

IMMOKALEE BULLETIN

Serving Immokalee, Ave Maria and Eastern Collier County

Vol. 43 No. 10

Thursday, March 11, 2010

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Homeless prevention presentation planned

The Legal Aid Service of Collier County will be making an HPRP Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Grant Presentation on Thursday, March 18, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Carl J. Kuehner Community Center, 2449 Sanders Pines Circle, Immokalee. This presentation will provide information regarding your legal rights as a tenant, and your rights if you are facing eviction or if you are a tenant in a foreclosure home.

Homebuyer readiness workshops to be offered

The Empowerment Alliance of Southwest Florida is conducting a series of evening workshops designed to give prospective home buyers a comprehensive understanding of: Assessing Readiness to Buy, Financing a Home, Responsibilities of Home Ownership, Budgeting, Understanding Credit, Selecting a Home, Protecting your Investment. A Part I & II English/Creole Workshop will be offered on: Monday March 15, from 6-9 p.m. at: Career and Service Center of Southwest Florida, 750 South 5th Street, Immokalee. We will provide foreclosure assistance and work with lenders to help modify loans so clients can avoid foreclosure. Registration is limited so register early! To register; or for more information please call: Ana Salazar at: 239-658-3318

See Page 2 for information about how to contact the newspaper.

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Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Rick Heers

Return engagement

A week of hard work was put in by these 13 volunteers helping in the renovation of a home for a local disabled woman. The group from Michigan has been here before using their talents and skills as retired tradesmen to make a better local community for those in need. See I HOPE story Page 2

Leadership Council visits Immokalee

By Rick Heers

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

Nearly 50 members of the Greater Naples Leadership Council experienced the sights, sounds and people of Immokalee for a full day on Wednesday, March 3. Under the capable leadership of Dusti Beaubien, Dr. Carole Carpenter, John Cox and Wes Scott, the Masters Class XIV was treated to a full day of informational activities that began at 8:45 a.m.

First up: a guided bus tour of Immokalee with I HOPE Executive Director Rick Heers serving as the morning tour guide. They drove through various parts of Immokalee and viewing many sites of interest including the Immokalee Child Care Center and Guadalupe Early Learning Center, both heavily financed by the Naples Wine

Festival proceeds. The group was able to view some of the wonderful new housing developments, including the Empowerment Alliance's Milagro Place, Jubilation and Arrowhead Reserve. The tour included a number of FEMA mobile homes being set up by I HOPE for many first-time homeowners and several new "green" homes recently constructed by One by One Leadership Foundation and I HOPE for Hurricane Wilma victims.

The first of five panel discussions began at the iTECH Center's Auditorium with a presentation by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. Farm worker Nellie Rodriguez spoke and answered questions regarding what life was like for a farm worker in the fields of Immokalee.



Rick Heers, Dottie Cook, Esmeralda Serrata, Sheryl Soukup were a part of the group attending the Leadership Council meeting held at the iTECH Center Auditorium on March 3.

See GNLC — Page 2

Children need guidance through courts

By Patty Brant

Immokalee Bulletin

In a complicated world such as the courts, adults can rely on professionals like lawyers to guide them through the legal maze. So how much more difficult is it for a child? How easy is it for a child to get lost in a place like the court system?

In that very adult world, Guardians ad Litem (GAL) step in on behalf of the child. Guardians speak as an independent voice for a child caught up in the court system.

Guardians are assigned to children who are the victims of abuse, neglect and abandonment cases - not custody cases. Children caught up in abuse or neglect cases may be put into a shelter to safeguard them. They may be placed with a relative if possible, or in a foster home. In any case, it's a scary pros-

See GAL — Page 3

GNLC

Continued From Page 1

Translator Julia Perkins of Interfaith Action of South West Florida assisted in the presentation, which depicted the struggle that farm workers go through to make a living under very difficult circumstances. In addition to promoting fair wages for farm workers, the Coalition addresses the challenge of locating and helping prosecute those involved in human trafficking.

They were followed by a Panel on Childhood Education and Development. Ms. Leslie Moguil, Associate Director, filled in for RCMA Executive Director Barbara Mainster with a brief history of this program to help farm worker families that began with the Mennonites in 1965. She was followed by Mrs. Alicia Lino-Hodge, Director of Marketing for Guadalupe Center, who spoke on the challenges experienced by middle school students in Immokalee.

Richard Kent, Guidance Counselor at Immokalee High School, spoke very pointedly about the challenge that high school students experience and praised the value of mentoring programs for students at IHS. This discussion was concluded by an intriguing presentation by Sister Maureen Kelleher, Managing Attorney for the Legal Aid Service of Collier County. She spoke eloquently and passionately on behalf of undocumented youth and the challenges they face to move ahead in their education. She also works fervently on behalf of abused women and victims of crime.

An important piece of legislation, which she advised the group to follow and promote, is the "DREAM ACT" - pending legislation entitled Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act. It would authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain alien students who are long-term U.S. residents and entered the S.S. as children. It would also permit states to determine state residency for higher education purposes.

Lunch was provided by the iTECH Center culinary arts class. Dr. Dan Dentino, Dick Hailer, and Dr. Carpenter of Ave Maria and One by One Leadership Foundation Director of Mentoring, Sinclair Williams described their program, which provides valuable assistance to scores of IHS students. It assists many of them in continuing advanced studies in college. A number of the students

from the high school had an opportunity to address the GNLC members.

Following lunch the group boarded their bus for another brief tour, including Bethel Assembly of God Church for afternoon sessions. Rick Heers moderated the panel on Faith-Based Care of the Families in Immokalee.

R e v . Louis Wilson Joseph spoke regarding his ministry, primarily to the Haitian community through the Church of God. They also offer assistance to a number of Hispanic congregants. Frank Rincon, assistant pastor at Bethel Assembly of God Church, spoke of his church's 30+ year ministry to the Hispanic community, including a large section of farm workers. In addition to regular church services, the church conducts scores of home Bible studies, a variety of programs geared for youth and children several days a week, as well as an after school educational support program for 70 school-age youngsters five days per week. Rev. James Berger, Board of Directors for Peniel Presbyterian Church, explained a new work being pastured by Miguel Estrada which provides meals every Friday for 300-400 farm workers. After the recent freeze, those numbers have swelled to over 600.

Dr. Melanio Villarosa is a local pediatrician treating migrant children from 0-18 years of age, a work which has truly gained him the love, respect and admiration of the entire community. He shared his double ministry of coordinating a large and active Youth For Christ program and Couples United for Christ conducted under the auspices of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church.

The last group, a Panel on Housing Solutions, was moderated by John Cox. Sheryl Soukup, executive director for Immokalee Housing and Family Services. They spoke of their work to provide farm worker housing through their Sanders Pines and Timber Ridge rental properties. She also discussed their recently opened Community Center that serves children throughout the Eden Park area with quality after school, weekend and summer programs.



Farm worker Nellie Rodriguez speaks to the audience.

Esmeralda Serrata, Executive Director for Collier County Housing Authority, described their extensive migrant farm worker housing projects. The 641 unit Farm Worker Village and the Men's Dormitory-Horizon Village accommodates over 180 single men in a clean, comfortable, affordable housing development. Dottie Cook, Executive Director of the Empowerment Alliance of SW Florida, detailed their development of Milagro Place, a beautiful 26-unit housing complex for first time home buyers. They also provide HUD financed counseling services for any first time home buyers in the area. They are working on two new home owner developments. Hatcher's Preserve and Esperanza Place are being built in partnership with, and next door to, an IH&FS project which will feature new rental facilities for farm workers on Immokalee Drive.

Rick Heers, executive director of I HOPE, detailed the work done primarily in Hurricane Wilma recovery mostly through faith-based funds. This work has included rehabbing over 450 homes and mobile homes, set up 89 FEMA mobile homes, and built seven new homes free for very low-income families throughout Immokalee. Working collaboratively with other not-for-profit housing providers, and facilitated by the Immokalee Initiative of the Community Foundation of Collier County, they continue to search for funds to continue their building of homes for elderly, low-income residents in 'inner'

Immokalee.

The final presenter, local farmer Cecil Howell, captured the attention and admiration of the group as he shared what it was like to grow up as a child in Immokalee, go off to the University of Florida and gradually build up a farming business that is this year growing 350 acres of peppers and 250 acres of tomatoes. He shared in detail the tremendous hardships faced by local farmers, many of whom have recently gone out of business due to poor crops, the flooding of the U.S. markets with foreign-produced crops which are much cheaper due to cheaper labor, with much less regulation.

He said the recent freeze, increasing costs due to federal and state regulations, coupled with extremely negative and often fallacious charges by farm worker organizations, has made their already challenging job much more difficult. He shared from personal experience the genuine caring and respect that he and other small farmers, along with larger producers like 6 L's Farms and Pacific Farms, have for their laborers. According to much of the discussion that followed, his insights provided a much different picture of the local farmers than is usually portrayed. Their appreciation for his sincere and honest reporting was obvious.

After an informative day, the GNLC finished with a tour of Ave Maria Town, guided by Dr. Carole Carpenter.

Volunteers return to help IHOPE

By Rick Heers

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

Thirteen volunteers from the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee spent the week volunteering



Rick Heers

on a host of projects for IHOPE while staying at the First Baptist Church gymnasium. This was the second year that this group of retired tradesmen have volunteered a week to help the work of IHOPE. They also were able to use their first-class, commercially equipped kitchen and cafeteria facilities. While here, they completed renovated the mobile

home of a handicapped young woman who received her residence from her mother's estate. The roof had leaked into the ceiling; all the insulation was damp and needed to be replaced; the ceilings were also replaced. Financing for materials have come from donations to IHOPE. The workers also helped set up the new offices of I HOPE at First Baptist Church and assisted in relocating the large storage units to donated space at the Immokalee Airport.

While here the group visited one of our farms and saw first-hand the devastation that was caused by the recent freeze. They also took some time to take the great tour of Lake Trafford one afternoon, and were amazed at our local gator population. In spite of the cooler Immokalee weather, they were grateful not to be shoveling snow. Through their generosity they donated nearly \$1,000 along with their free labor to the IHOPE projects.

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- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

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To Submit News

The Immokalee Bulletin welcomes submissions from its readers. Opinions, calendar items, story ideas and photographs are welcome. Call (239) 657-6000 to reach our newsroom. The deadline for all news items is 11 a.m. on Monday prior to the following Thursday's publication.

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GAL

Continued From Page 1

pect for a child, to be taken out of the life they know - even if it's abusive - and placed in a strange environment.

The GAL is there for the child. They are volunteers who spend time with these children, talk to them, find out what they need and then get them the help they need. They are the lifeline for a child who otherwise can end up lost in the legal system.

Once a judge has the facts of a case, the parent will get a case plan from the Department of Children & Families- a list of things to do in order to "get right" with the law. The plan may include things like taking anger management or parenting classes and undergoing drug testing and counseling.

That's a major issue affecting children. In Collier County, some 90 percent of all abuse and neglect cases are drug related.

In December 2009 the courts hit an all time high for new children taken into the system. Fifty new cases were added that

month. January 2010 was also a "banner" month. It's unclear why there are so many new cases, but stress from the economy could be a major factor. According to Collier Volunteer Services Coordinator for Voices for Children/Guardian ad Litem Connie Sudbrook, summertime traditionally brings more children into the system. In February of this year there were 435 children in the GAL system in Collier; 1,258 in the 20th Circuit.

Collier County currently has a total 171 GAL volunteers, 19 of which are new. There are 435 cases in Collier County courts.

Last year, 11 percent of the children in the system were adopted.

The requirements to be a volunteer GAL are not stringent. You must be at least 19 years old. Volunteers are screened and will have a personal interview followed by a background check. No experience required - just a desire to help.

Classes for new volunteers are coming up in April. It involves three day of training - 24 hours in the classroom, two hours of court observation and two hours for the new volunteer to spend with his or her case coordinator. There is also Saturday training in Fort Myers for those who cannot do the weekday sessions.

Ms. Sudbrook said most volunteers only do one case at a time, averaging just 3-10 hours per month. Volunteers set appointments with the foster care family, relatives or may come unannounced.

Aside from visiting the child, volunteers may talk to the child's teacher, counselor or psychologist. They write a report on their findings for the court, report to the judge and may be asked for an oral statement in

the court.

Part of the training includes respect for various cultures; DCF, lawyer and court procedure; and talking to experienced Guardians. Mentors are also available for new Guardians. GALs can even request children of a certain age, gender, etc

Once a child has been removed from the home, the ultimate goal is to return them to the parent once the case management goals have been met. However, parental rights may be terminated in severe cases.

According to Ms. Sudbrook, most GAL volunteers stay with the program for a long time - evidence that it is a very rewarding experience.

The program is in need of bilingual volunteers especially for Immokalee. Please call 860-0297 if you have a little time and love to share with a child in need and being a Guardian ad Litem sounds like something you might be interested in.

(Next week: Interviews with two local volunteers)

National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS:

March 11: FREE HIV Testing: Marion E. Fether Medical Center; FREE Rapid HIV Testing: Collier County Health Dept.- Immokalee

March 12: FREE HIV Testing: Marion E. Fether Medical Center; FREE Rapid HIV Testing: Collier County Health Dept.- Immokalee from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

March 18: FREE HIV Testing: Seminole Indian Tribe-Immokalee, 1-4 p.m.

March 23: FREE HIV testing: Edison College.- Naples from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

For more information contact Ray Cardenas, HIV/AIDS Prevention & Training Consultant, Collier County Health Department, 239-252-8352.

Phone Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers

With Link-Up America and Lifeline Assistance Programs, qualified low-income telephone customers can save money on installation charges and the monthly rate for basic local residential service. This includes access to long distance carriers, Emergency Services, Operator Services, Directory Assistance and Toll Blocking.

Link-Up America is a federally-sponsored program that provides discounted service installation charges to qualifying low-income customers. It provides a 50 percent discount, up to a maximum of \$30 for new residential installation charges for telephone service. The balance of the installation charges can be paid, interest free, over a 12 month period. In addition, the monthly service charge for toll restriction will be waived for customers requesting or required to have the service.

Lifeline Assistance is another federally-sponsored program for low-income customers. It provides a discount to the monthly charge for basic residential telephone service. Lifeline Assistance Program rates have been reduced and guidelines have been changed to allow for more low-income customers.

To qualify for both programs, customers may enroll in the CenturyLink Lifeline program by providing verification that they meet state low-income eligibility requirements. In addition, Tribal Telephone Assistance is available for those living on federally-recognized American Indian Tribal lands.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-800-366-8201 or visit www.centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline/Link-Up programs.



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State provides disaster assessment training

I HOPE Executive Director Rick Heers attended a day-long training by Emily Meyer, Coordinator of Preliminary Disaster Assessment along with 35-40 other first responders from Collier and Lee County. The session which is accompanied by state certification assists local authorities in the process for determining post-disaster assessment of damage in local communities. The goal of this training is not simply to assess the damage done in a local disaster, but to help prioritize

emergency response and recovery resources, but to properly go through the process that could lead to a Presidential Declaration of a disaster. One of the important aspects of the training was to show the partnerships that were an integral part of disaster recovery on the local, county, state and federal level. The key contact person in Collier County should there be a natural disaster is Richard A. Zyzoloski Jr., FPEM, Coordinator, Collier County Emergency Management

Department. At the conclusion of the seminar all participants were led through a test

to check their understanding of the material presented.

Immokalee Seminoles registration to open

The 2010 registration deadline is coming soon. Please note the following registration dates: March 27, at sports complex from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. April 24, at sports complex from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. May 4, 11, 18, 25 at sports complex from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. June 19, - last registration at sports complex from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Bring: 2 x 2 picture or wallet size (no hat or sunglasses); Copy of birth certificate; Sports physical; Last report card (due June 19) Fee: \$100 Per child (football); \$160 Per child (cheer).

We will have the other forms that parents need to fill out to complete registration!

IWSD: backflow residential devices

The Immokalee Water & Sewer District has received funding through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) to provide backflow prevention devices for all residential properties in the District.

The District has had a Cross Connection Control Program in place since September 1995. However, the program previously has only been enforced for commercial customers, or businesses in Immokalee. This funding has allowed us to expand the program to the residential customers. The District has hired a contractor, MAJ Contracting, Inc., of Fort Myers, to begin the process of installing backflow prevention devices on all of the residential water meters in the Immokalee Water & Sewer District.

The purpose of the Cross Connection

Control Program is to provide for the maintenance and operation of a continuing program which will systematically and effectively prevent the contamination or pollution of IWSD's water distribution system due to cross connections, as required by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The installation of the backflow prevention devices will assist in the protection of the District's public potable (drinking) water supply from the possibility of contamination or pollution by isolating actual and/or potential cross-connections in the water distribution system that could create backflow into the public potable water supply.

They will also promote the elimination and control of cross-connections (actual or potential) between the District's potable water system(s), and any other system(s) or plumbing fixtures. Please contact our office at 239-658-3630 with questions.

Scholar Bowl is close in final match

The District School Board of Collier County's 21st Annual High School Scholar Bowl results are in. A total of nine local high school teams entered into the competition which came down to a battle of the wills between the defending 2009 champions, Barron Collier High School, and the Community School of Naples. Congratulations to Community School of Naples as they edged out Barron Collier by the score of 239-267-253. Naples High School rounded out the top three with a score of 142.

Replays of the High School Scholar Bowl will be shown on The Education Channel, cable 99, on the following schedule:

- Friday, March 12, and Monday, March 15

- Noon on Saturday and Sunday, March 13 and 14.

The All-County Team will be announced later this week, with members representing Collier County at the prestigious 25th State Commissioner's Academic Challenge in Orlando on April 15-17.

A thank you goes out to all of this year's participating high school teams: Barron Collier, Community School of Naples, Golden Gate, Gulf Coast, Immokalee, Lely, Naples, Palmetto Ridge, and St. John Neumann Catholic School.

To learn more, please contact Nina Ribinski at the district office at 239-377-0134.

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Butter is a short hair brown and white very sweet rabbit who loves to be held and hangout with you. Butter's adoption fee is \$5.

Peanut is a female 1 year old tan and black rabbit. Peanut enjoys your company likes to be sociable with all people. Peanut's adoption fee is \$5. Adopt from Collier County Domestic Animal Services located in Naples at 7610 Davis Blvd. Call 239-252-PETS (7387) or visit DAS online to find a lost or adoptable pet at: www.collierpets.com. Adoption is a \$400 value including spay/neuter, starter bag of pet food, pet micro chip ID and pet's license. Cats are \$60 to adopt and dogs are \$85.



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Questions answered by new board member

Collier County's newest School Board Member, Roy Terry, guests with Superintendent Dennis L. Thompson on the latest edition of the eConnection television program, on TV 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday now through March 20, on The Education Channel, Comcast cable 99. On the show, the two leaders field questions that had been e-mailed to eConnection by viewers. They were asked about collaboration between the Superintendent, administrators and teachers, the need to teach about basic finances or "practical math" in high school, about

suspension being used as punishment, and about students receiving free breakfast at school. There is also a question on this show about career academies, and another about the success of Lorenzo Walker Technical High School.

School Board Member Pat Carroll will guest on the next eConnection show to be taped on March 18. If you have a question you'd like to ask her or Dr. Thompson, please e-mail it now to eConnection@collier.k12.fl.us. First names only are used on air.

Local Forecast

Weather forecast for Collier County from the National Weather Service

Immokalee and surrounding area

Thursday: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 83. South wind between 8 and 11 mph.

Thursday night: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 67. Southeast wind between 5 and 7 mph.

Friday: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Mostly cloudy, with a high

near 83. Breezy, with a south wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Friday night: A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 64. West wind between 6 and 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 79. Breezy, with a west wind between 6 and 16 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.

Saturday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 55.

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Apartments

Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF MEETING

There will be a Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the Immokalee Water & Sewer District on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at 3:30 P.M. at the office of the Immokalee Water & Sewer District, located at 1020 Sanitation Rd, Immokalee, FL 34142.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order
 2. Preliminaries
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Employee Recognition
 - 1. January Employee of the Month-Jean Pierre Louis
 - E. Public Concerns
 - F. Staff Good Cause Items
 - G. Board Concerns
 - H. Old Business
 - I. New Business
 3. Consent Agenda
 - A. Adoption of Minutes
 - 1. February 17, 2010 Regular Meeting
 - B. Civil Rights Compliance Report
 - C. January Budget Review
 - D. Fixed Assets Acquisitions-Disposals
 - E. Various Reports
 - F. USDA/FDEP Reporting for Stimulus Money
 - G. Project Change Orders
 - H. Engineer's Report - AECOM
 - I. Director's Report
 4. Action Agenda
 5. Discussion Agenda
 6. Other Public Interests
 7. Adjournment
- 348029 IB 3/11/10



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LEGAL NOTICE

DeMott Auction gives notice of intent, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes, to sell the following vehicles:

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Immokalee to celebrate 50th Harvest Fest

It's an Immokalee tradition of 50 years with a spirit linked to the ancient days of early agriculture: celebrating the harvest.

Immokalee's 50th Harvest Festival is set for March 20, at the John Jimmie Memorial Arena – the Seminole Rodeo Grounds - on the Seminole Tribal Land, 1195 State Road 29 in Immokalee.

The event will begin with a Saturday pa-

rade at 10 a.m. and include a ranch rodeo; a children's pavilion and bounce house; an authentic Seminole Indian camp site and alligator wrestling.

The Shy Wolf Animal Sanctuary will provide a wolf exhibition. There will be craft and food vendors galore and a Wild Hog BBQ featuring the famous Immokalee Salad.

Featured performers are county and

western Grammy Award winners Confederate Railroad and local talent, Blackwater.

Admission will be \$5 and children 12 and under will be admitted free.

Check out www.immokaleeharvestfestival.com for more details and directions.

The 50th Harvest Festival is sponsored by The Eastern Collier Chamber of Commerce, the Immokalee Community Redevelopment Agency, Collier County Board of County Commissioners, The Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., The Seminole Casino in Immokalee, The Barron Collier Company, Collier Enterprises, Collier Health Services, Inc., Hodges University, and Budweiser.

For more information call: 866-657-3237 or 239-657-3237.

Lions Club to hold free eye clinic

Lions Club will provide free eye exams tests for adults and children on Sunday, March 21, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration closes at 12:30 p.m. at the iTECH Center, 508 Ninth Street, Immokalee. Eye screening for Glaucoma, Cataracts, Macular Degeneration; tests for diabetes and blood pressure. free eye glasses. In partnership with: Collier County Health Dept., Friendship Health Clinic; Congressional Glaucoma Caucus, Bonita Springs Lions Eye Clinic; Edison College School of Nursing, Marion E. Feather Medical Center.

Ave Maria University dedicates Henkels Academic building

More than 50 members of Paul M. Henkels' family gathered on Feb. 19, with Ave Maria University (AMU) officials, staff and students, at a ceremony to dedicate the Paul M. Henkels Academic Building. Henkels, who passed away in January 2009, was AMU's former Chairman of the Board and a life-long proponent of education.

The academic building is named in Henkels' honor in recognition of a \$5 million donation given to AMU from the Henkels Foundation.

AMU Chancellor, Thomas S. Monaghan, has often noted his respect for Henkels' commitment to Catholic education and his uncompromised leadership to provide more educational options for underprivileged children.

"Paul's activity, generosity and leadership at AMU and throughout the country are incomparable," Monaghan said. "It is our great pleasure to dedicate the Paul M. Henkels Academic Building."

Henkels' passion and devotion to education at all levels was manifested throughout his life's work. Though his business prowess as CEO of Henkels & McCoy, Inc., helped grow the Pennsylvania company into a billion-dollar global engineering and construction firm, his true calling was working to further and enhance education.

One of Henkels' greatest achievements was being the co-founder of REACH Alliance (Road to Educational Achievement through Choice), an organization that worked to offer more choices of schools for students in Pennsylvania and throughout the nation. Through REACH, Henkels was largely responsible for the creation and implementation of Pennsylvania's Educational and Improvement Tax Credit (EITC).

The program provides companies with a 90 percent tax credit on any donation made to a non-profit scholarship fund that gives parents of disadvantaged children more choices of schools for their children.

Along with his wife, Barbara, Henkels also co-founded two classical Catholic grammar schools, Regina Coeli Academy and Regina Angelorum Academy, offering Pre-K through eighth grade classes.

The schools are rooted in a liberal arts

course of study in a wholesome and rigorous academic environment and employ Catholic faculty who integrate the Magisterial teaching and tradition of the Catholic Church throughout the curriculum.

In addition to serving on AMU's Board of Trustees, Henkels served on a number of other educational and philanthropic boards and was an active member of Legatus, The Papal Foundation and the Arts and Letters Advisory Council of Notre Dame University.

In 1958, as a young 26 year-old businessman, Henkels created the Henkels Foundation and immediately began pledging one-third of his salary to the organization – a practice he continued throughout his career. The philanthropic efforts of the foundation were, and continue to be, numerous.

Henkels also worked closely with Monaghan in the development of Legatus (Latin for "ambassador"), which is an international organization of Catholic CEOs and presidents committed to studying, living and spreading their faith through their professional and personal lives.

When Monaghan founded Legatus, Henkels was a catalyst for the Philadelphia Chapter and became a key member of its National Board and helped form the organization during its early years.

Henkels' honors include: the Coggeshall Award of the National Electric Contractors Association for his work in labor relations and codes and standards; Sourin Award from the Catholic Philopatrian Literary Institute; Hogan Award from St. Joseph's University; the Award for Excellence from the Commission for Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania; and the Barry Award from the National Catholic Historical Society.

AMU has had the special privilege of having close connections with Henkels. He served as a trustee since the university's inception and as Chairman of the Board from August 2006 to his passing in January 2009.

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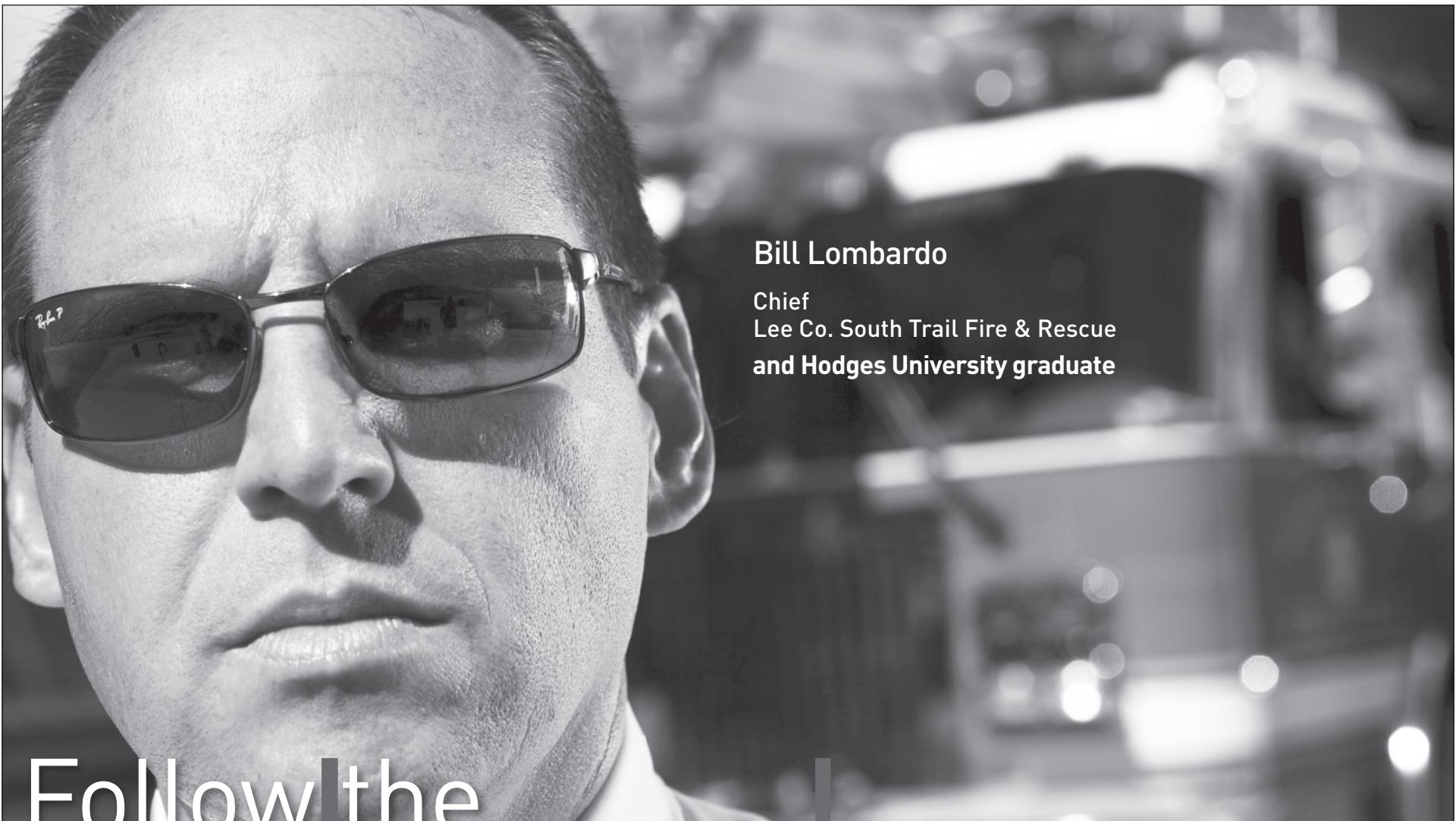
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