

# Caloosa Belle



Vol. 87 No. 38

Thursday, October 1, 2009

50¢ Plus tax

## At a Glance

### Chamber banquet

The Greater LaBelle Chamber of Commerce's 37th Annual Banquet will Oct. 5, at the LaBelle Civic Center.

Check out local organizations' information beginning at 5:30 p.m. The banquet begins at 6:30 p.m.

The Greater LaBelle Chamber of Commerce will announce its Person of the Year that evening.

This year the speaker will be Dr. Patricia Land from Edison State College. Tickets are available from all Chamber Board Members and at the Chamber office. Tickets are \$25 per person. Please call 863-675-0125 or stop by the Chamber for more information.

### Business expo planned

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board (SFWDB) are partnering to provide a one-day, one-stop information business expo scheduled for October 7, 3-7 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge building on Jaycee-Lions Drive in LaBelle.

The One-day, One-stop Information Business Expo will enable those who are searching for answers to tap into the resources needed to find direction.

Contact Janice Groves, SBDC, [jgroves@fgcu.edu](mailto:jgroves@fgcu.edu) or [swillis1997@aol.com](mailto:swillis1997@aol.com) for more information.

See Page 4 for information about how to contact the newspaper

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## Judge ruling: No new election

by **Patty Brant**  
Caloosa Belle

Twentieth Circuit Judge Christine Greider handed down her decision late Friday, Sept. 25, supporting the election of Phillip Pelletier as Hendry County Property Appraiser. The case could have forced the county to redo the Nov. 4, 2008 Property Appraisers election. The non-jury trial took place Sept. 21-22 at the Courthouse in LaBelle.

In the election, then Hendry County Property Appraiser Kristina Kulpa was bested by newcomer Phillip Pelletier with a margin of just five votes. Almost as soon as the election was over, Ms. Kulpa

questioned the results and eventually filed suit against Mr. Pelletier, Supervisor of Elections Lucretia Strickland and County Judge James D. Sloan, Chairman of the Hendry County Canvassing Board.

Ms. Kulpa's case was based on three allegations. She believes that:

1. Fourteen felons who did not have their rights restored cast illegal ballots in that election;
2. Three non-county residents cast ballots; and
3. Assistance was rendered to some voters illegally.

Ms. Kulpa was represented by attorney Peter Feamon.

Representation for the defen-

dants included; Owen and Jimmy Luckey for Supervisor of Elections Lucretia Strickland, Tom Hart for Mr. Pelletier and County Attorney Mark Lapp for Judge Sloan.

Attacking the plaintiff's accusation that votes were accepted from felons who did not have their rights restored, attorneys for the defendants responded that elections officials have every right to presume that names on the voter list from Tallahassee are legal registered voters. Elections staff testified that the state holds new voter registrations in pending for 24-48 hours till they are approved. Defense attorneys noted that Supervisor of Elections staff cannot be

expected to sift through the list for possible non-eligible felons. They added that the facts are insufficient to decide if any illegal felons cast ballots. In addition, no Hendry County voters were challenged in 2008 and only one provisional ballot was rejected.

The defense also noted that no evidence had been presented showing the felons who voted had not had their rights restored.

Mr. Feamon retorted that the Supervisor of Elections is not necessarily at fault if felons voted ille-

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## Kids Day: Focus on the younger generation



Mary the Clown enjoys a laugh with one of the youngsters at Kiwanis Kids Day Sept. 19. For more information see Page 4.

Submitted photos/Dawn Jeffries

## County sets 6.5 millage

by **Patty Brant**  
Caloosa Belle

On Tuesday, Sept. 22, the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners approved the millage rate for 2009-10 at 6.5 mills, the same as the current year. The commission also approved its budget for next year.

The 6.5 millage rate represents a decrease of 10.11 percent in total ad valorem taxes levied.

The county's total taxable value has been assessed at \$2,107,817,381.

The roll back rate, which is the amount required to bring in income equal to the previous year, is 7.2301 mills.

The 6.5 mills will bring in ad

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# Trial

Continued From Page 1

gally, but urged that their votes should not be counted.

With regard to three non-resident voters having cast ballots, the plaintiff stated that ballots were cast by Mr. Pelletier's son and daughter-in-law, whom Mr. Feamon said were residents of Kentucky, underscoring his assertion with one of Mr. Pelletier's own campaign pamphlets. In addition, the ballot of Deputy Supervisor of Elections Brenda Hoots' son, who was a student at the University of South Florida at the time of the election, was also questioned.

According to the defense, Mr. Pelletier's son and daughter-in-law do work out of state from time to time, but always return to Hendry County, which they claim as their permanent residence. Attorneys pointed out that the same would apply to local students studying outside of the county.

In the end, the judge ruled that there was not enough evidence to establish that three non-residents voted in the election.

The plaintiff's third allegation was that some voters were assisted illegally in casting their ballots.

The defense showed that the law allows voters to have assistance in casting their ballots, if needed. The voter may mark on their original registration form that they require assistance, which is then noted on their voter registration card. There is no need for any further action by the voter, except to bring an assistant with them when they cast their ballot.

If there is no notation on their registration that the voter needs assistance, the voter must make out a declaration to secure assistance when they come to vote, which states their name, the election, date and the name of their assistant. The assistant also signs that form, stating that they are not the voter's employer or agent of their employer, union officer or agent and that they have not solicited the voter.

Defense attorneys argued that, if no assistance form had been filed, the judge would have to find those votes to be illegal in order to overturn the election. Everything that happened may not have been technically correct, they conceded, but a technicality does not equal an illegal vote. Because there was no testimony that any voter was unduly influenced, the defense concluded that there were no illegal votes.

In her decision, Judge Greider cited the Florida Rules of Executive Clemency, stating: "these rules were significantly amended in April 2007 and established a system for the automatic approval of restoration of civil rights or for restoration of civil rights without a hearing. Simply put, this rule change established that a person shall have his or her rights . . . under Florida law immediately restored by automatic approval of the Clemency Board, excluding the specific authority to own, possess or use a firearm if certain requirements are met. For less severe offenses, ex-offenders are not required to take any action and their rights will be restored automatically."

The judge ruled that sufficient evidence to prove that 14 felons voted illegally was not presented.

In other evidence, Mr. Feamon painted a picture of one person in particular, Brenda

Brooks, who assisted numerous voters.

In fact, elections personnel testified that Ms. Brooks became a "nuisance," picking up large numbers of voter registration forms and returning them signed. (Citizens may register to vote by simply signing forms which are available at many public places.) Staff was unsure of how many voters she may have assisted.

As chairman of the Hendry County Canvassing Board, which ensures the accuracy of election results. Judge Sloan testified that the board received no allegations of improper assistance to voters in the Clewiston elections office, no allegations of felons voting unlawfully and no allegations of anyone voting out of their precinct for that election.

With just a five vote difference separating Mr. Pelletier and Ms. Kulpa in 2008, the board conducted a mandatory recount for the Property Appraiser's race, with no change in the results. There were also 464 undervotes in the Property Appraiser's election.

Another key point in the trial is the allegation that the Clewiston Supervisor of Elections Office was "chaotic" as voters were casting ballots.

Ms. Strickland herself testified that 2008 had the largest voter turnout in Clewiston in 18 years. There is only one full time employee in the Clewiston Elections Office and the elections office in Clewiston was sharing space with the Property Appraiser's Office.

Defense attorneys stated that the argument of chaos in the office during early voting did not apply. The area could not be restricted it is normally used by the public for other business.

In regard to the allegation that improper assistance was given to dozens of voters at

the Clewiston early voting polling station, Judge Greider ruled:

" . . . this Court finds that the allegations of improper assistance do not establish an identifiable number of illegal votes sufficient to change or place in doubt the results of this election. Further, these allegations do not rise to the level for this Court to find that the Supervisor of Elections failed to maintain good order at this polling location . . ."

In addition, Ms. Kulpa had requested an award for court costs. It was also denied.

According to County Attorney Mark Lapp's office, to date, the lawsuit has cost the county approximately \$145,000 for Ms. Strickland's defense. It includes attorney fees, and court costs such as the services of a court reporter and subpoena processing. Mr. Lapp's services to defend the canvassing board are included in his salary. Mr. Pelletier must foot the costs of his own defense.

Ms. Kulpa said the entire process has been "arduous" and has taken longer than it should have, noting that they were set for trial last March. She said that her attorney interprets the laws on voting by felons differently and believes there may still be an opening for an appeal. She said the whole reason for the lawsuit still remains - her conviction that the 2008 Property Appraiser's election was unfair not only to her but to everyone in Hendry County. She added that the cost of the lawsuit is not the issue, the reason for the action "is beyond that."

Upon hearing the judge's ruling, Mr. Pelletier said, "I'm glad it's over. I'm sorry the taxpayers had to go through it. I'd like to thank everyone for the praise and support and I'm looking forward to serving the citizens of Hendry County in the future."

# County

Continued From Page 1

valorum taxes of \$13,700,813. With other income including sales and use taxes, charges for services, intergovernmental revenue, fines and forfeitures and miscellaneous revenue, totals \$40,972,834. With \$31,229,134 in reserves brought forward from 2008-09, the entire 2009-10 budget stands at \$76,077,313.

Questioned as to the need for the \$31-plus million in reserves, commissioners explained that most of that money is in MSBU

accounts, to be used in specific areas for specific purposes. The county also as a disaster relief fund of some \$7 million.

LaBelle resident Ernie Reddish spoke before the board, saying commissioners did a good job in making cuts during budget discussions, but that the 6.5 millage rate is deceiving since so many other taxing agencies get an additional piece of Hendry County taxpayers' money. Other taxing authorities include the hospital authority, local MSBUs, water management and the school board.

## Public hearings

Owners Grace and Ashley George have applied for a small scale comprehensive

plan amendment and a rezone for a 4.29-acre facility on SR 29S north of B Road.

They were asking the board to change its designation from General Commercial and Residential/High Density Mobile Home to a Planned Unit Development (PUD).

Administrative Services Director Vincent Cautero told the board that both an amendment and rezone were necessary to allow expansion of its use as a recycling/salvage yard.

With the only issue raised by neighbors - that of noise - having been alleviated by replacement of an old crusher, the requests were approved 4-0.

Commissioner Tris Chapman was not present at the meeting.

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# Ten growhouses busted

Hendry County Sheriff's narcotic officers received valuable information earlier this week that lead to the location of ten grow houses and the arrest of seven individuals.

Investigators closed down eight grow houses in Montura and two in Pioneer. They were able to confiscate seven long rifles and two handguns. One of the locations was a 12x12 building that had been completely set up and ready to begin the grow process. Another location in Pioneer was a new grow operation that had just begun, yielding very young plants.

Officers seized 389 marijuana plants, with an approximate weight of 489 lbs., street value \$2,347,200. Arrested were:

September 18, 2009

Alberto Garcia, 45 years of age, of 822 North Arboleda Street, Montura, 35 marijuana plants, approximately 40 lbs.

September 21, 2009

Yoel Relova Serrano, 36 years of age, 470 South Hacienda Street, 70 marijuana plants, approximately 110 lbs.

Vladimir Padron, 46 years of age, 855 South Zambria Street, 81 marijuana plants, approximately 15 lbs.

September 22, 2009

Jorge Fleitas, 46 years of age, 380 S. Hacienda Street

Jenny Reyes, 20 years of age, and Martha Lira, 44 years of age, 212 Montura Ave., 44 plants, approximately 56 lbs.

September 23, 2009

Alberto Velis Duarte, 39 years of age, 5120 4th Street, Pioneer, 24 plants, approximately 39 lbs.

Sheriff Whidden stated, "We will continue to cooperate with all agencies in the fight against drugs. The investigation continues.



Submitted photo  
**Members of the Hendry County Sheriff's Office are targeting recently discovered marijuana growhouses like this one.**

## Arrest reports

### LaBelle

Kimberly Faith Casten, 32, was arrested Sept. 26 and charged with possession of cocaine. Sgt. Olvera was arresting officer.

Marilyn Maria Sanchez, 21, was arrested Sept. 23 and charged with VOP: felony or community control. Sgt. P. Short was arresting officer.

Kevin James Parks, 27, was arrested Sept. 23 and charged with VOP: felony or community control. Deputy B. Weaver was arresting officer.

Leonardo J. Marquez, 28, was arrested Sept. 23 and charged on an out-of-county warrant as a fugitive from justice from Lee County. Deputy Buchhofer was arresting officer.

### Clewiston

Keyester Antoinette Pouch, 24, was arrested Sept. 6 and charged on a warrant with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon with no intent to kill. Deputy J. Perez was arresting officer.

Timothy Cornelius Baulkmen, 32, was arrested Sept. 19 and charged on a warrant with larceny between \$300-\$5,000. Deputy J. Perez was arresting officer.

Kevin Atkinson, 15, was arrested Sept. 26 and charged with burglary of an occupied conveyance unarmed, larceny \$300-\$5,000 and loitering and prowling. Deputy Cruz

was arresting officer.

Cody William Clark, 17, was arrested Sept. 26 and charged on a warrant with criminal mischief \$200-\$1,000, burglary of a structure or conveyance unarmed with no person inside and larceny \$300-\$5,000. Deputy J. Garrett was arresting officer.

Tomas Quintanilla, 20, was arrested Sept. 26 and charged with possession of cocaine and smuggling contraband into a detention facility. Deputy Nathan Kirk was arresting officer.

Luis Hernandez, 45, was arrested Sept. 12 and charged with vehicle theft third degree and dealing in stolen property. Deputy J. Soto was arresting officer.

Paul Douglass Day, 51, was arrested Sept. 12 and charged vehicle theft third degree and dealing in stolen property. Deputy J. Soto was arresting officer.

Anthony Darnell Gadson, 43, was arrested Sept. 26 and charged with passing a counterfeit bank bill, check, draft, note. Deputy J. Hunt was arresting officer.

Clarence Lewis, 14, was arrested Sept. 26 and charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon without intent to kill. CPD Sgt. Spence was arresting officer

Jorge L. Mederas Jr., 20, was arrested Sept. 24 and charged with aggravated battery offender knew or should have known the victim was pregnant. Deputy J. Lee was arresting officer.

# Disinfection under way

The City of LaBelle is temporarily changing the disinfection process for the City's potable (drinking water) water supply. Through Monday, October 12, the City will disinfect the water with free chlorine rather than combined chlorine/ammonia (chloramines). This conversion to chlorine (which is a stronger disinfectant) from chloramines (which is a longer-lasting disinfectant) allows the city to perform a water distribution system purge as recommended by the Department of Environmental Protection for water utilities using chloramines as their primary disinfectant.

This temporary change in disinfectant does not cause adverse health effects. However, during the period customers may experience a slight increase in the

taste, odor and color of the water due to the change in treatment.

Customers on kidney dialysis who use a proportioning machine to prepare dialysate at home are advised to contact their equipment supplier or physician take any appropriate steps to accommodate the change in water disinfection and to install the proper filtering devices if needed.

Customers who have fish tanks or other aquatic species are advised to contact the local pet store to ensure proper pretreatment of the water before adding or changing the water in the tank to avoid any problems associated with chlorine. Call 863-675-2872 with questions concerning this change.

# SCF theme deadline extended

The next Swamp Cabbage Festival Committee meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 6, in the LaBelle City Commission Room at 6:30 p.m. At this time the committee will choose a theme for the 2010 festival. The due date has been extended till that day. If you would like to submit a 2010 theme and poster, please do so by 5 p.m. Oct. 6 to the Chamber of Commerce or bring them to the meeting. If your theme and poster are chosen, you will receive a \$50 savings bond.

If you choose to submit a theme and poster, the following criteria must be followed:

1. The poster must be 16x20 inches.
2. If you choose to use computer generated artwork, a copy of the disk must accompany the poster in case changes must be made.
3. Remember if your theme or artwork is chosen it becomes the property of the committee and the committee reserves the right to make changes as necessary.

Please remember that if you are attending the meetings as a representative from a non-profit organization you must have a letter from that organization to be allowed to vote.

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## Public Forum

*Speak Out has moved online, where it is quicker and easier to share your ideas and converse with others. Go to [www.newszap.com](http://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!*

## River crossing

I checked out the maps on the web that show the possible new river crossings and they look all backwards. Seems like they ought to be able to do a better job than that. Besides, isn't it a little early to be thinking about spending that kind of money? The economy's got everything all screwed up - ain't nobody coming to Hendry county for a while anyway.

## Election mess

Just heard that the suit over the property appraisers election is over and Kulpa lost. Maybe now the county can use our money for something useful.

# Volunteers ensure Kids Day was a success

It was another hot Saturday in Florida, but that didn't stop the kids from having fun, along with Mary the Clown. Barron Park with all the glorious oak trees has always been the perfect setting for the annual Kiwanis Kid's Day event, providing much needed shade. The Kiwanis Club of LaBelle would like to say thank you to our community for bringing their children to enjoy this event.

Making this day such a huge success was a combined effort of over 130 volunteers from 42 different organizations. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who made it happen. To Ramiro Rodriguez and his staff from the Hendry County Recreation Department for providing the PA system, tables and chairs, and much more; to Chuck Swift, Vision Ace Hardware for donating two youth bicycles for the raffle; to Jeff Zimmerman and Grace Baptist Church for the tricycle; to Jim Mace and his son, James for their time, grill and cooking skills; to Johnny Kisela at Bridge Street Auto for donating the helium for the balloons; to Steve Nisbet and McDonalds for the ice tea; to Pat Artino, Hendry County School Board, for distributing flyers to all the elementary schools; to the AL Post 130 and DAV Chapter

144 for their cash contribution; and to the clean up crew from the City of LaBelle. We would like to extend a special thank you to Stephanie Rodriguez for hooking us up with the A-Team from Kohl's department store which donated 4 volunteers and \$500.

Another big success was the Bicycle Safety Training Course sponsored by Florida DOT and Community Traffic Safety Team. Thank you to Gloria Seay, Linda McVey, Sgt. Barbara Brown, the HCSO Explorers and the Boy and Girl Scout Troops for providing this important activity and for also giving away 150 helmets to local children. Thank You to the Girl Scout Troop for starting off the day by posting the flag.

We couldn't have handled all the activities without the help of our younger volunteers: 19 LHS Key Club members and 6 WGS Builder's Club member with their advisor, Doreen Backes; Preston Long and 4 youth from the First Baptist Church; and to Pierre and his comrades with Intelligentsia International, Inc. The day was even more enjoyable thanks to our entertainment on stage including Tammie Watkins and the Universal Allstar Cheerleaders, Pat Bedingfield and the Country Rhythm Cloggers, Lee Rutter from

Integrity Martial Arts, and thank you also to the HCSO for allowing Officer Nathan Kirk to bring us the canine demonstration.

We'd like to recognize and thank all the organizations and clubs who spent Saturday with us playing games, educating and helping out the children and parents in our community. Thank you to the Hendry County Health Department, many staff and volunteers including Jeni Dyess and Valarie James and the student volunteers with SADD/SWAT for providing information on Tobacco prevention, healthy choices, Healthy families, and Fatherhood; to Patty Ashley and her team from Hendry County Recycling; to Amelia Vasques from the National Center for Missing Children; to Rob Molleda with the National Weather Service from Miami; to Lupe Taylor and Amy Howard from the Hendry County Emergency Management team; to Angela Boykin with Guardian Ad Litem program; to Patricia Gonzalez and the Hendry County 4-H group; to Bianca Ross and Christ Central Church; to Nancy Gruber and the Sherrod family representing Relay for Life; and to Ray Leventhal and Greg Sorenson from the American Legion Riders for displaying their motorcycles.

# Tips for heading back to school with diabetes

Back to school can be stressful for everyone, but for children living with diabetes, preparing to go back to school is much more complicated. It often involves parents, teachers, administration, school nurses, cafeteria staff and coaches teaming up to ensure the child remains healthy.

Proper diabetes management, especially important for children, requires a large time commitment and significant understanding of the disease from diabetic children and from the people they spend time with every day. Marc Wolf RPh, founder and CEO of Diabetic Care Services, a leading mail order provider of diabetic supplies and prescriptions, offers some tips for parents to help their children return to school when diabetes is a factor.

Tips for Managing Diabetes at School

- Before school begins, schedule a meeting with your child's teacher, administrator, school nurse and cafeteria staff to discuss his or her personal diabetes management plan.
- Bring written copies of the plan to leave

with each person who may be responsible for your child. It should include information on your child's medication, including when it should be taken, proper dosage, proper technique for administering the medication, who should administer medication (your child, the school nurse, or another designated staff member) and the reasons why your child takes it, as well as who to contact and what actions to take in case of emergency, how to recognize warning signs of high and low blood sugar, and a nutrition plan for both regular meals and snacks.

- Review the personal diabetes management plan with your child.

- If he or she is old enough, your child will be able to manage most testing and medication independently, but should also know who he or she can turn to when help is needed.

- For younger children, explain that another person will be taking over the tasks their mom or dad might usually perform while at school.

- Seek feedback from your child daily to ensure he or she feels comfortable with the situation and to assess how he or she feels throughout the day.

- Pack healthy snacks for your child to battle sudden low blood sugar, and ensure school staff will allow your child to access these snacks when needed.

- Ask the school nurse to store extra testing supplies and medications as back up.

- Teach your child not to share snacks or trade food items with other students while at lunch.

- Establish a routine for your child right away so he or she adapts habits for eating, testing and taking medication at the same time each day - whether in school, at practice or at home after school. Most importantly, ensure your child goes to bed on time with no distractions to prevent them from falling asleep.

- It is normal for parents to feel stressed when children head back to school, but it is important to remain as calm as possible so

that your child also feels relaxed. High stress levels can cause spikes in blood glucose levels due to adrenaline released by the body.

- Encourage your child to be an active participant in physical education class and even to join an athletic team. Just be sure to meet with coaches in advance to discuss your child's personal diabetes management plan.

- Ask your child's teacher to invite a diabetes educator to speak with the class. The local diabetes association can provide resources for locating an educator, who can explain the basics of diabetes to your child's classmates (i.e. that it is not contagious) and answer any questions they might have. Your child will feel more comfortable managing diabetes while at school if he or she isn't greeted with questions or stares.

- Make sure your child wears a diabetic ID bracelet or necklace at all times. Bracelets are inexpensive and can be purchased online at [www.diabeticcareservices.com](http://www.diabeticcareservices.com).

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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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Special to the Caloosa Belle/LES

## Students of the Month

Citizens of the Month for the month of September at LaBelle Elementary School were recently selected. Front row to back row: (row 1) Jennifer Ixmay, Jannell Ramirez, Megan Carter, Jasmine Vaughn, Xiomara Rivera, Diana Hernandez, Britten Williams. In row two: Nadia Chavez, Rosa Suarez, Karyme Garza, Manuela Gomez, Stephen Howard. Not present in photo due to absence is Isidro Gonzalez.



Special to the Caloosa Belle/LES

## Students of the Month

LaBelle Elementary School's younger students of the month include: (front row to back row) In row 1 are Adalia Arellano, Lillie Howard, Kyle Kirtley, Christian Parrish. Row 2 includes Yesenia Ramirez, Alea Madrid, Guadalupe Garcia, Victor Deras, Jennifer Luna, Vivian Castro and in row 3 are: Jacqueline Garcia, Natalie Valadez, Yesenia Perez-Valenzuela, Taylor Sanchez, Aleida Gonzalez, Vanessa Ramirez.

## School Briefs

### LHS advisors to meet

The School Advisory Council (SAC) for LaBelle High School will meet at 6 p.m. on the following dates. SAC Chairperson is Becky Parrish and she can be reached at 863-674-4120. All meetings are open to the public. More information is available on the Web site at [www.hendry-schools.org](http://www.hendry-schools.org) Oct. 5, Nov. 16, Jan. 11, March 1, April 19 and May 24.

### Apply now to RCMA

Redlands Christian Migrant Association in LaBelle is accepting child care applications for children six weeks to five years. RCMA supports low income working families, farmworker families and migrant workers through child care and family support services. Please call: LaBelle CDC, 863-674-4510; Mira Verde 863-674-4104; Krome 863-

674-4515; Glades West 863-612-0783; New Beginnings 863-674-4652.



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## COE enjoys spaghetti dinner

The students, teachers, parents and community members enjoyed the Rotary Club's annual spaghetti dinner on Thursday, Sept. 10, at Country Oaks Elementary School. The Open House activities included the all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner, a book fair, classroom visitation and ended with a PTO meeting on the topic of parental involvement.

The Rotary Club, as well as the staff of COES, worked very hard to prepare for this event and it was a huge success. Every year the Rotary sponsors the Open House dinner and donates the proceeds to the school

to supplement school activities.

Country Oaks Elementary School appreciates their involvement in the education of our students. Parents were invited to join the Parent Teacher Organization and partner with the school in support of their children.

The PTO welcomes volunteers and would love to sign up any parents or community members who have a desire to contribute to the success of the students of Country Oaks.

For more information please call the school at 674-4140.

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## Community Briefs

### Learn about Relay for Life

Families and friends of LaBelle, are invited to the annual Kick-Off Party for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of LaBelle, a unique opportunity to fight against cancer. This year organizers will hold a mock relay so you can get a real feel for what it is like. Local restaurants are donating food. There will be an informational booth for anyone interested in forming teams, or just finding out how the money raised will help local services, cancer patients and their families. There will be games and luminary information. Survivors of this disease will be on hand to share their stories and an experienced team will answer any questions you may have about the relay. The event will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 6, between 6-8 p.m. at the LaBelle Sports Park, located behind the EMS station off Cowboy Way.

### Come to breakfast buffet

Hosted by American Legion Auxiliary Unit 130 a breakfast buffet will be Sunday, Oct. 4 from 8-11 a.m. Menu: scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, home fries, grits, sausage gravy, chipped beef, biscuits, pancakes, coffee and juice. All you can eat for \$6. Open to the public. Located at 699 Hickpoochee Ave. (SR 80) LaBelle.

## Obituaries

### Marion Barbara Dana, 73

LABELLE — Marion Barbara Dana, age 73, of LaBelle, passed away Sept. 28, 2009, in Fort Myers.

She was born Feb. 10, 1936, in Zellwood, the daughter of the late Eli Hue Atkins and the late Mavis (Holloway) Atkins.

Survivors include her husband, Rookie Dana; daughters, Diana Pendrey (Carl) of LaBelle, and Donna Woodruff (Dean) of Felda; brother, James Atkins of Michigan; grandchildren, Steven Lynn, Brandon Lynn (Shonna), Megan Woodruff, Joey Dana, and Taylor Lynn. She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Darrel Dana; and brother, Marvin Atkins.

Funeral services will be 10 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 1, at Fort Denaud Cemetery in LaBelle with Pastor W. T. Maddox Jr. officiating. Interment will follow in Fort Denaud Cemetery.

Arrangements by Akin-Davis Funeral Home, LaBelle.

### THANK YOU

The family of Thomas C. Boswell would like to thank everyone for the generosity and support that has been given along with all the prayers, food, cards, care, donations and concern that has been shown during our time of sorrow.

The love and support that everyone has given is very much appreciated. Thank you seems so little for everything everyone has done but everyone and everything has been greatly appreciated.

The Boswell Family and Grandchildren send a great big thank you to everyone.

God Bless you all,  
Sharon Boswell, Tommy Boswell, Shelly Miller, Jeff Boswell, Jeni O'Bannon

### Storter Long to speak at museum meeting

Glades County Commissioner Donna Storter Long will be the guest speaker at the October 1 meeting of the LaBelle Heritage Museum to be held at LaBelle City Hall, Commission Meeting Room, at 7 o'clock in the evening. Storter Long will reminisce about growing up in Ortona. The public is welcome.

### Haunted house planned

Come to LaBelle Longhorns' Haunted House and Fall Festival. Enter at your own risk for fun for the whole family! Come to Davis Pratt Field October 29, 30 and the 31. Thursday October 29, Open 7 to 9, Friday October 30, Open from 7 to 10 and Saturday October 31, Open 7 to 10. The event will have games, face painting and, of course, candy! Be ready for a costume contest October 31.

### October: One Stop business expo

Thinking of starting your own business? Thinking of expanding your existing business? Want to see how you can make your current business better? If so, you may want to stop by the One-Stop Business Expo and find answers to your questions.

Professionals who can help you will tend tables set-up to provide information on business structure, commercial and business financing, insurance, worker's comp., retirement plans, business plans, county incentives and inducements, Enterprise Zone credits, permitting, licensing, leadership, education opportunities and training, plus much more.

The event takes place Wednesday, Oct. 7, from 3-7 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 180 Jaycee Lions Drive, LaBelle. There is no charge for attending, but you will leave with priceless information and direction. Contact Janice Groves, SBDC, at 863-840-2279 or Shirley Willis, Southwest Florida Jobs, 863-673-3214 with questions.

### Free barrel race benefits breast cancer fight

Come to a Breast Cancer Benefit Barrel

race Saturday, Oct. 3, hosted by the LaBelle Family Livestock Club at the LaBelle rodeo grounds on Hwy 29 South.

Exhibition starts at 4 p.m. and barrel race starts at 6 p.m. Concession stand will be open. All proceeds go to Susan G. Komeen breast cancer foundation. For more information please call Cristy Bellflower at 863-673-3821. Free admission!

### Small business workshop to open

An opportunity for information providing resources for existing and potential small businesses will be offered on Wednesday, Oct. 7, from 3-7 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 180 Jaycee Lions Drive, LaBelle. The event is free. Come and find out about business plans, financing, insurance, county incentives and inducements, education, training, licensing and permitting and more. To register, visit the SBDC Web site at: <http://cli.fgcu.edu/sbdc/register>. Contact: Shirley Willis at 863-673-3214 for more information.

### VFW plans fun, food

VFW 10100 offers Chu Chu and David's tacos at 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, and karaoke with Ray at 6 p.m.

### Financial workshop planned

Edward Jones Financial Advisor Joseph Timm of LaBelle will host a "Financial Workshop: Your Source for Financial Education."

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**From the Family of Mae Bush**

We appreciate the outpouring of love and sympathy that all of you showed, (food, flowers, cards, prayers) as we grieved the loss of our mother and celebrated her life.

*Thank you*

The four-week workshop will assist individuals in setting financial and investment goals.

Edward Jones provides financial services for individual investors in the United States and, through its affiliates, in Canada and the United Kingdom. Every aspect of the firm's business, from the types of investment options offered to the location of branch offices, is designed to cater to individual investors in the communities in which they live and work. The firm's 12,000-plus financial advisors work directly with nearly 7 million clients to understand their personal goals -- from college savings to retirement -- and create long-term investment solutions that emphasize a well-balanced portfolio and a buy-and-hold strategy.

Edward Jones, ranked No. 2 on FORTUNE magazine's "100 Best Companies to Work For 2009," is headquartered in St. Louis. Its Web site is located at [www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com), and its recruiting Web site is [www.careers.edwardjones.com](http://www.careers.edwardjones.com). Member SIPC

### Animals found

The Hendry County Sheriff's Office has recovered 2 horses and 1 cow from roaming loose off the roadways in Hendry County. If you have lost any animals, please contact the Sheriff's Office at 674-5600 or 805-5000.

### Legion resuming fish fries

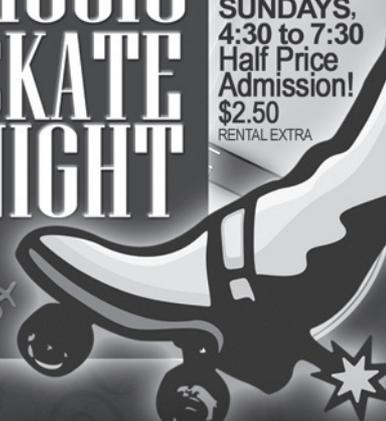
American Legion Post 130 is resuming its fish fries again from October through December every Friday from 5-7 p.m. Come to the post home on SR 80. and enjoy.

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# Resident attends children, youth conference

Dennis R. Boland, a resident of LaBelle, just recently returned from The American Legion Children & Youth Conference in Indianapolis, Ind. As chairman of The American Legion Children & Youth Commission, Mr. Boland moderated the Conference which was held from Sept. 18-20.

During the Conference presentations were made from different organizations affecting the children of our nation. We heard from Rev. Anthony Wallace who has over 30 years of experience in neighborhood at large parenting & mentoring to the needy and the fatherless and is a Co-Founder of Security Dads, Inc. Darrin Allen of the U.S. Army Child, Youth & School Services presented the Our Military Kids program, Mona Johnson, the Director of Learning and Teaching Support which oversees multiple state and federal programs centered on student physical, social, and emotional prevention and intervention services, supportive learning environments and Operation: Military Kids. Jim Smith of Mercy Medical Airlift presented how catastrophically ill children and veterans received free air travel and how the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation Inc. has helped to disseminate this information. Rick Lofgren of the Children Organ Transplant Association (COTA) has worked to build the charity into a highly respected national fundraising entity that is singularly focused on saving kids' lives. COTA has distributed more than 2,000,000 organ donor registration cards thanks to The American Legion Child Welfare Inc. grants they have received. Pam Golubowicz from Spinoza Bear presented Spinoza, the healing gift of Love. The American Legion Department of Florida is a proud sponsor of Spinoza Bears

and have donated over 1,200 each year. The Spinoza Buddy Bear project is for a child of any age who is diagnosed with a chronic illness, life threatening illness, or major organ failure. We also heard from The American Legion Auxiliary about their Hero and Good Deed award. They presented a young man who had saved his sister when chlorine had spilled into a swimming area, although he could hardly breathe from the fumes. This has also affected his speaking ability and strong odors affects his breathing. Our last presentation was on the MY HERO Project, a previous American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc grant recipient. 16 year old Slater Jewell Kemker who is a MY HERO Student Reporter and learned to organize, write, shoot and edit short films with support from the MY HERO Media Arts Education Team.

Mr. Boland said the purpose of this conference was threefold. First, we hoped to educate the Department & Detachment Children & Youth Chairman from around the country on many of the current Children & Youth programs, Legion procedures and practices, and other relevant topics that will enable them to run children & youth programs more effectively within their respective Department and Detachments.

Secondly, the scheduled presentations where to interact with the other Children & Youth Chairmen and leaders in attendance to learn some of their best practices and challenges. Every Chairman and Children & Youth Leader has something to offer.

Finally, every presenter we heard from was allotted time for questions and answers. The many questions where very informative and helpful to all that attended the conference.

## Need help with mortgage payment?

For those facing possible foreclosure on their homes or having difficulty making their monthly payments, the Empowerment Alliance of Southwest Florida may be able to help. The Empowerment Alliance is now providing free counseling to clients who are in danger of losing their home to foreclosure or who are facing increasing payments due to adjustable mortgages or other loan products. The Empowerment Alliance, a non-profit organization, is a HUD approved Housing Counseling Agency and does not charge for its services beyond the cost of a credit report. Counseling costs are paid for through a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Amanda Pacheco, the Empowerment Alliance's Hendry Housing Counselor says, "Many families are embarrassed about facing foreclosure, but there's no reason to be embarrassed. We try to help families find a solution to save their homes." Under President Obama's Making Home Affordable program, banks are given incentives to work with homeowners to modify their loans, rather than go into foreclosure. A modified loan can involve a reduced interest rate for

five years with a gradual increase to a rate that is manageable for the rest of the loan. Homeowners must show they have enough income to handle the new payments to qualify for the modified loan.

In one client's case, the bank decreased the homeowner's payments from \$1,748 per month to \$931 per month, by reducing the interest rate from 8.6 percent to 2.5 percent. The rate will gradually increase but will not rise above 6.2 percent, still a significant savings for the family that allowed them to keep their home. Due to differences among banks and individuals' situations, not every loan can be modified, but many are benefiting from the new program. In addition, some banks offer other programs beyond the Making Home Affordable program to benefit homeowners and prevent foreclosures.

The Empowerment Alliance also provides pre-purchase counseling for anyone looking to buy a new or existing home. To schedule an appointment for pre-purchase or foreclosure prevention counseling, contact Amanda Pacheco at 863-983-2432.

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED LARGE SCALE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT PUBLIC HEARINGS

Notice is hereby given that the Local Planning Agency of Hendry County (LPA) will hold a public hearing on the proposed amendments to the Hendry County Comprehensive Plan on **October 14 at 6:00 p.m.**, at the Hendry County Courthouse, Commission Chambers, 25 E. Hickpochee Ave, LaBelle, Florida. The LPA will determine if the applications are consistent with the Hendry County Comprehensive Plan.

The recommendations of the Local Planning Agency will be made to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for consideration at a public hearing. The BCC will consider whether or not they wish to adopt a Resolution to transmit the amendments to the Florida Department of Community Affairs. This hearing will be held on **October 27, 2009, at 5:05 p.m.** at the Hendry County Courthouse, Commission Chambers, 25 E. Hickpochee Ave, LaBelle, Florida.

Application No.: CPA07-0001

Application name: Gardinier

Applicant: Mr. Stephane Gardinier

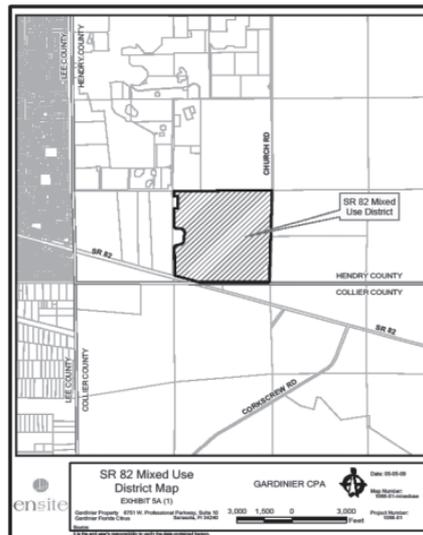
Agent: Pavese Law Firm and EnSite

Request: The applicant is requesting to change the County's Future Land Use map from Agriculture to a new Mixed Use District on 627 +/- acres located on SR 82, Felda, FL.

The Ordinance title is as follows:

ORDINANCE 2009-\_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING THE HENDRY COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, ORDINANCE 91-05, AS AMENDED, BY CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP MORE SPECIFICALLY BY CHANGING APPROXIMATELY 627 +/- ACRES OF LAND DESIGNATED AS AGRICULTURE TO A NEW MIXED USE DISTRICT TO BE KNOWN AS SR 82 MIXED USE DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; SEVERABILITY; CODIFICATION; INCLUSION IN CODE AND SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Application No.: CPA07-0005

Application name: Rodina

Applicant: The Viera Company (Duda and Sons)

Agent: Richard Woodruff, DPA, AICP, WilsonMiller, Inc.

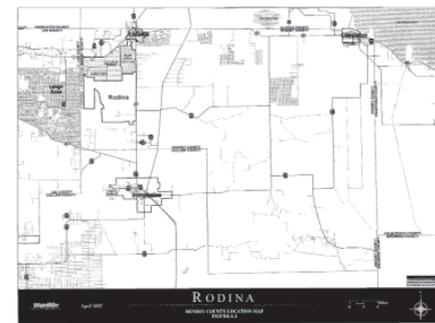
Request: The applicant is requesting to change the County's Future Land Use map from Agriculture to a new Mixed Use District on 25,826.2 +/- acres.

The Ordinance title is as follows:

ORDINANCE 2009-\_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING THE HENDRY COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, ORDINANCE 91-05, AS AMENDED, BY CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP MORE SPECIFICALLY BY CHANGING APPROXIMATELY 25,826.2 +/- ACRES OF LAND DESIGNATED AS AGRICULTURE TO A NEW MIXED USE DISTRICT TO BE KNOWN AS THE RODINA COMMUNITY OVERLAY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; SEVERABILITY;

ITY; CODIFICATION; INCLUSION IN CODE AND SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Application No.: CPA04-004

Application name: West Hendry Area Plan

Applicant: Hendry County Board of County Commissioners

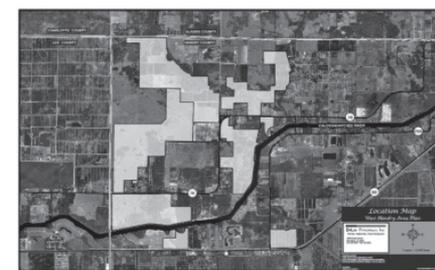
Agent: Dan Delisi, AICP, Delisi Fitzgerald, Inc.

Request: The applicant is requesting to change the County's Future Land Use map that will include 3000 acres +/- to a new mixed use district.

The Ordinance title is as follows:

ORDINANCE 2009-\_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING THE HENDRY COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, ORDINANCE 91-05, AS AMENDED, BY CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP MORE SPECIFICALLY BY CHANGING APPROXIMATELY 3000 +/- ACRES OF LAND IN VARIOUS LAND USE CATEGORIES TO NEW LAND USE DISTRICTS, WHICH WILL COMPRISE THE WEST HENDRY COMMUNITY OVERLAY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; SEVERABILITY; CODIFICATION; INCLUSION IN CODE AND SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



All interested parties are invited to appear and be heard. Oral and written comments will be accepted. Copies of the proposed amendment are available for inspection at the Hendry County Planning and Zoning Department, 165 S. Lee St., La Belle, FL between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and at the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners' office, 25 E. Hickpochee Ave., La Belle, FL between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Any questions pertaining to these documents should be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department, either by phone (863-675-5240), email (vcautero@hendryfla.net), U. S. mail (P. O. Box 2340, La Belle, FL 33975) or by fax (863- 675-5317).

**Orvell Howard, Chair**  
Hendry County Local Planning Agency  
**Janet B. Taylor, Chairwoman**  
Hendry County Board  
of County Commissioners



Caloosa Belle/Patty Brant

### Gung ho cowboy!

Cowboy spirit - that's what it's all about! LaBelle High School senior Anthony Ergle put on a roping show for the crowd at the Sept. 11 home game against Evangelical Christian School. The young cowboy plans to use his skills to whip up excitement for the home team this season. Catch him at Cowboy games.

# Cowboys lose heartbreaker

by **Patty Brant**  
Caloosa Belle

"We were in a dog fight. It was an exciting game," commented Cowboy Head Coach Hal Bennett after their heartbreaking 20-18 defeat at the hands of Lake Placid on Sept. 25. It was their first district game of the season.

"We should have won," he added, "The players know it. The coaches know it. We were in unfamiliar territory."

That territory was a close game. It's been two years since the Cowboys were in such a close battle, Coach Bennett said. "We played hard, like all year. We were scrappy till the bitter end. I'm proud of that. We always play like every play is the last."

Back up Quarterback Jordan Phillips turned in a good performance, rushing for 56 yards and throwing for 145 yards. He scored one rushing touchdown, and threw for one as well.

An 85-yard screen pass from Phillips to Dale Thompson made it 20-18, LaBelle tried for two extra points but came up short when their quarterback was sacked.

Dale Thompson and Dale Miller shared Defensive Player of the Week honors. Dale had 13 tackles and forced a fumble. David had 6 tackles and an interception for an 8-yard gain.

Offensive Player of the Week Dale Thompson brought in a 10 yard reception, 3 catches and a touchdown.

Special Teams Player of the Week junior punter Chris Garcia averaged 36 yards per punt.



Chris Garcia



David Miller

Coach Bennett said Practice Player of the Week junior Carlos Morales is always ready to jump in and help out.

Coach Bennett said the Cowboys lost the game in the third quarter with two costly turnovers, one inside the Cowboys' 20 yard line that ended in a Lake Placid score; the other inside the Cowboys' 15-yard line on a fumble. He said the Cowboy defense made it a battle but could not respond to the unanswered points.

This week the Cowboys will mend their wounds. Quarterback Taylor Jordan remains out from an injury in the Bishop Verot game, but is expected to be back soon on a limited basis. The Cowboys' offensive linemen have also suffered some minor shoulder injuries. By the end of the week they will be working hard getting ready to face Dunbar here in LaBelle Oct. 9. Game time 7:30 p.m.

Coach Bennett said they will be adding to their offense in preparation for that game. He added that he is satisfied with his team's defensive game.

"I'm proud of the way our kids play," he said, "They play hard." He continued, "The 0-4 season this year is nothing like the 0-4 last year" and added, "These boys give us everything on Friday night. They're a wonderful group of young men and the town should be proud of them."



Dale Thompson

## Sports Shorts

### Register for soccer

Register for LaBelle Youth Soccer Association Saturdays, Oct. 3, 10 and 17 from 10 a.m. till noon; Sundays, Oct. 4, 11 and 18 from 1-3 p.m. and Wednesdays, Oct. 7 and 14 from 6-8 p.m. Registration is open to kids ages 4-14 and the cost is \$30 per player. All registrations will be at the Winn Dixie on South Main Street.

High School @ 863-674-4120. Male/Female age groups: 10 and under, 11-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+ (male only).

Pick up your entry form at LHS and mail them to: LaBelle High School/CC5K, 4050 E.Cowboy Way, LaBelle FL 33935.

### Attention Alumni Ballers!

If you are a former Cowgirl or Cowboy basketball player, sign up for the 2009 LHS Alumni Basketball game, taking place Friday, Nov. 27, at 5:30 p.m. For a registration form, see the school website at <http://www.hendry-schools.org>. Click the Schools link, and go to LaBelle High School.

### Caloosa Chase coming up

Run in the Caloosa Chase Saturday, Oct. 31, at 8 a.m. at LaBelle High School. This is a fund-raiser for the LHS Cross Country teams. Entry fee before Oct. 27 is \$15 and \$12 for youth under 18 years of age. Race day registration is \$20 for everyone. Make checks payable to: LaBelle High School/CC5K

Enjoy the scenic course with awards to the top Overall male and female runner, age group awards three deep, great door prizes donated by local merchants and plenty of refreshments after the race.

T-shirts guaranteed to the first 60 entries, for more information call Jef Frost at LaBelle



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# Cross country running well

Tuesday (Sept. 22) results at Buckingham Park vs. Clewiston, Dunbar and Lehigh. Girls Varsity; LaBelle 21, Clewiston 51, Lehigh 91, Dunbar nts.

Ashley Golemme finished 2nd over-all and first for the Cowgirls with a time of 25:18. She was able to overcome a nasty fall that left her knee and hand bloody for most of the race. Her teammates were close behind and helped seal the team's victory. They were, Cory Taylor 25:44, Socorro Ruiz 25:46, Emily Hull 26:05, and Avery Godwin 26:25. Laura Reed 26:46, Jessica Madrid 27:05 and Czarina Rivas 27:12 also ran well for the Cowgirls.

The Boys varsity (38) finished a close second to Clewiston (32) and ahead of host Lehigh (58), despite missing its top two runners to injury and illness. Chris Timms lead the charge with a time of 19:18. He was followed by Carlos Santillan and Nik Loredo (20:08 and 20:09). A pack of Cowboys then came in to finish the scoring. They were Andy McAvoy (21:15), Jorge Guillen (21:22), Sergio Zalaya (21:28) and Logan Cecil (21:31).

On Saturday, Sept. 29, the Cowboys and Cowgirls competed in the 31st annual Ft. Myers Optimist Invitational. Again, both teams were shorthanded because of injury and illness. An invitational of this size is not very forgiving on shorthanded teams.

Despite this, LaBelle runners put forth their best efforts and did a good job representing themselves, their school and community.

Socorro Ruiz was the first Cowgirl to cross the finish line with a time of 25:40 and 77th over-all (out of some 200 runners). Cory Taylor/87 (26:32), Laura Reed/90 (26:35), Szarina Rivas/101 (27:11) and Emily Hull/108 (27:35) finished the scoring for the Cowgirls. They finished 15th out of 17 teams.

The Boys team finished 16th out of 24 teams. They were lead once again by Chris Timms, who finished 68th over-all and had a time of 20:01. Carlos Santillan/73 (20:11), Nik Loredo/75 (20:17), dual sport athlete (Football) David Miller/94 (20:47) was next and newcomer Ignacio Acosta/97 (20:52) completed the team score for LaBelle. Both teams were preparing for the Tuesday, Sept. 29, at LaBelle High School.



Submitted photo

Check out the LaBelle High School 2009 Cross Country Team.

## No school for Montura in foreseeable future

By Jose Jesus Zaragoza  
Clewiston News

There are 670 kids in the outlying areas of Montura. To some of the parents of these children, having to watch the kids get up much earlier than their counterparts in other areas to catch the bus to school is unacceptable. The solution is to build a school in the outlying areas to accommodate kids in Pioneer, Montura, and students who live near the reservation. But that solution isn't easy.

On the other side of the equation, Superintendent Rick Murphy said the construction of a new school, while solving some issues, would raise quite a few new ones that the district simply isn't in a position to bear.

"The feasibility of a school in Montura has been very debatable for years," said Superintendent Murphy in a telephone interview earlier this week. "There definitely is a need there, if we could really accommodate it financially. That's a big key."

When he sat as a member on the school board, the district entertained the notion of building an elementary school somewhere in the county. According to him, "everything was booming," but board members ended up pulling it at the last minute.

The difference today would have meant an estimated annual \$2 million payment on a loan, the superintendent said. The district cannot afford \$2 million on a facility that may cost upwards of \$22 million, he said.

"It would force me to cut about 40 teachers, basically," said Mr. Murphy, who added that the figure does not begin to take into account what it would cost to staff the school, and its utility costs.

He explained that the last of the district's major construction projects were Clewis-

ton and LaBelle middle schools. The district lobbied hard for monies allocated by the legislature during Governor Lawton Chiles' administration. Hendry County was one of only three districts awarded funding from the special fund that year.

There are other concerns.

"You're going to have empty classes in elementary, middle and high schools. If things get downsized, if we lose enrollment which we're concerned about, that's not going to be utilizing our classrooms, the base costs that are already there. It will be dead space."

This year has seen enrollment figures fluctuate and the district actually saw a small increase this year, but not enough to form a strong assessment of the future, he said. With the district seeking asking for 15 percent more for medical costs for employees,

the last thing on the district's mind is expansion.

If anything, simply keeping present operations afloat is at the top of Mr. Murphy's list as superintendent.

"Under the new state requirement, we need to have a three percent fund balance," he said. "We are barely, just now, at three percent. What it boils down to is meeting payroll ... to try to survive the best we can."

He sees the eventual four-lane between Clewiston and LaBelle as a catalyst for more commercial activity, increased economic development and perhaps even an influx of residents to the county.

"Jobs are what run everything. They pay for services, infrastructure. We don't want to raise taxes."

News Editor Jose Zaragoza can be reached at [jzaragoza@newszap.com](mailto:jzaragoza@newszap.com).

### BIRTHDAY

#### BRANDON MINERS

HAPPY 15TH BIRTHDAY! MY HOW TIME FLIES!!

~LOVE MOM AND DAD



### BIRTHS

#### LEVI AUSTIN GARRETT LANDRUM

Levi Austin Garrett Landrum was born at 2:06 p.m., August 5, 2009, in Fort Myers. He weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces. He is the son of Samantha Hawkins and Josh Landrum of Labelle.

His maternal grandparents are Suzanne Roberts of Labelle and Shawn Hawkins of Marco Island. His paternal grandparents are Tammy and Fred Landrum of Labelle. His great grandparents are J.R. Roberts of Labelle, Christel and Dewitt White of Labelle, Bobbie and Boyd Gause of Labelle, and John and Diane Hawkins of Fort Myers.



### ENGAGEMENT

#### STACIE DAWN WHIDDEN & JORDAN THOMAS MURRAY

Bret and Dena Whidden of Moore Haven would like to announce the engagement and up coming wedding of their daughter, Stacie Dawn Whidden to Jordan Thomas Murray. The Bride is a 2007 graduate of Moore Haven High School and is currently attending Edison State College. The Groom is the son of Don and Michelle Murray of LaBelle. He is a 2007 graduate of LaBelle High School and has been employed by LaBelle Fertilizer since 2005.



# Register now for workshop

A Reading for All: Autism, Literacy and Learning workshop will be offered for parents from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 10, Whitaker Hall, room 103, at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers. The program is presented by the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at University of South Florida in collaboration with the USF Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

USF faculty member Sylvia Diehl and reading coach, Peggy Bininoemi, from Lee Schools, will present evidence-based practices that have been shown to be effective with individuals with autism spectrum disorders. The workshop targets literacy development for children 5 to 12 years old. Parents will have the opportunity to create materials to take home to put into practice.

Seating is limited for the workshop which is offered at no cost to participants. Please register by calling 590-7771 in Fort Myers or e-mail cphilbro@fgcu.edu. The program is funded in part by CARD's Autism Services Fund.

# Castorena promoted at Seacoast

Mark Smith, president & CEO of Seacoast National Bank's Big Lake Region, announces the appointment of Jesus David Castorena as assistant branch manager for Hendry County, LaBelle office.



**Jesus David Castorena**

In his new position, Jesus is responsible for sales and service functions of daily branch operations. He will serve as a mentor and leader for teller and customer service representatives ensuring customer needs are met. Jesus will also process and service consumer loans for the branch and represent Seacoast at community charitable and civic events.

Jesus has been employed with Seacoast National Bank for three years as a customer service representative. He is a graduate of LaBelle High School and recently received his associates in business administration & management from Edison State College. Jesus is bilingual in English and Spanish.

The operating arm of Seacoast Banking Corporation of Florida (NASDAQ: SBCF) Seacoast National Bank has 42 branches in Florida and approximately \$2.3 billion in assets, and is one of the largest independent banks headquartered in Florida.

## Church Briefs

### Pray at the Park

All pastors and churches are invited to the Pray at the Park event Saturday, Oct. 10, at 10 a.m. in Barron Park for this community and nation. For more information please call Pastor Les Grant LaBelle Revival Center at 863-234-8220.

### Special events at planned

Community Harvest Worship Center, 55 Orange St., will present a revival Sunday, Oct. 18-21 with Rev. Phil Redding. For information call 675-0938.

On Oct 25, enjoy the Mercy Mountain Boys as they minister in song at 6 p.m. Call 675-0938 for information.

### Gospel concert planned

LaBelle Seventh Day Adventist church is presenting a gospel concert Saturday, Oct. 3, at 6 p.m. in the LaBelle High School Auditorium. Adults \$20, children \$10. Proceeds will go to the church's building fund.

For more information call Joan at 863-673-4582.

### Ready for Bingo?

Bingo is played Fridays from September through May at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church on Bridge Street, LaBelle at 7 p.m. Early Bird starts at 6:45 p.m. Come join the fun and visit with your friends.

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- Corporate owned! Lehigh Acres, 3/2 w/ceramic tile, finished basement, 2 car garage and lots more. **\$68,000.**
- Corporate owned! 3/2 on each side duplex. Ceramic tile and in good condition. Close to schools and shopping. **\$54,900**
- Corporate owned! 3/2 located in central Lehigh Acres with a huge detached garage/office and fenced yard. **\$59,000.**
- Corporate owned! 3/2 2005 CBS home in Lehigh Acres. Needs a little TLC. **\$54,900**
- Corporate owned! 3/2 centrally located in Lehigh Acres. Close to schools and shopping. Needs a little TLC. **\$53,900.**
- Corporate owned! 3/2 CBS home on canal. Open floor plan with ceramic tile thru out. **\$48,000.**
- Corporate owned! 3/2 in Lehigh Acres close to schools. **\$44,900.**
- Corporate owned! 3/2 in LaBelle Country Village. Needs minor cosmetic repairs. **\$34,900.**
- Corporate owned! 3/2 on .49+/- in Lehigh Acres near SR 80. Ceramic tile, spacious rooms and great floor plan. **\$32,000**
- Great investment potential! 1BR/1B home on a corner lot. Homes needs some work... but is priced to sell. **\$17,000.**
- Corporate owned! 2/1 condo in central Ft. Myers. **\$11,500.**

### HOMES

- Riverfront - Immaculate 3/2 waterfront estate on 1.14+/- acres outside of LaBelle. Home is 2,425 sq. ft. of living area with over-spacious kitchen, pantry, screened pool and a 1,944 sq. ft. workshop with office, bath and a generator compressor room. **\$795,000.**
- Corporate Owned! 2/2 on 5+/- acres in Ortona. If you are looking for a little privacy, you found it here. **\$72,700.**
- Immaculate 3/2 waterfront estate on 1.14+/- acres outside of LaBelle. Home is 2,425 sq. ft. of living area with over-spacious kitchen, pantry, screened pool and a 1,944 sq. ft. workshop with office, bath and a generator compressor room. **\$795,000.**
- Corporate Owned! 2/2 on 5+/- acres in Ortona. If you are looking for a little privacy, you found it here. **\$72,700.**
- 3/2 on oversized corner lot in Port LaBelle. Completely redone form top to bottom. Have to see! **\$90,000.**
- Nice 3/1 CBS in Port LaBelle. Seller says make offer! **\$80,000.**
- Corporate Owned! 3/2 2006 CBS home outside LaBelle in good condition and a few minutes to shopping. **\$72,900**
- Corporate Owned! 2/2 on 5+/- acres in Ortona. If you are looking for a little privacy, you found it here. **\$72,700.**
- 3/2 on oversized corner lot in Port LaBelle. **\$69,900.**
- Corporate owned! LaBelle 3/2 CBS w/2 car garage, split floor plan and lots more. **\$69,900.**

- Relax the rural way! Situated on 1.25 acs in growing Montura, beautiful new 2006 3/2 manufactured home. SELLER FINANCING AVAILABLE! **\$129,900**
- Two for the price of one on 1 ac. 3/2 well maintained manufactured home + a 2/2 manufactured home. **\$100,000**
- 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. **\$97,000.**
- Immaculate 3/2 located in City of LaBelle on oversized lot, features woodlike flooring and carpet, master bath has tiled shower, overspacious kitchen and much much more. Priced to sell at **\$69,900.**
- Let's make a deal! 3/2 home features built in cabinets, large master bath, spacious kitchen, and plenty of elbow room. Outside you will find a fenced yard and storage shed. **\$69,000**
- 4/2 manufactured home located in Immokalee near schools and shopping. **\$55,000.**
- Affordable starter. 3/1.5 on corner lot in Moore Haven. **\$50,000.**
- 3/2 manufactured in city limits. Close to schools, shopping & easy access to SR80. **\$49,900.**
- Corporate owned! Located in Ortona. 3/2 on .22+/- of an acre. A little TLC will bring this one a long way. **\$28,970.**
- Corporate owned! 3/2 south of LaBelle. Needs a little TLC. **\$25,900.**

### MOBILE HOMES

- Need more "living" room? 2,152 sq ft of luxurious living. This 4BR/2B home on 10+/- acs has it all, spacious family room, master suite w/ office, covered porch, and fencing for horses. This one is a steal @ only **\$250,000**
- Size will surprise you! 2BR/2B home on 10+/- acres is very well kept. 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. **\$199,900.**
- Country living at its best! 3/2 on 2.30+/- acres outside city of LaBelle. Over spacious kitchen & master bath. New carpet through out home. **\$149,900.**

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- MANUFACTURED HOMES**
- \$79,900** - 3/2 on 2 ac. in Muse.
- \$89,000** - 3/2 in Moore Haven Yacht Club 1200 Sq Ft.
- \$117,000** - 4/2 Newer MH on 1/2 Ac, Seller Motivated.
- REDUCED! \$119,000** - 3/2 on 2 1/2 Ac Recent Updates 1436 Sq Ft.
- \$150,000** - 3/2 on 6 Ac, Marshall Field Rd. Seller Financing.
- \$375,000** - 3/2 on 30 Ac in Muse, Oaks, Creek, & Great Pasture.
- HOMES**
- \$69,000** - 2/2 Great Starter in Port LaBelle.
- \$69,000** - 3/2 in town, corner lot.
- \$72,000** - 3/1 CBS in town.
- \$74,000** - 2/2 in Port LaBelle, large porch.
- \$79,900** - Newer 3/2, built in 2005, Short Sale
- \$79,900** - Newer 3/2, built in 2005, Short Sale.
- \$110,000 UNDER CONTRACT** - Pool in Belmont.
- \$129,000** - 3/2 Modular, Make Offer.
- \$157,500** - 3/2 in Laurel Oaks, needs TLC, Seller Financing.
- \$169,000** - 3/2 +Den on small lake, Seller relocating.
- REDUCED \$189,900** - 3/2 on 2.8 Ac in Pt LaBelle Ranchettes, adjoins greenbelt.
- \$196,900** 4/2 in Muse Country Cabin on 2+ Ac.
- \$225,000** - 3/2 in Gated Riverbend Estates, Seller says Make Offer.
- \$299,000** - Country home on 5 Ac. many updates, newer roof, over 2,000 sq. ft. & 2 car garage.
- \$459,000** - 3/2 Upgrades adorn CBS Country Pool Home w/outbuildings, riding arena, 13 Ac.
- COMMERCIAL/ INDUSTRIAL**
- \$119,000** - 1/2 Acre Commercial Lot on Davis St.
- \$200,000** - 2 Steel Bldg on heavy Industrial.
- \$249,000** - 4640 sq. ft. hangar w/ access. I-2.
- \$269,000** - State Road 80 Corner 1/2 Ac, B-1 w/billboard income.
- \$395,000** - 4800 Sq. Ft. Steel Bldg. on fenced 1 Ac Industrial, Short Sale. Approved
- \$399,000** - 4.5Ac, 2400 Steel Bldg Industrial, Possible Lease Option.
- REDUCED \$450,000** - Short Sale! 2 Steel Bldgs, over 8000 Sq. Ft. Zoned PUD on 2+ Ac.
- \$559,000** - 3 Ac +/- with Bldg on Sr 29, C-2 zoning.
- \$675,000** - 5 Ac +/- Industrial. Will split, Cleared & Filled, Seller Financing.
- WATERFRONT**
- \$55,000** - 2/2 MH in River Oaks/Ortona, now waterfront!
- \$192,500** - Old Ft. Denaud 1 Ac.
- \$199,000** - Hidden Hammock 1 Ac w/dock.
- \$249,000** - 4/3 Two Story on 2 1/2 Ac. Greenbelt along the River. **SOLD!!!**
- \$395,000** - High Elevation with long views, 5 Ac.
- \$499,000** - Eagle Point 1Ac Deep Water & Protected Harbor w/ Lg Dock.
- \$419,000** - 3/2 Super CBS River Home w/pool on Oxbow w/dock on double lot.
- \$425,000** - 3/4 in Ft. Denaud on 2.6+/- ac with 228 ft. riverfront.
- \$875,000** - Spectacular 7 Ac Pasture w/Oaks, 500 Ft on the River, Below Appraisal.
- \$1,550,000** - 5/8 Estate Home on 10 Ft on the River, Double Dock, Really Private. **SOLD!!!**
- LOTS & LAND**
- \$5,900** - Port Labelle Lots, Seller financing
- \$5,900** - Moore Haven Yacht Club lots
- \$22,000** - 1.25 Ac in Montura Ranches
- \$49,000** - 2.2 Ac Rural Residential Fenced
- \$83,000** - 6.5 Ac Very Private, F RD
- \$100,000** - 2.5 Ac Hwy 27, Clewiston
- \$119,000** - 4.2 Ac, Muse
- \$125,000** - Ft Denaud Acres, 8 ac. private location
- \$177,000** - 17 Ac in Felda area
- \$220,000** - 3.8 AC Oak Haven



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Contact: FFWCC FECWMA 863-946-1194. **Deadline 10/19/09**

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Send resume or brief paragraph of experience to  
**Fax 863-902-2886**  
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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!

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Prefer previous computer experience in SAP, Kronos, Open 4, Excel, and other Microsoft Office programs. Must have good written and verbal communication, organization and time management skills along with being detail oriented. Reliability and work accuracy is a "must" to complete payroll tasks within specific time constraints and void of errors. Exceptional attendance and work schedule flexibility is required. Prefer some payroll and HR experience. Prefer bilingual Ability to maintain confidentiality is required High School diploma/GED with some college preferred.

**Responsibilities:**  
Will be entering and processing payroll data into Kronos and SAP for Groves and Processing employees. Will work closely with the Payroll Department at USSC to ensure payroll deadlines are met and payroll disbursed on time with complete accuracy. Will have involvement in all HR related company functions, activities, orientation, and communication meetings. Other miscellaneous job duties and responsibilities associated with this position are also required.

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Southern Gardens is the world's largest supplier of 100 percent pure Florida not-from-concentrate (NFC) orange juice to the private label industry and major brands. The Company offers highly efficient, fully integrated operation featuring home-grown oranges and state of the art processing and packaging.

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**PAYROLL ANALYST**

Prefer previous computer experience in SAP, Kronos, Open 4, Excel, and other Microsoft Office programs. Must have good written and verbal communication, organization and time management skills along with being detail oriented. Reliability and work accuracy is a "must" to complete payroll tasks within specific time constraints and void of errors. Exceptional attendance and work schedule flexibility is required. Prefer some payroll and HR experience. Prefer bilingual Ability to maintain confidentiality is required High School diploma/GED with some college preferred.

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Fax 863-902-4315  
e-mail: [dmelton@southerngardens.com](mailto:dmelton@southerngardens.com)

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**LABELLE** - 3br, 2ba, completely renovated, new cabinets, porcelain tile floors, & carpet, very large room throughout, \$835/mo. (863)675-0104

**LaBelle, 971 W. Cowboy Way.** 6BR, 3BA, 2500 sq. ft. on 1 Acre. A/C. C2 Zoning. Great for business too! \$800 mo. 239-588-0162

**Large 3BR/2BA** home for rent in good neighborhood. (863)673-9133

**LARGE 4 bd, 2 bath** home in LaBelle city limits. \$900/mo + 1 mo sec. 863-673-0066

**LEHIGH ACRES** - 3br, 2ba, 2 car garage, \$74,900 or best offer Call (239)860-8582

**PORT LABELLE** - New section, brand new 3br, 2ba, 2 car garage home, near schools, 3069 NE Beechwood Circle, \$850/mo + dep. (863)674-0281

**Port Labelle** - 3br/2ba, wood floor, granite countertops, \$725 mo. (239)825-5186

**Port LaBelle** 3BR, 1BA, Fam Rm. C/A, Tile, New paint. \$700 mo + sec. & ref (863)202-0753

**PORT LABELLE** 3br 2ba No Pets, Non-smok env. \$725/mo. Margaret Barber Real Estate. (863)675-5968

**Apartment**

**Office Space Rent**

**Office Bldg, Shop and Parking (Out of City Limits)** Phone: 863-675-2648

**PRICE REDUCED! 1 Unit Avail. @ \$400 mo. ea. 1st & sec. dep. 1 mi N of bridge on Hwy 29, LaBelle. 863-675-7555**

**Real Estate**  
For more listings, go to [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

**Houses - Sale**

**IMMOKALEE - house for sale, - 4BR/2BA, \$109,900 or best offer. Call 239-986-9395**

**PALM HARBOR** Foreclosures, Dealer Repo's and short sales. Never lived in! 4/2 Financing Avail, up to \$94k off. 800-622-2832 ext 210 Mr. Lyons

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

**Land - Sale**

**Buy Now/Build Later** Port LaBelle, 10,000 FT. VACANT LOT on paved road w/utilities. Owner Financing. Price to sell! Call Owner 863-673-5071

**RANCHETTE 1.25 acre** Montura - Ideal for RV, Mobile or Primary Home. Owner Financing \$2,000 Down. 863-675-1107 Se Habla Espanol

Your next job could be in today's classifieds. Did you look for it?

**Lots - Sale**

**TWO - 1/2 ACRES LOTS** \$7,500 each or best offer. Okay for mobile home. South of LaBelle on E Rd. (239)560-4117

**Mobile Homes**  
For more listings, go to [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

**Mobile Home Rent**

**LABELLE** - 3BR, 1BA, A/C, Oak trees, \$150/wk, \$200 dep. Call (863)673-5704

**LABELLE** - 4BR, 2BA, A/C, Oak trees, \$175/wk, \$200 dep. Call (863)673-5704

**LABELLE SPECIAL!** 3 mi S of river. Dbl. wide. 3br/2ba.1.5 acres. \$875 mo. + \$875 dep. (305)872-4042 or (239)368-9438

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

**MH** - 3BR/2BA, 25' screened lanai, 28' screened in ground pool, incl. pool maint., \$725 mo. (863)675-0104

**MOBILE HOMES, 2BR.** Good condition, A/C. \$500-\$600 mo. (863)675-2474

**Mobile Home Sale**

**LABELLE** - 3br, 2ba, like new on large improved lot. Owner financing with 10% down, (863)675-8010 or (863)675-4300

**Recreation**  
For more listings, go to [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

**Boats**

**Cobia 16'** fiberglass boat w/trailer, canopy & depth finder \$2700 863-612-1119

**Sports Vehicles/ATVs**

**YAMAHA RHINO '09** - 450 4x4, Red, New Zero miles, \$7500 (863)946-1856

**Automotive**  
For more listings, go to [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

**Automobiles**

**Chevy van '89, V6,** long body 3/4T. mech very good cond. some rust. \$1400 863-675-3726

**Public Notices**  
For more listings, go to [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

**Public Notice**

**NOTICE OF MEETING LOCATION CHANGE**  
**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, WILL BE HELD AT 5:00 P.M., OCTOBER 13, 2009, AT THE PIONEER COMMUNITY CENTER, 910 PANAMA AVENUE, CLEWISTON, FLORIDA.**  
If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Hendry County Commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or 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.  
Board of County Commissioners of Hendry County, Florida  
Janet Taylor, Chair  
334645 CB/CN 10/1/09

**Public Notice**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING HENDRY COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL**  
Notice is hereby given that the Hendry County Public Safety Coordinating Council will hold a meeting on Friday, October 9, 2009, at 10:00 A.M., at the Hendry County Staff Conference Room, 1st Floor, 165 S. Lee Street, Room A-118, LaBelle, Florida. The meeting is open to the public. The meeting site is accessible by the disabled.  
If a person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this 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  
334734 CB/CN 10/1/09

**Public Notice**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS, INSURANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT**  
**RFP NUMBER: 2009-41**  
**OPENING DATE AND TIME: January 15, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.**  
Hendry County is seeking firms interested in providing property & casualty insurance for the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners. Firms properly registered in the State of Florida are encouraged to submit their proposal for consideration. All submittals (see Section IV, Submission Requirements) received in response to this RFP will be reviewed by a County Evaluation Committee. In order to be considered, submittals must be received by the Board of County Commissioners at the C.E. Hall Building (Clerk's Office) in the Hendry County Courthouse Complex, 25 E. Hickpochee Avenue, LaBelle, Florida by January 15, 2010 at 2:00 p.m., at which time all responses to this request will be recorded in the presence of one or more witnesses. Any proposals received after the above noted time and date will not be opened or considered.  
A copy of the Instructions and RFP Documents can be obtained from the Hendry County Purchasing Department, located at 165 S. Lee St., LaBelle, Florida (for pick up), Post Office Box 2340, LaBelle, Florida 33975 (mailing address), or by calling (863) 675-5220 or (863) 983-1585.  
This solicitation does not commit Hendry County to award any contracts, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this RFP, 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 RFP, 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.  
Janet B. Taylor, Chairwoman  
Board of County Commissioners  
334005 CB/CN 9/24/10/1,8,15/09

**Newspapers: Carrying the Torch of Freedom**

**National Newspaper**  
Week Oct. 4-10, 2009

**Public Notices**  
For more listings, go to [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com)

**Public Notice**

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Board of County Commissioners of Hendry County, Florida  
Janet Taylor, Chair  
334645 CB/CN 10/1/09

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If a person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this 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  
334734 CB/CN 10/1/09

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A copy of the Instructions and RFP Documents can be obtained from the Hendry County Purchasing Department, located at 165 S. Lee St., LaBelle, Florida (for pick up), Post Office Box 2340, LaBelle, Florida 33975 (mailing address), or by calling (863) 675-5220 or (863) 983-1585.  
This solicitation does not commit Hendry County to award any contracts, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this RFP, 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 RFP, 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.  
Janet B. Taylor, Chairwoman  
Board of County Commissioners  
334005 CB/CN 9/24/10/1,8,15/09

**Public Notice**

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES IN HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**RFQ. No. 2009-39**  
**OPENING DATE: October 15, 2009, at 2:00 p.m.**  
Hendry County is seeking engineering firms interested in providing professional services in connection with the Airport Development and Other Professional Engineering Services which may include but not be limited to reviewing, planning, design, and construction phase services for development of the LaBelle Airport, Airglades Airport, and other aviation and non-aviation projects as related to the airports within the County as may be needed. Individuals and firms properly registered in the State of Florida are encouraged to submit their qualifications for consideration. All submittals (see Section IV, Submissions Requirements) received in response to this RFQ will be reviewed by a County Evaluation Committee. In order to be considered, submittals must be received by the Board of County Commissioners at the C. E. Hall Building (Clerk's Office) in the Hendry County Courthouse Complex, 25 E. Hickpochee Avenue, LaBelle Florida by 2:00 p.m. October 15, 2009 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 RFQ Documents can be obtained from the Hendry County Purchasing Office, located at 165 S Lee Street, LaBelle, FL (for pick up), Post Office Box 2340, LaBelle, FL 33975 (mailing address) or by calling (863) 675-5220. Instructions and RFQ documents will be emailed upon request; however, Hendry County will not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of documents sent via email.  
The solicitation does not commit Hendry County to award any contracts, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this RFQ, 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 RFQ, if it is in the best interest of the County to do so.  
Hendry County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and actively seeks Minority and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise participation.  
Board of County Commissioners  
Janet B. Taylor, Chairwoman  
333405 CB/CN 9/17,24/10/1,8/09

**Public Notice**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE HENDRY COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE**  
Notice is hereby given that the Local Planning Agency (LPA) of Hendry County will hold a public hearing on **October 14, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.**, at the Hendry County Courthouse, Commission Chambers, 25 E. Hickpochee Ave, La Belle, Florida, to discuss proposed changes to the Hendry County Land Development Code. The LPA will determine if the changes are consistent with the Hendry County Comprehensive Plan and will review the changes for consistency with the Hendry County Land Development Code.  
The recommendations of the LPA will be made to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for final consideration at a public hearing. This hearing will be held on **October 27, 2009 at 5:05 p.m.**, at the Hendry County Courthouse, Commission Chambers, 25 E. Hickpochee Ave, La Belle, Florida.  
Copies of the files and information regarding the petition are available for public inspection at the Hendry County Planning and Zoning Department, 165 South Lee Street, LaBelle, Florida, and may be viewed Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
All persons wishing to be heard on this issue may appear at said meeting. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based  
**Applicant:** Hendry County Board of County Commissioners

**Public Notice**

**Ordinance Title: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE HENDRY COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, MORE SPECIFICALLY, SECTION 1-50-10.1, NOTICE BY MAIL; SECTION 1-51-2.3, REASSIGNMENT OF DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, SECTION 1-51-5, PROCEDURE FOR VARIANCES; SECTION 1-51-6, PROCEDURES FOR SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS; SECTION 1-51-6.2, REVIEW OF APPLICATION; SECTION 1-51-6.4, TERMINATION AND/OR EXPIRATION OF SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS; SECTION 1-53-2.1, ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICTS; TABLE 53-1, TABLE OF USE REGULATIONS; SECTION 1-53-2.2, LAND USE CLASSIFICATIONS; TABLE 53-2, TABLE OF DIMENSIONAL AND DENSITY REGULATIONS; SECTION 1-53-5.2, PUD DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION PROCEDURES; SECTION 1-53-5.3, PUD APPROVAL PROCEDURES; SECTION 1-53-5.4, GENERAL STANDARDS FOR PUD DEVELOPMENTS; SECTION 1-53-5.4(B) TERMINATION AND/OR EXPIRATION OF PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENTS; SECTION 1-53-6.4 CHURCHES; ARTICLE III BUFFERING REQUIREMENTS; SECTION 1-54-48, GENERAL PROVISIONS; SECTION 1-58-56, APPLICABILITY; SECTION 1-58-58, SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS; SECTION 1-58-59, SITE IMPROVEMENT PLAN REVIEW; SECTION 1-58-60, APPROVED SITE DEVELOPMENT PLANS; SECTION 1-58-122, PERMITS REQUIRED FOR CONSTRUCTION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, INCLUSION IN CODE, AND SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**  
Orvell Howard, Chair  
Hendry County Local Planning Agency  
334521 CB/CN 10/1/09  
Janet B. Taylor, Chairwoman  
Hendry County Board of County Commissioners

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## Public Notice

## REQUEST FOR BIDS

## SUPPLY VARIOUS LOCAL ROAD MATERIALS TO HENDRY COUNTY

BID NUMBER: 2009-34

OPENING DATE AND TIME: October 7, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Sealed Bids will be received by the Board of County Commissioners of Hendry County, Florida, "Supply Various Local Road Materials to Hendry County". In order to be considered, bids must be received by the Board of County Commissioners at the C.E. Hall Building (Clerk's Office) in the Hendry County Courthouse Complex, 25 E. Hickpochee Avenue, LaBelle, FL, by October 7, 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.

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.

Janet B. Taylor, Chairwoman  
Board of County Commissioners  
334006 CB/CN 9/24/10/1/09

## Public Notice

## Public Notice

## PORT LABELLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

All meetings are held at the office of the District located at 3293 Dellwood Terrace, Port LaBelle, FL. For information call 863-675-5770.

Regular Meeting Schedule  
October 1, 2009 - September 30, 2010

The November meeting will be held on  
November 19th, 2009 at 6:00 P.M.

Meetings to be held the 4th Thursday of each month  
for the following months:  
January 28th, 2010 at 6:00 P.M.  
March 25th, 2010 at 6:00 P.M.  
May 27th, 2010 at 6:00 P.M.  
July 22nd, 2010 at 6:00 P.M.

The Budget process requires three advertised meetings which would be held in June and September for a total of eight meetings per year.

Scott Wegscheid  
Chairman

334524 CB/CN 10/1/09

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Did you look for it?

The classifieds are the  
most successful sales-  
person in town.

## Public Notice

## Public Notice

## Public Notice

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Notice is hereby given that the Local Planning Agency of Hendry County (LPA) will hold a public hearing on the following petition on **October 14, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.**, at the Hendry County Courthouse, Commission Chambers, 25 E. Hickpochee Ave, LaBelle, Florida. The LPA will determine if the application is consistent with the Hendry County Comprehensive Plan and will review the applications for consistency with the Hendry County Land Development Code.

The recommendations of the Local Planning Agency will be made to the Board of County Commissioners for final consideration at a public hearing. This hearing will be held on **October 27, 2009, at 5:05 p.m.** at the Hendry County Courthouse, Commission Chambers, 25 E. Hickpochee Ave, LaBelle, Florida.

Copies of the files and information regarding the petition are available for public inspection at the Hendry County Planning and Zoning Department, 165 South Lee Street, LaBelle, Florida, and may be viewed Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or 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.

Petition Number: RZ09-0001

Applicant: Mr. Felix Grana, represented by H.L. Bennett, PE., P.L.S.

Ordinance Title: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, GRANTING A ZONING DISTRICT BOUNDARY CHANGE FROM RESIDENTIAL/RURAL DEVELOPMENT (RR) AND CONVENIENCE COMMERCIAL (C-1) TO THE PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) ZONING DISTRICT TO ALLOW AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCIAL USES ON 5.0 ACRES +/-; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT, SEVERABILITY, SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

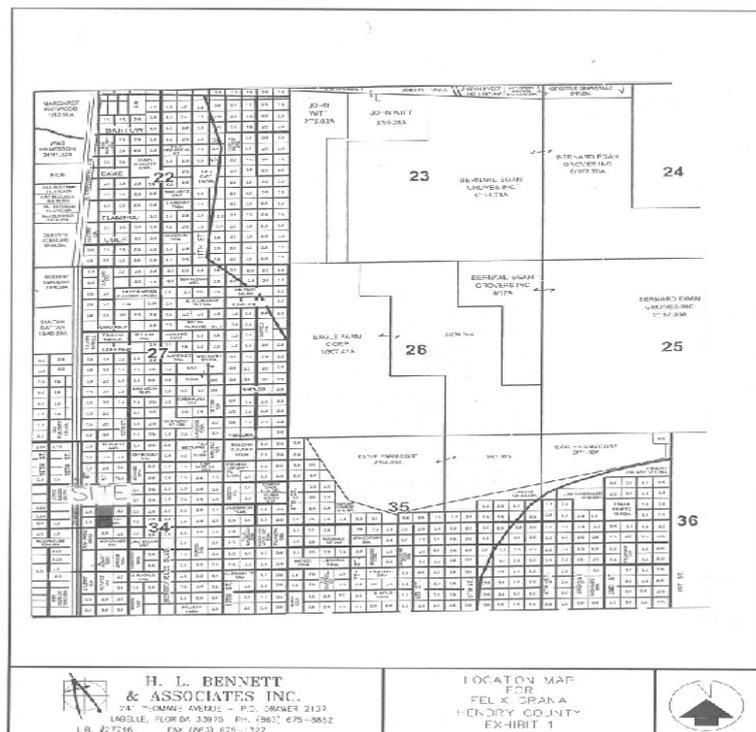
Location: 1255 Tampa Ave, Pioneer Plantation, Clewiston, FL

Property size: 5 acres +/-

Request: The applicant is requesting a rezone to allow agriculture and commercial uses, specifically a commercial hog farm and miscellaneous animal production including exotic birds and poultry.

## Legal description of subject property:

DESCRIPTION:  
THE WEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4, SECTION 34, TOWNSHIP 43 SOUTH, RANGE 31 EAST, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA. ALSO KNOWN AS LOTS 12 AND 13, PIONEER PLANTATION AN UNRECORDED SUBDIVISION.



H. L. BENNETT  
& ASSOCIATES, INC.  
24 "D" DUNN AVENUE - P.O. BOX 2137  
LA BELLE, FLORIDA 33975 PH: (863) 675-3852  
FAX: (863) 675-1327

LOCATION MAP  
FOR  
FELIX GRANA  
HENDRY COUNTY  
EX-HRIT 1

Orvell Howard, Chair  
Hendry County Local Planning Agency

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

## This year at the Firehouse

I'll Be Back Before Midnight  
Comedy/Thriller

by Peter Colley

Following her nervous breakdown, Jan and her husband Greg, vacation in the country to complete her recovery. Very soon unexplained things begin to happen!

Oct. 23, 24, 25, 30, 31 & Nov. 1. Show Times 7 p.m., Fri/Sat; 2 p.m. Sun. \$12 w/reservation; \$14 at door. The Firehouse Cultural Center, 241 N. Bridge St., LaBelle, 863-675-3066.

## A Christmas Carol

The Classic Christmas play filled with wonderful children and characters!

Dec. 11, 12, 13, 18, 19 & 20. Show Times 7 p.m., Fri/Sat; 2 p.m. Sun. \$12 w/reservation; \$14 at door. The Firehouse Cultural Center, 241 N. Bridge St., LaBelle, 863-675-3066.

## Break A Leg

by Bob Cramer

Come see what happens when a "seasoned" Hollywood star gets stranded in a small town. Bob Cramer is a local playwright

from Lake Wales.

Jan. 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31, Show Times 7 p.m., Fri/Sat; 2 p.m. Sun. \$12 w/reservation; \$14 at door. The Firehouse Cultural Center, 241 N. Bridge St., LaBelle, 863-675-3066.

## Charley's Aunt

by Brandon Thomas

See two young Oxford men, intent on entertaining their sweethearts, pass their friend, Lord Fancourt Babberly, off as their chaperon, Charley's Aunt!

Feb. 26, 27, 28, Mar. 5, 6, 7. Show Times 7 p.m., Fri/Sat; 2 p.m. Sun. \$12 w/reservation; \$14 at door. The Firehouse Cultural Center, 241 N. Bridge St., LaBelle, 863-675-3066.

## Star Spangled Girl

by Neil Simon

When two roommates meet the all American girl next door, mayhem follows the threesome throughout the play! Apr. 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11. Show Times 7 p.m., Fri/Sat; 2 p.m. Sun. \$12 w/reservation; \$14 at door. The Firehouse Cultural Center, 241 N. Bridge St., LaBelle. 863-675-3066.

## What does the law say about alcohol, tobacco and minors?

The Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (ABT) is responsible for ensuring compliance by alcohol and tobacco manufacturers, distributors, and retailers. There are three Bureaus in which the public may come in contact with the Division:

1. Licensing – The Bureau of Licensing issues all alcoholic beverage licenses, cigarette licenses, and tobacco permits in the state of Florida.

2. Auditing – The Bureau of Auditing audits and collects all taxes required to be paid on alcohol, cigarettes, and other tobacco products in the state of Florida. This includes audit and collection of surcharge for alcohol served for consumption on premises.

3. Enforcement – The Bureau of Enforcement conducts criminal investigations pursuant to beverage and cigarette laws. This includes investigations concerning sales to underage persons, fraudulent identification, gambling, and narcotics.

(1) It is unlawful to sell, deliver, barter, furnish, or give, directly or indirectly, to any person who is under 18 years of age, any tobacco product.

(2) Any person who violates subsection (1) commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. However, any person who violates subsection (1) for a second or subsequent time within 1 year of the first violation commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Criminal Side:

Committing a misdemeanor is punishable by taking the person to jail. Normally the Division of Alcoholic Beverages and

Tobacco (ABT) does not take the person to jail, but rather issues the person a notice to appear. This gives them a court date which they have to follow up with. A misdemeanor usually entails a little jail time and a fine, but most of the time those caught selling plead out and get a reduced sentence.

Business Side:

When a store is caught selling to an underage kid, they receive a warning called an official notice. The Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (ABT) have to get three consecutive, positive buys from the same store in order to file an administrative case against the beverage license. The penalty guidelines for an administrative case for a business are a \$500.00 fine and 5 day suspension of the license. If a positive first buy is obtained and ABT goes back out and the business refuses the sale the second time, the case is closed and the process starts all over.

From January-August 2009, the Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (ABT) have conducted approximately 71 tobacco investigations in Hendry and Glades counties. Fourteen of these checks were a result of a complaint and the remaining 57 were random. Of these investigations there were fourteen positive sales to minors.

For more information or to report unlawful sales to minors please contact:

ABT Law Enforcement District Office-Fort Myers 239-278-7337

# BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

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