

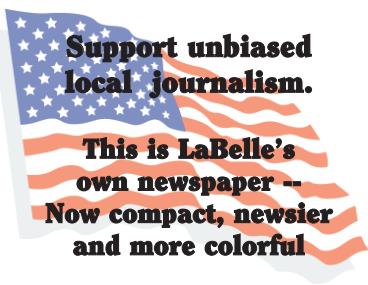
Caloosa Belle

Vol. 87 No. 28



Thursday, July 23, 2009

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Veterans memorial to be dedicated

The community is invited to the dedication of the LaBelle Veteran's Memorial Park on 25 July at 9:30 a.m. The park will be a memorial to all who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their nation.

At that time, the first three bricks honoring fallen servicemen from LaBelle will be set. Each will be engraved with the name of one of the servicemen: Staff Sgt. Christopher Strickland, who was killed in Afghanistan last year; CWO John Hammett, who was killed in Iraq shortly after the staff sergeant and SPC 4th Class Nicholas J. Cutinha, who sacrificed himself in Viet Nam to allow as many of his buddies as possible to escape a horrendous ambush. His Medal of Honor is on display at American Legion Post 130 in LaBelle.

The memorial park is located at the corner of Main Street and Hickpochee Ave (SR 80), across from the Hendry County Courthouse.

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

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Hendry County curfew in effect

By Patty Brant

Caloosa Belle

As a deterrent to gang activity, the Hendry County commissioners, with the full agreement of Sheriff Steve Whidden, opted to place a curfew on juveniles, limiting when they can be out at night. The ordinance was passed May 26. The ordinance is also intended to help ensure the safety of young people who may be easily victimized, especially after dark.

The law affects anyone under 17 years of age.

In general, minors are not

allowed to be in a public place between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, except when school is not in session the following day. On Saturdays, Sundays and days when school is not in session, they may not be out between 12:01 a.m. and 6 a.m.

In addition, a minor who has been suspended, expelled or truant from school may not be in a public place, establishment or within 1,000 feet of a school between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. on school days.

Exceptions

Exceptions are included in the ordinance. Minors may be allowed out during those hours if:

1. He or she is accompanied by a parent, sibling at least 18 years of age or person at least 21 with control of the minor and the parent's permission;
2. If he/she holds a job and must travel to or from that job during those times;
3. If they are engaged in interstate travel;

See Curfew — Page 3

Rope up some fun: Rodeo this weekend

Live the cowboy mystique

If you like ropin' and ridin', you'll want to saddle up and head on out to the LaBelle Rodeo Grounds July 24 and 25 for the National Day of the Cowboy Ranch Rodeo.

Put on by Bull Pit Ministries of LaBelle, over 400 cowboys and cowgirls are already signed up to test their skills in the arena.

From Mutton Bustin' for the youngest cowpokes, all the way up to the Break Away and Relay races, there's bound to be many events that will bring you to your feet.

Events also include Pee Barrels, Junior Bull Riding, Wild

See Rodeo — Page 2



Caloosa Belle/Patty Brant

Mike MacDowell, pastor of the Bull Pit Ministry, and his buddy Tripp Edgar, 11, show off the stock trailer which is the grand prize for the three-part rodeo series that begins July 24-25 and continues with rodeos September 25-26 and November 27-28. Come to the LaBelle Rodeo Grounds Friday, July 24 and Saturday, July 25, for some great family fun.

City: Board to meet Aug. 6

By Patty Brant
Caloosa Belle

Caloosa Baptist Church received approval for its plan to bring in two temporary buildings for Sunday School. They will be used as the congregation builds a permanent structure. The temporary structures will be permitted for two years at which time the church may seek a one-year extension for the project, if necessary.

The Education of Southwest Florida, Inc., also received a special exception. As a result of inadequacies in the process, for which the city accepted partial blame, the existing mobile homes at the site were not properly permitted. Now, the process has been tightened, and in-

See City — Page 2

Satellite office opens

By Dale Conyers
Caloosa Belle

Unemployed? Tired of walking the streets looking for work and having no luck?

Well help is finally here in LaBelle — the Career and Service Centers of Southwest Florida working with the Education Center of Southwest Florida, has opened a satellite office at 4930 SR 29 S, approximately four miles south of Cowboy Way.

A Career and Service Center of Southwest Florida is a One Stop Career Center created to assist employers and job seekers by connecting employment, education, and training services into an integrated network of resources.

See Center — Page 2

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Rodeo

Continued From Page 1

Horse Race, Senior Barrels, Ribbon Roping, Wild Cow Milking, Team Roping and Branding, Ranch Doggin' and Tying, Bull Riding and Team Tying.

This will be the first in a series of three rodeos, with the remaining events September 25-26 and November 27-28. The All Around Cowboy or Cowgirl winner of the entire series will walk away with a brand new 14' Circle W stock trailer. All Around Cowboy and Cowgirl with high points in series will go home with a beautiful saddle. Event winners will earn some great belt buckles.

Friday night, events begin at 8 p.m.; 7 p.m. Saturday. Admission for kids five and

under is free; 6-12 years of age \$5; and 13 and up \$8.

Don't forget the dance, featuring Chris McArthur and The Infield Band, Saturday night beginning at 9 p.m. There will be a \$5 admission fee.

The National Day of the Cowboy began in 2005 to boost awareness of the Cowboys' contribution to America's rich Western heritage. The National Day of the Cowboy flag flies in 24 states and four countries. It even flew aboard the Discovery Space Shuttle and with our troops, the Desert Cowboys, in Iraq.

It happens at the LaBelle Rodeo Grounds on SR 29N. Friday night it all starts at 8; 7 p.m. Sunday. Remember, this is a family event - no alcohol, please.

City

Continued From Page 1

cludes an improved manner of notification of annual reviews.

On behalf of the school, Julie Wilkins reported that ECSWF has graduated 153 heavy equipment operator students in partnership with SFWEMD, 79 construction students, started a new certified nurses assistant class with 12 students and has 16 in its CDL class. In addition, the school has put on computer classes for over eight years, with over 150 students.

ECSWF is also partnering with the Workforce Development Council on use of a third building.

Tax roll

Mayor Puletti pointed out that, possibly for the first time ever, the city's tax role has declined. He said the reduction is about 15 percent - less than the possible 25 percent the city was fearing. "We'll be working with less," the mayor said, "but can do it with Road and Bridge Department gas taxes, not ad valorem money."

Waterpark fun?

Grant writer Ron Zimmerly asked the city to choose a possible second project for new Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program monies. The board discussed a possible waterworks park, similar to one in

Moore Haven, that could replace the tennis court at Barron Park. The grant deadline is September and the board will continue to consider possibilities and will pursue the grant monies for a project.

In other business

Fire Chief Malcolm Johnson reported the welcome donation of a 5" supply line hose from by Alva Fire Department. He said the department is "20 strong" and is handling about 60 calls per month at this time, as opposed to 80-90 during the dry months.

HCSO Lt. Kevin Nelson said deputies are issuing citations for infractions of the new primary seatbelt law (which allows them to pull over a driver not wearing a seatbelt) and is paying extra attention to traffic problems.

Aim Engineering's Dave Whidden reported that the plan for sidewalks along MLK is coming along. He said they are revising the plan and will raise the sidewalk on the west side.

Bids for the city's wharf project at the river along Barron Park were opened. Honc Destruction of Cape Coral was low bidder at \$114,056, well within the \$170,000 available. Commissioner Dave Lyons moved to accept the bid and it passed unanimously.

The board opted to simply pay a \$4,000 DEP fine for a water color infraction at the end of the line several months ago.

The city commission's next regular meeting has been moved up to the first Thursday of the month, August 6, so the commissioners may attend the League of Cities meeting.



To Reach Us

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To Submit News

The Caloosa Belle welcomes submissions from its readers. Opinions, calendar items, story ideas and photographs are welcome. Call (863) 675-2541 to reach our newsroom. The deadline for all news items is 11 a.m. on Monday prior to the following Thursday's publication.

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Center

Continued From Page 1

The Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board, Inc. oversees workforce development initiatives in Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee Counties. With membership from business and community leaders, it is well positioned to keep pace with a region that includes very diverse workforce needs. By using stimulus dollars from President Obama's Stimulus Package the Board was able to open both a LaBelle and Cape Coral satellite office.

Ashley Betencourt, Career and Service Center Specialist, is the only full time employee at the LaBelle office and will be on hand to assist anyone who stops by searching for a new job. The satellite centers will provide internet job searches through Employ Florida Marketplace access and help with resume writing. The center will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and anyone is welcome to stop by and take advantage of the program.

"This Center will help a lot, people don't have to drive 40 miles to get help at the Clewiston or Immokalee One Stop Centers," said Geri Yoraschek, Chairman of the Education Center.

If you need to talk to a career counselor you can call Ashley at 863-675-6800 and set

up an appointment to see Tim Nevarez, Center Supervisor of the Immokalee and Clewiston offices.

The Clewiston and Immokalee Career and Service Centers offer employment training, helping workers earn certificates necessary to gain employment, continue employment or be promoted in their current job. But there are eligibility criteria for the programs. Participants must:

Be terminated/laid off or notified of lay-off,

Be eligible for or have exhausted unemployment compensations benefits or

Have worked long enough to establish an attachment to the Labor market; and

Unlikely to return to his/her previous occupation or job.

Also, included are those laid off due to:

Plant closures or substantial layoffs at a plant or facility;

Are employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that it will close within 180 days.

This is a performance-based program and provides everything necessary for the student to succeed including uniforms, books, tuition and sometimes even transportation. All the students need to bring with them is their will to succeed.

"We hope the LaBelle Center will become a full service center in the near future," Geri Yoraschek said.



Caloosa Belle/Dale Conyers

Joe Paterno, Executive Director of Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board, Inc., Geri Yoraschek, Chairman of the Education Center of Southwest Florida, Ashley Betencourt, Career and Service Center Specialist and Sonny Huges, Executive Director of the Education Center of Southwest Florida inside one the trailers at the new satellite office of the Career and Service Centers of Southwest Florida on SR29 S in LaBelle.

Staff

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Our Purpose...

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

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.

Triple murder suspect will go to trial in August

By Jose Jesus Zaragoza

Clewiston News

CLEWISTON -- Ruby Yolanda Parker, who is charged with committing three murders in Clewiston, will be heading to trial next month after three years in detention.

Parker has been held at the jail facility in LaBelle, awaiting trial for her alleged involvement in the triple murder that rocked the community of Clewiston in 2006.

She is expected to appear before Judge Christine Greider at the LaBelle courthouse complex on Aug. 19 at 9 a.m., with the actual trial following shortly afterward.

Parker faces a fourth charge of home invasion robbery, which points to the suspicion of detectives that the crime may have been motivated by theft.

Parker has maintained her innocence, filing a plea of not guilty in 2006. She is being represented by the public defender's office.

Prosecutors with the state attorney's office, in turn, filed a notice of intent to seek the death penalty for Parker.

When it occurred, the murders surprised many in Clewiston and on the traditionally quiet neighborhood where the crime was discovered.

Officers responded to the residence on Avenida Del Rio on Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2006 to find the bodies of Joey Glenn Whitaker, 52, Carolyn Cox Whitaker, 53, and Myrtle Lee Cox, 80, inside the home. The police department had been called in to check on the residents after efforts to locate them by their family members failed.

Initially, Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) agents reported no signs of visible trauma on any of the victims. One of the family's vehicles, a truck, had also

gone missing.

A search effort to find the suspects began, with a number of different law enforcement agents converging on a site at the Big Cypress Indian Reservation where the vehicle was spotted.

A short chase ensued, with the vehicle ramming into two police cruisers. When officers ordered the driver to exit the vehicle the suspect, Richard Harker, reportedly shot himself in the head with a gun.

The woman passenger, Parker, was taken into custody.

Having been registered as a missing person, law enforcement officials in Mississippi who had been looking for Parker were surprised. She was last seen in that state with Harker.

Members of the Whitaker family later told The Clewiston News that Harker and Joey Whitaker had worked together hauling trash and debris in Mississippi following Hurricane Katrina. One of the couple's daughters said her father had previously expressed concern about Harker's threats to shoot him, and recalled a story about her father and Harker having a falling out in Mississippi.

She believes she may have talked to the suspect himself just before the murders were discovered.

"You're the daughter from Naples, right? You had a baby six months ago."

The man seemed well-spoken and convinced the daughter that he was only taking care of her father. When she offered to drive to Clewiston herself, he reportedly told her, "No, he's fine. We're going out to dinner."

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

Community Brief

New Phone numbers

Hendry Co. State Attorney's Office, 1045 Pratt Blvd. LaBelle, FL 33935: Mailing address: P.O. Box 387, LaBelle, FL 33975: Main office: (863) 612-4920 Hendry Co. Witness Management: (863) 612-4921: Toll free:

1-866-249-3904: Fax: (863) 674-4037 Glades Co. State Attorney's Office, 500 Avenue J, Moore Haven, FL 33471: Mailing address: P. O. Box 1087, Moore Haven, FL 33471: Main Office: (863) 946-0077 Glades Co. Witness Management: (863) 946-0057, Fax: (863) 946-1102

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Curfew

Continued From Page 1

- 4. If they are on an errand with the parent's written permission;
- 5. If they are involved in, or responding to, an emergency;

- 6. If they are attending a school, religious or local civic organization activity that is supervised by adults;
- 7. If they are on their own property or the next door neighbor's property, with their permission;

- 8. If they are attending or returning to or from an activity that involves the exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment. (This would include attending religious activities, political rallies, etc.);
- 9. If they are married or has been married in accordance with the law or had the disability of nonage removed by a court of competent jurisdiction. (This would occur if a minor had successfully petitioned the court to be declared an adult.);

- 10. If they are on active duty with the armed forces;

11. If they are homeless or use a public or semi-public place as their usual place of abode; and

12. If they are participating in an event for which the sponsor has received permission from the county commission for minors to be during restricted hours.

Penalties

The ordinance also holds parents and business owners responsible for their minor children and sets penalties for those who allow a child to violate the curfew.

Minors, parents and/or business owners may be penalized by a written warning for their first violation; after that a \$50 fine will be imposed.

Anyone violating the curfew ordinance - minor, parent or business owner - may be given a notice to appear by law enforcement. Minors may also be taken into custody. Information will be recorded on the minor and the parent called to pick them up. If the parent cannot be contacted or refuses to pick the child up, the officer may transport the minor home. According to Sheriff Whidden, the parents may face criminal charges.

Arrests

Rosalio Cruz-Casiano Martinez, 39, was arrested July 15 on a charge of felony probation violation. Tanya Shaw was the arresting officer.

Bill Grace, 37, was arrested July 14 on charges of larceny theft and dealing in stolen property. George Elver was the arresting officer.

Darrell James Herndon, 51, was arrested July 13 on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon without intent to kill. Kristy Herrera was the arresting officer.

Cole Garrett Billig, 13, was arrested July 13 on charges of property damage, burglary of a dwelling, and larceny theft. Nathan Kirk was the arresting officer.



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Letters to the Editor

Obama-Nomics/Socialism

Can anyone name a Country that has a Non-Capitalist Economic System, that is flourishing with wealth and prosperity? Can anyone name a Country under the Socialist Economic System that has wealthy non-government Persons, Businesses or Private Companies?

Obama and his Czars all believe that the United States Government should control and run the Auto Industry, the Banking Industry, the Health Industry, etc. We have had this system from the liberals in Congress since the '60s. "Welfare" - how's that working? The socially disadvantaged have had great-grandma, grandma, mom and now their kids on this giveaway program, which is a minor form of socialism, that didn't work.

The following is a true story. An Economics professor learned that his new students were firm believers of the Obama social control policy. Under this policy no one will be poor and no one will be rich, once it's in place and everyone is equal, we will all share and share alike in worldly entitlements. Everything will be good, (even if some didn't earn their share).

Thank you

Just a few words to say thank you to the two wonderful ladies with the Hendry County EMS that came on the emergency we had when my wife was unable to breathe. These young ladies went above and beyond their line of duty to make sure my wife was taken care of. They took her to the hospital and they did everything they could to make her comfortable and thank God my wife came through with no problem. She is now back to normal thanks to these two ladies' quick action. Thank you ladies.

Albert Williams

Speak Out

Speak Out has moved online, where it is quicker and easier to share your ideas and converse with others. Go to www.newszap.com, click on the community name and your local or state Public Forum. There, you can create new topics or comment on existing topics. What follows is a sampling of some of the discussions currently taking place. Thanks for participating!

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The professor said he would use the socialism theory with all the test grades. The first test average was a "B," the normally "A" students were unhappy that the students that goofed off, didn't study and scored, low brought their test scores down. The second test average was a "D." Apparently, the slackers and goof-offs did even less on this test since they made a "B" on the last one. The bickering, blame and name calling all resulted in hard feelings and no one would study for the benefit of anyone else. The last test average was "F." The whole class failed. The professor pointed out to the students that Socialism will always ultimately fail because when the reward is great, the effort to succeed is great, but when government takes all the reward away, no one will try or want to succeed.

A brilliant scholar once said (and I believe he was talking about liberals) that an ignorant person is a person that does the same exact thing over and over and over, and expects a different result each time. This is the Liberal political machine that we have in place now in D.C.

George Douglas Bostick Jr.

State assistance?

The following letter was sent July 17 to Gov. Crist, Dale Brill at the Executive Office of the Governor and State Rep. Denise Grimsley

I don't have great hopes that the State of Florida will acknowledge its promises of assistance to Hendry County, Glades County and the Cities around the Lake due to the Sale or Buyout of the U.S. Sugar Corp.

As I opened the Ft. Myers News-Press this morning I see where the Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development has awarded Sarasota \$7.5 million to quote "Snag the Orioles" for a baseball training facility.

I, as well as many find this to be a tragic misuse of public funds. Obviously a training facility is far more important than the livelihood and viability of the rural lake communities.

I can only continue to pray that the State of Florida doesn't blacken our other eye and turn it's back on our attempts to secure the Inland Port Site.

Sincerely,
Craig Bartoshuk
Resident of Hendry County

Ten tips for talking

By Les Morgan, pastor
Caloosa Baptist Church, LaBelle

Who among us has not quoted that now famous line from the movie, Cool Hand Luke, starring Paul Newman, when the Warden said, "Now what we have here is failure to communicate?"

Communication breakdown is an oft-cited culprit in relationship problems, be it in a marriage, within a family structure, among peers, or in the workplace. If you are like me, I am always looking for ways to enhance my style of conveying ideas to others. You needn't be a pastor to understand the importance of clarity.

H. Norman Wright offers 10 tips for talking with others in a way that promotes communication among people, especially those with whom you are in a close relationship. They are as follows:

1. Be a ready listener and do not answer until the other person has finished talking.
2. Be slow to speak. Think first. Don't be hasty in your words. Speak in such a way that the other person can understand and accept what you say. Proverbs 25:11
3. Speak the truth always, but do it in love. Do not exaggerate. Eph 4:25
4. Do not use silence to frustrate your spouse. Explain why you are hesitant to talk at this time.
5. Do not quarrel. It is possible to disagree



Dr. Les Morgan

without quarreling. Prov. 18:21

6. Do not respond in anger. Use a soft and kind response. Prov. 15:1

7. When you are in the wrong, admit it and ask your mate for forgiveness. When someone confesses to you, tell them you forgive them. Be sure it is also forgotten and not brought up again.

8. Avoid nagging.

9. Do not blame or criticize the other, but restore them, encourage them and edify them. If someone verbally attacks, criticizes or blames you, do not respond in the same manner. James 3:8-10

10. Try to understand the other person's opinion. Make allowances for differences. Be concerned about your mate's interests. 1 Peter 3:10-11

Why not clip this article out of the paper, attach it to the refrigerator, and discuss it with someone this week? Who knows, the listening may improve in that relationship, the exaggeration may decrease, the anger may subside, and the nagging will disappear completely.

Try and let me know how it works. Email me at: drkm1@yahoo.com. I'll be interested to hear from you.

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

Community Briefs

A Minute of Health

Approximately one in five people in the U.S. still smoke, despite its well-known and highly publicized negative health effects, including cancer and heart disease. It harms nearly every organ of the body. Each year, almost half a million Americans die from this addiction. Quitting smoking has immediate and long-term benefits for you and your loved ones. There are many effective strategies out there to help someone quit smoking, but many smokers don't use them. Proven interventions, such as assistance from a healthcare provider, medications, and counseling,

can increase a smoker's chance for success. Quitting smoking is not easy, but it is worth the effort. For more information on how to quit using tobacco please call 863-674-4041 ext 128/143 or our FREE statewide Quit Line at 1-877-822-6669 (1-877-U CAN NOW).

Food fundraiser

The Salvation Army will be having a Food Pantry Fundraiser on Thursday, July 30 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the LaBelle Civic Center. They will be serving BBQ Pork sandwich, beans, chips, cookies and tea, all for \$7.

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Meeting set for LaBelle Bridge Rehabilitation Project

The Public information meeting will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, August 5, at the LaBelle Civic Center (behind City Hall).

The Florida Department of Transportation is hosting an open-house information meeting to acquaint people with the rehabilitation project's estimated schedule and detour for traffic. During the two hour meeting please feel free to ask questions and talk one-on-one with the project team. There will be no formal presentation.

About the project:

The job is scheduled to start June 1, 2010 and finish early 2011, weather permitting. The department's contractor will be making electrical, mechanical, and structural repairs to the bridge. This \$5 million rehabilitation project will extend the service life of the bridge approximately 15 years with continued routine maintenance. The department will hold another public information meeting in May 2010 before the project begins.

During some work activity, the State

Road 29 drawbridge will be closed to motor vehicle traffic. Variable message boards will be placed at locations in Glades and Hendry Counties to alert drivers to bridge closures:

- 24/7 full bridge closure from July 5 through August 8, 2010
- 20 nighttime/overnight full bridge closures (8 p.m. – 5 a.m.)
- 20 nighttime/overnight one lane closures (8 p.m. – 5 a.m.) Flagger will direct two-way traffic using one lane on the bridge.

Local traffic, with the exception of heavy trucks and other heavy vehicles, may use the Ft. Denaud Bridge. Motorists are advised the Ft. Denaud Bridge has a 5-ton weight restriction. The detour route during bridge closures will be State Road 78 and State Road 80 (east/west) and State Road 29 and U.S. 27 (north/south). Other routes also are available depending on destinations.

There may be some restrictions to boaters. The Coast Guard will provide notification to vessel and marine traffic.

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County reports first H1N1 case

HENDRY COUNTY—The Hendry & Glades County Health Departments were informed today of the first confirmed H1N1-Flu in Hendry County. A sample that was sent to the lab was confirmed on Friday for the H1N1 virus. The client had mild symptoms and has fully recovered. Individuals in close contact with the client have not shown any symptoms, but will be monitored.

While most cases of H1N1 Swine Flu are mild, there are exceptions. Pre-existing health conditions often play a role in how individuals react to the flu. Florida currently has listed 2,188 confirmed cases of H1N1 Swine Flu.

The Hendry and Glades County Health Departments will continue to closely monitor the situation.

The Hendry and Glades County Health Departments recommend the following:

Avoid close contact with people who are coughing or seem to be ill.

If you get sick with flu-like symptoms, stay home and limit contact with others.

Wash hands frequently (for at least 20-30 seconds) with soap & warm water to lessen the spread of any respiratory illnesses. Wash in between your fingers, your finger nails, your wrists and forearms.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.

Routinely wipe down "shared" items (phones, door knobs, hand rails etc.) with a household sanitizer.

The symptoms of H1N1-Flu are very similar to the symptoms of the regular seasonal flu and may include: -Fever (over 100°F) – Cough and/or Sore Throat - Body Aches – Headache - Chills - Fatigue.

If you have further questions regarding H1N1, please contact your healthcare provider.

Community Brief

LHS Class of 1989 20th Reunion

Friday, October 23rd - Homecoming Football Game; After party at Rodeo Bar & Grill. Saturday, October 24th - Family BBQ at Franklin Locks; Multi Class Reunion Party with Dinner and DJ (80s music and Karaoke) at Olivias, Port LaBelle Inn. Sunday, October 25th - Brunch at Olivia's. For More Information: Email LHS1989cowboys@yahoo.com or contact Jeni Davidson Dyess at 863-673-4910.

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Faith in the Market Place - Faithfulness in the Church

By now, you've probably seen the news reports. If not, don't bother! The Episcopal Church (TEC) just finished its every-three-year General Convention. Much routine business was conducted, and many good things were accomplished, but what has and will continue to be in the press is what was decided in the realm of sexuality.

This Convention adopted resolutions that clear the way for non-celebrate homosexual persons to be ordained to all levels of ministry in the church, and for the development of rites to conduct blessings of same sex unions. Over the past few decades the leadership of TEC has turned away from the teachings of scripture in this and other areas, and has tacitly claimed that the Bible can and should be updated to reflect contemporary understanding of these issues.

Because of this trend many clergy and congregations have left TEC and gone to other religious affiliations, and I believe that many more will see the actions of this Convention as the last straw and leave as well. The question I'm getting to ion this column is, "What about Church of the Good Shepherd, and what about their priest?"

Before I answer that directly, however, I want to make clear a few things. First, homosexuality is only a trigger, an indicator of a much more serious issue in TEC. That issue is the nature and authority of the Bible, and whether it is God's inspired word, or a human document subject to reinterpretation and revision. Second, the Bible contains no concept of 'being' homosexual or not. That is entirely a contemporary concept. The Bible only addresses sexual practice, and what it says consistently and clearly is that God's plan for sex is that it is to be used within the context of marriage between a woman and a man, and not in any other way. Finally,



**Fr. Alan
Kelmereit**

the people of Good Shepherd and I understand that the Bible is God's inspired word, and is, therefore, authoritative in matters of faith and morals. And we understand that God's love is extended to all people who will receive it, and that as Jesus said, "If you love me you will keep my commandments. (John 14:15)"

Now back to the reason for this column. Why am I not leaving the Episcopal Church? Perhaps it is in part my personality, perhaps it is in part the result of a military career. I am not leaving because I am not the least bit inclined to cut and run when things get tough. One thing we learn from the Bible and from history is that God always preserves a faithful remnant within his people.

In many ways it would be easier and more comfortable for me to go, but I am firmly convinced that God called me to be a priest in the Episcopal Church and to be pastor to the people of Good Shepherd.

I will not abandon that call, and I will not abandon the people. As for the people of Good Shepherd, they understand that they are called to be a witness for Jesus in this community and within the Episcopal Church, and they will not abandon that call. Therefore we are staying to do what God has called us to do.

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

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<h4

Local leaders work to steer development to the Hendry County area

With weeks to go, final pitch for inland port is made

By Jose Jesus Zaragoza

Clewiston News

HENDRY -- After Governor Charlie Crist pledged to consider Hendry County's pitch for the inland port concept, and that was the last that the area heard of it, County Commissioner Karson Turner thought it was time that locals did something to push the idea forward.

In light of news that U.S. Sugar would be selling land to the state for a grand-scale rehabilitation project for the Everglades, few locals found solace in the governor's words.

"I've heard nothing from Governor Crist," said Commissioners Turner. "All I've heard is that he's getting ready to run for senate."

So with just a few weeks before the Port of Palm Beach is expected to make a decision regarding where the inland port project -- a project that has the promise of creating thousands of jobs through a plan to route major commercial traffic through the area, along with the construction of a facility to serve as a main hub, warehouses and other manufacturing areas -- some in the area are focusing on getting the award.

One of the major sites being considered belongs to Florida Crystals and is located near the city of South Bay because of its proximity to U.S. 27 and railroad access. Local county officials, however, have urged the port to consider a site in Hendry County, which shares the benefits of the Florida Crystals land, but would also help to offset any loss in jobs that might be created by Sugar's land sale to the state.

The two local sites include the Weekly Brothers Industrial Park and the Airglades Industrial Park, both in Hendry County.

Last week, Commissioner Turner invited members of a number of environmental groups and representatives of elected officials to tour the area from Clewiston to Montura, to Port LaBelle to Ladeca to see just how well the area might be served by the project.

At the end of the tour, the biggest concern seemed to be how to deal with sprawl from such a project. Would, or could, Hendry County support the influx of thousands of

new residents to the area should the inland port create the demand for it? How might municipal services be burdened beyond their ability to deliver to those new populations, and where would new homes be built to support the workers?

"Between Clewiston and LaBelle, you can have a nice home for upper-level executives, workers, but you don't have that capability in Belle Glade or Pahokee," said Commissioner Turner. "We could fill up Port LaBelle and we could fill up any developments and I still think we can operate without an expansion of our infrastructure."

This can be accomplished, he said, without destroying the natural resources that make the areas around Lake Okeechobee worth growing up in.

"We can readily take commercial activities overnight and not harm the environment," he said. "I wanted them (the participating members of the Sierra Club and other environmental groups) to see it first hand. Anytime we can develop something economically but it doesn't impede the environment, then that's a good thing."

Despite this, the commissioner is cognizant that the project may not be sited in Hendry County, but promises that all hope is not lost to that possibility.

"I don't think that there's any reason for the residents of Glades or Hendry to stress if we're not chosen number one," he said. "I don't think the Palm Beach Port Authority will be able to develop this site all of their own. They're broke. They had to fire people this year because they had no more money."

If that is the case, then the other ports that might also be served, the Ports of Miami and the Everglades, would need to become involved. That's where Hendry County can come in, the commissioner promised.

"We're willing to be a go-between," Commissioner Turner said.

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



Caloosa Belle/Patty Brant

New drivers

The 2009 LHS top overall driving students gathered for a quick photograph July 17 at Langford Ford. Langford has been donating use of its vehicles for the class for over 25 years. Their generosity, along with the school board's willingness to provide the class, makes it possible for LaBelle youth to enjoy the benefits of a free driving class. Instructor Ron Dunbar points out that LaBelle is one of the few places left that offer this - in most counties driving classes cost \$300-\$400 per student. There were 65 students this year and, again, Langford donated use of two vehicles to accommodate them all. Students receive 30 hours of classroom instruction and six of driving experience, with either Mr. Dunbar or David Blake. Graduates of the class also qualify for a waiver for their permit and operators licenses. Pictured from left: Pat Langford, Mariana Nelson, Ashley Golemme, Daniela Ortiz, Jordan Phillips and Dorian Deas. Michaela Cuellar is not pictured.

School Briefs

School supply giveaway

HESPA's third annual school supply give away will take place at LaBelle High School August 2, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. or till supplies run out. It is open to all LaBelle and Clewiston students. There will be also free back to school haircuts offered. Like last year there will be a raffle for a back pack filled with school supplies, one for a girl and one for a boy. To enter all you have to do is purchase tickets or a hotdog and drink.

Breakfast at school

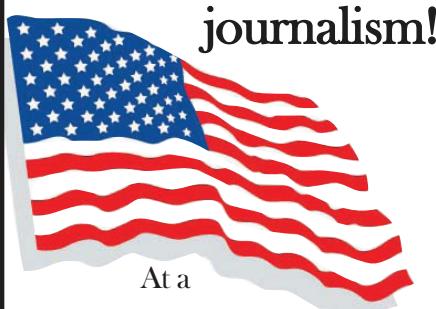
Hendry County Schools offer breakfast at no charge to all of their students, every school day. Breakfast times may vary from school to school, so check with your child's school office for the time schedule. Breakfast is the most important meal and needs to be a part of your child's educational day. The National School Breakfast Program was enacted to ensure that school children are being served a nutritious breakfast daily.

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Submitted photo

Goodbye to living history

The last immediate link to one of LaBelle's oldest families has been broken, with the death of 89-year-old Mary F. Forrey Dyess on July 13. Mary and her sisters, Flora, Ella and Ida, were born to LaBelle pioneers Melville and Corine Forrey. Mary was the last remaining "Forrey girl." Her sister, Ida Forrey Lofton Kirby, passed away just last March 24. "Miss Ida" had been LaBelle's unofficial photographer and grand dame for many decades. The two elder sisters, Flora Forrey Burchard and Ella Forrey Burchard, are famous for the restaurant that still bears their names. They have been gone many years. Mary was the "quiet" sister. Her husband, Glenn Dyess, was lockmaster at Ortona for some time. When they moved into town, the couple managed the old Oaks Hotel, located on property by Upthegrove Elementary School, for a time. They were both active in civic groups but in a low key manner. For most of her life, Mary was content to care for her husband and family but could be counted on to support the town, its people and its many activities. The "Forrey girls," pictured front from left: Flora and Ella, Top from left: Mary and Ida.



Submitted photo

Fun times at summer camp

The Crayon Lady visited the LaBelle Recreations Summer Camp on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of last week. She takes the kids to their imaginations favorite place and helps them write poems and stories.

Low interest financing to upgrade farm storage

Including handling facilities

Clewiston, FL, July 8,--The 2008 Farm Bill reauthorized the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL). The program provides low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

To expedite the FSFL approval process, producers planning to submit an FSFL application to FSA, may request an environmental evaluation of their proposed project at their county FSA office.

To comply with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), FSA must evaluate the potential impacts the proposed structure could have on the environment for FSFL applications. An FSA-850 form must be completed for each FSFL application before the application can be approved.

Producers requesting an environmental compliance determination are advised that the FSFL application must be submitted and approved before site preparation and construction can begin on the facility.

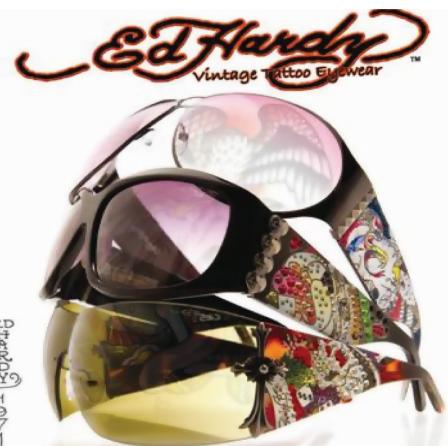
Applicants will be required to identify the:

- type of structure they wish to construct

- proposed site by marking the location on an aerial photo.

County Offices will not accept requests to complete FSA-850 via telephone. If a producer is unable to visit the office, the request must be submitted in writing and include the necessary information to complete FSA-850.

Additional information about initiating a Farm Storage Facility Loan is available at FSA county offices.



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Great beginning for Hendry County Motorsports Park

South Florida race fans finally got what they have been waiting for all year. Opening night at Hendry County Motorsports Park, though not without its share of opening night glitches, was an overwhelming success. The standing room only crowd of race fans and competitors jammed the grandstands and pits Saturday night with over 100 race cars overwhelming the normal pitting area. Shan Smith, driver of the 17SS late model from Dade City, Fl, took the 30 lap Budweiser Late Model Challenge and the Late Model Dash, earning \$1200 for his efforts. Shan Smith is well known around Florida as one of the toughest competitors, and he seems to shine often at Hendry County. Ken Kinney, Jr., promoter of Hendry County Speedway has a top priority to make the track work well for the drivers and the fans with the next level of improvements which include building more of a fan viewing area in turn four, increased parking adjacent to turns three and four, and getting a handle on the precise amount of water to make the track work well. Given the fantastic crowd

and a staff putting together the first show working together, things went smoothly and bodes well for the future of dirt short track racing in South Florida.

Getting ready to rumble on the Everglades clay for July 25th racing will continue with real limited late model action running sportsman, street stocks, pure stocks, V-8 bombers, 4 cylinder bombers, and mini stocks. Also included in our show stopping night of racing will be an all new thunder trucks running on the 3/8 mile clay track. The track is located one half mile North of the intersection of Hwy 27 near the Hendry/Glades counties line. Ticket raffles, cash and prizes awarded all night long and children 6 and under are FREE so bring the whole family. Tickets can be purchased in advance for only \$10 and \$5 for students and at numerous locations around the Lake. For a list of ticket locations and answers to many common questions about the great family entertainment call (863) 673-4325 or (863) 675-8888. Information is also on line at HendryCountyRacing.com.

Sport Shorts

First "Big Lake" softball tournament

The first ever "Big Lake" softball tournament will be held on July 25 and 26 from 9 a.m. until ? at the City Complex in Moore Haven. The tournament will only take the first 10 teams, so RSVP by July 22. Also featured will be the "Long Ball" Home Run Derby. Call J. Brown at 863-254-7088 or 863-946-1600 for more information.

Attention Shotgun Shooters

Caloosa Sports Shooters are reorganizing the club. Anyone interested in shooting trap or skeet should call Dave Alexander at 675-0500. If there is anyone interested in shooting on skeet and trap leagues on Thursday night call Dave. We will be open Wednesday 8 to noon and Saturday 8 to noon. If anyone has any used skeet or trap machines they would like to donate it would be greatly appreciated.

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LHS Fall Football Camp and the Start of the 2009 Football Season!

Head Coach Hal Bennett would like to announce that the LaBelle High School Cowboys will be holding a football camp of their own to begin the season. This football camp is for 9th through 12th graders interested in playing football. Check-in to the camp will be August 5th from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. at the entrance to the gymnasium at LaBelle High School. The camp will run from August 5th, through August 8th. Anyone interested must have a FHSAA physical form and parent consent form that can be obtained at the front office of LaBelle High School or online at www.fhsaa.org. For more information please contact Head Football Coach Hal Bennett at (863)673-1688, or by email at hlbennettpls@yahoo.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Hendry County School District will soon consider a budget for 2009-2010. A public hearing to make a DECISION on the budget AND TAXES will be held on July 28, 2009, at 5:30 P.M. at the School Board Meeting Room, Hendry County Court House, 25 East Hickpochee Avenue, LaBelle, Florida. For more information, please contact the School Board Finance Department at (863) 674-4100

Upthegrove Elementary 2009-2010 Student Dress Code

During school hours, all students should be suitably dressed and properly groomed and wear shoes at all times while on the school campus. We urge students to dress in practical, sturdy clothes.

T-shirts with obscene sayings or pictures will not be allowed. Additionally, no written or inferred references to alcohol or tobacco are allowed. Tank tops, baggy pants, crop tops, muscle shirts, biker shorts, and shorts that are very short may not be worn. Shirts must have straps of at least three inches in width. Shorts must be longer than the student's fingertips when

standing.

Shoes with cleats may not be worn. Athletic shoes or sneakers must be worn during P.E. class. On days students do not have P.E., they will participate in recess; as a result, closed-toe shoes are required every day. Flip-flops are not allowed. Platform shoes and any shoe with a heel over one inch present safety problems and will not be allowed at school.

No make-up of any kind is allowed during school hours.

Caps may be worn outside but not inside the buildings

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



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Automotive

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Automobiles

CHEVROLET CAPRIEC 1986 - run & AC \$1800 / f i r m . (863)201-3492

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Pickup Trucks

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Public Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE SURCHARGE FOR STATE COURT FACILITIES

Notice is hereby given that the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 4, 2009, at 5:05 p.m., in the Commission Chambers, Hendry County Courthouse, 25 East Hickpochee Avenue, LaBelle, Florida, to consider an ordinance relating to the surcharge for state court facilities:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, INCREASING THE SURCHARGE FROM \$15.00 TO \$30.00 ON NON CRIMINAL TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS AND CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS TO BE IMPOSED BY THE COURT AND DISTRIBUTED TO THE COUNTY AND USED TO FUND STATE COURT FACILITIES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, INCLUSION IN CODE, AND SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

All interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Hendry County Commission with respect to any matter discussed at such hearing, 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.

A copy of the proposed Ordinance is available for inspection on weekdays between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the Office of the County Attorney, 165 South Lee Street, LaBelle, Florida.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
Janet B. Taylor, Chairwoman

Public Notice

NOTICE OF RESCHEDULED MEETING BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HENDRY COUNTY

The Board of County Commissioners of Hendry County, Florida hereby gives notice of a meeting cancellation and a new meeting date. The Board's regularly scheduled meeting of July 28, 2009, has been canceled. The Board's next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on August 4, 2009, at 5:00 p.m., Hendry County Courthouse, Commission Chambers, 25 East Hickpochee Avenue, LaBelle, Florida. The Board's August 11, 2009 regular meeting in Clewiston will be rescheduled, as well. Notice of the rescheduled meeting date will be provided when it is available.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Hendry County Commission 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.

Board of County Commissioners
of Hendry County, Florida
Janet B. Taylor, Chairwoman

Public Notice

HENDRY COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF Florida Homebuyer Opportunity Program FY 2009-2010

The State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program has awarded to Hendry County \$350,000. Ten Percent (10%) will be distributed for program administration. Fiscal year 2009/2010 S.H.I.P allocation of funds will be utilized to implement the Florida Homebuyer Opportunity Program (FHOP) strategy until the expiration of the Florida Homebuyer Opportunity Program Tax Credit as created through The America Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The SHIP program is created for the purpose of providing funds to expand production of and preserve affordable housing in Hendry County.

Strategy #1 Purchase Assistance Program- First Time Home Buyers Maximum allowable: Very Low Income \$30,000.00 Low Income \$20,000.00 Moderate Income \$10,000.00

Strategy #2 Rehabilitation/Repairs/Demolition: Maximum allowable: \$30,000.00

Strategy #3 Emergency Home Repair: Maximum allowable: \$15,000.00

Strategy #4 Disaster / Mitigation Strategy: Maximum allowable: \$30,000.00

Strategy #5 Florida Homebuyer Opportunity Program: Maximum allowable: 10% of purchase price, or \$8,000 whichever is less

Strategies 1, 2, 3, will not be funded. Strategy 4 will be funded following a natural disaster as declared by Executive Order. All strategies are subject to funding availability.

SHIP FUNDS MAY NOT BE USED TO PURCHASE, REHABILITATE OR REPAIR MOBILE HOMES.

Eligible households must qualify under specifically mandated adjusted gross income limits, adjusted to family size, and taxpayer filer status as established by the Florida Housing Finance Agency for Hendry County and in accordance with the specific guidelines created for each strategy. Eligible single family owner occupied site built homes must qualify; each strategy has an allocation and housing allowance limitation.

The SHIP Administration office is located at 165 Lee Street, Court House Square, LaBelle or contact Aida Barnhart, SHIP Director Telephone 863-675-5297 to obtain additional information.

Applications will be available between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm. SHIP will move forward with your application on a first ready, first served basis until funds available are encumbered. The SHIP program will continue to receive applications on a continuous basis for affordable housing assistance for eligible residents of Hendry County until all available funds have been encumbered.

All SHIP assistance recipients must agree to comply with all SHIP Program criteria and requirements as set forth in Chapter 91-31, Florida Administrative Code and are frequently modified and amended. **SHIP Funds may not be used to purchase, rehabilitate, or repair mobile homes.**

SHIP programs do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, familial status, disability, or age (provided the applicant has the capacity to enter into a binding contract.)



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Church Briefs

Community Harvest Worship Center hosts VBS

Starting Wednesday, August 5 through Saturday, August 8, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday - Friday and 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday. This year's theme is "Lava Lava Island, Where Jesus's Love Flows." Children from kindergarten through the fifth grade are invited to attend. On Saturday, parents are invited to attend with their child to hear VBS songs, listen to Bible truths taught and view crafts made that week. A luau lunch will be served. The church is located on Highway 29, directly across from LaBelle's Rodeo Grounds. For more info please call 863-675-0938.

VBS at Churh of God

Everyone is invited to Vacation Bible School at LaBelle Church of God, Highway 80 and Elm Street. They will have classes for all ages. Come and enjoy the "Kingdom of the Son." August 3 - 7 from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Come to Waves of Glory VBS

Come to Freedom Fellowship Ministries, 1301 SR 29N, Monday, August 10-Thursday, August 13, from 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Swimming pools, water slide, slip N slides, sprinklers, water guns, bible lessons, snacks, prizes and more!

Christ Central offers Angel Food to you

Pick up your Angel Food order July 25 at Christ Central office, 120 College St., LaBelle, from 1-3 p.m. Visa, Mastercard, food stamps, check or cash accepted.

Freedom Counseling Service Center's new programs

Freedom Counseling and Services Center at 60 Calhoun Street, is now offering "Laying it down" - Helping people ages 16 and up in small group settings aimed for support and continuous lifestyle improvement ... every Monday 7-8 p.m. Director: Lynn Jordan

"Overcoming Addictive Behaviors" - Addictive behaviors often stunt peoples effective and productive lives for which they were created. These behaviors are not limited to drugs and alcohol alone. This class through the direction of the Word of God will enable people to retrain their minds and step into a life filled with purpose, joy and real meaning. Every Thursday 7-8 p.m.

"Choose Life" - An outreach for hurting women. Pain often shapes the lives of women. This class will provide through God's word the knowledge to understand and believe that we are not to be products of our pasts and pains. We were created to be free! Choose life-reach for the purpose, hope and future that you've been promised. 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, 7-8 p.m. Director: Linda Warner

Community Briefs

Hendry Democrats to meet

The Hendry County Democratic Executive Committee will hold its July 27, meeting in LaBelle City Hall at 7 p.m. All interested citizens are welcome and Democrats registered to vote in Hendry County may participate in the discussion.

Old fashioned social

Mark your calendars for Friday, July 24, 7 p.m. at the Ortona Library. Ice cream plus all the fixings will be provided. Bring your neighbors for a yummy summer treat.

Horse Recovered

The Hendry County Sheriff's Office has recovered a horse from running loose off the roadways in Pioneer Plantation. If you have lost a horse, please contact the Agricultural Crimes Unit at 863-674-5600 or 863-805-5000 so your horse may be returned.

Summer caregiver training series set

Abnormal and challenging behaviors, overwhelming stress, and the inability to communicate with loved ones with Alzheimer's disease are problems that regularly face family caregivers. The Alzheimer's Association-Florida Gulf Coast Chapter is offering a free caregiver trainings series in the summer to address caregiver concerns and offer tips on how to manage challenging behaviors and caregiver stress. All trainings will also recognize local programs and services that assist persons with dementia and caregivers.

Caregiver Training Series in LaBelle
July 31 - Caregiver Rescue - How to Reduce Caregiver Stress

Aug. 4 - When Mom isn't Mom Anymore
Aug. 27 - What Now? Selecting the Right Facility for Your Loved One

Sept. 4 - Maintain your Brain! How to Live a Brain Healthy Lifestyle

All trainings are from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Barron Library, 461 North Main Street LaBelle.

Please RSVP by July 28th, 2009 to Lisa Rodriguez, Program Specialist at (863) 385-3444. Sign up for one or all four. Seating is limited. No cost.

Celebrate with Smokey Bear

The FL Division of Forestry will co-host a Smokey Bear Birthday Bash in Glades County to celebrate Smokey Bear's 65th birthday and provide critical information on wildfire prevention.

Since his "birth" on August 9, 1944, Smokey Bear has been a recognized symbol of conservation and protection of America's forests. Join them in Glades County August 8 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Perry Park in Moore Haven.

Etch your name in LaBelle history!

The LaBelle Veterans Memorial is well on its way to becoming an important focal point for our community and its visitors.

Located at the corner of SR 80 and Main Street, the park will pay tribute to the families of the men and women who were lost in the various battles fought throughout United States history.

An artist's rendering of the park can be viewed at the American Legion Post 130 or VFW Post 10100.

The pathways around the park will be paved with brick and you can help "pave the way" around the park by purchasing a brick (or bricks) for those walkways.

This is a donation to the park that will last a lifetime. Bricks can be inscribed with 3 lines of copy on each brick with 18 spaces per line.

Mail your order with payment to: American Legion Post 130, 699 Hickpochee Ave., LaBelle, FL 33935. Visa and Mastercharge are accepted.

Checks are to be made payable to LaBelle Veterans Memorial.

Benefit the Salvation Army

Come to the LaBelle Civic Center Thursday July 30, from 11 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. for a barbecue pork sandwich, baked beans, chips, cookie and tea (sweet/unsweetened), all for just \$7. Proceeds will go to help the LaBelle Salvation Army chapter.

Volunteer for Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida, Inc. is seeking volunteers to help complete short 20-minute phone interviews of applicants, who want to become volunteers for the organization. Phone interviews can be made any time and place that is convenient for the interviewer. Some training is required and will be provided by the organization.

It is preferred that the potential volunteer interviewer have a background in either human resources, social work, education, child and family services or law enforcement. For more information, please contact Amanda Jacob, director of volunteer management, at 239-561-1800 ext. 406 or at amandaj@gsgcf.org.

Steak, steak and big money

A donation of \$100 entitles you to a steak dinner for two and a chance to win a \$5,000 cash prize. Tickets are now being sold by the LaBelle Youth Livestock & Agricultural Exhibitions, Inc. for a dinner to be held at the LaBelle Civic Center on Saturday, July 25 at 7 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Youth Livestock Show & Sale in LaBelle. So come on out to support our youth and get a chance to win the cash prize.

Come to LaBelle Program Center, Inc.

New classes offered at LaBelle Program Center, 1221 State Road 29, South, (across from Rodeo Grounds).

Please call 863-675-4130 for more information

Cardio-Kick Boxing - Wednesdays - Instructor Jan Bass Yoga - Wednesdays - Instructor Jan Bass Karate - Monday & Wednesdays - Instructor Jan Bass

Adult Clogging - Thursdays - 6 p.m. - In-

structor Pat Bedingfield Beginner Clogging - Tuesdays - Instructor Pat Bedingfield

Baton Lessons - Tuesdays & Wednesdays - Instructor Mimi (Bedingfield) Leschewski Summer Fun Camp - Monday - Friday 7 a.m.-6 p.m. - indoor play, outdoor play, games, movies, Free lunches and snacks "Splash Zone." Call now to sign up for any one of the above classes!

Adopt a wild horse

There will be a wild horse and burro adoption held on July 24 and 25 at the Americraft Expo Center, South Florida Fairgrounds in West Palm Beach. Preview will be Friday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. with adoption from 1-5 p.m. Saturday adoption will be from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. This adoption will be first come, first served. Adoption fee is \$25 each. Call 1-888-274-2133 or www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov. Come out and give a horse a home!

Summertime Youth Ranch to hold rodeo event

On Saturday, Aug. 1, the Hendry County Rodeo Association & Youth Livestock, Inc.

will be holding a youth ranch rodeo. The rodeo will start at 7 p.m. at the Hendry-Glades Arena at the Glades Resort on RT80 between LaBelle and Clewiston. There will be several open events including Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, Relay Race, Buddy Pickup, Goat Tying, Flag Race, Team Penning, Chute Doggin', Team Roping & Branding, Steer Undecorating, Breakaway Roping, and Bull Riding. The entry fee for each of the events will be \$20 per event, and \$30 for bull riding. A 60 percent pay back in each event and an All-Around Male/Female Belt Buckle will be the prizes worth entering for. Call ins for the event will be held July 27 and 28, from 6-9 p.m. 863-983-5306. For Rodeo fans that would like to come out and support the youth, the gate admission will be \$10 per person (6 and under free).

For more information on the rodeo please visit www.hendryrodeo.com or call 863-983-5306.

For the animals

Animal Rescue needs your help, for canned dog and cat food; also any cleaning materials, blankets, litter and chewies. Please help in their time of need.

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Cypress Lodge, lost to time?

By Barbara Oehlbeck

Too little, too late... a sad statement about many things, one that hits close to home in Glades County.

In days gone – no one seems to know exactly how many years have gone by – there was such a place, a building, a meeting place called Cypress Lodge, near the entrance of Fisheating Creek Campground. A relic of the lodge is still there. However, it has been neglected and turned down for repairs until it seems as though rebuilding it for any useful purpose, seems impossible.

At one time it was happily used for weddings, receptions, meetings of all sorts, reunions and the like, and there are those who wish it could be restored. While it's not a centurion relic, it is historic, one of the few buildings in Glades County with its background.

It's been said that because the building is probably not the required 50 years of age, and is in serious physical condition, it is the opinion of the Division of Historical Resources that it does not meet the criteria to determine it to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, nor is it otherwise of architectural or historical significance. The actual age of the lodge so far as not been definitely established.

According to Harris Friedman, PhD, about ten years ago, the only significant damage seemed to be from roof leaks, which Fish & Wildlife knew about fully and did not address in a timely fashion. Therefore, Mr. Friedman believes, they should be accountable for its neglect and repair.

Dr. Friedman says, "While I do not know the building's exact date of construction and how that relates to its possible historical importance, I do know it was very important to the people of Palmdale and surrounding communities for weddings, various meetings and other important events, and in the sense that historical importance is not defined just by date but also by its impact on people, it may have historical importance as it surely was vitally important to local residents. The proposed demolition will be a great loss of an important part of our local heritage."

"In this regard, I speak not just as a concerned citizen of Glades County (and appointed by former Gov. Jeb Bush as the concerned citizen on the Settlement Agreement Advisory Board over which I preside) that oversees the Management Area on

which this building is located), but also on behalf of Save Our Creeks, a local advocacy organization of which I am vice president."

Earlier this month a small group met at the campground to personally review the present condition of Cypress Lodge/Hall. Those present were Harris Friedman, PhD, Ellen Petersen, President Save our Creeks, Larry Hilton, Deputy Glades County Manager of Community Development, Grant Steelman, Wildlife Biologist for Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area, Greg Johnson, local Palmdale resident who helps in various areas at the Creek, and Michael Anderson, an administrator with Fish and Wildlife.

While this was an informal gathering, several ideas and opinions were mentioned including the possibility of erecting a structure somewhat like a pole barn, keeping the corner stone fireplace and perhaps the serving bar, which is constructed of trunks of Sabal Palms, Florida's state tree. The floor is concrete as are the walls from the floor to a height of about 2.5 feet.

Dr. Friedman has scheduled a meeting of the Fisheating Creek Settlement Agreement Advisory Board to be held July 25, 2009, from 10 a.m. till noon at the Fisheating Creek Campground on 7555 N. S. S. Highway 27, N.W. Palmdale, Florida. This meeting is to consider the proposed demolition of the Cypress Lodge at the campground within the broader context of the overall management plan for the campground. Also under discussion will be the update on opening the creek in its entirety to navigation and to discuss the proposed transfer of Cypress Knee Museum to Glades County and adding additional parcels to the museum site.

Present at this meeting will be Jerry Lindsey, Director of the Office of Recreation Services, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, who will answer questions and discuss any concerns of those present.

The public is invited to attend.

If indeed the Cypress Lodge is totally demolished, it will be another example of losing sight of where we've been and some of what was of importance to our families and friends of bygone years... buried in the dust and debris that is now history.

Barbara Oehlbeck is an author of non-fiction books, articles and essays, who lives in Glades County. She can be reached at 863-675-2771 or doco@strato.net or visit her website at barbaraohelbeck.com.



Caloosa Belle/Patty Brant

Summer fun

Look out! Summer is here and that means loads of fun. One way kids enjoy this time of year is at summer camp held at Upthegrove Elementary School on July 8. Activities like this slip and slide and water balloon throwing not only use up some of that excess energy, but cool things off, too.



Caloosa Belle/Patty Brant
This boy lets it all go as he whooshes down the slip and slide.



Caloosa Belle/Patty Brant
This counselor shows off some of his surfing technique on the slip and slide.



Caloosa Belle/Patty Brant
Courtney Ford, Activities Coordinator for Hendry County Recreation, tries to dodge a water balloon.

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