

IMMOKALEE BULLETIN

Serving Immokalee, Ave Maria and Eastern Collier County

Vol. 43 No. 20

Thursday, May 20, 2010

At a Glance

Beta Club holds fundraiser

The Immokalee Beta Club will have a garage sale-car wash and more at the Babcock Plaza Saturday, May 22, from 8 a.m. till noon. The group is raising money to compete at national convention in Lonesville, KY. For more information call Linda Ayers at 239-377-1818.

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 Sept. 1, of the current year, and a family must meet low income guidelines. When registering, you must provide the following: Proof of income (tax return, W-2) · Certified birth certificate from vital statistics, · Current blue shot record with Varicella (chicken pox) · Current physical exam with hemoglobin results · Parent's picture identification · Medicaid/insurance card · Two proofs of residency (rental agreement, electricity/water bill). Transportation must be provided by parents. Families most in need may apply for limited spots. To learn more, please contact the Head Start Office at 239-377-0590, or visit their Web site at: <http://www.collierschools.com/headstart/>.

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

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Lights! Camera! Action!

Kids ready for 'Aladdin' curtain call

Get ready for the final performance of Aladdin, for this Friday, May 21.

Aladdin, the "kid-produced show" is being produced by the students of Immokalee Community School, a charter school with grades kindergarten through six, operated by Redlands Christian Migrant Association.

The kids participating in the production, taking on everything from props to acting, are ready for one last, "Lights, camera, action" tomorrow evening. The final performance promises to be as entertaining as the opening with the singing, dancing musical employing the Disney Broadway script and following

See ALADDIN — Page 2

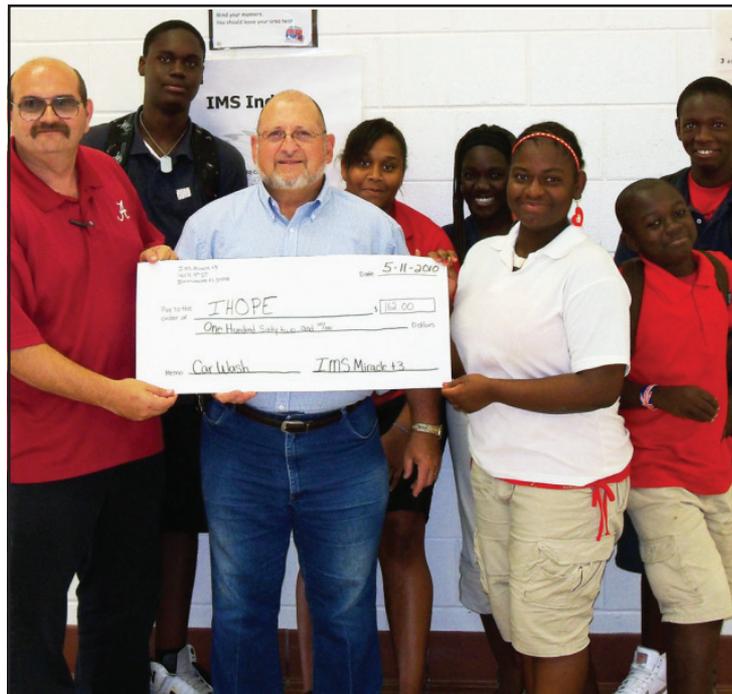


Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Judy Brill
Third-grader Lianna DeLaRosa, portrays Jasmine, and third-grader Perla Ramirez, portrays Iago in Immokalee Community School's production of Aladdin. Cast and crew prepare to take a final bow in Friday's final performance.

Middle schoolers help I HOPE

By Rick Heers
Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

Under the direction of teacher Leslie Harn a number of students in the I.M.S. Miracle +3 afterschool program put their ingenuity and time together to see how they could give back to the community. After considering several alternatives the group of seven students decided that they would run a combination bake sale and car wash and raised \$162 to donate for the needs of the I HOPE ministry. As a direct result of their efforts a family of eight will have food on their table for the next week.



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Rick Heers
Leslie Harn and students presenting I HOPE Executive Director, Rick Heers with a check for \$162 to help with the community work done by I HOPE.

CCSO reaches out to local families

By Rick Heers
Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

The monthly meeting of the Minority and Ethnic Affairs Bureau conducted a very informative community meeting at the One Stop Career and Service Center led by Lt. Rene Gonzales. Last Thursday's meeting on Human Trafficking was led by Cpl. Charlie Frost and Victim Advocate, Marisol Schooendorn of the Collier County Sheriff's Department.

The subject of Human Trafficking was one that has grabbed the attention of local residents and business owners. The capacity crowd listed attentively as the work of this important work was thor-

See CCSO — Page 2

Six cited in food safety violations

TALLAHASSEE- Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson announced that six tomato vendors at a private Immokalee farmers' market have been served with misdemeanor violation notices for failing to comply with food safety rules involving with sanitizing and packing of tomatoes.

The actions were taken during a sweep Monday by Bronson's regulatory inspectors and law enforcement officers at the farmers' market on new Market Road.

Bronson said authorities were at the market to assure that vendors selling tomatoes were complying with rules enacted in 2008 that require tomatoes to be sanitized to reduce microbial contamination

See TOMATO — Page 2

CCSO

Continued From Page 1

oughly described. The purpose of this division of the CCSO is to catch and prosecute those who are involved in human trafficking, sex trafficking and operating brothels in the community, but, just as important, they are also directly involved in assisting the victims of these criminal activities.

Recently several brothels have been shut down, some involving young teenage girls brought in from other areas of south Florida. In addition to catching the criminals, the department moves quickly to provide professional counseling, emergency housing and food for victims. The department recently housed 9 male victims of human trafficking by placing them in a duplex, and providing them assistance to get back on their own.

While some of the victims do not have legal papers to be here, the department does NOT work to have them deported, but rather helps them obtain non-immigrant visas after the trials of their perpetrators.

The department works with the Collier Health Services and the Health Department to obtain health services for the victims, St. Matthew's House and the Shelter for Abused Women in Naples to provide temporary housing and assistance to victims. Catholic Charities and the Coalition of Farm Workers also partner with CCSO to see that the victims are assisted with their needs. They also work alongside DCF, ICE and the Departments of Labor and Immigration to help inform them of their rights.

In an effort to spread the word amongst the farm workers, the Human Trafficking Force attend the "Day of the Worker" annual celebration in Immokalee, and sponsor a "Day Without Slavery," and provide early

morning free coffee at their bus pickup areas in downtown Immokalee. On Wednesday, May 19, the department gave out free bicycle lights and helmets to make their traveling safer on our streets.

Two free days of training for crew leaders and bus drivers are being offered by the University of Florida/IFAS Center just north of Immokalee on U.S. 29 under the auspices of the Department of Transportation. They will cover training on regulations for buses, harvest trucks and other vehicles used by farm labor contractors, crew leaders and bus drivers. Two days of training will take place from 9 a.m. to noon on May 25 and June 2. Training will be done in English, but those attending are welcome to bring their own translators, if needed. Grower/farmer representatives are also encouraged to attend.

To reserve a spot, please call Carlene Thissen at 239-658-3400.



Members of the Minority Affairs council gathered at last Thursday's meeting and listened to informative guest speakers from the Collier County Sheriff's Office speak to the council members on the issue of human trafficking.

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Rick Heers

Kids Against Hunger program brings community together

For the past two years, several community agencies have collaborated to bring Kids Against Hunger to Immokalee. This year the event will again be held at Immokalee Sports Complex on Saturday, May 22, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This is an exciting sports event based on values that are actively promoted in churches, schools, businesses, and community groups throughout the local community.

It is anticipated that hundreds of youth from Southwest Florida will participate in soccer, basketball, flag football, volleyball, tug-of-war, miniature golf and water bucket races. Each child that participates in the games will receive a reward.

As part of the event, there will be a compassion project called Kids Against Hunger. Last year, over 300 volunteers converged in the multi-purpose room at iTECH to package over 87,000 meals that were given to charity organizations in our community. This year, the goal is 100,000! To accomplish this goal, over 400 volunteers will be needed.

To register as a volunteer or participant in the event, please visit the Immokalee Sports Complex for the appropriate form. The Immokalee Sports Complex is located at 505 Escambia Street, Immokalee. The telephone number for the Sports Complex is 239-657-1951. For additional information, you can

call One by One Leadership Foundation at 239-867-0000 and speak with Sinclair Williams.

Schedule of Events begin at 8 until 8:30 a.m. Opening Ceremony; 8:30 – 9 a.m. Kids Against Hunger Set-up; 9 – 11:30 a.m. Food Packaging/Outside Games (soccer, flag football); 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Lunch (will be provided free); 1 – 3 p.m. Inside games (basketball and volleyball)

Outside games (miniature golf, water bucket & tug-a-war)

3:30 – 4 p.m. Closing Ceremony

All youth from the community are welcome!

ALADDIN

Continued From Page 1

the story of the Aladdin animated movie.

The curtain rises at 7 p.m. There are still tickets for this last show but they will go quickly. Prices are \$5 in advance; \$10 at the door. Advance tickets may be purchased at RCMA Immokalee Community School, 123 N. 4th St., Immokalee.

For information, call Vanderson at 239-867-3220.

News in Brief

Upcoming event?

The Immokalee Bulletin welcomes news and photos for and about the Immokalee community. Submit news of your upcoming event by email to: lbnews@newszap.com.

TOMATO

Continued From Page 1

and harvested into plastic boxes. The rules, which are part of the "Tomato Good Agriculture Practices," also govern the growing and post-harvest handling of tomatoes.

They were adopted after the Florida Legislature passed a law in 2007 at the request of the state's tomato industry and Bronson's office designed to assure that Florida is adhering to the strictest sanitary guidelines possible in the production and handling of tomatoes.

In 2009, Bronson's Division of Fruit and Vegetables and Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement conducted regulatory compliance inspections at several locations around the state and issued warning notices to vendors failing to abide by the law along with warnings that repeat violations would trigger misdemeanor charges.

The six vendors who were served with misdemeanor charges were: Frank L. Romero, 26; Jorge Rojas, 46; Juan O. Sanchez, 52; Salvador Arreguin, 55; Elizar P. Pineda, 41; and Jose Partida, 73.

Published by

IMMOKALEE BULLETIN

Serving Immokalee Since 1969

To Reach Us

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Physical Address: 22 Ft. Thompson Ave.
Phone: (239) 657-6000 • Fax: (863) 675-1449
Website: www.newszap.com/immokalee

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.

Farmworker killed in traffic accident

Authorities are withholding the name of an Immokalee farm worker who died in an accident May 15 on a Hendry County road.

According to the Florida Highway Patrol, the worker was driving a farm picker pulling a trailer northbound on CR 833, north of CR 846. The vehicle's right rear tire began losing tread, causing the vehicle to travel out of control. The vehicle went across the southbound lane and onto the paved apron. The driver attempted to cor-

rect by steering to the right, but the vehicle began to rotate clockwise and traveled northeasterly across both the north and southbound lanes. It then exited the roadway where the front of the vehicle struck a guardrail. The vehicle overturned onto its right side and came to a rest on the east shoulder of CR 833. The driver was ejected during the crash.

The crash occurred at about 6:15 p.m. Saturday, May 15.

Local Forecast

Weather forecast for Collier County from the National Weather Service

Local Forecast

Thursday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 95. Light east southeast wind.

Thursday night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 7pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 67. Calm wind.

Extended Forecast

Friday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 95. Calm wind becoming east northeast around 6 mph.

Friday night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 67. East northeast wind around 6 mph becoming calm.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 94.

Saturday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 66.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 94.

Sunday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 66.

Monday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Obituaries

James Malone Blackburn

IMMOKALEE, FLA — James Malone Blackburn, 86, of Immokalee, Fla., went home to be with the Lord, Tuesday, May 11, 2010.

Born October 16, 1923, in Bonifay, Fla., he was the son of Floyd Green Blackburn and Connie Mae Bryant Blackburn.

James served in the Navy during World War II. He married Georgia Florene Galloway, December 6, 1943. They relocated to Immokalee, Fla. from north Florida, in the fall of 1949. As a dedicated husband and father, he taught and instilled in his children and grandchildren the value of family and a strong work ethic. He will be greatly missed by all that knew him.

James is preceded in death by his wife, Florene. He is survived by his two children, Patrick (LeClaire) Blackburn of Lehigh Acres, Fla. and Fleeta (Julian) Williams of Immokalee; three grandchildren, Kevin (Glenda) Blackburn of Sasser, Ga., Tanya (Royel) Saldivar of Immokalee, Fla. and Julie (Gerardo) Alfaro of Davenport, Iowa. Also surviving are eight great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made in James's memory to Avow Hospice, 1095 Whipoorwill Lane, Naples, FL 34105.

A remembrance service will be held at a later date.

Letters to the Editor

Candidate Night

Dear Fellow Immokaleens,

To protect our future it is very important that we make wise choices about the elected officials that represent us. To help you with this, The Eastern Collier Chamber of Commerce and The Culinary Arts program at iTECH, are hosting a "Candidates Night Forum & Mixer" on June 1, from 6 until 9 p.m.

You will have an opportunity to hear from

the candidates, while enjoying the talents of our Culinary Arts program. You will have an opportunity to mix and talk with the candidates privately.

Thanks to our Chamber, this is an opportunity for you to get to know the people who will be representing us.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,
Fred N. Thomas, Jr.
Program Chairman

Continuing education offers evening gardening classes

How does your garden grow? The School District of Collier County's Adult and Community Education (ACE) program may have an answer to that question. ACE will offer a Squarefoot Gardening course, beginning on Thursday, June 10, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Barron Collier High School, located at 5600 Cougar Drive.

Squarefoot Gardening is the most economical way to garden. On your patio, porch, or a sunny window sill, you can create a garden filled with beautiful flowers, luscious vegetables, and fresh herbs, with

no weeds or hard work! No heavy digging, weeding, or thinning from over planting. You'll have a productive, well-kept, colorful garden. Squarefoot Gardening is a simple system that adapts to all levels of experience, physical ability, and geographical location.

The six-week course is \$69 and will be taught by David Crowther, a certified Organic Gardener with 30 years of gardening know-how. To learn more, please visit the ACE Web site at: www.collieradulced.com or call 239-377-1234

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a word to the wise

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Nutrition Services Dept. to continue programs

Studies have shown there is a direct correlation between students who eat a nutritious breakfast and improved academic performance. As a way to continue to promote this correlation, the School District of Collier County's Nutrition Services Department is pleased to announce it will once again offer its highly successful breakfast program next school year. Breakfast is provided to all students at no charge, and parents are not required to fill out a meal application for the breakfast program; this only needs to be done if they are seeking meal benefits for their child at lunch.

The Nutrition Services Department also encourages parents to apply for meal benefits online. This can be done any time after

July 1. The online meal application allows the Nutrition Services Department to process applications much faster, so that qualifying students can begin receiving meals within 48 hours. To learn more, please visit the Nutrition Services Web site at: <http://www.collier.k12.fl.us/FoodService/>, or you may inquire at your school's front office.

Lunch prices for paid students will remain the same for the 2010-11 school year - \$2 for elementary, and \$2.25 for secondary students. The district allows students who qualify for reduced meals to enjoy lunch at no charge.

To learn more, please contact Director of Nutrition Services Dawn Houser at 239-377-0280.

Pinecrest students take on reading challenge

A very popular competition held throughout schools in the School District of Collier County is the "100 Book Challenge." The challenge has students counting how many books they read. At Pinecrest Elementary School (PCR), Carmen Davis' fourth grade class has put a unique twist on counting how much they've read. Instead of adding up the number of books students read, they're actually counting how many words they've read. Through a Scholastic program called "Reading Counts," Davis' fourth grade class has reached their goal of reading more than 15 million words! Since the class has reached its goal, they earned a Reading Celebration, complete with pizza, from 2-3 p.m. May 19, at the school, located at 313 9th Street S., in Immokalee.

Reading Counts began last September; however, the actual goal of 15 million words read didn't come about until late January. Davis approached the students with the idea when she noticed how much reading the class was doing. But how does one count that many words? Luckily, Reading Counts has a management system with different reports that calculates the number of words read, books read, average quiz scores and more. Any Scholastic book located in the

PCR library can be used toward the word count; and even though the students have reached their goal, they want more. They've set a new target - 20 million words read by the end of the school year!

To learn more, please contact Carmen Davis at 239-377-8000.

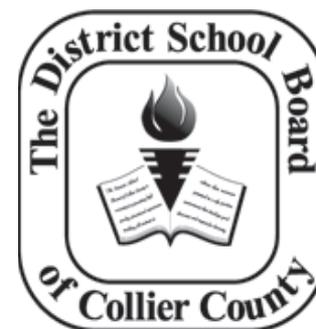
Students First

Changes possible for High School students

By Joe Landon

Collier County District Schools

If you are the parent of an eighth grader - a member of the high school class of 2014 - or the parent of even a seventh or sixth grader, you'll need to know about Senate Bill 4, passed by our state lawmakers just last month. "Senate Bill 4 is essentially going to change high school dramatically," the words of our Superintendent, Dennis L. Thompson, during a recent meeting with principals. Senate Bill 4 will eventually do away with FCAT at the high school level, phasing it out for everything but reading. It'll replace FCAT with end-of-course tests. This will all begin in August with Algebra I. But there's a whole lot more you need to know, and we've got all of the info for you on a special TV show focused entirely on the topic. Our Chief Instructional Officer, Martha Hayes, guests on Parent Connection, sharing information she just learned about Senate Bill 4 while attending a Florida Organization of Instructional Leaders conference with her peers from across Florida. Folks from the Florida Department of Education were there to impart everything they know about the bill. It was two full days of sorting out the changes called for in Senate Bill 4. By watching Parent Connection, you'll get the most up-to-date information



available. The show is on at 6:30 each evening, Monday thru Saturday, beginning Monday on The Education Channel, Comcast cable

99.

Our congressman for many years, and a former Director of the CIA, Porter Goss, recently spoke with high school students from across Collier County. He talked to them about the duties and responsibilities we have as citizens, and the role government plays in our daily lives. He addressed a gathering of about 250 students in the School Board Meeting Room in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Administrative Center. While he was in our building, he stopped by The Education Channel studio to spend some time with Communications Specialist Ryan Schwartz. Their District Digest TV interview can be seen on the current edition of the show, on at 9:30 this evening, tomorrow evening, and Saturday evening, and at 11:30 Sunday morning, on Comcast cable 99. If you watch this rare interview with Director Goss, he'll share his message about our role as citizens with you.

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Local kids provide help to Haiti kids with bead art

It's tricky business, beading, threading a thin elastic band through tiny bead holes. One slip of the grip, and beads escape across the floor.

But 10 students at Immokalee Community School have persevered with the beads because it's an honor and a charitable service all in one.

It's an honor because students of counselor JoAnn Blumenthal had to earn the right to become bead artists. They must help someone every day, and record it in their journal.

"They have to write why they performed the act of kindness," Blumenthal said.

The journals tell of helping tired moms with housework, of caring for baby siblings, of helping classmates in math, of holding doors for people with burdens.

"Made dad's bed because I love him," reads one entry. "I helped my mom carry my sister because she was crying," reads another. "I felt happy when I helped my teacher pass out the papers."

Miss a day in the journals, and you're out of beading.

Now that the bracelets are finished, charity has begun. The kids sold 100

bracelets for \$3 apiece. They used the \$300 to buy decorated Crocs for children in Haiti. With all the earthquake debris, Blumenthal's class reasoned, Haitian children must be especially careful to wear shoes.

This was a turnabout of sorts, because these fourth-graders also come from low-income families with their own limited wardrobes.

Next Monday, they will take the Crocs to Hope for Haiti, a Naples-based charity that collects funds for established schools, clinics and nutritional services in Haiti.

Through the project, Blumenthal has been teaching her fourth-graders a blend of lessons: Working as a group, Starting a business, Financial math, Helping others makes you happy

"It's been nice to help people," said Jennifer Abundez, 9. "I help people do their homework. I helped my cousin Ashley learn how to ride a bike."

"I taught my sister how to read," said Fabian Venegas, 10. "She's 3. She hesitates a little."

"My brother fell down and scraped his knee," said Dominique Rios, 10. "I wiped his knee off and put a bandage on it."

Soon, these helping hands will reach to Haiti.

"I like helping the kids in Haiti," said Dominique. "They're homeless, and they need caring."

Students from Immokalee Community School plan to deliver Crocs for Haitian children to Hope for Haiti around 2 p.m. Monday May

24, following a 1 p.m. lunch with a Hope for Haiti representative at The Dock at Crayton Cove, 845 12th Ave. South in Naples.

Hope for Haiti is located at 1021 5th Avenue

North in Naples.

For more information, please call in advance to counselor JoAnn Blumenthal, 239-949-2300.



Dominique Rios



Jennifer Abundez



Fabian Venegas



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/RCMA (Photo above left) Yahaira Caceres, 11, assembles a bracelet to benefit children in Haiti while Fabian Venegas (photo above right), 10, fishes for a bead as he makes his bracelet to help the needy children in Haiti.

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Suggested Opening Bid: \$125,000

Off-Site Inspections for both Properties: May 18 & June 1, 2-4 P.M. at 1102 Alachua St., Immokalee, FL

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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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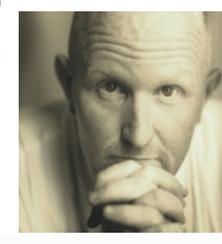
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Edison College Campus now tobacco free

The Collier County Health Department and Tobacco-Free Collier Partnership would like to congratulate Edison State College Collier Campus for following in the lead of NCH Healthcare System, Physicians Regional Healthcare System, David Lawrence Center and Gulf Shore Insurance Company by implementing a Tobacco-Free Campus Policy! Edison College will provide an environment free of tobacco smoke and act as a role model for other colleges looking to implement a tobacco-free campus.

In recognition of Edison State College, Collier Campus implementation of a tobacco-free campus policy effective Thursday, May 13, the college STRIKE club (anti-tobacco industry and awareness group) invites community members and students to the campus to celebrate this day. Attendees will learn about manipulation tactics used by the tobacco industry, obtain information on quitting options, and learn more about the cessation classes available on campus. From 11 a.m.-1 p.m., the Collier County Health Department is hosting the Tobacco Free Florida Street Team and Smokifier Van to educate students and community members about

the dangers of tobacco use. The Smokifier Van is equipped with age-progression technology to illustrate the harmful physical effects of smoking. Students will be seated in an awning-covered booth outside the van, where a photo is taken and then "smokified." The resulting photo depicts the potential changes in ones facial features (i.e., wrinkles, discoloration) after years of smoking versus years of remaining tobacco-free.

The Tobacco Industry works very diligently to addict nearly 4,000 new customers daily to replace the 1,200 Americans who die from a tobacco related illness. Approximately 90 percent of all smokers start before age 18; the average age for a new smoker is 13. Recently the Tobacco Industry has focused on the 18-24 year old college aged students. According to the American Lung Association, "the industry recognized that young adults are going through a transition period in their life, moving from high school to college or work, a prime time for developing and cementing new behaviors, including smoking." Clubs such as STRIKE on the college campuses encourage students to educate, empower, and encourage the student

body and staff to become more educated on tobacco issues, health risks related to tobacco use as well as cessation options. According to the 2007 CHARTS Report (Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set) 17.4% of the overall population in Collier smoke and specifically, 24.7% of individuals between the ages 18-44 smoke. The average student who attends the Collier Campus at Edison ranges between 22-25 years of age. The STRIKE Club has worked hard at bringing awareness on the Edison campus about the dangers of tobacco use and encouraging students and staff to kick the tobacco habit.

News in Brief

Water utility payment assistance available

Collier County Social Services has received a federal grant to help Collier County residents with their water utility bills. They are able to assist with up to \$300 per household and it is easy to qualify. To see if you qualify, please contact Collier County Social Services at 239-252-2696.

BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

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David Lawrence Center to host local meet and greet

The David Lawrence Center is hosting an awareness generating, family centered event in Immokalee. The Immokalee Community Meet and Greet will be held May 25, from 2-6 p.m. at the One Stop located at 750 South 5th Street in Immokalee.

The goal of the Meet and Greet is to educate the citizens of Immokalee about the variety of mental health and substance abuse programs available at the David Lawrence Center's Immokalee Satellite Services office including newly expanded in-home family support services. Families will have the opportunity to meet clinical and support staff in a confidential, relaxed atmosphere with plenty of fun activities planned for the kids.

There will be free food and drinks, crafts, balloon twisting, face painting and giveaways. Confidential, free onsite mental

health screenings for children and adults who may be struggling with anger, sadness, stress or drugs and alcohol problems will also be offered with opportunities to earn gift certificates to McDonald's and Walmart.

David Lawrence Center CEO David Schimmel states, "The economic challenges in Immokalee are vast and can directly affect a person's mental and emotional wellbeing. With appropriate access to treatment, people can and do get better. This community outreach event will provide an opportunity to learn about the David Lawrence Center, how to recognize warning signs and access services if needed."

For questions, please contact the David Lawrence Center Immokalee Satellite Office at 239-657-4434 to learn more.

Dept. of Transportation to offer training class

Two training sessions for Farm Labor Contractors, Crew Leaders and Bus Drivers about Department of Transportation regulations are being offered at the University of Florida's Research & Education Center in Immokalee. The training is about DOT rules for busses, harvest trucks and other vehicles used to take workers to and from the fields or to take products out of the fields. The training will be given by DOT Officer Tracey McQuilken from the Motor Carrier Compliance Office in Tampa. There is no charge for this initial training. Grower/Farmer representatives are also encouraged to attend.

The purpose of the training is to help Crew Leaders and Bus Drivers avoid fines or Out-of-Service Orders that could prevent them from

moving their busses and trucks until certain violations are corrected.

The first training date is Tuesday, May 25, from 9 a.m. to noon. The class will be repeated on Wednesday, June 2, from 9 a.m. to noon. It will be held at the University of Florida/IFAS Research & Education Center on Highway 29, about two miles north of the Winn-Dixie in Immokalee.

The training will be in English, but Crew Leaders/Bus Drivers are welcome to bring someone with them to translate if needed, or to send someone who speaks English to get the information for them.

To reserve a spot, please call Carlene Thisen at 239-658-3400.

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Immokalee Sports Network

Chicago Fire Juniors club launches Florida teams

The Chicago Fire Soccer Club has announced the addition of the Chicago Fire Juniors Florida to the club's player development system. Established to serve the Southwest Florida soccer market, CFJ-Florida becomes the eighth Fire Juniors satellite program outside of the hub in Naperville, IL and the third CFJ club to compete in the United Soccer Leagues Super-Y League.

CFJ-Florida comes together with the union of Florida Premier Soccer Club, Gulf Coast Soccer Academy, Southwest Florida United Soccer Academy and The Soccer Pit and will begin placing teams in the U13, U15, and U17 divisions of the USL Super Y-League in 2011.

"We're excited to bring the Chicago Fire program to this area," said CFJ-Florida Executive Director Mark Prizant. "Our coaches look forward to working with the best players throughout the region and we view

this program as the best way to establish new and strong pathways to professional soccer in Southwest Florida."

"We're ecstatic to welcome another extension of our club in Southwest Florida," said Chicago Fire Director of Player Development John Dorn. "We view the region as an excellent growth market which provides unlimited opportunities both in terms of player development and the added benefit of another warmweather market for our elite teams to visit during the winter months here in Chicago. Our hope is that an initiative like this brings together as many great soccer entities in the area as possible."

Tryout information for CFJ-Florida will be forthcoming in the next few weeks. Please stay tuned to www.chicagofirejuniorsflorida.com for more information relating to the newest Chicago Fire Juniors club.



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Manny Tournon

U15 Champions (left photo) enjoy a moment in the spotlight after a winning season. U16 Champs (right photo) gather after taking the title during the event which took place at the North Naples Regional Park. 3 v 3 Qualifying tournament for the Wide World of Sports in July. The Pit Cobras also had another champion in the Open Division and a fourth place in our U11. The team is hoping to head to Orlando for the Wide World of Sports Championship in July. !

New partnership helps local soccer club

By Manny Tournon

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

The Soccer Pit Cobras took yet another step towards expansion of soccer in Immokalee. The club just became partners with Chicago Fire from the Major Soccer League. Just having an affiliation with this club increases the importance of our club 1000%. Two members of the Chicago Fire Juniors met with some of the coaches last Tuesday to describe the advantages that the Chicago Fire Juniors program can bring our players and program. First team assistant coach Larry Sunderland and our area's representative Mark Prizant described the program as an opportunity for player development with the opportunity for some of

our top players to play at the highest level of soccer and be exposed to college coaches. They will also bring the opportunity for our Soccer Pit coaches to be trained under their top level coaches that have multiple soccer certifications. Financial support can come in the way of field and personal equipment for all the players.

The mission of our club is to develop players and get them to the highest level of soccer, unfortunately, the economic situation of our families doesn't lend to the financial support needed to take our players to top level tournaments. The Chicago Fire Juniors program will also help with some of these costs for the club. This is an awesome step for our clubs and kids.



DAVID LAWRENCE CENTER
Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services

David Lawrence Center invites you and your family to our

Immokalee Community Meet and Greet

DATE: May 25th, 2010

TIME: 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: One Stop

750 South 5th Street, Immokalee

CONTACT: 239.657.4434



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David Lawrence Center services are funded by

