) Durden. He proudly served our country in the United States Army and received the Expeditionary Medal for performing for the USA. A musician, he had been playing the guitar and singing since his time in the service. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, and airboating.

Mr. Durden was preceded in death by his brother, Darnell.

He is survived by his children, Darnell, Buddy, Jimmy, Dean, Corbitt, Danita, and Deanna; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; sisters, Betty, Darlene, Rita, and Patricia; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be 3 p.m., Friday, Feb. 9, 2018 at Yates Funeral Home, 1101 S US HWY 1, Ft. Pierce, FL 34950.


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

Sophie Sasin Nardelli, 96
OKEECHOBEE — Sophie Sasin Nardelli passed away on Feb. 1, 2018 in Palm Beach Gardens.

She is survived by her children, Leonore (James) Miller, Tony (Linda) Nardelli; grandchildren, Jim (Angie) Miller, Ill, Ragen (Torrey) Miller, David (Kristy) Nardelli, Tony (Shannon) Nardelli, Eddie Nardelli, Elizabeth Miller; and six great-grandchildren, Tori, Makayla, Nick, Tony, Brock and Frankie.

She was predeceased by her husband, Antonio Nardelli, Sr.; her son, Victor Roy Nardelli; daughter Frances Karle.

A Funeral Service was held on Feb. 5, 2018 followed by interment at Riverside Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation in Sophie’s name to the children or pet charity of your choice. For online condolences visit www.taylorandmodeen.com.

Vicki Hill Staton, 64
OKEECHOBEE — Vicki Charlene Staton died Feb. 5, 2018. She was born March 26, 1953 to Charles Edward and Maudie Evelyn (Parker) Hill. A resident of Okeechobee most of her life, she enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, caring for her dogs, and finding treasures at yard sales.

Mrs. Staton was preceded in death by her parents; and brother, James Ray Hill.

She is survived by her husband of 47 years, Mark Staton; daughter, Kelley Staton; sons, Matt Staton, Adam Staton (Crystal), and Jason Staton (Morningstar), all of Okeechobee; eight grandchildren; Logan, Landon, Mlayton, Marcus, Bobby, Jaxson, Tyler; and Kendall; and her dogs.

The family will receive friends Thursday, Feb. 8, 2018 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home.


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

Anna Mae Long, 94
OKEECHOBEE — Anna Mae Long died Feb. 1, 2018. She was born Sept. 24, 1923 in Melvin, Mich. to Edward and Mabel Raunea. A resident of Okeechobee for four years, she enjoyed gardening.

Mrs. Long is survived by her daughter, Judy Flint (Frank), of Okeechobee; and two grandchildren, John Praise (Debbie), of West Palm and Angie Koch (Tim), of Huntersville, N.C.

No services will be held.


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

Community Events
Quit your way classes set
Quit your way class will be held at Raulerson Hospital, 1796 U.S. 441 N., in the cafeteria on Wednesday, Feb. 7, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. For information, call 877-848-6696.

Legion will serve tacos
American Legion Post 64, 501 S.E. Second St., will serve margaritas and tacos from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, the grill will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entertainment by Jay songs from 3 until 6 p.m.

American Legion pageant set
The 53rd annual “Miss America Legion Post 64” beauty pageant will be held on Thursday, Feb. 8, at 7:30 p.m., at the American Legion Hall. Applications may be picked up from the chamber, Flower Petals Florist or by contacting Shelly Sickels 863-697-6382, missamericanlegion@gmail.com or on the Miss America Legion Post 64 Facebook Page. Applications can also be picked up and returned to the American Legion Hall at 501 S.E. Second St. or call 863-763-2950, 863-763-5309.

IRSC hosts local job fair
IRSC students, alumni, and community member job seekers are encouraged to participate in a job fair at Indian River State College in Okeechobee on Thursday, Feb. 8, from 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. There will be over 20 companies attending! For additional information or to speak with an IRSC representative, contact Maria Johnson at 863-824-6006 or mj@irsc.edu.

Republican Club to meet
Come have an interesting time of food, fun and fellowship at the weekly informal breakfast meeting of the Republican Club of Okeechobee at Lakeside Grill, 1111 South Parrott Ave., Thursday, Feb. 8, at 8 a.m.

Martha’s House sale set
Martha’s House will host a yard sale at 4134 U.S. 441 N., Friday, Feb. 9, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Items for sale will include clothes, shoes, handbags, toys, games and more. For information, call 863-763-2893.
Approximately 400 acres set ablaze in brush fire

By Matteo Tullio
Okeechobee News

A brush fire reported Sunday morning burned about 400 acres.

According to a report from Okeechobee County Fire/Rescue, at 11:21 a.m. on Feb. 4, firefighters responded to a reported brush fire in the 23000 block of Northwest 285th Way.

Upon arrival, units found approximately 25-50 acres that had been burned or was actively burning. A brush truck with a fire engine crew met with a property lessee on the road and was led to the fire location where the engine itself was staged on the road. The Florida Forest Service was reportedly notified of the situation and was also en route in conjunction when the brush truck left the station.

The brush truck crew attempted to gain access to the head of the fire while Florida Forest Service was on the way. A tanker and additional brush truck crew were then sent to assist with the fire.

Florida Forest Service eventually arrived on scene with two bulldozers and began to make fire lines in an effort to contain the fire, however, it jumped the fire lines and spread to approximately 400 acres before two additional bulldozers arrived and were able to control the fire.

No structures were reported as lost or impinged upon during the fire, with mostly fence posts being destroyed by the fire, stated the report.

ATTENTION: FARMERS & RANCHERS

Now In Stock
Your Winter Supplement Feeds for Cattle

Suga-Lik Liquid Feed
Protein Blocks, Energy Blocks,
Cattle Cubes

Walpole Feed & Supply Co.
Hwy. 98 N, Okeechobee
763-6905

Free Automotive Classified Ads!
4 Lines + 8 Photos
Online for 2 Weeks Absolutely FREE!

Example: Jeep Liberty
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$0,000 (863) 000-0000

Place your FREE AD online: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at...
aokeechobeenews.net

Build back safer and stronger

News from FEMA
Special to the Okeechobee News

Rebuilding or repairing your home in the wake of Hurricane Irma may seem like a daunting task. However, using smart techniques when rebuilding and repairing can help minimize damage from flooding and wind and give you peace of mind about the safety of your home or business.

Examples of “flood smart” building techniques: Elevate and secure water heaters, furnaces and other appliances (such as washers and dryers) on pressure-treated wood or masonry so that they sit at least 12 inches above the floor level. Install backflow preventers and check valves to plumbing to ensure waste water and sewage flow out of your house. Floor drains and standpipes can also prevent flood or waste water from collecting in your home. Install a sump pump with a battery or water-powered backup system. Install all electrical panel boxes, circuit breakers, wall switches and outlets at least one foot above the base flood elevation for your area. Anchor any indoor or outdoor fuel tanks with non-corrosive metal bindings to prevent them from being swept away. Close up any cracks in the ceiling or foundation with a waterproof sealant. Flood waters can flow through even the smallest cracks and will quickly turn cracks into gaping holes. Install wire mesh guards over your gutters to prevent debris from clogging them and creating pockets of standing water on your roof.

Severe wind can accompany other natural hazards such as hurricanes and strong thunderstorms. It poses a threat to lives, property and vital utilities and will typically cause the greatest damage to structures of light construction, particularly manufactured homes.

These modifications or retrofits to existing residential buildings can reduce future wind damage: Install hurricane straps made from galvanized steel. They attach to trusses and wall plates. Install hurricane shutters. Retrofit gable end walls to eliminate wall failures in high winds.

Strengthen the structural frames with load-path connectors. Install a safe room. Reinforce garage doors. Inspect and retrofit roofs to adequate standards to provide wind resistance. Secure all outside items that could become missiles in a strong wind event.

Be sure to obtain necessary permits and follow all local building codes when rebuilding or making repairs. Contact your local code officials before beginning any construction to ensure that you meet all floodplain management requirements.

For more information about rebuilding or repairing after a disaster, visit Mitigation Ideas: A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards.

March for Babies 2018 planned

Special to the Okeechobee News

When you join March for Babies you stand with thousands of people across the country who share your commitment to building a brighter future for us all. You raise money to expand programs and educate medical professionals to make sure that moms and babies get the best possible care. You advocate for policies that prioritize their health. You fund research to find solutions to the biggest health threats. And you support moms and babies get the best possible care.

The Executive Leadership Team for Okeechobee’s March for Babies 2018 hopes you will walk with them on Saturday, March 10, to lead the fight for the health of all moms and babies. Because when a society supports every family, we all win. When we come together, even the toughest problems can be solved.

This year’s walk - beginning and ending in Flagler Park #5 - will be under 3 miles, so even novice walkers will be able to participate. Individuals, as well as teams, can sign up and participate, even on the day of the event. Each participant is asked to raise a minimum of $25.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available. At this time, sponsors are:
Regional: Publix;
Gold: Florida Power and Light and Raulerson Hospital;
Silver: Heartland Women’s Healthcare, Law Office of Cassels & McCall, and State Farm Insurance;
Bronze: Healthy Start Coalition and Lightsey’s Seafood Restaurant.
For more information about joining March for Babies 2018, call Magi Cable at 863-763-8667 or Laura McCall at 863-763-3131.

The Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC) has updated their Monofilament Recovery & Recycling website to make it easier to find recycling bins in Okeechobee.

Monofilament, which is one of the most popular types of fishing line used today, is a single strand of material that is made of a strong, flexible plastic that is clear or tinted many colors.

Monofilament has had a negative effect on wildlife in Florida as it is not biodegradable and can last hundreds of years depending on environmental conditions.

It is thin and often clear, which makes it very difficult for birds and animals to see. They can easily become entangled resulting in injury, drowning, strangulation, or starvation. Many animals also mistakenly ingest fishing line.

In addition to wildlife, it can also harm humans as well. Because it’s difficult to see, individuals can drive their boats over floating line which can cause serious damage to any engines that become ensnared in line. Human divers and swimmers could also be affected because they can’t see line when they are in the water.

To combat this the FWC has placed recycling bins around popular fishing spots in Florida.

In Okeechobee there are outdoor bins at the Taylor Creek boat ramp, Jaycee Park Pier, C. Scott Driver boat ramp and Nubbin Slough Recreation area. There are also indoor and outdoor bins located at Okeechobee Fishing Quarters and Okee-Tantie Marina.

FWC’s Monofilament and Recycling Program state coordinator Lizzie Winchester says there are plans to add more bins all throughout Florida.

“We would like to add at least 50 more bins to the state of Florida this year,” said Mrs. Winchester, “and if there is a specific need or fishing spot in Okeechobee where we could put a new bin, reach out to us at the FWC.”

If you’d like to have a bin installed, you’re encouraged to email Marine@MyFWC.com or visit MRRP.MyFWC.com. You can also join their Facebook page at Facebook.com/FloridaMRRP. Finally you can contact the Okeechobee County Coordinator Audrey Kuipers at a.kuipers@okeechobeeswcd.org.

“One of the most important things to do is be line-conscious when fishing,” said Mrs. Winchester. “Consider the age of your line and its strength and keep track of and store loose pieces of fishing line in a personal container. Casting away from trees, utility lines, and other areas where line may get caught is imperative. Whenever possible, retrieve and properly dispose of any fishing line that you encounter, even if it is not yours.”

Once placed in the bins, the monofilament is collected and cleaned of hooks, leaders, weights, and trash by volunteers. It is then shipped to the Berkley Pure Fishing company located in Iowa. Berkley melts the line down into raw plastic pellets that can be made into other plastic products including tackle boxes, spools for line, fish habitats, and toys.

Fishermen are inextricably linked to the environment and wildlife due to the sport and pastime they love. Which is why it’s so important for them to carry the torch of environmental conservation to preserve Florida’s ecosystem for future generations.
Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS
1 Dictionary abbr. 4 Pests repelled by cedar 9 Give birth to 14 Kappa Epsilon: U.S./Canada frat with more than 250 chapters 15 Skylab’s path 16 Impish type 17 Out of the ordinary 18 “The 11:00 p.m. flight is now boarding”? 20 Rabies victim 22 Org. making raids 23 Fruity coolers 24 Capital near the Gulf of Tonkin 26 Figure out 28 Inconsolable freshwater fish? 34 Trac II cousin 35 “Frasier” sibling 36 Out of use 38 “The Shoop Shoop Song (His Kiss)”: Cher hit 40 Suffix with chlor- 41 Lexus competitor 43 Personal quirk 44 __ in the right direction 46 Rock ’n’ roll middle name 47 Fearful lowan? 51 Stallone nickname 52 More resentful 53 Star with tons of fans 55 October birthstone 56 Darling 59 Go kicking and screaming 62 Fictional sailor’s pies? 65 “I’m impressed!” 66 Speak from a podium 67 Zagreb native 68 Whammy 69 Party dip 70 Laughs heartily 71 Rubble creator

DOWN
1 Tiny power source 2 Cry from a crib 3 Two-time Emmy winner for “Taxi”

S C A B S G A P E S C A M
O I L E D E G A D A L V A
T A K E I T E A S Y L E E R
S O A P U N I T T S A R S
P L A N E T E A R T H
P I S T O L R X S
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L A T E A R R I V A L
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C R O P A S P O T O F T E A
H O P E G A U L R A T E R
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

8 9 10 11 12 13

14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23

24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33

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64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71

By Jeff Stillman ©2015 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center

Live from Nashville: Country Legends
Monday, February 19, 7:30 PM

Comedian Ventriloquist
Taylor Mason
Friday, February 23, 7:30 PM

The Annie Moses Band
Thursday, March 1, 7:30 PM
UF expert: Eight tips for easier, safer tax filing

Special to the Okeechobee News

GAINESVILLE — With the passage of the new federal tax law, many are now wondering how the law will impact what they see on future tax returns.

However, tax payers still have another year to figure out how the new legislation will affect them, says a tax expert with the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

“When we go to file tax returns this year — 2018 — those returns actually reflect tax-returns paid the previous calendar year — 2017 — before the new law took effect,” said Jorge Ruiz-Menjivar, assistant professor of family, youth and community sciences.

No matter the year, there are steps you can take now to make filing easier and safer, Mr. Ruiz-Menjivar said.

1. Know the important dates.

The IRS started accepting returns for the 2017 tax year on Jan. 29. The deadline to file returns is April 17. If you file early, keep in mind that IRS will only begin issuing tax refunds in mid-February, Mr. Ruiz-Menjivar said.

2. Organize and save your records.

“If you’re itemizing, you’ll need receipts — for instance, for those charitable contributions and medical expenses,” Mr. Ruiz-Menjivar explained.

After you file your return, make sure you save a copy either printed or digital — in a safe place. It’s recommended that you keep tax records for at least the past 10 years, Mr. Ruiz-Menjivar said.

3. Protect your identity.

“Tax identity theft occurs when someone files a tax return with a stolen social security number,” Mr. Ruiz-Menjivar said. “Often tax payers aren’t aware that they’ve been a victim of tax identity theft until they go to file their taxes and are notified by the IRS that someone has already filed a return with the same social security number.”

You can keep your tax identity secure with these tips:

• Keep your social security card in a safe place.

There is no reason to keep your card on your person, such as in a bag or wallet, where it can be easily stolen.

• Keep any documents with your social security number on them, including tax records, in a safe place.

• If an email or computer file looks suspicious, don’t open or download it.

• File electronically.

Filing online has several advantages, including faster turn-around on your tax return, Mr. Ruiz-Menjivar said. Filing online is also more secure, though make sure your computer’s antivirus software is up to date.

If there is an issue with your tax return, the IRS will send you a letter in the regular mail. If someone contacts you by phone, email or social media claiming to be from the IRS, you should be suspicious, said Mr. Ruiz-Menjivar.

The IRS will also never ask for any personal information, such as your social security number. If someone does request that information, that’s a big red flag, he said.

This tax season, scammers may also start presenting themselves as experts on the new tax law, Mr. Ruiz-Menjivar said.

“If you need to consult any information about the new law, it will be through IRS.gov. That’s where you are going to find the most up-to-date information,” he said.

6. If you think you’ve been a victim of identity theft, safeguard yourself against future fraud.

If you think your identity has been stolen, follow these three steps, Mr. Ruiz-Menjivar said:

• File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission.

• Contact credit agencies to place a fraud alert, which puts the agencies on high alert for any further suspicious activity.

• Contact your financial institutions and let them know you may have been a victim.

7. Take advantage of free tax help.

UF/IFAS Extension runs IRS-certified Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites in more than a dozen counties in north Florida, where trained agents offer free tax help for qualifying low-income tax payers, Mr. Ruiz-Menjivar said.

8. Save all or part of your refund.

Tax refunds are an opportunity to start an emergency fund for those unexpected expenses, Mr. Ruiz-Menjivar said.

Saving even part of your refund can be one way of making saving a habit, he said.

For example, if you put aside $100 each month toward an emergency fund, by the end of the year, you will have saved $1,200, which can serve as a cushion for financial shocks, he said.

During the week of Feb. 26 to March 3, Floridians can pledge to start saving toward an emergency fund or other financial goals through the Florida Saves Pledge at floridasaves.org.

Astronomy Night planned

Special to the Okeechobee News

Discover the wonders of the sky during Astronomy Nights at the DuPuis Nature Center on Saturday, Feb. 17, from 6 to 10 p.m. Learn about stars, nebulas, planets and neighboring galaxies. The Treasure Coast Astronomical Society will provide multiple telescopes for an interactive star-gazing session following a short lecture.

Subway partners with ‘Fresh from Florida’

Special to the Okeechobee News

TALLAHASSEE — Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam H. Putnam announced today a new partnership between Subway and “Fresh From Florida” to promote the Florida-grown produce served in the restaurant’s nearly 1,500 Florida locations. Beginning this month and running through April, Subway restaurants will feature “Fresh From Florida” advertising and marketing materials highlighting Subway’s commitment to sourcing locally grown Florida cucumbers, green peppers and tomatoes during local growing seasons.

“Florida’s hard-working farmers make it easy for everyone to enjoy fresh, local produce any time of the year,” Mr. Putnam said. “I’m proud to partner with one of Florida’s largest restaurant chains to highlight the availability and affordability of ‘Fresh From Florida’ products across the state.”

Last year, Subway purchased more than 74 million pounds of Florida-grown tomatoes, cucumbers and green peppers.

“We are excited to partner with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the ‘Fresh From Florida’ program to highlight Subway’s commitment to locally sourced, farm-fresh produce,” said Staci Clark, a longstanding Panama City area franchisee. “Our customers have a high expectation of high-quality ingredients that are grown right here in our local communities, and this partnership ensures that we continue to meet those goals.”

The “Fresh From Florida” partnership highlights Subway’s commitment to sourcing Florida produce, and locations in the following cities will feature advertising and marketing materials: Tallahassee, Orlando, Panama City, Gainesville, Miami, Fort Myers, Tampa, West Palm Beach and Jacksonville.

For more information about the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, visit FreshFromFlorida.com.

Perdue unveils Farmers.gov website

Special to the Okeechobee News

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue last week unveiled Farmers.gov, the new interactive one-stop website for producers maintained by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Farmers.gov is now live but will have multiple features added over the coming months to allow agricultural producers to make appointments with USDA offices, file forms, and apply for USDA programs. The website, launched at a breakfast hosted by the Michigan Farm Bureau, gathers together the three agencies that comprise USDA’s Farm Production and Conservation mission area: the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Risk Management Agency.

“Many farmers are out in their fields using equipment that is connected to satellite and GPS technology, yet when they need to interact with USDA, they have to stop, fill out a paper form, and fax or carry it to their local office. That is a real digital divide,” Perdue said. “Our staff is friendly, and they love to see farmers in person, but they know that time is valuable. Producers are working hard to make their farms profitable, so these tools will help get the paperwork done without taking a big chunk out of the day to fill out forms.”

Farmers.gov is mobile device-friendly and can identify for farmers the most convenient USDA office locations. New functions will be added shortly, including an interactive calendar, farming success stories, an online appointment feature, digital forms, and a business database. Additionally, when the 2018 Farm Bill is signed into law, there will be plain language program descriptions and a tool to determine eligibility.

“As I’ve traveled to 32 states in my first nine months as Secretary of Agriculture, I have consistently heard people express a desire for greater use of technology in the way we deliver programs at USDA,” Mr. Perdue said. “It’s my goal to make USDA the most effective, most efficient, most customer-focused department in the entire federal government, and Farmers.gov is a big step in that direction.”

Lunch & Learn: ‘Keep cruising without joint pain’

Join Raulerson Hospital, 1796 U.S. 441, for a Lunch & Learn called “Keep cruising without joint pain,” featuring orthopedic surgeons Dr. Epstein and Dr. Slutsky on Monday, Feb. 26, at 11:30 a.m. at IRSC. Lecture begins at noon. RSVP to 863-763-9228 or at RaulersonHospital.com (classes & events.)

Hospital hosts lecture on advance care planning

Raulerson Hospital invites you to join fourth-year medical students from FSU for a community lecture about Getting Your Affairs in Order (Advance Care Planning) on Thursday, March 8, at 10 a.m. The lecture will be held at IRCS’s Williamson Conference Center, located at 2229 N.W. 9th Ave. in Okeechobee. Refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP at 863-763-9228.
Special to the Okeechobee News

When it comes to heart health emergencies, many Americans don’t have the knowledge to aid others and often don’t know the proper way to help themselves, according to a new Cleveland Clinic survey.

The survey found that slightly more than half of Americans (54 percent) say they know how to perform CPR; however, only one in six know that the recommended technique consists of just chest compressions – and no breaths – on an adult. Even fewer, 11 percent, know the correct pace for performing these compressions (100 to 120 beats per minute).

In the event of a cardiac arrest, an automated external defibrillator (AED) can also be a lifesaver. However, only about a quarter (27 percent) of Americans say there is an AED at their workplaces.

“The survival rate of someone experiencing an out-of-the-hospital cardiac arrest is extremely low, approximately 10 percent,” said Roberto Cubeddu, Interventional Cardiologist and Chairman of the Department of Cardiology at Cleveland Clinic Florida.

“However, when bystanders intervene, survival rates increase significantly, showing that CPR saves lives and in many cases, is the difference between life and death.”

When it comes to their own heart emergencies, Americans need additional education in identifying and responding to a heart attack. The survey found that many Americans confused stroke and heart attack symptoms. Fifty-nine percent falsely identified sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg as a symptom of a heart attack, and 39 percent thought slurred speech was a heart attack symptom. Most Americans knew that pressure/squeezing in the chest, shortness of breath and pain in one or both arms were typical symptoms, but less than half of Americans knew back or jaw pain and nausea/vomiting can be heart attack indicators. “A heart attack or a stroke can occur suddenly but have very different symptoms,” said Dr. Cubeddu. “Recognizing the right symptoms can make a big difference in getting the right kind of help.”

While most Americans know to call 911 as the first step in responding to a heart attack, only about one-third (36 percent) know that they should chew an aspirin right away. Even so, about one in ten Americans thinks the first thing they should do when experiencing a heart attack is to call their physician or drive to the hospital. There is also confusion as to what a heart attack actually is, as 87 percent falsely believe cardiac arrest is another term for heart attack. Cardiac arrest is the sudden stopping of the heart, usually caused by the malfunction of the heart’s electrical system, while heart attacks occur when a coronary artery becomes blocked, stopping the flow of blood to the heart muscle and damaging it.

Heart disease is the No. 1 cause of death in the United States and around the world. The survey was conducted as part of Cleveland Clinic’s “Love your Heart” consumer education campaign in celebration of American Heart Month. Cleveland Clinic has been ranked the No. 1 hospital in the country for cardiology and cardiac surgery for 23 years in a row by U.S. News & World Report.

Additional survey findings include:

• Social media generation: The survey found a generation gap when it comes to heart health. Boomers (49 percent) are much more likely than Millennials (32 percent) to say they know a lot about heart health overall. In fact, 37 percent of Millennials say they would rather spend time on Instagram than learn about heart health.

• Pressure on providers: Americans largely expect their doctors to keep them informed about their heart health. Eighty-seven percent of Americans expect their doctors to tell them about their heart health, with 62 percent saying they make it a point to ask their doctor about their heart health themselves. Boomers are more likely to ask their doctors about heart health, while 49 percent of Millennials say they don’t know what to ask their doctor.

• Nuts and bolts of the heart: While Americans are somewhat familiar with the anatomy of the heart – 64 percent know it has four chambers – knowledge is limited about how the heart works.

• Only about a third (32 percent) know that heart valves make sure the blood flows in one direction through the heart, and only 10 percent know that electricity keeps their heart beating in rhythm.

• Kicking the Habit: Many Americans understand the heart health risks associated with smoking, but this is not always the biggest factor in the decision to quit. Among current and former smokers, about 18 percent said they quit because of concerns over their heart health or because of other health concerns like cancer (19 percent).

Special to the Okeechobee News

Researchers harvest ‘green’ sunscreen

GAINESVILLE — With spring break only weeks away, many Americans will apply sunscreen to protect against the sun’s harmful ultraviolet radiation. Now, scientists at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy have identified a new method to harvest a key ingredient responsible for making the product more environmentally friendly.

By pushing the discovery to commercialization, UF researchers hope to make ‘green’ sunscreens more available, reducing dependence on oxybenzone- and octinoxate-based sunscreens. These harmful chemicals accumulate in aquatic environments; they’re toxic to marine life and potentially disrupt the human reproductive system.

The researchers found a more efficient way to harvest the UV-absorbing amino acid known as shinorine, which marine organisms like cyanobacteria and macroalgae produce. The conventional method extracts shinorine from red algae, which takes as long as a year to grow and has a long processing time.

The new method reduces harvesting time to less than two weeks. Principal investigator Yousong Ding, Ph.D., an assistant professor of medicinal chemistry, and his colleagues have brought production out of the wild and into the laboratory, where they have much more control.

Researchers selected a strain of freshwater cyanobacteria, Synechocystis, as a host cell for shinorine expression because it grows quickly, and it’s easy for scientists to modify its genes. Next, they mined the genes responsible for the synthesis of shinorine from a native producer, the filamentous cyanobacterium Fischerella.

The researchers inserted these genes into Synechocystis. Using this method, they produced 2.3 milligrams of shinorine per gram of cyanobacteria, which is comparable to the conventional method’s yield.

“This is the first time anyone has demonstrated the ability to photosynthetically overproduce shinorine,” Dr. Ding said. “Not only is this an advancement in shinorine research, it’s a big step forward for the entire field of cyanobacterial natural products research.”

The production method researchers discovered has broader applications for the production of other known cyanobacterial products and could expedite the process of turning cyanobacterial genomes into potential new drug leads.

Researchers secondarily confirmed that the shinorine they harvested through the new method protects cells from UV rays. To test this, they exposed shinorine-making cells to UV radiation. Control cells that do not produce shinorine experienced an obvious decline in population from UV-B exposure. In the other cells, shinorine acted as sunscreen against UV-B light, which helped the cells live and grow better.

For the health of it!

Only half of Americans say they know CPR
Man accused of using hammer as a weapon

By Matteo Tullio
Okeechobee News

On Saturday afternoon, a 40-year-old Okeechobee man was arrested after being accused of hitting his wife with a hammer earlier that morning.

James Franklin Sellers, Northeast 56th Avenue, was arrested Feb. 3 on a felony charge of aggravated battery. He was set at $15,000. Jail records indicate he has since been released on bond.

According to an arrest report by Deputy Mark Margerum of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), at 6:42 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3, he responded to the 12800 block of Northeast 56th Avenue with other OCSO deputies in regard to a complaint of domestic battery in progress.

Dispatch reportedly informed the deputies responding that the complainant's truck was apparently set on fire and that she was hit in her hand with a hammer by her live-in husband, Sellers. The complainant also apparently informed dispatch that her ex-boyfriend, who owned and resided at the incident location, supposedly fired a shotgun at Sellers.

Upon arrival deputies reportedly made contact with Sellers. As Deputy Tim Higgins remained with Sellers, Deputies Timothy Porter, Timothy Miller, Robert Feldman and Margerum approached the house and made contact with another ex-boyfriend, who believed the complainant was out feeding the goats on the property. The deputies then began to search for the woman by the goat pen and surrounding areas to include neighboring residences, but were unable to locate her with their announcements or witness statements.

Due to confusion of the call and the complainant not being located, the ex-boyfriend and Sellers were placed in hand restraints until the woman could be located. The neighbors did confirm, however, that they did hear a gunshot but could not pinpoint the origin.

The ex-boyfriend informed law enforcement that the complainant and Sellers were supplied with drugs that morning, with the complaining telling him that Sellers had swung a hammer at her, hitting her hand. The ex-boyfriend also told deputies that he witnessed Sellers light something on fire that hung out of the fuel tank of the complainant's blue 2001 Dodge Ram pickup truck. He then said that he went into the bedroom and retrieved his shotgun, where he then fired one round over a tree in the direction of the truck. He then returned the shotgun back to his room after the complainant went inside the main residence.

Deputy Margerum then reportedly contacted OCSO Deputy Sergeant Donald Ellis who was with K-9 Deputy Matt Crawford to respond to the scene and assist in the search for the complainant. Almost two hours later, at 8:38 a.m., the woman was located hiding under debris inside a semi-trailer on the northeast corner of the property. The complainant claimed to not hear the calls from law enforcement and said that she was hiding from Sellers in fear he would hurt her.

The woman said she saw Sellers take some of the ex-boyfriend's property, put it in his red 1995 Toyota T100 pickup truck, and that he slammed the truck door on her. Sellers then apparently grabbed a hammer and swung it at the woman, supposedly striking the tips of her fingers on her left hand, although no marks or bruises were observed on the woman's hand. It was noted that the complainant did not want Emergency Medical Services to respond.

The woman then told law enforcement that after being hit with the hammer, Sellers busted the windows out of her truck and lit a rag on fire that hung out of the fuel tank in an attempt to set her truck on fire. While the material did ignite, it apparently went out on its own, stated the report. The woman then said her ex-boyfriend came out of the residence and fired his shotgun over a tree, with neither Sellers nor her in the path of the fired round. She then apparently went inside and the ex-boyfriend put the shotgun away, the report stated.

The woman said she told Sellers and her ex-boyfriend that she was going to feed the goats on the property but instead hid in the semi-trailer out of fear of Sellers, who she said has beat her up several times in the past, which she did not report to law enforcement. The complainant then told law enforcement she did not wish to pursue criminal charges against Sellers and filled out a complaint affidavit stating what occurred and her desire to not pursue charges.

The report concluded that Sellers was arrested, transported and booked into the Okeechobee County Jail on the aforementioned charge. Photographs of the woman, scene and hammer – which was collected – were submitted into evidence at OCSO. The ex-boyfriend was released and warned of the possible dangers of discharging a firearm in close proximity to others.

The woman received an OCSO agency card with Deputy Margerum's name, OCSO phone number and case number, a domestic violence pamphlet and Martha's House card. She was also told by law enforcement that if any further problems were to arise, to contact OCSO.

If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, contact Martha's House at 863-763-2893.

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 Lanard Wiggs, 50, Southwest 154th Street, Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 1 by Deputy Kenneth Hernandez on a felony charge of false imprisonment for violation of parole – shooting into or throwing deadly missiles into dwellings, public or private buildings, occupied or not occupied; vessels, aircraft, buses, railroad cars, streetcars, or other vehicles. He is being held without bond.
• Moses Lazarus Munoz, 14, Northwest Ninth Street, Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 2 by Deputy Tammy Serafini on a felony charge of aggravated battery. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail and then transported to St. Lucie Regional Detention Center in Fort Pierce.
• Joshua James Pettit, 35, Northwest 30th Street, Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 2 by Deputy Timothy Miller on an Okeechobee County felony warrant charging him with false imprisonment. His bond was set at $5,000.

• Sabrina Angela Davis, 32, Southwest Conners Highway, Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 2 by Deputy Mark Margerum on a DOC felony warrant charging her with violation of probation - grand theft (more than $300 - less than $5,000). She is being held without bond.
• Sheena Marie Holycross, 32, Northeast 104th Court, Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 2 by Deputy Mark Margerum on a DOC felony warrant charging her with two counts of violation of probation - possession of a controlled substance without a valid prescription. She is being held without bond.
• Michael Paul Valdes, 24, Southeast Seventh Street, Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 2 by Officer Kelly Margerum on a Palm Beach County felony warrant charging him with violation of probation - burglary while armed and violation of probation - possession with intent to sell, manufacture, or deliver a controlled substance (cannabis). He is being held without bond.
• Eric Andrew Pena, 29, Northwest Fourth Street, Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 3 by Deputy Daniel Eng on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance (cocaine) without a valid prescription. His bond was set at $5,000.
• Lucio Galarza, 60, Northwest 42nd Avenue, Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 3 by Deputy Greg Mullen on a felony charge of aggravated assault with intent to commit a felony. His bond was set at $5,000.
• John Noel Rodriguez, 29, U.S. 441 Southeast, Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 3 by Deputy Ben Vuleta on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance (cannabis) without a valid prescription and a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond was set at $5,500.
• George Cathy, 68, Northeast 304th Street, Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 4 by FWC Officer Kyle Patterson on a felony charge of possession of a firearm and ammunition by a convicted felon. He is being held without bond.
• Jamal Jaheem Session, 15, U.S. 441 North, Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 4 by Deputy Nathaniel Mitchell on a felony charge of battery of faculty employee by throwing, tossing, or expelling certain fluids or materials. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail and then transported to St. Lucie Regional Detention Center in Fort Pierce.
• Bobby Damale Redden, 27, Northwest 10th Street, Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 5 by Deputy Daniel Eng on a felony charge of battery by a person who is being detained in a jail upon another detainee. He is being held without bond.
• Kenneth Grover Bigford, 36, Southeast 441, Okeechobee, was arrested Feb. 5 by Deputy Joseph Hall on an Okeechobee County felony warrant charging him with violation while license suspended and misdemeanor charges of use or possession of drug paraphernalia and giving false name or identification while arrested or lawfully detained. He is being held without bond.

This column lists arrests and not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Anyone listed here who is later found innocent or has had the charges against them dropped is welcome to inform this newspaper. The information will be confirmed and printed.
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To place a classifieds ad in any of the following newspaper over the phone, call 877-353-2424

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

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**Estate Sale**

**Estate Sale** - FEB. 9TH & 10TH, 9AM-7PM. Location: 2065 SW 1ST WAY ONE BLOCK WEST OF LIGHT AT SRF8/570. Variety of Items, Tools, Knick-Knacks, Furniture.

Call 863-697-8906

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**Garage/Yard Sales**

**HUGE PARK-WIDE YARD SALE**

YARD SALE ZACHARY TAYLOR RV RESORT, 2018 ROLLS, TOOLS, FURNITURE, FISHING GEAR, KITCHEN ITEMS, CLOTHES, EVERYTHING IMAGINABLE! COME SHOP AND HAVE A HOT DOG!

PARK-WIDE YARD SALE KISSIMMEE RIVER ESTATES, THURS. 2/8, FRI. 2/9 & SAT. 2/10 8AM-4PM 1 MILE WEST OF KISSIMMEE RIVER ON HWY 70W.

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**Services**

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HUGE CLEANING, 55 WINDOWS, CARPET, PAINTING, PRESSURE CLEANING, MOVING, TENTS, TRASHING. CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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**Employment**

**Florida HEALTH**

**Environmental Health Manager - SES**

This is a full time position responsible for the supervision, planning, coordination and operation of the Environmental Department with the DOH-Okeechobee. Manages and oversees all enforcement/ regulatory actions and quality control of environmental programs including permitting and facility inspections. Excellent benefits, State health insurance and FRS retirement. Submit application to: https://jobs.florida.gov/job/OKEECHOBEENvironmental-management-se-64029570-FL-34972/355206100/

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**Employment**

**EEO/AA/VP Employer**

**EXPERIENCED COOK**

Now Hiring Must have references. Apply in person between 7am & 2pm @ Crossroads Restaurant 5050 NE 128th Ave. Okeechobee, FL (863)763-8333. DRUG FREE WORK PLACE

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**Employment**

**BARTENDER, Need Part Time. Peak Season.**

Will be working at least 2 shifts at the American Legion Post 3 hundreds. Call for an appointment: (863)765-5309.

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**Job Fair**

**IRSC is looking for instructors, see them at the Job Fair February 8th.**

Interested in teaching and would like to earn extra income? Find out about Adjunct teaching positions available with IRSC right here in Okeechobee. For more information contact Russ Brown: 863-924-6004

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**Financial**

**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.

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**Announcements**

**Important Information:** Please read your ad carefully - the first day it appears. In case of an inadvertent error, please notify us prior to the deadline listed. We will not be responsible for more than 1 incorrect insertion, or for more than the extent of the ad rendered valueless by such errors. Advertiser assumes responsibility for all statements, names and content of ad, and assumes responsibility for any claims against the IN USA. All advertising is subject to publisher’s approval. The publisher reserves the right to accept or reject any ad, or all ads accepted are subject to credit approval. All ads must conform to IN USA style and are restricted to their proper classifications. Some classifieds categories require advance payment. These classifications are denoted with an asterisk *.

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**Auctions**

**12th Annual “Cane Country” Auction**

Saturday, February 10, 2018 – 9:00 a.m. 26400 CR 880 Belle Glade, FL (20 Miles W of West Palm Beach, FL) 863-985-5699

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**Garage/Yard Sales**

**LARGE MULTI-FAMILY SALE**

Sale Feb 9th & 10th, 8:00-4:00, 2900 SE 18TH COURT. FOLLOW THE RED & WHITE SIGNS IN TREASURE ISLAND. LARGE VARIETY OF HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, ADULT & CHILD CLOTHING, TOYS, HARDWARE & LOTS OF MISC. ALL MARKED & CLEAN.

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

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**Help Wanted**

**A/C Service Tech/ Installer**

Some experience preferred. On job training available. Apply in person at: 5351 SW 16th Ave

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**Job Fair**

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

The Okeechobee County Public Notice Board will hold their meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at the Historic Courthouse in downtown Okeechobee on the second floor at 304 N.W. 2nd Street, Okeechobee. This meeting is open to the public.

Terry W. Burns, Chair
Board Secretary for the City's records.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY PLANNING BOARD WORKSHOP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Okeechobee Planning Board will meet on February 13, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at 250 NW Country Club Drive, Suite 217, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986. The purpose of this Workshop is to consider and discuss possible amendments to the Land Development Regulations in these specific areas as sections indirectly related to these listed. Adding a definition for Lot Split and land use summaries and a new Land of Area, amend the Land Development Regulation Chapter 15 for uses and combine multiple areas, amending the special exception uses in the Commercial Zoning District, amending the Central Business District, consider amending the Permitted Uses in the Heavy Commercial Zoning District, consider amending the subdivision standards in Development Standards by requiring mandatory look-up to the Okeechobee Utility Authority System, considering supplemental special exceptions and supplemental use permits for temporary portable storage containers.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend. The agenda may be obtained from clark@okeechobee.com or by calling the General Services Office, 863-763-3722 x480.

ANY PERSON DECIDING TO APPEAL any decision made by the Planning Board will need to ensure a verbatim record of the proceedings 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, any person with a disability as defined by the Act, that needs special accommodation to participate in this proceeding, contact the Fire Department no later than two business days prior to proceeding, 863-763-0765.

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

By: Chairperson Dawn Hoover
8493742

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA: CASE NO.: 2017-CA-001141

TD BANK, N.A., Plaintiff,

VERSALIQUE, LLC, Defendant.

NOTICE OF SALE

The undersigned, Sharron Robertson, Clerk, for the County Court, Okeechobee County, Florida, by virtue of the Final Judgment of Foreclosure, dated January 31, 2018, in Case No. 2017-CA-189, filed in the Circuit Court of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Okeechobee County, Florida, wherein W.E. Radford and Frances G. Radford, his wife, are the Defendants, have scheduled a public sale of the property described herein.

PROPERTY LOCATION: 16605 NW 32nd Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34972

Property Address: 16605 NW 32nd Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida 34972 RECORDED PLAT OF ROBERT E. EDWARDS SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO A DEED OF TRUST FROM GEORGETTE HOLLOWAY TO USA VENTURES, INC., EXECUTED ON 2/7/2017 ON 2/8/2017

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus proceeds from a sale may file a Notice of Claim with the Clerk of Court, Okeechobee County, Florida, at least sixty (60) days prior to the sale.

DATED this 5th day of February, 2018.

Sharron Robertson
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: Lisa L. Rausch

Okeechobee Music Fest adds hotline for local concerns

The third annual Okeechobee Music and Arts Festival is set for March 1-4, at Sunshine Grove in Okeechobee. The event will feature over 80 musical performances, art installations created by artists from around the world, and a multitude of health and wellness workshops. In an effort to continue supporting the local community and neighbors, OMF has established a 24-hour helpline to address questions and concerns before, during, and after the festival. Okeechobee residents are encouraged to call 866-834-6870 between Feb. 28, and March 5, for questions or comments regarding traffic, sound, stage or related concerns.

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ATTORNEYS

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RICHARD W. SEYMOUR, Esq.
Board Certified Criminal Trial Lawyer
110 W. Fourth Street, Suite 201
Okeechobee, Florida 34974
863-1847

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Okeechobee News
There’s lots to do at the Florida State Fair

Special to the Okeechobee News

GAINESVILLE — Fair-goers needing a break from one too many turns on the Tilt-a-whirl can find more fun — and solid ground — at the fair’s many agricultural exhibits, according to faculty at the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension.

“Agriculture has always been an important part of the Florida State Fair, and nowa-days exhibits offer a chance for visitors to see a bigger picture of what a food system looks like, and where their food comes from,” said Sarah Hensley, UF/IFAS Extension 4-H state specialized agent for youth curriculum and evaluation.

“It’s also an opportunity for our 4-H youth to show off their skills and hard work, whether they’re showing a steer, talking with the public at an ‘ask me’ booth, or mingling with legislators during the Governors Luncheon,” Hensley said.

Here are eight things you don’t want to miss at this year’s fair in Tampa, held Feb. 8 to 19. For specific times and locations, please see the Florida State Fair event calendar.

1. Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame
   This permanent fair exhibit showcases the impact of various scientists, farmers and other leaders on Florida agriculture — a special treat for fans of Florida state history.

2. 4-H Dog Show
   More than 90 4-H youth will compete in this three-part competition testing showmanship, obedience and agility. Participants have trained with their canine companions throughout the year to master commands, an obstacle course and more.

3. Livestock competitions
   4-H and FFA youth will be busy showing off their prize-winning animals, and judging horses, cattle, sheep and swine.

4. Horse contests
   If you enjoy seeing horses in action, these contests are for you. This crowd-pleasing event features youth competing in various performance classes.

5. Chicken and rabbit barn
   Those who like animals of the small, cute variety will find much to coo over in the chicken and rabbit barn.

6. Ask Me booths
   Have a burning question about an animal species you saw at the fair? One of the very knowledgeable 4-H youths staffing the “Ask Me” booths can help. Booths can be found throughout the fair’s livestock barns.

7. Family Living Center
   Not into animals but love all things hearth and home? The Family Living Center displays the handiwork of youth and adults. Competition categories include horticulture, baking, canning, fiber arts and more.

8. 4-H Global Education display
   Visitors will learn about opportunities for 4-H participants to travel overseas and stay with a host family. As part of the program, Florida 4-H youth will host 12 students from Japan this summer.

Scheduled events:

- 4-H Dog Show on Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. and Feb. 11 at 9 a.m. at the Charlie Lykes Arena.
- Youth rabbit showmanship/show on Feb. 9 at 9 a.m. and Feb. 12 at 10 a.m. at the Charlie Lykes Arena.
- FFA/4-H livestock judging contest on Feb. 10 at 9 a.m. at the Charlie Lykes Arena.
- FFA/4-H horse judging contest on Feb. 10 at 1:30 p.m. at the Charlie Lykes Arena.
- 4-H Dog Show on Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. and Feb. 11 at 9 a.m. at the Charlie Lykes Arena.
- Youth rabbit showmanship on Feb. 10 at 9 a.m. at the Rabbit and Poultry barn.