

Caloosa Belle



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50¢ Plus tax

Coalition criticizes SFWMD

By Pete Gawda

Special to the Caloosa Belle

It was “pick on South Florida Water Management District” (SFWMD) day at the Friday, March 8, meeting of the County Coalition for the Responsible Management of Lake Okeechobee, St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries and the Lake Worth Lagoon.

The coalition is made up of representatives from Okeechobee, St. Lucie, Martin, Lee, Palm Beach, Hendry, Glades, Highlands and Osceola counties.

In the past coalition meetings have often been marked by differences of opinion between the coastal and interior counties.

This time the coalition was united in their displeasure with SFWMD.

Glades County Commissioner Russell Echols, who chairs the coalition, urged that SFWMD not keep purchasing and selling properties and that SFWMD complete projects they have started.

“I’d like to see more transparency,” he added. “They are not

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Two appointed to ESC Board of Trustees

Florida Governor Rick Scott announced the appointment Tristan “Tris” Chapman and the reappointment of Julia Perry to serve on Edison State College’s Board of Trustees. Both of the appointments are effective immediately and continue through May 22, 2016. The appointments are subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate.

“We welcome Mr. Chapman to our Board of Trustees and we appreciate the continued service of Mrs. Perry,” said Dr. Jeff Allbritten, President, Edison State College. “They both offer a wealth of experience and will represent their counties well.”

Mr. Chapman, who is not related to fellow Trustee Brian Chapman, represents Hendry County. He succeeds Dr. Randall Parrish, who did not seek reappointment.

“Dr. Parrish has given generously of his time, energy and expertise since his appointment in

2006 and we appreciate all he has done for the college,” added Dr. Allbritten.

Mrs. Julia Perry joined the Board of Trustees in 2002 and has been reappointed to continue serving. A retired school librarian, she represents Glades County.

“We appreciate that Mrs. Perry is willing to continue serving Edison State College,” said Dr. Allbritten. “Her love of the college, its students and the communities we serve has been reflected in her enthusiastic support since the day she joined the board.”

The newest member of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Chapman is Vice President and General Manager of Southern Gardens Citrus. Prior to joining Southern Gardens, he was an executive with Tropicana for over 20 years. He earned his bachelor’s degree and MBA from the University of South Florida. Chapman serves

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Submitted photo

Tristan Chapman, left, of Hendry County was appointed to Edison State College’s Board of Trustees by Gov. Rick Scott, right. He is taking Dr. Randy Parrish’s seat on the board. Julia Perry also serves on the board.

Yesterday’s Shadows: World in denial

Robert Sitta is an adjunct professor of history at Edison State College’s Hendry/Glades Center instructing in world civilization and U. S. history. A 50-year resident of southwest Florida, he holds degrees from Florida Southern College and Stetson University

By Robert Sitta

Edison State College

(This is a continuation of Mr. Sitta’s documentation citing anti-Semitic legislative regulations and social mores common in the United States during the decades leading up to World War II. We take up Mr. Sitta’s documentation as preacher Gerald L.K. Smith and others put on Christian crusades to limit wealth accumulation and target Jews. Smith helped plan for Louisiana Senator Huey Long to run against F.D.R. for president in 1936 but Long was assassinated. Roosevelt “reacted to this threat by distancing himself from any appearance of support for the European Jews. Roosevelt dismissed Kennedy as ambassador to Great Britain for his association with the Nazis and their sympathizers)

Smith moved his operations from Louisiana to Michigan, where he was financially backed by auto magnates Horace Dodge, Jr. and Henry Ford. The virulent anti-Semite Ford had, until a defamation lawsuit shut it down, owned the Dearborn Independent newspaper, with a circulation of 700,000, that he used to disseminate his views on the Jewish threat.

Through writer William Cameron, Ford’s newspaper ‘exposed’ the ‘facts’ purporting to show an international Jewish conspiracy. Among his popular claims was that German-Jewish bankers had caused World War I.

Ford was so highly regarded by

Adolph Hitler that he was the only American mentioned by name in ‘Mein Kampf,’ Hitler’s autobiography. “Jews”, Hitler had written, were “controlling masters” of production in a nation of one hundred and twenty million. Only a single great man, Ford, to their fury, still maintains full independence.” Nazi Germany awarded medals to Ford and Lindbergh for their views favorable to Germany.

“Whenever Jewish tendencies are permitted to work unhindered, the result is not ‘Americanization,’ nor ‘Anglicization’ nor any other distinctive nationalism, but a strong and ruling reversion back to essential ‘Judaization,” wrote Ford. ‘One of the strongest causes militating against the full Americanization of several millions of Jews in this country,’ he again recorded, “is their belief - instilled in them by their religious authorities - that they are ‘chosen’, this land is theirs, the inhabitants idolaters, and that the day is coming when the Jews will be supreme.”

America’s greatest hero, Charles Lindbergh, shared many of these attitudes that closely coupled with a general anti-war atmosphere in which Jews were singled out as war-mongers. In a speech in 1939, the lone eagle, Lindbergh, said, “Instead of agitating for war, the Jewish groups in this country should be opposing it in every possible way for they will be among the first to feel its consequences.”

“Pressing this country towards war are the British, the Jewish and the Roosevelt administration,” he continued. He also denounced the “large ownership and influence in our motion pictures, our press,

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Denial

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our radio and our government.”

Like Kennedy, Astor, Ford and others, Lindbergh defended himself against charges of racism, softening his opinion that Hitler was a great man with the view that some of his reactions to the Jews had gone too far. In his diary, Lindbergh wrote, “We must limit to a reasonable amount the Jewish influence.

Whenever the Jewish percentage of total population becomes too high, a reaction seems to invariably occur. This is too bad because a few Jews of the right type are, I believe, an asset to any country.” As leader of the America First Committee, Lindbergh swayed millions at mass rallies held at New York’s Madison Square Gardens and Chicago’s Soldier Field.

America’s tepid response to the deteriorating status of European Jews was not unique. The newspapers were generally shallow in covering events. In 1996, New York Times correspondent A. M. Rosenthal wrote that “The charge has often been made that the New York Times’ coverage of the holocaust was grossly inadequate . . . the charges were justified. Few newspapers were much better, burying coverage on the back pages and obscuring that the events were directed at Jews. Newspapers in Britain and elsewhere were no better.

In 1939, a bill opposed by the Roosevelt administration, which would admit 20,000 Jewish children into the United States, died in committee.

The German Ministry of Propaganda, in 1939, sought to use a hollow show of sympathy for the Jews by permitting The Saint Louis, to depart for Havana, Cuba. A majority of the 938 passengers had applied for U. S. visas but even before the ship departed Hamburg problems developed.

Joseph Gerbels sought to show that despite condemnations from other nations regarding German behavior towards Jews, especially six months earlier with Krastallnacht, their own people did not want to take the Jews either. Only small numbers were being admitted and obstructions were continually being erected.

The U. S. state department sent a telegram to their consulate in Cuba asking that documents not be processed. Most of those on board viewed Cuba as only a temporary port on their way to the United States. Cuban President Frederico Laredo Bru invalidated all issued landing certificates and declared that only those posting a \$500 bond and receiving written authorization from both the Cuban secretary of state and secretary of labor would be allowed ashore. 2,500 Jewish refugees had already arrived in Cuba and with severe unemployment still

the norm, demonstrations against the new arrivals escalated.

An anti-Semitic demonstration of 40,000 people, organized by former president Grau San Martin had marched through the streets of Havana less than three weeks before the arrival of the Saint Louis. “Fight the Jews until the last one is driven out,” Grau had declared.

The world press followed the plight of the Saint Louis as it was ordered out of Cuban waters.

Negotiations continued without results as the ship slowly sailed towards Miami. Docking at Ft. Lauderdale, they were again not permitted ashore. One desperate passenger had already committed suicide. But the state department was adamant that the quota of 27,370 a year had already been filled and it would not be right to let these new applicants leap-frog over those waiting in line.

Fortune Magazine took a poll of American attitude on granting an exception. While expressing sympathy, 83 percent opposed relaxing immigration restrictions. German propaganda triumphed over the seemingly two-faced policies of other nations. Limping back to Europe, the passengers were sent in small numbers to other nations to avoid popular criticism that they already had enough immigrants. Britain took in 288, the Netherlands 181, Belgium 214, and France 224. Of these, 254 would die in the holocaust that was soon to come. The same forces that caused the United States and other nations to turn away from the plight of the Jews over seventy years ago still exist today. Fear that the new immigrant is different than earlier immigrants, that they will supplant the native culture and drive down wages by working for less, are genuine fears held by many. But ours is also a dynamic society that has evolved from the richness of other cultures.

The fear of how much immigration to permit and at what pace has driven our current discussion on immigration. Many today would like a return to the controls of the Johnson-Reed Act and bemoan the liberalized immigration policy established in 1965. Others would seek an even more open-door policy than currently legislated. Seeing through the lens of the past makes us better judges of what should be done.

Board

Continued From Page 1

on the Hendry County Development Council’s Education Task Force. He has served as Chairman of the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners, on the Florida Citrus Commission, as President of Florida Citrus Processors Association, the Hendry-Glades Leadership Board, and as a board member of Hendry County’s two regional planning organizations, Florida’s Heartland Regional Development Initiative (FHREDI) and the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC).

Coalition

Continued From Page 1

spending their money. They are spending our money.”

He suggested an appeal to the governor if SFWMD does not become more responsive to the needs of the residents of the 16 county area it serves.

“They buy land on whims and figure out later what they are going to do with it,” Commissioner Echols charged.

Lee County Commissioner Tammy Hall suggested the counties in the coalition coordinate lobbying issues on common causes such as displeasure of SFWMD policies.

“We need to get projects completed,” was the opinion of Martin County Commissioner Sarah Heard who said SFWMD does not have consistent plans for finishing projects.

Hendry County Commissioner Carson Turner said he was tired of being criticized for SFWMD projects in his county that were not completed.

“We need to see dirt turned. We need to see progress made,” he asserted.

Daniel O’Keefe, of the SFWMD Board of Governors, responded to some of the issues addressed. He said he and Commissioner Echols had spoken the day before.

“He may have been surprised that I agree with a lot of his thoughts and concerns and frustrations,” Mr. O’Keefe said. He added that he wanted to make SFWMD more responsive to the counties served. He said he was working with SFWMD staff to find funding for dredging Moore Haven Canal. He said that while the C43 Canal is a very expensive project, SFWMD staff is looking to break that project down into doable segments.

“We are going through our land assessment right now to look at what lands can be surplus,” Mr. O’Keefe said. He said SFWMD is looking at lands not being used and deciding what lands can be put back on the tax rolls. He pledged this would be a transparent project. After an extensive public review process he said any lands declared surplus must be sold at fair market value. “I will follow up directly with the chairman,” he asserted. Mr. O’Keefe also said he would respond to individual coalition members. “I serve on a volunteer basis and I am here to serve you and your constituents.”

Turning to other action, Lt. Col. Tom

Greco, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ deputy commander for South Florida gave the coalition an update on COE’s work. He said that 21.4 miles of cutoff wall, a wall built in the dike to strengthen it, has been constructed between Port Mayaca and Belle Glade. That project will be officially completed this year.

The ongoing culvert replacement project will be completed by 2018. Aging metal culverts will be replaced with concrete structures that have a life span of 50 to 100 years. A contract will be awarded this year for a seepage management test. The colonel said the Dam Safety Modification Study would include the entire 143 mile embankment and structures. Multiple alternatives will be developed and analyzed to reduce risk.

The study should be ready for public comment the summer of 2014 and it should be approved in 2015. Because of the priority of the levee he said most levee projects receive adequate funding. In the next fiscal year three additional contracts will be awarded on the Kissimmee River Restoration Project.

At 14.27 feet the colonel said the lake was higher than it has been on this date for the last two years. He said he would like to come back and address the coalition during the rainy season and give a detailed presentation of water management.

Commissioner Echols asked when the lake could be held at higher levels. The colonel said it would be several years before the lake regulation schedule would be changed. In the meantime his organization is trying to manage the lake the best it can with the existing schedule.

During public comment time, Paul Gray of the Florida Audubon Society reminded the coalition that there is \$25 million in the current state budget to acquire conservation easements.

He said these easements will keep land in agriculture while protecting the environment.

Ed Fielding asked that releases to the St. Lucie be stopped and releases to the Caloosahatchee be reduced.

Martha Musgrove of the Florida Wildlife Federation urged coalition members to lobby their congressmen for more funding for Everglades restoration projects.

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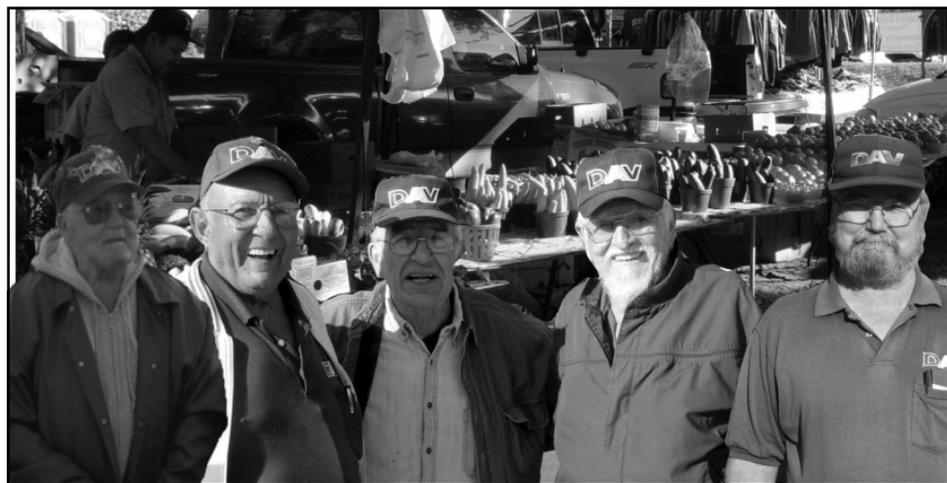
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Submitted photo

Community minded

DAV marketplace gives over \$100,000 to LaBelle and Hendry County projects. Located at Hwy. 80 W and MLK and open from 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays.

Motorcycle crash in Glades

A Fort Lauderdale man sustained critical injuries in a one-vehicle crash in Glades County March 10.

According to the Florida Highway Patrol, 46-year-old Brian K. Clement was driving a 2009 Yamaha motorcycle westward on CR 731 when he failed to negotiate a left turn in the road. He left the roadway on the right side, struck a traffic sign and overturned. Mr. Clement was wearing a helmet at the time of the crash and alcohol was not a factor. He was cited for careless driving.

One serious, two minor injuries

On March 9 Edward W. Bebon, 20, of Clewiston received serious injuries in a crash

on CR 78

According to the Florida Highway Patrol, Mr. Bebon was traveling south on CR 78 in a 2007 Mazda RX8 approaching Elizabeth St. and lost control attempting to negotiate a left curve. He entered the west grass shoulder and struck a no passing zone sign with the front of his vehicle and began to rotate counterclockwise, striking a tree with its rear portion. The vehicle entered a ditch and caught on fire.

Passengers Cynthia Frederick, 16, and Sophia Whidden, 18, both of LaBelle, sustained minor injuries. Mr. Bebon and Ms. Frederick were wearing their seatbelts; Ms. Whidden was not. All three were transported to Lee Memorial Hospital.

Arrest Reports

LaBelle

Vincent Charles Billings, 37, was arrested March 8 and charged with sale of marijuana schedule 1 and possession of marijuana with intent to sell, manufacture, deliver, etc., schedule 1. M. Yeomans was arresting officer.

Christina White, 28, was arrested March 8 and charged with possession of harmful new legend drugs without a prescription, possession of methamphetamines schedule 1 and possession/use of drug equipment. Sgt. J. Olvera was arresting officer.

Juan Jose Lopez, 16, was arrested March 5 and charged with possession of marijuana with intent to sell etc., possession of drug equipment, possession of marijuana under 20 grams and FTA misdemeanor. T. Marshall was arresting officer.

Caitlin Pannell, 14, was arrested February 28 and charged with dealing in stolen property. T. Marshall was arresting officer.

Clewiston

Hector Torres, 53, was arrested March 10 and charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon no intent to kill. Sgt. Blackman was arresting officer.

Purificacion Romero, 55, was arrested March 9 and charged with domestic battery by strangulation. A. Campbell was arresting officer.

Santa Anna Rodriguez, 45, was arrested March 8 and charged with a nonmoving traffic violation driving with a suspended license habitual offender. CPD Officer S. Chamberlain was arresting officer.

James Mills, 25, was arrested March 7 and charged with aggravated battery offender knew, should have known, the victim was pregnant. R. Crosswell was arresting officer.

Vernita Jones, 19, was arrested March 6 and charged with uttering a false bank bill, note, check, draft. CPD Officer S. Bozzi was arresting officer.

Alberto Valdez, 22, was arrested March 5 and charged with possession of marijuana over 20 grams and possession/use of drug equipment. Sgt. L. Richardson was arresting officer.

Javier Crespo, 33, was arrested March 4 and charged with battery touch/strike, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon no intent to kill, battery on an officer, firefighter, EMT, etc. and resisting an officer obstruction without violence. T. Nieves was arresting officer.

County considers selling property

by **Patty Brant**

Caloosa Belle

A bid of \$175,000 for the building at 88 N. Main Street in LaBelle was ultimately accepted at the February 26 meeting, after the bidder offered to pay closing costs as well. Speaking to the board, he told them the \$300,000 price tag was way out of line. He noted that the property is 1.14 acres, however, one acre of that is drainage; the remaining .14 acres includes currently unacceptable setbacks and an easement for Burger King access.

The building has been for sale for a year with only one bidder, the man whose counter bid they accepted that night. He told them he plans to put in office suites for local businesses and to use one section as a "lawyer's club" to be used by attorneys during court proceedings.

The board also decided to turn the old probation office on Main Street over to a realtor, as should all county property to be sold. The listings should result in faster sales.

In other business:

- Commissioner Janet Taylor suggested the county ask its federal lobbyist to find out how the possible sequestration would affect Hendry County.

- The board agreed with Chairman Karson Turner's suggestion that Interim County Administrator Mark Lapp find estimates of the cost of broadcasting county commission meetings.

- A large group of 4-H supporters came to voice their concerns about the moving of a LaBelle agent and a Clewiston agent to the opposite sides of the county. The group was concerned about the affect the switch of these veteran agents was having on the 4-H'ers and the loss of transportation for horse club members. In addition, commissioners were unhappy about the cost of gas paid for one of the agents.

Mr. Lapp was directed to "work it out."

Help Charlie fight cancer

Most everyone knows Charles Barnes. "Charlie" is well known and respected in the LaBelle area. He's been a resident of LaBelle for 40 years.

He may have even painted your home, church or business having owned and operated "Charles Barnes Painting" for 38 years.

Charlie was a volunteer firefighter in LaBelle for five years. He worked for Hendry County Sheriff's Department for six years and could be found out and about barbecuing at many fundraisers, benefits and community outreaches throughout the years helping with the needs of others.

Shortly after retiring three years ago, Charlie and his wife Betty moved to his childhood hometown in Elkmont, Alabama, where they presently reside.

Charlie is in a fight! February 8, 2013, he was diagnosed with esophagus cancer and on February 20, he was also diagnosed with cancer in his chest and stomach lymphnodes.

So many people have been touched by cancer and it doesn't rest or sleep in its efforts to destroy lives. Therefore Charlie's family and friends have decided to 'Help Charlie Fight'!

They're hoping that you too will "Help Charlie Fight" with a donation that will help them in defraying the costs.

Charlie and Betty are on a fixed income and they are encountering mounting medical and household expenses as well as many travel expenses to doctor visits and daily radiation and chemotherapy appointments.

All donations big and small will be greatly appreciated! We can only imagine the difference and impact that you will make in Charlie's fight against cancer.

Donations in check or money orders may be mailed to: Charles Barnes, 21467 Upper Fort Hampton Rd., Elkmont, Alabama 35620-4659.

Please pray for Charlie and help him fight.

March is 'Save Your Vision' Month



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Career Corner

How Much Am I Worth?

by Matt Kindermann

Recently I was speaking with a recruiter for a large local company and they were discouraged in the hunt for a competitive skill set, saying "even recent graduates are expecting top pay right out of school, and they can usually get it." This is in contrast to many of our other customers who are frustrated with the relatively low pay offerings for the jobs they are looking to apply for. Scenarios like these beg to answer the question, "how much am I worth?"

Just like the principles of commercial supply and demand, if there is a skill set that is missing locally and supply is low, then those demanding that skill set are typically offering higher wages to attract qualified talent. Of course, some other wage variables include company size and profit margin, whether the labor force is contractually organized or not, availability of alternate resources such as outsourcing or temp agencies, and value the employer places on that particular position.

To see what others are earning in your career field, go to www.glassdoor.com, click on the Salaries tab and enter a job title



Matt Kindermann

and location. You can use this resource to see how much you could be worth in other areas as well. However, Glassdoor is only as good as the information registered users have put in. So, if your position does not have adequate information, look at www.simplyhired.com/a/salary/home or www.careeronestop.org and click on "Salary + Benefits."

There are definitely regional differences in compensation. For instance, there is usually a difference in compensation between similar positions in rural areas and urban areas. Typically, this difference may be as much as 10%, but that is not a hard and fast rule. As an example, a typical entry level welder in Fort Myers may earn \$10-12/hour. Whereas a G3 certified welder at a manufacturer in Hendry County may start at \$18/hour. Although, secretaries in Lee County may be earning \$12/hour, where Hendry County secretaries are earning \$10/hour.

Southwest Florida Works is the regional state workforce board for Hendry, Glades, Charlotte, Lee and Collier counties. For no-fee job search assistance or employer support, speak with an employment representative nearest you by going to www.swflworks.org and click on "Locations."

SW Florida Community Foundation to hold grant workshops next week

FORT MYERS, Fla. (Feb. 27, 2013) – The Southwest Florida Community Foundation will host grant workshops across the five-county area it serves the week of March 18, 2013.

The grant workshops are meant to inform nonprofit agencies about the various grant opportunities available through the foundation.

According to the Community Foundation's Director of Programs, Anne Douglas, the series will address changes to the foundation's current grant programs and updates on the 3D initiative.

"Grants can be a considerable source of frustration for nonprofits," said Douglas. "These informational workshops are meant to breakdown the confusion and questions and make the process as simple and pain free as possible so that we are able to get funds into the hands of the community organizations that need them."

Sessions include: Monday, March 18, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Alliance of the Arts located at 10091 McGregor Blvd. in Fort Myers; Tuesday, March 19 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Clewiston Museum located at 109

Central Ave. in Clewiston, and from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Hendry County Economic Development Council located at 644 S. Main Street in LaBelle; Wednesday, March 20 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Naples Daily News located at 1100 Immokalee Road in Naples; and Friday, March 22 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Cultural Center of Charlotte County located at 2280 Aaron Street in Port Charlotte.

The SWFLCF is celebrating its 36th year of supporting the communities of Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Glades and Hendry counties by connecting donors and their philanthropic aspirations with evolving community needs. With assets of more than \$64 million, the Community Foundation has provided more than \$54 million in grants and scholarships to the communities it serves. During its 2012 fiscal year, the SWFLCF granted more than \$3 million to more than 100 different organizations supporting education, animal welfare, arts and human services.

Reservations are required by Friday, March 15. For more information, please call Anne Douglas at 239-274-5900, visit the web site at www.floridacommunity.com or RSVP to jremmel@floridacommunity.com.

Caloosa Belle



To Reach Us

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 518
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Physical Address: 22 Ft. Thompson Ave.
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To Submit News

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

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

We Pledge...

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

HCSO sponsoring ride for youth ranches

Hendry County Sheriff's Office is hosting the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Ride Around the Lake Motorcycle Rally.

Sheriff Steve Whidden and his Community Policing Unit invite you to this Annual Community Event to help raise money for the Youth Ranches. Come one and come all!

Motorcycles, vintage cars and all others are welcome to participate.

***The mission of the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches is to prevent delinquency and develop strong, lawful, resilient and productive citizens who will make a positive contribution to our communities for years to come.

Their values are: Children First, Integrity, Quality, Stewardship & Character***

With your help the entire community can assure the continuation of this worthwhile program

When: Saturday, March 23, 2013

Registration will take place at Roland & Mary Ann Martin's Marina and Tiki Bar, 920 E. Del Monte Avenue, Clewiston, FL - 9 a.m.-10 a.m.

Cost for the ride is just \$10 per bike for ride - bike/car show - and \$10 entry to compete.

What: This will be a leisurely ride around Lake Okeechobee with suggested stops for rest. The day's activities will be starting from Roland & Mary Ann Martin's Marina and returning to the marina where we will have a car show, a bike show, live entertainment, door prizes, vendors, 50/50, food and refreshments

All proceeds benefit the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches contact skelly@hendrysheriff.org or Suzy at 863-517-2202 for more information

Hope to see you all there!

 Follow the Caloosa Belle on **facebook**



Submitted photo

Fuel the Fire

Children love to get rewarded for their achievements; the LaBelle Fire Department has begun their first "Fuel the Fire for Reading" Program in the elementary schools. During the month of January the fire department rewarded the students of Upthegrove Elementary. County Oaks Elementary School students participated in the program during the month of February. Every week the fireman would go into the schools and deliver prizes to the students for achieving their goals in reading. The prizes include bookmarks, pencils, erasers, etc. At the end of the month the top three students in each grade are treated to a pizza lunch with the fireman and goody bags filled with numerous surprises from businesses throughout the community. The fire department would like to thank the following businesses and community partners for the goodies; Hendry County Sheriff's office, Sal Cal's pizza, McDonalds, Division of Forestry and the Florida Everblades. We are looking forward to spending time in the future with LaBelle Elementary School students!

Easter Egg Hunt coming to LaBelle Kiwanis

Calling all kids from ages 12 and under! "Hop" on over to the Kiwanis Thrift Store on March 23rd starting at 10am for The LaBelle Kiwanis Annual Easter Egg Hunt! And of course the Easter Bunny will be there too!

Additionally this year, the LaBelle Kiwanis Club will be giving away free books to all kids who participate in the activities. Lots of fun and lots of surprises!

The egg hunt is free and the hunt will be separated into three age groups:
Ages 3 and 4,
ages 5

to 7, ages 8 to 10. No parents will be allowed on the "hunting grounds" with the kids, but Kiwanis Members and Key Club Members will be on hand to assist with the smaller kids.

Kids are asked to bring their own basket or any type of bag to put their eggs in during the hunt. There will be other fun activities (scavenger hunt) for ages 11 to 12.

Prizes will be awarded!

There will be goody bags for all kids!

Additionally, ALL ages are welcome to come and take their photo with the Easter Bunny!

The

LaBelle Kiwanis Thrift Store is located at 155 S. Bridge Street.

We hope to see you there!



Firehouse Theatre practices final play of the season

The Firehouse Community Theatre is pleased to announce their final show of their 20th season; "Nice People Dancing to Good Country Music," written by Lee Blessing and directed by Dave Johnson.

This show stars: Laura Reed, Mike Shough, Doug Patterson, Linda Reecer and James Wingard.

This show has little to do with Country Music or dancing; it isn't even a musical. It is a funny, wacky look at life and love when a city gal meets a good ol' Texan Redneck! The show does contain some adult language.

Showtimes are Friday, March 15, and Saturday, March 16, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 17, at 2 p.m. and the following weekend Friday, March 22, and Saturday, March

23, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 24, at 2 p.m.

Tickets can NOW be purchased at their website www.firehousecommunitytheatre.com and are \$12 if purchased in advance or you can still use the ticket hotline at (863) 675-3066 up to one hour before the production. Tickets purchased the day of the performance are \$14, however, seating cannot be guaranteed.

The Firehouse Community Theatre is located at 241 N. Bridge Street in LaBelle. For more information about us or our upcoming performances, please call or visit our website!

Firehouse Theater: Playwriting Competition now ongoing

The Firehouse Community Theatre is pleased to announce the annual Clarence "Bud" Jones Playwriting Competition this year with a first place prize of \$500 and a chance to see their play on the stage of the Firehouse Community Theatre.

This competition is open to all full or part time residents of Glades or Hendry County, Florida and members in good standing of the "Arts of the Inland" artistic group, regardless of residency (children under the age of 18 must have their parent's/guardian's written permission).

All submissions must be family friendly in both subject and language, meaning no profanity or explicit adult content, with a running time between 20 and 90 minutes.

More details are available on their web-

page at www.firehousecommunitytheatre.com or by calling the Box Office at 863-675-3066. The deadline for submissions is April 30, 2013.

Clarence "Bud" Jones served the Hendry County School District at the Clewiston High School as their English Teacher for 20 years.

Bud passed away in 1994 but left behind his love of the theatre with his family and most importantly, his brother John Jones. John and his wife Betty wished to honor Bud's memory by creating this competition in his name.

It is the privilege of the Firehouse Community Theatre to help sponsor this competition in what will become an annual celebration of our local communities.

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Church Briefs

Egg hunt

Come to the Egg Hunt at Eastside Baptist Church, 601 E. Hickpochee Ave., March 30, at 1 p.m.

Christian Men to meet

LaBelle Gathering of Christian Men will meet at First Christian Church, 138 Ford Avenue, LaBelle on Monday, March 18, at 7 p.m. for dinner and a speaker. All men of LaBelle and surrounding areas are invited to join us. For Information or directions please call: Mark White, President @ 239 707 6137 or Randy Way, Program Chairman @ 863 885 1099. HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE.

Special play at Church of the Good Shepherd

The Franciscan Mystery Players will be at the Church of the Good Shepherd, located just east of city of LaBelle and one block south of State Road 80, 1098 Collingswood Parkway, will be playing Friday, March 15, The youth participating in this production are from the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in Cape Coral. The play begins at 7 p.m. at The Church of the Good Shepherd. A free will offering will be accepted.

Franciscan Mystery plays are dramatic multi-media presentations of five powerful living meditations. They employ special lighting, inspirational music, drama and

soul-searching reflections, providing anyone who participates with the opportunity to get in touch with his or her sins, suffering, struggles and goodness. In a very unique way this prayerful experience becomes a powerful vehicle for the Lord's Spirit to forgive, heal, renew and give peace. Life is a mystery and we are the players.

Gospel sing

There will be a Gospel Sing held on Friday, March 15, at the Big Red Barn, Billy and Judy Swindle's property, at 7500 West Hwy. 27 in Clewiston. Ken Binnion will be taking the stage at 7 p.m. For more information regarding this event please call 863-983-7256.

CMUMC music study

Carlson Memorial United Methodist Church Certified Music Educator Hannah Czoski has opened enrollment for Senior citizens, or preschool music appreciation classes, group piano lessons with ear-phones for private learning, home school general music and theory classes, and much more, from ages 3 to 103. Seniors that have always wanted to do something musically and haven't had the chance can slip into a chimes, classical composer, or boomwhackers class and feel comfortable. Classes are small, and run 6 to 8 to 10 weeks, or whatever you need them to be. Group prices are reasonable. Call Hannah at 239-271-4827.



Submitted photo

Kiwanis PB&J

Kiwanis Club of LaBelle Key Club recently made about 100 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. They helped to distribute these sandwiches to folks in our community on Wednesday, Feb. 6 at the United Way Building in LaBelle. They worked with members from United Way and Salvation Army. One lady who received a sandwich was overheard saying "how wonderful, this is really comfort food!" The Key Club members from LaBelle High School really enjoyed helping with this community project and seeing the smiling faces of the people who received a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Pictured left to right: Key Club members Paola Rea and Azucena Cruz, Salvation Army-Lisa Sands, Key Club Advisor and LaBelle Kiwanis member-Tracy Nobles and Key Club member Salvador Carmona. (Not pictured: Arlene Bettencourt from United Way. Arlene is also the President-Elect for the Kiwanis Club of LaBelle)

Obituaries

Keith L. Hall, 55

LABELLE - Keith L. Hall passed away March 4, 2013 in Lehigh Acres.

He was born May 20, 1957 in Avon Park, FL, to the late C. L. "Hoppi" and Beverly (Williams) Hall.

Survivors include, his mother; Beverly (Johnny) Johnson, one son: Bryce Hall and two daughters: Amanda Hall, Danielle (Joey) Greene, one brother: John "Britt" (Louis) Hall and one sister: Cathy (Kristie) Godwin; Grandchildren, Addison Greene, Avery Greene, Zachary Godwin, Jackson Godwin, Elijah Godwin; Ex-Wives, Kim Hall and Paula Hall

He was harvest manager.

Memorial services were held Friday, March 8, 2013, at 4:00 pm at Unity of Sebring Life Enrichment Centre, 10417 South Orange Blossom Blvd. Sebring with Rev. Andy Conyer officiating. Visitation was Thursday from 6-8 p.m. at Akin-Davis Funeral Home, LaBelle, FL.

In Lieu of flowers please donate to a scholarship fund for Keith's son:

Bryce Hall Scholarship Fund
c/o First Bank of Clewiston
301 State Road 80
LaBelle, Florida 33935

Cremation arrangements by Akin-Davis Funeral Home - LaBelle

Ronald Edward Wilson, 65

LABELLE — Ronald Edward Wilson was born Oct. 1, 1947 in Fort Myers, Fla. and went to be with the Lord on Mar. 6, 2013.

Ronnie graduated from LaBelle High School, class of 1965. Upon graduation Ronnie joined the United States Navy. After his tour, he settled

in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. and retired from the State of Florida where he worked for Health and Rehabilitative Services as Assistant Secretary for Operations in Dade City Public Health.

Ronnie returned to the LaBelle area in 2008.

His maternal grandparents were Theodore and Thelma Yeomans; paternal grandparents were Joe and Pearl Wilson; and parents, Edward Wilson and the late Edna Lanier.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents; his mother, Edna; and one brother; David McLamore.

He is survived by his father, Edward Wilson of Tampa; brother, Ted Lanier of Fort Myers; sister, Renni (Langford) Lietz of LaBelle; brother, Stanley Wilson of LaBelle.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Cremation arrangements are being handled by Akin-Davis Funeral Home - LaBelle

Petra Cisnero Blanco, 77

LABELLE - Petra Cisnero Blanco passed away March 7, 2013.

She was born Jan. 31, 1936 in Floresville, Texas, to the late Ted Cisnero Sr. and the late Isabelle (Salazar) Cisnero.

Survivors include her husband, Ausencio Blanco of LaBelle; brothers, Joe Raymond Cisnero of LaBelle and Jesse Cisnero of Houston, Texas; sisters, Frances Cisnero Pena of Victoria, Texas and Mary Lou Medina of LaBelle.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at Our Lady Queen Of Heaven Catholic Church, LaBelle with Father Chester Domaszewicz officiating. Interment followed at Fort De-naud Cemetery, LaBelle.

Arrangements by Akin-Davis Funeral Home - LaBelle.

Witches Brew

by Pudge Lehman

My friend Cheryl Puletti ... Yes, I have some friends... Found me a drinking glass with a witch that looks amazingly like me... short and stout... And the words underneath? Witches Brew... Can you believe it?

A friend (now the count is up to two) told me she has a Sam's Club card but likes to use her "cash back" card that has better benefits than the one Sam's will accept. Hint...When shopping in Walmart load up a Walmart gift card and use it when checking out at Sam's... I keep a card only to pay for gas for a discount at Walmart gas stations.

When doing your tax return make it the time to clear out receipts you no longer

need. If you don't have a shredder, fill your sink or dish pan with warm or hot soapy water and soak all your stuff that has any important numbers on it. I keep an empty dish detergent bottle filled with bleach to squirt into my dishwasher. You can squirt some in this into the pan, too. Take a handful and make a ball and throw in the trash. When it dries there is no way anyone can get important info off of it. They turn into rocks.

My friend, Patti McGill, (that's three now) has finally retired from working at the school for one hundred years... O.K... Slight exaggeration... Now the challenge... Uncle Bill for 24/7... She may be looking for two jobs... We'll see!



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Youth shine during LaBelle Livestock Beef Show

Submitted by Sonja Crawford

The Pee Wee Calf, Beef Breeding and Market Steer Show were held on Tuesday, February 12 at the LaBelle Rodeo Grounds. The show consisted of pee-wee, 4-H and FFA members showing their calves, bulls, heifers, and steers. The steers exhibited at the show ranged in weight from 960 pounds to 1,220 pounds. Mr. Todd Thrift of Gainesville, Florida, served as the official judge for the evening. The pee wee show was sponsored by the parents, the beef breeding show was sponsored by Jim and Linda Barfield, the steer show was sponsored by Family Eye Care and the belt buckles were sponsored by Triangle Chemical Company.

Twenty-one calf exhibitors began the evening answering questions about their project. The Pee Wee exhibitors consisted of David Bischel, Jennalynn Davidson, Olivia Davidson, Tyler Davidson, Jacob Davis, John Davis, Carli Hendry, Riley Howard, Kaelyn Murray, Ty Murray, Alisah O’Bern, CJ O’Bern, Granger Perra, Caden Pratt, Aaliyah Scott, Jathan Smith, Dallen Steelman, Gracie Swails, Landon Thigpen, Lawton Thigpen, and Kaydence Tindall. All of the pee-wee exhibitors received a medallion for their participation as well as their hard work in raising a calf for the show.

The beef breeding critters were judged on size, growth potential, muscle, balance, structural correctness, capacity, and sex characteristics. The steers were judged on muscling, correctness of finish, balance,

capacity, size, as well as carcass desirability. Showmanship was judged on the ability to exhibit an animal to its best advantage, as well as the overall care and training of the animal. The exhibitors were also judged on control, presentation to the judge, awareness of the judge, as well as knowledge of the specie. Planning, practicing, and neat appearance will assist the exhibitor in being successful.

In the Beef Breeding division: Blake Crawford, Justin Mickelsen, Micah Murphy, Kylie Perra, and Windall Tindall received blue ribbons for their breeding stock. Blake captured Grand Champion with his Angus bull. Kylie achieved Grand Champion with her Brahman heifer with Windall taking Reserve Champion with his Santa Gertrudis Cross heifer. In the Showmanship division: Blake achieved the first place award with Windall capturing the second place award.

In the Steer division: Jordan Lowery, Micah Mudge, Tristan Mudge, Adam Reinbott, Katelyn Steelman, and Windall Tindall received blue ribbons for their entry. Windall captured the Grand Champion award as well as the Hendry County Bred Grand Champion award with his 1,133 pound steer. The producer of Windall’s calf was Jim Barfield and was purchased by Pat and Karen Howell. Receiving the Reserve Champion award was Katelyn. Katelyn’s steer weighed in at 1,073 pounds and was purchased by H & H Harvesting. Tristan was awarded the Hendry County Bred Reserve Champion

Award with her steer weighing 1,220 lbs. Mudge Ranch was the producer of Tristan’s calf and was purchased by Hood Citrus. To be awarded the honor of receiving the Hendry County Bred Grand and Reserve Champion Steer award, the calf had to be born in Hendry County or the producer is a current member of the Hendry County Cattlemen’s Association.

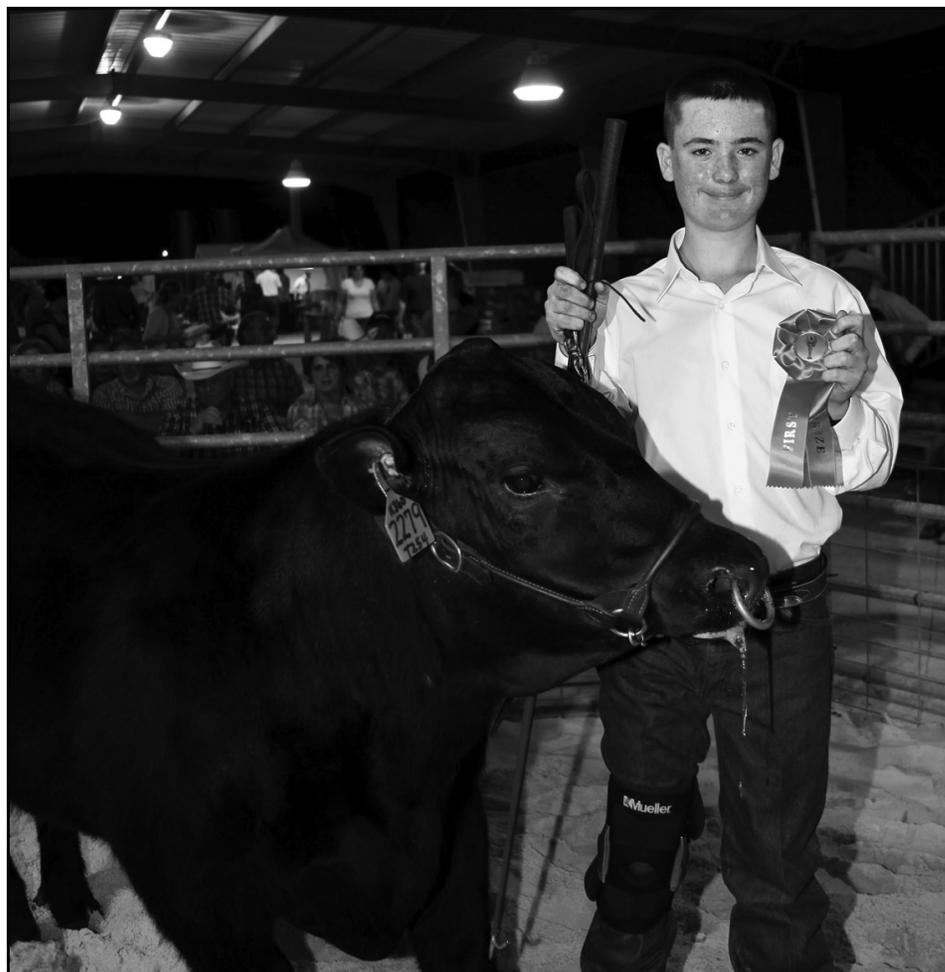
Tristan achieved the first place award in the Senior showmanship division with Katelyn taking the second place award. Windall captured the first place award with Micah achieving the second place award in the Junior showmanship category. Furthermore, the first place average daily gain award went to Tristan gaining 2.95 lbs/day with Windall’s steer gaining 2.82 lbs/day winning the second place award.

In the Junior Herdsman division: Adam Reinbott received the first place award with the second place award going to Justin Mickelsen.

In the Senior Herdsman division: Micah Murphy captured the first place award with Jordan Lowery receiving the second place award.

Adam, Blake, Justin, Katelyn, Kylie, Micah, and Windall are members of the A-1 Steer 4-H Club. Jordan is a member of the Double “H” Livestock 4-H Club and Micah is a member of the Clewiston High School FFA Chapter.

The sponsors of the event are greatly appreciated as well as the LYL committee, 4-H/FFA leaders and parents. All of the exhibitors did a great job exhibiting their critters. The A-1 Steer 4-H Club is led by Mr. Jim Barfield and Mrs. Patricia McGill, the Double “H” Livestock 4-H Club is under the direction of Mrs. Colette Willis and Mrs. Jane Swails, and the Clewiston High School FFA Chapter is led by Ms. Jennie Goeff and Mrs. Donna Sparks. Ms. Jennifer Pack provided leadership to the Pee Wee calf exhibitors.



Blake Crawford with his Grand Champion Angus bull.

Submitted photo/Sonja Crawford



Katelyn Steelman and her Reserve Champion Steer.

Submitted photo



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Submitted photo/Delia Minors

Power!

Congratulations LaBelle Cowboys Powerlifting team for placing first overall at the Travis Todd meet in Avon Park on March 7.

Girls track breaks records, first runners-up at Viking invitational

by Sarah Lapp

In 1990, LHS Girls track team member C. Grant ran the 2 mile in 13 minutes 29 seconds. On Wednesday, March 6, Freshman Ana Arreola broke the 23-year drought by clocking in at 13 minutes and 14 seconds at the Viking Invitational at Bishop Verot. But Arreola was not the only girls track team member who stood out that day. Senior Tania Cruz took first place in the shot-put and Senior Kayla Keller placed first in the 100 meter dash. The Cowgirls were overall

runners-up at the Viking Invitational, defeating the Vikings and only trailing behind St. John Newman. "Before my heat, I was expecting to get my normal times, which were around 13:50. The weather was extremely cold and windy, so I had no hopes to beat the record, I was not even thinking about it," Arreola remembered.

The blustery weather proved a dynamic advantage as Arreola got on the last straightaway of her 8th lap around the track. Long Distance Head Coach Jenny McClain screamed at her superstar Freshman to

Burchard, Garcia have big week

The LaBelle Cowboys won two of three last week on the diamond as they defeated Clewiston 2-1 and Dunbar 9-2 before falling to a very tough Gulf Coast team 11-1.

The Cowboys got a big two out pinch-hit from Junior Travis Burchard in the bottom of the sixth inning to score Senior Ronnie Burton from second base and give LaBelle the one-run lead they needed for a victory over their county rivals at home on Tuesday. Burton and Senior Kippy Stansly both had two hits apiece on the night for the Cowboys.

Senior Austin Garcia continued his consistency on the mound pitching a complete game giving up only five hits and striking out eight Clewiston Tigers.

The Cowboys took to the road on Thursday and came away with a solid victory over

the Dunbar Tigers behind a solid pitching performance from Burchard and a hot bat from Garcia. Burchard gave up only two hits and fanned 11 to even his record at 2-2 on the season. Garcia went four-for-five at the plate and crushed his fifth homerun of the season. Ronnie Burton and Senior Tyler O'Ferrell added two hits apiece for LaBelle as they improved their district record to 3-1.

On Friday the Cowboys headed to Naples and were dealt a tough defeat at the hands of the Gulf Coast Sharks. The Sharks jumped on the Cowboys for five quick runs in the first inning and never looked back.

Senior Alton Burton had three of the Cowboys' five hits but it wasn't enough against the solid Shark squad. Garcia and Junior Jarred Miller had LaBelle's other two hits.

"push it, you're almost there! You got this!" Arreola passed numerous competitors as she finished in 13:14. This new time was short lived though, as Arreola broke her own record the very next day at Charlotte High School. She ran the 2 mile in 12 minutes 57 seconds, setting yet another school record.

"Ana just has a natural talent for this. She puts in amazing effort too. After seeing her during Cross Country season, I knew she had potential. Also, since I have been coaching here, she is the first freshman to break a record," Coach McClain beamed.

At the Viking Invitational Senior Tania Cruz took first place out of 11 girls in shot-put, with a season best 25 feet, 4 inches. "After my second flight (throw) I knew I had it, judging by the other girl's distances. I could not believe it. This was my first time placing First at a big Invitational. I've waited four years for this and it feels amazing," Cruz said. The Cowboy Invitational is Friday, March 22, beginning at 4 p.m.



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Register for Summer VPK at Country Oaks Elementary

Hendry County Schools is offering a free Summer VPK program again this year. If you have a child that will be entering Kindergarten in August and will be 5 years old by September 1, 2013, he/she is eligible to attend a VPK program. Children must be residents of Florida to be eligible, but they may go to any school at the completion of VPK. The program at COES is an excellent way to prepare your child for regular school routines.

The program runs from June 10th until August 2nd from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. each day. Breakfast and Lunch are provided at no cost. Please call Richard Talada at 674-4140 for information or stop by Country Oaks on one of the following days from 5-7 p.m. to register. Open registration will begin from 5 - 7 p.m. at Country Oaks Elementary School on March 21, April 11, April 25, May 9, and May 16. You may also come by during regular school hours to register for the summer VPK program as well. Students will

work on learning the alphabet, numbers, computer skills, gross and fine motor skills during the course of the summer.

Students participate in art and music activities as well. We look forward to working with your child this summer. Register early to reserve a spot for your child!

Community Brief

Services at animal clinic

The Caloosa Humane Society is now offering special ordering diets from Hills, Royal Canin and Purina. All sizes of Trifexis are now in stock, a once a month oral flea/heartworm prevention.

You can schedule visits for nail trims, anal gland expression, ear plucking, medicated baths and more!

Submitted photo

First grade classes visit Heritage Museum

All four first grade classes from Edward A. Upthegrove Elementary School recently visited LaBelle Heritage Museum on two separate mornings ending their local field trips with a luncheon at Barron Park with a special brownbag treat prepared by the school cafeteria before their return to campus and their classrooms.



Mrs. Figured and Mrs. Stevens walked their two classes of 16 students each, accompanied by parent chaperones, to the museum on Monday, February 11, and Mrs. Colbert and Mrs. Zimmerly brought their 32 first graders, also accompanied by chaperones, to the museum the following morning, Tuesday, February 12. LaBelle Heritage Museum does have a special student membership for \$1 a year that allows unlimited visits to the museum; however, students under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult when visiting the museum. LHM president Joe Thomas says these 64 first graders



were a joy, full of life and eager to learn about the museum's exhibits. The field trips were evidently a success since the three second grade classes at UES are already scheduled for their visits to the museum. Thomas hopes that LaBelle Elementary School and Country Oaks Elementary School can schedule field trips to the museum for their students but does realize budgetary constraints involved with transportation may prevent this.



Submitted photo/Jodi Higginbotham

LMS January Students of the Month

Back row from left: Tyler Gallegos (6th); Angel Vargas (7th); Brendan Herrera (8th). Front row from left: Yaritza Herrera (6th); Babi Galdamez (7th); Ryley Bowen (8th).

School Briefs

LMS PTO to meet

The next LaBelle Middle School PTO meeting is scheduled for March 19 at 6 .p.m in the school library. Discussion of the FCAT incentives and the recent Celebration for doing the Right Thing will be the main topics. Please come and get involved with your child's school.

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Community Briefs

AARP driver safety course

The AARP Safety Class is being offered at the Healing Waters Church, 4501 N. Birchwood Parkway/SR-80, LaBelle, FL. The Pastor Jay GoForth will Host the Class on Thursday, April 4, 2013 from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM. To register, call 1-866-686-4634 (toll free). An AARP volunteer will return your call and provide all the details. AARP members \$12 class fee and non-members \$14 class fee. Please bring a bagged lunch and a check. Future Classes will be offered at this location throughout the year.

Health Department service hours change

The Hendry and Glades County Health Departments have a variety of services to offer in the communities of LaBelle, Clewiston and Moore Haven. The three Health Department sites have changed the hours of clinical service.

Clinical hours at the three sites are Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Stop by or call the Hendry and Glades County Health Departments to meet the staff and to learn about the many services the health department can offer to you and your family. Hendry County Health Departments: LaBelle: (863) 674-4041; Clewiston: (863) 983-1408; Glades County Health Department: Moore Haven: (863) 946-0707.

Calling all bakers, bidders for dessert auction

There will be a dessert auction to benefit Barron Library on Tuesday, March 26, at 6 p.m. The auction will be held at the library. If you would like to participate by bringing a baked item to sell, please contact the library at 863-675-0833 for complete details. The library is also looking for bidders to attend this fun event, and bid on all of the great desserts that will be available.

All proceeds from the dessert auction will be used to subsidize the library's budget. Hope to see you there!

Attention caregivers

Senior Choices of Southwest Florida will offer Thoughtful Thursdays for Caregivers beginning Thursday, April 4, from 1-3 p.m. at Hope Connections, 475 East Cowboy Way, LaBelle. The series will feature five weekly sessions dedicated to issues affecting caregivers as follows: April 4, Medical Issues; April 11, Legal Matters; April 18, Financial Concerns; April 25, Caregiver Self-Care; May 2, Family and Community Dynamics. Presenters will be Britton Swank, Beth Prather and Chris Austin from Prather & Swank, Elder Attorneys; Maureen Jordan from Seacoast National Bank; Nova University Bachelor of Nursing candidates. Participants may register for individual sessions or the whole series at no cost, however pre-registration is required. For more information or to register please contact the Senior Choices Helpline toll-free at 1-866-413-5337. Workshop size is limited to 20 participants. Senior Choices is an area agency on aging and disability and aging resource center contracting with the Florida Department of Elder Affairs to pro-

vide services to people age 60 and over.

Hotdogs!...Get Your Hotdogs!

Kiwanis Club of LaBelle will be at Ace Hardware on Saturday, March 16, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. What could be better than a delicious grilled hotdog served by a smiling face? The Kiwanis Club of LaBelle will be grilling and selling hotdogs at Ace Hardware Saturday, March 16th from 10am until 2pm. Lots of laughs and lots of smiles are guaranteed! You can also buy some tasty baked goods! Cookies and Brownies will be available to tempt your sweet tooth! Please stop by Ace Hardware on Saturday to help support your local Kiwanis Club. Your tummy will be glad you did!

Sign up for Little Miss LaBelle

Girls! Sign up for Little Miss LaBelle Thursday, March 14, at First Baptist Church from 5:00 to 6:30 PM. Registration fee is \$25. Grades Kindergarten thru 8th grade and you must attend a LaBelle school or live in LaBelle. The event will be April 13 at LaBelle High School Auditorium.

Gun show at the Legion

American Legion Post 130 will have a gun show Saturday, March 16, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.. Tables \$25; admission \$5. Space is limited. For more information call 675-8300. Weapons classes available. The post is located at 699 Hickpochee Ave. www.legion-post130.com.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

American Legion Post 130 will host a St Patrick's Day Dinner on Sunday, March 17, beginning at 4 p.m. Menu: Corned beef and cabbage, red potatoes, carrots and rye bread. coffee/tea. For \$8. Public welcome. Located at 699 Hickpochee Ave (SR 80) LaBelle. 863-675-8300.

Tobacco-Free meeting

The Hendry County Tobacco-Free Partnership will conduct a meeting/training on Wednesday, March 20, 4-6 p.m. at Clewiston High School, 1501 S. Francisco Street, Room 211 (Mrs. Elliott's Room), Business will consist of Tobacco Policy review, SWAT updates, Overview of Tobacco Goals, Tobacco Cessation class update and a workshop on Employer Cessation benefits. For more information please contact Valarie James at 863-674-4041 ext 128 or valarie_james@doh.state.fl.us.

New transportation

Bus to Social Security in Fort Myers leaves from United Way House at 8:30 a.m. the first Tuesday of every month by appointment \$5/person. No children because seating is limited. Must have correct change. Appointments made by calling United Way 211 at 1-800-887-9234 x9 or 211 x9.

Generously sponsored by: Iglesia Cristiana Restauracion of LaBelle, Pastor Sherry Hanes, volunteer bus driver.

Rummage sale

The American Legion Auxiliary is hosting a Rummage Sale, Saturday, March 23, from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. at the American Legion Post 130 on SR80 across from the Shell station. Donations are welcome, please drop them off at the post, 863-675-8300. All proceeds will go to benefit the Auxiliary Programs and Veterans.

American Legion Auxiliary to meet

Come join us, Thursday, March 21, at 7 p.m. at The American Legion Post 130 on Hwy 80 West in LaBelle. The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and all branches of the Legion solidly stand behind America and her ideals. Together we can make a difference. For more information call President Julie at: 863-674-1050 or Membership Chair, Sharon at 561-801-5843.

Conservatives plan first meeting

Hendry County, east and west, has a new club, Southwest Florida Conservative Alliance.

The first official meeting will be Tuesday March 19, 6 p.m. at Forrey's Restaurant meeting room. CFRW will be meeting in conjunction with the SWFCA. The business meeting will be members only to elect SWFCA officers. There will be membership applications

available; individual annual membership is \$20. couples annual membership is \$35.

Keynote speakers will be Duncan MacDonald and Fred Ford: Duncan is Director, Corporate Strategy and Business Development for United States Sugar Corporation; Fred Ford is the President and CEO of Airglades International Airport (AIA).

This organization requires membership to attend meetings Please e-mail Marianne, organizer of SWFCA, at ladymarianne@comcast.net if you want a membership application e-mailed to you. Conservative Men and Women are welcome members!

Call for artists

The Arts of the Inland invites visual artists to submit up to two framed/gallery wrapped pieces of art for the First Annual INSPIRATIONS Art Show, April 14, at the Crown Room, Majestic Golf Course, 350 Homestead Rd.S., Lehigh Acres, FL. For complete prospectus and application, please visit our website: www.artsoftheinland.com. This is a judged show. Art mediums accepted: watercolor, mixed media, pen & ink, oil, acrylic, pastels and charcoals. All work must be original and have been completed within the last two years. Arts of the Inland members and Art Council of Southwest Florida members fee is \$10 per art work; non-members fee is \$20 per art work. Applications must be received by April 5, 2013. For further information contact: LaVon Koenig 239-303-5849 or artsinland@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCING

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We have opened a new location in LaBelle to better serve the LaBelle and Hendry county area. We are a comprehensive Orthopedic and Podiatry office that treats orthopedic needs of the hips, knees, shoulders, ankles and all the joints in between. We treat fractures, osteoarthritis, osteoporosis, carpal tunnel, sports medicine injuries, work related injuries, wound care of the foot and ankle, diabetic foot care, and any other general orthopedic and podiatric health problems.

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 Dr Kleiman will also be available at "Oakbrook of LaBelle"

Community Briefs

MCA activities for March

The Muse Community Association events for March include:

March 21: Regular monthly meeting will start at 7 p.m. This meeting will discuss changes to the by-laws. Meetings open to anyone who would like to come. Refreshments will be served.

March 23: Country Jam Session and Pot Luck Dinner will begin at 6-9 p.m. All events are open to the public.

All of the events will be held at the Muse Community Center Bldg. on Loblolly Bay Road (Hwy. 720). Come out for a fun evening and meeting your neighbors. Refreshments will be served.

For further information call 863-674-0467.

Spaghetti and scholarships

The LaBelle Community Woman's Club will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner Scholarship Fundraiser on March 17, from 1-4 p.m. at the Woman's Club Clubhouse located at 382 Hickpoochee Avenue.

The dinner includes spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and a beverage. Dessert will also be available al la carte. The cost for the dinner is \$7 and all monies collected will go directly towards the scholarships that are awarded to our local high school seniors to help with the cost of college.

Tickets are available at the clubhouse Tuesday mornings from 9-11 and at the door the day of the event. Come show your support for our community.

AA meetings

Help with problem drinking is available through AA at the following times and locations: Sunday 7 p.m. Church of the Good Shepherd, Collingwood Ave. in Port LaBelle; Tuesday 8 p.m. First Christian Church, Ford St., LaBelle; Wednesday noon Good Shepherd; Thursday 8 p.m. First Christian; Friday 7 p.m. Good Shepherd; Saturday 9 a.m. Good Shepherd.

In Clewiston the meetings are held Monday and Wednesday 7 p.m. at St. Martin's Episcopal Church. WC Owens Ave. For those affected by someone else's drinking, AlAnon is in LaBelle Thursday at 8 p.m. First Christian Church. Further information available by calling AA intergroup at 239-275-5111.

DAV flea market

The Disabled American Veterans Flea Market is open every Saturday from 6 a.m.-3 p.m. at the corner of Martin Luther King Jr.

Sport Shorts

Racing Saturday

On Saturday night March 16, the winged Florida mini sprints return to Hendry County Motorsports Park to do battle on the 3/8th mile high banked Everglades clay. Their winged machines top 100 m.p.h. down the straightaways and glide sideways through the corners.

On the night all teachers from Hendry, Glades, Collier and Okeechobee will be ad-

mitted absolutely free in honor of their hard work and dedication. All other adult tickets are as usual; kids under 12 free.

Also, racing this night will be the street stocks, open wheel modifieds, limited late models, mini-stocks and thunderstocks. The speedway is located five miles south of Moore Haven on Hwy. 27. For more information call 673-4325 or 983-3478 or go to hendryracing.com.

OCA plans dinner

The Ortona Community Association will hold its final spaghetti buffet dinner of the winter season on Saturday, March 16, from 5-7 p.m. at the OCA Hall, on Ortona Road (Highway 78A).

This popular all-you-can-eat buffet features delicious pasta and meat sauce, and includes garlic bread, tossed salad, green beans, dessert, coffee and iced tea for \$7.00 (advance purchase) or \$8.00 at the door.

For advance tickets or reservations, contact Fran Way at 863-675-7880 or email franwayrn@aol.com.

American Legion Auxiliary to meet

Come join us, Thursday, March 21, at 7 p.m. at The American Legion Post 130 on Hwy 80 West in LaBelle. The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and all branches of the Legion solidly stand behind America and her ideals. Together we can make a difference. For more information call President Julie at: 863-674-1050 or Membership Chair, Sharon at 561-801-5843.

Trail ride

Enjoy a benefit Trail Ride, Saturday, March 30. Registration at 9 a.m. Entry fee \$25. Ride is approximately 2 1/2 to 3 hours. Food, drinks, raffle, 50/50 and music by James Kulich.

Also the Crazy Hats contest! Dress your horse in a hat - prizes for 1st-2nd-3rd place. Easy access parking. Location: 1405 Jacks Branch Road off Kirby Thompson Road.

Current negative Coggins required. Riders under 16 must wear a helmet. Questions? Contact Ellen: KaleidoscopeEllen@yahoo.com or call 863-612-0996. All of the proceeds will benefit the homeless pets at Caloosa Humane Society.

Cow found

The Hendry County Sheriff's Office Ag Unit recovered a cow from running loose on the road in Pioneer Plantation. If you have

lost a COW, please contact the Ag Unit at 863-805-5000 or 863-674-5600.

Lehigh Singer' Sweet Sounds

Come enjoy the free concert by "Sweet Sounds" Saturday, March 16, from 4-6 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church, 705 Leeland Heights Blvd., Lehigh Acres. Bobbee

Cera has entertained from the Fontaine Blue in Miami Beach, the Spyglass Lounge in Fort Lauderdale to numerous locations in Toms River, New Jersey, Spring Lake, New Jersey and many other landmark locations in both New Jersey and Florida.



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COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL	WATERFRONT
\$20,000 per Ac. - 2 to 3 Ac. Commercial out parcels in Port LaBelle, several to pick from.	\$119,000 - Over 1 ac. on the river, Ft. Denaud Rd.
\$40,000 and up Commercial acreage in Port LaBelle. Call for locations and sizes available.	\$192,500 - Ft. Denaud 1 Ac.
\$65,000 - Commercial Corner - across from new soccer fields. New stucco, electrical & insulation. Partial remodel needs you to finish.	\$259,900 - 3/2 pool home on 1 ac. Home features formal dining & den.
\$89,900 - 1/2 Ac. Commercial Lot on Davis St.	\$399,000 - Highest elevation along the river w/600 porch. 3/2 home includes RV garage & 2 car attached garage & a finished basement for future apartment.
\$102,250 - 4+/- Ac. Zoned PUD, could be commercial or multi family, next to store in Port LaBelle.	\$550,000 - Spectacular 7 Ac Pasture w/Oaks, 500 ft on the River. Great investment, future land use 3 units per ac.
\$119,000 - Just north of the LaBelle bridge. Tons of room to expand. Adjoining property being sold together with this piece. Total of 1.44 acres.	\$999,900 - Commercial waterfront motel located on Intracoastal waterway. 5.2 ac!
\$169,000 - SR 80 Corner 1/2 Ac, B-1 w/billboard income.	\$1,300,000 - Own a piece of history - Historic Tyrell Gardens. Beautifully renovated 5BR/3BA home on 3.4 ac. with 800 ft of old and new river frontage. 48 hour notice required.
\$189,900 - Vacant 2 ac. on SR 80, west of town	\$6,400 - Moore Haven Yacht Club
\$199,000 - Commercial/Industrial Bldg on S. Bridge St. Over 4,000 sq. ft. Can be divided.	\$8,900 - Mobile home lots
\$641,203 - Railroad access in Moore Haven. 29+/- ac. close to Hwy 27 & river. Water & sewer nearby.	\$25,000 - Beautiful .45 ac. located in the city

LOTS & LAND

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Terri Banky - Lic. Real Estate Broker
Associates: Shary Weckwerth, Stephanie Weatherford, Sandra Alexander and Lisa Andrews

She's a local Lehigh treasure who would like to share the great music of "Sweet Sounds" with you and your friends. Don't miss it!

A free will offering will benefit the LeHigh Singers, a 501(c)3 organization.

Conservationists to meet

The Hendry Soil and Water Conservation District will hold its regularly scheduled Board meeting on March 28, at 1 p.m. in the large conference room of the Dallas B. Townsend Agricultural Building.

Meetings are open to the public.

LaBelle

Area

Real

Estate

MOBILE HOMES

- Immaculate 3/2 located in City of LaBelle, oversized lot, woodlike flooring, carpet, master bath has tiled shower, and much much more. Priced to sell at **\$69,900.**
- 3/1.5 on corner lot in Moore Haven. **\$50,000.**
- 2005 3/2 mobile home with 1614 living area, kitchen w/shopping **\$39,900.**
- Corporate owned! 3/2 manufactured home on oversized lot 100+/- sq. ft. living area. 1614 oversized master suite. **\$39,900.**
- Investors!! 2/1 manufactured home on .75+/- acre. Located near shopping and schools. Small older frame home also on the property that could use a little TLC for additional rental income. **\$35,000.**

LOTS

- 3/2 Manufactured home on .30+/- of an acre. Needs some TLC **\$25,000.**
- .29 +/- acre in Belmont S/D. Priced to sell at only **\$33,150.** Possible seller financing
- Nice lot in Belmont subdivision **\$35,000.**
- .80+/- city lot in Belmont subdivision - **\$13,500.**
- .70+/- city lot **SOLD \$5,000.**
- 1.02 +/- city lot in Belmont S/D - **\$13,500.**
- .60+/- city lot - **\$12,500.**
- .17+/- acre lot in Moore Haven - **\$4,950.**

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Hendry Dems to meet in LaBelle March 21

Hendry County Democratic Executive Committee will hold its March meeting in LaBelle this coming Thursday, March 21, at Don's Steak House, 93 South Hall St., with the meeting set to begin a 6:30 p.m. Attendees planning to take advantage of Don's excellent Sunset Menu are reminded to place their dinner orders by 6 o'clock, or they can order from the regular menu which includes the best hamburgers in the area according to Florida pilots who frequently fly to small Southwest Florida airports for lunch in nearby restaurants. This meeting is open to all, and Democrats registered to vote in Hendry County may participate in discussion but cannot vote on motions placed before the Hendry County DEC.

Democratic County Chairman Joe Thomas said the major items to be considered will be the Florida Democratic Party, Democratic County Chairs Association, and Small County Coalition's annual "Training the Florida Team" Retreat to be held in Tampa the weekend of April 12. The Retreat is open to county DEC Members, The Florida Democratic Party Executive and Central Committee members, Democratic Club and Caucus leadership, and Democratic National Committee members. The retreat will get Florida Democrats ready to defeat Rick Scott, and

Local Democrats will discuss voter registration drives in all precincts and communities

Local Democrats will discuss voter registration drives in all precincts and communities in Hendry County throughout this year and up until the registration books close prior to the 2014 elections when Florida elects its governor and Hendry County elects County Commissioners and School Board members. Hendry County Democrats urge that every eligible citizen register to vote and also to request Vote By Mail ballots for every election possible.

Chairman Thomas added there are Democratic Committee positions open in all 10 of Hendry County's precincts with being a registered Democrat in that precinct being the primary qualification to become a precinct committee member. Thomas also said, "of course, attending regular meetings -- at least one every other month -- or getting a proxy to represent your precinct when you cannot attend a meeting is an unspoken requirement for any good Democrat serving on the committee."

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 2013-CP-25

IN RE:
CHARLES RONALD REYNOLDS
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS (Summary Administration)

TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:

You are hereby notified that a Petition for Summary Administration has been filed in the estate of Charles Ronald Reynolds, deceased, by the Circuit Court for Hendry County, Florida, Probate Division; the address of which is P.O. Box 1760, LaBelle, Florida 33975; that the decedent's date of death was December 24, 2012; that the total value of the probate estate is \$28,000, and that the names and addresses of those to whom non-exempt property has been assigned by such order are: Thomas Reynolds 401 SE 19th Lane

Public Notice

Cape Coral, FL 33990-2240
ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

All creditors of the estate of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent other than those for whom provision for payment was made in the Order of Summary Administration must file their claims with this Court, WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CREDITORS CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. THE DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE IS: MARCH 14, 2013.

Person Giving Notice:
GLENN REYNOLDS and THOMAS REYNOLDS
Petitioners
401 SE 19th Lane
Cape Coral, FL 33990-2240
438272 CB 3/14,21/2013

Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT **County of Hendry, Florida**, the holders of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of property and the name in which it was assessed are as follows:

CERT. NO.	YEAR	DESCRIPTION	NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED
1913	2009	1274432-A0000200000	Antonio H. Beltran Est. & Janie J. Beltran

The West one-half of the Northeast one-quarter of the Northeast one-quarter of the Northwest one-quarter of the Northeast one-quarter of Section 27, Township 44 South, Range 32 East, Hendry County, Florida. Subject to an easement for an access road over the North 30 feet thereof. Also known as Tract 803 in MONTURA RANCH ESTATES, an unrecorded subdivision.

Less and except Gas, Oil and Mineral rights not owned by prior owner. Subject to existing easements and right of ways of record.

All of said property being in the County of Hendry, State of Florida.

Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder at the **Clerk's Office, 2nd Floor, Administration Wing, LaBelle, Florida, at 11:00 A.M., on the First Thursday** in the month of **April, 2013**, which is the **4th day of April, 2013**.

Dated this **20th** day of **February, 2013**

Barbara S. Butler
Clerk of Circuit Court
Hendry County, Florida

437461 CN 2/28 & 3/7,14,21/2013

Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT **County of Hendry, Florida**, the holders of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of property and the name in which it was assessed are as follows:

CERT. NO.	YEAR	DESCRIPTION	NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED
2137	2009	1364432-A000097100	Rev. Bernard J. Toomey & Mrs. Clausen

The South one-half of the Southeast one-quarter of the Southeast one-quarter of the Northwest one-quarter of the Northwest one-quarter of Section 36, Township 44 South, Range 32 East, Hendry County, Florida. Subject to an easement for an access road of the East 30 feet thereof. Subject to an easement for a drainage canal of the South 30 feet thereof. Also known as Tract 4721 in MONTURA RANCH ESTATES, an unrecorded subdivision.

Less and except Gas, Oil and Mineral rights not owned by prior owner. Subject to existing easements and right of ways of record.

All of said property being in the County of Hendry, State of Florida.

Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder at the **Clerk's Office, 2nd Floor, Administration Wing, LaBelle, Florida, at 11:00 A.M., on the First Thursday** in the month of **April, 2013**, which is the **4th day of April, 2013**.

Dated this **20th** day of **February, 2013**

Barbara S. Butler
Clerk of Circuit Court
Hendry County, Florida

437449 CN 2/28 & 3/7,14,21/2013

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT **County of Hendry, Florida**, the holders of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of property and the name in which it was assessed are as follows:

CERT. NO.	YEAR	DESCRIPTION	NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED
1902	2009	1264432-A0002670100	Jorge A. Lopez

The North one-half of the East one-half of the North one-half of the Northeast one-quarter of the Southeast one-quarter of the Southeast one-quarter of Section 26, Township 44 South, Range 32 East, Hendry County, Florida. Subject to an easement for ingress, egress, and utilities over and across the East 30 feet thereof and subject to a canal easement over and across the North 30 feet thereof. Also known as Tract 496 in MONTURA RANCH ESTATES, an unrecorded subdivision.

Less and except Gas, Oil and Mineral rights not owned by prior owner. Subject to existing easements and right of ways of record.

All of said property being in the County of Hendry, State of Florida.

Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder at the **Clerk's Office, 2nd Floor, Administration Wing, LaBelle, Florida, at 11:00 A.M., on the First Thursday** in the month of **April, 2013**, which is the **4th day of April, 2013**.

Dated this **20th** day of **February, 2013**

Barbara S. Butler
Clerk of Circuit Court
Hendry County, Florida

437457 CN 2/28 & 3/7,14,21/2013

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT **County of Hendry, Florida**, the holders of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of property and the name in which it was assessed are as follows:

CERT. NO.	YEAR	DESCRIPTION	NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED
1827	2009	1254432-A0002660100	Florence McIvaine

The North one-half of the Southwest one-quarter of the Northeast one-quarter of the Southeast one-quarter of the Southeast one-quarter of Section 25, Township 44 South, Range 32 East, Hendry County, Florida. Also known as Tract 4968 in MONTURA RANCH ESTATES, an unrecorded subdivision.

Less and except Gas, Oil and Mineral rights not owned by prior owner. Subject to existing easements and right of ways of record.

All of said property being in the County of Hendry, State of Florida.

Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder at the **Clerk's Office, 2nd Floor, Administration Wing, LaBelle, Florida, at 11:00 A.M., on the First Thursday** in the month of **April, 2013**, which is the **4th day of April, 2013**.

Dated this **20th** day of **February, 2013**

Barbara S. Butler
Clerk of Circuit Court
Hendry County, Florida

437445 CN 2/28 & 3/7,14,21/2013

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Submitted photo

Rotary

Phillip Pelletier, Property Appraiser of Hendry County, delivered a presentation about his office tasks. He mostly focused on the conservation easement challenges that might play an important role in the future development of Hendry County.

Talent galore at local talent auditions!

In LaBelle 17 acts performed for five local judges: Mayor Dave Lyons, Ayman Kaki, John Benkert, Joel Hawkins and Valarie James. Tied for first place and winning \$110 each were Novi Jo Kohutek and The Shock Sisters. The third place winner, receiving \$50, was Suzanna Talada, followed by fourth place and alternate Keyrone Reed. The top three acts have been invited to perform at Drug Free Hendry's Talent Fest in Clewiston where they will be competing against the top acts from Moore Haven and Clewiston for a \$550 grand prize and time to perform on the Main Stage during Sugar Festival. Acts included dancers, group performers, soloists and even a singing comedienne. John Benkert, President and CEO of CPR Tools said, "The talent did an awesome job and it was

great for the community to come out and show support." He was pleasantly surprised at the level of talent the students had. Joel Hawkins, President, Firehouse Community Theatre was "impressed with the amount of talent and courage displayed during try-outs." He is even interested in inviting some to participate in future productions at the Firehouse.

Moore Haven's winners are Jordan Drayton (first/\$150), Lacey Green (second/\$75), Lane Prevatt (third/\$50), and alternate Araya Lennon. They were all also wonderfully talented. Judges were Dr. Lasheba Travis, Erica Villafuerte and Pastor Charlie Watts.

Drug Free Hendry's Talent Fest will be held at the Main Stage on April 19 at 6 p.m. Come out and support your local artists!

Submitted photo/Marilee Baker

UES February Students of the Month

Row 1: Angel Raya, Elva Hernandez, Ben Pickles, Landon Tharp, Daniel Raya; Row 2: Hanna Tharp, Keith Woosley, Marcos Martinez, Brylee Perkins, Jimena Olvera; Row 3: Jack VanTonder, Emmanuel Luna, Lauren Cody, Kaylee Wills, Siane Weems; Row 4: Adan Pedrizco, Daisy Casiano, Stephen Hesse, Amelia Martinez, Nansi Hernandez, Madelynn Coker, Lucia Martinez.



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Submitted photo/Joe Thomas

Growing up in LaBelle

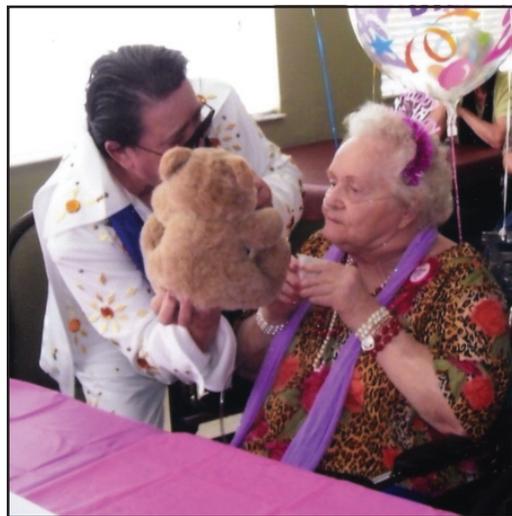
Carolyn Dozier-Ford entranced the audience at the March LaBelle Heritage Museum program with her recollections of growing up in LaBelle's Historic Black Community of Ford/Sunset Park in the 1960s and 1970s. The museum continues its March African American Heritage emphasis with an exhibition of paintings and prints by Highwaymen artists Alfred Hair, Robert Butler, and Al Black culminating with a personal appearance by Al Black on Saturday, March 30, at the museum located at 360 North Bridge Street.



Submitted photo/Annie Ayers

Learning citizenship

The second grade classes at Country Oaks Elementary School were recently treated to a visit and an interesting discussion by Mr. Paul Puletti recently. The classes are currently studying local and national government, responsibility and citizenship. Mr. Puletti used his personal experience as a former student in the Hendry County school system, past Mayor of LaBelle, and his current position as Superintendent of Hendry County Schools, to enhance their study.



Submitted photo

Elvis in the house

Eighty-two-year-old Mary McCormick and her friends at Oakbrook Nursing Home were anything but lonesome tonight when they put on their blue suede shoes to do the Jailhouse Rock. Elvis (Homer Columbia) made a personal appearance for Ms. McCormick's birthday February 24. Ms. McCormick was the life of the party as she got to be Elvis' little teddy bear for the day. The birthday girl's daughter, Colleen Oldford, arranged the party.



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