



Clewiston News

Serving America's Sweetest Town since 1928
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50¢

Clubs and meetings Arrest blotter



Local arrests page 3

Project Graduation

A Project Graduation meeting for the Class of 2009 will be held at the Clewiston Youth Center for all parents of Clewiston High School seniors. This meeting will take place on Nov. 10 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Donate your can goods

Hendry - Glades Behavioral Health Center needs your unwanted food items to prepare for Thanksgiving. Baskets for needy families again this year. Please donate anything you can. Remember, all donations are tax deductible. For more information, please call, Ana Rivera at 863-228-4898.

Sugar Dolls

The Clewiston Sugar Dolls Baton, Pom-pom and Dance classes will be held every Wednesday at Central Elementary School. The classes are from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Advanced classes are from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. The second class is also for middle and high school students. For more information please call Jackie Tucker at 863-993-0083 or by fax 863-993-9740.

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Lake Level

14.72 feet
above sea level

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See Page 2 for information about how to contact the newspaper.

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Whidden new Hendry sheriff

Political newcomer Steve Whidden defeats Ronnie Lee

By Jose Jesus Zaragoza
Clewiston News

HENDRY COUNTY -- Steve Whidden, who most recently served as an officer with the Clewiston Police Department, defeated longtime Sheriff Ronnie Lee for the county's top law enforcement position on Tuesday.

Mr. Whidden, who opponents argued lacked the experience for the job, captured the majority of the votes of residents that night.

Mr. Whidden ran a successful campaign that promised citizens a fundamental change within the operation of the county department -- a department that is challenged by a shrinking budget and overcrowded jail system.

Both Mr. Whidden and Mr. Lee were unavailable for comment.

Drawn to polling places to

cast their selection for United States president, nearly 65 percent of all registered voters in the county exercised their right to vote in this election, an increase of eight percent from the previous presidential race in 2004.

Hendry County went to John McCain, with 52 percent of the vote, although Barack Obama easily captured the nationwide race.

In a razor-thin contest, Phillip Pelletier defeated Kristina A. Kulpa for property appraiser.

The .05 percentile difference -- a total of five votes -- was the deciding factor in this race, but election officials say that such a negligible amount automatically qualifies for a recount. Officials have eight days to conduct the recount.

Another closely watched race was that of superintendent of schools. Rick Murphy defeated Robert Egley by capturing 58 percent of the votes cast.

And a contentious Clewiston referendum was narrowly ap-

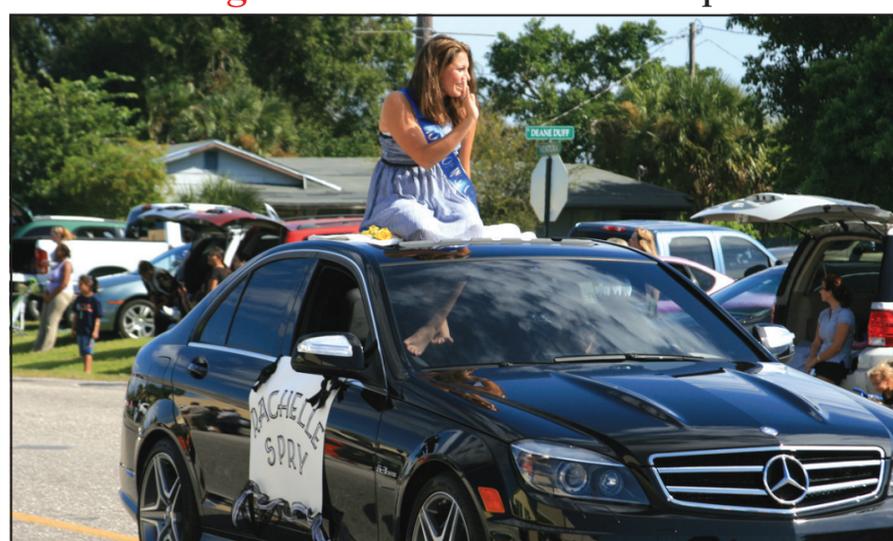
proved by voters, 52.25 percent voting yes, 47.75 percent voting no to a change in the charter that firmly establishes the city manager/commissioner form of government in Clewiston.

In other races:

- Barbara Cox Butler defeated Jennifer Davis for clerk of court, with 54 percent of the vote
- Janet Taylor retains her seat as county commissioner district

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Homecoming: Clewiston celebrates with parade



Many residents came out on Friday, Oct. 31 to celebrate Clewiston High School's Homecoming Game. The celebration proved worthwhile, with the Tigers edging out the visiting team later that night.

INI/Ashley Smith



Various creative displays were on hand at the Tigers' Homecoming Parade last Friday. The parade was a perfect way to start off Halloween day.

INI/Ashley Smith

Consideration to license all handymen

By Patty Brant
INI Florida

Community Development Director Vince Cautero brought a suggestion to consider including a "handyman" category for inclusion under the Construction Licensing Board (CLB).

At present, handymen are not licensed by the county, there is no oversight and no definition of their scope of work. He said the CLB is recommending that the ordinance be amended to include handymen with regard to oversight, the scope of work allowable; required experience and examination requirements; financial responsibility and good character of the applicant; and liability and workers' compensation insurance coverage.

The board voted unanimously to amend the current construction board ordinance to cover handymen. At present, handymen are only required to have an occupational license.

Pioneer Park a no go

Director of Grants and Special Projects Ron Zimmerly reported on the Oct. 24 meeting in Pioneer Plantation to discuss a proposed Off Highway Vehicle park. He reported that the majority of the community is opposed to the park, citing issues like noise pollution, law enforcement problems with riders and inadequate access to the site.

Although some Pioneer residents and other Hendry County residents do want a place to

ride, they felt the Pioneer site was too small to be appropriate.

Mr. Zimmerly raised the prospect of working with Lee County on a joint site, but the commissioners felt it would only benefit Lee and Collier residents.

Commissioner Kevn McCarthy preferred not to make a decision immediately, but to look at other sites and opportunities.

Commissioner Harris felt any such park should be self-supporting.

Dance hall approved

Azteca Supercenter, SR 29S, requested a special exception to allow a dance hall on the premises. It had been the site of a dance hall previously. Hours of operation are to be Monday-Thursday 4-10 p.m., Friday-Sunday 9 p.m.-2 a.m. After discussion, the request was approved 3-1, with Commissioner Darrell Harris voting nay. Mr. Harris was concerned about possible law enforcement patrolling problems.

In other business:

The board approved a Planned Unit Development zoning ordinance to allow water management, asphalt, concrete and horticultural recycling operations on a 32-acre site on SR 82 in Felda, on the north side of the Hendry-Lee line.

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Old South BBQ resurrected

Former cook serves up a long-gone menu

By Jose Jesus Zaragoza
Clewiston News

CLEWISTON -- What is good barbecue?

Is it the way it's cooked ... or prepared? Is it based on how rich the color is on the surface? Or the way that it smells being set on the table? Is it the price, or the speed with which it comes?

The owners of the Clewiston Inn say they have the answer. They know what good bar-

becue is, and his name is Skinner. Colbert Skinner.

A rarity in a world of homogeneity, Mr. Skinner is a dying breed: A cook since the tender (pun intended) age of 16, Mr. Skinner allows no shortcuts in his preparation of fine barbecue.

The only items frozen in his kitchen at the historic inn are the ice cubes and his closest friends are bundles of brisket, found in abundance right before lunchtime at the establishment. You won't find large, industrial machines that do all the cooking, you'll find Skinner, working away at injecting as much flavor into dishes as beef will allow.

"He's a local legend," said Floyd Salkey, who along with partner Yasir Khan, owns and manages the inn. "He always sells out at festivals and he is a great addition to our team."

Years ago, and the reason many argue Clewiston was on the map, signs all across U.S. 27 announced to motorists that they were nearing Old South's BBQ. Some traveled quite a ways to enjoy the food, and Skinner was there to help make sure they left happy.

Through the years, the establishment exchanged hands, and an absentee owner let the

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Yasir Khan, left, and Floyd Salkey are hoping that customers will return to the barbecue that made Clewiston so famous years ago.

INI/Ashley Smith

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