



In the Know



Almost Summer

Can you believe it! Summer is right around the bend. The last day for Highlands County and Polk County students is June 4th. Last day for Hardee County students is June 3rd.

That's just a little more than four weeks away! Soon kids everywhere will be rejoicing as they revel in their new found freedom. Do you have a plan yet?

If you haven't developed your plan yet, begin today! What will you do with your 10, 11 and 12 year olds who may normally go home after school? Will you leave them at home all day?

There are many options for caregivers who already receive subsidized child care through your local early learning coalition. Did you know that caregivers who are working fulltime and caring for children with active protective services

can receive free care for children up to 12 years old?! Contact your appropriate Early Learning provider:

Polk County - Arbor Early Learning (863) 577-2450

Highlands County - Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Heartland (863) 314-9213

Hardee County - Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Heartland (863) 767-1002



The following is a list of providers offering care opportunities for children up to age 12 for Hardee and Highlands counties:

Hardee County

Pee Wee Academy - contact person Rose (863) 767-0639.

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IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE SECURING SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR CHILDREN CONTACT US THROUGH THE DEVEREUX KIDS GAPLINE

(863) 534-7753

Absolutely Free Family Events

Polk County

05/02/09 Fine Arts Festival

The public is invited to the 3rd Annual Superintendent's Fine Arts Festival to be held 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, May 2 in the amphitheater area of Lake Mirror, 121 South Lake Avenue, Lakeland. There is no charge to attend and the festival includes displays and exhibits of students' visual art and musical performances by school jazz bands, string ensembles and show choirs. A total of 16 musical groups will perform for 30 minutes each beginning at 10 a.m. The day culminates with a 6 p.m. performance by an all-star jazz band composed of high school students. Information: (863) 647-4729.

05/05/09 Elementary Showcase Concert

The public is invited to the Elementary Showcase Concert to be held 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 5 at Florida Southern College's Branscomb Auditorium. More than 250 elementary music students from 53 schools will perform. Performances include boys and girls choirs and ensembles by students playing recorders, wind instruments, and melodic instruments. There is no cost to attend. Information: (863) 647-4729.

05/09/09 - 05/10/09 MIDFLORIDA May-faire by the Lake

One of Central Florida's biggest and oldest outdoor art festivals. Think of it as over 180 one-person exhibitions held around Lake Morton! FREE for everyone.

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Absolutely Free Family Events cont...

DEVEREUX KIDS GAP PROGRAM

1021 Lakeland Hills Blvd
Lakeland, FL 33805

Gap Line: 863.534.0753
Fax: 1.866.610.1491

*Engaging Communities...
Strengthening Families*

www.devereuxkids.org

If you need help or have questions about community resources please contact us on the Gap line

863.534.0753

05/09/09 Mayfaire Saturday Night - 5:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Mayfaire fun moves to Lake Mirror on Saturday evening for a great family party. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy live music and fireworks. The centerpiece of the event is the Mayfaire Classic 5k foot race hosted by Lakeland Runners Club. There is plenty of fun to be had by all who attend! Volunteers are always needed. Questions? Call 863-688-7743 ext. 237 or

Mayfaire@PolkMuseumofArt.org

05/13/09 FDLRS

The Family Network on Disabilities of Florida, Inc. and the Exceptional Student Education Department of the Polk Public Schools are holding conferences for parents and guardians of special needs individuals. The conference topic is transitioning special needs students from school to the community and will be held on three separate days at three different locations. The presentation will be the same on each of the three days. There is no charge to attend. The conference schedule:

- Wednesday, May 13, 4 to 7 p.m., Jim Miles Professional Development Center, 5204 U.S. Highway 98 South, Lakeland.

Call the Family Network on Disabilities at 1-800-825-5736 to register for a conference or for further information.

Hardee County

05/07/09 Hardee TPPA

At Hardee Junior High for all 8th grade students. Event will take place during normal school day. Sonny's BBQ will cater the lunch for everyone and students will receive prizes. All 8th graders will attend unless parents complete an opt-out permission slip going home with students. Opt out permission slips will be available in English and Spanish. For more information contact Hardee Junior High at (863) 773-3147.

Hardee County Public Library Events

05/04, 05/11, 05/18 - Homeschool group meets 10:30 am

05/07, 05/14, 05/21 - Storytime 2-5 year olds 10 am

Highlands County

05/07/09 National Day of Prayer

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM On the Courthouse Lawn. To ensure a seat, please bring your lawn chair. For information call 385.3850

Almost Summer continued.....

Opportunities

Hardee YMCA - contact person Wanda (863)773-6445

RCMA - Contact person Maria (863) 767-0222

Just Little People - contact person Carla (863)375-2743

New Vision Learning Center - contact person Linda (863) 735-8586.

Highlands

South Florida Community College - contact person Becky Rouche (863) 453-6661

Children's Health museum - contact person Linda (863) 385-5437

YMCA - contact person Jonathan (863) 382-9622

Heartland Christian (up to 5th grade) - contact person Ms. Golde (863) 385-3850

Butterfly Academy (up to 5th grade) - contact person Kathy (863) 465-0580

Other Summer Opportunities



Camp Ready by the Learning Resource Center

A school readiness program for kindergarten bound students.

July 6-31, 2009 8:30 - 11:30 am Monday - Friday at Family Fundamentals in Lakeland. Call (863) 688-9477 for more information.

ESOL Camp Ready by the Learning Resource Center

A FREE school readiness program for kindergarten bound students whose second language is English.

July 6-31, 2009 8:30 - 11:30 am Monday - Friday at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Lakeland. Call (863) 688-9477 for more information.