

Caloosa Belle



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August 30, 2018

Outside drop off mailbox at Post Office vandalised

Special to the Caloosa Belle

It has been reported that the blue drop-off mailbox located outside the LaBelle post office at the corner of Washington Ave and Main Street was vandalized.

Post Office personnel also believe that during the July 4 weekend and again around the later part of July individuals had attempted to tamper with the outside mailbox. On August 19, 2018 it was reported to the Sheriff's Office that the back of the box had been pried open and mail could be seen inside the box. The LaBelle Post Master was contacted and arrived minutes later to make arrangements to secure the mail items that were in the mailbox.

Hendry County Investigators have eight open cases of for Fraud/Forgery all around this same period of time. While post office personnel do not know how much or what mail items were taken, Investigators believe it is related.

Aside from the obvious prying of the mailbox, the method used to steal your mail is called "fishing". This is not a new technique nor is it unique to Hendry County.

Sheriff Steve Whidden said, "Fishing" is a creative way to get your personal information. Then, thieves use sensitive information like that contained on a check to make counterfeit checks." They may steal credit card information, social security numbers and other important personal facts about you.

Postal Inspector, Blanca Alvarez said, "If customers confirm their mail was stolen, they should report it to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service at 877-876-2455 or online at <https://postalinspectors.uspis.gov/>. Postal Inspectors will investigate all leads provided." Currently Hendry County Investigators are working with those who believe they may be a victim of this crime and are working with the U.S. Postal Investigators.

"I don't want anyone to think the Post Office in LaBelle is not safe, I believe that it is," said Sheriff Whidden. "But we do need to be aware of suspicious activity. If you notice something that does not appear right, call law enforcement right away."

The Postal Service has offered the following tips below:

PROTECTING YOUR MAIL

See Mail — Page 2

Basquin, Busin retain School Board seats

By Chris Felker
INI Florida

Incumbent School Board members Jon Basquin and Stephanie Schneider Busin won re-election by comfortable margins during the Hendry County primary elections on Tuesday, Aug. 28.

In the nonpartisan election, for the School Board District 4 seat, Ms. Busin received 873 votes (70 percent) to 374 for Mercedes Perdomo Reese; and for the School Board District 5 seat, Mr. Basquin took 307 (57 percent) to 233, or 43 percent, for Maureen C. Quintero.

Total ballots cast in the primary elections were 4,223 countywide, out of 17,627 registered voters, of whom 3,435 were not registered as members of either the Democratic or Republican party and thus could vote only in nonpartisan races. Turnout percentages were not available Tuesday night.

On Hendry County's ballot question concerning economic development ad valorem tax exemptions, 2,476 voted yes (62 percent) while 1,535, or 38 percent, voted no.

For 20th Judicial Circuit judge in Group 8, John Owen McGowan took 2,172 votes (59 percent) to James Wesley Chandler's 1,538 (41 percent).

McAvoy poised to lead agents' national group

By Chris Felker
INI Florida

Gene McAvoy, the University of Florida/IFAS Hendry County Extension director, is looking forward to his new role as president-elect of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA), for which he was chosen at its recent annual meeting and professional improvement conference in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Mr. McAvoy served as vice president from 2017 to this year, and he will become president in 2019, concluding his term presiding over the NACAA annual meeting and professional improvement conference in Virginia Beach, Va., in July 2020. He was nominated by members of the Florida county agents' group to preside over the 3,200-plus-member national association. He has a long history of involvement at the state, regional and national levels, serving as southern regional director from 2012 to '14 and regional vice-director for two years before that. He was president of the Florida association in 2004.

Mr. McAvoy said he was humbled and honored by the confidence his fellow county agents showed in him by picking him for the prestigious position, adding that he was greatly anticipating the new role.

"I look forward to being able to give of



Special to the Caloosa Belle
Donna and Gene McAvoy at the recent NACAA annual meeting.

my time and the knowledge that I have accumulated over my career in Extension to give back to NACAA and help to mentor new agents looking into Extension as a career," he said. "I expect to continue in the tradition

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Volunteers needed for 2019 Relay For Life of LaBelle

American Cancer Society's Signature Fundraising Event Empowers Community to Fight Back Against Cancer and Save Lives

The American Cancer Society is seeking volunteers to recruit fundraising teams, garner community support, coordinate logistics, plan entertainment and lend a hand to ensure the success of the 2019 Relay For Life of LaBelle. Cancer survivors, caregivers, community leaders and anyone wanting to make a difference are invited to participate in

Kick-off on September 11, at the First Baptist Social Hall, 330 N Main St, LaBelle, FL 33935 at 6 p.m.

Relay For Life is a fun event that brings together families, friends, businesses, hospitals, schools and faith-based groups to celebrate the lives of those who have had cancer, remember those who lost their battle, and fight back against the disease.

"One in every 100 Americans participates in this fundraising event that has become a global phenomenon," said Joy Brigham, Relay For Life Specialist. "Relay For Life is the community's chance to unite in the fight against cancer and support the American Cancer Society's efforts to create a world with less cancer and more birthdays. Volunteers and participants who are willing to give their time and energy to this exciting event are making a commitment to let our community know that cancer can be defeated."

If you would like to join the Relay For Life of LaBelle as a volunteer or team participant, call Vicki Reynolds 863-234-2405 or email at amanda.dreszer@cancer.org

About the American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society is a global grassroots force of more than three million volunteers saving lives and fighting for every birthday threatened by every cancer in every community. As the largest voluntary health organization, the Society's efforts have contributed to a 20 percent decline in cancer

See Relay — Page 2



McAvoy

Continued From Page 1

of helping to make our association a place where agents can exchange ideas and gain knowledge that they can put back to work in their local communities.”

Asked whether he had any special emphasis or projects in mind for the association when he takes over as president, Mr. McAvoy said: “Extension is changing as the country becomes more urban, and county agents reflect the diversity of our population. We are seeing more females and minorities enter into Extension, and I want to strive to make sure that NACAA provides them with a warm welcome and meets their needs moving forward.”

He stated that he’s also concerned about ordinary Americans’ attitudes toward their food providers. “I hope to act as a voice for

agriculture because as more Americans lose touch with their agricultural roots, people have less of an understanding of where their food comes from and what it takes to feed the nation.”

Mr. McAvoy will be the 102nd head of NACAA and only the second Floridian to serve as NACAA president. The first was John Henry Lodge, NACAA president in 1949.

He believes that the nation’s strength is rooted in rural America. “We are dependent on a strong agricultural sector, and I hope to ensure that Extension continues to support America’s farmer and ranchers into the future. Agriculture has an important story to tell, and I am proud to be in a position to do that on a local, state and national basis. God forbid if we ever lose our ability to feed ourselves.

He earned his bachelor’s degree from Rutgers University in plant science and a master’s degree from Rutgers in horticulture, beginning work in 1997 with UF/IFAS Extension as Regional Specialized Vegetable Extension Agent for Southwest Florida. Mr. McAvoy has been Hendry County Extension director since 2005, and as a regional vegetable agent he’s served farmers in neighboring counties as well, including Glades.

Mr. McAvoy noted that he is also thankful and blessed to have the support of his loving wife, Donna, as he takes on this new responsibility.

The NACAA provides leadership and professional improvement opportunities to their members, who work for Extension Service programs through land grant universities across the country and in Puerto Rico.

Mail

Continued From Page 1

Postal Inspectors across the country work hard to protect your mail. But with deliveries to more than 100 million addresses, the Postal Inspection Service can’t do the job alone.

Here’s what you can do to protect your mail from thieves:

- Use the letter slots inside your Post Office for your mail, or hand it to a letter carrier.

- Pick up your mail promptly after delivery. Don’t leave it in your mailbox overnight. If you’re expecting checks, credit cards, or other negotiable items, ask a trusted friend or neighbor to pick up your mail.

- If you don’t receive a check or other valuable mail you’re expecting, contact the issuing agency immediately.

- If you change your address, immediately notify your Post Office and anyone with whom you do business via the mail.

- Don’t send cash in the mail.
- Tell your Post Office when you’ll be out of town, so they can hold your mail until you return.

- Report all suspected mail theft to a Postal Inspector.

- Consider starting a neighborhood watch program. By exchanging work and vacation schedules with trusted friends and neighbors, you can watch each other’s mailboxes (as well as homes).

- Consult with your local Postmaster for the most up-to-date regulations on mailboxes, including the availability of locked centralized or curbside mailboxes.

If you see a mail thief at work, or if you believe your mail was stolen, call law enforcement immediately, then call Postal Inspectors at 877-876-2455 (press 3).

Happy



Our office will be open
from 9 a.m to 1 p.m
On Monday, Sept. 3

Relay

Continued From Page 1

death rates in the U.S. since 1991, and a 50 percent drop in smoking rates. Thanks in part to our progress nearly 14 million Americans who have had cancer and countless more who have avoided it will celebrate more birthdays this year. As we mark our 100th birthday in 2013, we’re determined to

finish the fight against cancer. We’re finding cures as the nation’s largest private, not-for-profit investor in cancer research, ensuring people facing cancer have the help they need and continuing the fight for access to quality health care, lifesaving screenings, clean air, and more. For more information, to get help, or to join the fight, call us anytime, day or night, at 1-800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org.

Sometimes life’s not all fun and games.



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Submitted photo/Helen Mead

Kiwanis learns about new rules for Drivers License

On August 7, the Kiwanis Club of LaBelle learned about new rules for your Driver's License. The new license format has a "star" in the top right-hand corner. All license holders must have this new license by the year 2020 or you will not be able to board a plane, train or bus. Additionally, the guest speakers talked about being an organ donor, safe driving, and school safety. Kiwanis members also learned about the concealed weapons process. Pictured (left to right) Tracy Nobles, Sally Brown, Tony Aguilar and Sue Williams (LaBelle Kiwanis President).

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Labor Day - You Can Work to Become a Better Investor

Next week, we observe Labor Day, a holiday to honor all the hard-working people in this country. As one of them, keep in mind that your efforts can have positive results. Famed film producer Samuel Goldwyn once said: "The harder I work, the luckier I get." And this same philosophy can apply to your investing, too – because you can indeed work to become a better investor.

Consider these steps:

Work to understand your goals and risk tolerance. Self-knowledge is important in all phases of life – and it's certainly essential to you when you invest. For one thing, you need to know your goals. How long do you plan to work? What would you like to do when you retire? If you have children, do you expect to help pay for their college educations? You'll also need to know your risk tolerance to help determine your investment choices. Investors with a high tolerance for risk typically can overlook the day-to-day fluctuations in the financial markets, and may be comfortable investing more aggressively. But those with a low risk tolerance may be more inclined to focus on investments that offer greater preservation of principal, even if this means sacrificing some growth potential.

Work to learn all you can about your investments. Here's a bit of advice that will always be valid: Don't invest in what you don't understand. The more you know about your investments and what you can expect from them, the less likely that you will be surprised at their performance and their impact on your financial strategy. When you invest in stocks, you hope their value will appreciate over time, but you shouldn't be

shocked over short-term price fluctuations. Conversely, when you purchase a fixed-rate vehicle, such as a Certificate of Deposit (CD), you expect regular interest payments and a return of your principal when the CD matures. But do not anticipate much, if any, growth in the value of your investment.

Work to develop good investment habits. Developing good habits often pays off. For example, if you exercise regularly, don't smoke and follow a sensible diet, you will likely help your long-term health. And you can follow good investment habits, too, such as contributing regularly to your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. You'll also want to avoid bad habits, such as overreacting to a sharp drop in the financial markets. In an effort to cut your losses, you might respond to this downturn by immediately selling investments whose fundamentals are still strong and whose prospects still may be positive.

Work to get the assistance you need. Investing can be complex, so you may want to work with a financial professional. But investing is just one part of your overall financial picture, so working with an attorney can help with your estate plans. And a tax professional can advise you on the tax-related consequences of various financial moves.

There aren't many guarantees in the investment world – but the harder you work at becoming a good investor, the better your chances of reaching your ultimate objectives.

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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Caloosa Belle

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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.
E-Mail: cbnews@newszap.com

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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.

Letters to the Editor

School Safety Questions

I have heard nothing but praise for the Ft Myers school which has a closed door system. You must show proper ID to get into the school period. A camera view and ID check is required.

If our schools do this it seems to me it would be cheaper than hiring more deputies for the schools. Most of them have a least one deputy but they cannot be limited to front door checks.

Any teacher or office person could operate the entrance. I believe there is suppose to be someone in the office at all times when the school is open.

I hope our Board of Education and county commissioners will look into this. After all our kids safety should not be limited by cost.

But what do I know I'm just an old cified country boy.

Ed Kuntz

The Fabulous 60's and 70's

Being a teenager in the 60's was a world of choices. This was Woodstock – Free Love – weed – Boones Farm wine – Johnny Cash – Loretta Lynn – Willie Nelson – Elvis – The Beatles – John Denver. I bet anyone who lived life in those years has several secrets they don't care to share. Oh! Yes, The Twist – The Mash Potato – Rock n Roll.

We had Muscle cars – Pro Football – Drag racing – One dollar a six pack Coors – Drive in Movies. I was raised in a rural community in Kansas until I was 18. Then I lived in a small town near Topeka, about half way between Topeka and Kansas City.

Needless to say, this redneck country boy had no trouble finding trouble. It takes some of us longer to as they say GROW-UP than others.

There were great fun times -Drag racing, playing football, hunting, fishing, Saturday night parties. There were sad times – Dad's death, 3 failed marriages. The best thing that happened was the birth of my 2 daughters.

I look at my kids now and wonder how

they managed to get college degrees. I helped as much as possible but fortunately they inherited hard work habits from Dad.

Now I look back and thank the Lord for not giving up on me. I finally managed to grow up, well mostly. Life is good for me. I have a great church, friends and a great family. Although somehow I got the nickname Crazy Ed.

Now I wonder if the pants some wear have to be special made to keep from falling down. How did we lose respecting others? Why is there no ham in Hamburgers? Are hot dogs really dog meat? Enough of that.

I hope we can all learn to respect other people's opinions. I really don't care if I offend someone, after all it is only my opinion. I really wonder what kind of life it is for those who are offended about everyone's opinion but theirs. After all isn't that what America is all about. Being able to state your feelings without being put in jail. I have made many bad judgements in my day, but I learned from them. Maybe if we all treated others like we want them to treat us, this would be a better world.

But what do I know I'm just an old cified country boy.

Ed Kuntz

The Primary Election is over

The 2018 Primary Election is over, and many of us are pleased our candidates won; others are not quite as happy since the election did not turn out as we hoped. How many of us actually voiced our choices by Vote By Mail, Early Voting, or actually going to our polling place on August 28? Were you one of those registered to vote who did not exercise that right and privilege, why? Every vote does matter and can make a difference. If you are registered to vote, please resolve now to vote in the November 6 General Election either by Vote By Mail, Early Voting, or on Election Day. If you are not registered to vote and are eligible to become a voter, pick up a voter registration form readily available at your local public library and so many

other locations throughout Hendry County, fill it out and return it to the Hendry County Elections Office, or go to the Elections Office at 25 East Hickpochee Avenue in LaBelle or 1100 South Olympia Street, Suite 504, in Clewiston. Are all of your eligible family members, friends, and neighbors registered to vote? If they are not, encourage them to register and exercise the right and privilege that so many before us have fought and died to make certain we live in the Home of the Free and the Land of the Brave.

La elección primaria 2018 ha terminado, y muchos de nosotros estamos contentos de que nuestros candidatos ganaron; otros no son tan felices desde que las elecciones no resultaron como esperábamos. ¿Cuántos de nosotros realmente hemos expresado nuestras elecciones por votación por correo, votación anticipada o en realidad yendo a nuestro lugar de votación el 28 de agosto? ¿Fue usted uno de los inscritos para votar que no ejerció ese derecho y privilegio, por qué? Cada voto importa y puede marcar la diferencia. Si usted está registrado para votar, por favor decida ahora a votar en las elecciones generales del 6 de noviembre, ya sea por votación por correo, votación temprana o el día de las elecciones. Si usted no está registrado para votar y es elegible para convertirse en votante, recoja un formulario de registro de votante disponible en su biblioteca pública local y tantas otras ubicaciones en todo el Condado de Hendry, llénelo y devuélvalo a la oficina de elecciones del Condado de Hendry, o ir a la oficina de elecciones en 25 East Hickpochee Avenue en LaBelle o 1100 South Olympia Street, Suite 504, en Clewiston. ¿Todos los miembros de su familia, amigos y vecinos elegibles están registrados para votar? Si no lo son, animen a registrar y ejercer el derecho y el privilegio que tantos antes de nosotros han luchado y muerto para asegurarse de que vivimos en el hogar de la libertad y la tierra de los valientes.

Joseph H. Thomas
A Proud Hendry County Voter

Community Briefs

VFW Post 10100

ALL DINNERS FOR AUGUST ARE \$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 will begin 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.

SUMMER SPECIAL

Every Tues. Free pool table from 5:00pm to 9:00pm

Wear your VFW T-Shirt and get .50 off your drink. Beer and Soda excluded

Free Juke Box on Fri. nights from 6:00

p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Queen of Hearts, drawing is at 7:00 p.m. Hamburgers Every Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Best Hamburgers and fries in town. Grilled to perfection. Have it your way.

Men's Night, Every Mon. Night 6:00pm to 8:00pm. \$1.00 off exclude Draft and Soda.

Ladies Night, Every Thursday, \$1.00 off, exclude Draft and Soda from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Happy Hour: Mon.-Fri. 11:00am to 1:00pm and 4:00pm to 6:00 p.m.

1st Thursday of every month House Committee Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

1st Thursday of every month Veterans Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

2nd Wednesday of every month The Auxiliary Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Bingo every Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

Turkey Shoot 2nd and 4th Sun. of every month at 1:00 p.m.

Hall rental available to the PUBLIC. We are a Smoke Free Dining Room. We are lo-

cated on Hwy 29 next to the Rodeo Grounds. For further information call 863-675-8008.

Widows Support Group

The Widows Support Group will meet at Contreras Mexican Restaurant on **September 20 at 11:30 a.m.** All widows welcome.

Sociologist Dr. Nancy Howell to Lecture on the Dobe !Kung Bushmen at FSW

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

Moore Haven Canal park hopes renewed

By Chris Felker
INI Florida

MOORE HAVEN — Someday, people around Florida might marvel about Glades County being the Little Rural County That Could. But until then, nobody can fault hopeful local officials for trying with all their heart to develop attractions on what they fondly call the “Gloriously Natural Glades” landscape in a bid to capture more of the state’s huge tourism trade.

Maybe that should be “lakescape” rather than “landscape,” because the biggest project envisioned to draw more tourism dollars to this sparsely populated and economically deprived county is a much more visitor-friendly Lake Okeechobee experience from the southwestern quadrant. It’s actually been a widespread desire of locals and sportsmen who regularly visit here for more than a decade.

Around a dozen years ago, a group of Glades dreamers envisioned a park along the Old Moore Haven Canal, including longtime city Mayor Bret Whidden and then-County Commissioner Russell Echols along with then-City Councilman and now County Board Chairman John Ahern.

Back in 2006, what prompted them to seek state and federal help was a drought that had made navigating to Lake Okeechobee via the channel — originally dug in 1915 — impossible. They formulated a plan and wanted financing to widen and deepen the canal also known as 7-Mile Cut, which runs from the Moore Haven Lock and Dam (constructed in 1935) north-northeast to the Monkey Box. The plan called for a hiking trail, recreation area and observation tower along the canal’s eastern berm in a public green space to be called Moonshine Marsh Overlook Park.

It would take 10 years to get the needed permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the South Flori-

da Water Management District. The plans are not only on paper as part of the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project (LOWP) but actually were begun on a small portion, one-half to three-quarters mile in length north of the lock and dam, back in 2016-17.

Then, the project was funded by the legislature in the state budget but was removed from the budget by one of Gov. Rick Scott’s line-item vetoes.

This month, the Glades County Board voted to spend up to \$6,000 more from its own budget to have AIM Engineering do what is necessary to ensure the project remains permitted and on the books. The original permitting was to expire in early 2019, but commissioners’ unanimous action on Aug. 14 means the project will remain ready to go whenever officials can bend enough ears at the regional, state and federal levels to get the rest of the estimated \$14 million needed to dredge and widen over 6 miles of the 7-Mile Cut and then build the park facilities.

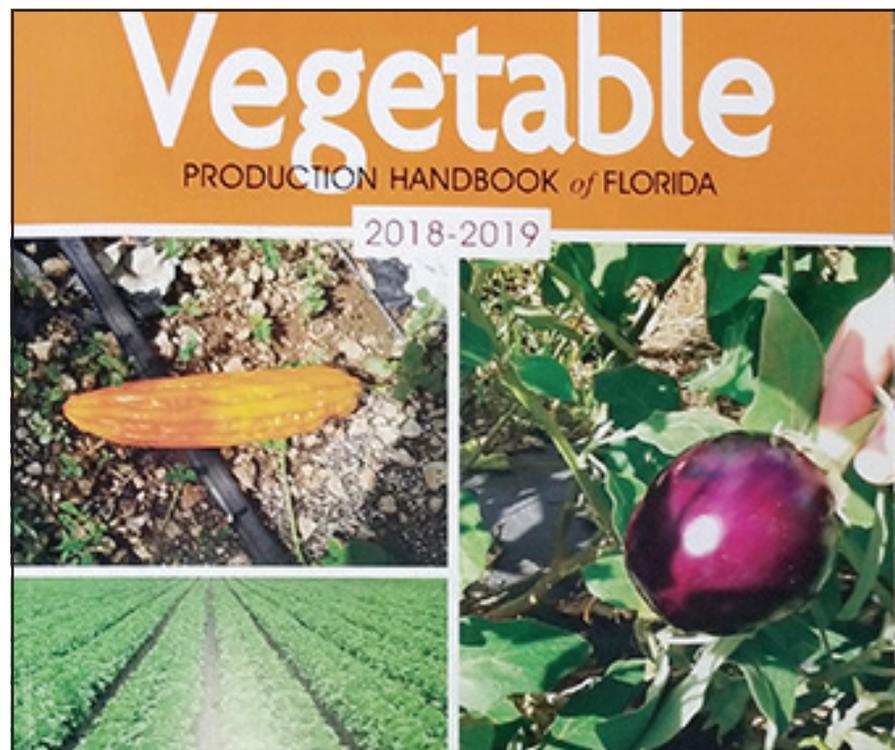
Mr. Ahern told an AIM Engineering representative at that meeting that he wanted the Army Corps permit to be extended not just two but five years. “We’ve been talking to our congressman and senators’ offices ... but this (getting financing) takes more than two years to do,” he said, adding that the firm should check on whether any other permits were needed. A “compliance report” was due to the corps on Aug. 29, they reported, and a field meeting will be required.

In a discussion at the Glades County Tourism Development Council meeting on Friday, Aug. 24, when Commissioner Tim Stanley reported on the county board’s action, Mayor Whidden, the TDC vice chairman, said: “It took 10 years to get it permitted, which is asinine; and now the permit is up for renewal, which is asinine. You get a permit to do a job; nothing’s changed out there; so leave the permit alone.”

Mr. Stanley responded, “It was fully funded at one time, but our illustrious governor cut the funding to that.”

TDC Executive Director Tracy Whidden then offered a strategy that she said the county should pursue in seeking the money to finish Moonshine Marsh Overlook Park.

“The thing is, they keep taking more and more land,” she said, referring to the state, SFWMD and the Army Corps buying up areas of Glades County for reservoirs and aquifer storage and recovery wells. “So why can’t we make a deal? If they’re going to take all that land on the north end of the county for storage, then as part of that negotiation, we ought to say, we want \$13 million to finish the canal and we want to reopen the Moore Haven Canal Campground.”



Submitted photo

Veggie Production Handbook available from Hendry Extension

The 2018-19 Vegetable Production Handbook, produced by the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, is hot off the press. Hendry County Extension Director Gene McAvoy will be distributing them over the coming weeks. Anyone who wants copies may pick them up at the Hendry County Extension Office at 1085 Pratt Blvd. in LaBelle.

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Components of park plan

Compiled from Lake Okeechobee Watershed Plan

The Moonshine Marsh Overlook Park project will include:

- Dredging of around 648,000 cubic yards of muck and soil from Moore Haven Canal and Pig Trail channel;
- Littoral zone mitigation of 34.5 acres, plus opportunities to create more marsh area;
- 6+ miles of bank and scrub/shrub rehabilitation opportunities for wildlife habitat;
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission-directed littoral zone plantings;
- Potential Everglades snail kite (endangered bird) habitat;
- Ancillary benefits: commercial fishing, ecotourism.

Church Briefs

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!

A Gathering of Christian Men Meeting

We have a new meeting place. We will meet at Beef O'Brady's at 6pm on Sept. 24 (Monday). Come early if you are going to order food. The meeting opens at 6 p.m. for fellowship. At 6:30 we have our business meeting. We hope all our area Churches will send a Pastor or representative. That way we can see what our community's needs are. All are welcome as long as you are doing your best to live by God's Rules. No one is

perfect. I have to ask for forgiveness every day. Our goal is to keep LaBelle a great place to raise your family. That takes getting involved. Everyone has a talent. We need to get involved with how our community is doing. We welcome new ideas.

Hope to see you Sept. 24
Ed Kuntz, president

Gran Campaña Garden of Prayer

LaBelle Community SDA Ministries extends our 11 a.m. Sabbath morning Pastoral Garden of Prayer to anyone and everyone whose mind is heavily burdened. You know how heavy your situation is. James 5:16 reminds us to pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous man has great power and wonderful results. You can join our prayer list of over 100 by sending your family's name to P.O. Box 1885 LaBelle, FL 33975.

Pastor Rupert A. Balfour, PhD

Calling all artists and photographers

Arts of the Inland and the Barron Park House Gallery and Gift Shop invite you to exhibit your art, including photography, sculpture, and fabric art, in the Gallery during the month of September. You may also display and sell small art, crafts, jewelry, cards, and books in the gift shop throughout the year. Receiving day for art and gift shop items is Tuesday, September 4 from 3 to 6. Gift shop items may be brought to the Gallery that day and anytime during regular hours.

All artists may submit 5 works for display and/or sell. The fee for members of Arts of the Inland is \$20 and \$25 for non-members. Memberships will be available at the

Gallery. Gift shop items are not limited in number. Art must be original with artist's name, medium, and sale price on the back of each piece that is for sale. Please have each piece of wall art suitably framed with a wire hanging system on the back. Saw tooth hangers do not work with the Gallery hanging system.

The AOI Barron Park House Gallery is looking forward to a very active year and to welcoming new and returning artists. For more details, you may call Marty Cowen at 239-290-6837 or Connie Killebrew at 239-771-0213.

The Gallery is located at 471 No. Lee St. in LaBelle. See you there!

Student Briefs

Sign up for RCMA now

RCMA Head Start Program is currently taking applications for registration for the 2018 - 2019 program year. This program offers Social, Dental, Health Services, as well as Hearing and Vision Screenings. Specialized in working with children with disabilities and their families. Meals are provided free of cost. REQUIREMENTS: Proof of Birth for child being enrolled, income verification is necessary, accepting children ages six weeks to five years old. For more info: RCMA Port LaBelle CDC, 6760 Santa Fe North, LaBelle, FL 33935. Located at Mira Verde Complex. Phone 863-674-4532.

El programa de RCMA

El programa de Head Start esta aceptan-

do solicitudes para 2018-2019 año escolar. Este programa ofrece: Servicio Dentales, Sociales y de Salud, Así como Pruebas de Lenguaje y Auditivas. Nos Especializamos en servicios para niños con impedimentos o limitaciones. Nosotros animamos la participación de los padres en la educación de los niños. Proveemos todas las comidas libre de costos. REQUISITOS: Certificado de Nacimiento, Verificación de Ingreso es necesaria. Aceptamos niños de 6 semanas hasta 5 años de edad. For more info: RCMA LaBelle CDC, 3749 State RD 29 S LaBelle 863-674-4510; RCMA Krome 551 W Cowboy Way 863-674-4515; RCMA Glades West CDC. 2500 S County Line RD 731 W 863-612-0783; RCMA Port LaBelle CDC, 6760 Santa Fe North, LaBelle, FL 33935. Situado en el Complejo Mira Verde. Teléfono 863-674-4532.



Submitted photo/Trenton Muntz

Recently at the Rotary

On Tuesday, August 21, the Rotary Club of LaBelle heard from Dr. Ramdas Kanissery from the UF/IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center. Dr. Kanissery has been with the center since 2016. He spoke to the Club about his background, including growing up in India and he shared some interesting facts with the Club on India's culture, including their festivals and historical landmarks. Pictured: Dr. Rasmus Kanissery and LaBelle Rotary President Fred Kobie.



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Stephen Purvis, D.O. Orthopedic Practice

The offices of Stephen Purvis, D.O. Orthopedic Surgeon, located at 525 West Sagamore Avenue in Clewiston and 450 South Main Street in Labelle will be closing effective August 31, 2018.

For any immediate questions, call 863-902-3093. Copies of patient medical records may be picked up at the orthopedic office located at 525 West Sagamore Avenue, Clewiston, Florida.

Please contact your Primary Care Provider for assistance in locating a physician to continue any ongoing treatment.

Submitted photo

LaBelle Area Parks

Davis-Pratt Park is one of LaBelle's original parks. The park was named in honor of the two principal donors who contributed the land to provide LaBelle with its first park. Davis-Pratt Park is now one of the most widely used park in LaBelle, housing four baseball fields, one softball field, two practice fields, and a full-sized football field.

Home of the LaBelle Longhorns for Pop Warner football. The location is 1287 Lillian Street, LaBelle, FL. Below is Little League players in anticipation of the beginning of a game. Facilities Included: - Tee Ball Field - Playgrounds - 2 Concession Stands - Restroom Facilities

Baseball is one of America's favorite national past time. In the late 18th century Baseball became a great game for everyone to enjoy. By the beginning of the 20th century most large cities had a professional team. In the 1920's Baseball came of age. Babe Ruth lead the New York Yankees to the World Series.

In 1992 at the Barcelona Olympic Games Baseball became an official sport. With great opposition world wide in 2008 Baseball was removed from Olympic games. Baseball and



Softball are global sports, and popularity grows daily. It is estimated that 65 million athletes in over 140 countries play the game. UPDATE: Baseball will return to the Olympic Games in 2020 to debut in Tokyo!



Submitted photo

Pet of the Week

Shorty is a seven year old spayed female bulldog mix. She loves walks and belly rubs and kisses. Shorty is good with kids and other dogs and is wishing for a family of her own. Come meet Shorty at the Caloosa Humane Society, 1200 Pratt Blvd, LaBelle, FL 33935, or check her out on our website Caloosahumanesociety.org.



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SWFRPC awarded grant to promote agricultural products

Special to the Caloosa Belle

On Aug. 10, the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC) announced that it has been awarded an Economic Adjustment Assistance grant in the amount of \$206,545 from the Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. Sens. Marco Rubio and Bill Nelson called Margaret Wuerstle, executive director of the council, to congratulate council staff.

The purpose of the grant is to increase resilience and sustainability for small and medium-sized farms in Southwest Florida. The goal of the project is to develop new markets and increase revenues for the local farms in Southwest Florida that suffered catastrophic losses as a result of Hurricane Irma, assisting with their economic recovery and increasing their ability to weather future disasters.

The proposal is the result of a recent study financed by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) that evaluated methods to assist small farms in economically depressed areas of Southwest Florida. The University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) was a project partner in the original study, and will be a partner in the project funded by the new grant. The project will educate residents of Southwest Florida regarding the benefits of consuming fresh, locally grown food, thereby increasing demand for local products among consumers, local supermarkets, chefs, restaurant managers and

other people within the food distribution system.

The agricultural sector of Southwest Florida (SWFL) was devastated by Hurricane Irma. As noted in the application, a local agriculture expert from the UF/IFAS estimated that SWFL may have suffered over \$2 billion of financial losses in agriculture from Hurricane Irma. Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam H. Putnam estimated \$2.5 billion in agricultural damages for the state and added that we are likely to see even greater economic losses as we account for loss of future production and the cost to rebuild infrastructure.

Agriculture is one of the dominant industry sectors in SWFL, particularly in the rural areas such as Glades and Hendry counties, Immokalee and eastern Lee County. The data below from the most recent U.S. Census of Agriculture further illustrate the sector's significance in the region as well as the region's value to the state.

After the hurricane, the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council began a \$30,000 agriculture sustainability study financed by the Florida DEO. The study aimed to gather small to mid-sized farmers in the SWFL Promise Zone area of Glades County, Hendry County and the Immokalee community in Collier County along with other regional agricultural stakeholders, such as UF/IFAS and the Farm Bureau, to determine what can be done to help these farms become more resilient to future disasters. The study's SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities,

threats) analysis identified several strategies to achieve sustainability including gaining access to new markets, the creation of a food safety plan template, the creation of a regional brand and the need for a marketing strategy.

The project being proposed to EDA involves taking the next steps to implement the strategies developed by the DEO study and includes the entire six-county region. These strategies were specifically developed by industry stakeholders as ways to help farmers gain much-needed resiliency post-Irma. Before the hurricane, agriculture was identified as an industry severely lacking in resiliency due to the seasonal

nature of crops, high cost of production and long-term rate of return on investment.

Those limitations made the impact of the hurricane greater than on other industries and made recovery even more difficult. The strategies outlined in this project will remove several barriers that keep small to mid-sized farmers from expanding into new markets and increasing their sales. The systems and partnerships created through this project will reduce these farms' recovery time during the next economic shock. This increased productivity will give growers a higher margin-for-error when dealing with future disaster events.

Agriculture in Southwest Florida

County / Area	Number of Farms	Land in Farms (Acres)	Percentage of Land in Farms	Market Value of Land and Buildings (\$1,000)	Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold (\$1,000)
Charlotte	284	217,222	49.9%	\$1,100,658	\$103,401
Collier	319	123,608	9.7%	\$554,016	\$202,751
Glades	331	442,750	85.8%	\$1,352,943	\$106,518
Hendry	406	495,734	67.2%	\$2,010,994	\$499,926
Lee	844	87,125	17.4%	\$826,412	\$105,903
Sarasota	283	80,143	22.5%	\$170,809	\$25,033
SWFL	2,467	1,446,582	37.8%	\$6,015,832	\$1,043,532
Florida	47,740	9,548,342	27.8%	\$49,661,974	\$7,701,532

Source: U.S. Dept of Agriculture: 2012 Census of Agriculture

Barron Park House Gallery and Gift Shop to open September 6

The Barron Park House Gallery and Gift Shop, which was closed in July and August, will re-open on **Thursday, September 6**. The Gallery is open Thursday thru Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Everyone is welcome to stop by to enjoy the talent of our many local artists and photographers. The gift shop will also be open to display and to sell art, jewelry, note cards and crafts that make great gifts for birthdays, hostess, Christmas – gifts for any occasion.

The Gallery is located at 471 North Lee Street, facing the Caloosahatchee River and across the street from Barron Park. It is the primary art gallery supported by Arts of the Inland, a not-for-profit organization

that promotes all the arts throughout the inland communities of South Florida. It is housed in the historic Christie House built in 1914. Much of the house is still original and might be considered a piece of art itself. A handicap ramp was added last year so that everyone is able to enjoy this LaBelle treasure.

For artists and crafters interested in displaying your work in the Gallery or gift shop, contact Marty Cowen at 239-290-6837 or Connie Killebrew at 863-674-1412. Art work and gift shop items will be received at the Gallery on **Tuesday, September 4 from 3 to 6 p.m.**

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- Vacant Industrial 4.5 +/- acres. Located in LaBelle, zoned LB-1-2. **\$125,000.**
- 89 acre oak filled waterfront lot in Caloosa Harbour S/D with river access. **\$79,000**
- .91 acre oak filled waterfront lot in Caloosa Harbour S/D with river access. **\$79,000**

• .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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RECIPE OF THE WEEK SUBMITTED BY SOUTHERN HERITAGE REAL ESTATE

Easy Beach Shrimp Ingredients

- 13 lb. unpeeled large raw shrimp
- 16 oz bottle Italian Dressing
- 1 TBSP freshly ground pepper
- 2 garlic gloves pressed
- 2 lemons, halved
- ¼ cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1 stick butter, cut up

Preparation:

Place the first 4 ingredients into a 13 x 9" baking dish, toss to coat. Squeeze juice from lemons over shrimp mixture, and stir. Add lemon halves to pan. Sprinkle evenly with parsley then dot with butter. Bake at 375 for 25 minutes, stirring after 15 minutes. Serve in the baking pan.
Enjoy!



Community Briefs

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)

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 American Legion Post 130 Meetings: (All Members welcome)

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

September 20 - Thurs - 7 p.m. - American Legion meets

American Legion Auxiliary will not meet during September.

American Legion Post 130 is located at 699 SR80 West, across from the Shell station. For further information call 863-675-8300. Dining room is open to the public and smoke free.

Drug Hendry County Coalition/Hendry Tobacco-Free Partnership Meeting

The Drug Free Hendry County Coalition and the Hendry Tobacco-Free Partnership meeting will be held on **September 13 at 4:00 p.m.** at the Carlson Memorial United Methodist Church- Fellowship Hall, 310 Campbell St. LaBelle, FL. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. For more

information call Andrea May at 863-674-4041 ext. 6017 or email Andrea.May@flhealth.gov

Happenings at the LaBelle Moose Lodge

The LaBelle Moose Lodge at 230 Jaycee Lions Drive will have: (863) 675-6255

Tuesday and Thursdays-Wings and Appetizers 5-7 p.m.

Friday and Saturdays-Dinner served 5-7 p.m.

Karaoke every Friday and Saturday @ 6:30 p.m. AND Sundays @ 4:00 p.m.

Special Event: Saturday, Sept. 1 Food 5-7 (bring a dish to share) Live music 7-11 p.m. "Walker Experience"

Monthly event calendars available!!

Speaker at FSW

Sociologist, demographer and author Dr. Nancy Howell will present a lecture on the Dobe !Kung bushmen of the Kalahari Desert at 4:30 p.m., on Thursday, Sept. 6, in

the Rush Auditorium, Building J, Room 103, at the Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW) Thomas Edison Campus, 8099 College Parkway, Fort Myers. The lecture is free and open to the public.

La Leche League

The La Leche League will meet the second Thursday every month from 5-7 p.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: **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://illflorida.com/lalecheleague/>



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Submitted photo

Kiwanis Presents UES 4th Graders World Atlases

Kiwanis Club of LaBelle members gathered at Edward A. Upthegrove Elementary for the Kiwanis World Atlas Project. Fourth-grade students received their Atlases which brought excitement, joy and smiles on faces of the children – it made their day! Students and teachers will use the Atlases as a wonderful classroom resource for the year and at the end of the school year, each 4th grade student takes home their very own World Atlas Book. Crystal Rodriguez, the UES ESE Resource Teacher for Kindergarten – 5th grade and the Kiwanis K-Kids Sponsor, coordinated the project and presentation. Thank you Mrs. Rodriguez and the Kiwanis Club of LaBelle.



Submitted photo

Delta Kappa Gamma Install Officers and Welcome New Teachers

The mission of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is to promote the professional and personal growth of educators and to advance excellence in education. As a way to welcome and encourage teachers new to Hendry County and to the profession, members of the local chapter of DKG compiled a list of 30 inspirational quotes and distributed a copy to each one of them. New teachers were also given a list of the DKG members at each of the schools in the district and encouraged to reach out to these veterans for help and support. To see a list of the 30 quotes and to learn more about the local chapter of DKG, visit their webpage at <http://deltakappagammalabelle.weebly.com>. Pictured: The Gamma Zeta Chapter Officers for the 2018 – 2020 Biennium include President, Joy Bridwell – 2nd Vice President, Kathy Sloan – 1st Vice President, Lisa Horton - Secretary, Aarika Deerey – Treasurer, Cindy Greenlee. DKG members are reminded that the next Chapter Meeting will be held after school on Monday, September 10 at 4:30 p.m. in the Beef O’Brady’s Conference Room.



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