

The Clewiston News

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2011

VOL. 85 - NUMBER 123 - 50¢

HCSO: Young Man Kills Granddad

CAPE CORAL
MURDER LEADS BACK TO
CLEWISTON; STATE
CONSIDERS VENUE FOR
MURDER TRIAL

*No drugs in man's
system*

BY JOSE JESUS ZARAGOZA
jzaragoza@newszap.com

In the days following the news of a gruesome murder in Cape Coral involving two Clewiston men, the community deals with lingering questions.

In the middle of the tragic incident is a family coping with the death of John Drake, 84, who was,



Clinton Drake.

SEE CRIME • 19



Miss Latina of the Glades Winter Fashion Show



PHOTO / JUAN LOPEZ

One of the contestants for the 2012 Miss Latina of the Glades crown, Katherine Chang displays her Christmas outfit during the first night of the show. For full story, turn to page 20.

Thieves Target, Take Christmas Loot

Non-profit group for kids targeted

BY JOSE JESUS ZARAGOZA
jzaragoza@newszap.com

A dastardly deed threatens Christmas for a local non-profit group and indirectly, many needy children in the community.

Brenda Holcomb struggled tearfully to recount an act of thievery targeting the group she volunteers her time to, the Active Citizens for Children.

Near or around the beginning of last week, a thief -- or perhaps even

more than one, police do not yet know -- broke into the non-profit group's storage unit in Clewiston.

The criminals took things that might have been worthless to most, but for ACFC represented essential items necessary for their major yearly campaign for kids. Among the items that were snatched just a few weeks before Christmas were a child's bicycle, Christmas props and even a Santa seat.

As she thought about the group's flagship program, the annual Winter Wonderland event, approaching, Ms. Holcomb could not hide the hurt she felt.

"I've cried for the last hour," said Brenda. "They took everything. They went in and cleaned it out."

Brenda has been a member of ACFC since 2006, when she was named president of the group. In the years since, the group has been among the most active in the community in finding worthwhile activities for children.

"We work really hard to get what we have. Just give it back to us," said Brenda. "Our main goal is to do stuff for the community, for the kids who

SEE THIEVES • 12

Clewiston Theater Under New Ownership

Promises faster
releases, better
viewing experience

BY JUAN LOPEZ
jlopez@newszap.com

It didn't take long for the Clewiston Theater to find a new owner and that new owner is promising a whole new experience for Clewiston.

After being closed down in September by the former owners, the Manns, the new owner, Russell Brannon, has taken over with vast experience at running a movie theater. Brannon owns several movie theaters throughout the country; most of them are small town theaters. When he first saw the theater, he knew that it had great potential and that it shouldn't be in the run-down state that it was in.

Brannon listened to many complaints and suggestions that the community offered about how the theater was handled and operated by the previous owners. Some of the changes he is making and has made are: better seating arrangements so that the seats aren't close to the screen, better picture and sound quality, new release (first run) movies will be readily available, cheaper prices for both tickets and concessions, and open seven days a week.

"You can't get big city prices from small town venues," he said. "I want people to come to the theater and now that they are getting the most for their money."

During the weekdays, he wants to have special feature nights such as oldies, guys and girls nights, parent's night off, etc. These feature nights will play several movies for a flat rate

SEE THEATER • 19

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COMMUNITY NEWS AND INFORMATION

Annual Christmas Luncheon

The Annual Christmas Luncheon for all seniors in our community will be Saturday, Dec. 10, at 12 p.m., at First United Methodist Church. Volunteers to help serve are welcome and needed. For more information or to help, call Janet Taylor at 863-228-0612 or 863-983-5269.

Clewiston Animal Control

Join the Clewiston Animal Control on Dec. 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to make a donation and get your photo taken with your pet.

Donations can include: cash, blankets, pet beds (new or used), towels and food. They are located at 410 W. Arroyo.

Mini Health Fair

- Clewiston Senior Center on Tuesday, Dec. 20, at 11:30 a.m.
- Okeechobee Landings on Tuesday, Dec. 20, at 10:45 a.m.
- KOA on Wednesday, Dec. 28, at 1:30 p.m.

Christmas Cantata

There will be a Clewiston Christmas Cantata on Saturday, Dec. 10, and Sunday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. It will be held in the John Boy Auditorium at 1200 South W.C. Owen Ave.

The cantata will feature a 60-voice choir presenting "The Majesty of Christmas" by Tom Fettke, accompanied by a live orchestration. BKids will meet in the Beardsley Room while parents can listen to the cantata in the auditorium.

First Christian's Christmas Schedule

First Christian Church is announcing the following Christmas Activities. On Dec. 14, at 7 p.m., the church will be holding its Annual Hope Service 2012. At this service members will be reviewing the accomplishments and activities of 2011 and setting goals for 2012. On Dec. 21, at 6 p.m., the church will be having its Annual Christmas Banquet. This will be followed by the Annual "Candlelight Carol Service" at 7 p.m. This program includes twelve Readers, Special Christmas Music and the singing of most of the familiar Christmas Carols. On Dec. 24 at 7 p.m., the church will be having a Christmas Eve Service. The Church Choir will be singing their musical, "A Candlelight Christmas".

The Caloosa Federated Republican Women

The Caloosa Federated Republican Women is hosting an open house at Don's Steak House in the Lounge on Thursday, Dec. 15, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Candidates for Sheriff are invited to attend and introduce themselves. Please respond to Shirley at 863-675-2915 or e-mail skdooley@embarqmail.com.

Nursing Home Love Tree

The Clewiston Ministerial Association is working with First United Methodist Church and other individuals in the community to help make

Christmas special for the residents of our local nursing home. Call Alice at 863-983-5269 or stop by First United Methodist Church of Clewiston to get a name to adopt. Wrapped gifts with the names attached should be returned to First United Methodist Church by Thursday, Dec. 15.

FIU Scholarship for Hispanic Students

FIU's Agroecology Program will award more than \$330,000 in scholarships to Hispanic students by Dec. 15. FIU plans to give away 15 scholarships worth as much as \$24,000 each to fund research, service-learning projects, professional networking activities and internships.

Applicants must be current or prospective FIU students, United States citizens and of Hispanic origin. If you would like to know more, please visit www.news.fiu.edu/2011/11/agroecology-program-to-award-more-than-330000-in-scholarships/33317. To arrange an interview with the Agroecology Program manager or director, please contact Evelyn S. Perez at 305-348-4493 or esuperez@fiu.edu at the following information.

First Christian Celebrates 55th Anniversary

Many winter residents have worshiped with First Christian during the tourist season. The church sponsors two big events in January which they are planning again in 2012. The first is a Fish Fry to welcome back the winter residents. This

will be held Saturday, Jan. 14, from 4 to 7 p.m.

The second event is The Hallelujah Hoedown which will be held Jan. 27 to 29 at 7 p.m.

During the Christmas Season the church is planning a Christmas Banquet for Wednesday, Dec. 21, at 6 p.m., followed by Christmas Carol Candlelight Service. On Christmas Eve, which will be on Saturday, the church will be having a brief Christmas Eve Service, featuring a Christmas Musical and Nativity by the Choir.

AA Meetings

St. Martins Episcopal Church is holding AA meetings on Monday and Wednesday at 7 p.m. They will be held at 207 North W.C. Owen Ave. in Clewiston. For more information, please call 239-275-5111.

Worship Service at Port LaBelle Inn

Artie and Dora Carnes are no longer associated with The Glades RV Resort. They continue to direct "Christian Contender Ministries" and they are beginning a Worship Service at The Port LaBelle Inn each Sunday at 10 a.m. Those who are interested in helping with this effort should call Artie at 812-821-3037 or Dora at 812-821-3038.

Flea Market

The VFW Post #4185 is having a continuous indoor-outdoor flea market from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., every weekend. For more information, please call 863-983-9748 or 863-673-3130.

FACEBOOK REACTS TO TRAGEDY

Editor's Note: In the wake of the tragic death of John Drake, residents on The Clewiston News Facebook page responded with their shock, dismay, anger on the death of a man and questions that may never be answered.

"What is happening in this world? Why are people killing their family?"

L. King

"I went to school with Clinton. Never would I ever thought of him doing something like this. He was so sweet and nice. I'm still shocked. But this just goes to show you never really know a person. My prayers are with him and the family."

L. Aviles

"There is nothing my 84-year-old father

could've done to make me do this."

L. Mixon

"Anyone can be "like that" everyone has the ability to lose it and harm someone to this extent. I knew Clinton too and he was always a very docile person. I will keep the Drake family in my prayers."

T. Rachel

"Clint was my classmate ain't know he was like that 'cause he was a very cool person but nobody knows what went on and why he did it. I hope his family is okay and him too. God be with them."

D. Small

"This world gets more and more wicked everyday. God rest his soul."

E. Canty

"It could be true, or it could be just a rumor. Nobody knows the whole situation to say that's not true. And I knew Clint.

He was nice, saw him in Walmart just the other day. I always stopped and said hey. What happened to cause him to do this? I don't know. But I'm not going to pretend like I do. I may have an idea but its not my place or anyone else's on here to talk."

J. Schultz

"We have known Mr. Drake for a long time -- moved from Clewiston close to 20 years ago and was so shocked when we read about this today.

We all need to pray for the whole family for there loss of not only a wonderful man, but also the life of this young grandson who one day will

have to answer to the Lord for what he has done. Lord Hold them close and help them through the rough times to come."

K. Flick

"Why is everybody praying? What, exactly, will that do? Will it make the family feel better? No. Will it help the grandfather? No. Will it help anyone at all?

No. All your praying will do is make you feel you've done something good when you really haven't. You wanna help the family? Give them your condolences. Don't drag it out. Don't over dramatize it.

Don't apologize for it unless it was somehow your fault. Just let them know you're there for them. Whispered words to God won't do anything for them."

M. Hurst

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The Clewiston News welcomes submissions from its readers. Opinions, calendar items, stories, ideas and photographs are welcome. Call (863)983-9148 to reach our newsroom. Items may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed. The deadline for all news items is 12 p.m. Monday prior to the following Thursday's publication.
E-mail: clewnews@newszap.com

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Call (863)983-9148, deadline for all advertising is 12 p.m. Monday for the following Thursday's publication.
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- 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 to the prominence it deserves.
- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

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RELIGION COLUMNS

For Your Christmas Thinking

BY JACKIE MILLER, EVANGELIST
First Christian Church

And there were in the same country husbands and fathers keeping watch over their homes by night by going to work every morning to make lots of money. And lo, the smooth-voiced TV announcer came upon them and the glory shown out at them and they were sore afraid they would never be able to buy all the things their families wanted.

And the TV announcer said unto them, "Fear not, for I bring unto you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all parents, father, mother, child and relative.

For unto you there is this day in the city where our store is a savior which is our credit manager. You shall find this wondrous one wrapped in red clothing, with a big stomach and sporting white whiskers and called Santa Claus. He will be in our credit department where you can charge everything, with no payments until February."

And suddenly there was with the TV announcer a multitude of TV actors, praising the store and saying, "Glory to Santa the mostest and on earth lots of presents to all. And we're open until 9 p.m. every night until Christmas."

And it came to pass that the TV actors faded away into the blood and gore of a high-rating children's program, the fathers and mothers said to one another, "Let us now go even to this store which the TV announcer has made known to us."

And they came with haste, and found glittering wrist watches, fur coats, transistor radios, computers, iPhones, electric can openers, new dresses, and the wondrous one, dressed in red and with fake whiskers and a truly happy smile ... as he sat by the cash register, saying, "Ho, Ho, Ho!"

And when they had made their purchases, they made known among all their friends and neighbors how they were going to have one of the best Christmases ever, but Santa Clause (the credit manager, that is) kept all the time contracts in his safe and pondered on all the interest he was going to collect.

Advent, Preparing, Ingenious Gifts

BY REV. SAM S. THOMAS, PH. D.+
Saint Martin's Church

One Christmas, my daughter wanted a certain popular toy. All of the stores were out; I had tried every store but no luck.

One manager told me that they had been out of them for awhile. All he had were damaged ones to be shipped back. I asked to see them. One of them was chipped, but the chip was still in the box.

"How much?" I asked. The price was one-fifth of the regular price. He had a good compatible glue and I came out with what was needed to make a little girl happy. Her mother wanted a swing-set one year for their front porch. The lumber yards informed me they were discontinued. The nearest one was out too; but one of the clerks

said, "All we have are pieces in the back."

That did it.

Sure enough, there were the instructions for assembly of the one I hoped to find and I sorted parts into piles; trying to gather up enough for as complete assembly as possible. Finally, the sales person said, "Look, you're wasting my time, just take the whole lot and pay me half of what you're looking for."

I did, found enough pieces to assemble two of them and needing only a small slat. That was a special time, too. Those holidays were special to me; I knew I found something my recipients really wanted.

It took effort and ingenuity to get them but it was all worth it. We're getting ready to celebrate another Christmas. Part of the joy is presenting to others something that is more than an off-the-counter gift or gathered up at the last moment. That's hard to do!

The Christmas story is about that kind of gift -- a baby! That's a more-than-special addition in any household. This story is about God saying "Tell you what! I'm going to send you a very, very special gift. I've picked it out for you, something you really need, you probably won't be able to guess what it is, but it will serve you beyond your wildest dreams."

For the couple who had been entrusted with the baby, there were also bumps along the way -- no room at the inn, a long journey due to law imposed by a foreign government during a difficult time when the baby would be due -- but an ingenious innkeeper and a diligent father make the arrangements for the special gift that is to come.

Right now, we are called to prepare for Christmas; that is what this season of Advent is all about

-- getting ready. There are those times when I hoped I made the right preparations for others: Preparing-Advent. As I reflect, God prepared the season to come too.

We've received a gift more useful, greater than we could imagine, something to carry us through. May this be a time to honor God's gift to us through our giving to others and getting ready once more for His coming to us in just a few days.

Christmas Blues

BY PASTOR JOHN HICKS
First United Methodist Church

Although Christmas is supposed to be a time full of joy, good cheer and optimistic hopes for a new year, many people experience blues during this season of red and greens. Instead of being the "most wonderful time of the year" it turns out to be the "cruddiest season of all."

Some seem to be bummed out and can't quite put their finger on the reason for feeling down. Many attribute the blues to being physical reactions caused by excess fatigue and emotional disappointments experienced during these months, as well as the stress.

Some say that these Christmas Blues can result from the holidays seeming to overpromise and under-deliver for a number of people, leaving holiday happiness marked with "Return to Sender."

It is possible, however, that the Holiday Blues come into our lives not because we expect too much out of holidays, rather because we ask too little. Perhaps what we are really seeking is not

happiness, but joy.

Happiness is derived from the root "to happen." Clearly, what happens to us will affect our happiness. Christmastime is full of happenings. There are so many happenings, in fact, that we start to believe that all the activity should add up to happiness.

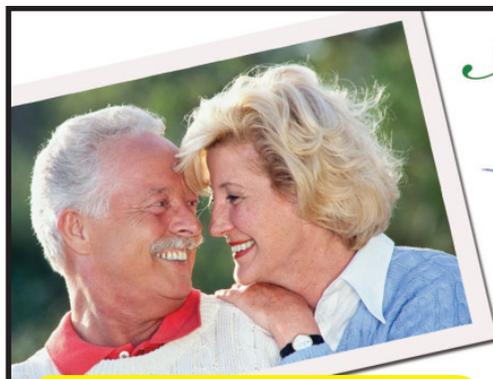
But trying to derive happiness out of activity is much like a dog trying to catch its own tail. The dog can see it, and almost grasp it. Yet as hard as he tries, he will never catch what he desires. What's more, the faster he spins, the dizzier he will become.

Joy, on the other hand, is not dependent on our circumstances, but on God Himself who dwells within us. For the believer, the "tail" of joy will naturally follow us if we simply follow the Master.

During this season, we will see people everywhere, fighting the traffic and the crowds. They are out there in the hustle and bustle of the holidays. Most people love the Christmas season and what it stands for, but some can't see beyond the Christmas trees, the beautiful lights and the expectation of gifts.

The Season of Christmas should be the season in which we truly show our love to others, unselfishly, unequivocally, with fervor! We should be so in love with our God that our faces shine with His presence; our eyes should light up for Him!

People should recognize us as having something they want! And we should be ready to share that special something with them when we have the opportunity! To show love wherever we go and to whomver we come in contact with will drive away the blues of Christmas and bring Joy to the World!



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A 20 percent chance of showers after 11 a.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 74. North wind between 11 and 13 mph.



Friday Night:
A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 65. North wind between 6 and 9 mph.



Sunday:
A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 80.



Thursday Night:
Partly cloudy, with a low around 63. Northeast wind around 9 mph.



Saturday:
A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 80. Breezy, with a north wind between 7 and 16 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.



Sunday Night:
Partly cloudy, with a low around 62.



Friday:
Partly sunny, with a high near 78. East wind around 9 mph.



Saturday Night:
A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 66.



Monday:
Mostly sunny, with a high near 79.



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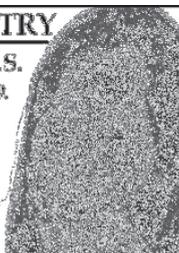
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Florida Highway Patrol Announces Crackdown



SUBMITTED PHOTO

December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month

BY GREG BUENO
FHP

As the fatality rate related to drinking and drugged driving decreases, Gov. Rick Scott, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and safety partners want to keep the downward trend heading in the right direction.

Alcohol and drugs factored into nearly 19,000 crashes last year, leading to more than 13,000 injuries. December is designated as National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month to promote safe driving as many will be traveling to celebrate the holidays with loved ones.

To combat impaired driving, DHSMV has teamed up with the Governor's Office, local law enforcement agencies and safety advocates to educate drivers and to enforce the Driving Under the Influence laws. To emphasize the importance of the issue, Gov. Rick Scott issued a proclamation to recognize 3D Prevention Month in Florida.

"This is the season to celebrate with friends and family," said Governor Scott. "My administration and all of our safety partners across the state of Florida are dedicated to making sure this season is celebrated safely. We plan to lead by example by practicing safe driving habits that include buckling up, driving sober and avoiding distractions while behind the wheel."

"We encourage everyone to plan ahead this holiday season to avoid drinking or drugged driving," said Florida Highway Patrol Director, Col. David Brierton. "The Florida Highway Patrol will participate in the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over national crackdown this month. We are encouraging all drivers to make good decisions."

Quick Facts

- During the four-day New Year's holiday travel period in 2010, 32 people died on Florida's roadways. Of those, 12 were alcohol-related.

- During the four-day Christmas holiday travel period in 2010, 24 people died on Florida's roadways. Of those, eight were alcohol-related.

- Drug-related injuries and fatalities decreased between 2009 and 2010 from 1,090 to 1,063.

Protect Your Family, Your Friends and Yourself

During the holiday season and year-round, take steps to make sure that you and everyone with whom you celebrate avoid driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

- Plan ahead. Always designate a sober driver before any holiday party or celebration begins, or take a taxi or public transportation to/from a party if you plan to drink alcohol. A taxi or bus ride is much cheaper than getting a DUI.

- Take the keys. Do not let a friend drive impaired.

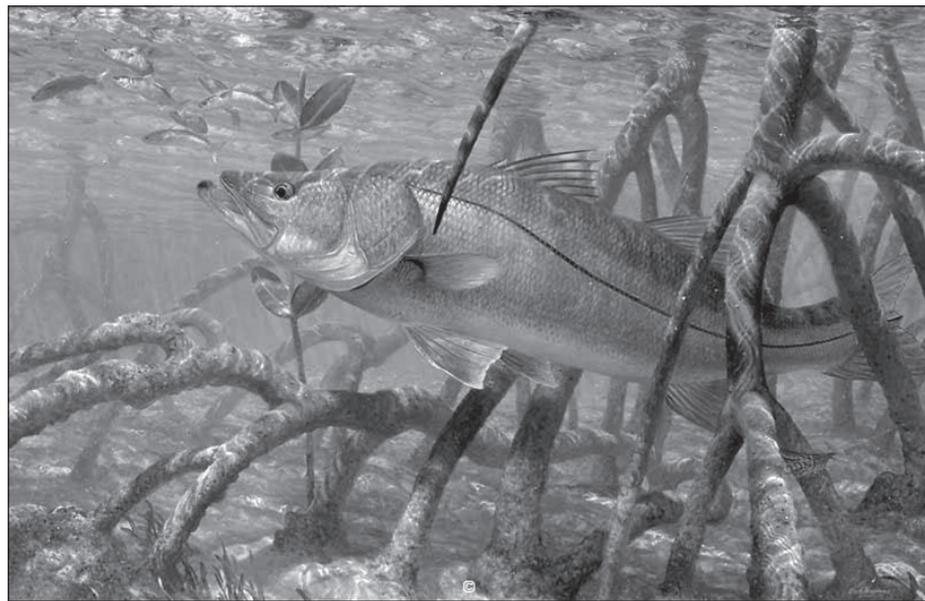
- Be a helpful host. If you are hosting a party this holiday season, remind your guests to plan ahead and designate a sober driver, always offer alcohol-free beverages, and make sure all of your guests leave with a sober driver.

- Mind your meds. Heed the warning labels on prescription medicine bottles because even legal drugs can affect your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

- Dial *FHP (*347) on your cell phone to report an impaired driver.

The Florida Highway Patrol joins law enforcement organizations across the nation this month to remove impaired drivers from the roadways. The Patrol, often working in conjunction with local law enforcement partners, will conduct sobriety checkpoints and aggressively enforce Florida's DUI laws. FHP will participate in the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over impaired driving crack down between Dec. 16, 2011 - Jan. 2, 2012. To learn more about the Patrol and DHSMV, visit www.flhsmv.gov, follow them on Twitter at @FDHSMV or visit their Facebook page.

December Brings Closure Of Snook Season



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lake Okeechobee waters covered in closure

BY AMANDA NALLEY
FWC

The recreational harvest of snook will close in all Atlantic coastal and inland waters, including Lake Okeechobee and the Kissimmee River, beginning Dec. 15. The season will reopen in Atlantic state and federal waters Feb. 1, 2012.

Snook season remains closed in Gulf of Mexico state and federal waters through Aug. 31, 2012, a decision made by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) after prolonged cold weather during the 2009-10 winter that affected snook numbers.

The extended Gulf harvest closure will help protect snook populations this winter, when they are most vulnerable to cold weather, and give snook added protection during next spring and summer's spawning months.

Anglers may still catch and release snook during the harvest closure, and the FWC encourages everyone to handle and release these fish carefully to help ensure their survival upon release.

Snook regulations apply to snook harvested in both state and federal waters off Florida, and no person shall possess any snook caught during snook closed seasons.

For more information regarding the management of snook in Florida, visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and click on "Saltwater Fishing," "Recreational Regulations" and "Snook."

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Inland Birding Fun: Palm Warbler (PAWA)

BY MARGARET ENGLAND
Hendry-Glades Audubon

The 112th Annual Christmas Bird Count begins in a few weeks. From Dec. 14 through Jan. 5, tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas take part in an adventure that has become a family tradition among generations.

Families and students, birders and scientists, armed with binoculars, bird guides and checklists go out on an annual mission -- often before dawn. For more than one hundred years, the desire to both make a difference and to experience the beauty of nature has driven dedicated people to leave the comfort of a warm

house during the Holiday season. A complete list of Florida CBC's is on the Florida Ornithological Society web site at www.fosbirds.org.

Birders and photographers are invited to participate in the Fifth Annual STA5-Clewiston Christmas Bird Count (FLSO) will be held on Saturday, Dec. 31. Accuracy is assured by having new participants join an established group that includes at least one experienced birdwatcher. Count volunteers follow specified routes through a designated 15-mile (24-km) diameter circle.

One of the common wintering warblers often seen by birders and photographers in inland

Florida during Christmas Bird Counts is the Palm Warbler (Eastern Species).

The Palm Warbler is a small long slim songbird with a brownish back, chestnut "rufous" cap, faint streaks on its sides and bright yellow undertail. It constantly wags its tail. Their song is a weak, monotonous, buzzy trill and their call is a thin "tsip" or sharp "chip".

The Palm Warbler is sometimes confused with the adult Prairie Warbler who also wags its tail. The Prairie Warbler lacks the "rufous" cap, has bold dark streaks on its sides, yellow spectacles, and greenish back and reddish streaks on its back.

The Eastern Species of the Palm Warbler breed in bogs and forests usually near water in Canada and Northeastern United States. Their nest, which is shaped like an open cup, is usually found on or near the ground in an open area.

They migrate to the Southeastern United States, Yucatan Peninsula, Caribbean, Nicaragua, and Panama in the winter. They forage on the ground more than other warblers searching for insects and berries, but will sometimes catch insects while flying.

Join Hendry-Glades Audubon volunteers for birding trips. You and your guests are invited participate in upcoming birding trips or the Christmas Bird Count Dec. 31 at STA5 (Stormwater Treatment Area 5).

For more information, please e-mail Margaret England at sta5birding@embarqmail.com or by phone at 863-674-0695 or 863-517-0202. The schedule of STA5 trips through December 2012 and upcoming Hendry-Glades Audubon programs is available on the HGAS web site at www.hendrygladesaudubon.org



Margaret England



PHOTO / LARRY FROGGE

Palm Warbler.

Please send high resolution photos for upcoming news articles on songbirds and ducks. Photographer's submissions will be credited. New and current Hendry-Glades Audubon Society "Facebook Friends" will be entered in a

monthly drawing for a "Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America" during November and December 2011. "Like", post a birding photo, or comment on "The Hendry-Glades Audubon Society Facebook" page to enter the next drawing.

NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING BETWEEN THE HENDRY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THE HENDRY COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD TO DISCUSS REDISTRICTING

Notice is hereby given that the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners and the Hendry County School Board will hold a public hearing to receive public comment concerning redistricting and related issues at 5:00 p.m. on December 13, 2011, in the Commission Room, Hendry County Courthouse, 25 East Hickpochee Avenue, LaBelle, Florida. All persons are invited to attend and be heard.

Redistricting is the process by which the district boundaries for election of County Commissioners and School Board members are adjusted to account for changes in population reflected in the decennial census. The current district lines are proposed to be changed in several places. The proposed maps are available for inspection during normal business hours at the Supervisor of Elections Office at the Hendry County Courthouse, 25 E. Hickpochee Ave., LaBelle, Florida.

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

Hendry County School Board
Sally Berg, Chairwoman

Board of County Commissioners of Hendry County
Tristan Chapman, Chairman

AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA CONJUNTA ENTRE LA JUNTA DE COMISIONADOS DEL CONDADO de HENDRY Y LA JUNTA ESCOLAR DEL CONDADO DE HENDRY PARA DESCUTIR la REDISTRICTING

Aviso queda habido cuenta de que la Junta de Comisionados y la Junta Escolar del Condado de Hendry sostendra una audiencia publica para recibir comentarios del public sobre cuestiones conexas y redistricting alas 5:00 pm el 13 de Diciembre del 2011, en la Camara de Comision en el Juzgado de Condado de Hendry ubicado en 25 East Hickpochee Ave., LaBelle, FL. Todas personas estan invitadas a asistir y ser escuchados.

Redistricting es el proceso mediante el cual se ajustan los limites del distrito para eleccion de comisionados del condado y miembros de la junta Escolar para explicar los cambios de poblacion en el censo decenal. Las actuales lineas de distrito se proponen ser cambiado en varios lugares. Los mapas propuestos estan disponibles para la inspeccion durante horas normales de trabajo en la oficina del Supervisor de Elecciones en la Corte del Condado de Hendry, 25 E. Hickpochee Ave., LaBelle, Florida.

Si una persona decide apelar cualquier decision tomada por una junta con respect a cualquier asunto discutido en esa reunion, tendra un expediente de las actuaciones y que, para tal efecto, necesite asegurar que un acta literal de las actuaciones se hace, que registro incluye el testimonio y la evidencia de que la apelacion es basarse.

Junta del Distrito Escolar del Condado Hendry
Sally Berg, Presidenta

Junta de Comisionado del
Condado Hendry
Tristan Chapman, Presidente

South Florida Dry Season Begins With a Dry November

Significant shift from a rainy October; Water conservation remains essential

BY RANDY SMITH
SFWMD

Below-average rainfall marked the first month of South Florida's dry season. November's sparse rainfall had minimal impact on regional water supplies, however, because record October rains replenished resources from Orlando to the Florida Keys, including Lake Okeechobee.

"The short-term water supply outlook is favorable, and the next few months of typically cooler weather means we lose less water to evaporation," said Susan Sylvester, SFWMD Chief of the Water Control Operations Bureau.

"But we still have a forecast of below-average

rainfall for the rest of the dry season, so we must remain cautious. For water managers, this means continuing to store as much water as possible. For residents, this means continuing good water conservation practices."

A total of 0.75 inches of rain fell across the 16-county District in November, representing 32 percent of the average for this time of year, or a deficit of 1.61 inches.

All areas of the region were below average for the month, with the largest deficits along the east coast.

Lake Okeechobee stood at 13.77 feet NGVD today, about a foot below its historical average for this time of year. The 730-square-mile lake, which serves as a backup water supply for South Florida, also received a major boost from October rains, rising about 2.5 feet since September 30. This moved the lake above its water shortage management zone.

In response to these improved regional water resource conditions, the SFWMD Governing Board in October rescinded water shortage or-

ders for South Florida, many of which had been in place since March of this year.

The board did declare a water shortage warning to encourage vigilance and voluntary cut-backs.

Frequent swings in South Florida's water conditions — and the drier-than-normal La Niña forecast — indicate that a return to water shortage is possible. Year-round landscape irrigation conservation measures remain in place.

Text Box: Customers of the West Palm Beach and Lake Worth utilities remain under local orders limiting landscape irrigation to one day per week. Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Rule

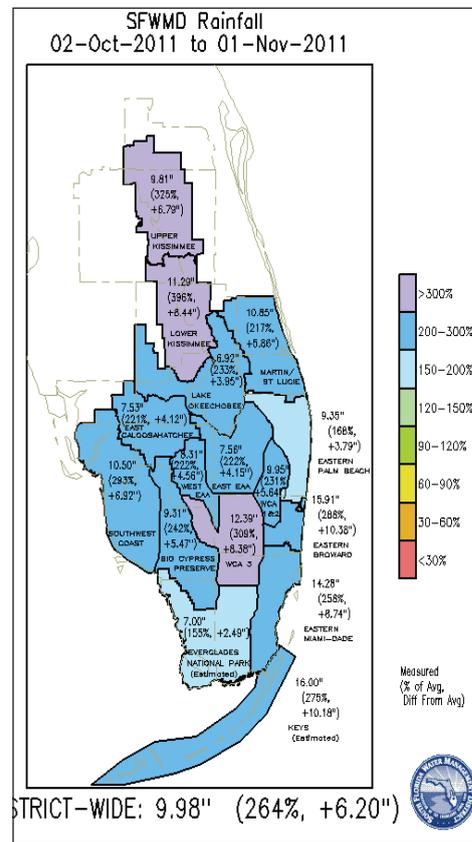
Adopted by the SFWMD Governing Board in November 2009, the Year-Round Landscape Irri-

gation Rule established a permanent two-day-a-week landscape watering schedule throughout the region, with a three-day-a-week provision for some counties.

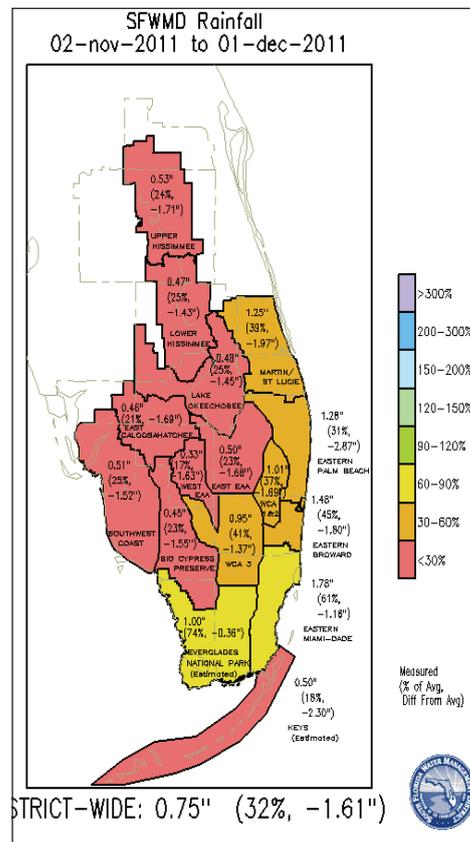
Utilizing the rule's flexibility, some city and county governments have adopted alternative landscape irrigation ordinances or emergency actions based on local water demands or system limitations.

For many areas, landscape watering schedules remain the same under year-round conservation measures as they were under water shortage restrictions.

Details on landscape irrigation limits are available by contacting your local government or by visiting www.sfwmd.gov/2days.



SUBMITTED PHOTO



SUBMITTED PHOTO

October 2011 rainfall was 9.98 inches.

November 2011 rainfall was 0.75 inches.

NOTICE OF MEETING HENDRY COUNTY VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD

PLEASE BE ADVISED that pursuant to Chapter 194, Florida Statutes, the 2011 HENDRY COUNTY VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD will convene its final public meeting on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2011 at 9:30 am in the County Commission Meeting Room, Hendry County Courthouse, 25 East Hickpochee Avenue, LaBelle, Florida, 33935 for the purpose of making final decisions based upon evaluations of the findings and recommendations of the duly appointed Special Magistrate on petitions duly filed with the 2011 Value Adjustment Board regarding 2011 property tax assessments, exemptions, deferrals, classifications and transfers of homestead assessment difference and to certify the 2011 tax roll. The VAB may consider other items as may be appropriate or timely.

Anyone who appeals a decision made thereat will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Barbara S. Butler, Clerk
Hendry County Value Adjustment Board

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTION Books Close

REGISTER TO VOTE: For the January 31, 2012, Presidential Preference Primary Election at the Supervisor of Elections Office, LaBelle Courthouse, the Clewiston Sub-office, any Drivers License Office, Public Assistance Office and all Public Libraries. The Voter Registration Books close on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

ELECCIÓN DE PREFERENCIA PRESIDENCIAL PRIMARIA Libros Se Cierran

REGISTRESE para VOTAR el 31 de Enero, 2012, para la Elección de Preferencia Presidencial Primaria, regístrese en la Oficina de Elecciones, en el Edificio de la Corte en LaBelle, y en la Oficina de licencia, Oficinas de Asistencias Publicas y Libreria Publica. Los libros de registracion se sierran el Martes, 3 de Enero, 2012 a las 5:00 p.m.

Lucretia A. Strickland
Supervisor of Elections
Hendry County, Florida
December 8, 2011
C.N. & C.B.
FS. 97.055



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Baseball Tryouts

Diamond Dawgs Baseball will be holding a tryout for it's 12U spring baseball team in the Florida Premier Baseball League (FPBL) on Saturday, December 17, 2011 at 9 a.m. The tryout will be on field 3 at Sugarland Park Sports Complex in Clewiston. To qualify you must be age 12 or under on May 1, 2012. To register for the tryouts contact Bret Nesbitt at 863-228-0489 or send an email to: bretandshelley@embarqmail.com

For more information visit the team website at:
www.leaguelineup.com/diamond-dawgs



ARREST REPORT

This column lists arrests, not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Anyone who is listed here and who is later found not guilty, or has the charges against them dropped, is welcome to inform the newspaper. We will confirm the information and print it.

Alexander Benitez, 24



- Battery by strangulation
- Aggravated battery, knew/should have known victim was pregnant
- Arrested Dec. 4 by CPD Ofc. J. Blackman

Andres Rosales Trinidad, 31



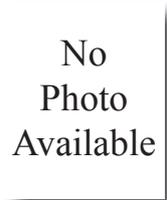
- Resisting an officer
- Operating a vehicle w/o a valid driver's license
- Arrested Dec. 3 by Sgt. L. Richardson

Rosa Linda Rico, 29



- Driving w/ suspended license, third or subsequent offense
- Arrested Dec. 3 by W. Hainley

Jessie Joanne Jimmie, 27



- Resisting an officer w/o violence
- Resisting arrest w/ violence
- Arrested by A. Cajuste

Thomas Emmanuel Bradshaw, 34



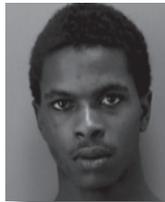
- Fraud - impersonating, use or possessing an ID of another to harass
- Grand theft of a firearm
- Arrested Dec. 1 by FHP Trooper C. Adkinson

Casto Villegas Castillo, 39



- Assault w/ intent to commit a felony
- Domestic battery by strangulation
- Kidnap - false imprisonment
- Arrested Nov. 29 by J. Brown

Jack Malcolm Pascal, 20



- Aggravated battery, knew/should have known victim was pregnant
- Arrested Nov. 28 by CPD Ofc. Evelyn

Donald Raymond Boy Charged With Property Crimes

On Nov. 30, Hendry County Investigators arrested 47 year old Donald Raymond Boy, arrested on charges of Dealing in Stolen Property, Grand Theft, and Violation of the Pawnbroking Act.

In July 2011, 84 year old Robert Lee Scobee reported to the Hendry County Sheriff's Office that money and personal items had been removed from his residence. Boy had resided with the victim and was the victim's caretaker during this time. It wasn't until Boy had left the

residence that the money and property were discovered missing. The missing items were located at various Pawn Shops in LaBelle.

It has been reported that Boy had left the state, but on Wednesday, Nov. 30, Hendry County Deputies came into contact with him in the area of Manatee Avenue and Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Boy was later arrested and charged accordingly.

Boy is currently being held in the Hendry County Jail on \$18,000.00 bond.

Fewer Middle and High School Students Use Tobacco

Fewer middle school and high school students are smoking cigarettes or using smokeless tobacco, according to 2011 Florida Youth Tobacco Survey. Compared to last year, this data shows a decrease of 9.2 percent among high school students and a decrease of 28.6 percent among middle school students.

According to the 2010 survey, 10.2 percent of middle school students in Hendry said they smoked cigarettes on one or more of the past 30 days compared to a statewide average of 4.9 percent. At the high school level, 15.4 percent said they smoked cigarettes in the last 30 days compared to the 13.1 percent statewide. When it came to not using any tobacco products, 65.9 percent of middle school students said they had never smoked or used smokeless tobacco compared to the state average of 68.6 percent. At the high school level, 54.2 percent said they had never smoked or used smokeless tobacco compared to the 55.4 percent statewide average.

In Glades, 4.4 percent percent of middle school students said they smoked cigarettes on one or more of the past 30 days compared to a statewide average of 4.9 percent. At the high school level, 18.9 percent said they smoked cigarettes in the last 30 days compared to the 13.1 percent statewide. When it came to not using any tobacco products, 71.1 percent of middle school students said they had never smoked or used smokeless tobacco compared to the state average of 68.6 percent. At the high school level, 39.7 percent said they had never smoked or used smokeless tobacco compared to the 55.4 percent statewide average.

This year the numbers were even better; 11.9 percent of high school students and 3.5 percent of middle school students statewide reported that they smoked at least once during the past 30 days. More significantly, since the Tobacco Free Florida campaign launched in 2007, 17.9 percent fewer high school students and 42.6 percent fewer middle school students in Florida were current cigarettes smokers.

And it was not just the children who were impacted by the state's anti-tobacco campaigns.

Tobacco Free Florida said from 2007 to 2010, the smoking rate for adults in Florida decreased by 18.6 percent, resulting in nearly half a million fewer Floridian adult smokers an estimated savings of as much as \$4.2 billion in personal health care expenditures.

"The continued decrease in the smoking prevalence rate among our state's youth is a clear indication of the effectiveness of our tobacco prevention programs," said Dr. Frank Farmer, Florida's State Surgeon General. "However, tobacco prevention remains a critical issue in Florida where tobacco use remains the number one cause of disease and preventable death."

Despite the promising decline of cigarette smoking among youth, the prevalence of smokeless tobacco use has trended upward among Florida youth over the past several years. This is consistent with an increase in smokeless tobacco use nationwide.

Smokeless tobacco products are perceived to be less harmful. But in reality, these products contain more nicotine than cigarettes and have 28 cancer-causing agents.

Mail-In Ballots Could Swing Vote

BY JOE THOMAS
Hendry County Democratic Party Chair

With the Florida Legislature having reduced the number of days when citizens can cast their votes, mail-in ballots are a way that voters can still cast a ballot at their own convenience and make their voices heard in the 2012 election.

Mail-in ballots, also known as absentee ballots, vote by mail, or convenience voting are often the deciding factor in an election. Because of their growing importance, the outcome of next year's election could be decided at the kitchen tables of homes throughout Florida long before Election Day.

Mail-in ballots offer a number of advantages. For one, we all know how difficult it is to read the long constitutional amendments listed on the ballot cards. A mail-in ballot gives voters a chance to read each item carefully, ponder the issues, and make choices without the pressures or rush of the voting booth. Mail-in ballots also allow parents to show their children the voting process and how to participate in our shared democracy.

Another benefit of submitting a mail-in ballot early is that candidate phone calls to a home end soon after computers record that a ballot has been received. The candidates and political parties take these voter names off their call lists and focus instead on those who may not have

yet voted.

In Glades County, mail-in ballots were used by 18 percent or 468 out of the 2612 people who voted in the last general election. Unfortunately, even those who requested mail-in ballots as recently as 2010 are required to submit a new request in order to receive a mail-in ballot for the 2012 elections. This tactic of requiring voters to reapply for mail-in ballots has proven to be part of a winning strategy for the Republican Party, but this year Democrats are making a push to sign up their party members for mail-in ballots as well.

Because the Glades County Democratic Executive Committees is a member of the Florida Democratic Party's Small County Coalition, it is eligible for a small grant from the state party if one percent of the county's 6200 registered voters request absentee ballots prior to Dec. 15. The Glades County Democratic Party uses this grant money to fund mailings and activities promoting local Democratic candidates.

To request a Mail-in Ballot, contact the Glades County Supervisor of Elections - Holly Whiddon at 863-946-6005 or hollywhiddon@embarqmail.com. The Glades County Democratic Executive Committee can be reached at 239-245-9945 or info@GladesDemocrats.com for mail-in ballot registration assistance and general meeting information.

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The Galapagos Islands and More

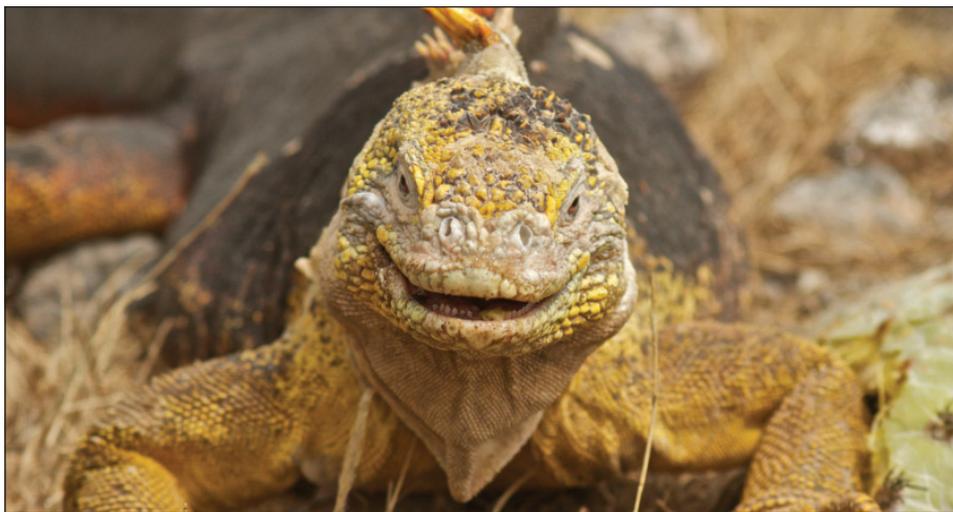


PHOTO / SAM FRIED

Smiling Land Iguana.

The small, brownish bird moved unobtrusively among the scrubs as it searched for seeds, while a young scientist observed and meticulously recorded its feeding habits and physical attributes. During his five year scientific research voyage, Charles Darwin would discover 13 different species of finches on a small group of atolls, known as the Galapagos Islands.

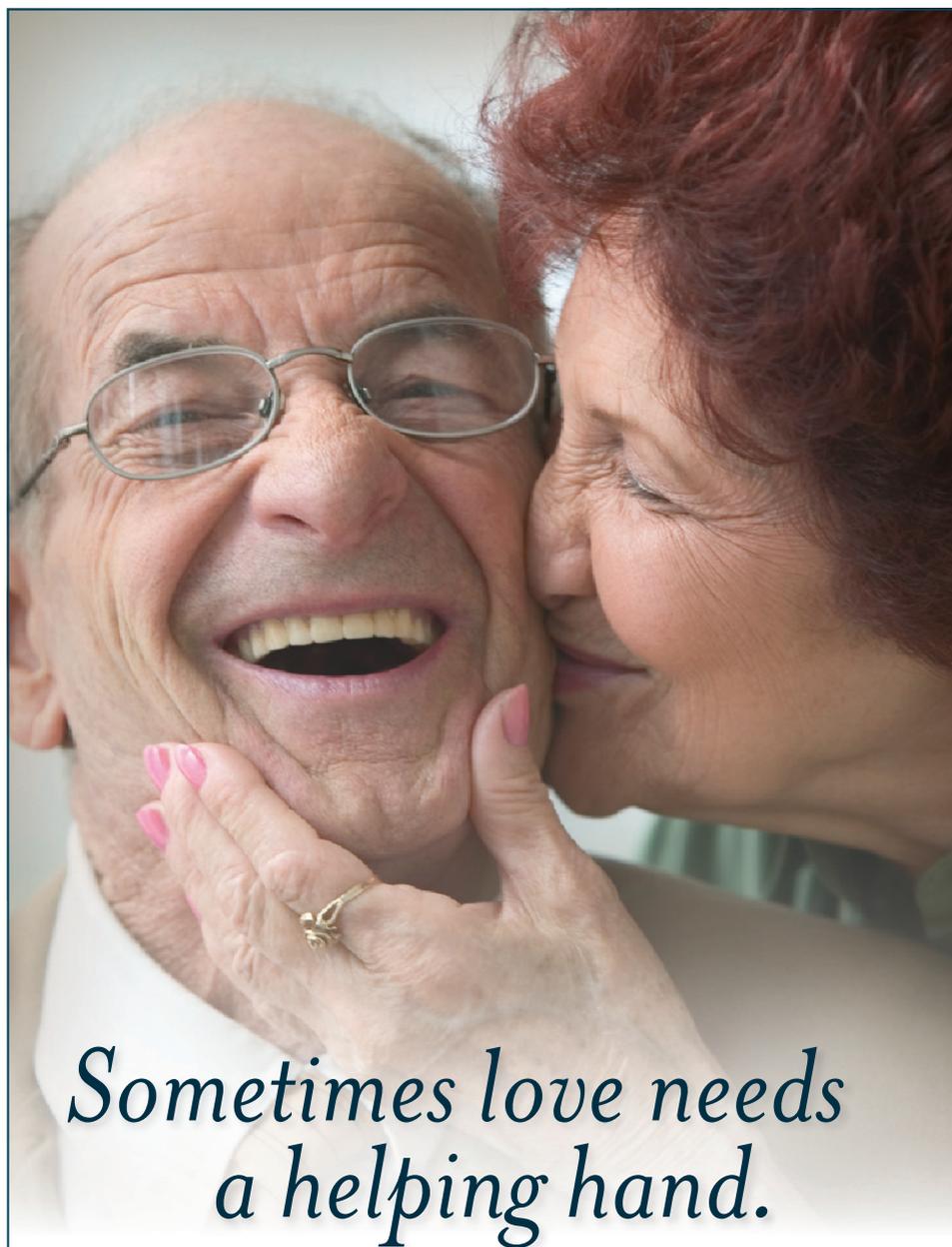
The bird's physical adaptations (beaks) and unique feeding niches eventually lead Darwin to publish a controversial book called "On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection."

Come join the Hendry-Glades Audubon at the Clewiston Museum on December 12 at 7 p.m., as we begin our exciting digital trip to other lands. We will travel to Ecuador's Cotopaxi National Park, located in the breath-taking Andes Mountains and later to Darwin's infamous Galapagos Islands, found 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador. Our rocking chair adventure will end with a

journey to Peru where mysteries of the Inca civilization are revealed at world renowned Machu Picchu, an ancient city with architecture and engineering as stunning as the wildlife of the Galapagos Islands.

Photos of the Galapagos wildlife, Cotopaxi National Park and Peru's ancient Inca architecture will be viewed through a new digital program produced and presented by Sam Fried. He has published 54 articles in field guides, books, newspapers and magazines worldwide, including National Audubon, Birder's World, Bird Watcher's Digest, Birding and Living Bird Quarterly magazines. Mr. Fried also wrote several chapters of the Insight Guides books on birding in North America that was published by The Discovery Channel.

Don't miss out on this free, wonderful journey of exquisite photos. Contact Margaret England at 517-0202 or the Clewiston Museum at 863-983-2870 and reserve a seat!



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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Yearbook

The King's Academy 10th grade student Mary Gibson working on this year's yearbook.

Strong Showing From CHS Wrestlers



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Cristian Montes wins one of his matches by a pin.

The Clewiston Wrestling team traveled to Park Vista High School in Boynton Beach on Saturday, Dec. 3. The Tigers competed in a total of five dual meets.

Arelis Valles won four out of five matches in the meet, she now has a team-leading 7 victories with 1 defeat. Cristian Montes won 3 matches

improving his season win total to 5.

The Tigers also welcomed two new wrestlers fresh off the football team to the lineup, Matthew Johnson and Joe Hernandez. Both wrestlers won two matches on Saturday.

The Tiger wrestling team will be back in action Dec. 10 in Okeechobee High school.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Teacher of the Year for Westside

Congratulations to Westside's Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Shelley Hegely. Westside is so proud of you, and they appreciate everything you do.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Teacher of the Year for Central

Dena Weekley, Central's Teacher of the Year, and Mr. Duckstein, principal. Mr. Duckstein presented Mrs. Weekley with her golden apple.

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SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Students and Athletes of the Month

CHS Students of the Month for November are students who work hard, put forth great effort in all that they do, are honest, reliable and dependable. Great job to Ra'vin Lee – 12th grade and Shaila Gonzalez – 12th grade. These students also set a good example for the rest of the student body. Our Athletes of the Month are Juan Pablo Ordenez - 11th grade and Megan Blount – 9th grade. These hardworking athletes always try their best and always put forth extra effort in both practices and events. These students are definitely team leaders who are also honest, reliable and dependable.

Power Outage Leaves Entire Town in the Dark

BY JUAN LOPEZ
jlopez@newszap.com

Waking up and heading to work on a Monday morning can, for some, already be a pain; especially if the power is out.

This past Monday, the entire city area, save for the outlying home near Evercane Road, was without power for more than hour.

The cause: an apparent failure in a system that had been checked out four months ago. Clewiston Utilities Director Kevin McCarthy stated that the power outage was quiet sudden and that the failed equipment will be quickly replaced.

"The failure happened in the sub-station's batteries," said McCarthy. "This battery, a part of a ten battery grouping called a 'bank,' supplies the DC power that runs the relays and protection system of the substation."

He continued to explain that when the bank failed, the system went into automatic shutdown to protect itself. That protective system alerts workers to any faults in the system. Without it, they would no longer be able to recognize or respond to a fault if you appeared. The bank was

bypassed and the substation is now operating off U.S. Sugar's battery bank until the damaged one is replaced. A replacement is being sought for and further investigation for any external causes of the failure is being conducted.

Usually, if the city has some forewarning of a power outage, the new alert system called CodeRed is enable and automatically calls city users to inform them. In this case, according to McCarthy, the system was not used due to the suddenness of outage and the lack of a time frame for restoration.

"If our backup had not worked and we were going to be without power for several hours, then a call out would have been made with that information," he said. Currently, that system only has land line numbers programmed into it.

After the first of the year, the city will be sending requests for alternate contact information so that as many people as possible are reached in the case of an outage or other emergency. The system also has the capability of sending texts and e-mails.

The replacement of the substation's battery bank should be completed by the end of the week.

Senior Superlatives for Clewiston High School

- Most Mischievous: John Spell and Ashley White
- Most Unique: Titus Dixon and Ana Sui-Govin
- Best Personality: Grant Polhill and Tanya Martinez
- Most Likely to Stay in Clewiston: Kristian Vidal/Curt Thompson (tie) and Sadie Penny
- Best Dressed: Ruben Cornejo and Jenirra Holmes
- Biggest Flirt: Chauncey Thicklin and Esmeralda Rodriguez
- Worst Driver: Matt Parham and Cassandra Paniagua
- Most Athletic: Ravin Lee and Ana Gonzalez
- Should Have Been a Couple: Trevor Jackson and Lorena Villalobos

- Most Likely to Succeed: Josh Deese and Adriana Rangel
- Class Clown: Co'Bryant Skinner and Alexis Boyd
- Most School Spirit: Robby McCarthy and Whitney Irey
- Mr. and Miss CHS: Ravin Lee and Melissa Franco
- Mr. and Miss Senior: Darius Redd and Olivia Constanco
- Mr. and Miss Junior: John Gonzalez and Brooke Flynn
- Mr. and Miss Sophomore: Gerardo Vasquez and Kennia Rosario
- Mr. and Miss Freshman: Steven McKown and Courtney Brown

THIEVES

Continued • 1

don't have things. We're able to give to them."

Their Winter Wonderland is one of the biggest; every year, the members of the organization get together to hold a holiday-themed event in Clewiston. One of the highlights of the event is the snow that the group has trucked in. If even for a little while, children get to experience what playing in the snow is like.

Ms. Holcomb finds it disturbing that her group would have been the victim of a burglary. The storage unit that was broken into is located on Alverdez Street. ACFC uses the storage area to stow away the items they need for their event,

but this year had stocked it also with about 50 unwrapped toys and a single child's bicycle.

"There are some cruel, cruel people out there who did this," she said.

According to Ms. Holcomb, the theft has not deterred ACFC from holding the Winter Wonderland. It is still moving forward as planned, for December 17, from 5 to 9 p.m.

If you would like to help, you are asked to contact Brenda Holcomb at 863-228-3690. The group is in need of coolers and tables, and will continue taking in toys for kids.

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<p>BREAST DEAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 breast piece of chicken • 1 individual side • 1 biscuit • 1 medium drink <p>\$3⁹⁹</p> <p><small>Offer expires 1/31/12 • *Available in Original Recipe, Extra Crispy or Grilled Limit one per coupon at participating KFC restaurants. Not valid with other special offers. Tax extra. © 2011 KFCC</small></p>	<p>10 BUCK VALUE MEAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 pcs. of chicken* (drumstick & thigh) • 1 large mashed potatoes with gravy • 3 biscuits <p>\$10</p> <p><small>Offer expires 1/31/12 • *Available in Original Recipe, Extra Crispy or Grilled Limit one per coupon at participating KFC restaurants. Not valid with other special offers. Tax extra. © 2011 KFCC</small></p>

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Holiday Season Health and Safety Tips

BY PAT DOBBINS

Hendry/Glades Health Departments

The holidays are a time to celebrate with family and friends. It is also a time to pay special attention to your health and the health of your family. Give the gift of health and safety by following these holiday tips.

Keep an eye on you children: Keep your children with you at all times while you are shopping. Accompany and supervise your children in public facilities and restrooms. Have a plan in case you become separated. If your kids are old enough to understand, have a pre-designated spot to meet if you get separated.

Teach children to look for people who can help, such as a uniformed security officer, salesperson or even a mother with children. Remind children to remain in the area where they become separated.

Your Child's Safety: Keep a watchful eye on your kids when they're eating and playing. Keep potentially dangerous toys, food, drinks, household items, choking hazards (like coins and hard candy), and other objects out of kids' reach. Learn what to do for children who are choking. Make sure toys are used properly.

Wash your hands often: Keeping your hands clean is one of the most important steps you can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others.

Wash your hands with soap and clean running water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and

clean water are not available, use an alcohol-based product.

Stay warm

Cold temperatures can cause serious health problems, especially in infants and older adults. Stay dry, and dress warmly in several layers of loose-fitting, tightly woven clothing.

Manage stress

The holidays don't need to take a toll on your health. Be aware of your actions, try not to over-commit or over-spend.

Try to balance your work, home, and play. Get support from your family and friends. Try to keep a relaxed and positive outlook.

Travel safely

Whether you're traveling across town or around the world, keep safety in mind. Do not drink and drive, and don't let someone else drink and drive. Wear a seat belt every time you drive or ride in a motor vehicle. Always buckle your child in the car using a child safety seat, booster seat, or seat belt according to their height, weight, and age.

Be smoke-free

Avoid smoking and breathing other people's

smoke. If you smoke, quit today! Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW or talk to your health care provider for help.

Get check-ups and vaccinations

Exams and screenings can help find problems before they start. They can also help find problems early, when the chances for treatment and cure are better.

Vaccinations help prevent diseases and save lives. Schedule a visit with your health care provider for a yearly exam. Ask what vaccinations and tests you should get based on your age, lifestyle, travel plans, medical history, and family health history.

Prevent injuries

Injuries can occur anywhere and some often occur around the holidays. Use step stools instead of furniture when hanging decorations. Leave the fireworks to the professionals. Wear a bicycle helmet to help prevent head injuries.

Fire Safety

Most residential fires occur during the winter months. Keep candles away from children, pets, walkways, trees, and curtains.

Never leave fireplaces, stoves, or candles un-

attended. Don't use generators, grills, or other gasoline- or charcoal-burning devices inside your home or garage.

Install a smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector in your home. Test them once a month, and replace batteries twice a year.

Handle and prepare food safely

As you prepare holiday meals, keep you and your family safe from food-related illness. Wash hands and surfaces often.

Avoid cross-contamination by keeping raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs (including their juices) away from ready-to-eat foods and eating surfaces. Cook foods to the proper temperature. Refrigerate promptly. Do not leave perishable foods out of the refrigerator for more than two hours.

Protect pets from rabies

Pets are considered family members. Keep them healthy and safe as well. Visit your veterinarian with your pet on a regular basis and keep rabies vaccinations up-to-date.

Do something positive for yourself and for those around you and you will be happier and healthier!

An act of kindness goes a long way. Have a happy and healthy holiday season!

Chemical Thefts are Continuing Around Southwest Florida

Area growers/farmers need to be on the watch

BY GENE MCAVOY

Over the Thanksgiving weekend, L and M Farms, LaBelle farm located on the Duda property off Hwy 29 was hit, despite locked gates and a quantity of ag chemicals stolen.

Growers are advised to keep farm entrances and storage areas locked and maintain surveillance. Lock up all chemicals, they are essentially like cash money for a thief.

Locate chemical storage well away from access roads. Be sure that all entrances to your farm are secure – even trails through the woods accessible by vehicles as some thieves are reportedly using on-line satellite maps such as Google Earth to identify buildings and alternative ways of entering properties via the "back way".

Request that chemicals be delivered on the days you need them and not before.

Return excess chemicals to the chemical distributor. Not having a stockpile of chemicals in your shed you will decrease the opportunity for theft.

Consider installing alarms or video cameras on chemical shed doors or windows. Buy only from reputable dealers and do not be tempted to buy "cheap" chemicals from unknown sources - you are only supporting a thief and you may be next. It is strongly recommended that all equipment – hand tools, power tools, be marked in a specific manner that could help identify your tools if they are stolen or lost. Also consider marking car/truck batteries in a similar manner.

All chemicals should be secured daily, in a secure container or building. All padlocks should be mounted in a manner in which it is difficult to use bolt cutters to cut the padlocks. Growers may also want to consider video surveillance - local companies like AgTronix can help with this and security systems.

Look out for your neighbor and report suspicious vehicles and activities to the Sheriff's Office.

If you have information concerning this, or any other crime in Collier County you are urged to contact: Collier County Sheriff's Office at (239) 253-9300 Hendry County Sheriff's Office 863-674-4060

You can remain anonymous and be paid a reward if your information leads to an arrest by calling Crimestoppers at: 1-800-780-TIPS

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~ **MOORE HAVEN** ~
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Rental Needed

CLEWISTON - Single retiree, financially secure, looking to rent a room north of Hwy 27 in Clewiston. (863) 228-3909

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Public Notice

Public Notice

Highlands County HOME Consortium Notice of Public Hearing on the FY 2010-2011 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report

The Highlands County HOME Consortium receives funding from DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, and Okeechobee Counties from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME). HUD requires that the Highlands County Consortium prepare a Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) on the accomplishments of each of the programs goals and objectives in the Consortium's 5-year Consolidated Plan for Housing. Notice is hereby given that the Highlands County Consortium will conduct a public hearing on the Consortium's activities undertaken during the FY 10/11. Citizen comments from this hearing will be reported in the CAPER. The hearing will be held as shown below:

Hendry County Administration Office
 Conference Room #1
 640 S. Main St.
 LaBelle, FL 33935
 December 16, 2011
 10:00 am

All residents are encouraged to attend. For additional information and for persons requiring special accommodations please contact the Highlands County Housing Office at 863-402-6648, 7205 S. George Blvd., Sebring FL 33875. A copy of the CAPER may be viewed at the above listed SHIP offices in each county, and at www.hbcc.net. 404566 CN 12/8/2011

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT **Florida Bids, LLC**, the holders of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of property and the name in which it was assessed are as follows:

CERT. NO.	YEAR	DESCRIPTION	NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED
2278	2007	1214334-010000U0120	James Sykes

Lot 15, Block U, Harlan Addition No. 3, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 7, Public Records of Hendry County, Florida.

Less and except Gas, Oil and Mineral rights not owned by prior owner. Subject to existing easements and right of ways of record.

All of said property being in the County of Hendry, State of Florida.

Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder at the **Clerk's Office, 2nd Floor, Administration Wing, LaBelle, Florida, at 11:00 A.M., on the Second Thursday** in the month of **January, 2012**, which is the **12th day of January, 2012**. Dated this **30th day of November, 2011**.

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

404371 CN 12/8,15,22,29/2011

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Pursuant to Ch 715.585(6) F.S. United American Lien & Recovery as agent with power of attorney will sell the following vehicle(s) to the highest bidder subject to any liens; net proceeds deposited with the clerk of court; owner/lienholder has right to hearing and post bond; owner may redeem vehicle for cash sum of lien; all auctions held in reserve

Inspect 1 week prior @ lien facility; cash or cashier check; 15% buyer prem; any person interested ph (954) 563-1999

Sale date December 30, 2011 @ 10:00 am 3411 NW 9th Ave. Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

24610 2000 Chevrolet Vin#: 2GCEC19V8Y1219662 lienor amt \$5544.90

Licensed & bonded auctioneers flab422 flue 765 & 1911

404317 CN 12/8/2011

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT **Jolene Funding, LLC**, the holders of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of property and the name in which it was assessed are as follows:

CERT. NO.	YEAR	DESCRIPTION	NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED
3617	2008	4104329-03020980170	Robert Goldberg

Lot 17, Block 2098, Port LaBelle Unit 3, a subdivision according to the plat thereof Recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 73, Public Records of Hendry County, Florida.

Less and except Gas, Oil and Mineral rights not owned by prior owner. Subject to existing easements and right of ways of record.

All of said property being in the County of Hendry, State of Florida.

Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder at the **Clerk's Office, 2nd Floor, Administration Wing, LaBelle, Florida, at 11:00 A.M., on the Second Thursday** in the month of **January, 2012**, which is the **12th day of January, 2012**. Dated this **30th day of November, 2011**.

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

404386 CN 12/8,15,22,29/2011

Attention Comcast Customers in all areas excluding Lakeport, Moore Haven, Okeechobee and Palm Bay

Please note this is a correction to the legal ad published on November 17th, 2011:

•TV Chile will remain on channel 631 until further notice.

Please call 1-800-COMCAST (266-2278) if you have any questions.

After a notice of a re-tiering of a video service or a rate increase, you may change your level of service at no additional charge for a period of 30 days from the effective date of the change. Otherwise, changes in the services you receive at your request may be subject to the upgrade or downgrade

Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT **Jolene Funding, LLC**, the holders following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of property and the name in which it was assessed are as follows:

CERT. NO.	YEAR	DESCRIPTION	NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED
3980	2008	4104329-04021560040	Tracy J. Miller

Lot 4, Block 2156, Port LaBelle Unit 4, a subdivision according to t thereof recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 86, Public Records of Hendry (Florida

Less and except Gas, Oil and Mineral rights not owned by prior owner. Subject to existing easements and right of ways of record.

All of said property being in the County of Hendry, State of Florida.

Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder at the **Clerk's Office, 2nd Floor, Administration Wing, LaBelle, Florida, at 11:00 A.M., on the Second Thursday** in the month of **January, 2012**, which is the **12th day of January, 2012**. Dated this **30th day of November, 2011**.

Barbara S. Butler
 Clerk of Circuit Court
 Hendry County,

404370 CN 12/8,15,22,29/2011

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT **Jolene Funding, LLC**, the holders following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of property and the name in which it was assessed are as follows:

CERT. NO.	YEAR	DESCRIPTION	NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED
3577	2008	4104329-030000L0020	Odiance Sliken

Tract L2, Block 2102, Port LaBelle, Unit 3, a subdivision according to t thereof recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 73, Public Records of Hendry (Florida.

Less and except Gas, Oil and Mineral rights not owned by prior owner. Subject to existing easements and right of ways of record.

All of said property being in the County of Hendry, State of Florida.

Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder at the **Clerk's Office, 2nd Floor, Administration Wing, LaBelle, Florida, at 11:00 A.M., on the Second Thursday** in the month of **January, 2012**, which is the **12th day of January, 2012**. Dated this **30th day of November, 2011**.

Barbara S. Butler
 Clerk of Circuit Court
 Hendry County,

404379 CN 12/8,15,22,29/2011

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT **County of Hendry, Florida**, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of property and the name in which it was assessed are as follows:

CERT. NO.	YEAR	DESCRIPTION	NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED
2539	2008	1314433-A0001780000	Georgina Garcia

The South one-half of the Northwest one-quarter of the Northeast one-quarter of the Southwest one-quarter of the Northwest one-quarter of Section 31, Township 44 South, Range 33 East, Hendry County, Florida. Sub an easement for an access road of the West 30 feet thereof. Also knct Tract 5768, Montura Ranch Estates, an unrecorded subdivision.

Less and except Gas, Oil and Mineral rights not owned by prior owner. Subject to existing easements and right of ways of record.

All of said property being in the County of Hendry, State of Florida.

Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder at the **Clerk's Office, 2nd Floor, Administration Wing, LaBelle, Florida, at 11:00 A.M., on the Second Thursday** in the month of **January, 2012**, which is the **12th day of January, 2012**. Dated this **30th day of November, 2011**.

Barbara S. Butler
 Clerk of Circuit Court
 Hendry County,

404384 CN 12/8,15,22,29/2011

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT **County of Hendry, Florida**, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of property and the name in which it was assessed are as follows:

CERT. NO.	YEAR	DESCRIPTION	NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED
1544	2008	1154432-A0000370000	Carlos R. Morales

The North one-half of the Southeast one-quarter of the Northeast one-quarter of the Southwest one-quarter of the Northwest one-quarter of Section Township 44 South, Range 32 East, Hendry County, Florida. Subject access road of the East 30 feet thereof. Also known as Tract 3274, M Ranch Estates, an unrecorded subdivision.

Less and except Gas, Oil and Mineral rights not owned by prior owner. Subject to existing easements and right of ways of record.

All of said property being in the County of Hendry, State of Florida.

Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder at the **Clerk's Office, 2nd Floor, Administration Wing, LaBelle, Florida, at 11:00 A.M., on the Second Thursday** in the month of **January, 2012**, which is the **12th day of January, 2012**.

Public Notice Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes Jolene Funding, LLC... NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Jolene Funding, LLC, the holders of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

Public Notice Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes Tarpon IV, LLC... NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Tarpon IV, LLC, the holders of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

Public Notice Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes Winder VI, LLC... NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Winder VI, LLC, the holders of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

Public Notice Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes County of Hendry, Florida... NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT County of Hendry, Florida, the holders of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes Jolene Funding, LLC... NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Jolene Funding, LLC, the holders of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes Jolene Funding, LLC... NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Jolene Funding, LLC, the holders of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes Jolene Funding, LLC... NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Jolene Funding, LLC, the holders of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes County of Hendry, Florida... NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT County of Hendry, Florida, the holders of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes Verona A, LLC... NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Verona A, LLC, the holders of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes County of Hendry, Florida... NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT County of Hendry, Florida, the holders of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes County of Hendry, Florida... NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT County of Hendry, Florida, the holders of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

Public Notice Public Notice HENDRY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS NOTICE TO BIDDERS Sealed bids, in triplicate, subject to the conditions herein, will be received until Wednesday, January 11, 2012, at 2:00 PM.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes County of Hendry, Florida... NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT County of Hendry, Florida, the holders of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes Jolene Funding, LLC... NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Jolene Funding, LLC, the holders of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes County of Hendry, Florida... NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT County of Hendry, Florida, the holders of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

Public Notice Public Notice HENDRY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS Successful Bidder will be required to execute and to provide a Payment Bond and Performance Bond each in an amount of not less than one hundred percent (100%) of the total value of the Contract awarded to him with a satisfactory surety or sureties for the full and faithful performance of the work.

**1-INVITATION TO BID
BID # 2011-2
CENTRAL COUNTY WATER CONTROL DISTRICT
Canals 7 & 8/Riverside**

Sealed bids for the replacement of the above referenced Canals 7 & 8/Riverside will be received by the Central County Water Control District Board of Supervisors, hereinafter referred to as "District": at:

475 S. Cabbage Palm Street Clewiston, Florida 33440

until 2:00 pm local time on December 27 for furnishing labor and materials and performing all work set forth in the Invitation to Bid, Instruction to Bidders, Bid Form, Construction Contract, Detailed Specifications and Drawings which comprise the Bid Documents. Immediately following the scheduled closing time for the reception of bids, all bid proposals which have been submitted in accordance with the conditions of the Invitation to Bid, Instructions to Bidders and any Addenda issued in relation to this Project will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bidder is responsible for the delivery of bid and bids received after the specified day and time will not be opened.

The Work is described as **Canals 7 & 8/Riverside** and is outlined in drawings and specifications prepared by the District's Chief Engineer, Rock Aboujaoude, P.E. The work requires the successful bidder to replace two existing culverts with culverts of the same type and size and the replacement of the headwall at each end of the culverts.

Construction drawings and Specifications may be obtained from Rock Aboujaoude, P.E. (contact person) at 154 N. Bridge Street, LaBelle, Florida (863/612-0011), or from the District's office at 475 S. Cabbage Palm Street, Clewiston, Florida (863/983-5797).

Each bid must be submitted, in duplicate, on the prescribed bid form and accompanied by bid security on the prescribed form, payable to the Central County Water Control District Board of Supervisors, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the bid amount. All subcontractors shall be declared on a separate form.

All bids shall be opened and read aloud on December 27 at 2:00 PM at the District office located at 475 S. Cabbage Palm Street, Clewiston, Florida. Bidders are welcome to attend.

The successful Bidder will be required to furnish the necessary Insurance Contracts and Certificates of Insurance. These shall be either executed by or countersigned by a licensed resident agent of the surety or insurance company having its place of business in the State of Florida. Further, the said surety or insurance company shall be duly authorized and qualified to do business in the State of Florida and shall have an A.M. Best rating of A-minus or better and who is listed on the United States Treasury Department's T-list as acceptable to issue bonds for the applicable dollar amount.

The Bid may be withdrawn prior to the date and time of bid opening. Bids shall remain open and subject to acceptance for a period of forty-five (45) calendar days after the date of bid opening. No bidder may withdraw their Bid for a period of forty-five (45) calendar days after the date of Bid opening.

In order to perform public work, the successful Bidder shall have all licenses and permits required by Federal, State, and local statutes, regulations and ordinances.

Before a Contract will be awarded for the work contemplated herein, the District will conduct such investigations as are necessary to determine the performance record and ability of the apparent low Bidder to perform the size and type of work specified under this Invitation to Bid. Upon request, the Bidder shall submit such information as deemed necessary by the District to evaluate the bidder's qualifications. The District reserves the right to award the bid to the lowest responsible and qualified bidder based on available funding.

The District reserves the right to reject any or all Bid(s) and/or to waive any irregularities at the District's sole discretion. It also reserves the right to postpone the award of the Contract for a period of time which postponement, however, shall not extend beyond ninety (90) calendar days from the bid opening date during which, the District at its sole discretion may release the Bid security.

DATED this day of December, 2011.
ATTEST: Central County Water Control District
By: Carolyn (Cookie) Hester, Dist. Mgr.
404500 CN 12/8,15,22/2011

Public Notice

DIRT SALE BID

The Barron Water Control District is accepting sealed bids for the sale of about 280,000 cubic yards of dirt along several canals. Bids will be accepted until 9:00 AM, January 5, 2012, at the District office, 3293 Dellwood Terrace, Port LaBelle, FL.

To inquire and receive detailed bidding specifications and instructions, call 863-675-0346 or email BWCD1@embargmail.com or visit the office.

The owner reserves the right to hold all proposals for sixty (60) days and to reject any or all proposals, with or without cause, to waive technical errors and informalities or to accept the bid in its judgment best serves the owner.

Lester B. Baird, Sr.,
General Manager
Barron Water Control District
404137 CGS/CB 12/8,15/2011

LEGAL NOTICE

The following vehicles will be sold at public auction at Clewiston Towing 600 E Sugarland Hwy Clewiston Fl 33440 on **December 19, 2011 at 10:00a.m.:**

- 2000 Ford, VIN: 1FMZU72X4YU836954
- 2001 Mitsubishi, VIN: 4A3AE85H21E190288
- 1993 Ford, VIN: 1FMCU22XP1B36352
- 2007 Pontiac, VIN: 1G2AL15F977167459
- 2002 Ford, VIN: 1FAP33P02W185057
- 2001 Toyota, VIN: 4T1BG22K71U083303

404611 CN 12/8/2011

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR
HENRY COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO.
262008CA000430XXXX**

**LASALLE BANK, N.A. AS
TRUSTEE FOR THE MLMI TRUST
SERIES 2007-HE1,**
Plaintiff
vs.
**JOSE E. CERVANTES;
ANTONIA PEQUENO, et al.,**
Defendants

**RE-NOTICE OF SALE
PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order or Summary Final Judgment of foreclosure dated October 6, 2008 and an Order Resetting Sale dated November 30, 2011, and entered in Case No. 262008CA000430XXXX of the Circuit Court of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit in and for Henry County, Florida, wherein LaSalle Bank, N.A. as Trustee for the MLMI Trust Series 2007-HE1 is Plaintiff and JOSE E. CERVANTES; ANTONIA PEQUENO; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 1; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 2; and ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT TO THIS ACTION, OR HAVING OR CLAIMING TO HAVE ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED, are Defendants. I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash on the Second Floor in front of the Main Clerk's Office at the Henry County Courthouse, 25 East Hickpochee Avenue, LaBelle, FL 33935 in Henry County, Florida, at 11:00 a.m. on the 28th day of December, 2011, the following described property as set forth in said Order or Final Judgment, to-wit:

**THE NORTH ONE-HALF OF THE
NORTHWEST ONE-QUARTER
OF THE NORTH ONE-HALF OF
BLOCK 39, LABELLE, AS RECORDED
IN PLAT BOOK 1,
PAGE 47, PUBLIC RECORDS OF
LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, LYING
AND BEING IN HENDRY
COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNERS AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Sheila Mann, Court Operations Manager, whose office is located at Lee County Justice Center, 1700 Monroe Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901, and whose telephone number is (239) 533-1700, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711. DATED at LaBelle, Florida, on December 2, 2011.

BARBARA BUTLER
As Clerk, Circuit Court
By: J. Bevis
As Deputy Clerk

SMITH, HIATT & DIAZ, P.A.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
PO Box 11438
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33339-1438
Telephone: (954) 564-0071
404564 CN 12/8,15/2011

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN
AND FOR HARDEE COUNTY,
FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2006DR-400**

IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF
THOMAS ZUNIGA,
Former Husband,
and
MELISSA ZUNIGA,
Former Wife.

**NOTICE OF ACTION
FOR MODIFICATION
OF CHILD SUPPORT**

TO: **MELISSA ZUNIGA**
L/K/A 2006 Lighthouse Lane
LaBelle, Florida 33935

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a modification of Child Support action has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on William L. Allen, Esquire, whose address is 5835 U.S. Highway 98 South, Lakeland, Florida 33812, on or before December 16, 2011, and file the original with the Clerk of this court at Post Office Box 9000, Drawer CC-2, Bartow, Florida 33831, before service on the Former Wife or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.

You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Notice of Current Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915). Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed to the address on record at the clerk's office.

WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.

Dated on this 10th day of October, 2011.

B. HUGH BRADLEY
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: Connie Coker
DEPUTY CLERK

403063 CN 11/24;12/1,8/2011

Public Notice

**NOTICE OF MEETINGS
SCHEDULED FOR
DECEMBER 14, 2011
CHANGE OF LOCATION**

Notice is hereby given that the location and time of the December 14, 2011 regular Board Meetings for the East Beach Water Control District, Pahokee Water Control District, East Shore Water Control District, Pelican Lake Water Control District, South Shore Drainage District, South Florida Conservancy District and the Clewiston Drainage District has been changed. The combined meeting will meet at Southern Gardens Groves, located off Flaghole Road, west of Clewiston, on Friday, December 16, 2011, beginning at 10:30 A.M.

FOR THE DISTRICTS

By: /s/ David R. Davis,
District Manager
404258 SUN 12/8/2011

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO USE UNIFORM METHOD OF COLLECTING
NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS**

Henry County, Florida (the "County") hereby provides notice, pursuant to Section 197.3632(3)(a), Florida Statutes, of its intent to use the uniform method of collecting non-ad valorem special assessments to be levied within the West Henry County Recreation Municipal Services Benefit Unit, within the unincorporated area of the County, for assessments on commercial properties for recreational purposes within that area commencing with the Fiscal Year beginning on October 1, 2012, and continuing each year until discontinued by the County. The County will consider the adoption of a resolution electing to use the uniform method of collecting such assessments authorized by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, at a public hearing to be held at 5:00 p.m. on December 13, 2011, in the Commission Chambers, Henry County Courthouse, 25 E. Hickpochee Ave., LaBelle, Florida. All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard. Such resolution will state the need for the levy and will contain a legal description of the boundaries of the real property subject to the levy. Copies of the proposed form of resolution, which contains the legal description of the real property subject to the levy, are on file at the County Administration Office, 640 S. Main Street, LaBelle, Florida.

In the event any person decides to appeal any decision by the County with respect to any matter relating to the consideration of the resolution at the above-referenced public hearing, a record of the proceeding may be needed and in such an event, such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the public hearing is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence on which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the County Clerk at (863) 675-5217, seven days days prior to the date of the hearing.

Darrell R. Harris, Chairman
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA

402361 CN/CB 11/17,24;12/1,8/2011

Public Notice

Public Notice

**City of Clewiston
Public Hearing**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Clewiston City Commission will conduct a **PUBLIC HEARING** on December 19, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Commission Chambers, 115 West Ventura Avenue, Clewiston, Florida. During the Public Hearing, the City Commission proposes to enact final passage of the ordinance which is set forth as follows:

**ORDINANCE NO. 2011-04
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CLEWISTON, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE VACATION AND ABANDONMENT OF THAT PORTION OF THE BASILAN CRESCENT STREET & PLAZA LYING NORTH OF LOTS 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13 OF BLOCK 49B, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT OF THE GENERAL PLAN OF CLEWISTON, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGES 71 THROUGH 78, WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF CLEWISTON, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

A copy of the proposed ordinance is available in the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 115 W. Ventura Avenue, Clewiston, Florida, for the inspection of any interested parties and interested parties may appear at the meeting and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations at the meeting because of a disability or physical impairment, should contact the City Clerk's office at 863-983-1484, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Clewiston City Hall is a wheelchair accessible building.

If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, such person may need to insure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and any evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Steve McKown
City Manager
404314 CN 12/8/2011

Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT **Tarpon IV, LLC**, the holders of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of property and the name in which it was assessed are as follows:

CERT. NO.	YEAR	DESCRIPTION	NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED
2605	2007	2164329-A0000090100	Brian K. Quinn

Begin at the Northeast corner of Section 16, Township 43 South, Range 29 East, Henry County, Florida; thence South 00 degrees 50' 32" East 2445.71 feet to the Point-of-Beginning; thence South 89 degrees 37' 06" West 719.28 feet; thence South 00 degrees 51' 26" East 121.83 feet; thence South 43 degrees 02' 43" East 695.13 feet; thence N 89 degrees 37' 06" East 252.28 feet; thence North 00 degrees 50' 35" West 633.22 feet to the Point-of-Beginning. EXCLUDING the Northerly 175.87 feet of the Easterly 175.87 feet and EXCLUDING the following: Begin at the Northeast corner of Section 16, Township 43 South, Range 29 East, Henry County, Florida; thence South 03 degrees 31' 11" East 2624.37 feet to the Point-of-Beginning; thence South 86 degrees 51' 28" West 667.33 feet; thence South 45 degrees 48' 22" East 617.84 feet; thence North 86 degrees 51' 28" East 252.28 feet to the East line of Section 16; thence North 03 degrees 36' 11" West along the East line 454.34 feet to the Point-of-Beginning.

Less and except Gas, Oil and Mineral rights not owned by prior owner. Subject to existing easements and right of ways of record.

All of said property being in the County of Henry, State of Florida.

Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder at the **Clerk's Office, 2nd Floor, Administration Wing, LaBelle, Florida, at 11:00 A.M., on the Second Thursday** in the month of **January, 2012, which is the 12th day of January, 2012.**
Dated this **30th** day of **November, 2011.**

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

404382 CN 12/8,15,22,29/2011

**NI
WATER CC
CENTRAL COU**

To the owners and all per property in and adjacent to District.
You are notified that the Dist District a resolution to consist "WCP" to provide for the consistent with the District's En Water Control District; and, with the completion of the C summarized as follows:

- 1. Completion of Reservoir** 2.5 miles of the levee that is retention at design/permitted
- 2. Installation of Two (2) additional pumps** upon completion of the District's permitted pump program, a net 50,000 gpm teor
- 3. Inclusion of Woodland Boundaries**- The District's thereby not closing the legal relates to the geographical bc
- 4. Provision for a Specia Completion**- The District's hereby referred herein by laws through the provisions

On or before its meeting sd 7:00 p.m. at the District Adr South Cabbage Palm Road the proposed plan amendm mentioned address. A public be conducted at the schedule ered at that time. At the cor may determine to proceed i plan amendment and direct r port identifying property bot es, and estimating the cost plan amendment. A final he ment and Engineer's report scheduled Board of Supervi gineer's report with the Secre

CENTRAL COUNTY WATER CC
404315 CN 12/8,15,22/2011

Public Notice

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO
NON-AD**

Henry County, Florida (the Section 197.3632(3)(a), Flor method of collecting non-ad the Banyan Village area, Port rated area of the County, f potable water service lines w beginning on October 1, 201 ot shall hook-up to and be consider the adoption of a r collecting such assessments. tes; a public hearing to l the Commission Chambers, Ave., LaBelle, Florida. All ir heard. Such resolution will s gal description of the bouc Copies of the proposed form tion of the real property sub jstration Office, 640 S. Main S In the event any person de respect to any matter relat above-referenced public hear and in such an event, such record of the public hearing and evidence on which the Americans with Disabilities A an interpreter to participate Clerk at (863) 675-5217, sev

402357 CN/CB 11/17,24;12/1

NOTICE OF

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404368 CN 12/8,15,22,29/2011

See Page 2
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Early Holiday Season Tips

BY STATEPOINT

Tips For Holiday Car Travel

It's almost time to pack the kids and presents into the car and head out to visit family for the holidays.

Whether your trip will take you over the river or through the woods, getting to grandmother's house can mean overcrowded roads, tough driving conditions and many repetitions of "Are we there yet?"

A little preparation can help make your holiday car trip safer and more pleasurable.

- Keep your little ones protected. Holiday road trips can be dangerous due to slippery conditions and additional motorists on the road. Many of the newest child seats rely on innovative plastic materials for safety features -- three- and five-point harness systems, shock absorbing foam padding, head impact protection and fire-resistant upholstery -- that help protect your children on the road.

- Fuel-up in advance on gas -- a full tank helps avoid extra stops along the way. And consider installing a cell phone app that geo-locates gas stations with lower gas prices.

- Lighter vehicles often are more fuel-efficient. So if your family can fit comfortably, a smaller, lighter car could save on gas money. One reason is that today's cars employ many design, comfort and safety features made with lightweight plastics, which helps reduce overall vehicle weight to improve fuel economy. Modern automobiles now are made of 50 percent plastics by volume, but only 10 percent by weight.

- If you have been considering purchasing a new car, there may be no better time than the holidays. Many dealers offer significant holiday discounts, so this could be a great time to prepare for that upcoming holiday road trip.

- Pack healthful road snacks. Consider foods such as cheese sticks, carrots and dried fruits. Buy in bulk and pack individual portions in convenient re-sealable plastic bags and containers. Avoid overly sugary treats that may make it harder for kids to sit still.

- Transport food safely. Bring holiday dishes in coolers and containers so you can safely go straight from your kitchen to the car to the holiday table.

Lightweight plastic coolers are easy to transport and help keep prepared foods cold by trapping cool air inside and keeping out warmer air. Airtight plastic containers help keep individual dishes fresh.

- Use space-saving packaging. Packing for a holiday trip can be challenging, so consider using airtight plastic "space saver" bags that prevent wrinkles, keep your clothes fresh and save space -- this could even cut down on the number of bulky suitcases that could block the driver's visibility.

- Recycle along the way. When snacking on the road, reuse plastic grocery bags to collect your recyclable plastic bottles, containers, bags and wraps until you can drop them in a recycling bin.

For additional tips on car safety, recycling and more, visit www.plasticsmakeitpossible.com.

But above all, pack a map or bring a GPS so the kids can answer the question: "are we there

yet?" Learning to read a map is a valuable life skill!

How To Protect Holiday Tech Gifts

It's going to be a high-tech holiday season.

Whether you are buying a mobile device for a loved one or browsing online stores on your tablet from the comfort of your couch or using your smartphone to comparison shop while you cruise the mall, technology is taking holiday shopping into the 21st century.

Consumers who dread the crowds of brick and mortar holiday shopping increasingly are using the Web to look for deals and compare prices. Mobile apps also can help consumers search and identify the item they want, determine its availability and locate the most convenient place to pick it up or have it delivered. Additionally, new mobile couponing apps often offer local deals.

"High-tech shopping is a growing trend in several 2011 holiday shopping surveys as 46 percent of consumers plan to make mobile purchases of everything from clothes to gift cards this holiday season," said Joe Erdeman, president of Assurant Solutions' extended protection solutions business. "Shoppers surfing their smartphones also will look for great deals on high-tech devices with 36 percent of shoppers planning to purchase one or more gadgets for friends and family during the holiday season."

Whether you are giving or receiving these high tech gadgets, it is important to remember that these devices are significant financial investments. And savvy shoppers not only look for great value, but also peace of mind. Protection plans can help by making sure that such expensive devices remain in good working condition when the time comes to trade in and upgrade to the latest and greatest.

Mobile device owners can be very hard on their smartphones or tablets, resulting in accidental damage and loss so you may want to consider purchasing a protection plan. When purchasing a protection plan it is important to review the terms and conditions, according to the experts at Assurant Solutions, a leading global provider of extended warranties. Some plans offer a wider range of protection than others.

Be sure to ask the following questions: Is the plan transferable to the gift recipient? Is accidental damage covered? What about loss and theft? Can the item be traded in later for store credit toward an upgrade? Your recipient may not need all features, but you should know what you're getting. In addition, every shopper should remember to keep their receipts.

More information can be found at www.assurantsolutions.com.

Additional protection for expensive technology is a thoughtful way to ensure your mobile gift will stick around for a long time to come.

Make Your Holiday Season Extra Festive

In the rush of the holiday season, it's easy to forget what the holidays are about. Make sure to spread some cheer and to make the season extra festive for your family and friends.

Here are some fun ideas to ensure your holiday season is a joyous one that brings out the best in you!

- Hang a wreath. Even if you don't get to the lights or the tree, a simple live wreath will trans-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Protect your holiday tech gifts, like this smartphone, with protection plans, apps and other gear.

form your home from Grinch-worthy to Santa-welcome. The wonderful scent will let visitors know upon arrival that you're in the spirit of the season.

- Send holiday cards early. Start spreading cheer by getting your holiday greetings into your recipients' hands as soon as possible. Ideally, holiday cards should be mailed the Friday after Thanksgiving, according to the experts at online stationery store Minted.com. If your cards are mailed early, people actually have time to notice and appreciate them. If you need more time and flexibility, sending a Happy New Year card is a great option.

- Host a stamping / addressing party. Eggnog, fresh cookies, envelopes, stamps and address lists are all you need for a festive, yet productive evening! Turn on some carols and you're ready to tackle this task. Invite some friends and chat between writing personal notes on each card or enlist children to help stamp and seal!

- Throw a cookie party. 'Tis the season to indulge your sweet tooth. But if it's too much work to make sugar cookies, butter cookies, molasses drops, gingerbread and thumbprints all by yourself, throw a party where everyone brings a plate of cookies! Send out invitations to make the night extra special and ask guests to RSVP with the type of cookie they'll bring, so you don't end up with four types of peppermint bark!

- Display holiday cards. Colorful cards act as instant, free decorative pieces. The mantle is an obvious choice, but if you don't have one, hang a piece of string and clip cards to it with clothespins. Bonus points for red or green pins!

- Send personalized thank you cards. Just because the season must end doesn't mean you need to stop spreading cheer. Why not order personalized note cards along with your Christmas cards for the inevitable thank you notes to come? Write notes for gifts received and for the pleasure



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Make this Christmas more festive with holiday shaped cookies.

of attending parties or dinners. While perfecting your manners, order personalized children's stationery so kids can learn this important discipline. Festive cards with their names make this chore more fun. You can find personalized cards for adults and kids online at such websites as Minted.com, saving you a trip to the stationery store.

- Get involved. Whether you participate in decorating the neighborhood, giving gifts to the needy or delivering food to the hungry, selfless actions help brighten the season.

This year don't lose the joy amidst the hustle and bustle.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Clint was known around the community as a good person. Residents are shocked after Monday's events.

CRIME

Continued • 1

by all accounts, a man who loved his family as a father, a husband and a grandfather.

John was found dead on Monday in a beige Dodge pickup truck on a busy intersection in Cape Coral. Investigators would later find out that the man had been attacked with a hammer, and then had his throat slit with a knife "to ensure he was dead" by none other than his own grandson: Clinton Drake, 19. Clinton told police that he and his grandfather had gotten into an argument in Clewiston, the altercation taking a violent turn, before he drove the 70-plus miles west to Lee County with his grandfather dead in the truck. When he spotted a traffic camera pointing in his direction, Clinton told police he jumped out of the truck and ran.

Drake was found after running through nearby homes and swimming in a canal behind a church. According to one homeowner who spoke with reporters, Clinton, "kept saying his name was Jesus Christ." Clinton reportedly gave a full confession to the police department, saying, "I killed my grandfather."

The body of the elder Drake is undergoing an autopsy. Investigators have been busy uncovering clues to the murder from the Drake home in Clewiston. According to Hendry County Sheriff Steve Whidden, the agency's lead investigator only recently went home after having arrived at

the crime scene in Cape Coral on Monday afternoon.

Sheriff Whidden reported on Clinton's condition. For his first court appearance in Lee County on Tuesday, Clinton was strapped to a wheelchair and closely monitored for fear of his being "combative."

As the community questions what mental state Clinton must be in, the sheriff reports that he was not believed to be under the influence of alcohol or other drugs when he was arrested, and, days after the incident, had shown signs of remorse.

"I don't know what happened exactly, but he broke down (during his interrogation)," said the sheriff. While the Hendry County Sheriff's Office works hand in hand with the Cape Coral Police Department, the issue of venue continues to be considered. As of Wednesday morning, Sheriff Whidden reported that the state attorney's office had not determined whether to keep the trial in Cape Coral - where officers initially investigated the case and got a confession - or to bring it to Hendry County, where the sheriff reports the crime occurred.

State Attorney Steven Russell is considering the venue, and is expected to make a decision soon. Through the ordeal, media representatives from the coast attempted to contact the family, which had issued a request for privacy through the sheriff's office.

Sheriff Whidden met with them on the night of the discovery. He said the encounter only served to prove that this has been the most difficult case of his career yet.

"Normally in cases like these, you want to be

able to tell the victim's family that we're going to put this bad guy away. But you can't really say that in this case," he said.

Investigating agencies are at a loss for motive; the Clewiston community is at a loss for words.

According to people who knew him, Clinton was an intensely smart student in school, if not an ambitious one. He was described as a nice person, with a lot of friends, though friends confided he would sometimes keep to himself as part of his quiet nature, and would occasionally wind up making "stupid decisions."

Such as the one he made in June. Clinton had been arrested before, including a most recent case out of Hendry County on charges of possession of burglary tools and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Based on the sheriff's report, Drake was the supposed getaway driver in

a burglary at Tropical Mobile Home Park. Drake had a black trash bag bandana on him. His accomplices were wearing the same, while one of them carried a knife wrapped in a black towel that he threw to the ground while running.

His Facebook page offers only a peek into the tormented man.

Leading up to the murder, Clinton wrote gravely of life.

"living life like we're living for living sake (sic)"

"I'm running fast so the rope can't be that thin, i don't know tho, i keep my head up. unfortunately people have a tight rope around my neck, otherwise i'd be running faster."

"I'm a good christian, but a bad person"
In his final entry on December 2, he wrote one last phrase: "I try my hardest."

THEATER

Continued • 1

from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Such nights have been very successful at his other theaters and he hoping that it takes off here as well.

Aside from movies, Brannon has used his theaters to host haunted houses and special functions. His theaters have also actively participated in community projects, fund raisers and benefits.

"We love to support the community because

the community supports us," said. "I will do everything to make this theater work and last."

He continued to say that the theater should not have been in a position to close down. The area is very supportive and has the ability to keep the theater open and running.

Soon after opening a brand new Facebook page for the theater, over 300 user liked the page within a matter of a few days. The new web site for the theater will be up soon. For now, everything is on schedule for a great opening and continued entertainment from a Clewiston landmark.

"I'm a firm believer that people will come if you give them a place they want to be at."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

4-H goes to Orlando

This past Saturday, Dec. 3, the 4-H Marine Ecology club participated in the annual state Marine Ecology Event (MEE) competition in Orlando, Florida. The participants that represented Hendry County were Jessica Coronado, Rebekah Lopez, Emma Cahoon, Jake Coronado, and Carlos Puente.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Limo ride for Eastside students

Students from Eastside that scored a 5 on last school years FCAT celebrated their achievement by having a limo ride to and from Beef-O-Brady's for lunch.

Miss Latina Celebrates Winter Fashion



PHOTO / JUAN LOPEZ

Last year's Miss Teen Latina, Carolina Lombardo, at this year's winter fashion show.

Contestants displayed Christmas, professional and evening wear

BY JUAN LOPEZ
jlopez@newszap.com

With a packed house at Florida Cafe, the Miss Latina of the Glades 2011 Winter Fashion Show presented the new contestants for the 2012 Miss Latina crown.

It was a two night event with the Saturday night show eclipsing the Friday night presentation. Friday night's show was a dry run for the contestants to help them build confidence and enhance their presentation technique.

The 2012 Miss Latina and Teen Latina of the Glades Contestants:

Yuri Molina, Alyssa Penton, Sheila Fleming, Kelly Fernandez, Delianys Morera, Maelis Martinez, Leidy Fernandez, Angelica Carrillo, Katherine Chang, Ashley Matamoros, Lynette Concepcion, and Esmeralda Rodriguez



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Clewiston Bass Anglers

The Clewiston Bass Anglers had their monthly tournament for December on Lake Okeechobee. First place was won by Mary Ann Reynolds. Second place by Bob Campbell, and third place went to Steve Seals. Mary Ann Reynolds had the Big Bass Award with a 7.83 lbs. bass. If you are interested in joining the club, their monthly meetings are held at the club house at Roland Martin Marina and Resort the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. This was the third tournament of the 2011-12 season.

Roadwatch for the Week of Dec. 4

Glades County

•US 27: From the Bridge to SR 78 east: Maintenance contract project --- Crews will be cleaning the sewers.

No lane closures are anticipated and motorists should expect possible slow moving traffic.

Hendry County

•SR 80/US 27 Interchange Improvements: Construction project ---This project modifies the SR 80/US 27 interchange by constructing an overpass for SR 80 eastbound traffic to US 27 northbound and for US 27 northbound traffic to SR 80 westbound. The project also realigns US 27.

Motorists are advised to be aware of construction vehicles entering and leaving the work zone project and to use caution driving in this area.

-Crews are placing fill dirt, installing drainage and constructing walls for the new overpass.

-Crews are working in the median. The speed limit on US 27 is 55 mph in the construction area.

Additional improvements include a traffic signal at the overpass, lighting at the interchange and widening approximately 3/4 mile of SR 80 to four lanes.

Project completion is at the end of 2013. The contractor is Ajax Paving Industries of Florida, Inc.

•SR 29: From County Line to CR 78A: Maintenance project --- Crews will be repairing and reshaping the shoulders, with lane closures. Flagmen will be present to assist with traffic.

•SR 29: South from CR 832 (Keri Road) to A Road: Maintenance permit project --- Crews will be placing power poles and fiber in this area.

Motorists should expect possible lane closures, weather permitting with flagmen on site to assist with traffic.

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One Crazy Bread per coupon-not valid with other discounts
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CLEWISTON GOLF COURSE

December Calendar of Events:



Dec. 8 - Free Class: Ladies work with the Pro on your short game, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Dec. 9 - Twilight Friday Golf 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Dec. 10 - Junior Golf Clinic 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Dec. 12 - Special Event: Spouse Alt Shot 9 Hole Event at 2 p.m.

Dec. 13 - Ladies First: Until the Ladies Tee Off Men Off on The Back (Mornings)

Dec. 14 - Golf Meeting at Country Club 6 p.m.

Dec. 16 - Twilight Friday Golf 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Dec. 17 - Junior Golf Clinic 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Dec. 19 - Free Class: Men work with the Pro on your Short Game, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Dec. 20 - Ladies First: Until the Ladies Tee Off Men Off on The Back (Mornings)

Dec. 22 - Junior Golf Clinic, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day: Closed

Dec. 27 - Ladies First: Until the Ladies Tee Off, Men Off on The Back (Mornings)

Dec. 28 - Buy Two Sleeves of Tiliest - Free Cart for Members, after 2 p.m.

Dec. 29 - Jr. Golf Clinic, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. (Pre-High School Ages) | Golf Tournament 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (High School Ages)

1201 San Luiz Ave, Clewiston - 863-983-1448

Going Out: A Guide to Area Entertainment & Attractions

G.O.



Christmas in Florida brings holiday surprises!

"Miracle on 34th Street" at Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center

Brighton Casino to give away a new car!

Hot Rides and Hot Dogs at car show

Christmas Florida style ... no snow but plenty of fun

The Christmas season brings lots of holiday activities for residents of the Lake Okeechobee area, including parades, festivals and sightings of a famed visitor from the North Pole.

Santa on the firetruck

Up north, Santa Claus may travel by sleigh, but in the Sunshine State, he is more likely to travel by other means. In the City of Okeechobee, Santa makes annual visits around the town on a fire truck. These visits, sponsored by the City of Okeechobee Fire Department, will take place the evenings of Dec. 15, in the Northwest and Northeast sections of the city; Dec. 16, in the Southwest section of the city; and, Dec. 17, in the Southeast section. It has become a tradition for local children to watch for the firetruck and a chance to wave at Santa Claus as he goes by.

Boat parades popular

Santa is often a passenger in holiday boat parades in Florida. Evening parades are especially beautiful as the lights from the boats reflect on the water.

The 22nd Annual St. Lucie County Holiday Boat Parade is scheduled for Dec. 10. The festivities begin at the South Causeway at 4 p.m. with music, food, drinks, and even a visit from Santa. The parade starts at 6 p.m. and begins at the Fort Pierce City Marina. Viewing stations will be at the South Causeway Park, Public Beach, Harbor Cove, Mangrove Matties, Chuck's Seafood, On the Edge, the Tiki, Cobb's Landing or any waterfront restaurant in that area. For more information, visit www.miatc.com. St Lucie County's Festival at South Causeway Park is also on Dec. 10. The festival will begin at 4 p.m. There will be music, vendors, Santa and the characters of the Feast of Santa Lucia.



File photo

Even the horses are decorated with lights in the Okeechobee Christmas parade.



File photo

Florida holiday parades are known for the creativity of the participants.

In Okeechobee, Butch's Redneck Yacht Club hosts an annual boat parade. This year's boat parade will be held Saturday, Dec. 17 on Taylor Creek. The boats will line up in Taylor Creek at the boat ramp behind the Burger King restaurant on State Road 70 at 5:30 p.m. The parade will start at 6 p.m. Any boaters who would like to participate are welcome. Since this is a night parade, boats should be decorated with lights. Creative decorations are encouraged. The parade will travel south down Taylor Creek to Butch's Fish Camp where judging will take place for the best decorated float.

In Glades County, Lakeport will host the first Childrens Lights of Love Boat Parade on Dec. 10, in the Harney Pond Canal. Entry fee is one unwrapped toy per person. Spectators are also encouraged to bring new, unwrapped toys to donate. The toys will go to the Christmas Toys for Lakeport Tots drive. Santa Claus will arrive on a firetruck at 5 p.m. and be available for photos. Boats may be put in the water at dusk. All boats are welcome to participate. For more information, contact Rhonda Linn at 863-946-0957.

For more information on holiday boat parades online, go to www.floridabywater.com.

Lighted holiday parades

Santa can also be found in Okeechobee's Lighted Christmas Parade on Dec. 10 in downtown Okeechobee. Santa has arrived by various means in the parade over the years but he's always at the end of the parade. The Lighted Christmas Parade has been a tradition in Okeechobee for more than 20 years. It was originally sponsored by the Okeechobee Chamber of Commerce. When the Chamber of Commerce disbanded due to economic issues, Okeechobee Main Street stepped up to sponsor the parade. It's always on the second Saturday in

December. Okeechobee Main Street will host a Christmas festival in Flagler Park (at the intersection of State Road 70 and U.S. Highway 441) during the day, starting at 9 a.m. Around 6 p.m. when it gets dark, it's time for the parade. Parade rules require that all entries be decorated with holiday lights. Cow-boys even string colored lights on their horses' saddles and bridles. The parade provides a chance for local residents to use their imaginations. In the 2010 parade, (see cover photo) a flower shop float recreated Whoville from "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." The theme for this year's parade is "An Old Fashioned Christmas."

Visitors to the park can also enjoy the giant 4' by 8' holiday cards set up for the "Holiday Stroll in the Park." The display is part of an annual fundraising activity by the Okeechobee High School band boosters. Participants pay the band boosters to set up their cards, and awards for the most creative cards are given in several categories.

The City of Pahokee will host a Christmas Parade on Dec. 12. The parade will start in front of Pahokee High School, 900 Larrimore Road. The parade will go from the school to East Main Street, then from East Main to South Lake Avenue, from South Lake to Fifth, then a right on West Fifth Street, then a right on Rardin Avenue then a right onto Bacom Point Road and finally back to South Lake Avenue. Approximately 40 entries include schools, businesses, local government officials, churches and clubs. Parade entrants will line up at 5 p.m. and the parade will start at 6 p.m.

Clewiston plans WonderFULL week

This year the City of Clewiston has planned a week long holiday celebration. Saturday, Dec. 10 also kicks off the WonderFULL Week of Christmas in Clewiston with a breakfast at the

Evangel Church, 350 S. Berner Road in Clewiston at 8 a.m. Suggested donation is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Clewiston Library, 120 W. Osceola Ave., will host an art show. At noon, there will be a senior luncheon at the First United Methodist Church, 331 W. Osceola Ave. At 7 p.m. a Christmas Cantata will be presented in the John Boy Auditorium, 1200 W.C. Owen Ave. On Sunday, Dec. 11, the Christmas Cantata will be presented again in the John Boy Auditorium at 7 p.m.

On Monday, Dec. 12, a drive-thru nativity scene will be presented in the

See CHRISTMAS — Page 3



File photo

The Holiday Stroll in the Park giant card display in Okeechobee's Flagler Park is sponsored by the Okeechobee High School Band Boosters.

Merry & Happy New Year

Christmas Pueblo Viejo

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File photo

Santa Claus can be found visiting festivals and parades throughout South Florida between now and Christmas.

CHRISTMAS

Continued From Page 2

Community Presbyterian Church at the City Swimming Pool's parking lot on West Osecola Avenue. The Lights of Love Tree Lighting Ceremony, sponsored by HRMC Foundation, at the Foundation House in Clewiston, 544 W. Sugarland Highway, will be at 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 13.

The annual ceremony honors friends and loved ones who are no longer with us. Donations are given in the memory of those the lights symbolize. For more information, call 863-983-2735. Wednesday, Dec. 14, will bring special holiday church services in Clewiston. At 6 p.m. the First United Methodist Church will host a covered dish dinner and fellowship. At 6:30 p.m. the First Baptist Church will host adult Bible study, prayer and youth services. At 7:15 p.m. New Harvest Church will hold prayer and worship services. Friday,

Dec. 16, brings the WonderFULL Lights and Tours Contest at the Historic Clewiston Inn from 6 to 9 p.m. The tour, which includes sugar cookies and cocoa, is \$2 per person. Active Citizens for Children and the City of Clewiston will host Winter Wonderland 2011 on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 5 to 9 p.m. in the Clewiston City Park, east of the pool. Visitors can play in the snow, meet and take pictures with Santa, enjoy Christmas music, train rides, ice skating and sledding. There will be a slide, a bounce house, booths and hay rides. Booths are available for \$25. For more information, call 863-228-0299. For more on Clewiston events, see the Clewiston News page on Facebook.

The annual Christmas on the Caloosahatchee celebration, a Moore Haven tradition, will be held on Thursday, Dec. 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Tom Perry City Park. There will be games for children, booths with arts and crafts, lots of foods and desserts. Santa will be there to meet with the children and pose for photos.

• 30TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON •

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A String of Pearls

2011-2012

The Bronx Wanderers
Feb. 23 at 7:30pm

Jim Witter in "The Piano Men"
March 2 at 7:30pm

American Spirit The New Patriotic Musical
Nov. 14 at 7:30pm

The Allan Harris Quartet
March 15 at 7:30pm

The 23rd Annual Living Christmas Tree
Dec. 3 at 7:30pm
Dec. 4 at 3:00pm

Palm Beach State College Music Department
March 22 at 7:30pm

Miracle on 34th Street
Dec. 15 at 7:30pm

Celtic Fire: Irish Music & Dance with Riverdance's Michael Londra
March 23 at 7:30pm

Jay Johnson in "The Two & Only"
Jan. 12 at 7:30pm

30th Anniversary Celebration Buffalo Rome and Larry Gatlin
April 17 at 7:00pm

Guy Penrod
Jan. 26 at 7:30pm

Missoula Children's Theatre
May 5 at 11:00am & 7:00pm

The Improvised Shakespeare Company
Feb. 14 at 7:30pm

Street Beat, Inc.
May 11 at 7:00pm

Brigadoon
Feb. 16 at 7:30pm

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Brighton casino to give away cash, prizes and a new car

A sleigh full of cash and prizes to be given away in December

BRIGHTON SEMINOLE RESERVATION—The Grinch is nowhere to be found during December at Seminole Casino Brighton, where a series of holiday promotions mean cash and prizes for hundreds of casino patrons, including one who will win a new car.

Slots players can win more than \$57,000 in cash and slot machine free play through Dec. 24, with 24 winners of \$100 cash or free play every day. Players will also earn daily entries now through Dec. 25 into a drawing for a 2012 Lexus CT200 Hybrid, with the winner's name drawn on Monday, Dec. 26.

For bingo players, a special Christmas Eve Bingo session starts with early birds at 12:45 p.m. and regular session players at 1 p.m. Bingo packs are \$18, \$28 or \$55, with no evening bingo session scheduled on Christmas Eve.

Poker players can compete for seats in a \$10,000 Cash & Free Play Texas Hold'em Tournament on Christmas Day. Players can win seats at the tournament table at satellite tournaments Dec. 11 and 18, or they can win seats based on play.

Five slots players can win their way into the New Year by taking home \$2,012 in cash on New Year's Eve at Seminole

Casino Brighton, which will also offer free party favors, a balloon drop and a midnight free champagne toast. The casino will feature a New Year's Eve \$9.95 prime rib dinner special from 4 to 7:30 p.m. and a New Year's Eve Bingo session with \$37,000 in prize money and pre-sale tickets available through Dec. 29. A New Year's Eve Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament at 7 p.m. offers a \$2,400 prize pool with a \$50 buy-in for 40 poker players.

Slots players can also win their share of \$10,000 in cash drawings on Sunday and Monday, Jan. 1 and 2, when 50 winners each day will win \$100 in cash.

About Seminole Casino Brighton
Seminole Casino Brighton is a 27,000-square-foot casino with 371-slot and gaming machines, a seven-table poker room, high-stakes bingo seats, a full-service restaurant and lounge. Its warm and friendly staff, ultra-modern air-conditioning system, clean atmosphere, and rewarding casino promotions are a welcome alternative to big city gaming.

The Seminole Casino Brighton is located on the Brighton Seminole Reservation, 17735 Reservation Road, (State Road 710) in Glades County. For more information, call toll-free 800-360-9875 or 863-467-9998. Or visit www.seminolebrightoncasino.com.

Car club meets in LaBelle

The South Central Florida Car Club meets the third Tuesday of every month from September through June, from 5-8 p.m. The December event will be Dec. 20.

Come to Barron Park, located in LaBelle at SR 29 (Bridge Street) and the Caloosahatchee River. Turn north off SR 80 on to SR 29N. The park is at the foot of the LaBelle Bridge.

Whether you have a great ride yourself or just enjoy looking, the SCFCC's monthly Hot Rides & Hot Dogs Cruise In welcomes everyone. All area car owners and auto enthusiasts are invited to come out to join in, for an evening of fun. Cars and trucks of all years, makes and models are welcome and encouraged to join. For more info contact Tom at 863-234-8343 or Bud 863-634-1791.



Courtesy photo
Classic vehicles such as this 1974 Kenworth truck can be found at the Hot Rides and Hot Dogs Cruise In.

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GAMBLE WITH CARE

Plays, concerts, dance programs and more ...

The Christmas Toy Shop

LABELLE—The Firehouse Community Theatre, located three blocks north from the intersection of State Road 29 and State Road 80 in LaBelle, will present "The Christmas Toyshop" by Michele L. Vacca, on Dec. 9, 10 and 11. The play will be directed by Mike Shough and produced by special arrangement with CLASSICS ON STAGE! of Chicago. This original fantasy will appeal to the entire family with the enchantment and excitement of Christmas. Christmas musical selections will be performed by the Firehouse Singers under the direction of Nick Fidanza. Productions are Friday and Saturday nights at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. For information call 863-675-3066, or visit their web site at www.firehousecultural-center.com.

Miracle on 34th Street

BELLE GLADE—The Dolly Hand Performing Arts Center, 1977 College Drive in Belle Glade, will present Barter Theatre's "Miracle on 34th Street" on Thursday, Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m.

A favorite holiday tale by Valentine Davies, made famous by the movie of the same name, it's the story of the year as Kris Kringle—aka Santa Claus—goes on trial. Macy's becomes the friendly store to shop, two lost souls find each other and a little girl discovers her childhood through her belief in miracles.

"Delectable Delights," a Dessert Buffet will be available prior to "Miracle on 34th Street" (for an additional fee) from 6 to 7 p.m. Sample many wonderful desserts at this buffet of sugary, low-sugar and sugar-free treats.

For more information, contact the Dolly Hand Performing Arts Center, 561-993-1160, or see their web site at www.dollyhand.org.

Josh Wilson in concert

OKEECHOBEE—On Saturday, Dec. 10, at 8 p.m., Josh Wilson presents "Noel," a unique Christmas experience, recording 20 instruments live on stage, at Okeechobee Church of God, 301 N.E. Fourth Avenue. The concert will feature Christmas songs and radio hits including "Before the Morning," "I Refuse," and "Fall Apart." For more information online go to okeechobee.org, or call 863-697-0270 or 863-763-4127. Tickets are available at the Okeechobee Church of God or from iTickets.com.



Josh Wilson



The Dolly Hand Performing Arts Center

Okeechobee Community Choir Christmas Cantata

Frank & Brooke Carter recently composed a cantata especially for the Okeechobee Community Choir. The cantata will be presented at the First United Methodist Church of Okeechobee on Friday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 18 at 3 p.m. For more information, call Sandy Perry at 863-634-7714.

Camel Lot

BELLE GLADE—"Camel Lot" a musical based on the birth of Jesus and a camel sales lot, will be presented at the First Baptist Church of Belle Glade, 17 N.W. Avenue B, on Dec. 11, at 6 p.m. Approximately 50 children will be in the show. Admission is free. Call 561-996-5596 for more information.

Majesty of Christmas

CLEWISTON—A Christmas Cantata will be presented Saturday, Dec. 10, and Sunday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. in the John Boy Auditorium, 1200 South W.C. Owen Avenue in Clewiston. Come and enjoy a 60-voice choir performing "The Majesty of Christmas," by Tom Fettke, accompanied by live orchestration, in association with the Clewiston Chamber of Commerce 2011 WonderFULL Week of Christmas and the Clewiston Ministerial Alliance. During the cantata, children can enjoy an arts and crafts program in the Beardsley Room. Everyone will join together afterwards for refreshments. Donations will be accepted to cover the expenses of the presentation.

Bethlehem's Child

GLADES COUNTY—A cantata, "Bethlehem's Child," will be presented on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 6 p.m. at Maple Grove Baptist Church, 120 State Road 78. The cantata is a combined effort of the Lakeport Christian Church and the Maple Grove Baptist Church.

Come, Let us Worship the King

BELLE GLADE—The Community United Methodist Church in Belle Glade will present the Christmas cantata "Come, Let Us Worship the King" at 7 p.m. on Dec. 18, at the Community Methodist Church, 401 S.W. First Street. A chorus of approximately 25 persons will perform. Admission is free. For more information, call 561-996-5568.

The Gift of Christmas

PAHOKEE—Good Shepherd Church of Pahokee, 1800 Bacom Point Road, will present "The Gift of Christmas," at 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 18 and 8 p.m. on Dec. 19.

Adult and children's choirs will perform, concluding with Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. Admission is free. For more information, call 561-924-7284.

Children's celebration

PAHOKEE—Harvest AME Church in Pahokee will present a children's celebration on Dec. 25, at 11 a.m. with song and dance to Christmas music. For information, call 561-924-4263 or 561-261-6220.



IRSC will present a holiday show.

IRSC Fine Arts Department Holiday Show

FORT PIERCE—Ring in the season with sounds of the holidays! From Inspirational carols to nostalgic T.V. memories and a visit from Santa, the "IRSC Holiday Show" brings holiday favorites for everyone to the McAlpin Theatre. Join the entire Indian River State College Fine Arts Department for a very special McAlpin On-Stage production for the whole family that is sure to become a season tradition as they present the "IRSC Holiday Show." Featuring song, dance, musical performance and an appearance from Santa, the "IRSC Holiday Show," is a performance that all will enjoy as the IRSC Fine Arts Department helps ring in the holiday season. Shows will be Dec. 8, 9 and 10 at 8 p.m., in addition to a 2 p.m. performance Dec. 10. For more information, call 772-462-4750 or toll-free at 1-800-220-9915.

Jay Johnson in "The Two and Only"

BELLE GLADE—The Dolly Hand Performing Arts Center, will present the "The Two and Only," on Thursday, Jan. 12, at 7:30 p.m. This 2007 Tony Award Winner for Best Theatrical Event stars Jay Johnson, who is best known for his role as Chuck on the groundbreaking television series, SOAP. Jay brings his cast of puppets to the stage in this comedy about finding your voice in one of the funniest, most wonderful and original theatrical experiences in recent years. It's about life, growing up, having a dream and everything in between.

For more information, contact the Dolly Hand Performing Arts Center, 561-993-1160, or see their web site at www.dollyhand.org.



Jay Johnson

State parks offer outdoor fun and concerts under the stars

Highlands Hammock State Park

One of Florida's oldest parks—opening to the public in 1931—this park was established when local citizens came together to promote the hammock as a candidate for national park status. An elevated boardwalk traverses an old-growth cypress swamp. Highlands Hammock offers a full-facility campground, as well as a youth/group tent campground. A museum showcasing the history of the CCC is open 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Highlands Hammock State Park is located off US 27 on SR 634 (also known as Hammock Road), four miles west of Sebring.

A Music in the Park Concert, is set for Dec. 10, 7-9 p.m.—an evening outdoor concert featuring Highlands County Students for a Christmas Show in the park's picnic area. Picnic baskets/coolers are welcome. Bring lawn chairs or blankets, flashlight and bug spray. All ticket proceeds benefit park improvements via the Friends of Highlands Hammock. Concert admission is \$5. per person (accompanying children 12 & under admitted free of charge.) Park entrance fee of \$6 per car is waived after 6 p.m. on concert nights. Call 863-386-6094 for more information.

Fort Pierce Inlet State Park

The shores and coastal waters at this park provide an abundance of recreational opportunities. The breathtakingly beautiful half-mile beach welcomes visitors for swimming, snorkeling, surfing, and scuba diving. Beachcombing, picnicking, or just relaxing on the sand are also popular activities. Dynamite Point was once the training site for WWII Navy Frogmen, but is now a haven for birdwatchers. Along the south end of the park, Fort Pierce Inlet is a popular place for anglers to catch their dinners. Jack Island Preserve, located one mile north of the park, has trails for hiking, bicycling, and nature study. At the west end of the Marsh Rabbit Run Trail, visitors can climb an observation tower to get a bird's-eye view of Indian River and the island. A primitive youth/group campground is available on a reservation basis. Call the park at 772-468-3985. Located four miles east of Fort Pierce, via North Causeway.



Courtesy photo

A barefoot couple walks on the beach.

John D. MacArthur State Beach Park

A unique mixture of coastal and tropical hammock and mangrove forest, this barrier island provides a haven for several rare or endangered native tropical and coastal plant species. The park's Nature Center shows visitors why the park is a biological treasure. Visitors can swim, picnic, and surf at the beach; scuba diving and snorkeling are also popular activities. Visitors can fish from non-swimming areas of the beach. Located in northern Palm Beach County, 2.8 miles south of the intersection of U.S. 1 and PGA Boulevard on A1A. For more information call 561-624-6950.

On Jan. 7, 7 to 9 p.m. enjoy MacArthur Under Moonlight. This concert series is held once a month. January's musician is Alex Kash, a songwriter, 12-string acoustic guitarist and solo artist. His music combines Americana, Soul, R&B and Jazz sounds. No reservations required and children under age 10 are free. Admission is \$5 per person. For more information, call the Ranger Station at 561-624-6950.

On Jan. 8, from 2 to 4 p.m., Bluegrass Music, Conch Stomp Band will play a variety of bluegrass songs. This program is free with park admission.



Courtesy photo

Kayaking is a popular activity near John D. MacArthur Beach State Park.

Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park

This remote and sweeping preserve is reminiscent of western prairies. But here, cabbage palms dot the landscape. Dry prairie is an imperiled habitat and hosts rare and endangered species, including the Florida grasshopper sparrow, burrowing owl and the crested caracara. With 116 miles of multi-use trails for hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking, you can be on the trail all day and never see another visitor. Buggy tours are offered on weekends and national holidays from fall to early spring.

The park is approximately 25 miles northwest of the City of Okeechobee. To get there from Okeechobee, take Hwy. 98 north to C.R. 700A or U.S. 441 to C.R. 724. Follow the signs.

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New Florida Trails Chapter to Meet on Dec. 11

GLADES COUNTY—Join the Fisheating Creek Florida Trails Association Sub-Chapter for their monthly program followed by a hike on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 2 p.m. Meet at the Screen Room at the Fisheating Creek Outpost Campground in Palmdale. The program topics will be “Building a Stile” and “Blazes” (the standard trail marking system used by hikers). Bring water and wear closed-toed walking shoes for the leisurely hike on the Lost Lake Trail. Families, youth and adults are welcome. The day-use fee will be waived for participants who help pick up litter during the hike. For information contact Betty Loomis at 863-946-3560 or Margaret England at 863-674-0695. Become one of the founding members of this new Florida Trails Association Chapter being organized by Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee County residents and visitors. Visit and “Like” Fisheating Creek Florida Trails Association Facebook page.



Courtesy photo/Margaret England

Hikers enjoy the Fisheating Creek area.

Christmas Craft Show

LABELLE—The annual Christmas Craft Show at Whisper Creek RV Resort will be on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The resort is on Hwy. 29 one mile north of the bridge. Coffee and donuts as well as a special lunch will be available for purchase. Door prizes will be drawn every 15 minutes. Free admittance. Contact Marji Fuller at marjifuller@gmail.com or 269-838-3012 for more information.

Craft Fair in BHR

BUCKHEAD RIDGE—The Buckhead Ridge Moose Lodge will hold their Third Annual Craft Fair on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The craft fair will feature handmade and handcrafted items showcasing area crafters and artists. Come see new, first time displays, your favorite crafters return, and a breakfast that can't be beat. Pine needle art, homemade candy and pickles, jewelry, quilts, furniture, yard decorations and much more will be on sale. For more information call Bonnie at 863-357-1556.



Courtesy photo

The Raid on Fort Pierce is a fictional Civil War battle.

Civil War battle re-enactment

FORT PIERCE—The 11th Annual “Raid on Fort Pierce” Civil War Reenactment will take place in Savanna County Park, 1400 East Midway Road in Fort Pierce on Dec. 10 and 11. The Living History will take place from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. and the battle is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Saturday and 1 p.m. on Sunday. Entry fee for adults is \$6; children over 5 years, \$1, under 5 are free. Parking is FREE! The reenactment is of a fictional Civil War battle in period uniforms and replica period weapons. This battle is hosted by the 8th Florida Company C and the 75th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Proceeds help fund the 11th annual Raid on Fort Pierce Event and the Sons of Confederate Veterans, George W. Thomas Camp 1595.

A Night in Bethlehem

LABELLE—First Christian Church invites everyone to “A Night in Bethlehem.” This event will give guests an opportunity to explore a busy marketplace in Bethlehem with opportunities to interact with shopkeepers leading up to a living Nativity. There will be hands-on experiences in many of the shops, making it an evening to remember. The event is set for Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 10, and 11, from 4-8 p.m. at the corner of Lee and Ford Streets in LaBelle.

Heart Gallery on display

OKEECHOBEE—The Heart Gallery of Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast will be on display through Dec. 12, at Indian River State College, Dixon Hendry Campus, Building B, 2229 N.W. 9th Avenue. The Heart Gallery is a unique and stirring traveling photographic exhibit featuring children in foster care hoping to be adopted. These children have been removed from home due to abuse, neglect or abandonment. They are “difficult to place” children who are older (7-17 years of age), sibling groups, minority or bi-racial, who may have physical or emotional or behavioral. For more information, contact Frank Avilla at 772-429-2009.

Audubon offers bird watching opportunities

HENDRY COUNTY—Through a partnership with Hendry-Glades Audubon, the South Florida Water Management District will offer to the public, escorted birding trips to Stormwater Treatment Area 5 (STA-5) located south of Clewiston in eastern Hendry County. Trips are limited to 60 participants. Registration required. Participants meet at STA5 gate at 8:30 a.m. To sign up for a trip, send an e-mail to Margaret England, at sta5birding@embarqmail.com with your name and contact information including an emergency cell number for the tour day, the date you want to go, and the number in your party. You may also leave a message at 863-674-0695 or 863-517-0202. Birding trips are planned for Dec. 17, Dec. 31 (the Christmas bird count), and Jan. 14.



Courtesy photo/White tailed kite

Cookie exchange benefits local teen

CLEWISTON—On Dec. 17, the Community Christmas Cookie Exchange at Civic Park in Clewiston will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. Participants are asked to bake a minimum of four dozen cookies, then buy other cooks' cookies for \$3 a dozen. There will be a best-cookie contest. Proceeds will benefit the family of Darius Redd, a Clewiston football player who is awaiting a heart transplant. For more information, call 863-983-7979.

Register for Art in the Park

MOORE HAVEN—Area artists and craftsmen are cordially invited to exhibit and sell their work at “Art in the Park” in downtown Moore Haven on Saturday, Jan. 28, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information and to reserve a place, call Mary Booher, Director of Libraries, at 863-946-0744.

Star of Wonder Show at Hallstrom Planetarium

FORT PIERCE—Indian River State College's Hallstrom Planetarium will present “Star of Wonder,” on Dec. 9 and 10. In the planetarium show, “Star of Wonder,” audiences will join in the search for the star that may have guided the Magi over two thousand years ago. A family holiday tradition since 1993. Shows on Friday are at 7 and 8 p.m. Shows on Saturday are at 1 and 2 p.m. For ticket information, call the IRSC Box Office at 1-800-220-9915.

Live nativity scene

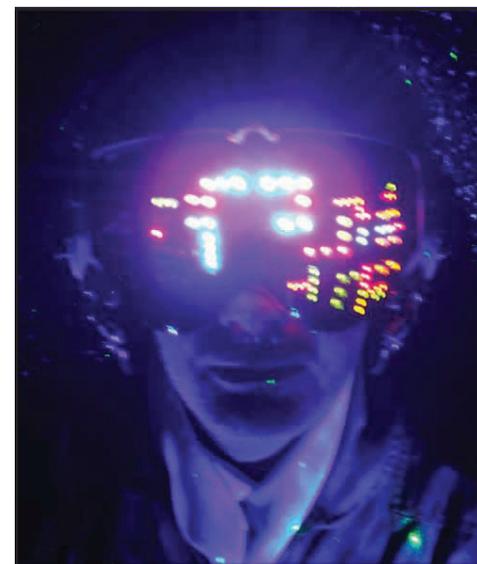
LABELLE—Take time from your busy schedule and bring your loved ones to enjoy the live nativity drive-thru at Life Ministries Church at 725 West Hwy-80 in LaBelle. The presentation this year will tell “Why Jesus was Born.” The presentation will be three nights: Dec. 14, 15 and 16 from 6-9 p.m.

Holiday non-profit market

FORT PIERCE—On Saturday, Dec. 10, Heathcote Botanical Gardens will host the 5th annual Heathcote Holiday Non-Profit Market. Treasure Coast Non-Profit Organizations will be selling holiday gift items: jewelry, artwork, handcrafts, baked goods, concert tickets, memberships, gifts for fishermen, nature lovers, animal lovers, history buffs and more. Every gift that is sold benefits the selling organization. Admission to the Gardens is FREE for the day. “It's our Christmas gift to the community,” said Heathcote Activities Director, Cindy Hall. “There are so many wonderful non-profit organizations on the Treasure Coast, working hard to make this a better world. The Holiday Non-Profit Market is one way we can help each others' efforts.” For more information about the Heathcote Holiday Non-Profit Market, call the Gardens at (772) 464-4672 or visit www.heathcotebotanicalgardens.org. 210 Savannah Road, Fort Pierce, FL 34982.

Once Upon a Midnight Clear

FORT PIERCE—Indian River State College's Hallstrom Planetarium will present “Once Upon a Midnight Clear,” on Dec. 15 at 8 p.m. “Once Upon a Midnight Clear” is a concert under the stars featuring live electronic winter music of world-renowned composer and artist Jonn Serrie. For ticket information, call the IRSC Box Office at 1-800-220-9915.



Courtesy photo/IRSC

Once Upon a Midnight Clear features live electronic music.

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