The Clewiston News

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2017 VOL.91 - NUMBER 49 - 50¢

Community News ... Page 2

Reflections from the pulpit

... Page4

Hendry-LaBelle airport ground breaking

... Page 6

Hendry toxic roundup

... Page 8

Shortwave and amateur radio still useful ... Page 12

Lake Levels

12.45 feet Last Year: 14.82 feet

Source: South Florida Water Management District. Depth given in feet above sea level



See page 2 for information about how to contact this newspaper.

theclewistonnews.com



Building redesigned for police station

By Chris Felker The Clewiston News

The Clewiston City Commission met in special session Monday evening, Nov. 27, and approved a contract for architectural and engineering services in the redesign of the Sea-

new city police headquarters.

Mayor Mali Gardner introduced a proposed resolution written that day to engage the firm of CPZ Architects. Bids had been opened Oct. 26 and were to be considered Nov. 2, but commissioners amended that to Nov. 9 to accept coast Bank branch at 300 Berner Road for a requests for proposals (RFPs) "with complet-

ed plans to be presented to the city no later than Dec. 15 so that the City of Clewiston can begin construction in early January of 2018," she recounted. The altered RFP specified that responders had to have all needed services

See POLICE — Page 5

Tax collector news worth giving thanks for

By Chris Felker The Clewiston News

As he opened the Hendry County Board's regular meeting the week before Thanksgiving, Chairman Michael Swindle didn't know beforehand how grateful he'd be to hear from County Tax Collector Pat Langford first, before getting down to the night's business.

Mr. Langford appeared to deliver, in person, an upbeat end-of-the-vear report to the county commissioners that brought a smile to every face around the dais, with a big, fat check to top it off that Mr. Swindle would not let out of his sight the rest of the evening.

"I've got our excess-fee check to give you this year, for a total of \$170,422.21. That's 45 percent higher than last year, and I'm proud of our staff," Mr. Langford started, explaining: "We've made some changes to save some money to give you people money back and also purchase some things we need at our office to do a better job, and they're falling right in line. This is not an 'I' in the tax collector,

See THANKS — Page 5



Special to The Clewiston News/Courtesy photo

Campbell & Frances Nall Memorial Scholarship Tournament

The Clewiston Rotary Club hosted its 30th annual Campbell and Frances Nall Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament. The tournament raises money for scholarships to go to high school kids at Clewiston High School. First Flight Champions were Steve Conrad, Al Grooms and Kevin Mann. Second Flight Champions were Tommy Spears, Fred Thomas and Steve Toth. Third 3rd Flight Champions were Haitham Kaki and Jamie Bro. Pictured is the eighty-one players who competed in Saturday, Nov. 11 event.

Special to The Clewiston News/Courtesy photo Veterans were called out and saluted by the tournament participants. The tournament is scheduled every November.



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2

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We Pledge ...

To operate this newspaper as a public trust.
To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.

To provide the information citizens need to make their own intelligent decisions about public issues.
To report the news with honesty, accuracy, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
To use our opinion pages to facilitate community

debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
To disclose our own conflicts of interest or potential conflicts to our readers.
To correct our errors and to give each correction.

• to correct our errors and to give each correction to the prominence it Member Of deserves.

To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.



Community News

SAC meeting Nov. 30

The next Eastside Elementary School SAC meeting of this school year is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 30, at 6:00 p.m. in the Media Center, 201 Arroyo Ave. in Clewiston.

La siguiente reunión de SAC de Eastside Elementary de este año escolar está programada para el Jueves 30 de Noviembre a las 6:00 p.m. en la biblioteca.

Tools-To-Quit smoking class

Hendry Regional Medical Center and Everglades Area Health Education Center (EA-HEC) offer a free program to help you quit smoking. Join us for a Tools-To-Quit class, a one-time two hour class, on Thursday, Nov. 30, at 5:30 p.m. at Hendry Regional Medical Center, 524 West Sagamore Ave., Clewiston. For information or to register call Angelica Pena, Tobacco Cessation Coordinator, at 863-983-1123, or by e-mail at apena@hrmc.us.

Gospel sing at the Red Barn

The public is invited to a gospel sing featuring Roy and Henry Pelham at the Red Barn located off of U.S. 27 (halfway between Clewiston and Moore Haven) on Friday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. The barn can be seen from the highway. For information, call Judy Swindle at 863-228-0090.

Pickleball held Dec. 2

Pickleball Clewiston invites the public to a free beginners Pickleball Clinic on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. - noon at the courts behind the Clewiston Inn, 108 Royal Palm Ave.. in Clewiston. RSVP to Ittim88@gmail. com or call 910-599-7252.

E-Waste and Toxic Round-Up

Hendry County Waste Management, 1381 Evercane Road in Clewiston will be hosting a free E-Waste & Toxic Round-up on Dec. 2, for Clewiston unincorporated residents.

Care Environmental will be servicing the County on this day and welcomes all incorporated residents, along with businesses to dispose of these items for a fee.

Businesses can make appointments with Care Environmental at: 1-800-494-2273 at least one week in advance.

E-waste types accepted are scanners, copiers, televisions, audio/video equipment, cell phones, monitors, laptops, personal electronic devices, mouse, keyboards and other electronic devices.

For information call 863-675-5252.

Miss Sugar deadline Dec. 7

The Little, Jr. and Miss Sugar 2018 pageants will be held on Feb. 23 and 24. Applications for pageants may be obtained from the Clewiston, LaBelle and Moore Haven High Schools, Clewiston Youth Center and the Clewiston Chamber of Commerce and online at www.clewistonsugarfestival.com. Deadline for entry is Dec. 7For information, call Pam Kelley at 863-228-3041 and leave a message.

Visit the Winter Wonderland

The Active Citizens for Children and the Clewiston Recreation Dept. invites the public to celebrate Christmas with performances, fun, inflatables, booths, food, snow and Santa at the 2017 Winter Wonderland on Dec. 16 from 5-9 p.m. at the Sugar Festival Field. For information, call 863-599-8950. Admission is free.

Florida B. Thomas Library

• The Florida B. Thomas Library holds a monthly book club meeting for community seniors. "The Brown Bag Book Club" meets the third Wednesday of every month from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The focus is African American authors. For information, call 863-902-3322. Refreshments will be served.

• The Florida B. Thomas Library has many new released family themed DVD titles available for checkout. Visit the selection and take home a good movie for the holidays to enjoy with your family!

County handing out flyers

LABELLE — Hendry County Code Enforcement will be in the North LaBelle, CR 78 and Ft. Denaud areas Saturday, Dec. 2. Officers will be handing out informational flyers on County ordinances and will be available for questions you may have on requirements for property maintenance.

Letter to the Editor

Storm season

For the people of Florida, the end of November is a time to celebrate. It's when we say goodbye to the Atlantic hurricane season.

After 11 years without a direct hit, the past two hurricane seasons have brought us Hermine, Matthew and Irma. This season's Hurricane Irma was a powerful and massive Category 4 hurricane when it made landfall in the Keys. The second strongest Atlantic hurricane ever recorded, Irma was wider than the Florida peninsula leaving few parts of the Sunshine State spared. As Hurricane Irma made a beeline up the state, she brought destruction, flooding and widespread power outages.

During the week leading up to Irma's arrival, Florida's public power communities prepared for the worst. This was an unprecedented storm that led to the largest pre-planned power restoration effort in U.S. history. We quickly activated our mutual aid agreements across the country, lining up more than 2,000 additional public power lineworkers to support the 1,000 public power lineworkers in our communities. Crews and equipment from 200 municipal electric utilities in 26 states and Canada were stationed inside and outside the state so they were ready to move into affected areas as soon as conditions were safe. Tens of thousands of lineworkers from investor-owned utilities and electric cooperatives came to assist with power restoration, too.

Nearly seven million customers in Florida lost power during Hurricane Irma, including more than 827,000 public power customers. Lineworkers and power crews worked

U.S. Sugar hosts hiring event

BELLE GLADE — U.S. Sugar will hold a hiring event at West Technical Education Center, 2625 State Hwy 715, in Belle Glade on Thursday, Dec. 7, at 3-7 p.m. Positions: utility worker, electrical & instrumentation technician, forklift operator, pay loader, welder, diesel mechanic, heavy equipment operator, water treatment operator - class C certified.

FCT to presents musical

LABELLE — The Firehouse Community Theatre (FCT), 241 North Bridge St. in La-Belle will present "The Marvelous Wonderettes: Winter Wonderettes" on Dec. 7-10 and 14-17. For information or to purchase tickets call 863-675-3066 or visit www.firehousecommunitytheatre.com.

Meals program available

The Sky Family YMCA, Inc announces its intent to participate in the Afterschool Meals Program, a sub-component of the Child Care Food Program. The Afterschool Meals Program is designed primarily to provide nutritious snacks and/or meals to children in participating afterschool programs. Snacks and/or meals will be available at no separate charge to children attending the Eastside Elementary site at 201 Arryo Ave. in Clewiston, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex age, or disability.

together day and night to get the power up and running. With the help of all these wonderful electric utility personnel who traveled to Florida, public power utilities were able to restore power to more than half of our customers within 24 hours and 80 percent of all our customers within 48 hours. More than 98 percent of our customers were up within a week. Given the size and strength of Hurricane Irma, and the sheer number of communities impacted, this was a monumental achievement.

We are so grateful to all those who helped us get the power back on so quickly. While Hurricane Irma was unlike any other storm, she did bring the best out in people. She showed us how selfless people can be when they leave their homes and families to rush to our aid. She showed us what it means to be deeply appreciative of those selfless acts. She showed us neighbors still help neighbors. And, she showed us true leadership. Gov. Rick Scott did an incredible job helping us all prepare for this national event, organizing aid and encouraging collaboration by bringing people together.

Being locally owned and operated, restoring power after an outage means a lot to us. We're not just responding to a service area. We are taking care of our family, friends and neighbors. Our sincere thanks to Gov. Scott and all our mutual aid partners who enabled us to take care of our communities and the people who mean so much to us following Hurricane Irma.

Carrie Patrick CoreMessage, Inc. Director of Advocacy



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Earvin "Magic" Johnson Healthcare Advocate

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Reflections from the Pulpit

Santa Claus: More than a mall attraction The Reverend Samuel S. Thomas, Ph.D.+

Saint Martin's Church, Clewiston

Holiday season is upon us; Halloween is over, Thanksgiving is now past, and Christmas is soon to be celebrated.

It is easy to forget that "holiday" is of the same origin as "holy day." In fact, these three "holidays" toward the end of our calendar year all have religious roots.

Halloween, or "Hallow even(ing)," the evening before All Saint's Day or what was originally called "All Hallow's Day" the day for celebrating all of God's Holy/Hallowed ones comes originally from Church calendars.

The Pilgrims and our early forefathers gave thanks for their harvests, seen as a sign of God's favor and their call to thank Him in return for His bounty.

Christmas, the "Christ Mass" is the celebration of God's coming among us; a story of the beginning of a new relationship with

Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted by sending e-mail to obits@newszap.com. Customers may also request photos and links to online guest books. A link to the obituaries is available at www.newszap.com.

Dr. Carlle Fllori **CLEWISTON**

Ms. Rosemary Fllori Mrs. Cecilia and Palm would like to share the sad news of the passing of their beloved father, Dr. Carlle Fllori. His friends endearingly referred to him as "Doc". On Monday, Nov. 20, 2017, Dr. Fllori passed in his home. It is where his

lovely wife of almost 46 years Cellia Fllori, passed in Aug. of 2009. Besides his two daughters; Dr. Fllori is survived by his two grandsons, Michael and Christian Palm.

Dr. Fllori and his family moved to Clewiston, FL in 1983, where he was employed as an Agronomist at U.S. Sugar until his retirement in 2000. He enjoyed working in the fields conducting tests and derived much personal satisfaction from his job. Some of his most cherished personal moments included the marriage to his wife and his service in the Army branch of the Armed Forces. He was very proud of the conference of a Doctorate degree in Agronomy from Louisiana State University. Other times of great joy included the births of his children and grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at the Akin-Davis Funeral Home in Clewiston on Friday. Dec. 1, 2017 at 10:00a.m. which will be followed by Dr. Fllori's burial. He will be laid to rest at Ridgelawn Cemetery in Clewiston. The family and friends of Dr. Fllori and Mrs. Cellia Filori are welcome to attend.

Arrangements by Akin-Davis Funeral Home -Clewiston.

Tanya Lynn Steadley,

bered on many Church calendars.

our Creator-Sustainer-Redeemer.

I look forward to Christmas each year to

reflect on the Christmas story and its true

meaning. Along the way, there is another

part of the story which is integral to its mean-ing and yet lost in its origin. "Christmas" for

many is about Santa Claus. He's the fat, jolly

man in the red suit who brings presents and

who children visit in the shopping centers

and malls to tell what they want. History is

relegated to an obscure corner in the story

of "Santa Claus" who was a real person and

who took seriously his faith and his call to

use what God had entrusted to him to help

well-known poem that begins "T'was the

night before Christmas and all through the

house ... " The title is "A Visit from Saint Nich-

olas" and it is recorded just who it is about.

Saint Nicholas was not a fictional person

but someone who lived generations ago, in

the second century and who lived in what

is now Turkey. Nobody knows when he was

born. but he is known to have died on Dec.

6, A.D. 343. That is the date he is remem-

A vestige of his presence is kept in that

others.

West Palm Beach — Tanya Lynn Steadley departed this life on Nov. 6, 2017. Tanya was born June 4, 1968 in Pahokee.

Services will be Sunday, Dec. 3, 2017 at Roland Martins Club House. Interment is at Ridgelawn Cemetery. Arrangements By Akin-Davis Funeral Home Clewiston, Florida

GOD SAW YOU

God saw you getting tired and a cure was not to be, So he put his arms around you and whispered, "Come to Me."

With tearful eyes we watched you, and saw you pass away,

And though we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay.

A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands at rest

God broke our hearts to prove to us. He only takes the best.

Sarah L. Pompa

Born Mar. 25, 1961 passed away unexpectedly Nov. 15, 2017

She survived by her husband, Rohgilio Pompa; children, Shannon Teele,

Ruben Hernandez Caroline Hernandez: grand-

children; Palmer father, Samuel R. Sr.; brother, Samuel R. Palmer Jr.; sister Wanda Palmer Winings.

Many more family and friends. May You Rest in Peace We love you.

It was a time of merciless persecution of Christians and he was exiled and imprisoned for his faith. When released he used his resources to provide dowries for a poor man with three daughters, making possible their weddings at a time when fathers were expected to provide something toward their marriages.

Nicholas is supposed to have tossed three bags of gold through the windows of the homes of the poor, having them land in the stockings that were set out to dry. This is attributed to be the origin of the "Christmas stockings" to be hung up and repository for the gifts received at this special time.

Legends grow, are embellished, become folklore, take on miraculous qualities at times, become distorted and sometimes they seem far-fetched. What is known, though, is that there was a real person who took Jesus' message seriously and "gave what he had" to make life better for those around him. That is what is worth remembering about "Saint Nicholas" and the persons in the red suits are there as a testament to a man's faith, belief and acting on that faith and belief.

The Christmas story itself, likewise, is about God incarnate, God coming to this earth and bringing us gifts well beyond what the world can give to us. We've chosen a day to celebrate His birth because He is real and He gave us a real reason to celebrate. Saint Nicholas Day, Dec. 6, another in a season of holidays, and pointing the way to why Christmas is worth our devotion and thanksgiving for God's greatest gifts.

May this season be a time of giving in thanksgiving for what God has given us; may we recall and celebrate Him and all who follow, may we be a part of that throng throughout the ages who say "Joy to the World, the Lord has come ... "

SFWMD gives thanks for bountiful harvest

The Governing Board's Python Elimination Program reached its latest milestone last week with the 700th python eliminated Special to INI Florida

WEST PALM BEACH — Earlier this week, hunters killed the 700th invasive python as part of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board's Python Elimination Program, the latest milestone for the program. Since the program began in late March, an average of three pythons have been eliminated per day from SFWMD lands.

This month brought two of the largest pythons eliminated as part of the program. On Nov. 1, Dustin "Wildman" Crum, of Myakka City, brought in a 16-foot-11-inch Burmese python that broke his own program record. edging the previous high by an inch. Five days later, a 16-foot-3-inch python killed by Eric Bramblet, of Bonita Springs, weighed in at 143 pounds, 1 pound short of the program record set by Nicholas Banos and Leonardo Sanchez in early April.

"This Governing Board program has been enormously effective in killing this relentless predator to help preserve native Everglades wildlife," said SFWMD scientist Mike Kirkland, project manager for the Python Elimination Program. "The sheer numbers that are being caught and their size shows how massive a threat these predators are to our beautiful habitat." All the pythons eliminated by the program would stretch more than 4,700 feet - almost nine-tenths of a mile and weigh more than 10,000 pounds, or the equivalent of approximately two Lincoln Town Cars. Elected officials and celebrities ranging from U.S. Rep. Francis Rooney, R-Fla., to superstar chef Gordon Ramsey have taken part in the hunts, bringing international awareness to the issue of this invasive species and the District's efforts to eradicate them. Kirkland and the python hunters were

also featured in a Discovery Channel television special about the program.

About the Program

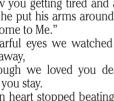
A team of professional python hunters was selected from more than 1,000 applicants and given access to district-owned lands in Miami-Dade County for the pilot phase and later in Broward and Collier counties as the program expanded. These independent contractors are paid \$8.10 per hour, up to eight hours daily, to hunt in the Everglades. Depending on the size of the snake presented, they can also receive additional payments of \$50 for pythons measuring up to 4 feet and an extra \$25 for each foot measured above 4 feet. An additional \$200 is given for each eliminated python nest with eggs.

The invasive Burmese python, which breeds and multiplies guickly and has no natural predator in the Everglades ecosystem, has decimated native populations of wildlife. The more of these snakes that can be eliminated, especially females and their eggs, the better chance future generations of native wildlife will have to thrive in the Everglades ecosystem that Floridians have invested billions of dollars to restore.



Special to INI Florida/SFWMD Dustin "Wildman" Crum, of Myakka City, brought in a 16-foot-11-inch Burmese python that broke his own program record.





POLICE

Continued From Page 1

available in-house or to engage other firms so the multiple aspects of the renovation could be dealt with all at once.

She then asked City Manager Al Perry to take over. "We're looking for permission to enter into an agreement with CPZ Architects. They submitted a very impressive proposal," he said, waving overhead a thick, glossy workbook the firm had submitted. "They've done this work, police departments, fire departments, gun ranges. (Police Chief) Aaron (Angell) has been in pretty close contact with them. They're in the room tonight."

Mayor Gardner noted that the commission was considering engaging CPZ for a "total conceptual services fee of \$15,500" and asked City Attorney Gary Brandenburg, who was on speakerphone, whether he'd reviewed it and found it acceptable. "Yes, I have," he answered, adding that he'd prepared the resolution.

"Al, I know you said they submitted their prior work. Did we call any of the folks that they worked with previously?" the mayor asked the city manager. "I have not," he answered, asking Chief Angell whether he'd made any calls.

"No, not at this stage of the game," he said, coming to the podium. "They did provide reference letters from previous clients, and they were all favorable." The mayor asked whether he had anything to add, and Chief Angell hastened to clarify that the agreement before the commission was for the conceptual phase of the project only and that the amount was a not-to-exceed cost. "We'll be billed hourly, from my understanding, up to that cost. It could go to \$15,500 but in talking with Mr. Zimmerman, it could also fall short of that number as well," Chief Angell said.

Commissioner Julio Rodriguez asked: "The actual cost of doing the drawings is 10 percent, it'd be, what, about \$60,000, probably? That's \$60,000 plus the \$15,000, so \$75,000 is the number we need to be look-ing at."

"Yes, sir," said Chief Angell, "again, not understanding the scope of the project until we get through the conceptual design phase of it. And what we'll be able to accomplish with our renovation budget, we were unable to really hash out an exact number for those services through construction. But it's been estimated, Mr. Zimmerman has conveyed to me that the anticipated amount would be about 10 percent of the overall project cost. We did not feel that was out of line."

Rodriguez added, "I know you realize this, mayor, that we're almost at \$200,000 in architect (fees) on this building" — but Chief Angell corrected him, "on this project." The commissioner said sardonically, "Project, excuse me. Police station number three."

Mayor Gardner was more concerned about whether the firm could get the conceptual plan done in such a short time frame. Mr. Angell said originally they thought they'd have more time and that CPZ President Chris Zimmerman could respond. "He understands that we're dealing with both a finite amount of money and time."

The city is facing a June 30 deadline to get the project completed because of a requirements of the grant Clewiston received from the state Department of Law Enforcement for the project.

Commissioner Phillip Roland moved that the commission adopt the resolution, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Kristine Petersen, and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gardner asked Mr. Zimmerman to step to the podium to speak about the project. "What I suggested is ... to set up an on-site meeting here and come with a couple of people from my office, and spend the day to try to iron out even a floor plan and how we might do it," Mr. Zimmerman said. He added he wanted to meet with the chief building official to try to shoehorn the renovation into code requirements and the financial and time limitations, adding that he was hopeful he'd be able to meet the city's deadline or at least not miss it by more than a few days.

THANKS

Continued From Page 1

it's a 'We,' and they do a great job, they really do. We've got wonderful people. In case you want to know, some of the things we've done ... "

Chairman Swindle answered, "Well, yes, I was going to ask!"

The tax collector then went down his list like Santa checking his lineup of bad and good children for Christmas — except there wasn't even one bad entry on Mr. Langford's list.

"Well, one of the good things is the concealed weapons (permit) issuance. You know we make \$22, every one we do, like on a driver's license we make \$6.25," he said. "And we're trying to train more people so that people can come in and just get a license – they don't have to have an appointment – and word is getting around that you can just show up in LaBelle and get your license, so that's helping. It's working real good."

And although Mr. Langford also told commissioners that the county's saving some money on Tax Collector's Office workers' insurance subsidies because their share of the health insurance cost has been increased, "they're just happy to have the type of insurance they have through our county, so there's no complaining there."

He said the office also has moved three employees to part-time rather than full-time status and that "we're keeping our overtime under the allowed limits a lot better than we were." Another improvement his office has made is through a practice that Mr. Langford says is good both for taxpayers and county government. "We're collecting more taxes by sending out letters to people that their property, a certificate has been sold on it, and they might lose their property, and we're wording that in a way that a lot of them are coming and paying their taxes to keep from losing their property," he explained. Along with that, the tax collector is trying to be of more help to taxpayers who find themselves having a hardship paying their taxes.

"We're setting up more people with installment plans. If they can't pay their taxes, we're letting them know more about the installment plans so they can keep their land. You know, they can't come up with \$700 a year but they can come up with it divided by four during the year a lot better," Mr. Langford said.

In addition, he's ramped up oversight to where no purchase is made in the office that he does not sign for, so "we've cut down on wastefulness. I do some crazy things like I did in my other business; we use the front page and the back page of paper. That paper's expensive," he added. "I can't believe how much it is!"

Chairman Swindle replied, "Yeah, it doesn't grow on trees," to chuckles all around the room."

Finally, Mr. Langford recounted: "Another big savings is our new software system, eGov, our taxing software system. We negotiated the price; it's like \$25,000 cheaper than the previous provider we had. And, like I said before, our staff is awesome. They're

Florida B. Thomas Library

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• The Florida B. Thomas Library holds a monthly book club meeting for community seniors. "The Brown Bag Book Club" meets the third Wednesday of every month from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The focus is African American authors. For information, call 863-902-3322. Refreshments will be served.

ist wonderful people. [Citizens] tell us all the time how they love coming to Hendry County to ... especially get their tags and titles and concealed-weapons permits. So I can't say enough about our staff." He also buttered up the board a bit: "I

appreciate you guys and ladies. What happened during the hurricane was horrible, and you've done a great job. I just wanted to take this opportunity to tell you that."

Chairman Swindle applauded Mr. Lang-

ership on your part and your staff's part," adding, about the 45 percent higher check for excess fees, "That's remarkable. We greatly appreciate what you do there. We appreciate your being here, and doing that." Mr. Swindle then moved on with the

ford's "forward thinking and proactive lead-

agenda, but he kept fondling the check. "I'm going to put that big check – I don't want to put that big check away – right here where I can see it," he said, grinning.

CITY OF LABELLE NOTICE OF PROPOSED ENACTMENT

Notice is hereby given that the City Commission, for the City of LaBelle, will hold a public hearing on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall on 481 West Hickpochee Avenue, LaBelle, Florida for the purpose of receiving public comment on the following proposed ordinance:

ORDINANCE 2017-21 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE SPECIAL EXCEPTION

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF LABELLE, FLOR-IDA; AMENDING THE CITY OF LABELLE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, PART I, CHAPTER 3, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES; SECTION 3-4, CONSUMPTION ON PREMIS-ES, LOCATION RESTRICTED; PROVIDING FOR INTENT; PROVIDING FOR SEVER-ABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance. Interested persons may appear on their own behalf or by agent or attorney. If anyone decides to appeal a decision made by the Agency/Commission with respect to any matter considered at the meeting or hearing, a record of the proceeding will be needed for the appeal and for that purpose(s), may need to insure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIAL AID OR SERVICES AS ADDRESSED IN THE AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT, PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AT 863-675-2872, NO LESS THAN FIVE (5) DAYS PRIOR TO THE ABOVE STATED HEARING DATE.

City of LaBelle City Commission David A. Lyons, Mayor





Special to The Clewiston News/Courtesy photo

Green Thumb Garden Club enjoys a tour and lunch

The Green Thumb Garden Club (GTGC) in Clewiston went on a four of the Bonnet House Museum and Gardens in Fort Laurderdale on Tuesday, Oct. 17. They had a wonderful tour guide who gave a lot of history of the original owners and explained how the Bonnet House was preserved in their honor. The GTGC ate lunch at the Case Blanca Cafe in Fort Laurderdale after taking a tour of the Bonnet House. The owner, who grew up in the house which was converted to a cafe, explained the history to the ladies of the GTGC. The food was delicious! On Nov. 14, the GTGC met at the First United Methodist Church - Life Enrichment Center. Brian Robinson was the speaker. His topic was Planting and Plant Care. His specialty is trees and fungicides. He is very knowledgeable and was very informative. On Dec. 5, the GTGC will meet at the Clewiston Public Library to decorate the library for Christmas. Visitors are welcome!



Groundbreaking for LaBelle airport project

Hendry County breaks ground on the LaBelle Municipal Airport terminal building (FBO) and infrastructure project funded by the Florida Department of Transportation.



Veterans honored

Clewiston Elks Lodge #1853 held a Veterans Appreciation ceremony and dinner for their veteran members and families, prior to their regular Wednesday, Nov. 15, meeting. The local Boy Scout Troop 619 presented the lodge with a folded flag and asked that it be flown over their lodge in honor of their veteran members, both past and present. Exalted Ruler Les Baucum shared a short bit of history, recounting how the Elks commitment to our nation's veterans started in 1917 during World War I. A tribute song, "Arlington" by Trace Adkins, was played and the ceremony was closed by reminding everyone that the price of freedom is not free. The event was attended by 40 veterans, friends, family and participating Elks. Clewiston Elks veterans are pictured with Exalted Ruler Les Baucum (orange shirt. in the center).

Special to The Clewiston News/Courtesy photo

Christmas potluck meeting

Drug Free Hendry/Hendry Tobacco Free Partnership invites the public to their Christmas potluck meeting on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 4 p.m. at the Carlson Memorial United Methodist Church – Fellowship Hall, 310 Campbell St. in LaBelle. Guest speaker Armando Ochoa will talk about how he turned his life around for the better. For information, contact Luci Cisnero at 863-843-2133 or Lucille.Cisnero@flhealth.gov.

Renowned speaker in LaBelle

LABELLE — Dr. Jerome "Jerry" Jackson will present "Soccer, Shopping Centers, and Florida's Loggerhead Shrikes: An Accidental Conservation Success Story" on Monday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. This free program is open to the public at the Dallas Townsend Building, 1085 Pratt Blvd in LaBelle. Dr. Jackson takes you through your back yard and Southwest Florida's beaches, swamps and preserves to learn about "The Wild Things" on his daily public radio program. For information about Hendry-Glades Audubon, contact Butch Wilson at 863-983-2870 or Margaret England at 863-517-0202, or visit www.hendrygladesaudubon.org or Facebook at Hendry-Glades Audubon.

Florida B. Thomas Library

• The Florida B. Thomas Library holds a monthly book club meeting for community seniors. "The Brown Bag Book Club" meets the third Wednesday of every month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The focus is African-American authors. For information, call 863-902-3322. Refreshments will be served.

• The Florida B. Thomas Library has many newly released family-themed DVD titles available for checkout. Visit the selection and take home a good movie for the holidays to enjoy with your family!



Special to The Clewiston News/Courtesy photo

Kiwanis welcomes new Leadership

On Tuesday, Oct. 3, the Kiwanis Club of LaBelle welcomed new Leadership. Beth Elaine, the 2017-2018 Kiwanis Lt Governor officially installed new officers for the Kiwanis Club of LaBelle. Officers for 2017-2018 are: President Sue Williams, Incoming President Carole Schroeder, Secretary Karan Roach, Treasurer Darlene Soud and Past President Tim Holland.



Special to The Clewiston News/Courtesy photo

Clewiston Elks honored veterans with a ceremony

Clewiston Elks Lodge #1853 held a Veteran's Appreciation ceremony and dinner for their veteran members and families, prior to their regular Wednesday meeting on Nov. 15. During the ceremony local Boy Scout Troop 619 presented the Lodge with a folded flag and asked that they fly it over their lodge in honor of their veteran members, both past and present. Exalted Ruler, Les Baucum, shared a short bit of history, recounting how the Elks commitment to our nation's veterans started in 1917 during World War I. A tribute song, "Arlington" by Trace Adkins, was played and the ceremony was closed by reminding everyone that the price of freedom is not free. The event was attended with over 40 veterans, friends, family and Elks participating.



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'Maintain, Don't Gain!' this holiday season

Special to The Clewiston News

Hendry/Glades counties - The Florida Department of Health in Hendry and Glades counties is encouraging everyone to include health in their holiday activities this year by joining the 2017 Eat Smart, Move More: Maintain, Don't Gain! Holiday Challenge.

Many Americans gain between one and five pounds each holiday season. While it might not sound like much, most people never manage to lose those extra pounds.

The Maintain, Don't Gain! Holiday Challenge is a seven-week, email-based campaign to help participants maintain their weight through the holiday season.

With balance and moderation, you can enjoy the holiday festivities and remain healthy! Choose fresh fruit as a substitute for candy. Limit fats, salt and sugary foods. Find fun ways to stay active, such as dancing to your favorite holiday music or going for a brisk walk following holiday meals. Make it a goal to be active for at least 30 minutes a day.

Healthiest Weight Florida, in partnership with North Carolina State University, has been promoting and participating in the Maintain Don't Gain Holiday Challenge for the past three years. Last year's Holiday Challenge was the biggest and best yet with over 13,500 participants from across the country.

The challenge began Nov. 13 and runs through Dec. 31. This year, rather than focusing on trying to lose weight during the holiday season, try this free seven-week challenge which provides participants with tips, tricks and ideas to help maintain your weight throughout the holiday season.

The Challenge includes weekly newsletters delivered by email with tips on how to: • Survive a holiday party;

- Manage holiday stress;
- Be a healthy host;
- Fit physical activity into your day;
- Prepare quick and healthy meals; and • Serve healthy holiday recipes.

For more information and to register for the 2017 Eat Smart, Move More, Maintain Don't Gain! Holiday Challenge visit http:// www.healthiestweightflorida.com/activi ties/holiday.html.

About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through inte grated state, county and community efforts

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at @HealthyFla. For more informa tion about the Florida Department of Health visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.

Florida State DHSMV scrutinizes local CDL tester

By Patty Brant

Special to The Clewiston News

An investigation by the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) has resulted in the severing of its agreement with Key Power Driving School on Nov. 16. While investigating third-party CDL testing sites, the department found practices of Key Power Driving School posed "an immediate, serious danger to public health, safety and welfare."

DHSMV Executive Director Terry L. Rhodes issued this statement, "Driving a commercial vehicle is a tremendous responsibility and privilege, and the proper

administration of knowledge and skill testing for drivers is critical to maintaining safety on Florida roads." He further stated, "The revocation of DHSMV's agreement with Key Power demonstrates our commitment to ensuring appropriate testing standards are maintained in the pursuit of A Safer Florida."

Beth Frady, Communications Director for DHSV said the department has terminated agreements with four third-party testers. The action was prompted by "anomalies" discovered by a DHSMV compliance officer, and a review of company transactions

Ms. Frady further stated that the department's agreement with Key Power has been completely severed. It will not contract with the company in the future.

DHSMV has accused Key Power of "fraudulent testing activities" by "omitting vital portions of the required three-part skills test and manipulating testing data on CDL skills test score sheets.'

The department points out that students' pass rates "dropped significantly, from 60 to just 11 percent." DHSMV views this as a "key indicator that Key Power may have given passing scores to individuals who had not taken the test, not completed mandatory portions of the test or had not performed required driving maneuvers.'

Anyone who was tested by Key Power on or after Jan. 1, 2017, will be required to be retested, using a "compliant third-party CDL testing administrator. They will have 60 days after notification to retake and pass the test or have their CDL cancelled.

A total of 1,305 Florida drivers and 195 out-of-state drivers have been affected and will receive retesting notifications.

DHSVM monitors third-party administrators and testers in Florida and has agreements with over 150 private and governmental CDL testing facilities in Florida.

People of the Water at Lawrence E. Will Museum

Learn about the Native Americans who lived in the Glades for thousands of years before Europeans "discovered" America. The Lawrence E. Will Museum of the Glades (in the old library) is located at 530 S. Main St. in Belle Glade. Hours of operation are Wednesday from noon to 6 p.m., and Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (or by appointment). For information, call 561-853-4443.

Dispose of old electronics, toxic items for free Dec. 2

Special to The Clewiston News

Hendry County Waste Management is hosting a free E-Waste & Toxic Roundup on Saturday, Dec. 2, for residents of the unincorporated areas outside Clewiston and LaBelle. Care Environmental will collect old electronic devices and any unwanted toxic items or old containers at two locations that day.

Any businesses that operate or Hendry County residents who live in those unincorporated areas are invited to bring these items to 1360 Forestry Division Road in La-Belle between 8 a.m. and noon Saturday, or to 1381 Evercane Road in Clewiston from 1:30 to 4 p.m.

Businesses were able to make appointments with the company at least a week in advance.

Old electronics that will be accepted include scanners and copiers; mouses and keyboards; personal electronic devices; monitors and laptops; cellphones; audio/video equipment; and television sets. Among hazardous waste items that may be disposed of are spent batteries and old containers that held or still hold potentially toxic substances such as paint, motor oil and other industrial-type lubricants, antifreeze, paint thinner and the like.

Anyone who has questions may call Hendry's special districts coordinator at 863-675-5252.

Expedition Ice Age at Lawrence E. Will Museum

Journey back in time over 10,000 years to the last Ice Age, when Paleoindians, woolly mammoths and saber-toothed cats ruled wild Florida! Come explore the ancient past of the northern Everglades through fossils and artifacts! Enjoy a funfilled educational outing for the whole family!

The Lawrence E. Will Museum of the Glades (in the old library) is located at 530 S. Main St. in Belle Glade. Hours of operation are Wednesday from noon to 6 p.m., and Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (or by appointment).

For information, call 561-853-4443.



Offer valid 11/30/17 thru 12/6/17 or while supplies last. Limit 1 free bucket per customer. Certain restrictions may apply. May not be combined with any other special offers or sales. Void where prohibited by law. Rexel has the right to modify or cancel this offer at any time.

Crossword Puzzle

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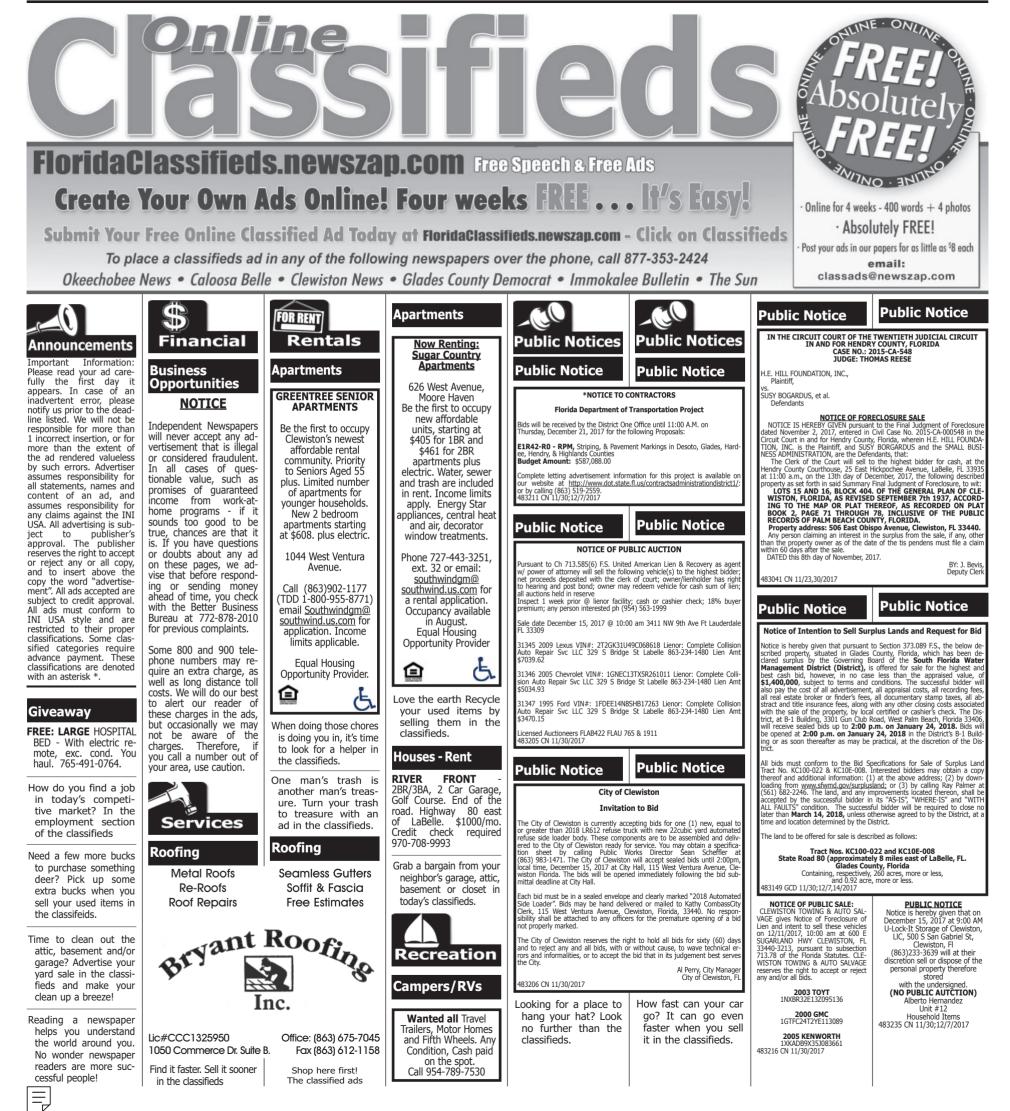
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No wonder newspaper readers are more successful!

Shortwave and amateur radio still useful

By Tom Timmons INI florida

We live in a world of new technology. The internet has exploded into the homes and lives of most of the people in this great country of ours in the past few years, bringing games and news and streaming video to computers, tablets and even telephones. Suddenly there is little need to visit the local library to find out information, when all you have to do is select an icon and speak into your phone, "Google, what does this mean?" Made available to nearly everyone in our community and throughout the country, the internet is all encompassing with all of the newest trends, fashion and kitten videos at our fingertips

But out there, hiding in plain sight, is old technology that is still active and practiced by a very few individuals. I speak of radio.

Not the XM, satellite-driven entertainment system in your car or truck, or Billy on the local AM or FM station in the mornings, but radio as a means of two-way communication, radio as a means to inform, radio as a vehicle of change.

I speak of shortwave radio, of amateur (HAM) radio communications and of the ability of a select few to talk across this country of ours with a microphone attached to a box of electronics, some with technology old enough to run on vacuum tubes and a piece of wire strung between two trees.

When the hurricanes strike, and suddenly the power is off, and the cell phones no longer work, how do we communicate? If you want to talk directly to an astronaut on the International Space Station, how can you do it? If you want to hear a broadcast of news and information directly from the Vatican, how can you do it? All with radio.

Now granted, cell phone technology IS a radio. Connected to the telephone company wire line backbone, your cell phone is a high frequency, digital radio that talks between the side of your head and the nearest cell phone tower. In the earlier days it was possible to listen to a cell phone conversation on a scanner-type radio receiver. That was the days of the analog cell phones, and those days are pretty well gone. In April of 1994, the FCC decided to block all cell phone frequencies from scanners, and that improved the privacy some. Now cell phones are fully digital and pretty secure from outside listeners, but I'm still not giving out my credit card information on the cell phone.

In other frequency bands, there is a wealth of information available. Amateur radio works in a lot of different frequency bands, and is a hobby. No one is paid to be a ham radio operator but many of the practitioners of this hobby volunteer to provide communications during times of emergency. During bad weather, specially trained ham radio operators work as weather spotters for the National Weather Service, watching for tornadoes and the like. There are about 290,000 trained SKY-WARN spotters nationwide, many of them associated with ham radio. But in times that are not emergencies, they provide support and communications of other kinds. A few years ago, when there was less construction on the dike around Lake Okeechobee, there was an endurance race that took place there. A 118-mile long foot race around the entire lake. While the runners were on the course, communications between check points was provided by local amateur radio operators. People who travel the Caribbean in sailboats

depend on amateur radio to keep in touch with family and friends. When you are well off shore, cell phones don't work, and satellite based phones continue to be very expensive, so there are amateur band radios in most of the sailboats and regular times and frequencies to check in with messages about where you are going, and what issues you have the require help from others.

The Okeechobee Amateur Radio Club has been around for a lot of years. A small club of about a dozen members, they meet once a month and work to promote the hobby and share information. They hold an annual Radio Swap Meet the Saturday after Thanksgiving each year at the Freedom Ranch at 11655 U.S. 441 SE. The club maintains two VHF (Very High Frequency) repeaters that are open for use by any ham radio operator to use and have a weekly scheduled checkin on one of those stations where local operators meet to talk about all things radio. A license is required to transmit on any of the amateur radio frequencies, but listening is free. There are three different levels of ham radio licenses available with the easiest one called a technicians license, and you have to pass a 25-question multiple choice test to get it. Study materials for the license is available from the AARL (American Amateur Relay League) at their website on-line.

Additional to the amateur radio frequency bands, there are commercial radio bands referred to as shortwave bands. On these frequency bands you find commercial broadcasters, some businesses, some government agencies, some church based and some not. Many of the broadcasters in the shortwave band are in foreign countries.

The single largest privately owned shortwave transmitter site in the Western Hemisphere is found ten miles north of Okeechobee on N.W. 240th Street. The radio station, WRMI, Radio Miami International is based with studios in Miami, but broadcasts from our back yard. It currently has twelve, 100,000 watt transmitters that are operational on twelve different frequencies and broadcasts 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This site was formerly operated as WYFR and was owned by the Family Radio System and broadcast religious programming into South and Central America and the Caribbean. Since being purchased by Radio Miami, the programming has changed. Religious programming is still available, as is a variety of music programming.

To listen to shortwave radio, and hear broadcasts from WRMI in Okeechobee and others, you need a shortwave receiver. These radios, available a lot of places for as little as \$40, can be found at your local Walmart or on Amazon online. Better radios, that will also tune in amateur radio broadcasts as well as shortwave are a bit more expensive, costing between \$150 and \$300.

There are a lot of resources online to find frequencies and broadcasters and also books available on Amazon that will tell you who is broadcasting on what frequency at what time and in what language.

Listening can become an addictive hobby.

November is American Diabetes Month, a

time to communicate the seriousness of diabetes and the importance of diabetes prevention and control.

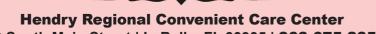
Hendry Regional Medical

Center, in partnership with the Department of Health of Hendry County, offers a nationally recognized Diabetes Prevention Program to help prevent or delay Type 2 Diabetes. This free program meets weekly and monthly. For more information on Diabetes or to register for

classes, please call **863-983-1123**



Hendry Regional Medical Center 524 West Sagamore Ave. | Clewiston, FL 33440 | 863-902-3000



450 South Main Street | LaBelle, FL 33935 | **863-675-2356**



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Theatre to present The Marvelous Wonderettes

The second play of the Firehouse Community Theatre's 25th anniversary season continues with the musical/comedy The Marvelous Wonderettes - Winter Wonderettes created by Roger Bean. This production will run for eight shows Dec. 7-17. This seasonal celebration finds the girls entertaining at the annual Harper's Hardware Holiday Party. When Santa turns up missing, the girls use their talent and creative ingenuity to save the holiday. Featuring great 60s versions of holiday classics such as "Santa Clause is Coming to Town," "Jingle Bell Rock," "Run, Rudolph, Run" and many other Christmas favorites. For tickets and infomation for all shows call 863-675-3066 and leave a message. If you would like to choose your seats please visit www.firehousecommunitytheatre.com. The Firehouse Community Theatre is located in downtown LaBelle, 241 North Bridge St. in LaBelle. Left to right: Ashley Curry, Loralei Weber, Jamie Bartley and Brittany Morrison.