

February 2017

LEE COUNTY Family

NEWS

FREE

& Kid Events

Oh Baby!

**Must-Have
Gadgets**

**Local Babies
on Display!**

**Freebies
& Factoids**

**Popular baby
names, classes
and more!**



EDISON
Festival of Light

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

READING ROCKS!

Teen battle of the bands contest is open for entries

Teen bands of all genres can enter the Reading Rocks! Teen Battle of the Bands until Feb. 15. The top three bands will perform live March 18 at the Southwest Florida Reading Festival.

All bands are encouraged to visit www.ReadFest.org/BandBattle to read the rules, upload an audio or video recording to YouTube and complete the entry form by Feb. 15.

The contest is open to bands of two or more individuals who are residents of Lee, Charlotte, Collier or Hendry counties and are between the ages of 13- to 19-years-old on the date of entry. Proof of age is required. The elimination round will be judged by a combination of judge's panel (60%) and online voting (40%). Online voting will be open from Feb. 17 to March 1. The final battle will be live at the Reading Festival. The judges will determine the first- and second-place winners and the Popular Choice Award will be determined by crowd source voting at the close of the battle.

The first-place prize includes an eight-hour studio recording session at Sonic Recording Studios, a professional photo from Laura Michele Photos and a feature article in Gulf Coast Times. The battle and festival are presented by the Lee County Library System and are intended to encourage involvement in reading and the arts among middle and high school students.

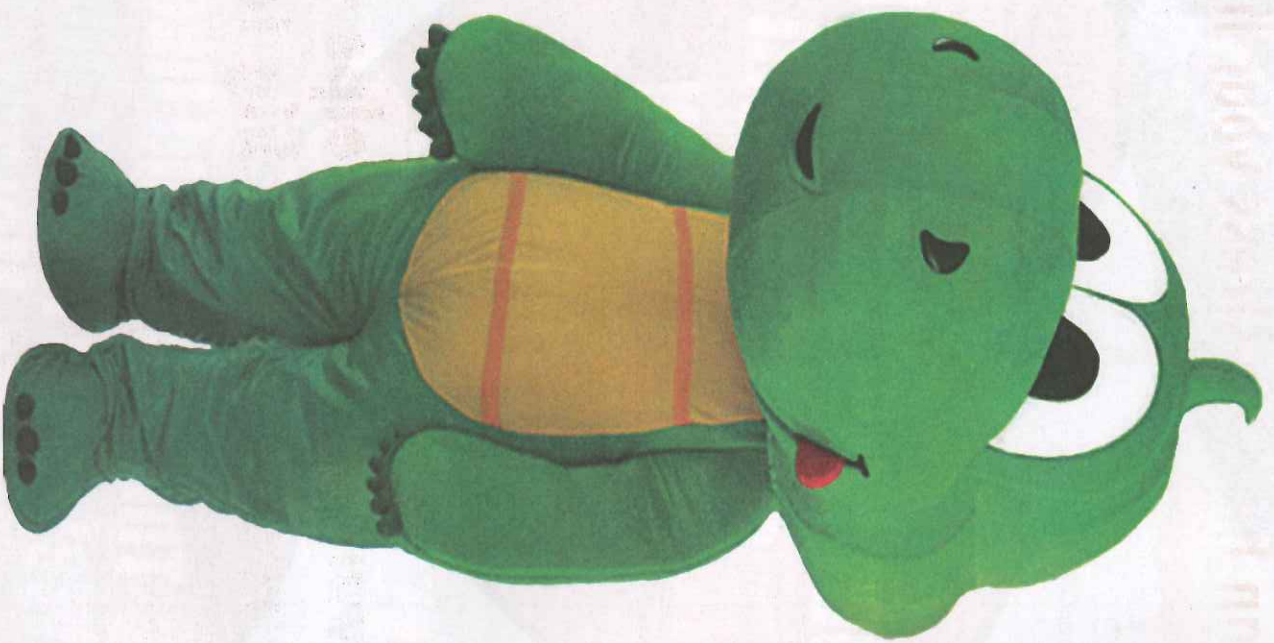
"The local teen talent is always astounding. We are again very excited about the Battle and the live performance opportunity this contest offers the teens in Southwest Florida," festival coordinator Margie Byers said.

For more information, or to enter a band go to www.ReadFest.org/BandBattle. Complete author information, schedules of festival activities, partner events, directions to the event and more, are available in the festival app available free at the App Store or Google Play, www.readfest.org or by calling 239-479-4636.

Edison Festival of Light Junior Court



The 2017 Edison Festival of Light Junior Court gathered Jan. 22 at the Edison and Ford Estates for an ice cream social. The 2017 court posed with the 2016 Junior king and queen, John Henry Longenhagen and Shannon Faith Nelson. The 2017 court will compete Feb. 12 and a new king and queen will be crowned immediately following the Junior Parade. The court includes Mckenna Cypress Atkinson, Jillian Mae Carter, Lydia Nicole Childress, Braelyn Reece Davis, Riley Jayne Hartley, Chloe Adams Heidt, Madison Liang Allie-Ann Kincade, Carolea Marie Long, Dozier Bruce Bartlett, Dominic Peter Consolazio, Elijah Timothy Hart, William Everett Kincade IV, Judson Lee Pentecost, Blake Michael Sewell and Grayson Bauer Tietz.



Meet ... Pickles the mascot for Family News

Lee County Family News is proud to announce we have a mascot for the No. 1 kid event magazine for 26 years.

Meet our new mascot ... Pickles. After a contest with our thousands of families of magazine readers, we selected the name Pickles as suggested by young Austin Arredia of Fort Myers. Austin and Pickles will ride in a car driven by Family News publisher Kathy Kuser in the Edison Festival of Light Junior Parade on Sunday, Feb. 12. Austin also wins a grand prize package of various gifts and goodies.