

IMMOKALEE BULLETIN

Serving Immokalee, Ave Marie and Eastern Collier County

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Thursday, August 5, 2010

50¢ Plus tax

IRCC meets to prepare for peak hurricane season

Members of the community continue to meet with Collier County emergency staff to prepare for the 'worst' should a hurricane ravage our community as Wilma did almost 5 years ago. A number of locals represent various areas of disaster preparedness. They include:

Judy Scribner, Human Services Program Manager-Collier County Government
 Ron Mosher, Crime Prevention Specialist-Collier County Sheriff's Office

Joe Brueggen, representing Nancy Frees of the Collier County Health Department
 Weldon Walker, Collier County Code Enforcement
 Chief Scott Birge, Immokalee Fire Department
 Essie Serrata, Farm Worker Village
 Silvia Puente, Information Collier
 Robert Halman, Collier County Director-IFAS Center
 Rick Heers, executive director-I HOPE

(not pictured)

Plans are being laid out as to how to staff the Immokalee Recovery Coordinating Center (IRCC) to be conducting business from the iTECH Center in case of a natural disaster.

In addition to determining where POD's would be placed around town, plans are being laid out as to who in the community may assist the IFD do an initial assessment of damage when a disaster hits.

It is very likely that the local C.E.R.T. would be activated to assist.

Any local businesses are requested to attend next week's Interagency Council meeting, on Wednesday, Aug. 10, so that they can receive detailed, up-to-date information and fill out a very important form that will provide the IRCC with contact information for the next disaster when it hits Immokalee.

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Family moves into new home

Olga Martinez grew up in the family home on Sixth Street North in Immokalee. When her dad passed away, the home was left to her and her husband, Reynaldo Cisneros. While it was their home, there were many challenges raising her family of four children in a small frame home with no insulation, leaking ceilings and only two bedrooms. Following Hurricane Wilma things went from bad to worse, as rodents would find their way into the home. She said that they had window fans that did little to make it comfortable in the heat of the summer. Then, when cold weather would arrive, they would all huddle together under blankets in one room with space heaters and try to keep warm. To make matters even worse, Reynaldo lost his job with RC Aluminum as a window installer with the economic downturn, and still has been unable to find additional work.

Thanks to Wilma recovery funds provided through Collier County, Reynaldo, Olga and their now five children have an energy-efficient home that is rodent and mold proof, and should be able to withstand winds in excess of 150 MPH.



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Rick Heers
The "New" Cisneros house at 217 North Sixth Street.

At the end of July, the Cisneros family moved into their new home built under the auspices of I HOPE using DRI-2 funds providing affordable living for families on very low income. Now, newborn baby daughter Ryla, along with Immokalee High Coby, and younger children Cruz, Martin, and Olivia have a secure stable three bedroom home with central heat

and air, and brand new appliances.

I HOPE has now completed seven homes at no charge to these families who are very low income and had homes that were damaged beyond repair from Hurricane Wilma. Federal funds were designated to the state, then filtered through

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CAT rolls out hybrid buses

Collier Area Transit (CAT) plans to roll out two new hybrid electric buses on Monday, Aug. 2. The two new buses purchased with a \$1.2 million American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant are the same length as most other CAT buses, 35 feet with seating for 32 passengers, but are about a foot and a half taller. The new hybrid buses, purchased from Gillig Corporation, have their battery pack on top, thus the added height. The technology used, allows the buses to recharge themselves as the buses brake and idle when they stop to pick up and discharge passengers as well as stop for traffic signals and stop signs.

CAT Public Transit Manager Glama Carter said the new buses are more fuel efficient, quieter, and lower in emissions than standard diesel and compressed natural gas (CNG) type buses.

"Studies have shown hybrid buses can improve fuel economy by about 30 percent," said Carter. "With the potential fuel savings, if CAT switched to all hybrid vehicles we could save hundreds of thousands

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Submitted photo

Collier Area Transit's new hybrid electric buses are fuel efficient, quieter and have fewer emissions than other types of buses.

CAT

Continued From Page 1

of dollars which is good for the county and, with reduced emissions, it is a great benefit for the environment and for all of us," Carter added.

In addition, the maintenance is expected to be less costly. Drivers and maintenance staff have received training and are ready to roll next week.

The hybrids will initially be used on Routes 3A and 3B as well as Route 1C. Routes 3A and 3B travel from the Collier County Government Center's Main Passenger Transfer Site at U.S. 41 and Airport Road to Radio Road, Santa Barbara Boulevard, along Golden Gate Parkway and through and around Golden Gate City and then back to the Government Center. Route 1C also begins at the Government Center then travels north on Airport Road to Immokalee Road and the Creekside Passenger Transfer Site and back to the Government Center.

The new buses, as well as all CAT buses, are equipped to handle wheelchairs. These hybrids have a kneeling feature which lowers the front of the bus and a ramp is utilized. The new hybrids also have bicycle racks on the front as is standard with other CAT buses.

CAT route maps are available at area libraries, employment agencies, government office buildings, hospitals, Naples Area Chamber of Commerce locations and vari-

ous area businesses and shopping centers. Route and fare information can also be obtained at: <http://colliergov.net/CAT> (The current fare chart is also located at the end of this release.)

For more information, contact the Alternative Transportation Modes Department at 239-252-8192 or the Collier Area Transit Office at 239-596-7777.

Current CAT Fares
 FARE
 Full Fare - \$1.50
 Reduced Fare for members of the Disabled Community, those 65 years & older & children under 17 - \$.75
 Children 5 years of age and younger - Free

Full Fare Token - \$1.50
 Reduced Fare Token - \$.75
 Transfers - \$.75
 Transfers- Reduced - \$.35
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 Day Pass - Reduced Fare - \$2
 Weekly Pass - Full Fare - \$15
 Weekly Pass - Reduce Fare - \$7.50
 Monthly Pass - Full Fare - \$35
 Monthly Pass - Reduced Fare - \$17.50
 Marco Express Full Fare - \$2.50
 Marco Express Reduced Fare for members of the Disabled Community, those 65 years & older & children under 17 - \$1.25

Marco Express Monthly Pass - Full Fare - \$70
 Marco Express Reduced Fare Monthly Pass for members of the Disabled Community, those 65 years & older & children under 17 - \$35



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Rick Heers

TOP and BOTTOM LEFT: The Cisneros family no longer must suffer with substandard housing from age and hurricane damage as shown here .

TOP RIGHT: Olga and Reynaldo can offer newborn Ryla a better home to grow up in.



Home

Continued From Page 1

the county, where applications had to be completed by as many different agencies as competed for the funds. I HOPE was able to raise an additional \$40,000 to complete the building projects. The other two recently completed homes will be featured in future editions of the Immokalee Bulletin.

While I HOPE continues to manage sev-

eral dozen mobile homes that were set up for families who are gradually reimbursing I HOPE for the set up of their homes, and continues to have volunteers assist in repairing roofs and doing minor repairs, they are looking for other funds to enable them to rebuild other homes for low income clients in 'inner' Immokalee. To volunteer on projects, or to make a donation, you can contact I HOPE at 1411 Lake Trafford Road (on the grounds of First Baptist Church), or call them at 239.657.4524, or mail them at P.O. Box 777, Immokalee 34143. All gifts are tax deductible.

Published by

IMMOKALEE BULLETIN

Serving Immokalee Since 1969

To Reach Us

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 518 • LaBelle, FL 33975
 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.
E-Mail: ibnews@newszap.com

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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.

Letters to the Editor

Dr. Villarosa Honored

After 20 years of loving care provided to thousands of children in Immokalee, Dr. V, as he is affectionately known has completed his work-no ministry-of love to the Immokalee community. When it came right down to the final end, it was as much government regulations and finances that directed him to continue his work of lovingly caring for children in a clinic in Brownsville, Texas.

I, Rick Heers, have known Dr. V for these twenty years as a friend, a prayer partner, and as one who reached out and shared his love for Jesus Christ to youth and married couples through his ministry at Guadalupe Catholic Church. He inspired thousands with his support actively for 'Right to Life.' Even while he was combating a deadly form of cancer, he remained positive and upbeat, always looking on the bright side. Many in the community-individuals, churches, One by One Leadership Foundation of South-west Florida, friends from Ave Maria University, and even the former Florida Community Bank-reached out to him with finances to help his practice continue to serve the many youngsters that flooded his small office in Kemp Plaza. On a number of occasions I introduced this man, who was so humble that he would bow his head, as the "mother Theresa of Immokalee." Truly our loss will be Brownsville's great gain.

John Lawson, Executive Director of One by One, had this to say about this great man,

In the book of Ecclesiastes it says that, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted." And for Dr. V's medical practice in Immokalee the season has come to an end. For twenty years Dr. Villarosa has served God in Immokalee by treating the medical needs of children while demonstrating a good heart of caring. Beginning in August 2010, the location of his practice will change, but the mission will undoubtedly remain the same. His jokes and smile and caring will continue. Always and foremost Dr. V. will continue to put God and the poor first. That is who he is.... He will of course be missed, but his kind heart is needed in Brownsville, Texas as well. So this July 31st, the religious decorations on his walls will come down. The 125 photos of just a few of his clients will be removed, but his legacy of a better community will live on. It will live on in the hearts and lives of the community that had chosen him. The people of Immokalee are still his family, the children in the Couples for Christ programs he coordinated will remain part of his family. To those of us at One by One Leadership Foundation who have supported him over the last five years to, he will remain as family. For those at Ave Maria University who granted him an honorary degree, he will forever be part of their history. At some fundamental level his legacy will continue in

the lives of others who share his passion for service in ways that glorify God and in the lives of those served who in some mysterious way provide blessings as well.

The community indeed should be grateful that the excellent services of Collier Health Services will step up to the plate and continue the same kind of top-notch service to the families who have not decided to, or are unable to go elsewhere for their children's medical care.

This past week the local Rotary Club honored him with many accolades and a special plaque to honor his years in Immokalee. Club president, who is also a program director for One by One Leadership Foundation presented him, on behalf of the Foundation with a gift of \$8,000.00. We, in the community, will continue to love and pray for him that good success and good health will follow him, his lovely wife, Maria, and his four children.

No more meetings

I would like to convey my sadness and frustration that the Tuesday evening Weight Watchers' meeting in Immokalee has been eliminated. This is the only meeting in the area and it will be sorely missed. I would hope that the Weight Watchers administrators will reconsider this decision.

I am a lifetime member of Weight Watchers and attend this meeting regularly along with many others, who are working to lose weight, or to maintain a weight loss through this great program. This meeting has helped many of us adopt and maintain healthy eat-

ing habits for ourselves and our families. Many have been able to reduce or eliminate medicines for diabetes, high cholesterol, and blood pressure.

Barbara, our leader at these meetings, has inspired us and been instrumental to our successes. She has led this meeting for 3 1/2 years and has become our mentor, friend and cheerleader.

I would like Weight Watchers to consider bringing this meeting back to Immokalee. There are no other meetings in the surrounding area where local residents, and workers like myself in Immokalee will be able to travel to immediately after work.

Judith Brill

Working in Immokalee for 20 years

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IMMOKALEE ANIMAL CLINIC

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Local Weather Forecast

Thursday: 30 % chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Mostly sunny and hot, high near 99. Calm wind becoming east around 6 mph.

Thursday night: 30 % chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, low around 73. Calm wind.

Friday: 30 % chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny and hot, high near 99. Light east wind.

Friday night: 30 % chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, low around 73.

Saturday: 30 % chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny and hot, high near 99.

Saturday night: 30 % chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, low around 73.

Sunday: 30 % chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny and hot, high near 99.

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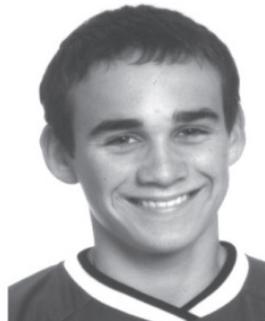
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Hanna from Norway, 16 yrs.

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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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We 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. Our CHS/FSU pediatric primary care practice welcomes those in our community who are in need of a primary care "home" for their children.

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(239) 658-3011

Shelter seeks Back to School Supplies

Shopping for back to school supplies? Pick-up a few extra items in support of The Shelter for Abused Women & Children's Back to School Drive and help ensure a great start to the new school year for young victims of family violence.

The Shelter's Back to School Drive helps meet the needs of families fleeing domestic violence who arrive at The Shelter's Beau Venturi Home without the basic necessities.

Current needs include the following new items:

- Gift Certificates: Wal-Mart, Target, Payless for back to school clothing needs (i.e. uniforms, shoes, socks, underwear)

- School clothes/shoes, Backpacks, Kleenex, Lunch boxes & thermoses, #2 Pencils, Pocket folders (some with prongs), Highlighters, Black, red & blue pens, Glue sticks, Children's scissors, White board markers, 3-Hole binder paper (loose leaf), Rulers, Primary color paint set (watercolors), Pencil boxes, Construction paper, Washable crayons, colored pencils and markers, Erasers, Binders (1/2-2 in.), Calculators, Writing tablets, Calendars, Protractors, Subject notebooks, Elmer's Glue,

Back to School items can be dropped off at The Shelter's resale stores during normal business hours: - Another Option Thrift Shoppe - Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 5248 Golden Gate Parkway, Naples. 239.354.4050.

- Options Thrift Shoppe - Monday to Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 968 Second Avenue North, Naples. 239-434-7115. Individuals, civic groups, religious organizations and businesses interested in hosting a Back to School Drive should call 239.775.3862, ext. 235, or email rgrabau@naplesshelter.org.

To Prevent. To Protect. To Prevail. The Shelter for Abused Women & Children. For more information on The Shelter, please call 239.775.3862, or visit www.naplesshelter.org

Check bus schedules now online

The School District of Collier County's school bus schedules for students needing transportation to attend any of the district's schools 50 when they open again on Monday, Aug. 23, are now available online.

To find the location of your bus stop, just go to the home page of the school district Web site at www.collierschools.com and click on the Back-to-School icon found under Looking For? Or go to the direct link - <http://bus.collierschools.com/> - and just follow the instructions.

The school bus schedules will be printed in local newspapers:

Thursday, Aug. 12 - Immokalee Bulletin for Immokalee bus schedules.

If you have bus schedule questions that can't be answered by a visit to the Web site, please call the School District of Collier County Transportation Office:

For Immokalee, call 239-377-1027

Or you may reach Ann Henderson in the Transportation office via e-mail at Henderan@collier.k12.fl.us

LTE planning uniform sale

Lake Trafford Elementary School will hold their annual uniform sale on two Saturdays in August - the first on Aug. 14 and the next on Aug. 21. Both will run from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Staff at the sale will be selling uniforms and taking orders for special sizes. Tops are polo knit and the colors are forest green, gold or white.

Bottoms are khaki/tan or navy. For questions or concerns, please call 239-658-7050.



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Guadalupe Center set to hold annual shoe program

The Guadalupe Center of Immokalee is set to hold its 18th annual Back-to-School Shoe Program the week of Aug. 9-13. The event will take place at Snyderman's Shoes located at 4910 Tamiami Trail in Naples.

Getting new clothes, shoes, and supplies for the school year is an end-of-summer tradition for families across the country.

In August, parents and children stroll the aisles of department stores selecting and purchasing the most popular fashions and accessories. But many children in Immokalee do without because caregivers cannot afford to buy new items for school.

Over the years, the Back-to-School Shoe Program has provided thousands of children with a new pair of shoes to start the school year. Many of the children come from families who are living at or below the poverty level. Without the Guadalupe Center's help, they would be forced to go back to school wearing a pair of shoes that no longer fit, oftentimes by more than 2-3 sizes.

With a growing number of children needing a new pair of shoes each year, the Guadalupe Center depends fully on donations. Most of the funding for the Back-to-School

Shoe Program comes from individuals in the community. Last year the program provided over 300 children with a pair of shoes. Due to the overwhelming need, we hope to be able to serve more children this year. With a cost of \$40 per child, it's easy to see why donations are so important.

The Seminole Casino of Immokalee and Corporate Coaches are sponsoring the event and will be providing transportation for the children. The students will be bussed to Snyderman's all week to pick out their shoes.

The Guadalupe Center of Immokalee is a non-profit organization focused on helping impoverished families in Collier County. The mission of the Guadalupe Center is to break the cycle of poverty by providing educational, social, and other support programs and resources.

To find out more about the Guadalupe Center or to donate to the Back-to-School Shoe Program, mail checks payable to Guadalupe Center at 509 Hope Circle, Immokalee, FL 34142 or call 239-657-7711. You can also donate online at www.guadalupecenter.net.

ECC sets fall iTECH schedule

Edison State College, in partnership with the Immokalee Technical Center (iTECH), has announced its fall schedule.

The partnership began in the fall of 2009, with two courses offered at the iTECH Collegiate Center, and has since grown to four courses with the potential to serve up to 100 students.

Fall 2010 classes begin Aug. 23 and will be held on the iTECH campus.

"We are heading into our second year of a successful partnership with iTECH," said Dr. Jeffrey Allbritten, Collier Campus President. "The Edison State College courses offered at the iTECH Collegiate Center can lead to an Associate or Bachelor degree from Edison State College.

"We plan to expand this program in the future so that Immokalee High School students and area adults can continue to

advance their education, right in their community."

Students may choose to take any or all of the following courses: Composition I, Composition II, Reading Skills III, and US History. There are no fees or tuition required for high school students who dual enroll.

Dual Enrollment can be arranged through the Immokalee High School guidance department. Interested adults pay registration and tuition fees, set by Edison State College.

Registration is available online at www.edison.edu or in person at the Collier County campus by Aug. 27.

The Edison State College Collier Campus, 7007 Lely Cultural Parkway, is located off Collier Boulevard, three miles north of Tamiami Trail East.

As of July 30th, Immokalee Paediatrics, Inc is closed

You can have your medical records shipped to any doctor by doing these: Go to your future child doctor's office. Get a Medical Release Form from them. Write the words, "Former Dr V's patient" in large letters on the form. Have them faxed this form to Marion Fether Medical Center at 239-658-3007. If your child is going to Marion Fether or FSU or Collier Health Services, there is nothing to do. Just tell them that your child was Dr V's patient. For more info, call 1-877-844-8185



This Summer

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Ave Maria



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Live TV panel show airs Monday

The back-to-school edition of the School District of Collier County's monthly live TV talk show is scheduled to air at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 9, on The Education Channel, cable 99. Open Mic - Open Dialogue features an in-studio panel discussing the issues and challenges facing our schools and the district, and it features community members on the phone. Parents Kristi Prisco and Donna Matson will sit at the table with Superintendent Dennis L. Thompson and School Board Vice Chair Julie Sprague. Kristi Prisco serves on the School Advisory Council and is a PTO officer at Palmetto Elementary School. Donna Matson sits on the district report card committee and also is an involved parent at Golden Gate Elementary School and Golden Gate High School. Both will share their opinions and viewpoints. Viewers are encouraged to join

in by calling in 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 9. The number to call: 239-377-9999. First names only are used on air.

Open Mic - Open Dialogue is moderated by Naples Daily News Editorial Page Editor Jeff Lytle. He is not paid by the district and the questions he asks as moderator are his own.

Community members interested in participating as panelists on future editions should send an e-mail to TVpanel@collier.k12.fl.us or call the district's Communications Services Department at 239-377-0180.

Open Mic - Open Dialogue will be on TV live at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 9, with replays at 5:30 p.m. Aug. 10-18 & 20-22, on The Education Channel, cable 99, available to all Comcast basic tier cable TV subscribers in Collier County.

Everglades Restoration momentum continues

Building on historic agreements to advance construction on Everglades restoration projects, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently approved another key Project Partnership Agreement to test technology for preserving clean water in Everglades National Park. If proven effective, technology developed during the pilot project will significantly benefit Everglades restoration and water quality improvement efforts in the park as well as beyond its boundaries.

"Working with our federal partners, the State of Florida and the District have been leaders in developing the tools and technology to restore America's Everglades," said SFWMD Governing Board Chairman Eric Buermann. "This pilot project promises to significantly advance restoration efforts in Everglades National Park and will provide valuable knowledge to benefit the broad effort to revive the River of Grass."

Retaining clean water in the Everglades requires controlling and managing seepage of water from the wetlands. This is integral to success of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). The L-31 North (L-30) Seepage Management pilot project will help to identify the appropriate technology that will prevent clean water from seeping out of Everglades National Park through South Florida's porous underground rock layers. A second goal is to help retain clean water in Water Conservation Area 3B in Miami-Dade County — an area of the remnant Everglades, with the highest seepage rate in the area.

"The pilot project was developed with extensive input from the public and numerous stakeholders," said Ken Ammon, P.E., SFWMD Deputy Executive Director - Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects. "Experience gained from this project will have far-reaching benefits and moves us closer to achieving restoration goals to protect the Everglades and South Florida's environment."

The pilot project will test two structural seepage reduction technologies — specifically, steel sheet pile and a slurry wall — while also testing the ability to seasonally manage seepage flows through pumping operations to create a "hydraulic bar-

rier."

"Reducing seepage from the Everglades is vital to its restoration, but accomplishing this is no easy task. It's not simply a matter of installing a wall that stops all easterly flow out of the park," said Stu Appelbaum, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District Deputy for Restoration Program Management. "We have to manage and control for variable flow rates via a system of features. That's why this pilot test is so important. We're committed to protecting and restoring the Everglades, so we will look at how different strategies perform before we proceed with larger scale implementation of any strategy."

The slurry wall technology is similar to the technology now being used by the Corps to reduce seepage from portions of the Herbert Hoover Dike surrounding Lake Okeechobee.

The Project Partnership Agreement allows the Corps to award a contract for construction and testing of the pilot project, at an estimated cost of \$9.3 million using federal stimulus funding. The effort was also made possible by the landmark August 2009 Master Agreement between the SFWMD and the Corps.

Laying the groundwork for Everglades restoration for decades to come, the Master Agreement serves as an umbrella accord between the state and federal partners that governs all CERP projects. In turn, each CERP project requires a Project Partnership Agreement. The Master Agreement was also an essential step necessary for the Corps to begin restoration construction with an initial infusion in 2009 of approximately \$115 million in congressional appropriations.

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) is a framework for restoring, protecting and preserving the water resources of central and southern Florida. CERP is a 50-50 partnership between the State of Florida and the federal government. The State of Florida and the South Florida Water Management District have invested approximately \$2.4 billion toward this effort, including approximately \$300 million in construction. Through June 30, 2010, 60 percent — or approximately 234,853 acres — of the estimated lands needed to implement CERP have been acquired. For more information, visit www.sfwmd.gov/everglades.

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Submitted photo

Pictured here are the following people who represent various area of disaster preparedness: Judy Scribner, Human Services Program Manager-Collier County Government, Ron Mosher, Crime Prevention Specialist-Collier County Sheriff's Office, Joe Brueggen, representing Nancy Frees of the Collier County Health Department, Weldon Walker, Collier County Code Enforcement, Chief Scott Birge, Immokalee Fire Department, Essie Serrata, Farm Worker Village, Silvia Puente, Information Collier, Robert Halman, Collier County Director-IFAS Center. Rick Heers, executive director-I HOPE (not pictured). Story on Page 1.

Sign Up for new Cal Ripken Baseball

Fall ball for Cal Ripken Baseball, a new league being formed in Lehigh Acres, is adding teams from Immokalee. Kids 9-12 years of age interested in continuing to play baseball after our regular season has ended are welcome.

Registrations will be 5-8 p.m. beginning Saturday Aug. 7, 9, 11 and 13, at the Little League Park in Immokalee. All games will be held at Veteran's Park in Lehigh Acres starting Sept. 18, till around Thanksgiving.

Registration fees are \$35 including a jersey and cap.

Tryouts are to be announced. All registration fees will be refunded to players not placed on a team.

Items needed for registration are Birth Certificate, proof of residency, and \$35 registration fee. Coach's applications are also being accepted, for additional information, please contact William Trevino 1-239-357-3937 or William Trevino Jr. (Mr. T.) 1-239-357-3823.

New pastor arrives

First United Methodist Church has welcomed new pastor, Thom Street, and his wife, Vickie, to their church in Immokalee. Thom and Vickie have been ministering for the past 7 years in Moore Haven and are looking forward to an expanded ministry to our community, which is much larger than the entire population of Glades County.

Thom graduated with a Master's degree in Divinity from Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, Texas, after receiving his Bachelor's degree from Ashland College.

Thom and Vickie have two children and two grandchildren who live in Fort Myers.

While in Moore Haven he was active in the community serving as an emergency communicator with the Civil Service as a HAM operator and trainer. He also is a former member of the Civilian Air Patrol, and was a volunteer fireman, and volunteer EMT.

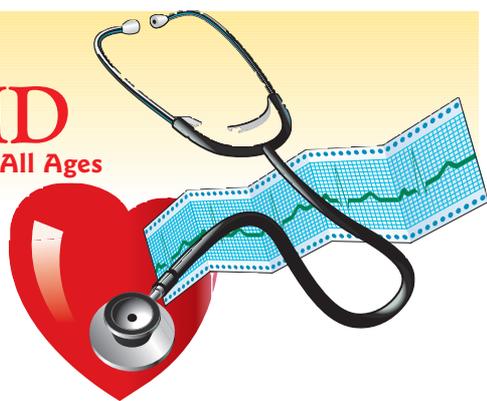
He also served as a board member, then president of CREW-Community Rebuilding Ecumenical Workforce-a Long Term Disaster Recovery Organization similar to I HOPE in Immokalee.

He is eager to get involved with community organizations in Immokalee.



Pastor Thom Street has arrived at First United Methodist Church.

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