

The Clewiston News

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2013

VOL. 87 - NUMBER 3 - 50¢

JENNY WOODS PREMIERES PHOTO EXHIBIT AT COLLEGE
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PHOSPHORUS STILL ENTERING LAKE O
PAGE 14

Suspect in Murder and Arson Case Found Guilty

BY SAVANNAH ROUNDS
srounds@newszap.com

A grisly homicide which shook Hendry County residents nearly five years ago has finally gone through trial and received a verdict.

In the early morning hours of Wednesday, October 17, 2007, the Montura Volunteer Fire Department responded to a call reporting a fire located inside of a Montura residence.

While putting out the flames, fire fighters stumbled on a shocking discovery: located in the center of the fire was a deceased man with his hands and feet bound together.

The body was later identified as that of 60-year-old Epitacio Antonio Hernandez-Beltran, who endured what would later be described as an "unimaginable death" by a fire fighter who was on the scene.

By this time rumors were circulating around the community regarding the suspects who committed the crime, with fingers seeming to point to Vernon Dwayne Stevens and Raymond Alberto Diaz. Residents from the community informed officers that the suspects were hiding from law enforcement officers in order to avoid capture.

SEE MURDER • 14



Southern Gardens Citrus provides juice to students



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Southern Gardens Citrus and Florida's Natural Growers Cooperative provided a glass of premium Florida orange juice to nearly 5,500 elementary students when they toured the South Florida Fair's agricultural exhibit and farmers market. The students and their teachers toured exhibits on sugarcane, citrus, vegetables, honey and more to learn about the importance of agriculture to the region's economy.

FLW Tournament Starts Today

BY SAVANNAH ROUNDS
srounds@newszap.com

"We generally try to find different places for this tournament each year, but Lake Okeechobee is usually one of the first places that we turn to," stated Chad Gay, representative for the FLW. "This is what quality fishing is all about."

It's that time of year again: the water is warming up, the fish are spawning, and it's time for fishermen from all around the world to come to "America's Sweetest Town" to enjoy what Chad refers to as a "quality fishing experience."

"Okeechobee is one of those bodies of water that can be extremely intimidating if you're not used to it," said Chad. "It's not the typical kind of lake that many are used to going to; it takes

some getting used to."

Chad recalled one of his first experiences out on the lake with a guide.

"We were just zooming across the lake when I suddenly saw this big grassy bar," he explained. "I looked over at him, completely shocked and thinking that we were going to run right into it. But no, he ran right over it at this certain spot. I looked over at him and asked, 'How did you know that was there?' He said to me, 'I know this place like the back of my hand.'"

Scott Ellison, representative for the FLW, explains why Lake Okeechobee is the ideal place to fish at this time of year.

"Basically, the fish have a life cycle, and right now a lot of other lakes are still cold. When the water becomes warm spawning season begins, which

means that the fish are laying eggs and eating a lot of food, which is ideal for catching them. We hook them with artificial bait that looks like what they're wanting to eat."

The FLW tournament has been held in Clewiston for the past five years, bringing with it fishermen from Canada, Spain, Japan, and other countries all over the world.

The tournament lasts for four days, beginning today, February 7, at 7:30 a.m. and lasting until Sunday. The fisherman will each keep the five biggest fish that they catch, updating this by putting the smallest back after each catch, and then will weigh in at the end of the day.

SEE FLW • 16

DUI Bicyclist Won't Go Down Easily

BY SAVANNAH ROUNDS
srounds@newszap.com

Last week officers with The Clewiston Police Department (CPD) arrested a man traveling on a bicycle on charges of driving under the influence of alcohol and battery on an officer.

It began on the night of January 28, when a police officer noticed a subject on a bicycle who did not have lights on the front or rear of his bicycle. The officer then noticed that the operator of the bicycle ran a stop sign, almost causing him to be run over by the officer.

The officer proceeded by conducting a traffic stop on the bicycle, explaining to the operator of the bicycle that traffic laws still pertain to him, which is when the officer smelled a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from his facial area and identified him as Carlos Ramirez.

When asked if he had been drinking, the suspect stated that he had 12 Bud Light's that night.

The officer told Ramirez to put his hands behind his back, which he failed to do.

The report then states that the officer "escorted Carlos to the ground in an attempt to place him in hand restraints." However, the suspect pushed the officer away and began to "flee the scene."

SEE BIKE • 16

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Down the Rabbit Hole: An Art Exhibit at Dolly Hand

BY SAVANNAH ROUNDS

A cacophony of images, riddled with heartache and sadness; this is exactly what those who walk in to Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center for Jenny Woods' gallery exhibit on February 19 will find themselves among.

Woods' work can be seen in every crevice of the Internet, most notably the famous fashion magazine, *Vogue Italia*. However, she explained that she did not fall into photography to please others, but rather to allow those looking at it a small glimpse into her world.

"My pictures are literally a book of who I am. I cannot write, so this is a way for me to let people in," said Woods. "I don't open up well with other people, but I can through my photography because I'm vulnerable. I'm letting them get to know a piece of me, in a way."

Woods' experience and vast collection of photographs may cause her age to come as a shock to some people. However, being only 20 years old enables her to recall the events leading up to her love for photography.

"I had a lot of self esteem issues in school. Kids picked on me a lot, so I didn't think that I was pretty," explained a reluctant Woods. "I remember that I always wore a jacket, even if it was 100 degrees outside, to cover my body. Then I discovered a camera that my mom had and I started taking pictures of myself. It made me view myself in a different way. I liked the feeling; I became addicted to that feeling."

Since her addiction to photography began, she has not been able to put the camera down.

One of her signature traits, which many models have come to recognize, is her ability to almost always connect emotionally with her subjects, which allows her to create images riddled with emotion; capturing more than just a photograph: a feeling.

"I think that everybody has self esteem issues, especially the people that I shoot. What most people don't understand is that models are some of the most insecure people you will ever meet. They are constantly being told that they are not good enough; they need to lose weight, gain weight, their face isn't perfect, they aren't tall enough, they're not pale enough.

"I don't want them to think that they're just a model to me; someone that I can dress up and use like a doll. They're humans. I want to see their mind, their soul, their heart. I want to show that there is more to them than just a body. I don't

try to convey anything purposely with my photographs. I would hope that people see them as messy and honest and perfectly imperfect. I hope that people love that about them and realize that perfection is not beauty. I think that beauty is being com-

"I don't try to convey anything purposely with my photographs. I would hope that people see them as messy and honest and perfectly imperfect. I hope that people love that about them and realize that perfection is not beauty."

-Jenny Woods

pletely yourself. Raw, uncut, just unapologetically who you are and not giving a damn about what anyone else thinks of you; internally and on the outside as well."

Many who have worked with Woods refer to her as a "flower child," which is somewhat fitting as many of her pictures are either taken among the flowers or have a flower overlay. Most of her photographs have been taken in Hendry County and Palm Beach County, out among the elements.

"I like to feel free when I'm shooting," ex-

plained Woods. "The studio limits my mind, I feel like I'm in a cage. When I'm one with nature I feel like it's more natural and honest."

Woods feels that she gets her artistic side from her father, who she explained is a musician, painter, and singer, among other things, which all comes naturally to him.

"I would hope that he is proud of me," said Woods. "When I was first starting out he didn't want to pay for my art school. I think that it had to do with the fact that he could never make a living off of what he did; he just didn't want me to get hurt. I think that he realizes now that I wasn't going to give up as easily as he did. I feel sad for him more than anything. I think that the biggest failure in life is not pursuing your dreams."

Woods plans to pursue her dreams passionately, with one of her most persistent goals being to move to New York.

"I grew up in Clewiston, but I was born again in New York. I left myself in New York."

She explains that her photographs are much like New York in one aspect; that if they could speak freely, they would "tell all of my secrets. I'm really glad that they don't."

Woods' exhibit will open on February 19 and will remain until March 1. You can stop by and view them from Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., and one hour before all performances.

Her photographs will be up for viewing and purchasing during this time.



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PHOTOS / JENNY WOODS

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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 emailed. The deadline for all news items is 12 p.m. Monday prior to the following Thursday's publication.

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Staff**Editorial:**

Publisher: **Jose Zaragoza**
Copy Editor: **Jenny Woods**
Reporter: **Savannah Rae Rounds**

Advertising:

E-mail: southlakeads@newszap.com
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- 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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COMMUNITY NEWS AND INFORMATION

Family Movie Night

First United Methodist Church of Clewiston will have its monthly family movie night on Friday, Feb. 8, at 6 p.m. There is no charge and everyone is welcome.

Faith Lutheran Church Yard Sale

Faith Lutheran Church is having a yard sale on Saturday, Feb. 9, at 8 a.m. Their address is 810 Cedar Street. In conjunction with the Yard Sale, they will be having a bake sale.

'Welcome Back to Lodge Rusty Nail'

All Florida Masonic Districts are having a "welcome back to Lodge Rusty Nail" class on Saturday, Feb. 9, at 12 p.m. at the Sugarland Lodge 281. For more information, please contact Cecil O. Akin at 863-517-1359.

Ladies Auxiliary

Ladies Auxiliary is holding their Second Annual Sock Hop on Saturday, Feb. 9, starting at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW. They are looking for donations of new pairs of socks for overseas care packages.

Eleventh Annual Pro Steadman 4-H Scholarship Fund Cake Auction

The male celebrity cake auction will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 13, at the LaBelle Rodeo Grounds at 6 p.m. Please come out and give your support to raise money for the Pro Steadman 4-H Scholarship Fund.

The scholarship will be awarded to two high school students from Clewiston or LaBelle in May in the amount of \$1,000 each.

In order to apply, the senior must be a current 4-H member and have participated in either the Hendry County Fair or the LaBelle Youth Livestock Show.

For more information, please contact the 4-H Office at 863-674-4092 or 863-983-1598.

Talent Fest

If you have a talent or a band and would like to win money and a chance to perform at Sugar Festival, enter Drug Free Hendry's Talent Fest. You can win up to \$700.

Please pick up an application from your high school or middle school guidance office. Auditions will be Feb. 19 at 3 p.m., Feb. 20 at 3 p.m., and Feb. 28 at 3:30 p.m., in Clewiston. First, second, and third place win cash and are invited to the county wide competition at Sugar Festival in Clewiston. Deadline to enter is Feb. 12.

All talents are welcome: singing, split track, bands, rap, magicians, poets, dance. For more information, please contact Bianca Ross at 863-674-4041 ext.143.

Home Exhibits

The Hendry County Fair would like to invite you to show off your talents. The Home Exhibit Committee will be accepting entries for the home exhibit booth on Feb. 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Fairgrounds.

Please bring your homemade quilts, sewing

projects, canned goods, photos, wood-working items, crochet items, ceramics and/or anything home-made for competition and display at the 2013 Fair. Baked Goods will be accepted Saturday, Feb. 16, from 12 to 2 p.m.

For more information, please contact Yvonne Swindle at 863-983-4453.

Cougar Signups

The Clewiston Cougars will be having signups for football and cheer every Saturday in February from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the cougar's locker room.

Mini Health Fairs

Health fairs are free and open to the public. They will be doing free blood pressure, weight, pulse, and oxygen checks.

•Clewiston Senior Center on Thursday, Feb. 28, at 11:30 a.m.

For more information, please contact Tabitha Yebba at 863-233-1305.

Focus on the Heart

First Baptist Church of Clewiston invites you to join us for a weekend of focused attention on our hearts towards God starting Friday, March first. Kenny Evans, a Southern Gospel recording artist and Dinner Theater entertainer in Pigeon Forge, TN, will speak and sing at each service.

The schedule of events for the weekend is as follows:

•Golden Oldies Dinner Show on Friday, March 1, at 6:30 p.m.

•Focus on the Heart on Saturday, March 2,

at 7 p.m.

•Focus on the Heart on Sunday, March 3, at 10:55 a.m.

Tickets for the Golden Oldies Dinner Show can be purchased through the church office. A love offering will be taken at all events. For more information, please call 863-983-5555.

Chemical Dependence Anonymous Meetings

Chemical Dependence Anonymous (CDA) meetings are being held on Mondays and Thursdays at 7 p.m., at Clewiston Gospel Ministries Church, located at 6800 Flaghole Road.

This is a 12-step program for drugs and alcohol. If you would like to know more about this group, please contact Gene at 863-983-4437.

CHS Class Reunion '03

Attention Class of '03, as the 10-year class reunion approaches we are asking all '03 graduates to please contact Dana Jo Alley-Vallejo at 863-599-1718 or by email at chs.classof2003@yahoo.com with your contact information.

The reunion is scheduled for Saturday, June 22, 2013. Please help us contact all of our classmates by passing this information along.

AA Meetings

There will be AA meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays at 7 p.m., held at St. Martin's Church at 207 N. W.C. Owen in Clewiston.



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Inland Birding Fun: Northern Pintail (NOPI)

BY MARGARET ENGLAND
Hendry-Glades Audubon

Mark your calendar for the 16th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) to be held from Feb. 15 to 18. Discover and help the birds in your community. The GBBC is fun, family-friendly, and educational. This event is free and open to birders of all ages and skill levels. Everything you need to know to participate is on the GBBC website at www.birdsource.org/gbbc/ including instructions, regional checklists, FAQ's, classroom activities, and a how-to-video.



Margaret England

For the past six years Clewiston has been in the "Top Ten" for the number of birds reported during this annual count. Students and adults from Belle Glade, Clewiston, Felda, LaBelle, Moore Haven, and Okeechobee submitted reports in 2012.

It is easy to participate. Just spend 15 minutes or more each day then enter your tallies on the Great Backyard Bird Count website. If you don't have internet access you may request a print tally sheet by contacting Margaret England. Hendry-



PHOTO / GREG CORNETT

Northern Pintail.

Glades Audubon volunteers will enter your data if the completed form is returned by Feb. 28.

The Great Backyard Bird Count helps scientist learn about the distribution of bird species including the Northern Pintail. These dabbling ducks are found in a variety of habitats in Eurasia and North America. In North America they breed in Alaska, central Canadian Arctic, western Greenland, and the central and western portion of United States. Northern Pintails who migrate down the Atlantic Flyway are often found on their wintering grounds in Florida, Central Ameri-

can, the Caribbean, or northern Colombia.

These long slender ducks with long narrow wings and long necks are sometimes called the "greyhound of the air." Males have elongated central tail feathers about one-fourth the length of their bodies. They have a chocolate-brown head with a white strip on each side of the neck that extends up from their white breast and belly. Males have a blackish-gray back and blue-gray bill. The female Northern Pintail has a dark-brown upper body with a buff or gray head and lower body. Males make wheezy mewling

"kwee" or "kwee-hee" calls, but the female's vocalization is a hoarse, muffled "quack."

The Northern Pintail spends the winter in a wide variety of shallow inland freshwater and intertidal habitats. They dabble and up-end while feeding on grain, seeds, weeds, aquatic insects, crustaceans, and snails.

Their nest is a scrape in the ground in brush or grass in open county with shallow, seasonal wetlands and low vegetation. This nest which is often far from water is lined with grass and down. The female lays three to 12 greenish buff eggs which she incubates for 21 to 25 day. The young fledge when they are 39 to 52 days old.

You and your guests are invited to participate in upcoming birding trips Saturday, Feb. 16, Sunday, Feb. 17, or Monday, Feb. 18, at STA5 (Stormwater Treatment Area 5). A few volunteers will be working on the Great Backyard Bird Count survey.

Birders and/or photographers will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the STA5 Deer Fence Canal Trailhead. To make a reservation please e-mail Margaret England at sta5birding@embarqmail.com or call 863-674-0695 or 863-517-0202.

The schedule of STA5 trips through December 2013 and upcoming Hendry-Glades Audubon programs is available on the HGAS website at www.hendrygladesaudubon.org. "Like" Hendry-Glades Audubon on Facebook.

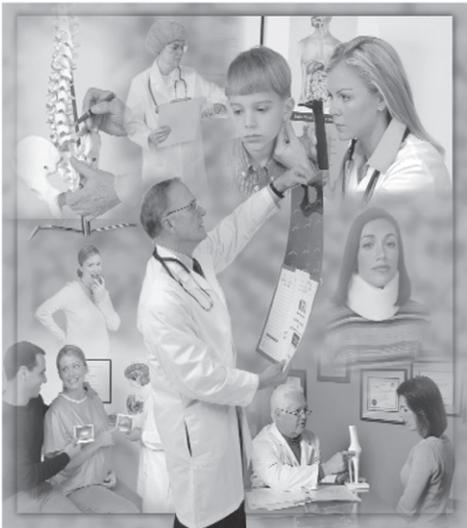


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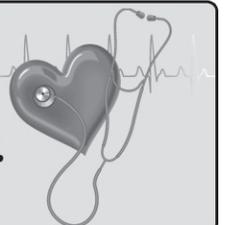
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Is It Important to Feed Kids Organic Food?

The nutritional choices you make for your children are crucial, setting the stage for good health and good habits for years to come.

So if you've heard about the benefits of organic food, you may be wondering if it's worth the extra expense, especially if you're on a budget.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, which recently weighed in on the subject of organic food for the first time, what's most important is that children eat a variety of fruits, vegetables, lean meats, whole grains and low-fat or fat-free dairy products, whether those are conventionally or organically grown.

Organic foods do have lower levels of pesti-

cides and drug-resistant bacteria, says Dr. Thomas K. McInerney, president of the AAP.

"That may be important for kids because young children are more vulnerable to chemicals, but we simply don't have the scientific evidence to know if the difference will affect a person's health over a lifetime," says McInerney.

Both organic and conventionally grown foods have the same vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, proteins, lipids and other nutrients that are important for children's health.

"If you're on a budget, don't buy the more expensive organic option if it's going to reduce your family's overall intake of healthy foods like fresh produce," advises McInerney.

"It's better for kids to eat five servings of conventionally grown produce a day than for them to eat one serving of organic vegetables."

Families can also be selective in choosing particular organic foods to stretch their budget. The Environmental Working Group has created a Shopper's Guide that rates the level of pesticides in produce.

Their guide indicates that conventionally grown onions, sweet corn and pineapples have relatively low pesticide rates, making them safer to purchase. If you can budget a few extra dollars to spend on groceries, opt for organic apples and celery, which are among the most pesticide-laden crops.

According to the AAP, organic milk is not healthier for kids than conventional milk, but parents should make sure all milk they purchase is pasteurized.

The jury is still out on the long-term health benefits of organic produce, but in the meantime keep your eyes and ears open for new information as it becomes available -- so you can make the best possible choices in the future.

You can find nutrition tips for kids on the AAP website for parents, www.healthychildren.org.

No matter the size of your budget, you can do your kids a world of good by ensuring they get at least five servings of fruits and vegetables daily.

Falling Sugar Prices Should Strengthen Support for No-Cost Sugar Policy

"The Big Candy lobby has complained of high sugar prices on Capitol Hill for months despite their own increasing profits," said Ryan Weston, chairman of the ASA.

"Now they have big profits, cheap sugar, and a rosy outlook for the future, so lawmakers will be much less receptive to their poormouthing."

Raw sugar prices dipped as low as 21.5 cents per pound during October. With 2.2 million tons of surplus overhanging the market, a strong domestic crop, and subsidized foreign sugar still flowing in under a myriad of trade deals, cheap sugar is predicted for the foreseeable future.

Weston believes that sugar's price reality as other commodities are enjoying record highs proves how well the current sugar policy has worked for consumers.

"Our policy doesn't cost taxpayers a dime. It helps counter subsidies by foreign competitors like Brazil, which controls nearly half of the world dump market. And it ensures consistent homegrown supplies at consistent prices," he explained.

October's 21.5 cent low is remarkably similar to raw prices seen in past decades. Prices averaged 22.2 cents in the 1980s, 22.0 cents in the 1990s, and 21.4 cents in the 2000s. More than half of all U.S. sugar-producing operations closed during that three-decade period.

Prices briefly increased in 2010 and 2011, allowing farmers to begin paying down years of accumulated debt, but have since fallen back to historic depressed levels.

Unfortunately for sugar producers the cost of

labor, fuel, fertilizer, and other inputs continue to climb, which is why sugar producers are fighting hard to keep a strong policy under the next Farm Bill.

Sugar's biggest customers, candy makers, have had more success. Domestic consumption and production of candy is on the rise, as are candy prices -- a situation that has helped confectioners achieve profit margins that are surprisingly higher than major oil companies and even casinos.

Weston noted that food makers aren't passing along any of the lower sugar prices to consumers and have, instead, continued price increases at the grocery checkout line.

This documented lack of pass-through, he said, should further call into question the credibility of that talking points being used by opponents of the sugar policy.

In addition, today's market shows that it is false to claim that U.S. prices are much higher than on the world market, where foreign subsidies artificially depress prices.

When transportation costs are factored into world raw sugar prices, it is almost identical to current U.S. prices, which already reflect transportation costs.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Clewiston Bass Anglers Tournament

The Clewiston Bass Anglers had their monthly tournament for February on Lake Okeechobee out of Clewiston on Feb. 3. First place was won by Hunter Abowd. Brandon Herrero claimed second place, with third place going to Tim Loftis. Hunter Abowd claimed the Big Bass Award.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Clewiston Middle School

Clewiston Middle School will be holding their next School Advisory Council meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 8, at 5:15 p.m. in the conference room of the administration building.

Westside Elementary

The 3rd grade class of Westside Elementary school joined in celebrating Florida's Literacy Week with a visit from a local author, David Lopez of Bonita Beach, Fla.

He entertained the students with his funny stories and narration of passages from his book

series about Maddie and her Magic Markers.

The students enjoyed the day as they were able to purchase their own personally autographed books by the author.

Clewiston Christian School

Upcoming Events

- Feb. 9: CCS Skeet Shoot (for more information, please call 863-983-5388)
- Feb. 18: President's Day - No school
- Feb. 21: First grade "living museum"
- Feb. 26: Open house for new parents from 5 to 7 p.m.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Harvest of Hope Club

Thanks to the generosity of Mary Ann Martin 19 Senior students from Clewiston High School Harvest of Hope Club enjoyed a two hour pontoon boat tour of Lake Okeechobee. With movie star glamour, she talked with passion about her beloved lake, its gifted waters, and contributions to the economic growth of the area.



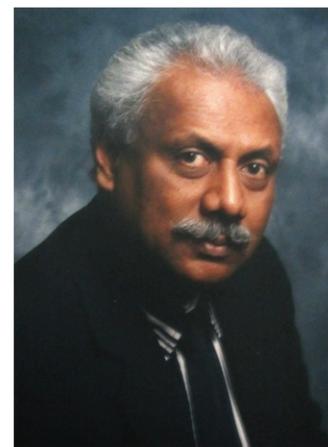
www.hrmc.us

Dr. Devanesan Lends a Hand through Hand Surgeries

Hendry Regional is proud to announce that Dr. Jegadees Devanesan, Board-Certified Surgeon is now performing hand surgeries at Hendry Regional Medical Center.

Dr. Devanesan performs hand surgeries involving:

- Tendon Injuries
- Trauma and Reconstruction of soft-tissue
- Various Infections
- Carpal Tunnel Syndrome
- And more . . .



JEGADEES DEVANESAN, MD, FACS
Board-Certified Surgeon

*Available:
Mondays
8 a.m. to Noon*

863-902-3089

532 West Sagamore Avenue (Bldg C)
Clewiston, Florida 33440

WANT TO SUBMIT NEWS?

events? | photos? | tips? | stories?

Send us an e-mail at clewnews@newszap.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised the Hendry County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) & Recycle Collection Center, located at **1360 Forestry Division Road in LaBelle**, is now open to the public by appointment only. The Clewiston HHW Center, located at **1381 Evercane Road**, continues to be by appointment only. You may call **863-673-0508** to make an appointment. ***No illegal dumping outside the gate is permitted.***

If you have questions, you may call the above mentioned number or **863-674-4162** or the Hendry County Special Districts Office at **863-675-5252**.

HELPFUL TIPS: Household Hazardous Waste

Many products we use in and around our home and discard with our trash are similar to regulated hazardous waste produced by business and industry. Products that are corrosive, such as acids and alkalis, are flammable, reactive or toxic and are found in homes, garages, workshops or used in gardens. Some examples are:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| * Pesticides, Herbicides, Fungicides & Insecticides | * Nail Polish & Remover | (Non-household may drop off up to ten (10) for a fee of \$0.50 each.) |
| * Batteries, rechargeable and auto | * Oven & Drain Cleaners | * Thermometers (Containing Mercury) |
| * Mothballs | * Metal Polish & Rust Removers | * Wood Preservatives |
| * Liquid Paint & Thinners | * Mildew Removers | * Small Freon Bottles |
| * Furniture Strippers, Finishers, Polishes & Waxes | * Swimming Pool Chemicals | * Propane Tanks |
| * Motor Oil, Brake & Transmission Fluid, Gasoline & Antifreeze | * Cleansers: Upholstery/All Purpose, etc. | * Electronics (TVs, computers, phones, etc.) |
| * Solvents & De-greasers | * Fluorescent Tubes (Containing Mercury) | |

These items may be taken to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers free of charge to residents.

RECYCLING

Acceptable Items:
Plastics #1 PET
Drink Bottles
Plastics #2 HDPE

Frosted Milk Jugs
Mixed Plastics
#3 PVC, #4 LDPE, #5 PP & #6
Pigmented Jugs (laundry detergent)

Tubs/Containers (jelly & butter)
Bottles (shampoo, dish liquid & ketchup)
Five-Gallon Pales
(Rinse all recyclables, as necessary.)

AVISO PÚBLIC AVISO PUBLICO

Por favor, tenga en cuenta que el Condado Hendry Desechos Caseros Peligrosos (HHW) & Reciclaje Centro, ubicado @ **1360 División de Silvicultura Carretera en Labelle**, se encuentra a disposición del público sólo con cita previa. El HHW Clewiston Centro, ubicado @ **Evercane Carretera en 1381**, sigue siendo únicamente por cita. Usted puede llamar **863-673-0508** para hacer una cita. ***Ningún vertido ilegal fuera de la puerta es permitida.***

Si usted tiene preguntas, usted puede llamar el mencionado número o **863-674-4162** o el condado Hendry distritos especiales Oficina @ teléfono **863-675-5252**.

INFORMACIÓN ÚTIL: Desechos Peligrosos

Muchos de los productos que utilizamos en los alrededores de nuestra casa y de descarte con nuestra basura son similares a los residuos peligrosos producidos regulado por las empresas y la industria. Los productos que son corrosivos, como ácidos y álcalis, son inflamables, reactivos o tóxicos y se encuentran en casas, garajes, talleres o utilizados en los jardines. Algunos ejemplos son:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| * Pesticidas, herbicidas, fungicidas y plaguicidas | * Esmalte de uñas y removedor | (No domésticos pueden dejar hasta diez (10) por un costo de \$ 0.50 cada uno.) |
| * Las baterías recargables y auto | * Horno y drenaje Cleaners | * Los termómetros (que contiene mercurio) |
| * Las bolas de naftalina | * Metal Polish & Removedores Rust | * Los conservantes de madera |
| * Líquido de Pinturas y Disolventes | * El moho Removedores | * Botellas Pequeñas freón |
| * Strippers Muebles, finalistas, Betunes y ceras | * Productos químicos para piscinas | * Tanques de propano |
| * Motor de fluido de aceite, frenos y transmisión, Gasolina y anticongelante | * Limpiadores: Tapicería / All Purpose, etc | * Electrónica (televisores, computadoras, teléfonos, etc) |
| * Disolventes y engrasadores De- | * Tubos fluorescentes (que contienen mercurio) | |

Estos artículos pueden ser llevados a las Peligrosos del Hogar Centros de recogida de residuos de forma gratuita a los residentes.

RECICLAJE

Artículos Aceptables
Plásticos # 1 PET
Beba Botellas
Plásticos # 2 HDPE

Frosted jarras de leche
Plásticos mixtos
3 PVC, # 4 LDPE, PP # 5 y # 6
Jarras pigmentadas (detergente para la ropa)

Tinas / Contenedores (jalea y mantequilla)
Botellas (champú, jabón líquido y salsa de tomate)
Cinco galones Pales
(Enjuague todos los materiales reciclables, según sea necesario.)

Westside Elementary Honor Roll

Kindergarten

A honor roll

Madison Alford, Samantha Aragus, Kiera Baldonado, Phillip Berry, Kar'Nijah Burey, Sahara Calderon, Ethan Casas, Priscilla Centeno, Saul Cervantes, Natashia Coring, Steven Cossio, Kinsey Couse, Kayden Couse, Deante Davis, Alisha Drummond, Mya Dukes, Raylee Ervin, Jose Farfan, Emilee Fomby, Justin Fonseca, Eduardo Garcia, Edward Gomez, Salomon Hernandez, Takobe Holmes, Tyler Hough, D'Asia Hughes, Jada Ifill, Kalyn Johnson, Jenna Lester, Alicya Luna, Nija Ligon, Bethany Lopez-Morales, Rubi Martinez, Daniel Mata, Walter Mckown, Lindsay Miller, Sofia Miranda, Michael Perez, Michelle Ramirez, Cedric Ramirez, Cody Rivera, Qwanell Smith, Adelena Tarter, Steven Toldedo-Garcia, Calvin Torres, Jaylin Velasquez, Elizabeth Villatoro, Derrick Webber, Jr. Daisy Yanes, Joseph White.

A/B honor roll

Elias Almanza-Garcia, Alyssa Bass, Marisol Bonilla, Anthony Busin, Amanda Calvo, Yzabella Fuentes, Tyler Hall, Hector Hurtado, Hannah Knight, Analyse Martinez, Adrian Mata, Omar Padilla, Isaiah Quinones, Nevaeh Rosario, Annie Xue.

First Grade

A honor roll

Jy'rah Ammons, Kianna Baldonado, Jesus Beraza, Jonathan Blanco, Aiden Brocard, Emily Cruz, Alexandro Depaz, Aliana Dominguez, Bailey Grooms, Jazmin Hammond, Tristan Heron, Zailin Jackson, Haley Lyons, Jayvion Mann, Linda Matos, Melania Mendoza, Ja'liya Mills, Dionne Molde, Sharon Morales, Blake Patterson, Amber Payne, Santos Perez, Jerrell Radcliffe, Kelly Reyes, Hunter Robertson, Jordon Smith, Ciara Smith, Alessandra Suarez, Za'Marrian Teel, Ashley Velasquez, Paige Wright, Kevin Xue.

A/B honor roll

Rashad Abuasbeh, James Addison, Jacob Aguirre, Jenna Ali, Aracely Araguz, Blake Barnes, My'Keria Brooks, Angelica Castenada, Jose Corchado, Markayla Cypress, Alejandro Delafuente, Sofia Diaz-Mendez, Daniel Figueroa, Sonya Florentino, Rylie Harrelson, Jasmine Hurtado, Calvin Jones, Jessie Lee, Michael Longoria, Jovani Martinez, Alivia Mata, Haley Matos, Javian Ortez, William Pascual, Melanie Ramirez, Juan Ramirez-Jackson, Kadaria Mckenzie, Josten Rivera, Cynthia Rivera, Jalaney Roman, Jordan Rouse, Kevin Ruiz-Romero, Lilly Shine, Gabriel Trevino, Delaney Uselton, Caleigh Uselton, Ashton Walker, Victor Williams, Emily Wright.

Second Grade

A honor roll

Ca'Vorris Ammons, Jenna Autrey, Federico Contreras, Sergio Contreras, Jaslyn Creagh, Ashley Cruz, Laura Davila, Kailynn Davis, Daniel Drummond, Romance Freeman, Michelle Landaverde, Mario Lopez-Torres, Gabriel Medrano, Uriel Paloblanco, Ty'Remy Paseler, Yoselyn Rangel, Marisol Serrano, Maria Tady.

A/B honor roll

Sarahi Ascencio, Ralph Barnes, Alexia Beraza, Chauncy Cobb, Aliyah Collazo, Kiara Corchado, Alicia Diaz, Osbaldo Farfan-Antonio, Angrea Figueroa-Padilla, Nyla Hill, Adrian Jackson, Andrew Johnson, Nathan Kennedy, Charli' Lanfair, Kayla Mathis, Emely Perez, Javier Reyes, D'Angelo Ruth, Karson Sanchez, K'Juan Smith, Jacqueline Tinoco, Arturo Velasquez, Joanna Yanes-Molina, Derek Zulu.

Third Grade

A honor roll

Kyla Baldonado, Madeline Heron, JWyatt Hughes, Mason Timgren, Julia Hammond, Jaylin

Ifill, Chassity Stinson, Kyla Glidden, Wyatt Wetherington.

A/B honor roll

Easton Bellew, Marlene Berry, Payton Bryant, Hayli Calderon, Jasmine Camanos, Giselle Delacruz, Alex Dominquez, Ke'Lajah Funderburk, Roberto Gonzalez, Christian Gonzalez, Shamira Gracia-Barbon, Tyra Holmes, Kobe James, Roland Loreto, Mia Rivera, Shy'Bria Moore, Sandra Morales, Daniel Padilla, Rylie Patterson, Alisia Perez, Brandon Quinones, Lauren Thomas, Kayleigh Torres, Giancarlo Villareal, Kanirya Williams.

Fourth Grade

A honor roll

Devin Autrey, Zaylen Bennett, Melody Gallardo, Angely Galvez, Gabriel Garcia, Treyvon Holmes, Dawnielle Jeudy, Aniya Johnson, Ta'kaela Johnson, Mikerri Kerr, Edward Padilla, Isaac Perera, Eileen Perez, Andrea Valadez, Parker Watson.

A/B honor roll

Brianna Aguirre, Annette Blanco, Jessania

Blanco, Bailey Bryant, Hermoine Calderon, Angelica Contreras, Luiz Cruz, Kyleigh Davis, Mariah Everett, Gabriel Garcia, Fabian Hernandez, Emalee Kelley, Kristina Kidwell, Anthony Martinez, Adrian Mendoza, Bethany Miller, Aaliyah Pagan, Jessica Perez, Jacee Rivera, Sequoia Robinson, Argelio Rodriguez, Iraliz Rodriguez, Belinda Roman, Cesar Vera, Alejandro Villarreal, Caleb White, Jose Zeferino.

Fifth Grade

A honor roll

Annabella Delafuente, Jonas Ilagan, Fernanda Paniagua, Angely Rosas.

A/B honor roll

Jacob Bradley, Jose Carbajal, Genesis Chavez, Kayla Drummond, Taylor Durance, Jazmine Escorcia, Isabell Espinoza, Hailey Etweller, Troy Evans, Brelinda Gomez, Luz Guevara, Adalmarie Hernandez, Tyrese Holmes, Makyla Hough, Tiera Hughes, Dyneisha Jackson, Karlee Lamb, Kaitlynn Lee, Juan Moran, Israel Pagan, Jayna Perryman, Jaylin Thicklin, Brittany Thomas, Alberto Trevino, Angel Vera, Blake Whitlock, Kaleigh Williams.

Forest Management in Southwest Florida

Hendry-Glades Audubon will host a free public program on Hendry and Collier County State Forests on Monday, Feb. 11, at 7 p. m. at the Clewiston Museum 109 Central Avenue in Clewiston (across the street from The Clewiston Inn).

Florida Forest Service Forester, Heather L. Ferrand, will present an information presentation, "Okaloocoochee Slough State Forest and Picayune Strand State Forest: An Overview of State Forest Management in SW Florida."

Heather is originally from Detroit, Michigan. She graduated from Wayne State University in Detroit with a B.A. in Anthropology in 2001. She earned a Master's degree in Forest Resources and Conservation and a graduate minor in land-

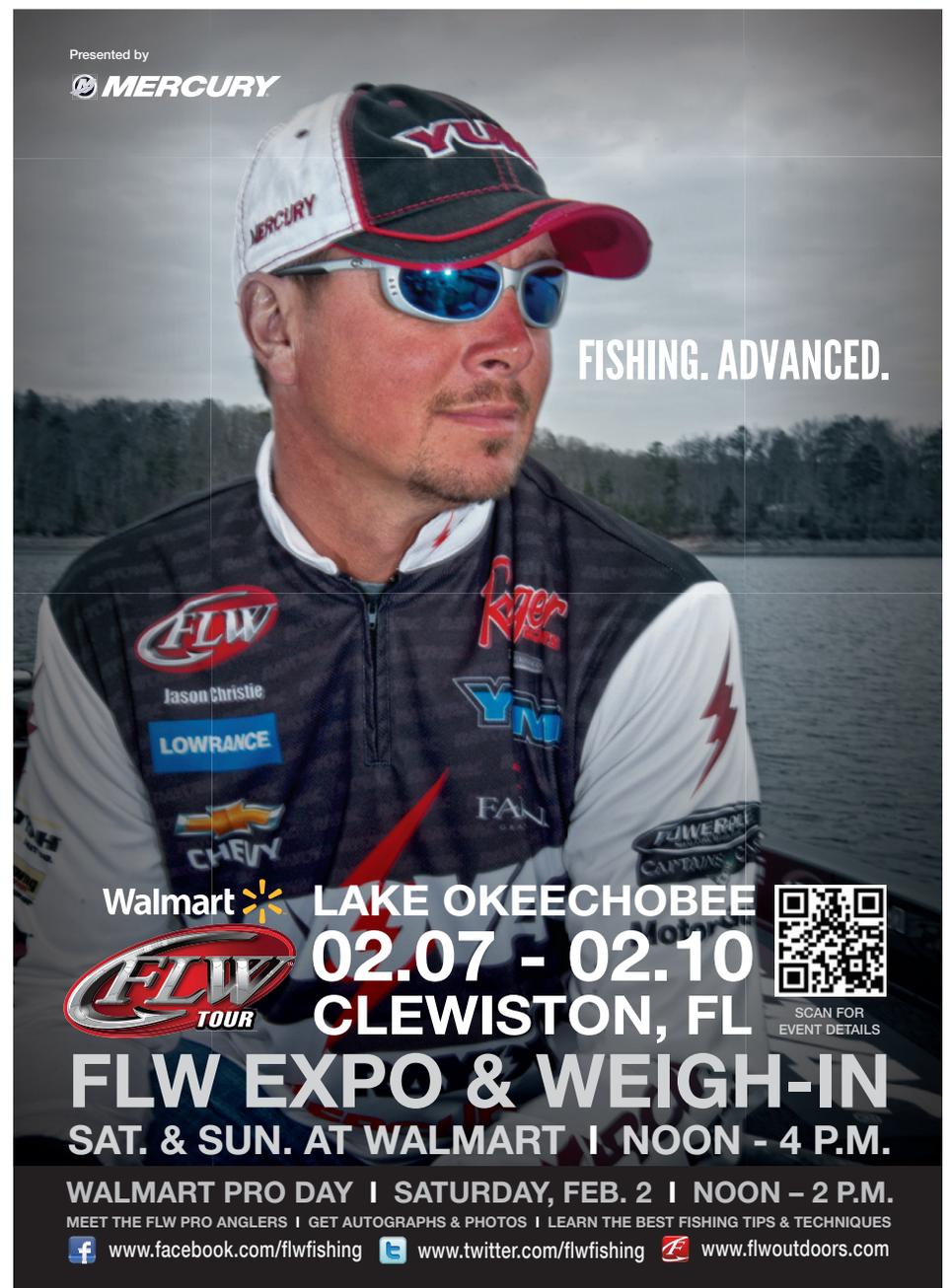
scape architecture in 2010 for the University of Florida.

Her professional interests include forest ecology, land management, and urban forestry. She was employed as a Forester in Tate's Hell State Forest in Franklin County, Florida prior to joining the Caloosahatchee Forestry Center in Lee County this year.

In addition to her position with the FFS, Heather is also the Program Coordinator for the Florida Master Naturalist Program, a UF/IFAS extension program.

For more information, contact Butch Wilson at 863-983-2870 or Margaret England at 863-674-0695 or sta5birding@embarqmail.com.

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Arelys Valles Captures 2013 District Title



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Clewiston High School Wrestling team traveled to Ft. Myers to compete in their annual District Tournament on Friday February 1st. The tigers advanced eight wrestlers to the regional tournament as Arelys Valles, Azeekwuia Bryant, Oscar Matamoros, Matthew Vary, Jason Preston, Curtis Clay, Michael Counts and Jared Escorcia each finished in the top four of their respective weight class and advance to the regional tournament in Tampa next week.

The Tigers were represented by three finalists on Friday. Leading the way was senior captain Arelys Valles, who pinned her opponent in the finals to earn her first career district title. Coming off a great weekend where she was runner-up for the second consecutive year at the Florida girls wrestling state championships and having placed third at the district meet last year, Arelys entered this year's district tournament as the top seed and became Clewiston's first individual district champion in three years.

Freshman Azeekwuia Bryant broke into the lineup late in the season and replaced injured starter Cristian Montes for the district lineup on Friday. Pinning his opponent in the semi-finals, Bryant would finish the day as a district runner-up, keeping his season alive for another week for the regional competition. Azeekwuia is the 7th tiger wrestler this year with double digit wins.

Junior Michael Counts won a tough semi-finals match to earn his first ever trip to a championship finals, taking runner-up honors on the night and qualifying for the regional tournament.

Freshman Oscar Matamoros and Jared Escor-

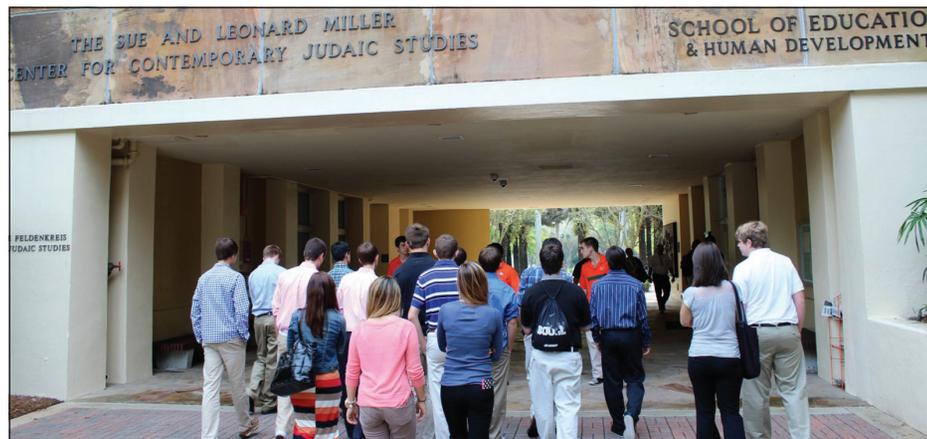
cia each won a pair of matches, taking home 3rd place and Freshman Matthew Vary battled back after a first round defeat by winning a close elimination match and finishing the day in fourth place, punching his ticket to the regional tournament. Sophomore Curtis Clay took third place and Junior Jason Preston took fourth wrestling competitive, each extending their season one more week as well.

The tigers were within two point from matching last year's 3rd place finish, ending the night in 4th place. Three tiger starters went out with illness and injuries this year: last year's district runner up Joe Hernandez was out with a knee injury all season, and Matthew Johnson and Cristian Montes were ill this week and could not compete. Montes and Johnson were two of the top contributors this year, collecting 36 victories between the two.

"It was heartbreaking to see the season come to end before Districts for Cristian and Matt, but unfortunately injuries and illness happen and some of it is out of our control, luckily we have a great group of underclassmen that showed great maturity by stepping up in their place" said the coaches.

The Tiger wrestlers will compete in the regional tournament hosted by Berkeley Prep High School in Tampa on Friday February 8th and 9th. Each wrestler who places in the top four in their respective weight class will advance to the state championships in Lakeland the following week.

Local Students Visit the University of Miami and FAU



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The King's Academy Clewiston is one year away from graduating its first class of seniors, but the private, Christian school on Caribbean Ave is already planning for the classes that will follow. Local students begin building their high school transcripts with advanced courses in middle school and are attending college visits as early as the first semester of their sophomore year.

This year's sophomores, the class of 2015, recently visited the University of Miami and Florida Atlantic University. According to the school's principal, Mr. Brian Burrage, "When we take college visits, the idea is to expose our students to different types of schools. On this trip, we wanted our younger students to experience the difference between a small school, private, and a large, state university."

King's will be taking local students out on the road again in April to visit five more Florida schools. Their junior class will visit UF, FSU, UCF, Southeastern, and Rollins.

According to Burrage, "It's one thing to talk to young people about college and why it's so important to work hard now, but it's another thing all together to show it to them. When these students see the dorms, eat in the dining halls, and meet the professors, it changes their whole attitude about the rigors of their AP course load. They can see the reward for their hard work and are motivated to finish strong. It's about creating a vision that will sustain their enthusiasm and encourage them to maximize their God-given potential."

Another way that TKA is supporting Clewiston students is through their job-shadowing

program. Juniors go through a rigorous resume writing workshop as a part of their English curriculum, which concludes with their work being reviewed and critiqued by a panel of local leaders. The panel features representatives from the fields of Law, Small Business, Finance and Banking, Health Care, and Education.

The students use their created resumes to apply for a Job Shadowing event where they spend the school day working with a volunteer host in their sought-after career field.

If you would be interested in participating in the Job Shadowing program in the future by hosting a student, please contact the school's secondary office at 863-983-5388.

Sour Orange Festival & Quilt Show
February 9, 2013
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

1239 Red Barn Road Lakeport, FL
(Off Hwy. 78 Located between Moore Haven and Okeechobee.)

Crafts, Food, Music and our famous Sour Orange pies will be available.

Quilt Show
Historical Display
Photography Display
Mr. & Mrs. Bubbles The Clown
Lakeport Fire Dept. Display
Carnival Rides All Day!
50/50 Raffle

Come on out and **Pucker Up!**
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Traditional Sour Orange Cook-Off
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Religion Column

Holidays and Traditions; What They Can Give Us - Lent

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

Many of the traditions of Churches sprung up from practices during their early, formative years. Some traditions have lots of holidays; others have fewer celebrations. Some traditions are from generations and centuries ago while others have fallen into place at more recent times. With a new month some of the holidays related to springtime fall on the calendar. The greatest Christian holiday, of course, is Easter (yes, Easter and not Christmas!) It is the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord and a tangible sign of His overcoming death. His promise that we shall be with Him is the assurance that we will also overcome death; that this life is not the end.

That great and special occasion has been celebrated by the faithful ever since. Earlier Christians felt that there should be a time of preparation for this great holiday in much the same way that we prepare the household for Christmas or the coming of special guests. A time was adopted; a time of preparation. The time adopted was taken from scriptures. Jesus prepared for His ministry by taking forty days in the wilderness and overcame the temptations that faced Him.

Likewise, the early Christians adopted the forty days before Easter as a time of preparation for the great event. It was to be a time of preparation and getting ready; many of the traditions center around spiritual preparation for the great celebration of the spiritual gifts of Easter. One discipline was to make sacrifices; another was to add to the spiritual practices and exercises to make them a special offering when Easter arrived. People would give up, fast, take on extra readings, attend extra services in Church, and try to do a few more good deeds. This period came to be known as "Lent." The word is re-

lated to "Lengthening."

Our ancestors observed that the days were getting longer in the Springtime and the lengthening of days heralded the coming of Easter, and so it was. Lent was set aside as a time to prepare for Easter by special devotional practices to strengthen Christian character and to be tangible reminders of the sacrifices and gifts that came from the one who it was all about. The day on the calendar marking the beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday, was a time of penitence.

The marking of Christian foreheads with ashes was practiced; sackcloth and ashes are those Biblical times of penitence and reminders that we need to get our spiritual houses in order once more. The day before Lent began was a time to clean out the larders in preparation for the times of fasting to come. Was that food wasted or thrown out? By no means: Shrove Tuesday, in Latin languages known as "Mardi Gras," literally means "Fat Tuesday."

It was a time to clean out the pantries by consuming all of the goodies and rich foods by eating them! Churches still celebrate this holiday and early tradition by hosting pancake suppers with all of the non-dietary supplements that go with pancakes. The message that is tangibly conveyed is that we're getting ready for a time of sacrifice; Lent is upon us and we'll begin by removing some of the worldly temptations that may set us back. In the meantime, have a good meal and eat up the fattening foods that may become a distraction later.

I am pleased to be a part of a faith that remembers all of the earlier traditions designed to make special times really special and to provide means of growing spiritually along the way. My human family also has its traditions; they make us who we are. It is the same with our spiritual families; traditions and keeping the older practices are signs of what makes us better at being who God intended us to be. We stand connected with those who laid our foundations and, finally, He who is at the origin of it all. That's a good reason to keep them and celebrate.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

100th day of school celebration

First Graders at Clewiston Christian School celebrated their 100th day of school on Thursday with all sorts of fun 100 themed activities.



J. C. LAWLOR, DPM, AACFAS*
*Associate, American College of Foot & Ankle Surgeons

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Bunions, Hammertoes, Callouses

We offer surgical and non-surgical treatments.

www.ankleandfoot.net



SUBMITTED PHOTO

AYSO State Game Champions

On Jan 21, after the third day of soccer games the Clewiston U-12 girls team took the championship at the annual AYSO State Game Tournament held in Wellington. Lead by coach Alejandro Villarreal the girls play some of the most intense games held in the tournament to become victorious against teams from Key Largo, Key West, Acreage, Boynton Beach and West Palm Beach. Beside winning first place, they also won sponsorship, which is very important in AYSO. Pictured: Back row, Coach Alejandro Villarreal, Nicole Roth, Demi Cruz, Brittany Capuzano, Norma Olvera, Thania Chavez, Jaylynn Moreno and assistant coach Carmen Villarreal. Middle row: Isabella Perez, Leticia Villarreal and Selinda Puentes. Front row: Golee, Deyla Cardenas.

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Public Notice

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LANDOWNERS OF DISSTON ISLAND CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
Disston Island Conservancy District landowners meeting has been rescheduled to March 12, 2013 at 11:00 AM.

HENDRY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETINGS
Notice is hereby given that the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners will hold a special meeting/reception for the county administrator finalists on February 12, 2013, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes
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
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
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 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LANDOWNERS OF BOLLES DRAINAGE DISTRICT
Bolles Drainage District landowners meeting has been rescheduled to March 12, 2013 at 11:15 AM.

LEGAL NOTICE
Due to increased investments we're making in technology, programming and customer care to bring you the best products and value, we are adjusting our prices.

LEGAL NOTICE
Additional Voice Line with Calling Features will increase from \$20.00 to \$21.95.
Additional Voice Line without Calling Features will increase from \$10.00 to \$11.95.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes
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.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes
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 ANNUAL MEETING OF LANDOWNERS OF FLAGHOLE DRAINAGE DISTRICT
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to call of the Board of Supervisors of Flaghole Drainage District, and in accordance with Chapter 298, Florida Statutes 1941, and law amendatory thereto, the Annual Meeting of Landowners of Flaghole Drainage District, for the year 2012, will be held at the office of Hilliard Brothers of Florida, Ltd., 5500 Flaghole Road, Clewiston, Florida on Tuesday, February 12, 2013 at 8:30 A.M.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF LANDOWNERS OF SUGARLAND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to call of the Board of Supervisors of Sugarland Drainage District, and in accordance with Chapter 298, Florida Statutes 1941, and law amendatory thereto, the Annual Meeting of Landowners of Sugarland Drainage District, for the year 2012, will be held at the office of Hilliard Brothers of Florida, Ltd., 5500 Sugarland Road, Clewiston, Florida on Tuesday, February 12, 2013 at 9:00 A.M.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED Chapter 197.512 Florida Statutes
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.

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NOTICE OF PROPOSED ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN the Clewiston City Commission will conduct a PUBLIC HEARING on February 18, 2013 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon as practical thereafter, in the City Hall Commission Chambers, 115 West Ventura Avenue, Clewiston, Florida.

MURDER

Continued • 1

Upon coming into contact with them, both denied the accusations, but cooperated with officers, presenting clothing that they had been wearing that day for observation and stating where they were located during the incident.

The suspects were released while the homicide remained under investigation. They were arrested just two days later on unrelated charges. Upon being interviewed regarding the unrelated incident, Diaz told investigators that he wanted to talk to them regarding the homicide.

He then told investigators that he and Stevens had gone to the victim's home that morning to get money from him. Diaz further stated that upon arriving and entering the residence, Stevens initiated a robbery by striking the victim repeatedly while he began to search the home for items

of value. He then told investigators that they both left the scene, with Stevens coming back later and starting the fire on his own.

After Diaz spoke with investigators, Stevens also agreed to talk about his role in the occurrence. However, he stated only that he had gotten into an altercation with the victim earlier that day; denying taking part in the homicide or fire.

Both were kept in the Hendry County Jail, where they requested to speak again, separately, nearly two weeks after the incident took place. Each began to tell a different story, perhaps realizing that their stories had a few holes.

Diaz began by stating that he and Stevens did not go to the location to ask for money, but rather to rob the man. He then admitted to participating in restraining and strangling the victim, which was indicated to be the cause of death. Diaz also admitted to participating in the beating of the victim.

However, Diaz stated that he did not start the

fire, but rather that Stevens did in an attempt to cover up the homicide.

Stevens took a different approach, letting much of the responsibility regarding the incidents that took place fall upon Diaz' shoulders, claiming that he was the one who initiated the robbery.

Stevens stated that he was responsible for restraining the victim, however, he claimed that Diaz was the one to strangle the victim, resulting in his death. The suspect admitted to bringing the gas can which fueled the fire to Diaz, but claimed that Diaz was the one to initiate the fire and denied any further participation in the arson.

Stevens was recently found guilty among 12 jury members, being charged with first degree murder, first degree arson, and armed robbery. Deliberation is still under way as to whether or not Stevens will be given the death penalty, but attorneys are pursuing the maximum sentence. Diaz has yet to go to trial.

Audubon Insists State Do More for Lake

Phosphorus levels in water entering Lake Okeechobee getting worse

BY ERIC KOPP
The Clewiston News

While the condition of Lake Okeechobee is supposed to be improving, an Audubon Florida official said large amounts of phosphorus are still streaming into the big lake and, because of that, its condition is actually declining.

To learn what the state plans to do about reversing this problem, Audubon officials had a meeting with three state agencies Monday, Feb. 4. To date, those agencies -- the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) -- have not been doing their part to meet the rolling five-year average of 140 metric tons going into the lake, according to Audubon reports.

"It's premature to say point blank they don't want to meet water quality goals, but they just can't continue with what's being done," said Audubon's Everglades Policy Associate Jane Graham. "They made a few small changes but it's still status quo. We think there needs to be a major course correction to stop pollution coming off the farms."

High phosphorus levels have been linked to blue green algae blooms, and a heightened growth of vegetation like cattails that can not only block navigation but damage wildlife habitat in marsh areas of the lake.

Ms. Graham explained that a 2001 DEP rule established a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to reduce the amount of phosphorus coming into the big lake. That TMDL proposed the rolling five-year average of 140 metric tons, which would then lead to a target concentration of 40 parts per billion (ppb) in the open-water areas of the lake.

The Lake Okeechobee Protection Act (LOPA) requires that goal to be met by 2015.

But instead of getting better, Ms. Graham said the levels of phosphorus going into the lake are actually going up. The averages range from as high as 714 in 2007, to 387 metric tons last year.

"We're going to get to 2015 and Lake Okeechobee is going to be in much worse shape than it was in 2001," said Ms. Graham.

Hence the meeting with the three state agencies that are supposed to be implementing best management practices (BMPs) for agricultural

concerns, and finding ways to fund these practices for the small farms that just don't have the money. These BMPs are for farming interests, not dairies.

"We are actively engaging the three agencies in discussion and are hopeful they are going to move ahead and get funding for the BMPs in the Okeechobee watershed," said Ms. Graham in a phone interview Tuesday morning. "Audubon is still hoping the agencies will take a closer look at how the BMPs are functioning in the Northern Everglades."

In a phone interview prior to Tuesday's meeting, Ms. Graham said her group was looking for some commitment from those three state agencies.

"We want to see a significant commitment in funding and staff levels to help make improvements so farms can hold water on their lands in better ways," she said.

She said small farm operations need help with culverts and detention ponds that can hold water and allow for the filtering of phosphorus before it flows into Lake Okeechobee and then on to the Everglades.

The phosphorus is coming from various types of farming concerns, but some of the highest levels come from improved pastures. That phosphorus is coming from fertilizers and animal feeds. High amounts of phosphorus are also coming from vegetable farms, again, where large amounts of fertilizer are used.

Ms. Graham said Audubon is also asking that water contaminated with animal waste be held in "... detention ponds and culverts that can be blocked to hold water and temper it before it flows off."

FDACS, DEP and SFWMD are the coordinating agencies and are supposed to be working together to clean up both Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades. The primary funding for the BMPs and other programs is to come from the state.

"I know there's money from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) called EQIP (Environmental Qualities Incentive Program) funds. I think in the BMP process there is some federal funding," Ms. Graham pointed out.

She went on to say her organization has tried to be patient and work with these three state agencies, but because there is a lack of commitment on their part and little is being done to improve water quality she expects Audubon to become more assertive.

"We've tried to advocate for this for a while. We're getting a little impatient here," she said. "It's been a couple of years and its still going in the wrong direction."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Spaghetti dinner

A huge thank you to the Lion's Club of Clewiston for our spaghetti dinner at Central Elementary. It was a great family night.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Donation to new park

Brenda Holcomb and Danielle Soles of Active Citizens for Children accept a donation from the Howard E. Hill Foundation in the amount of \$25,000 for Sweetest Town Playground.

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.

Jorge Delacruz, 41



- Fleeing officer with lights, siren active
- Arrested Feb. 3 by Sergeant Hunt

Juan Ortega, 18



- Cruelty toward child, abuse w/o great harm
- Arrested Jan. 30 by Deputy Rayburn

Albert Mackanick, 43



- Stolen property
- Arrested Jan. 23 by Deputy Joe Lee

Eliut Lerma, 21



- Fleeing/eluding police officers
- DUI, alcohol or drugs
- Arrested Jan. 25 by Deputy McVey

Taundra Lavern Smith, 44



- Aggravated battery
- Arrested Jan. 27 by Deputy Hainley

Anthony Leonard Perkins, 34



- Cocaine possession
- Marijuana possession w/o intent to sell
- Arrested Jan. 31

BIKE

Continued • 1

"I began to pursue Carlos on foot," stated the report. "I yelled numerous commands, telling Carlos to stop running or he will be tasered. Carlos did not comply with my verbal commands. I then deployed my department issued taser, tasing Carlos in the back as he was fleeing.

According to the arrest report, the suspect fell to the ground after being tased, causing the prong to detach from his back. He got up and continued to flee"

"I continued to yell, telling Carlos to stop

running or he will be tasered," wrote the officer. "I tased Carlos, as he continued to flee, but the taser was ineffective."

The suspect was finally caught by the officer, though he continued to resist and stated that he was not going to jail. He continued to resist two officers, at which time an officer "deployed his chemical agent in an attempt to gain compliance from Carlos and safely place him in hand restraints."

Officers still attempted to have Ramirez stop resisting. However, he would not comply, and was tased again and placed in hand restraints.

EMS was dispatched to the scene to assess the suspects medical state, which was fine according to EMS.

Ramirez provided a breath sample, which was .138, with the legal limit being .08, and was charged with DUI and battery on an officer.

FLW

Continued • 1

then on Sunday the top ten winners will be announced and prizes will be handed out, with the first place champion in the professional division earning \$100,000.

"I'm excited for this tournament to start," exclaimed Scott. "You never know what's going to happen out here on Lake Okeechobee."

On Saturday the top 20 will be announced,

FWC, DEP Combined Forces Increase Service in State Parks

When the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) acquired additional personnel from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) last year, its staff gained new responsibilities.

Now, FWC officers patrol all of Florida's woods and waters, including its state forests and state parks.

Gov. Rick Scott said, "By combining the efforts of Florida's environmental law enforcement, we can ensure that our state's many visitors are safe and natural resources are protected. This efficient approach provides FWC more opportunities to serve Florida families and enhance the natural condition of our state parks and forests."

"We have become more efficient and effective with an even broader range of skills and experience," said Col. Jim Brown, director of the FWC's Division of Law Enforcement.

"By reducing supervisors, increasing the number of officers in the field and working closely with DEP's Florida Park Service, we have been able to increase service levels in the parks by 28 percent."

The statistic refers to the number of activity hours in the parks in the first six months after the consolidation – July through December – compared to the same time period of 2011, when a smaller number of DEP officers was patrolling the parks alone. The consolidation of

officers became official July 1, 2012.

"We are pleased with the extremely high level of service provided to our state parks and visitors by FWC law enforcement professionals," said Donald Forgione, DEP's Florida Park Service director.

"The safety of our visitors and the environment is our top priority. With the consolidation of Florida's environmental law enforcement divisions, we have a larger pool of officers from multiple areas of the state who are available to efficiently and effectively assist the state parks when called."

The consolidation was recommended by the Law Enforcement Consolidation Task Force and sponsored by Rep. Rich Glorioso and Sen. Jack Latvala in a bill that the Florida Legislature approved. Gov. Rick Scott signed the consolidation bill into law.

The change was projected to improve service to the public and cut costs. Though the initial savings are limited, the efficiencies created will save the state more than \$3 million over the next five years and \$1.28 million in recurring annual savings.

"We are already seeing benefits," Brown said. "We look forward to continuing to enhance service and ensure that people can safely enjoy our state parks, state forests and all of Florida's beautiful natural resources."

2013 Mercedes Benz SLK Roadster!

Drawing on Saturday, February 23, 2013 at 9pm
Begin earning entries February 1, 2013

NEW NON-SMOKING SLOT AREA!

17735 Reservation Road
Okeechobee, FL 34974
1.800.360.9875
seminolebrightoncasino.com



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We reserve the right to cancel at any time. See Player's Club for complete details. Must be at least 21 years old and a Seminole Player's Club member to participate. Management reserves all rights. Person who have been trespassed or banned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida or those who have opted into the self-exclusion program are not eligible. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, please call 1.888.ADMIT.IT.

Highway 721 west of Lake Okeechobee on the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation