

# Caloosa Belle



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Delivering Western Hendry County's News Since 1922

December 20, 2018



Special to the Caloosa Belle/Courtesy of Hendry County

## Turkeys distributed to Hendry workers

Hendry County government thanks U.S. Sugar Corp. for the company's generous donation of turkeys and sugar to Hendry County employees this holiday season. County officials and residents greatly appreciate all that U.S. Sugar does to give back to our community.

## Hendry board votes to withhold TDC grant, nixes advertising contract

By Chris Felker  
Caloosa Belle

LaBELLE — Hendry County commissioners voted 4-1 to hold back on two matching Tourism Development Council grants to local businesses in their meeting Tuesday, Dec. 11, setting the tone early for a few other acts in which they demanded documentation to justify spending public tax dollars.

After they first approved the consent agenda at the start of their two-and-a-half-hourlong session, Commissioner Karson Turner asked whether anyone else had called to pull back two grants from the list of TDC-approved festival or tourism project sponsorships. Vice Chairwoman Emma Byrd said she'd also asked to yank and discuss a \$5,000 matching grant request from The River's Edge Motel in LaBelle for a New Year's Eve celebration at the resort, and an \$12,995 payment to Everglades Marketing for a 2019 "Punta Gorda Airport Advertising Contract" with an entity called Digital Concourse Network.

Mr. Turner asked Ms. Byrd if he could air his concerns on her behalf, and she replied, "Go ahead." Mr. Turner questioned the

\$13,000 contract for the marketing. "I don't really understand the plan, and I don't know how we're going to be able to assess" the results, he told TDC Director Emily Hunter. She explained that it's a program to be run by Everglades Marketing, a Hendry company run by Bianca Ross who also operates the River's Edge, and owned by Daniel Peregryn, a member of the TDC. A waiver of his business relationship with the provider was requested because of the financial conflict of interest.

"They are advertising for Hendry County at the Punta Gorda Airport," which is actually in Charlotte County although many people who visit Hendry and LaBelle fly through there, she said. "They were going to advertise simply for River's Edge Motel and also downtown LaBelle, but they came to us as a board and said, 'Here's an opportunity we have to market Hendry County,' and ... they asked us if we would like to throw some money in there for Hendry County advertising as a whole."

Commissioner Turner asked what the total amount was, and she said \$20,000.

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## Code enforcement talks in Hendry gathering momentum

By Chris Felker  
Caloosa Belle

LaBELLE — Hendry County Planning and Development Director Margaret Emblidge and County Attorney Mark Lapp were ready to present a lengthy report to the commissioners late in their meeting Dec. 11 regarding options they'd been seeking to make the code enforcement process work better.

The problems are that it's very involved and time-consuming with all the work and documentation required, yet not getting enough tangible results, including return on investment for the county. Commissioner Karson Turner, who's been very vocal on the issue, asked his fellow commissioners if they could delay a deep discussion on the topic until the first meeting in January, considering they'd already been there for two hours that Tuesday night.

"I have a write-up I'm dying to go through with you all, and he's going to hit me," Mr. Turner said, nodding toward Mr. Lapp, "because it's going to be so long, my responses back on things. And I'd just like to sit with you all privately to get through all this."

"We would really appreciate (that)," Ms. Emblidge said, "to go through not only what all we've put together but any of your other ideas. We do have some recommendations for some land development code (LDC) changes that could improve the process, that I don't want to hold on to too long, but let's have the discussion and then we can figure out the timing."

Mr. Turner responded: "I want the board to give staff direction on this. Do you all feel that we are or are not going to be moving to the special magistrate process?"

Ms. Emblidge replied that she thought they needed more time to work with the new circuit judge sitting in Hendry County and that she was recommending they don't do so at this time. "Wait and let us make some improvements through the LDC and

also give us more time to work with the new judge." She added that she thought a special magistrate, "from what we've seen, doesn't improve the process."

She stated that on two matters, they're tinkering with timing on moving forward in prosecuting violations. "On the mowing and the unsafe structures, (if) we don't go to a special magistrate, don't go to the court, we can make the resolution to those happen sooner."

"I will tell you I still am a huge proponent of the special magistrate process," Mr. Turner said. "I know that it's costly, I know that's one thing that you've made clear."

He suggested the Hendry commissioners should talk it over with other local governments, too. "I would like for us to engage in a conversation with Glades County. I know that they're in the process of vetting that to see how cost-effective it would be, and then I'd like for us to also sit down with the cities of Clewiston and LaBelle. I've heard that they're interested in having this chat with us as well, because I think we all need to move forward as much as we can on the same page, us being LaBelle, Clewiston and Hendry."

He asked Ms. Emblidge when they would have some reaction from the judge. "The court will not hear the cases that we had thought for the 13th (of January)," she said, not until the 31st because of a timing issue. "I still say we move forward with our conversation and then we'll react off the judge," said Mr. Turner. "We've always done it from a reactive standpoint."

"It doesn't help to speak to the judge and tell him what we want, because that'll backfire. Having said that, I'm open to the special magistrate if we're willing to spend the money," she answered.

Mr. Turner said he was going to propose a process of placing liens on property "and

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**CHRISTMAS  
GREETINGS  
FROM ALL OF US AT THE  
CALOOSA BELLE**



# City Commission Meeting Enforcement

By **Geoffrey Ionescu**  
Caloosa Belle

The meeting was preceded by a public hearing on the plan amendment of the South LaBelle Village Comp. The local planning agency requested an amendment of the City of LaBelle Comprehensive Plan future land use element relating to the South LaBelle Community. Right now the lengthy comprehensive and difficult to understand plan text does not provide enough flexibility for future development. It concerns 5,700 acres of land to the south of the City of La-

Belle. Development permitted will be a mix of residential, commercial, light industrial and civic uses. This mixed development will provide additional flexibility to meet changes in market demand.

LDRC requested an approval for beer and wine at the Smoke Under the Oaks event on January 12, and for closing down Bridge Street for the Swamp Cabbage parade.

The Fire Department ran 65 calls in November and are still looking for volunteers.

The Hendry County Sheriff's Office received 12,500 calls for service of which 4,600 were in the City of LaBelle.

## TDC

Continued From Page 1

Board TDC liaison Commissioner Darrell Harris said Everglades asked for that whole amount but the council agreed to only \$13,000. "They took all the statistics for the airport in Punta Gorda, which people are really using now because of the ... location where the advertising would be. The only thing, you know, like we all want, is feedback on how many people are going to see that and come to Hendry County."

Mr. Turner rebutted, "Yeah, but we always get told that on these marketing plans," adding, "Evok (Advertising of Orlando), we spent \$170,000-plus, and maybe \$210,000, and they came to this chamber and told us they were going to give us this awesome brand that had a heron in it, do you all remember? And a heron is a bird that's located in all 50 states, but that was unique to Hendry County and they're marketing professionals. And now I'm hearing a local hotel owner, and Bianca Ross, which, I've never heard of Everglades Marketing ... but I don't understand what expertise, I don't see enough in the plan if how we're actually going to market Hendry County."

"We're going to give somebody \$13,000 to market us, I want to know who do you have in your crosshairs, to bring here to eat, sleep and spend money and potentially relocate themselves to Hendry County." Mr. Turner added that he didn't see any of that in the staff report, said that "I don't think there's a plan associated with this, although I'd like to see that plan if there is," and insisted it was the applicant's job to prove that the money was or would be well spent.

"And then another \$5,000 for a New Year's Eve party that I read is going to bring 150 people to town. I could throw a heck of a party for \$5,000!" he noted. The hotel has only a dozen rooms, but Ms. Ross estimated in the application it would be full and that another 20 hotel rooms would be rented in town due to the event.

Mr. Harris admitted the hiring of Evok "was a mistake," but protested withholding business from a local contractor regardless of his business relationships and TDC membership. He also agreed with Mr. Turner's points that marketing dollars spent on Lake Okeechobee fishing tournaments, especially those out of the Martin Marine Center resort, are a great investment. "They fill up all the hotels in Clewiston, and it's the biggest draw in the county. So all we're trying to do is get a little bit of a draw for the whole county. We didn't think it was too much, if we had the funding," Commissioner Harris explained.

Commissioner Michael Swindle spoke up to agree with Mr. Turner's points, saying "I believe this has spurred up a great conversation that I foresee carrying on ... throughout this meeting from beginning to end, because I've got a lot of things highlighted that I think this is the exact conversation that I think we're going to have. Commissioner Turner is spot on."

"I don't have a problem supporting ... I don't care where the event is ... but I do want to make sure that we are being responsible and wise on how we invest this money and getting the return on investment. I think it's only fair to hold everyone's feet to the fire," Mr. Swindle said.

Mr. Turner made a motion to deny the \$13,000 and \$5,000 requests. Commissioner Swindle seconded, and the motion passed with Mr. Harris voting no. He then moved that the board approve \$5,000 requested grants to the Swamp Cabbage Festival in LaBelle and the Sugar Festival in Clewiston and to deny the River's Edge grant. The vote again was 4-1.

"We need to see some backup to show us what the county's going to get," summarized County Board Chairman Mitchell Wills. "Punta Gorda Airport is a major hub and it's turning into that, but show us what we're going to receive — the entire county, not just LaBelle."

Mr. Turner said he'd like to hear a presentation from Everglades Marketing to justify the \$13,000 contract, including "the marketing plan, and I want to pick it apart."

Continued From Page 1

not being reactive from a standpoint of waiting six months or however long it is, that we have a tendency to do, I think, on some of these worst properties.

"We'll have a great discussion," he promised, complaining that "we're expending dollars from an overhead perspective and not receiving anything back."

"We will," answered Ms. Emblidge, adding that Mr. Lapp has to be included.

"Absolutely," Mr. Turner replied. "We've already done two or three things differently from the time of when this conversation originated to where we are today that we weren't doing, so there's momentum that is happening. It's just a question of, are we going to acknowledge it and build upon it, or are we going to say we've always been doing that and look at how many locations we're closing out?"

"We don't want to do it the way we've always done it," she stated. "We're open to making changes as long as they're positive and have a good result."

Submitted photo/Trenton Muntz

## Recently at the Rotary

On Tuesday, December 11, the Rotary Club of LaBelle was visited by Marlin Vaughn. Marlin is a power plant operator at Disney, a member of the Florida Energy Workforce Consortium, and the founder of the Joseph Project 863, which helps young students gain technical and workforce training through local programs and scholarships.



**Wishing you a Merry Christmas  
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- Just what you've wanted for so long
- Listen to whats coming to LaBelle
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# Happy Holidays from Maple Corner

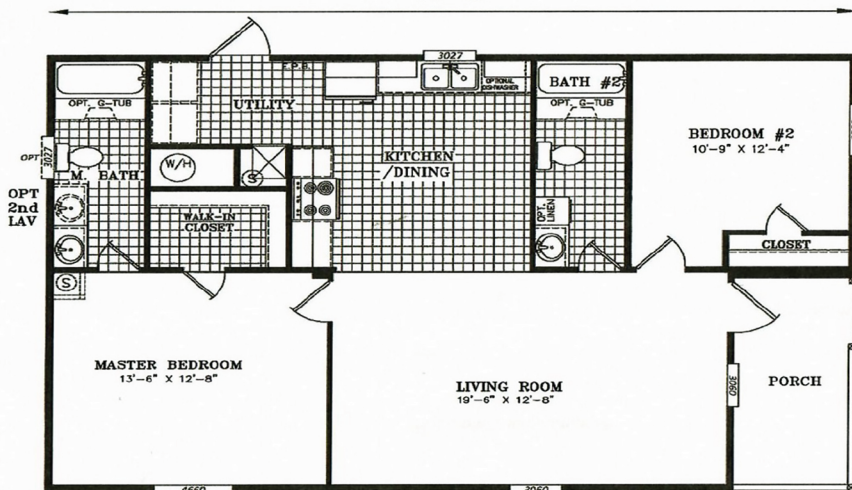
Located on the north side of LaBelle, along Highway 29, residents of this 55+ Active Lifestyle Community enjoy the idyllic charms of scenic lakes and walking trails in a private neighborhood setting of 84 beautiful manufactured home sites.

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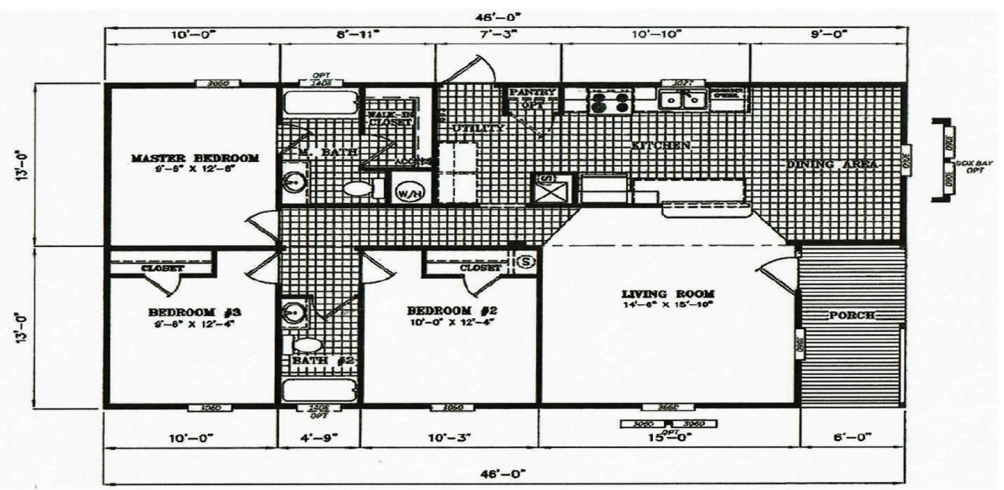
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# Caloosa Belle

## To Reach Us

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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.  
**E-Mail: cbnews@newszap.com**

## To Place a Display Ad

**Phone: (863)675-2541**  
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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

### Dear Editor:

My childhood was the stuff that dreams are made of. Not only did I have a great family, but I grew up in the wonderful neighborhood of Live Oak Lane. Rope swinging into the Caloosahatchee, biking on Shady Oaks Lane, and picking oranges from Mr. Paul's grove were a few of our regular adventures.

Like most kids after college, I was eager to spread my wings and expand my horizons. It didn't take me long to gain perspective and greater appreciation for the lifestyle qualities that LaBelle has to offer. When my husband and I had the opportunity to purchase my childhood home on Live Oak Lane earlier this year, we did not hesitate to relocate, along with our four young children and come back "home" to our peaceful, neighborly and family-friendly community.

Recently, the character of our neighborhood is being threatened by the potential of a new development of "Tiny Houses". If the LaBelle City Council votes yes to change the current R-1 (single-family residential) zoning laws, it would allow 65, 550 sq. ft. houses on 6.5 acres to be built within about 200 feet from my home, and even closer to another single-family home in our neighborhood. This would potentially create an additional 130 vehicles on Shady Oaks Lane, and sidewalks on this road would not be required.

On behalf of all the pedestrians of the neighborhood, including young children and elderly adults, I am greatly concerned about the dangers associated with a significant increase in traffic. I dream of my children continuing to ride their bikes, exploring the outdoors, and making precious childhood memories of their own. Living in a safe neighborhood with less traffic is the single greatest reason why we decided to move back home to raise our family.

If this article resonates with you and why you love LaBelle, please pay it forward by signing the following petition (<https://tinyurl.com/yb8a9she>) and/or contacting your City Commissioners to stop this irresponsible development. Help maintain the charm and safety of our neighborhoods. The next City Council meeting is on Thursday, January 10 at 6:00 p.m. if you would like to show your support.

*Sincerely,  
Lindsay (Chapman) Jones*

### Dear Editor:

I read the Letter to the Editor by Joseph W. Taylor in the December 6, 2018 edition of the Caloosa Belle.

If possible, I would enjoy some amplification to the subject of Communism.

Communism and Socialism are one in the same per the Merriam-Webster dictionary in which it says:

**Definition of Communism:** a system in which goods are owned in common and elimination of private property; a final stage of society in Marxist theory in which the state has withered away and economic goods are distributed equitably .....

**Definition of Socialism:** a system of society or group living in which there is no private property; a system or condition of liberal society in which the means of production are owned and controlled by the state; a stage of society in Marxist theory transitional between capitalism and communism and distinguished by unequal distribution of goods and pay according to work done.

Communism refers to an economic and political theory that advocates the abolition of private property and the common sharing of all resources among a group of people, and it was often used interchangeably with the word socialism of which Karl Marx advocated.

Communism advocates liberal socialism over capitalism and free market.

Collectivization of farms is a policy of forced consolidation of individual citizens' households into consolidated farming communities and controlled entirely by the State.

Of course, all civil rights are negated by the liberal State in the hope of establishing a society what functioned like a Swiss clock without any deviation and to create a person that works without questioning his/her role or place.

Communism and liberal socialism advocate a closed society in order to protect the rights of the central State to control the people.

Liberal socialism and communism sells the people on the idea of a Utopia to create a false sense that communism or socialism would be a grand enterprise for society, which led from gradual lack of rights and speech to obsessive control by the central government.

Of course, the central State feeds on a sense of control and develops into grand tyranny for those in who have power are corrupted from within. The more ruthless, the more the power and produces more corruption by definition.

But notice globally, communism and liberal socialism in its pure form fails because, sooner or later, the people figure-it-out and rebel.

*Rusty Roe*

### Dear Editor:

In Florida each year, children are placed into foster care do to experiencing neglect or abuse in their own homes. Their families are in crisis and their parents are unable to provide for their well-being. These situations can become especially tragic during the holiday season.

Children have an extraordinary capacity to overcome many challenges, but only if they have the support of a caring adult in their lives. Foster parents are a vital resource for these children as they wait in limbo, between a painful past and an uncertain future.

The National Youth Advocate Program (NYAP) trains, licenses and manages foster parents and homes for youth who involved in the child welfare system locally in the 5-county area of Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Hendry, and Glades counties. If there is any way that you could help us spread the word, whether it be through us having an information table set up at your location or displaying flyers at your location, please do let us know!

If you have interest in becoming a foster parent and assisting in the life of a young person, please reach out to us. The need for caring individuals grows daily.

Please give us a call at (239) 242-5983 or email me at [tsturrup@nyap.org](mailto:tsturrup@nyap.org)

**Trista Sturrup, MSW, CWLC**  
**Program Supervisor-National Youth Advocate**  
**Program 2503 Del Prado Blvd. 3rd Floor, Cape Coral, FL. 33904**

## Speak Out

### One Day More... in paradise!

The wife and I had stopped at a Dunkin D/N off Coloni at @ Ortiz (Her favorite outside of McD's...) and as we're heading out, I looked around and.. Wow!.. we're one of three couples, "oldee type" only still in the joint. Curious me, (I'm not shy at all!!!) I politely asked the couple next to us ..."If you don't mind, I'm curious, look around we're all about the same age, Right? What's yours and his age? I'm 85 and my wife is 77"...Gladly she replied "I'm 72 and he's 74! !" I sincerely thanked them, and after a few more happy remarks, headed to the other "oldee" couple by the door, and repeated my inquisitive request. Without hesitation, the lady blurted out proudly..."I'm 77 and he's 78"

OMG!!! I explained my amazement at all our closeness in age!!! And that ALL of us looked so GREAT for our age... until I got to and opened the front door, another "oldee" was walking in!!! I just had to ask, right? Again, the lady spoke out: "Why I'm 91 and he's 93!!!!" Wow!!! Where else but in paradise, eh????

A LaBelleion

### Eyesores in town

It's bad enough we have one Eye Sore on 80 meaning the Trading Post, now we have another on 29 Bridge St. in the Heritage Museum. What's going on with it? There haven't been any workers there in months.

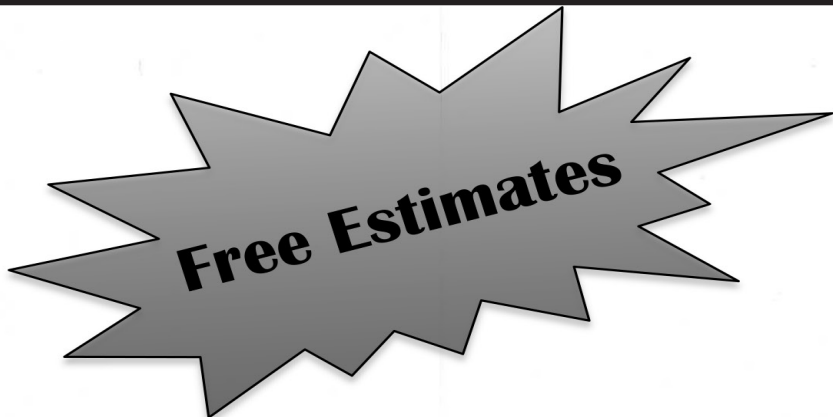
## Community Briefs

### Festival committee meets

The Swamp Cabbage Festival will meet January 7 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.

### Parkinson's Support Group

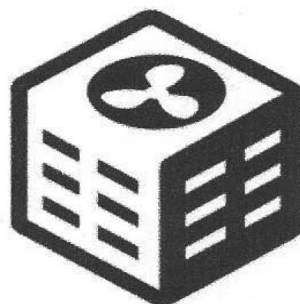
The Parkinson's Disease Support Group meets the second Tuesday at 1 p.m. at the LaBelle Senior Center and the fourth Tuesday at Sal Cal Pizza at 1 p.m. People with PD and their care partners are welcome to attend and share in the discussion. For more info contact Hope Connection or call 863-342-8013.



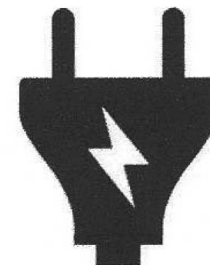
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## Church Briefs

### Live Nativity

The Eastside Baptist Church at 601 East Hickpochee Avenue, LaBelle, FL 33935, will be performing a live Nativity on December 20 and 21 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Please come by to help us celebrate Jesus' birth.

### Christmas at Carlson

Come out and join us for a fun night of hot chocolate, crafts, and fellowship as we enjoy the animated movie "The Star" together. This event is free and open to the community! See you there! Friday, December 21, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. Carlson Memorial United Methodist Church, 310 Campbell Street

### Candlelight Service

The First Baptist Church of LaBelle is having its annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on **December 24 at 6 p.m.** Hear the Christmas Story; sing Christmas Carols and Hymns; share the Lord's supper; and celebrate with us. The public is invited. The First Baptist Church of LaBelle is located at 330 North Main St., LaBelle. For more info you may call the church office at 863-675-2171.

### Feliz Navidad 2018! Merry Christmas 2018!

Te invitamos a celebrar con nosotros! We invite you to celebrate with us! Estara ministrando Victor and Ruth Perez con su grupo.

Joining us will be Victor and Ruth Perez with their group.

Servicio Especial de Navidad  
Special Christmas Service - Domingo 23 at las 6:30 p.m. Sunday 23 at 6:30 p.m.

Iglesia El Faro, 431 Bryan Ave, LaBelle, FL 33935. Para mas informacion o si necesita transportacion llamenos as (863) 843-0264. For more information or if you need transportation, please call us at (863) 843-0264

### Happenings at the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church

The Shepherd Episcopal Church is located at 1098 Collingswood Pkwy just south of SR 80, Port LaBelle 863-675-0385

**Wanted - EPISCOPALIANS**  
**Dec 20 Thursday** Healing Service 9:30 a.m.

**Dec 20 Thursday** Bible Study 10:30 a.m.

Good Shepherd Episcopal Christmas Eve service will start at **4 p.m. on December 24**, this is so attendees can be home before too dark. All welcome to attend no reserved seats. Father Panel M Guerrier will be officiating.

### Christmas Eve Family Mass

Come Celebrate Jesus' Birthday with St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 207 North W.C Owen Ave., Clewiston. The program starts at **6 p.m. on December 24**. The Right Rev. Peter Eaton, Bishop of the Diocese of Southeast Florida will be the speaker.

## Year-end: Put This Year's Investment Performance in Perspective

How can you assess your investment portfolio's performance in 2018? The year was full of wild swings in the financial markets, so your own results may well have bounced around quite a bit, too. But you can still get a clear picture of how you did if you keep your investments' returns in the proper perspective – by making sure your expectations are relevant, realistic and reviewed.

Let's look at how these terms can apply to a meaningful evaluation of your investment progress:

**Relevant** – Many investors compare their portfolio returns to a popular market index, such as the S&P 500. But this comparison is not really valid for a variety of reasons. For one thing, indexes are typically not diversified across different types of investments – the S&P 500, for instance, only tracks large U.S. companies. But your portfolio should consist of a broad range of investments: domestic and international stocks, bonds, mutual funds, government securities and so on, appropriate for your goals and risk tolerance. Also, your portfolio's performance will be affected by your contributions and withdrawals, while market index returns are not. So, instead of measuring your results against an index – and possibly worrying about underperformance – you're better off establishing relevant expectations of your investment returns, based on your specific goals. So, for example, if you want to retire at age 62, you'll need to know the rate of return you need to achieve this goal – and then compare that desired return with your actual results.

**Realistic** – Ideally, of course, you'd like really high returns with really low risk – but that's really not feasible. To get high returns, you'll need to invest aggressively, which means you'll need your portfolio to be heavily weighted in stocks. However, stocks are also riskier

than more conservative investments, such as bonds or government securities. So, you'll need to be realistic in what you can anticipate from your portfolio. You can shoot for high returns and accept the higher level of risk, or you can lower your expectations in exchange for greater stability.

**Reviewed** – The performance of the financial markets – and also your own portfolio – will fluctuate from year to year. Consequently, it's important to review your portfolio's results and the progress you're making toward your goals on a regular basis, possibly with the help of a financial professional. In these reviews, you may conclude that you're doing fine, or you might discover that you need to rebalance your portfolio by realigning your investments with your goals and risk tolerance, or perhaps make other adjustments – such as changing the amount you invest – to get you back on track. In addition, you may even need to re-evaluate these goals in response to changes in your life – a new job, marriage, new child, and so on – as these changes could affect the rate of return you need from your investments.

As you look back on 2018, and look forward to 2019 and beyond, take a holistic approach to how you evaluate your investments' performance. By looking for relevance, being realistic about what you can expect, and reviewing your portfolio in the context of your goals, risk tolerance and changing circumstances, you can gain a thorough understanding of where you are, where you want to go – and how you can help yourself get there.

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

## JEFFREY N MARTIN, D.O., FAOCD MARK C. GEORGE, PA-C

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## Obituaries

### Gary Michael 'Bubba' Spence, 60

LABELLE — Gary Michael "Bubba" Spence passed away Dec. 12, 2018 in Fort Myers. He was born May 13, 1958 in Glen Burnie, Md., to the late Walter Jack and the late Ruby Carene (Ward) Spence. He served in the Army from Aug. 9, 1977 to Nov. 22, 1984, finishing his career in the Army Reserves. He worked as a plumber for Hendry County School Board for many years. He married Willidine "Booger" Searcy; she preceded him in death on Jan. 2, 2018.



Survivors include three daughters, Jennifer Rodriguez, Christa Spence and Kelle Spence; grandchildren, Troy Coker, Mahaley Ferrazas, Joy Hinson, Gage Meadows, Ruby Rodriguez.

Memorial services were held Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018 from 1-2 p.m. at Akin-Davis Funeral Home, LaBelle.

Arrangements by Akin-Davis Funeral Home - LaBelle.

### Marie L. O'Ferrell, 80

LABELLE — Marie L. O'Ferrell was born on Nov. 7, 1938 in Greensboro, N.C., she passed away at home on Dec. 10, 2018.

While in N.C., Maria worked at a local florist and then for Western Electric. She was a member of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church.

In 1973, Marie and her husband, John moved the family to LaBelle. She was a long-time employee of LaBelle Middle School, working as a paraprofessional and later on continued her career at LaBelle Elementary School, retiring in 2000 but continued her passion of working with students as a substitute teacher at all the area schools.

Marie was preceded in death by her parents, Clarence and Edna Lowdermilk; husband, Jon O'Ferrell; brothers-in-law, Tommy O'Ferrell and Dennis Sockwell.

Marie is survived by her sons, Wesley (Wendy) O'Ferrell of LaBelle and Ricky O'Ferrell of Winter Haven, sisters, Sylvia Sockwell of Brown Summit, N.C., and Daphna (Wayne) Wagoner of McLeansville, N.C.; grandchildren, Tyler O'Ferrell, Abbie O'Ferrell, Macy O'Ferrell, Correy O'Ferrell, Haylee O'Ferrell and Reece O'Ferrell.

Services were held on Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2018 at Carlson Memorial United Methodist Church in LaBelle.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to LaBelle High School Quarterback Club and Hope Hospice.

Arrangements by Akin-Davis Funeral Home - LaBelle.



Submitted photo/Mary Robinson

### Candlelight Service/Christmas story

The Wilkins family Julie & Wayne have been selected for this years telling of the Christmas story. Monday December 24 at 7 p.m. the service will begin with Christmas carols and the story of Christmas as told by Julie and Wayne Wilkins. Following the story, candlelight communion will be served. The annual Christmas chocolates will be passed out following the service. LaBelle Assembly of God is located at 139 Fraser for more information call 675 - 0900. The public is invited.

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# The Dance Company in LaBelle focuses on nurturing performers

By Heather Caldwell  
Special to the Caloosa Belle

For such a small town, LaBelle has so many creative, artistic people - musicians, artists, actors, and even dancers. The Dance Company located at 540 1st Ave # 100 in LaBelle is in the 10th year of production, and their success is due to the relationships they've built within the community and a lot of hard work. Saturday, December 8 was their Christmas recital, and while the audience enjoyed a spectacle that included a 'real' snowstorm and a 12 foot fraser fir with 2,400 lights, the dancers themselves got to showcase all the hard work they put into their practice. The value of these programs extends beyond it's shows. They provide a supportive environment for their students in which they feel like they are nurtured to transform into the best version of themselves. Melissa White and Tiffany Taylor are both co-owners and instructors at The Dance Company who grew up in LaBelle. From the overflow of support they received from the community, they created a place for students to escape whatever stressful circumstances accompany being a kid these days and celebrate the beauty of life. Their mission statement is "... to cultivate a zest for life in every student as they develop the technique and coordination necessary to express their creativity." Even from the outside looking in, it's apparent they are reaching their goals.

"Dance class is one place where I can de-stress," says Kaily Herrold, a busy Junior ballet and lyrical dance student, who hangs out with her friends from dance class even outside of practice. She went on to explain that many dancers rarely miss practice simply because they like being there. She adds, "They support us to grow and be our best." While the dancers do have beautiful form and their shows are a joy to attend, it's nice to know that The Dance Company has the right idea in mind - creating truly beautiful art is about

supporting people in their growth instead of harshly demanding perfection immediately. Tiffany and Melissa guide their students to "pursue their goals and express themselves confidently," and success comes naturally.

Many areas of life involve performing at our best, which is why it's important to nurture the creative areas where one can make mistakes, learn, and improve in a low-stress and enjoyable way. If you are feeling disconnected from your inner creative-self or if you just want to have some artistic fun, there are many opportunities to explore your creative side here in LaBelle. The Dance Company, for example, is accepting new dancers for their youth programs. Also, the Barron Park House Gallery which is located on 471 N. Lee Street is home to many inspiring works of art and regularly offers creative workshops for people with all skill levels. Check out their website [www.artsoftheinland.com](http://www.artsoftheinland.com) in order to view upcoming events or stop in anytime between 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. Thursday-Sunday. The paintings have just been switched out for the month of December, and you have to see the inspiring work of the artist of the month, Kelly Ann Bradshaw. Plus they are raffling off a beautiful Christmas quilt as a fundraiser. Also the Barron Library located at 461 N. Main Street occasionally offers creative workshops for sewing and creating abstract art. While your there, you can be inspired by artist Carlos Inocente Gonzalez' mural in the children's section. View their Facebook page for more information about classes.

Appreciating the artistry at The Dance Company, The Barron Park House Gallery, and the Barron Library doesn't just support the local art community, but it also benefits the soul. And these are just a few of the artistic endeavors happening here in LaBelle. If you'd like to publicize someone's artistic success or an event that showcases the creativity of the community, feel free to email Heather at [heatheryish@gmail.com](mailto:heatheryish@gmail.com).



Submitted photo/Kaitlin Lawton

On Saturday, December 8 The Dance Company held their Christmas recital, and while the audience enjoyed a spectacle that included a 'real' snowstorm and a 12 foot fraser fir with 2,400 lights, the dancers themselves got to showcase all the hard work they have put in this year.

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# LaBelle High School's Cowgirl Invitational recap

The Cowgirl Weightlifting team hosted ten teams for the 2018 Cowgirl Invitational held on Friday, December 7. Over 146 females lifted at the meet. The only team that was able to beat the Cowgirls was Port Charlotte, a 2A school. Not only did the Cowgirls take second place as a team, they did very well as individual lifters, even breaking school records!

Jenna McClain won the 169 weight class and broke two of her own school records in the process. She benched 175 (tied her own record) and barely missed the attempt of 180 pound bench press for a new school record. She did however get a new clean and jerk with a successful lift of 170 pounds. Her new total of 345 pounds was also a new record. With this performance, she was also the pound for pound champ (strongest girl) capturing the individual trophy at the invitational.

News Press out of Fort Myers saw the results of the meet and nominated her for Southwest Florida Athlete of the week for Dec 3-8. She won the poll with 50 percent of the total votes. Many of you shared the link on social media and voted multiple times, so we appreciate the support for Jenna and the girls weightlifting program!

Marlusous Mitchell also won the 110 weight class, tying the school bench record of 115 pounds. Although this is Mitchell's first year lifting she has dominated most of the meets increasing her weight lifted each time.

Other top Cowgirl lifters were:

Melissa Raya (119) with a total of 205



Submitted photo

**Jenna McClain was pound for pound champ.**

pounds lifted finishing 3rd.

Daisy Carachure (129) with a total of 230 pounds finishing 2nd.

Janet Villa (154) with a personal best total of 250 pounds finishing 3rd.

Yesenia Gomez-Lopez with a personal best of 270 pounds to finish 2nd.

Macy Martinez (UNL) with a 310 total finishing 3rd.

Cowgirls travel to River Ridge in Port St. Lucie to face 2A competition and prepare our top lifters for Districts and Regionals.

Our Success is contributed in part to our gracious sponsors: Southern Shears and Nails, McDonalds, Winn-Dixie, K&M Drugs, The Raya family, TriCircle Pavers, and Esmeralda and Mother DeSantiago.

The Cowgirls will host both Districts and Regionals this year at LaBelle High School. Please come out and support this great group of ladies! Districts are Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.



Submitted photo

**The LHS Cowgirls Weightlifting Team.**

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Submitted photo/Nan Akin

## Sanibel Sea School

As part of Sanibel Sea School's outreach program, the ELP students in Hendry County have had the opportunity to learn at the beach four times this year and will travel to Sanibel five more times in the spring. Students have seined, built living habitats, and dissected sharks as part of this very unique educational experience. The program is grant funded by generous donors from Southwest Florida. Sanibel Sea School's mission is to "improve the ocean's future one person at a time." Education in the inland communities is essential. Everything in Florida is tied to water and we are all stakeholders. I love it because students can see, touch, smell, and feel during our educational outings. I have always been drawn to the water. I believe that people will take care of what they love and understand. That is why this grant funded learning is so important. It is also wildly fun to explore with my students. I learn something new every time I take my students to Sanibel Sea School.

## Community Briefs

### 7th Annual Smoke Under the Oaks Rib Fest

The event will be on January 12, 2019 from 12-4 p.m. at Barron Park. This event will take place in the City of LaBelle's beautiful oak canopied Barron Park located along the Caloosahatchee River. Smoke Under the Oaks Rib Fest showcasing the talented grillers in our neck of the woods. Join approximately 20 teams while they compete for cash prizes and their chance at the coveted People's Choice award. There will also be live music, beer and vendors. There is no admission fee for this event. Please contact Kelly Boone at 863-225-2749 or [kelly@downtownlabelle.com](mailto:kelly@downtownlabelle.com) for sponsorship, team information and vendor opportunities.

### Field Trip to Naples gardens

The LaBelle Garden Club is hosting a Field Trip to the Naples Botanical Gardens Wednesday, January 9, 2019. Located at 4820 Bayshore Drive. The City Bus is being chartered and will leave from the LaBelle Veterans Park (SR80 at Main Street) at 8:30 a.m. and return approximately 2:30 p.m. Anyone is welcome to join in the field trip. Bus fare is \$20 and Admission and Tour of gardens is \$28. The Fogg Café is on site for lunch. If you are a 2019 member of the LaBelle Garden Club, which meets monthly, the club will pay a portion of your bus and admission costs. (Membership is \$10 for single; \$15 for couple). Reservations must be made by Friday, January 4, 2019. Call Pat at 239-910-1538 or Nikki 239-564-2005.

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Tuesday - Friday: 9 AM - 6 PM

Saturday: 9 AM - 4 PM

Sunday & Monday: Closed





Submitted photo/Nan Akin

### Atomic Narwhals Robotics

The Atomic Narwhals competed in the Pre-Qualifying FIRST Lego League Robotics Tournament on December 8. The team has been working very hard in order to score well in four different categories. Students work on a research project, design a EV3 robot for missions, learn Core Values (how to work cooperatively) and coding missions. The theme for this year is space exploration. Cleaning up the space debris in orbit around Earth is the problem that the Atomic Narwhals decided to tackle. During the Pre-Qualifying Tournament, they were able to complete two missions successfully on the space themed challenge board. Their robot is soundly built and they will work on documenting their robot codes for the Qualifying Tournament on January 12. The team had many "exemplary" ratings in their Core Values judging section. This team knows how to work well together and have fun! The team is coached by Nan Akin and Isaac Peck. Members include - Drayton Akin, Octavio Sandoval, Jackson Perkins, McKenzie Salinas, Christopher Cepero, CJ Hogan, and Bella Peck.



Submitted photo

### Pet of the Week

Mr. Kitty would love to come to your house for Christmas! He's a 2 1/2 yr. old neutered male domestic short hair cat. Mr. Kitty is very sweet and just wants his own furever family for Christmas. Please consider coming to meet Mr. Kitty at the Caloosa Humane Society, 1200 Pratt Blvd, LaBelle, FL 33935, or check him out on our website Caloosahumanesociety.org.

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## Community Briefs

### Moose Lodge 2398 Events

230 Jaycee Lions Drive, (863) 675-6255  
 Hours of operation: Mon 3-10 p.m. Tues-  
 Thurs 11-10 p.m. Fri & Sat- 11-12:00 a.m.  
 Sun 11-10 p.m.  
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 month at 5:30 p.m.  
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 p.m.  
 Dinner served Fri & Sat 5-7 p.m.  
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 p.m.  
 & Paul Wed 4 p.m./ Welcome back line  
 dancers!!  
**Dec 22** -Dessert Raffle/Auction 12-2 p.m.  
**Dec 25**- Come join us for X-mas.. We will  
 be serving  
 "Buffet Style" Dinner 2:30 p.m.-(Please  
 bring a dish to share)  
 Special Events: **Dec 31**- "New Years Eve  
 5 p.m.-? "Come Laugh in the New Year!"  
 Moose Lodge 2398 Welcomes "Joe Mobley  
 and his Comedy Crew" 8 p.m. We will also  
 be serving dinner & appetizers 5 p.m.-?  
 Monthly Event Calendars are Available

### Board Meeting Planned

The Caloosa Humane Society will have  
 an open board meeting on January 2 at For-  
 reys Bar and Grill starting at 6 p.m.



Submitted photos

### Upthegrove Citizens of the Month for November

Right are the Pre-K-2nd grades students Front: Sophia Salinas and Penelope Hernandez. Second Row: Aliyah Vela, Leia Rangel, Kadyn Pack and Aurora Urias. Third Row: Alexander Mejia, Angie Prado, Alex Avier, Yahairi Garcia Santamaria, Aileya Venecia and Royce Rodriguez. Back Row: Guadalupe Arrieta, Javier Ayala-Tamayo, Isabella Luna and Mason Wise. Left are the 3rd - 5th grade students Front: Jorge Luna, Valeria Salazar and Nathaniel Ledford. Middle: Addie Marshall, Rebecca Escobedo, Eber Mejia-Santizo, Alyson Casiano, Sylvia Reyes-Avelino and Dalton Crupper. Back: Megan Perez, Marlyn Guzman, Avery Creach, Kaleb McLymont and Denis Jiminez.

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Submitted photo

## West Glades School Citizens of the Month for November

LEFT: KG-2nd Grade: Rhys Roof, Kimberly Trejo, Macy Corbitt, Andrew Reinking, Andrea Madrid, Adrian Perez, John Dupree, Parker Dillman, Sophia Mora, Brianna Salazar, Israel DeSantiago and Colt Meyer.

CENTER: 3rd-5th Grade: Makayla Obenauer-Salazar, Evan Romero, Ayslin Trejo, Marco Villafuerte, Elliot Cruz, Teagan Dobson and Oscar Hernandez.

RIGHT: 6th-8th Grade: Bella Alexander, Jack Dillman, Jovan Cuacua, Hanna Yohnke, Enrique Mendoza and Alisah Obern.

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# Hendry Regional Medical Center holds emergency disaster drill

By Electra Waddell  
Special to the Caloosa Belle

On Wednesday, December 13, 2018 Hendry Regional Medical Center (HRMC) conducted an emergency disaster drill in conjunction with community partners including local and state agencies.

Twice a year HRMC must participate in a live or simulated disaster as a condition of participation with regulatory entities such as The Joint Commission and the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare. Disaster drills are practical real life scenarios that allow HRMC and other agencies to collaborate and test their preparedness for emergency situations.

This simulated situation was the evacuation of the Clewiston Nursing and Rehabilitation Center under the pretense a patient's family member had recently traveled and was showing signs of a plague epidemic. Over 45 students from Clewiston High School's Public Service Academy volunteered to act as sick patients. "The students love the real life experience they receive by participating in activities like this. This exercise aligns with the academy standards they learn through the program," stated Ms. Kristine Petersen, CHS Public Service Academy Instructor.

To make the simulated situation as realistic as possible a technique called moulage was used; the art of applying mock in-

juries for the purpose of training. Everyday household items such as oatmeal and coffee grounds were used to create fake vomit and diarrhea.

To create the most realistic situation outside agencies and community partners participated in the role they would fill in a real emergency situation. The Clewiston Police Department, Hendry County EMS, Hendry/Glades Department of Health, Hendry County Emergency Management and Charlotte County Department of Health were all on hand to test emergency preparedness plans and actions.

The goal of any disaster drill is to test a mass influx of patients and to involve as many departments and systems within the organization and to stress those systems to their max. "Overly stressing multiple systems in our organization allows us to identify both our strengths and weaknesses" said David Theroux, HRMC COO.

At the conclusion of the drill all parties are brought together to discuss and identify the strengths and weaknesses of the exercise and organization. The identified items are then used to develop an implementation plan that is used for the continuous improvement of Hendry Regional's response capabilities to all emergencies.

"As a community hospital we continue to strive to be better prepared to serve the residents of Hendry County," stated R.D. Wil-

liams, HRMC CEO. "We are your hometown healthcare provider and are always here and fully prepared to serve you in your time of need."

About Hendry Regional Medical Center: Hendry Regional Medical Center is a 25-bed

critical access hospital that incorporates modern technology with state-of-the-art medical staff to care for its patients. Hendry Regional Medical Center's mission is "to excel in quality, compassion, and innovation to make our community healthier."



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Submitted photo

**Clewiston High School Public Service Academy Student acting as a plague victim is treated in the HRMC Emergency Department.**

## Community Briefs

### Tai Chi class offered

The Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida (AAASWFL) is offering a free health and wellness program, Tai Chi for Arthritis and Falls Prevention, in LaBelle. The eight-week workshop starts Jan. 8, 2019 and continues through Feb. 28. The class is designed to help older adults manage and relieve arthritis pain and stiffness and improve balance and movement. Class size is limited and advance registration is required. Workshops will be presented on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Hope Connections L.J. Nobles Center (475 E. Cowboy Way, LaBelle,

FL 33935). For more information or to register for the eight-week Tai Chi for Arthritis and Falls Prevention workshop, call Sherry Young at 866-413-5337 or email sherry.young@aaaswfl.org.

### New Exercise Class

An exercise class taught by Mary Bar-toshuk, sponsored by the Parkinson's Support Group, meets every Thursday at 8:30 a.m. at the Senior Center on Cowboy Way. Free and available to all seniors for help with balance, flexibility and muscle strength. For info call 863-342-8013 or contact Hope Connections.

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**Public Notice**

following household/Misc items property will take place at Fort Knox Self Storage 1025 Commerce Dr LaBelle FL December 29, 2018 11:00 am. This public sale requires a \$50.00 cash deposit on all winning bids. 863-675-1025

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**Chris/Katherine Dion**  
**Melissa Candia**  
**Matthew Whidden**  
**Dorothy Williams**  
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**Public Notice**

**Public Notice**

**INVITATION TO RESPOND TO THE REQUEST FOR BID PROPOSALS BY GERBER GROVES WATER CONTROL DISTRICT FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF ONE OR MORE PUMP STATIONS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT RESPONSES WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE GERBER GROVES WATER CONTROL DISTRICT (THE "DISTRICT") AT JOHNSON-PREWITT AND ASSOCIATES, INC., ATTN: SOMMER FOSTER, 850 WEST VENTURA AVENUE, CLEWISTON, FLORIDA 33440, OR SFOSTER@JOHNSONPREWITT.COM (EMAIL) OR (863) 983-9854 (FAX) UNTIL 2:00 P.M., MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2019. THE RESPONSES MUST CONTAIN ONE (1) COPY OF THE COMPLETED RESPONSE DOCUMENTS. THE PURPOSE OF THE DISTRICT'S RECEIPT OF RESPONSES WILL BE TO SELECT AN INDIVIDUAL/FIRM WHO IS INTERESTED AND QUALIFIED TO PERFORM THE MANUFACTURING AND INSTALLATION OF ONE OR MORE PUMP STATIONS FOR THE DISTRICT PURSUANT TO THE DISTRICT'S SPECIFICATIONS. INTERESTED RESPONDERS MAY OBTAIN A PACKET OF INFORMATION SPECIFYING DETAILS REGARDING THE RESPONSE AND SELECTION PROCESS AT JOHNSON-PREWITT AND ASSOCIATES, INC., 850 WEST VENTURA AVENUE, CLEWISTON, FLORIDA 33440, TELEPHONE NUMBER (863) 983-9188, EMAIL ADDRESS SFOSTER@JOHNSONPREWITT.COM, OR FAX NUMBER (863) 983-9854. ANY RESPONSE RECEIVED AFTER THE RESPONSE DEADLINE OF 2:00 P.M., MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2019, WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. RESPONSES DELAYED FOR ANY REASON SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED. LATE RESPONSES WILL BE RETURNED TO THE RESPONDENT. FAXED AND ELECTRONICALLY MAILED RESPONSES WILL BE ACCEPTED. THE DISTRICT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL RESPONSES IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION. THE DISTRICT ALSO RESERVES THE RIGHT TO WAIVE IRREGULARITIES AND TECHNICALITIES AND TO READVERTISE FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSES. ALL COSTS AND EXPENSES RELATED TO PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF A RESPONSE ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE RESPONDER. THE DISTRICT DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF AGE, RACE, COLOR, SEX, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, DISABILITY, OR MARITAL STATUS.

305346 CN 12/12/2018 CB 12/20/2018

**Public Notice**

**Public Notice**

**SPECIAL NOTICE FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE**

Pursuant to Florida statutes chapter 590.125, be advised that the **FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE** will be conducting fuel treatment (control burning, mowing or chipping) in selected parcels in the following designated areas during the period November 1, 2018-December 31, 2019. These treatments are for reducing the fire occurrence hazard and to establish fuel continuity breaks.

- Township 42 - Range 29** - Sections-32
- Township 43 - Range 28** - Sections-1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,27,28,29,30 and 31
- Township 43 - Range 29** - Sections - 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,33 and 34
- Township 43 - Range 30** - Sections-1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,32,33,34,35 and 36
- Township 43 - Range 31** - Sections - 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,27,28,33,34, and 35
- Township 43 - Range 32** - Sections - 6,7,18,19,20,29,30,31 and 32
- Township 43 - Range 34** - Sections - 7,8,9,10,11,13,14,15,16,17,18,20,21,22,23,24,25 and 26
- Township 44 - Range 28** - Sections - 6,7,18,19,30, and 31
- Township 44 - Range 29** - Sections - 4,9,14,15 and 16
- Township 44 - Range 32** - Sections - 13,14,15,22,23,24,25,26,27,34,35 and 36
- Township 44 - Range 33** - Sections - 5,6,7,8 west half of 18,19,20,30,31 and 32
- Township 45 - Range 29** - Sections - 8,9,16,17,20,21,26,27,28,29,32,33,34 and 35
- Township 48- Range 33** - Section - 9

If your real property is not located in the designated areas above, you need not concern yourself with this matter. Otherwise if you should have any objections or questions, please direct them to the:

FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE  
 10941 Palm Beach Blvd.  
 Fort Myers, FL 33905

304521 CB 12/20,27/2018

Shop here first! The classified ads help you understand the world around you. Reading a newspaper helps you understand the world around you. No wonder newspaper readers are more successful people!

## Community Briefs

### Widows Support Group

The Widows Support Group will meet at the Log Cabin Bar-BQ on **December 20 at 11:30 a.m.** All widows welcome.

### Garden Club to meet

LaBelle Garden Club is hosting their Christmas Pot-Luck Dinner, **Thursday, December 20**, at The Womans Club, next to ACE Hardware on SR80. Arrive and mingle 4:30+; Dinner will be served at 5:15. Everyone welcome, bring friends and neighbors too. Check out the LabelleGardenClub.org website which is chock full of information on the unique conditions of gardening in LaBelle. For more information call Nikki at 239-564-2005 or Christine at 207-745-9872.

### Office closed

The Hendry County Property Appraiser's Office will be closed on Dec. 24 and Dec. 25 in observance of the Christmas Holiday. We will also be closed on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 in observance of the New Year's Holiday.

### Christmas Dinners Delivered:

The American Legion Post 130 is taking the names, addresses & phone numbers of veterans, disabled, seniors, shut-ins, or individuals that are otherwise unable to fix a hot meal on Christmas Day. Dinners are delivered Christmas morning from western Hendry County to Pioneer Plantation, and between Felda and Palmdale, plus Muse, someone must be home to receive meals. Please call the Post by Saturday, Dec. 22nd at 863-675-8300 to leave name, address, phone # and number of meals to be delivered on Christmas morning. Volunteers are appreciated on Christmas morning to package and deliver meals between 9-12. Any donations for this event are appreciated and may be made payable to "American Legion Post 130," and sent to 699 W Hickpochee Ave, LaBelle 33935. Merry Christmas.

### VFW POST 10100 Events

- Dec. 21, Fri.** Two Sharps Karaoke and Pot Luck Dinner Activities Begin at 5:00 p.m.
- Dec. 25, Tues.** Christmas Day Post will open from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Bring a Covered Dish.
- Dec. 29, Sat.** DJ NITE with Razors Edge begins at 5:00 p.m.
- Dec. 31, Mon.** Early Bird New Year Celebration, Open Juke Box from 5 p.m.-7 p.m., Specialty Drinks and bring finger food.
- Jan. 4, Fri.** Meat Loaf Dinner, serving will begin at 5:00 p.m., Cost is \$8.00.
- Jan. 5, Sat.** Karaoke with Chris and Betty Ann begins at 5:00 p.m.
- Jan. 8, Tues.** Pizza with Roy from Noon til? Buy by the slice or order a whole Pizza. Many choices of toppings. Call ahead 863-675-8008.
- Jan. 11, Fri.** Fried Pork Chop Dinner, serving will begin at 5:00 p.m., cost is \$8.00.
- Jan. 12, Sat.** Razors Edge is in the House. Music begins at 5:00 p.m.
- Jan.18, Fri.** Two Sharps Karaoke and Pot Luck Dinner, Activities Begin at 5:00 p.m. Every Tues. Free pool table from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. 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, Sat. 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 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. \$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. 11:00a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

1st Thursday of every month House Committee Meeting at 6:00 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. Open to the public

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

Hall rental available to the PUBLIC. We

**Tree Removal / Trimming**



- Tree Trimming & Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Shaping & Topping

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**Public Notice**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROBATE DIVISION  
File No. 18-CP-138**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF BERNARD W RUSSE,  
Deceased.**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the estate of BERNARD W RUSSE, deceased, whose date of death was April 4, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court of Hendry County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 25 East Hickpochee Avenue, LaBelle, FL 33935. The names and addresses of the personal representatives and the personal representatives' attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOT WITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is December 20th, 2018.

Co-Personal Representatives:  
Terry Alan Russe  
P.O. Box 64085  
Pipe Creek, TX 78063

Deborah Russe Gonzalez  
P.O. Box 2745  
Lancaster, N.C. 29721

Attorney for Personal Representative:  
Steven C. Spence, Esq.  
Florida Bar No. 85444  
PO Box 2369  
LaBelle, FL 33975  
admin@spencelegal.com  
Phone: 863-675-5776  
Fax: 239-931-3560  
305219 CB 12/29,26/2018

are a Smoke Free Dining Room. We are located on Hwy 29 next to the Rodeo Grounds. For further information call 863-675-8008

### Support group meets

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Recovery Support Group is led by trained facilitators living in recovery themselves. NAMI Connection recovery support groups are for adults (18 years and older)

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Predicament
  - 5 \*1-9-Across
  - 9 Mutual fund charge
  - 13 Up to it
  - 14 Prefix with plasm
  - 15 2013 Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient
  - 17 Nocturnal critter
  - 18 Source
  - 19 Adams' "Nixon in China," for one
  - 20 Handled vessel
  - 22 Pouches
  - 24 Orch. section
  - 25 Site of unexpected change?
  - 27 Didn't trick, maybe
  - 29 See 62-Down
  - 32 With 49-Across, bad break ... and what each answer to a starred clue creates vis-à-vis the answers that define it
  - 34 Prayer set to music by Schubert and Gounod
  - 36 Choice to sleep on
  - 40 Diva highlights
  - 41 Distillery founder John
  - 44 "Ray Donovan" star Schreiber
  - 45 Aptly named bird
  - 47 Italian almond cookies
  - 49 See 32-Across
  - 52 British pen pal's last letter?
  - 53 Part of a Buddhist monk's ordination
  - 56 Ridge just below the surface
  - 58 "Father of," in Arabic
  - 59 Intellectual
  - 61 Place where cheap shots are a good thing
  - 65 Allow to attack
  - 67 Dagwood's annoying little friend
  - 69 Inflict on
  - 70 1985 Chemistry co-Nobelist Jerome
  - 71 "Avatar" race
  - 72 Always
- DOWN**
- 1 Overdue, as pay
  - 2 Instrument to which an orchestra tunes
  - 3 Bushels
  - 4 Pitchers' places
  - 5 White-faced cattle breed
  - 6 Roxy Music co-founder
  - 7 Stirs
  - 8 Knish filling
  - 9 Unfastens
  - 10 Up and down, say: Abbr.
  - 11 "Give it \_\_\_"
  - 12 Puccini's "Vissi \_\_\_"
  - 16 Stern
  - 21 Like "la vida" in a Ricky Martin hit
  - 23 French vineyard
  - 26 Gallic girlfriend
  - 28 Jane Eyre's charge
  - 29 \*1-/53-Down
  - 30 Declare
  - 31 Where to find a hero
  - 33 Play with, in a way
  - 35 Irritates
  - 37 Cheese holder

living with mental illness and provide a safe, confidential environment that offers respect, understanding, encouragement, and hope. All Connection groups are free of charge and open to anyone with a mental illness, regardless of diagnosis. You do not need to be a member of NAMI to attend and anyone interested is welcome to just walk in. Meetings will be on Tuesdays from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Elite DNA, Therapy Services meeting room, 483 E. Cowboy Way, LaBelle.

- 38 Idée source
- 39 \*16-/64-Down
- 42 Russia-China border river
- 43 Numismatist's find
- 46 Reliant soul
- 48 Casting aid
- 50 Constellation near Scorpius
- 51 Bind
- 53 Converse
- 54 West Indian folk religion
- 55 \_\_\_ Sweet: aspartame
- 57 Friend of Che
- 60 Where Goliath was slain
- 62 With 29-Across, Balkan city on the Danube
- 63 Rte. through Houston
- 64 Reactor part
- 66 Will Smith title role
- 68 DIII doubled

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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xwordeditor@aol.com 02/06/15

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By Paul Coulter ©2015 Tribune Content Agency, LLC 02/06/15





Submitted photo

### Sing-A-Long at Firehouse

On Sunday, December 16, the Firehouse Community Theatre proudly held their 4th annual Christmas Sing-A-Long to benefit Toys for Tots. Attendees either brought an unwrapped toy or made a \$10 donation for admittance to the theatre to sing traditional songs of the holiday season. Nick Fianza directed the crowd and provided historical information about the songs. John Wall played the piano and even Santa and Mrs. Claus attended the event and handed out candy canes! The theatre collected 13 toys and almost \$200 to benefit Toys for Tots. LEFT: Brian & Brenda Barnes, and Christina Guerra greeting guests with a smile! RIGHT: Some of the attendees singing Christmas carols, Front left: Georgie & Bill Bowers and front right, Terri Lazar, Center: Donna Baines, Gail Cuello, Jesse Cuello and Rick Pope. Back row: Asley Corbitt and daughter Rhett.

## Now Accepting New Patients

### Betsabee Castillo Guerrero, MD



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Betsabee Castillo Guerrero, MD is accepting new patients at our First Choice Kidcare office located at: 930 S. Main St., LaBelle, FL 33935

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SPECIAL FULL TUNE UP INCLUDES BOTH COILS CLEANED IN PLACE, ALL ELECTRICAL COMPONENTS CHECKED, LEAK CHECK, DRAIN CLEANING AND DRAIN PAN ADDITIVE TO PREVENT MOLD AND SLIME BUILD-UP, FREON BALANCE WITH FIRST POUND OF FREON FREE, AND SERVICE CALL! CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT!  
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## Community Briefs

### American Legion Events:

Happy Hour Monday - Saturday 11a-4p; Lounge opens 10 a.m. M-Sat; 12 noon on Sunday.

(Fish Fries are held every Friday)

**December 21,28 - Friday - 5-7 p.m.** Fish Fry with assortment of fish, shrimp, crabcakes & 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.

**December 25 (Tuesday)** Home Cooked Christmas Dinner delivered to Veterans, shut-ins & needy who are not able to spend Christmas with family or friends. Call the Legion at 863-675-8300 with Name, Address, Phone number and number of meals. Must be home for delivery. Western Hendry

County to Pioneer Plantation, Felda to Palm-dale and Muse. Volunteers needed from 8:30-11:30. Come spread the Holiday Cheer.

**January 13 - Sunday - Breakfast Buffet 8-11** The American Legion Auxiliary is hosting their famous Breakfast Buffet, 8-11 a.m. \$8 - Biscuits & gravy, eggs, casseroles, bacon, sausage, French toast, fruit, orange juice, coffee. Open to the Public. Everyone welcome, bring your family, friends and neighbors to enjoy a terrific breakfast.

"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)

**December 20 - Thurs - 7 p.m.** - American Legion & American Legion Auxiliary meets

**January 2 - Wed - 6:30 p.m.** American Legion Riders meeting

**January 3 - Thurs - 6 p.m.** DAV (Disabled American Veterans) meeting

**January 9 - 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 information call 863-675-8300. Dining room is smoke free and Public is Welcome.

### Two Hendry County Christmas Bird Counts

Volunteer counters, compilers, and photographers are welcome at the Hendry County Christmas Bird Counts. The 12th Annual Hendry-Glades Audubon CBC at STA 5/6-Clewiston (FLSO) will be held on

**Saturday December 29 at 7 a.m.** Meet at the STA 5/6 Blumberg Road Gate. The Deer Fence Entrance is closed for ongoing construction. The 2st Annual Okaloacoochee Slough/Spirit of the Wild (FLOS) Christmas Bird Count will be held on **Thursday January 3, 2019**. Meet at 7 a.m. at the Keri Fire Tower on CR 832. To volunteer to join a count team contact: Margaret England cell/text 863-517-0202 or [sta5birding@embarq-mail.com](mailto:sta5birding@embarq-mail.com).

### Offices closing

Please be advised that the Hendry County Property Appraiser, Hendry County Tax Collector and Hendry County Elections Office will be closing on **Dec. 31** to follow suit with the Governors decision to close all state offices for the New Years Holiday.

# REAL ESTATE DIRECTORY

## Riverside

R·E·A·L·E·S·T·A·T·E, I·N·C.

**BRAND NEW** -Fully Furnished manufactured home on 2.5 acres with semi custom features and upgrades including cabinetry, stainless steel appliances, lighting and island with breakfast bar.

Situated on a very well manicured 2.5 acre property, completely fenced plus brand new storage shed. **PRICE REDUCED - \$174,900**

**BRICK HOME** - Beautiful 4+ Bd / 2Ba 2 car garage with over 2100 Sqft. Front porch with screen back lanai. Home situated on corner lot with new roof on 2017 and much more !! **REDUCED \$229,000**

**RIVERFRONT HOME** - Great 3Bd / 2Ba home with remodeled kitchen and new metal roof in 2016! **\$139,900**

**MUSE HOME** - This 3Bd / 2Ba with over 1500 sqft home situated on 4.27 acres built in 1997. Custom fire place! Property is fenced / Crossed fenced. **\$239,900**

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SE HABLA ESPAÑOL • Chelo Lopez - Lic. Real Estate Broker

### HOMES



Completely remodeled 3/2 manufactured home on 4.84+/- acres in Ft. Denaud Acres. New kitchen cabinets, granite countertops, flooring and CBS outside building with 4 bays and 16ft ceilings **\$240,000.**



3/2 waterfront home in Caloosa Harbor subdivision. features include 2,344+/- sq. ft. of living area, tile & hardwood floors, formal dining room/office with French doors, 2 car garage and lots more. **\$295,900.**

• Waterfront home in Caloosa Harbor Subdivision. Features 3/2.5, 2 car garage with over 3,500 sq +/- living area. Truly a beauty **\$625,000.**

• 4/2.5 manufactured home on 4.52+/- outside of LaBelle. 1,728+/- sq. ft. of living area, spacious bedrooms and kitchen **\$169,900.**

• Handyman **SOLD** manufactured home on 2.18+/- acres in La Ranches. Needs some TLC. **\$69,000.**

### LOTS

• 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-1-2. **\$125,000.**

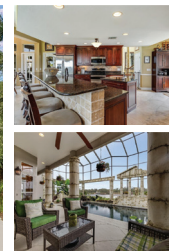
• 89 acre oak filled waterfront lot in Caloosa Harbour S/D with river access. **\$79,000.**

Please visit our website at [www.newhorizons-re.com](http://www.newhorizons-re.com)  
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**New Horizons**  
Real Estate Corp.

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Associates - Delia Miners,  
Mona Tanner  
Se Habla Espanol

**ENJOY RIVER VIEWS FROM THIS SOUTHERN PLANTATION HOME WITH PRIVATE BALCONIES, LAGOON-STYLE POOL AND SPA, AND DOCK WITH 3 LIFTS!** Custom-designed 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath home with metal galvalume roof, soaring cathedral ceilings, a Disneyland-style caged pool and spa set in an expansive lanai with outdoor kitchen, and dock with 10,000 lb lift and two Jetski lifts. Home features impact resistant windows, arched windows, French and sliding doors for dynamic views, an upstairs observation porch and private balconies for almost every room. Old Fort Denaud Subdivision is deed restricted with a private road. **\$895,000**



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Sherri Denning Licensed Real Estate Broker.

**Associates:** Beverly Curtis, Dottie Seibel, Emily A. Bates, Randy Williams, Susan Mercedes, Denise Walker, Gregory Bone, Lisa Cleghorn, Nikki Yeager, KC Stanley-Lynn and Wayne Simmons.

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

#### Chicken Marsala Ingredients

- 6 boneless, skinless chicken breast
- Salt and pepper to taste
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- 1 & ½ sticks of butter, divided
- ¾ cup Marsala Wine
- 1 cup chicken stock
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- ½ cup shredded Parmesan cheese
- ½ cup sliced mushrooms

#### Preparation:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Flatten chicken breast to 1/8" to 1/4" thickness. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Dredge in flour. In skillet over med-high heat, saute chicken in 1 stick of butter (using as needed) 4 to 5 minutes each side. Remove from heat and transfer to a 13 x 9" baking pan. Stir wine and chicken stock into skillet drippings. Simmer 10 minutes. In smaller pan over medium heat, saute mushrooms in remaining butter. Spoon mushrooms over chicken. Combine cheeses and sprinkle over mushrooms and chicken. Cover with sauce and bake 10 to 12 minutes. Remove from heat and place under broiler for 1 to 2 minutes.

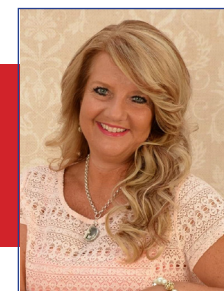


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*Proudly serving LaBelle!*

12928 Palm Beach Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33905

## Community Briefs

### American Legion Auxiliary Breakfast Buffet

Sunday, January 13, 2019, the American Legion Auxiliary is hosting their famous Breakfast Buffet, 8-11 a.m. \$8 – Biscuits & gravy, eggs, casseroles, bacon, sausage, French toast, fruit, orange juice, coffee at the American Legion Post 130 at 699 W. SR80 across from the Shell Station. Open to the Public. Everyone welcome to the smoke

free dining room. Bring your family, friends and neighbors to enjoy a terrific breakfast.

### Impacted by Hurricane Irma?

Homeowners and rental property owners encouraged to register now through **December 23**, for assistance to repair, rebuild or replace homes damaged by Hurricane Irma. Register online at [www.RebuildFlorida.gov](http://www.RebuildFlorida.gov) or contact our Customer Center at 844-833-1010. Come see us at our mobile

intake center visiting your community! Bus schedule below; Hours of Operation: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. **Thursday, December 20—Friday, December 21 only.** The mobile intake center will not be in LaBelle Saturday. LaBelle City Hall | 481 W. Hickpochee Ave., LaBelle, FL 33935.

Impactado por el Huracán Irma? Proprietarios de viviendas y dueños de propiedades alquiladas son alentados a registrarse ahora hasta el 23 de diciembre de 2018 para

recibir asistencia para reparar, reconstruir o reemplazar viviendas dañadas por el Huracán Irma. Regístrese en línea visitando [www.RebuildFlorida.gov](http://www.RebuildFlorida.gov) o llame 844-833-1010. ¡Venga a vernos a nuestro centro de admisión móvil que está llegando a su comunidad! Horas de operación: 9AM-5PM Jueves, Diciembre 20—Viernes Diciembre 21 LaBelle City Hall | 481 W. Hickpochee Ave., LaBelle, FL 33935.



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For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given;  
And the government will be upon His shoulders.

And His name will be called

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Isaiah 9:6

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

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