

Caloosa Belle

Vol. 92 No. 8

Thursday, February 19, 2015

50¢ Plus tax

Alexander not guilty of arson

by **Patty Brant**
Caloosa Belle

After a two-day trial presided over by Circuit Court Judge James D. Sloan February 3-4, a jury found 33-year-old Timothy Eugene Alexander Jr., not guilty of arson. The former firefighter had been arrested on the arson charge in March 2013, after the SUV he and his wife owned at the time was found torched at a remote location on Helms Road.

Deputies arrived at the fire scene about 2:46 a.m. March 24 to find the 2006 Ford Explorer fully engulfed in flames, which the La-Belle Fire Department subdued. Reports indicate an aerosol can was found in the grass around the vehicle and one inside behind the back seat. The vehicle was registered to Timothy or Deborah Alexander. Photos were taken of the scene, and evidence collected before the SUV was towed.

GPS tracking mounted on the vehicle showed it had been at 1668 Helms Road at 2:21 a.m. October 25 and at 2:45 a.m. it was disengaged.

Alexander's former girlfriend, Kelsey Lor-

See **Arson** — Page 2

See Page 4 for information about how to contact the newspaper

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Caloosa Belle/Patty Brant

A New Beginning

County Court Judge Scott Cupp congratulates Pat Langford after swearing him in as Hendry County's new Tax Collector. Mr. Langford's daughter, Lori, held the Bible for the short ceremony Tuesday, February 17.



Caloosa Belle/Dale Conyers

Night on the Town

The Night on the Town grows every year and is a perfect opening to a week of Swamp Cabbage Festival events. Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, Night on the Town has something for everyone, with food, shopping and great hometown entertainment.

Golf course still on agenda

by **Patty Brant**
Caloosa Belle

The idea of a city-owned golf course continues to inch its way through the system. Current thinking is that it would be a 12-hole course. The February 2 city commissioner meeting gave skeptics and enthusiasts a chance to flesh out their understanding of exactly what the city has in mind, but it is still a work in progress, they were told.

That evening, the board, sitting as the Local Planning Agency, heard discussion of the comprehensive plan Future Land Use Map (FLUM) and its recommended approval by the city commission.

The Land Use Map amendment was pre-

See **Golf**— Page 2

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Pioneer first responders receive fire rescue unit

(February 5, 2015) – LaBelle, Fla. – On Monday, February 3, 2015 the Pioneer Plantation Volunteer Fire Department received a remounted Rescue Unit.

The primary function of the Rescue Unit

is to serve as a first responder to emergency calls. Last year Hendry County Government held a series of Community Values Workshops to engage local residents and receive insight into their level of agreement on vari-

ous public service investments.

“It is our goal to prove value in our public services and exhibit financial stewardship of our resident’s taxes,” states County Administrator Charles Chapman.

The overwhelming services the communities of Hendry County valued were an increased presence of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and investments in public safety. During the 2014 budget season, County Commissioners and staff prioritized efforts to enhance Hendry County EMS.

One such improvement was having the existing 1998 Pioneer Rescue Unit remounted. The unit is now a four-wheel drive, four-door vehicle which allows more personnel to respond to calls.

The quick response vehicle also has the capability to assist with fire emergencies. “This unit is a welcomed upgrade and allows our 8 person volunteer fire department the opportunity to better serve the residents of Pioneer Plantation” says Fire Chief Raymond

Timms.

County Commission Chairman Karson Turner said “This is a great example of Hendry County listening to what the resident’s desire and acting on those requests. I am happy to see our administration deliver on a much needed item that helps protect our residents and brings protection to our most precious resource. We will continue to make strides and this is a step in the right direction.”

Individuals interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter for Pioneer Plantation are encouraged to attend their weekly Wednesday night meetings at the fire station or call 863-234-7553.

Arson

Continued From Page 1

raine Tyson, was with Alexander that night, but her testimony was very sketchy. The pair returned from a Miami Heat game in his party bus, she told prosecutors, then returned the bus to the fire station where he kept it.

From there they went to her home in Cape Coral and picked up his vehicle before heading to Port LaBelle. She testified that they went to “repo” the Explorer from his wife, Alexander driving the SUV and Tyson driving his vehicle.

Also on Tuesday John Meyer, president of Lightning Wireless Solutions testified as to the capabilities of the GPS unit mounted in Alexander’s vehicle, that information gleaned from the GPS include speed, where the vehicle stopped and when it was turned on and off. He testified that Alexander’s vehicle had stopped near his former wife’s residence and ended up at 1668 Helms Road.

Sgt. Joshua Woods HCSO testified that on-scene officers first checked for possible victims, vehicle tags, assisted with traffic. He testified that no hair, DNA or fingerprints were collected.

Brian Edwards defense attorney put his client on the stand Wednesday and the jury returned its verdict, not guilty, that same day.

Although unwilling to speculate on the jury’s thinking, Defense Attorney Edwards

said he felt it was possible that a “lack of credibility” of Ms. Tyson’s testimony may have had an impact on the jury.

Mr. Edwards said that only a reasonable doubt was necessary for the jury to return their not guilty decision.

Alexander remains in jail, facing a sexual assault charge stemming from an October 2013 incident. Alexander and Joshua Dale Bryan, who was 19 at the time, are accused of sexually assaulting a 16-year-old girl on Alexander’s party bus. According to reports, a group of people spent the evening driving around on the bus drinking and doing drugs. The assault allegedly took place on the bus after it stopped and all but three people disembarked - Alexander, Bryan and the victim.

Bryan remains out on bond in the sexual assault case, but Alexander’s bond was revoked after he reportedly tried to escape as he was transported by sheriff’s deputies back to the jail from LeHigh Regional Medical Center. He had been transported there complaining of chest pains. On the return trip to Hendry County Alexander reportedly complained that somebody was following him and trying to kill him. After Alexander kicked out a window to open the door, he was bound with leg restraints and handcuffs and returned to the jail.

Golf

Continued From 1

presented for first reading at the meeting and is only one step in the process.

The amendment cites the need for “positive growth through developments that enhance the quality of life of its citizens” and states that it “will allow the enhancement of the tax base, employment, housing and educational opportunities”

However, not everyone is convinced it would be a good thing.

Later, resident Tina Noel said she expected that more information would be available on the project and did get clarification that the investor would pay for the site plan and survey. However, she also said she’d like to see real plans before things go much further. She acknowledged that the area is going to grow but is concerned that the city could be “sold a bill of goods. She feels a developer should build a course up front, then sell houses.

“From my perspective, there isn’t information readily available to the public to make an informed decision,” she said, adding, “If it’s well done and there is no negative impact it will raise the value of the area.” Still, she is unconvinced that it’s a good project for the city.

Another resident, John Clark - who said

he is a golfer - was not impressed with the idea of a 12-hole course, adding that it sounded like an experiment. He also had environmental concerns about the amount of chemicals it takes to keep a golf course in good condition.

Superintendent of Public Works Michael Boyle explained that the 12-hole course is a new concept. He said LaBelle’s course could also be played as an 18-hole and would be at a championship level. He added that six of the holes would be illuminated for night play.

The audience found that the city envisions a course that would be open to everyone. The idea is to lease it to a developer to be operated by a management firm. Funds from home sales around the course would be used to build the course.

City Attorney Angela Hill said a second public hearing is required before the board can approve the amendment to change the future land use from public services to outlying mixed use. For now, she said, the board is doing due diligence only.

Development of the plan continues and the amendment will be read for the second time at the March 12 commission meeting, to be voted up or down.



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Girl Scouts open free library

Please join Girl Scout Service Unit 628 for our Little Free Library Grand Opening Celebration! The troops will be hosting 'Sweet Tea and Storytime' on Sunday, February 22nd from 1-2pm next to Zac's Playground on Cowboy Way.

The Little Free Library is an honor system based library that will hold books for all to enjoy. Adults and children will be able to take a book and leave a book to share with the next patron.

Girl Scouts from Hendry County Service

Unit 628 ranging from 2nd grade to 8th grade will be having Storytime in the park for all who stop by to enjoy.

So, please visit us and enjoy a sip of tea while you check out the new library building by the wonderful LaBelle High School workshop!! The artwork on the library has been totally designed and decorated by our very talented Girl Scouts of LaBelle.

If you have books that you would like to donate, please feel free to stop by and add to the growing collection!!

Veterans enjoy Fisheating Creek

Glades, FL – Gatorama and the Florida Forest Service provided wounded combat Veterans a day of a peaceful serenity in Palmdale on January 11, 2015. Six Veterans and their families started their tranquil adventure at the Fisheating Creek Outpost by paddling down the creek surrounded by towering cypress trees in route to the historic "Memorial Tree."

As the crickets chirped and the kingfishers and hawks sang, the Veterans observed alligators and turtles sunning themselves along the banks.

The canoe and fishing trip created to a relaxing atmosphere for sightseeing, camaraderie and rehabilitation.

As the sun set, Gatorama continued the adventure with an educational yet exciting gator show that demonstrated the awesome power and voracity of these primitive reptiles. "We wanted to provide an opportunity for the combat veterans to enjoy the outdoors and tell war stories in a relaxing atmosphere and this gator theme barbeque was a great moment," says Senior Forest Ranger Danny Callahan, Florida Forest Service. "These veterans can find solace in sharing their stories with other combat veterans."

Sponsors provided funding for the food, lodging and transportation for the participants, as well as canoes, fishing poles, binoculars and any other equipment needed.

"We are grateful for the donations to host the supportive events," says Callahan "this is a healing experience that creates lasting memories and new friendships".

For information on how you can donate to this worthy cause, please go to www.operationoutdoorfreedom.com.



Submitted photo

Smiling veterans canoe on the Creek.

Whispering Divas spread cheer

The Whispering DIVAS of Whisper Creek are always busy. Busy, that is, doing good deeds, spreading cheer and turning the bad to good. January 28 was no exception. They celebrated their annual luncheon with representatives from Lucy's Angels and Abuse Counseling & Treatment as their honored guests.

Lucy's Angels is a local organization founded by Lucy's daughter, Amanda Perez and family, and solely supported community donations.

Amanda wants her mom to be remembered as a fighter with a loving - giving soul. Lucy's Angels steps in to help women in need of a mammogram or other cancer patients struggling to get the treatment they need.

The Whispering DIVAS gave Amanda much needed funds to keep Lucy's Angels helping those with such a desperate need.

Abuse Counseling & Treatment offers safe shelter, referral and services to victims and their families of domestic violence, human trafficking and sexual assault. They presently operate safe shelters in Ft. Myers and Cape Coral.

In March of this year, they anticipate the opening of the Hendry-Glades safe shelter. The amazing Whispering DIVAS also gave ACT an awesome and generous \$500 donation.

Other individuals of Whisper Creek joined the Whispering DIVAS with personal donations.

The residents of Whisper Creek have been donating their gently used items to ACT's clients for over a year.

There is no way of showing the true level of gratitude or returning the awesome deeds of the Whispering DIVAS of Whisper Creek in this life time. Thank you Ladies and Whisper Creek residents, you inspire me!



Submitted photo

The Whispering DIVAS of Whisper Creek

GET HEART HEALTHY

Heart disease is the #1 killer in the United States. It causes roughly 1.2 million heart attacks every year. To help prevent this disease, women over age 55 and men over age 45 should ask their physician about:

- ♥ **Cholesterol** – Cholesterol in your blood can build up in the walls of your arteries, causing atherosclerosis, a form of cardiovascular disease. The arteries become narrowed and blood flow to the heart muscle is slowed or blocked. If the blood supply to a portion of the heart is completely cut off by a blockage, the result is a heart attack.
- ♥ **High Blood Pressure** – High blood pressure causes the heart to work harder than normal. High blood pressure damages the inner lining of the blood vessels, which promote the formation of atherosclerotic plaques. Over time, the arteries become narrowed, hardened, and less elastic, worsening high blood pressure.
- ♥ **Smoking** – Smoking increases the risk for developing coronary heart disease by two to four times, in addition to causing emphysema and lung cancer.
- ♥ **Diabetes** – Diabetes seriously increases your risk of developing cardiovascular disease. Up to 75 percent of people with diabetes die of some form of heart or blood vessel disease.
- ♥ **Exercise and Excess Body Fat** – People who have excess body fat, especially in the waist area, are more likely to develop heart disease, even if they have no other risk factors.
- ♥ **Family History**: The risk of heart disease is strongly linked to family history. Know your family history and share it with your healthcare provider.

To learn more about the care of your heart, visit Dr. Esther Levin, Cardiologist at Hendry Regional Medical Center. Call 863-902-3021



Measles: Contagious and on the rise

by Pat Dobbins

~From 2010 – 2014, there were 16 cases of measles confirmed among Florida residents, representing an average of 3.2 cases of measles per year~

Measles is a respiratory disease caused by a virus that is transmitted by infected droplets in the air.

Measles is highly contagious and can spread to others (from four days before the rash appears; to four days after the rash appears).

The virus can live on infected surfaces for up to two hours and spreads easily.

Although measles is highly contagious, it is also preventable by receiving a vaccination. In Measles can be prevented by the combination MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine. The vaccine produces good immunity to measles (95–98%).

The Florida Department of Health maintains ongoing communication with theme parks and tourist attractions to review protocols in order to be prepared to respond to any infectious disease outbreak and contain it.

Healthy persons who have received two doses of measles

vaccine should have virtually no concerns with visiting popular attractions where large crowds are found.

The symptoms of measles usually begin about 7 to 14 days after a person is infected and may include:

- Blotchy rash
- Cough
- Feeling run down, achy
- Fever
- Red, watery eyes
- Runny nose
- Tiny white spots with bluish-white centers found inside the mouth

There are still sporadic cases of measles in the United States because visitors from other countries or US citizens traveling abroad can become infected before or during travel and spread the infection to unvaccinated or unprotected persons.

Please contact your local health department for vaccine information (Hendry) LaBelle: (863)674-4041, Clewiston: (863) 983-1408 or (Glades) Moore Haven: (863) 946-0707.

For more information, visit DOH's webpage at http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Disease_ctrl/immune/vaccines/mmr.html and the CDC's Measles Vaccination page at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/measles/fs-parents.html>

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Patricia Dobbins

Will You Give This to My Daddy?

For many years, while living in Georgia, I traveled rather extensively in and out of Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International. It seemed that while in the airport, either going out or returning home, I often heard people beginning to clap and cheer. I repeatedly witnessed one of the greatest acts of patriotism ever seen.

Moving through the terminal there would be groups of soldiers in their camos. As they began heading to their gate, people stood abruptly to their feet with their hands clapping and waving and with their voices cheered with passion.

It was when I would see the soldiers, 30-40 of them, being applauded and cheered for, it often hit me – I'm not alone. I'm not the only red-blooded American who still loves this country and supports our troops and their families.

I always stopped what I was doing and began clapping for these young unsung heroes for putting their lives on the line every day for us so we can go to school, work and home without fear, or reprisal.

Recently I read about an account by another person who, while traveling through Atlanta, saw firsthand this tremendous outpouring of love and support for our military at the airport. The writer gives a moving account of the heart-touching experience of that day.

"Just when I thought I could not be more proud of my country or of our service men and women, a young girl, not more than 6 or 7 years old, ran up to one of the male soldiers. He knelt down and said 'hi.' "The little girl then asked him if he would give something to her daddy for her.

"The young soldier, who didn't look any older than maybe 22 years old himself, said he would try and asked the girl what she wanted to give to her Daddy.

"It was then that suddenly the little girl grabbed the neck of this soldier, gave him the biggest hug she could muster and then kissed him on the cheek.

"The mother of the little girl said her daughter's name was Courtney, and told the young soldier that her husband was a Marine and had been in Iraq for 11 months. As the mom was explaining how much her daughter Courtney missed her father, the young soldier began to tear up.

"When this temporarily single mom was done explaining her situation, all of the soldiers huddled together for a brief second. Then one of the other servicemen pulled out a military-looking walkie-talkie. They started playing with the device and talking back and forth on it.



Les Morgan

"After about 10-15 seconds of this, the young soldier walked back over to Courtney, bent down and said this to her, 'I spoke to your daddy and he told me to give this to you.' He then hugged this little girl that he had just met and gave her a kiss on the cheek. He finished by saying 'your daddy told me to tell you that he loves you more than anything and he is coming home very soon.'

"The mom at this point was crying almost uncontrollably and as the young soldier stood to his feet, he saluted Courtney and her mom. I was standing no more than 6 feet away from this entire event.

"As the soldiers began to leave, heading towards their gate, people resumed their applause. As I stood there applauding and looked around, there were very few dry eyes, including my own. That young soldier in one last act of selflessness, turned around and blew a kiss to Courtney with a tear rolling down his cheek.

"We need to remember everyday all of our soldiers and their families and thank God for them and their sacrifices. At the end of the day, it's good to be an American.

That is a very moving account, isn't it? Yet, rather than just tell you the story, let me issue this challenge – begin to wear red on Friday's.

Very soon, you will see a great many people beginning to wear red every Friday. The purpose? Americans who support our troops used to be called the 'silent majority'. We are no longer silent, and are voicing our love for God, country and home in record breaking numbers.

This is not an organized, boisterous or over-bearing "attitude." No liberal media will grant coverage on TV to reflect our message or our opinions. Many Americans, like you and me, simply want to recognize that the vast majority of Americans supports our troops.

If every one of us who loves this country will share this with acquaintances, co-workers, friends, and family it will not be long before the USA is covered in RED and it will let our troops know the once 'silent' majority is on their side more than ever.

Often the first thing a soldier says when he or she is asked 'What can we do to make things better for you?' their first statement is to reply, "We need your support and your prayers."

Let's get the word out and lead with class and dignity. Wear something red every Friday. We live in the land of the free, and that's only because of the brave. They deserve of love, support and, certainly our prayers.

And may God help America to become one nation, under God, again.

Dr. Les Morgan is pastor of Caloosa Baptist Church in LaBelle, located across the street from City Hall on Highway 80.

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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.

Community Briefs

HCSO Explorer Post Dinner

The Hendry County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post 642 will be sponsoring a Pull-Thru Pulled Pork Dinner. The meal will be served on February 27. By purchasing a ticket you are guaranteed a dinner that will consist of a Pulled Pork Sandwich, Baked Beans, and Coleslaw. The meals will be ready for a drive-thru style pick up from the LaBelle Fire Department between 5:00pm and 7:00pm. They will be selling meal tickets for \$8 until February 24. You may purchase yours from any Explorer or Advisor. Tickets may also be purchased at the Sheriff's Office in LaBelle Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8 a.m.-5 p.m. All donations used for training equipment, travel to conferences and competitions as well as uniforms. Please support "Tomorrow's Leaders, Today."

Yard sale

Second Annual Community-Wide Yard Sale. Saturday, March 7, 2015, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. The Glades RV Resort, 1 mile off Rt. 80, between LaBelle and Moore Haven. Many, many bargains! Watch for signs. Contact: (863) 805-0889

2015 Hendry/Glades Plat Books available

You may now purchase the new 2015 Hendry/Glades Plat Book at the Hendry Soil and Water Conservation District office located in the Dallas Townsend Building at 1085 Pratt Blvd., LaBelle. For more information call 674-5700 Ext. 3.

Early dismissal

Schools will be dismissed early on Friday, February 20. No lunch will be served on that day. School bus driver's will follow their regular schedules based upon the schools early release time.

Sign up for Little Miss LaBelle.

Sign-ups will be February 24 at First Baptist Church 5-6:30 p.m. and February 26 at LaBelle High School Auditorium at 5 p.m. Registration fee is \$25.00 and you must be a resident of LaBelle to participate. Ages are Kindergarten thru 8th grade.

Volunteer firefighters needed for Felda

Preference is to live within 7 miles of the Felda station and commit to the required training to become a Firefighter, compensation is available. Interested?? Call Chief Donna Akin at 863-674-5412 for further information on how to apply today!

SCF festivities at your local friendly LaBelle Moose Lodge

Friday, February 20: Food and Karaoke with Mark & Paula 7-11 Saturday February 21: Food & Spirits and music with Johnny Rogers 1-2, Johnny Lambert Duo 2-6, and our very own hometown Buckshot

Band 7:00-11:00!!

Sunday, February 22: Music by Paul 4:00-7:00!! Y'all come on down and enjoy the fun!! For information please call (863)675-6255.

Spring crafts

The Whisper Creek RV Resort's annual Spring Craft Show Thursday, February 26, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The resort is located on Rte. 29 about 3 miles north of the bridge in LaBelle. Watch for signs at the entrance. Large variety of crafts and baked goods with a pie and cake auction and raffles. Coffee and donuts for sale for the early shoppers and lunch will be served around noon. Door prizes donated by the vendors are drawn every hour.

Old fashioned burgers

The LaBelle Church of God, Hwy. 80 and Elm St., will serve its famous hamburger, baked beans, cole slaw, chips and tea or water for \$7 Saturday, February 21, at the church from 11 a.m. till 2 p.m. Everyone welcome.

MCA events for February

February 19, Thursday, will be a regular meeting starting at 7 p.m. Immediately following the meeting, refreshments will be served. Come out for an informative evening.

There will be NO Jam Session on the fourth, Saturday. Jam Sessions are usually the second and fourth Saturday of the month. Everyone is welcome to come and play.

These events are open to the public and held at the Muse Community Center Bldg. on Loblolly Bay Road (Hwy. Refreshments will be served. For further information call 863-674-0467.

Ortona bingo

The Ortona Community Association (OCA) hosts Bingo every Friday evening through the winter season. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. when hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken patties, snacks, ice cream, and soft drinks are sold. The last cards are sold at 6:45 p.m. Bingo begins promptly at 7 p.m. Ortona's new community center, in Ortona Community Park, 2087 Ortona Locks Road (Hwy 78A), approximately 500 feet beyond



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the Ortona Firehouse. For further information, contact Fran Way at 863-675-7880 or email franwayrn@aol.com.

Widows to meet

The Widows Support Group will meet February 19 at 11:30 a.m. at Contrera's Mexican Restaurant. All widows welcome.

VFW news

February 27: Karaoke Covered dish dinner and Two Sharps 5-9 p.m.

Best hamburgers and fries in town every Saturday 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Turkey shoot second and fourth Saturday at 1 p.m.

VFW located on SR 29S, next to the rodeo grounds. For further information call 863-675-8008.

American Legion events

American Legion Sunday breakfast: The American Legion Post 130 serves a buffet breakfast the 1st and 3rd Sundays from 8-11 a.m. for \$7.00. Located on W SR 80 across from the Shell Station. 863-675-8300.

American Legion Friday Fish Fry: Every Friday the American Legion Post 130 hosts the Fish Fry with fish fixed 'your way', cole slaw and baked potato or French fries, plus coffee or tea for \$8.00. (Crab cakes and fried chicken are also available.) Desserts available for \$1.00. Come support the American Legion to help our local veterans.

Located on W SR 80 across from the Shell Station. 863-675-8300.

DAV flea market

Come out every Saturday to the Disabled American Veterans flea market, off Martin Luther King Blvd. Lots of deals - lots of items - lots of fun! Call 239-728-5332.

Support downtown project

Pathways to the Future Project. Be a part of rebuilding downtown LaBelle. Buy a brick and have it engraved for your family, in memoriam, or for business marketing. It will be displayed on Thompson Avenue's new parklets for everyone to see for years to come. Order now at <http://www.downtownlabelle.com/become-a-member/>

LaBelle Moose Lodge welcomes friends back!

LaBelle Moose Lodge 2398 says "Welcome back Northern friends"! Fun! Fun! Fun! Each night of the week we have something going on!! Monday nights: dinner 5-7 p.m., Tuesday: "wings by JD" 5-7 p.m., Pass the Trash card game 6 p.m, Queen of Hearts 7 p.m., Wednesday: enjoy music by the Country Impact Band and "wings by JD" 5-7 p.m., Thursday Pass the Trash card game 6 p.m. and dinner 5-7 p.m., Friday: dinner 5-7 p.m. and karaoke 7 p.m, Saturday: burger bar 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Dinner 5-7 p.m., and karaoke 7 p.m., Sunday: 4-7 p.m.: Karaoke & DJ mu-

Paid Advertisement

HIGGINBOTHAM & SOUD CHANGES ...



Kyndel and Adam and children, Lane and Kaelyn.

The CPA firm, Higginbotham & Soud, is excited to announce a couple of recent changes. First is the addition of a new partner, Kyndel Murray, to the firm. Kyndel grew up in LaBelle and is a graduate of Florida Gulf Coast University.

She passed the CPA exam in 2009 and has over 9 years of experience in public accounting. Second, the Firm announced it will be changing its name to "LaBelle CPA". Both of the changes became effective with the New Year.



Submitted photo/Steven Nisbet Jr.

Property Appraiser, Scouts share patriotism

Phillip Pelletier was very generous to donate 75 3x5 American flags to The Kiwanis Kid Club of LaBelle - Boy Scout Troop 514. They will be using the flags for a fundraiser to help them purchase uniforms, camping supplies and attend Summer Camp. For a donation of \$40 a year a uniformed Boy Scout will place a flag at your home or business during President's Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day and Veteran's Day. For more information on how to subscribe to this service and show your patriotism, please contact: Steven Nisbet Jr. 863.885.1537. God Bless America.

Obituaries

Irene Fountain Trask, 78

LABELLE — Irene Fountain Trask passed away Friday, Feb. 13, 2015, in Lakeland at the home of her niece, Denise Dansby (DJ) after a long bout with cancer; she now resides in heaven. Irene was born in Lakeland on Oct. 22, 1936.

Mrs. Trask and her husband owned & operated Flora & Ella's Restaurant in LaBelle for over 20 years.

Along with her parents and siblings, Irene was preceded in death by son, Scott Burchar and step son, Bill Trask.

She is survived by her husband, Senator Alan Trask, daughters, Debbie Klemmer (David) of LaBelle, Sheryl Prickett of Scipio, Ind., step daughters, Jane Ganey of Lake Placid, Mary Trask of Bartow; son, John Roudabush of Marianna, step sons, Don Trask (Donna) of Seminole and Ken Trask (Karen) of Fort Myers; fourteen grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

Irene was known for her love of the Lord and was a member of the First Assembly of God of Fort Myers. She was also known for her great sense of humor, her quick wit, and she never met a stranger.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, Feb. 19, at 1:00 P.M. at the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, 205 E. Stanford St. in Bartow (33830), followed by a funeral service at 2:00 P.M., and her burial at the Wildwood Ce-

metery in Bartow.

Memorials may be made to Cornerstone Hospice. Condolences at www.whiddenmcleanfuneralhome.com

Fred Johnson, 66

LABELLE — Fred Johnson passed away Feb. 11, 2015 in LaBelle. He was born Apr. 25, 1948

in Port Hope, Ontario, Canada to Wilfred William Johnson (deceased) and Diny (Arts) Johnson. He retired from Lee County Parks & Recreation as a Landscape Architect in 2012. Fred currently was Design Chairperson for the LaBelle Main Street Program.

Survivors include his wife, Shellie (Walker) Johnson; son, Ben Johnson of Lehigh Acres; daughters, Alexis (Johnson) Crespo of Fort Myers and Meaghan Johnson of LaBelle; son-in-law, Ernesto Crespo of Fort Myers; mother, Diny Johnson and sister, Ann Johnson, both of Canada, and of course his three dogs, Berkli, Polli and Maggi.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Forrey Grill in LaBelle on Friday, Feb. 27th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Caloosa Humane Society, Inc.

Cremation Arrangements by Akin-Davis Funeral Home - LaBelle



Church Briefs

Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal

Thursday, February 19th Fr David Jackson Healing service - Eucharist 9:30 AM Bible Study - 10:30AM

Sunday, February 22nd Eucharist 10 AM Rev Nancy Smith

Thursday, February 26th Fr David Jackson Healing service - Eucharist 9:30 AM Bible Study - 10:30AM

Soup and Movie 6 PM all welcome

Sunday, March 1st Eucharist 10 AM Fr Robert Browning

Thursday, March 5th Fr David Jackson Healing service - Eucharist 9:30 AM Bible Study - 10:30AM Soup and Movie 6PM all

welcome

Sunday, March 8th Eucharist 10 AM Fr David Jackson Inurnment Lloyd Kentish

Thursday, March 12th Fr David Jackson Healing service - Eucharist 9:30 AM Bible Study - 10:30AM Soup and Movie 6PM all welcome

Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal - 1098 Collingswood Pkwy 863-675-0385

www.goodshepherdlabelle.org <https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdlabelle>

Email goodshepherdlabelle@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR 2015 EXEMPTIONS

Phillip Pelletier, Hendry County Property Appraiser, invites you to take advantage of your savings between now and March 2, 2015. We are located in LaBelle, in the Courthouse, third floor OR our Clewiston office at 1100 S. Olympia St. Offices are open 8:00 AM till 5:00 PM, Monday thru Friday. **Special extended hours for LaBelle and Clewiston offices will be Thursday February 19th and Thursday February 26th from 8:00 AM till 6:00 PM.**

YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING EXEMPTIONS

1. Homestead Exemption \$25,000 / \$0 / \$25,000
Applies to first \$25,000 of assessed value (all taxing authorities)
Applies to \$50,000 - \$75,000 assessed value (non-school district)
2. Disabled veteran discount based on disabled %, age 65+ combat related
3. Disabled Veteran's Exemption based on % of disability (up to) \$5,000
4. Confined to wheelchair, service connected totally disabled (all taxes)
5. Service connected totally & permanently disabled veteran or surviving spouse (all taxes)
6. Surviving spouse of veteran who died while on active duty (all taxes)
7. Surviving spouse of first responder who died in the line of duty (all taxes)
8. Widow's or Widower's Exemption \$500
9. Non-Veteran Disability and Blindness Exemption \$500(or more)
10. Additional Exemption 65 years of age or older w/an annual income of less than \$28,448 per household (documentation is required) (up to) \$50,000
11. Tangible Personal Property Exemption \$25,000
12. Agriculture Classification (Green Belt)
13. Homestead Portability
14. Deployed Military Exemption

If you have recently purchased your property, the previous owners' exemptions do not apply to you. New applications **MUST** be filed for new ownership or deed transfers. This would also include (name) changes in Agricultural Classified parcels.

Homestead Exemption renewal (white card) and Agricultural Classifications (green card) have recently been mailed. If you still qualify, keep your receipt; do **NOT** return it to our office.

YOU NEED THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION TO FILE FOR HOMESTEAD:

- Applicant must hold title to property and reside on the property by January 1, 2015
- If Recreational Vehicle Condominium Park, FL. registration of Motor Coach is required
- Florida Driver's License (if married, both husband & wife)
- Florida Vehicle Registration
- Hendry County Voter Registration **OR** Recorded Declaration of Domicile
- Social Security Number (if married, both husband & wife required)
- Permanent Resident Card (if not a US citizen)
- Mobile Home Registration **OR** Title in order to purchase the permanent "RP" sticker
- The mailing address of your bank statement and/or a copy of your utility bill at homestead address may be required.

For those who are unable to come to either of our offices, please call and arrangements will be made to assist you in filing your application.

PHILLIP L. PELLETIER
HENDRY COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER
PO Box 1840, LaBelle, FL. 33975-1840
In LaBelle: 863-675-5270 * In Clewiston: 863-983-1591
www.hendryprop.org

Rick's Barber Shop open

LABELLE — Barber Rick Pope has stepped out and opened his own shop, located at 27 Fort Thompson Ave. Rick has been in the business for over 15 years and in LaBelle for four.

He's proficient at all barbering skills in-

Tractor Supply's third annual FFA scholarship program

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (Feb. 11, 2015) — Coming off the heels of a successful second year in 2014, Tractor Supply Company has announced the third annual Growing Scholars program in partnership with the National FFA Foundation. Last year, Tractor Supply customers donated \$447,671, resulting in 334 scholarships awarded to FFA members in their pursuit of a college degree.

The Growing Scholars program will be supported nationally by each of the more than 1,400 Tractor Supply and Del's Feed & Farm Supply stores Feb. 20 – March 1, which includes National FFA Week. Tractor Supply customers can donate \$1 or more at store registers during the checkout process to support local FFA chapters and their members. Ninety percent of funds raised through Tractor Supply's Growing Scholars program will be utilized to fund scholarships for FFA members. The remaining 10 percent of donations will benefit state FFA organizations.

"The funding we received from our customers last year was tremendous," said Tractor Supply President and CEO Greg Sandfort. "We're honored to be able to provide critical funding to FFA members who intend to pursue a college degree. Many of these students go on to be agriculture educators — and we know how important ag. ed. is to our communities, customers, and the lifestyle they value. Local FFA chapters enrich the lives of young members by teaching life skills, citizenship and leadership qualities. Giving back to our 1,300-plus communities that we serve is very important, and the Growing Scholars program is one of the ways that we support our current and future customers and future team members."

To be eligible for the scholarship program, students must be current FFA members and either high school seniors or a freshman, sophomore or junior college student seeking a two- or four-year degree or other specialized training program. Major areas of study will also be considered when determining scholarship recipients.

In addition to the Growing Scholars program, Tractor Supply and the National FFA Foundation have many other joint initiatives, including the FFA horse evaluation career development event, National FFA Week and the annual National Association of Agricultural Educators Conference. At an individual store level, Tractor Supply continually hosts fund-raising events and works closely with local FFA chapters and high school agriculture advisors to provide resources and leverage synergies.

cluding the latest cuts like fades, fohawks, and blowouts as well as old favorites - flat-tops and scissor cuts.

Bring the kids, too! If you're in the mood for a little guy-pampering, why not try a hot shave?

When you see Rick you can expect great customer service and stories as well as a great cut.

This South Florida raised family man enjoys the outdoors with his family. If you have a fondness for specialty knives, Rick is also your source for MaGahee Custom Knives. You can stop by Rick's Barber Shop Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9-6 or Saturday 7-3. On Wednesday and Sunday he's closed.

Rick will also work his magic after hours by appointment only. Give him a call 954-448-8475 - Rick's waiting for you!



Caloosa Belle/Patty Brant
Rick Pope of Rick's Barber Shop.

You can be a 'Reading Buddy'

"Reading Buddies" is a new program being introduced at Barron Library. The program will begin March 2, on the National Education Association's Read Across America Day. The program will encourage adults/young adults and children to read out loud to each other, to improve both reading skills, and good relationship building skills.

The goal of the National Education Association is to build a nation of readers. Read Across America Day is celebrated every year on or around March 2, the birthday of Dr. Seuss.

Parents of elementary age children, bring the kids to READ on Monday, March 2, 3-7:30 pm. Anyone interested in being a 'reading buddy', call 863-675-0833, or visit Barron Library for complete details. Work within your community to help children discover a love of reading at an early age.

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Submitted photo/Mel Karau

Rotary

Holly Kobie, President of the Rotary Club of LaBelle with Lisa Sands, Representative of the Lee, Hendry and Glades Salvation Army Offices. Mrs Sands is the Salvation Army Social Services Program Manager of the LaBelle Office which services Hendry/Glades Counties. The Salvation Service Units are made up of 3 staff members and a team of local volunteers, who serve as unpaid volunteers not because they have little worth, but because they are priceless who help those in need. The Salvation Army completed a most successful Kettle Campaign in

Hendry County with a gold coin dropped in the bucket by an unknown donor. Total raised in Hendry County was over \$19,500.00! An outstanding achievement of the Salvation Army is 90 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to programs and services of our local communities. These services include the Food Pantry, Christmas Toy Distribution, Crisis Mgmt Assistance, Disaster relief, joint project with FPL to provide assistance with final electric bills, Computer access for applying for Food Stamps and Medicaid. The LaBelle office is located at 133 N. Bridge St., with office hours from 9:00 am - 4:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday. For additional information Contact : 863 674-1441 or email Lisa_Sands@uss.salvationarmy.org. or the Clewiston office with office hours from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, Monday-Friday, is located at 969 W.Sugarland Hwy. Contact Tom Slager 863 233 6190.



Submitted photo

Author booksigning February 21

Author Linda Rue Quinn will be appearing at Bridge Street Coffee and Tea Company in LaBelle on Swamp Cabbage Saturday, February 21, from 11a.m. to 2 p.m. to sign copies of her latest suspense novel, The Apple Fell. Linda graduated from LaBelle High School in 1979 and decided to use LaBelle as a backdrop for most of The Apple Fell. Although the book is fiction, it was inspired by major events that took place in Hendry County in the early 80's, when Linda

was working at the Hendry County Sheriff's Department and after she left. Writer's Digest reviewed the book as Outstanding in 4 categories and Very Good in 2. A snippet of their review is as follows: "In Linda Rue Quinn's The Apple Fell, she skillfully takes a common tragedy that many women face and puts her main character into an uncommon situation. This creates a series of domino-style events that will surely grab readers early in the story and not let go until the last page is turned...Don't be surprised when people complain about staying up until the wee hours to finish the book." To read the entire review, visit Linda's website authorlindaruequinn.wix.com/authorlindaruequinn#! or visit her Facebook page for the book by typing in "The Apple Fell" or "Author Linda Rue Quinn." She looks forward to meeting old friends and making new ones on the 21st!



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49th Annual
Swamp Cabbage Festival*

*And we're celebrating
23 Years of Business
in LaBelle!*

*It's just not what we do
It's who we are!*

Swamp Cabbage Happenings

This is it! Time for the 2015 Swamp Cabbage Festival, Celebrating our Local Heroes! Activities begin with the Old Timers Dance Thursday (tonight) and continue through the weekend.

Old Timers dance

A special time for 'old timers', full time residents, recent residents, snowbirds and any and everyone interested in great food and a grand evening with old friends and new acquaintances. 50/50, Live Auction and Dessert Auction too... Thursday, February 19, at the LaBelle Civic Center. Doors Open 5:00 p.m. for Visiting - Dinner 6:00 p.m. \$25.00 per person catered by Cassie Williams' Cracker Cookin' & Caterin'. Sponsored by LaBelle Heritage Museum. Tickets are available at the Chamber and Museum. For more information call Elinor: 239-290-4429 ~ Julie: 675-5982

Swamp Stomp

Caloosa Humane Society's Swamp Stomp 5K Run/Walk to Benefit our Animals! Saturday, February 21, 7:30 a.m. Grandeur Oaks Town Center. Register at www.caloosahumanesociety.org or www.ftmyerstrackclub.com or p/u registration forms at CHS, Big Iron Barbell, and Chamber of Commerce. Participants are encouraged to bring needed supplies for the pets at the Caloosa Humane Society: dog/cat food, bleach, laundry detergent, paper towels, collars, leashes, and toys. The parade starts at 10 a.m. head-

ing north on Bridge Street from Cowboy Way across SR 80 to Barron Park right after the run.

Adult Country Western Dance

LaBelle Civic Center, 481 West Hickpochee Ave., Saturday, February 21, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. \$10 admission fee and \$10 cooler fee. There will be an additional charge for coolers over 48 quarts. Live music by Derrick Scott Band - formerly known as "The Chase." Hosted by the Hendry County Cattlewomen's Association. Call 863-674-4092 for any questions.

Ranch Rodeo

Hendry County Cattlemen's Association presents the sixth annual SCF Ranch Rodeo at the LaBelle Rodeo Grounds (SR 29 just south of town (February 20 at 7 p.m. and February 21 at 6 p.m. Calf branding, double mugging, cowhide drag, team branding, team sorting and bronc riding. \$1,500 first place, buckles and entry fee to FCA finals; second place \$1,000; third place \$500. Event winner \$250. Real working Florida cowboys and cowgirls! Concession stand on site. Vendors welcome.

There will be a 4-H Youth Rodeo February 21 at noon: open 4-D barrel race \$500 added to benefit Hendry County 4-H Adults \$10, young'uns under 10 free.

For information contact Marlene at 863-674-4092 or Lindsey at 863-673-5971. For barrel race information contact Sonya at

239-289-7582.

Legends of the Road Show

South Central Florida Car Club will again host The Legends of the Road Car Show during Swamp Cabbage Weekend on Saturday, February 21. If you would like to show your car or truck or have questions please call Ellen Beers 863 674-0128 or Tom Corbett 863 234-8343. Entry fee is \$15.00 per vehicle. If you would like to sponsor a trophy with your business name engraved on the plaque contact Ellen Beers. Space is limited so please reserve you spot soon and join us in the festivities.

South Central Florida Car Club is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 corporation made up of car enthusiasts and 100% of all profits go back into helping our community and those in need.

Fishing tournament

Safe light Sunday morning

2015 Entertainment schedule:

Saturday Feb 21st

11:30 a.m. Opening Prayer and National Anthem

11:45 a.m. Queen/Princess introduction and performance

12:00 p.m. China Grove

1:10 p.m. introduction of the Pioneer

Family and Grand Marshal

1:20 p.m. Country Rhythm Cloggers

2:15 p.m. Blackwater Band

3:30 p.m. Showtime Cloggers

4:35 p.m. Buckshot band

Sunday, February 22 2015

9:00 a.m.- Gospel Music

10:00 a.m. Dave Randant

10:45 a.m. Posse Band

11:30 a.m. The Dance Company

12:35 p.m. Queen/Princess introduction and performance

1:15 p.m. Press On

2:15 p.m. 64 to Grayson

3:15 p.m. Day by Day



We are going to have a ball at the 49th Annual Swamp Cabbage Festival!

We will be

“Celebrating our Local Heroes”

on our float at the Swamp Cabbage Festival Parade with many of our adoptable dogs! Please come out and see us!!!



Saturday, February 21, 2015

7:30 a.m. at Grandeur Oaks Town Center!

Please join us for this fun

5k run in one of LaBelle's most scenic locations.

Walk or run, each step you take makes the future of our homeless animals brighter.

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www.caloosahumanesociety.org

Meet 'Uncle' Bill McGill: 2015 SCF Grand Marshal

by **Patty Brant**
Caloosa Belle

2015 SCF Grand Marshal "Uncle" Bill McGill has grown to love LaBelle. Not exactly enamored at first, it wasn't long after he got here that he found the beauty and hospitality it held. He came here with his family in 1956 - and that's another story. His early years were spent in Miami - a place he found near to heaven in the '40s.

During the Korean War, when he was a junior in high school and an ROTC cadet, he enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves. They needed recruits and promised him he could come back and graduate with his class when the time came.

Well, he went off in the Marines and saw a lot of the world - even came back and graduated with his class as promised.

The only experience he had with LaBelle up to that point was as a late night stop heading off to his enlistment on a bus from Miami to Tampa.

They stopped at A.L. Taylor's filling station in the middle of the night, pouring rain and lightning flashing.

Not an auspicious introduction to the home he would one day come to love.

Bill did well in the Marine Reserves. He saw a lot of the world. He went to artillery school and stayed for several years before he decided he wanted to transfer to the regular Marines.

It was a disappointment that he was unable to because a physical determined that

he had bad feet.

So he was discharged and returned to Miami - only to find that his parents had moved to - of all places - LaBelle - a town that had little to offer a world traveler.

As it happened, they couldn't get in touch with Bill to let him know where they were so they left word in the neighborhood for him to head on up to LaBelle when he showed up.

The only experience he had with LaBelle up to that point was as a late night stop heading off to his enlistment on a bus from Miami to Tampa . . . Not an auspicious introduction to the home he would one day come to love.

"Uncle" Bill, or "Trouble" as he is also known, can't even remember all the jobs he's had over the years, but his experiences have provided him with about as much knowledge of this town as anyone.

The family lived next to Judge Rider's place on SR 80 at first, then Bill helped his daddy build a home/store out at Goodno in the '60s and worked with him in the sod fields around LaBelle. They picked up the sod and put it in his daddy's truck and delivered it.

His father was Ralph McGill and his step-mother Harriet Arlene Dykes-McGill. Bill was

one of seven siblings.

He worked at the post office and with Darryl Cox in the air conditioning business. He also repaired TVs and in 1980 started his own cleaning business. He worked at a parts store and in the sand mine.

Oh, yeah, he was on the ambulance squad for a while and was a firefighter when they got \$2 for each fire they fought. He had the True Value store that was later sold to Ken Downing as Radio Shack.

In those days, Bill said, everybody worked two or three jobs, to make ends meet.

Bill met the love of his life, Pat, at a First Baptist Church service. She and a friend were in town from Tampa.

Her friend was the daughter of the First Baptist preacher. Bill took notice of her right away and when it was time for her to go back to Tampa she took him up on his offer to swap cars with him.

But when he was returning her Nova to her in Tampa, he had a slight mishap when a bird swooped down and hit the top of her car, then blew out the windshield of the Buick behind him. The damage didn't cause any friction, though, and the relationship grew.

On November 26, 1971, he said he did "the best thing I ever did in my life" - he married that girl. She's "put up with him" for all these years and the pair continue to share their lives since she retired from 35 years with the school system.

"Uncle" Bill has had a hand in many of the good things that have happened in LaBelle over the past 50 or so years, with the Christian Men's Fellowship, various youth sports and his church - Community Harvest Worship Center, where he makes sure everything is in good order. He also follows his faith by working with the Berea Prison Ministries.

Bill volunteers at the Veterans Service Office, manning the phones to help his fellow veterans who need transportation to medical appointments - a cause close to his heart. "There are so many veterans absolutely lost," he said.

When you go to the SCF parade, you might want to take note of the handmade signs done in beautiful calligraphy attached to each of the dignitaries' vehicles. Uncle Bill has been responsible for these mini pieces of art for many years - and that will include his own this year.

Most folks have a hearty welcome when they see "Uncle" Bill coming - a reflection of the love and respect he has shown this town for many years.

So now "Uncle" Bill can add 2015 SCF Grand Marshal to his list of accomplishments.



2015 SCF Grand Marshal 'Uncle' Bill McGill

Happy Swamp Cabbage!



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Community Briefs

Microsoft IT Academy continues at library

The Microsoft IT Academy continues at Barron Library with the Excel class scheduled to begin in February. There are only a few spots still open, so register now, before the class fills up. Fee for the class is \$20 for your application, \$50 instruction and/or use of equipment and \$100 to take the certification exam, following classroom learning.

The Hendry County Library System is offering the Microsoft IT Academy through a grant from the Howard E. Hill Foundation. This is an opportunity to become certified in Microsoft Suite without the expensive travel to Fort Myers, or the east coast of Florida for training.

For further information or to sign up for the Excel class, please visit Barron Library, or call 863-675-0833. Don't miss this opportunity to improve yourself for your current

employer, or to better prepare you to get back into the job market.

Property Appraiser's Office extends hours

Hendry County Property Appraiser, Phillip Pelletier, is extending office hours for homeowners to file for 2015 exemptions. The offices in LaBelle and Clewiston will be open from 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. on February 19 and 26.

Applications for all tax exemptions must be filed in our office on the third floor of the courthouse administration building in LaBelle or at 1100 S. Olympia St, in Clewiston by 5:00 p.m., March 2.

For those who are unable to come to either location, please call and arrangements will be made to assist you in filing your application. Call 863-675-5270 in LaBelle or 863-983-1591 in Clewiston.

SCF 2015 Pioneer Family: Don and Christine Pratt

by **Patty Brant**
Caloosa Belle

Pioneer Family Don and Christine Pratt have both been important to the way the City of LaBelle has grown.

Don was born in Missouri and came to Clewiston with his family as a baby in 1932. His father had worked for the Wabash Railroad but headed to Florida when the company went under. It took a month by truck. They left June 18 arrived in Clewiston July 23, stopping to work here and there, and to fix tires along the difficult road.

Don's dad brought his family to Clewiston with other family members because they heard there was work at the sugar mill. It turned out to be a good move and he retired from USSC after 39 years.

Don grew up in Clewiston, graduating from Clewiston High School in 1951 where he was always into sports - football, baseball - his love of sports would stay with him to this day. He often came to LaBelle, drawn by sports activities. In fact, he met Christine when she was playing basketball.

Christine was born in LaBelle. Her father came here as a boy in the late 1800s. Her

mother was born in Canada into a family with Swedish roots. Her family had come to Florida because her grandmother became ill and could not stand the harsh Canadian winters. In 1957 Don moved to LaBelle, married Christine after she graduated and began their long and happy life together. They have two boys, Dwayne and Scott, five grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Don served in the Army from 1952-54, spending most of his time in Germany. Over the years Don had a lot of jobs, finally leasing a filling station at the corner of SR 80 and SR 29 for 18 years. Perhaps his biggest mark was his service as a county commissioner from 1968-89. He was asked by Sheriff Earl Dyess to run for the county commission, but originally Christine didn't want him to run. She felt he had too much on his plate with all the boys' activities and running the Standard Station. But, she recalls, "He surprised me." After his time on the commission Don worked for the Barron Water Control District for four years before retiring.

Christine began working at the Clerk's office in October of 1963, eventually winning election as the Clerk of Courts, a position

she held from 1989 until retirement in 2000.

She had never done anything like that before. She kept the books at the gas station and even pumped gas, but she decided she'd like to try something else. Don was okay with her working part time at the Clerk's Office as long as the boys were taken care of. What started as just a few hours a couple days a week soon turned in to a full time job, but everything worked out. From her earliest days at the Clerk's Office, she helped take it from pen and pencil to computers and through several moves.

Don's lifelong affinity for sports has been a big plus for so many kids growing up in LaBelle. It's always been a family affair for the Pratts, revolving around church, school and community activities.

Whether it was the Quarterback Club, Pop Warner or working with Only Hull in Jr. Pro Basketball (they called it Bitty Ball), Christine was right with him, helping schedule games and always helping out.

Don tended to stay behind the scenes, but both made lasting contributions to LaBelle's youth sports. "It was a good time," she recalls.

They were right there for high school softball tournaments held in the field in front of Carlson Memorial United Methodist Church, which ultimately moved to Davis-Pratt Field. In fact, that field, which continues to serve Little League and Pop Warner, was named after Don Pratt and Don Davis.

Don and Christine share a lifetime of memories - like the open pit barbecues the Lions Club used to have in Barron Park for Swamp Cabbage Festival - no more, of course. Then it was Don cutting swamp cabbage with Dale Small one year they cut it a week early because of other commitments. Someone was supposed to keep it on ice for the week, but apparently forgot, so it all spoiled. They had to cut 175 cabbages the Friday night before the Saturday festival).

Even now, Don is still dedicated to manning the Quarterback Club football concession and son Dwayne carries on the tradition. In fact, young Dwayne started early. When he was a junior at LHS Dwayne broke his hip playing football. While still on crutches he took on coaching a Little League team and wound up taking them to a Naples tournament. They lost, Christine said, but "but I'm proud of my boys."

Christine said she can't imagine ever

living anywhere else. Small towns have so much to offer, she said, and if you need to go to "the big city" it's not far to Fort Myers or West Palm Beach. It's not a party town, but you can't beat it for good clean living and friendly people, she points out. She has wonderful memories of growing up in LaBelle, like Saturday nights when families came to town. The kids went to the movies and the adults gathered to visit. Flora & Ella's Restaurant, the theater, the B&B grocery, Jennings Hardware, dress shop, bank and Hull's Garage were all in a cluster on

See **Family**— Page 12



Submitted photo

Don and Christine Pratt 2015 SCF Pioneer Family



Welcome everyone to
**LaBelle's 49th Annual
Swamp Cabbage Festival!**
Have a safe and fun weekend.

Sheriff Steve Whidden
Hendry County Sheriff's Office



Cracker
Cookin' & Caterin'

Specializing in Swamp Cabbage Fritters
and Old Florida Cuisine

E-Mail crackercooin2005@yahoo.com

Cassie Williams

Home 863-675-2662

Cell 863-673-0285

Come get our new BBQ
Sundae, fried turkey nuggets,
Swamp Cabbage Fritters and
Swamp Cabbage Gumbo
at the 49th Annual
Swamp Cabbage Festival!





Submitted photos

TOP LEFT:
Don Pratt got his swamp cabbage cutting skills the hard way - through years of practice.

BELOW:
Members of the Pratt family are a tight knit and caring group.



Submitted photo

Don Pratt poses at his filling station.

Family

Continued From Page 11

Bridge Street. It was the place to be on Saturday night. She remembers shakes or sundaes at Flora & Ella's and the old skating rink which also attracted people from Clewiston, Moore Haven, Alva and Immokalee to enjoy dancing.

Don says it was pretty much the same in Clewiston - folks gathering on Bond Street to share conversation and good times.

Christine said she misses the way it was, but you can always be happy where you are if you put in the effort. She looks forward

to her grandchildren and great grandchildren living in the same place she and Don have called home for so long and prays the younger generation remembers that family is important and that every act has a consequence and responsibility. She reminds them of what her father told her - "you only have one reputation, take care of it."

In the end the Pratts feel that LaBelle is a place to be proud of and a good to raise kids. They have more than done their part to make it so.



We are back for Swamp Cabbage Festival and we are looking forward to seeing our old and new friends. Featuring our new SMOKED CHICKEN WINGS
For information 321-514-2636



863-675-7700

450 Hwy. 80

LaBelle, Florida 33935

Welcome to the 49th Annual Swamp Cabbage Festival



Stop by and see us!
If you need flowers,
we got flowers!

If you need fudge,
we got fudge!

If you need gifts,
we got gifts!!

Carry out or Delivery!



Since 1926, Domer's has believed that business is more than the exchange of goods and service for money; it is about building and sustaining relationships. We appreciate the relationship that we have with you, and we look forward to the continued opportunity to provide you with reliable products and services.



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Announcements

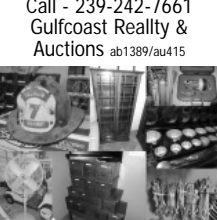
Important Information: Please read your ad carefully the first day it appears. In case of an inadvertent error, please notify us prior to the deadline listed. We will not be responsible for more than 1 incorrect insertion, or for more than the extent of the ad rendered valueless by such errors. Advertiser assumes responsibility for all statements, names and content of an ad, and assumes responsibility for any claims against the INI USA. All advertising is subject to publisher's approval. The publisher reserves the right to accept or reject any or all copy, and to insert above the copy the word "advertisement". All ads accepted are subject to credit approval. All ads must conform to INI USA style and are restricted to their proper classifications. Some classified categories require advance payment. These classifications are denoted with an asterisk *.

Auctions

ABSOLUTE AUCTION
SAT, FEB. 28, 10 AM
1311 EAGLE POINT DR.
FT. DENAUADE, FL. 33935

Tools, tools, tools, quality furniture, construction supplies, tons of large xmas decorations.

For photos, go to gulfoastrealty.com
Call - 239-242-7661
Gulfoast Realty & Auctions ab1389/au415



Garage/Yard Sales

Whisper Creek RV Resort
Spring Craft Show
SR 29 N
Thurs Feb 26
9am to 1pm
Door Prizes, raffles

Employment

Caregivers

HOME HEALTH AIDE NEEDED (863)342-8584

Employment Full Time

ADVERTISING SALES REP WANTED FOR IMMOKALEE BULLETIN/CALOOSA BELLE

We are looking for an energetic and dynamic advertising sales associate to call on area businesses in Western Hendry County and the Immokalee/Eastern Collier County area. Full or part-time possible. Primary responsibilities include developing relationships with local businesses and educating them on the entire range of print and digital advertising products offered by our company. The sales representative will focus on developing advertising solutions for new and inactive accounts. This is an outside sales position with commission and requires a valid driver's license, reliable transportation, and basic computer skills including social media. Advertising sales experience not required but highly desirable.

Please send resume to **Patty Brant**
at pbrant@newszip.com

Employment Full Time

Ag Mechanic Wanted
Preferred Welding Experience
Good Pay & Benefits
401k/Company Truck
Call (239) 658-6099

Need a few more bucks to purchase something deer? Pick up some extra bucks when you sell your used items in the classifieds.

Drivers: \$5,000 Sign-On Bonus! Great Pay! Consistent Freight, Great Miles on this Regional Account. Werner Enterprises: 1-855-517-2488

Reading a newspaper helps you understand the world around you. No wonder newspaper readers are more successful people!

Employment

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

Employment Full Time

ADVERTISING SALES REP WANTED FOR IMMOKALEE BULLETIN/CALOOSA BELLE

We are looking for an energetic and dynamic advertising sales associate to call on area businesses in Western Hendry County and the Immokalee/Eastern Collier County area. Full or part-time possible. Primary responsibilities include developing relationships with local businesses and educating them on the entire range of print and digital advertising products offered by our company. The sales representative will focus on developing advertising solutions for new and inactive accounts. This is an outside sales position with commission and requires a valid driver's license, reliable transportation, and basic computer skills including social media. Advertising sales experience not required but highly desirable.

Please send resume to **Patty Brant**
at pbrant@newszip.com

Employment Full Time

Full time Kiwanis Thrift Store Manager. Experience in sales-floor layout, personnel management, and accounts receivable. Some computer skills required. (Bilingual a plus but not required). Interested applicants send their resume to 133 North Bridge Street, LaBelle, FL 33935. (Applications also available at this address) Application and resume may also be faxed to (863) 675-9393. Applications or questions will NOT be accepted at the Thrift Store.

Requirement: A written paragraph stating why you are qualified for this position.

The classifieds are the most successful salesperson in town.

Employment Full Time

Southern Gardens Citrus Clewiston, FL



Planner/Analyst

Position will report to the Vice President, Procurement, Sales & Marketing. Will coordinate work with Operations, Sales and Procurement on the timing, receipt and release of inbound material and the manufacture, blending, packaging and shipment of outbound material to coordinate our labor and infrastructure resources.

PREFERRED SKILLS:

Candidate will possess a Bachelors degree with one to two years of prior experience. Experience in truck logistics, understanding costing models, and import/export experience a plus.

Southern Gardens is a citrus grower and a major supplier of 100% pure Florida not-from-concentrate orange juice to the private label industry and major brands. Position provides competitive compensation as well as a benefits package that includes health, dental, vision, life insurance, 401-K, and bonus potential. EOE

Qualified candidates please send resumes to:

E-mail: dmelton@southerngardens.com

Employment Full Time

Looking for irrigation workers. Valid ID required. Full time position. Call Mon to Thurs 8am to 3pm for more details 863-517-1590 Bilingual preferred

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

Employment Full Time

Employment Full Time



BENEFITS ANALYST

The Benefits analyst will assist in the development and administration of all company benefit programs including health and welfare, 401k and pension plans. Emphasis is on providing analytical and technical support to ensure data integrity, operational accuracy and compliance with all plan and regulatory requirements. Must be technically proficient and be able to run reports, analyze data, and perform complex audits and reconciliations.

- Strong attention to detail and accuracy
- Strong analytical and reconciliation skills
- Ability to prepare accurate and professional financial analysis and reconciliations
- Ability to perform systems testing, analyze data, and run complex audits
- Strong proficiency in excel
- Excellent organizational and time management skills
- Ability to maintain strict confidentiality
- Ability to work as part of a team and be approachable, flexible and adaptable to change
- Must demonstrate excellent customer service skills

Excellent Pension experience is a huge plus

EMAIL
nbohorquez@ussugar.com

Get a quick response to any item you may be selling with a classified ad.

Employment Full Time



Pay Loader Operator \$17.51 hour

This is a shift-work position with periodic overtime and recall requirements, including nights, weekends, and holidays, working independently and with minimal supervision.

Essential Duties:

- * Operate pay loader (front end loader) and other heavy equipment as needed, using both feet and hands to manipulate foot and hand controls simultaneously.
- * Use a radio to verbally communicate with Power Plant staff, take and receive directions from CCR Operator and/or Team Leader.
- * Conduct equipment inspections such as checking fluids, tires, belts, and changing filters, documenting results and submitting written equipment reports.

EMAIL
Nbohorquez.com

Quality Control Inspector

Experience in materials and equipment used in construction and maintenance in a variety of facilities. Must be able to communicate and provide written reports clearly, computer skills a plus. Salary range is between \$15 and \$17 per hour, paid vacation and government holidays and insurance. Send resume to R & D Maintenance Services Inc. 475 Ridgelawn Road, Clewiston FL 33440 Must be able to pass a driver's license check and employment drug screen EEO employer

Financial

Business Opportunities

NOTICE

Independent Newspapers will never accept any advertisement that is illegal or considered fraudulent. In all cases of questionable value, such as promises of guaranteed income from work-at-home programs - if it sounds too good to be true, chances are that it is. If you have questions or doubts about any ad on these pages, we advise that before responding or sending money ahead of time, you check with the Better Business Bureau at 772-878-2010 for previous complaints.

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

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

Merchandise

Jewelry

WE BUY FINE AND COSTUME JEWELRY! - IS YOUR JEWELRY BOX FULL OF COSTUME AND FINE JEWELRY? WE BUY IT ALL. LIQUIDATORSONLINE.COM. (239)218-0050

When you advertise something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

Miscellaneous

LANIA FURNITURE:
White Whicker, Chase Lounge, Pink floral cushions \$90, Glass Top Table w/4 swivel chairs \$75., Large White Whicker Dresser \$60., Ladder, Aluminum, 8 Ft. \$45. Call (304)582-2116

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

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

Tools

Table saw 8" with tilting arbor, good condition, and lots of hand tools. Call for more information 863-675-4543

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

Earn some extra cash. Sell your used items in the classifieds

Buying a car? Look in the classifieds. Selling a car? Look in the classifieds.

Agriculture

Farm Equipment

DIESEL INJECTOR PUMP, TURBOCHARGER, INJECTOR REPAIRS, REMOVAL & INSTALLATION AVAILABLE, GET IT BACK SAME DAY, GOOD PRICE. CALL DOCTOR DIESEL. ASK ABOUT MY CLASSES
863-381-0538

Earn some extra cash. Sell your used items in the classifieds

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

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

Poultry Supplies

Eggs and chickens for sale 863-234-2891

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

Grab a bargain from your neighbor's garage, attic, basement or closet in today's classifieds.

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

FOR RENT Rentals

Apartments

Greentree South Apartments Available for Immediate Occupancy
2 & 3 Bedroom Apartments

- Spacious Apartment in quiet, country setting
- Handicap Units Available
- Full time bilingual Site Manager
- Community Room, Tot lot, Playground, Activities
- Sewer and trash included in rent
- Farm workers welcomed
- Rental rates starting at \$621

Call 675-0313 TDD
#1-800-955-8771
40 Greentree Drive, #101, LaBelle
9:00 AM -5:00 PM, Mon-Fri
Equal Housing Opportunity Provider & Employer



Condos/Townhouses Rent

Acreage Sale - 6+ acres in Double J - great mini farm. \$108,000 offer. Willard Realty 863-675-0779

Condo Rental - 2BR/2bath fully furnished luxury condo @ \$750/month + utilities. Security & references. No smoking. No pets. Willard Realty 863-675-0779

StorageSpace Rent

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

Real Estate

Houses - Sale

Roomy 3B/2B home on river. Covered dock w/lift, large covered patio, 3 car garage. \$368,900 863-517-1081

Mobile Homes

Mobile Home Lots

Lots for sale zoned for mobile homes. \$1,500 down \$200 monthly. Call Kenny at 863-673-4325 or 863-675-8888

The classifieds are the most successful salesperson in town.

Mobile Home Sale

Doublewide Trailer
Aqua Isles, 2 bedroom 2 bath. New roof, partially furnished. 2 car carport. Central heat and air. Storage shed \$23,000 OBO Call 863-673-1947

Felda - 3br 1.5bath Mobile home For Sale w/ land 2.5 acres. Call Owner at 239-707-3627 to discuss price.

If you have a credit score of 575 or greater and \$3,000 down. We can get you approved to purchase a new mobile home and lot. Call 863-675-8888

Land and home package deal. 3 bedroom, 2 bath new doublewide \$79,900. \$4,000 minimum down payment and 600 minimum credit score. Approval is very easy. Call Kenny 863-673-4325 or 863-675-8888

Find it faster. Sell it sooner in the classifieds

Large 4 bedroom, 2 bath doublewide located on 1/2 acre in Horseshoe Acres, east of LaBelle. \$54,900 with minimum credit score of 600. Low down payment accepted. Call David 239-777-4357

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

Recreation

Campers/RVs

2011 Road Master Tow Dolly model 2000-1. All the extras Absolute Brand new tires. Great condition Paid \$3,800 Sell \$1,200. 561-573-3499

Shop here first! The classified ads

Wanted all Travel Trailers, Motor Homes and Fifth Wheels. Any Condition, Cash paid on the spot. Call 941-347-7171

Public Notices

Public Notice

MEETING NOTICE
The Joint Glades/Hendry Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged will have a meeting on **Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. It will be held at the Janet B. Taylor Auditorium at 110 S. Olympia in Clewiston.**

All meetings of the Local Coordinating Board are open to the public. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact Nichole Gwinnett at the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council by calling (239) 338-2550, Ext. 232 or by e-mail at ngwinnett@swfprc.org at least seven days prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, call (800) 955-8770 (Voice) or 800-955-8771 (TDD).

The SWFRPC's planning process is conducted in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes. Any person or beneficiary who believes he/she has been discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability or familial status may file a complaint with the Florida Department of Transportation, District One, Title VI Coordinator Robin Parrish at (863) 519-2675 or by writing her at P.O. Box 1249, Bartow, Florida 33831. Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. 469270 CGS 2/19/2015

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the **Jennifer Cosby**, the holder 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
4384	2011	4104329-07022010160	Moshe Sabti & Gary R Dubin

Lot 16, Block 2201, of Port LaBelle Unit 7, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 3, Page116, Public Records of Hendry County, 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 Fourth Thursday** in the month of **March, 2015**, which is the **26th day of March, 2015**. Dated this **14th** day of **January, 2015**.

Barbara S. Butler
Clerk of Circuit Court
Hendry County, Florida
469774 CN/CB 2/19,26;3/5,12/2015

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the **US Bank as Cap One As Coll Assn RMCTL2013**, the holder 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
3879	2012	3014334-01004160090	Delfin Rodriguez Valdez and Victoria B. Rodriguez

Lots 31 to 34, in Block 416 of the General Plan of Clewiston, Florida, as revised September 7, 1937, according to the plat thereof in Plat Book 2, Pages 71-78, inclusive, of the Public Records of Hendry County, 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 Fourth Thursday** in the month of **March, 2015**, which is the **26th day of March, 2015**. Dated this **14th** day of **January, 2015**.

Barbara S. Butler
Clerk of Circuit Court
Hendry County, Florida
469773 CN/CB 2/19,26;3/5,12/2015

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the **Don R. Barton** the holder 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
2283	2007	1214334-010000W0040	Daisy Bell Williams

Lot 9, Block W of Harlem Addition No. 3, according to the plat recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 7, of the Public Records of Hendry County, Florida.

Parcel Identification Number: 1-34-43-21-010-000W-004.0
Property Address: 1731 13th Street, Clewiston, FL 33440

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 Fourth Thursday** in the month of **March, 2015**, which is the **26th day of March, 2015**. Dated this **14th** day of **January, 2015**.

Barbara S. Butler
Clerk of Circuit Court
Hendry County, Florida
469775 CN/CB 2/19,26;3/5,12/2015

The classifieds are the most successful salesperson in town.

Public Notices

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the **FL Dundee Lien Investment LLC**, the holder 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
4251	2011	4104329-05021860220	ELLA III LLC

Lot 22, Block 2186, of Port La Belle Unit 5, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 159, Page 23, Public Records of Hendry County, Florida.

Parcel Identification Number: 4-29-43-10-050-2186-022.0
Property Address: 4531 Springview Circle, Port La Belle, FL 33935

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 Fourth Thursday** in the month of **March, 2015**, which is the **26th day of March, 2015**. Dated this **14th** day of **January, 2015**.

Barbara S. Butler
Clerk of Circuit Court
Hendry County, Florida
469771 CN/CB 2/19,26;3/5,12/2015

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the **Don R. Barton** the holder 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
3224	2007	4104329-07022090210	Estimable-Kirlew Corp

Lot 21, Block 2209 of PORT LABELLE UNIT 7, a subdivision, according to the Plat recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 116 to 130, of the Public Records of Hendry County, Florida.

Parcel Identification Number: 4-29-43-10-070-2209-021.0
Property Address: 7049 Berwick Circle, Port LaBelle, FL 33935

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 Fourth Thursday** in the month of **March, 2015**, which is the **26th day of March, 2015**. Dated this **14th** day of **January, 2015**.

Barbara S. Butler
Clerk of Circuit Court
Hendry County, Florida
469776 CN/CB 2/19,26;3/5,12/2015

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the **US Bank as C/F FL Dundee Lien Inv., LLC**, the holder 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
4254	2011	4104329-05021860340	Johnnie Kinsey

Lot 34, Block 2186, of Port LaBelle Unit 5, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 104, Public Records of Hendry County, Florida.

Parcel Identification Number: 4-29-43-10-050-2186-034.0
Property Address: 4508 Bragg Court, La Belle, FL 33935

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 Fourth Thursday** in the month of **March, 2015**, which is the **26th day of March, 2015**. Dated this **14th** day of **January, 2015**.

Barbara S. Butler
Clerk of Circuit Court
Hendry County, Florida
469772 CN/CB 2/19,26;3/5,12/2015

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the **Ancala USA LLC**, the holder 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
3653	2012	2024329-28000000390	Sylvester D Leamy

Lot 69, of LABELLE FORD PARK, SECTION 1, Subdivision, according to the Plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 48, of Public Records of Hendry County, Florida, excluding ditch and North 20 feet of that portion lying South of the ditch.

Parcel Identification Number: 2-29-43-02-280-0000-039.0
Property Address: 360 Withlacoochee Avenue, LaBelle, FL 33935

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 Fourth Thursday** in the month of **March, 2015**, which is the **26th day of March, 2015**. Dated this **14th** day of **January, 2015**.

Barbara S. Butler
Clerk of Circuit Court
Hendry County, Florida
469778 CN/CB 2/19,26;3/5,12/2015

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

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the **FL Dundee Lien Investment LLC**, the holder 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
4251	2011	4104329-05021860220	ELLA III LLC

Lot 22, Block 2186, of Port La Belle Unit 5, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 159, Page 23, Public Records of Hendry County, Florida.

Parcel Identification Number: 4-29-43-10-050-2186-022.0
Property Address: 4531 Springview Circle, Port La Belle, FL 33935

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 Fourth Thursday** in the month of **March, 2015**, which is the **26th day of March, 2015**. Dated this **14th** day of **January, 2015**.

Barbara S. Butler
Clerk of Circuit Court
Hendry County, Florida
469771 CN/CB 2/19,26;3/5,12/2015

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the **Don R. Barton** the holder 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
3224	2007	4104329-07022090210	Estimable-Kirlew Corp

Lot 21, Block 2209 of PORT LABELLE UNIT 7, a subdivision, according to the Plat recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 116 to 130, of the Public Records of Hendry County, Florida.

Parcel Identification Number: 4-29-43-10-070-2209-021.0
Property Address: 7049 Berwick Circle, Port LaBelle, FL 33935

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 Fourth Thursday** in the month of **March, 2015**, which is the **26th day of March, 2015**. Dated this **14th** day of **January, 2015**.

Barbara S. Butler
Clerk of Circuit Court
Hendry County, Florida
469776 CN/CB 2/19,26;3/5,12/2015

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the **US Bank as C/F FL Dundee Lien Inv., LLC**, the holder 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
4254	2011	4104329-05021860340	Johnnie Kinsey

Lot 34, Block 2186, of Port LaBelle Unit 5, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 104, Public Records of Hendry County, Florida.

Parcel Identification Number: 4-29-43-10-050-2186-034.0
Property Address: 4508 Bragg Court, La Belle, FL 33935

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 Fourth Thursday** in the month of **March, 2015**, which is the **26th day of March, 2015**. Dated this **14th** day of **January, 2015**.

Barbara S. Butler
Clerk of Circuit Court
Hendry County, Florida
469772 CN/CB 2/19,26;3/5,12/2015

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the **Ancala USA LLC**, the holder 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
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Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the **US Bank Custodian TRC-SPE LLC**, the holder 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
702	2012	1324229-10000040010	Oqab A & Sana M Abuogab

Lots 1 to 17, inclusive, Block 4, KIRKWOOD PARK SUBDIVISION, according to the Plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 73, of the Public Records of Glades County, Florida, lying and being in Hendry County, Florida; LESS and except any part thereof previously conveyed for State road right-of-ways and LESS and except property described in O.R. Book 686, Page 1457, Public Records of Hendry County, Florida.

Parcel Identification Number: 1-29-42-32-100-0004-001.0
Property Address: 947 N. SR 29, Labelle, FL 33935

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 Fourth Thursday** in the month of **March, 2015**, which is the **26th day of March, 2015**.

Dated this **14th** day of **January, 2015**.

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

469779 CN/CB 2/19,26,3/5,12/2015

Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the **Purvis Financial Group**, the holder 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
1780	2012	1154432-A000010000	Crystal I LLC

The Northeast one-quarter of the Northeast one-quarter of the Northeast one-quarter in Section 15, Township 44 South, Range 32 East, Hendry County, Florida. Subject to an easement for an access road over the North 80 feet thereof. (Also known as Tracts 3317 thru 3320 and Tracts 3345 thru 3347 in Montura Ranch Estates, an unrecorded subdivision.)

LESS AND EXCEPT the East one-half of the Northeast one-quarter of the Northeast one-quarter of the Northeast one-quarter of Section 15, Township 44 South, Range 32 East, Hendry County, Florida. (Also known as Tract 3348 in Montura Ranch Estates, an unrecorded subdivision.)

Parcel Identification Number: 1-32-44-15-A00-0001.0000
Property Address: 272 Pine Cone Avenue, Clewiston, FL 33440

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 Fourth Thursday** in the month of **March, 2015**, which is the **26th day of March, 2015**.

Dated this **14th** day of **January, 2015**.

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

469780 CN/CB 2/19,26,3/5,12/2015

Public Notice

Public Notice

REQUEST FOR BIDS

**CONSTRUCTION OF ROADWAY
HELMS ROAD EXTENSION FROM SR29 TO SR 80
PHASE I AND PHASE II
LABELLE, FL**

FINANCIAL PROJECT NO. 419948-3-58-01

Bid No. 2015-05

OPENING DATE AND TIME: **April 2, 2015 at 2:00 P.M.**

Sealed Bids will be received by the Board of County Commissioners of Hendry County, Florida, "Construction of Roadway, Helms Road Extension from SR29 to SR80 - Phase I and Phase II, LaBelle, FL". In order to be considered, bids must be received by the Board of County Commissioners c/o the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Attn: Barbara Butler, at the C.E. Hall Building, Room A-226, Hendry County Courthouse Complex, 25 E. Hickpochee Avenue, LaBelle, Florida by April 2, 2015 at 2:00 p.m., at which time all responses to this request will be recorded in the presence of one or more witnesses.

A copy of the Instructions and a CD of the Bid Documents can be obtained from the Hendry County Engineering Department, located at 99 East Cowboy Way, LaBelle, Florida (for pick up). A copy of the Bid Documents can also be obtained by download from Johnson Engineering's FTP site (see below for instructions) or by calling (863) 612-4727. A link to the FTP site is also provided on the Purchasing website located at www.hendryfla.net.

<ftp://johnsonengineering.com>
User Name: helmsbid
Password: helmsbid (case sensitive)

Bidders are encouraged to attend the Pre-Bid Conference on Friday, February 20, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. at the Engineering Department, 99 East Cowboy Way, LaBelle, Florida 33935.

This solicitation does not commit Hendry County to award any contracts, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this Bid, or to contract for any services. The County reserves the right to reject any or all submittals received as a result of this solicitation, or to cancel in part or in its entirety this Bid, if it is in the best interest of the County to do so.

Hendry County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Drug/Smoke Free Work Place.

Si necesita la asistencia de un interprete que hable espanol para participar un esta reunion, por favor pongase en contacto con Myra Johnson al (863) 675-5240.

Karson Turner, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
469533 CN/CB 2/5,12,19,26,3/5,12,19,26/2015

Community Briefs

Watch for Hendry County Give Back fundraiser

Hendry County Give Back's Smoke Under the Oaks is planning its third annual barbecue cook off for March 21 at Barron Park. Enjoy great food, games and entertainment. As well as ribs, barbecuers can look forward

Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the **INA Group, LLC**, the holder 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
10-884	2010	1274329-01000F10082	Ruben Vazquez

From the intersection of the North line of Section 9, Township 44 South, Range 29 East, Hendry County, Florida, with the centerline of SR 29, run South 3 degree 45' East, along said centerline 875 feet to the Point-of-Beginning. Thence North 86 degree 26' East, 450 feet; thence South 3 degree 45' East, 75 feet; thence South 86 degree 26' West, 450 feet; thence N 3 degrees 45' West, 75 feet to the Point-of-Beginning. LESS the Westerly 50 feet for the right-of-way of SR 29. Being in Section 9, Township 44 South, Range 29 East, Hendry County, Florida, and more commonly known as Business Lots 12 thru 14, inclusive, Section F-1, LABELLE RANCHETTES, and unrecorded subdivision.

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 Fourth Thursday** in the month of **March, 2015**, which is the **26th day of March, 2015**.

Dated this **14th** day of **January, 2015**.

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

469777 CN/CB 2/19,26,3/5,12/2015

to a new category this year! Proceeds from last year helped several needy families along with Zac's Friendship House and sports teams. HendryCountyGiveBack@yahoo.com; call (863)227-1227; or watch for more information!

Conservationists to meet

The Hendry Soil and Water Conservation District will hold its regularly scheduled Board meeting on February 26, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in the large conference room of the Dallas B. Townsend Agricultural Building Meetings are open to the public.

LHS reunion

The LaBelle High School reunion for everyone that attended LHS up through the '50s will be March 14, 2015, at the Ag building near the airport on Pratt Blvd. Please call Freida Bullington at 863-675-1070 if you plan to attend. Bring a covered dish of your choice. Send \$10 per person to Freida by March 10, please: 478 Maple Dr. SW, LaBelle, FL 33935. There will be afghans to raffle. Paper goods, coffee, tea, water, sodas, will be furnished. Just come and join the fun. You must call and let her know so she can plan. Hope to see you there. Come early to visit. They will be eating at 5 p.m.

Call Freida for more information.

Attention expectant and nursing mothers

Expecting and nursing mothers and interested parties residing in Hendry and Glades now have access to a great resource. La Leche League USA (LLL) has presence in our community. Attendees will learn how to get breastfeeding off to a good start, enjoy meetings as a place to socialize, share experiences, and have questions answered. The meeting schedule is as follows:

2nd Tuesday of each month – 5 to 6:30 p.m. Hendry Regional Convenient Care Center Conference Room, 450 South Main Street, LaBelle.

4th Thursday of each month – 5 to 6:30 p.m. Hendry Regional Medical Center Conference Room, 524 West Sagamore Avenue, Clewiston.

Brochures are available in the Lee Physician's Medical office (Dr. Chow), Salvation Army, United Way, Florida Southwestern State College (Formerly Edison), ACT, Family Health Centers, WIC, RCMA, FGCU Nursing and other community partners.

Visit <http://www.lllusa.org/> Also La Leche League International (LLL) www.llli.org, La Leche League of Hendry County Maria Richter, Cell Phone 863-612-6264, Email: mprichter.00@gmail.com.

Legends of the Road

South Central Florida Car Club will again host The Legends of the Road Car Show during Swamp Cabbage Weekend on Saturday February 21st. If you would like to show your car or truck or have questions please call Ellen Beers 863 674-0128 or Tom Corbitt 863 234-8343. Entry fee is \$15.00 per vehicle. If you would like to sponsor a trophy with your business name engraved on the plaque contact Ellen Beers. Space is limited so please reserve you spot soon and join us in the festivities.

South Central Florida Car Club is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 corporation made up of car enthusiasts and 100% of all profits go back into helping our community and those in need.

Support Troop 514 flag fundraiser

Show Your Patriotism And Support LaBelle Boy Scout Troop 514 Boy Scout Troop 514, sponsored by The Kiwanis Club of LaBelle will post a flag at your business, or residence during six holidays for a yearly donation of \$40.00. 100 percent of the proceeds from this service will support BSA Troop 514 February 16th, 2015 - President's Day May 25th, 2015 - Memorial Day June 14th, 2015 - Flag Day July 4th, 2015 - Independence Day September 7, 2015 - Labor Day November 11, 2015 - Veteran's Day.

Please make checks payable and mail to: LaBelle Boy Scout Troop 514, 4504 Bragg Ct., LaBelle, FL 33935. For more information please call: Steven Nisbet Jr 863.885.1537.

LABELLE AREA BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

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Submitted photo

West Glades School Spelling Bee

On Friday, January 30, 2015, West Glades School held a Spelling Bee for 4th – 8th graders. Two winners from each of our 4th grade classrooms (Mrs. Campbell and Mrs. McClinton) and from each of our 5th – 8th grade English classrooms (Mrs. Wright, Mrs. McDougald, Mrs. Blackmore, and Mrs. Wright) competed. The final rounds were very exciting, with the 1st and 2nd place winners spelling word after word correctly. Congratulations to the 2015 WGS Spelling Bee Champions: Jocelyn Dzuong, 1st Place Champion; Thomas Aispuro, 2nd Place; Dylann White, 3rd Place. Jocelyn and Thomas qualified for the Regional Spelling Bee on February 24th at the Benjamin School in North Palm Beach.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program seeking volunteers

FORT MYERS, Fla. (January 6, 2015) – The United Way is seeking volunteers in Lee, Hendry, Charlotte, and Collier Counties to help lower to moderate income tax payers to file their federal income taxes for free through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA).

VITA volunteers can make a real difference in the lives of people in our community. Volunteers have helped families get back the money they have earned and become more financially stable.

The United Way is currently recruiting volunteers to serve as tax preparers, greeters, and interpreters. Volunteers will complete online tax law training and certification using IRS tax software.

Both English speakers and bilingual volunteers are welcome to better serve our clients. No experience is necessary. Flexible hours are available February through mid April. Taxes will be prepared at many locations in Lee, Hendry, Charlotte, and Collier Counties. For more information email: Stephanie Harrison: Stephanie@united-waylee.org or call 239.433.2000 ext. 229.

Last year over \$3.9 million dollars were returned to our community's tax payers through our VITA program. For some families, their tax returns were large enough to help them stay in their homes instead of losing them to foreclosure or being evicted. In

addition, VITA clients saved the cost of tax preparation by a commercial service.

In addition to raising funds for human service organizations in our community, the United Way promotes partnerships and collaborations among agencies and initiatives, helping them to work together focusing on issues and solutions that continue to improve lives. For more information please call United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades, and Okeechobee at (239) 433-2000 or visit www.unitedwaylee.org.

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WGS December Students of the Month



Submitted photos

KG-1st: Rhoen Lyons, Damaris Perez, Cheyenne Lynch, Brody Barnes, Piper Williams, Teahan Dobson, Jathan Smith, Camy Permenter.



Submitted photos

2nd-4th: Melina Villeda-Perez, Isabella Alexander, Uriel Orduna, Landon Kinney, Adalyn Berden, Wyatt Stafford, Peter Malott, Madison Kinney. Not pictured: Aryana Galindo.



Submitted photos

5th-8th: Antonio Garcia, Logan Sanders, Daniela Morado, Luis Hernandez, Rhett Conley, Lillian Collier, Justin Curtis, Ashley Hamric. Not Pictured: Alyssa Harrell.

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Hendry champion in the Healthy Weight Community Champions Program

65 Communities Partner to Promote a Healthier Florida in 2015

TALLAHASSEE—2015 is the year to get healthy in Florida. This year, 65 local governments have already been recognized by the Florida Department of Health as Healthy Weight Community Champions—meaning they have implemented evidence-based policies that lead to residents increasing physical activity and improving nutrition. 60 of the designated local governments also submit-

ted a proclamation signed by elected area officials. These resolutions demonstrate a community commitment to the Healthiest Weight Florida campaign and a dedication of local resources to implement healthier policies.

“Florida’s county and municipal governments play a pivotal role in driving their communities to make healthy living the norm,”

said State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health Dr. John Armstrong. “When they create a proclamation, local governments are making a firm commitment to policies that increase physical activity and improve nutrition.”

While all of the submissions presented a call to action, several communities made an additional pledge to initiate new community-wide health observances. Some of these included:

- The creation of a “Healthiest Weight Month” in the city of Plantation, city of Bradenton, Sarasota County and Hillsborough county;
- A celebration of National Public Health Week in the city of Lakeland; and
- A “Healthy Weight Community Champion Recognition Program Day” in the city of Fort Lauderdale.

The Healthy Weight Community Champions Program is part of the department’s Healthiest Weight Florida initiative. To find out if your local government is supporting the 2015 Champion Communities and for a list of best practices check out HealthiestWeightFlorida.com/recognition.

Healthiest Weight Florida is a public-private collaboration bringing together state agencies, not-for-profit organizations, businesses and entire communities to help Florida’s children and adults make consistent, informed choices about healthy eating and active living.

The Florida Department of Health works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow the department on Twitter at @HealthyFla and on Facebook. For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit www.floridahealth.gov

The Healthy Weight Community Champions Program is part of the department’s Healthiest Weight Florida initiative. To find out if your local government is supporting the 2015 Champion Communities and for a list of best practices check out HealthiestWeightFlorida.com/recognition.

Hendry County:

- In 2014 the Florida Walks 2K initiative for county commissioners and their staff involved 26 participants. Hendry County finished in 7th place out of 67 Florida Counties.

- The Healthier Me Hendry 2014 set a community-wide goal to lose 2,014 pounds in the year 2014. The coalition was successful in meeting this challenge.

- The school district changed the school breakfast and lunch menus in accordance with the National Child Nutrition and Florida School Nutrition Association guidelines to promote optimal health for students in Hendry County..

Spring Sports Schedule

LaBelle High School Baseball 2015 Junior Varsity Schedule

February

23 Monday vs Lehigh (Away) 4:00 Depart 2:30
 24 Tuesday vs Gateway* (Home) 4:00
 26 Thursday vs Avon Park (Away) 4:00 Depart 1:30
 28 Saturday vs Golden Gate (Home) Game 1 10:00am; Game 2 1:00

March

04 Wednesday vs Clewiston (Away) 4:00 Depart 2:30
 06 Friday vs Lake Placid (Away) 4:00 Depart 2:00
 09 Monday vs Lehigh (Home) 4:30
 11 Wednesday vs Moore Haven (Away) 4:00 Depart 2:30
 12 Thursday vs Clewiston (Home) 4:00
 14 Saturday vs Immokalee (Away) Depart 7:30am
 Game 1 9:00am
 Game 2 1:00
 16 Monday vs Avon Park (Home) 4:00
 17 Tuesday vs Oasis* (Away) 4:00 Depart 1:45
 20 Friday Scrimmage “Super Heroes vs Characters” 6:00
 23 Monday vs Lake Placid (Home) 4:00
 26 Thursday vs Verot* (Away) 4:00 Depart 2:00
 30 Monday vs Ida Baker (Home) 11:00 a.m.
 March 31 – April 3 Spring Break**

April

09 Thursday vs Moore Haven (Home) 4:00
 Battle of the Border Tournament (all games @ Terry Park) Riverdale Host School
 Game 1 Monday 04/13 vs TBA 4:00 Depart 2:00
 Game 2 Tuesday 04/14 vs TBA 4:00 Depart 2:00
 Game 3 Thursday 04/16 vs TBA 4:00 Depart 2:00

***District Contest Games**
 ** No Games at this time

Practice schedule TBD
 All departure times are tentative these times may change.

LaBelle High School 2015 Varsity Baseball Schedule

February

20 Friday vs CSN (Away) 6:00 Depart 3:15
 23 Monday vs Lehigh (Away) 7:00 Depart 5:30
 24 Tuesday vs Gateway* (Home) 7:00
 26 Thursday vs Avon Park (Away) 7:00 Depart 4:45

March

04 Wednesday vs Clewiston (Away) 7:00 Depart 5:00

05 Thursday vs Dunbar* (Home) 6:00
 06 Friday vs Lake Placid (Away) 7:30 Depart 6:00

09 Monday vs Lehigh (Home) 7:30
 11 Wednesday vs Moore Haven (Away) 7:00 Depart 5:00

12 Thursday vs Clewiston (Home) 7:00
 16 Monday vs Avon Park (Home) 7:00
 17 Tuesday vs Oasis* (Away) 7:00 Depart 4:45

20 Scrimmage Game “Super Heroes vs Characters”

23 Monday vs Lake Placid (Home) 7:30

26 Thursday vs Verot* (Away) 7:00 Depart 5:00

30 Monday vs Ida Baker (Home) 1:00
 March 31- April 3 Spring Break**

April

07 Tuesday vs Neumann (Away) 4:00 Depart 1:30

09 Thursday vs Moore Haven*** (Home) 7:00

April

Battle of the Border Tournament (all games @ Terry Park) Riverdale Host School
 Game 1 Monday 04/13 vs TBA 7:00 Depart 5:00
 Game 2 Tuesday 04/14 vs TBA 7:00 Depart 5:00
 Game 3 Thursday 04/16 vs TBA 7:00 Depart 5:00

21 Tuesday District Tournament Game at Seed 4 School
 Seed 4 vs Seed 5 6:00

22 Wednesday District Tournament Games at Host Dunbar
 Seed 2 vs Seed 3 4:00

Seed 1 vs winner of 4 vs 5 7:00

24 Friday District Finals at Host Dunbar
 Wednesday Games Winner 7:00

30 Regional Round 1 TBA
 *District Contest games determine seeds in district tournament

** Practice schedule TBD
 ***Senior Night

All departure times sare tentative these times may change.



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Submitted photo/Bobbie Spratt

LMS Teacher

Mr. Dave Blake is a science teacher at LaBelle Middle School. He and his wife Robyn, who is a teacher at the high school, moved here with their three kids Rachelle, Cory and Danielle in 1990 from North Dakota. All three kids graduated from LHS and continued on to college and have their own careers. To this day Dave still enjoys that 'ah ha' moment in the classroom when you hear or see somebody that finally understands a concept. Besides teaching science, Dave has coached numerous sports at the high school and is currently in his 12th year as assistant softball coach. He also helps with Driver's Education in the summer. Dave and Robyn are active members of Carlson Memorial Methodist Church. His hobbies include playing golf, watching sports and good movies. LaBelle Middle School is very fortunate to have so many veteran teachers.

What's happening at LMS this spring

As many of you know, the State of Florida has new testing requirements for your children. We want you to be informed and able to help your children be successful with these new testing tools.

The LMS PTO would like to invite you to a testing information night on February 23 at 6: p.m. We will give you information to help your child practice at home and raise their comfort level. This will be a wonderful way to learn about the new testing requirements and testing format.

In the meantime, parents and students can go to hendry-schools.org click on schools, then click LaBelle Middle School to get information about the tests and even take practice tests. You may also go directly to www.FSAssessments.org

We hope to see you at the PTO meeting. Working together, we can make the new testing a positive experience for your child.

Testing dates:

- Grades 6-8 writing: March 3rd
- Grade 8 Language Arts: April 13-14
- Grade 8 Math: April 15-16
- Grade 7 Language Arts: April 20-21

- Grade 8 Science: April 20th
- Grade 7 Math: April 22-23
- Grade 6 Language Arts: April 27-28
- Grade 6 Math: April 29-30
- Grade 7 Civics EOC: May 4
- Grade 7 & 8 Algebra I EOC: May 6-7

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Submitted photo/Mel Karau

Lighthouse visits Rotary

Sandy Martin, and Doug Fowler shared with the LaBelle Rotary about the new services for blind and visually impaired children living in Hendry and Glades Counties on February 3, 2015 at Beef O' Brady's. The Children's Program Coordinator and the staff at the Lighthouse of SWFL will be working with children to aid in the development of skills such as social skills, recreation and leisure, communication, assistive technology and career skills. Lessons learned in this program will help the children with visual impairments be at level with their sighted peers. With the addition of the Children's Program, the Lighthouse of SWFL now offers vision rehab to all ages of people living in Hendry and Glades Counties at no charge to the client. For more information about the Lighthouse of SWFL and the programs that are offered please visit their website, <http://www.lighthouseswfl.org/>, or call their office at (239) 997-7797. Pictured left to right: Doug Fowler, Andrea Ayala, Sandy Martin all of Lighthouse of South West Florida and Michael Jordan, LaBelle Rotary Club President Elect

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Golden Apple Awards honor outstanding teachers

by **Melissa Beltz**
Independent Newspapers

Numerous Hendry County public school teachers were recognized for their incredible service at the 22nd Annual Golden Apple Awards, held at the Dunwoody Lodge in Clewiston on Feb. 5.

The 2015 awards dinner, honoring 10 outstanding public school teachers, was attended by the school district and business community alike, including members of the Hendry County School Board, the superintendent and assistant superintendents, along with some members of the dinner's platinum level sponsors, Florida Power and Light, the Royal Foundation, Suncoast Credit Union Foundation and U.S. Sugar Corporation. A representative from Rep. Matt Hudson's office also came to watch as these teachers were honored by their peers, administrators and students as the 2016 Golden Apple recipients.

One Golden Apple award recipient -- appointed by a select group of educators, administrators and the past Teacher of the Year -- would be chosen as the 2016 Hendry County Teacher of the Year and would go on to represent the county at the state level.

"Your life and career will never be the same," said Kim Jordon, 2015 Hendry County Teacher of the Year, before the 2016 winner was revealed. "It has been one of the funnest, craziest things of my career."

Jordon has spent time with Gov. Rick Scott and got to know the Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart as she represented Hendry County in several state-level teachers' conferences and awards dinners.

"One of you will get to experience these things," she said. "You are all gifted and talented. You are the best of the best. Take it all in and enjoy."

But before the 2016 Teacher of the Year was revealed, the 10 Golden Apple recipients -- who represented public elementary, middle and high schools in Hendry County -- were introduced by their principals and a special guest.

Those special guests included former students and family members, who spoke about their golden apple teacher and shared with the audience what made him or her an outstanding teacher and friend.

One second grader told her golden apple teacher that she loved her "to the moon and back," while a college grad told her golden apple teacher to "keep planting seeds of encouragement in all your students."

As all 10 recipients hugged their special guests and received their Golden Apple plaques, the 2016 Hendry County Teacher of the Year was revealed by Superintendent Paul Puletti, who gingerly opened the envelope before the expectant crowd.

After a pause, Puletti announced the 2016 Hendry County Teacher of the Year, Kelly Rhinehart, a third grade teacher at Country Oaks Elementary School in LaBelle.

Rhinehart accepted her award with tears in her eyes and took a deep breath before saying, "It is an awesome job. It is a hard job. Our plate just seems so full sometimes.



Submitted photo
Teacher of the Year with Superintendent Paul Puletti.

But I could never think of doing anything else."

Rhinehart will represent Hendry County for the next year in Tallahassee and elsewhere as the 2016 Teacher of the Year.

Other Hendry County teachers were also honored at the recognition dinner, including several first-year teachers who were recognized for their outstanding performance during their first year teaching. These five teachers received a Brilliant Orange Award, presented by Ron Hamel, of the Gulf Citrus Growers Association. The Association, along with the Foundation for Hendry County Public Schools, presents the Brilliant Orange Awards to first-year teachers nominated by their administrators. This year's recipients were Samantha Ortiz, Kate Chassey, Jackie Booth and Ryan Petersmark.

Junior Deputy Superintendent Gordon Swaggerty also presented the Heritage Award to Johanna Huss, an outstanding former teacher who has continued to support the Hendry County School District long into her retirement.

The following teachers are the 2015 Golden Apple Award recipients:

Kandice Corbitt, Kindergarten, Upthegrove Elementary School

Kara Dillman, Language Arts, LaBelle Middle School

Joshua Groves, Algebra I, Clewiston High School

Natalie Hester, Fifth Grade, Eastside Elementary School

Cathleen Jesson, Fourth Grade, Central Elementary School

Melinda Krause, ELA and Math, Westside Elementary School

Melissa Moore, Media Specialist, LaBelle Elementary School

Andrea Pflum, Sixth Grade, Clewiston Middle School

Kelly Rhinehart (Teacher of Year), Third Grade, Country Oaks Elementary School

Augusta Ross, Life Skills, LaBelle High School

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RECIPE OF THE WEEK!

From **Southern Heritage Real Estate**
NANCY'S GREAT BAKED TILAPIA

Ingredients:

- 3 Tbsp. reduced fat mayo
- 2 Tbsp. grated Parmesan cheese DIVIDED
- 1 Tbsp. Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp. horseradish
- 4 tilapia fillets (5 oz. each)
- ¼ cup dry bread crumbs
- 2 tsp butter, melted
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice

Directions:
Combine mayo, 1 Tbsp. Parmesan cheese, lemon juice, mus-

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