

Caloosa Belle

Vol. 87 No. 46

Thursday, November 26, 2006

50¢ Plus tax

At a Glance

Captain Hendry Dinner

The 10th Anniversary of the Captain Hendry Christmas Dinner to benefit the Education Center of Southwest Florida, Inc., a non-profit 501C3 organization, will be Thursday, Dec. 3, 5:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased from any director, The Chamber of Commerce or by calling (863) 675-6800. Tickets are \$20 PP. There will also be a silent auction.

Sign up annual parade

It's coming up! The annual Christmas parade, Friday, Dec. 4, 5:30 p.m. Line up U-Save 4:30 p.m. Follow the parade north on Main Street to the Chamber of Commerce Christmas in Barron Park.

Join Santa, fire trucks, sheriff's cars, motorcycles! Bring your bicycles, trailers and homemade floats. Walk or ride! For information or to sign up call Melissa Castillo at 675-1090.

Free HIV test

The HIV/AIDS epidemic in the USA is far from over. Every 9 1/2 minutes someone new is infected. Hendry County Health Department (1140 Pratt Boulevard, LaBelle, and 1100 Olympia, Clewiston) and Glades County Health Department (956 Hwy 27 SW, Moore Haven) will offer free HIV testing for anyone on Tuesday, Dec. 1, for World AIDS Day. Take the test. Stop HIV and AIDS.

See Page 4 for information about how to contact the newspaper.

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Joint meeting: Hendry, Lee collaborate

Boards search for common answers

by Patty Brant
Caloosa Belle

Perhaps the differences between Hendry and Lee counties are less obvious than their similarities, but the commissioners and staff of both are seeking to find, and act on, their commonalities.

At an informal joint meeting at the Dallas Townsend Ag Building Nov. 18, the two set about the business of working together to

See Joint — Page 14



Caloosa Belle/Patty Brant
Hendry County Commissioner Tris Chapman, left, and Lee County Commissioner Frank Mann share a little camaraderie after the joint meeting of their boards.

Hospital board charts new course

By Jose Jesus Zaragoza
Clewiston News

A health fair held by Hendry Regional Medical Center two years ago zeroed in on a man, attending for a routine check up who, without realizing it himself, suffered from a congenital heart condition.

Attending nurses picked up the condition during the screening. He was taken to the emergency room and the diagnosis was confirmed by ultrasound. Two-and-a-half hours and a helicopter ride later, the man was stretched out on a table undergoing open heart surgery.

"We literally saved his life," said Craig Cudworth, the hospital CEO whose face beamed with

the kind of pride that comes from knowing his staff did an outstanding job. And then, the miserable reality set in: "For that, we didn't get a penny," he said.

Changing perceptions

Like many hospitals around the country, and specifically hospitals in rural counties like Hendry, Hendry Regional finds itself toeing the line between falling into larger financial distress, and expanding its services and offerings through what, to any outsider with a simple view looking in, might seem like ambitious and aggressive means.

As the hospital's top administrator, Mr. Cudworth has a comprehensive view of the work that

still needs to be done. He must help to decide where a new hospital will eventually be built: whether in Clewiston, or Labelle.

He is a busy man who spends much of his day in meeting after meeting, with three very simple goals in mind to advance the hospital's mission: to provide quality services in both sides of the county, to recruit more practicing physicians, and to add additional services in his argument against the notion that a person is better suited driving to West Palm Beach, or to Fort Myers, for care.

There is an all-out effort to recruit more physicians to the area to support Hendry Regional's

See Hospital — Page 2

Kulpa foregoes appeal

by Patty Brant
Caloosa Belle

The 2008 Hendry County Property Appraiser's Election has finally been decided once and for all. Phill Pelletier will remain in office. There will be no appeal.

Former property appraiser Kristina Kulpa, a 16-year veteran of that post, has decided to close that door. Saying that the outcome has become a "political situation," Ms. Kulpa believes Judge Christine Greider's decision was not a fair solution, but will accept it.

After a two-day non-jury trial, Judge Greider's Sept. 25 decision supported the election of Mr. Pelletier as property appraiser.

A mere five votes separated his total from Ms. Kulpa's.

Ms. Kulpa's suit was 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:

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.

In her decision, Judge Greider found there was not sufficient evidence to prove that 14 felons voted illegally; the plaintiff did not establish that three non-residents voted; and further that allegations of im-

See Appeal — Page 2

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Hospital

Continued From Page 1

clinics in Clewiston and LaBelle, as well as one toward attracting more specialty practices to reduce losses to the kind of out-migration that sees local residents heading to either coast.

A Clewiston resident, Mr. Cudworth practices what he preaches. He receives his primary care with Hendry Regional's Dr. Walter Mitta.

"Why? Because right now my health is fairly good," he said. "There's nothing special that I need that can't be provided here. I trust Dr. Mitta. He's a good physician."

There is a role for larger hospitals that cater to specialized fields, but looking at those larger facilities for all your medical care needs is a mistake, he says. Smaller hospitals tend to have lower infection rates, and the all-important "high touch" that comforts any patient recovering from an illness.

"Bigger is better is a fallacy that isn't always true," he suggests. "If you need your kidneys transplanted, you need to go to the larger hospital. If you have a urinary tract infection, you need to come to us."

Hemorrhaging finances

He and his board are also faced with answering tough questions and operating what hospital literature refers to "by any

standard of measure ... one of the area's major charitable organizations."

The numbers come hard and fast: In 2006, Hendry Regional saw \$6.8 million in uncompensated charges. In 2007, the number swelled to \$9.6 million. One year later, that number jumped again, to \$12.2 million.

"We have people that cannot pay their bills, which we provide the service for charity for free, and then the people who we believe can pay their bill, but do not. Those are called bad debts," said Mr. Cudworth.

During any given year, bad debt and charity care constitute between 17 and 19 percent of gross revenues of \$24 to \$36 million, according to Mr. Cudworth. To ease the pressure of total indigent care and bad debt, county residents pay an ad valorem tax, but the CEO explains that even this fell \$2 million short of the uncompensated care the hospital provided last year.

The figures represent charges that the Hendry Regional very likely will never see.

To decrease the burden, the hospital has taken steps to slash the operating budget -- by \$2 million this fiscal year through a productivity program that targeted "operating efficiencies."

"We wanted to make sure we didn't have too many people in every area, but had enough people to ensure quality care also," he said.

Relying on the federal government, the hospital's major source of reliable payment through Medicaid and Medicare programs,

to help is one battle. A shaky economy that is just now showing signs of a recovery is another.

Expansion

In a market that sees operating expenses going up, ad valorem taxes going down, and indigent care burning a hole in the accounting department, why would anyone consider plans for expansion?

Because they are necessary, Mr. Cudworth said.

Plans for a new emergency room, laboratory and, officials hope, an operating room, have been in the works for a few years now. Emergency care has always been "at the top of the list" for hospital officials, and it was decided that Clewiston's ER needed to be addressed.

What have resulted are plans for a facility four times larger than the present ER to be constructed on the same campus. The total cost for the new unit is an estimated \$12 million.

But before the addition can be built, voters will need to weigh in through a referendum. Dated for March 9, the referendum is necessary in light of a constitutional amendment in Florida that requires voter approval for any sizeable project such as the ER expected to take longer than a year to finalize. Essentially, the hospital board needs approval from voters to pledge or allocate one mill out of the 2.9 mills it currently assesses in ad valorem taxes, toward the new facility. The hospital board has the ability to increase the taxes to 4 mills, but has traditionally resisted doing so.

"The board is not going to assess another mill," said Mr. Cudworth. He is hopeful that voters will approve the referendum. "For the last two years we have been looking very carefully at our volume projections and feel that we have the cash flow to make this happen," he said.

The larger issue remains the construction of a new hospital.

Built in 1950s, Hendry Regional "is a long way from meeting current Florida code," and has depreciated in value to almost zero.

Before the economy was hurled well into the realm of a recession, hospital officials had plans to begin construction of a new hospital in the year 2012. While some work has been done and lenders have been communicating with the hospital about plans for the new facility, the project is one that no one on the hospital board, or at the

hospital itself, would tread onto lightly.

The estimated cost of a new facility is between \$50 million and \$70 million, of which the hospital board has presently set a cap of \$14 million to borrow.

One of the questions early in these discussions is where the new hospital is to be built.

The board looks to its recently finalized strategic plan for providing basic healthcare on both sides of the county, and a replacement hospital where "it makes economical sense."

Previous projections indicated the possibility that LaBelle would become a major population area through an influx of housing activity, which would almost guarantee that the new hospital is built at the county seat. If the inland port -- a project to route commercial traffic and place a central commercial hub in Clewiston -- becomes a reality, however, then logic would dictate that a new hospital be built on the same campus that will house the new emergency room.

Of course, there is a third option, and that is to have the new hospital centrally located. "The question is, where when the economy changes, would a replacement hospital need to be the most?" said Mr. Cudworth.

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

Correction

The Caloosa Belle previously published an erroneous statement that Hendry Regional Hospital is seeking a referendum to increase its millage. In fact, the hospital wants a referendum for March 9 - seeking voters' approval to use one mill of its 2.9 ad valorem mills toward a new facility. We apologize for the error.

Appeal

Continued From Page 1

proper assistance did not establish an identifiable number of illegal votes sufficient to change or place in doubt the results of the election and that allegations did not rise to the level to prove the Supervisor of Elections failed to maintain good order.

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.

"I tried to bring out all the things I could that went on in that election," Ms. Kulpa said. "The community needs to know how the election went. I believe it was not a fair election. There was a lot going on that impacted our community."

She added that, despite her loss, she believes her stand may "make it better for the

next election cycle." She is confident that she has increased the people's awareness of the election system and that the entire system may have become apathetic.

"Democracy is our right in the United States, and it revolves around fair elections," she commented, "I want others to see and understand."

Still, she said she harbors no ill feelings and plans to enjoy her break.

"I was in office 16 years," she said, "and I believe I did a good job. I brought Hendry County into the 21st Century. I have a lot to be proud of. The Property Appraiser's Office could not have handled the real estate boom and bust without the computerization I put in," she said. "My heart was in public service."

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Submitted photo/Mel Karau

Historic presentation

Paul Roser, LaBelle Rotarian thanks Butch Wilson, Curator of the Clewiston Museum for his presentation on early Indian Culture in south Florida. The Clewiston Museum located at 109 Central Ave, Clewiston has a wide collection of Historical items from this area and is open daily.

Arrest reports

LaBelle

Herbert Ray Unkerfer, 49, was arrested Nov. 20 and charged on a Lee County warrant as a fugitive from justice - habitual driving with a suspended or revoked license. Investigator R. Archer was arresting officer.

Jaime Noarsy Perle, 34, was arrested Nov. 21 and charged on a warrant with producing marijuana schedule 1; possession of marijuana over 20 grams or a controlled substance without a prescription; trafficking in marijuana 25 pounds or more or over 300 plants; own or lease a structure or conveyance for trafficking/manufacturing a controlled substance; possession/use of narcotics equipment. Inv. R. Archer was arresting officer.

Victor Alberto Cebrian, 42, was arrested Nov. 20 and charged with a nonmoving traffic violation driving with a license suspended first offense and vehicle grand theft third degree. Deputy N. Kirk was arresting officer.

Arturo Loaesa-Lagunas, 32, was arrested Nov. 21 and charged with weapons offense improper exhibition of a firearm or dangerous weapon, discharging a weapon from a vehicle, using a firearm under the influence of alcohol, disturbing the peace,

Sergio Antonio Alejandre, 21, was arrested on a warrant and charged with sale of cocaine schedule II. Inv. R. Archer was arresting officer.

Brandon Joshua Mejias, 18, was arrested Nov. 20 and charged with possession of cocaine with intent to sell, manufacture deliver etc., schedule 2, possession of marijuana with intent to sell etc. schedule 1 and possession/use of narcotic equipment

Brett Eleston Davidson, 27, was arrested Nov. 20 and charged on a warrant with VOP: felony or community control. A. Lewis was arresting officer.

James Michael Whobrey, 32, was arrested Nov. 19 and charged with dealing in stolen property. Deputy J. Woods was arresting officer.

Kenneth James Glisson, 25, was arrested

Nov. 18 and charged on a warrant with VOP: felony or community control. M. Favara was arresting officer.

John Craig Anthony Daniels, 40, was arrested Nov. 17 and charged with aggravated battery and robbery with a weapon. L. Morales was arresting officer.

Clewiston

Irenia Sariol, 42, was arrested Nov. 21 and charged with larceny \$300-\$5,000, fraud - tampering with or theft of utilities or cable services, producing marijuana schedule 1, marijuana trafficking in excess of 25 pounds or over 300 plants and narcotics possession/use. Investigator R. Archer was arresting officer.

Robert L. Peterson Jr., 45, was arrested Nov. 21 and charged on a warrant with cocaine - selling within 1,000 feet of a school, child care facility or park schedule 2. Inv. R. Archer was arresting officer.

Roberta Lynn Moxley, 39, was arrested Nov. 21 and arrested and charged on a warrant with synthetic narcotics sell within 1,000 feet of a place of worship of business schedule 2. Inv. R. Archer was arresting officer.

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Register your Relay For Life team

by Nancy Gruber

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life of LaBelle is just around the corner. Register your team today by calling the American Cancer Society at 239-707-8035 and ask for Laura or 863-673-0138 and ask for Yvette. This "celebration of Life" brings the LaBelle community together in a unified effort to fight cancer.

Teams from companies, churches, organizations, hospitals and schools collect donations and can win individual and team prizes for their efforts.

Relay for Life brings the progress against cancer to the forefront. Many participants are our family, friends and neighbors who have dealt with cancer themselves. Their involvement is proof of the progress that has been not only reducing death rates, but also in the quality of life following cancer treatments.

The funds raised enable us to continue our investment in the fight against cancer through research, education, advocacy and patient services. Thanks to the great fundraisers teams have throughout the year, the money raised by participants goes directly to the "American Cancer Society's lifesaving programs.

All of us at the "American Cancer Society Relay for Life" wish you and your families a very happy thanksgiving, and encourage each of you to give back to your community. We welcome all individuals, teams, organizations, friends, co-workers and anyone who has a strong desire to help us wipe out this disease. Your involvement will represent hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported, and that one day cancer will be eliminated.

Witch's Brew

by Pudge Lehman

Just got back from the North Georgia Mountains. The annual get-together of the Palumbo sisters. We had a wonderful time and as usual my sweet brother-in-law took us everywhere without one complaint. I've started calling him Driver instead of Bill. Instead of flying over LaBelle on my broom it was over the mountains. Quite exciting for a 74 year old witch.



It's time to start making home made Thanksgiving and Christmas gifts and decorations. Hard to believe isn't it?

Clean your stainless steel sink with white vinegar to remove mineral deposits. Pour it on, let sit a few minutes and dry with a soft cloth. To recycle cooking oil put a coffee filter in the funnel and let seep through. This works better if the oil is still very warm.

When entertaining buffet style put slices of cake, pie or whatever on coffee filters and arrange on a tray. It's easy to pick up your choice without any fuss.

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Next phase of River of Grass Restoration public planning begins

West Palm Beach, FL — The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board has approved taking the next step in the public planning process for Everglades restoration on land being acquired from the United States Sugar Corporation.

The second phase of planning involves the in-depth analysis of data generated during 15 project planning workshops to determine the most beneficial restoration project features.

"The extensive public participation so far in this planning process is helping to ensure that the U.S. Sugar property can provide maximum benefit to America's Everglades, South Florida's environment and residents," said SFWMD Governing Board Chairman Eric Buermann.

"The public input will help us move forward with this opportunity to restore the Everglades on a scale never before envisioned."

The first phase in evaluating conceptual project configurations began in January 2009 with a series of SFWMD Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC) Issues Workshops.

A broad range of agricultural, environmental, governmental, tribal and public interests came together with the goal of determining viable configurations for constructing a managed system of water storage and treatment to support ecosystem restoration.

Working collaboratively with SFWMD engineers and hydrologists, the stakeholders generated nine conceptual configurations identifying specific water storage, water quality treatment and conveyance features.

Each configuration was evaluated for its performance in meeting Everglades restoration goals

"The public process is a critical component of the District's efforts to maximize

the environmental benefits offered by this historic acquisition," said Ken Ammon, SFWMD Deputy Executive Director of Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects. "Acquiring this land offers water managers the unprecedented opportunity to protect Florida's coastal rivers and estuaries while improving the delivery of cleaner water and reducing phosphorus deliveries from entering America's Everglades."

The second phase of the public planning process seeks to build on the work done so far by achieving several goals, including:

Identifying the best performing features from the nine configurations.

Developing optimized configurations based upon the best performing features.

Refining evaluation tools to better test the performance of the optimized configurations.

Utilizing all data collected to develop preferred/recommended conceptual plans for consideration by the SFWMD Governing Board.

Phase II began with an Everglades Science Workshop hosted by the District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) this week.

The forum reviewed the latest science associated with hydrologic stage and flow targets and presented modeling results and ecological data that support restoration of the greater Everglades ecosystem.

The next River of Grass public planning meeting of the WRAC Issues Workshop will be held on December 18 in West Palm Beach.

For more information about the project planning process and the acquisition, visit www.sfwmd.gov/riverofgrass.

Faith in the Marketplace: Nothing endures but change

by Fr. Alan Kelmereit

Isn't change great?! No? You don't like change? You prefer that things remain stable, dependable, reliable? Well, I have days like that, too. Unfortunately, everything changes, nothing remains the same for long. If you don't believe it, just take a look in the mirror.

Change is a part of life. Somebody's Law of Entropy says (and yes, I know there's a very technical definition, with variables and all that kind of stuff) that everything tends to deteriorate. I would even go so far as to say that if a person or an organization is not changing in a positive direction (growing), it is changing in a negative direction (dying). In other words, there is no such thing as maintaining the status quo in life. You are either growing or dying. That, in short, is why change is a good thing, even an essential thing, assuming, of course, that it is in a positive direction.

Now, about change in the church . . . What I've just said applies in the church. Yet so often, it is in the church that we find the greatest resistance to change. "I don't like any music but what I grew up with!" "I don't like all this fancy stuff!" "I don't want to be here more than one hour!" From experience, I think there are two principal reasons for this expressed unhappiness.

First, and one for which I have some sympathy, is that we are so bombarded with changes in life that we long for a place that will comfort us by not changing. Think about the changes you experience. Many, if not most, of them are changes over which you have no control, often not even the ability to express an opinion. Many of the changes are ones we know are coming, but don't know what they will be.

The change coming in health care is an example. We can express an opinion, but we have no direct control over what the change will be, and we have no certainty about how the change will affect our individual health care service. Unprecedented national budget deficits are another exam-

ple. On a closer, and more immediate scale, we face job changes, family changes and a host of other changes that happen to us, not because of us. It's no wonder we want at least one place in life that is constant and dependable.

There's a second reason we don't want change in church, and for this one I have no sympathy whatsoever. Some people come to church with an attitude that says, "I am the customer, and I want things the way I want them!" The simple fact of the matter is that people in church are not customers; customers are people who pay for particular goods or services and have a right to receive them.

The one purpose for being in church is to worship God, not the pastor/preacher, not the music, not the ritual be it elaborate or simple. Many people see church as a place where the audience (congregation) comes to watch the performers do their stuff. As someone wiser than I has said, "In church there is an audience of One, and we are the actors." Worship is a collective activity. It takes different forms in different congregations, but it is always focused entirely on God or it is not worship, it is simply performance. Some people complain about being bored in church, and I have seen it happen. But boredom in church is entirely self-inflicted. It is the result of not worshipping, but only expecting to be entertained.

Once we understand that change is a mark of life and growth, we can begin to understand why it is an essential attribute of the church. In fact, what I have observed in many congregations is that when the people are involved in worship and in service, and when they participate in positive change, they begin to have fun, to enjoy being involved in the life of the church. And yes, I did say fun, because of all the organizations we can join, church should be the one where we have fun — God's in charge, and according to Scripture, he enjoys a good time!

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



Fr. Alan Kelmereit

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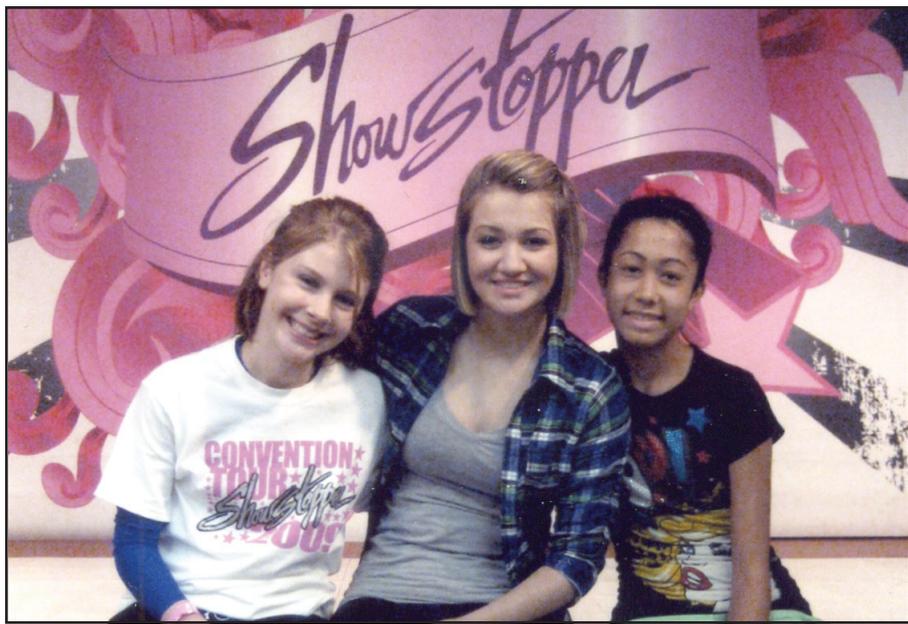
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The Caloosa Belle is published by Independent Newspapers of Florida. Independent is owned by a unique trust that enables this newspaper to pursue a mission of journalistic service to the citizens of the community. Since no dividends are paid, the company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

We Pledge...

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



Submitted photo

Dance, dance, dance

TOP: Seven dancers from The Dance company of LaBelle attended the Showstopper Dance Convention on Oct. 11-12, in Orlando. During the two-day convention the dancers received instruction from a host of professional dancers and choreographers in ballet, tap, jazz and hip-hop. Pictured are: Kelsey Abell, Melissa Taylor (owner of The Dance Company) and Arika Mourfield.

BOTTOM: Taylor Nees, Kaitlin Lawson, Brooke Hill and Kiley Prevatt showed off their talent at the Oct. 11-12 Showstopper Dance Convention in Orlando. The girls members of The Dance Company in LaBelle.

Prepare for job in health industry

Since the recession hit Southwest Florida nearly three years ago, one of the only areas of growth has been in the healthcare industry.

Now Edison State College, Employ Florida and the Region 24 Workforce Development Board are working together to ensure Hendry and Glades counties are prepared for future changes in healthcare.

"As we develop new courses and bring new curriculum choices into our Hendry/Glades Center, we are careful to select areas that can translate into real career opportunities," said Dr. Steve Atkins, Vice President of Academic and Student Services at Edison State College. "The health information management field is changing dramatically. The way current and future employees are trained will need to coincide with those changes."

Edison State College administrators point to President Barack Obama's push to convert all medical records to an electronic format in the next few years.

"The switch to electronic records and billing means current and future employees will need to learn an all new system," said Bill Roshon, Dean of Professional and Technical Studies at Edison State College. "Edison State recognizes area healthcare providers will need well-qualified graduates to make the electronic conversion run smoothly."

To further this cause Edison State College, Employ Florida and the Region 24 Workforce Development Board applied for and received a \$500,000 grant. The purpose

of the grant is to focus on healthcare services in and for Hendry and Glades Counties in the expanding sectors of Ambulatory Health Care Service, Nursing and Residential Care Facilities, Information Technology Management and Internet Technology (IT) Support Services.

The grant will allow Edison State College to provide the training and education focused on these areas. The Workforce Board will concentrate on identifying and monitoring specific employer and community needs. The group is also charged with providing support services necessary to meet the communities' needs.

The Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation finds there is a local and statewide need for well trained employees in the Medical Records field. The group finds by the year 2014 there will be a significant need for additional employees in HIM. Jobs in Health Information Management rank 5th of the 100 fastest growing occupations in Florida.

Edison State College began offering a new Associate's of Science Degree program in Health Information Management this fall semester. Classes will be offered in a traditional classroom setting and online. For more information on Health Information Management, please call 239-489-9414.

NOTICE OF MEETING HENDRY COUNTY VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD

PLEASE BE ADVISED that pursuant to Chapter 194, Florida Statutes, the HENDRY COUNTY VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD, consisting of two County Commissioners, one School Board Member, one business owner and one home owner will convene a public meeting AT 5:30 PM ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2009 in the Clerk's Conference Room on the second floor of the Administration Building of the Hendry County Courthouse, 25 East Hickpochee, LaBelle, Florida for the purpose of appointing a Special Magistrate to hear Tangible Personal Property petitions and review a good cause statement. The VAB may consider other items as may be appropriate or timely.

Anyone who appeals a decision made thereat will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Barbara S. Butler, Clerk
Hendry County Value Adjustment Board

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FWC announces public hog hunt

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission announces a notice of intent to issue permits for the purpose of controlling the feral hog population and protecting the ecological values on the Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area, West of US 27.

Permits will be issued for two hog control hunts, time periods; Dec. 18-20, and Dec. 25-27. Twenty-five permits will be issued for each hog control period. Permits will be issued on a first-come, first-serve basis to individuals 16 years of age or older. Permits will only be distributed at the Fisheating Creek WMA check-station at the FEC Campground located on US Highway 27 in Palmdale, on Saturday, Dec. 12, beginning at 10 a.m. Permittees will be allowed to take wild hogs with no size or bag limit. The use of dogs for capturing or taking hogs is prohibited. Firearms will be limited to a shotgun with #1 Buckshot or larger.

For additional information you may contact the Fisheating Creek WMA office at 863-946-1194.



Caloosa Belle/Patty Brant

Enjoying the new wharf

It didn't take long for Homero Olivarez to test the fishing off the city's new wharf. Judging by this nice talapia he caught off the new wharf, the fishing is fine!



Caloosa Belle/Patty Brant

First Bell Campaign donation

Hendry County Commissioner Darrell Harris kicked off the 2009 Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign off with his personal donation. Donations throughout the holiday season help the Salvation Army carry out its work of helping the needy for months. Look for Red Kettle volunteers at various locations around town up until Dec. 24.

Church Briefs

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.

Freedom Center programs

Freedom Counseling and Service Center at 60 Calhoun Street is now offering new programs to the public.

"Laying It Down" - is helping people ages 16 and up in small group settings. This program is aimed for support and continuous lifestyle improvement. Every Monday 7-8 p.m. Director Lynn Jordan.

"Overcoming Addictive Behaviors" - These behaviors are not limited to drugs and alcohol alone. This class through the direction of the Word of God will enable to retrain their minds and step into a life filled with purpose, joy and real meaning. Every Thursday evening from 7-8 p.m.

Obituaries

Robert James Cross, 68

LABELLE — Robert James Cross, age 68, of LaBelle, passed away Nov. 21, 2009, in LaBelle.

He was born Jan. 22, 1941, in Fort Myers. He was a lifelong resident of LaBelle and attended LaBelle High School. He also attended Florida State University. Robert was a previous co-owner of LaBelle Trading Post. He was a realtor and rancher. Robert's favorite hobby was fishing.

Survivors include Bonnie; brother, Carolyn (Lana) Cross of Old Town; step sister, Carolyn Case Evans of Rock Hill, S.C.; nieces, Kelly J. Byrd and Tracy M. (W.C.) Mills of Old Town, Margaret "Sissy" (Ronnie) Wherrell of Covington, Texas, Anita (Langley) Bryant of Andalusia, Ala.; and special friends, Judy McClure and Carol Bar-

nett. He was preceded in death by his father, Hayward Cross; mother, Margaret Waldron Case; brother, Hayward "Gene" Cross; and nephew, Hayward Cross Jr.

Funeral services were held Tue. Nov. 24, at Akin-Davis Funeral Home in LaBelle with Pastor W. T. Maddox Jr and Pastor Mike MacDowell officiating. Interment followed in Fort Denaud Cemetery, LaBelle. Visitation was held Tuesday at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Bull Pitt Outreach Ministry, 4414 Ft. Simmons Ave., LaBelle, FL 33935, and specify Youth Fund in memo of your check.

Arrangements by Akin-Davis Funeral Home - LaBelle.

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Where: Ft Denaud Cemetery

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Where: First Christian Church Ford Avenue, LaBelle

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Community Briefs

Come to the circus

Hendry-LaBelle Recreation is proud to present the Loomis Brothers Circus Tuesday, Dec. 1, at the LaBelle Rodeo Grounds, 100 Rodeo Road. Show times 4:30 and 7:30 p.m., featuring three rings with performing elephants, tigers, clowns, acrobats, aerialists, horses, dogs, jugglers, trapeze and much more. Doors open one hour prior to show time with rides, face painting and tasty circus snacks. Proceeds from ticket sales benefit the Hendry-LaBelle Recreation. For info or tickets call 675-5347.

VFW plans event

VFW Post 10100 will have Thanksgiving dinner Thursday at 1 p.m. Bring a covered dish. Saturday, Nov. 28, the post will host Two Sharps at 5 p.m. Bring a covered dish.

Come to book signing

Shannon Loftin, 1997 LaBelle High School graduate, will be at Flora & Ella's Restaurant for a book signing Saturday, Nov. 28, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. She will be signing copies of her cookbook "Just a Touch: Recipes from B.A.'s Kitchen," published by Tate Publishing.

Dems to meet in Clewiston

The Hendry County Democratic Party Executive Committee will hold its November meeting at La Hacienda Restaurant, 711 East Sugarland Hwy. in Clewiston, at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 30. Sam Huber, Chairman of Young Democrats of Lee County will be the guest speaker. Huber says he is committed to helping organize Young Democrats at Clewiston and LaBelle High Schools, at the Hendry Glades Center of Edison State College and in both Clewiston and LaBelle as well as other Hendry County communities whose Democrats from ages 18-40 are interested in making a difference and being a force for positive change.

Hendry DEC Chairman Joe Thomas announces all Democrats are welcome at this and every meeting of the Democratic Party in Hendry County and that all Democrats registered to vote in Hendry County regardless of age are welcome to participate in the meeting.

Santa is coming to town!

Santa will be coming to LaBelle with the bikers on Dec. 3 in the Popeye's Chicken parking lot during bike night. Please bring a toy for the Salvation Army. All bikers welcome. Music, races, prizes, vendors, 50/50 raffle.

Special guest at boat parade

Dec. 12 the Annual Christmas Lighted Boat Parade will be floating by the park. Special Guest, Gioia Bruno from Expose` will be singing and joining in the Christmas caroling! Gioia has given her time to us for the benefit of the animals. Vendors and the concession stand will be open and serving a delicious assortment of Christmas Cookies n snacks and hot Chili n Hot Dogs, coffee, hot chocolate, cold drinks. Proceeds from the

concession go directly to the care of animals at the Caloosa Humane Society!

Get ready for Lighted Christmas Boat Parade

7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, is the date and time for the Christmas Parade. Several great viewing spots to cheer the boats from Barron Park to Aqua Isles. As always refreshments in Barron Park by the Caloosa Humane Society. Rain date, the following evening.

Give a memory for Christmas

Derek's Detailing is hoping to give back to the community this Christmas. Please bring an unwrapped gift or \$10 to the shop at 283 S. Bridge St., any Sunday from 10 am.-3 p.m. Toys collected will be delivered to local kids in need on Christmas.

Free computer class

Each Monday morning at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon Pastor Avery teaches a one-hour computer class. For beginners and people interested typing, photo editing, movie making, E-mailing and searching the web. Computers are provided for the class or if the student has a laptop they can bring their own. This is a hands-on class. Just bring a note pad and pen. To reserve a place call (863) 675-0900. LaBelle Assembly of God is located at 123 Fraser Avenue (across from the Edward Upthegrove Elementary School)



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Sign up for Salvation Army Christmas project

The Salvation Army LaBelle and United Way are accepting applications for those in need of assistance for Christmas gifts for their children. Sign-up Dec. 5, (10 a.m.-12 p.m.); Dec. 9, (2-4 p.m.). Bring a photo ID, social security cards for all in household (if applicable), proof that the child resides in the home (school registration, birth certificate, etc.) and proof of income (if applicable). Please call 863-674-1441 with questions.

Salvation Army seeks volunteers

The Salvation Army LaBelle is looking for volunteers for its annual Christmas Kettle Campaign. Individuals, groups or organizations are needed to ring the bells for one day in 10 - one hour slots. Please call 863-674-1441. The campaign runs through Dec. 24.

Also, please sponsor a family for a Thanksgiving Food Box or for Christmas Gifts or Food Box please stop by or call 863-674-1441. They anticipate a huge need in our area this year.

SAO closing

The Hendry/Glades State Attorney's Office is closed Nov. 26-27, in observance of Thanksgiving Day. It will re-open Monday, Nov. 30, at 8:30 a.m.

Christmas trees are soon!

This yearly fund raiser is an excellent way for our LHS Key Club to raise money for the projects they support. Sales begin Friday, Nov. 27. The WGS Builder's Club will help as LaBelle Kiwanis Club members interact with our youth and serve our community. It is also a great way to develop leadership qualities in our future leaders.

Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving sales will be from 8 a.m.-8 p.m., with plenty of help on hand to trim and load your tree. After that, trees sales will be manned on Sundays from noon-7 p.m., Monday - Fridays from 3-7 p.m., and on Saturdays from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. You can always purchase your tree during normal Thrift Store hours, Monday-Friday as early as 9 a.m., but there is no trimming available.

Thanks to Mr. Lawrence O'Ferrell and Mr. Bob Moss delivery of 225 Fraser Firs from Blue Ridge Trees in Sparta, NC are expected. Trees will range from 5'-9' in height, \$30 and \$65. We appreciate the support of our community.

LHS '60s reunion

If you graduated from or attended LHS from 1959-69 please mark the weekend of March 12-14, 2010, on your calendar for a multi-class reunion.

If you would like to help plan or need more information, please call Sue at 863-675-4803 or Jayne at 863-517-0337.

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School Briefs

Yard sale for LHS athletics

The annual LaBelle High School Yard Sale in October was such a huge success, that we decided to have another one on December 5! This one will also be held at Upthegrove Elementary School on the Main Street side of the school. The sale will take place from 8 a.m.-noon. Clean out your garage and help the LaBelle High School Athletic Department in the process. In the face of tough economic times, our annual athletic budget has been severely reduced. To offset these reductions, we are hoping for your generous donations to help the athletes at LaBelle High School during the 2009-2010 school year. No donation is too small, nor too large.

We can accept furniture, clothes, collectible items, and any previously loved, but no longer needed items. All we ask that they be in good and still usable condition. We also ask that any items of clothing be washed before they are donated. Please call LaBelle High School at 674-4120 to arrange a pickup of your items or drop them off at the school after 3 p.m. All messages will be forwarded to Mel Greenleaf who is in charge of this fundraiser. Thank you in advance for your generous and continued support of athletics at LaBelle High School. And don't forget to come out and check out the many pre-loved items we will have for sale. You may find exactly what you are looking for at a fraction of the original cost.



Submitted photo

Spooky artists

U-Save Supermarkets recently held a Halloween coloring contest for children ages 12 and under in three age groups: 4-under, 5-8, and 10-12, having 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in each group. The winners are: 4-under - Mykah Anderson, Navia and Brilyn Capling; 5-8 - Sarah Sodrel, Samantha Cruz and Charne Van Rensburg; 10-12 - Eduardo Cruz, Cleyver Avila and Adra Barns. Each winner received a gift certificate to Toys-R- Us. Thank you to all who participated and be on the lookout for a Christmas coloring contest. Pictured back row: Adra, Cleyver, Eduardo; middle row Charne, Sarah; front Samantha, Navia, Mykah. Brilyn is not pictured.

Church Briefs

Helping hands for Christmas

Marcia's Helping Hands Mission is preparing for Christmas Project. Last year this mission gave away 2,000 packages to families that had not been able to otherwise have a Christmas.

This year we are asking for you help in bringing local families some joy the Christmas Season. There will be collection boxes placed at Family Eye Care and Carlson Memorial UMC. For items such as clothes, toys, shoes, socks, coloring books, crayons and candy. If you would like to send in a monetary donation please send it to Marcia's Helping Hands Mission at 3531 Ft. Adams Ave. LaBelle FL 33935.

If you require additional information please don't hesitate to contact Marcia Carter at (863) 675-8607.

Bullpit Ministries presents rodeos

Friday, Nov. 27, 8 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 28, 7 p.m. Bullpit Ministries will present the last in a series of rodeos.

This will be the culmination of **National Day of the Cowboy Ranch Rodeo** three-part series. Events include Mutton Bustin' Pee Barrels, Junior Bull Riding, Wild Horse Race, Senior Barrels, Ribbon Roping, Wild Cow Milking, Team Roping and Branding, Ranch Doggin' and Tying, Bull Riding and Team Tying.

There are 400 entries. The All Around Cowboy or Cowgirl winner of the entire series will walk away with a brand new 14' Circle W stock trailer. All Around Cowboy and Cowgirl with high points in series will go home with a beautiful saddle. Event winners will earn some great belt buckles.

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Ruiz graduates from basic

Army Pvt. Randy Ruiz has graduated from Basic Training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission and received instruction and training exercises in drill and ceremonies, Army history, core values and traditions, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, rifle marksmanship, weapons use, map reading and land navigation, foot marches, armed and unarmed combat, and field maneuvers and tactics.

Ruiz is the son of Raul Ruiz of LaBelle. He is a 2009 graduate of LaBelle High School.

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Caloosa Belle/Patty Brant

From the heart

Melissa Agee, right, drove from Clewiston to donate these incredible refurbished Cabbage Patch dolls to the Salvation Army. Salvation Army Services Coordinator Lisa Sands gratefully accepted the donation. What child wouldn't love to wake up to one of these cuties under the tree on Christmas morning? Melissa picks up orphaned Cabbage Patch dolls - each with its own unique personality - throughout the year. She gives them a good bath, a new hairdo if needed and a new set of duds - whatever is needed to make them brand new for a lucky new child to love.



Submitted photo/Cathy Kirby

Fall fun is fantastic!

LaBelle Elementary School students enjoyed carnival activities Friday, Oct. 30, to encourage students to perform well on FCAT and other testing. Teachers prepared various games including limbo, pumpkin rolling, balloon relay, dancing, bingo, water balloon toss and musical chairs. However, the students surveyed said their favorite activity was one prepared by the principal: The Sponge Throw. Students lined up to throw wet sponges at the principal and his assistant. Everyone had a wonderful time! Once again the community members helped us out with donations. A BIG THANK YOU to the following for their help: Winn Dixie and U-Save.

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LaBelle Sports Network Website launches

Youth, adult leagues and schools invited to participate online

Youth, adult recreation leagues, and sports teams in the LaBelle area now have an exciting online sports page and resource they can call their own.

A new website, LaBelle Sports Network, is now launched and is ready to be used by the local sports community. The web address is: <http://fl.newszap.com/LaBelleSportsNetwork>

The site is a partnership between the Caloosa Belle and Community Sports Desk, a national sports software company.

"Whether it's rec leagues, schools, and whatever the sport, the LaBelle Sports Network is a place for people to share their enthusiasm for the programs they are involved with," said Patty Brant, editor of the Caloosa Belle.

LaBelle Sports Network is designed to allow the people who know their league best - the rec center directors, coaches, even the players themselves - to deliver information to the people who care about it most.

Team representatives can post their schedules, game stories, statistics, standings and photos on dedicated web pages on the site. Each league or team will be provided a username and password so they can update

anytime, from anywhere they have internet access. In addition to appearing on the website, selected league and team information will be collected and published in the Caloosa Belle print editions.

"I'm really excited about this," said Tom Byrd, publisher of the Caloosa Belle. "This is an invaluable and professional tool the community now has to positively highlight local sports. The LaBelle Sports Network will allow more news coverage of more sports than we've ever had before."

Local sites are also being launched for communities of other INI affiliated newspapers including Clewiston, Okeechobee, Glades County, Western Palm Beach County, Eastern Collier, as well as Indiantown. The first stories and teams began to appear on the site this week, and many more are expected as the winter season sports get underway.

"In Okeechobee, the Parks and Recreation Department is to be congratulated for being the first to come aboard and start using the site," said Byrd. "I invite everyone

to go to <http://fl.newszap.com/OkeechobeeSportsNetwork> and take a look at what they are already doing there."

LaBelle Sports Network won't be limited to the most obvious sports such as football, baseball and basketball. The site can support virtually any sports or team activity including golf, soccer, cheerleading, bowling, even fishing and rodeo. While it is ideal for youth and adult leagues, schools are encouraged to use the capabilities of the site as well.

In partnership with the paper, Community Sports Desk representative Renee Hawley has been contacting local teams and leagues to assist and share information on how to get started using the LaBelle Sports Network. Community Sports Desk will demonstrate to each league or team representative how easy it is to submit information and use the site.

Ms. Hawley can also provide information on how participation on the LaBelle Sports Network can provide a financial benefit to leagues and teams using the site.

"I am pleased to let everyone know there is absolutely no charge for teams and leagues to participate in LaBelle Sports Network," Byrd said. "The site will be supported by advertising, and there is an innovative revenue sharing model. A percentage of web advertising sales on the site will go back to the participating teams and leagues."

Interested teams and leagues can contact Renee Hawley by e-mail at rhawley@communitysportsdesk.com. Or call her toll free at 888-853-7904 for a demonstration or to get started right away. To advertise on the site, contact Judy Kasten at 863-763-3134 or by email at jkasten@strato.net

Barnes named to Second Team Defense

Blake Barnes, a 2008 graduate of LaBelle High School, has been selected by the USA South Athletic Conference as a Second Team Defense All-Conference performer. Blake is a sophomore defensive lineman for Maryville College in Maryville, Tennessee, and is on the front line of



Blake Barnes

Maryville's strong rush defense that allowed only 145.7 rushing yards per game this season.

Blake was fourth on the team with 49 total tackles while recording a team high of 10 tackles for a loss.

"I am very proud of our players. All had outstanding seasons," stated Head Coach Tony Ierulli. "It is encouraging that seven of our all-conference players will be returning for the 2010 football season."

The Scots finished the season 4-6 overall, 3-4 during USA South action and 6th place within the tough NCAA Division III conference.

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<p>\$45000 - THIS 3 2 OFFERS the master suite upstairs for added privacy. Great home located in Lehigh Acres. Third party approval required on all offers. 200942906</p>	<p>\$64000 - THIS VERY SPACIOUS 4 bedroom 3 bath home on half acre located in Lehigh Acres needs a new owner. All offers require 3rd party approval. 200910188</p>	<p>\$129,000 GREAT 3/2 HOME with granite countertops, tray ceiling in master bedroom, tile flooring, storage shed & roof over screened patio. Located in a quite neighborhood. #200922219</p>
<p>\$55000 - BRING ALL REASONABLE OFFERS for this motivated seller. Great looking 3/2 2006 manufactured home with 952 sq ft. 200814039</p>	<p>\$89900 - WOW DON'T LET THIS ONE SLIP BUY YOU. This 2 story 3/2/2 home offers over 2000 sq. ft of living area and sits on a half acres. Third Party approval required on all offers. 200945075</p>	<p>\$225000 3/2 POOL HOME located on 2.38 acres in Ft. Denaud Acres. Plenty of room for the whole family, animals and hobbies. This one is a must see! 200911131</p>

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LaBelle, FL
(863) 675-6788**

Donna Kane, Broker; Assoc: Trisha Arnold, Denise Walker, Beverly Curtis, Wayne Simmons, & Telina Campos

<p>HOMES</p> <p>CBS 3 BR/3BA home on 27.5 acres. Features include custom cabinetry, pool w/ spa & waterfall, deck, gazebo, fencing, stable and pasture, storage building with 2 A/C rooms, Shop with 8 offices, 2 baths, kitchenette. Drastically reduced. \$925,000.</p> <p>3BR/2BA 2 story home on 3/2 CBS home on 20 +/- ac. Features include cathedral ceilings, hickory cabinets, Florida room and lots of extras. Fenced & cross-fenced, 40x60 workshop, 36x36 horse barn w/tack room! Bring offers! \$699,000.</p> <p>Custom 5BD/4.5BA pool home on 3 acs with metal roof, hardwood, floors, office, and alarm. Water heater, cooktop, dryer, pool heater, whole house generator are powered by propane. 2 car garage finished upstairs complete with a full bath. Call for detailed amenities list. \$560,000.</p> <p>3/2 CBS home. Oversized garage, indoor utility, large spacious bedrooms, large master suite, great room, breakfast room, tile/wood flooring, & lanai. \$399,900. 20 acres and a one bedroom cabin in excellent condition. \$359,900.</p> <p>3BR/2.5BA home in Old Fort Denaud. Split floor plan, formal dining room, large open kitchen, 10' ceilings, in-ground pool, screened lanai. Detached garage. \$350,000.</p> <p>Beautiful 3371 sq ft. 3BD/2BA custom split floor plan home in Caloosa</p>	<p>Estates. This quality built home offers many delightful features. Call for details. \$295,000.</p> <p>Immaculate 3BD/2BA CBS home on 8th Ave. Built in 2006 and loaded with upgrades. Make your appointment to see this home. \$269,900.</p> <p>3BR/2BA 2 story home on 3.5 +/- ac. w/large open room on 2nd floor, dual A/C system, 20'x62 pole barn w/workshop. Bring the horses. \$250,000</p> <p>4BR/2.5BA CBS 3 story home within city limits. Features include 2 fireplaces, 3rd floor game room. Great for a growing family. \$199,900.</p> <p>3/2 CBS home located in Belmont area. Features a formal living room, family room, new roof in '07. Private back yard overlooking a canal. \$194,900.</p> <p>Palmdale - 3BR/2BA home on 6 acres with a small palm and oak tree nursery - \$188,800.</p> <p>Immaculate 3BR/2BA CBS home with new galvalume roof on 2 +/- acs. \$179,900.</p> <p>1BD/1BA brick home in city business zone. Perfect business location. \$165,000.</p> <p>5 CBS homes in Laurel Oaks S/D. 3 and 4 bedroom models available. Priced from \$145,000 to \$240,000.</p> <p>2BR/1BA home with New kitchen cabinets, appliances, and vinyl siding, large screened porch, \$79,900.</p> <p>Immaculate 3BD/1BA home w/metal roof. Loaded with upgrades this home is a must see. \$69,000.</p> <p>Looking for a bank foreclosure list - Come see us!</p>
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• NEWER 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH MANUFACTURED HOME, on acreage! Only minutes to town, with a pasture behind the house, this is country living at a great price! \$69,000



• THIS HOME DEFINITELY HAS CURB APPEAL! Built in 2002 and beautifully maintained, this 3 bedroom 2 bath home is situated on a .34 acre lot and is conveniently and peacefully located within LaBelle's city limits. Chain-linked fenced-in back yard is perfect for pets and children! \$185,000



• ALMOST 2 ACRES OF INTRACOASTAL RIVER FRONTAGE LOCATED IN PRESTIGIOUS FORT DENAUD AREA. Property has an existing 2 story 1800 +/- ft building with full apartment above and triple garage below. \$219,000



• SELL YOUR LAWNMOWER! LET SOMEONE ELSE CLEAN THE POOL! TURN OFF THE ALARM! Live in distinctive Riverbend Estates- gated for security, enjoy the community clubhouse, pool, and tennis court, and watch your lawn being cut! Indulge yourself in this perfectly decorated like-a-model 3/2 home with real teak flooring and champagne carpeting. Watch the deer roam in your back yard while you curl up on your screened lanai. \$219,000

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• A GREAT DEAL on a canal front homestead in Port LaBelle Banyan Village! Central water lines are in place! \$3,000
• A VERY NICE 1.25 ACRE PROPERTY in Montura Ranch Estates! Perfect for raising horses or a great location for a weekend getaway in the country! Only minutes to the community pool and clubhouse! \$6,500
• ONE OF THE LOWEST PRICED 2.5 +/- acreage properties in Hendry County! (Access is deeded). \$9,900
• THE GLADES COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER HAS THIS PROPERTY VALUED AT \$213,920!!!! 19.1 +/- acres on a newly paved road in one of the most beautiful areas of Muse! This property has large old oaks, a pond and is fenced and cross fenced. This property is surrounded by other large acreage properties, and is perfect for horses, cattle, a small farm or a magnificent estate! \$129,000

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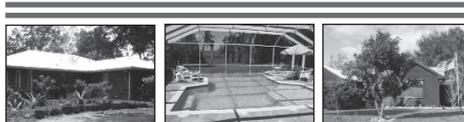
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SE HABLA ESPAÑOL



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• Relax the rural way! Situated on 1.25 acs in growing Montura, beautiful new 2006 3/2 manufactured home. SELLER FINANCING AVAILABLE! \$129,900

HOMES

• Riverfront - Immaculate 3/2 waterway estate on 1.14 +/- acres outside of LaBelle. Home is 2,425 sq. ft. of living area with overspacious kitchen, pantry, screened pool and a 1,944 sq. ft. workshop with office, bath and a generator compressor room. \$795,000.
• Horse lovers welcome! 4/2.5 on 3.24 +/- in Port LaBelle Ranchettes. 2,500 sq. ft. of living area, 2 car garage, wrap around porch and more. \$335,000.
• Corporated owned! Gorgeous, needs a little TLC, 4/3, 3 car garage, 2009 +/- acres with caged pool, covered porches, granite counter tops and lots more. \$299,900.
• Corporate owned! 3/2 CBS home on 6.48 +/- acres with pool and completely fenced. \$213,900.
• 4/2 CBS home on 5 acres outside of LaBelle. Needs some TLC. \$100,000.
• Corporate Owned! 3/2 2006 CBS home outside LaBelle in good condition and a few minutes from schools and shopping. \$72,900
• Cozy 2/1 in Port LaBelle. Completely redone form top to bottom. Have to see! \$70,000.
• Corporate owned! 3/2 CBS home in new like condition, near SR82. \$69,900.
• Nice 3/1 CBS in Port LaBelle. Seller says make offer! \$65,000.
• Corporate owned! 3/2 2007 CBS home in Lehigh Acres. \$63,900.
• Corporate owned! 3/2 located in central Lehigh Acres. Beautiful huge detached garage/office and fenced yard. \$59,000.
• Corporate owned! Beautifully located in Lehigh Acres. 2006 3/2. \$100,000.

• Corporate owned! 3/2 2005 CBS home in Lehigh Acres. Needs a little TLC. \$50,000
• Corporate owned! 3/2 centrally located in Lehigh Acres. Close to schools and shopping. Needs a little TLC. \$47,900.
• Corporate owned! Little bit of TLC and this 3/2 home in Port LaBelle could be a beauty. \$32,670.
• Corporate owned! 3/2 on .49 +/- in Lehigh Acres near SR 80. Large spacious rooms and great floor plan. \$32,000
• Corporate owned! 2/1 condo located in Lehigh Acres on a canal. \$19,900.
• Great investment potential! 1BR/1B home on a corner lot. Homes needs some work... but is priced to sell. \$17,000.
• Corporate owned! 2/2 condo in 55+ community. Central Lehigh Acres. Move in ready. \$14,900.
• Corporate owned! 2/1 on .35 +/- of an acre located on main rd. in downtown Ft. Myers. Needs some TLC. \$12,500.

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 & real 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. \$159,900.
• Country living at its best! 3/2 on 2.30 +/- acres outside city of LaBelle. Over spacious kitchen & mastr bath. New carpet through out home. \$149,900.
• 3/2 manufactured home on 4 +/- acres in Muse. Partially cleared and fenced. \$145,000.
• Relax the rural way! Situated on 1.25 acs in growing Montura, beautiful new 2006 3/2 manufactured home. SELLER FINANCING AVAILABLE! \$129,900
• 4/2 on 10 +/- acres in Pioneer Plantation. With 2,356 +/- sq. ft. of living area, spacious living room with fireplace. \$112,500.
• 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.
• Corporate owned! 3/2 immaculate manufactured home on 2 acres outside of LaBelle. \$95,100.
• 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. \$27,521.

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Call about our vacant land!
LOTS
• 2.72 +/- partially fenced acreage in Muse. \$75,000.
• .29 +/- acre in Belmont S/D. Priced to sell at only \$42,000. Possible seller financing.
• Buy now, build later. Nice city lot in Belmont subdivision. \$35,000.
• Nice 1.25 +/- ac. in Montura \$8,000.
• Call about our Port LaBelle lots!
COMMERCIAL
• Prime 20 +/- ac potential commercial parcel located near West Glades Elem. in Muse & just minutes away from LaBelle. \$3.50 per sq ft.
• Invest now - build later! Corner lot outside city limits near town. \$100,000.

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MANUFACTURED HOMES
\$29,000 - 3/2 in the city limits, needs TLC. Bank Foreclosure - Sold As Is.
\$59,000 - 3/2 in Ortona ac off SR29
\$69,900 - 4/2 on 2 Ac. Foreclosure, Sold As Is - Over 2,000 sq. ft. built in 1996
\$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.
\$125,000 - Newer 3/2 on a nicely located 5 ac. parcel in Muse.
\$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
\$39,000 - Well maintained Country Village 2/2
\$69,000 - 2/2 Great Starter in Port LaBelle.
\$69,000 - 3/2 in town, corner lot.
\$74,000 - 2/2 in Port LaBelle, large porch.
\$79,900 - Newer 3/2, built in 2005, Short Sale.
\$125,000 - CBS 3/2 w/2 car garage on 2 ac, Short Sale.
\$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 lot, relocating.
\$179,900 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.
\$199,000 - Vacant 2 ac. on SR 80, just west of town
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\$269,000 - State Road 80 Corner 1/2 Ac, B-1 w/bill-board income.
\$395,000 - 1 ac on Main St., busy downtown location w/older bldg.
\$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 \$399,000 - 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!
\$159,000 - Over 1 ac. on the main river, F. Denaud Rd.
\$189,000 - Manufactured home on 1 ac., Ortona
\$192,500 - Old Ft. Denaud 1 Ac.
\$199,000 - Hidden Hammock 1 Ac w/dock.
\$395,000 - High Elevation with long views, 5 Ac.
\$389,000 - 3/2 Super CBS River Home w/pool on Oxbow w/dock on double lot.
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\$425,000 - 3/4 in Ft. Denaud on 2.6 +/- ac with 228 ft. riverfront.
\$695,000 - 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.
LOTS & LAND
\$4,900 - Moore Haven Yacht Club lot
\$5,900 - Port Labelle Lots, Seller financing
\$9,900 - Mobile home lots, south of town
\$13,500 - 1.25 Ac in Montura Ranches
\$49,000 - 2.2 Ac Rural Residential Fenced
\$65,000 - 4.2 ac. on Fernwood. Great buy!
\$69,000 - Estate Homesite in Oak Haven. 2 ac with great oaks.
\$83,000 - 6.5 Ac Very Private, F RD
\$100,000 - 2.5 Ac Hwy 27, Clewiston
\$125,000 - Ft Denaud Acres, 8 ac. private location
\$495,000 - Development Potential Platted lots on 16 +/- Ac.



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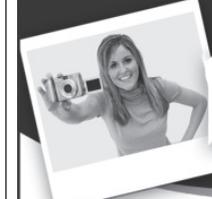
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Public Notice

NOTICE OF WORKSHOP DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF HENDRY COUNTY
Notice is hereby given that the School Board of Hendry County will hold the following Workshops to discuss Budget Issues:
Tuesday, December 1, 2009 beginning at 4:30 p m at the School Board Meeting Room, Hendry County Courthouse, 2nd floor, 25 E. Hickpochee Ave., LaBelle, Florida
Tuesday, December 8, 2009 beginning at 4:30 p m at the School Board Meeting Room, School Board Sub-office, 475 E. Osceola Ave., Clewiston, Florida.
All interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to the issues at said meetings
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
Sally Berg, Chairman
339417 CB/CN 11/25/09

Public Notice

NOTICE OF INTENT TO USE UNIFORM METHOD OF COLLECTING NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS
Hendry County, Florida (the "County") hereby provides notice, pursuant to Section 197.3632(3)(c), Florida Statutes, of its intent to use the uniform method of collecting non-ad valorem special assessments to be levied within the Banyan Village area, Port LaBelle Plat Units 10-13, within the unincorporated area of the County, for capital costs associated with construction of water lines for Banyan Village and service assessments for maintenance of such water lines commencing with the Fiscal Year beginning on October 1, 2010, and continuing each year until discontinued by the County. The County will consider the adoption of a resolution electing to use the uniform method of collecting such assessments authorized by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, at a public hearing to be held at 5:00 p.m. on December 8, 2009, in the Commission Room, Clewiston City Hall, 115 West Ventura Avenue, Clewiston, Florida. Such resolution will state the need for the levy and will contain a legal description of the boundaries of the real property subject to the levy. Copies of the proposed form of resolution, which contains the legal description of the real property subject to the levy, are on file at the County Administrator's Office, 165 S. Lee Street, LaBelle, Florida. All interested persons are invited to attend.

In the event any person decides to appeal any decision by the County with respect to any matter relating to the consideration of the resolution at the above-referenced public hearing, a record of the proceeding may be needed and in such an event, such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the public hearing is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence on which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the County Clerk at (863) 675-5217, seven days prior to the date of the hearing.

Janet B. Taylor, Chairwoman
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
338723 CGS/CB 11/12,19,26;12/03/09

Public Notice

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 **December 9, 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 **January 12, 2009 at 5:05 p.m.**, at the City of Clewiston, Commission Chambers, 115 W Ventura Ave, Clewiston, 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
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, RE-ASSIGNMENT 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
339795 CB/CN 11/26/09
Janet B. Taylor, Chairwoman
Hendry County Board of County Commissioners

Public Notice

Public Notice

HENDRY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE
SUBMITTED BY: R Scott Cooper DATE: 12/8/09
SUBJECT AREA: 410 Adult Program: General Policy
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF PURPOSE: The proposed rule establishes the policy for Adult Program: General Policy.
CITATION OF LEGAL AUTHORITY: 1001.41, 1001.42, 1001.49, 1001.51 and 1001.43 F.S. CITATION OF SPECIFIC LEGAL REFERENCE: 1001.41, 1001.42, 1001.49, 1001.51 and 1001.43 F.S.
FULL TEXT: A copy of the full text of the proposed rule may be obtained, without cost, at the Office of the Superintendent of Schools,
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The proposed rule establishes the policy for adult program: general policy.
STATEMENT OF REGULATORY COSTS: The proposed policy revision will create no additional district economic impact in excess of \$100.00 except for the costs of printing and distributions.
LOCATION OF MEETING, TIME AND DATE: Hendry County School Board Meeting Room, 475 E. Osceola Avenue, Clewiston, FL at 5:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard on December 8, 2009.
Notice: Any person who wishes to provide the School Board with information regarding the statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days after publication of this notice.
Notice: If requested in writing and not deemed unnecessary by the Agency Head, a Rule Development Workshop will be held at a time and date to be advertised in the future
Notice: The procedure for obtaining a public hearing on this proposed rule is to request, in writing, a hearing. The request shall be submitted to the Superintendent of Schools, in writing, within 21 days after publication of this notice. The request shall specify how the person requesting the public hearing would be affected by the proposed rule. The School Board, upon appropriate request, shall give affected persons an opportunity to present evidence and argument on the issues under consideration.
Notice: Inspection and copying of all written materials constituting public records submitted to the agency regarding draft rules may be obtained by request, in writing, to the Superintendent of Schools.
Notice: The School Board may recognize any material which may be judicially noticed and to incorporate them into the record of the rule making proceeding. The School Board may incorporate material by reference into the proposed rule.
Notice: If you need an accommodation in order to participate in this process, please notify the Superintendent of Schools at (863) 674-4642 or at the Hendry County Courthouse, LaBelle, Florida 33935 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting or workshop
Notice: If the School Board adopts the proposed rule, one certified copy of the proposed rule shall be filed in the Office of the Superintendent of Schools pursuant to 120.54(3)(e), F.S. 338618 CN 11/12,19,26;CB 11/26/09

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Public Notice

HENDRY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE
SUBMITTED BY: R Scott Cooper DATE: 12/8/09
SUBJECT AREA: 255 Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) - Non-Instructional
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF PURPOSE: The proposed rule establishes the policy for Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) for non-instructional bargaining and non-instructional non-bargaining personnel
CITATION OF LEGAL AUTHORITY: 1001.41, 1001.42, 1001.43 and 121.091(9) F.S.
CITATION OF SPECIFIC LEGAL REFERENCE: 1001.41, 1001.42, 1001.43 and 121.091(9) F.S.
FULL TEXT: A copy of the full text of the proposed rule may be obtained, without cost, at the Office of the Superintendent of Schools
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The proposed rule establishes the policy for Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) for non-instructional bargaining and non-instructional non-bargaining personnel
STATEMENT OF REGULATORY COSTS: The proposed policy revision will create no additional district economic impact in excess of \$100.00 except for the costs of printing and distributions
LOCATION OF MEETING, TIME AND DATE: Hendry County School Board Meeting Room, 475 E. Osceola Avenue, Clewiston, FL at 5:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard on December 8, 2009.
Notice: Any person who wishes to provide the School Board with information regarding the statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days after publication of this notice.
Notice: If requested in writing and not deemed unnecessary by the Agency Head, a Rule Development Workshop will be held at a time and date to be advertised in the future.
Notice: The procedure for obtaining a public hearing on this proposed rule is to request, in writing, a hearing. The request shall be submitted to the Superintendent of Schools, in writing, within 21 days after publication of this notice. The request shall specify how the person requesting the public hearing would be affected by the proposed rule. The School Board, upon appropriate request, shall give affected persons an opportunity to present evidence and argument on the issues under consideration
Notice: Inspection and copying of all written materials constituting public records submitted to the agency regarding draft rules may be obtained by request, in writing, to the Superintendent of Schools.
Notice: The School Board may recognize any material which may be judicially noticed and to incorporate them into the record of the rule making proceeding. The School Board may incorporate material by reference into the proposed rule.
Notice: If you need an accommodation in order to participate in this process, please notify the Superintendent of Schools at (863) 674-4642 or at the Hendry County Courthouse, LaBelle, Florida 33935 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting or workshop
Notice: If the School Board adopts the proposed rule, one certified copy of the proposed rule shall be filed in the Office of the Superintendent of Schools pursuant to 120.54(3)(e), F.S. 338617 CN 11/12,19,26; CB 11/26/09

Public Notice

Public Notice

HENDRY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE
SUBMITTED BY: R Scott Cooper DATE: 12/8/09
SUBJECT AREA: 411 Adult Program: Requirements
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF PURPOSE: The proposed rule establishes the policy for adult program: requirements.
CITATION OF LEGAL AUTHORITY: 1001.41, 1001.42, 1001.49, 1001.51 and 1001.43 F.S.
CITATION OF SPECIFIC LEGAL REFERENCE: 1001.41, 1001.42, 1001.49, 1001.51 and 1001.43 F.S.
FULL TEXT: A copy of the full text of the proposed rule may be obtained, without cost, at the Office of the Superintendent of Schools
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The proposed rule establishes the policy for adult program: requirements.
STATEMENT OF REGULATORY COSTS: The proposed policy revision will create no additional district economic impact in excess of \$100.00 except for the costs of printing and distributions.
LOCATION OF MEETING, TIME AND DATE: Hendry County School Board Meeting Room, 475 E. Osceola Avenue, Clewiston, FL at 5:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard on December 8, 2009.
Notice: Any person who wishes to provide the School Board with information regarding the statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days after publication of this notice.
Notice: If requested in writing and not deemed unnecessary by the Agency Head, a Rule Development Workshop will be held at a time and date to be advertised in the future.
Notice: The procedure for obtaining a public hearing on this proposed rule is to request, in writing, a hearing. The request shall be submitted to the Superintendent of Schools, in writing, within 21 days after publication of this notice. The request shall specify how the person requesting the public hearing would be affected by the proposed rule. The School Board, upon appropriate request, shall give affected persons an opportunity to present evidence and argument on the issues under consideration
Notice: Inspection and copying of all written materials constituting public records submitted to the agency regarding draft rules may be obtained by request, in writing, to the Superintendent of Schools.
Notice: The School Board may recognize any material which may be judicially noticed and to incorporate them into the record of the rule making proceeding. The School Board may incorporate material by reference into the proposed rule.
Notice: If you need an accommodation in order to participate in this process, please notify the Superintendent of Schools at (863) 674-4642 or at the Hendry County Courthouse, LaBelle, Florida 33935 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting or workshop
Notice: If the School Board adopts the proposed rule, one certified copy of the proposed rule shall be filed in the Office of the Superintendent of Schools pursuant to 120.54(3)(e), F.S. 338619 CN 11/12,19,26; CB 11/26/09

Public Notice

Long crowned as "Faster Pastor"

On Nov. 14, Hendry County Motorsport Park crowned youth pastor Preston Long of the First Baptist Church of LaBelle as the "Faster Pastor" in that race's inaugural run. Preston was driving the #67 Basquin Welding pure stock owned by local driver John Basquin of Clewiston. Paul Vedder of Real Life children's Ranch of Okeechobee came in second.

Also competing in the race were the hard-charging Shannon Craft of Christ Central, Andy Bratcher also of Christ Central, David Strickland of New Harvest Church of Clewiston, John Hicks and Nathan Koetje, both of the United Methodist Church

of Clewiston, John Glisson of New Harvest Church of Clewiston, Ed Company of D.C. minister of Palm City. Also scheduled to start the race were crowd and early race favorites Bill Maddox of the First Christian Church of LaBelle and Rhiner Richter of St. Peters United Methodist Church of Wellington, whose race cars were both in accidents or had mechanical difficulties by their full time drivers earlier in the evening. Both drivers vow to be back in March when Preston Long will be back to defend his title as the Faster Pastor.

Public Notice

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 **December 9, 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 application 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 **January 12, 2009, at 5:05 p.m.**, at the City of Clewiston, Commission Chambers, 115 W Ventura Ave, Clewiston, 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 with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings and, 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.

Petition Number: RZ09-0008
Applicant: OB Rialto, LLC, represented by Mrs. Julie Wilkins, LaBelle Planning, LLC
Ordinance title: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING A PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT ZONING ORDINANCE (95-08) TO ALLOW AGRICULTURAL USES ON 29.82 ACRES +/-; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT, SEVERABILITY, SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
Location: 0 Riverbend Drive, LaBelle, FL
Property size: 29.82 acres +/-
Request: The applicant is requesting an amendment to PUD Ordinance 95-08 to allow agriculture uses, specifically pasturage for cattle and horses.
Legal description of subject property:

Legal Description

GOVERNMENT LOT 1 AND 2, OF SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 43 SOUTH, RANGE 29 EAST, PUBLIC RECORDS OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA.

LESS AND EXCEPT:
 COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF BLOCK 98 CITY OF LA BELLE, SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 43 SOUTH, RANGE 29 EAST, HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE NORTH 00°08'14" WEST (BASIS FOR BEARINGS IS COUNTY AND SOUTH FLORIDA FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT, RIGHT OF WAY MAP OF CANAL C-43) ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID BLOCK 98, A DISTANCE OF 259.10 FEET TO THE SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF THE CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER CANAL C-43 AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE PARCEL HEREIN DESCRIBED; THENCE NORTH 53°20'42" WEST ALONG SAID SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE A DISTANCE OF 119 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE NORTHERLY EDGE OF THE OLD RIVER; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY, ALONG SAID NORTHERLY EDGE, A DISTANCE OF 185 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE EAST LINE OF SAID BLOCK 98; THENCE NORTH 00°08'14" WEST ALONG SAID EAST LINE A DISTANCE OF 52.00 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING (WESTERLY PART OF ISLAND).

LESS AND EXCEPT:
 BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF BLOCK 98 OF THE CITY OF LA BELLE, NORTH 0°8'14" WEST ALONG EAST LINE OF BLOCK 98 - 259.10 FEET TO SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY OF THE CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER CANAL C-43 AND POINT OF BEGINNING. SOUTHEAST ALONG THE SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY OF CANAL 43 TO NORTH BANK OF OLD CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER, NORTH WESTERLY ALONG THE NORTH BANK TO A POINT 52 FEET SOUTH OF THE POINT OF BEGINNING - NORTH 52 FEET TO POINT OF BEGINNING. EASTERLY PART OF ISLAND.

TOGETHER WITH EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS, AS RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 218, PAGE 1037, PUBLIC RECORDS OF GLADES COUNTY, FLORIDA.



LHS runners excel at State Finals

Over a grass and rolling hill course some two hundred runners competed for themselves and their teams in the 2A State Cross Country Finals.

Under normal circumstances, most runners and teams would be happy just to qualify for the event.

Furthermore, it would be quite an accomplishment for a team to place one runner in the top fifty over-all.

But on Saturday November 21st at Little Everglades Ranch in Dade City, two LaBelle High School Cross Country runners cracked the top fifty and then some.

Junior Gabriel Barron improved on last years 19th place finish by moving up to 12th, with a personal best time of 16:09.

While teammate Caleb Baker (also a Junior), placed a very impressive 34th in his first appearance to the State Finals.

His time of 16:34 was also his personal

best ever. Both runners concluded an exceptional season and are already looking forward to next year.

Sport Shorts

Alumni game cancelled

LaBelle High School has cancelled the basketball alumni game that was scheduled for Nov. 27.

We apologize for any inconvenience. Any money sent for registration will be returned to the applicant.

Correction

The Caloosa Belle erroneously stated that the Cowboys lost their last game of the year to Evangelical Christian. They actually played Riverdale. We apologize for the error.

Joint

Continued From Page 1

ward their common needs.

From Lee County, Ray Judah, 21 years on his board, Chairman, Tammy Hall, Frank Mann and Brian Bigelow represented the big gulf population center. All of Hendry's commissioners were at the table, the meeting conducted by fourth time Chairman Janet Taylor.

The commissioners jumped into some of the hardest questions facing both counties: transportation, Hendry's new river crossing, the prospective intermodal port, a proposed Off Highway Vehicle park, recycling, the SR 80 Gateway Overlay.

Transportation

As a main hurricane evacuation route for Lee and Palm Beach counties' huge populations, the four-laning of SR 80 is of paramount importance throughout the region. Commissioner Tris Chapman pointed out that it also should be a top priority for the region safety-wise and certainly is economically important.

Commissioner Kevin McCarthy pointed out that is a "lifeline" for the region.

However, the Hendry commissioners also wanted to make it clear that the SR 80/US 27 intersection, key in the movement of people to and from all directions, has a major flaw. It is the scene of numerous fatal crashes, 83 percent of which involve out-of-county residents, especially those from Lee and Palm Beach counties. In fact, it is the #1 site for fatalities in all of Florida Department of Transportation District 1.

Lee Chair Tammy Hall and Commissioner Judah both said their county recognizes the need to four-lane SR 80 as a critical regional corridor and part of the Strategic Intermodal System. Chairman Hall said Lee and Collier County meet yearly to coordinate their transportation needs. She said they would include SR 80 in their discussion. She also expressed her county's willingness to leverage its political clout to keep it on state agenda.

Hendry commissioners were also inter-

ested in discovering how Lee's aesthetic plans for SR 80 will mesh with Hendry's SR Gateway Overlay. In Hendry County, the overlay, which includes US 27, bans billboards and standardizes signage and architectural regulations 1,000 feet on either side of the roadway. They learned that Lee has countywide standards for commercial zoning and a special university district.

New River Crossing

Hendry County recently made its choice for the alignment of a new river crossing, along the Lee-Hendry line. The Hendry commission stated that the alignment was the preference of 97 percent of their constituents. Although any new bridge is far into the future, and there is no money on the table for the project, the information was passed along to the Lee commissioners as pertinent information. Commissioner Darrell Harris pointed out that Alva residents, who live in Lee County, will be affected by the alignment some day and have been vocal in their opposition.

At this time, only the alignment has been decided. Commissioner McCarthy noted that the type of bridge to be built eventually will depend of the kind of development that is allowed north of river.

Commissioner Karson Turner said the Regional Planning Council needs to discuss Hendry's bridge issues. He said the biggest fear is that a bridge included in plans being made to possibly realign SR 29 could bypass the City of LaBelle.

The Fort Denaud swing bridge is planned to remain once a new bridge is placed, but only for local traffic.

For Lee County, the future of four-laning of SR 80, widening of SR 82 and North River Road all depend on development. Alva residents want to design North River Road as a scenic road. Aligning Luckett Road through LeHigh and to Hendry by 2035 and increasing alternate modes of transportation are projects on their radar screen that will affect Hendry County.

Wayne Daltry, of Lee Smart Growth, cautioned that LaBelle and Clewiston should be mindful of saving their mobility - that is, make sure SR 80 improvements do not interfere with neighborhood connectivity.

Lowell Teals Promise to Poppy wins top book award at FPA

Promise To Poppy, the fourth novel in The Bath Pond Series by Lowell Teal, won top honors among Florida books. Promise to Poppy is the fourth in the series and the third to receive gold honors from Florida Publishers Association.

Bath Pond itself was a small lake and still exists; however, it is now a retention pond

within a housing development. In the Great Depression it was a "bath tub" for working people and a "swimming" pool for young people. It was notable as a lake in that its water was crystal clear with small bubbling springs prior to central Florida's population explosion. It was a diamond among physical assets for a small farming community.

The cover is a professional painting by Bettye Williams of Bartow. The design of the book and mechanical editor Craig Hines of Bellerophon Productions, Cherokee Village, Ark., actually edited the particulars that made the book a winner.

The Bath Pond Series consist of Bath Pond published in 2005, Fortunes Cross-

ing in 2006, Inherited Journey in 2007 and Promise to Poppy in 2009.

For more information about the series and the author contact Lowell Teal at 407-257-5106 or Florida Publishers Association at 863-648-4420. Online visit www.Lowell-Teal.com

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