#### FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT PRESENTS

# THE 57TH ANNUAL SWAMP CABBAGE FESTIVAL

# WILD ABOUT HENDRY COUNTY

FEBRUARY 25TH & 26TH, 2023

BARRON PARK LABELLE, FLORIDA





# Welcome to LaBelle's 57th Annual Swamp Cabbage Festival 2023

It is with great pleasure to welcome one and all to our annual LaBelle Swamp Cabbage Festival. While you enjoy it, remember this festival would not be possible without the tireless cooperation and involvement the great City of LaBelle, the Hendry County Sheriff's Department, Hendry County Fire & EMS, local organizations, local businesses and of course our town folks. Everyone works hard to make this festival the best it can be.

A special thanks to the Swamp Cabbage Festival Committee for bringing it all together. Thank you all for your dedication and your community involvement; it would not be possible for this to happen without you.

Swamp Cabbage Officers, Directors & Committees:

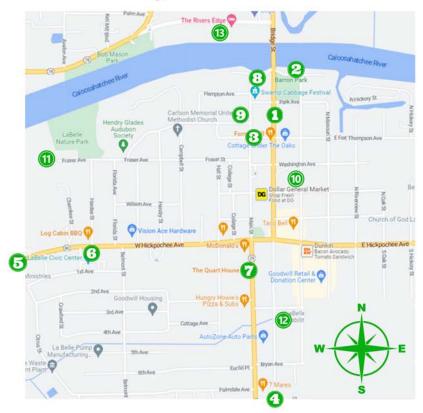
Chairman: Pamela Timmons Secretary: Karra O'Brien Treasurer: Stormy Smith Parade: Keitha Daniels Park Booths & Exhibits: Shellie Hunter Website and Administration: Heath Daniels

Last but not least, our guests are what this weekend is all about. Please enjoy the hospitality our town has to offer. Have a great time at the festival, be safe and remember it is always the last FULL weekend of February! See you next year.

Phone: 863-675-2995 Email: swampcabbagefestival.org

Address: P.O. Box 2081, LaBelle, FL 33935 8 Park Ave, LaBelle, FL 33975

## Getting Around LaBelle



- 1. Parade Route-Bridge Street, a.k.a. Hwy 29 Parade Start
- 2. Barron Park Main Event
- 3. Fort Thompson Ave Night on the Town
- 4. Rodeo Grounds South on Hwy 29 (Off map)
- 5. LaBelle Brewery Swamp Stomp 5k, West on Hwy, a.k.a. Hickpochee Ave (Off map)
- 6. LaBelle Civic Center & City Hall Parade Line up & Old Timer's Dinner
- 7. Quart House City Breakfast
- 8. Barron Library Event Parking
- 9. First Baptist Church Event Parking
- 10. Synovous Bank & Lee Street Car Show
- 11. Hendry House Parade Line up
- 12. Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church Parade End
- 13. LaBelle Boat Dock Bass Tournament

#### How it began...

#### SWAMP CABBAGE FESTIVAL

In 1966, the newly formed LaBelle Jaycees were searching for a project to sponsor that would benefit the entire community. Gary Lucia, the organization's first president, appointed T. E. Hedges and Bernard Rasmussen to study the idea and develop a proposal. Noting the abundance of sabal palms, or as they are called locally "cabbage trees," in the area and remembering their importance to early settlers as both building material and food, Rasmussen suggested a "Swamp Cabbage Festival." Hedges added this should be popular with visitors who had heard of the native delicacy - also known as "Hearts of Palm" - but had not tried it.

The Jaycees adopted the project and began promoting an old-fashioned pioneer festival honoring Florida's State Tree. The idea caught the community's imagination and as ideas started to snowball, other organizations were invited to participate. Soon, all of LaBelle was involved in preparation for the first Swamp Cabbage Festival.

The first festival held in 1967 was such a success that LaBelle Jaycees organized a permanent Swamp Cabbage Festival Committee with representatives from civic groups and churches. The committee successfully guided the efforts of the community through the next five festivals, each one bigger and better than the ones before. Joe Thomas, Chairman of the 1973 Swamp Cabbage Festival, said, "the Swamp Cabbage Festival has become one of the major events in Southwest Florida because of the pride people here have in our community. The festival is our way of expressing this pride and an old-fashioned, but never out of date, American spirit of cooperation."

Through the medium of the Swamp Cabbage Festival, LaBelle extends a sincere welcome to all.

#### About the Theme

# WILD ABOUT HENDRY COUNTY

Hendry County is one hundred years old this year.

In 1923 the county was formed when Congress partitioned off a portion of land from Lee county and named it after Francis Aubrey Hendry.

Hendry County is best known for it's cattle, wildlife, fishing, and various other agricultural products. Commercial fishing camps sprung up in the early 1900's around Lake Okeechobee one of which grew to become the city of Clewiston by 1920.

The LaBelle area has been known to man for hundreds - perhaps thousands - of years. From all over South Florida, the Caloosa Indians, the paramount tribe, came to the Caloosahatchee River near LaBelle to hold seasonal religious rites. In the 1760's, the last remnants of the once mighty and powerful Caloosa emigrated to the Bahamas. In the 1820's, a "permanent" Seminole Indian Reservation was set up south of the Caloosahatchee River; later, the Seminoles were replace by American settlers.

During the Second Seminole Indian War, frontier forts were built within ten miles of LaBelle to protect settlers from marauding Indians. One, Fort Denaud - a few miles west of LaBelle - lives on as a settlement. Others, Fort Thompson - used by the Confederate "Cow Cavalry" during the Civil War - Fort Keis, Simmons and T. B. Adams have disappeared and are but a memory to even the oldest pioneers.



Artist: Becca Pratt

The Caloosahatchee River has been both boon and bane to LaBelle. Early settlers depended on the river for transportation, but the river would - from time to time - overflow its banks and endanger lives, home and crops. From 1880 to 1930, steamboats plied the Caloosahatchee carrying freight, passengers and mail.

Now, the Caloosahatchee - widened, deepened and broadened - is part of the Okeechobee Waterway connecting Florida's two coasts. The river is used for transportation, recreation and irrigation of agricultural lands; also, area residents have no fear of floods which were a certainty in earlier times.

The LaBelle area is well-known for leisure. The Caloosahatchee affords many pleasurable hours to the artist, fisherman, and water-skier. The banks of the river in the LaBelle - Fort Denaud area abound with fossils - both vertebrate and invertebrate - and attract both amateur and professional paleontologists.

The 2020 census data shows a diverse population of nearly 40,000 people calling Hendry County their home. Communities located here are LaBelle, Clewiston, Fort Denaud, Harlem, Montura, Pioneer, Port LaBelle, Felda, and Flaghole.



to the 57th Annual wamp Cabba

# **Festiva**

and to the beautiful

# City of LaBelle

We invite you to enjoy our wonderful food, fun, and hospitality.

Julie C. Wilkins, Mayor

City of LaBelle

Daniel Akin.

Commissioner

Jackie Ratica,

Commissioner

Bobbie Spratt, Commissioner

City Hall- 863-675-2872

Hugo Vargas, Commissioner

www.citylabelle.com

#### America's largest electric utility provider

Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) serves more customers and sells more power than any other utility, providing clean, affordable, reliable electricity to more than 5.8 million accounts, or more than 12 million people. FPL operates one of the cleanest power generation fleets in the U.S and in 2022 won the ReliabilityOne \* National Reliability Award for the seventh time in the last eight years.

The company was also recognized by Escalent in 2022 as one of the most trusted U.S. electric utilities for the ninth consecutive year. FPL is the Sunshine State's largest solar producer and the nation's largest owner and operator of solar. The company operates 60 solar energy centers throughout Florida, spanning from Miami to Pensacola. Four of these FPL solar energy centers are located in Hendry County: PL Hammock Solar Energy Center (2018), FPL Blue Heron Solar Energy Center (2020), FPL Sawgrass Solar Energy Center (2022) and FPL Ghost Orchid Solar Energy Center (2022).

Sawgrass Solar Energy Center





Hammock Solar Energy Center

#### Ghost Orchid Solar Energy Center





Blue Heron Solar Energy Center

Together, these four FPL solar energy centers in Hendry County are capable of generating nearly 300 megawatts of clean, zero-emissions, zero-fuel electricity for FPL customers. That's enough energy to power approximately 60,000 homes and reduces carbon emissions equal to removing approximately 56,000 gasoline-dependent vehicles from the roads each year. FPL is consistently one of the cleanest electric utilities in the country, making Florida a leader in clean energy and sustainability.

The company has reduced its use of foreign oil 99% since 2001 and closed its last coal-fire power generation plant in Florida in summer 2021. Additionally, FPL operates one of the world's largest solar-powered batteries located in Manatee County. And, the company recently broke ground on Florida's first-of-its-kind 'green hydrogen' facility located at the FPL Okeechobee Clean Energy Center.

For more information about FPL, visit www.FPL.com.



### Sabal Palm

#### Common Name - Cabbage Tree

The Sabal Palm, or Cabbage Tree, is the State Tree of Florida. It grows throughout Florida and is not damaged by cold in any part of the state. It is also well adapted for landscape use.

The Cabbage Tree will max out at height of about eighty feet with a trunk diameter of around two feet or less. During early life, the trunk is clothed with "boots" remaining from decayed frond-stalks. As the tree grows older, these fall away leaving a fairly smooth trunk. It has fonds instead of leaves, which are fanshaped, shiny, and shades of green.

The heart can be harvested for food when the tree reaches around twelve feet tall. The approximately three-foot center of the tree trunk is what is known as swamp cabbage. Not traditionally a food source, this unique food was at times a staple of early pioneers and Native Americans when food sources became scarce. Once the tree's heart is removed, the tree will not survive. Hearts of Palm can be ordered at some restaurants and grocery stores, however it is likely from the peach palm tree and not the sabal palm. The sabal palm mostly grows wild in the southeastern region of the United States, propagating through natural seeding. Many cultures worldwide still harvest sabal palm hearts as a regular food source in their daily diet.

### 2023 Festival Parade

The festivities on Saturday of the event weekend begins with our annual parade. Each year the parade seems to get bigger than the last, for its two-mile procession through the city.

The Swamp Cabbage Festival Parade is unique because of the fact that commercial participation is not encouraged as in most parades. Participation is by local residents who use native materials to decorate their floats. In addition to the floats, there will be walking units, bands, and horses.

The parade line up begins at 8:00am and the parade will begin at 10:00am at the foot of the Caloosahatchee Bridge, proceeding south down Bridge Street.

This year the entries will be judged for the Best of in ten categories. They are:

- 1. Best Overall
- 2. Civic/Non-Profit Organization
- 3. Faith-based
- 4. Retirement Community
- 5. Business Organization
- Marching Band
- 7. Youth/Family
- 8. Good Neighbor, Swamp Cabbage Festival Themed
- 9. Good Neighbor, In General

Judging will take place during the parade. Winners will be announced during the noontime festivities at Barron Park.



First Bank has been helping meet the financial needs of the residents and businesses of Lee, Hendry, and Glades Counties since 1922.

From that time to today, they are committed to building relationships for the future — through honor, integrity, and trust to achieve their customers' goals. All while having a positive influence on their employees, vendors, community, and industry.

First Bank strongly believes it is this commitment that will support their mission to be attentive, invested, and involved in the efforts of their customers, communities, and team.

#### LABELLE HERITAGE MUSEUM



Thursday, February 23, 2023 LaBelle Civic Center

> DOORS OPEN AT 5:00PM BUFFET OPENS AT 6:00PM

CATERED BY CRACKER COOKIN

**Tickets** 

\$50.00

- DOOR PRIZES
- AUCTION
- 50/50 DRAWING
- SILENT AUCTION



#### **PURCHASE OPTIONS:**

Heritage

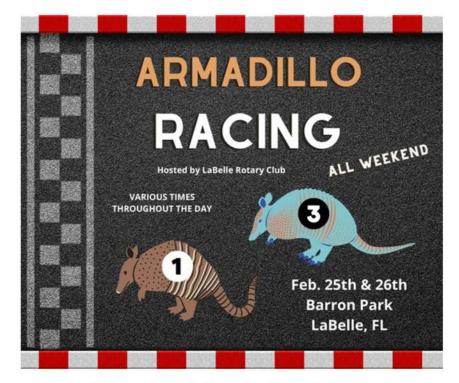
Heritage Museum - (Wednesday only) Saturday Market - Barron Park (Feb. 4) LaBelle Chamber - (regular hours) Purchase online (scan the QR Code)



The Caloosa Humane Society, Inc. is a not-for-profit, 501 (c)(3) status organization that receives no federal, state, or local funding and relies on donations, bequests and fundraising events.

They are a no-kill pet shelter in LaBelle, FL serving Hendry/Glades counties and beyond since 2001.

This humane society, rehabilitates and rehomes many homeless pets each year in our community. They have an incredibly dedicated staff, with passionate volunteers and generous donors that makes certain that their animals receive the best possible care while they temporarily reside at CHS waiting for their forever home. Their goal is to find a loving home for each and every homeless pet that finds their way to this sweet shelter.



#### **History of Armadillo Races**

In order to support a scholarship fund for LaBelle's graduating seniors, the LaBelle Rotary Club began hosting armadillo races at the twenty-sixth annual Swamp Cabbage Festival. The armadillo races were the brainchild of the late John Petrosky.

Mr. Petrosky, a LaBelle Rotarian, convinced his reluctant fellow members that this activity would be a successful fundraiser for the local scholarship fund. With much skepticism as to the potential success of armadillo races, the club hosted the inaugural armadillo races in 1992.

# Swamp Cabbage Festival Grand Marshals

2023 Julie Wilkins 2022 Steven Nisbet, Sr.

2021 No Parade (CoVid)

2020 Rene Pratt

2019 Dr. Kai-Fu Chow 2018 Margaret England

2017 Joseph H. Thomas

2016 Jaycees

2015 "Uncle" Bill McGill

2014 Pat Beddingfield

2013 Mary Bartoshuk 2012 Nikki Yeager

2011 Charles Humph

2011 Charles Humphries 2010 Paul Pulletti

2009 David Childs

2008 Phillip Pelletier

2007 W.T. "Bill" Maddox

2006 Pat Langford

2005 Martha Raye Humphries

2004 Lucretia Strickland

2003 Rep. Joseph R. Spratt

2002 Jack Paul

2001 Jake Leicht

2000 Tully F. Dunlap

1999 Larry Woosley

1998 Henry R. Kirby

1997 Joe Risley, Jr.

1996 Mize Johnson

1995 Clara Hull

1994 Dallas Townsend

1993 Cecil Akin

1992 William E. Perry

1991 Robert L. Yeomans

1990 Doris Mattice

1989 June Smith

1988 Lois Barron

1987 L.J. Nobles, Jr.

1986 Darrell Harris

1985 Sherri Craichy

1984 Thomas A. Smith

1983 Ida Lofton Kirby

1982 Stan Wegscheid

1981 Gary Lucia

1980 Broward Parsons

1979 Bette Foote

1978 Blitz Wegman

1977 Dr. Elizabeth Brungard

1976 Onley R. Hull

1975 R.E. Burchard

1974 Frankye Cobb Thomas

1973 John W. Ash, Sr.

1972 Jack Patton

1971 Judge R.M. Harris

1970 J.R. (Jack) Spratt

1969 W.T. (Bill) Maddox

1968 W.B. Barron

1967 Robert E. Byrd

# Mayor Julie C. Wilkins named Grand Marshal



Julie Wilkins moved to LaBelle in 1966 with her family who became an intricate part of LaBelle. Volunteering is a way of life for her. She is dedicated and works diligently for what she believes. She has been involved with the Swamp Cabbage Festival, Fourth of July Committee, and served as a member of LaBelle Assembly of God for 20 years. Julie and her husband, Wayne Wilkins have reared four children. Julie is a certified real estate appraiser and she also represents LaBelle as President of the Southwest Florida League of Cities and serves on the state board of Florida League of Cities. Currently Julie's new role is serving as Mayor of the City of LaBelle, demonstrating her exceptional leadership and her undying love and commitment to our community. We are honored to have her as our 2023 Swamp Cabbage Festival Grand Marshal.



Proudly serving LaBelle Brewery Craft Beer at this year's festival beer tents!

LaBelle Brewing Co. is a local Southwest Florida family-owned brewery and restaurant with a passion for the simple things in life, like great beer and great food. They are a community-focused craft brewery and taproom in the heart of LaBelle.

Founded to create a space for our local community to not just enjoy delicious home-crafted brews, but to also hang out, relax and have a good time with friends and family.

# Take the Tour!

Learn about Downtown
LaBelle with LDRC's
self-guided walking tour.

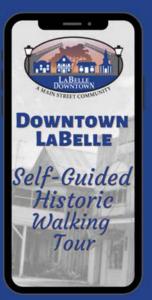
Step back in time on your own time!

Start the adventure at

www.downtownlabelle.com/walkingtour

Or use the QR Code!





Shop Downtown!
Last Market Day of the Season
March 4th from 9am - 2pm
DeSoto Ave
(Barron Library to Barron Park) ----

shop downtown

@shopdowntownldrc

OUTDOOR SATURDAY MARKET



More than a beer company, Suncoast Beverage is committed to the community by supporting various organizations, in order to make a positive and lasting impact locally. Their employees actively volunteer their time doing beach clean ups, donating blood, participating in breast cancer walks, and more.

Suncoast Beverage, encourages safe drinking programs through Anheuser-Busch partnerships including – Decide to Ride, Family Talk About Drinking, and WE I.D..

Through awareness around these programs, they work to help prevent underage drinking and alcohol impaired driving.



# LaBelle, the Beautiful! The City Under the Oaks

LaBelle, French for "the beautiful," was named for two of Captain Francis A. Hendry's daughters, Laura and Belle, both now deceased. With its giant oaks and the beauty of the nearby Caloosahatchee River, many people accept the tale that a French traveler, perhaps Pierre Denaud, the trader for whom Fort Denaud was named, saw the area in its natural setting an exclaimed, "C'est LaBelle." No matter what the origin of her name, LaBelle is truly "the beautiful," especially to those wearying of the hustle and bustle of the metropolis.

Greater LaBelle has a population of almost 5,000 people according to the 2020 Census report. LaBelle operates under the commission form of city government and has modern water and sewage systems. The city has financial and commercial institutions, churches of most major denominations and modern schools.

With the long established Port LaBelle immediately to the east of the city, and so much new growth and housing developments in the area, the greater area population is sure to grow. Many people are concerned that LaBelle will cease to be the warm, friendly, family-type of place to live. With hope being aware of the pitfalls of rapid growth, LaBelle can plan for a future in which the city retains its "small town charm," yet enjoys the advantages of being a more urbanized and more heavily populated area.

The people in LaBelle are proud of their hometown and the factors that make LaBelle "special."

# Isom Dees Family

#### named

# Heritage Family



Isom Dees who was born in 1890 near the North LaBelle/Glades county line. He married Bessie Edith Platt in July of 1918. Thev had two sons and four daughters, and moved around living in several areas including Palmdale, Glades county, Alva and LaBelle.

In his early years, being a true pioneer, Isom primarily made a living as a hide trader and making Cow whips. He and his wife Bessie would hunt hides in the Devils Garden area, where they would stay for days while on the hunt. They would have to pin their baby children up in their tent so panthers would not carry them away during the night. As the years passed with new growth and opportunities for work, Isom hauled bricks and blocks from Fort Myers to Labelle by Oxen and wagon for the construction of the Labelle Court House in 1926.

In 1940 Isom served the military as Air Pilot in World War II. After the war, Isom returned to his family and Florida, now residing in Alva.

He loved working in and around Labelle raising his family in the southern way. Isom lived out the rest of his days raising cows and growing roses. He was a member of the church of God in Alva and remained there until he passed. He and his wife, Bessie Edith Platt, are buried in the Alva cemetery.

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# Swamp Cabbage Festival Pioneer Families

2020 R.B. Waldron1994 Small2019 Jesse & Irma O'Ferrell1993 Deese2018 Bersabe & Ramon Rodriguez, Sr.1992 Luckey

2017 Willie & William Harn 1991 Richards-Pfluge

 2016 Jaycees
 1990 Maddox

 2015 Pratt
 1989 Cross

2014 Driggers Kirkland 1988 Samus & Margaret Parsons

2013 Benjamin Guy 1987 LJ Nobles 2012 O'Bannon Family 1986 Jennings-Hand

2011 Eugene Rennolds 1985 Miller 2010 MG Davis 1984 Daniels 2009 Oscar Langford 1983 Dyess 2008 Pendrey 1982 Hires 2007 Doub 1981 Hill-Akin

2006 Felix Taylor 1980 Hans Christian Hansen

2005 Fait Ballard1979 Blount2004 Alton Jones1978 Thigpen2003 Asa Barton Townsend1977 Murray2002 Kirby Thompson1976 Carson2001 Flora Burchard-Hampton1975 Magill

2000 A.O. Ward & J.V. Francis 1974 Millard F Yeomans

1999 Morrison J Bush 1973 Captain Francis A Hendry

1998 Summerall 1972 Thomas Howard 1997 Hodges 1971 Washington Hall 1996 Gad Curry 1970 W.T. Hull, Sr.

1995 Gaulding 1969 Mrs. M.E. Forrey & the Burke

# Swamp Cabbage Bass Tournament PRESENTED BY: UBASS & Source

LABELLE BOAT RAMP SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH SAFE LIGHT TO 3PM

85% PAYOUTHIN

\$100 CASH PER TEAM REGISTER AT THE RAMP 5:30AM- 6:30AM

Come out & FISH!!

## Sabal Palm Use

Once upon a time the sabal palm, which is a natural source of brush fiber, was processed in quantity in the United States. Cutting crews roamed the range lands near LaBelle, taking the buds from stands of tree with chain saws or axes.

After cutting the buds, as known as swamp cabbage, they were loaded onto bunch trucks and carried to a consolidation point where they shipped by the tractor trailer full to the processing plant in Jacksonville, Florida.



Processing the Sabal Palm buds is an involved and difficult operation. First, the individual fibers must be separated by a cooking process. The pieces are then shredded by specially designed machines. The individual fibers are treated to give them greater resiliency. The fibers are then sorted for color and length uniformity, bundled and trimmed. The fiber is finally packed and shipped to brush manufacturers all over the world to be made into many different types of brushes and whisk brooms.



U.S. Sugar actively engages in community outreach to strengthen and support their employees and their neighbors. Their employees contribute thousands of volunteer hours annually to civic, social and educational causes, and U.S. Sugar donates generously to local events, organizations, schools, sports teams and social programs.

Their charitable work makes a significant difference in the lives of those around this SWEET company.

# 2023 Swamp Cabbage Pageant



# 2023 Swamp Cabbage Queen Hailey Prince

Hailey won the title of this year's Swamp Cabbage Festival Queen, in the "Born to be Wild," themed pageant on January 28, 2023. Hailey is the eighteen-year-old daughter of Justin Prince and Angelica Betancourt. She is a 2022 graduate of LaBelle High School. In her spare time she likes line dancing, singing, and tumbling. She would like to attend college and become an interior designer.

## The Queen's Royal Court

2023 Swamp Cabbage Princess - Charity Masterson2023 Junior Miss Swamp Cabbage - Aubrey Howard2023 Little Miss Swamp Cabbage - Jordan Taylor

# Swamp Cabbage Festival Queens

2023 Hailey Prince 2022 Grace Layne Ryan 2021 Novie Jo Kohutek 2020 Ryley Bowen 2019 Brooke White 2018 Mahalet Gonzales 2017 Alyssa Jonson 2016 Kasey Whidden 2015 Abby Arnold 2014 Ashley Curry 2013 Kayla Keller 2012 Mallory Allen 2011 Olivia Luckey 2010 Callie Burley 2009 Daphne Glisson 2008 Ashley Pitttman 2007 Esophia Higgins 2006 Maria Pridgen 2005 Amanda Rae Pittman 2004 Ashley Rose Barbery 2003 Ashley Murray Gomez 2002 Cathryn Gayle Miller 2001 Brittany Langford Kinney 2000 Amy Burchard Paul 1999 Melissa Oswald Howell 1998 Amanda Miller Gregg 1997 Inez deDeugd McComas 1996 Jennifer Danforth Berg

1995 Inez deDeugd McComas 1994 Sally Chipman Deroo 1993 Jennifer Danforth Dunn 1992 Lynnette White 1991 Kathleen Whitford 1990 Stacee Stinnett Seligman 1989 Susan Brant Hill 1988 Jennifer Dunaway Klinger 1987 Mara Woosley 1986 Heather Delance Spano 1985 Lori Jones White 1984 Jerri Lynn Merritt 1983 Leah Langley Furman 1982 Kimberly Dunaway Kemp 1981 Yvonne McGee 1980 Rena Ireland Dipofi 1979 Cynthia Mott Croley 1978 Chris Lehman Robbins 1977 Sonja Burchard 1976 Cheryl Wooten Hill 1975 Dana Thompson Crawley 1974 Terri Prescott 1973 Gaye Nobles Murrah 1972 Cindi Bass Sanders 1971 Sherri Woosley Carpenter 1970 Laura Miller Nolte 1969 Judy Burgess Puletti 1968 Deborah Cordell James



Shout out to another great community business that has supported not only the festival, but so many local organizations throughout the years. Thank you Nisbet Enterprises, Inc. and your awesome team!

Did you know, you can now have your favorite LaBelle McDonald's cravings delivered to your door? We are lovin' it!





Blueberry Bunch Farm, is Florida's most southern Blueberry farm. The farm is family owned and operated. Together along with their employees they work hard to make the best and most tasty blueberries in Florida!

Stop by the Blueberry Bunch booth in Barron Park festival weekend or drop by the farm and get some of their delicious blueberries!

The 2023 U-Pick season will be open March 3rd 2023.

Open Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 9am to 2pm.

2754 Howard Road - LaBelle, FL 33935



670 W. Hickpochee Ave LaBelle, FL 33935 (863) 230-7991

labellebrewingco.com



#### **FUN FACTS:**

- The Sabal Palm is also known as the Cabbage Palm.
- It was designated the Florida State Tree in 1951.
- The Sabal Palm can be found throughout Florida and other southern states.





111W. Hickpochee Ave, LaBelle, FL 33935 harisdiscountliquor@gmail.com (863) 675-8787

# 2023 Schedule of Events AROUND & ABOUT TOWN

#### ALL EVENTS - CASUAL DRESS

#### Saturday, January 28th

06:30pm - Swamp Cabbage Queen & Princess Pageant (LaBelle High School)

#### Tuesday, February 21st

06:00pm - Night on the Town, presented by LaBelle Chamber of Commerce (Ft. Thompson Ave)

#### Thursday, February 23rd

05:00pm - LaBelle Heritage Museum's Old Timer's Dinner (LaBelle Civic Center)

#### Friday, February 24th

07:00pm - Hendry County Cattlemen's Ranch Rodeo (LaBelle Rodeo grounds)

#### Saturday, February 25th

07:30am - Caloosa Humane Society's Swamp Stomp 5k (LaBelle Brewery Parking Lot)

08:00am - South Central Florida Car Club, Legends of the Road Super Cruise & Show (Lee Street)

10:00am - Parade Begins (Bridge Street)

06:00pm - Hendry County Cattlemen's Ranch Rodeo (LaBelle Rodeo grounds)

#### Sunday February 26th

05:30am - Bruiser Bate's Bass Tournament (LaBelle Boat Docks)



Join us on Sundays

8:30 am Morning Service 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Service 5:00 pm Life Group

330 N Main St. LaBelle, FL 33935 Phone: (863) 675 - 2171



AUTO REPAIR SERVICE 737 S. Bridge Street 863-675-1032

#### **FUN FACTS:**

- The sabal palm is the Florida state tree; It is also the State Tree of South Carolina.
- The Heart of a Sabal Palm tree is edible, and will kill the tree if removed.
- The Sabal Palm doesn't have typical leaves, instead they have fronds.



45 S. Riverview Street LaBelle, FL 33935 realestate@labelleriverside.com Phone: 863-675-2718

Toll Free: 1-877-675-2718

Residential Homes · Acreage Commercial · New Construction



## 2023 Schedule of Events IN BARRON PARK



#### Saturday, February 25th

11:30am - Opening Ceremony

11:45am - Sheriff's Posse

12:45am - Matrasa Lynn

01:45pm - Queen/Princess Introduction

02:00pm - Unforgiven Band

03:00pm - Eli Mosley

04:30pm - The Bourbon Brothers

06:00pm - Park Closes

#### Sunday February 26th

09:30am - James Holland and Worship

11:00am - Lester Beleau

12:00pm - Queen/Princess Introduction

12:15 pm - Charlie Pace

01:45pm - The Walker Experience

02:45pm - Matrasa Lynn

04:00pm - Park Closes





295 Old County Road 78 (0.64 mi) LaBelle, Florida 33935

(863) 675-6062



LICENSE # CBC1262008 SOUTH FLORIDA'S PREMIER CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Info@RockTide.com

863.674.7200

#### **FUN FACTS:**

- The fronds of the cabbage palm are often used as a roofing material.
- LaBelle's Barron Library was built on the site of the Everett Hotel which had housed LaBelle's first lending library.
- The Hendry County Courthouse used to have a bell until the county donated it to the Felda Baptist Church in the 1950's.





# 2023 Schedule of Events IN BARRON PARK COMMUNITY STAGE

#### Saturday, February 25th

12:15pm - Showtime Cloggers

01:00pm - Suzanna Rodriguez

02:00pm - Country Rhythm Cloggers

03:00pm - Danzas Folcloricas Latinas

04:00pm - Athletic Ambitions

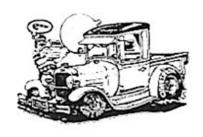
#### Sunday February 26th

11:00am - Swamp Buggy Queens

01:00 pm - Swamp Buggy Queens

02:00pm - Country Rhythm Cloggers





Legends of the Poad Super Cruise & Show February 25 2023 9am-2pm Swamp Cabbage Weekend LaBelle Florida Lee Street at Barron Dark All makes and models welcome Trophies to TOP 30 - 50/50 Vendors—Live Music—Crafts Entry Fee \$20 Fach registered to receive a \$10 food voucher. More info:

863-674-0128



# Looking for a new home?

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Phone: 863.675.6800 heartlandnewhomes.com

# **ELI MOSLEY**

Listen once to his music or see one of his shows, and you'll understand that he is a performer to watch. Ever since he saw Tracy Byrd on stage at six years old, he knew he would be a country music artist. To prepare, he learned to play the guitar, graduated from Southeastern University with a degree in both music and business and spent 6 years in the US Marine Corps. He has released two Nashville recorded and produced albums at Ocean Way Studio and Sound Emporium and is releasing singles which will be part of his upcoming third album.

Radio stations are playing his music throughout the nation. He has toured extensively since 2014. He performs with four other musicians in his band (electric guitar, bass guitar, drums, steel guitar and acoustic guitars).

He has opened for Joe Nichols, Tyler Farr, Jana Kramer, Parmalee, Jake Owen, Maren Morris and more. Eli performed for the second year at the prestigious BMI Island Songwriters Hopper Festival and is beginning to turn heads with his song writing abilities established Nashville song writers collaborate with him. His shows rock, are fun and bring something for everyone.



Watch out world! If you don't know Eli now, you will in the near future!

#### Physique Fitness & Dance Instructor/Director/Performer: Debra White & Asst. Lynnette White

LaBelle, Florida 863-673-8943



Top: Debra White, Top Left-Braelynn White, Top Right-Serenity Watson,
Bottom Left to Right- Asst. Lynnette White, Chloe Lederer, Ryley Bourdeau,
Center- Teagan Dobson, Brooke Murray, Marilyn Hollingsworth, Sharon Miller.
The Showtime Cloggers have been together for over 15 years, entertaining at festivals,
parades and events throughout Florida. They are under the direction of Debra White,
former instructor and performer with the Sidekick Cloggers with over 30 years
experience. Debra is the owner operator of Physique Fitness and Dance, home of the
Showtime Cloggers. Also, an instructor with the Florida Clogging Council. Debra and
her daughter Lynnette choreograph their own routines. They enjoy passing on their
dance skills, performing abilities and entertaining experiences to a new generation.

Entertaining audiences at "Dollywood" in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee,
"Silver Dollar City" in Branson, Missouri, Florida's Walt Disney World,
and Florida Strawberry Festival in Plant City, Florida and of course their hometown,
Swamp Cabbage Festival in LaBelle.

The Showtime Cloggers range from ages 7 through adult.

Performing contemporary and traditional percussive show routine's
the Showtime Cloggers enjoy entertaining. They take pride in their dancing
and it ultimately comes out in their performances. High stepping, spirited and fun is
what you get when you come to a Showtime Clogger show!

We would like to bring our show to you!

#### Performances

Florida Seafood Festival, Florida Strawberry Festival-Plant City FL, Florida Blueberry Festival-Brooksville FL, Chalonitka Festival-Moore Haven, FL, Immokalee Harvest Festival, Lehigh Acres-Spring Festival, Edison Pageant of Light Parade-Ft. Myers FL, Sugar Festival-Clewiston, FL, Ortona Cane Grinding Festival, Swamp Cabbage Festival-LaBelle, FL, Seafood Festival Parade-Ft. Myers Beach, Dollywood-Pigeon Forge Tennessee, Silver Dollar City-Branson Missouri.



There's so much to discover in Hendry County. From quaint mom-and-pop shops and other hidden gems, to the largest lakes, rivers, and everything in between, there's no shortage of opportunities to get a real taste of what the area has to offer.

No matter how you decide to plan your next vacation, Hendry County is the perfect place to kick back, relax, and experience pure tranquility.

# **Charlie Pace**

Music has the power to transport us to another time and place. She loves to harness that power with a broad audience of fellow music lovers and passionate musicians alike. Ever since a young age, Charlie has found great joy and satisfaction by being involved in the creative music process. Take a look around her website to get to know more about her.



charliepacemusic.com

# Matrasa Lynn & Brian Harrington

Matrasa is a SWFL Native American Singer. She became a Nashville Recording Artist in 2019 releasing her first EP. Her latest single can be heard on all music platforms and US41 Radio!

Brian has a diverse array of instrumental ability which is a one of a kind. A collaboration of between these artists forms a Dynamic Duo that is sure to be a treat to the senses!

BOOK NOW: 239-322-8446



## THE BOURBON BROTHERS



The Bourbon Brothers are a Southern Rock band located in Central Florida. The band first started out as a songwriting project between founding members Lance Leazer and Brendan John Pugh, who met while serving in the United States Marine Corps. After moving to Florida in September of 2021, Lance and Brendan teamed up with Logan Enderle (guitar) and Rich Shepard (bass). Altogether, their unique brand of entertainment fuses loud instrumentation and punchy hooks with witty stage banter that will make you want to get on your feet.

Their single "Burning Out Moonlight" was selected as a Semi-Finalist in the 2020 International Songwriting Competition. Check out their debut EP "Southern Soul & Rock N' Roll", available now! For updates, follow the band on social media and join their mailing list.

thebourbonbrothersmusic.com



# Athletic ambitions

Athletic Ambitions was established in 2016 by our owner & operater Angelica Cruz.

Athletic Ambitions Offers so much for your family to enjoy. We have something for everyone! Between our recreational classes such as Tumbling, gymnastics, ninja monkey obstacle courses, preschool classes, open gym, or our competitive cheerleading program you are bound to find something you LOVE!

Did I forget to mention that we will be adding a gym facility(Kilos BoneYard) to offer Olympic weightlifting, zumba, and more in 2023!

Athletic Ambitions also offers camps during your school breaks! Check our our spring break and summer camps coming up!

Email: sissysathleticambitions@gmail.com Website: Athletic-Ambitions.com Phone:863-234-6948



Ambitious Athletes, Ambitious People,
Ambitious Family

### **Swamp Buggy Girls**

The "Swamp Buggy Queen" Pageant tradition was initiated in 1949, with the first official Swamp Buggy Queen. And 74 years later, we are proud to say that this Scholarship pageant has remained a valued and important part of our history. We are proud of the women who have benefited from our scholarships and are now leaders in our communities.

In earlier days, the queen was chosen by virtue of how many dollars would be placed in her vote jar at several local watering holes. Today, poise, character, public speaking, and academic achievements are the basis in the selection process.

The "dunking" of the Queen became a tradition in 1957, when the winner of the race celebrated by grabbing the Queen in her gown, fancy hair-do and all, and proceeded to dunk her in the deepest, and most famous part of the "mile-o' mud" known today as the "sippy-hole."

Race Winner Tyler Johns & Queen-Matrasa Bess

# **Country Rhythm Cloggers**



The Country Rhythm Cloggers are a group of talented girls in ages from 3 years to adult, at different skill levels from beginners to advanced. Each summer they perform at different theme parks in Florida, Georgia and Virginia and at many local festivals.

The cloggers work hard all year, with many attending clogging clinics, to learn new dances and clogging steps. They are under the direction of Pat Bedingfield, Assistant Instructors/Directors are, Jesse Whitman and Renee Plamondon. Classes are held at the Angel Center, Jaycee Lions Drive in LaBelle.

We are a non profit club and instructors volunteer their time and talents to teach clogging and help during performances. Our goal is to teach clogging, learn to perform in front of an audience, build confidence and have fun while building teamwork.

To learn more about this talented group call or text 863-673-5054, you can also see us on Facebook under Country Rhythm Cloggers.



Unforgiven was established in 2013 and consist of 6 very talented musicians from all over the United States.

The band brings an energetic Country Rock show to the stage every time they perform giving older country music songs a twist to make it their own.

They have opened up for some top known country artists such as Rhett Akins, Chad Brock, Montgomery Gentry, Locash, Justin Moore, Casey Donahue, Hardy and, the late great Daryl Singletary to name a few.

Unforgiven has also been a part of The March Of Dimes Biker's For Babies, Salute To The Brave Hero Project, and St. Jude's Cancer Research For Kids raising money with each organization to help those in need.

Most recently Unforgiven was chosen 1 of 3 bands from over 400 videos sent in to Opry Entertainment to perform at Blake Shelton's OLE RED in Orlando.

Our Band Members Include:
Michelle - Drummer & Founder of UNFORGIVEN
George - Lead Guitar Picker
James- Lead Singer & Acoustic Guitar
Dennis - Pedal Steel Guitar
Curt- Bass Guitar and Back Up Vocals
Chris - Lead Guitar /vocals

# Suzanna Rodriquez



Suzanna Rodriguez is a LaBelle native, musician, and music teacher. She works as the music teacher at LaBelle Elementary School and she also serves as the percussion instructor for the LaBelle High School Cowboy Band. When she isn't teaching public school or practicing her instruments, she offers private lessons in piano, guitar, ukulele, and percussion through her small business, STR Studios. For more information about music lessons, please contact her at suzanna.t.rodriguez@gmail.com or visit her Facebook page, STR Studios.

# Hendry County Cattlemen's Association

Presents:

# 14th Annual Swamp Cabbage RANCH RODEO

LaBelle Rodeo Grounds

State Road 29



# -REWARD-

. 100% pay back

Buckles and entry fees to FCA finals for 1st place team

\$1000 entry fee

\* Calf Branding

\* Double Mugging

Team Branding

\* Team Sorting

\* Brone Riding

# Feb 25th @ 6pm

Feb 24th @

Vendors Welcome

Concession Stand

On Site

### "COVERED GRANDSTANDS"

Real, working Florida cowboys and cowgirls utilize their ropin' & ridin' skills in this competitive extravaganza to qualify for the Florida Cattlemen's Association state finals in Kissimmee. This is a true display of cattle and horse handling abilities passed down from many generations ago.

Team sponsors will be members in good standing with their county cattlemen's association.

### \*Youth Ranch Rodeo Friday night

(Trailer Loading, Calf Branding, Team Branding, Team Sorting \*\$200 entry fee)

Adults: \$10 - Young'ens Under 10: FREE

For more information contact: (863)674-4092





#### **INGREDIENTS**

Gluten Free

**SUITABLE FOR** 

- 2 swamp cabbage hearts
- water
- salt
- pepper
- 1 stick of butter

#### **METHOD**

- In a large sauce pan, add swamp cabbages cut into medium strips and add enough water to barely cover.
- 2. Bring to a boil and reduce to simmering for ten to fifteen minutes.
- 3. Drain water, add butter and reheat, salt and pepper to taste.
- 4. Serve with any meat dish.

Note: If you don't have swamp cabbages on hand you can substitute canned Hearts of Palm. To make a vegan friendly dish substitute your favorite cooking oil in place of the butter.

### **Nutrition Content of Swamp Cabbage**

The composition of cooked swamp cabbage per cup (100 gram) is:

21 kilo calories

2.2 grams protein

0.2 grams fat

3.9 grams carbohydrates

55 milligrams calcium

1.5 milligrams iron

5200 international units Vitamin A

0.050 mg thiamine

0.080 mg riboflavin

16 mg vitamin C



PO Box 2081 LaBelle, FL 33935

863.675.2995

www.labelleswampcabbagefestival.org