

# IMMOKALEE BULLETIN

Serving Immokalee, Ave Maria and Eastern Collier County

Vol. 43 No. 26

Thursday, July 8, 2010

## County issues mosquito borne illness advisory

The Collier County Health Department (CCHD) and the Florida Department of Health are issuing a mosquito-borne advisory after a second positive report of a horse with Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEEV) in Collier County

in the past two weeks. The virus is maintained in a cycle between mosquitoes and birds in freshwater swampy areas, sometimes biting a horse or a human.

EEEV causes severe illness in humans and horses. Symptoms

in humans develop 3-10 days after the bite of an infected mosquito and begin with a sudden onset of fever, general muscle pains, and a headache of increasing severity. Symptoms can become more severe over 1-2 weeks and infected

individuals will either recover or show onset of inflammation of the brain (encephalitis) with seizures and vomiting.

Human cases are usually preceded by those in horses. Disease transmission does not occur direct-

ly from person to person. Those at highest risk are people who live in or visit woodland areas, people who work or participate in outdoor recreational activities where there is greater exposure to potentially

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### Inside...

IHS outshines others at national BETA convention...Page 4



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

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Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Jerri Lynn

### The best season yet...

Immokalee Little League All-Stars in the nine and ten year old division played hard for nine grueling days of games. The team fell just short of a winning season

Coaches: Manager: William Trevino III, Assistant Coaches: (Not Pictured) William Trevino JR., Juan Ramirez, and Juan Aviles. Team Mom: Angelica Ramirez. Players; (Not in order) Juan Ramirez (Marlins), Christian Aviles (Marlins), Nathaniel Betancourt (Marlins), Oscar Flores (Rangers), (Not Pictured) Felipe Hernandez (Rangers), Jose Manny Alvarado (Brewers), Alejandro Alex Arriaga (Brewers), Rudolfo Rudy Lucio (Braves), Joe Vidaurri (Braves), Christian Ramos (Braves), Nathan Hernandez (Rays), and Anthony Enrique Segura (Rays). For more details on the All-Star games, please see Page 2.

### August Primary coming up - time to register

Planning to vote in the Aug. 24, Primary Election? Then make sure you are a registered voter and remember to check your political party affiliation!

Florida is a closed Primary state and the District 2 race for County Commission is a closed race. Accordingly, only registered Republicans in District 2 will be eligible to vote in this party nominating Primary Election. The winning Republican will face a write-in candidate in the November General Election.

The District 4 County Commission race is open, and all registered District 4 voters are eligible to participate regardless of party affiliation. The Florida Constitution provides that if all candidates have the same party affiliation, and the winner will not face opposition in the General Election, all qualified voters, regardless of party affiliation, may vote in the Primary for that office. In this race, the winner

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# Hometown All-Star Little Leaguers: The best team yet

The coaches of the Immokalee 9-10 year-old Minor League All-Stars believe the community of Immokalee should be proud of their Little Leaguers. Immokalee played from June 19-27, against Alva, LaBelle, San Carlos, Ft. Myers Beach, Bonita Beach, and Lehigh Acres. It was a long nine days with a couple of single days off in between, but the Immokalee All-Stars fell short for the title this season with a 2 and 4 record. There were several comments made, not only by the officials, but by some of the opposing coaches that this was the best team yet of 9 and 10 year-olds that have represented Immokalee. "The coaches of our All-Stars, are very proud of our kids. We would also like to thank the parents of our kids for their support and for their attendance at the ball games," said Coach Trevino.

Please, join in supporting the girls All-Star Majors Softball Team (The Heat) which will be playing in Lehigh Acres July 10, at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

The Immokalee boys Junior team 13-14 year old All-Star team will be playing in San Carlos this evening, Thursday, July 8, for the last of two games at 8:30 p.m. Come join the fun and thanks for your support.

## County Health Dept to hold blood drive

Collier County Health Dept. will hold a blood drive on Monday, July 12, from noon until 3 p.m. at 419 North First Street, Immokalee. To sign up, please call Judes Albert at 239-252-7326. Successful donors will receive a free pass to Naples Zoo and a t-shirt. Also, donors participating until Sept. 30, can qualify for a drawing in the vacation getaway package. Prize drawings will be held on Aug. 2, Sept. 1 and Oct. 1. Winners will be notified.

## EEEEV

Continued From Page 1

infected mosquitoes.

The CCHD reminds residents and visitors to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. Everyone is encouraged to take the basic steps to limit exposure by following these recommendations:

To protect yourself from mosquitoes, you should remember the "5Ds":

- Dusk and Dawn -- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are seeking blood. For many species, this is during the dusk and dawn hours.

- Dress -- Wear clothing that covers most of your skin.

- DEET -- When the potential exists for exposure to mosquitoes, repellents containing DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide, or N,N-diethyl-3-methylbenzamide) are recommended. Picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535 are other repellent options.

## Drug Free Collier coalition welcomes new executive director

Drug Free Collier, Collier County's community anti-drug coalition, formally announces the appointment of its new Executive Director, Anne Frazier. Ms. Frazier joins Drug Free Collier with over ten years experience in the nonprofit sector, including her most recent position as Executive Director/Chief Professional Officer of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Blue Ridge in Martinsville, Virginia.

"Anne's organizational experience, professionalism and leadership will undoubtedly lead the coalition through structured growth and towards successful sustainability," said Chief Scott Salley, Drug Free Collier Board President and Chief of Corrections for the Collier County Sheriff's Office.

Ms. Frazier has been working in the nonprofit sector since 1999. She has continued her professional development by completing a Certificate in Non Profit Management from Duke University and is a graduate of Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Advanced Leadership Program. She is a 2009 graduate of the prestigious LEAD VIRGINIA program, modeled on the theory of social capital. The program selects and educates proven lead-

- Drainage -- Check around your home to rid the area of standing water, which is where mosquitoes can lay their eggs.

Some effective repellants are DEET (N,N-diethyl-3-methylbenzamide), picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535. Always read label directions carefully for the approved usage before you apply a repellent. Some repellents are not suitable for children. Elimination of breeding sites is one of the keys to prevention.

Tips on Eliminating Mosquito Breeding Sites

- Clean out eaves, troughs and gutters.
- Remove old tires or drill holes in those used in playgrounds to drain.

- Turn over or remove empty plastic pots.

- Pick up all beverage containers and cups.

- Check tarps on boats or other equipment that may collect water.

- Pump out bilges on boats.

- Replace water in birdbaths and pet or other animal feeding dishes at least once a

week.

- Change water in plant trays, including hanging plants, at least once a week.

- Remove vegetation or obstructions in drainage ditches that prevent the flow of water.

There are vaccines available for use in horses in protecting them against EEE, WEE, and WNV. Horse owners should contact their veterinarian about the appropriate use of these vaccines.

For more information on mosquito-borne illnesses, visit DOH's Environmental Health web site at: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/medicine/arboviral/index.html> or call the Collier County Health Department at 239-252-8226. For a two-page Mosquito-borne Disease in Florida Fact sheet describing the transmission cycle, symptoms of illness and mosquito-borne disease prevention go to:

[http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/medicine/arboviral/pdfs/EducationalMaterials/Arbo\\_factsheet\\_Color\\_Eng.pdf](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/medicine/arboviral/pdfs/EducationalMaterials/Arbo_factsheet_Color_Eng.pdf)

## VOTE

Continued From Page 1

will be determined in the Primary Election.

If you need to register to vote or change your party affiliation to vote in the August 24 Primary Election, you must do so before the July 26 deadline. In accordance with Florida Statutes 97.053, any applicant who failed to designate a political party affiliation is registered without party affiliation.

To verify your registration and party affiliation, visit the Supervisor of Elections office Web site at [www.CollierVotes.com](http://www.CollierVotes.com). Under the voter information tab, select 'review my registration status' from the pull down menu and follow the online instructions.

Voters without a party affiliation, or those registered with a minor political party, are always eligible to vote for nonpartisan judicial and school board race candidates, issues and referendums in a Primary Election. In the General Election, all registered voters, regardless of party affiliation, receive the same district ballot and may vote for any candidate or issue on that ballot.

For more information, visit the Supervisor of Elections Office Web site at [www.CollierVotes.com](http://www.CollierVotes.com) or telephone 239-252-8450.

ers about regional differences, opportunities and challenges across the Commonwealth of Virginia. Ms. Frazier's proven abilities to manage effectively, build social capital and be outcomes focused has recently awarded her the honor of being named one of Virginia Lawyer's Media's Influential Women of 2010.

"I am thrilled to be the new Executive Director for Drug Free Collier. The coalition has created an outstanding foundation and commitment to our kids. I feel very fortunate to be a part of a dynamic team doing such meaningful work," said Frazier.

Ms. Frazier has been visiting family and friends in the Naples area for over 28 years. "It has been exciting to return to Collier County, a community I deeply care about and have always considered my second home," she adds.

ABOUT DRUG FREE COLLIER – A nonprofit organization whose mission is to prevent and reduce juvenile substance abuse through education, promotion of services and support in our community. For more information, visit [www.DrugFreeCollier.org](http://www.DrugFreeCollier.org).

### To Place a Display Ad

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The deadline for all advertising is 4 p.m. on Friday for 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.

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# IMMOKALEE BULLETIN

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### To Reach Us

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Phone: (239) 657-6000 • Fax: (863) 675-1449  
Website: [www.newszap.com/immokalee](http://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.  
E-Mail: [ibnews@newszap.com](mailto:ibnews@newszap.com)

## Letters to the Editor

### Good Luck Dr. Villarosa

We at CHS Healthcare, want to wish Dr. Villarosa success in his move to Texas. Our staff understands that he will be greatly missed by his young patients and their families. I wanted to take this opportunity to address the Immokalee community, so that no one in this very special corner of our county ever feels they have nowhere to go for primary health care.

Our CHS/FSU pediatric primary care practice welcomes those in our community who are in need of a primary care "home" for their children. We have been here, in Immokalee, for over 30 years and understand the special needs of the residents. Our staff is bilingual and whenever possible our patient information is in multiple languages. CHS offers both medical and dental care services

here in Immokalee. To schedule with us for a pediatric appointment call 239-658-3011, for dental scheduling call 239-658-3024.

I want to thank Dr. Villarosa for all the support he has given to the community. His passion to support kids in the community went above and beyond his pediatric practice. He made a difference for many of Immokalee's residents. CHS is pleased to offer his patients a new primary care "home."

**Jerry Williamson**  
M.D.,F.A.A.P.,LHRM  
Chief Medical Officer  
CHS Healthcare  
1454 Madison Avenue  
Immokalee

## Florida Housing Help offers valuable assistance to beleaguered homeowners

Florida Housing Help is designed to educate and assist families facing foreclosure. The workshop set to take place on Saturday, July 17, at the Immokalee Career & Service Center, 750 South Fifth Street, Immokalee, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This is a bi-lingual event will include opportunities to meet with mortgage lenders, HUD-certified housing counselors, local housing authorities, legal assistance, credit counseling services, and many other foreclosure assistance programs. Chase, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, SunTrust, and Fifth Third Bank will have lost mitigation teams on site.

Please bring these items if applicable:

- Recent paycheck stubs and bank account statements
- Driver License or picture ID and Social Security Cards

- Income Tax Returns along with W-2 Forms
- Hardship letter explaining delinquency of mortgage payments or any gap in employment
- Statements or bills documenting all household expenses
- Recent correspondence from mortgage company and last mortgage statement
- Current property tax bill and proof of homeowners' insurance

A community outreach program sponsored by the Florida Department of Financial Services, Division of Consumer Services in partnership with The Empowerment Alliance of Southwest Florida.

For more information please visit [www.MyFloridaCFO.com](http://www.MyFloridaCFO.com) or call 850-413-3089 or 1-877-MY-FL-CFO (1-877-693-5236).

## Weather Forecast

Weather forecast for Collier County from the National Weather Service

### Local Forecast

**Thursday:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Partly cloudy, with a high near 94. East wind between 3 and 6 mph.

**Thursday night:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 11 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 74. East southeast wind around 6 mph.

### Extended Forecast

**Friday:** A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 10 a.m. Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 96. Southeast wind between 3 and 5 mph.

**Friday night:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 74. Calm wind.

**Saturday:** A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 96. Light east southeast wind.

**Saturday night:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 73.

**Sunday:** A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 94.

**Sunday night:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 73.

**Monday:** A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 94.

## Family law seminar

Legal Aid is hosting a FREE family law seminar for individuals who would like to file for a divorce. The seminar is only for individuals with no children and no property in the marriage. Registration is required. No walk-ins. The seminar will be held at the Legal Aid Office at 4125 E Tamiami Trail, Naples on Wednesday, July 15, from 5 to 7 p.m. For more information or to register call 239-775-4555

## Obituaries

### Willie Nealy, 91

IMMOKALEE — Willie Nealy, 91, resident of Immokalee past 41 years, passed Sunday, July 4, 2010.

Survivors include two daughters, Ann White of Immokalee, and Joyce Nealy of Capitol Heights, Md.

Funeral services will be Saturday, July 10, 2010, in Monticello. James C. Boyd Funeral Home, 2966 Dr. M. L. King, Jr. Blvd., Ft. Myers, directing (239)337-5222.

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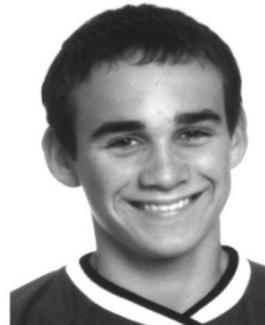


Hanna from Norway, 16 yrs.

Likes skiing, swimming, dancing and art. Hanna hopes to join a drama club while in the USA.

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Klaus from Germany, 17 yrs.

Loves camping and playing soccer. Klaus' dream has been to spend a school year in the USA.

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# IHS outshines others at national BETA convention

The Immokalee High School (IHS) BETA Club recently sent 56 of its members to the 30th Annual National BETA Club Convention held in Louisville, Ky. The theme of the convention was "Beta - A Circle of Winners." The Immokalee club had cause to celebrate as it received numerous accolades. In the team competitions IHS placed first in Scrapbook, second in Campaign Skit, fourth in Banner, and sixth in Talent. Other notable individual honors:

- Marisela Mendoza, 1st place - On-Site Art
- Jehia Joseph, Runner-up for National Vice President
- Linda Jean Pierre, 5th place - Oratory

There is no official overall ranking for BETA clubs at the National Convention; however out of the more than 200 schools participating, Immokalee took home the most trophies and brought the largest delegation.

BETA is an acronym for Better Educa-

tion Through Achievement. The club motto is "Let us lead by serving others." To be eligible to take part in convention activities, BETA members must maintain a 3.0 Grade Point Average. IHS has been involved with BETA for 55 years, and the club has a proud history of doing exceptionally well in both state and national competitions, having won awards at the state level every year since the mid-80s and at the national level every year since 1990.

"IHS club's accomplishments continued their legacy and keeps them as one of the top performing clubs in the nation," says IHS activities coordinator Linda Ayer. The club wants to thank the community for their continued support, especially The Immokalee Foundation and Suncoast Federal Credit Union."

If you'd like to make a contribution, or help in any way, please call the IHS School Activities Office at 239-377-1818, or reach Ayer via e-mail at [ayerli@collier.k12.fl.us](mailto:ayerli@collier.k12.fl.us).



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/IHS  
A spirited group of young people descended upon the National BETA Club Convention in Louisville, Ky. determined to showcase their talents. The club took some of the top spots at the competition bringing one of the largest delegations.

# Museum launches theatre company and seeks new members

Discover history infused with a little dramatic stage presence with Collier County Museum's newly launched theatre company beginning October 2010. The Historically Speaking Theatre Company is currently scouting for prospective members to join in the fun of bringing history to life on the stage.

The theatre company will debut in October 2010 with their performance of "Killing Mister Watson." Celebrating it's 100th anniversary, this story recounts how Edgar J. Watson, a sly yet reserved sugarcane farmer in the swampy, mosquito-infested Ten Thousand Islands of Florida, was murdered by local Chokoloskee residents.

The Historically Speaking Theatre Company is considering other productions, but will also incorporate one-woman shows depicting some of the local heroines in their exclusive performances. The theatre company is also looking for prospective participants to include in their newly created company. People interested in becoming a part of the Historically Speaking Theatre Company, please contact Mary Margaret Gruszka at the Collier

County Museum, 239-252-8287.

About Collier County Museums: More than 10,000 years of Southwest Florida History is on display at Collier County Museums' four locations - the main museum location

in Naples, two additional museum facilities in Everglades City and Immokalee, and the historic Naples Depot, a former train station and local favorite in the heart of downtown Naples. The main facility is open Monday

through Friday, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Admission is free and the site is handicapped accessible. For more information, visit [www.colliermuseums.com](http://www.colliermuseums.com) or call 239-252-8287.

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## MELANIO "DR. V" VILLAROSA IS LEAVING IMMOKALEE!

Immokalee Paediatrics Inc will be permanently closed on July 30, 2010!

Dr. V is moving to Brownsville, Texas.

If you want your medical records, please notify the office  
Mon. -Fri. at 239-658-2555 from 9-11:30 A.M. and 1-4 P.M.

Dr. V. would like to sincerely thank the beautiful people of Immokalee for 20 wonderful years!

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Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/DAS

## Pets of the Week

**Peyton is a male gray domestic short haired 3 month old kitten. He loves to play with other cats and has a blast with his toys. Sandi is a female cream and white color short hair 5 year old kitty. She has been front declawed and would love to be an indoor kitty. Jade is a two year old tan and white female boxer. She is very gentle, playful and fun to have around. Lance is a handsome year and a half old Catahoula mix gentleman. He is well behaved and likes to go for long walks. Adopt from Collier County Domestic Animal Services (DAS) by calling 239-252-PETS or by visiting the shelter at 7610 Davis Blvd. Online at [www.collierpets.com](http://www.collierpets.com).**

# Justin Walker follows his dream - on a bull

The cowboy tradition is alive and well in Justin Walker. He is the first Florida High School Rodeo Association (FHSRA) Bull-riding champion ever from LaBelle, and is living his dream. Just 18, he is a 2010 graduate of LaBelle High School and is headed to Gillette, Wyo., from July 18-24, to compete in the National High School Finals Rodeo. Justin recently won the Florida High School Rodeo Championship in bullriding this past May.

Justin began his bullriding career at age five, with mutton busting - riding sheep - but that just whetted his appetite. His grandfather and father had both ridden bulls and Justin felt that same pull. He's been riding bulls since he was 12 years old and his dream is to ride in the Professional Bull Riders (PBR).

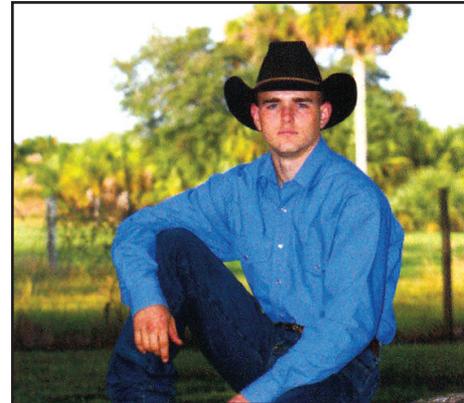
Justin also enjoys helping teach the younger ones bull riding techniques at Bull Pit Ministries. The son of Tommy and Regina Walker, Justin is planning to attend college in the fall to study ranch management.

The NHRSA Finals is the largest rodeo with over 1,600 contestants from 41 states, five Canadian provinces and Australia competing in 11 events over six days. There are scholarships available to competing se-

niors that total over \$325,000.

For more information on the HRSRA you can go to their Web site at [www.nhrsa.com](http://www.nhrsa.com).

Justin is to be congratulated on his success. If anyone would like to help with traveling expenses, they may contact Regina Walker at 863-673-4163 for more information. Justin wishes to say thank all you to all who have helped so far and God Bless.



Submitted photo  
**Young Justin Walker is only 18 but he has big dreams of becoming the best in his field of bullriding.**

## 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 Sept. 1, of the current year, and a family must meet low income guidelines. Families most in need may apply for limited spots. To register, provide two proofs of residency (rental agreement - utility bill) and other items. For more information on items needed, please contact the Head Start Office at 239-377-0590 or visit their Web site at: <http://www.collierschools.com/headstart/>.

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Independent Newspapers will never accept any advertisement that is illegal or considered fraudulent. In all cases of questionable value, such as promises of guaranteed income from work-at-home programs - if it sounds too good to be true, chances are that it is. If you have questions or doubts about any ad on these pages, we advise that before responding or sending money ahead of time, you check with the Better Business Bureau at 772-878-2010 for previous complaints.

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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### Apartments

### Apartments

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### Public Notice

**Greater Immokalee Southside Front Porch Community, Inc.**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)**  
**"INSTALLATION OF CENTRAL AIR AND HEAT PROJECT"**

The Greater Immokalee Southside Front Porch Community, Inc. (FRONT PORCH) is seeking bids from qualified contractors licensed in the State of Florida for the "Installation of Central Air and Heat" for 100 units in the Immokalee Apartments located at 601 West Delaware Avenue, Immokalee, Florida. Bids, in triplicate, must be received at the Front Porch office no later than 4:00pm on Friday, July 16, 2010. Submissions received after this date and time, for whatever reason, will not be considered. Any questions regarding this Invitation to Bid should be directed to:

Vicki Carr  
Greater Immokalee Southside Front Porch Community, Inc.  
419 North 1st Street  
Immokalee, Florida 34142  
Phone: (239) 503-7733  
Email: [frontporch\\_imm@yahoo.com](mailto:frontporch_imm@yahoo.com)

Contractors are strongly encouraged to inspect the site prior to submitting bid. Please email: [frontporch\\_imm@yahoo.com](mailto:frontporch_imm@yahoo.com) to schedule an appointment.

Bids submitted in response to this solicitation will be opened in the Front Porch Office at 2:00 PM on Friday, July 23, 2010. Interested parties are welcome to observe the bid opening but no decision will be made nor opinion offered until final review by the Immokalee Apartments, LLC and approval by the Front Porch Board of Directors. Proposals may be held by the Front Porch office for a period not to exceed sixty (60) calendar days from the date of opening proposals for the purpose of reviewing them and investigating the qualifications of the bidders prior to awarding the contract. All bids shall be accompanied by a bid bond, certified check, cashier check or money order in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount bid.

The Board of Directors reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any formalities. The Board of Directors encourages participation by business owned and operated by minorities and women.

Funding is provided by Collier County Department of Housing, Human and Veteran Services using the Community Development Block Grant Recovery Act (CDBG-R) funds.  
357882 1B 6/24;7/1,8,15/10

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# Elevate America through certification training programs

TALLAHASSEE – Continuing his commitment to strengthening Florida's workforce, Governor Charlie Crist has announced a new, major public-private partnership between Microsoft and the State of Florida to provide free technology training to individuals across the state. Through the Microsoft Elevate America initiative, Microsoft has partnered with Workforce Florida Inc. to donate to the state 40,000 vouchers for no-cost, online technology training and certification through all of the state's 24 Regional Workforce Boards. The Elevate America program complements Workforce Florida's ongoing efforts to bolster digital access and literacy and to provide resources to individuals and employers seeking talent development resources.

"On behalf of all Floridians, I want to thank Microsoft for helping us in our ongoing efforts to prepare Floridians to work and prosper in our increasingly high-tech, global economy," said Governor Crist. "These vouchers will go a long way toward making Florida job seekers competitive in today's marketplace while preparing them for the opportunities of the future."

Each training voucher is redeemable for one e-learning course or certification exam. E-learning courses, available online, are self-paced and offer beginning and intermediate training on Microsoft Windows or on one of the programs in the Microsoft Office Suite. Also offered are IT Professional vouchers for courses tailored to the needs of individuals in technical professional career tracks in areas such as web development or database management. Certification exams must be taken at Certiport Testing Centers.

Governor Crist made today's announcement at the WORKFORCE plus One-Stop Center, the Regional Workforce Board of Gadsden, Leon and Wakulla counties, along with representatives from Microsoft, Workforce Florida, the Agency for Workforce In-

novation and the WORKFORCE plus Board of Directors.

"We created the Elevate America program to help equip people with the critical technology skills they need in today's competitive workplace," said Terrance Herron, Director of State Government Affairs for Microsoft Corporation. "We believe this type of public-private partnership will play an important role in rebuilding Florida's and the nation's economy by offering immediate access to basic technology literacy and skills training to ultimately improve recipients' employment prospects."

In its role as Microsoft's "designated partner" for administration of Elevate America in Florida, Workforce Florida will work with the Agency for Workforce Innovation and the Regional Workforce Boards to distribute and track the use of the Microsoft vouchers.

"Microsoft's timing could not be better," said Chris Hart IV, Workforce Florida President and CEO. "Our top priority is getting Floridians back to work, and this initiative is one more tool to help us do that across the state. In particular, we are committed to increasing digital access and literacy in Florida. Elevate America is not only helping us advance that goal, but it also is shoring up our efforts to raise awareness of the importance of digital literacy and access to every Floridian."

Vouchers will be available through all 24 Regional Workforce Boards beginning today through Aug. 21, or while supplies last. All vouchers must be activated by Aug. 21. E-learning vouchers are good for 12 months after the date of activation. Certification exam vouchers must be activated and used by Aug. 21. There is no cost for the e-learning and certification exam vouchers. However, in some instances a small proctoring fee may be charged by a Certiport Testing Center, where exams must be administered.

Florida is the 24th state to participate in

Elevate America, a groundbreaking initiative to prepare workers for the demands of a 21st century economy.

Microsoft announced the Elevate America program at the National Governors Association Winter Conference in February 2009. The initiative is expected to provide up to one million vouchers nationwide for Microsoft e-learning courses and select Microsoft certification exams at no or low cost to recipients. The program, part of Microsoft's overall Unlimited Potential efforts to improve social and economic opportunities

for people, will provide technology training for up to two million people during the next three years.

At <http://elevateamerica.floridajobs.org/> the online portal for Florida's program, Floridians can find an electronic voucher application, a list of Regional Workforce Boards as well as participation guidelines for their community. In addition, a list of regional Elevate America point staff and their contact information can be found there, along with a list of Certiport Testing Centers by region.

## BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

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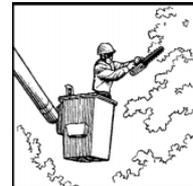
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# Passport fees to increase

U.S. citizens who plan to apply for a United States Passport in the near future may want to do so before Tuesday, July 13, to avoid a fee increase that will go into effect on that date.

Dwight Brock stated "I want the public to know about this fee increase in advance because an additional \$35 means a lot to a lot of people these days."

The Clerk of Courts Office is an official passport acceptance agency for the U.S. Department of State and in that capacity the clerk's staff assists citizens by reviewing and mailing their passport applications and required documents.

First time passport book applicants will be charged \$110 plus a \$25 execution fee, bringing the total to \$135, up from \$100. Renewals will go up to \$110 from the current \$75 charge.

Passport cards, which are only good for travel by land and sea in certain areas, will

cost \$30 plus a \$25 acceptance fee for first time applicants over the age of 16 years old. In addition, passport card renewals will increase to \$30 from \$20, and minors will now pay \$40, up from \$35.

Passport information and applications are available at all Clerk of Courts' offices and at [www.CollierClerk.com](http://www.CollierClerk.com) or citizens can visit the U.S. Department of State website: [http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport\\_1738.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html)

**PAID CONTENT**  
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**Restaurant**

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Are you looking for a different taste or environment for yourself, family and friends? Then Chez Nous Dadou Restaurant is the place for you to come. Freshly cook Mouth Watering Caribbean Cuisine will be served daily. Do not miss out!!! See you soon.

# Want to watch a jewel fly? Invite hummingbirds

By D. Hamilton  
INI Florida

Summertime brings hot weather blooms, afternoon rains and hummingbirds.

If you've ever had the pleasure of watching these little ones, you were probably amazed and mesmerized by their quickness, ability to hover in mid air and even to fly backwards.

Hummingbirds do not actually, "Hum." It is the sheer speed of their wings beating at 50-200 beats per second that produces the "Hum-m-m-ming" sound.

Strangely enough, according to the University of Florida Extension Service, Hummingbirds only live in the Americas. There are over 300 species with 16 of those found in the U.S. Florida has just three main species with the ruby-throated hummingbird as the most common.

Hummingbirds nest in Florida beginning in April. They only produce two tiny half-inch eggs that hatch in less than 3 weeks. In about a month after that, the young ones leave the nest.

Hummingbirds will remain late in the year in some parts of the South Florida region, however, most will migrate farther south to Mexico and South America until at least March before returning for spring's warmer weather. Male hummingbirds return about a week before females.

To attract hummingbirds to a particular area, offer them what they like. Fresh nectar kept in feeders will keep them coming back. Once the "feeding path" has been established, the feeder must be kept filled or they will move on to another steady feeding area.

The hummingbird draws the nectar from either feeder or flower through long needle-like bills and tongues specially adapted to reach into feeders and also into deep flowers.

For such tiny birds at just 3 inches in many cases, they have huge appetites, feeding every 10 to 15 minutes. Hummingbirds do not feed during the night time hours so they consume almost half their weight in food and about eight times their weight in water.

The heartrate and temperature of the hummingbird drops during darkness helping them to store and conserve energy until morning comes.

Using a feeder purchased at a local store is one way to keep the hummingbirds coming back. Premixed or a packaged nectar

solution mixed with water is best because it contains more than just sugar and water. It is much like they would find in a meal of wildflower nectars. Also, hummingbirds are drawn to the red color in premixed or instant nectars. Never, never use sugar substitutes or honey sweeteners in hummingbird feeders. The hummingbird will be attracted but the content could be deadly using either of these.

Feeders used with instant or premixed nectars should not be hung in direct sunlight. The heat can cause bacteria to grow and the birds could die from the contaminated water. Change the nectar solution every 3-5 days washing the feeder only with hot water and white vinegar.

What about a natural place for hummingbirds to dine? Planting brightly colored flowers are one way to draw them. They will try different kinds until they find one that suits them.

Flowers that are tubular and large or those hanging in clusters hold a large amount of nectar, enough for a quick sip.

The hummingbird garden should have a number of possibilities available from March through September and in South Florida, into the months of October and November.

Hummingbirds are territorial and can be aggressive in and around their feeding area. To avoid this, having several different groupings of flowers will keep the conflict between feeding hummingbirds down to a minimum.

Some of the native species to consider in a hummingbird garden might include Bottlebrush trees, Butterfly Bush, Firebush, Red Star Hibiscus, Cross Vine, Trumpet Vine, Coral Honeysuckle, Butterfly Milkweed, Red Basil, Shrimp Plant, Cardinal Flower, Obedient Plant, Scarlet Morning Glory, Cypress Vine, Standing Cypress, Bee Balm, Fuchsia, Columbine, Hollyhock and Red-Hot Poker. There are more, depending on where you live in Florida and the area that you wish to dedicate for your garden.

For more information on hummingbirds, check out the University of Florida Extension Service web site at <http://solutionsforyour-life.ufl.edu>.

For more photos of hummingbird species recorded in Florida go to: <http://floridahummingbirds.net/10201.html>



D. Hamilton/INI Florida

Getting the last sip before darkness falls is the female Ruby-throated Hummingbird (top). Once nightfall is complete, the hummingbird will not feed and must conserve energy until daylight. This female Ruby-throated hummingbird (bottom left) is one of the most common species to visit local feeders and blossoms. The hummingbird's ability to hover in mid air and even fly backwards is amazing to watch.



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