

The Clewiston News

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018 VOL. 91 - NUMBER 15- 50¢

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Next phase of river restoration

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Bass tournament is a 'fun raiser' for veterans

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Lake Levels

13.57 feet

Last Year: 12.21 feet

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



See page 3 for information about how to contact this newspaper.

theclewistonnews.com



Safety measures aired at public forum

By Megan Nicole Narehood

Special to The Clewiston News

LABELLE — Members of the Hendry County School Board spoke about safety procedures already in place and measures being taken to “harden” the schools at the School Safety Forum on Monday, April 9.

“I’m the first superintendent in Hendry County history that actually has to worry about children being murdered,” said Superintendent Paul Puletti. “I’m dreading the time something happens where children are murdered on school grounds.”

Mr. Puletti said state law says school districts can choose to have School Resource Officers at every school, have a police officer who is part of the municipal police department at every school, or institute a Guardian Program.

“We’ve had School Resource Officers in every school since 2012, and we have one municipal police department that’s in Clewiston,”

said Mr. Puletti. “The state says if the sheriff, county and superintendent want to participate in the Guardian Program, they can.”

Mr. Puletti said the school district is going to write a school safety plan “probably in December,” depending on how much money is allocated. The guardian program is the one program that is “going to cost us nothing,” he said. “The program is fully funded through the school safety grant and allocations,” he added.

Lucinda Kelley, deputy superintendent for continuous improvement, human resources and operations, spoke about “hardening our schools” and prevention measures that will be in place as of the 2018-19 school year.

“Hardening our schools is a hard thing. Our buildings were built before we thought anything like Columbine was possible,” said Ms. Kel-

See SCHOOL SAFETY — Page 8

Nature Conservancy protects land for panther pathway



By Chris Felker
The Clewiston News

Nature Conservancy Magazine’s Spring 2018 edition announces a recently established conservation easement on some Glades County land along the northern bank of the Caloosahatchee River, in an area where a female Florida panther was seen last year with two kittens. That was the first sighting in more than 40 years, according to wildlife agency officials.

An easement established in October for the 460-acre Cypress Creek Grove property, owned by Falcon Eyrie Farms LC, marks a bundle of firsts for the Nature Conservancy (NC), which already protects, controls or owns several parcels in Florida including the Blowing Rocks Preserve on Jupiter Island. This conservation easement forever safeguards the land from urban development.

Cypress Creek Grove is the first working citrus farm in the state to commit

See PANTHER — Page 8

Women pretending to be DCF investigator tries to enter home

By Capt. Susan Harrelle
Hendry County Sheriff’s Office

Deputies with the Hendry County Sheriff’s Office want to ask parents to BE AWARE.

It was reported that a female identifying herself as a DCF Investigator, claiming to be employed with the Department of Children and Families, attempted to enter the home of a woman telling her she was there to conduct a “home check” and to “check up” on her child due to prior allegations. The suspect was not able to provide any identification nor was she wearing any clothing that would identify her as a DCF Investigator. When the woman refused to allow the the suspect into her home and said she would contact law enforcement, the suspect began to back away to her vehicle telling her, “well I have everything I need to close the case” and left the area. Hendry County Sheriff’s Office followed up with Department of Children and Families and was told that no one should have been at that house.

The victim did not recognize the woman and was unable to get a tag number from the vehicle.

Hendry County Sheriff Steve Whidden said, “The fact that someone would go to a person’s home, identify themselves as an investigator and attempt to gain entry is very concerning to us. We are asking if you see or hear anything suspicious to contact the Hendry County Sheriff’s Office immediately.” The suspect was driving a 2000-2010 white Volkswagen Beetle with a black top.

The suspect is described as approximately 5’4”-5’8” inches tall, 30-40 years of age, thin build with dark colored hair. If you have any information or know who this may be please contact the Hendry County Sheriff’s Office at 863-674-5600.

Valles earns two-time All-American in Wrestling

Special to The Clewiston News

Arelys Valles, a Clewiston High School 2013 alumna and University of the Cumberland (UC) 2017 alumna, is now attending UC for a master's degree in coaching and will receive her degree in August. She is a two-time All-American in WCWA (Women Collegiate Wrestling Associate).

The first weekend of January, Valles traveled to Fort Wayne, Ind., to compete in the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) national duals. For the tournament, Valles weighed in for the 109-weight class; however, she competed at the 116 weight class for the two-day tournament.

"Depending on the other team lineup, my coach will bump girls around for the best of the team to get the win. So, it did not come

as a surprise that I was getting bumped up in weight class for each dual," Valles said.

That weekend, Valles went 2-1. In the second match, she won against a wrestler who was ranked No. 2 at the 109 weight class.

"Those were very long six-minute matches. We just kept going back and forth with points. In the last 40 seconds, I was down by six points and ended the match 14-14, and was able to win by criteria," said Valles.

From successfully taking that match, it later came in play at the national tournament. The past couple of years, she had been competing at the 109 until a decision was made to go back down a weight class.

"For the past two seasons, I had been competing at the 109 weight class. During the season I was successful in my matches; however, at the national tournament both

years, I lost in blood-round, which made me not All-American.

"In December, my coach and I talked about going back down to 101 for nationals. It has been years since I competed at that weight and was nervous about the cut, but for national dual it was an easy cut to make 109, so I told him I'll go back down to 101, one was last time and I did."

After making the decision, Valles left the WCWA National Championship as a two-time All-American.

"The outcome was not what I wanted and it took a bit to recover. However, I cannot complain because I made weight and can say I am a multi-All American when it's hard to make All-American in the collegiate level," Valles said.



Special to The Clewiston News/Courtesy photo
Arelys Valles is a two-time All-American in WCWA.

T-H Marine FLW BFL returns to Lake O

Special to The Clewiston News

The T-H Marine FLW Bass Fishing League (BFL) tournament season continues Saturday, April 14, for Gator Division anglers with a tournament on Lake Okeechobee. Up to 400 boaters and co-anglers will be competing for top awards of up to \$8,000 and \$3,000, respectively, in the one-day tournament. This event is hosted by Roland and Mary Ann Martin's Marina & Resort, 920 E. Del Monte Ave. in Clewiston

When the BFL visited Lake Okeechobee in March, fishing for postspawn bass near the Monkey Box was the winning pattern. Tournament champion Mikey Keyso used Texas-rigged creature baits and targeted bass feeding on bluegill near lily pads. Anglers who choose to target bass feeding on bluegill in next weekend's event may also be seen using ChatterBaits with grub trailers along the grass lines. Others may prefer to cast frogs and swimjigs to lily pads and hydrilla. The winner of this event is expected to need a five-bass limit topping 22 pounds.

The 2018 BFL is a 24-division circuit devoted to weekend anglers, with 128 tournaments throughout the season, five qualifying events in each division. The top 45 boaters

and co-anglers from each division, along with the five winners of the qualifying events, will advance to one of six regional tournaments where they are competing to finish in the top six, which then qualifies them for one of the longest-running championships in all of competitive bass fishing – the BFL All-American. The 2018 BFL All-American will take place May 31 through June 2 at Cross Lake in Shreveport, La., hosted by the Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission. Top performers in the BFL can move up to the Costa FLW Series or even the FLW Tour.

For complete details and updated information, visitFLWFishing.com. For regular updates, photos, tournament news and more, follow the T-H Marine FLW Bass Fishing League on FLW's social media outlets at Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Snapchat.

About FLW: FLW is the world's largest tournament-fishing organization, providing anglers of all skill levels the opportunity to compete for millions in prize money in 2018 across five tournament circuits. Headquartered in Benton, Kentucky, with offices in Minneapolis, FLW and their partners conduct 286 bass-fishing tournaments annual-

ly around the world, including the United States, Canada, China, Italy, South Korea, Mexico, Portugal, South Africa and Spain. FLW tournament fishing can be seen on the Emmy-nominated "FLW" television show, broadcast to more than 564 million households worldwide, while FLW Bass Fishing magazine delivers cutting-edge tips from top pros. For more information visit FLWFishing.com and follow FLW at Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Snapchat.

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Special to the Clewiston News/Courtesy photo

84 ladies compete in invitational

On Tuesday, Feb. 20, 84 ladies competed from five different clubs in South Florida in a two-lady one best ball gross and net format. The tournament is conducted annually at the Clewiston Golf Course in February. The theme for this year's tournament was Holy Cow!



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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. Email: cndesk@newszap.com

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Phone: (800) 282-8586

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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 the prominence it deserves.
- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.



Florida Sugar Cane League unites in farm bill efforts

Special to the Okeechobee News

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Florida Sugar Cane League announced April 9 that the Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida, based in Belle Glade, is once again represented by the industry trade association. This move ensures that the three major sugarcane companies in Florida – along with their independent growers – are fully united under the banner of the Florida Sugar Cane League as debate over no-cost American sugar policy takes place in Congress.

“With Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative, we are united under the Florida Sugar Cane League as Congress considers the future of farm policy and food security in America,” said Ryan Weston, CEO of the Florida Sugar Cane League. “Florida’s sugarcane farmers play such an important role in helping to secure America’s domestic food supply in one of the most important food producing regions of the entire country.”

“On behalf of our 44 member growers, their families and our employees, we are thrilled to once again be joined in a united front through the Florida Sugar Cane League with U.S. Sugar and Florida Crystals in Washington, D.C. efforts,” said Tony Contreras, president and CEO of Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative. Even when the cooperative was not formally part of the league, we still worked together on common issues, particularly important legislative policies. We’re happy to provide a united voice on behalf of the more than 12,500 people in Florida employed by sugarcane farming and processing.”

“There’s always strength in numbers,” said Robert H. Buker, president and CEO of U.S. Sugar. With the cooperative and its growers back on board, Florida’s representation in Washington is unified in its efforts to retain commonsense, zero-cost sugar policy in our nation’s capital. Both sugar as a matter of na-

tional farm policy and as a food product remain a bargain, and we intend to keep it that way. The last thing we need is for predatory foreign governments who heavily subsidize their own sugar farmers to be putting American farmers out of business. We’ve always been a formidable team when the Florida industry joins together for a common goal.”

“Florida Crystals partners with Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative on many business fronts and we’re delighted to work with them through the Florida Sugar Cane League,” said Pepe Fanjul, Jr., executive vice president of Florida Crystals. “This announcement sends a message that our industry is more united than ever. We look forward to working with our friends at the cooperative throughout the farm bill debate to ensure American sugarcane and sugar beet farmers, processors and refiners can continue to sustainably produce safe, affordable food here at home.”

Community News

Holocaust program set

A Holocaust survivors program will be held at the Clewiston Library, 120 W. Osceola Ave., on Thursday, **April 12**, at 6 p.m. Bring the family to hear firsthand accounts from a Holocaust survivor. Refreshments will be provided.

Guardian forum April 12

The Hendry County School District will host a forum to discuss the proposed Guardian Program. The meeting will take place at the Clewiston High School Auditorium, 1501 Francisco St. in Clewiston, on Thursday, April 12, at 7 p.m. This discussion regarding school safety concerns ideas is open to the public.

Code enforcement to visit

Hendry County code enforcers will be in the Flaghole and Montura areas on Saturday, April 14. Officers will be handing out informational flyers on county ordinances and will be available for any questions you may have on requirements for property maintenance.

Florida B. Thomas Library

Two high-level scientists will be at the Florida B. Thomas Library, 1010 J Harlem Academy Ave. in Clewiston, on Thursday, April 19, from 4 to 5 p.m. to conduct an interactive educational session for children in observance of April being the library’s “Science Month.” Science equipment and tools will be on display. For information, call 863-902-3322.

‘Secret Church Simulcast’

First United Methodist Church of Clewiston Life Enrichment Center, 331 W. Osceola Ave. in Clewiston, invites the public to join them on Friday, April 20, from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m., as they go deep into Scripture on the topic of cults and counterfeit gospels. The Bible teacher is David Platt, author and missionary and teaching pastor at McLean Bible Church. Register by emailing Pastor Jeff at pas-

BBQ benefit planned

New Hope Deliverance Christian Ministries, Inc. will hold a barbecue and yard sale benefit fundraising event on Saturday, April 21 at the U-Save parking lot, U.S. 27 in Clewiston. A yard sale will begin at 7 a.m. Dinners will be sold at 11 a.m. for a donation of \$10 for chicken dinners and \$12 for rib dinners. Dinners include two sides, soda and desert. Proceeds will go to William Bigham who is awaiting a heart transplant. To preorder dinners or to donate call Pastor James Bigham at 863-228-0673.

Coloring for adults

Coffee & Coloring for Adults will be available at the Clewiston library, 120 W. Osceola Ave., on Tuesday, **April 24**, from 10 to 11 a.m. Supplies will be provided. Come relax while listening to calming music and enjoying coffee and donuts!

Swing into Spring

Swing Into Spring, a benefit for United Way of Hendry & Glades Counties, will be on Saturday, April 28 from 5 to 8 p.m at the RiverBend Motorcoach Resort, 5800 W. State Road 80, LaBelle. Individual tickets are \$50 per person. For reservations or additional information, contact Lisa at 239-433-7559.

Unmet needs coalition meets

Hendry and Glades County residents, representatives of local organizations, churches, businesses and nonprofit organizations are invited to participate in the Hendry/Glades Unmet Needs Coalition meeting to be held on Friday, April 13, at 1 p.m. at the Clewiston Public Library, 120 W. Osceola Ave. in Clewiston.

For information call Terri Miazaga, HGUNC Coordinator at 561-516-2103, fax at 863-675-9393.

Letter to the editor

I used to work for Family Homecare out of Clewiston hospital as an occupational therapist and provided early intervention and pre-K services for children in Hendry and Glades counties until I moved to upstate New York in 2004.

I lived in Buckhead Ridge and Okeechobee.

My prayers and condolences go out to all the victims of these mass shootings. My sister lives in Parkland, and I briefly attended a Baptist church that started out meeting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

The school walkouts and anti-gun marches, to me, seem to be backed by a hateful political agenda. Maybe they are based on fear and anger, but either way, we the people do need to act against massacres and violence. Why were there no marches when Obama was president? President Obama blamed the Republicans and the NRA, causing more division. President Trump is actually doing something to protect our children, and I thank God. However, each political party is in a fantasy world, with Republicans thinking we are all moral and qualified to own

tactical weapons and sidearms. Then Democrats think cultural diversity and education are the answer; meanwhile, they push for unlimited abortions and they think the police and government will protect them. That did not work out so good in the Parkland or Orlando shootings where the FBI was involved prior to both massacres.

Let’s look at the solution rather than just more fake news/media hype; our Second Amendment gun rights can stay intact by enforcing all the current gun laws and the various checks/balances that are already in place; and by further restriction of tactical-style rifles such as AR-15s, meanwhile adding concealed-carry reciprocity nationwide. However, the main solution to stopping these massacres is Jesus, for God so loved the world that God the Father sent God the Son into the world so that you, I, and whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. See John 3:16.

God bless America, one nation under God. In God we trust.

John “JP” Pasquale
Livingston Manor, N.Y.

Reflections from the Pulpit

My way or the highway? Or the making of a saint?

The Reverend Samuel S. Thomas, Ph. D. +

Saint Martin's Church, Clewiston

"Out of many, one" is a national motto for our country. It is the meaning of the Latin phrase "E Pluribus Unum" and captures a basic democratic principle. It used to be printed on our coins and serves as a reminder of what I have come to believe as a source of strength in our democracy.

The motto means to me that in spite of all of our individual differences, our collective wisdom and collective decision-making will lead us in the best directions. As a people gathered from many varied backgrounds and ways of thinking, we've been a country that has been foremost in the world for generations.

This motto suggests to me that our system of government is self-correcting; we will get it right by having input from everyone even though there may be disagreements along the way. That being said, I have a great reason to hope for the future in spite of the many divisions and factions which seem to be pushing one agenda or another. The organizations where I hold membership and which practice with democratic governing principles continue in spite of disagreements and members who don't always go along.

The larger values and purposes outweigh split-ups and disagreements; at heart, membership puts aside individual differences for the good of the whole.

My reflections on a biblical incident supported my understanding of "E Pluribus Unum." Jesus chose for Himself a group of disciples who were exemplars of the imperfections one can find in human beings. They argued about "Who is the greatest?" (Matthew 18:1), they fell asleep when He asked them to stay awake as He went off to

pray and chides them when He had asked them to stay awake (Mark 14:37-40). Peter reneges on his promise never to deny the Lord (John 18:25ff). Judas will betray Him and sell Him out (Matthew 25:14ff). Then there was Thomas, who gives the Lord an ultimatum (John 20:25). Thomas was not present when Jesus first appeared to His disciples following His resurrection and says he will not believe them unless he has proof on his own.

He gives the other disciples an ultimatum: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe (ibid, v.25)."

That is something that I've always considered the wrong way of going about things when you are faced with a difficult choice. Don't give God ultimatums! I've always believed that you go to God asking, praying, seeking and always remembering "...thy will be done.." but not telling God how it must be.

Thomas is faced with something the world does not see, someone raised from the dead, and this certainly is an exceptional event with much to go on faith; but it is God who can and does do what is impossible for human beings. Even the affirmations of his companions does not dispel his doubt. Thomas makes demands; that's no way to pray or ask God to intervene.

In spite of his flawed approach to the Lord, Jesus accedes to his demand! This certainly is an exception to the ways we've been taught to pray and to ask of God what we need.

Then I remembered that Jesus called followers that all had their human faults and all could have been disappointments. Each was very human, each had their faults, E Pluribus Unum.

Each went on to establish the Lord's body here on Earth; His Church, and each excelled in their ministry in spite of it all. Jesus saw their abilities and not their faults;

forgiving, understanding, using each where their great gifts to humanity would be given. Each had his special need, each had weaknesses, the Lord understood and responded. Thomas would proclaim "My Lord and my God! (John 20:28)" when a special understanding was shown and he would be reminded of what Jesus did for him to affirm his faith (v.29). Jesus took imperfect people and gave them what it took to make them saints. I've come to believe that there are still many saints with us and they've been here for generations.

They're human beings, but they have that special quality of doing God's will and serving their fellow human beings. I see them around me. God is still making them; what a wonderful gift to us all.

Obituary

Sarah Owens Hytower

BELLE GLADE — Sarah Owens Hytower was born on Oct. 22, 1939 and passed away at JFK North hospital WPB on Saturday, March 31, 2018.

Viewing 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Service at 11 a.m. on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at St. John First Baptist Church, 600 SW 8th Street, Belle Glade. Rev. Robert L. Rease, Pastor. Arrangements by Butts Memorial Chapel.



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~Sonny's BBQ



Central Elementary wears green for CP



Special to The Clewiston News/Courtesy photo
Central students and staff supporting their fellow classmate Matthew Andrade.



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Public Notice

Notice of Intended Agency Action

The South Florida Water Management District gives notice of its intent to issue renewals of the following Everglades Works of the District Permits (Chapter 40E-63 Fla. Admin. Code) with conditions within the Everglades Agricultural Area, Florida. The permits allow the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP) Plan(s) and water quality Discharge Monitoring Plan(s). The BMP implementation requirements, performance measures, and compliance methodology established in the permits pertain to phosphorus only. "Permittee" within the permit(s) refers to all landowners, lessees, and operators responsible for compliance with the terms and conditions of the permit(s) and are listed under the Administrative Information section of the Staff Report(s).

Permit 30-00018-A (Application 170323-23), issued on April 4, 2018, to United States Sugar Corporation, 111 Ponce De Leon Avenue, Clewiston, FL 33440 and other named owner/operators for a project called United States Sugar Corporation, consisting of approximately 65,461.78 acres including all or parts of the following: Sections 24, 25, 36, T41/R37; Sections 19, 30-32, T41/R38; Sections 1, 12, 13, T42/R37; Sections 1, 6-7, 18, 25, 36, T42/R48; Sections 6-8, 16-18, 29-32, T42/R39; Sections 22-27, 34-39, T43/R37; Sections 1, 7, 18-19, T43/R38; Sections 4-9, 15-17, 21-22, T43/R39; Sections 2-11, 15-36, T44/R35; Sections 19-21, 23, 28-35, T36/R44; Sections 1-3, 12, 19, T44/R37 Palm Beach County, and Sections 1-2, 11-14, 23-26, 36 T44/R34; Sections 16, 21-22, 27-28, 34-35, T45/R34; Sections 3, 10, 15, 22, T46/R34, Hendry County, discharging to L-1 East, Hillsboro, Ocean, Bolles, North New River, Miami West and West Palm Beach Canals.

The Staff Reports setting forth the staff recommendation regarding the permits, issued on the date listed above, including permit conditions to provide reasonable assurances that the projects meet SFVMD statutes and rules, can be obtained by contacting the Regulatory Records Management Section, during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406, Regulation Division, by telephone at 561-682-6911, by e-mail at permits@sfvmd.gov, or by accessing the Staff Reports directly from the District's website www.sfvmd.gov, using the Application/Permit Search on the ePermitting page.

The District's proposed agency action as set forth in the Staff Reports shall become final unless a timely petition for an administrative hearing is filed under Sections 120.569 and 120.57 of the Florida Statutes before the deadline for filing a petition.

As required by Sections 120.569(1), and 120.60(3), Fla. Stat., the following is notice of the opportunities which may be available for administrative hearing or judicial review when the substantial interests of a party are determined by an agency. Please note that this Notice of Rights is not intended to provide legal advice. Not all the legal proceedings detailed below may be an applicable or appropriate remedy. You may wish to consult your attorney regarding your legal rights.

Right to Request Administrative Hearing

A person whose substantial interests are or may be affected by any of the above listed South Florida Water Management Districts (SFVMD or District) action(s) has the right to request an administrative hearing on that action(s) pursuant to Sections 120.569 and 120.57, Fla. Stat. Persons seeking a hearing on a SFVMD decision which affects or may affect their substantial interests shall file a petition for hearing with the Office of the District Clerk of the SFVMD, in accordance with the filing instructions set forth herein, within 21 days of receipt of written notice of the decision, unless one of the following shorter time periods apply: (1) within 14 days of the notice of consolidated intent to grant or deny concurrently reviewed applications for extension shall contain a certificate that the moving party has consulted with all other parties concerning the extension and that the SFVMD and any other parties agree to or oppose the extension. A timely request for extension of time shall toll the running of the time period for filing a petition until the request is acted upon.

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A person may file a request for an extension of time for filing a petition. The SFVMD may, for good cause, grant the request. Requests for extension of time must be filed with the SFVMD prior to the deadline for filing a petition for hearing. Such requests for extension shall contain a certificate that the moving party has consulted with all other parties concerning the extension and that the SFVMD and any other parties agree to or oppose the extension. A timely request for extension of time shall toll the running of the time period for filing a petition until the request is acted upon.

Filing Instructions

The petition must be filed with the Office of the Clerk of the District Clerk of the SFVMD. Filings with the District Clerk may be made by mail, hand-delivery or e-mail. Filings by facsimile will not be accepted. A petition for administrative hearing is deemed filed upon receipt during normal business hours by the District Clerk at SFVMD headquarters in West Palm Beach, Florida. The District's normal business hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding weekends and District holidays. Any document received by the office of the SFVMD Clerk after 5:00 p.m. shall be filed as of 8:00 a.m. on the next regular business day. Additional filing instructions are as follows:

• Filings by mail must be addressed to the Office of the District Clerk, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406.

• Filings by hand-delivery must be delivered to the Office of the District Clerk. Delivery of a petition to the SFVMD's secure desk does not constitute filing. To ensure proper filing, it will be necessary to request the SFVMD's security officer to contact the Office of the District Clerk. An employee of the SFVMD's Clerk's office will receive and file the petition.

• Filings by e-mail must be transmitted to the Office of the District Clerk at clerk@sfvmd.gov. The filing date for a document transmitted by electronic mail shall be the date the Office of the District Clerk receives the complete document. A party who files a document by e-mail shall: (1) represent that the original physically signed document will be retained by that party for the duration of the proceeding and of any subsequent appeal or subsequent proceeding in that cause and that the party shall produce it upon the request of other parties; and, (2) be responsible for any delay, disruption, or interruption of the electronic signals and accepts the full risk that the document may not be properly filed.

Initiation of an Administrative Hearing

Pursuant to Sections 120.54(5)(b)4, and 120.569(2)(c), Fla. Stat., and Rules 28-106.201 and 28-106.301, Fla. Admin. Code, initiation of an administrative hearing shall be made by written petition to the SFVMD in legible form and on 8 1/2 by 11 inch white paper. All petitions shall contain:

- 1. Identification of the action being contested, including the permit number, application number, District file number or any other SFVMD identification number, as known.
2. The name, address, any email address, any facsimile number, and telephone number of the petitioner and petitioner's representative, if any.
3. An explanation of how the petitioner's substantial interests will be affected by the agency determination.
4. A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the SFVMD's decision.
5. A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so indicate.
6. A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the SFVMD's proposed action.
7. A statement of the specific rules or statutes the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the SFVMD's proposed action.
8. If disputed issues of material fact exist, the statement must also include an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes.
9. A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action the petitioner wishes the SFVMD to take with respect to the SFVMD's proposed action.

Mediation

The procedures for pursuing mediation are set forth in Section 120.573, Fla. Stat., and Rules 28-106.111 and 28-106.401-405, Fla. Admin. Code. The SFVMD is not proposing mediation for this agency action under Section 120.573, Fla. Stat., at this time.

Right To Seek Judicial Review

Pursuant to Section 120.68, Fla. Stat., and in accordance with Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.110, a party who is adversely affected by final SFVMD action may seek judicial review of the SFVMD's final decision by filing a notice of appeal with the Office of the District Clerk of the SFVMD in accordance with the filing instructions set forth herein within 30 days of rendition of the order to be reviewed, and by filing a copy of the notice with the Clerk of the appropriate District Court of Appeal. 254732 CN 4/12/2018

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN the Clewiston City Commission will conduct a PUBLIC HEARING on May 7, 2018 at 5:30 p.m., or as soon as practical thereafter, in the City Hall Commission Chambers, 115 West Ventura Avenue, Clewiston, Florida. During the Public Hearing, the City Commission proposes to enact second reading of an ordinance which is set forth as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CLEWISTON, FLORIDA, ABANDONING AND VACATING AN ALLEY AND A 5' EASEMENT, LOCATED IN BLOCK 354 OF THE GENERAL PLAN OF CLEWISTON, FLORIDA, AS REVISED, LOCATED AND LYING ON OR BETWEEN LOTS 30 THROUGH 33 ON THE NORTH AND LOT 34 TO THE SOUTH.

A copy of the proposed ordinance is available in the City Clerk's office, City Hall, 115 West Ventura Avenue, Clewiston, Florida, for the inspection of any interested parties and interested parties may appear at the meeting and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance. If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or public hearing, such person may need to insure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and any evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

City Hall is wheelchair accessible and accessible parking spaces are available. Accommodation requests or interpretive services must be made 48 hours prior to the meeting. Please contact the City Clerk's office at (863) 983-1484, extension 227, or FAX (863) 983-4055 for information or assistance. The City of Clewiston is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Mary K. Combass, Interim City Clerk
City of Clewiston, FL
253771 CN 4/12/2018

Hendry County
Legals

Hendry County
Legals

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:

Michael C. Harrington 2029 Schooner Dr. LaBelle, FL 33935
Donnie R. Miller 5013 N. Obispo Cir. LaBelle, FL 33935

You are hereby notified that your eligibility to vote is in question. You are required to contact the Supervisor of Elections, in Hendry County, Florida, no later than thirty (30) days after the date of this published notice to receive the information regarding the basis for your potential ineligibility and the procedure to resolve this matter. Failure to respond may result in a determination of ineligibility by the Supervisor, and your name will be removed from the statewide voter registration system. Call 863-675-5230 or 863-983-1592.

El Aviso se da por Este Medio:

Informamos que su elegibilidad para votar esta en cuestion. Usted tiene que comunicarse con el Supervisor de Elecciones, del condado de Hendry, Florida, a mas tardar 30 dias despues de la fecha de este aviso publicado para recibir la informacion al respecto de su elegibilidad potencial y el procedimiento de resolver este caso. La falta de respuesta puede resultar en la determinacion de inelegibilidad por parte del Supervisor, y su nombre sera eliminado del sistema estatal del registro de votantes. Llame al 863-675-5230 o 863-983-1592.

Brenda K. Hoots
Supervisor of Elections
PO Box 174
LaBelle, FL 33975
Hendry County, Florida
F.S. 98.075

253761 CN 4/12/2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 2017-00560-CAAXMX

ERNESTO GOMEZ AND ANA MARIA GOMEZ, Plaintiff, v. JAMES A. CROSSER, an individual, and RBC CENTURA BANK, Defendant,

NOTICE OF ACTION - CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE

TO: JAMES A. CROSSER
10500 Waldrich Street
Lakeview Terrace, CA 91342
And
10545 Waldrich Street
Lakeview Terrace, CA 91342
CURRENT ADDRESS: Unknown

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to quiet title on the following property in Hendry County, Florida:

Tract G Block G, being in the Southeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 34, Township 43 South, Range 31 East, Hendry County, Florida also known as Lot 6 in Block G of Pioneer Plantation, an unrecorded plat.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, on or before MAY 11, 2018, on The Law Office of Ray Garcia, P.A., Plaintiffs attorney, whose address is 14850 SW 26th Street, Suite 204, Miami, Florida 33185, and file the original with this Court either before service on Plaintiffs attorney or immediately thereafter, otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or petition.

This notice shall be published once each week for two (2) consecutive weeks in THE CLEWISTON NEWS.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Court ADA Coordinator at (305) 349-7175 or (305) 349-7174 (T.D.D.), no later than seven (7) days prior to the proceeding.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court on this 29th day of March, 2018. Clerk of the Court By: J. Bevis As Deputy Clerk

253159 CN 4/12/19/2018

State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection Notice of Proposed Agency Action

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) gives notice that it proposes to approve No Further Action Proposed with Institutional Controls or with Engineering and Institutional Controls and issue a Site Rehabilitation Completion Order with controls for a contaminated site. The Phillips 66 Company (Phillips 66) is seeking this order in reference to FDEP Site ID # 22-8519722, Former Orde K #2726, 284 Highway 27, Moore Haven, Glades County, Florida, and intends to restrict, restore or contamination in the following manner:

There shall be no use of the groundwater under the Restricted Area. There shall be no drilling for water conducted on the restricted area, nor shall any wells be installed on the Restricted Area other than monitoring wells pre-approved in writing by the FDEP's Division of Waste Management (DWM) in addition to any authorizations required by the Division of Water Resource Management (DWRM) and the Water Management District (WMD).

For any dewatering activities on the Restricted Area, a plan approved by the FDEP's DWM must be in place to address and ensure the appropriate handling, treatment, and disposal of any extracted groundwater that may be contaminated.

Existing storm water features shall not be altered, modified or expanded, and there shall be no construction of new storm water swales, storm water detention and retention facilities or ditches on the Restricted Area without prior written approval from FDEP's DWM in addition to any authorizations required by the DWRM and WMD. A revised exhibit must be recorded when any storm water feature is altered, modified, expanded, or constructed.

Complete copies of the No Further Action Proposal, the draft restrictive covenant, and the FDEP's Preliminary evaluation are available for public inspection during normal business hours 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday, except legal holiday at FDEP, South District, 2295 Victoria Avenue, Suite 364, Fort Myers, Florida 33901.

Local governments with jurisdiction over the property subject to Institutional Control, real property owner(s) of any property subject to the Institutional Control, and residents of any property subject to the Institutional Control have 30 days from publication of this notice to provide comments to the FDEP. Such comments must be sent to Ms. Mary Stewart (mary.stewart@dep.state.fl.us), FDEP, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 35, Tallahassee, FL 32399. 253568 CN 4/12/2018

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NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY HENDRY COUNTY STATE HOUSING INITIATIVES PARTNERSHIP (SHIP) PROGRAM

Hendry County hereby announces that funds for Housing Assistance are available from the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program. Funding for fiscal year 2016/2017 through fiscal year 2017/18 have been allocated from SHIP. Funds will be made available for first-time homebuyers' assistance. Hendry County will be hosting two homeowner orientations to explain the program details and answer questions applicants may have. The first homeowner orientation will be conducted on Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 5:30 pm at the Hendry County Extension Office, located at 1085 Pratt Boulevard, LaBelle, FL 33975. The second homeowner orientation will be conducted on Thursday, March 29, 2018 at 5:30 pm at the Hendry County Annex Offices, Janet B. Taylor Auditorium, 1100 S. Olympia Street, Clewiston, FL 33440. Individual applications for down payment assistance will be available beginning on Friday, April 27, 2018 through Friday, May 25, 2018 or until funds are expended. The applications will be available on the Hendry County website and at the Hendry County Housing Department locations at 133 N. Bridge Street, LaBelle, Florida and 1100 S. Olympia Street, Clewiston, Florida. Contact the Hendry County Housing at 863-675-5297 or Sabrina.Gadson@hendryfla.net for more information. The program does not reimburse for homes that has already been purchased.

The application period is for thirty (30) days, beginning Friday, April 27, 2018 or until all funds have been expended. Applications will be available between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. All applications must be received by the Housing Department, 133 N. Bridge Street, LaBelle, Florida by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 25, 2018.

Pick up/drop off time for the Clewiston office is as follows: Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm and 9:00 am until 4:00 pm Thursday and Friday. Pick up/drop off times for the LaBelle office is as follows: Monday through Wednesday 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. Thursday and Friday 9:00 am until 12:00 pm.

All SHIP assistance recipients must agree to comply with all SHIP Program criteria and requirements as set forth in Chapter 67-37, Florida Administrative Code and are frequently modified and amended. The Hendry County Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to close any program application period by Board resolution. Hendry County SHIP programs do not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, familial status, disability, age or any other protected classes.

HENDRY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IS A FAIR HOUSING, EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER, AND DISABILITY ACCESSIBLE JURISDICTION 485015 CN/CB 3/22/29/4/5,12,19/2018

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR GLADES COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION CASE NO. 15000157CAMXAX

JAMES B. NUTTER & COMPANY, Plaintiff, vs.

MARK ALAN PETERSON, AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF CHARLES LAVERNE PERRIEN, JR. A/K/A CHARLES LAVERNE PERRIEN A/K/A CHARLES L. PERRIEN A/K/A CHARLES PERRIEN, DECEASED, et al. Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated July 18, 2017, and entered in 15000157CAMXAX of the Circuit Court of the TWENTIETH Judicial Circuit in and for Glades County, Florida, wherein JAMES B. NUTTER & COMPANY is the Plaintiff and MARK ALAN PETERSON, AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF CHARLES LAVERNE PERRIEN, JR. A/K/A CHARLES LAVERNE PERRIEN A/K/A CHARLES L. PERRIEN A/K/A CHARLES PERRIEN, DECEASED; MARK ALAN PETERSON; DEBORAH PERRIEN; DAWN PERRIEN; JANALEE PERRIEN; LISA PERRIEN; PHILIP PERRIEN; SCOTT PERRIEN; GREG PERRIEN A/K/A GREGORY MICHAEL PERRIEN; LYNN PERRIEN A/K/A LYNN MARSHALL PERRIEN; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT are the Defendant(s). Sandra Brown as the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Front Steps, South Door 500 Avenue J, Moore Haven, FL 33471, at 11:00 AM, on May 31, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

A PARCEL OF LAND IN STATE LOT 3, FRACTIONAL SECTION 13, TOWNSHIP 40 SOUTH, RANGE 32 EAST, GLADES COUNTY, FLORIDA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT A STATE PIPE MARKING THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 13, RUN NORTH 89° 11' 20" EAST ALONG THE SOUTH BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID SECTION 13, A DISTANCE OF 216.751 FEET TO AN INTERSECTION WITH THE 17 FOOT CONTOUR LINE RUN BY W. T. WALLIS, JR. IN 1946 AND BALANCED; THENCE NORTH 33° 59'49" EAST ALONG THE SAID 17 FOOT CONTOUR LINE A DISTANCE OF 504.13 FEET TO AN INTERSECTION WITH THE SOUTHWESTERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF PALM RIDGE SUBDIVISION AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 33, PUBLIC RECORDS OF GLADES COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE NORTH 27° 51'29" WEST ALONG SAID SOUTHWESTERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF PALM RIDGE SUBDIVISION AND ACROSS STATE ROAD 721 TO THE NORTHWESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF SAID STATE ROAD 721 A DISTANCE OF 70.88 FEET; THENCE CONTINUE NORTH 27° 51'29" WEST ALONG THE SAID SOUTHWESTERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF PALM RIDGE SUBDIVISION, A DISTANCE OF 138.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 34° 20'49" WEST A DISTANCE OF 135.66 FEET TO P.O.B.; THENCE SOUTH 27° 51'29" EAST A DISTANCE OF 140.42 FEET TO AN INTERSECTION WITH THE SAID NORTHWESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF S. R. 721; THENCE SOUTH 33° 26'57" WEST ALONG THE SAID NORTHWESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF S. R. 721 A DISTANCE OF 68.40 FEET; THENCE NORTH 27° 51'29" WEST 141.64 FEET; THENCE NORTH 34° 20'49" EAST A DISTANCE OF 67.83 FEET TO THE SAID P.O.B.

Property Address: 436 COUNTY ROAD 721 LOOP NE A/K/A 2751 COUNTY RD 721 LOOP, MOORE HAVEN, FL 33471

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

Dated this 29th day of March, 2018.

Sandra Brown As Clerk of the Court

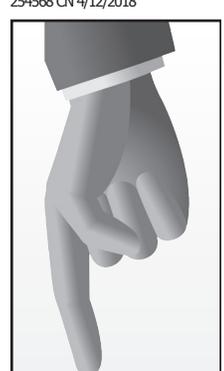
By: As Deputy Clerk

IMPORTANT

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. If you are an individual with a disability who needs an accommodation in order to participate in a court proceeding or other court service, program, or activity, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Requests for accommodations may be presented on this form, in another written format, or orally. Please complete the attached form (see website) and return it to deliver@ca.j20.org as far in advance as possible, but preferably at least seven (7) days before your scheduled court appearance or other court activity. Upon request by a qualified individual with a disability, this document will be made available in an alternate format. If you need assistance in completing this form due to your disability, or to request this document in an alternate format, please contact Dawn Oliver, Court Operations Manager, phone (863) 675-5229, e-mail deliver@ca.j20.org 252476 GCD 4/12,19/2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: TMS TOWING & RECOVERY gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on 04/27/2018, 10:00 am at 74 S INDUSTRIAL LOOP LABELLE, FL 33935, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. TMS TOWING & RECOVERY reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.

1LNLM83W7PY630119
1993 LINCOLN
WBVA537558NL19167
2008 BMW
254568 CN 4/12/2018



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Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Cager Shaquille
- 6 Port in southeastern Iraq
- 11 Butcher's trimmings
- 14 Actor Gabriel or singer David
- 15 "Family Matters" misfit
- 16 Sci-fi aircraft
- 17 Decision of a courtroom dozen
- 19 Half an evasive route
- 20 Noisy pig
- 21 Poet Pound
- 22 Business partnership
- 27 "Snowy" birds
- 28 Fuse with an alloy
- 32 Greek Cupid
- 33 Letter between rho and tau
- 36 Chicken ___ king
- 37 Fled the scene
- 38 School's underclass team ... or, initially, what the four longest answers in this puzzle comprise
- 40 Tennis division
- 41 Tokyo, once
- 42 Itty-bitty
- 43 Donated
- 44 Hereditary ruler
- 46 Made amends
- 48 Words on Monopoly's Jail square
- 52 Head over heels (over)
- 55 Bronx baseballer
- 56 Mimic
- 57 Vital blood vessel
- 62 Buddhist sect
- 63 Supreme Court justice Kagan
- 64 Pass on, as a message
- 65 Lumberjack's tool
- 66 Like toads
- 67 Japanese cartoon art

- 5 "Inception" actor Joseph Gordon-___
- 6 Actress Delta
- 7 Shakespearean forest
- 8 Blouse go-with
- 9 Camcorder button
- 10 PC key
- 11 Peach ___
- 12 Miles off
- 13 "Julius Caesar" costume
- 14 Holders of ltrs. or bills
- 21 Long-bodied swimmer
- 22 Razzed
- 23 Sweet Rosie of song
- 24 Applied with heat, as patches
- 25 West Point letters
- 26 Willie Nelson's "On the ___ Again"
- 29 Aquafina rival
- 30 Late news hour
- 31 Kid-friendly, TV-wise
- 33 Govt.-issued ID
- 34 Mensa stats
- 35 Fella
- 38 Bach's "___ Joy of Man's Desiring"

- 39 November honorees
- 43 Settled a score
- 45 1977 Steely Dan album
- 46 "___ silly question ..."
- 47 ___ del Fuego
- 49 Blake's "burning bright" big cat
- 50 Brag
- 51 Decorative woodwork
- 52 Disputed Mideast strip
- 53 Peak
- 54 Heredity unit
- 57 Yom Kippur observer
- 58 Suffix with form
- 59 Quarterback Manning
- 60 "___ the Walrus"
- 61 "Science Guy" Bill

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

E	D	D	Y	D	U	C	T	S	T	E	A	L		
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S	T	I	N	E		E	B	E	N		E	S	S	E

xwordeditor@aol.com

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56											59	60	61
62													
65													

By Andy Kravis
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DOWN

- 1 Noun after a vb., generally
- 2 Big Apple sch.
- 3 Make a mistake
- 4 "It's still ___ game"



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PANTHER

Continued From Page 1

to protection of the endangered panther by helping to establish corridors, or pathways, connecting the feline's habitat and enhancing the panther population's long-term recovery and survivability, the NC says. Fewer than 200 of the endangered cats are estimated to remain in the state's wildlands, and they continue to be threatened by loss of habitat, development on their rangelands and vehicle strikes.

It is also the first protected tract of land within the identified panther corridor north of the river, and the first conservation easement in that corridor financed entirely by NC member donations. The property is within an area that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission have reported is important to panther habitat connectivity and expansion, according to the NC. The animal requires wide territory to support a healthy breeding population, and suitable lands in Glades and Hendry counties link panthers' larger Southwest Florida habitat with wild areas north of the Caloosahatchee.

Florida Forever lands nearby

Now, expanded habitat is just a brief swim away for the cats south of the river,

as Cypress Creek Grove is directly across the Caloosahatchee from the 1,257-acre Lone Ranger Forge/American Prime property. It is also protected by a conservation easement with the NC and other ones with state and federal agencies. The southern border of that land abuts the 1,527-acre Black Boar Ranch, which is under NC easement protection as well with assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Those three easements ensure into perpetuity that 3,244 acres of prime Florida panther habitat will remain intact. Also, on the northern end, the panther pathway leads into lands identified for future conservation by the Florida Forever program, including an area directly connected that is high on that program's priority list for acquisition, the NC says.

"The Nature Conservancy has been working for more than 20 years to create a connected, protected corridor that can support Florida panther recovery," said Temperince Morgan, executive director of the NC in Florida. "Cypress Creek Grove is a key piece of the mosaic of natural and working lands that make up the corridor. We're truly thrilled that Falcon Eyrie Farms LC has committed to the future of panther conservation, and we're grateful to our members for the donations earmarked for panther protection that made this possible."

Dan Peregrin of Falcon Eyrie Farms said: "Protecting the Florida panther is important

to us. We know panthers use our land as they cross from one side of the river to the other, and we wanted to support their ability to expand north in the future. The conservation easement allows us to continue to be productive, while also ensuring the land will not be developed."

The Cypress Creek citrus grove dates to the late 1980s when that land began being used for commercial production. About 273 acres are planted with Valencia and Hamlin oranges, according to the company, and the tract also has freshwater and forested wetlands and the creek that provides habitat for many other wildlife species including wading birds, reptiles and amphibians.

The protected, connected lands also offer safety to several other endangered, threatened or iconic Florida species, such as the snail kite, the swallow-tailed kite and the Florida black bear.

Panther workshop scheduled

Another major environmental organization, Defenders of Wildlife, has scheduled a Panther Outreach Workshop at a wildlife research venue in Venus, in Highlands County, next month to help inform the public about the Florida panther's path to recovery.

Members of the group received an email announcing the workshop, which will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 14, at the Archbold Biological Station at 123 Main Drive in Venus, Fla. 33960. Those attending will enjoy a complimentary lunch and hear from Florida panther experts, receive information about projects that help reduce conflict and assist rural residents in living responsibly with the big cats and other wildlife, and get Defenders-themed swag. Materials will be provided to allow attendees to speak accurately with others about the Florida panther as well as conservation programs and projects being conducted for preservation of the species.

Anyone planning to attend should bring comfortable shoes for a short walk in the scrub during the workshop. Go to www.defenders.org to learn more about Defenders of Wildlife or to sign up to attend. Those planning to participate will need to sign a release of liability form provided by the Frances Archbold Hufty Learning Center at Archbold Biological Station.

(Disclosure: The writer is a member of both The Nature Conservancy and the Defenders of Wildlife.)



Special to the Okeechobee News/Nature Conservancy photo by Wendy J. Matthews Looking east over the Caloosahatchee River, the Cypress Creek Grove property is on the left, on the northern bank, and the Lone Ranger Forge/American Prime property is on the right, on the southern bank.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Continued From Page 1

ley. "We have our work cut out for us and we are very committed to doing that."

Prevention measures include an app on students' Chrome Books or phone, so they can notify school administrators of a suspected threat, and adding additional staff members who are licensed mental health professionals to care for students in need of mental health services.

"I assure you, we are working very hard on the prevention piece and we will give you updates as we go," Ms. Kelley added.

Dr. Robert Egley, deputy superintendent for teaching and learning, spoke about the safety measures put in place since the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.

Dr. Egley said gates are the first exterior defense the schools have. "We are trying to get some gates that need to have a key code punched in for them to open," said Dr. Egley.

Many schools have shatterproof glass and hurricane shutters that "reduce a shooter's chance to be able to break the glass and unlock the door."

Safety procedures already in place are making sure teachers lock their doors, checking visitors' identification, revising exit routes for evacuations, having multiple exit strategies, having cameras in the building and using the public address system.

Dr. Egley said students can only have clear, see-through backpacks so people can see what students are carrying. He said if there is "reasonable suspicion" someone is carrying something in their band case or softball case, it will be searched.

"By far one of the most powerful preventions are people that call us at school and notify us of a student carrying a weapon," Dr. Egley said. "Hardening our schools involves parents, teachers, law enforcement, administration and the transportation department," he added.

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