

CALOOSA BELLE

Delivering Western Hendry County's News Since 1922

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THURSDAY, February 5, 2009

At a Glance

Early dismissal

Hendry County LaBelle Area Schools will be dismissed early on Friday, Feb. 20, for Swamp Cabbage activities. There will be no lunch served that day and school bus drivers will be following their regular schedules based upon the schools early release times.

Mark Black History Month

February is Black History Month, a time we celebrate those past and present who have helped pave the way and those who were and are influential in shaping our lives. Celebrate Black History Month on Feb. 28 at the James Singleton Community Center. Everyone is welcome.

If you would like to participate, perform or simply help, contact Nora Fagin-Ned at 863-885-1707.

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 am-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. We hope to see all interested individuals on the new date 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 our members. Contact Mel Greenleaf at LaBelle High School at 863-674-4120 with any questions.

Old Timers' Dinner

Make plans to attend and mark your calendars for 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 and dine at 6 p.m. Call the chamber at 675-0125; 675-0374 or 675-1338 for tickets.

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

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Lucy's Angels: Hope in sneakers



Submitted photos
One hundred walkers made their way through the streets of LaBelle January 31 so breast cancer patients can receive much-needed mammograms.



Submitted photo
Pink balloons fill the air as Lucy's Angels gathered up walkers to support their cause.

Money raised for mammograms

Swing into Action was the theme for Lucy's Angels for Breast Cancer Care, Bosom Buddies 3 mile Walk from Barron Park, on Sat. Jan. 31. One hundred walkers participated, The Christ Central Dancers and Choir, along with the Universal All Stars entertained afterward. Together with good food, music and a variety of vendors, the day was a big success. They all helped to raise money to pay for mammograms for residents of Hendry and Glades. By the community, For the Community is their motto, since all the money raised stays here for Breast Cancer screening. To date, with your help the group has paid for over 70 mammograms. Lucie's Angels offer special thanks to their sponsors who helped defray costs so the funds can be used for screening: Christian Men's Gathering, Florida Community Bank, Gonzales Lawn Service, Profile Gardens Landscape Management, Ragin' Graphics, Sharon's Kreations, Southern Excavating.



Submitted photo
There was energy galore at the Bosom Buddies Walkathon Jan. 31 to support breast cancer patients.

Veterans memorial taking shape

LaBelle veterans have been planning a new memorial for several years to honor this country's military men and women.

Ground was broken for the memorial, which will be located at the corner of SR 80 and Main Street across from the Courthouse, in ceremonies last Veterans Day. This week, residents should see the beginnings of the memorial taking shape.

It won't look like much at first, just ground leveling work followed by laying limerock and sand screening, but then the first paving bricks, engraved with the honored names of ser-

vicemen and women, will start to go in. The first bricks are being made now by Gulf Coast Pavers. Two hundred and thirty of them have been ordered.

The memorial will be comprised of seven free standing monuments, one for each of the most recent major American conflicts. They include: World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, Viet Nam, The First Gulf War, Afghanistan and the Second Gulf War.

In addition, five flag poles will be erected: one for the American flag, the Florida State flag, POW flag as well as the American Legion, VFW and DAV flags.

There will be benches placed throughout the grounds for people to reflect on the purpose of the memorial. The LaBelle Rotary Club has already purchased a number of them.

American Legion Post 130 continues to take orders for memorial bricks. If you would like to purchase one, you may send a check for \$100 to American Legion Post 130 with an annotation that it's for the Veterans Memorial. You can make out a form at the Legion Post for your inscription.

You may also mail your check to: American Legion Post 139, 699 W. Hickpochee, LaBelle, FL 33935.

Lawmakers hear local concerns

By Patty Brant
Caloosa Belle

Once again local groups had their chance to catch the attention of area state representatives before they head off to tackle Tallahassee's budget. As throughout the state, legislators are looking for innovative ways to tighten the budget. This coming year, local governments and programs were forewarned that it would be little use to seek funding from Tallahassee.

Still, Senator Dave Aronberg of District 27 and Representative Denise Grimsley of District 77 made their annual trek to gather local input. They met the public Jan. 27 at LaBelle City Hall. Sen. Larcenia Bullard was unavailable.

From the City of LaBelle Mayor Paul Puletti took his cue from the economy and asked only for any help they could muster for its new water treatment plant.

Citing the consent order the city is under to build the new water treatment plant, Mayor Puletti asked for assistance in securing funding from Rural

Utility Service. Assistance with in complying with the order or an abeyance of the consent order would be a benefit to the city, he indicated.

Sen. Aronberg seemed amenable to helping, saying he supported Moore Haven's similar request with a letter to the federal authorities.

All the Hendry County commissioners as well as County Administrator Judi Kennington-Korf, were on hand at the meeting. Ms. Kennington-Korf took the legislators through the county's requests. SR 80 widening remains at the top of that list. Also of prime importance to Hendry is the proposed inland port - particularly with the loss of some 1,700 jobs if the USSC purchase by the South Florida Water Management District goes through.

Newly-elected Superintendent of Schools Rick Murphy told the legislators that the board had just laid off a number of employees and would probably be faced with another layoff before the year is over.

See Concerns — Page 2

Legal bills, room to grow

By Patty Brant
Caloosa Belle

Supervisor of Elections Loretta Strickland presented a statement for \$6,000 in attorney's fees to the county commission at its Jan. 27 meeting in LaBelle.

It will be the initial payment for her defense in former Property Appraiser Kristina Kulpa's lawsuit over the Nov. 4 election.

Ms. Kulpa is suing the Hendry County Canvassing Board, Ms. Strickland and her former opponent, now Property Appraiser Phillip Pelletier, citing what she claims are irregularities in the voting process.

She filed the lawsuit with the 20th Circuit Court on Nov.

24, 2008.

Ms. Strickland told the board she felt the need for the county to absorb these bills could have been prevented if the county attorney would agree to represent her as a constitutional officer.

However, Mr. Lapp said he checked with other counties and decided his defense of Ms. Strickland would be a conflict of interest.

Besides, he said, if he took on that additional burden, he would not be able to take proper care of the county's other legal business.

Ms. Strickland took the opportunity to promise the tax-

See County — Page 2



Caloosa Belle/Patty Brant
LaBelle Superintendent of Public Works Michael Boyle, engineer Larry Bennett and Bill Davis, Legionnaire in charge of the memorial plans, go over design for the Veterans Memorial in preparation for the installation of the first bricks.



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Submitted photo
Whisper Creek owners celebrated 20 years in business last weekend. Pictured from left: Walt and Nita Shirley, Leo Cavin, Janet Cavin, Darryl Christianson, Bill Cavin and Cheri Christianson.

Whisper Creek celebrates 20 years of fun

Whisper Creek RV Park and its residents celebrated 20 years of operation last weekend with a big party filled with music, dance, food and fun.

The park is the dream of Leo Cavin, who brought his children into its planning and operation. The park was built "from the sand up" and took about two years to complete.

Retired now, Leo has left the park in the care of his children and their spouses: William and Janet Cavin, Nita and Walt Shirley and Cheri and Darryl Christianson.

The park has 475 sites that pretty much stay filled, two club

houses, a computer room, billiards, exercise room, rec/social hall, a club with a full commercial kitchen, heated pool and activities galore.

Rousing games of bingo, shuffleboard and horseshoes are at the top of the list.

Residents' social calendars stay full with regular pot luck suppers, Saturday breakfasts, church services on Sunday, pool parties, fashion shows, cards and crafts. They also enjoy tours and other special activities.

It's clean facilities and grounds help make it a pleasant retreat for large numbers of winter visitors and even some permanent resi-

dents.

In fact, Whisper Creek is such a homey, enjoyable place that some 20 of its original residents are still there - still loving it.

Whisper Creek RV Park is well known for its friendly atmosphere and has always been a vital part of the larger community.

Residents are happy to support many charitable causes and events as well as the local social scene.

Located at 3745 N. SR 29, Whisper Creek is as proud of its residents as its residents are of it.

With many younger retirees, the park remains an enjoyable community for active people.

County

Continued From Page 1

payers that there had been no misconduct by her staff with regard to the election.

She said, "A five is a five and it's a fact of life." Ms. Kulpa lost her bid for reelection by five votes.

Room to grow

The board decided it was not interested in purchasing the Davis property west of Courthouse, including the old Long Branch, Don's Steakhouse and a storage building. The board felt the McCormick property south of the Courthouse would be more useful.

Commissioner Kevin McCa-

rthy noted that, at some point in the future when the jail is moved, the county will get use of the jail site back, so there will be room to expand.

He also didn't like the idea of taking prime commercial property off the tax rolls.

Commissioner Tris Chapman called for a breakdown of finances for each department so the commissioners can better under-

FBLA builds winners; local chapter hosts district conference

LaBelle members rack up awards

By Jodi Higginbotham

On Thursday, Jan. 29, LaBelle High and LaBelle Middle School FBLA members attended the District Conference hosted by LaBelle Middle School. There were approximately 250 students from Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties in attendance. It was an exciting afternoon with great performances, good food, a great hypnotist show and finally awards. Congratulations to our LHS FBLA Winners...

- 3rd Place Accounting 2 - Mike Reed
 - 3rd Place Business Procedures - Sierra Brown
 - 2nd Place Impromptu Speaking - Staci Berg
 - 2nd Place Job Interview - Jaydee Hull
 - 2nd Place Word Processing 2 - Lori Spangler
 - 4th Place Word Processing 2 - Chelsea Lewis
- Congratulations to our LMS FBLA Winners:
- 1st Place Computer Slide Show - Sal Carmona and Matthew Cooper
 - 2nd Place Computer Slide Show - Hipolito Salinas and Magali Salinas
 - 5th Place Computer Slide Show - Stacey Carter
 - 3rd Place Middle Level Careers - Brian DiBernardino
 - 1st Place FBLA Principles & Procedures - Tabitha Parker
- Many of these members will be headed to the state conference in April, so

stay tuned for more winners!

Members are in need of sponsorships, if anyone would like to help, please contact Jodi Higgin-

botham at 674-4646 or by email at higginbothamj@hendry.k12.fl.us. Our students appreciate our loyal supporters over the years.

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Concerns

Continued From Page 1

He sought the legislators's assistance in eliminating mandated programs and providing more flexibility in regulations so districts can move money around in their budgets. He also asked that no new mandates be passed.

Continuing with education, Florida Gulf Coast University representatives explained its partnership with Edison State College.

EC's Matthew Holliday explained that in education, in contrast to other "industries," student numbers increase when the economy is down. The college hopes to respond to local needs with specific programs.

Dr. Patricia Land of Edison College said they plan to increase interactive technology, and offer nursing classes on line as much as possible.

She noted that 13 percent of local high school students are currently getting a jump on college through dual enrollment.

Hendry-Glades Health Department Administrator Pat Dobbins noted that layoffs and high unemployment always affects health department programs. She asked the legislature to maintain cost-based reimbursements and asked them to look at the 33 rural counties in a different light from the larger, urban counties by reevaluating funding methodologies.

Ms. Dobbins said initiatives are needed to deal with a growing diabetes problem and hoped "people from the trenches" would be placed on task forces to look for the best responses to

various health issues.

Cathy Cortez, Executive Director of Healthy Start of Southwest Florida, thanked the legislators for minimal cuts from the previous session, saying the organization's success is due to a collaboration of partners serving at risk individuals.

She noted Hendry County's high birth rate and pointed out that this is the most underfunded coalition in the state. She warned that a proposed 22 percent cut to the program which is in the works would translate into a 26 percent cut to women and children's services.

The decline in Medicaid to pregnant women also concerned her, saying most Hendry County birth indicators are headed in the wrong direction.

Mike Kemp of the Hendry County Education Association and a science teacher at Clewiston High School, told the legislators of the school board's tough budgetary decisions, saying the board has done its best to trim the budget. However, he warned that now they are cutting into the meat by losing employees.

He said that Florida was last in state funding per capita, but tenth in the nation in education two years ago and drew dire conclusions if already inadequate funding gets tighter. From 114 paraprofessionals - those who work with the neediest students - the county is now down to just 57 and there will be only two school nurses in the county.

School nurses can pick up on serious problems, he said. He pointed out that such serious hits in education jeopardize the students.

Sen. Aronberg said "A number

of us are fighting for education; some of brightest minds for the future are in our schools." He added that he was not opposed to increasing taxes for education.

From Hope Hospice and Hope Connections, the message was to preserve what they have: Medicaid reimbursement for hospice; and the requirement for certificates of need for hospices.

From Lee Memorial Health System Board, Sally Johnson said the hospital lost \$60 million last year, adding that 35 percent of the total patients must pick up those costs.

She said it's getting tougher for people meet co-pays and asked lawmakers to seek an increase in federal matches. She also wants to see an increase of \$1 on a pack on cigarettes to be dedicated to health care.

Tara Sherrod of the American Cancer Society echoed that sentiment, saying Florida is 46th in the nation in cigarette taxes - 84 cents below the national average. She noted that each taxpayer pays an extra \$600 per year for medical costs to cover tobacco-related illnesses.

Other requests included support for the Equal Rights Amendment to ensure equal pay for women and clarify the status of sex discrimination.

From the Audubon Society, Pete Quasius sought support for the USSC purchase by the South Florida Water Management Dis-

trict, which he said would ensure water for agriculture, people and animals while helping to keep the river clean.

Hendry County Commissioner Kevin McCarthy also spoke on the proposed USSC purchase, focusing on high unemployment, the county's total millage rate of over 10 mills, its high number of under-served residents; and the need for economic replacement. He urged the lawmakers to consider the impact of the deal.

Commissioner Darrell Harris echoed concerns over class size and Sen. Aronberg pointed out the difficulty in changing constitutional amendments. However, he said the legislature may be able to add some flexibility to the rules. He also said that the outlook for an additional tobacco tax is favorable for this year and that legislators would be reviewing sales tax exemptions, rework Indian gaming and encourage the collection of taxes on line.

A solar panel manufacturer currently building a 20,000 square foot plant in Clewiston thanked the legislators for supporting solar energy but asked that they require Florida solar energy businesses to buy the panels in Florida.

stand how their funds are used.

US 27 intersection

County Administrator Judi Kennington-Korf asked and received the board's blessing on moving the SR80/US27 intersection to the county's number one transportation issue.

Realignment must be accomplished before SR 80 can be widened.

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Submitted photo/Waddy Thompson

Fire danger

This tomato field on the east side of SR 29 just north of Sears Rd, was part of a recent controlled burn, as the pasture was cleared of dead grass. Still, it's a reminder of the season. With dead vegetation left in the wake of freezing temperatures, it's prime fire season - time to take extra care.

Task force tackles gang issue

By Jose Jesus Zaragoza
Clewiston News

Even before last Friday's fateful shooting in Clewiston, community members had had it.

The signs of gang activity are evident throughout the community. In some areas, the disagreement among the various gangs has spilled over to hurting, or nearly hurting, residents who have nothing to do with the vicious conflicts.

On streets and on buildings, graffiti notes the presence of groups of criminals who seemingly have nothing better to do with their time than to mark their ground.

Sgt. Justin Spence of the Clewiston Police Department is no stranger to it. That much is clear in the fact that Sgt. Spence was one of the responding officers to last week's shooting at Twin Lakes in Clewiston.

In discussing the problem, he does not mince words.

"We do have a heavy gang problem in this area. It's a violent problem and it's a problem that's destroying our juveniles," he said. "We're seeing a more steady increase in gang activity, recruitment and organization," said Sgt. Spence. "These individuals are a corrupt organization. They are out to show that they are serious and they're violent, and they mean to commit criminal acts."

Sgt. Spence is the chair of the local chapter of the attorney general's gang reduction task force, a newly created board whose mission is to stamp out gang activity. The task force has separate groups set up in Charlotte, Manatee and Lee counties.

The group held its first meeting earlier this month, outlining the basic premise. Members hope to

identify the specific areas that will be targeted within the next few months, outlining specific goals going forward.

It represents, according to the sergeant, the first real chance locals have at eliminating an admittedly nasty situation before it gets any uglier.

Karson Turner, a Hendry County commissioner, serves as the co-chair.

"We have to change our vocabulary," said Commissioner Turner. "There is no such thing as a want-to-be gangster. You either recognize someone as a gang member, or you do not."

The real turnaround will come in the form of a multi-pronged attack, they said. Yes, law enforcement will be required to find and arrest the individuals involved in the criminal organizations, but so, too, will schools be required to work more closely with law enforcement to stamp out and identify who those members are.

Attacking the issue simply from a law enforcement standpoint fails to address the root causes of gangs in the community. Perhaps incarceration alone will not convince most of the criminals to turn their lives around, members of the group theorize.

"I hear adults in our community say, 'There's nothing for our young people to do.' Then what is 4-H? What is football, track, soccer? There are so many programs out there. We have to assess what our problems are."

Commissioner Turner believes that the more people who are involved, the better the chances that Hendry and Glades counties can recover those teenagers who have lost their way.

According to Sgt. Spence, it is difficult to disrupt the gang system when it is so ingrained in the

lives of the gang members.

"We got gang members of all different ages; they go from generation to generation," said Sgt. Spence. "We have 11-year-olds being supervised by parents who are gang members, who are supervised by their parents, who are gang members."

Members understood that working closely with the neighboring county of Glades County opens up more avenues to success. The two task forces have joined and will be holding joint meetings.

During the first meeting, the task force noted the presence of local health departments, local representatives, and several Glades County representatives. It is a pool of knowledge the group hopes to tap in coming up with concrete solutions to the problems facing the community today.

One of those answers is the implementation of a countywide curfew for anyone under the age of 18. Though the specifics of the plan are not finalized, keeping teenagers away from the streets by 10 or 11 p.m. is a step in the right direction, the sergeant and commissioner agree.

Such a plan would have to be presented to the county board of commissioners, though both officials say early review of the idea has been met favorably.

"With the assistance of the community, I feel we can gain control and get our community back," said Sgt. Spence.

Facing the fact that a problem exists is the first step.

"And I think we do have a gang problem in Hendry County," Commissioner Turner said.

News Editor Jose Zaragoza can be reached at jzaragoza@newszap.com.

Officials express concern over wild fires

Recent strong cold fronts passed through the region last week producing frost that has killed a lot of tender vegetation.

The dry air behind the fronts dried out a lot of debris thus adding to the already dangerous wildfire hazards.

With little rainfall since October, the wildfire danger has been increasing steadily. The Keetch-Byram drought index (KBDI) for Highlands County has reached over 700 points, currently the highest in the state of Florida. In Glades County the KBDI is 678.

"In recent years the KBDI has peaked in January, but the following months produced enough rainfall to moderate conditions, there is some concern that may not occur this fire season" says Melissa Yunas, Wildfire Mitigation Specialist with the Florida Division of Forestry.

"The primary reason for the increased KBDI this year is a significant lack of rainfall", says Melissa Yunas. "South Florida for the months of November, December and January are running a large rainfall deficit.

The Sebring Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) indicates that Highlands County has received 3.37 inches of rain since October 2008.

This lack of rain along with the recent cold weather has left our wildland areas extremely dry and prone to wildfires."

Combine frost-damaged vege-

tation with a seasonal dry period, and then flick a cigarette or electrical spark, and the flames can be off and running in no time.

It's time to take a careful look at your landscaping and the areas around your Florida Yard and get prepared for the possibility of wildfires knocking at your door. Residents living in or near areas close to brush or wooded areas should make their homes as safe as possible from the threat of wildfires by following FIREWISE guidelines.

Structures should be surrounded by a buffer zone extending at least 30 feet.

This area should be free of highly flammable vegetation and well maintained.

Leaves, pine needles and twigs should be removed from roofs and gutters. Flammable materials including wood, vehicles and propane tanks, should not be stored next to the house.

Anyone needing additional information may contact the local Division of Forestry at 772-260-0053 (St. Lucie, Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee Counties) 863-655-6407 (Highlands and Glades Counties).

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Consumers warned about 'Phishing' scam

TALLAHASSEE—Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson is warning the public not to fall for the latest "phishing" scam that is fraudulently using the name of a well-known Internet service provider.

Consumers are receiving emails from what claims to be the "AOL Safety and Security Team" requesting them to verify their billing/account information and indicating failure to do so will result in their accounts being closed. The Department's consumer fraud investigators verified with America Online (AOL) the emails are fraudulent and that AOL does not contact customers and ask for personal information via email.

The emails are designed to get personal information from people in order to steal their identity. Phishing scams are fairly common and this is just another variation of other scams. Howev-

er, Mr. Bronson is concerned that because AOL is so well known, consumers may think the email is actually from the company and provide their personal information. In the past, con artists have pretended to be banking institutions using realistic-looking websites and also requesting personal information.

Commissioner Bronson is reminding consumers that if they get an email or popup message that asks for personal or financial information, do not reply, and do not click on the link as doing so likely will connect the person to a fake website. Legitimate companies do not ask for personal information through email. Consumers who are concerned about their account should contact the business directly by phone or by typing in the correct web address in their browser.

"The bottom line is people should never provide personal and financial information online,

over the phone or through the mail unless they have initiated the contact and are certain they are dealing with a legitimate organization," Mr. Bronson said. "Responding to unsolicited emails will very likely end badly for the consumer."

Commissioner Bronson said identity theft is a multibillion-dollar racket and criminals will continue devising new ways and new technologies to separate people from their hard-earned money. So it is important that consumers educate themselves about the latest scams so they can avoid being victimized.

To report suspicious activity or file a complaint, contact the Department's Consumer Hotline at 1-800-HELPLFLA (1-800-435-7352), outside of Florida (850) 488-2221, or 1-800-FLAYUDA (1-800-352-9832) for Spanish. Visit online at: <http://www.800helpfla.com> for additional consumer information.

Arrest Reports

LaBelle

Thomas Lee Leal, 28, was arrested Jan. 29 and charged with possession of marijuana over 20 grams or of a controlled substance with a prescription. Deputy J. Garrett was arresting officer.

Ashley Smith, 18, was arrested Jan. 27 and charged on a warrant with aggravated battery with a deadly weapon. Sgt. Marilyn Hollingsworth.

Thomas Lee Leal, 28, was arrested Jan. 29 and charged with possession of marijuana over 20 grams or of a controlled substance with a prescription. Deputy J. Garrett was arresting officer.

Albert M. Almonte, 18, was arrested Jan. 17 and charged as a fugitive from justice from Lee County. Sgt. M. Hollingsworth was arresting officer.

Clewiston

Ruben Charles Jr., 27, was arrested Jan. 30 and charged as a fugitive from justice from St. Lucie County, extradition was confirmed. Deputy L. Riordan was arresting officer.

Robert Earl Payne, 38, was arrested on a warrant from Delaware January 28 and charged with FTA: unlawful sexual intercourse. Extradition was confirmed. Deputy R. Perian was arresting officer.

Daniel Joseph Kelley, 19, was arrested Jan. 28 and charged on a warrant with FTA: felony offense. Deputy R. Perian was arresting officer.

Joaquin Garcia Jr., 20, was arrested Jan. 28 and charged with a non-moving traffic violation operating a motor vehicle with no

valid license and carrying a concealed weapon - firearm. Deputy J. Soto was arresting officer.

Maximum Sanchez, 17, was arrested Jan. 27 and charged on a warrant with burglary of a structure/conveyance armed, larceny grand - first degree over \$100,000, burglary with assault or battery and larceny between \$300-\$5,000.

Chris Latrell Fortune, 17, was arrested Jan. 26 and charged with aggravated battery causes bodily harm or disability. Deputy Tim Neibert.

Alfredo Hernandez, 20, was arrested Jan. 23 and charged as a principal in the first degree and aggravated battery with a deadly weapon. Inv. Richard Waldron was arresting officer.



Richard Mourfield
Agency Manager
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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.

Old Timers Dinner Speak Out Response

In response to last week's e-mailer and Old Timers Dinner guests: When you can plot a way to have everybody sit on the front row and be served first, please let us know! We've been working on that for years and it is still unsolved. Also, to accommodate you, you'd have to reveal your identity! Too bad you've chosen to miss the good dinner and wonderful visitation we enjoy. The museum's Old Timers Committee

Animal issues

VOLUNTEERS ARE AWESOME: I know they have volunteers who work at the humane society and I have had a wonderful 2 adoptions from this fine shelter! They are always cleaning up after the animals or holding spay neuter surgery for people's animals and very busy there. I have never seen anyone have this type of problems there and I volunteer there too so I think I would have. The best thing anyone can do would be to go there and volunteer!

BUSY SHELTER: The last few times I was at the humane society they were busy with adoptions and someone was bringing them a litter of puppies and the lady who runs the place was giving the owner of the puppies an appointment to spay their momma dog! I am sure they could use someone who could answer their phones but working with the animals takes a lot of their time. I know some people who have had to use the humane society when they couldn't keep their dogs or cats and they helped them a lot! One of my friends took some of her cats in because she couldn't afford to spay them at the vets and the shelter spayed her cats for free so she could keep them! She was crying so hard cause she was so happy she could keep her cats! I think the humane society is doing a great job!

TRAIN VOLUNTEERS: Volunteering is a great idea but if I answer the phones without being trained about handling a call then I'm just a warm body, useless to the people who are calling.

MANDATORY PAY/NEUTER: Here in Florida there has been a mandatory spay and neuter bill proposed. This bill is getting more attention from our state reps than helping out ailing counties and schools! We must ban together to put a stop to this. This bill will put big brother a/c on your doorstep and could cost you a lot of money out of pocket that in this economy we just can not afford to spend. Not to mention this bill was not written with any veterinary input and can be highly dangerous for some dogs. This is just one more step towards losing our civil rights. All of you hog hunters be warned, this will hit you too! As well as ranches with the cattle dogs, and even those who hunt other things for pleasure. This bill only protects those who hunt for titles and money, not those of us who hunt for the fun of it! Please write your state rep! She needs to see the support from our small communities as well or we could all lose this fight. Tell the state reps to take care of our state and to stop trying to violate our civil rights!

Weather Forecast

Weather forecast for Hendry County from the National Weather Service

LaBelle and surrounding area

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 58 and winds from the north between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday night: Clear with a low around 33. Winds will be from the north around 5 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday: Sunny with a high near 69 and winds from the north between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday night: Mostly clear with a low around 46 and winds from the north around 6 mph.

Saturday: Sunny with a high near 76. Winds will be light becoming east between 10 and 13 mph.

Saturday night: Mostly clear with a low around 49

Sunday: Sunny with a high near 78.

Sunday night: Mostly clear with a low around 52.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 80.

Public Issues Forums: Join the discussion!

newszap.com

Free Speech Free Ads

CALOOSA BELLE

Delivering Western Hendry County's News Since 1922

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.

- ### We Pledge ...
- To operate this newspaper as a public trust
 - To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
 - To provide the information citizens need to make their own intelligent decisions about public issues.
 - To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
 - To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
 - To disclose our own conflicts of interest or potential conflicts to our readers.
 - To correct our errors and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
 - To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
 - To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

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For More Information See At Your Service On Page 2

Letters to the Editor

Hard times, hard choices

The hardest vote I have ever made was to vote to approve the recommendation to dismiss between 50 and 71 school board employees. These are good, honest, hard working citizens of Hendry County who have families to support. I have been reading about all sorts of businesses closing with thousands of jobs being cut all over our country. I have been praying for these people who have lost their job, but now it really has hit home.

I am reminded of what the author of the Book of Hebrews says in the second chapter, first verse, that we must listen to the truth and not drift away. The truth is that God is in control. He is, always has been, and always will be. When He tells us he cares more for us than birds and takes care of them, so surely He will take care of us, that is truth. When He tells us He will never leave us or forsake us, that is truth.

One of the greatest truths in times like these is the truth of faith. Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen. Our hope now is that this economy will turn and we can put our people back to work. I believe it will happen if we work together in this community and if we stay focused on what God would have us to do and the way He would have us do it. One of the things He would not have us do is pointing fingers at one another when we might really not know all the circumstances involved. Judging others and looking at a speck in the eye of others will not solve an over \$5,000,000.00 short fall. Believing, praying, working and trusting will. That is not to say that there is anything wrong with questioning, but not knowing all

the facts and making assumptions is not good business or spiritual practice.

Let us stay focused, continue to teach our children and show them that all things are possible for those who follow Christ. As Corrie ten Boom said, Let God's promises shine on our problems."

God bless,
Pat Langford

Looking for another door

Dear Community of LaBelle, I should have seen it coming. The nation is experiencing cutbacks and financial woes.

I just did not think it would happen to me. I should rephrase that, cutbacks would happen in LaBelle. There are many people who received the news lately that their last day would be Friday, the 13th of February. I am one of those people.

I have worked for Hendry County Schools since 1986, with a three-year break to be home with my kids and consider myself blessed to have worked here this long. I have met many students, staff and teachers along the way as well as people in the community. As an Occupational Specialist, I have had to ask community businesses to come to Career Day and help in Shadow Day. People in the community were always there to help students learn about their jobs and the true environment of it. The staff at LaBelle High gave me complete support when I needed help and manpower for events held on campus. I want to thank all the community members who have stepped up to the plate when asked, the staff at LaBelle High who made my job easier and for the students who showed an interest in learning

about the careers around them. I encourage those of you who may have time on your hands to help volunteer at the schools as they will soon be doing so much more with less. What decisions are being made now will affect the kids, parents and employers of this community. The community needs to band together to help each other during these tough times.

I am now doing what I taught for 16 years, putting my skills at hand to find another employment opportunity. God has shut this door, only to open another one somewhere else. I hope soon rather than later, but as it should be, God is always on time.

God Bless and it has been a privilege knowing and working with you throughout the years.

Fondly
Jovita Williamson,
Occupational Specialist
LaBelle High School

Stimulie or Stimume?

Thrashing around out there, looking for an explanation of this proposed "Economic Stimulation" plan, in our new, changed, "Obamanation," I came across this possible explanation in a Q and A format. Q. What is an Economic Stimulie Payment? A. It is money that the federal government will send to taxpayers. Q. Where will the government get this money? A. From the taxpayers. Q. So the government is giving me back my own money? A. Disproportionately. Q. What is the purpose of this payment? A. The plan is that you will use the money to purchase a high-definition TV set, thereby stimulating the economy. Q. But isn't that just stimulating the economy of China? A. Just trust us and spend the money, quickly. The report went on to point out some

possibly helpful ways that could best help the faltering economy by spending your stimulie check wisely. Spending your money at Walmart will help China, one of our biggest creditors. Spending it on a car will help Japan, one of our biggest contributors. Spending it on gasoline will help the Arabs, one of our biggest creditors. Spending it on diesel and fuel oil will keep Hugo Chavez in power, and from shutting down Colombian cocaine shipments to Hollywood. Spending it on a computer will help India, one of our biggest creditors. Spending it on useless crap will help Taiwan and keep them solvent. Spending it on citrus, fresh fruit and vegetables other than organic, will keep Mexico solvent and South America's workers south of the border. After reading this report, it occurs to me that the "Stimulus Plan" is a self-unfulfilling, political poultrie, and none of it will "jump-start" the economy. We need to keep the money here in America. We can keep the money here and see it's immediate impact on the economy by spending it at and on yard sales, sporting events, marinas, casinos, lottery, bordellos, tattoos, domestic beer and spirits, Obama memorabilia, bake sales, Girl Scout cookies, local festivals, and church bazaars. Inasmuch as they are the only American businesses still operating in the USA. Seriously! Don't get caught up in all of the "crisis" oriented hype being pumped into the mainstream by the White House. Don't fall victim to that "Yes we can" disease, "intoxication" which is the euphoria of getting an Economic Stimulie check, which lasts until you realize it was your money to begin with!

T.W. Bill Neville
LaBelle

Guest Commentary

A Letter from God, encouragement to all

By Les Morgan, pastor Caloosa Baptist Church, LaBelle

A few years ago the U.S. Postal system had an advertisement on television. With the introduction of the internet, and specifically email, finances were sagging as people were choosing fast electronic communication over the traditional 3 day delivery of a letter and envelop method. There was an urgent need to enhance the cash flow. The Jeep driving forces needed a catchy slogan to generate business. Marketing people across the USA were challenged to bring in their "best stuff." The situation at hand was crucial and a solution was required - with or without a stamp!



Dr. Les Morgan

The researchers and advertising community got to work. The

creativity was coming so fast into the post office, the post office could deliver its own mail to itself. The submissions varied from one word slogans and snappy-happy-clappy catchphrases. Each was hoping to win the contract.

One day someone "rang the bell" with the following tag: "There's nothing like getting a handwritten letter."

When you think about that statement, isn't that true? Who doesn't like to go to the mailbox and find an envelop with their name and address written on the middle of it? We all love to get mail! The bills can slow down, (and the junk mail can stop completely!), but the letters, cards and notes of encouragement from someone who has been thinking about us and loves us - bring it on!

These days, there is further discussion about the post office and the financial ailments it is encountering. To help relieve some of the economic strain consider-

ation is being given to the idea of mail delivery moving from a six days a week to a five days schedule. While that is yet to be determined what will actually happen, one thing is certain - encouraging notes, letters and cards are always worthy the trek to the mail box.

Recently a lady who attends the Sunday School class that my wife and I teach read an unanimous article entitled, "A Letter from God." I am sending it your way this week via my article in the Caloosa Belle. While it does not come in a hand-addressed written envelop, with a .42 stamp on the upper right corner, I believe you will find it filled with hope, courage and assurance. Please enjoy.

Dear Beloved,
In case you were wondering... I AM the Lord your God. Today, I will be handling all of your problems.

Please remember that I do not need your help. If the devil happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, DO NOT

attempt to resolve it.

Kindly put it in the SFJTD (something for Jesus to do) box. It will be addressed in MY time, not yours. Once the matter is placed in the box, do not hold on to it or attempt to remove it. Holding on or removal will delay resolution of your problems.

If it is a situation that you think you are capable of handling, please consult me in prayer to be sure that it is the proper resolution. Because I do not sleep nor do I slumber, there is no need for you to lose any sleep.

Rest my child. If you need to contact me, I am only a prayer away.

Love eternally,
The Lord your God.

* Dr. Les Morgan is pastor of Caloosa Baptist Church in LaBelle, located 200 yards behind Flora & Ella's. He likes to get encouraging, uplifting and kind letters. Bills and junk mail are not preferred - smile!

Guest Commentary

For thought: Is religious freedom for real?

I looked at the calendar and noted that today is the anniversary of the constitution. The constitution of Mexico, that is. I have one of those large wall calendars that



Fr. Alan Kelmereit

list all North American holidays. Thinking about that, though, got me started thinking about our constitution, and the argument dragging on in this country about the separation of church and state.

Many of the earliest settlers to this continent left their homes because of religious persecution. They came from countries that had state established and supported churches. If people chose not to join, they faced penalties from exclusion to violence. They came wanting a place where they could worship as they believed. Unfortunately, in some places they established religious requirements that mirrored those from which they escaped.

Today, however, freedom of religion is being constantly reinterpreted to create a nation that is free from religion, a nation in which public discussion of religion will not be possible. Despite so much of the historical revisionism that is being written, the founders of this country were nearly all people of strong faith, people whose faith clearly influenced their thinking. Yes, Thomas Jefferson seems to have been a Deist, and Benjamin Franklin's faith is hard to understand. But, it was Franklin who called the Continental Congress to prayer when their task seemed impossible. And Jefferson, while he did not believe the divinity of Jesus, reflects biblical principles in his speaking and writing.

Religious freedom, as we now find it in the public forum, is quickly becoming as much of a government interference, in the sense of prohibiting religious practice, as the founders feared

government interference in the sense of mandating a particular religious practice. Those who press this "freedom from religion" are not doing so out of a genuine concern for the welfare of others, but out of a desire to have their own "theology" of no god and no religion prevail. Somehow that seems like nothing more than a negative version of the same repressive religious environment our forefathers sought to escape. If we want to have genuine freedom of religion for all, we need to get serious about holding our leaders, political and judicial, accountable for their decisions and their actions.

Fr. Alan is pastor of Church of the Good Shepherd, located one block south of Rt 80 on Collingswood Pkwy in Port LaBelle. 863-675-0385. Send comments or questions to FaithMarketplace@embarqmail.com.

Pertussis, you may remember it as whooping cough

Continuing with the topic of bacteria, how many folks remember hearing their parents or grandparents talk about whooping cough? The clinical name for whooping cough is Pertussis. It is a very contagious bacterial respiratory illness caused by bacteria known as Bordetella pertussis.



Brenda Barnes

Anyone can get whooping

cough and it can be a very serious disease, especially for infants because it can develop into pneumonia (lung infection). It is usually spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes and those tiny droplets fly out of their body and spread to those around them.

Symptoms may start out similar to that of the common cold, with runny nose, congestion, sneezing, and mild cough or fever. But after one to two weeks, the severe coughing begins. The coughing continues over and

over so rapidly and so violently that the air is forced out of the lungs and when the person can finally inhale, they make a loud "whooping" noise. Many doctor visits may be required before pertussis is considered as a reason for their long-term cough.

The best way to help prevent whooping cough is to make sure that you and your children have been vaccinated. Vaccination for Pertussis became available in the 1940's and it should be part of your family's vaccination schedule.

Parents, please take time to review your family's immunization records to make sure they are up to date. If you have questions, please talk to your healthcare provider about your family's vaccination needs.

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 1206)

Sgt. Herrera returns from inauguration

Serving in the National Guard, Freddy Herrera returned from the 44th Presidential Inauguration with a greater appreciation for his country and of his role in its protection.

Sgt. Herrera was chosen for the honor from among his comrades with the 806 MP Company at Fort Pierce.

Thankfully he said they were not needed to handle any civil disturbance, and were able to do some sightseeing and enjoy the festivities.

Sgt. Herrera was made a squad Leader and was then given the responsibility of training 60 troops for Civil Disturbance/Riot Train-

ing. Inauguration day went well and the Florida National Guard shared crowd control and traffic control point duties with the Tennessee National Guard. He said the crowd showed great respect for them and even clapped as they came and went from the Mall. Once they arrived back in Florida Sgt. Herrera was recognized by the Company Commander for his leadership during the mission and was awarded a Meritorious Service Ribbon. He said, "It was a great experience and I am so happy to have been a part of it."

Sgt. Herrera graduated from LaBelle High School and is employed by A. Duda & Sons.



Submitted photo
Freddy Herrera in front of the National Mall in Washington D.C.

Count for fun Count for the future

Bird and nature fans throughout North America are invited to join tens of thousands of everyday bird watchers for the 12th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), Feb. 13-16. Last year Clewiston reported the most bird in Florida and was #5 in the US for the most birds reported with only 29 checklists. They reported 121 Species and 143,748 birds. LaBelle submitted 23 checklists and Okeechobee 14 lists.

A joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, this free event is an opportunity for families, students, and people of all ages to discover the wonders of nature in backyards, schoolyards, and local parks, and, at the same time, make an important contribution to conservation. Participants count birds and report their sightings online at www.birdcount.org.

"The Great Backyard Bird Count benefits both birds and people. It's a great example of citizen science: Anyone who can identify even a few species can contribute to the body of knowledge that is used to inform conservation efforts to protect birds and biodiversity," said Audubon Education VP, Judy Braus. "Families, teachers, children and all those who take part in GBBC get a chance to improve their observation skills, enjoy nature, and have a great time counting for fun, counting for the future."

Anyone can take part, from novice bird watchers to experts, by counting birds for as little as

15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and reporting their sightings online at www.birdcount.org. Participants can also explore what birds others are finding in their backyards—whether in their own neighborhood or thousands of miles away. Additional online resources include tips to help identify birds, a photo gallery, and special materials for educators.

The data these "citizen scientists" collect helps researchers understand bird population trends, information that is critical for effective conservation. Their efforts enable everyone to see what would otherwise be impossible: a comprehensive picture of where birds are in late winter and how their numbers and distribution compare with previous years. In 2008, participants submitted more than 85,000 checklists.

Each year, in addition to entering their tallies, participants submit thousands of digital images for the GBBC photo contest. Many are featured in the popular online gallery. Participants in the 2009 count are also invited to upload their bird videos to YouTube; some will also be featured on the GBBC web site. Visit www.birdcount.org to learn more.

Tally sheets are available through Hendry-Glades Audubon. Call Margaret England at 863-674-0695 if you don't have internet access and would like to receive a tally sheet. Leave your name and address on the answering machine.

Barron Library offers programs for children

In conjunction with 'The Big Read', Barron Library is offering Children's Programs during February. On Feb. 14, Mr. and Mrs. Bubbles will entertain children with stories, balloon characters and face painting. On the 28th, the library will host Story Time With the Fire Pup. Both events will begin at 10:30 a.m., at the library.

'The Big Read' is a major initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts, designed to revitalize the role of literary reading in American culture. The desire is to unite communities through great

literature, as well as inspire students to become lifelong readers.

The selected book for 'The Big Read' is Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury. The LaBelle Book Club and students at both LaBelle Middle School and LaBelle High School are participating in this event, which consists of reading the book and joining in book discussions.

For more information about participating in 'The Big Read', contact Barron Library, at 863-675-0833.

THANK YOU

The family of Sudie Bancroft would like to express their deep appreciation to everyone who ministered to us following the loss of our mother and grandmother. We were overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support we received from our family and friends. We were so blessed by the flowers, the phone calls, the cards, the food and especially your prayers. Thank you so much to everyone who brought food to the Felda Community Center following the funeral service especially Buddy Taylor and Mary White and the crew of Gator Hammock and to Janice Taylor and the ladies who coordinated the meal. Thank you to Collette Willis and Double H Livestock 4-H club for cleaning up afterward. And a very special thank you to Lisa Tracy for helping in a million different ways. For every hug, for every word spoken, and for being there in our time of need we say thank you so much and God Bless you all.

Las Noticias en Espanol

Muere Policia

La Oficina de La Policia se encuentra de luto por la muerte de uno de sus oficiales mas apreciados. El Sargento Michael Lee Horne's de 45 años quien era un veterano en la Ley de Enforzamiento murió cuando terminó su turno acerca de las 6 a.m el jueves en la mañana. Por razones desconocidas su patrulla no se detuvo en el portón cerrado de su casa y el vehículo pegó un edificio de utilidades. Los paramédicos trataron de resucitarlo pero el no respondió, por lo que fue pronunciado muerto en la escena. No se conocen los detalles hasta ahora pero el Alguacil Steve Whidden dijo que el turno anterior había sido ocupado. Los Oficiales de La Patrulla de Caminos de Florida están investigando el accidente.

Cuando los Oficiales se dieron cuenta de la muerte del Sargento fueron a La Oficina para ayudar con la tragedia. El Sargento Horne's comenzó su carrera con la Policia en 1998 comenzando su trabajo como oficial de correccional. Desde el 2001 trabajaba como Oficial de carretera supervisando el turno de la medianoche. Recientemente había sido promovido como Sargento, solo tres semanas antes.

La Sargento Marian J. Bryants dijo que el sargento Horne's era un profesional en su trabajo siempre quería las cosas correctas y era un padre maravilloso. Nombrado Oficial del año en el 2001-2002 el Sargento Horne's se había ganado el respeto de la comunidad y sus compañeros de trabajo. El Alguacil Steve Whidden fue un amigo personal del sargento. El dijo: "Mike trabajó muy duro para esta comunidad, el estaba dedicad a servir y pro-

teger a los residentes o aquellos que pasaron por esta oficina. El murió haciendo lo que mas amaba."Yo lo amaba a él como a un hermano".

El Sargento Horne's deja dos hijas de 9 y 11 años. Por el momento no se sabe nada de los arreglos funerarios.

Festival de Caña de Azúcar

Este año el festival de caña de azúcar sera el mejor de todos. El evento tendrá lugar en Ortona el sábado 7 de febrero de las 7 hasta las 10 de la mañana hasta que se acabe la comida. Hay algunos que dicen que entre mas años el festival se pone mejor. Este año se celebran treinta y seis años de festival. Habrá mucha comida, música, arte y manualidades.

El maestro de ceremonias será Larry Lucky, su hijo Larry Lucky 11 estará cantando y todos los Lucky prepararán el sirope de caña.

Los tiquetes que cuestan \$8.00 para adultos y \$4.00 para los niños se pueden comprar en el parque de casas móviles Whisper Creek, o en La Corte de Moore Haven.

Recuerde traer una silla y amigos para disfrutar el festival de caña el 7 de febrero en el Parque de Ortona. Hay mucho lugar para estacionar. Cada año, este festival es uno de los mas populares para disfrutar con la familia en el condado Glades. Los fondos que se recauden serán para el departamento de Bomberos de Ortona.

El menú incluye una pieza grande de pollo o cerdo, papa asada, ensalada de repollo, café o té. Para postres habrán galletas, pasteles y dulces de sirope de caña.

Atencion mamas nuevas

Baby Shower De La Comunidad Mujeres embarazadas o Nuevas mamas con bebes menos de un año. Cuando: 24 de Febrero, 11:00—1:00 p.m. Donde: Dallas B. Townsend Agricultural Center (enfrente de Health Department)

Venga al Baby Shower Juegos y regalos. Refrescos Patrocinadores: Catholic Charities, Community Coordinated Care for Children, Early Learning Coalition of SW FL, Early Steps, Family Services Network, Healthy Families, Healthy Start, Healthy Start Coalition, Hendry /Glades Health Departments, Hendry/Glades Behavioral Health Kiwanis of LaBelle, Tobacco Prevention and Education, United Way.

Christ the King Lutheran Church



"Where everybody is Somebody --- and Jesus is Lord."

9 a.m Sunday Worship
Lord's Supper
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday
10:15 am. Bible Study

863-675-2733

christtheking@aol.com
www.christthekinglabelle.ws/

.4 miles west of Hwy 29
on CR 78

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

Come to Seacoast - feel good about your bank.



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www.seacoastnational.com

Mark Atom Smith
President
Big Lake Region



Peanut butter safety in Girl Scout cookies

LOUISVILLE, KY — The peanut butter used in all Little Brownie Bakers Girl Scout® cookie products is not sourced from the supplier involved in the current peanut butter recall.

FDA and other regulatory agencies have indicated that Peanut Corporation of America (PCA) is the focus of their investigation concerning a recent Salmonella outbreak thought to be caused by tainted peanut butter. PCA does not supply peanut butter used in the Company's Tagalongs® or Do-si-dos® branded Girl Scout® cookies.

Food safety is of the utmost importance to us. We appreciate the trust you have placed in us to provide high quality, safe food. We appreciate your support of the Girl Scouts® in your community.

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Church Briefs

Time for a change

Freedom Fellowship Ministries has made some changes and you, too, have the power to change through Jesus Christ. They are offering many classes and services to help you change what you thought was unchangeable through the power and grace of God.

Two new adult Sunday school classes begin at 10:45 a.m., 1301 SR 29N.

The Construction Zone: helps in understanding the basics of faith and learning what your purpose is.

Financial Freedom: helps in biblical principals relating to finances.

Also available at Freedom Counseling and Services Center . . . For the Lord: every Monday night at 7 p.m. All ages: a small group setting for sharing everyday struggles as well as alcohol and drug abuse issues. You will be aided in getting the power to overcome the temptations of the world.

Overcoming addictive behaviors: every Thursday night 7 p.m.. This class is for anyone that

struggles with addictive behavior: food, drugs, caffeine, TV, alcohol, tobacco, lying, cheating, worrying, gossiping and selfishness are just a few examples. This class will help you learn what causes these behaviors, how to overcome them and to work in the freedom and excellence that God intends for you.

"For whom the Son shall set free shall be free indeed." John 8:36

FFM has discontinued Sunday evening services but does offer worship services on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

For further information please contact the office at 863-612-9899.

Forgiveness seminar planned

Dr. Dick Tibbitts, 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. Every-

one 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 Salzman at 863-675-6314, Mary McHenry at 863-675-8753 or email macowen@embarqmail.com.

Cowboy church Feb. 12

Cowboy church Thursday, Feb.12, at 6 p.m. Food and fellowship 7 p.m.; gospel music and the word brought this month by Frank Woodham of Okeechobee of the Church of God of Prophecy in Moore Haven, The church is located on the corner of 5th and Main at the Palmdale Community Center. All are welcome,

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.

Register Today for "Forgive to

Live Seminar"

Life difficulties

Have you ever felt overcome by life's difficulties? Have you ever wished you could stop giving control of your life to people from your past? Would you like to get your life, and maybe even your health, back? If so, then register today for the "Forgive to Live" seminar being held at Carlson Memorial United Methodist Church on Saturday, March 7, from 9-4. This community-wide

event is presented by Dr. Dick Tibbitts of Florida Hospital in Orlando and is based on his best-selling book "Forgive to Live - How Forgiveness Can Save Your Life." The cost is \$25 per person and includes a copy of the book, lunch, snacks and beverages. If there are concerns about the cost, a financial "helping hand" is available. To register, call Marty Cowen (863-675-4710), Joyce Salzman (863-675-6314), Mary McHenry (863-675-8753), or email macowen@embarqmail.com.

Brownlee appointed executive director of nursing for Health Dept.

LaBelle - The Hendry and Glades County Health Departments announce the appointment of Patricia A. Brownlee as Executive Community Health Director of Nursing, effective January 09, 2009.

"We are proud of her accomplishments and look forward to working with her in this position" stated Pat Dobbins, Administrator for the Hendry and Glades County Health Departments.

Patricia Brownlee holds a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Nursing from Kent State University. She also received her Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner's Certification from the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Ms. Brownlee is also an Alumnus of the University of South



Patricia A. Brownlee

Florida Public Health Leadership Institute. She has practiced professional nursing for almost 35 years. Her background includes Pediatric Nursing, Hospital Nursing, Long Term Care, Home Health, School Nursing, and Community Health. Additionally,

she served on the Board of Directors for the Healthy Start Coalition of Southwest Florida, Inc. Ms. Brownlee has spent over 8 years of her service with the Hendry and Glades County Health Department as the Assistant Community Health Nursing Director. She has been with the Hendry and Glades County Health Department for almost 20 years in a wide variety of programs and is considered to be the local expert on child immunizations. She has received numerous awards throughout her career including Service Provider of the Year, Business Associate of the Year, and Public Health Nurse of the Year. She is also a member of the Florida Association of Public Health Nurses.

Holiday spirit continues into 2009

Recently the personal injury law firm of Czaia & Gallagher P.A provided and distributed toys and refreshments to over 425 children in LaBelle at the celebration of Epiphany. The event was held at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church. In addition to their presents, each child was presented with a family picture taken with the Three Kings.

The major display of holiday spirit was a joint effort among staff members of the Catholic Church, the Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida, The March of Dimes and the Law Firm of Czaia & Gallagher P.A.

With the completion of this event Czaia & Gallagher has now distributed presents to over 750 children in southwest Florida. This was the ninth year in a row that Czaia & Gallagher has sponsored such events and this year it was further enhanced with charitable gifts to Herocare, The March of Dimes, The Family Health Cen-



Submitted photo

Children had their pictures taken with the Three Kings on January 6 in celebration of Epiphany at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church.

ters of Southwest Florida, Healthy Start and AFCAAM. The firm has adopted a policy of profit sharing back into community events and

causes to say thank you to our loyal clients across Florida. These efforts will continue throughout 2009.

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.

Michael Lee Horne, 45

LABELLE — Michael Lee Horne, of LaBelle, passed away Jan. 27, 2009, in LaBelle. He was 45.

He was born March 9, 1963, in Dayton, Ohio to Ellis Roles Horne and Mary Jane (Booker) Horne.

He served in the Marine Corps. He has served with the Hendry County Sheriff's Department for the past 10 years. He was a former resident of Naples.

Survivors include two daughters, Tiffany Horne and Gabrielle Horne, both of Cleveland; mother, Mary Jane Horne of LaBelle; brothers, Steven (Carol) Horne of Idaho, Thomas (Faye) Horne of West Carrollton, Ohio, Daniel James Horne of Naples; sisters, Rita (Art) Defuria of Mesa, Ariz., Linda (Alex) Mueller of Charleston, N.H.

He was preceded in death by his father, Ellis Horne and brother, David Wayne Horne.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2009, at LaBelle Civic Center. Interment followed in Fort Denard Cemetery, LaBelle. Visitation was held Friday, Jan. 30, 2009, at the Church of God-LaBelle. Arrangements by Akin-Davis Funeral Home - LaBelle.

Hilda Joyce Nees, 67

LABELLE — Hilda Joyce Nees, of LaBelle, passed away Jan. 26, 2009, in LaBelle. She was 67.

She was born July 26, 1941, in Glenville, N.C., daughter of the late Vascar and Maxine Victoria (Bryans) Moore. She was a resident of Florida for forty-two years and lived in LaBelle for the past two years.

Survivors include daughters, Angelina Victoria (Dan) Atkisson, LaBelle, and Phyllis Halcomb, Tennessee; son, Anthony (Leah) Nees, LaBelle;

brothers, Reginald Moore, Florida, and Buck Moore, Michigan; sisters, Tootsey Wilson, North Carolina, Rachel Vargas, Michigan, and Margaret McDougal, Michigan; ten grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 30, in Glenville Wesleyan Church, Glenville, N.C., with Pastor Ralph Campbell officiating. Interment followed in Glenville Wesleyan Cemetery, Glenville.

Arrangements by Akin-Davis Funeral Home, LaBelle.

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FEATURES OF THE WEEK!

3/2 CUSTOM HOME - Almost New! **REDUCED \$56,900.**

BUSINESS ZONED PROPERTY! ¼ Acre property w/frontage on Riverview and Hwy 80. **\$100,000**

HOUSES

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**

¾ 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, ½ Acre lot. East of LaBelle. Price to sell at **\$314,900**

5BR/4BA (3 MASTER SUITES) Pool Home on ¾+ acre lot in town! **\$399,000**

HOUSES ON ACREAGE

DOUBLEWIDE MOBILE HOME on 2.5 acres! **\$134,500.**

2.5 OAK COVERED ACRES w/4Br/2Ba Doublewide Mobile home! **\$125,000**

4BR/2BA MOBILE HOME! 5+/- Acres, cleared w/fence and pond. **\$179,000.**

3BR/2BA CBS on 5 Acres in the country. **\$249,900**

12+/- ACRES W/3BR/2BA CBS HOME fronting on Hwy 78 West of LaBelle! **\$300,000**

3BR/2BA HOME on 1.37+/- Acre! Commercial Zoned, Hwy Frontage. **\$399,500**

8.8 +/- ACRES FRONTING ON HWY 72! 3Br/1Ba CBS Home. **\$490,000.**

5BR/4BA HOME built in 2004 on 20+/- Acres. **\$795,000**

3/2 POOL HOME ON 66.5 +/- acres in Felda. **\$799,900**

ACREAGE

ACREAGE ON HWY 29 IN FELDA... 13.3+/- acres zoned A-2, can be divided. Perfect for Agri-Business!

64 ACRES OF PRIME FERTILE LAND in Felda, less than **\$8,600 / ACRE.**

1.25 ACRES LOTS secluded in Montura Ranch - **\$8,500 ea**

Marilyn Sears - Licensed Real Estate Broker • Sales Associates - Nancy Hendrickson, Margaret Whaley, Yvonne Doll, Consuelo Tarin Lopez, Suzanne Nickerson, Judy Cross McClure, SE HABLA ESPAÑOL Emily Figured, Mary Harris, Janet Papinaw and Shelly Cole

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2.67± AC on SR 29 Zoned C-2, **\$750,000.00**

Airpark Property
150+/- Ac in Labelle
5000' grass runway
Option to purchase 100+/-ac.

5.43+/- ac Industrial Ct, Zoned I2 **\$599,000.00**

4Bed/2Bath in City of Clewiston, **\$269,900.00**

Alva Riverfront
10.4+/- Acres on Caloosahatchee And Telegraph Creek.
Only **\$949,000.00**

Adorable 2Bed/2Bath in Holiday Park **\$79,000.00**

Country Cabin on 2.2+/- acres, **\$219,000.00**

Alva Riverfront
10.4+/- Acres on Caloosahatchee And Telegraph Creek.
Only **\$949,000.00**

Commerce Dr, Industrial lease. **\$8.00 SF/Yearly**

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RENTALS AVAILABLE

240 N. Lee St. Commercial 910 Sq.Ft. **\$1,000 plus 7% Tx**

423 Live Oak Ln. 3/2 River Access **\$2225/mo**

1079 Indian Mound Moore Haven 3/2 Canal **\$1100/mo**

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 Access **\$1100/mo**

334 Lopez Cir 3/2 1/2 **\$900/mo**

PRICED TO SELL \$110,500. This 2Bd 1Ba home on 2 1/2 lots-comebacks and fruit trees. Seller says bring all offers. MLS# 200843733

THIS 3 BEDROOM 2 BATH HOME \$55,000. Is great for a first time homeor investment property is a 2006 manufactured well maintained. MLS#200814054

GREAT RIVERFRONT HOME! \$347,900. This 3/2 home w/detached 2+ car garage and below ground pool and spa that sits on over 1 ac of land is a must see! MLS#200858992

THIS HOME IS IN NORTH LABELLE AREA \$69,500. 2/1 on a fenced 0.43 acres of beautiful oaks & nicely landscaped corner lot. Property has a detached Carport. MLS#200860041

GREAT 3/2 HOME ON 1/2 ACRE IN LEHIGH ACRES \$104,500. Convenient to schools and shopping. Built in 2006. Easy access to Joel Blvd. and Hwy 80 for travel to east or west. MLS#200856422

WITH A BEAUTIFUL WATERFRONT VIEW THIS 3/2 IS ON A MAN MADE LAKE \$117,900. A dock is included with the property to tie a Canoe or Rowboat perfect for a relaxing day of Fishing. W/A Storage Shed. MLS#200849886

THIS PROPERTY OFFERS A PRIVATE DOCK & GREAT VIEW DOWN A DEEP WATER CANAL \$245,000. Upstairs you have Bedr/Bath, living/dining, kitchen, scrm porch, and open balcony. Downstairs has a room and a bath. MLS#200856501

GREAT CAPE CORAL HOME LIKE NEW! \$130,000. Being sold as is in good condition. Sold as a short sale priced right all offers looked at. MLS#200819560

WOW READY TO MOVE INTO! \$114,000. 3/2 DBWD Completely fenced with Florida room located on man made lake. Home is both private and Serene. MLS# 20085475

BUSINESS, INVESTMENT \$1,475,000. Industrial-Bus Park, Manufacturing, Office Showroom. MLS#200837023

LARGE 4/2 4 ACRES RANCH \$174,900. Horse country living close to town and the public boat ramp with access to the River. Florida porch on front and back. MLS#200827125

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Submitted photo/MaryLee Baker

UES Students of the Month

Row 1- Keila Herrera, Paulina Escobedo, Angel Leal, Geromimo Casiano, Ashton Mundy, Rhett Conley, Jose Jimenez; Row 2- Miles Cole, Daisy DeSantiago, MacKenzie Muniz, Jesus Beltran, Sandra Juarez; Row 3- Jessica Beltran, Deanna Martinez, Thomas Garza, Yasmin Martinez Row 4- Thalia Esquivel, Anabel Navarro, Lidianis Rodriguez, Wesley Huffman. Not pictured- Angeles Moreno.



Submitted photos/Delores Agnew

LES Citizens of the Month

Front row to back row 1--Monica Banda, Jerry Marroquin, Salvador Gomez, Christopher Jimenez row 2--Maranda Mills, Carlos Reyes, Lamberto Deras, Maribel Espino, Anthony Cisneros row 3--Jessenia Escobedo, Miriam Ruiz, Angel Rangel, Andrea Deras, Manuela Gomez, Macy O'Ferrell absent--Jorge Cortez



Submitted photos/Delores Agnew

LES Safety Patrol of the Month

Joanna Flores



Submitted photos/Delores Agnew

Citizens of the Month

Front row to back row 1--Adriana Ramirez, Alexia Figueroa, Frida Castillo, Rosie Bartolo, William Salas, Diana Avila row 2--Yessenia Ramirez, Rylee Faz, Josue Gonzalez, Taylor Sanchez, Jorge Velasco, Alex Vargas row 3--Gabriel Sands, Raul Escobedo, Diana Miranda, Madison Carter, Dominic Lee absent--Sarah Harris

FGCU small business training opportunities

The FGCU Small Business Development Center is planning a number of business training opportunities for the entire area.

Mondays, Feb. 9, 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Rural Entrepreneurship through Action Learning (REAL), Florida Community Bank, 155 N Bridge Street, LaBelle \$100, \$90 refund upon completion of the series.

Thursday, Feb. 5 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. How to Recognize and Prevent Fraud and Embezzlement, iTech Immokalee, 508 Ninth Street, Immokalee, Free

2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Teneduria de Libros Para la Pequena Empresa (Bookkeeping for Small Business), FGCU Main Campus - Lutgert Hall #2210, 10501 FGCU Blvd S, Fort Myers, \$20

Thursdays, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Rural Entrepreneurship through Action Learning (REAL), iTech Immokalee, 508 Ninth Street, Immokalee, \$100, \$90 refund upon completion of the series.

Monday, Feb. 9 - 9 a.m. to noon Everything You Need to Know About Florida Taxes, Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, 2702 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, Free.

Thursday, Feb. 12 - 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Business Idea or Business Opportunity?, Indian River State College, 2229 NW 9th Ave., Okeechobee, Free.

Friday, Feb. 13 - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Finding Your Niche, FGCU Main Campus - Lutgert Hall #2210, 10501 FGCU Blvd S, Ft Myers, \$20.

Monday, Feb. 16 - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Credit Management - Get the Facts, FGCU Cape Coral, 1020 Cultural Park Blvd S Unit #3, Cape Coral, \$20.

Tuesdays, Feb. 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7, 14, 21 - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Rural Entrepreneurship through Action Learning (REAL), Indian River College, 2229 NW 9th Ave, Okeechobee, \$100, \$90 refund upon completion of the series.

Tuesday, Feb. 17 - 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Reading, Understanding, and Restoring Your Credit, Florida Community Bank, 55 N Bridge Street, LaBelle, Free.

Tuesday, Feb. 17 - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Reading, Understanding, and Restoring Your Credit, iTech Immokalee, 508 Ninth Street, Immokalee, Free.

Thursday, Feb. 19, 26, March 5, 12 - 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Writing a Business Plan Series, FGCU Cape Coral, 1020 Cultural Park Blvd S Unit #3, Cape Coral, \$199, \$99 for second person

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RENTALS AVAILABLE (NO PETS)
1/1 OXBOW DR. - Condo - \$550/M
2/1 AVE. H - Moore Haven w/d - \$550/M
3/1 MLK. JR. Blvd - with Carport - \$600/M

3/2 DERBY LN - Mobile - \$650/M
3/2/1 4006 RYE CT - \$650/M
3/2/1 4023 E PALOMAR - \$750/M
3/2/1 CAR E. SUNFLOWER - \$750/M
3/2 SEMINOLE on 1 acre \$750/M
2/2/1 TOWNHOUSE - \$750/M
2/2 340 N. RIVERVIEW ST - \$750/M
3/1/1 CAR S. EDGEWATER - \$800/M
2/2 CONDO - Furnished - Lehigh - \$1,000/M
3/2/W/CARPOT on Ft. Denaud - \$1,200/M
3/2.5/3 ON RIVER - For Sale Also - \$2,000/M
3/2/2 CAR on the river/Ft. Denaud - \$2,500/M

THE BEST DEALS OF THE WEEK!

16730 Jay Terr 3/2 Motivated Seller - Offers Welcomed! \$149,900 Call Lisa 863-673-0066	3.3 Acres of Commercial Property Zoned C-1 SR 29 south at Evans RD Call Randy Beres 239-565-8878	4009 S Edgewater Cir 2/2 Spacious Single Family \$99,500 Call Lisa 863-673-0066

- LABELLE-RESIDENTIAL**
- 1179 Muriel Blvd - REDUCED 4/2/2 on 5.0 acres \$465,000. Call Lisa Herrero 863-673-0066
 - 4018 Oak Haven Dr., LaBelle Beautiful 3/2/2 Pool home on 2.5 acres \$574,900 Call Cathy Lee 863-673-3709
- CLEWISTON-RESIDENTIAL**
- 570 Vero Ave Pioneer - 2/1 Modular on 2.5 acres \$75,000 Call Cathy Lee 863-673-3709
- LAND**
- Lots starting at \$5,000.

Call or stop by to see more information on all of our listings!

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New Homes

5069 NE Tradewinds Cir. 3/2/2 \$124,900

7049 Tide Cir. 3/2/2 \$159,900

7035 Beaver Cir. 3/2/2 \$179,900

Pending 7020 Calder Ct. 4/2/2 \$199,900

3069 NE Beechwood Cir. 3/2/2 \$179,900

9004 E. Broad Cir. 3/2/2 \$179,900

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Trisha Arnold, Denise Walker,
Beverly Curtis, Wayne Simmons

WATERFRONT HOMES

Classic 3/4 riverfront home w/den, full bar, central vacuum, built-in desk in kitchen, breakfast bar, cedar lined closets, office, solar system, electric drapes in den/living room, irrigation system, security lights, paved circle driveway, dock & ramp. 4 bay garage w/bathroom & office. REDUCED! \$1,200,000 \$999,000!
Furnished Intracoastal 3BR/2 BA riverfront home includes a covered boat house w/ 12,000# boat lift. This home has a den, breakfast room, dining area, pantry, Corian countertops, screened lanai, hurricane shutters. Buy the home and maybe the boat too. Owners say bring all offers. \$450,000

WATERFRONT HOMESITES

240 ft of navigable creek front. River views, access, and dock permit. Deed restricted community. .72 +/- ac. \$399,900
.45 +/- ac cul-de-sac lot w/ approx. 175 ft of water frontage & tons of privacy. \$149,900

ACREAGE

80+/- ac income producing citrus grove w/micro-

irrigation. Can be 80+split for endless possibilities. \$9,500/ac.

Oak hammock, cypress and palmettos grace this 48.07 +/- ac w/ flowing creek. \$960,000

43.32 +/- ac of oaks, pines, cypress trees, & pasture. Well & power on site. \$949,000

Celebrate nature on this 40 acre parcel located in Muse. Wildlife is abundant amongst the pine, oak and cypress trees. Priced to sell! \$480,000

0 +/- ac of serenity in a park-like setting located in Muse. \$460,000

20 +/- ac. Backs up to Lykes Brothers, fenced on three sides. \$400,000

3 & 4 ac in Pt LaBelle Ranchettes, some w/river views. \$299,000 to \$350,000.

5 +/- ac west of LaBelle \$224,900
5.74 +/- ac South of LaBelle. Zoned RG3M. \$175,000

Beautiful wooded 5 +/- acres on Pine Ave in Muse \$125,000

5 Acres just off of N. SR 29, beautiful oaks, partially fenced, great location \$80,000

2.5 to 5 +/- in Pioneer \$19,900 to \$65,000.

5 acres on Dancy Rd in Ladeca, priced to sell \$65,000.

Montura 1.10 to 2.5 +/- ac tracts. \$16,000 to \$49,900

Privacy pure and simple on these 1.25 to 2.50 +/- acs parcels. Lehigh Properties priced from \$18,000 & up.

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- 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

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***** HOMES *****

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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. SELLER FINANCING AVAILABLE! \$129,900

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.

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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

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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.

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Community Briefs

Widows to meet

The Widows Support Group will meet for lunch at Victoria's Restaurant on Feb. 19, at 11:30 a.m. All widows welcome.

Alzheimer's Caregiver Training

On three separate days, starting on Feb. 11, the Alzheimer's Association will present exciting and practical programs for caregivers taking care of a loved one with dementia. The workshops will focus on:

Wednesday, February 11, 10-11 a.m. When Choosing a Residential Facility! What to do? and What not to do? When It's time to "Share the Care"

Tuesday, March 17, 10-11 a.m. Activities with your loved ones! Why it is important?

Wednesday, March 18, 10-11 a.m.

Communicating with your Loved One with Alzheimer's Speaker: Lisa Rodriguez, Program Specialist

Alzheimer's Association Florida Gulf Coast Chapter.

Location: Barron Library, 461 North Main Street.

There is no cost to participants. For more information or to RSVP please call (863) 385-3444. Seating is limited.

The Alzheimer's Association - Florida Gulf Coast Chapter is part of a national voluntary health agency dedicated to research, education and providing support and assistance to patients and families living with Alzheimer's Disease and other memory disorders.

Go Kruisin' with Kati

Kruisin' with Kati will have a meeting for anyone interested in helping out at the bike event Feb. 7 at 471 N. Lee St, the white house across from Barron Park. For more information call kati at 239-246-3045 or e-mail kruisin-withkati@aol.com.

Foster parents needed

The Children's Network of Southwest Florida will host an orientation on How to Become a Foster Parent/Adoptive Parent on Feb. 17, at the Department of Children and Families, 485 E. Cowboy Way, from 6-7 p.m.

Children's Network of Southwest Florida serves as the lead agency to oversee foster care and adoption services in Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Hendry and Glades. For information, call 1-800-FAMILY (1-800-893-25=645).

UES plans advisory meeting

Upthegrove Elementary School will have its School Advisory Committee meeting Thursday, Feb. 12, at 5:30 p.m. in the media center. All parents/guardians and community members are invited. At the conclusion, there will be a PTO meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the media center. Any parents/guardians are welcome. Call the school at 612-0750 with questions.

Dr. Paul Gray to speak

The public is invited to attend Hendry-Glades Audubon Society program on Monday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m. at the Clewiston Museum located at 109 Central Avenue, across the street from the Clewiston Inn. Dr. Paul Gray, Audubon's Okeechobee Scientist, will present an informative program on "Okeechobee-Estuary-CERP Update". For information about HGAS meetings or bird tours call: Steve Buczynski, Chapter President 863-902-0856 or Margaret England 863-674-0695 sta5birding@embarqmail.com.

Moose Lodge to host Sweetheart Dance

LaBelle Moose Lodge and Women of the Moose will be having their annual Valentine's Sweetheart Dance on Saturday, Feb. 14, from 5:30 til....

We will be serving French Onion Soup, Fresh Garden Salad, Prime Rib, Baked Potato, & roll for \$12. For members and pro-

spective guests only. There will be live music so bring your sweet-heart and enjoy the music and an awesome meal!

Feed the homeless

Florida Community Bank is partnering with the Hendry-Glades Homeless Coalition to collect food for the homeless. Please drop off food items any time in February in the FCB lobby, 155 N. Bridge Street. You may also make a monetary donation to purchase food items. Contact Susan Vaughan at 675-1313 or sconley@fcb1923.com

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

Boy Scout Fundraiser 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. This event will be held in conjunction with the world famous Swamp Cabbage Festival. All car owners are welcome to come and display your vintage, street rod, classic, muscle cars and trucks. Trophies will be awarded to the top favorites in Participants choice, Spectators favorite, Visiting club with most cars and Furthest travel club. Dash plaques will be offer along with gift bags. Enjoy hourly drawings for door prizes for show participants. So come and enjoy the music of a live DJ, a 50/50 raffle along with multiple prize raffles.

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 \$20.00, books close on 2/20/09. At the gate \$25.00. Event proceeds will be going to the Hendry-Glades Crisis Center.

Come on out for a wonderful day in historic old Florida along the banks of the Caloosahatchie River under the majestic old oaks. Enjoy the many other family events in the park as well.

No school February 16

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

FHREDI meeting date set

A public meeting of the Board of Directors for Florida's Heartland Rural Economic Development Initiative, Inc. (FHREDI) and Florida's Freshwater Frontier will be set for Monday, Feb. 16, at 10 a.m. the the Bert J. Harris, Jr. Agri-Civic Center, 4509 George Boulevard, Sebring. Topics to be discussed include FHREDI and other related board issues. All interested parties are invited to attend. One or more county commissioners may be present at the meeting. For more information, please contact Jim Otterman at 863-385-4900.

Caregiver Trainings in LaBelle

The Alzheimer's Association, Florida Gulf Coast Chapter has announced three upcoming trainings for Family Caregivers.

Feb 9- Challenging Behaviors, Do's and Don't's: The Gems of Caregiving.

All Trainings are from 10-11:30 a.m. at Barron Public Library, 461

North Main Street.

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

Register for 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; they will be eating at 5 p.m. To register, please call 675-1070 or 673-3482, or e-mail greer7@embarqmail.com.

Historians to meet

The regular meeting of the LaBelle Heritage Museum will be Thursday, Feb. 5, at 7 p.m. at city hall. The speaker/program is scheduled to feature a LaBelle "Old timer" Ray Harn, whose old time lore and knowledge is always interesting. Please plan to attend. 2009 dues may be paid any time. Information on the Old Timers dinner on Feb. 19 will be available.

Local Democrats to meet Feb. 9

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 they believe could become an invaluable volunteer for the Democratic Party in Hendry County. 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.

It's Pageant Time!

Get ready for the 2009 Swamp

Cabbage Festival Queen and Princess pageants at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20. It all happens at the LHS auditorium. Tickets \$5 at the door.

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. You can purchase your ticket at the Kiwanis Thrift Store or at LaBelle U-Save.

Yummy spaghetti

Come to American Legion Post 130, 699 Hickpochee, for a great spaghetti dinner every third Wednesday.

Computer classes to resume

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 computer 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.

Get your flu shot now

Hendry Regional Medical Center is offering flu shots for \$20. For additional information call Convenient Care Center at 675-2356.

Legion bingo

The American Legion, 699 Hickpochee Avenue West, holds bingo every Monday night starting at 6:30 p.m. Come and enjoy an evening of bingo!

Scout meeting times

Boy Scout Troop 9 meets every Tuesday evening from 7-8:30 p.m. at Carlson Memorial United Methodist Church 310 Campbell

St. Boy Scouts are for boys ages 11-18. Call 863-983-7719 for more information.

Cub Scout Pack 9 meets every Monday evening from 6-7 p.m. at Carlson Memorial United Methodist Church 310 Campbell St. Cub Scouts are for boys from first to fifth grade. Call 863-673-4952 for more information.

Commemorate person, occasion

The LaBelle Heritage Museum is selling commemorative bricks for the gazebo at the museum. For more information call the museum at 674-0034.

Come to breakfast

American Legion Post 130 and its auxiliary host a breakfast special every Sunday from 7:30-11 a.m. at the post home, 699 Hwy. 80W. \$6 per plate. All welcome.

Classes offered

The LaBelle Adult School will be offering Substitute Teacher, class, Computer and possibly a Conversational Spanish class the

second week of January. Sign up at the LaBelle Adult School. If you have any questions please contact the LaBelle Adult School at 674-4118 for more info.

Disaster program sign-up ends Feb. 27

The USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Teresa Lassester announced that the sign-up period for the 2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP) will end Feb. 27, 2009. The ending date of Feb. 27 applies to the receipt of a signed and completed FSA-840 application along with all supporting documentation and required forms at the applicable county FSA office. Sign-up information and required forms are available at each county FSA office. Late filed applications will not be approved after the Feb. 27 deadline.

All application determinations will be made by March 27, 2009. For further questions about CDP and the sign-up deadline, producers may contact their county FSA office or visit FSA's website at http://www.fsa.usda.gov.

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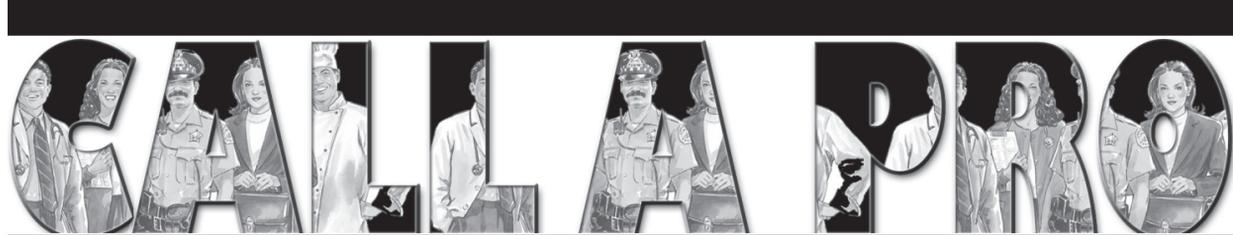
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THE SEMINOLE CASINO IMMOKALEE IS SEEKING FUN, ENERGETIC & ENTHUSIASTIC INDIVIDUALS TO JOIN ONE OF COLLIER COUNTY'S 2008 BEST PLACES TO WORK.

QUALITY INDIVIDUALS SEEKING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND ADVANCEMENT ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY TODAY!

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WWW.THESEMINOLECASINO.COM TO DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION AND LEARN ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE.

Call 800-218-0007

Employment Preference
The Tribal Council gives preference in all of its employment practices to Native Americans. First preference in hiring, training, promoting and in all other aspects of employment is given to members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida who meet the job requirements. Second preference is given to other members of federally recognized Native American Tribes who meet the job requirements.

If you are interested in applying for any of these positions complete an Application and return it to the Casino HR Department. Qualifications for the desired position will be reviewed and you may be given an opportunity to interview for the position. As with all applicants, hiring decisions will be made by the department to which you are applying.

Employment Full Time 0205

Merchandise 500

Air Conditioners	505
Antiques	510
Appliances	515
Appliance Parts	520
Beauty Supplies	525
Bicycles	530
Books & Magazines	535
Building Materials	540
Business Equipment	545
Carpets/Rugs	550
Children's Items	555
China, Glassware, Etc.	560
Clothing	565
Coins/Stamps	570
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
Satellite	695
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

CENTRAL A/C unit - 4 ton unit 3 yrs old great shape for Mobile home \$600 or best offer. (863)532-9841

Antiques 0510

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

Appliances 0515

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

STOVE - Ge, white electric very good condition. \$125. (239)410-6870

WASHERS & DRYERS \$125 & UP
STACK UNITS, REFRIGERATORS & STOVES 1yr warranty (239)694-0778

Appliances Small 0521

PORTABLE ELEC. heater - has fan with auto. thermostat, will heat 1 lg.rm. very good cond. \$13. (863)763-1997

How do you find a job in today's competitive market? In the employment section of the classifieds.

Employment Full Time 0205

SALES PERSON NEEDED To Market Car Detailing At Local Car Wash (Outgoing personality a plus). (239)298-3328

Employment Medical 0210

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Must have 1 yrs. exp. Bilingual Spanish/English pref. Competitive salary and exc. benefits. Fax resume to (863)983-9604 or apply at FCHC, 315 South W.C. Owen Ave., Clewiston, FL. EOE/DFWP

Employment Part Time 0215

CLERICAL POSITION - Needed for local office. Office experience required. Must be able to file, have good computer skills, answer phones & have the ability to multi-task. Call Maria or Noemi @ (863)674-0582

Financial 300

Business Opportunities 305
Money Lenders 310
Tax Preparation 315

Business Opportunities 0305

CHOOSE YOUR HOURS, INCOME & YOUR REWARDS!
CHOOSE AVON
GWEN (888)265-1256

Business Opportunities 0305

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Services 400

Babysitting 405
Child Care Needed 410
Child Care Offered 415
Instruction 420
Services Offered 425
Insurance 430
Medical Services 435

Carpet Cleaning

ALL-IN-ONE
Powerful deep cleaning truck mount system
HANDYMAN SERVICES PRESSURE WASHING
863-675-7297

Driveways

Shell, rock, driveways and fill dirt, tractor work, mowing. Gardens built, reduced rates. 863-675-2473 or 673-3496

Miscellaneous

FULL SERVICE MACHINE SHOP

HYDRAULIC SEALS Full line in stock

We do the impossible... Stop by and see what an engineer with over 40 machines can do for you!

Tamir Trading
863-675-4955
182 N. Industrial Loop, LaBelle, FL

It's never too late to find the perfect gift. Look for it in the classifieds.

READING A NEWSPAPER SAVES TIME BY HELPING YOU PLAN YOUR TIME WISELY.

No wonder newspaper readers enjoy life more!

Bicycles 0530 BOYS BIKE - Boys 12" red bike with training wheels. In great condition. In LaBelle \$15. (239)691-9121

MENS AND LADIES ROAD-MASTER MT SPORT 5X BICYCLES - BRAND NEW MENS-BLACK AND GREY WOMENS- BLUE AND WHITE PAID \$200 FOR BOTH \$125/neg. (863) 763-0380 (863)697-9521

MOTORIZED BICYCLE - 2 cycle engine. Cost \$900 asking \$400 (863)467-4551

Books & Magazines 0535 NEW - Hardback Patricia Cromwell book Scarpetta \$15.00 (863)763-7165

Camping Equipment 0548 COOLER - 5 daywheel endurance cooler \$15. (863)763-2958

Children's Items 0555 HUGE STUFFED animals - 30" Elmo, 42" Eeyore, 28" & 30" Bears. Like New (Okee area) \$20/will sep. (863)763-6131

NEWBORN TO 26 lbs - Several white snap t-shirts/onsies. Clean, spotless, excel cond. (Okee) \$12. (863)763-6131

Clothing 0565 LADIES suits, dresses & pants-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/RW, New "19 LCD! Call Tony \$299. (863)517-2782

COMPUTER - Desktop Family Computer, Xp Pro., Games Etc. Complete. \$75. (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

Furniture 0610 BED - mattress, foundation reg. size w/hdb. and frame like new \$175. (863)467-1381

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)675-4098

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

Furniture 0610 LIVINGROOM - Sofa, love seat, wing chair, coffee table, 2 end tables \$1000 or best offer. (863)763-5334

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

SEALY POSTUREPEDIC BED - like new, Twin size, \$75 or best offer (863)357-2233 Okeechobee area

SMALL BLACK Computer Desk - 2 Shelves, Kidney Shape \$20. (863)467-7996

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

Golf Clubs/Equipment 0618 CLUB CAR - Used, Good condition, charger, \$900 or best offer. (863)697-1350

Guns/Supplies 0619 12 GAUGE side/side - Stevens 12 guage 18.5 double barrel from 1970s \$375/neg. (954)933-6864

COLT AR15 Match Target - 24" Stainless Bull Barrel 2.5X10 Scope (TRADE) \$2000. (772)461-8822

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

MAUSER CARBINE Sporterized - Model 1895 7MM Bolt Action \$200. (772)461-8822

Health & Reducing Equipment 0620 GOLD'S GYM squat bar comes w/300 lb of weights & olympic bar. Excellent condition. \$900/neg. (863)697-1247

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

Heating Equipment/Supplies 0625 KEROSENE SPACE Heater - only used twice, like new \$50. (863)467-2456

Household Items 0630 BEIGE MOBILE Home Tub Surround - New in Box \$40. (863)467-7996

Medical Items 0650 POWER WHEEL chair 2006 - for extra large person. Like new condition. \$1200/or best offer. (863)634-5225

SCOOTER - Merits S541 Pioneer \$695 (863)983-7949

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

Miscellaneous 0655 HOBART WELDER brand new 10,000 watt, 20 hp Kohler motor \$2,500. (863) 840-0505 LaBelle

Livestock 0855

Miscellaneous 0655 MOBILE HOME - Has lot rent \$300 month includes utilities GREAT DEAL!! \$3000. (863)801-1551

Musical Instruments 0660 PIANO - HOWARD - Good Cond. \$300/or best offer. (863) 357-5773 (561)248-4487

Pets/Supplies 0670 FREE 1YR INSIDE SPAYED BOSTON TERRIER/BLUE HEALER - W/ROOM TO RUN \$0. (863)697-6690

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

Sewing Machines 0700 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

Stereo Equipment 0710 KICKER SYSTEM - SX650 AMP/12" L7/fairy cap/like new in boxes \$350. (863)634-2131

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

Television 0715 COLOR TV - Cable ready/console/25"/Sylvania \$100. (863)357-0166

Tools 0725 CRAFTSMAN GENERATOR - 6300 watt/9100 watt surge Must sell. \$500. (863)357-0166

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

Wanted To Buy 0740 WANTED: Aluminum awnings, 2-5x5, 1-5x10, 2-5x5. Call 863-675-4475 (LaBelle)

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

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

Apartments 0905

GREENTREE EAST APARTMENTS
Available for Immediate Occupancy
2 Bedroom Apartments
• Rental Assistance Available to qualified households
• Spacious Apartment in quiet, country setting
• Full time bilingual Site Manager
• Rental rates starting at \$529 plus Utilities

Call 902-1577
TDD #1-800-955-8771
701 W Ventura, Clewiston
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Mon-Fri
Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



Apartments 0905

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Available for Immediate Occupancy
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Apartments 0905

Houses - Sale 1025

LaBelle
New Home Buyers
Finish off that purchase right! Visit White's Furniture & Appliances
1060 Highway 29
South LaBelle
(863)675-0717.

STARTER HOME - 4BR, 2 BA, \$139,000 or best offer. Call 239-986-9395

Land - Sale 1040 SOUTH OF LABELLE - 145 acres of producing orange grove, avail. as 13, 40, 51, 90, 132, or 145 acres. \$6000/ac. www.TommyCLand.com

Lots - Sale 1045 HEAVY INDUSTRIAL - 1 acre, \$125,000. LaBelle area. Call Anderson, 863-673-4537

Out of State Property - Sale 1055 TN LAND Mountain & Lake Views Great Hunting & Fishing Bristol Speedway Watuga Lake (TVA) Cherokee National Forest No State Income Tax! Includes 1/7 share of 2/2 Cabin, Creek, Pond 9+ Acre Parcel @ \$125,000 Adjoining 5+ Acre Parcel @ \$65,000 Willard Realty Group (800) 375-0779

Mobile Homes 2000 Mobile Home - Lots 2005 Mobile Home - Parts 2010 Mobile Homes - Rent 2015 Mobile Homes - Sale 2020

Mobile Home Rent 2015 LaBelle - 2br, 1 1/2ba, \$600 a mo. + \$600 sec dep. References req'd. Call After 5pm or iv msg (239)246-5106

Mobile Home Sale 2020 LABELLE - 3br, 2ba, dbl wide, on 1/2 acre, quiet, shade trees, lg deck, AC, \$175/wkly, \$375 to move in. (863)673-5704

MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT 1, 2 & 3 Bedrooms Low Deposits & Reasonable Payments 863-983-3554

BANK REPO'S MOVE TO YOUR LAND Mobile Home Angels 561-721-2230

~MOBILE HOME SALES~ Huge 4BR/3BA 32x80 Set up on Your Lot - \$550 Monthly 800-330-8106 or 863-467-6622

MOBILE HOMES Need your mobile home moved? We have 28 years experience. Call for your Free Quote! (863)983-8106

PALM HARBOR - 4/2 Rancher, Over 2200 SqFt With 30 Cabinets Walk-In Closets Only \$699 a month !! W.A.C. 10% Down 1-800-622-2832

Your new car could be in today's paper. Have you looked for it?

Looking for a place to hang your hat? Look no further than the classifieds.

Fort Knox Self Storage New lg. units avail., air conditioned & non-air, each unit alarmed, area fenced & well lighted, space for boats, trailers, RV & trucks. Manager on-site, 1025 Commerce Dr., LaBelle. 863-675-1025.

LABELLE RENT-A-SPACE Cowboy Way & Kennedy Blvd. 5x10' \$42.80 mo. incl. tax. 8x10' \$53.50 mo. incl. tax. 10x10' \$58.85 mo. incl. tax. 8x25' \$96.30 mo. incl. tax. 24 hr access \$25 returnable key deposit. 863-675-2392

Vacation Rentals 0962 NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FL - Race week at Daytona, Condo, slps 6, 2br, on the beach & pool. \$800 for the week Rent or Buy. (302)335-0416

Real Estate 1000 Business Places - Sale 1005 Commercial Property - Sale 1010 Condos/ Townhouses - Sale 1015 Farms - Sale 1020 Houses - Sale 1025 Hunting Property 1030 Investment Property - Sale 1035 Land - Sale 1040 Lots - Sale 1045 Open House 1050 Out of State - Property - Sale 1055 Property Inspection 1060 Real Estate Wanted 1065 Resort Property - Sale 1070 Warehouse Space 1075 Waterfront Property 1080 Commercial Property Sale 1010

STEAL THIS! New CBS Office Bldg. Port LaBelle, FL 6156 s.i. - 14 Offices Conf. Rms. T1, Cat5, ++ (954)775-5875 Nick.Bellino@chholdings.com

Join all the people who say, "I sold it in the classifieds."

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

Recreation 3000

Boats 3005 Campers/RVs 3010 Jet Skis 3015 Marine Accessories 3020 Marine Miscellaneous 3025 Motorcycles 3030 Sport Vehicles/ATVs 3035

Boats 3005 BASS TRACKER 175 PRO 2000 - 75 HP Mercury Mariner, SS PROP, Minnkota 55LB Trolling motor, 2 fish-finders, battery charger, upgraded seats, Trailer, many extras \$5500. (609)577-4153

CAROLINA SKIFF - 19 Ft., 90 hp., 24V trolling motor w/ auto pilot & remote, depth finder, trailer. Very good condition. \$6,995 Call 863-634-7021 Okeechobee

Fish & cruise pontoon boat (2000) & trailer equipped with many extras. \$6000. 674-1171 or 863-517-2085

FISHING BOAT - Morgan, 24', diesel. (239)823-2587

LOWE 24' PONTOON Select - 50 hp, hard top, needs some work \$2500. (863)697-2133

MERCURY - 6 cyl, 175 hp merc on 17.5' hydra sport bass boat Trailer included. \$3200 (863)467-2267

MERCURY 4-STROKE 9.9 2004 - Ready to go Fishing: Here is a Complete Three Item Set Located in LaBelle. 1976 16ft Aluminium Boat recently renovated with Trailer & 2004 Mercury 9.9 HP in perfect condition (less than 80 hours use). Just hook it behind your car! \$1500/or best offer. (863)675-3642

ROW BOAT - 12', with pair of 7' oars, \$50. Call 863-675-1910.

SAILBOAT - Irwin, 37cc, needs some work, \$5,000. (239)823-2587

SEARS 14' BOAT Select - TRAILER INCLUDED \$475/or best offer. (863)675-1111

SHAMROCK CUDDY CABIN 1987 - Excellent condition, V8 Ford Inboard, low hours, Top, depthfinder, radio, Trailer. Fresh water run \$11500. (863)824-0801

SKETEER 150 BLKMAX 1982 - exc. condition \$3000/or best offer. (863)675-7897 (863)517-0301

TROPHY BAYLINER '85 - 20.8 ft w/bimini top, marine radio, new antenna, fish/depth finder needs outboard motor only \$1500. (863)634-7524

Campers/RVs 3010 '87 Bonder 35' onan generator, self contained, new tires & roof. Low miles, 20' scr. rm. \$2000 239-770-5729

DUTCHMAN - 2002, 5th wheel, Sleeps 6, 35', Queen bed, 2 bunk beds, 1.5 bath, a/c/heat, 2 slide outs \$12000 or best offer (863)467-0860

KAR KADDY Select - Car dolly, like-new condition with brakes \$1000. (239)248-0082

MALLARD - 2002, 26 ft, travel trailer, sleeps 3, good cond, very clean \$3900 or best offer (518)469-0900

REESE HITCH for travel trailer, all included, stabilizers, etc. \$60.00 or best offer (863)357-6703

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

Campers/RVs 3010

SPARE TIRE CARRIER, for 4 inch square bumper, like new \$25.00 or best offer (863)357-6703

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

Automobiles 4005

Ford Taurus - 1995, Auto, a/c, clean, good condition \$2000 (863)763-2858

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 LEGAL 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 district 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 as 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. 308422 CB/CN 1/29;2/5,12/09

HENDRY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE
 SUBMITTED BY: R. Scott Cooper DATE: 2/24/09
 SUBJECT AREA: 519 Income Sheltered Programs (IRS Code 403(b))
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF PURPOSE: The proposed rule establishes the policy for income sheltered programs (IRS Code 403(b))
 CITATION OF LEGAL 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 income sheltered programs (IRS Code 403(b)).
STATEMENT OF REGULATORY COSTS: The proposed policy revision will create no additional district 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 as 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.

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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. 308097 CN 1/22;29;2/5 CB 2/5/09

HENDRY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE
 SUBMITTED BY: R. Scott Cooper DATE: 2/24/09
 SUBJECT AREA: 230 Injury or illness in Line of Duty (with compensation)
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF PURPOSE: The proposed rule establishes the policy for injury or illness in line of duty (with compensation).
 CITATION OF LEGAL AUTHORITY: 112.63, 1012.22, 1001.42 and 1001.43 F.S.
 CITATION OF SPECIFIC LEGAL REFERENCE: 1012.63, 1012.22, 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 injury or illness in line of duty (with compensation).
STATEMENT OF REGULATORY COSTS: The proposed policy revision will create no additional district 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 as 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.

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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. 308097 CN 1/22;29;2/5 CB 2/5/09

Automobiles 4005

CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY '05 - 39K mls. Loaded! Garage kept. 1 Owner. Immaculate condition. \$12,500 (863)675-0215 LaBelle

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

FORD MUSTANG 1998 - SALEEN BODY KIT, FAST CAR & STRONG SOUND ENGINE, STAGE 2 HAS PROGRAMMER SUPER CHIP AND READY TO UPGRADE ENGINE, LEATHER SEATS, LOW MILEAGE, RUNS GREAT, EXCELLENT CONDITIONS. CD, a/c, tinted windows \$1500/0 or best offer. (561)993-2280

Automobiles 4005

GRAND MARQUIS - 1996. Leather, V8, auto, alloy whls, cold a/c, antilock brks, power \$2500 (863)763-8027

HONDA CIVIC 1995 - runs good \$3000. (863) 201-3492 (863)261-1181

HONDA CIVIC COUPE 1994 - NICE CAR MUST SEE!! \$3550/0 or best offer. (239)839-1326

MAZDA MIATA MX-5 1990 - LOTS OF CHROME \$4550/0 or best offer. (239)839-1326

PONTIAC GRAND PRIX 1997 - EXC CONDITION, AUTO, V6, NEW TIRES! \$2800/neg. (863)697-2032

Public Notice 5005

REQUEST FOR BIDS
MOWING ROADWAYS IN THE SKY VALLEY M.S.B.U.
BID NUMBER: 2009-12
OPENING DATE AND TIME: February 19, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.
 Sealed Bids will be received by the Board of County Commissioners of Hendry County, Florida, "Mowing Roadways in the Sky Valley M.S.B.U.". In order to be considered, bids must be received by the Board of County Commissioners at the C.E. Hall Building (Clark's Office) in the Hendry County Courthouse Complex, 25 E. Hickpochee Avenue, LaBelle, Florida by February 19, 2009 at 2:00 p.m., at which time all responses to this request will be recorded in the presence of one or more witnesses.
 A copy of the Instructions and Bid Documents can be obtained from the Hendry County Purchasing Department, located at 165 S. Lee Street, LaBelle, Florida (for pick up), Post Office Box 2340, LaBelle, FL 33975 (mailing address) or by calling (863) 675-5220 or (863) 983-1585.
 Bidders are encouraged to attend the "Pre-Bid Conference" on Thursday, February 12, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. at the Special Districts Department, 3300 Utility Drive, LaBelle, Florida 33935.
 This solicitation does not commit Hendry County to award any contracts, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this bid, or to contract for any services. The County reserves the right to reject any or all submittals received as a result of this solicitation, or to cancel in part or in its entirety this bid, if it is in the best interest of the County to do so.
 Hendry County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Drug/Smoke Free Work Place.
 HENDRY COUNTY
 Janet B. Taylor, Chair
 Board of County Commissioners
 309656 CB/CN 2/5/09

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 33940 or e-mail to jan@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. Local Vendor Workshop will be held in conjunction with pre-bid meeting Feb. 12, 2009. 308861 CB/CN 1/29;2/5/09

Automobiles 4005

SATURN SL2 1994 - runs great; cold a/c; excellent gas mileage; 120K miles. \$1500. (863)610-0084

Classic Cars 4015

FORD BRONCO CLASSIC 1978 - Antique, 6 cyl, roll bar, grill guard, magwheels \$5600. (863)763-3966

MERCURY COMET 1965 - unrestored car, was running, or best offer \$800. (863)228-5044

Golf Carts 4037

GOLF CART - Club Car. 48 volt, elec, sun roof, used very little. \$1850 (863)467-2824

Heavy Duty Trucks 4040

CHEVY 3 TON '95, Flat Bed truck with dump and moftit. Call for price (863)674-9900

Parts/Repairs 4045

MUSTANG PARTS 94-98 - 2 hoods, doors, door mirrors, 2 wings (1 is roush wing) \$600/or best offer. (561)993-2280

R/C REPAIR - Repair for all types of R/C, Traxxas, Duratrax, HPI, Etc. Call Chris \$20. (863)801-1683

Set of stock Ford 18" rims with 2 good tires \$63-673-2697 LaBelle

SIDE STEPS - NURF BAR SIDE STEPS FOR 4 DOOR TRUCK \$150. (863)382-4764

Tool Box, Cross Over, Diamond Plated, Full Size. \$125 (863)357-3635

Pickup Trucks 4050

CHEVROLET 1500 1993 - 4-wd \$1800/or best offer. (813)393-7339

CHEVY 1500 - 1989 - Auto, 4x4, \$1500 (863)634-6601

CHEVY 3500 1980 - 4x4, no title, runs great, new clutch, flatbed \$1500/or best offer. (239)462-1564

DODGE RAM 1500 4X4 1997 - Good cond. 5-Speed Club cab. \$4800. (239)839-3455

DODGE RAM PICKUP 1998 - Great running truck. A/c, alloy whls. CD, auto. Loaded \$4800. (863)763-3966

FORD F150 1992 - 302 V8 Extended Cab Power Windows/Locks Good Condition. \$1200. (863)634-6601

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

GMC - 1988, C70 Dump Bed 366 Engine \$1500 Firm (863)763-1370

OTHER Select - Delta Packer Sport tool box for full size pick up like new \$100. (863)675-1690

SILVERADO - One owner 1994 Ext cab, sportside bed, V8, loaded, new paint in 05, matching fiberglass topper \$3900 (863)697-2724

Sport Utility 4055

RANGE ROVER 1995 - runs good, clean, 4x4, power windows/locks, 6 disc changer. \$4000/neg. (863)228-7102

Utility Trailers 4065

FLATBED GOOSENECK - w/ramps, 20' long, 93" wide, 8000 # 12 volt warn winch \$2500 (863)697-9704

Utility Trailers 4065

UTILITY TRAILER 8' - w/tool-box, made from sm truck bed, new tires and spare \$175. (305)394-4906

Vans 4070

CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY MINI VAN '94 - well maintained, \$3500 (941)524-8932 LaBelle

GMC HIGH TOP VAN 1986 - 20K mls. on new engine. Must sell. \$1300 best offer. (561)254-7458 Clewiston

OLDSMOBILE - 1993, 7 passenger, cold ac, heat, new tires, Good shape \$1550 (863)467-4256

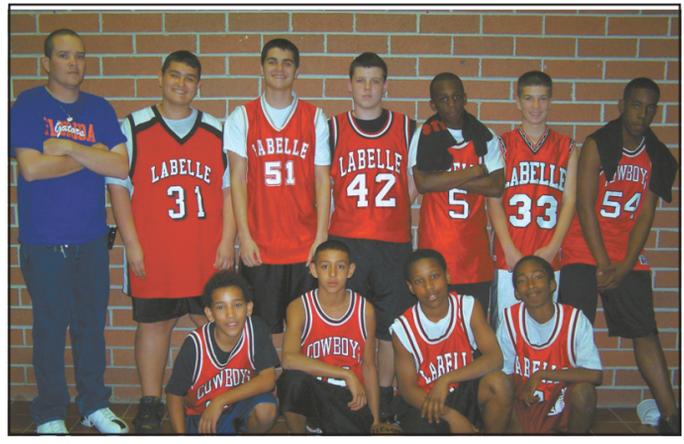
Public Notices 5000

Public Notice 5005
State Public - Legal Notice 5500

Public Notice 5005

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING HENDRY COUNTY INSURANCE ADVISORY BOARD
 Notice is hereby given that the Hendry County Insurance Advisory Board will hold a meeting Monday, February 9, 2009 at 4:00 p.m., at the Hendry County Courthouse Square, Room #A-118, 165 South Lee Street, LaBelle, Florida.
 If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Hendry County Auditing Committee with respect to any matter discussed at such meeting, he/she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he/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.
 Hendry County Insurance Advisory Board
 309634 CB/CN 2/5/09

ADVERTISEMENTS and Get Results



Caloosa Belle/Patty Brant

Jr. Pro - A Team Champions

Front row from left: Isaac Lopez, Jose Lopez, Danny Robinson, Manny Taylor. Back row: Dalton Longenecker, Alton Burton, Dylan Hinson, Cathavius Adams, Ryan Hellard, Robin Huff, Coach Joe Vasquez.



Caloosa Belle/Patty Brant

Jr. Pro - A Team - Runners Up

Front row, from left: Sal Molina, Christian Gause, Brandon Bahamundi, Nick Aguilar, Bob Williams, Victor Calvo. Back row: Coach Alberto Molina, Coach Spence Hull, both of the Gators, Joshua Palacios, Dontae Brown, Marcus Castillo, Tapan Patel, Coach Anthony Williams.



Caloosa Belle/Patty Brant

Jr. Pro Girls Champions

Front row from left: Tabby Garza, Macy O'Ferrell, Judy Hernandez, Amber Barnett. Back row: Coach Lori Perkins, Jasmine Chavez, Alicia Martinez, Jasmine Armour, Jamease Mosley, Miranda Garza.



Caloosa Belle/Patty Brant

Jr. Pro Girls Runners Up

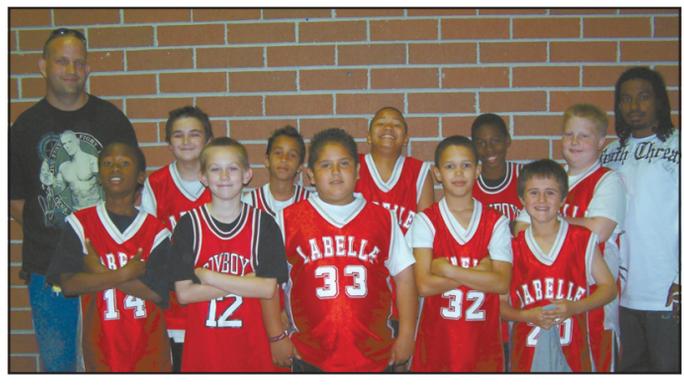
Front row from left: Olivia Molina, Myaa Barnhart, Veronica Perez, Stefani Guijosa. Back row: Coach Rick Pena, Teresa Callejas, Mariah Molina, Victoria Bass, Kayla Renaldi, Angel Cornelius, Coach Eric Molina.



Caloosa Belle/Patty Brant

Jr. Pro - B Team Champions

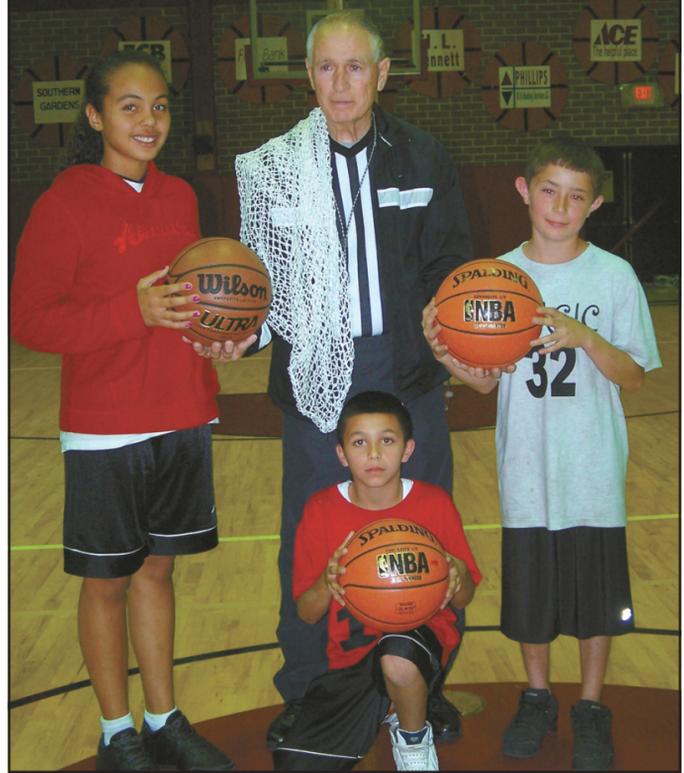
Front row from left: Oscar Russ, Joey Leon, Humberto Perez, James Cuttino, Rubin Perez. Back: Coach Ken Kirtley, Mark Hernandez, Joseph Kennedy, Tommy Ray, Jeremiah Devisme and Coach T.J. Barrett.



Caloosa Belle/Patty Brant

Jr Pro - B Team Runners Up

Front row from left: Jordan Lopez, Jeffrey Harris, Bryce Hall, Marcellous Mitchell, Matthew Reyna. Back row: Coach Mario Gonzalez, Angel Vasquez, Teofilo Pequeno, Dane Mourfield, Camerino Guzman Jr., Hugo Vargas Jr., Michael Lopez, Coach Jesse Reyna.



Jr. Pro Three Point Winners

Top shooters were: Girls - Mariah Molina with five; Boys A - Juan Neely with four; and Boys B - Jordan Lopez with five.

Fair organizers promise 'greenest' event yet

Hendry County Fair kicks off tomorrow

By Jose Jesus Zaragoza
Clewiston News

CLEWISTON -- In light of all the major advancements throughout the world in fostering green energy products -- the hybrid cars, LED lightbulbs, recyclable materials -- this year's Hendry County Fair has taken its own measure in promoting a world that is cleaner.

Although residents will have to see it for themselves, the parade, in addition to being touted as the "biggest and best parade you have ever laid eyes on," also has aspirations for being "greenest parade ever."

Festival organizers aren't saying what we can expect. A hydrogen-powered float that gets 50 miles to the gallon of water? Costumes woven using only recycled material gathered for the band? Perhaps a new crop of sugarcane that, when it matures, harvests itself?

Who knows?
What is certain is that there

will be plenty to see and plenty to do, not to mention plenty to eat, when the fair comes to town tomorrow. The fair will also mark the crowning of a new queen, and will feature young men and women who will be placing their best livestock on display at the fairgrounds in Clewiston.

The Schedule:

The gates officially open tomorrow at 6 p.m., and don't close until 11 p.m.

On Saturday, Nov. 7, the parade sets the tone of the day, at 2 p.m., followed by the events at the fairgrounds from 3 to 11 p.m.

The fun continues on Sunday, Nov. 8, from 6 to 11 p.m.

On Friday the 13th, the festival will open at 6 p.m., but won't close until 2 a.m. for the midnight madness event.

The fair wraps up on Saturday, Nov. 14, with the bull bash bonanza. Gates open at 6 p.m. and close at 11 p.m.

Key Events:

Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m. - Miss Hendry County Pageant

Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. - Junior Miss Hendry County Pageant

Feb. 10, 7 p.m. - Livestock show (Pee Wee Heifer show, beef, steer)

Feb. 11, 7 p.m. - Market Hog show

Feb. 13, 7 p.m. - Youth Livestock auction

Feb. 14, 7 p.m. - Bull Bash Bonanza

Organizers seem most excited about that latest event -- the Bull Bash Bonanza.

They promise some of the best rodeo action you'll find, led by "some rough-riding, hard-hitting, bull-riding cowboys."

Reviving your love for that significant other while watching grown men avoid getting trampled seems like the start of a perfect annual tradition.

Organizers are hoping for a good number of festival-goers this year.

News Editor Jose Zaragoza can be reached at jjzaragoza@newszap.com



Submitted Photo
Miss Hendry County contestant Ashley Pittman. Sponsored by Pittman Air Conditioning.



Submitted Photo
Junior Miss Hendry County contestant Taylor Choban. Sponsored by Flying B Cattle.

Local boy in hockey championships

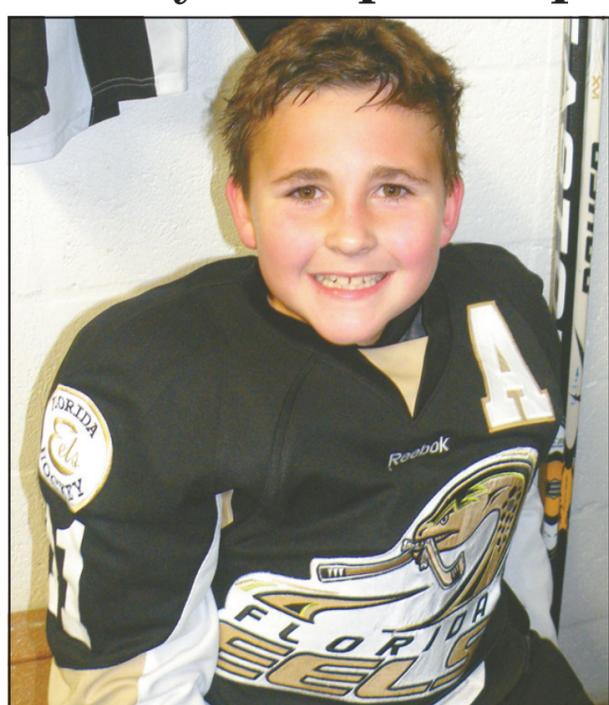
A local boy from LaBelle is heading to the State Amateur Hockey Association's Championships at the end of February. On February 28 and March 1, Caleb Stitt, a third grader at Country Oaks Elementary, will be playing for the Florida Eels as a starting defenseman, in the squirt division.

Teams from across the entire state will be competing for the coveted state championship titles and banners. Games are scheduled to take place across the state in Orlando and Tampa.

Caleb has played ice hockey since he was four years old. He has played competitive travel hockey for the Florida Eels since 2007. This season he has one goal and ten assists.

Caleb is a straight A honor student, a member of Colts Conserve, Math and Science Club member, and plays baseball for LaBelle Little League. He has a five-year-old sister, Kyleigh, who is the team's cheerleader and assistant manager.

The Florida Eels belong to the Florida Amateur Hockey League, which includes the Jr. Everblades, Miami Little Torros, Palm Beach Predators and Glacier Sharpshooters. Teams play on both the east and west coasts from September to February. The home rink for the Florida Eels is located at the Skatium in downtown Fort Myers. They have teams that range from Mites to Juniors and travel nationally and internationally.



Submitted photo
Caleb Stitt will be playing for the Florida Eels as a starting defenseman.

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. Hickpooshee Ave.

Monthly Membership

Monthly Membership applications please contact Kim Marroquin at 863-673-4741. Archery, anyone? The Lee County Archers are registering new participants. The following events take place at the Nalle Grade County Park Range in North Ft. Myers: Thursday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m.

Monthly Membership

and 20 Yard Target League. Sunday, Feb. 15, 3D Archery Shoot. A roving field range consisting of 20 3D target stations, and a 14 station N.F.A.A. field course. Sign up 8-8:30 a.m.; shotgun start at 9 a.m. A \$10 shooting fee applies. Info: Ben Brown (239) 369-6212.



\$1,500,000 Beautiful, rare waterfront property zoned Commercial with 2 updated homes
\$599,000 3/2 home w/screened pool on 1.5+ ac. Covered dock & boat slip on 246' +/- riverfront.
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PRICED REDUCED! \$7.50 sq. ft. Terms negotiable! Office Space for Lease on South Main Street in LaBelle. Excellent location. Approx. 3700 sq. ft. May be leased as one office or split as two offices of approx. 1800 sq. ft. The north side consists of 5 offices, 2 bathrooms, 1 library, 1 kitchen. The south side consists of 1 lobby, 3 offices, 1 conference room, 1 library, and 2 bathrooms. Separate electric services.

NEW LOWER RENTS! FOR RENT:
No smokers or pets please

2/2 - 1 car, S. Edgewater \$650/mo
3/2 - 1 car, S. Edgewater \$625/mo
3/2 - Large floor plan \$700/mo
2/2 - On Rainbow Cir. - new carpet/vinyl & paint inside/out - \$625/mo
2/2 - On Albany Rd - new carpet/vinyl & paint inside/out - \$625/mo

RECENT ACTIVITY

5 Acres Case Rd SOLD 7/17
16511 Aspen Blvd SOLD 8/21
4750 Canoe Ct. SOLD 9/03
170 Howe Ave. SOLD 9/08
390 Cowboy Way SOLD 10/15
1209 CR78 SOLD 11/06
7064 Tide Circle SOLD 12/12
4037 Albany Circle SOLD 12/22

On SR-29
REDUCED!
CUSTOM HOME
SELLER FINANCING
\$1,390,000
INVESTMENT

CBS 4/2 w/2/2 mobile, 3.6 Ac \$375,000
3/2 Riverfront w/Pool + Boat Dock \$465,000
3/2.5 on 13 Ac Workshop \$459,000
Fresh paint and newer roof 3/2 in Laurel Oaks \$157,500
5 Bed/8 Ba w/ 800 Ft. on the River, Pool & Docks
Quadraplex in Moore Haven Bank Owned \$190,000
2/1.5 New Roof Tile/Large Lanai \$79,900
Riverfront 4/2 + Den Ortona \$199,999
3/2.5 Short Sale W/Exotic Garden Fenced in the City \$79,900

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A Full Combo of #4 and #5

MONDAY - Ladies Day
All Ladies Receive \$5.00 Off and a coupon for a \$2.00 Margarita (#3, #4, #5 or #6 Wash Package)

WEDNESDAY - College Day
Show your college ID & get \$5.00 Off (#3, #4, #5 or #6 Wash Package)

THURSDAY - MANLY DAY
All men receive \$5.00 Off and a coupon for a Free Draft Beer (#3, #4, #5 or #6 Wash Package)

Oil Changes starting at \$33.99 includes FREE #1 Car Wash

\$300 OFF Any Wash Package!
Limit one coupon per person per visit. Cannot combine coupon offers. C8109

5280 Lee Blvd. Lehigh Acres, FL 33971 (239) 479-5002

10,000 Arcos Ave. Estero, FL 33928 (239) 949-6031
*Estero location closed on Sunday

COMMERCIAL LOT (C-1), 1 +/- AC. SR 29 S. Close to an area of proposed development \$195,000. Seller Financing. Broker/owner

CONVENIENCE STORE (formerly Circle K) with beer and wine license. Conveniently located on busy Cowboy Way Corner. \$450,000

SELLER FINANCING, INCOME PROPERTY, 18 mobile homes and store/laundry off Cowboy Way, on Alice St. \$997,500. Possible Lease/Purchase

51.28 ACRES east of LaBelle on Al Don Farming Rd. Secluded and heavily wooded. \$6,975 per acre. Seller Financing.

INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY corner of SR295 and S. Industrial Loop Rd. 1.1 ac. lot w/3000 sq. ft. building \$695,000

900+ ACRES. GROVE or cleared land. Will divide. \$8995 per acre. Bring offers.

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

3 OLDER MOBILES income producing SR295 on 1.38 acres \$195,000. Broker/Owner

6 OAK COVERED ACRES on Sunset Trail, Muse. Seller financing. \$109,000

5 +/- WOODED ACRES with fixer upper mobile, Kirby Thompson Rd. Seller financing. \$165,000

BEAUTIFUL TREE COVERED, oversized lot, Thigpen Rd. \$59,900. Seller financing

2 ACRE LOT on Busy SR 80 in Alva. Front half +/- zoned commercial. \$395,000

2 MOBILE HOMES on half acre lot, Tangerine Ave. \$146,000.

9.9 ACRES south of LaBelle. \$59,000.

15.3 ACRES south of LaBelle. \$6,000 per acre.

24.7 ACRES SOUTH OF LABELLE. \$6,000 per acre.

WANTED: HUNTING LAND TO PURCHASE 75 ACRE MINIMUM

Sweetwater Land Co. LLC
LaBelle, Florida
863-674-5740 • 863-517-1153

870 W. Hickpooshee Ave. (SR 80)
LaBelle, FL 33935
Call for an appointment!
Linda Dekle Davis Lic. Real Estate Broker

Linda Dekle Davis
863-517-1153