

CALOOSA



BELLE

Delivering Western Hendry County's News Since 1922

VOLUME 87 NUMBER 5

THURSDAY, January 29, 2009

At a Glance

Bridge to close

Ft. Denaud Bridge will be closed Feb. 3, for approximately 4.5 hours, starting at 9:30 a.m. for maintenance repairs.

Free HIV testing

Hendry County Health Department, 1140 Pratt Boulevard (LaBelle) and 1100 Olympia (Clewiston), and Glades County Health Department, 956 Hwy 27 SW (Moore Haven), will offer free HIV testing for anyone on Friday, Feb. 6, from 8:30 a.m.-noon and 1:00-4:30 p.m. in observance of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. 25 percent of people with HIV don't know they are infected. Get tested.

LHS Library Club meeting changed

The Friends of the LaBelle High School Library meeting has been rescheduled to Feb. 14 at 10 a.m.

Refreshments will be available for a nominal donation. If you like books and reading, plan to meet with other members of our community including students, teachers, and parents. Our goal is to improve the resources of the LHS Library and develop a book exchange program among members. Contact Mel Greenleaf at LHS School at 863-674-4120 with any questions.

Commodities to be distributed

The Hendry County Food Bank will distribute USDA Commodities at the Dallas Townsend Center on Thursday, Jan. 29, from noon till approximately 3 p.m. Individuals are eligible if they receive Food Stamps, TANF, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicaid or Residence in Public Housing funded by Municipal, County, State or Federal Government. Individuals can also be eligible based on our income guideline chart.

Old Timers' Dinner

Make plans to attend the kickoff event of SCF, the Old-Timers' Dinner, Thursday, Feb. 19, at LaBelle Civic Center. It's in HONOR of our Old-Timers, not just for Old-Timers. Catering is by Buddy Taylor/Gator Hammock, and tickets sold in advance at \$15 each with tables for 10 at \$150 available. Doors open at 4:30, dinner at 6. Call the chamber at 675-0125; 675-0374 or 675-1338 for tickets.

Ready for a laugh?

LAFF REVUE by Lansing Corbett (Baker's Plays). Directors Martha Pierce and Jack Neitzke. Laff Revue is a scripted version of past talent and variety shows with the main characters being the emcee and comedian -- all wrapped around a rather corny comedy that takes place in the 1940s. Performances: Jan. 29, 30, 31 and Feb. 1. Show times 7 p.m. Thurs., Fri and Sat.; 2 p.m. Sun. Firehouse Cultural Center, 241 N. Bridge St., LaBelle. Call 863-675-3066 for reservations. Tickets are \$12 with reservations; \$14 at door.

See Page 2 for information about how to contact the newspaper.

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Witnessing history: Students at inauguration



Submitted photo/Nan Akin

LHS students enjoyed a trip that they will not soon forget. Lynette Rivas, Tiffany Canales, Deanna Foster, Angela Carmona, Jiesha Stephens, Lucas Talada, Trevor Selph, Seth Billig, Santiago Reyes, and Elias Carmona, along with adult chaperones, Nanlyn Akin and Jean Ingram saw history made during their trip to Washington, D.C. for the inauguration of new President, Barack Obama.

Pride, excitement, memories

"I'll never forget the excitement and craziness of the Inauguration day. The crowds and the speech are definitely something that will stay with me for the rest of my life." These words were spoken by just one of the ten students who traveled with EF Smithsonian Tours last week to witness the 56th U.S. Inauguration in Washington D.C. People ask why would you want to do this? Ask any of the ten students or two adults who went and their answer will be similar to Angela Carmona's above.

This group met at Ft. Lauderdale airport the Sunday before the Inauguration at 5:30 a.m. The group flew to D.C. where their tour director met them. The National Mall was the main focus the first day. At night, the group went to Madame Tousseaud's Wax Museum. The wax museum was a blast! The students posed with wax presidents and many different wax celebrities.

Monday started out somber, as the group traveled to Arlington Cemetery. We had a guided tour which lasted several hours. The tour was very informative. We tried to watch the "changing of the guard," but every other group visiting the D.C.

for the Inauguration was there as well, so many people in the group could not see. We also visited Mount Vernon, home of George Washington on Monday. We ended the day with a night tour of the monuments.

Monday was very cold and it snowed six inches at the hotel. The group had a snow fight in the front parking lot of the hotel. The other groups from Colorado, Ohio and Utah did not participate, but they did laugh at us!

On the Inauguration Day we woke up at 4 a.m. and drove

See Students — Page 2

HUD awards \$2 million for Goodwill

Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida has received funding in excess of \$2 million from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

On Friday, January 23, 2009, HUD Miami Field Office Director Armando Fana presented a ceremonial check for \$2,057,300 to Goodwill Vice President of Administration Rick Evanchyk and Goodwill Housing Committee Chair Jean Devereaux. The funds will be used to construct housing units for low-income people with disabilities in Hendry County.

LaBelle's "Palmetto Ranch" will be a 14-unit apartment

complex specially designed for people with physical disabilities, including amenities such as lower counter tops, roll-in showers and assistance railings.

The HUD funding will be used for Phase II of the Palmetto Ranch project, which will provide an additional 14 units.

"There's very little supportive or accessible housing for people with disabilities," Fana said at the presentation ceremony. "Organizations like Goodwill are helping to serve that population. They're putting this money to good use and helping to bridge the housing gap for people with disabilities."

Goodwill operates 11 rent-subsidized apartment complexes in Southwest Florida for people with disabilities and for low-income seniors. LaBelle's "Palmetto Ranch" is one of three additional complexes in the planning/construction stages. HUD has provided the majority of the funding for both phases of the LaBelle project.

"It's really gratifying that we can have a housing presence in Hendry County," explains Evanchyk. There's a great need for affordable housing for people with disabilities. If it weren't

See Goodwill — Page 2

HCSO: Loss leaves void

By Patty Brant
Caloosa Belle

Wearing black bands and somber hearts members of the Hendry County Sheriff's Office are coping with the shock of Sgt. Michael Lee Horne's death. The 45-year-old veteran lawman died as he was ending his shift about 6 a.m. Tuesday morning. For unknown reasons, his patrol vehicle rammed through the locked gate at his home and into the side of a utility building. Medical personnel's attempts to resuscitate him failed and he was pronounced dead at the scene.

All the details are not known at this time, but Sheriff Steve Whidden said the previous night's shift had been a busy one.

Florida Highway Patrol officers are investigating the crash.

As officers learned of their friend and colleague's death, they filed into the sheriff's office for a debriefing by professionals - an attempt to help them deal with the tragedy.

Sgt. Horne had been with the HCSO since 1998, beginning as a corrections officer. He became a road deputy in 2001. He was a midnight shift supervisor and had been promoted to sergeant just three weeks ago.

Sgt. Marian J. Bryant recalls working many shifts with Sgt. Horne. "He was the ultimate

type of cop you'd want," she said, "he was by the book, a professional. He was an all-around great guy and a wonderful father." Her sentiments echoed those of many of Sgt. Horne's fellow officers.

Named Officer of the Year for 2001-02 by the Clewiston Elks Lodge #1853, Sgt. Horne had earned the respect of the community as well as his peers.

Sheriff Steve Whidden was a close personal friend of Sgt. Horne's. He said, "Mike worked hard for this community and he was dedicated to serving and protecting the residents or those that passed through Hendry County and died doing what he loved..." He added, "I loved him like a brother."

Sgt. Horne leaves two daughters, ages 9 and 11. Funeral arrangements were unknown as of presstime.



Submitted photo
Sgt. Michael Horne HCSO

Suboffice fate still uncertain

By Patty Brant
Caloosa Belle

At Tuesday night's regular county commission meeting, the board voted 3-2 to rescind its previous decision to give the Clewiston sub-office to the fair board and tear the building down.

Commissioner Karson Turner was joined in his proposal by Commissioners Darrell Harris and Tris Chapman. Chairman Janet Taylor and Commissioner Kevin McCarthy voted against.

Although the board had made the decision to give the property to the fair board late last year, County Attorney Mark

Lapp said the board did not have to act on it as yet.

Commissioner Turner said he felt the insurance adjuster was giving the county the run around.

The bidding process for a new facility is ongoing and Commissioner Harris felt, when complete, the bids will "tell the story."

Commissioner McCarthy agreed saying they will have a better idea of the real costs involved.

Chairman Taylor favors a new building, saying rebuilding would only be a band aid on the problem.



Submitted photo
Pictured from left: Armando Fana, HUD Miami Field Office Director; Jean Devereaux, Goodwill Board of Directors; Rick Evanchyk, Goodwill VP of Administration.



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Submitted photo
Back row from left: Nora Fagin-Ned, Julissa Mobley, Mydajah Williams, Pastor Alonzo McKenzie. Middle row: Betty Jean Williams, Cynthia Williams, Bessie Gregory, Dorothy Barrett. Front and center, Deidre Ziegler. Not pictured: Ray Johnson.

Ford/Sunset Park contingent witnesses historic inauguration

By Nora Fagin-Ned

On Sunday, Jan. 19, nine LaBelle residents embarked on a once in a lifetime experience. We were honored and privileged to be able to travel and attend this nation's most prestigious event. It is not every day one has the opportunity to be a part of one of the most historical events ever. Proud can only begin to express how we felt. Excitement only breaks the ice on our emotions. Commitment and determination is what caused us to reach our destination, regardless. We began the task to attend the inauguration with possibly 60-70 people on a chartered bus. We ran into many potential

obstacles (some of which could not be helped) and ended up with nine people on a van. Our faith in God allowed us to never give up and without a doubt, we arrived. For most of them, this was a trip of firsts. First time in Washington, D.C.; first time attending an inauguration; first time riding on a train; and to top it off, while returning home, we had their first encounter with snow. While attending the inauguration, among the two million others, we were asked many times, where we were from, and proudly announced LaBelle, Florida. Believe it or not, a few people actually knew where LaBelle was. Words cannot adequately describe our experience. Just to be

there was an awesome feeling, and although we endured some extreme weather conditions, to actually see President and First Lady Obama a few feet away was the ultimate treat. We would like to thank everyone for all you did, whether it was words of encouragement, spiritual support, tips on preparing for the weather or what else you contributed, we say thank you. This is an experience we can share with our children, their children and many other generations to come. This experience and event also reinforced to us that there is nothing impossible if we put forth our God-given effort. Yes, We Can!

Students

Continued From Page 1

by bus into D.C. Our bus parked near DuPont Circle. Secret Service provided maps for all of the groups visiting D.C. All of the buses had to be registered with the Secret Service. From there, our group walked to the National Mall. The sun was just beginning to rise. It was beautiful. Looking back towards the Washington Monument and beyond, the sky was pink and blue. The air was crisp and excitement filled the air. Volunteers lined the barricades and welcomed everyone to the Washington with high-fives! Our group picked a spot near a huge jumbo-tron. Most of the students could not stand the bit-

ter cold, so they sought refuge in one of the museums until the actual ceremony began. Mrs. Akin stayed behind, because she did not want to miss a thing. The "free HBO concert" from two days before played on the jumbo-tron until the ceremony began, so it was not boring, just COLD. Right before the ceremony, a man near passed out American flags. The crowd was full of young people and many African Americans who have waited for this day for a long time. It took the group over two hours to make it back to the bus. Many of the roads were blocked off for the parade and for security reasons. We finally did make it back to the bus. We drove out of D.C. fairly easily and went back to the hotel to change for the Inaugural

Ball that we would be attending. Our ball was not one of the 10 official balls, but that did not take away from how much fun the students had. Seth Billig celebrated his 16th birthday on Inauguration Day and his favorite part about the whole trip was the Inaugural Ball. On the last day, it took the bus 3 hours to get into D.C., so the group only visited the Spy Museum. We waited for 3 or 4 hours in the airport and arrived back in Ft. Lauderdale around 8 that night. Lynette Rivas will always remember the snow and how crowded it was! "It was an amazing experience. I would love to go again and I wish we would have had more time there," Lynette said. Trevor followed up by saying, "I will always remember the Oath of Office. I witnessed history!"

Goodwill

Continued From Page 1

for HUD, we wouldn't be able to do this" All of Goodwill's housing complexes are in close proximity to services such as shopping and public transportation, in order to enable residents to live as independently as possible. Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida helps people with disabilities and other disadvantages discover and develop their full potential by helping to remove barriers to employment and independence. For more information about Goodwill's supportive housing for people with disabilities, call (239) 995-6100.

Get ready for the Cane Grinding Festival

This year's event will be the best yet...the first Saturday in February, the 7th, from 10 a.m. til the food 'n fun run out! There are those who say with dedicated conviction that the more birthdays the Cane Grinding Festival celebrates, the better it becomes. This year, the festival is celebrating thirty-three birthdays with all sorts of food and fun, visiting with friends and neighbors and shopping at the Cane Festival's many arts and craft vendors. You'll thrill to the sound of your favorite blue grass music by the Bluegrass Stage Coach Band, and the clogging of the Country Rhythm Cloggers.

Master of Ceremonies will be the master himself, Larry Lucky. His son, Larry Luckey, II, will sing and all the Luckeys will be on hand for the grinding and the syrup-making. Make your plans now to be there and stay until the last event is over Everything will take place under the mammoth spreading oaks in front of the big pavillion at the LARRY LUCKEY ORTONA INDIAN MOUND PARK on Route 78. The entrance to the park is west of the Ortona Cemetery on State Road 78. If you're coming from the north continue on Route 27 to SR 29, go west until you come to Route 78, turn left.

If you're coming from the LaBelle area, cross the bridge going north on Route 29 until you come to 78, then turn right. There are also those who say there's no better barbecue in the entire south than the OPEN PIT BARBECUE at the Cane Grinding Festival, and the portions are more than generous! ONE-HALF CHICKEN OR PORK STEAK, HUGE BAKED POTATO, FRESH HOME MADE SLAW, COFFEE OR TEA. The promise is: you'll not go away hungry! This year the festival will feature the exciting music of the BLUEGRASS STAGECOACH BAND, AND THE COUNTRY Rhythm Cloggers will be there to

entertain. There'll be all sorts of arts and crafts, cane syrup, special items for Valentine-giving and much more. And the best of the best southern cooks are baking special cakes, pies, and cookies for the Cane Grinding Dessert Booth. Don't miss it! Whole or half cakes, pies, or individual slices will be available. Take some home for the freezer. In advance, the donation price is \$7.00, at the gate adults \$8.00, children \$4.00. All proceeds are for the Ortona Volunteer Fire Department. Tickets available at the office of Whisper Creek RV Park on Route 29, the Ortona Store, the EDC at the Doyle Connor Building in Moore Haven, the County Manager's Office at the Court House in Moore Haven and from any Ortona Volunteer Firefighter. The tradition of naming a family of the year will be one of the highlights of the festival which will be a grand surprise. Remember! Bring a chair - or even better, bring two chairs and two friends! and enjoy all the events at the ORTONA CANE GRINDING FESTIVAL, NOW IN ITS 33RD YEAR...Saturday, February 7th. Plenty of easy parking available at the entrance. Every year the Cane Grinding Festival is one of the most fulfilled family events to take place in Glades County...and remember: it's ALL for the benefit of the Ortona Fire Department.



Submitted photo
The Luckeys making cane syrup.

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To Submit News
 The Caloosa Belle welcomes submissions from its readers. Opinions, calendar items, story ideas and photographs are welcome. Call (863) 675-2541 to reach our newsroom. Items may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed. If you are sending photographs via e-mail please send them in JPEG format, also please do not send WORD documents, just paste these messages into the body of the e-mail. Office documents are ok. The deadline for all news items is 11 a.m. on Monday prior to the following Thursday's publication.
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|------------------------|-----------|
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Ask Suzanne



Suzanne and Friends

Suzanne,
I recently paid \$100.00 for a pure-bred Chihuahua puppy that was 8 weeks old. She seems to be eating ok, but she doesn't play and she is kind of skinny. I called the lady I bought her from, but she all she said was, "She was fine when I had her!" I took her to the vet and she is now on antibiotics, vitamins and medicine for the worms she has. She is getting better, but the cost was not cheap! My \$100.00 puppy has a growing vet bill that I didn't count on!

Someone told me that I should have gotten a paper saying what shots she had and that she was healthy, but I didn't and the breeder now won't answer

my calls!

What, if anything, can I do? I also want to warn others about my experience.

D. M.

Dear D. M.

I am glad you were able to get your puppy to a veterinarian in time to treat her! She is lucky to have you for an owner.

In the State of Florida, there is a statute making it illegal to sell any puppy or kitten under the age of 8 weeks AND without a health certificate from a licensed veterinarian. It doesn't matter how much they charge for the pet, it is still illegal. This is to protect you and the pet. We hear this story many times a week, but usually without such a happy ending.

I would check with your local Animal Control agency or an attorney to see if you have any recourse, but the veterinarian bills is a hard lesson learned.

Pet stores are included in this statute, along with anyone breeding and selling pets so buyer beware!

*Suzanne M. Bonnell
Suzanne Bonnell is the director of
the Caloosa Humane Society*

Arrest reports

LaBelle:

Patricia Acosta, 14, was arrested Jan. 15 on a charge of drugs - deliver/distribution. Ty Marshall was the arresting officer.

Julio Lopez, 58, was arrested Jan. 21 on a charge of sexual offense against child, fondling. George Elver was the arresting officer.

Brett Eleston Davidson, 26, was arrested Jan. 21 on a charge of cocaine possession. George Elver was the arresting officer.

Tyran Matise Pasler, 33, was arrested Jan. 19 on charges of cocaine possession, and cocaine possession with intent to sell. Jesus Olvera was the arresting officer.

Ashley Ann Golladay, 20, was arrested Jan. 19 on a charge of felony probation violation. Rick Perian was the arresting officer.

Sylvia M. Perez, 45, was arrested Jan. 20 on a charge of failure to appear for felony offense.

Bonnie Weaver was the arresting officer.

Jonathan Ross Kats, 26, was arrested Jan. 20 on a charge of felony probation violation. Perry Short was the arresting officer.

Jose Sergio Moreno, 25, was arrested Jan. 22 on a charge of failure to appear for felony offense. Terri Hessler was the arresting officer.

Erick Bernal, 28, was arrested Jan. 22 on a charge of fugitive from justice in state. Terri Hessler was the arresting officer.

Vincent Michael Fabozzi, 33, was arrested Jan. 23 on a charge of fugitive from justice in state. Herman Blendsoe was the arresting officer.

Nathan Dewayne Francis, 21, was arrested Jan. 25 on a charge of felony probation violation. Jesus Olvera was the arresting officer.

Clewiston:

Christian Pantoja, 25, was arrested Jan. 20 on a charge of fleeing/eluding police, failure to obey law enforcement officer and escape. Jackie Garrett was the arresting officer.

Demetris McFarland, 26, was arrested Jan. 21 on a charge of

felony probation violation. Shannon Bell was the arresting officer.

Demaster Jored Arthur, 28, was arrested Jan. 21 on a charge of burglary of a structure, conveyance unarmed without person inside. Timothy Neidert was the arresting officer.

Jasmine Jomeka Brown, 22, was arrested Jan. 21 on a charge of burglary of a structure, conveyance unarmed without person inside. Timothy Neidert was the arresting officer.

Clarence Jerome Hunter, 24, was arrested Jan. 23 on a charge of fugitive from justice in state. Julio Perez was the arresting officer.

Henry Ralph Burden, 29, was arrested Jan. 23 on a charge of felony probation violation. Perry Short was the arresting officer.

Alexander G. Gonzalez, 26, was arrested Jan. 23 on a charge of aggravated battery, person uses a deadly weapon. Richard Waldron was the arresting officer.

Alfredo Hernandez, 20, was arrested Jan. 23 on a charge of principal in the first degree 777.011. Richard Waldron was the arresting officer.

Ulissess Diaz, 19, was arrested Jan. 23 on charges of principal in the first degree and aggravated battery, person uses a deadly weapon. Richard Waldron was the arresting officer.

Keith Wade Brown, 27, was arrested Jan. 24 on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon without intent to kill. Jackie Garrett was the arresting officer.

Chaunce Dylan Teele, 19, was arrested Jan. 24 on a charge of drug possession, marijuana over 20 grams or controlled substance without prescription. Daniel Cruz was the arresting officer.

Kevin Darell Williams, 16, was arrested Jan. 26 on a charge of aggravated battery offender knew/should have known victim was pregnant.

Shannon Bell was the arresting officer.

Community Briefs

Relay for life yard sale

The City of LaBelle Relay for Life team will have a yard sale Saturday, Jan. 31, from 8 a.m. till noon. Proceeds will go to research for a cure to cancer.

CTST meeting set

The Hendry County Community Traffic Safety Team meeting is held at 1 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month. This month it will be at the EMS convergence room. Meetings are set for 2009 with the next meeting planned for Feb. 5.

LHS Library Club meeting date changed

The Friends of the LaBelle High School Library meeting has been rescheduled to Feb. 14. We hope to see all interested individuals on the new date at 10 a.m.

Scout fundraiser planned

Please join LaBelle's Boy Scout Troop 9 for a spaghetti dinner fundraiser on Friday, Feb. 6, at Carlson Memorial United Methodist Church from 6-9 p.m. The cost is \$7 per person and includes spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and a drink. Carlson Memorial United Methodist Church is located at 310 Campbell St., LaBelle. For more info call 863-983-7719.

Car buffs to meet

The South Central Florida Car Club will present its 3rd Annual Legends of the Road Super Cruise on Feb. 21 from 9-4 in historic downtown LaBelle in conjunction with the world famous festival. All car owners are welcome to come and display your vintage, street rod, classic, muscle cars and trucks. More information and directions contact Club President Tom Corbitt at 863-234-8343 or Secy Ellen Beers 863-674-0128 or at SCFCarClub@yahoo.com

Pre registration \$20; at the gate \$25. Proceeds will be going to the Hendry-Glades Crisis Center.

No school February 16

There will not be school on Monday, Feb. 16, in observance of Presidents' Day.

Walkathon coming up

The second annual Bosom Buddies Walkathon Saturday, Jan. 31, begins at 10 a.m. Register at 8:30 a.m. Festivities in the park begin at 11 a.m. and include Music by DJ Ceon, bounce house, face painting. At 11:30 enjoy the Christ Central dancers; then the Universal All Stars at 12:15 p.m. followed by the blanket raffle at 1 p.m. Enjoy barbecue chicken, ribs and burgers, hot dogs and Spanish food. Vendors: Sharon's Creations, Shewmaker's Western Place, Ian Sands Photography, Brown's Embroidery, Judith's Creations, Lighted Glass Blocks, Willie's Swamp Cabbage Salsa and Lazy Acres Woodworking.

Caregiver Trainings

The Alzheimer's Association,

Florida Gulf Coast Chapter has announced three upcoming trainings for Family Caregivers.

Jan 30 - Safe Return/Medic Alert Wanderers ID Program: How it Works? Safety In the Home/Wandering Prevention

Feb 9 - Challenging Behaviors, Do's and Don't's: The Gems of Caregiving. Trainings are from 10-11:30 a.m. at Barron Public Library, 461 North Main Street.

For more information and to register, call Lisa Rodriguez, Program Specialist at 1(863) 385-3444 (Seating is limited). No cost.

LHS reunion

The annual High School Reunion for anyone who attended through the 1950s will be held March 14 at the Dallas Townsend building behind the airport. Bring a covered dish of your liking and join the fun. There will be afghans to raffle off, pictures to look through. Come early to visit; food at 5 p.m. To register, please call 675-1070 or 673-3482, or e-mail greer7@embarqmail.com.

VFW serving pizza

VFW Post 10100 invites everyone to Pizza Day, Friday, Jan. 30, beginning at 11 a.m. All you can eat for \$6; whole 16" pizza to go \$12 at the post home on SR 29S. Call 675-8008 for information.

Humane society plans yard sale

The Caloosa Humane Society will hold a giant yard sale Saturday, Jan. 31, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Many new items. They also need donations of saleable items. All proceeds go directly to benefit the animals at the shelter. Come to Park Ave. behind the LaBelle Auction Company, 390 N. Bridge St. For information call 675-0997.

Democrats to meet

Hendry County Democratic Executive Committee will meet at Flora and Ella's Restaurant, Highway 80 West in LaBelle, on Monday, Feb. 9, at 6 p.m. Hendry County's Democrats are planning a Jefferson-Jackson Day event for some time during the first two weeks of June.

All precinct committee members are asked to bring at least one guest. The public is welcome at meetings of the Democratic Party at all levels. For further information contact Hendry County DEC Chair Joe Thomas in LaBelle, (863)234-1894, or Vice Chair Carol Griggs in Clewiston, (863)228-4210.

Salvation Army volunteers

The Salvation Army will host its Annual Evening of Appreciation on Monday, Feb. 2, at 7 p.m., at the Carlson Memorial Methodist Church. For reservations, please call The Salvation Army office at 863-674-1441.

City Farm tour tickets

The Hendry County Farm-City Tour Council will hold its 28th annual farm tour of the Hendry County agricultural industry, Sat-

urday, Feb. 7. Tickets for the tour cost \$60 per person.

Deadline is January 30. For additional information about the tour and how to purchase tickets for the tour, stop by Hendry County Extension Service Office, 1085 Pratt Blvd, LaBelle. You may also call or e-mail dcaברה@ufl.edu. Make checks payable to: Hendry County City-Farm Tour.

Tahoe raffle deadline

Time is running out to get your Chevy Tahoe raffle ticket. Only \$25 a chance and only 100 tickets to be sold. Raffle will be held at noon on Jan. 30. Purchase your ticket at the Kiwanis Thrift Store or at LaBelle U-Save.

Computer classes

Pastor Avery's computer classes continues with one-hour classes at 10, 11 and noon. The classes are based on the need of the students. Beginner classes teach how to maintain your com-

puter word processing and digital film editing. There is an after-school class in movie making for students of the school system and homeschoolers.

Moviemaking class contains: Recording digital sound, video editing, lighting and some chromakey effect. To register for the class call 863-675-0900. All classes are free to the public class sizes are limited. Classes are located at LaBelle Assembly of God, 123 Fraser Ave. across from the Edward Upthegrove elementary school.

Enjoy drive thru BBQ

The Country Rhythm Cloggers are having a barbecue on Saturday, January 31, from 11-2 at the LaBelle Civic Center. Drive thru dinners or come in and join the dance workshop. Tickets are \$8 and include pulled pork, Log Cabin coleslaw, baked beans, rolls and iced tea. You may contact 673-4811 or purchase tickets during the barbecue.

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Speak Out

Have a comment, opinion or question about a public issue? Post it anytime at the LaBelle public forum at newszap.com. It is a hometown site, so visit the page as often as you would like and share your comments (but no personal attacks or profanities, please). You can also make a comment by sending an e-mail to cnews@newszap.com. Comments will be published in the newspaper as space permits.

Last in line

RESIDENTS: When a single old-timer buys a ticket to the dinner, we are often put aside or back in the corner. It is always the non-residents who are put up front in the best spots and we are very rarely recognized. Remember, it is we (the born and raised here) who pay taxes and upkeep of this town. We are put last in the food line. Speaking for myself, I will not support the event this year. I've had enough! Why not let the few of us enjoy it while we are still here? We are proud of our town!

It's the kids that are losing

SCHOOL LAYOFFS: In regard to the letter concerning the educational layoffs, I agree with you wholeheartedly. Our county spends a great deal of money that should be re-evaluated before we cut the employment of our paraprofessionals (educational aides). Why is it when cutting back is needed in our expenses, the lowest paid are made to suffer first? Paraprofessionals are already below the poverty level, making \$15,000 annually, after 10 years. In this economy, we know that for them to replace their job with something new is very unlikely. So, what next; food stamps and unemployment? How is this saving our government money anyway? Money is not spent wisely and everybody knows it, but no one does anything about it. It is simply easier to lay off people. Way to go!!

More importantly, let's look at what these paraprofessionals do for our school. Some people are under the misconception that they are there to help the teachers. Not so! Paraprofessionals are teachers, too. They are there to help our students succeed. They tutor the students who need help. As the classroom assignments progress, some students need extra guidance to accomplish a given task. Paraprofessionals are there to help those students keep up and improve. Because the ratio at the secondary level is approximately 130 students per teacher in one subject area, paraprofessionals are a valuable asset to students unable to keep up with the class advancement.

So, what is to happen to those students now? Does anyone care? Or is it more important to cut the meager thousands it will save our budget? Why haven't we looked at the thousands wasted every year? Why are some of our county salaries so high? How high are our purchases?

Some of you may think: "oh, it doesn't affect me, my child can keep up." The reality is that when other students "don't get it," the teacher has to slow things down for everyone. Think about it. The loss of our paraprofessionals is profound.

Letter to the Editor

Does this seem right?

The state opens up Lotto games to support funding education. Then they cut the education budget so our teaches are without work. It seems to me that maybe they could cut back on cash prizes given out at Lotto games and use that money for eduction, which, I believe, was the purpose of Lotto games to start with.

While I am at it, did you ever wonder why you need a different liability policy for each car you own? I don't know about you, but I can only drive one car at a time. The insurance companies must pay their lobbyist real well. Our government allows this to go on. I'm through for now.

Ed Kuntz
LaBelle

Weather Forecast

Weather forecast for Hendry County from the National Weather Service

LaBelle and surrounding area

Thursday: Mostly cloudy with a high near 79 and a 20 percent chance of showers after 11 a.m. Winds will be calm becoming west between 8 and 11 mph.

Thursday night: Mostly cloudy with a low around 54 and a 30 percent chance of showers. Winds will be from the northwest between 5 and 7 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday: Mostly cloudy with a high near 66 and a 30 percent chance of showers. Winds will be from the north around 9 mph.

Friday night: Partly cloudy with a low around 35 and a 20 percent chance of showers. Winds will be from the north around 9 mph.

Saturday: Sunny with a high near 66. Winds will be from the north around 9 mph.

Saturday night: Partly cloudy with a low around 37.

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a high near 72.

Sunday night: Partly cloudy with a low around 46.

Monday: Mostly sunny with a high near 74.

Public Issues Forums: Join the discussion!

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Our Purpose...

The Caloosa Belle is published by Independent Newspapers of Florida. 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.

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- 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.
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- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

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For More Information See At Your Service On Page 2

Guest Commentary

Three is a very important number

By Les Morgan, pastor Caloosa Baptist Church, LaBelle

Numbers are an important part of every culture and society. Without numbers people would be unable to add, subtract multiply or divide. No one could give a Social Security number, use a debit or credit card, or dial a phone.

If numbers did not exist we would be unable to read a clock, unsure what channel to turn so we could watch ESPN, nor would we know when to get off work.

Imagine the horror that would strike the students all over Amer-



Les Morgan

ica if suddenly text messaging would be totally defunct! Yet, without numbers, texting would be impossible.

However, speeding would be... well, maybe we should address that another time!

So, obviously, numbers are important. And when you think about it, the number "three" is important. Consider the following...

There are three things in life

that, once gone, never come back: 1) Time 2) Words and 3) Opportunity.

There are three things in life that can destroy a person: 1) Anger, 2)Pride and 3) Unforgiveness.

There are three things in life that one should never lose: 1) Hope, 2) Peace, and 3) Honesty.

There are three things in life that are most valuable: 1) Love, 2) Family and friends and 3) Kindness.

There are three things in life that are never certain: 1) Fortune, 2) Success and 3) Dreams.

There are three things in life

that make a person a great individual: 1) Commitment, 2) Sincerity and 3) Hard Work.

And, finally, there are three things that are truly constant, no matter what comes your way...

1) The Father, 2) The son, and 3) The Holy Spirit.

Follow hard after these and pursue these truths and you will discover life with significance, substance, and stability. Those three things are worth the journey!

*Dr. Les Morgan is pastor of Caloosa Baptist Church in LaBelle, located 200 yards behind Flora & Ella's on Highway 80.

Faith in the Marketplace

How we face the grief and loss of a loved one

Several years ago, in another place, I received a call from a local funeral director, asking if I would be willing to conduct a service for a woman who had just died. She was on in years and her health had finally failed her. He told me that her family had listed her faith as Episcopalian, so I agreed. When I met her husband and family, I found that I didn't know them.

In fact, except for a few weddings and funerals, they had not been in church since they were baptized. It was apparent that the woman's husband was not interested in talking to me before the service, so what little information I was able to gather was from some of the family members. As I began the service, the woman's husband got up, walked to a side room where he could not be seen, and sat motionless and silent. After the service, he insisted on watching the casket being



Fr. Alan Kelmereit

closed, and then went directly to his car, as did the rest of the people. I left feeling quite puzzled and a bit frustrated.

Some six months later, the funeral director called again. This time it was the husband who had died. I remembered a few of the family members and was able to chat with them before the service. Once the service began, everyone was silent, as they had been for the earlier funeral. As soon as the service ended, they quickly headed for their cars as they had the last time. Occasionally, I'm reminded of these two funerals and stop to reflect on what was happening there. A few of the people who had gathered, but not many,

seemed to know the words of the Lord's prayer and the 23rd Psalm. All of the people were very somber. There were few smiles and little conversation. I felt a great sense of loss and hopelessness among the people there.

Some time later, Tom, a member of the church I served, died unexpectedly. He was in his early 70s, and possessed of a great faith that he willingly shared with others. At his funeral, we sang the songs he loved, told stories of good times spent together, listened to people talk about how he had affected their lives. There were tears, but mostly smiles and laughter, and people hung together after the funeral to share their love for Tom with each other. The only way to describe that funeral is that it was a joyous occasion.

As I reflect on these three funerals, the differences between those people who face death with

no faith and those who have a lively faith stand out. The absence of faith inclines people toward grief, sorrow, regret and a sense of hopelessness. A living faith allows for grief at the absence of a loved family member or friend, but there is also peace, joy and hope based on the knowledge that this life is not all there is.

Think back over your own experiences at funerals and see if you don't recall the same differences. More importantly, think ahead. Death comes to us all. It is not something to be feared, but is a part of life and for those who know Jesus, it is a transition, not an end.

Fr. Alan is pastor of Church of the Good Shepherd, located one block south of Rt 80 on Collingswood Phuy in Port LaBelle. 863-675-0355. Send comments or questions to FaithMarketplace@embarqmail.com.

Thanks

Kindness shown

The staff and residents of Kingshouse wish to thank the following people for their kindness and thoughtfulness this holiday season:

Ruby and Dick Hammon for poinsettias, Carlson Memorial United Methodist Church sang carols. Aqua Isles music group sang carols, some one donated magazines, Marilyn Smith donated puzzles and books, national Honor Society sang carols, Max Lamkins family church sang carols and donated cookies and the Woman's Group donated gifts.

We appreciate the time that was spent to bring happiness to our residents. Thank you for the love that was shown.

Stafford and Annette King

MLK March

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in this year's march. I was away at the Presidential Inauguration, but never felt as proud as when I came home on Monday afternoon. I was told repeatedly by many how great everything turned out.

I have not missed a march in almost 15 years and I wanted very much for us to continue with or without me being there.

LaBelle, you did well, I'm forever grateful and proud of you.

Keep up the good work, Nora Fagin-Ned

Second hand smoke, another reason to quit

By Jeni Dyess

Every parent wants the best for their child. You do everything in your power to ensure your children grow up happy, healthy, and have the best opportunities you can provide. Most parents would not intentionally risk the health or safety of their child. However, sometimes things we do as adults affect our children more than we realize. If you're a smoker, someone in your household smokes, or you frequent places where smoking is allowed with your child, you're putting them at risk. When a cigarette is smoked, about half the smoke is inhaled and exhaled by the smoker. The other half floats around in the air. This combination of smoke is known as environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) or more commonly, secondhand smoke. ETS plays a role in more health problems than you might be aware of—not only for adults, but for children as well.

Did you know children who breathe in secondhand smoke have more chronic respiratory symptoms such as coughing and wheezing, and more cases of bronchial infection? They are also more likely to suffer from dental cavities, eye and nose irritation, and irritability. Exposure to ETS causes fluid to buildup in the middle ear, resulting in almost 1.6 million doctor's office visits each year. More trips to the doctor may translate to increased medical/insurance expense and loss of work time for the parent.

Even if you choose to smoke outside the home or only in your home or car when your children aren't with you, they're still being exposed to toxins. The January issue of Pediatrics magazine revealed the results of a study done by researchers at MassGeneral Hospital for Children on thirdhand smoke. Toxic particles from

tobacco smoke get lodged in a smoker's hair, clothing, and surfaces such as fabric, carpet, etc. These particles contain chemical compounds which have been classified by the Environmental Protection Agency as Group A carcinogens, meaning there is sufficient evidence in humans proving these substances cause cancer. Small children are more susceptible to thirdhand smoke exposure because they can inhale near, crawl and play on, or touch and mouth contaminated surfaces. For example, a smoker picks up a baby and holds it to their chest after they've been outside for a cigarette. The baby is breathing in thirdhand smoke from their shirt.

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death. Every year more than 5 million people die because of tobacco, many of them victims of secondhand smoke. Florida's Clean Indoor Air Act prohibits smoking in enclosed indoor workplaces, which covers most buildings open to the public. You can ask smokers not to smoke in your home and car. It's okay to ask a person not to smoke. No one has the right to smoke in your vehicle or home without your permission. Protect yourself and your loved ones from secondhand and thirdhand smoke. For more information on how you or a loved one can quit smoking in 2009, contact the Hendry County Health Department at 863-674-4041 and ask for Jeni Dyess X143 or Valarie James X128. The Florida Quitline the state cessation hotline. A counselor is waiting to speak to you. Call 1-877-U-CAN-NOW anytime.

January cervical health awareness month

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Department of Health (DOH) recognizes January as Cervical Health Awareness Month, a time to educate, encourage and empower women to visit their health care provider for information and screening for cervical cancer.

"Because approximately half of all cervical cancers occur in women who have never been screened, screening is particularly important in these women or women who have rarely been screened," said Susan Fleming, DOH Cancer Program Administrator. "By taking action, you can reduce your cancer risk."

Cervical cancer once claimed the lives of more American women than any other type of cancer but is now nearly 100% preventable and treatable with timely interventions. Over the last 40 years, widespread cervical cancer screening using the Pap test and treatment of pre-cancerous cervical conditions have resulted in a marked reduction of the incidence and deaths due to cervical cancer in the United States.

Approximately 99 percent of cervical cancer is attributed to a virus known as human papillomavirus (HPV). The virus is spread through sexual contact, and women can be infected with HPV and not know it. A new HPV vaccine prevents some types of cervical cancer. This immunization may reduce the incidence of cervical cancer even more over time.

Ways to prevent or treat cervical cancer include:

Have regular Pap tests which can find early cell changes in the cervix

Females should start getting regular Pap tests about three years after they begin sexual activity

All women should have a Pap test by the age of 21 regardless of sexual activity

Follow up promptly on any abnormal Pap test results

Discuss HPV vaccinations with your health care provider

Studies also suggest that

smoking, a weakened immune system, and multiple sexual partners increase your risk of cervical cancer.

In Florida during 2005, 910 new cases of cervical cancer were diagnosed, and 291 Floridians died of cervical cancer. The number of cases and deaths are higher in Florida than many other states.

DOH promotes, protects and improves the health of all people in Florida. The DOH Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program is available statewide. This program provides assistance to women ages 50-64, who are uninsured and are at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. By offering information and support, as well as the critical screening services that women need, the program has helped to remove barriers that prevent women from being screened.

Since the program began, over 44,189 women have received Pap tests through this program. There are 16 sites in Florida that serve the state. For more information on enrolling in the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, visit www.doh.state.fl.us/family/bcc or call the American Cancer Society at (800) 227-2345.

To learn more about cervical cancer, visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov, the American Cancer Society at www.cancer.org, the National Cancer Institute at www.cancer.gov, or the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality at www.ahrq.gov. A Florida cervical cancer fact sheet is available at www.doh.state.fl.us/Disease_ctrl/epi/cancer/Cervix_Report.pdf.

The DOH Immunization Program provides vaccinations for HPV to young females through several programs. You can visit www.immunizeflorida.org/topics/hpv.htm for more information or call your local county health department.

Community Briefs

File for 2009 tax savings early

Phillip Pelletier Hendry County Property Appraiser would like all Hendry County property owners to know that the deadline for filing any 2009 Homestead Exemption, limited income Senior Exemption or Agricultural Classification is March 2, 2009.

Mr. Pelletier wants everyone to be sure that they apply for these benefits before the deadline so his office is now accepting applications for early filing of your 2009 homestead and portability benefits. Avoid the lines in January and

February or taking me chance of forgetting to file before the deadline

You can go to our website www.hendrprop.org and download your application form. By doing this you will be sure that you have all necessary documents with you when you come to the office to apply.

Our offices in Clewiston and LaBelle are open from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM Monday thru Friday. If you need additional information you can call 863-983-1591 in Clewiston and 863-675-5270 in LaBelle.

United Way to distribute funds for emergency food, shelter

FORT MYERS (January 20, 2009)--- The United Way of Lee, Hendry and Glades has announced that Lee and Hendry Counties will receive funds to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the area. Lee County will receive \$507,103, and Hendry County will receive \$43,445.

The selection was made by a national board that is chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from The Salvation Army, American Red Cross, United Jewish Communities, Catholic Charities USA, Nation Council of the Churches of Christ USA, and the United Way of America.

Joanna Bradshaw, a United Way Board Member will chair the local board which will oversee the allocations process. The local board is charged with distributing the funds appropriated by Congress to expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in

high-need areas.

"These funds come to us at a time when they are sorely needed because of high unemployment and serious economic problems in our community. The funds will help fill food pantries and provide shelter to the men, women and children who are hurting the most," said Cliff Smith, President of the United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades.

The local Board will determine how the funds awarded to the area are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local human service agencies in the area. The local Board is responsible for recommending local human service agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds that become available under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the national board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must be the following: be private

voluntary non-profits or united of government; have an accounting system; practice nondiscrimination; have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and if they are private voluntary organizations, they must have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies and organizations are urged to apply.

The United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades has distributed Emergency Food and shelter funds previously to 17 participating agencies.

Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for these Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds should contact the United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades, 7275 Concourse Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33908 or call 239-433-2000 to request an application. The deadline for applications to be received is January 30, 2009.



Submitted photo

Dancing 'Cloggers' host annual workshop

The Country Rhythm Cloggers will be hosting their annual clogging workshop at the LaBelle Civic Center on Friday, Jan. 30 and Saturday, Jan. 31. We will have instructors from all over the State teaching dances and various performers from near and far. Friday from 5 until 9, and Saturday from 9 until 8. Admission for Dancers is \$20, spectators \$5. If you have always wanted to learn to clog, now is your opportunity. All ages and all dancers, from beginner to advanced, are welcome. Come out and learn a few dance moves or just enjoy the performances. You may call 863-673-4811 for more information.

Diocese to honor couples

Celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries

VENICE---In February, Bishop Frank J. Dewane will celebrate a Mass honoring married couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 50+ years. In order to accommodate so many couples, there will be two Masses. The first will be held on Feb. 7, at Our Lady of Light Parish in Estero at 11 a.m. The second will be on Feb. 14, at Epiphany Cathedral Parish in Venice at 11 a.m.

A reception will follow each Mass in the Parish Center. Please contact your local parish to make a reservation. For more information please call the Family Life Office at the Diocese of Venice 941-484-9543.



Submitted photo

Dean's List

Florida State University is pleased to announce that Miesha M. Pharis of LaBelle has been named to the Dean's List for the 2008 Fall Semester. Miesha obtained a 3.60 on a 4.0 scale to reach this academic achievement. This is her first semester at Florida State University. Miesha is a political science major with double minors in Religion and Spanish. She completed an Associate degree at Edison College in 2008 before transferring to Florida State University. Miesha is a former assistant director and member of the Country Rhythm doggers, and is the daughter of Greg and Marva Pharis.

Church Briefs

Forgiveness seminar planned

Dr. Dick Tibbits, renowned speaker and best selling author from Florida Hospital in Orlando will speak in LaBelle on March 7. His seminar is based on his book "Forgive to Live - How Forgiveness Can Save Your Life" and is sponsored by Carlson Memorial United Methodist Church. Everyone is invited to attend this community wide event being held at the church from 9-4 on Saturday, March 7. The cost is \$25 per person or \$30 per couple and includes a copy of the book, lunch, beverages and snacks. If there are concerns about the cost, a financial "helping hand" is available. For more information or to make a reservation please call Marty Cowen at 863-675-4710, Joyce Salzmann at 863-675-6314, Mary McHenry at 863-675-8753 or email macowen@embarqmail.com.

Welcome to movie night

Freedom Fellowship Ministries, Hwy. 29N. invites everyone to movie night Jan. 31 at 7 p.m. to see Nacho Libre with Jack Black, rated PG.

Third Sunday sing

Plan to join your friends at First Christian Church, on the corner of Lee and Ford Streets, for dinner and singing at the Third Sunday Sing. It happens Jan. 18 at 5 p.m. There is no charge for dinner and no offering will be collected. For more information call 675-1366.

Attention youth

Youth Awakening at Freedom Fellowship Ministry Friday, Feb. 6 and Saturday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m. both nights. For more information contact Sara Barnes at 673-7786.

'For The Lord'

Freedom Fellowship Ministries is beginning a new program called For the Lord, geared toward young people ages 17-30. It's a small group setting for support and continuous lifestyle improvement for young people struggling with things like addiction and personal problems. Meetings are Mondays 7-8:30 p.m.

For more information, please call Freedom Fellowship at 612-9899.

Come to New Beginning

New Beginning Full Gospel Church, 4501 Birchwood Parkway, Port LaBelle has Sunday services at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.; Wednesday at 7 p.m. They welcome anyone without a church home.

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For more info contact Sara @ 863-673-7786.

Money to Lend

Although, it's hard to miss the bad news about housing and mortgages these days, it is actually one of the best times to buy a home. Interest rates are the lowest they've been in decades, home prices are the lowest in years and Seacoast National Bank is open for business and making residential mortgage loans.

application for up to 90 days. You can then shop for a home with the peace of mind that the rate will not increase while you shop. If rates go down before you close on the loan, so does your rate. You can also choose to change the loan to a fixed rate option at closing.

In fact, we've been in business for over 80 years. We did not participate in payment-option ARM's (adjustable rate mortgages), sub-prime loans or other 'exotic' mortgage loans you read about today and which so many other mortgage lenders are struggling with. Instead, we sat out the irrational lending frenzy and built our internal resources to better serve our customers and home buyers today and in the future.

Interest rates are the lowest they've been in decades, home prices are the lowest in years and Seacoast National Bank is open for business and making residential mortgage loans.

ARM(ed) But Not Dangerous

The events of the last few years have created the perception that all ARM's (Adjustable Rate Mortgages) are dangerous - they're not. There are times when an ARM is the right loan for the situation. For instance, a couple purchasing a home that plans to sell and upgrade in a few years would most likely benefit from a shorter term ARM loan. It's a matter of applying common sense lending practices and selecting the right loan to fit the needs of the borrower.

Technology & Convenience

A common misconception is that an online-only lender will save a home buyer money. Although the Internet is ideal for gathering information, the drawbacks of working with an online-only lender outweigh the advantages. To complement our loan services, Seacoast has convenient online tools for home buyers including a mortgage calculator and application for those who want online convenience. However you choose to apply, local, dedicated mortgage loan officers are available to assist you with the application process in person at your home or office, at a Seacoast office or over the telephone. Seacoast's professional mortgage lenders are prepared to understand your current economic and housing needs, to answer your questions and make quick local decisions. We disclose all terms and conditions up front, and provide a single point of contact throughout the process, so there are no surprises at closing. Our promise to you is simple - whether you apply online or in person, there's nothing "mechanical" about the way you'll be treated as a customer.

New Lock & Shop Service

We recently introduced our "Lock and Shop" service at Seacoast that allows prospective home buyers to be pre-approved for a mortgage and lock in the rate on an Adjustable Rate Mortgage (ARM) at the time of

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Las Noticias en Espanol

Despido

El Consejo Administrativo Escolar aprobó la recomendación del Supervisor Escolar de despedir a 58 empleados en su reunión regular del 13 de enero 2009. Estos despidos de personal serán efectivos desde el 13 de febrero. Los empleados afectados por el cese de funciones fueron notificados de esta decisión el 20 de enero. A ellos se les dará asistencia necesaria y se les llamará en 18 meses si hay posiciones abiertas para ser relocalizados.

El Supervisor Escolar Rick Murphy recomendó la reducción de empleados en las categorías siguientes:

Un mínimo de 50 posiciones o un máximo de 75 paraprofesionales, asistentes instruccionales y asistentes de cuidado en las siguientes categorías: un contador, dos especialistas ocupacionales, un consejero de recurso, un supervisor de finanzas y un mínimo de tres enfermeras.

De acuerdo con el nuevo Supervisor de escuelas Rick Murphy, la razón por la reducción es que no hay suficiente dinero por la recolección de impuestos que provienen de las propiedades para operar las escuelas. El estado espera un deducción del dos por ciento

del millón presupuestado para las escuelas locales. El señor Murphy dijo que ya se habían discutido estos asuntos anteriormente con el antiguo Supervisor Tomm Conner y para que la pastilla sea mas difícil de tomar no hubo la cantidad de estudiantes enlistados como se había esperado.

El presupuesto del 2008-2009 está basado en la estabilidad monetaria que se ha mantenido durante los últimos 6 meses y debido a la mala economía se reducen las entradas de dinero por lo que casi no hay ninguna reserva guardada. Casi con un ochenta por ciento del presupuesto, el Distrito se ve obligado a cancelar los beneficios y salarios de mil empleados. El otro 20 por ciento del presupuesto es para cubrir gastos operacionales como equipo, artículos escolares, utilidades y costos generales de operación. Ya se hicieron las reducciones en esta áreas lo que va dejar de beneficio un ahorro de \$643,000 este año y \$959,000 para el próximo año. Sin embargo con todos los recortes anteriormente mencionados no se eleva la cantidad que se necesita para cubrir los gastos del presupuesto general de este o el próximo año.

Esta es la tercera reducción

de empleo que se hace desde los últimos 20 años y es la mas profunda y dolorosa de todas.

Fue un decisión muy difícil con un proceso complicado. El Distrito Escolar recomienda a los residentes a contactar los legisladores para recordarles a ellos las promesas que hicieron antes de ser electos de no perjudicar los presupuestos escolares.

Centro de Educacion

El Centro de Educación está coordinando los siguientes cursos con El Concilio de La Fuerza Trabajadora: El Curso de computadora que cuesta \$125 por cuatro clases de 9 a 11:30. Es una clase de enriquecimiento sin diploma. Curso de construcción nivel 1 con un costo de \$750. Las clases serán en las tardes en El Centro. Licencia comercial para manejar camión. El costo es de acuerdo a la duración del entrenamiento. Llamar al 675-6800 para información. Puede pasar al Centro localizado en La Calle 29 número 4930 por una aplicación o mandar un correo al Director Sonny Hughes en el sitio: shughesedcenter@embarqmail para registrarse por computadora.

Dr. Darryl Damon DMD relishes rural practice

By Patty Brant
Caloosa Belle

Sometimes things just fit. For instance, since 1982 Dr. Hal Haering has been caring for the dental health of LaBelle residents.

Now, Dr. Haering has welcomed another dentist into his office.

Dr. Darryl Damon DMD began seeing patients in the LaBelle office in mid-January and is thrilled with his new prospects. After practicing dentistry for 20 years in Bonita Springs, Dr. Damon said he is happy to be working in LaBelle. This western New York native grew up among dairy farms and said his heart has always been in the country. Twenty years ago, he said, Bonita was much like LaBelle and he is anxious to get back into an easier, more comfortable mode.

With Dr. Haering on sabbatical teaching at the University of

Illinois for a semester, this is the perfect time for him to immerse himself in LaBelle and his new patients.

Dr. Damon attended Middlebury College in Vermont and wound up becoming a stock broker. It was a bond client, who was a dentist, that got him interested in dentistry. The man's Washington, D.C. office was in his home, and patients had a view of the national zoo. Dr. Damon's hometown dentist also had an office in his home - it was the standard, as far as Dr. Damon was concerned.

Although he found out differently while actually studying dentistry, it was always the "feel" of that home office that he wanted to achieve.

That's the dream that brought him to practice in LaBelle.

Still living in North Naples, Dr. Damon has a 50 minute daily commute, but that does not deter

him.

Dr. Damon said he's here permanently. He sold his Bonita practice two years ago and worked for Family Health Centers on Pine Island for a while, till he decided that he really wanted to get back into private practice. Dr. Damon and Dr. Haering knew each other for years as members of the West Coast Dental Society and their association came naturally.

Dr. Damon knew that Dr. Haering wanted to pursue his educational interests more intently. As an adjunct faculty member at the University of Illinois, Dr. Haering flies there regularly and Dr. Damon can be here continuing the practice.

He said they share the same ideology and training. He has high praise for their "wonderful, experienced staff" and noted that they keep meticulous records. It's like stepping into his own office,

he said - it's been a seamless transition. Having established several offices before, Dr. Damon said "this is a honeymoon because of the quality of the office staff, hospitality of community and the high level of care Dr. Haering gives." According to Dr. Damon, "It's a good match."

Despite the current economic climate, he is certain that LaBelle will grow in good time.

With Dr. Damon, the office

can provide expanded function, including dentures, partials, root canals, implants, all phases of reconstructive and cosmetic dentistry, crowns and bridges. With Dr. Edwards here in LaBelle, the town has a full range of dental services, Dr. Damon explained, adding, "I understand the community and patient needs at a personal level."

Dr. Damon has been married for 32 years. His wife was a kin-

dergarten teacher for 22 years. The couple has two adult children as well as a 9 and a 12 year old.

The doctors' office is located at 55 Belmont Street. The phone number is 675-0019.

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FEATURES OF THE WEEK!
3/2 CUSTOM HOME - Almost New! REDUCED \$56,900.
BUSINESS ZONED PROPERTY! 3/4 Acre property w/frontage on Riverview and Hwy 80. \$100,000

HOMES
3BR/2BA CBS Home \$68,000
3BR/2BA MOBILE in the city. \$79,900.
3BR/2BA HOME OF MERIT double-wide manufactured home located in a great neighborhood near schools. \$98,000
3BR/2BA HOME reduced to \$99,000
3/4 ACRE (6 LOTS) on corner of Hwy 78 and Commanchee 125' x 250' \$99,900
4BR/2BA HOME! Seller will contribute towards Buyers Closing Costs! \$135,500
3BR/2BA HOME! Large Oaks and nicely landscaped. \$139,000
4BR/2BA CBS HOME IN TOWN. \$155,500
LIKE NEW! 4Br/2Ba Manufactured Home w/ 2,280 sq. ft. of living area. \$165,000
3BR/2BA HOME has charming setting under shaded oak canopy. B-2 zoning allows for residential use now and future business / investment opportunities. \$168,500
3BR/2BA CUSTOM HOME- Seller will consider all offers. \$169,000
3BR/2BA WELL MAINTAINED MOBILE HOME on 3 lots. \$180,000
3BR/2.5BA CBS POOL HOME 2,000+/- sq. ft living area. \$259,000
CUSTOM VICTORIAN CHARM! 3Br/2Ba located in stable Caloosa Hammock subdivision, an area of beautiful homes. \$269,000
MULTI FAMILY ZONED PROPERTY w/remodeled 2/2 "Cracker-Style" House on .60

+/- acre. \$299,000
3BR/2BA WATERFRONT HOME, Gulf Access, 1/2 Acre lot. East of LaBelle. Price to sell at \$314,900
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8.8 +/- ACRES FRONTING ON HWY 720! 3Br/1Ba CBS Home. \$490,000.
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SE HABLA ESPAÑOL Emily Figured, Mary Harris, Janet Papinaw and Shelly Cole



Caloosa Belle/Patty Brant
LaBelle's new dentist, Dr. Darryl Damon, seated, is pictured with staff, standing from left: Diana Lora, Ruth Arroyave, Allison Burns, Tracey Post and Susan Bratcher. Dr. Hal Haering is not pictured.

Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted to the Caloosa Belle 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.

John Henry Harn Sr., 89

LAKE BUTLER — John Henry Harn Sr., of Lake Butler, previously long time resident of LaBelle, died Jan. 21, 2009. He was 89.

He was born Sept. 2, 1919, in Tasmania, the son of William Washington and Willie Agnes Mathis Harn.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Melitha McDaniel Harn.

Survivors include three sons, John Harn Jr. and Gil Harn, both of Lake Butler, and Steve Harn of LaBelle; one sister, Dora Tillman of Ellabell, Ga.; six grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandson.

A memorial service will be held at Community Harvest Worship Center, 55 Orange St., LaBelle, Saturday at 4 p.m.

Lenetta Jane Boyle, 47

LABELLE — Lenetta Jane Boyle, age 47, of LaBelle, passed away Jan. 21, 2009, in LaBelle.

She was born Oct. 13, 1961 in Guin, Ala., to the late Burlie Vaughn Williams and the late Shirley Ann (Carruth) Williams. She loved fishing, hunting and most enjoyed spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. Her motto for life was Live, Laugh, Love.

Lenetta was a member of the American Legion Post 130 Women's Auxiliary, American Legion Riders and Caloosa Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband, Michael Alan Boyle of LaBelle; children, Bryan Boyle of Georgia; daughter, Shirley Beckham of Arcadia; brothers, Joe Earl Williams and William Dale Williams of Mississippi; sisters, Christy (Sammy) Lindsey and Amanda Rene (Lee) Green of Alabama; mother and father-in-law, Beatrice and James Boyle of LaBelle; sister-in-law, Judy (Kevin) Foster of Port St. John; grandchildren, Holden Lane Gaskins, Anslee Boyle, Sommer Gaskins, Ashton Boyle, Miranda Nichols, Allison Boyle; special mom: Lucretia Strickland of LaBelle; and a slew of friends.

She was preceded in death by her stepson, Christopher Boyle.

Funeral services were held Sat. Jan. 24, 2009, 10 a.m. at Caloosa Baptist Church in LaBelle with Rev. Homer Brewer officiating. Interment followed in Fort Denaud Cemetery, LaBelle.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hope Hospice, 9470 Health-Park Circle, Fort Myers, FL 33908, American Cancer Society (City of LaBelle-Relay for Life Team) or Caloosa Humane Society.

Arrangements by Akin-Davis Funeral Home, LaBelle.

Take a second look at Double Image hair salon



Caloosa Belle/Patty Brant
The Castro twins look forward to helping you look your best at their salon, Double Image. Adriana gives sister Gaby, seated, a little touch up.

Gaby and Adriana Castro say they have always known they would be hair stylists. Even as children they were always doing other people's hair, learning by doing. Becoming hair stylists and having their own salon has been their dream since then. Today, the identical twins have already fulfilled that dream.

The twins graduated from LaBelle High School in 2004; then attended Sun State Academy in Fort Myers where they learned the trade and honed their skills as hair stylists before earning their licenses.

The twins offer the latest styles for all occasions, as well as cuts, color, perms, extensions, highlights and waxing. They can both do it all, but Adriana likes color and cuts, while Gaby prefers taking care of the highlighting and perms.

With clean modern styling throughout the shop, the Castro sisters have provided an upbeat, airy atmosphere for their clients to enjoy as they're being pampered by experienced stylists.

At Double Image, the sisters say they listen to the client. Women, men and children can walk in the door, confident that they will walk out feeling good about themselves - knowing they got what they wanted. They are proud to offer great service at reasonable prices. Walk-ins are always welcome.

Double Image has a variety of hair products available, including Matrix.

Located at 505 W. Hickpochee Ave. Ste. 800 (in the UPS plaza) Double Image is open Monday through Friday 9-7; Saturday 9-5. The phone number is 675-4940. Se habla Espanol.

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100 Oxbow B203 2/2 Condo Furnish \$800/mo
4005 W. Sunflower Cir. 3/2/1 \$650/mo
2915 Shell Ln. 1+Den&Pool+River Acces \$1100/mo
334 Lopez 3/2,5/1 \$900/mo

CITY OF LABELLE \$274,900. Among the oaks is this Brick Home with 3Br/2ba split plan walkin closet on 1 Acre Pool - Work shed. MLS#200864250

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Lunch Menu

Hendry County District Schools lunch menu for the week of **Jan. 29-Feb. 5**
LaBelle area schools
Primary grades
Thursday, Jan. 29: Nachos, green beans, pineapple, choice of milk
Friday, Jan. 30: Cheese pizza, tossed salad, corn, apple-sauce, choice of milk
Monday, Feb. 2: Chicken nuggets, baked beans, pineapple, dinner roll, choice of milk
Tuesday, Feb. 3: Tacos, corn, lettuce and tomato, orange juice, choice of milk
Wednesday, Feb. 4: Popcorn chicken, mac and cheese, broccoli, cherry jello, choice of milk
Thursday, Feb. 5: Chicken and gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, dinner roll,

diced peaches, choice of milk
Secondary grades
Thursday, Jan. 29: Manager's choice
Friday, Jan. 30: Hoagie sandwich, lettuce and tomato, Sunchips, cherry slush, carrot sticks, choice of milk
Monday, Feb. 2: Chicken sandwich, baked potato chips, corn, cherry slush, choice of milk
Tuesday, Feb. 3: Chili dog, French fries, diced pears, choice of milk
Wednesday, Feb. 4: Spaghetti, tossed salad, dinner roll, choice of milk
Thursday, Feb. 5: Barbecue chicken sandwich, French fries, California blend, orange juice, choice of milk

Be Healthy

MRSA: What you should know

By Brenda Barnes

Another strange name for bacteria is MRSA, which is short for methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus. In shorter terms, MRSA is a type of staph bacteria which can cause skin infections. Most people have probably heard about staph infections, as they have been around for years. They cause boils and other skin infections, but did you know that many people (who may not show any symptoms) carry this organism in their nose?



Brenda Barnes

participate in any contact sports if you have any skin infections. Make sure that your schools, day cares and nursing homes have adequate soap available so that everyone can wash their hands frequently and correctly.

There are certain settings where infections can be spread, and you can remember the 5 C's:

- Crowding
- Contact (Frequent skin-to-skin)
- Compromised skin (Cuts or abrasions)
- Contaminated items and surfaces
- Cleanliness (lack of cleanliness)

If you think there is a chance that you may have a staph or MRSA infection, you should cover the area with a bandage and then contact your health care provider. Remember to wash your hands, be healthy and be happy!

(Brenda Barnes is the Public Information Officer and Planning Consultant for the Hendry and Glades County Health Departments. If you would like to read an article about a particular health topic, please call 863-674-4047, extension 126)

Ninth Annual Pro Steadman Scholarship Fund cake auction

The male celebrity cake auction will take place on Thursday, February 12th at the Hendry County Fairgrounds at 7:00 p.m. Please come out and give your support to raise money for the Pro Steadman Scholarship Fund. The Pro Steadman Scholarship Fund was started as a community project in honor of Mrs. Pro Steadman. "Pro" was the mother of five 4-H'ers, a leader for ten years, and was very active in all sectors of the 4-H program. She believed in the 4-H organization and seeing it reach its full potential for bringing families together and keeping members interested in worthwhile projects. She was diagnosed with ALS (commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease) in May of 1988. Throughout her struggle with the disease, she maintained her interest and involvement in youth programs as much as she physically could.

She died in December of 1992, but still lives on in the hearts of the many that she influenced. Mrs. Yvonne Swindle, Current President of the Hendry County Fair Association, came up with the idea of starting an annual men's cake auction at the County Fair to raise money to award two 4-H members with scholarships in honor of Pro. The idea involved many male "celebrities" from our local communities and required them to bake a cake to be auctioned at the Fair. The idea really took off and with the help of many generous cake makers, cake buyers, volunteers, and fair directors the auction now raises the money to provide two college scholarships each year to worthy 4-H members.

For more information, please contact the 4-H Office at 863-674-4092 or 863-983-1598.

Plant a tree, reduce costs

TALLAHASSEE — On Arbor Day, January 16, the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) reminded Floridians that planting shade trees around the home is an effective way to lower home energy usage.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, a 6-foot to 8-foot deciduous tree planted near your home will begin shading windows the first year. Depending on its species and location, a tree can shade a homeowner's roof in 5 to 10 years. Shading the air conditioning unit can also increase its efficiency by as much as 10 percent, which reduces cooling costs.

Here are some energy-saving landscaping techniques:

Select appropriate trees for your landscaping needs and desired shade.

Plant deciduous trees, ones that lose their leaves in the winter, in front of windows that receive a lot of sunlight.

Use dense evergreen trees or shrubs for continuous shade or blocking heavy winds.

Use xeriscaping, water-wise

landscaping, to create a healthy, attractive landscape that also reduces watering needs.

Your local nursery or landscape company can recommend appropriate trees and shrubs, or contact your county's cooperative extension services office for further assistance.

For more information on energy efficient landscaping, visit the National Arbor Day Foundation at www.arborday.org. For more energy and water conservation tips from the PSC, you can download the brochure, Conserve Your World, from the PSC's Web site www.floridapsc.com.

The PSC is committed to making sure that Florida's consumers receive their electric, natural gas, telephone, water, and wastewater services in a safe, affordable, and reliable manner. The PSC exercises regulatory authority over utilities in the areas of rate base/economic regulation; competitive market oversight; and monitoring of safety, reliability, and service.

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2/2/1 4057 N. EDGEWATER - \$600/M
 3/2 DERBY LN - Mobile - \$650/M
 3/2/1 4006 RYE CT - \$650/M
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- LIVE ON A PROTECTED CANAL with deep water access & direct access to the Intracoastal Waterway! Home is a 2 story with first floor complete with Mother-in-law and the 2nd floor having 3/2.5 baths. Located on .25 +/- acres for \$239,000
- THIS HOME HAS ONE OF THE MOST SPECTACULAR VIEWS ON THE RIVER! Enjoy a fenced yard with enough trees for shade and privacy, a paved driveway, and fishing dock on the river! 4/2 located on .66 +/- acre homesite reduced to \$299,900! DEAL OR NO DEAL?
- TUCKED AWAY UNDER HUGE OLD OAKS, this riverfront 3/3 home is privately located in its own tropical garden. Home has loads of potential and includes his & her hobby/workshop rooms. Outside enjoy your own private beach with riprap and a large dock with 2 slips. \$350,000
- What a place to retire! Love your location in country quiet/city close to LaBelle! This 3/3 home directly on the river in the small community of Riverbend Estates! Located on .91 +/- acre with this gated community with amenities including water, sewer, irrigation, clubhouse and pool. All for \$495,000
- WHAT A DEAL! This 3/2 home on a greenbelt is the deal you have been looking for! This home boasts a new roof, new carpet & a fresh coat of paint inside & out. \$73,000
- THREE BEDROOM HOME in a growing area. A green belt in the backyard. Close to three schools and minutes from town. Quiet neighborhood makes good for evening BBQ's. \$105,000
- THIS IS A GREAT DEAL on a 2 bedroom stilt home, with balcony, overlooking 5 +/- cleared and fenced acres, with a large pond! This is perfect for a weekend getaway in the country! Home needs TLC. \$119,000
- SELLER FINANCING AVAILABLE!!! Be the first, to live in this beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath home! This home has a spacious open living area and is located on 2.5 +/- partially fenced acre! \$139,900
- THIS HOME IS ONLY 3 YEARS OLD well maintained. Located on a quiet dead-end street surrounded by wooded area. 3/2 CBS quality built home with upgrades galore! \$325,000

CALL 863-675-4500

Southern Land Investments & Real Estate
 Sherri Denning Licensed Real Estate Broker
 Associates: Emily Ankeney, Tony Barnes, Gregory Bone, Lisa Cleghorn, Bonnie Denning, Ward Dickinson, Paul Meador, Katie Solomon, Nancy Lou Smith, Tracey Williams

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 580 S. Main St. • LaBelle, FL 33935 • 863 675-1973

UNDER CONTRACT

- Horse lovers welcome! 4/2.5 on 3.24 +/- in Port LaBelle Ranchettes subdivision. 2,500 sq. ft. of living area, 2 car garage, wrap around porch and lots, lots more. \$335,000.
- Beautiful custom built home on river w/high ceilings, split floor plan, stainless steel appliances, caged pool and large patio area. Also includes a 10,000 pound boat lift. \$525,000
- Horse lovers welcome! 4/2.5 on 3.24 +/- in Port LaBelle Ranchettes subdivision. 2,500 sq. ft. of living area, 2 car garage, wrap around porch and lots, lots more. \$335,000.
- Corporate owned! 4/3, caged pool, steel building, an in-ground pool, all on the inside of LaBelle. \$151,000
- Corporate owned and priced to sell! In Clewisville, 3/2 CBS home on 1.5 acres. \$179,900
- Corporate owned! 3/2 CBS home w/2 car garage, large kitchen area, oversized den. Needs minor cosmetic work. \$74,900.
- Fisherman's weekend retreat: 3/2 still home, w/covered carport, fenced yard and in move in condition. \$70,000.
- Corporate owned! 4/2 located in Sun-N-Lakes Subdivision near Lake Placid. Needs a TLC. \$63,700.
- Corporate owned! 3/2 in Lehigh Acres off of Guntery Rd. 1,500 sq. ft. of living area, spacious floor plan and close to shopping and schools. \$62,000.
- 2/2 on oversized corner lot in LaBelle. Ceramic tile, single car garage. Screened porch and lots more. \$54,900.
- Corporate owned! 4/2 located only a couple miles away from Lake Placid. \$49,900.
- Lehigh - Corporate owned! 3/2 CBS in immaculate condition. \$40,000. Homebuyer!
- Lehigh - Corporate owned! 3/2 CBS home on 30 of an acre. \$40,000.
- Great investment potential! 1BR/1B home on a corner lot. Homes needs some work... but is priced to sell. \$25,000
- Need more "living" room? 2,152 sq ft of luxurious living. This 4BR/2B home on 10 +/- acres has it all, from its spacious family room w/stone fireplace, master suite w/ office, covered porch, and fencing for horses. This one is a steal @ only \$250,000
- Size will surprise you! 2BR/2B home on 10 +/- acres is very well kept and former module home. Features a warm comfortable living room w/gas fireplace, spacious kitchen, front & rear covered porches. \$250,000
- Immaculate 4/2 on 9.54 acres. Spacious living room, family room w/fireplace, large master suite, lots, lots of more. \$249,900.
- Plenty of room for gardening on these 2.29 +/- acres with a 3/2 manufactured home. Motivated seller. \$150,000.
- Relax the rural way! Situated on 1.25 acs in growing Montura, beautiful new 2006 3/2 manufactured home with over 1100 sq ft of living area. Enjoy the quiet & privacy plus a wood burning fireplace, vaulted ceilings, and Texas sized rooms! \$124,900.
- Want country living without the long drive to the city? Get the best of both worlds with this 3BR/2BA home on 2.29 +/- acres on Case Road. Enjoy the quiet & privacy plus a wood burning fireplace, vaulted ceilings, and Texas sized rooms! \$124,900.
- Two for the price of one! All on one acre. 3/2 well maintained manufactured home plus a 2/2 manufactured home. Plenty of fruit trees & oak trees. All offers welcome! \$114,900
- Let's make a deal! 3 bedroom 2 bath home features built in cabinets, large master bath, spacious kitchen, and plenty of elbow room thru the rest of the house. Outside you will find a fenced yard and storage shed. \$110,000
- Needing Privacy? Beautiful 4.58 a/c +/- older mobile home. (potential rental income) outside city limits. Priced to sell! \$93,000
- Great home, Great price, hard to beat! Remodeled 3/2 on .50 acre in Horseshoe Acres. A must see! \$77,000.
- Starter home or investment! 2/1 on 1.86 acres with

Florida room and covered porch. Priced to sell. \$64,900.
 • Good starter home located in town. 2/2 with screened porch enjoying the view of the man made lake. \$59,500.
 • Affordable starter or rental home. 3/1.5 on corner lot in Moore Haven. \$50,000.
 • Corporate owned! 3/2 just a few miles south of LaBelle. Needs a little TLC. \$48,900

Call about our vacant land!
 ***** LOTS *****
 • .29 +/- acre in Belmont S/D. Priced to sell at only \$162,000. Possible seller financing.
 • Call about our Port LaBelle lots!
 ***** COMMERCIAL *****
 • REDUCED! Great investment property! Located just feet from SR80 in LaBelle. The building has over 1800 square feet of office space and has plenty of room for parking. The floorplan has the advantage of being able to be split into 2 separate rental offices, while still providing a common lobby area. \$369,900
 • Log Cabin BBQ - Centrally located in LaBelle with 167 +/- feet of frontage on SR80. \$279,000!
 • Prime 20 +/- acre potential commercial parcel located near West Glads Elementary in Muse and just minutes away from downtown LaBelle. \$3.50 per square foot.
 • Invest now - build later! Corner lot outside city limits near town. \$155,000.

If you are thinking of buying or selling, give us a call! Check us out online at www.newhorizons-re.com
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Fitness Centers

Curves 863-675-8446 439 W. Hwy 80 LaBelle, FL Tired of dieting? FREE Weight Management Class Mon., Feb. 2 @ 7:00 pm

Insurance

DiPoil Insurance Agency, Inc. 13 Missouri St Suite A LaBelle, FL (863) 675-1880

Lawn & Garden

GONZALEZ LAWN/LANDSCAPING Also do handyman jobs (863)675-1166 (863)673-6388

Merchandise

500

- Air Conditioners 505 Antiques 515 Appliances 515 Beauty Supplies 520 Bicycles 530 Books & Magazines 535 Building Materials 540 Business Equipment 545 Carpets/Rugs 550 Children's Items 555 China, Glassware, Etc. 565 Clothing 565 Coins/Stamp 575 Collectibles 575 Computer/Video 580 Crafts/Supplies 585 Cruises 590 Drapes, Linens & Fabrics 595 Fireplace Fixture 600 Firewood 605 Furniture 610 Furs 615 Health & Reducing Equipment 620 Heating Equipment/Supplies 625 Household Items 630 Jewelry 635 Lamps/Lights 640 Luggage 645 Medical Items 650 Miscellaneous 655 Musical Instruments 660 Office Supplies/Equipment 665 Pets/Supplies/Services 670 Photography 675 Plumbing Supplies 680 Pools & Supplies 685 Restaurant Equipment 690 Sewing Machines 700 Sporting Goods 705 Stereo Equipment 710 Television/Radio 715 Tickets 720 Tools 725 Toys & Games 730 VCRs 735 Wanted to Buy 740

Air Conditioners 0505

CARRIER 2 1/2 ton condenser unit. Good condition \$150. 863-675-1218

Antiques 0510

COUCH, newly reupholstered, sage green with a light blue stripe \$900 (863)763-8956

Appliances 0515

DRYER - KENMORE ELITE LGHT COLOR \$90. (863)261-2511

ELECTRIC WATER HEATER 40 gal. - NEW IN BOX GE. 12 Year TANK WARRANTY. \$320. (863)634-6189

SMALL REFRIGERATOR - Hairer, 3 cu ft, like new, all manuals, paid \$91 sell for \$60 (863)763-0853

WASHERS & DRYERS STACK UNITS \$100 & up, 1 yr warranty REFRIGERATORS & STOVES (239)694-0778

Bicycles 0530

BOYS BIKE - Boys 12" red bike with training wheels. In great condition. In LaBelle \$15. (239)691-9121

Books & Magazines 0535

NEW - Hardback Patricia Cromwell book Scarpetta \$15.00 (863)763-7165

Building Materials 0540

FRENCH DOOR 36" - Brand new 36"x80" Maple wood Glass french door. \$100/neg. (863)357-2611

METAL ROOFING. 40yr Warranty-Buy direct from manufacturer 30/colors in stock, w/all accessories. Quick turn around. Delivery available. Gulf Coast Supply & Mfg. (868)393-0335 www.Gulf-CoastSupply.com

OVER THE fridge cabinet - 36"x12" natural solid oak over the fridge cabinet. \$30/neg. (863)357-2611

STAIR GLIDE STAIR LIFT - 15 ft. Rail - new power cord, new seat \$1500 Call (863)467-2482

Fitness Centers

Curves 863-675-8446 439 W. Hwy 80 LaBelle, FL Tired of dieting? FREE Weight Management Class Mon., Feb. 2 @ 7:00 pm

Children's Items 0555

CRIB SET (POOH) - 10 piece + free toys, everything great cond. call for info \$80. (843)271-0733

FISHER PRICE CRADLE SWING - Pd 150\$ Swings 2 ways, 6speeds +ALOT MORE! \$80. (910)546-2367

HUGE STUFFED animals - 30" Elmo, 42" Eeyore, 28" & 30" Bears. Like New (Okee area) \$20/will sep. (863)763-6131

LITTLE TIKES basketball/hoop set, musical sit-n-spin, play-doh table - Excel Cond, Okee \$40/will sep. (863)763-6131

POOH SWING - Days of hunny infant swing. Like new, must see paid \$110 asking \$50. (843)271-0733

Clothing 0565

CLOTHING - Girls' pageant dresses. White, size 10 slim and Fuscina size 12 slim. \$150. (863)558-0085

LADIES suits, dresses & pantsuits sz 14 to 3X. also tops, pants & shorts sz med & up. \$200 or sill separate (863)763-7165 or 697-0206

Collectibles 0575

ARIZONA CARDINALS 8x10 Upper Deck certified autograph by Antrel Rolle - \$45. (239)590-5721

ARIZONA CARDINALS Larry Fitzgerald Certified Jersey Card 39/50. - \$55. (239)590-5721

FOOTBALL CARDS - 3000 + cards in box/great gift \$60. (863)634-2131

PORCELAIN CHRISTMAS village - and accessories \$700/will sep. (863)467-0290

Computer/Supplies 0580

COMPUTER - Dell P4, 1GB Ram, DVD/DRW, New "19 LCD! Call Tony \$299. (863)517-2782

COMPUTER - Fast Dell Desktop, XP loaded Call Jose \$125. (561)261-1772

COMPUTER SCREEN - COMPAQ 10" COMPUTER SCREEN \$20. (863)261-2511

DELL 962 ALL IN ONE PRINTER - WORKS GOOD NEEDS INK COPY, SCANS, FAXES \$30/neg. (863)697-9521

Furniture 0610

ANTIQUE TREDDLE Sewing Machine - Must sell. \$125. (863)357-0166

BED - mattress, foundation reg. size w/hdb. and frame like new \$175. (863)467-1381

BEDS (2) - Complete, full size, new sheets/bedspread & 2 electric blankets, \$250/will sep. Call 863-357-6229

COMPUTER DESK - White. Some storage. LaBelle \$15. (863)517-1663

DINING ROOM Table - Beautiful 42x42 table with extension plus 4 matching chairs. \$200. (863)675-3516

DINING TABLE - Round wood/iron table W/4 chairs. anytime \$150. (863)634-4945

ENTERTAINMENT CENTER - HOLDS 36" TV. - 53" wide, 3 shelves, light color \$50. (863)467-2456

GLASS TABLE - white iron & glass table & 4 chairs on casters. LaBelle \$50. (863)675-2653

LEATHER COUCH & SEAT - good quality, antique rose, smaller size for smaller living room \$300 (863)763-4098

L-SHAPE SECT. - off white, w/teal/beige throw pillows. Sm Enter Ctr, holds 32" TV \$250 neg. (863)675-6422

MATCHING BEDROOM Set 3pc twin, - cottage style-mattress included \$350. (863)983-7734

OFFICE CHAIRS - 2, large wingback, brown leather, good condition \$25 each (863)467-4537

ROCKING CHAIR - Wood and wicker. LaBelle \$20. (863)517-1663

SINGLE BED bedroom sets (2) - with chest of drawers & dresser with mirror, new mattress covers, sheets and blankets all included. \$200. (863)467-0234

SLEEPER-COUCH - 1yr old Black cloth.Good condition-call before 9 pm leave message \$400. (863)763-8562

SOFA SLEEPER - Queen size, excellent condition very clean \$150/best offer. (863)357-7065

WHITE WOOD queen/full headboard only in good condition. - \$75 or best offer. (863)357-6315

WOODEN Ent center, couch, loveseat, end table, lamp, coffee table, all for \$775 or separate (863)634-3859

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

Golf Clubs/Equipment 0618

GOLF CLUBS - 4 sets, 1 left handed, metal woods, irons, putter, bag, balls, \$390 will sell sep. (863)946-3123

Guns/Supplies 0619

12 GAUGE side/side - Stevens 12 gauge 18.5 double barrel from 1970s \$375/neg. (954)933-8864

MAK 90 - includes 20 mags and 1200 rds. \$1200/neg. (863)673-3893

SAVAGE MODEL 99E - .308 caliber with scope. Excellent condition. \$600/or best offer. (863)673-3893

Health & Reducing Equipment 0620

EXERCISE TABLE - Stauffer, motor driven. Works great. \$50 (772)971-9474

GOLD'S GYM squat bar comes w/300 lb of weights & olympic bar. Excellent condition. \$900/neg. (863)697-1247

HEALTH EXERCISE bike - New exercise bike with back support, programs, checks your pulse paid 300. \$125. (863)634-5236

Large Trampoline - 14 feet in diameter Lots of FUN! Great Exercise! \$150 or best offer. Call Shawn 863-840-0301

ORBITREK ELLIPTICAL - Exc. cond. tracks time, distance & spd. For home use. \$300 best offer. (863)697-1247

PRO-FORM TREADMILL - Works perfect, spacesaver. w/2FREIE wrist/ankle wgt.s. \$150. (910)546-2367

WESLO G -30 treadmill - An ideal treadmill for beginners, the Weslo G-30 offers a 1.0 Continuous Duty HP motor. Mint condition! \$100/or best offer. (863)634-5506

Heating Equipment/Supplies 0625

KEROSENE SPACE Heater - only used twice, like new \$50. (863)467-2456

Medical Items 0650

LIGHT WEIGHT SCOOTER - Asking \$350. Can see at 2264 Hunter Rd. BHR or call (863)763-5788

SCOOTER -Handicapped, 2 seater, 4 wheel, \$800 or best offer (863)467-6009

WHEELCHAIR - \$50. Call 863-675-1910.

Miscellaneous 0655

AIRLINES ARE HIRING - Train for high paying Aviation Maintenance Career. FAA approved program. Financial aid if qualified - Housing available. CALL Aviation Institute of Maintenance (888)349-5387.

ATTEND COLLEGE ONLINE from Home. *Medical, *Business, *Paralegal, *Computers, *Criminal Justice. Job placement assistance. Computer available. Financial Aid if qualified. Call (866)858-2121, www.CenturaOnline.com.

FOUR LOW RIDER 17" chrome rims, universal lugs, 2 tires \$100 For All (863)801-4940

HOBART WELDER brand new 10,000 watt, 20 hp Kohler motor \$2,500. (863) 840-0505 LaBelle

NOW AVAILABLE! 2009 POST OFFICE JOBS. \$18-\$20/Hr. NO EXPERIENCE, PAID TRAINING, FED BENEFITS, VACATIONS. CALL (800)910-9941 TODAY! REF #FLO8.

SHLOW CASE - Like new \$450 or best offer (863)763-0570

TWO Awnings - 60" X 48" asking \$50 for both (863)467-6009

Musical Instruments 0660

PIANO - HOWARD - Good Cond. \$300/or best offer. (863)357-5773

Pets/Supplies 0670

JACK RUSSEL/CHIHUAHUA MIX PUPPIES - very cute & adorable, \$100 each. (863)673-0751

KITTENS!!! - Kittens free! 3 Blk & Wh, 2 Gray Tiger, 1 Blk. Beautiful & full of personality! \$0. (863)634-0567

RAT TERRIERS Born Nov. 2nd \$99 Cockatiels, Love Birds & Finches also available. Call Sandy @ (863)983-2148

SALT WATER Tank 75 gal. - Everything but rock & fish!! \$500/or best offer. (239)878-1776

Pools & Supplies 0685

HOT TUB 4 person - Octagonal hot tub, new pump, new motor.Runs great!!! \$1000. (863)233-1223

Sewing Machines 0700

COMMERCIAL SEWING Machine - Works good. Must sell. \$150. (863)357-0166

SEWING MACH - Singer, feather weight, very good cond., case & attachments, \$345 (863)697-9704

SINGER QUANTUM Futura 200 Embroidery Machine - plus 4 hours lessons \$450. (863)467-0290

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

Sporting Goods 0705

MOTORCYCLE HELMET - Brand new HBC Helmet. Open faced with visor. \$50. (863)357-2611

SLATE POOL Table - Large table (98" X 54") Leisure Bay, Blue felt top, great condition. Oversized ball and claw legs. Balls & Cues included. Contact Tues-Sun anytime \$650/or best offer. (863)634-4945

Stereo Equipment 0710

KICKER SYSTEM - SX650 AMP/12" L7/fairy cap/like new in boxes \$350. (863)634-2131

SPEAKERS - 2 15" Kicker CVR in box with 2000 watt amp \$600. (863)697-9014

Television 0715

COLOR TV - Sylvania/console/25"/Virginia \$100. (863)357-0166

TELEVISION - 65", Mitsubishi, excellent condition, \$700 (239)340-8503

TWO DISH NETWORK - Receivers \$80. each (863)634-8147

Tools 0725

CRAFTSMAN 10" Radial Arm Saw - Excellent condition Hardly used. \$150/neg. (863)467-8823

CRAFTSMAN CONTRACTOR - Craftsman 10" Cabinet saw. New Model 22114N \$500/firm. (863)467-8823

CRAFTSMAN GENERATOR - 6300 watt/9100 watt surge Must sell. \$500. (863)357-0166

SEARS Craftsman table type router. Good condition \$50. 863-675-1218

Agriculture 800

Christmas Trees 745

Farm Equipment 805

Farm Feed/Products 810

Farm Miscellaneous 815

Farm Produce 820

Farm Services Offered 825

Farm Supplies/Services Wanted 830

Fertilizer 835

Horses 840

Landscaping Supplies 845

Lawn & Garden 850

Livestock 855

Poultry/Supplies 860

Seeds/Plants/Flowers 865

Horses 0840

DRIVING HARNESS - Leather, for standard size horse. Sells for \$500, Asking \$150. neg. Never used. (863)675-4098

Lawn & Garden 0850

BRIGGS 5.5 hp 2" pace water pump. Used 1 time \$150. or best offer (863)610-2993

BUNTON ZTR Comm Mower - ZTR 50"cut, 20HP Kohler Works great \$2400/or best offer. (863)697-2032

CRAFTMAN RIDING lawn mower - \$400/or best offer. (863) 234-0819 (239)645-9596

MATTRESS & BOXSPRING - Full size. Excellent condition. Like new. \$150. (863)843-0759

Moving Must Sell- Like New Craftsman 5600 Watt, 10 HP Generator \$500 OBO (863)763-5389

Livestock 0855

SWEET CYPRESS RANCH

We Offer Seminole Feed, Lakeland Feed, Alfalfa, Timothy, Orchard, T-85, Jigs, Compressed, Round & Square Bales

Call Al Curry at 239-872-0998 275 Kirby Thompson Rd, LaBelle FL 33935 www.sweetcypressranch.com

Livestock 0855

Okeechobee Livestock Market Sales Every Monday-12pm & every Tuesday-11am. 763-3127

Tack & Supplies 0867

WESTERN HAT - Bailey beaver XXXX size 7 1/4 like new stored in box \$40. (863)699-0813

Rentals 900

Apartment 905

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Commercial 915

Condos/Townhouses - Rent 920

Apartment 0905

Public Notice 5005

Public Notice 5005

HENDRY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE
 SUBMITTED BY: R. Scott Cooper DATE: 2/24/09
 SUBJECT AREA: 520 Deferred Compensation Plan (IRS Code 457)
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF PURPOSE: The proposed rule establishes the policy for deferred compensation plan (IRS Code 457)
 CITATION OF AUTHORITY: 112.21, 1001.41, 1001.49, 1001.51, 1001.42, and 1001.43 F.S.
 CITATION OF SPECIFIC LEGAL REFERENCE: 112.21, 1001.41, 1001.49, 1001.51, 1001.42 and 1001.43 F.S.
 FULL TEXT: A copy of the full text of the proposed rule may be obtained, without cost, at the Office of the Superintendent of Schools.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The proposed rule establishes the policy for deferred compensation plan (IRS Code 457).
STATEMENT OF REGULATORY COSTS: The proposed policy revision will create no additional distinct economic impact in excess of \$100.00 except for the costs of printing and distributions.
LOCATION OF MEETING, TIME AND DATE: Hendry County School Board Meeting Room, 25 E. Hickpochee Avenue, LaBelle, FL at 5:30 p.m. or soon thereafter as the matter may be heard on February 24, 2009.
Notice: Any person who wishes to provide the School Board with information regarding the statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days after publication of this notice.
Notice: If requested in writing and not deemed unnecessary by the Agency Head, a Rule Development Workshop will be held at a time and date to be advertised in the future.
Notice: The procedure for obtaining a public hearing on this proposed rule is to request, in writing, a hearing. The request shall be submitted to the Superintendent of Schools, in writing, within 21 days after publication of this notice. The request shall specify how the person requesting the public hearing would be affected by the proposed rule. The School Board, upon appropriate request, shall give affected persons an opportunity to present evidence and argument on the issues under consideration.
Notice: Inspection and copying of all written materials constituting public records submitted to the agency regarding draft rules may be obtained by request, in writing, to the Superintendent of Schools.
Notice: The School Board may recognize any material which may be judicially noticed and to incorporate them into the record of the rule making proceeding. The School Board may incorporate material by reference into the proposed rule.
Notice: If you need an accommodation in order to participate in this process, please notify the Superintendent of Schools at (863) 674-4642 or at the Hendry County Courthouse, LaBelle, Florida 33935 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting or workshop.
Notice: If the School Board adopts the proposed rule, one certified copy of the proposed rule shall be filed in the Office of the Superintendent of Schools pursuant to 120.54(3)(e), F.S.

INVITATION TO BID:

Pittman Contracting, Inc. will be accepting bids for The Hendry County Jail-96 Bed Addition project. Bids will be due no later than 2:00 P.M., March 3, 2009. A pre-bid meeting will be held on-site at 10:00 A.M. February 12, 2009. The project consists of the following: Pre-Engineered Metal Building, pre-fabricated steel-cells, concrete work, masonry, metal studs, drywall, fire alarm/sprinkler system, generator, site-work.
 Bids should be delivered to Pittman Contracting, Inc. 531 E. El Paso, Clewiston, Florida 33440 or e-mail to juan@pittmancontracting.com. For any additional information call 863-983-6300 during normal working hours. All subcontractors are required to carry Commercial General Liability Insurance, Automobile Liability, and Workers Comp in compliance to Hendry County Statutory Limits.
 308861 CB/CN 1/29/2/5/09

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS TO CONSIDER PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE HENDRY COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE

Notice is hereby given that the Local Planning Agency (LPA) of Hendry County will hold a public hearing on **February 11, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.**, at the Hendry County Courthouse, Commission Chambers, 25 E. Hickpochee Ave., La Belle, Florida, to discuss proposed changes to the Hendry County Land Development Code. The LPA will determine if the changes are consistent with the Hendry County Comprehensive Plan and will review the changes for consistency with the Hendry County Land Development Code.
 The recommendations of the LPA will be made to the Board of County Commissioners for final consideration at a public hearing. This hearing will be held on **February 24, 2009 at 5:05 p.m.**, at the Hendry County Courthouse, Commission Chambers, 25 E. Hickpochee Ave., LaBelle, Florida.
 The ordinance amendments are available for public inspection at the Hendry County Planning and Zoning Department, 165 South Lee Street, LaBelle, Florida, and may be viewed Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 Interested parties may appear at the hearings and be heard with respect to the ordinance amendments. All advertised public hearings are subject to Section 286.015, Florida Statutes, which states if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Local Planning Agency or Board of County Commissioners with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.
Ordinance Title: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE HENDRY COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, SPECIFICALLY SECTION 1-53-5.5, TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE REGULATIONS GOVERNING MINING, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, INCLUSION IN CODE, AND SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
 Orvell Howard, Chair Hendry County Local Planning Agency
 Janet B. Taylor, Chair Hendry County Board of County Commissioners
 308670 CB/CN 1/29/09

Marine Accessories 3020

EVERRUDE 6 hp - Six horse outboard with Tank and hose. Runs great. \$350/or best offer. (863)763-5150
SS PROP - 4 BLADE 21 PITCH HUB KIT INCLUDED \$350/or best offer. (863)634-1545

Motorcycles 3030

HARLEY DAVIDSON SPORTSTER 883 - 1998, Low miles, nice condition \$5000 (863)430-6987
HONDA 600 SHADOW 2000 - Like new only 7000mi, new tires & Batt \$3000 (863)673-8230
YAMAHA 750 VIRAGO 1992 - 17,000 miles, shaft drive, saddle bags, runs great. \$2300/or best offer. (863)357-6315

Sports Vehicles/ATVs 3035

ATV 260CC 2005 - GREAT COND. \$1500/or best offer. (863)357-6315
HONDA ODDESSY - 1983, 250 CC, Fast, Good Condition \$900 (863)610-2993
MINI SPRINT RACE CAR - 750 Kawasaki engine, Four torsion bar suspension \$3500 (863)805-2877
SCOOTER - Merits S541 Pioneer \$695 (863)983-7949
SUZUKI WINSON 500 2006 - Warn winch, Kodiak storage, heated grips, delivery pos \$4000/firm. (772)204-2821

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FORD F100 1979 - Runs good, 302 V8, 4 speed. Some rust, daily driver \$2500. (239)634-2699
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Public Notices 5000

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
 The Area Housing Commission of Clewiston, LaBelle and Hendry County will hold the Regular Monthly Meeting on Thursday, January 29, 2009 at 5:00 P.M. at the GreenTree South Community Center at LaBelle, Florida, Hendry County.
 The purpose of the meeting is to conduct the general business and consider any other matter that may be brought before the Housing Commission. Any person or persons wishing to appeal any decision made at such meeting must ensure that a verbatim record is made upon which the appeal is to be based.
 The meeting will include any business before the "Hendry County Non-Profit Housing, Inc."
 308873 CB/CN 1/29/09
 THE LABELLE POST OFFICE is now taking bids for a contract cleaner. Cleaning must be completed prior to 8 am Mon - Fri. Contractor and employees must be able to pass a background check. Anyone interested should contact JoAnne Massey, Postmaster at 863-675-8806. Bids will close Saturday January 31, 2009.
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DODGE QUAD '01 - 2500 series, diesel, has RV hitch & tailgate, alum shell, \$10,000 (863)699-0813
DODGE RAM 1500 4X4 1997 - Good cond. 5-Speed Club cab. \$4800. (239)839-3455
FORD F150 1996 - Extended cab cold ac \$2500/or best offer. (863)532-9846
FORD F250 1989 - 4X4, 5 Speed, V8351, Run Great, 120K, \$2100/or best offer. (863)467-4678
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Public Notices 5005

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LHS wrestling team has the moves

On Friday, Jan. 16, the LaBelle wrestlers hosted Gateway and won the meet 45-24.
 Titan Duals held in Golden Gate Jan. 23-24. Results 2-4 overall: LaBelle 15 Hernando 56; LaBelle 48 Estero 30; LaBelle 33 Golden Gate 39; LaBelle 31 Port Charlotte 38; LaBelle 24 Key West 46; LaBelle 39 Ida Baker 33.
 LaBelle Outstanding Wrestlers at Titan Duals
 In the 135 pound weight class: Cory Brown, 3-3; 140 pounds: DJ Timms, 5-1; 152 pounds: Timmy Fromm 6-0; 160 pounds Kane Owens, 5-1; 189 pounds: Armando Ayala, 5-1; 215 pounds Curtis Simmons, 3-3; and heavy weight Sammy Enriquez, 5-1.
 Outstanding Season records to this point

Sr Team Captain DJ Timms 27-4, 143 team points and 58 takedowns.
 Other winning records
 Jr. Armando Ayala 189 lb. wt. class 17-12
 Soph Kane Owens 160 lb. wt. class 14-7
 Sr Timmy Fromm 152 lb. wt. class 11-1 late season starter due to injury.
 Upcoming Tournaments
 4th Annual Ryan Bidwell Memorial Invitational - Lemon Bay January 31:
 Districts at Golden Gate High School - Feb. 6
 Regionals at Evangelical Christian Ft Myers - 2/13/2009 - Feb. 14
 State Finals - Lakeland Feb. 20-21.



Caloosa Belle/Patty Brant

Cowboy wrestlers rock!

LaBelle High School Cowboy wrestlers overwhelmed the Golden Gate Griffins Jan. 16, 45-24. The meet took place in the LHS gym.



Submitted photo

Catala begins USTA tournament play

Aaron Catala, age 8, made his debut on the United States Tennis Association (USTA) tournament circuit on January 10, 2009, at the Lehigh Acres Rookie Championship. He won in the quarterfinals round and was defeated in the semifinal match. Aaron played the Lehigh Acres Local Winter Tennis Classic on January 17, 2009, where he split sets (6-3,4-6) in the semifinals before losing a difficult tie-breaker 10-4. Aaron is a third grader at the Community Christian School in LaBelle. His parents are Raymond and Sarah Catala of LaBelle. Aaron is pictured with Ms. Myra Kessler, for whom the Myra Kessler Tennis Center hi Lehigh Acres is named.

Sport Shorts

Sign up for baseball, softball

Baseball and softball sign-ups have begun. If you have a child between the ages of 4 and 16 years of age for girls and 4 and 15 years of age for boys, bring them by to register. Volunteers will be at the Winn Dixie Shopping Center every Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon and every Sunday from 1-4 p.m. through the month of January. The last day to register is Sunday, Feb. 8, at 2 p.m. at Davis Pratt Park. You may also sign up on-line by going to this website: www.LabelleLittleLeague.org or stop by Ragin' Graphics located @ 84 N. Hickpochee Ave.

Volunteer for Little League

LaBelle Little League, Inc., is currently accepting applications for volunteer coaches for softball and baseball. For baseball coaching applications please contact Ricky Bass at 863-673-1940. For softball coaching applications please contact Kim Marroquin at 863-673-4741.

Kayaking fun

Thursday, Jan. 29, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Caloosahatchee to Hickey's Creek Kayak Trip

This six hour kayak trip begins and ends at Caloosahatchee Regional park campground. Paddlers should be experienced and/or be in good physical condition for a 5 mile roundtrip paddle on the great Calusa Blueway which includes Hickey's Creek, one of the areas most scenic. We'll eat lunch and hike at Hickey's Creek Mitigation park before paddling back. Children must be accompanied by adult. All kayaking equipment is provided. Bring your own drink, lunch, sunscreen, binoculars and clothing/shoes that can get wet. \$40 per person. Register online at https://www.leeparks.org.

Caloosahatchee Regional Park is a Lee County park located at 18500 North River Rd. in Alva, Florida. The park features 768 acres of pine flatwoods, scrub oak, cypress swamps and oak hammocks. Crossing through them, you'll find over 18 miles of hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trails. Primitive camping sites for families and groups are available, along with equestrian sites for people with horses. Kayaking and fishing are available along the banks of the Caloosahatchee River.



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Ortona residents plant trees to open canal

By April Beavers

River Oaks Subdivision, near the Ortona Locks, has been in a permit process with the Department of Environmental Protection, to open a canal system to the Caloosahatchee River. One specific condition on the permit was to do a net improvement project for the State of Florida.

On Saturday Jan. 17, 2009, a group of 11 people joined Florida Fish and Wildlife employee's at the Field Office in Okeechobee. With temperatures low but spirits high the group launched airboats near Buckhead Ridge and traveled approximately six miles out to an island in Lake Okeechobee to plant 93 trees.

The Bald Cypress was planted on the eastern border of the island, by an energetic group. As

the temperatures warmed up, it turned out to be a productive and beautiful day.

Everyone had a good time doing a project to stabilize the island and support the wildlife.

Donald Fox, his son, Johnathan, and three other Florida Fish and Wildlife employees, Alyssa, Corey and Brent, donated their time to transport the trees and volunteers to the island.

The tree planting brings River Oaks Subdivision one step closer to having the plug removed to provide direct access to the river. The group involved in the planting was April and Dean Beavers, Charlie and Margret Meadows, Sigfried and Ottie Schaewitz, Larry Delconzo, Dick Crandall, Dale Conyers, Dean Johnson and Jim Harrington.



Submitted photo/April Beavers
Bundled up against the cold Dean Beavers, left, Dick Crandall, middle and Brent from the Florida Wildlife Commission prepare to head off from Buckhead Ridge on a mission to plant trees. A hardy group of residents and FWC personnel took on the project Jan. 17.



Submitted photo/April Beavers
Ortona resident Charlie Meadows shows his approval as he works planting trees to improve an island in Lake Okeechobee, part of a project to help provide river access to River Oaks Subdivision. The event took place Jan. 17.



Submitted photo/April Beavers
Ortona resident Larry Delconzo put his back into planting trees on an island in Lake Okeechobee, along with fellow residents and FWC personnel January 17.

National Honor Society shines at state convention

This group of NHS members just returned from the NHS State Convention held at McArthur High School in Fort Lauderdale, FL. There were 24 schools from the Florida chapters in attendance for fun and competition. LaBelle High School came

home with top honors again this year. KC Lynn was elected as state secretary, replacing the outgoing secretary, Roxanna Razo, also a LaBelle chapter member.

NHS won awards in three categories for their service projects done this school year. They

received a first place for the program they presented at the Veteran's Day ceremony sponsored by LaBelle High School. The chapter received a second place for their fundraiser of selling candy grams and donating \$350 for the improvement of the high school library. They also received a third place for a community project of helping to decorate the park for this year's "Christmas in the Park", sponsored by the LaBelle Chamber of Commerce.

Individual awards went to Olivia Luckey for her art exhibits of jewelry and her painting. She received one first place and two second place awards. Brittany Smith placed first with her 3-D art painting. Brianna Sanchez placed third in the writing category with a poem titled, "Cowgirl Sonnet."

There was a show case of tal-

ent on Saturday night of the convention. LaBelle also received an applause of gratitude for their participation. There were no awards for this activity, but it was a lot of fun and the LaBelle Chapter did well. Those participating were Olivia Luckey, KC Lynn, Roxanna Razo, Josh Hernandez, Brooke Awbrey, Brittany Smith, Brianna Sanchez, Emily Hull, Kailee Lai and Savannah Smith.

To top the evening of awards, the NHS chapter of LaBelle was presented with the State National Honor Society Student of the Year, Miss Olivia Luckey. They also received a second place award for their scrapbook. All in all, the weekend was great fun and LaBelle members of National Honor Society truly exemplified the standards of NHS, scholarship, leadership, character and service.



Submitted photo
The members of LaBelle High Schools National Honor Society.



Submitted photo
Olivia Luckey of LHS was named the State National Honor Society Student of the Year.

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Boaters warned over manatees

Recent cold fronts have very high numbers of manatees concentrated in warm-water refuges in the Caloosahatchee River and in other portions of Lee County. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) cautions boaters to be on the lookout for manatees moving into feeding areas in the Caloosahatchee.

"To avoid striking manatees, vessel operators should wear polarized sunglasses to help them spot the creatures in the water, and watch for the large, tell-tale circular slicks on the surface of the water that indicate the presence of manatees," said FWC Officer JoAnne Adams.

The best place for the public to view manatees is at Manatee Park, on State Road 80.

If you would like more information on Florida's manatees, visit MyFWC.com/manatee/ or call the FWC's regional office in Lakeland at 863-648-3200.

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| <p>14+ ACRES, Busy intersection in N. Ft. Myers. SE corner of I-75 and Bayshore Rd. Popash Creek runs thru site to river. \$2,900,000</p> <p>3 OLDER MOBILES income producing SR29S on 1.38 acres \$195,000. Broker/Owner</p> <p>6 OAK COVERED ACRES on Sunset Trail, Muse. Seller financing. \$109,000</p> <p>5+/-WOODED ACRES with fixer upper mobile, Kirby Thompson Rd. Seller financing. \$165,000</p> <p>BEAUTIFUL TREE COVERED, oversized lot, Thigpen Rd. \$59,900. Seller financing</p> <p>2 ACRE LOT on Busy SR 80 in Alva. Front half +/- zoned commercial. \$395,000</p> <p>2 MOBILE HOMES on half acre lot. Tangerine Ave. \$146,000.</p> <p>9.9 ACRES. BUNDLES \$9,000.</p> <p>13.34 ACRES south of Highway 66, \$6,000 per acres.</p> <p>24.67 ACRES SOUTH OF LABELLE OLD GROVE</p> <p>WANTED: HUNTING LAND TO PURCHASE 75 ACRE MINIMUM</p> | |

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2004 Ford F350 SuperCrew King Ranch, Dually, Diesel, 4X4, AM/FM/In Dash 6 Disc Changer,

\$15,900

2006 Ford F150 Chrome Edition, 5.4 Liter Triton V-8, Auto, AC, PW, PDL, Tilt, Cruise, AM/FM/CD

\$14,900

2004 Dodge Ram 2500 Quad Cab, 4X4, Hemi, Dual Zone AC, PW, PDL, Tilt, Cruise, Leather

\$10,900

2004 Dodge Ram 1500 Quad Cab Laramie, 4X4, 5.7 Liter Hemi V-8, Auto, Towing Package, Nerf Bars

\$12,900

2005 Dodge Ram 1500 ST, 4X4, AC, Tilt, Cruise, AM/FM/Cass, Cepek Wheels

\$9,900

2002 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Ext Cab LS, 4X4 Z-71, AC, PW, PDL, Tilt, Cruise, Topper

\$14,900

2005 Ford F250 SuperCrew XLT Sport 4X4, FX4, 5.4 Liter Triton V-8, Nerf Bars, Keyless Entry

\$8,900

1994 Jeep Wrangler 4.0 Liter 6 Cyl, 5 Speed Manual, Aluminum Wheels w/33" Off Road Tires,

\$9,900

2003 Chevrolet Tahoe LS, 4.8 Liter Vortec V-8, Auto, Dual Zone AC, Rear AC, PW

\$8,900

2000 Ford Excursion Limited, 6.8 Liter Triton V-10, Auto, 4X4, AC, Rear AC, PW, PDL, Tilt, Cruise

\$7,900

2000 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer, Third Row, 5.4 Liter Triton V-8, Auto, Moonroof, AC, Rear AC

\$4,900

1988 Jeep Wrangler, 4.0 Liter 6 Cyl, 5 Speed, 4X4, AM/FM/CD, Aluminum Wheels

\$4,900

1998 Jeep Wrangler 4X4, 2.5 Liter 4 Cyl, 5 Speed, A/C, Tilt, AM/FM/CD, Aluminum Wheels

\$3,900

2002 Ford Econoline E250, 5.4 Liter Triton V-8, Auto, AC, AM/FM

\$12,900

2004 GMC Yukon SLT, 5.3 Liter Vortec V-8, Auto, Dual Zone AC, Rear AC

\$9,900

2002 Jeep Wrangler X, 4.0 Liter 6 Cyl, 5 Speed Manual, A/C, Tilt, Towing Package

\$4,900

2000 Ford Explorer Limited, Auto, Moonroof, AC, PW, PDL, Tilt, Cruise, AM/FM/CD/Cass

\$4,900

1999 Chrysler Town and Country LX, 3.8 Liter V-6, Auto, Dual Zone AC, Rear AC

\$4,500

1997 GMC Suburban SLT Third Row, 5.7 Liter Vortec V-8, Auto, AC, Rear AC, PW, PDL

\$11,900

2002 Jeep Wrangler Sahara Edition, 4X4, 4.0 Liter 6 Cyl, Auto, AC, Tilt, Cruise, AM/FM/CD

\$13,900

2007 Kia Sedona LX, 3.8 Liter V-6, Auto, Dual Zone AC, Rear AC, PW, PDL, Tilt, Cruise

\$12,900

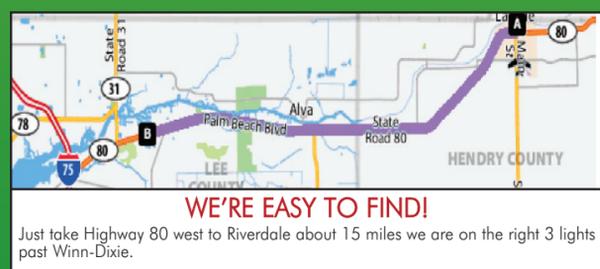
2004 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer Third Row, 4X4, Auto, AC, Rear AC, PW, PDL, Tilt, Cruise

\$4,900

1994 Ford Mustang GT, 5.0 Liter V-8, Auto, AC, PW, PDL, Tilt, Cruise, AM/FM/Cass

\$12,900

2006 Ford Mustang Convertible, 4.0 Liter V-6, Auto, AC, PW, PDL, Tilt, Cruise, AM/FM/CD



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