IMMOKALEE BULLETIN

Serving Immokalee, Ave Maria and Eastern Collier County

Vol. 43 No. 17 **Thursday, April 29, 2010**

At a Glance

Pets of the Week ..Pg 4

County offers free vaccines

The Collier County Health Department in Immokalee is offering Tdap vaccine through 6/30/2010. Tdap protects against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough).

The following individuals are the target audience for a free one time dose of Tdap:

- Individuals, both male and female adults (not pregnant), in their child bearing years who have not already received the Tdap.
- Farm workers (under 65 years old) with an injury who have not already received a Tdap can receive the free dose of Tdap.
- People under age 65 that work with or around children (daycare, health care setting etc.) should receive a one time dose of Tdap.

Anyone meeting the criteria above should visit the Collier County Health Department in Immokalee between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. before 6/30/10 to get the vaccine. The CCHD is located at:

419 N. First Street, Immokalee, FL 34142

Kindergarten Roundup dates planned

Lake Trafford Elementary would like to announce the annual Kindergarten Round-Up. We are inviting the parents of upcoming kindergarteners and current Pre-K students to visit Lake Trafford's campus on the following dates and time: May 4, at 6 p.m. and May 11 and 12, from 9-10 a.m.

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

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Immokalee Bulletin/**Dale S. Conyers**

Fish!

Rick Stout, Hatchery Manager at the Richloam State Fish Hatchery, Florida Bass Conservation Center, is seen working to acclimate 200,000 large mouth bass fingerlings to the waters of Lake Trafford, on Thursday, April 22. This is the first of two releases scheduled by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conversation Commission at the lake as part of the on going dredging and re-vegetation project, to which the FWC has contributed over $3 million. Sacramento Ruiz, was enjoying a warm day net fishing at Lake Trafford, his hard work paid off with some really nice talapia.

Non-profit leaders hone technology skills

By Rick Heers
Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

Thanks to the Community Foundation of Collier County's Immokalee Initiative, leaders of local non-profit organizations in Immokalee were given extremely beneficial lessons on the developing trends in Technology. Hosted at the Guadalupe Child Care Center Birgit Pauli-Haack of Pauli Systems taught and demonstrated the multitude of new technologies and softwares that are available to assist smaller non-profit organizations in record-keeping, handling email traffic, donor management and data storage. It was apparent that this would be the first in a series of technology workshops that would be presented to the interested group of learners.

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/ **Rick Heers**

Birgit instructs the no-profit community on technology.

Storm season planning under way

By Rick Heers
Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

Hurricane Season is upon usonce again. The Immokalee Recovery Coordinating Center is a relatively new service organization established to assist the community of Immokalee to be prepared for future disasters and to respond immediately when a catastrophic event hits the community in the future. The iTECH Center is a state-of-the-art facility that will now host emergency operations in the event of a major disaster in the Immoka-

See **STORM** — Page 2

New pet tethering rules go into effect May 1

On May 1, the revised Collier County Animal Control Ordinance will become active and there are many regulation changes the public must learn.

Changes adopted in the ordinance include allowing registered caregivers to trap-neuter-return feral cats to their colonies, establishing animal tethering restrictions along with a formula to calculate the proper amount of space for dog enclosures, and replacing the three-person Dangerous Dog panel with the Special Magistrate for appeals hearings.

Dog Chaining Restrictions

Dogs may no longer be chained and left alone. It is now required that only healthy dogs six months or older be tethered with a number of regulations that pet owners

See **PETS** — Page 2

PETS

Continued From Page 1

must meet. These tethering regulations include a responsible party being outside at all times with the animal and with the animal in line of sight.

"The reason for this change is to ensure dogs are cared for and not just left outside without food or water, and making sure they have human interaction can actually help the animal's behavior improve," said DAS Director Amanda Townsend.

Other safety precautions include using a tether with swivels on both ends that is at least five times the length of the dog's body. Tethers may not weigh no more than one-eighth of the dog's weight. Dogs must have access at all times to shade, ample fresh drinking water and dry ground. An animal may not be tethered during extreme weather conditions including extreme heat, cold or storms.

Enforcement of new rules

Full enforcement of the new rules begin the first week of May coinciding with Be Kind to Animals Week. The group Dogs Deserve Better is working closely with DAS to assist pet owners in successfully moving their chained animals left alone during the day to becoming indoor animals. Many times pet owners chain animals for behavior issues such as housebreaking or jumping, and Dogs Deserve Better and DAS are working to educate pet owners.

The Board of County Commissioners adopted these new regulations on Tuesday, Jan. 26, and violations of the ordinance may be fined $107 for the first violation. For more information, the public may call 239-252-PETS (7387).

Ag assistance deadline approaches

USDA has announced that it will accept applications for the Emergency Assistance for

Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) for losses that took place in calendar years 2008 and 2009. ELAP sign-up ended on Dec. 10, 2009, for 2008 losses and on Feb. 1, 2010, for 2009 losses. However, because of changes to program eligibility provisions, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting late-filed applications for 2008 and 2009 livestock, honeybees, and/or farm-raised fish losses through May 5, 2010.

ELAP, authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, including losses due to blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is for losses not covered under other Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance programs established by the 2008 Farm Bill, specifically the Livestock Forage Disaster Program, the Livestock Indemnity Program and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program. ELAP is being implemented to fill in the gap and provide assistance under other conditions determined to be appropriate.

ELAP eligibility provisions have been amended for both honeybee and farm-raised fish producers. The modifications include allowing honeybee and farm-raised fish producers who did not replace their honeybees or fish that were lost due to a natural disaster to be eligible for ELAP payments based on the fair market value of the honeybees or fish that were lost. In addition, the requirements to document losses for honeybee producers who suffered losses due to Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) were modified to allow documentation by an independent third party for losses in 2010 through Sept. 31, 2011. Producers can self certify losses due to CCD for 2008 and 2009.

For more information or to apply for ELAP and other USDA Farm Service Agency disaster assistance programs, please visit your FSA county office or http://www.fsa.usda.gov/.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

STORM

Continued From Page 1

lee area. While the iTECH Center is led by principal Doran Oxender and his assistant, Gerald Williams, the facility will become the headquarters of the IRCC which will be directed by a number of local volunteers. Included in the training session to attempt to cover all areas of the community were Ron Mosher of the Collier County Sheriff's Department, who will serve as the lead person at the IRCC, Joe Brueggen, representing the Health Department, Eva Deyo, director of the Immokalee Water and Sewer, Robert Halman, County Extension office, and one of Immokalee's representatives in the EOC building in Naples during an "event", Essie Serrata, director of Farm Worker Village, Sylvia Puente, from Information Collier, who will serve as the Public Information Officer in a declared emergency, and Rick Heers, director of I HOPE who will serve along with Ron at the IRCC facility, and will also help direct the Preliminary Disaster Assessment. Also present was Barb Cacchione, representing the Immokalee Initiative of the Community Foundation of Collier County that has helped raise money for many projects in Immokalee, including sponsoring the writing of a Disaster Preparedness Plan, helping raise funds for a mobile generator that I HOPE put together to provide several days of electrical service to an office if the community lost all power as happened after Hurricane Wilma.

The IRCC will be participating in a tabletop tornado exercise on May 10, to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of months and years of preparation.

While it is clearly evident that the community will be much better prepared when another disaster hits, it remains extremely important for our local families and businesses to prepare themselves as we approach the coming hurricane season. For more information and to GET A PLAN! for families or businesses please visit: www.FloridaDisaster.org. Students, teacher and parents can find educational information and free downloadable materials at: www.KidsGedAPlan.com.

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/**Rick Heers**

Eva Deyo, Gerald Williams, Joe Brueggen, Robert Halman, Ron Mosher, Essie Serrata, Sylvia Puente, Barb Cacchione and Rick Heers (picture was taken by Doran Oxender).

IHS grad - Augustin graduates from Embassy Security training

Marine Corps Cpl. Peterson Augustin, a 2004 graduate of Immokalee High School, recently graduated the Marine Corps Embassy Security Group in Quantico, Va.

The Marine Security Guards provide security services to selected Department of the State Foreign Service posts to prevent the compromise of classified material and equipment and to provide protection for United States citizens and United States Government property.

Each student has been assigned to one of many various embassies and consulates across the globe in over 130 countries in 13 different time zones around the world.

Augustin joined the Marine Corps in May 2007.

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To Reach 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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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.

Reduction in area street lighting services planned

The Traffic Operations Department of the Transportation Services Division realized a savings of approximately $130,000 in electrical energy costs last year when streetlights along several county corridors were turned off during a portion of Daylight Savings Time. During this period, there was no increase in traffic related incidents nor was there an increase in electrical component failures after the streetlights were restored to a normal operational configuration. This cost reducing measure is planned again this year.

Streetlights along the major corridors listed below, with the exception of intersections and commercial driveways, will be turned off for the duration of Daylight Savings Time starting this week.

The corridors with restricted street lighting this summer are:

1. Immokalee Road from Collier Blvd. to 43rd Avenue - 245 of 348 streetlights to be turned off;
2. Collier Blvd. from Immokalee Road to Golden Gate Blvd. 84 of 119 streetlights to be turned off;

Collier Blvd. from Davis Blvd. to US 41 – 190 of 230 streetlights to be turned off;

3. Vanderbilt Beach Road from Vineyards to Collier Blvd. - 106 of 178 streetlights to be turned off;
4. Rattlesnake Hammock Road from Polly Ave. to Collier Blvd. - 54 of 80 streetlights to be turned off;
5. Livingston Road from Immokalee Road to Radio Road - 336 of 391 streetlights to be turned off; and
6. Logan Blvd. from Immokalee Road to Vanderbilt Beach Road – 62 of 70 Streetlights to be turned off.

All streetlights will then be returned to a normal operational configuration during the week preceding the end of Daylight Savings Time.

For further information contact the Transportation Services Division at 239-252-8192 or by e-mail at transportation@colliergov.net.

CCSO promotes 'Operation Chill'

Parents, deputies want to ticket your kids this summer. But don't worry; it's a good thing.

The Collier County Sheriff's Office has partnered again with 7-Eleven to participate in Operation Chill. This program was started in 1995 as a way to reward and encourage good behavior to kids during the summertime.

Whenever a deputy sees a youngster performing a good deed such as wearing a bike helmet, going out of his or her way to help someone or giving back to the community, the deputy will hand out a coupon for a free 12-ounce Slurpee.

Youth Relations Bureau Cmdr. Beth Jones said Operation Chill is a great tool deputies can use to develop relationships with the youth in our community, while at the same time teaching them the importance of making good decisions, being kind or doing the right thing.

Some places where deputies will be on "patrol" include local community and county parks, neighborhoods and beaches, and even during traffic stops when kids are found to be wearing their seat belts.

Local Forecast

Weather forecast for Collier County from the National Weather Service

Local Forecast

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 87. Northeast wind around 6 mph.

Thursday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 64. South wind around 6 mph becoming east.

Extended Forecast

Friday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 88 and a 20 percent chance of showers. Southeast wind around 7 mph.

Friday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. East southeast wind around 7 mph.

Saturday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 88 and a 20 percent chance of showers.

Saturday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 72 and a 10 percent chance of showers.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 88.

Sunday night: Mostly clear, with a low around 67.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 89.

Lamour completes basic Navy training

Navy Seaman Recruit Lionney J. Lamour, son of Leonce Lamour of Immokalee, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

During the eight-week program, Lamour completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness.

The capstone event of boot camp is "Battle Stations."

This exercise gives recruits the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet. "Battle Stations" is designed to galvanize the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endurance in each recruit through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of honor, courage and commitment. Its distinctly "Navy" flavor was designed to take into account what it means to be a sailor.

Lamour is a 2008 graduate of Immokalee High School.

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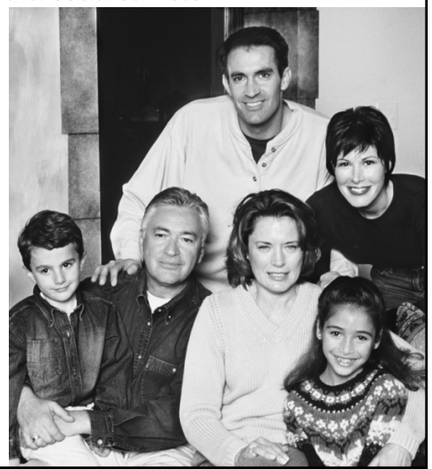

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K- registration gets under way

Elementary schools in the School District of Collier County are beginning Kindergarten registration for the 2010-2011 school year.

Any child who will be five years old on or before Sept. 1, 2010, is eligible to enter Kindergarten this August. Parents may register their child at the school he or she will be attending through the last day of the current school year, June 10. A parent needs only to go to the school's office during school hours and complete the registration packet. Early registration is encouraged so that school staff, faculty, and materials may be appropriately planned.

Here's a list of what Florida State Law requires parents to bring when they register a child:

· A copy of your child's birth certificate.

· Proof of legal residence in Florida. *Please note that three proofs of residency are now required; as opposed to previous years when the requirement was two forms.

· A physical examination form completed and signed by your physician or the Collier County Health Department within a 12-month period immediately preceding enrollment.

· A current certificate of immunization signed by the Collier County Health Department or your physician.

A Kindergarten information booklet is given to parents at registration time. Children do not need to be present during registration.

Each school has scheduled, or is in the process of scheduling, an orientation for parents and future Kindergarteners. Contact your child's school for details.

Any questions regarding requirements or registration should be directed to your child's school, or find out more by going online to http://www.collierschools.com/parents/enrollmentinfo.asp and click on the "2010-2011 Enrollment Requirements" link located near the bottom of the page. You may also contact the school district's Department of Student Services at 239-377-0505.

Education News in Brief

Head Start program now registering for fall

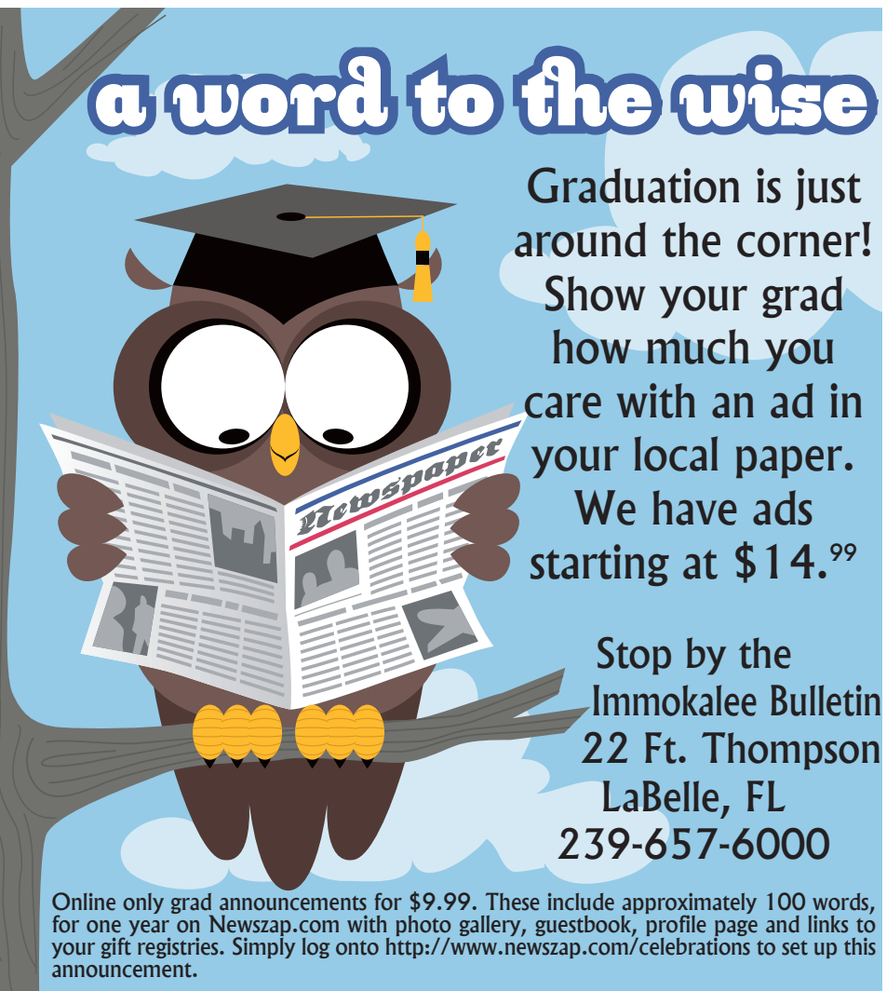
The Head Start Program is currently registering children for the upcoming 2010-11 school year. In order to be eligible for Head Start, a child must be 4 years old by September 1st of the current year, and a family must meet low income guidelines. To learn more, please contact the Head Start Office at 239-377-0590, or visit their Web site at http://www.collierschools.com/headstart/.

Students First

Social Media - monitoring

By Joe Landon
Collier County District Schools

I think we can all agree as parents and grandparents that the recent Community Forum on Social Media – focusing on the impact misuse of social media can have on our kids – was long overdue. While the event is in the past, we feel the need to keep the discussion alive, and that's why we're continuing to replay the telecast of the forum on TV on The Education Channel, cable 99. It'll be on again this Sunday afternoon at 5:30, and again next Saturday, May 8, at 2 p.m. Several of the panelists (and we had an excellent panel) shared Web sites that might be helpful for parents who really want to stay on top of what their kids are doing in that social media arena. We've collected them and have posted a list of those Web sites on the home page of OUR site – www.collierschools.com. Some of the sites listed there are free, others may charge for their services. One of the panelists, Andrea Lynn of the Naples Daily News, wrote a wonderful Guest Commentary about the forum and her role in it for the paper on Thursday, April 22. It should still be posted on the online version of the paper at www.naplesnews.com. This reminds me to thank the folks at the Naples Daily News for partnering with us to make the forum a reality and a success. They were great! Another panelist, Marc Meyer, a Principal with Digital Response Marketing Group, says he lives, eats, and breathes social media as he depends on it for his livelihood. During the forum he warned, though, that social media and social networks shouldn't be used by anyone younger than say a freshman or sophomore in high school. "I see no need," said Meyer. In a piece he wrote for one of his blogs recently, Meyer talks about the "fire hose" that is electronic communication, that is, social media. He asks how we, as parents and grandparents, deal with it. And Marc Meyer points out that "for parents, knowing what your child is doing on a day-to-day basis is normal, but adding the dynamic of social media and social networks to the mix is definitely a challenge, especially without a road map. Understanding social media, becoming educated about it and learning how to use it, and then learning to monitor it are things that companies of all sizes are currently wrestling with. Take heart parents, you're not alone!" Meyer reassures us that "it does get better, though, once we all are on the same page. Just remember that you need to be controlling the technology, not the other way around, and it certainly should not be controlled by your children; and though we call it a fire hose, remember that the hose can be turned off!" His 20 Point Checklist for Letting Your Child Engage in Social Networking is posted on the same page as the list of the Web sites that we told you about. Again, go to our home page: (www.collierschools.com) and click on the Social Media Information link under "Looking For?" or use the link found on the Community eBoard. So Mom and Dad, here's to happy monitoring! We wish you the best with it.



Pet hurricane shelter registration to begin

The 2010 Hurricane Season is approaching and it is time for pet owners to reregister their pets for the Collier County Emergency Pet Shelter. Pets must be reregistered from last year in order to qualify for sheltering, and new pets are also welcome to be registered.

Hurricane season officially begins June 1, however the emergency shelter could be activated for any disaster, not just hurricanes, and pets must be pre-registered. Registration for the Emergency Pet Shelter begins May 1. Pets must be registered every year; registrations are not automatically renewed.

Emergency Pet Shelter Information

The Collier County Emergency Pet Shelter is located at North Collier Regional Park located at 15000 Livingston Rd. in cases of emergency. The shelter is an adjacency shelter, which means pet owners and pets will be sheltered separately within the park and pets cannot be dropped off.

The Bureau of Emergency Services (BES) determines if the shelter should be activated based on mandatory evacuations and storm surge vulnerability. Pre-registered pet owners will be notified by an automated call system once the shelter opens if they are located in a mandatory evacuation zone or live in manufactured housing. The shelter holds 75 pets, cats and dogs only.

Owners are required to provide care for their pets prior to and post storm. DAS staff and trained volunteers are, however, available to feed and care for the pets during the storm. While DAS will have emergency supplies on hand, owners are reminded that it is their responsibility to provide crates, food, medications, supplies and water for their pets.

Registrations will be suspended if there is a Tropical Storm and/or Hurricane Watch issued for Collier County.

Pets in the shelter MUST HAVE UP-TO-DATE vaccinations with a printed copy of the vaccinations available for inspection. Hurricane season runs from June 1 to Nov 30 and if the public has questions they may call DAS at 239-252-PETS (7387).

Visit http://www.colliergov.net/Index.aspx?page=1877 to register your pet(s).

Benefit planned for homeless animals

Become Unleashed at a dance show benefit for Collier County Domestic Animal Services (DAS) being hosted on May 8 by the Platinum Coast Dance Company at Golden Gate Community Center. The variety show begins at 1 p.m.

Michele Ryan, the owner of the Platinum Coast Dance Company, is presenting a variety dance show called Unleashed, and is open to all willing participants. The Golden Gate Community Center's Auditorium, located at 4701 Golden Gate Parkway offers a fantastic stage for such a fun dance show.

Ryan's own dance classes will be donating their time to perform at the show with exciting, upbeat dance routines. Guest performers include Jennifer Schooley, organizer/dancer Michele Ryan and The Calendar Girls, a non-profit dance team made up of dancers ages 50 and over. Mac McCord will also be performing a Ballroom and Swing number.

Domestic Animal Services' staff and volunteers will be performing a line dance to the song "Hound Dog."

Unleashed will include raffle drawings for substantial gift certificates from local businesses and Kevin Smith from Florida Talent will provide the music and DJ.

Dance show participants have been chosen, and the public is invited to view the variety show for just a $5 donation per person or people may donate an item for use in the shelter including non-scented bleach, clay kitty litter, 6-foot leashes, dog collars or 13x9 aluminum litter pans. For more information, call Michele Ryan at 239-262-1748.

Mother's Day is May 9

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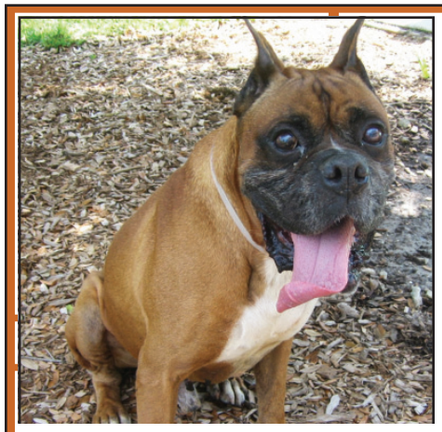

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/**DAS**

Andy is a 4 year old male red and white Boxer. He is sweet and loves to play ball with you. He walks nicely on a leash and wants to be your new best friend. Sam is a 4 month old male black and white Terrier mix. He loves to run and play fetch and once you meet him you will be sure to fall in love with him! Adopt from Collier County Domestic Animal Services located in Naples at 7610 Davis Blvd. Please call 239-252-PETS (7387) or visit DAS online to find a lost or adoptable pet at: www.collierpets.com and give these loving pets a chance at a new home. Cats are $60 to adopt and dogs are $85.

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Employment Full Time

~ COOK ~

Non profit in Immokalee is seeking candidates to prepare and serve food in its Soup Kitchen. Min Req. High school diploma, min 1 year experience in a kitchen setting; excellent communication skills (oral and written). English speaker- bilingual (Spanish/English) preferred. F/T position, M-F with benefits.

Send resume to: atorres@guadalupecenter.net - or fax to: 239-657-7136

SHOWER ATTENDANT

Part Time for non profit in Immokalee. Minimum High School diploma. Bilingual English/Spanish preferred. Housekeeping/custodial experience a plus.

Email resume to atorres@guadalupecenter.net, Fax to 239-657-7136 or Call 239-657-7131. EOE

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Pinecrest Elementary students selected for summer institute

The School District of Collier County is pleased to announce that four sixth grade Pinecrest Elementary School (PCR) students have been selected to take part in the Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) Office of Outreach Programs Summer Institute (SI) Program. The program begins on Saturday, June 19, and will end on Thursday, June 25.

The PCR students – Hernan Cortez, Osbaldo Matias, Erik Ramirez, and Jose Vega were selected to attend the SI Program after writing an essay and having a letter of recommendation submitted. Each essay was based on the subject of "whether or not college education should be free to all students." Students also had to provide ways in which they would give back to their community after getting a college education. PCR sixth grade teacher Domenic Panterra wrote letters of recommendation. In addition to the essay and letter of recommendation, the students needed to have good grades and show good citizenship skills.

The SI program is sponsored by the FGCU CROP (College Reach Out Program) and its Scholar's Club Program. It is designed as an enrichment opportunity for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. Offered by FGCU every year, SI usually happens at the FGCU campus. However, this year they received a grant to take students to Washington, D.C. to take part in the Close Up Program. Close Up offers inspiring, challenging and fun programs for middle school students. Using Washington D.C. as a living classroom, the program is designed to help students experience government "close up" and make a personal connection between history and their own roles as participants in the U.S. democracy.

Travel, lodging, and food expenses will be covered by the FGCU Office of Outreach Programs.

To learn more, please contact PCR Scholar's Club Advisor Michele Meyer at 239-377-8000.

Scholar Bowl tests student knowledge

The School District of Collier County cordially invites you to come and watch some of Collier County's finest intellects compete at the 25th Annual Collier County Middle School Scholar Bowl Tournament. Scholar Bowl is an academic competition designed to recognize Collier County's academically-talented middle school students. Teams from each of the participating schools compete against each other based on questions from the areas of mathematics, science, language arts, social studies, current events, and fine arts. Preliminary competitions will take place at the North Collier Regional Park from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on April 27, 28, and 29. The top three teams in each division will advance to the finals to be held at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Administrative Center, located at 5775 Osceola Trail, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on May 3, 4, and 5. Teams are divided into three divisions: North, South, and Central. Each game has three rounds, with nine toss-up questions plus earned bonus questions in each round, and a 20-point written team question at the end of round two.

The finals for all three divisions will air live on The Education Channel, cable 99, at 12:30 p.m. on May 3 (Central), May 4 (North), and May 5 (South). Each division final will be rebroadcast as well: Central – 2 p.m. on May 9, 3 p.m. on May 10, 1:30 p.m. on May 16, and 3 p.m. on May 17; North –; 3:30 p.m. on May 9, 3 p.m. on May 11, 3:30 p.m. on May 16, and 3 p.m. on May 18; South –; 5 p.m. on May 9, 3 p.m. on May 12, 6:30 p.m. on May 16, and 3 p.m. on May 19.

To learn more about the Middle School Scholar Bowl Tournament, please contact Nina Ribinski at the district office at 377-0134.

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Students experience ‘ A day in the life of a princess’

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.

The bank invited participants in The Immokalee Foundation’s Immokalee Readers mentor program to answer one of two questions: How did Princess Diana change the world? Or, if you were a princess, how would you change the world? The answers included education, equality, preserving natural resources and making peace.

All of the girls who submitted entries 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 foundation representatives. Three top winners received prizes that included 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.

There were few dry eyes in the audience as first place winner, 14-year-old Ethiana Lovely Previlus, read of her desire to eliminate poverty. “I would make sure every family has a pillow to put their heads on at night,” she said, 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.”

Second and third-place winners were Daisy Olvera (age 15, 10th grade) and Angelica Jean (age 15, 10th grade), respectively. Olvera’s essay was about eliminating hunger and the importance of education, and Jean’s essay was about ending homelessness and the significance of hope.

“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, Fifth Third Bank vice president and marketing director. “Fifth Third Bank believes and supports The Immokalee Foundation’s mission to provide educational opportunities for Immokalee’s children from early childhood through the beginning of their professional lives.”

“We cannot thank Fifth Third Bank enough for their sponsorship of these young ladies and support of TIF,” said Liz Allbritten, executive director of The Immokalee Foundation. “Our young ladies walked away with a greater knowledge of who Princess Diana was, and the many lives she touched around the world. Following the 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 Fifth Third Bank Women’s Network provides educational and networking opportunities for female bank officers, professional women and young women in communities the bank serves. Each women’s network member donated five dollars to attend the event. The funds will benefit Bosom Buddies Breast Cancer Support Inc. and the NCH Mammogram Fund, beneficiaries of the Princess Diana exhibition.

Fifth Third Bank (South Florida), headquartered in Naples, has assets of $3.6 billion and more than 60 banking centers serving Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Lee, Manatee, Palm Beach and Sarasota counties. An affiliate of Fifth Third Bancorp, Fifth Third Bank offers full-service banking convenience, including mortgage, private banking, corporate banking, trust, investments and currency exchange for 110 countries.

Submitted photos

Princesses for just one day gave Princess Ethiana Lovely Previlus, 14, first place winner and also Princess Daisy Olvera, 15, a chance to tell how they would change the world for the better as the late Princess Diana worked to do. Each of the contestants enjoyed a regal day visiting the exhibit of Princess Di’s dresses on display in Naples.