

BULLETIN

Serving Immokalee, Ave Marie and Eastern Collier County

Vol. 43 No. 14

Thursday, April 8, 2010

50¢ Plus tax

Clerk's Office will remain open

Dwight Brock, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Collier County, will keep the Clerk's Immokalee satellite office open despite the court's recent decision to suspend all of its court and court related functions, including Probation, in Immokalee as of June 1, 2010.

The Clerk of Courts Office will continue, for now, to provide regular services to residents as it has done in the past.

Dwight Brock requested and received input from the public as he considered closing the Clerk's satellite office in light of the Court's recent decision. After receiving phone calls, emails and letters from residents, as well as a petition signed by over 600 people, Dwight Brock decided that the need for the Clerk's services in the Immokalee area is too great to close the office; and that closing the Clerk's office would create a significant hardship for many of its residents.

"We have been serving the people in the Immokalee area for over 20 years, and we will continue to provide Clerk's services to the public regardless of the Court's decision to suspend their operations in Immokalee."

"We will continue to monitor the financial situation of our office but, for now, the people of Immokalee need convenient access to court related services that can only be provided by the Clerk of Courts", stated Dwight. "We will not turn our back on the many

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

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Easter: Joining together Churches unite for Easter service



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Rick Heers
Immokalee Pastors-Dennis Norvell, Art Garza, Bronc Flint, Merritt Waters, Jean Paul, and Rick Heers.



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Rick Heers
The Gerardo Gonzalez family with nine beautiful children get the award for the biggest single family attending the service.

By Rick Heers

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

Long before the sun arose at 7:13 a.m. on Easter Sunday morning over 150 Christians joined together for praise, worship, singing, and preaching at the Immokalee Sports Complex. Led by the Immokalee Christian Fellowship, a group of evangelical churches, families from across Immokalee joined together to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, and to pray as Immokalee struggles through some challenging times.

A BIG thanks goes to the Immokalee Parks and Rec for providing their soccer fields, bleachers, lights and generator sandwiched in between two days of Easter and soccer activities at their site. By their community support they have truly become a valuable partner...thanks especially for Joe Boney coming out shortly after 5 a.m. to get everything set. It

See Easter — Page 2

I Hope, World Vision partner

Once again families in Immokalee have been greatly helped by the valuable partnerships that I HOPE has forged with World Vision and churches in and around Immokalee.

For one week, during their Spring break, a large group of 37 volunteers from a United Methodist Church in Helena, Montana traveled across the United States to join with a smaller group of youth and adults from a Lutheran Church on Marco Island and World Vision staff from Philippi, West Virginia to work together on a number of projects in and around Immokalee.

Their hard work generated over \$70,000.00 worth of 'in-kind' assistance to the work of I HOPE.

Among the projects that occupied most of their days while here were repairing the bedroom and bathroom of a local senior citizen who has been hospitalized for the past several months. Her flooring on her home was replaced, along with floor joists that had deteriorated due to standing moisture.

Walls were painted and fixtures were replaced in her renovated home. Another mobile home that had fallen into serious disrepair was remodeled, with new counters, cabinets and flooring.

While here a portion of the group worked in I HOPE's Piper Lane mobile home park pressure cleaning a number of mobile homes.

Another team did a fantastic job of pressure cleaning the walkways around the host church, First Baptist Church, and re-striping their parking area.

For many of the volunteers, most of whom had never visited Florida

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Easter

Continued From Page 1

is wonderful to witness such cooperation among community organizations, churches and businesses.

Bethel Assembly of God Church provided the sound system and a praise team to lead in worship, while messages were provided in Spanish by Art Garza of Bethel, English by Pastor Dennis Norvell of First Baptist Church, and Haitian-Creole by Pastor Jean Paul of the Immokalee Church of the Nazarene. Pastors Bronc Flint of the Family Prayer Center, and Merritt Waters of First

United Methodist Church also participated in the service. A love offering was provided for the Immokalee Pregnancy Center.

Following the service a free breakfast of pancakes and sausage was provided at the First Baptist Church, prepared by members of First Baptist and Friendship Baptist. The food was provided thanks to the generous donation of The Bruce Hendry Insurance Agency along with a special gift from our local Winn-Dixie Grocery Store.

Vision

Continued From Page 1

previously, a highlight was a special airboat tour around Lake Trafford, sponsored by Ski Oleski, owner of Lake Trafford Marina. Most had never seen live alligators before, or large snakes up close and personal. It added a pleasant start to their hard week of service.

Another highlight of the week was Tuesday's ministry of preparing food for the unemployed farm laborers in and around Immokalee.

Over 300 youth and parents joined together Tuesday afternoon to put together over 66,000 prepared meals of dried rice, beans, vegetables with chicken seasoning and enriched with a variety of healthy minerals! In an assembly-line like production at the Immokalee Middle School gymnasium, youth and adults worked side by side measuring, checking, sealing over 11,000 packages each containing the equivalent of 6 nutritious meals.

Through special gifts obtained by supporters of World Vision the resources valued at over \$10,000.00 were provided through local representative of Kids Against Hunger, Steven Popper.

After completing the food project, over 150 of the youth joined together for a giant pizza party and youth rally sponsored by Bethel Assembly of God Church under the direction of Assistant Pastor Frank Rincon. Countless local youth from many churches joined together to make this a fantastic day of service and fun for the needy in Immokalee.

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.

Motivated by their faith in Jesus Christ, World Vision serves alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

While the emphasis of World Vision is still largely on foreign projects, Immokalee has been 'adopted' as a partner in their new emphasis on United States programs.

On this Spring break trip, World Vision has worked with One By One Leadership Foundation of Southwest Florida to provide coordination for this special project.

Plans are under way to prepare for additional World Vision short term mission groups to visit Immokalee this summer in order to work alongside I HOPE on future projects.

Clerk

Continued From Page 1

residents who need these services located in their rural community."

For more information about the Clerk's Immokalee satellite office, its location and services go to www.CollierClerk.com click on "Clerk's Office" then "Office Locations."



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Rick Heers
Many Immokalee Christians came together to celebrate their most sacred day, Easter Sunday.

Informative night for parents of teen drivers planned

If you're the parent of a child who just started driving or is about to do so, then you won't want to miss an important meeting aimed at giving you and your child the necessary tools to help them be safe when behind the wheel.

Parent Night for Driver Education, beginning at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 20, in room 1-105 of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Administrative Center located at 5775 Osceola Trail (behind Barron Collier High School), will educate you in several areas associated with teen driving.

The event is expected to last approximately one hour.

Sponsored by the School District of Collier County, Collier County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), Nationwide Insurance, and the Florida Highway Department of Motor Vehicles (FLDMV), Parent Night for Driver Education will feature a panel of speakers including

Robin Browning from the FLDMV, School District of Collier County Driver Education Instructor Kim Francisco, Darrel Kehne and John Barraco from the CCSO, and Greg Thomas from Nationwide Insurance.

Topics such as awareness of driver education curriculum, insuring the teen driver, a parent's role in coaching your teen's driving, and traffic laws that affect teen drivers will be covered.

So if your child just received their license or permit, or if they're preparing to obtain either one, make sure to attend this event and learn about the critical areas of significance connected to teen driving.

To learn more, please contact Coordinator of Student Drug Testing and Driver Education Nancy Tarrete at 239-377-0128 or via e-mail at tarretna@collier.k12.fl.us.

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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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Our Purpose...

The Immokalee Bulletin is published by Independent Newspapers of Florida. Independent is owned by a unique trust that enables this newspaper to pursue a mission of journalistic service to the citizens of the community. Since no dividends are paid, the company is able to thrive on profit margins below industry standards. All after-tax surpluses are reinvested in Independent's mission of journalistic service, commitment to the ideals of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and support of the community's deliberation of public issues.

We Pledge...

- To operate this newspaper as a public trust
- To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
- To provide the information citizens need to make their own intelligent decisions about public issues.
- To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
- To disclose our own conflicts of interest or potential conflicts to our readers.
- To correct our errors and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

DLC recognizes Alcohol Awareness Month

Education events, free screenings planned

For most adults, moderate alcohol use causes few, if any, problems. But for some, any alcohol use may lead to significant health problems.

Trying to figure out the risks associated with alcohol use is not easy because each person's body reacts differently at different times.

To protect yourself, it is important to figure out where you should draw the line when consuming alcohol – where do you draw the line as you get older, if you are trying to get pregnant, if you have a family history of alcohol abuse, if you develop a medical condition, or if you take certain medications. For children, any use of alcohol is obviously illegal.

In addition to legal problems, school suspension and revocation of school privileges such as participating in sporting and social events, alcohol experimentation and abuse can lead to risky behaviors such as sexual promiscuity, poor decision making and driving under the influence.

Kids, who don't yet understand the affects that alcohol can have on them, are at risk of alcohol poisoning which can lead to accidental death.

Alcohol abuse and addiction can impact many aspects of your life.

The long term medical complications from abusing alcohol can include gastrointestinal problems, liver disorders, heart

disease and reproduction and pregnancy problems.

Heavy drinkers develop a tolerance for alcohol, which means that larger amounts are needed to get the desired effect.

You are physically dependent if you experience withdrawal symptoms such as delirium tremors, cramps, vomiting, elevated blood pressure, sweating, dilated pupils, sleep problems, irritability, and convulsions when you try to stop drinking.

Short-term memory loss and blackouts are common among heavy drinkers. From an emotional perspective, you can lose your self respect, dignity and emotional control leading to depression and in worst cases suicide.

This downward spiral can negatively affect your relationships, grades and ability to work.

It has been widely documented that another devastating fact of alcoholism is the impact it can have on children of alcoholics. Due to their parents' emotional state and lack of supervision, they are at risk of physical illness and injury, neglect, emotional disturbances, educational deficits and behavior problems.

Perhaps most troubling, is the fact that children of alcoholics are two to four times more likely to become problem drinkers and continue the addictive practices of their parents.

In honor of National Alcohol Awareness Month held every April, the David Lawrence Center, Collier County's only community mental health and substance abuse treatment center, is offering the following educational opportunities and free, anonymous alcohol screenings throughout the month:

Prevention Education Presentation about Signs and Symptoms of Alcoholism

Agencies, schools, community groups, churches and businesses can request a free, customized educational presentation about substance abuse targeted towards children, adults or seniors.

Call 239-455-8500 extension 2209 to schedule a presentation for your organization.

Free and Confidential Alcohol Screenings
Talk privately with a health professional and receive information about local resources. Those who may need further evaluation will receive treatment referrals and recommendations.

David Lawrence Center Horseshoe Drive Satellite Office, 2806 South Horseshoe Call 239-455-8500 extension 2209 to schedule an appointment or get more information.

TV panel show

The April edition of the School District of Collier County's monthly live TV talk show is scheduled to air at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 12, on The Education Channel, cable 99. Open Mic – Open Dialogue features an in-studio panel discussing the issues and challenges facing our schools and the district, with community members joining on the phone.

Parents Colleen Vasey and Dan Sullivan will sit with Superintendent Dennis L. Thompson and School Board Member Roy Terry. Colleen Vasey serves on the School Advisory Council at Veterans Memorial Elementary School and on the school district's standard-based report card committee. Dan Sullivan is School Advisory Council Chair at Oakridge Middle School. Call in at any time between 5:30-6:30 p.m. Monday, April 12. Call: 239-377-9999. First names only are used on air.

Open Mic – Open Dialogue is moderated by Naples Daily News Editorial Page Editor Jeff Lytle. He is not paid by the district and the questions he asks as moderator are his own. To participate as panelists on future editions send an e-mail to TVpanel@collier.k12.fl.us or call the district's Communications Services Department at 377-0180.

It will be live Monday, April 12, with replays at 5:30 p.m. April 13-25, on The Education Channel, cable 99, available to all Comcast basic tier cable TV subscribers in Collier County.

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Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Ninfa Drago
Immokalee High School Key Club students include Maria Bustamante, president of the Key Club of Immokalee High, and the secretary, Anayerli Abarca along with myself and Juan Medina. The Key Club and Mr. Medina sponsored the showing of the documentary Immokalee USA, which was shown at Immokalee TECH. Admission was canned food and a monetary donation. The event was an eye opener. They were able to raise a total of \$600 for Guadalupe Social Services, one of the largest agencies assisting thousands of our migrant workers and their families. Many were affected by the freeze which devastated the vegetables in and around the state. The Key Club would like to thank all the people for their support and their donations to the cause.

School Briefs

Free On-Line Tutoring

Free online tutoring service by Tutor.com connects students to expert tutors for assistance with math, science, social studies, English, chemistry, book reports and more using the Internet. The Immokalee Branch Library is here to help! Available to students K to adult Monday-Friday from 2 p.m until close at Immokalee Community Park, 417 N. First Street. Call 239-657-2882.

Answer computer questions

Bilingual staff from Naples Free-Net answers your computer and Internet related questions. Class size is limited to 7. The classes will take place on Thursdays, March 11, April 15, May 13, at 6 p.m. at Immokalee Community Park at 417 N. First St. in Immokalee. Call 239-657-2882 for information.

IHS to hold 20 year reunion

June 12-13 Immokalee High School old classmates will come together and reconnect. The class of 1990 is celebrating the occasion with a memorable reunion. All of the fun will take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Fort Myers. Events include a reception dinner, dancing and lots of reminiscing. The weekend-long event will continue the following afternoon with a "Family Day" at Lakes Regional Park. Park plans include an old fashioned cookout and activities for the entire family. For more information and to register, please go to: www.classreport.org <<http://www.classreport.org/>>. Click your way to the IHS site and sign up to be included in all of the announcements and updates. You can also e-mail Pete Cade at: pcade@hodges.edu or call him at: 863-228-1359. The deadline to register is approaching - do not delay. Hope to see you there!

I.H.S. student named scholarship winner

Congratulations are in order for Immokalee High School (IHS) senior Eusyher (Elsie) Mendoza. Elsie has earned a \$1,000 scholarship winner from the National Beta Club's Scholarship and Recognition Program of the Educational Testing Service.

She is one of only 217 Beta Club recipients nationwide to be given the scholarship. Elsie may use the cash award toward tuition, books and academic supplies for college.

Elsie has several other accomplishments to go along with her \$1,000 scholarship.

She is President of the I.H.S. Beta Club, and is also a Harris Leader - an award named in honor of The National Beta Club's founder, John W. Harris, that is used to recognize outstanding leadership exhibited by 25 National Beta Club members and 25 National Junior Beta Club members.

I.H.S. Principal Linda Salazar expressed how extraordinary Elsie's accomplishments are, saying, "Elsie is an exemplary student. As such, we expect she will receive many recognitions and awards."

"However, Elsie is the first Beta member we have ever had be a Harris Leader and a scholarship winner! She deserves recognition for this wonderful achievement."

The National Beta Club Scholarship Program offers over \$250,000 in scholarships to outstanding Beta Club members in their

senior year. More than 200 scholarships are awarded each year.

They range in value from \$1,000 to \$15,000.

Selection of National Beta Club Scholars is based on a number of factors with special emphasis on academic excellence, demonstrated leadership, character, school and community service and participation in National Beta Club activities.

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Ave Maria Dance Academy

spending their advertising dollars wisely!

"From the beginning, there was no question that we would place an ad for our Dance School in the *Immokalee Bulletin*. Starting out, as a small, young business, we needed to be cautious with our advertising dollars and with the *Immokalee Bulletin's* great rates we were able to stick to our budget and still bring in customers. We've had an overwhelming response since we began our ad last July. I always ask new dancers how they heard about us, and time and time again I hear "the Bulletin".

"The sales staff has always been incredibly responsive and helpful, with the design of our ad and have always made the process very smooth. It's just great knowing that our ads for the summer dance intensives, the summer camp and youth theater classes are working!" Karen Ledesma said of the of the *Immokalee Bulletin*.

Husband Appreciation Day is April 18

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Students First

Social networking - too many tweets?

By Joe Landon
Collier County District Schools

So, I have a rather personal question for you this week. Do you “tweet” or have a Facebook page? More importantly, if you have a teenage son or daughter who tweets and welcomes friends to a Facebook account, or uses MySpace or YouTube, then you’ll want to join us for a forum on social media the evening of April 19, at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Administrative Center in Naples (behind Barron Collier High School). Social media/social networking, the consequences, risks, and legal challenges will all be dealt with by a panel of experts that evening. There isn’t a day that goes by where we don’t hear about something shocking happening in the social media arena – a child posts something on Facebook that seems funny at first, but then it’s perceived another way by someone, and the child’s life (and that of the child’s parents) is changed forever! And the social media landscape is changing so quickly. Have you heard of MocoSpace? I didn’t until last week when I saw the story on an Orlando TV station about a 31-year-old Osceola County man who met a 14-year-old girl online, at MocoSpace.com. The two began having chats and then secretly met in person. Now he’s facing five counts of molestation among other charges. MocoSpace, as I have since learned, is a social



network specifically designed for use on a mobile device as part of what they call a “mobile social network.” They say MocoSpace is the largest mobile social network in the U.S. with more than 10 million registered users, yet I hadn’t heard about it until last week. Also last week, you may have heard news about a case of cyber bullying that happened on Facebook and in other electronic forms. The result: A freshman in high school, in Massachusetts, committed suicide and now nine fellow students face serious charges in connection with the young girl’s death. How sad.

There are many more examples we could share, but the point again is that even something we may think is funny or harmless can be used against us when made public or when it draws the attention of others. That’s why we think it would be good for all of us to learn more about Social Media – to find out what’s safe, and what isn’t. Please join us from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, April 19, for our community forum at the administrative center in Naples. It promises to be an evening well spent. If you can’t make it to Naples, we’ll have the forum for you on LIVE TV, on The Education Channel, Comcast cable 99.



Submitted photo/Cherryle Thomas

Seniors celebrate Easter

Seniors from the Roberts Senior Center participated in creating an Egg-Tree with handcrafted items and homemade spirit. The seniors also enjoyed an old-fashioned Easter Sunday dinner with others at the center and guests. Those participating included: (center seated) Sarah Lloyd and Maria Lightner. In the back row are: Daisy Linington, Lucy Borden, Bernice Abrams, Vern Henderson, Easter Dixon, Geneva Walker, Dorothy Harris and Juanita Hosie.

Community Briefs

I.H.S. race against cancer

Immokalee High School will hold a mini relay in support of Relay for Life. Walk with them April 17, beginning at 9 a.m. from the high school past the football field, down Main Street, Immokalee Road and back to the high school. Just a \$5 registration fee will help support the cause. You can preregister by sending your check to Immokalee High School Athletic Dept., Atten: Mrs. Ayers, 701 Immokalee Drive, Immokalee FL 34142. For more information, contact Kelly Stevenson at 239-377-1920.

ton at Guadalupe Social Services of Catholic Charities at 239-657-6242.

Casino collecting for Haiti

The Seminole Tribe and Seminole Indian Casinos, in association with Food for the Poor, are collecting donations for victims of the Haitian earthquake tragedy. Non-perishables, water, personal items and other items are needed. Items may be dropped off at the casino.

Library presents Story Time

Immokalee Branch Library, 417 N. First St. will present Story Time on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. “ABC Combined Story Time” is open to children age 10 months-5 years. Bring your child and enjoy a good story! For information please call 239-657-2882.

Questions for school district leaders invited

The Superintendent and the School Board Chair are currently welcoming viewer e-mail questions for this week’s eConnection TV show taping. The e-mail address: eConnection@collier.k12.fl.us. On the show, questions submitted by viewers will be answered by Dr. Dennis L. Thompson and Kathy Curatolo. Questions may also be sent directly to the eConnection show host, Jan Goldsmith, at janeducationtv@aol.com.

Volunteers needed

The School on Wheels Program at Guadalupe Social Services of Catholic Charities in Immokalee is in need of female volunteers. The program matches volunteers with non-English speaking women for one-on-one tutoring sessions. Volunteers travel to the home of the student once a week to provide a 90-minute teaching session in basic, survival English.

First names only are used on air. The eConnection show is on TV nightly (Monday thru Saturday) at 9 p.m. on The Education Channel, Comcast cable 99. The show being taped this week will begin airing on Monday, April 5. The current show, on this week and next, features the Superintendent and School Board Member Pat Carroll fielding viewer questions.

Coaches - Players - Sports Fans

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AWAY

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Some 800 and 900 telephone numbers may require an extra charge, as well as long distance toll costs. We will do our best to alert our reader of these charges in the ads, but occasionally we may not be aware of the charges. Therefore, if you call a number out of your area, use caution.

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Immokalee Sports Network

Upcoming golf tourney to benefit local housing

On Monday, April 12, Immokalee Housing and Family Services will be holding a ProAm Golf Tournament at Pelican Marsh Golf Club.

You could help out by organizing a team to play in the golf tournament or by coming to the dinner & auction in the evening.

The mission of IHFS is to provide decent, safe, affordable housing with supportive social services for farm workers and other low income families in Immokalee and to inspire residents to strengthen their community and achieve additional skills and education.

The event will help IHFS raise money to support its programs and services, including:

- * Early Beginnings preschool for children age 2-5
- * After School Enrichment and Summer Camp for students in K-6
- * iTeens Youth Program for students in grades 7-12
- * Adult Literacy & GED classes
- * Computer Education
- * Community Gardening
- * Holiday Assistance
- * Residents' Council

Some features of the event: There will be a pro playing with every foursome in this mixed scramble 2:00 p.m. shotgun. Bring your wives, husbands or significant others. Organize a foursome from

your club, workplace, or church and play with friends. If you register as an individual or a twosome, we can pair you with others.

The tournament will feature a 2010 Lexus with a complimentary two-year lease for the first hole-in-one. There will be prizes for the top seven teams and for men and women for the longest drive and the longest made putt. Each player's registration will include dinner and program plus a welcome bag of "goodies".

At the dinner, you'll have a chance to bid on some outstanding live auction items: Cape Cod beach house vacation week, Total Wine tasting for 20 at your home, 42' Catalina sailboat wine & hors d'oeuvres sunset cruise for 6, 45' Sea Ray day cruise and lunch for eight, custom designed award-winning Starry Nights necklace, and a unique necklace designed exclusively for the IHFS Pro-Am by Port Royal Jewelers. Program MC Mayor Bill Barnett will add his personal flair as Live Auctioneer - a treat not to be missed!

In addition, there will be a wide array of silent auction items including a Ritz Tiburon Golf Get Away for two, designer beaded handbag, shopping spree at Best of Everything, several original works by local artists, Cruise Naples fishing and sightseeing trips, one-of-a-kind toys and children's boutique gift certificates for the kids or grandkids and restaurant gift certificates galore, just to

Sports Desk network invites participants

Youth, adult recreation leagues, and sports teams in the Immokalee, Ave Maria and Eastern Collier County are invited to participate online in the Eastern Collier County Sports Network.

To visit Eastern Collier County Sports Network online, go to newszap.com, click the Immokalee, Ave Maria or Collier County homepages, then click on the Sports tab in the upper right part of the

page. The web address is: <http://fl.newszap.com/EasternCollierCountySportsNetwork>. Interested teams and leagues can contact Renee Hawley by e-mail at: rhawley@communitysportsdesk.com.

Or call her toll free at 888-853-7904 for a demonstration or to get started right away.

Golf tourney takes on great cause

Compassionate golfers will converge on Naples' Lely Resort on April 24, for an annual tournament benefitting some of Florida's youngest and poorest citizens.

The 11th Annual Redlands Christian

Migrant Association Golf Tournament is a major fund-raiser for the Immokalee-based RCMA, which cares for nearly 8,000 children from low-income and migrant farm worker families.

The tournament has become increasingly popular. A year ago, despite the economic recession gripping southwest Florida, it raised a record \$100,000.

"Some wonderful people in the golf community recognize that these children, like their own children, are the future of the country," said Barbara Mainster, RCMA's executive director.

"They come enjoy a day of top-flight golf, and simultaneously help little kids learn their way out of poverty."

The tournament will begin at 8:30 a.m. April 24, with a shotgun start. The entry fee of \$225 per person includes breakfast and lunch, a goodie bag, and eligibility for extensive prize list.

name a few.

Finally, Sport Celebrity and Naples native, Fred McCrary, will be participating in the Pro-Am. A former NFL star, Fred grew up in Naples, distinguishing himself as an outstanding athlete. He played for 13 years in the NFL as a fullback with the Philadelphia Eagles, San Diego Chargers, New Orleans Saints, New England Patriots, Atlanta Falcons and Seattle Seahawks. In January, Mayor Bill Barnett honored Fred with keys to the city.

If you can't be there even a small donation to IHFS would be appreciated especially during these difficult economic times!

IHFS is the only non-profit organization in Collier County to provide rental housing for farmworkers and other low income families and to offer a wide array of supportive social and educational services on-site. Our programs are designed to promote self-sufficiency by providing learning opportunities which are keys to a brighter future.

If you can attend or make a contribution you can register or donate online at www.IHFServices.org or you can send a check with the completed registration from to:

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Soccer Camp to open

A five week soccer camp is set to open for the weeks of April 20-May 20. The registration fee is \$25 and includes a camp t-shirt. Campers aged from kindergarten, first and second grade will be on Tuesdays from 6 until 7:15 p.m. and campers in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 will be on Thursdays from 6 until 7:15 p.m. Groups are limited to only 40 players in each. First come, first served with no exceptions. Registration will be on Tuesday, April 13 and Thursday, April 15 at 6 p.m. at the Immokalee MS Soccer Field. Contact Manny Touron with any questions at 239-877-7135.

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Immokalee girls are princesses for a day

By The Immokalee Foundation

Ethiana Lovely Previlus felt like a princess at a high tea at The von Liebig Art Center in Naples.

The 14-year-old was the winner of an essay contest challenging young women to describe how they would change the world if they were royalty.

Previlus and more than 20 Immokalee middle and high school students put themselves in Princess Diana's shoes and dreamed of how they would change the world – from eradicating poverty to improving high school graduation rates – as part of an essay contest created and sponsored by the Fifth Third Bank Women's Network.

They were all winners. Each of the contestants traveled by bus on March 30 to see the Princess Diana: Dresses of Inspiration exhibition at The von Liebig Art Center. The day featured afternoon tea with their mentors, Fifth Third Bank Women's Network members and Immokalee Foundation representatives. Three top winners received bookstore gift certificates and a commemorative plaque recognizing their achievement. All the girls received tiaras, Princess for a Day pink sashes and other items in a goody bag.

These students were participants in TIF's Immokalee Readers program, which matches high school students with elementary students to improve reading.

Previlus shared her desire to eliminate poverty. She read excerpts from her winning essay: "I would make sure every family has



a pillow to put their heads on at night," inspired by her trip to Haiti last summer. "Every child would have shoes and fresh clothes to put on their backs. No one would struggle to find basic survival supplies."

Daisy Olvera, 15, won second place. Her reign as princess would make education a priority and eliminate hunger. Angelica Jean, 15, took third place with an essay on maintaining hope and ending homelessness.

"This program was a powerful way to inspire creativity among Southwest Florida's future businesswomen, and it was also a powerful reminder of the things we take for granted," said Kathy Leavesley, vice president and marketing director of Fifth Third Bank.

The von Liebig Art Center was honored to have these special guests see the exhibition, which is on view through June 27.

"Princess Diana is inspiring new generations to make a difference in the world," said Joel Kessler, CEO and executive director of the art center.

The Immokalee Foundation princesses began to make a difference right after tea.

"Our young ladies walked away with a greater knowledge of who Princess Diana was, and the many lives she touched around the world," said Liz Allbritten, executive di-



Submitted photo

Ethiana Lovely Previlus shows off the award she won.

rector of The Immokalee Foundation. "Following this event, many of our young ladies volunteered for 'Kids Against Hunger,' wearing their sashes and tiaras as they bagged food for the hungry living in Immokalee and Haiti."

The Immokalee Foundation, a 501(c)

(3) nonprofit organization, offers students the tools, opportunities and encouragement needed to succeed at each level of their education and in their careers.

For more information on the Immokalee Foundation, visit www.immokaleefoundation.org.

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