Hendry will seek collaboration on public transit

By Chris Felker
Caloosa Belle

CLEWISTON — Hendry County Commissioner Karson Turner brought up the public transit issue again this month, following up on the county commission’s discussion back in January about continuing to finance the GoodWheels program.

“But that’s a big effort.”

By Danika J. Hopper
Caloosa Belle

Groups of students arrive, ready for the day’s activities at the 12th Annual “Call of the Wild” Earth Week, held at the Hendry House.

Students heed the Call of the Wild

Students and Teachers Walk-in, unified against lack of funding

By Danika J. Hopper
Caloosa Belle

Wednesday morning, April 17, educators, stakeholders, students, and their supporters participated in a “Teacher Walk-in”, a statewide demonstration of solidarity with the hope of shining a light on public school funding issues. Statistics show that Florida ranks nationally as one of the lowest, when it comes to funding for public education. Teachers, are barred from striking under state law, so this peaceful but powerful protest was organized throughout Florida’s public schools to show the the importance of public education, and how funding needs to become a priority in the eyes of Florida lawmakers.

LaBelle youth represents US at Soccer World Cup

By Danika J. Hopper
Caloosa Belle

Straight-A-student at Country Oaks Elementary, Dallen Steelman, recently returned from Spain, after being chosen to represent the US, in the 2019 Barca World Cup.

Earning excellent grades and nearly perfect attendance, only having missed school for the recent trip to Barcelona, this wonderful driven young man is also a football player who is involved in 4-H shooting.
Call
Continued From Page 1

all about the awesome natural systems that surround them and why they are so very important.

Next, the enthusiastic students were led on a hike through the LaBelle Nature Park with Clark Ryals, Senior Forester from the Florida Forest Service Caloosahatchee Forestry Center. The last stop and one of the most popular stations was manned by Sonya Crawford, Livestock/4-H Agent, and Patricia Gonzalez 4-H Program Assistant from Hendry County Extension IFAS. Students at this station were given the opportunity to eat roasted crickets and termites, and most happily took part in tasting the crunchy but creepy crawly. Exclamations about how the termites “tasted like beef jerky” and the crickets “weren’t too bad” were overheard as some even asked for seconds.

As the students boarded their buses, they were chattering about how fun it was to play with worms, hike through the LaBelle Nature Park, and eat bugs and some even discussed how these fun activities actually helped them understand the critical actions they need to take to protect the environment. Some even repeated the message, “Celebrate earth day, everyday!” It was certainly a job well done by all of the environmental educators that participated!

Transit
Continued From Page 1

a contract with the Transportation Planning Organization, and I think it’s coming up to designate the CTC (community transportation coordinator).” She said the TPO has to appoint or elect a CTC for the area, and then the CTC is eligible for various grant funds. “And so it’s a several-step process.”

Mr. Harris asked whether GoodWheels is continuing its services locally through fiscal 2020, and Mr. Turner clarified that they are through that October. “Then, obviously, we would cue them up for another $45,000 and they would probably do what they’re doing now. But,” he continued, “I think that our whole ask is that we want to see that level of service increased. And so, just looking at the different pots of money that are out there, I think that it’s something we ought to delve into.”

He said he did appreciate that Director Mandel “said they would help us” and also that there was a transportation meeting with FDOT and GoodWheels set in Glades County. “Did that occur?” he asked Commissioner Emma Byrd, who replied that it was set for April 24.

“We could really bring a better level of service,” said Mr. Turner. Referring to fellow Commissioner Michael Swindle’s position as Career and Technical Education coordinator for the Hendry County School District, he said, “I look at Mike’s program ... and I know that transportation is an issue. Imagine if you had a bus stop out in front of U.S. Sugar that was taking some of their laborers to take them to a facility where they could get another certification. I know that the Southwest Florida Community Foundation would be all about trying to sponsor something like that.”

Ms. Davis said the foundation “gave us a few other ideas ... of what some areas do ... and some partnerships that probably we wouldn’t have thought of on our own.”

She said they would look into other possible collaborations, as well as specifically what DeSoto County has been doing with its DART program.

They also will look for surplus buses from other counties “just to kind of get us going.” There’s a timing issue as far as applying for funding, she said.

Mr. Turner suggested that Commissioner Byrd seek out contact with Mack Bernard, mayor of Palm Beach County, about possibly getting a surplus van or bus or two from them because that county’s transit programs are so large that they swap out vehicles regularly.

Mr. Harris also suggested checking with Collier County, where former Hendry County Administrator Charles Chapman is city manager (in Naples) these days.
Soccer
Continued From Page 3

By Danika J. Hopper
Caloosa Belle

Sports, and even shows steers with the A-1 Steer Club. Having a heart of gold, Dallen is known for donating a percentage of the money he earns from his steers, to his church and other charities. He also raises money, every Thanksgiving, to provide food for the hungry.

As if that wasn’t enough, his signature head bands and long hair is more than just a style-choice, as Dallen grows out his long locks in order to donate them to other children who do not have hair due to medical issues. It seems that the possibilities are endless and the future looks bright for this inspiring LaBelle youth.

Thanks for making LaBelle, and the USA, proud, Dallen!

Helping pets and their owners escape domestic violence

By Danika J. Hopper
Caloosa Belle

When survivors of domestic violence start to think about how to escape from their abusive situations, they’re often faced with a difficult decision regarding their beloved pets. Staggering statistics say that 71 percent of pet-owning women entering women’s shelters reported that their batterer had injured, maimed, killed or threatened family pets for revenge or to psychologically control victims; (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence) Most domestic violence shelters cannot accept animals, so many of these brave survivors are left to decide whether to leave their pets behind or continue to risk their lives by staying. Tragically, many victims choose to stay, for fear of what may happen to their animals if they leave.

Abuse Counseling and Treatment, Inc. (ACT) whose mission is “to protect, support, educate and empower victims of domestic violence and their children, survivors of sexual assault and human trafficking in Lee, Hendry, and Glades counties,” has recently created a partnership with the Caloosa Humane Society in order to provide free housing for pets of people who are trying to escape from their abusive situations.

Savannah Rounds, of ACT, says, “We have so much gratitude and respect for the humane society. They are really going out of their way for us and our clients. A service like this could be the difference between quite literally life or death, for either a human or an animal.”

ACT offers many important services, such as: an emergency protective shelter, a 24-hour crisis hotline, counseling, advocacy, support groups, rape crisis center, outreach counseling, batterer’s intervention groups, a children’s program, as well as community and professional education and awareness. Meanwhile, the Caloosa Humane Society now offers free care for ACT program participants for up to three weeks, giving them some time to make plans for the future.

“During the three weeks we can help them come up with a more permanent solution, or see if someone is willing to temporarily foster while they get their life in order.” says Rounds.

Caloosa Humane Society strives to uphold their mission to shelter, and protect pets. With their new expansion, they also offer wellness visits and preventative care, baths and nail trims, a low cost spay and neuter program, dental care, emergency services, and now a place for survivors of domestic violence to keep their pets safe while they navigate their way out of dangerous situations.

This partnership is such an import new development, that is sure to save lives, as it helps to ease the stress in the minds of those struggling with the decision to leave. If you or someone you know needs help, please reach out.

ACT’s 24 Hour Hotline: (239) 939-3112
National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
Refresh your driving skills with the AARP SMART DRIVERS COURSE! You will learn: Defensive driving techniques, proven safety strategies, new traffic laws and rules of the road. Plus there are no tests to pass. You simply sign up and learn. Upon completion you could receive a multi-year discount on your car insurance (consult your agency for details). When: May 25, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Refundable deposit of $15 is required to secure a spot in the course. Registration is now open!

To register your child go to https://fossilmuseum.org/fossilschoolcamp.

Fossil Camp is a day camp that begins with a Lab (at the Barron Library) where children learn about the fossils they will be hunting, caring for, and repairing. Then the group boards a sailboat to go to fossil sites along the Caloosahatchee River. The boat anchors, and children re-pilot the inflatable boat to shore, where they hunt for fossils. When they return to the Library, they get to work on identifying each of the fossils they’ve found. Ages 8-14. (8 a.m.-3 p.m. each day.)

Camp 1: July 8-12
Camp 2: July 15-19
Camp 3: July 22-26
Camp 4: July 29-August 2
To register your child go to https://fossilcamp.wordpress.com/ Contact Scott Perry for more information: Email: scottperry27@gmail.com or phone: (486) 502-9029.

Free Medicare Counseling for seniors available locally

Offered locally through the Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida (AAASWFL), SHINE empowers seniors, their caregivers, and family members to make informed decisions about health care coverage. SHINE is a volunteer program of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and part of the national SHIP Program.

SHINE empowers seniors, their caregivers, and family members to make informed decisions about health care coverage. SHINE counselors can also help beneficiaries understand benefits available through Medicare, like preventive health care services. Additionally, SHINE counselors assist low-income Medicare beneficiaries with applying for cost-savings programs. As part of the national Senior Medicare Patrol program, counselors also educate beneficiaries to protect, detect, and report potential errors, fraud, and abuse with their Medicare coverage.

By partnering with organizations like Hope Connections, AAASWFL is able to assist more Medicare beneficiaries in Hendry County.

To make an appointment at a SHINE counseling site, or to receive assistance by phone, call the AAA5WFL’s toll-free Elder Helpline at 1-866-413-5337. Additional counseling sites can be found on the SHINE website: www.floridashine.org.
BARRON LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

Clewiston – Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida will close its Clewiston Retail & Donation Center at the end of its lease on June 22, 2019. The store is located at 969 W. Sugarland Highway. The closing is part of a larger retail restructuring plan that will allow Goodwill to pool its resources and serve more people through its mission. Regarding the Job-Link Center that is located within the store, Goodwill is in the process of looking for a new location in the Clewiston area. Donors and shoppers are encouraged to visit the Goodwill Moore Haven store at 1150 US HWY 27 or the Goodwill LaBelle store located at 91 South Lee Street.

Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that serves Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Hendry and Glades counties. Its mission is to help people with disabilities and disadvantages by offering life-changing opportunities to achieve independence.

Goodwill’s programs in Southwest Florida include, adult and youth employment services, connections to community resources and jobs, small business training classes, disability-accessible housing, a camp for adults with disabilities and more. The retail stores collect and sell donated items and new goods, which help fund the services and programs offered in Southwest Florida. 90 cents of every dollar goes back into supporting Goodwill’s programs and services in our Southwest Florida area. The organization is currently in its 52nd year of operation.

For more information about Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida, please visit www.goodwillswfl.org or call (239) 995-2106.

SMALL LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

SEWING FOR BEGINNERS – a sewing class for beginners, consisting of five sessions, will start on Thursday, May 2. Classes will be from 12:30 to 2:45 p.m. on Thursday afternoons. There is a $10 fee to participate in the class, students will also be responsible to supply materials for all projects. Must be 7th grade and up, including adult, class size is limited to six, so don’t hesitate to register.

A UNIVERSE OF STORIES – SUMMER PROGRAM, watch for complete details.

Clewiston employees have been offered jobs within the organization at other retail locations.

“We have served Clewiston for many years and we are very grateful for the support from the community,” said CEO John Nadeau.

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SCHOOL BRIEFS

Project Graduation

The LaBelle High School Project Graduation Committee will be meeting on Mondays April 29 and May 13 in the LHS Library at 6:30 p.m. The meeting is open to anyone in the community interested in helping out in any way.

LHS School Counselor’s Corner - Class of 2019

Parents and students, please be advised that the time for graduation has changed. Graduation will be held on Friday, May 17, at 8 p.m. on the Labelle High School football field. There will be no tickets given out or sold for the ceremony. Parents, family, and guests are welcomed. Seniors are to report to the LHS gym by 6:30 p.m. in their cap and gown. All seniors are invited to attend Project Graduation that will begin that same evening at 10 p.m. and end at 5 a.m.

Rincón del consejero escolar de LHS Atención Clase del 2019 Padres y estudiantes, tenga en cuenta que el tiempo de graduacion ha cambiado. La graduacion se llevara a cabo el viernes 17 de mayo de a las 8 p.m. en el campo de fútbol de Labelle High School. Nohabrá boletos entregados o vendidos para la ceremonia. Padres, familiares e invitados son bienvenidos. Los graduados deben presentarse en el gimnasio de LHS a las 6:30 p.m. Todos los estudiantes del último año están invitados a asistir a la Proyecto de Graduación que comenzará esa misma noche a las 10 p.m. y terminará a las 5 a.m.

LHS Cowboys at State

LaBelle High had three lifters travel to Panama City Beach to compete at the Class 1A State Finals at Arnold High School on April 13. Jaime Deras Jr. competed in the 139 weight class and came in second place with 515 total weight combined. Christopher Sarabia competed in the 238 weight class and came in 10th place with a 610 total weight combined. Leonel Solis competed in the Unlimited weight class and came in 12th place with a 630 total weight combined. As a Team, LaBelle finished 15th in the State. Coach McClain would like to thank their sponsors: LaBelle CPA, Caloosa Cabinets, and the Kwanisl of LaBelle. Pictured from left to right: Christopher Sarabia, Coach McClain Sr., Jaime Deras Jr, Leonel Solis and Maurice McClain Jr.

BARRON BOOK CLUB

BARRON BOOK CLUB – The club meets at the library the second Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Book selection for the month of May is, Hillbilly Elegy, by J. D. Vance. The meeting will be May 13.

CHESS CLUB – Offering a time for experienced players to compete, and also an opportunity for beginners to learn the game, every Monday evening from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Event open to young and old alike.

KOMPUTERS for KIDS – Community Outreach of Southwest Florida, providing newly refurbished computers available to families at an affordable price. Check them out at Barron Library.

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Obituaries

Michael Allen Wilson, 46

LABELLE — Michael Allen Wilson passed away peacefully April 12, 2019 at Health Park Hospital in Fort Myers, Fla.

He was born Aug. 3, 1972 to Allen Wilson of Lehigh Acres and Ruby (Joyce) Watson of Haines City. He was a resident of LaBelle as a child and moved back to LaBelle in 2013.

Michael married his wife Toni on Sept. 2, 2017. He enjoyed coin collecting and making people laugh. He was an electrician by trade, a great trombone player, and an avid lover of animals, including his dog “Elsa” which was his pride and joy.

He is survived by his wife, Billie Antoinette “Toni” Wilson; brother, Todd Wilson; and sister, Amie Wilson of Lake Panasoffkee; daughter, Danielle Almerico of Spring Hill; and son, Derrick Wilson of Winter Haven; three step children, Nathan, Joe, and Owen Barewin as well as five grandchildren, nephews and cousins.

Memorial services will be held at First Baptist Church of LaBelle on Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at 11 a.m.

Arrangements by Akin-Davis Funeral Home – LaBelle.

Marilyn Josephine Giddens Sears

LABELLE — Marilyn Josephine Giddens Sears peacefully passed away at her home in LaBelle on April 20, 2019.

Born Oct. 23, 1939 in Metter, Georgia to Ellis and Josephine Giddens, she graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in Real Estate, Marilyn worked to blaze trails for the development and beautification of LaBelle and Hendry county.

Because these are barriers to unity in the church. All ladies are invited. LaBelle Assembly of God is located on Fraser Avenue across from the, Edward Uphtridge Elementary School. For more information call 675-0890 and ask for Kathy.

Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast

The first Thursday of May is designated as the National Day of Prayer. The LaBelle Ministerial Association is hosting the Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast at the LaBelle Civic Center. Everyone is invited to a FREE Breakfast on Thursday, May 2 at 6:00 a.m. serving Hot Coffee and full breakfast. At 6:30 The Program and Prayers for every level of our country, military, state, county, city and first responders will be lifted up. Our entire community of all faiths is invited to join in with prayer. Pastor Bill: 863-673-2192; Pastor McKenzie: 863-673-4750; Phil: 863-673-3280.

Virginia Bell Proctor, 81

Virginia Bell Proctor formerly of Framingham, Mass. passed away peacefully at Oakland Health and Rehabilitation Center in LaBelle on April 13, 2019.

“Ginny” was born Sept. 30, 1937 in Norwich, Conn. Her family later moved to Newton, Mass. where she graduated high school and continued her education at Newton Jr College. She worked for Zayre Corporation for many years, as well as Prime Computer and Computervision. She retired from Philips Lifeline in 2014. Ginny lived and worked in Framingham, Mass. for over 50 years and joyfully moved to Florida with her son and daughter-in-law in 2016.

Ginny will be remembered fondly for her upbeat and humorous personality. She never met a stranger and was rarely seen without a smile on her face. She brought joy to most all who came in contact with her. She enjoyed watching Nascar races, attending and watching the annual Boston Marathon, knitting, cooking, gardening, and giving to her family. After her retirement, she enjoyed spending time with and traveling with her family. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Ginny was preceded in death by her sister, Margaret Delarache; and a son, Andrew Proctor.

She is survived by her two sons, Page Proctor from Framingham, Mass. and Adam (Lori) Proctor from LaBelle. She is survived by five grandchildren, Ryan, Amy and Lindsey Proctor, Jenny (Tony) Tailey, and Adam (Melissa) Burton; as well as two great-grandchildren, Tylor and Brooke Burton. She is also survived by a nephew, Christophe Delarache; and two nieces, Marion Delarache and Laura Roghair and their families.

There will be a celebration of Ginny’s life in Massachusetts later this year. Memorials may be given to Hope Hospice by mail to Development Office, Hope Hospice 9470 Health Park Circle, Fort Myers, FL 33908 or via their website at hopehcs.org.

Obituaries

Ladies Bible Study

The study meets every Friday at 11:30 a.m. at LaBelle Assembly of God. In this letter, Paul explains the wonderful things that we have received through Christ and refers to the church as a body to illustrate unity of purpose and show how each individual member is a part that must work together with all the other parts. In our own life, we should work to eradicate all backbiting, gossip, criticism, jealousy, anger, and bitterness.
Congratulations to Country Oaks’ Leaders of the Month for the Month of March!


A Honor Roll


A/B Honor Roll


Randy’s Garage

737 S. Bridge St. • LaBelle • 863-675-1832 • OPEN: Monday - Friday from 8am to 5pm

Proudly Supporting Education in LaBelle

Focus on Education

April 25, 2019 Caloosa Belle
‘Fire tax’ discussion emphasizes dire need in Glades County

By Chris Felker
Caloosa Belle

MOORE HAVEN — The Glades County Board of Commissioners is poised at a fork on a rural road, a yes-or-no decision point. Three votes lean one way; two votes stand firm the other way.

There’s a turnoff ahead, a side road that leads to potentially a much safer population, with better and timelier fire and emergency response protection for the county’s few thousand residents. (Glades is the third-least-populated county in Florida, with around 4,900 households.) The change would involve some considerable cost to everyone, but commissioners could select from a range of prices to at least get the ball rolling. Commissioners Donna Storter Long and Donald Strenth want to go that way.

But the majority seem to want to keep going straight on the road the county’s been following for years, relying on the tiny crew that Glades County employs and on volunteer fire departments that are a few shy of the bodies they need to provide 24/7/365 protection. Those three — Board Chairman Tim Stanley, Vice Chairman Weston Pryor and Commissioner John Ahern — so far have indicated they probably would vote to deny the county this chance to set up a different, possibly fairer way of taxation.

And if anything is to be done, time is growing short for this year, because deadlines must be met, by law, to proceed in a different direction.

The change would be to the method referred to as a “fire tax.” In government-speak, it’s an MSBU, for Municipal Services Benefit Unit, and would mean an assessment depending on what kind of property you own.

If the commissioners stay the course, it would perpetuate Glades County residents’ uncertainty about how long they’d have to wait for help — and what kind would come — if, heaven forbid, they have to call 911.

Some residents think that’s a mighty dangerous path, and not surprisingly they live in the farther-flung parts of the county where response time might be 20 to 30 minutes or more. If someone responds. As Public Safety Director Bob Jones has repeatedly warned, with such a paltry staff of firefighters and EMTs, anybody’s emergency might be life-threatening to them if those first responders are out on other calls, transporting another patient to Okeechobee or Fort Myers or Clewiston, or fighting another fire. Or, in the case of volunteers, at their regular job, unable to leave, or otherwise indisposed.

A long discussion of Glades County’s possible options took place during a workshop Tuesday, April 9, after commissioners’ last regular meeting. Public Safety Director Jones showed a PowerPoint presentation giving information from a needs assessment done in 2014, with some updates he was able to do and new numbers crunched by Sandy Walker of Government Services Group, the firm that did the earlier study.

The county could hire it again to update the information for a few thousand dollars, but at their March 25 meeting, commissioners rejected on a 3-2 vote a motion from Commissioner Storter Long to do just that. Only Commissioner Strenth joined her in supporting it.

Several citizens spoke at the end of the session to give their views. David Heflin was signed up to speak at the regular meeting and asked to do so before the commissioners adjourned for their workshop.

“I’m a longtime volunteer firefighter with Glades County. I’m also a Glades County EMS employee. Currently I live in Ortona. We have about four firefighters on a perfect day,” he stated. Previewing some of Mr. Jones’s presentation that was to come, he added:

“I think part of the problem with getting more volunteers is that the state requires approximately 200 hours of training in order to become a volunteer. This is not going to change, and frankly I wouldn’t want it to. I wholeheartedly support the idea of a full-time fire department in Glades County.”

He said he believes there’s a fairness issue involved in the funding debate.

“One of the important issues for me is that if I pay the same thing for services as other residents of Glades County, then I expect and demand the same service.” Money used for fire protection and EMS now comes only from Glades County property taxes, paid only by property owners, and state financing.

Mr. Heflin went on: “Also, on another note, did you realize that the pay for EMTs and paramedics is significantly lower than in the neighboring counties? I came to work in this county for you, making $2 less per hour because I wanted less stress and a better boss. I have found both. I wholeheartedly support the idea of full-time firefighters. Thank you.”

After Director Jones gave his presentation at the workshop, discussion went on for a couple of hours, into early afternoon.

Commissioner Stanley repeated his opposition to imposing a large enough assessment under an MSBU to cover creation of three fire stations manned full-time, which Mr. Jones said would cost about $258 per year, based on calculations from the numbers in the 2014 study. Those must be updated if the process is to move forward. But, no official action could be taken at the workshop, and the talks are likely to be continued at next week’s board meeting on Monday evening, April 22, at 6.
E-EPIDEMIC: VAPING AND YOUTH
What You Need to Know

Youth vaping has skyrocketed. In 2018, 1 in 4 Florida high school students reported current use of electronic vaping—a 58% increase compared to 2017.

E-cigarette vapor is not harmless. It typically contains nicotine, flavorings, and even cancer-causing chemicals. It’s not water, as many youth believe.

E-cigarettes typically contain nicotine, which is highly addictive and can affect brain development for youth and young adults by disrupting growth of brain circuits that control attention, learning and susceptibility to addiction.

The most popular e-cigarette brand among young people is JUUL, which comes in a variety of flavors and delivers high levels of nicotine. JUUL and similar devices are also easy to conceal; in fact, widespread use by students in schools has been reported.

The Bureau of Tobacco Free Florida is your trusted resource for accurate information on the youth vaping epidemic. You can help by educating yourself, dispelling myths among your friends and family, and talking to your kids about the serious concerns around vaping and nicotine addiction.

Learn more at tobaccofreeflorida.com/epidemic.

#eEPIDEMIC
Now Accepting New Patients
Betsabee Castillo Guerrero, MD

Medicaid and Most Insurances Accepted.
Discounted Fees Based on Income.

You can make an appointment with Betsabee Castillo Guerrero, MD by calling 1-844-FHCSWF or 1-844-342-7935.

Pet of the Week
This handsome fella is a one year old black-mouth cur by the name of Tiger. He is very smart and eager to please and he knows “sit”, “down” and is working on “stay”. Tiger is very playful and is great with kids. He would love a home of his own. Come play with him at Caloosa Humane Society, 200 Pratt Blvd, LaBelle, FL 33935.

FOUND ART IN BARRON PARK

On Thursday evening Jayna and Kellan Williamson enjoyed the food at the Chowdown Food Trucks and they painted a ceramic animal figurine at the Barron Park House Art Gallery. They got even more excited when they found the hidden art in the Barron Park area!!!!!

AMERICAN LEGION EVENTS:

Happy Hour Monday - Friday 11am-1:00 p.m. + 4:00-6:00 p.m. Lounge Opens 10 a.m. Daily

April 28 – Sunday – 12-3 p.m. BBQ Chicken, Potato Salad, Cold Slaw & Roll Dinner. $8.00. Open to Public.

May 1, 8 & 15 – Every Wednesday – 7 p.m. Queen of Hearts and Free Juke Box 6-8 pm

May 3 – NEXT FISH FRY: Friday 5-7 p.m. We serve an assortment of fish, shrimp, crab cakes & chicken with cole slaw, baked potato or French fries & roll $9. Homemade desserts by the American Legion Auxiliary are available $1/slice to support our Veterans. Karaoke begins at 7 p.m. Dining room is smoke free and Public is Welcome.

“Like” our Facebook page to get all the weekly updates, the newsletters and calendars on our website at www.legionpost130.com

American Legion Post 130 Meetings: (All Members welcome)

May 1 – 1st Wed - 7:30 p.m. American Legion Riders meeting

May 2 - 1st Thurs - 6 p.m. DAV (Disabled American Veterans) meeting

May 8 – 2nd Wed - 6 p.m. Sons of the American Legion meeting

May 9 – 2nd Thurs – 6:30 p.m. The American Legion E-board followed by General meeting

May 16 – 3rd Thurs - 6 p.m. American Legion Auxiliary meeting

American Legion Post 130 is located at 699 SR80 West, across from the Shell station. For further information call 863-675-8300. Dining room is smoke free and Public is Welcome.

JEO MOBLEY DAY

The second annual Joe Mobley Day will be on Sunday, May 19 at Kid Jones Park, 455 Withlacoochee Ave., LaBelle from noon until dark. There will be food, fun, music, love and laughs! Proceeds will benefit the Randy “Ron” Boyce Family.
BUSINESS CORNER

Beck Construction evolves name and introduces new logo

LABELLE - Beck Construction, LLC, a family-owned and operated construction and home services firm with customers throughout the state — especially in Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Glades and Hendry counties — has evolved its company name and introduced a new logo.

Established in 2003, Beck Construction will now be called Beck Companies — an umbrella entity that encompasses subsidiary construction, home services, properties and roofing divisions. Construction will still include residential and commercial construction services, and home services will still include electrical, plumbing and HVAC. The properties division will tie renting/selling and managing residential and commercial properties together. Bryant Roofing — Beck’s commercial and residential roofing company — will also be a division of Beck Companies, with an extended name that reflects that concept and encompasses the Beck Companies brand standards.

Just as the logo unifies Beck with its home-inspired design and new color palette, graphic style and fonts, so will the new name unify the brand, making it clear that this is a multi-disciplined enterprise of significance.

This comes after Beck Companies’ growth and success drove it to hire additional employees, as well as launch its very first website — BetterWithBeck.com — develop its new brand on Facebook and Instagram, and take to the streets with its new vehicle wraps. These visually tie the overarching brand to all division-level brands, as well as apply the new “Better With Beck” positioning line, which introduces Beck Companies’ points of advantage and sets the tone for memorable division-based messages.

“Beck Companies has general contracting, electrical, mechanical, roofing, plumbing and real estate licenses. We have an extensive product line and are always ready to make repairs, real estate transactions and your vision a reality with our construction division — all Better With Beck!” said Owner Derek Beck. “Today, with an overarching identity, my team and I can reach our commercial and residential markets without causing our customers confusion or fatigue. What better way to continue our strong reputation and celebrate our rapid growth?”

Beck Companies is headquartered at 170 East Oklahoma Ave in LaBelle, with a location expansion coming soon. For more information or to schedule an array of services, call (239) 260-4022 or go to BetterWithBeck.com.

MARKET OUTLOOK FOR 2019: Uncertainty is Certain

To say the financial markets were a bit bumpy in 2018 may be an understatement. The S&P 500 was down 6.2 percent for the year, the first time this key index fell since 2008, during the financial crisis. So what can you anticipate in 2019? And what investment moves should you make?

Let’s review the causes for last year’s market volatility. Generally speaking, uncertainty was a major culprit. Uncertainty about tariffs, uncertainty about the continued trade dispute with China, uncertainty about Brexit — they all combined to make the markets nervous. Furthermore, the Federal Reserve raised interest rates four times, and even though rates remain low by historical standards, the increases caused some concern, as higher borrowing costs can eventually crimp the growth prospects for businesses.

And now that we’re into 2019, these same uncertainties remain, so markets are likely to remain volatile. Although the Fed has indicated it may be more cautious with regard to new rate hikes, there are indications of slower growth ahead, particularly in China, the world’s second-largest economy. And after strong 2018 earnings growth, helped by the corporate tax cuts, corporate earnings may grow more slowly — and, as always, earnings are a key driver of stock prices.

Nonetheless, the U.S. economy is showing enough strength that a recession does not appear to be on the horizon, which is also likely to be the case globally — and that should be good news, because an extended “bear” market typically does need to be fueled by a recession. Ultimately, the projected continued growth of the U.S. economy and the possible resolution of some uncertainties could help markets rebound.

As investors, we cannot control the everyday ups and downs in the markets, but we can control our decisions, look for opportunities and keep a long-term perspective within our investment portfolios. Consider these actions for 2019:

Be prepared for volatility. As mentioned, many of the same factors that led to the market upheavals of 2018 are still with us, along with the impact of the partial government shutdown — so don’t be surprised to see continued volatility. The more you’re prepared for market turbulence, the less startled you’ll be when it arrives.

Stay diversified. At any given time, different financial assets may move in different directions: stocks up, bonds down, or vice versa. To help dilute risk and take advantage of different opportunities, you should maintain a broadly diversified portfolio containing stocks, international stocks, bonds, government securities and so on. You may need to rebalance your portfolio to maintain an appropriate proportion of each asset class, based on your risk tolerance and long-term goals. Keep in mind, though, that while diversification can reduce the effects of volatility on your portfolio, it can’t guarantee profits or protect against all losses.

Take a long-term perspective. It can be disconcerting to see several-hundred point drops in the stock market. But you can look past short-term events, especially if your most important financial target — a comfortable retirement — is still years or decades away. By keeping your focus on the long term, you can make investment decisions based on your objectives — not your emotions.

If 2019 continues to be volatile, you’ll need to stay prepared and make the right moves — so you can be confident that you did everything you could to keep moving toward your financial goals.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Young artist carves a name for himself in LaBelle

By Danika J. Hopper
Caloosa Belle

Eleven-year-old, homeschool student and entrepreneur, Gavin Prevatt, enjoys hunting, running heavy equipment, and working cattle with his family, but his true passion lies in woodworking. A well-spoken, kind, true gentleman who has been blessed with a natural gift, we are lucky to have him right here in LaBelle.

When asked about how her son got started in his craft, Gavin’s mom Nancy says, beaming with pride, “When my paternal grandfather, his great grand, saw his shared love for woodworking, he gave him his 1960’s ShopMate 7-in-1 lathe. This sparked Gavin’s creativity even more and he immediately began turning bowls and mortar & pestles to sell at my shop.”

At such a young age, this precocious lad is already a hardworking and skilled artist whose beautifully crafted woodwork can be found at his family’s cute little shop, Cottage Under the Oaks. He also has built display tables for artist’s exhibitions at the Barron Park House Gallery. The unique items he creates are beautifully rustic with a primitive but refined style. A style that takes most woodworkers many years to perfect, but with Gavin it comes easily. While his lathe recently broke and has undergone repair, he immediately jumped right back into it, and has been working on some new items for the shop.

Stop in, and support this young local artist and his family’s wonderful little boutique. It is filled with handcrafted local pottery, bath and body products, gifts, decor, jewelry, and truly beautiful apparel.

Cottage Under the Oaks is located at 95 East Fort Thompson Avenue, in LaBelle and is open from Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. They can also be found on Facebook and can be reached at (863) 517-4722.

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April 25, 2019 Caloosa Belle
Hendry County BOCC is seeking applications for a full-time Highway Maintenance Technician. Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on May 3, 2019 at the Human Resources Department, 640 South Main Street, LaBelle, FL 33935. A complete job posting and application forms are available on the Hendry County website at www.hendryfla.net.

Hendry County is a VP, EEO/AA, DFWP employer and participates in E-Verify. Individuals needing assistance in the application process should contact the County Human Resources department at 863-675-5352.

Hendry County BOCC is seeking applications for a full-time Lawn Service. Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on May 3, 2019 at the Human Resources Department, 640 South Main Street, LaBelle, FL 33935. A complete job posting and application forms are available on the Hendry County website at www.hendryfla.net.

Hendry County is a VP, EEO/AA, DFWP employer and participates in E-Verify. Individuals needing assistance in the application process should contact the County Human Resources department at 863-675-5352.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE MAIN HANGAR AT LABELLE AIRPORT IN HENDRY COUNTY

RFO No. 2019-19
Opening Date and Time: May 8, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Hendry County is seeking firms interested in providing construction management services in connection with the repair of the main hangar at Labelle Airport in Hendry County. Firms submitting must have expertise in construction management services, construction, and construction engineering and inspection services. Proposals should have all services available in-house or may propose multiple firms, which have joined together to provide one (1) or more disciplinary services in order to offer a complete submission. Individuals and firms properly registered in the State of Florida are encouraged to submit their qualifications for consideration. A copy of the Instructions and RFQ Documents can be obtained from the Hendry County Engineering Office, by email at konan@hendryfla.net, online at www.hendryfla.net, or by calling (863) 675-5222. A copy of the RFQ Documents will be emailed upon request.

The solicitation does not commit Hendry County to award any contracts, pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this RFQ, or to contract for any services. The County reserves the right to cancel this solicitation as a result of this solicitation, or to cancel in part or in entirety this RFQ, if in the best interest of the County to do so. The County may reprocure at the discretion of the Board.

Hendry County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE MAIN HANGAR AND JAIL ANNEX PROJECTS

RFO No. 2019-15
Opening Date and Time: May 5, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Hendry County is seeking firms interested in providing construction management services in connection with construction projects for the Hendry County Jail and Jail Annex. Firms submitting must have expertise in construction management services, construction, and construction engineering and inspection services. Proposals shall have all services available in-house or may propose multiple firms, which have joined together to provide one (1) or more disciplinary services in order to offer a complete submission. Individuals and firms properly registered in the State of Florida are encouraged to submit their qualifications for consideration.

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New Exercise Class

An exercise class taught by Mary Bartoshuk, sponsored by the Parkinson’s Support Group, meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. at the Senior Center on Cowboy Way. Free and available to all seniors for help with balance, flexibility and muscle strength. For info call 863-342-8013 or contact Hope Connections.

Trail Association Meeting

Families, adults, and youth are invited to attend the Fisheating Creek Florida Trail Association monthly meeting Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 7:00 PM at the Carlson Memorial United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall 310 Campbell St • LaBelle, FL 33935. Learn about the April and May hikes, bicycle trip and camping. A limited number of FEC/FTA T-Shirts will be available for purchase. Please join us, the official Hendry and Glades County Florida Trail Association. Events are posted on Meetup.com/Fisheating-Creek-Florida-Trail-Association-Subchapter-Meetup/

2019 Howard Reunion

The 2019 Howard Reunion is set for Saturday, May 4, starting at 11 a.m. at the Caloosa Baptist Church, located at 550 W. Hickpochee Avenue, LaBelle. BBQ chicken and pork will be served, please bring a covered dish. If you have any questions feel free to contact Committee members Emory (Rowdy) Howard at 863-673-0199 or Julia Howard at 863-673-3819.

LaBelle Cash Mob

The very first LaBelle Cash Mob will take place at Me & My Girls Antiques. Be at 330 N Bridge Street at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 25 for some shopping! Please invite your friends, coworkers and family. It will be a good time and the gang at Me & My Girls will have plenty for you all to do and plenty to shop for! Remember, bring cash and plan on spending $20!!

Support group meetings

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Recovery Support Group is led by trained facilitators living in recovery themselves. NAMI Connection recovery support groups are for adults (18 years and older) living with mental illness and provide a safe, confidential environment that offers respect, understanding, encouragement, and hope.

All Connection groups are free of charge and open to anyone with a mental illness, regardless of diagnosis. Meetings will be on Tuesdays from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Elite DNA, Therapy Services, meeting room, 485 E. Cowboy Way, LaBelle.

Accepting Donations for Animal Rescue

CenterState Bank (LaBelle Branch), 45 N Bridge Street, LaBelle, 33935 is accepting donations for Animal Rescue – A no kill non-profit shelter. The shelter is in need of any supplies you can provide: Dog and Cat food, litter, toys, blankets or beds, bleach, paper towels, food and water bowls, collars and leashes. We will be accepting these donations thru the end of May. All donations are appreciated. Thank you for supporting your local Animal Rescue.
COMMUNITY BRIEFS

VFW POST 10100 Events

April 26, Fri. Richard Smith Entertainment, one man show will begin at 6:00 p.m.
April 27, Sat. Razor’s Karaoke begins at 5:00 p.m.
May 3, Fri. Meatloaf Dinner, Serving will begin at 5:00 p.m.
May 4, Sat. Fallen Heroes Benefit meeting is at 9:00 a.m.
May 11, Sat. Fashion Show and Luncheon at 11:00 a.m. Fashions by Bon Worth.
May 11, Sat. Razor’s Edge music at 5:00 p.m.
May 19, Fri. Two Sharp’s Karaoke and Pot Luck Dinner begins at 5:00 p.m.

NASCAR Sunday Happy Hour begins, from Green Flag Drop to Checkered Flag. Food will be available. Every Tues. Free pool table from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Wear your VFW T-Shirt and get $.50 off your drink. Beer and Soda excluded.
Free Juke Box on Fri. nights from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Queen of Hearts, Sat. drawing is at 7:00 p.m.
Hamburgers Every Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Best Hamburgers and fries in town. Grilled to perfection. Have it your way.
Men’s Night, Every Mon. Night 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. $1.00 off exclude Draft and Soda.
Ladies Night, Every Thursday, $1.00 off, exclude Draft and Soda from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Happy Hour: Mon.-Fri. 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
1st Thursday of every month House Committee Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
1st Thursday of every month Veterans Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
2nd Wednesday of every month The Auxiliary Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
Bingo every Sunday at 2:00 p.m. Open to the public
Turkey Shoot 2nd and 4th Sun. of every month at 1:00 p.m. Open to the Public
We are a Smoke Free Dining Room. We are located on Hwy 29 next to the Rodeo Grounds. For further info call 863-675-8008.

Food Pantry

The Salvation Army Food Pantry at 133 N. Bridge St LaBelle, FL 33935 (The United Way House) is open every Wednesday’s from 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. The pantry is open every Wednesday but folks may only come once per month. There is a registration form and they will need their photo ID. The staff can assist in helping fill out the registration form. For more information call 863-674-1441.

AFFORDABLE, SOLID CBS CONSTRUCTION, HOME with a newer metal roof, new windows, new kitchen, new kitchen appliances to be put in before closing, new flooring new bathroom fixtures and a fresh coat of paint inside and out. This home is only minutes to schools and shopping, and is priced to sell! Please call Carolyn Hermann for prequalification with Waterstone Financial 239-340-1322 $130,000.

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ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A HOME WITH WATERFRONT ACCESS? We have 2 beautiful homes in Caloosa Harbor Subdivision. Both homes are one level, plus an additional unfinished basement in one of the homes. There is also a beautiful fountain in the subdivision. Call today to schedule an appointment.

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RECIPE OF THE WEEK SUBMITTED BY SOUTHERN HERITAGE REAL ESTATE

Hot Fudge Sundae Cake

Ingredients
- 1 cup all purpose flour
- ¾ cup sugar
- 6 Tbsp baking cocoa
- 2 tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp salt
- ½ cup milk
- 2 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

Preparation
Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Combine the flour, sugar and 3 Tbsp of cocoa, baking powder and salt in large bowl mix well. Stir in the milk, oil and vanilla. Spoon into a 9 x 9 inch pan. Combine the brown sugar and remaining 4 Tbsp of cocoa in a small bowl. Sprinkle over the batter. Pour hot water over the top, do not stir. Bake for 40 minutes. Cool for 15 minutes. Serve with vanilla ice cream and enjoy!
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Free Golf Cart & $1000 Gift Card

In lieu of promotion, discount may be taken off the price of the home

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New Double Wide Homes
Only $59,900

Amenities:
• Heated Screened Pool
• Spacious Club House
• Scenic Ponds
• Horseshoe Pits
• Billiards
• Library

While supplies last. Current inventory only.
Offer expires May 30th, 2019
Golf Cart - $5000 value

Only at Moss Landing
900 Aqua Isles Blvd. LaBelle, FL 33935

The Chateau
Only $38,900

Amenities:
• Heated Pool
• Pickle Ball
• Clubhouse
• Horseshoes
• Boat Dock & Slips
• Riverside Fire Pit
• Boat Ramp
• Shuffleboard

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