

# Caloosa Belle



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Delivering Western Hendry County's News Since 1922

August 16, 2018

## LaBelle City Commission discusses employee pay raises

By **Geoffrey Ionescu**  
Caloosa Belle

The budget workshop started with the USDA Civic Center update. The bids came in for the project. The lowest offers that came in were actually more than was originally budgeted for the project. Discussed was why it was so expensive when the Civic Center is only partly being renovated and a possible solution that was proposed was to ask the bank for a line of credit to cover the remaining costs for the project. The plan is to have the renovations done before the Swamp Cabbage Festival.

Another topic of discussion was raises for city employees, right now the city is losing employees because they are looking for better paying jobs. A lot of the city maintenance department employees were in attendance. They claim that since 2010 they have been down five employees and were wondering where that money has gone because they have picked up all the extra work. They requested a two dollar raise for the main-

tenance department employees. They also raised a point that the tools that the city bought are of bad quality and that they used to receive 50 dollars towards cellphone bills which was taken away. The City Commission agreed that they deserve more money, but that, with the current budget it is very difficult to do so. Ron Zimmerly is going to look at the numbers to see if it is possible to move things around in the budget. It was decided that it will be further discussed before the First Public Hearing on September 13.

The Regular Commission Meeting started with swearing in re-elected commissioners Hilda Zimmerly and Thomas Smith. Next topic was a discussion on a city right-of-way at Ft. Thompson. They allowed a party to put a fence around a right-of-way and use it. But the neighbors have complained because they also want access to the river through that right-of-way. There is a gate, but there still are issues with the dogs that are in there. The current code does allow for someone to occupy a right-of-way as long as they officially ask permission from the City Commis-

sion. Proposed was a policy change to have a public notice and notify the neighbors when someone wants to use a right-of-way. Decided was that they need a more consistent policy. Decided was to notify the party that they would have to move their fence and if they object, they have to come before the commission.

Kelly Boone of LaBelle Downtown Revitalization Corporation asked if they needed any permits for the LDRC Saturday Market on the first and third Saturday of the month from October through April. They don't need any permits for their market. LDRC also brought a proclamation for the commission to sign that states that the Little Toot Foundation, which promotes reading and education, wants to make November 16 Little Toot Day. And the commission approved a motion to make January 25 Snowbird Day, were people from RV-parks can play games together behind the LDRC office, there might be a road closure.

Another topic was the extra 25 dollars per household collect through the recreation

fees. The City discussed using that money for the city parks, but Ramiro Rodriguez, Director of the Hendry LaBelle Recreation Board pleaded that that money should be used for the Hendry-LaBelle Regional Sports Park. A motion was put forward to allocate the second-year 25 dollar assessment to the Recreation Board to use for the Sports Park.

Next on the agenda were the Staff Reports. The Police Department had approximately 365 offense reports, one residential burglary, six criminal mischiefs, one stolen vehicle and one residential theft.

Zimmerly reported that the Belle Arbor Grant application is an infrastructure application for the City of LaBelle, but it benefits multiple businesses and multiple individuals.

The LaBelle Heritage Museum requested a reservation for their normal dockage for river excursions for Swamp Cabbage. The Commission approved this reservation.

The next City Commission meeting will be on September 13.

## Felda Resident Blake Crawford competed in youth rodeo

by **Geoffrey Ionescu**  
Caloosa Belle

The International Finals Youth Rodeo (IFYR) is an internationally recognized high school rodeo. Known as the world's richest youth rodeo, it is held annually in Shawnee, Oklahoma and attracts the best youth rodeo athletes in the world.

Blake Crawford (18) from Felda, competed in the 26th IFYR. Crawford joined more than 850 of the top high school rodeo athletes from around the world. He competed in the team roping event.

"I together with my partner have to rope the steer as fast as possible. I am the Header, which means I have to throw the rope around the steers horns and the Heeler comes around after I turn the steer and throws the rope around its hind legs. You have 30 seconds to rope the steer. Unfortunately, we didn't win any prize. But it is a lot fun to do. We camp out there for a week and it is a really exciting event," Blake said.

Blake received a rodeo-scholarship and will be going to East Mississippi Community College in Mayhew, Mississippi.



Courtesy photo

Blake Crawford roping a steer around the horn



Courtesy photo

## Road Improvement in Port LaBelle

The Port LaBelle Community Development District Board of Supervisors recently authorized a road improvement project. A bid was awarded to Weekley Asphalt Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$161,969.04 for 2.3 road miles. Residents in the area of West Carnation Drive, South Indio Circle, Mac Court, Los Court, Largo Court, North Indro Circle, Ramrod Circle, and Ramrod Court should see evidence of the project by August 17. The District has undertaken three similar projects since 2014. All road projects within the District are funded entirely by Port LaBelle CDD tax payers. Additional projects are being considered for the future.

# County Extension Director Gene McAvoy on Lake Okeechobee

By Geoffrey Ionescu  
Caloosa Belle

Gene McAvoy is the County Extension Director for the Hendry County Extensions office, part of the University of Florida: "We are basically the front door of the University of Florida, we have an office in each county in the state of Florida. We are the research and development arm of the agriculture industry as well as many other industries. We work very closely with the grove-owners, farmers and ranchers to assist them with new technology and research concerning agriculture, so that they can be more productive, more economically sustainable," Gene explains. "For example, a grower may have a problem with an insect in his grove, then we step in to give him technical advice on correct procedures and what insecticides are effective for the particular insect. We educate the public, we conduct workshops for farmers and ranchers on various subjects."

"Citrus Greening has been a big issue for the last ten years, it is a disease that is devastating the citrus industry. Ten years ago we harvested 240 million boxes of oranges in the state of Florida, last year we only harvested forty million. Citrus green is a bacteria that is spread by a small insect, we don't have a cure for it right now but we have come up with techniques to reduce the impact of the disease. You can compare it with AIDS in humans, it is something that we control but not cure, and it is very expensive to do so. Same with the trees; we can keep them alive and productive, but it cost a lot of money. So we are desperately searching for a cure together with the University of Florida," McAvoy explains.

"Right now there is a lot of discussion about agriculture polluting Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee River which is not really the case. There is a lot

of misinformation. If you look at the water going into Lake Okeechobee, 96 percent of the phosphorous that is coming in, comes from the north. The beginning of Lake Okeechobee is called Shingle Creek, which runs through DisneyLand. And the first man-made thing on Shingle creek is the municipal sewage treatment plant for that area, which cause nitrogen and phosphorous to get into the water. Also, people put fertilizer on their lawns in the Orlando area which also contributes to the contamination. Of course, there are many more causes but the majority is coming from the north of the lake right now. Even if we were to move everybody out of the state of Florida it would take more than fifty years to flush all the contamination out of Lake Okeechobee," McAvoy said.

"We have also drained more than half of the Everglades so all of that water, which used to flood in that area, is now confined to a much smaller space which causes problems as well. When it rains a lot the water comes into the lake at 40,000 cubic feet per second, and the five canals that go south can only take about 8,000 cubic feet per second, so then we're left with 32,000 cubic feet and its has to go somewhere, that's when they put it the Caloosahatchee River to protect the dike from bursting."

## DONT ABANDON YOUR PETS

You are their lives !

"Woof!" I said as you started the car,  
"Hooray!" I said, it's my first time afar.

The scents we were passing were all new to me,  
For it was my first introduction to this mystery.  
As we got out of the car I embraced you with joy,

After all you remembered  
to bring my favourite toy!

You threw it once or twice, of which I retrieved,  
But on the third it seemed you were  
ready to leave.

You threw it long and hard  
and I chased it like lightning,  
But when I turned to bring it back  
I saw a sight quite frightening.

I gripped my toy hard as I tried to comprehend  
What it was I did wrong to make  
our relationship end.

You walked back to your car as  
I sat there still loyal.

Why am I subservient and you so royal?

Your engine started, and you peeled  
out into the night,

You didn't even care about  
my overwhelming fright.

As I sat in my pose determined  
you would come back,

The sun faded behind me while  
the surroundings turned black.

Day after day I stayed in that park,  
Lying... waiting... too feeble to bark.

As I lay there dying thinking of you master,  
I asked myself how I got into  
this horrifying disaster.

With my last breath of life,  
I whispered your name

Then I collapsed in a heap overrun by pain.  
Why didn't you love me master?

Why didn't you care?

Had I no significance, was I just a clump of hair?  
I stayed there master and I waited for you  
I guess taking care of me was just too much to do.

I'm gone now master, no more You-and-I  
But what I can't figure out is why you  
didn't even say goodbye...

Author: Andrew Siegele

## Church Briefs

### Oak Grove plans social

**August 17 starting at 5 p.m.** at Oak Grove Holiness Church in Muse we will have a social: free pizza, drinks and deserts. There will be free give away items, clothing for all ages. We invite everyone who would like to come out and enjoy socializing. For more info call April, 863-675-3961. We are located at the top of Summeralls Rd in Muse

### Youth Group

First Christian Church, located at the corner of Lee and Ford Streets, would like to invite all children ages 5 - 18 to our Wednesday Night Youth Group. The basketball hoops are warmed up and games are ready to entertain, excite, and promote Christian fellowship. The evening also includes indoor games, a time of music, skit practice and more. This is a great summer activity that will carry on through the year. If you'd like more information, please contact Cindy or Dave Alexander at 863-673-7567 or 239-340-1575. Hope to see you here!

**HENDRY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION PRESENTS**

*"keys to health"*

# DUELING PIANO'S

**SATURDAY  
SEPT. 29 | 5:30 PM**

**OAK GROVE RV RESORT | LABELLE**

Join us for a fun-filled evening and watch our entertainers battle it out behind the pianos!  
This is a high-energy, all request sing-along show where the audience is just as much a part of the show!

**TICKETS  
\$75**

HEAVY | CASH  
HORS D'OEUVRES | BAR

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# School Board and HESPA at impasse regarding pay raises

Special to the Caloosa Belle

LaBelle - The Hendry Education Support Professionals Association, HESPA, is at an impasse with the Hendry County School District regarding pay raises. The impasse hearing is scheduled for 4:30 pm on Tuesday, August 21, at the Labelle High School Auditorium in LaBelle. HESPA is arguing for a raise for all support staff for the 2017-2018 school year. HESPA is inviting the community to stand behind those that support the children and educators of this county with their attendance.

President of HESPA, Richard West says "after several years without a raise, HESPA is advocating for fair and reasonable wages for 309 employees that support the education of over 7,200 students daily. We believe that this is not about ability to pay but willingness to support the staff and students of our district." Support staff includes non-instructional staff such as paraprofessionals (teacher's aides), secretaries, bookkeepers, custodians, mechanics, maintenance, bus drivers and bus aides paid by the county. Part of the impasse also includes increases for bus drivers.

According to HESPA, the District refused a \$.50 per hour raise for all support staff, and instead offered a one percent raise. This one percent equates to \$.09 for the lowest paid

employee. Their offer was \$60,270, split over 300 employees. The district's claim is they do not have the money; therefore, they do not have the ability to pay.

On July 1, 2017, the District started the year with \$10,605,452 in their fund balance. Which is 19.21 percent of their annual budget. This was an increase of \$523,000 over the previous year's fund balance, another one percent of their budget. A \$.50 raise for every support person would cost the district less than \$220,000.

Says West, "Please show up wearing white to demand truth and fairness from your school board and administration. Your support means that you value your friends and neighbors that continue to devote their lives to the students of Hendry County."

## About HESPA

HESPA along with their state affiliate the Florida Education Association and two national affiliates, the National Education and the American Federation of teachers, work very hard to protect the rights and advance the working conditions of their members. One of the many things the union does is negotiate the contract for non-instructional employees of Hendry County School District, this includes raises, bonuses and supplements For more information about HESPA, please contact jburke2542@gmail.com.

# Mothers of Preschoolers in LaBelle

Mothers of Preschoolers is an international, non-profit organization. MOPS was established in 1973 when mothers gathered around the table to talk about motherhood experiences while someone watched their children in another room. MOPS continues in that tradition, inviting mothers to talk, exchange ideas, and/or relax while providing childcare.

MOPS of LaBelle is preparing to begin their second year as a ministry at First Christian Church. As an organization, MOPS is unique because it focuses on the mother, as a woman, and supports her on her journey as a woman, mother, and wife. Believing that "Better Moms Make a Better World," we mother better when we mother together. In this high-tech society, it is important to meet face-to-face with others and make real life connections.

Our MOPS Kids program is an integral

part of MOPS because it allows mothers to talk with other mothers without interruptions from children. MOPS provides childcare for children who are infants through the age of six. We also welcome mothers with homeschool students who have siblings who are infants through six years old.

We are preparing for growth during our second year and are currently looking for volunteers to help us with childcare. Preschool teachers are needed.

MOPS meets the first and third Fridays of the month, September-May, from 9-11:30 a.m. First Christian Church is located at 138 Ford Ave in LaBelle.

For more information about MOPS, or to inquire about volunteering for childcare, contact Megan Narehood at (239) 206-9881, visit us at FB.com/MOPSofLaBelle or send an email to mopsoflabelle@gmail.com

## Community Briefs

### VFW Post 10100

**ALL DINNERS FOR AUGUST ARE \$6!!**

Aug. 17 Fri. 2 Sharps Karaoke and cover dish dinner. Music will begin at 5:00 p.m.

Aug. 24 Fri. Ham Dinner. Serving begins at 5:00 p.m., cost \$6.00.

Aug 25, Sat. Razors Edge is in the House for Karaoke. Music will begin at 5:00 p.m.

Aug. 29 Wed. Sheppard's Pie Dinner. Serving will begin at 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$6.00.

Aug. 31, Fri. Spaghetti Dinner. Serving will

begin at 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$6.00.

Sept. 1, Sat. Chris and Betty Ann are in the House for Karaoke. Music starts at 5:00 p.m.

Sept. 8, Sat. Fish Fry Dinner cooked by Shelly with all the fixin's Serving will begin at 5:00 p.m. and the cost is \$6.00. Music by Razors Edge.

Sept. 14, Fri. Beef Tip & Noodle Dinner serving will begin at 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$6.00

Sept. 21, Fri. 2 Sharps Karaoke are in the House. Pot luck Dinner Bring your favorite dish. Music begins at 5:00 p.m.

For further information call 863-675-8008.

## HENDRY COUNTY AMENDED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Notice is hereby given that the Local Planning Agency of Hendry County (LPA) will conduct a public hearing on a proposed amendment to the Hendry County Comprehensive Plan. The hearing will take place on **August 29, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.**, at the Hendry County Courthouse, Commission Chambers, 25 E. Hickpochee Ave, LaBelle, Florida. The LPA will determine if the amendment is consistent with the *Hendry County Comprehensive Plan*.

The recommendations of the LPA will be made to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). The BCC will consider whether or not it wishes to transmit the amendment to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. This hearing will be held on **September 11, 2018, at 5:05 p.m.**, at the Clewiston City Hall, Commission Chambers, 115 W. Ventura Ave., Clewiston, Florida. NOTE, the County advertised public hearings on this subject on August 2, 2018. The dates for both public hearings have been changed and the location of the second public hearing has changed.

**Petition Number:** CPA18-0003

**Applicant:** Joe Marlin Hilliard, Trustee of the Joe Marlin Hilliard Revocable Trust dated November 5, 1973; Joe Marlin Hilliard as Trustee of the Marlin W. Hilliard Revocable Trust dated November 5, 1973; Joe Marlin Hilliard, II and Chelsa R. Hilliard; and Bryan R. Hilliard and Shea Hilliard

**Project size:** 904 acres +/-

**Location:** 6000, 5800, 5670, 5600, 4640, 4550 and 4520 W. US 27, Clewiston, FL 33440 (Parcel IDs: 1-33-43-10-A00-0001.0000; 1-33-43-10-A00-0002.0000; 1-33-43-10-A00-0005.0000; 1-33-43-10-A00-0006.0000; 1-33-43-11-A00-0003.0000; 1-33-43-11-A00-0004.0000; and 1-33-43-11-A00-0005.0000)

**Request:** The applicant is requesting to amend the Hendry County Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map by changing the future land use designation from Agriculture to Multi-Use Development on the subject property.

**Ordinance title:**

AN ORDINANCE OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING THE HENDRY COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, ORDINANCE 91-05, AS AMENDED, SPECIFICALLY BY CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP, MORE SPECIFICALLY BY CHANGING APPROXIMATELY +/- 904 ACRES OF LAND DESIGNATED AS AGRICULTURE TO MULTI-USE DEVELOPMENT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS OF LAW; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION AND SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

All interested parties are invited to appear and be heard. Oral and written comments will be accepted. A copy of the petition and ordinance are available for inspection at the Hendry County Planning and Zoning Department, 640 S. Main St., LaBelle, FL between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and at the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners' office, 25 E. Hickpochee Ave., LaBelle, FL between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

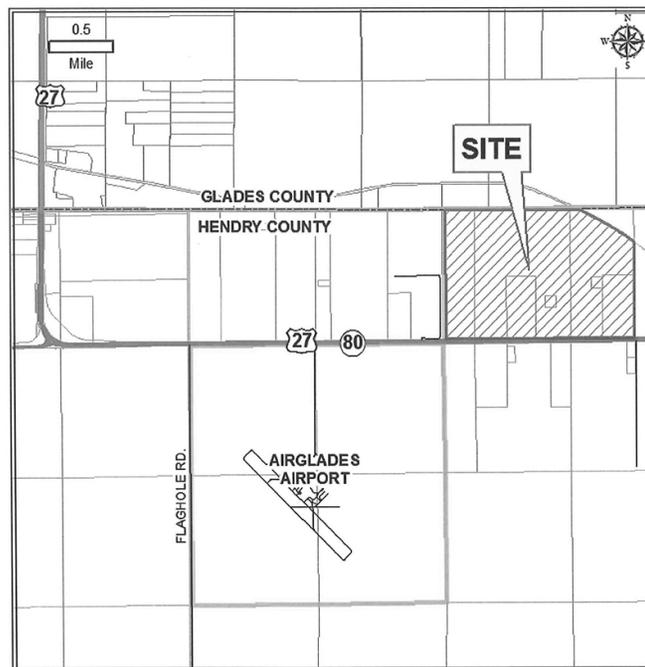
If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is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

Any questions pertaining to this matter should be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department by phone (863-675-5240), email (mjohnson@hendryfla.net), U.S. mail (P.O. Box 2340, LaBelle, FL 33975) or by fax (863-674-4194).

If you have a disability that will require special assistance or accommodation for your attendance at either meeting, please contact Hendry County Planning and Zoning at (863) 675-5240; Hearing Impaired: Florida Relay 7-1-1; or e-mail [mjohnson@hendryfla.net](mailto:mjohnson@hendryfla.net).

Hendry County is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Si necesita la asistencia de un intérprete que hable español para participar un esta reunión, por favor póngase en contacto con Myra Johnson al (863) 675-5240.



# Caloosa Belle

## To Reach Us

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 518  
LaBelle, FL 33975  
Physical Address: 22 Ft. Thompson Ave.  
Phone: (863) 675-2541  
Fax: (863) 675-1449  
Website: www.caloosabelle.com

## 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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## To Place a Display Ad

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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.

## Guest Editorial

I have called LaBelle and Hendry County home for over 67 years. I registered to vote in Hendry County when I turned 21 years old and was a student at the University of Florida; LaBelle was my "home of record" then and remains so until this day. To my knowledge, the only elections handled by the Hendry County Elections Office I have missed were back in 1966 when I was teaching school in Jacksonville and the courts invalidated elections that were then rescheduled. I missed the deadline to apply for an absentee ballot for at least one of these rescheduled elections. Back then, it was much more difficult to apply for and vote an absentee ballot than today's Vote-By-Mail ballot is. I remember when elections here in Hendry County were on everyone's mind for at least a month to six weeks leading up to an election, and we often had the highest percentage of votes cast in Florida. A voter turnout of less than 60 percent was considered low. What happened?

I was disappointed when the total voter turnout for LaBelle's recent municipal election was little more than 10 percent of the city's registered voters and appalled when I learned less than half of the voters who requested a Vote-By-Mail ballot cared enough to fill it out and return it by Election Day. There were EARLY VOTING signs galore around the Hendry County Courthouse during the week of early voting; yet, many who probably passed the courthouse two or three times a day during that week seemed to have paid no attention whatsoever to them. After the election and its low turn-

out was announced, I heard a number of people exclaim, "Election? What election I didn't know there was an election." I understand tunnel vision, people not paying attention to their surroundings, or those who do not read our local newspapers that publish candidate capsule biographies, community activities and achievements, and platforms. Many will say their vote does not matter. The change of one vote in the recent city election could have created a tie that under Florida law is broken by lot, the toss of a coin or drawing a straw.

Under Florida law, the same as a number of other states, an automatic recount is only triggered if the difference in the vote is 0.5 percent; believe it or not, the two vote difference in the recent municipal election was right at 0.8 percent. We have had several races over the past number of years where the difference was 5 votes in a county-wide election. In all these elections, the total voter turnout was low. What can we do to encourage eligible residents not only to register to vote, but to sign up for Vote-By-Mail when they do register, and last but by no means least to actually return their Vote-By-Mail ballot if they asked for one, vote during Early Voting, or make certain they go to the polls on Election Day. Every vote does count!

Maybe the answer is for concerned citizens to remind neighbors, family members, and friends to register to vote, taking them to an Elections Office to register in person, or getting a voter application in the many places where they are available, and explaining how to fill it out depending on

whether the person has never registered to vote, is currently registered somewhere else, is changing an address, has gotten married and needs a name change, or even needs to update their signature since so many of us have signatures that have changed because of physical changes since first registering to vote. How many of us are willing to do this at the grass roots level, our neighborhoods?

How about sitting down with a sample ballot like the one on pages 6 and 7 of the August 9 Caloosa Belle or the one the Elections Office sends to every registered voter and going over the candidates and other ballot items such as the proposed amendments to the Florida Constitution that will appear on the November 6 General Election ballot? What would it take to ask a family member, neighbor, or friend if they received their Vote-By-Mail ballot after you know they were mailed out? A gentle reminder -- nagging if you wish -- about returning their ballot at least once or twice a week after you know they got the ballot might help end their innate procrastination. How about offering to take them to the Hendry County Elections Office in LaBelle or to the County Sub-Office on Olympia in Clewiston for Early Voting (which has already begun as you read this) or to the polls on Election Day if they insist on only voting then?

***Together, we can make a difference!***

***Joseph H. Thomas***

***A Proud Hendry County Voter***

## Letters to the Editor

### Lost Dog

When cancer hits a family you ask yourself why. You hope it's a bad nightmare you can wake up from. The next morning it floods your thoughts. Sometimes dealing with this horrible disease gives us different options. Then there are times when the disease is so advanced that it appears without knowing. This happened to us.

My daughter is so smart and brave. Prays every night. Its been 7 months since she lost her Dad to cancer. God helped us through.

On July 20th my daughter's little dog went out a side gate that a visiting family member opened and didn't close when she left. When our little black Shitz Tzu was let out in the back fenced yard to run around, she saw the open gated and walked through and was lost to us. This little dog is a comfort to a little girl that cannot be replaced.

We understand that in life things happen that takes loved ones away. We have made many flyers and put them around LaBelle. Animal Control was contacted immediately. The shelter also. Nothing yet. Not even a call to say someone saw her somewhere around the neighborhood. She doesn't like to walk far. I have had to carry her back from walks before because she was not wanting anymore of that thing called exercise.

I thank everyone for their kind words and volunteering to help find her. If anyone knows where she is please call us. If you found her, thank you for taking care of her. We need her back at home with us. She was always there to kiss my daughter's face

when she felt sad. She helps fill that spot in my daughter's heart that was left when her daddy passed away.

My phone number is 863-612-7336 She was last seen on Clay and Broward on Friday July 20th around 5:30 p.m.

***Thank you***

***Darlene Needles***

### Gathering of Christian Men

We will meet August 20 at 6 p.m. at the Dallas Townsend Building off Cowboy Way. This is an organizational meeting. There will not be a carry in supper.

We need younger men to step up and continue this organization. Most of our members are up in years. All who believe in God and are doing their best to live by his rules are welcome. We all have made bad choices in our lives. But we learn from these choices. Our main goal is to make LaBelle a better place to raise your family.

Please come with your ideas on how to keep our organization working. Think about being an officer. There is no pay for any office or member. We are strictly volunteer. There is a great satisfaction in seeing what we can and have done as an organization.

Hope to see you at 6 p.m. on the 20th of August.

***God bless you all***

***Ed Kuntz***

***President, Gathering of Christian Men***

## Community Brief

### American Legion Events

Happy Hour Monday - Friday 11a-6p; Lounge opens 10 a.m. M-Sa; 12 noon on Sunday.

(April through September, Fish Fries are only held the First Friday of each month)

**August 25 - Saturday, 11-3** "ChuChu's 'Show the Love Benefit'" includes the Desperado Band, Silent Auction, Dessert Auction, Gun Raffle and Pull Pork Dinner/Baked Beans/ Colelaw & Brownie - \$8. Proceeds to help with expenses after her sudden stroke. Prayers welcome. The Public Welcome....

**September 7 - Friday - 5-7 p.m.** Fish Fry with assortment of fish, shrimp, crab-cakes & chicken with cole slaw, baked potato or French fries & roll \$9. Homemade desserts by the American Legion Auxiliary are available \$1/slice to support our Veterans. Karaoke begins at 7 p.m. Dining room is smoke free and Public is Welcome.

"Like" our Facebook page to get all the weekly updates, the newsletters and calendars on our website at [www.legionpost130.com](http://www.legionpost130.com) American Legion Post 130 Meetings: (All Members welcome)

**August 16 - Thurs - 7 p.m.** - American Legion & American Legion Auxiliary meet

September 5 - Wed - 7:30 p.m. American Legion Riders meeting

**September 6 - Thurs - 6 p.m.** DAV (Disabled American Veterans) meeting

**September 12 - Wed - 6 p.m.** Sons of the American Legion meeting

American Legion Post 130 is located at 699 SR80 West, across from the Shell station. For further info call 863-675-8300.



Courtesy photo

## Pet of the Week

Lobo is an 8 1/2 yr. old neutered male Chinese Shar-pei mix. He is the longest resident dog at Caloosa Humane Society and he's ready to move! He is not a fan of small children, other dogs or cats, so he needs a special home. Shar-pei are known for bonding to their owner and he is wanting someone to love and protect. Lobo has basic manners and loves toys. His adoption fee is half-price at \$60. Come meet Lobo at the Caloosa Humane Society, 1200 Pratt Blvd, LaBelle, FL 33935, or check him out on our website [Caloosahumanesociety.org](http://Caloosahumanesociety.org).



Courtesy photo/Trenton Muntz

## Recently at the Rotary

On Tuesday, August 7, the Rotary Club of LaBelle heard from two students who have attended Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) RYLA is a 4-day leadership training residential camp at Lake Placid Camp and Conference Center in Lake Placid, FL. The Club also presented our 2018 Scholarship to Ruby Figueroa. From Left to Right: Greg Gunter, Holly Kobie, Michelle Brunetto, Ariel Brunetto, Shelby Burtchaell and Amanda Jones.

# Sometimes life's not all fun and games.



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# August 19 and 26 are laity Sundays at LaBelle Assembly of God

Special to the Caloosa Belle

Each year Pastor Avery and Kathy step down from the platform and let the women and men of the church step-up and share the Word of God in their individual ways from their life expectancies: Certified Public Accountant, Public School teacher, a City commissioner or a retired Hendry county Code enforcement, and finance officer.



**Tammy Perkins**

This year we have a tag-team of David Miller and Tammy Perkins alternating between the two morning services at 9:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Kathy Avery will be leading all Sunday morning worship music in absentia.

David Miller is a Certified Public Accountant with offices in LaBelle and Clewiston He brings balance to the pulpit. He says, "As I reflect back I realize that the time away from God served to ultimately strengthen my faith and humble me to the realization that I need God everyday. I often wonder how I would have found the Lord if I had not grown up in a Christian home. I worry about the children who do not have Christian leadership during their early years." David will be sharing the

9:45 and 11:00 a.m. worship services Sunday August 19 and 26.



**David Miller**

Tammy earned her A. A. degree at Florida South Western State College and her state of Florida teachers certificate from Barry University along with her B.A. degree. Her Friends and co-workers describe her as very kind hearted, compassionate, loving person that loves God. Miss Perkins' has been a Hendry County teacher for LaBelle Middle school in the sixth grade. Tammy will be sharing on the 19 in the 9:45 a.m. service "Longing for the Fullness of God" Matthew 5:6. And the 26 at 11:00 a.m. "God Call You" Ephesians Chapter 4.

Julie Wilkins, wears many hats here in LaBelle: City Commissioner, Church Board member, wife, mother and realtor just to name a few of the positions she daily fits into her schedule. Julie will be seeing that everything runs smoothly.

LaBelle Assembly of God. Located at 139 Fraser Avenue across from the Edward A. Uptegrove Elementary School. For more information call 863-675-0900.

## Obituaries

### Vernon William Perkins, 87

LABELLE — Vernon William Perkins passed away Aug. 8, 2018 in LaBelle.

He was born Oct. 30, 1930 in Offerman, Ga., to the late Abb and Carrie (Franklin) Perkins.

He was a former resident of West Palm Beach and has lived in LaBelle since 1977.

Survivors include his wife, Nellie Pearl (Poole) Perkins; four sons, Danny W. (Deborah Diane) Perkins, David Vernon Perkins, Randy Wayne Perkins and Richard Dale Perkins all of LaBelle; and three daughters, Carolyn Diane (Gary) Frost of Orlando, Pamela Jean Hardcastle and Katherine Annette Perkins both of LaBelle; one sister, Geraldine Davis; 19 grandchildren and 17 great-grand-

children.

Predeceased by brothers, (Junior) Ab-berson Perry Perkins Jr., (JC) Julian Cardell Perkins, Clinton Harmon Perkins; and sister, Caldeen (Perkins) Kelley.

The family received friends at the Akin-Davis Funeral Home, 560 E. Hickpochee Ave., LaBelle on Monday Aug. 13, 2018 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Funeral Services were held Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2018 at 10 a.m. at Eastside Baptist Church, LaBelle. Pastors Wm. Ashley Butler and Don Murray officiated.

Interment will follow in Fort Denaud Cemetery.

Arrangements by Akin-Davis Funeral Home - LaBelle.

## HENDRY COUNTY AMENDED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Notice is hereby given that the Local Planning Agency of Hendry County (LPA) will conduct a public hearing on a proposed amendment to the Hendry County Comprehensive Plan. The hearing will take place on **August 29, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.**, at the Hendry County Courthouse, Commission Chambers, 25 E. Hickpochee Ave, LaBelle, Florida. The LPA will determine if the amendment is consistent with the Hendry County Comprehensive Plan.

The recommendations of the LPA will be made to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). The BCC will consider whether or not it wishes to transmit the amendment to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. This hearing will be held on **September 11, 2018, at 5:05 p.m.**, at the Clewiston City Hall, Commission Chambers, 115 W. Ventura Ave., Clewiston, Florida. NOTE, the County advertised public hearings on this subject on August 2, 2018. The dates for both public hearings have been changed and the location of the second public hearing has changed.

**Petition Number:** CPA18-0004

**Applicant:** Southern Gardens Groves Corporation

**Project size:** 682 acres +/-

**Location:** W. US 27 (NE corner of Whidden Corner), Clewiston, FL 33440  
(Parcel IDs: 1-32-43-01-A00-0003.0000; 1-33-43-06-A00-0001.0000; 1-32-43-12-A00-0001.0000; 1-33-43-07-A00-0001.0000; 1-32-43-12-A00-0005.0000; 1-33-43-07-A00-0002.0000; and 1-33-43-07-A00-0001.0100)

**Request:** The applicant is requesting to amend the Hendry County Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map by changing the future land use designation from Agriculture to Multi-Use Development on the subject property.

**Ordinance title:**

AN ORDINANCE OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING THE HENDRY COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, ORDINANCE 91-05, AS AMENDED, SPECIFICALLY BY CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP, MORE SPECIFICALLY BY CHANGING APPROXIMATELY +/- 682 ACRES OF LAND DESIGNATED AS AGRICULTURE TO MULTI-USE DEVELOPMENT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS OF LAW; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION AND SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

All interested parties are invited to appear and be heard. Oral and written comments will be accepted. A copy of the petition and ordinance are available for inspection at the Hendry County Planning and Zoning Department, 640 S. Main St., LaBelle, FL between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and at the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners' office, 25 E. Hickpochee Ave., LaBelle, FL between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

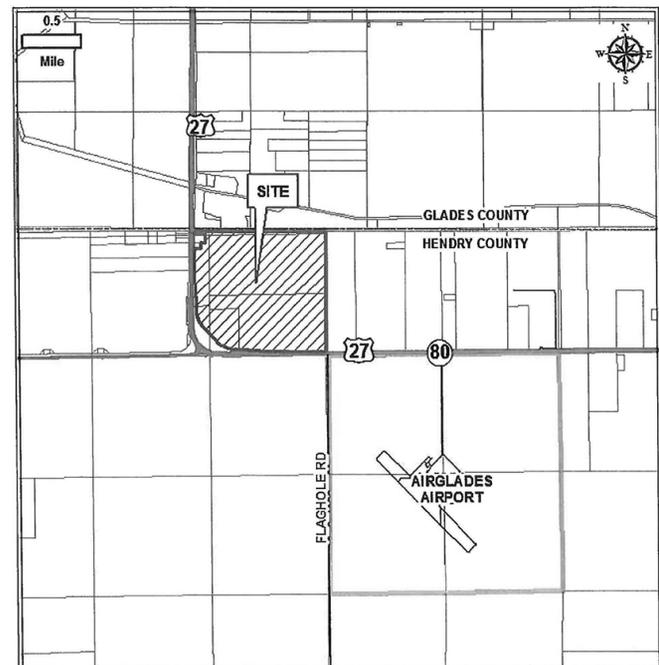
If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is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

Any questions pertaining to this matter should be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department by phone (863-675-5240), email (mjohnson@hendryfla.net), U.S. mail (P.O. Box 2340, LaBelle, FL 33975) or by fax (863-674-4194).

If you have a disability that will require special assistance or accommodation for your attendance at either meeting, please contact Hendry County Planning and Zoning at (863) 675-5240; Hearing Impaired: Florida Relay 7-1-1; or e-mail [mjohnson@hendryfla.net](mailto:mjohnson@hendryfla.net).

Hendry County is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Si necesita la asistencia de un intérprete que hable español para participar en esta reunión, por favor póngase en contacto con Myra Johnson al (863) 675-5240.



I am Mercedes Perdomo Reese and I'm a candidate for Hendry County School Board District 4.

**"Vote for change and new representation"**

**"A positive voice to represent you on the school board"**

Vote for that change at the Primary Election on August 28th

Paid Pol. Ad. Paid for and approved by Mercedes Perdomo Reese for Hendry County School Board District 4



# Gatorama's Alligator Hatching Festival will start soon

PALMDALE— Gatorama is hosting its 15th annual "Alligator Hatching Festival" daily August 18- Sept 3 at the animal park at 10665 U.S. Highway 27, Palmdale.

It is the time of year that chirping, grunting and snapping baby alligators emerge from their shells to meet the world!

"This is a great opportunity for parents to teach their children about one of nature's fascinating life cycles," said Gatorama own-

er Allen Register. "For the next couple of weeks we will welcome over five thousand alligators into the world at Gatorama. Guests will be able to see and feel these little baby alligators wiggle out of the eggs."

Visitors to Gatorama will also be able to learn about the history of the American alligator and how the populations have been protected through one of the most truly successful, sustainable-use management

programs ever implemented. American alligators have been off the endangered species list since 1987 and populations are still growing. Alligator farming is an important part of the program.

New exhibits and activities for everyone have been added since rebuilding the park due to Hurricane Irma damage last September.

"With our website guests may book reservations online and bypass the line at the front desk and go to a special queue to have their e-tickets scanned! This improvement should allow us to provide a smoother experience for our guests," Mr. Register said.

Hatching times are listed on Gatorama's

website. The Hatching Festival runs every day through Sept 3. After school hatching times are available at 5 p.m. each weekday. Regular admission includes the educational hatching programs. For guests who want a hands-on experience, a "Hatch and Hold" package is available.

Gatorama opened in 1957 as one of Florida's first alligator attractions. It is still a popular tourist attraction as well as an operating alligator farm.

For more information, prices and directions as well as to book your Hatch and Hold package visit [www.gatorama.com](http://www.gatorama.com) or [www.hatchingfestival.com](http://www.hatchingfestival.com).



Courtesy photo

It is the time of year that chirping, grunting and snapping baby alligators emerge from their shells to meet the world!



Caloosa Belle/Dale Conyers

Melinda Brant holds an older alligator at Center State Bank's August business spotlight. For the last three years Gatorama has been the spotlighted business. The folks from Gatorama come to the bank one Friday in August to show off their gators to young children who might never get a chance to see them up close like they can in the bank lobby!

## REAL ESTATE DIRECTORY

**Call about our vacant land!**  
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- Industrial Zoned property south of LaBelle. 4 parcels, total of 4.63 +/- acres **\$540,000.**
- Vacant Industrial 4.5 +/- acres. Located in LaBelle, zoned LB-I-2. **\$125,000.**
- .29 +/- acre in Belmont S/D. Priced to sell at only **\$35,000.** Possible seller financing.

**1.25 +/- acre lots in Montura. Possible seller financing \$21,000.**

- 1.25 +/- acre tract in Hendry County **\$18,000.**
- 1.84 +/- acres south of LaBelle **\$18,000.**
- 1.25 +/- acre tract in Okeechobee **\$9,500.**

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**COUNTRY LIVING ON 2.49 ACRES IN MUSE** - This spacious 4 bedroom manufactured home features split floor plan, 16" tile flooring throughout, Kitchen upgrades include newer cabinetry. Exterior features include oversized covered carport, front covered porch and back covered deck which runs full length on the home. Property is completely fenced. **\$149,000**

**FAMILY HOME** - situated on 4.27 +/- acres in the heart of Muse. This CBS home offers more than 1500 sq. ft. of living space with an awesome open split floor plan, 3 BR/2 BA and a single car garage. tile floors throughout, an oversized family room that boasts a custom stone fireplace, a formal dining area with spacious kitchen, a walk in pantry and ranch style eat-in bar. **\$244,900**

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 419 Hickpochee, LaBelle, FL 33935

**BEAUTIFUL, NEW HOME IN LABELLE!** This home features • Diamond installed ceramic tile throughout the home, walk in closets, cathedral ceiling, quartz counter-tops, impact windows and sliders, island kitchen with real wood cabinets, a huge master bath, a two car garage, and a 1 year warranty! **CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION. \$179,900**

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 Sherri Denning Licensed Real Estate Broker.  
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**863-675-4500**  
 or visit our website at [www.soland.com](http://www.soland.com)  
 Se Habla Espanol

**RECIPE OF THE WEEK SUBMITTED BY SOUTHERN HERITAGE REAL ESTATE**

**Coca-Cola Cake**  
**Cake Ingredients**

- 1 box white cake mix
- 4 Tblspn unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 stick butter, melted
- 1 cup Coca-Cola
- ½ cup buttermilk
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 ½ cups mini marshmallows

**Preparation:**  
 Preheat oven to 350 and prepare a 9 x 13 pan. Place the cake mix, cocoa, melted butter, cocoa,

milk, eggs and vanilla in a large mixing bowl. Beat at medium speed until well combined, scraping down the bowl as needed until well combined. Increase mixer speed to medium high and beat for 2 minutes. Fold in marshmallows with a large spoon. Pour batter into the baking pan and bake until tested clean about 40 minutes.

**Frosting Ingredients**

- 1 stick butter
- 4 Tblspn unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/3 cup Coca-Cola
- 4 cups confectioners' sugar

• 1 cup chopped pecans (optional)

**Preparation:**  
 Before the cake comes out of the oven towards the end of the baking cycle, make the frosting in a med saucepan over med heat. When butter starts to melt, stir in the cocoa powder and the cola. Let the mixture come to a boil, stirring constantly. Once it comes to a boil, remove from the heat and stir in the sugar until the frosting is thick and smooth, fold in pecans if using. Pour the warm frosting over the warm cake spreading with a spatula, so it reached the edges. Enjoy!



Courtesy photo

**Hendry Regional Medical Center has two state of the art surgical suites and a procedure room.**

## Local Surgical Services in Hendry County reduce burden of travel

Clewiston – Traveling long distances can add to the stress and discomfort of surgery. The need to travel to and from a facility outside the community can also cause a burden for family members. Fortunately for Hendry County residents, common surgical procedures are available at Hendry Regional Medical Center.

The trusted medical team at Hendry Regional Medical Center is able to perform a number of surgeries here in the community, providing convenience and comfort for patients and their families.

“Having your surgery performed in the local community is a smart decision,” said Dr. Leonard Carroll, Board Certified General Surgeon. “Knowing you are near home can provide peace of mind for your family and make the recovery process easier.”

The highly trained surgeons at Hendry Regional Medical Center can perform common general surgical procedures like tonsillectomy, laparoscopic cholecystectomy (gallbladder removal), hernia repair, and colonoscopy. In addition, our Specialists can perform gynecological procedures to include hysterectomies or cervical biopsy, as well as interventional pain management such as lumbar spine injections, and shoulder or knee nerve radio-frequency ablations.

Many common procedures can be performed with laparoscopes or endoscopes which enable the surgeon to see inside the body without having to make large incisions. Other benefits of these techniques include shorter hospital stays and faster recovery times.

According to Dr. Darayes Mobed, General Surgeon, patients sometimes delay having certain surgeries for various reasons, but doing so can prolong discomfort or raise the risk of complications.

“Traveling for a surgical procedure can be inconvenient,” Dr. Mobed said. “The need to travel can disrupt a person’s life, so he or she may opt to wait. Having surgical services available locally makes it easier for people to get the surgeries they need, when they need them.”

Dr. Mobed added that it is best to follow



**Dr. Leonard Carroll,  
Board Certified  
General Surgeon**



**Dr. Darayes  
Mobed, General  
Surgeon**

the recommendations of physicians when elective surgery is required.

When a physician recommends surgery, choosing the right facility is also important. Dr. Carroll said that convenience is one of the reasons Hendry County residents choose Hendry Regional Medical Center.

Additionally, the convenience of local recovery services can make the transition from hospital to home smoother. The Swing Bed Program at Hendry Regional Medical Center allows patients, covered under Medicare who need extended care, to stay in a hospital setting without the need to change facilities. With a compassionate nursing team on hand around the clock, recovering at the hospital following a surgical procedure can provide comfort to patients and their families.

“In many rural areas, qualified surgeons can be hard to come by,” Dr. Carroll said. “We are fortunate to have a team of highly trained physicians and medical providers in Hendry County. Having access to the medical care you need here in the community is a huge asset and can help you get back to your everyday life quicker.”

Talk to your primary care provider about choosing the right facility for your surgical procedure. To learn more about Hendry Regional Medical Center services, please call the hospital at (863) 902-3000 or visit <http://www.hrmc.us>.

## Time to Put Excess Cash to Work?

You’ll always want to base your investment decisions on your own needs and goals. But there may be times when you might consider adjusting your portfolio because of risks and opportunities. Now may be one of those times.

Here’s some background: In recent months, the Federal Reserve has raised short-term interest rates several times, and given its generally favorable outlook on the economy, it has indicated it may continue bumping up interest rates gradually over the next year or so. The Fed doesn’t control long-term interest rates, but these rates often follow the lead of short-term movements. However, longer-term rates haven’t yet risen as much as shorter-term ones, which means the difference between short- and long-term rates is relatively small, historically speaking.

This doesn’t mean you should make drastic changes to your portfolio. You still need to stick with the asset allocation that’s suitable for your situation, which typically involves owning a certain percentage of growth-oriented vehicles, such as stocks, and a certain percentage of fixed-income securities, such as bonds. However, if you do have space in the fixed-income part of your portfolio, you may find the higher interest rates offered by short-term bonds and certificates of deposit (CDs) to be attractive. To take advantage of this opportunity, though, you will need to have the cash available to invest.

Some people hold too much in cash, waiting for interest rates to rise, or as protection against the risk of a market decline. But holding excess cash involves its own risk – the risk of not investing. So, if you have your cash needs covered, you may want to consider investing any excess cash.

To determine if you are holding excess cash, you’ll need to review your en-

tire cash situation. For example, do you have enough cash, or cash equivalents, to create an emergency fund of three to six months’ worth of living expenses? This fund can be vital in helping you pay for things like a major car repair or an unexpected medical bill without dipping in to your long-term investments. And, of course, you need enough liquidity to provide for your lifestyle, including your regular spending needs – your mortgage, utilities, groceries and so on. Also, you may want to set aside enough cash for a goal you want to reach in the next year or so, such as a vacation.

But if you have taken care of all these needs and you still have excess cash, you may want to consider putting this cash to work, possibly by investing in short-term fixed-income vehicles now being issued at higher interest rates.

And keep in mind that regardless of where interest rates are going, bonds and other fixed-income investments can offer some key benefits to investors. In addition to providing a source of regular income, these types of investments can help reduce the effects of volatility on your portfolio. While bonds can, and will, fluctuate in value, they typically can provide more stability to your portfolio and tend to behave differently than stocks over time.

After years of historical lows, shorter-term rates now have risen to levels that are more attractive to investors. Take the time to review your situation, perhaps with the help of a financial professional, to determine if taking advantage of these rates may be appropriate for you.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.*

## Working together for your financial future



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Public Notice

# HENRY COUNTY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON LEVY OF NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION BY THE UNIFORM METHOD FOR MOSQUITO CONTROL MUNICIPAL SERVICE BENEFIT UNIT

TAKE notice that a public hearing will be held before the Board of County Commissioners of Hendry County, Florida, at 5:30 p.m. on September 11, 2018, at the Commission Room, Clewiston City Hall, 115 West Ventura Avenue, Clewiston, Florida, for the purpose of considering the levy of a non-ad valorem assessment on additional parcels within the Mosquito Control Municipal Service Benefit Unit.

The purpose of the non-ad valorem assessment is to cover the costs necessary to provide mosquito control services to the assessed parcels. The proposed assessment amounts are as follows:

Residences:	\$30.00 per dwelling unit/\$500 maximum per parcel
Vacant lots:	\$30.00 per lot/\$400 maximum per parcel
Commercial:	\$0.10 per square foot, with a minimum of \$30 and a maximum of \$200 per parcel
Vacant acreage:	\$1.00 per acre, with a minimum of \$1.00 and a maximum of \$100 per parcel

The additional parcels proposed to be assessed are depicted on the four adjacent maps.

The proposed assessment will be collected by the uniform method (on the tax bill) by the Tax Collector and the assessment will be collected every year indefinitely until the County Commission discontinues it.

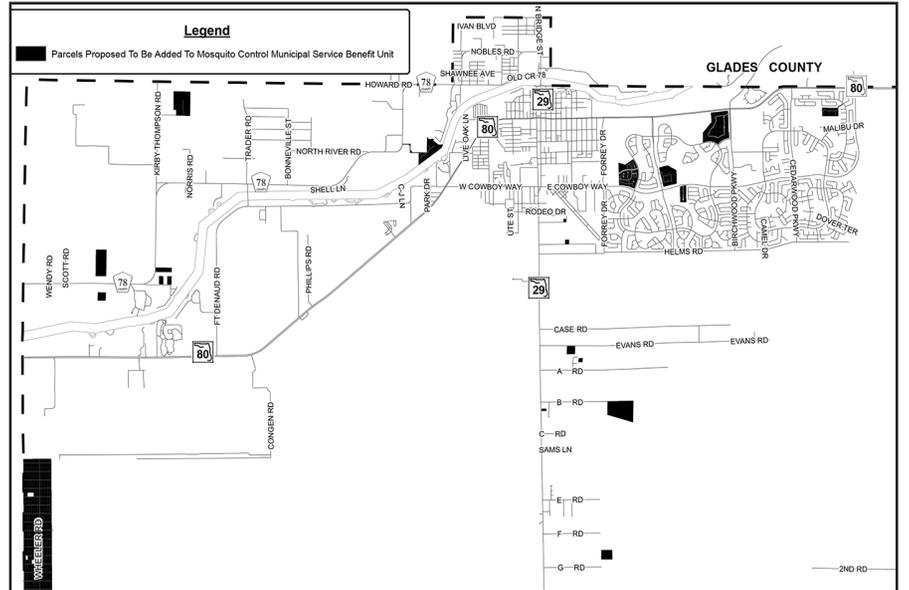
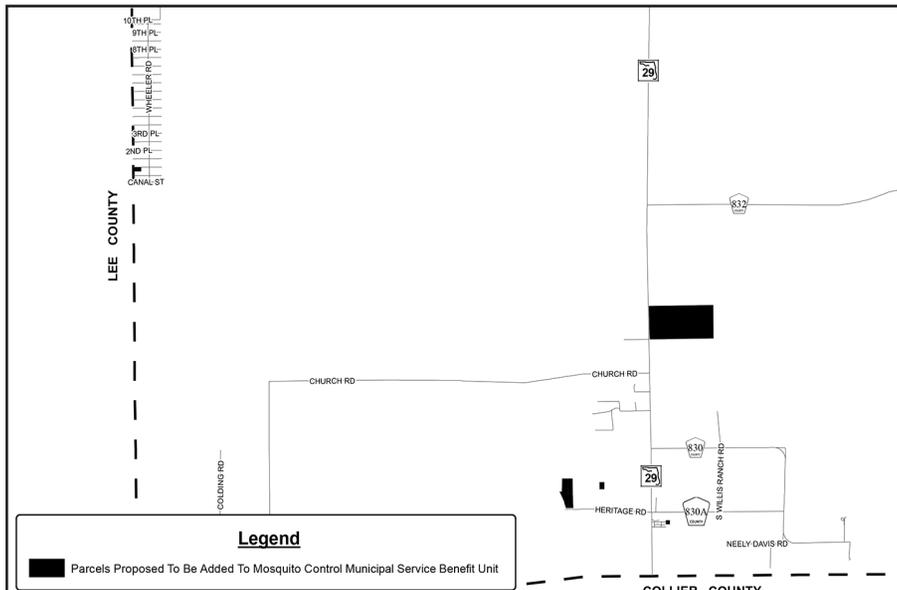
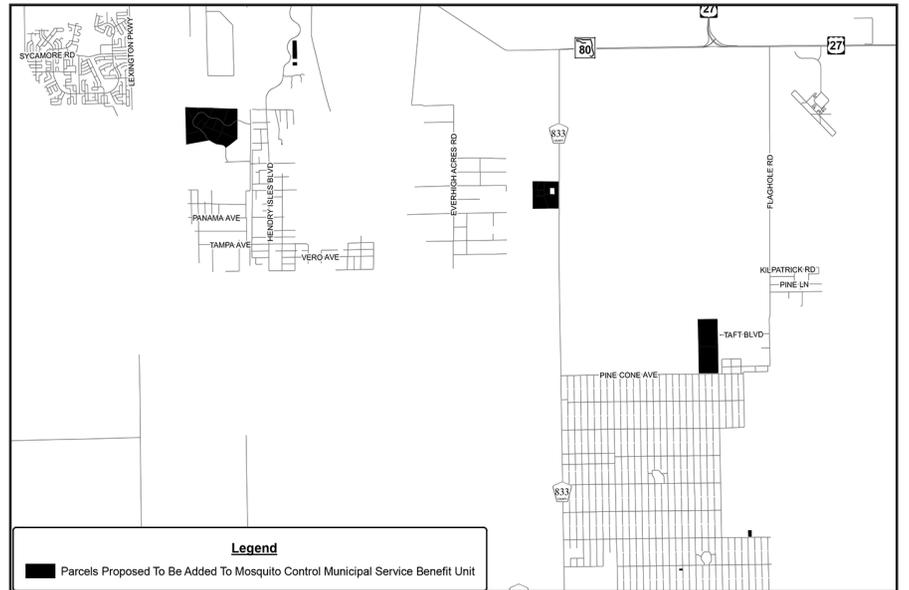
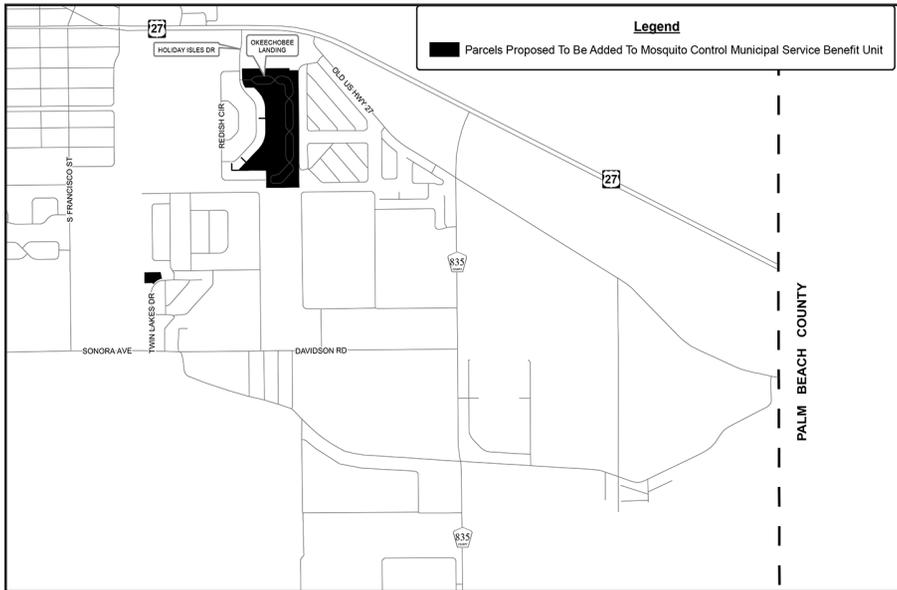
All affected property owners may appear and be heard at the public hearing and also have the right to file written objections with the Hendry County Administrator, Post Office Box 2340, LaBelle, Florida 33975, at anytime within 20 days from the date of this publication.

The meeting is open to the public. If a person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, he/she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he/she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

If you have a disability that will require special assistance or accommodation for your attendance at the meeting, please contact Hendry County Administration at (863) 675-5220; Hearing Impaired: Florida Relay 7-1-1; or e-mail keitha.daniels@hendryfla.net.

Hendry County is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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



# Community Briefs

## Widows Support Group

The Widows Support Group will meet **August 16 at 11:30 a.m.** at Amigos and Beer. All widows welcome.

## Hendry/Glades Unmet Needs Coalition meetings schedule

Do you have unmet needs resulting from Hurricane Irma and have exhausted all oth-

er resources? Please contact us to find out what support and volunteer opportunities may be available. Contact Hendry/Glades Unmet Needs Coalition Coordinator: Terri Miazga Phone: 813-892-5021 Fax: 863-675-9393 E-mail: hgunc133@gmail.com c/o LaBelle United Way House 133 N. Bridge Street LaBelle, FL 33935. Non-profit representatives and other interested want to help Hendry and Glades County residents in their Hurricane Irma recovery are invited to meet-

ings at the following locations and dates: August: Carlson Memorial United Methodist Church, 310 Campbell St., LaBelle, Florida 33935 on **Friday August 17, at 5:30 p.m.** September: Glades Regional Training Center located at 1030 Industrial Drive Moore Haven, FL 33471 on Friday September 7, at 1:00 p.m. and Friday September 21 at 5:30 p.m.

## The Veterans Memorial Wall

Thank you to everyone who submitted the name or names of Veterans to be engraved on the granite wall to be dedicated **Veterans Day, November 11.** Veterans whose names are on a brick at the Veterans Park will be on the Wall. Even though applications have closed for the first engraving, applications with funds may still be submitted to the American Legion for the next engraving at The American Legion Post 130, 699 W. SR80, LaBelle, FL or email Bobkirkwood9@gmail.com for further information.

## Relay of Life Needs You

Relay of Life LaBelle needs you! They are looking for teams! Churches, schools, non-profits, businesses, clubs and friends! For more information call Vicki Reynolds, Event Lead at 863-234-2405 or Amanda Dreszer, Community Manager at 239-297-5484. Join them in the Fight against Cancer.

## Hendry Democrats meet in LaBelle on August 18

Hendry County Democrats will meet at LaBelle's Big V Restaurant one block west of the Hendry County Courthouse on SR-80 on Saturday, **August 18, for a 9 o.a.m.** breakfast meeting to plan GET OUT THE VOTE for the August 28 Primary Election that will choose the Democratic Candidate to be Florida's next governor and the opportunity to learn more about the unopposed Democratic candidates whose names are already set to be on the November 6 General Election Ballot that include Tony Aguilar running for Hendry County Property Appraiser, Jennifer Boddicker running for Florida House of Representatives District 80, and Annisa Karim running for Florida Senate District 27. Mary Barzee Flores running for U S Representative CD 25 and incumbent U S Senator Bill Nelson are already experiencing a barrage of extremely negative TV spot announcements since Florida is considered a "must win" state for control of the U S Congress.

All interested Democrats and like-minded voters are welcome to join a cadre of already active local and area Democrats for breakfast at the Big V Restaurant, well-known throughout Southwest Florida for its biscuits and sausage gravy. Remember, all politics is local. Even one vote can make a difference in the outcome of an election as it could make or break a tie. Florida Election law calls for tie votes to be broken by "drawing straws" or tossing a coin. Let's make the outcome of the 2018 Florida Election the "Will of the People" and not random chance!

## "ChuChu's Show the Love Benefit"

A Special Fundraiser for ChuChu, who

has been the manager of the American Legion Post 130 Lounge for years, is planned for **Saturday, August 25 from 11-3.** "ChuChu's Show the Love Benefit" will include the Desperado Band, Silent Auction, Dessert Auction, Gun Raffle and Pull Pork Dinner/Baked Beans/ Coleslaw & Brownie - \$8. All proceeds go to help with expenses after her sudden stroke. Prayers welcome. The Public is Welcome. If you would like to help in any way, please call Cindy at 863-234-9003 or cpearce579@gmail.com. For donations, checks may be made out to the American Legion Auxiliary, c/o Auxiliary and dropped off at the Legion after 10 a.m. or mail to 699 S SR 80, LaBelle, FL 33935.

## MOPS Summer Fun

MOPS Summer Fun is in full swing. This month we are hosting movie days. All events are free and are on Friday mornings at 10 a.m. Movie days are: **August 17-** Wall-E, and **August 31-** Finding Nemo. Mamas are invited to bring their kiddos ages newborn to five and any homeschooling kiddos. Expectant mamas are welcome to join us too. Mamas can enjoy coffee, gather around the table during the movie to talk to other mamas about the journey of motherhood, and destress while coloring adult coloring pages. We know the kiddos like to color so we will have coloring pages for them too. Our Open House will be **August 24** at First Christian Church at 10 a.m. Come meet our leadership team and childcare staff. We'll show you the nursery and our meeting room and give you all the information you need to know for our first MOPS meeting on Friday, September 7 at 9 a.m. First Christian Church is located at 138 Ford Ave. LaBelle, Florida 33935. For more information contact Megan Narehood at (239) 206-9881 or MOPSOFLA-BELLE@gmail.com.

## Swamp Cabbage Festival Committee Meeting

The Swamp Cabbage Festival will meet the first Monday of each month in preparation for the 2019 Festival. The meetings are open to the public as well as anyone interested in volunteering. Please join us at LaBelle City Hall, 481 W Hickpochee Ave, LaBelle, FL 33935 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call our office at 863-675-2995. Meeting Dates: September 10, October 1, November 5, December 3 and January 7

## La Leche League

The La Leche League will meet the second Thursday every month from 5-7p.m. at Barron Library, 461 N Main Street, LaBelle. At La Leche League Meetings we provide breastfeeding education and support. You can look, listen and ask questions. Some parents help each other and find friends. Come when you can and leave when you need to. You are always welcome! The League will meet on the following dates in 2018: July 12, August 9, September 13, October 11, November 8 and December 13. For more info call Maria at 863-612-6264 or drop her an email too Maria.LLLHendryCounty@gmail.com. You can also learn more at http://lll-florida.com/lalecheleague/

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- Pod used to thicken gumbo
  - Moonshine containers
  - "24" superagent Jack
  - \_\_-chef
  - Jacob's twin
  - Happen next
  - Military bed-making features
  - Rose pest
  - Pimpily breakout
  - On the \_\_: precisely
  - Civil rights activist Parks
  - Chancellor von Bismarck
  - Classic jazz vocal group originally composed of four siblings, with "The"
  - Financial claim
  - Sport \_\_: versatile wheels
  - OB/GYN test
  - Goof
  - Comic strip with Snoopy
  - Md. neighbor
  - Pierre's "There it is!"
  - Bigheadedness
  - "Should \_\_ acquaintance ..."
  - "Special" lobbying faction
  - Mideast strip
  - In the mail
  - Magazine fillers
  - Intravenous process
  - Ride without pedaling
  - UN organ ... or what the first words of 17-, 28- and 46-Across comprise?
  - San Antonio battle site
  - Cookie added to a McFlurry
  - Banned fruit spray
  - Make into confetti
  - Enjoy a Kindle, e.g.
  - Printed goof

- Surgeon general under Reagan
- Make haste
- Pain-relieving pill
- Jumbo \_\_
- Stars and Stripes land: Abbr.
- Black-tie party
- Relief
- Italian pistols
- Cape NNW of Cod
- Second-hand
- Franc
- replacement
- What's leftover, with "the"
- Revered star
- Not hoodwinked by
- Revolve on an axis
- Nick and Nora's dog
- Electrical unit
- Be worthy of
- Poet Stephen Vincent \_\_
- Turn out to be
- Cambodian currency
- Happy sign for a Realtor
- Jeans maker Strauss

- Crease remover
- Send down using chutes, as supplies
- Fleecy footwear brand
- Injured, as a ligament
- Table support
- Quaint coin-op eatery
- Poet Pound
- Crew member
- A single time
- Lab gel
- Pastrami purveyor
- Lose it
- Remove, as a peel
- With skill
- High-five, e.g.
- Rookie
- Outback bird
- Mediterranean \_\_
- Clump of turf

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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xwordeditor@aol.com 01/19/15

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01/19/15





Caloosa Belle/Geoffrey Ionescu

## National Night Out in Felda

LEFT: National Night Out in Felda had a bounce house and a BBQ! CENTER: Jack Willis (left) with the kids attending national night in Felda with Amanda Nelson(middle) and Ruby Garcia(right). RIGHT: from left to right William Perez, Miguel Angel Ramirez, Ruby Garcia & Alicia Ramirez attending the Felda National Night Out.



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