

Commissioner Fiala tours Immokalee

By Patty Brant
Immokalee Bulletin

Commissioner Donna Fiala spent the day in Immokalee Friday, Oct. 28, from the new Florida Specialties plant to the old South Park, she was impressed with what she saw.

Commissioner Fiala took a comprehensive tour of the Immokalee Regional Airport, escorted by Airport Manager Tom Vergo and Collier County Airport Authority Executive Director Chris Curry. CRA Executive Director Penny Phillippi accompanied the commissioner for the day.

Immokalee Airport's two runways were built when the facility opened in World War II to train military personnel. With only minor repairs since that time, staff is currently hoping to get a grant to refurbish one of those runways.

The runway, 150' wide, 5000' long, is adequate to accommodate general aviation that can open the door to a major economic generator. Mr. Curry explained the authority's application for an FAA grant for the resurfacing. According to Mr. Vergo, the community does not understand the importance of the

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Immokalee Bulletin/Patty Brant

Collier County Airport Authority Executive Director Chris Curry, Collier County Commissioner Donna Fiala, Immokalee Regional Airport Manager Tom Vergo and CRA Executive Director Penny Phillippi forged better connections after touring the Immokalee Regional Airport.

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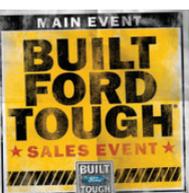
Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Tom Siemianowski
On Tuesday, Nov. 1, Homewood Suites by Hilton staff and mascot, Lewis, paid a visit to the Family Literacy Academy of Immokalee, managed by Jump Start, to celebrate National Literacy Day. Homewood Suites provided snacks and Lewis books for the children.

Edison State College opens registration on Nov. 15

Edison State College will open registration to the general public for spring courses Nov. 15.

Full Spring and Spring A courses begin Jan. 9 with Spring B scheduled for March 14. Seating for all courses is limited with a 50 percent enrollment increase the last 3 years, so students are encouraged to act fast in order to secure their desired course schedule.

For more information about how to register visit www.edison.edu/future. For more information about Edison State College visit www.edison.edu or call 800-749-2322.



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FIALA

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1,333 acre airport to Immokalee's growth and prosperity.

Designated as a Florida Rural Enterprise Zone, HUB Empowerment Zone and Free Trade Zone and strategically located within South Florida, Immokalee's airport is set to become a huge economic magnet for the area.

At the airport, Salazar Machine and Steel, Inc., is one of Immokalee Regional Airport's success stories. It will soon be moving into its new building at the airport, consolidating its LaBelle facility into this new one.

The commissioner was also very interested in the National Guard quarters and its future at the airport. Currently the Guard is quartered at the TMI building near the airport, with vehicles on airport grounds.

Commissioner Fiala also got a good look at Immokalee's recreational facilities. Starting with South Park, the commissioner learned about recreation in Immokalee. She was amazed at the tiny, well used mobile home that houses the local rec program at South Park and the plans to replace it with a brand new 4,000 square foot building to be

paid for with impact fees.

The community building includes a public area, rooms for a Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) program and senior program. It houses a drop-in after school program for children. The program is run there by Sandra Ramos and volunteers.

On the way to tour the Immokalee Sports Complex, the commissioner got a mini tour of some of Immokalee's housing.

At Immokalee Community Park, Commissioner Fiala was impressed by the entire complex. She found there are 36 kids in the after school program and the complex offers a VPK program as well.

With regard to the recreation staff in Immokalee, she said, "What lucky kids they are to have supervisors with such passion."

An invitation to visit Florida Specialties was the impetus for the commissioner's visit, but she said she wanted to "see it all" in Immokalee, though the commissioner said she is familiar with the community and tries to come about every six months.

She also got a tour of the new CRA building. After the tour, the commissioner expressed pleasure in seeing new development in the area and said she was "thrilled at the passion of Immokalee's people."



Immokalee Bulletin/Patty Brant

The commissioner took a good look at plans for a much needed new South Park facility.



Immokalee Bulletin/Patty Brant

CRA Director Penny Phillippi, Immokalee Recreation Director Joe Boney, Commissioner Donna Fiala and South Park Program Director Sandra Ramos linger over plans for a new facility at South Park.

Adult and Community Ed offers new home buyers course

Are you in the market for your first home? Are you a parent or grandparent helping a son or daughter buy a first home? The School District of Collier County's Community and Adult Education (ACE) is offering a new course designed just for you. ACE will offer a New Home Buyers course, beginning Thursday, **Nov. 10**, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Barron Collier High School, 5600 Cougar Drive, room 465). The five-week course is \$69 and will be taught by Jim York.

The class will identify the first steps of home ownership and answer questions including: How much money do you need for a down payment? How does your credit score affect buying a home? How much of a home can you afford? Plus, you will get important tips and how-tos:

- Learn the monthly cost difference between a house and a condominium
- Understand real estate market trends
- Find out where to get the best information about purchasing a home
- Learn how to obtain State bonds to help with your down payment
- Discover how parents and grandparents can benefit from a tax write-off.

Looking ahead, ACE will offer a second level follow-up course beginning January 9, 2012. Pre-registration is available on ACE's website or you may register in the classroom the first night.

To learn more, please call Adult and Community Education at 239-377-1234 or visit: www.collieradulted.com for a complete list of available courses. Online registration is available.

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- 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.

The first election in 2012 for county voters is Jan. 31

Florida's Jan. 31 Presidential Preference Primary (PPP) Election is the first Election of the year for Collier County voters. The Supervisor of Elections Office will be mailing every registered voter a sample ballot for the January 31st PPP Election. The sample ballot will indicate the contests in which you are eligible to vote. Even though all registered voters will be mailed a sample ballot, your eligibility to participate in the Jan. 31, election will depend on where you live in the county and/or your political party affiliation.

While it is too early to indicate all contests that will appear on the Jan. 31 PPP ballot, the following is a list of some of the known contests that will appear on the ballot: the Presidential Preference Primary, the City of Naples Election, fire district referendums for Golden Gate and Immokalee, as well as a Radio Road East MSTU referenda.

If you have not registered to vote, to declare or change party affiliation, you must

do so before the registration book closing on Jan. 3, 2012. Voter registration application forms may be accessed through our website at www.CollierVotes.com. Online voter registration application forms must be printed, signed and returned to the Supervisor of Elections Office. Voter registration application forms are also available at the Supervisor of Elections Office, driver license offices, public libraries, government satellite offices, recruitment offices of the armed forces, state agencies that provide public assistance, and any state agency providing service to disabled residents. To participate in the January 31, 2012 Election, new registrations and those declaring or changing party affiliation must be returned to the Supervisor of Elections Office on or before the Jan. 3, registration book closing. For more information visit www.CollierVotes.com or contact the Supervisor of Elections Office at 239-252-8450.

Sign up for Clerk's fall seminars

Clerk of Courts, Dwight Brock will conduct free public seminars this fall for citizens of Collier County. All are free and open to the public on a first come, first served basis.

Two seminars are being held in conjunction with Collier County Public Library and the other with the Frances Pew Hayes Center for Lifelong Learning at Hodges University.

People interested in attending the seminars at the public libraries must sign-up in advance using the library's online registration system in order to be guaranteed a seat. To sign up visit the library's website at:

<http://host.evanced.info/collier/>

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There is no advance registration requirement for the Hodges University program.

Searching Public Records Using CollierClerk.com

November 9, 2-4 p.m., at the Naples Regional Library on Central Avenue

Understanding Domestic Violence Law

December 7, 1-3 p.m. at Hodges University in the Science and Technology Center

For more information contact:
Robert D. St. Cyr, Director of Community Outreach Clerk of the Circuit Court,
Collier County 3315 Tamiami Trail E. Suite 102, Naples, FL 34112

Hospice offers session to help caregivers cope with the holidays

Avow Hospice will offer a free educational session focused on helping those who care for a seriously ill loved one cope with the holidays. The session will be held on Thursday, Nov. 17, from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Ispiri community center located at Avow Hospice, 1095 Whippoorwill Lane, Naples.

An Avow Hospice grief specialist will lead

share insights and strategies. Topics will include ways to help yourself, letting others know what you need and combining familiar holiday traditions with the realities of present life and relationships.

There is no fee to attend but advanced registration is requested. For more information or to register call 239-280-5981.

Flu shots available at Collier County Health Department

The 2011-2012 seasonal flu shots are now available at the Collier County Health Department. This year, in addition to the flu shot we are offering the high-dose flu shot that is specifically designed for people 65 years and older. The pneumonia shot continues to be available year round. Cost: Flu vaccine - \$30, High-dose Flu - \$50, Pneumonia vaccine - \$70. *The Health depart-

ment will bill your Medicare or insurance, please bring your card and a photo ID.

Times: Monday through Friday 9-11 am. and 2-3 p.m. *No appointment is necessary. 3339 E Tamiami Trail, HealthBuilding, 1st floor, Naples.

*For Immokalee residents, please call 239-252-7300.

Local Forecast

Weather forecast for Collier County from the National Weather Service

Local Forecast

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. Calm wind becoming east between 4 and 7 mph.

Thursday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 62. Light northeast wind.

Extended Forecast

Friday: A 10 percent chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 81. North wind between 3 and 5 mph.

Friday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 61. West wind between 3 and 7 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 81.

Saturday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 63.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 83.

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

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 83.

Farm labor contractor core training offered

Four sessions of Farm Labor Contractor Core (FLC) training will be offered this season by the University of Florida, at UF's Research & Education Centers in Wimauma, Belle Glade and Immokalee.

This training includes four units: Administration- regulations about wage & hour, workers' compensation, and inspections; Transportation laws and safety for vehicles that transport farm workers plus Housing regulations and standards; Worker Safety in the fields; and Personnel Management, including human trafficking, discrimination, child labor, and techniques for managing workers.

Each unit takes 4 hours to complete.

The training program is open to anyone who supervises farm workers, or who is responsible for maintaining compliance with respect to farm labor regulations.

Cost is \$ 25 per class, or \$ 100 for the four classes that earn a Certificate of Completion of the Farm Labor Contractor Core Training course. Lunch and refreshments will be served.

These classes will be held in three different locations on the following dates:

Immokalee-Nov. 16 and 17

Belle Glade-Dec. 14 and 15

Administration and Transportation/Housing units will be taught on the first day of each session.

Worker Safety and Personnel Manage-

ment will be offered on the 2nd day.

The training goes from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on all days.

The training will be given in both English and Spanish, simultaneously in two rooms.

Attendees may take the trainings at different locations, as long as they complete one full unit at a time, for a Certificate of Attendance.

To register for any or all of the classes, please contact Marcela Rice, Program Assistant, at: 239-658-3400, or email mlrice@ufl.edu.

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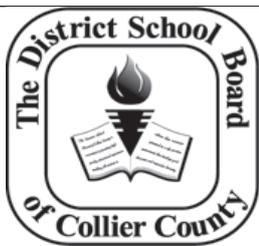
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Students First

IHS BETA Club- Simply 'amazing!'

By Joe Landon
Collier County District Schools



There's a group of students at Immokalee High School that really deserves our attention, a round of applause, and kudos of every sort for an amazing performance. The students, about 70 strong, are members of the Immokalee High School BETA Club – BETA standing for Better Education Through Achievement.

Amazing isn't a word I use unless what I am talking about is truly amazing. That being said, why would I call the Immokalee High School BETA Club's performance amazing? I call it that because it truly is. This spring, 70 Immokalee students traveled to Orlando to take part in the 69th Annual State of Florida BETA Club Convention. They came home with first place state competition awards in Banner, Campaign Skit, Participation, Philanthropy, Scrapbook, and Service categories. First place in the state! Immokalee junior Joseph Flores campaigned to be State of Florida BETA Club President. He delivered a remarkable campaign speech and won the election. Now based on their performance at the state level, the Immokalee club earned the right to represent Florida at the 31st Annual BETA Convention held in Nashville in June. Following a good deal of hard work to raise money to pay for the trip, 62 BETA Club members journeyed to Nashville to be crowned National Champions in both the Campaign Skit and Group Talent categories. Longtime club sponsor and now retired Immokalee High School Activities Coordinator Linda Ayer was named National BETA Club Sponsor of the year.

In case you didn't know, Immokalee

High School has been involved with BETA for 56 years. Winning isn't new either. The club has a proud history of doing exceptionally well in both state and national competitions, having won awards at state every year since the mid 80's and at the national level every year

since 1990.

During the School Board's annual visit to Immokalee to conduct a School Board Workshop on Tuesday, BETA members performed for School Board Members and the community, Joseph Flores delivered his campaign speech, and the BETA Club members were officially recognized for being the champions they are. We add our congratulations and best wishes to these outstanding Immokalee High School students. Way to go Indians! If you weren't able to join us for the workshop, you can watch it on TV at 12 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. It'll be on The Education Channel, Comcast cable 99, or online at www.collierschools.com. Students from Village Oaks Elementary School, Immokalee Middle School, and Immokalee High School performed; and a video, featuring "the stars of Immokalee" – students from all eight Immokalee schools – was shown at the meeting.

There's yet another opportunity for you to learn about Collier County Public Schools. There's a Superintendent's Town Hall Meeting on tap for Thursday, November 17th. Our new Superintendent, Dr. Kamela Patton, will bring you up to speed on what's happening in our district on a wide range of topics. We hope you join her – 6 p.m. on Thursday, November 17th, in the Immokalee High School Auditorium. Please note that the Town Hall Meeting will not be televised.

'Math' theme for family night program at Edison

Edison State College will be hosting Family Math Night at 6 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 14, in Building U, Room 102 on the Lee Campus. This is a free event for students in grades K through 10. Reservations are encouraged and can be done by email at: familymathnight@edison.edu.

"This is a family-oriented event that focuses on fun math games for students from grades K through 10," said Mary Robertson, Professor of Mathematics Education, Edison State College. "Learning mathematics successfully requires a joint effort be-

tween home and school. Research shows students that work cooperatively with their parents have higher academic achievement. The whole idea is to show parents and students that math is fun!"

Edison State College School of Education students created fun math games for participating students and their families.

Robertson has been a mathematics teacher for the past 27 years, having taught at the middle school, high school and college level courses.

Immokalee Little League seeks team support volunteers

Volunteers are needed for positions on the Immokalee Little League Board of Directors and also for coaches, assistant coaches, team support parents, etc. Please come out and support our children. Call William B. Trevino, III at 239-324-3072 for more information.

Edison State hosts youth leadership conference

High school students from across the state will gather at Edison State College for a Student Leadership Conference on Nov. 17-19.

Presented by the Florida Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel, more than 250 students from programs such as Upward Bound, which provides assistance with college preparation for low-income students, are expected to attend. It is the first time the conference is held in Southwest Florida.

"Our program has gotten noticed because of all the positive things our current students are involved in, so we were asked to host this year's conference," said Aaron Haack, coordinator of the Upward Bound Program at Edison State College. "In the past the conference is usually held at a large state school like UF, UCF or USF; so to host it here at our great institution is a tremendous honor."

Edison's Upward Bound Program serves Lehigh High School, Dunbar High School, Fort Myers High School, East Lee County High School and Riverdale High School with 50 students per year.

Motivational speaker, life coach and

Edison State professor David Essel is the keynote speaker for the 3-day event that features a variety of leadership workshops under the motto "Encouraging Constant Improvement: Forging a Path that Leads to New Heights." The conference also features skate night at Bamboozles Skate Rink and a ropes course challenge.

Haack said the event committee chose to replace the traditional dance with a skate night and incorporate the ropes course, but maintained the focus of accomplishing goals through leadership.

"We're providing an opportunity to not only try something new but to also accomplish something through teamwork," Haack said. "We wanted to think outside the box, and I think the ropes course will be really well received and maybe even become a tradition for future years."

For more information about Edison State's Upward Bound program please visit www.edison.edu/upwardbound, call 239-489-9003 or e-mail ubp@edison.edu.

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CCSO partners to help homeless pups get a second chance

“Cell dog” training program to make better pets

Aimee, Maggie, Dexter, and Chance are untamed and unruly kids, worthy of good homes with loving families.

All they need is lots of attention, care and constant practicing on how to behave well in polite company.

And that's what they are getting at the Collier County Sheriff's Office.

The four puppies -- three golden retrievers and a boxer -- are the first participants in CCSO's Second Chance Cell Dog Program, which places homeless shelter dogs to be obedience trained by carefully selected inmates who have already been sentenced by the courts.

CCSO is partnering with the Humane Society of Naples and its affiliate Southwest Florida Professional Dog Trainers Alliance to introduce the cell dog program to Collier County. The program is part of a broader effort by CCSO to teach inmates life skills in conjunction with our community partners from across Collier County.

Upon graduation, the dogs will be highly adoptable and possess obedience skills such as how to heel, sit, recall and stay. They will also be house trained, leash trained and responsive to voice commands and some hand signals.

The goal of the program is to make the dogs disciplined, loving and faithful family pets and increase their chances of going to a forever home. At the same time it teaches inmates valuable life lessons and job skills in the areas of dog training, dog grooming and veterinary assistant skills that they will be able to use after they complete their sentences.

Sheriff Kevin J. Rambosk said he is excited to launch the program at the Collier County jail. He thanked the Humane Society of Naples and Southwest Florida Professional Dog Trainers Alliance for partnering with CCSO in the program.

“We hope this program will not only provide a second chance for these shelter dogs, but will also allow the inmates to experience a feeling of giving back something positive to the community and gain a sense of responsibility and satisfaction by teaching and taking



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin Cpl Efrain Hernandez/CCSO
Three Golden Retriever pups and a boxer will be incarcerated soon for 16 weeks and will learn how to be a better pet in the new, “Cell dog” program.

care of the animals,” Sheriff Rambosk said.

Since Oct. 24, volunteers with the Southwest Florida Professional Dog Trainers Alliance have been teaching eight inmates how to obedience train the dogs during an intensive eight- to 16-week course, depending on the trainability of each dog. Each dog has one primary inmate trainer and one secondary inmate trainer.

Inmates selected for the program are carefully screened. Inmates who have been sentenced to one year or less on nonviolent offenses are eligible.

“We have been researching programs that we could offer the sentenced female inmates,” said Jail Captain Beth Richards. “The cell dog program is one of the few programs that potentially benefit the community, the jail and the inmates.”

Captain Richards added the puppies have had a therapeutic effect at the jail, lifting the spirits of both the deputies and inmates.

The program is being carried out at no additional cost to taxpayers.

The Collier County Sheriff's Office is providing the inmate “labor” to train the dogs. Each dog is living 24/7 with two inmates in a housing cell. The dogs are housed in ap-

proved kennel crates.

The Humane Society of Naples has agreed to furnish specially selected dogs to the program, as well as the necessary crates, food, supplies and veterinary services. All of the animals are spayed or neutered, fully vaccinated and tested for heartworms. Upon completion of their training, the dogs will be returned to the Humane Society of Naples to be placed into their forever home with a deserving owner. The dogs will be available for adoption by the general public. The adoption process will be handled through the Humane Society.

The Southwest Florida Professional Dog Trainers Alliance has volunteered its services to instruct the inmates in obedience training. Dogs completing the training will receive a certificate of accomplishment. Dogs showing exceptional aptitude will be tested for The American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen Program and will receive that award after successful testing.

To learn more about the adoption process, contact the Humane Society of Naples at 239.775.1660.



Courtesy photo/CCSO
Already becoming a more “patient pup,” this new “student” in the pet training program sits during a training class for inmate pet handlers.

Town hall meetings continue

Dr. Kamela Patton's series of six Superintendent's Town Hall Meetings will continue with meetings. Each meeting will be held in the school's auditorium. Parents and community members are invited to attend. Topics of discussion will include student achievement, the new science program, Standards-Based Progress Reports for elementary parents, and changes in the graduation requirements for high school parents -- among others. Parents will learn about registering to use parent access resources so they may view their child's school assignments (all grade levels) or view their child's current grades (middle and high school parents), and they

will actually have an opportunity to sign up using the networked laptops set up at each meeting location. A question-and-answer period is planned for each meeting. Questions will be accepted the evening of each meeting, but persons wishing to may submit a question in advance by visiting www.collierschools.com. Click on the “Ask the Superintendent” icon or send your question directly to question@collierschools.com.

Here is the date and time of the Immokalee Town Hall Meeting. The meeting will be an hour-long to begin at 6 p.m.:

- Thursday, Nov. 17, at Immokalee High School, 701 Immokalee Drive

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Hospice holds Children's Grief workshop Saturday

Avow Hospice will hold a workshop for children aged 6-12 who have experienced the death of someone they love. It will be led by Avow Hospice Children's Bereavement Counselor and Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Avow Hospice Immokalee Outreach Coordinator. The session will be held Saturday, Nov. 5, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Career and Service Center, 750 South 5th Street, Immokalee. Parents are invited to participate in a special group session from 9 to 10:30 a.m. to learn tips for supporting their grieving children. The session is offered without charge. To register a child or for more information, call Raquel Gonzalez at 239-261-4404 ext. 3724.

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Florida students show upward progress

Fourth graders continue to outshine national counterparts in reading

TALLAHASSEE – Florida Education Commissioner Gerard Robinson has announced Florida's results on the 2011 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Reading and Mathematics assessments. The results show that fourth graders in the Sunshine State continue to outpace the nation in reading, with an average scale score of 225 compared to 220 nationwide. Results for Florida's Hispanic students also show higher average scale scores than their counterparts across the country, in both reading and mathematics in fourth and eighth grades, while the overall results for grades 4 and 8 show no significant change since the most recent 2009 results.

"I want to commend our students, teachers, and school districts for their tremendous efforts as these results help us further adapt classroom instruction to accommodate the needs of our students," said Education Commissioner Gerard Robinson. "We remain committed to the work that lies ahead to ensure students are fully prepared for their educational journey and for the demanding economy that awaits them."

In fourth grade mathematics, Hispanic students, students with disabilities and students eligible for free or reduced price lunch scored higher than the national average, and overall fourth graders matched the national average score of 240. In addition, Hispanic eighth graders scored higher than their national counterparts with a score of 274.

Since 1998, Florida has seen steady prog-

ress on NAEP and the Department of Education continues to work closely with schools across the state to infuse effective reading instruction focused on prevention and intervention, including phonemic awareness, fluency in word recognition and text processing, construction of meaning, vocabulary, spelling and writing, reading

Since 2003, every state in the nation has participated in NAEP, also referred to as the "Nation's Report Card." The 2011 NAEP results show that since 2003, Florida's fourth and eighth grade students have increased their overall reading scores by seven and five points respectively, compared to a four-point gain by the nation's fourth graders and a three-point gain for eighth graders.

Highlights of Florida's progress since 2003 in NAEP Reading include:

- Reading scores of African-American fourth and eighth grade students increased 11 and nine points respectively, compared to eight points for the nation's fourth graders and four points for eighth graders.

- Hispanic student performance in fourth and eighth grade reading increased by nine and eight points respectively, compared to six points for the nation's fourth graders and seven points for eighth graders.

- Students with disabilities in fourth and eighth grade improved their reading scores 17 and 12 points respectively, compared to two points for the nation's fourth graders and six points for eighth graders.

- The state's fourth and eighth grade low income students increased their performance in reading by 11 and nine points respectively, compared to six points for the nation's fourth graders and five points for eighth graders.

Mathematics

Indigenous cultural explosion expected at museum

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum celebrates Native American history and living culture at 14th annual event

Hosting Seminole and other Native American artisans from across the country, the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum kicks off Native American Heritage Month with its annual, weekend-long American Indian Arts Celebration (AIAC), Nov. 4-6, at its campus on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation.

Widely regarded as an indigenous cultural explosion in the Everglades, this 14th annual event celebrates the traditional and contemporary arts, dance and music of the Seminole, Southeastern and other Indian tribes from across the U.S. Silverwork, beadwork, woodwork, basketry, leatherwork, photography, paintings, jewelry and more are represented at the Indian market, while traditional cultural elements such as storytelling, music and dance will be showcased at the central staging area on the Museum's festival grounds. Previously, AIAC has included entertainers such as Casper and the 602 Band, Micki Free Blues Experience, Grey Wolf Blues Band, Martha Redbone,

Keith Secola and the Wild Band of Indians, Bill Miller and other award winning American Indian recording artists. Thrilling dance groups like the YellowBird Apache Dancers of Arizona, the AniKituhwa Warriors from North Carolina and the Great Plains Indian Dancers have rounded out prior cultural exhibition dancing.

"Native American tribes are vastly different from one another, and AIAC is an ideal event to showcase such rich history and unique living culture in South Florida's backyard," said Anne McCudden, director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. "By sharing our diversity and celebrating native traditions, we hope to inspire an appreciation and understanding of the Seminole people and other Native American tribes."

Educational and interactive activities for youth groups and the general public promise to entertain festival-goers by immersing them in Native cultures. The Craft Corner allows children the opportunity to create their own Seminole-inspired craft; the Critter Show presents the up-close, exciting and wild world of animals; the Archaeology tent affords visitors keen insight into the role of archaeology and the Tribal Historic Preservation Office; and the Museum Information tent shares exciting Museum news and invites attendees to join the Museum with spe-

The 2011 NAEP results show that since 2003, Florida's fourth and eighth grade students have increased their overall mathematics scores by six and seven points respectively, matching their national counterparts.

Highlights of Florida's progress in NAEP Mathematics since 2003 include:

- Florida African-American fourth and eighth graders increased their performance by 11 and nine points respectively. This compares with eight points for the nation's African-American fourth graders and 10 points for eighth graders.

- Fourth and eighth grade students with disabilities improved their scores nine and 15 points respectively, compared with four points for the nation's fourth graders and seven points for eighth graders.

- Florida's low income fourth and eighth grade students improved their scores by 10 and 11 points respectively, compared to seven points for the nation's fourth graders and 11 points for eighth graders.

- Since 2003, Florida's African-American eighth graders closed the achievement gap with White students by eight points.

A congressionally-mandated project overseen by the National Center for Education Statistics to continuously monitor the achievement of the nation's children and youth, NAEP has measured and reported on the knowledge and abilities of America's fourth, eighth and 12th grade students, providing data about students' performance in a variety of subject areas at national, regional and state levels.

For more information about Florida's 2011 NAEP reading and mathematics performance, visit <http://www.fldoe.org/asp/naep/>.

cial introductory offers.

The sensational backdrop for this event is the Everglades, just about an hour in any direction from most cities in Broward, Dade, Collier and Hendry counties. The rich blue skies and the miles of sawgrass and hammocks provide the ultimate setting for this amazing celebration of arts, dance, culture and music. Admission is \$9 for adults, \$6 for students, children, seniors and members of the military. Children under four are free. Cost includes admission to the Museum, and parking is free.

About the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is the Tribally-owned and operated museum of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Situated in the Everglades on a 66-acre cypress dome on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation, the Museum offers more than 5,000 square feet of gallery space. Exhibits feature rare artifacts and lifelike dioramas that depict Seminole life at the turn of the century. In 2009, the Museum became the first tribally governed museum to be accredited by the American Association of Museums. Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m., the museum is located north of Interstate 75 at Exit 49. For more information, visit www.ahtahthiki.com or call 877-902-1113.

'Turkey Hoops' Basketball Game set for second year

You asked and we have listened – We're playing basketball, again!



Family fun, great music, social networking, special local performances, door prize and raffle drawing.

If you wish to play, please contact Wilson "Toot" Riley at 239-867-1394. Registration Deadline: Nov. 17. Registration Fees-\$3 per player. Space is limited – sign up today! So get off the bench and get in the game!

Cost: \$3 donations include "FREE" entry ticket for door prize drawing. Raffle tickets on sale Nov. 18 for \$50 grand prize. Must be present to win drawings. All proceeds will benefit Front Porch's youth programs.

Want more details? Contact Wilson "Toot" Riley or Vicki Carr at 239-503-7733.

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to participate and join us at the Greater Immokalee Front Porch Community Circle's, "Turkey Hoops" Basketball Game. The Game welcomes both men and women from the Class of 2001–2007 along with cheerleaders and coaches to show off their skills and an opportunity to give back to our community.

The "Turkey Hoops" game will be held Friday, Nov. 26, at the "Gym" located at 505 Escambia Street, Immokalee. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tip off at 7:15 p.m. What to expect? –

Recreational lake gets closer to public opening

District 5 Commissioner Jim Coletta, Vice Chair, is pleased to announce that the 90-acre Big Jim Bass Lake, located in his district east of Immokalee Road and north of Oil Well Road, is that much closer to being accessible to public fishing thanks to a gift to Collier County of an adjacent canal this month.

"Big Jim Lake offers a perfect setting for anglers. It's a passion of mine to bring to the residents another recreational option. I have been working on this vision for several years. To see it actually get traction and move forward in a positive direction is truly an achievement," said Commissioner Coletta about the man-made, fresh-water body.

Unofficially named Big Jim Bass Lake, the fishing spot will be part of the Collier County Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park which is now in the planning stages. In the future, pending funding availability, this now 132-acre park will include a community center, four soccer fields, three tennis courts, two racquetball courts, a three-acre large dog run, a two-acre small dog run, two volleyball courts, a playground, restrooms, walk-

ing trails and a launch for small boats with electric motors, canoes and kayaks.

The canal, part of the Orangetree Planned Unit Development (PUD), was donated to Collier County on Oct. 11, 2011 by Roberto Bolt; Big Jim Bass Lake, part of the Orange Blossom Ranch PUD, was donated to the county on Jan. 2, 2009 by Bryan Paul.

"This lake was formerly landlocked. Having legal access – a first step – is really an accomplishment of huge proportions," said Commissioner Coletta. "It may take us some time but good things are worth the wait. I am persistent and patient. Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park will reach fruition...and so will Big Jim Bass Lake. I'll never quit until my vision becomes reality and the citizens in that vicinity have a park."

But it's not open to the public quite yet. However, Commissioner Coletta said he'll continue pushing plans to develop the Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park featuring Big Jim Bass Lake.

For more information, please contact Commissioner Coletta at 239-252-8097.

Supporting the community

Florida Community Bank donated \$500.00 to the Immokalee Office of Shelter for Abused Women & Children for this year's Immokalee Children's Fair & Peace March held this week at the Immokalee Sports Complex. Pictured from left to right are Josie Means, Cynthia Contreras, Bernardo Barnhart, Mariela Peña, Elizabeth Delarosa and Lucy Ortiz.



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/CCSO

Sun-N-Fun opens for Thanksgiving Break

Sun-N-Fun Lagoon Water Park will open up for Thanksgiving Break from Saturday, Nov. 19 through Sunday, Nov. 27, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. The park will be closed Thanksgiving Day.

Sun-N-Fun Lagoon Water Park Facility Attractions include: One waterslide drops into Sunny's Lazy River, Four water slides take you to a drop pool, Heated family pool, Tadpole Pool, a children's activity wading water area with a fish slide and more, Turtle Cove, a pool for ages 5-12 years old with lily pads and ropes for climbing, Sunny's Lazy River, 1200 feet long, All pools except Tadpole wading area are heated

The park is offering a special discount

this year to Collier County residents with a Florida Driver's License. With a Florida Driver's License showing a Collier County address, you and your party will receive \$2 off any 48 inch or taller entry, normally \$12. Children three and under enter free and those shorter than 48 inches are just \$5.50.

Add sales tax to all fees listed above.

Group rates, seasonal passes and party packages are also available. Call 239-252-4073. For more information about Sun-N-Fun Lagoon or other public pool facilities, please visit the Parks and Recreation Department online at: www.napleswaterpark.com. The public may call Sun-N-Fun Lagoon at 239-252-4021.

Public Meetings

- The Collier County Affordable Housing Advisory Subcommittee will meet Friday, Nov. 4, at 10 a.m. at the Public Services Division located on the Collier Government Campus, Suite 217, 3339 Tamiami Trail E., Naples.

- Immokalee Rotary Club: Nov. 9, 17, 23, & 30, at iTech, conference Room, located at 508 North 9th Street, Immokalee, at noon.

- Eastern Collier Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting: Nov. 8, at the Chamber

of Commerce Office, 720 North 15th St., Immokalee, 8:30 a.m.

- Inter-Agency Council: Nov. 8, at Southwest Florida Works (formally known as the Career and Service Center of Collier County-Immokalee), 750 South 5th Street, Immokalee, noon.

- Immokalee Fire Control District: Nov. 17, at the Fire Station, 502 East New Market Road, Immokalee, 7 p.m..

Engaged? Just married? Golden anniversary? Birthday? Holiday? New baby? Share your news in print and online

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