

A happy and joyous holiday season to all!



From the staff at the Immokalee Bulletin-Your hometown news

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Bikes arrive just in time for Christmas

Nearly new bikes go to 20 children

By Bill Coats, RCMA
Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

Happy children here are riding new bicycles – new to them, at least.

Another shipment of free, refurbished bicycles from the Sanibel Bicycle Club arrived in Immokalee on Friday, and 20 children from Immokalee Community School benefited. The school is operated by Redlands Christian Migrant Association for low-income families, and it chose the neediest families in which children lacked bicycles.

"It was wonderful," said Gloria Padilla, RCMA's coordinator for



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/
Daniel Fell

Fourth-grader Kassandra Garcia of Immokalee Community School, poses with the bicycle she received free from the Sanibel Bicycle Club.

the Immokalee area. "As soon as they saw those bikes, they were so excited. They did not care if

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Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Daniel Fell/RCMA

Sonia Domingo, a fourth-grader at Immokalee Community School, happily rolls a bike away from the flatbed trailer where members of the Sanibel Bicycle Club unloaded them.



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Adam Herrera

Santa at Work

Three-month-old Anthony Lee Garza Jr. already found his way into Santa's heart at Immokalee's Christmas Around the World. See more holiday photos inside

Foundation scholarship application process begins

\$400,000 available in scholarships students

Approximately \$400,000 in scholarships are available including scholarships for local high school, undergraduate and graduate students from of Lee, Charlotte, Glades, Hendry and Collier counties.

The Southwest Florida Community Foundation's scholarship application process for the 2012 school year will begin on Dec. 22.

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BIKES

Continued From Page 1

they were used or not.”

The bicycle club several years ago began organizing a community drive to collect used bikes for distribution to the needy. Since 2008, the club has brought almost 500 bicycles from affluent Sanibel to impoverished residents of Immokalee.

Friday's shipment totaled 40 bicycles. After the school children chose theirs, 10 bikes were set aside for Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, which ministers to the lo-

cal poor. Another 10 were given to people who arrived, on foot, to ask whether any were left, Padilla said.

Mike Miller, president of the bicycle club, noted that many Sanibel residents had contributed in the project. He cited Billy Kirkland, owner of Billy's Bikes and Rentals, who contributed supplies for bike repairs and assisted in transportation, and the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ, which provided storage space for the bikes while they were being refurbished.

“Being able to distribute the bicycles during the holidays was especially rewarding for Club members,” Miller said.

Adult & Community Ed offers diamonds and gems class

How much should you expect to pay for that beautiful diamond or gem you want to buy? You may have heard of the four Cs of diamond quality: carat, color, clarity, and cut. But, what about that fifth C – cost? Collier County Public Schools Adult and Community Education (ACE) is offering a new course that will explore the ins and outs of gems. Diamonds and Gems is a three-week class that is set to start on Tuesday, Jan. 10, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Barron Collier High School (5600 Cougar Drive). The cost is \$49.

What makes gems valuable? Learn the basics of diamond grading and how to shop wisely when buying gems or jewelry. Learn how to choose a good jeweler, get a good appraisal, prevent stone switching, and how to care for your fine jewelry. Discover where they are found, mined, and cut.

To learn more about this class or any of the more than 100 other classes available in January, visit the Adult and Community Education website at www.collieradulced.com or call 377-1234.

Deadline approaches for ‘Primary’ voter registration

Register by Jan. 3, to vote in primary

Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2012 is the last day to register to vote in the upcoming January 31, 2012 Presidential Preference Primary Election. Registered voters wanting to change party affiliation must also do so on or before the Jan. 3rd registration book closing.

To register to vote, or change party affiliation, you must complete a voter registration application form. Voter registration application forms are available at the Su-

pervisor 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. Online voter registration application forms, available at www.CollierVotes.com, must be printed, signed and returned to the Supervisor of Elections Office.

For more information visit www.CollierVotes.com or contact the Supervisor of Elections Office at (239) 252-8450.

STUDENTS

Continued From Page 1

The E-Apply online scholarship application tool can be accessed through the community foundation's website at www.floridacomunity.com/scholarships. For the second year, students interested in applying for a community foundation scholarship will now be able to access an application online. Even before the application process opens on Dec. 22, students can review the scholarships available online as well as a tutorial about how to create and submit the online application.

Students can apply for multiple scholarships and have the ability to upload transcripts, SAT/ACT scores, letters of recommendation and financial documentation (if required). For need-based scholarships, students are required to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2012.

“We have scholarships for vocational students, not just for attendance at colleges and universities,” said Anne Douglas, director of programs for the Southwest Florida Community Foundation. “In the past we have had some scholarships that were not awarded because students did not apply for them, so we are trying to do our best to educate local students on the various types of funding available.”

According to Douglas, examples of some of the more unique scholarships not as highly sought after include scholarships for technical schools, students with disabilities, fine or performing arts majors, photography studies, returning students and those wishing to pursue teaching and healthcare professions.

The James Bilder Scholarship was established to fund tuition for high school students pursuing higher education in Lee County, with preference given to students attending vocational/technical schools.

The Anne Fassett Scholarship was established to fund post high school educational opportunities at the college, community college or technical school level for high school, undergraduate, and graduate students from Southwest Florida with a physical disability who use a wheelchair.

The George E. Judd Scholarship funds tuition for graduating Lee County seniors pursuing higher education in fine or performing arts.

The Bruce T. Gora Scholarship funds a

scholarship for a high school senior or a student currently enrolled at an accredited college, university or technical school in Florida to pursue a fine arts major focusing in photography.

There are also scholarships for those returning to school. The Chip Johnson Memorial Scholarship was established to fund scholarships for students who have completed 60 hours of college and attend one of the local colleges or universities, including Barry University, Edison State College, Florida Gulf Coast University, Hodges University or Nova Southeastern University. This scholarship was established in 1991 in memory of Chip Johnson who died of cancer at age 44. Chip's father Dr. Franklyn A. Johnson said he wanted to leave a legacy for his son who was an Army veteran serving overseas during the Vietnam War.

The John and Madeleine Taeni Scholarship was established in November 2002 by Madeleine Taeni for students who graduated from high school at least two years ago and are now pursuing degrees in teaching, nursing, paramedic training or emergency medical technician training.

There are even scholarships for students from specific communities served by the community foundation. The Love of Bonita Empowerment Scholarship funds tuition, books and/or course fees for individuals residing in Bonita Springs who have been out of school for at least two years or who have received their G.E.D.

Once again the community foundation chose the month of Dec. as the scholarship launch date after receiving numerous calls from students who wanted to be able to work on scholarship application submissions during winter break. In 2011, \$404,000 in scholarships were awarded by the community foundation.

With the streamlined online application process, students are no longer required to submit paper applications for the scholarships that are available via the website.

The Southwest Florida Community Foundation is celebrating its 35th year of supporting the communities of Lee, Charlotte, Glades, Hendry and Collier counties. With assets of more than \$60 million, the community foundation has provided more than \$49 million in grants and scholarships to the communities it serves.

For more information, call 239-274-5900 or visit www.floridacomunity.com.

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To Submit News

The Immokalee Bulletin welcomes submissions from its readers. Opinions, calendar items, story ideas and photographs are welcome. Call (239) 657-6000 to reach our newsroom. The deadline for all news items is 11 a.m. on Monday prior to the following Thursday's publication.
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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.

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- To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
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- 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

Thank you

I want to thank all my clients, friends, and colleagues for their support, and for the trust you have given me during the past years that I worked at Legal Aid in both Naples and Immokalee.

Now that I am moving forward on my own, I appreciate having the opportunity and privilege of continuing to help the people of our community in Naples and Immokalee!

I will be focusing on Family Law and Housing Law issues. Family Law consists not only of divorce (dissolution or marriage), but also such issues as custody, visitation (parents and grandparents), child support collection and modification, and dependency issues.

On the Housing Law front, I will be handling all issues relating to landlord/tenant law, including evictions, housing discrimination, HUD issues, etc. I will also continue to engage in Foreclosure Defense. Let's keep our families in their homes!

Your opinion is important to us! Let us know what topics you would like to see on our Facebook page. Remember to follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn.

CCSO hosts annual Celebrate With a Star children's program

Thanks to the generosity of Collier County Sheriff's Office members and the community, the sixth-annual "Celebrate With a Star" program was tremendous success.

CCSO collected enough gifts to fill more than three pickup trucks for deserving children assigned to the 20th Judicial Circuit Guardian ad Litem program in partnership with the Voices for Kids of Southwest Florida (VFK) agency.

We wish you all a Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year 2012 filled with health and prosperity!

Les deseamos a todos unas Felices Pasquas y Feliz Año 2012 lleno de salud y prosperidad!

Albert Batista
Attorney at Law

Doctor's Orders

What would be the right prescription to save America today, as it lies hemorrhaging jobs? The two doctors designated to save her can't agree on the standard of care. One doctor wants to administer a transfusion, while the other wants to stimulate the heart to increase circulation. In the meantime, to the patient's detriment, both doctors have agreed to use the blood thinner called Free Trade, a snake oil, which has been peddled by powerful lobbyists during the past decade.

Sadly, the cure for America today, seems to lie in an old generic, compounded concoction not available since 1980, prior to the Reagan Administration.

Juan Puerto, M.D.

There are more than 400 children currently living in Collier County who have been abandoned or are alleged to have been abused or neglected. Guardian ad Litem volunteers advocate for these children in the courts, the child welfare system and the community. Children in the program range from infant to 17 years old.

The presents will be distributed by volunteer advocates assigned to each child.

McCrary Sullivan, Wendy Burk and Eric Magrane.

"Over time I have come to see that the essence of art rests not so much in the medium we use, as in the attention we give it. That moment is an event. Something happens...an intention offers itself up to the world...and the world connects with the emotion of the artistic expression. A bond is created between the art and the observer that creates a spiritual awakening," stated photographer Clyde Butcher. "As Big Cypress National Preserve opens its doors to artists to give them the opportunity of expression, they are connecting with the community in a spiritual way that can only be achieved through the arts, opening eyes, ears and minds to the nature we are so fortunate to have around us."

For more information on the artists and the artist in residence program go to: <http://www.nps.gov/bicy/supportyourpark/artist-in-residence-program.htm>.

For more information on this exhibit, and an exhibit brochure, go to <http://www.nps.gov/bicy/parknews/the-preserve-art-exhibition.htm>.

Weather Forecast

Weather forecast for Collier County from the National Weather Service

Local Forecast

Thursday: Patchy fog before 8 a.m. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 84. East wind between 6 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Thursday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 64. East wind between 3 and 7 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 84. Calm wind becoming southeast between 6 and 9 mph.

Friday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 63. East wind around 6 mph becoming calm.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 83. Calm wind becoming east between 7 and 10 mph.

Saturday night: A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 63. East wind around 6 mph.

Christmas Day: A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 82. East wind between 3 and 9 mph.

Sunday night: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61.

Monday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 82.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Churches to host Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

First United Methodist Church of Immokalee will be holding Christmas Eve Candlelight Services on Saturday, Dec. 24, at 6 p.m. The church is located at 303 North Ninth Street at the corner of Roberts Ave and Ninth Street.

First Baptist Church of Immokalee will be holding their third annual Christmas

Eve Candlelight and Communion service on Saturday, Dec. 24, from 9-10 p.m. The church is located at 1411 Lake Trafford Road. This year a shepherd will be telling the Christmas story from his point of view. As the shepherds were taking care of their sheep outside Bethlehem an angel announced to them that the Christ child was to be born. Come and listen to the shepherd's excitement as he retells the story of that wonderful night. For more information call the church office at 657-2694.

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Big Cypress exhibit: Uniting Nature and Culture

The Preserve is an exhibition which unites the minds of the 15 selected visionary artists who have participated in the Big Cypress National Preserve's artist in residency program since its inception in 2003. The exhibit, free and open to the public, will run from Tuesday, Jan. 3 through Thursday, March 1, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Oasis Visitor Center, 52105 Tamiami Trail East, Ochopee and Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center, 33000 Tamiami Trail East, Ochopee. Both facilities are located on US 41 between Naples and Miami.

THE PRESERVE is comprised of paintings, photographs, woodcuts, pastels, poems sculpture and mixed media. The emerging theme is the concern over ecological implications of man vs. nature. Please join us for a reception on Saturday, Jan. 14, at the Welcome Center auditorium from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Exhibiting artists are Ailyn Hoey, Deborah M. Mitchell, Deedra Ludwig, Hannah Ineson, Karen Glaser, Jacqueline Roch, Mark Goodenough, Myrna Massey, Mollie Doctrow, Patricia Cummins, Tom Weinkle, Laurel Egnew, Leah Raintree, and

Financial aid nights provide valuable student information

Attention parents of Collier County Public Schools high school seniors! If your child is looking to attend college, you won't want to miss out on a very informative night about financial aid assistance. A total of three financial aid nights will be conducted beginning in January. The purpose of the evenings is to provide information to families – both parents and students, about financial aid. Parents and students can attend any evening event. Come out and learn what is available.

• 7 p.m.–Thursday, Jan. 19, in the Lely High School auditorium located at 1 Lely High School Boulevard

• 7 p.m.–Monday, Jan. 23, in the Gulf

Coast High School auditorium located at 7878 Shark Way

• 6 p.m.–Monday, Feb. 6, at Immokalee High School auditorium located at 701 Immokalee Drive, in Immokalee

Financial aid experts will be presenting on specific topics, such as federal grants, student loans and scholarships, including what is available, how to apply, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and how the process works. Questions are also welcome and encouraged. All of the evenings are hosted by the counseling departments at the listed schools.

To learn more, please contact the schools directly.



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

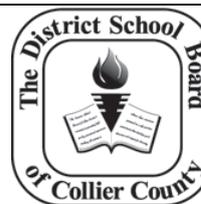
Holiday girls

Colorful costumes were part of the festivities during the recent Christmas Around the World Parade. These lovely young ladies wear traditional holiday festive outfits while they enjoy the Christmas Around the World Gala held after the parade.

Students First

Have a happy holiday

By Joe Landon
Collier County District Schools



"Tis the season to be jolly" as the song lyric says. Another song repeats "happy holidays" over and over and over again.

When you come to think of it, the lyrics to those holiday songs we know and love (and hear so often) may not resonate with everyone. One of my favorites is "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" by Andy Williams, but you've got to ask yourself, is it the most wonderful time, for everyone? Certainly not for folks who are hungry, for those who don't have enough money to feed their families at any time of the year – let alone during the holidays. Sure, there are many local agencies and organizations whose mission it is to care for people in need, especially this time of the year, and they do a marvelous job of helping thousands of hungry men, women, and kids. We thank them, but also want you to know about the Meals of Hope program, one you may not have heard of. Steve Popper is standing by with a legion of volun-

teers ready to lend a hand. They're making free meals available to the families of some of our neediest students across Collier County during the time off from school, now through January 4th. Free fortified beans and rice casseroles and fortified macaroni and cheese meals

are available – yours for the asking.

You may pick up your free meals on any day, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Habitat for Humanity which is located at 640 North Ninth Street in Immokalee.

Again, the meals are totally free! We just want to make sure you know about them if you do need help. If you don't need assistance, please pass the word to someone you know who might need it.

We've posted all of the info on our district website (www.collierschools.com), sent flyers home with our elementary students, and called middle school and high school parents with the message.

We say "thank you" to Steve Popper and his Meals of Hope program for making these free meals available. And we wish you the happiest of holidays!

Special C.E.R.T. Training to be held

Andrew Marfongella, Fire Safety Inspector for the Big Corkscrew Island Fire Rescue located at Station #10-13240 Immokalee Rd (at the corner of Immokalee Road and Randall Boulevard) in Naples. If you are interested in being a part of this class please call Andy at 239-348-8006. Anyone from Immokalee is welcomed to attend.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at the Immokalee Bulletin

We would like to thank you for all your support throughout the year, and look forward to serving you in the New Year.

We'd also like to let you know we will be **CLOSED** Mon., December 26, 2011 & Mon., January, 2, 2012

This means all advertising will need to be to us by:
Fri., December 23 at 3 pm for the 12/29/11 issue
and

Fri., December 30 at 3 pm for the 01/05/12 issue

Thank you again,
Patty, Barbara, Dee and Dale

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Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Rick Heers

A local family receiving Christmas gifts from some of our friends from Fort Myers.

Families reach out to those in need

By Rick Heers

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

Six friends of I HOPE who live in Fort Myers came to Immokalee with their children this past week to provide a special Christmas to nine families with a total of 46 children. Children were pleasantly surprised to see the great outpouring of love and generosity of these families who had requested from Executive Director Rick Heers names of families with the children's sizes and special wishes. Everything from clothes to toys, even a brand new bicycle, were deliv-

ered to the children...many of whom would have received nothing for Christmas. We at I HOPE are grateful to the many, many families who reach out to children and families in Immokalee to bring special cheer at this time of the year.

I HOPE has also received quite a bit of used furniture and new shipments of tile for those interested in furnishing their home. During the holiday weekends, I HOPE will be open Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

CHS hosts Christmas celebration

Story and photos by Rick Heers
Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

Collier Health Services partners with a multitude of agencies, including Florida State University, provides medical assistance for thousands of children and families in Collier County and rewarded its staff of over 200 with a wonderful luncheon buffet.



Santa stops in at the CHS Immokalee Luncheon to distribute cards to the staff



Steve Weinman, Executive Vice President/COO of CHS Healthcare- cuts and serves cake to the staff.



Managers and Executives serve lunch at CHS's Immokalee festivities. From the left: Deisy Martinez, Holly Brunette, Dr. Kelley Johnson, Dr. Bill Kuzbyt, and Sandra steel.



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POSITION**

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Convenient location in quiet residential area.

\$600 includes water/sewer/trash. No Application Fee.

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Immokalee or
Call 239-694-1951

Financial
For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Business Opportunities

NOTICE

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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Rentals
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\$99 MOVE IN SPECIAL FOR FIRST MONTH'S RENT

Available for Immediate Occupancy
3Br/2Ba Apartments
Handicap unit available

RENTAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO QUALIFIED APPLICANTS

Rental Rates start at \$635 plus utilities
Income limits apply.
Must be farm or grove labor employed
Rental applications available at the Rental Office or call 657-2009
Mon-Fri, 8:00AM - 5:00PM
(TDD 1-800-955-8771)
Equal Housing Opportunity

When you want something sold, advertise in the classifieds.

Grab a bargain from your neighbor's garage, attic, basement or closet in today's classifieds.

How do you find a job in today's competitive market? In the employment section of the classifieds

Apartments

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MOVE IN SPECIAL, 1st MONTH FREE! \$20.00 Application Fee

Lower Security Deposit
With Approved Credit

- 2 BEDROOMS AT \$364.00 PER MONTH
- 3 BEDROOMS AT \$411.00 PER MONTH
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LOCATED AT: 6760 Santa Fe North LaBelle, FL **CALL US AT: (863)675-3339**

FREE GIFT FOR EVERY NEW RESIDENT!
Here's the keys to your new home!

Aqui estan las llaves de su nueva casa!
REGALO PARA CADA RESIDENTE NUEVO

MIRA VERDE
ESPECIAL DE ENTRADA PIMER MES GRATIS!!
\$20.00 cargo de aplicacion

Deposito de Seguridad Bajos
Con Credito Aprobado

- 2 RECAMARRAS A \$364.00 POR MES
- 3 RECAMARRAS A \$411.00 POR MES
- 4 RECAMARRAS A \$464.00 POR MES

LOCALIZADOS EN: 6760 Santa FeNorth LaBelle, FL **LLAMENOS AL: (863)675-3339**

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2449 Sanders Pines Circle
\$1200 Free Rent*
*1 year lease
@ \$100/mo reduction
Must be farm or grove labor employed
2Br/1Ba, 3Br/1Ba Apartments
Starting at \$500 plus utilities.
Social/Education Services Offered:
Early Beginnings Program, iTeens Youth Program
Adult Literacy, Resident's Council
Rental applications available at the Rental Office or call 657-8333
Mon-Fri, 8:00AM-5:00PM
(TDD 1-800-955-8771)
Equal Housing Opportunity

Timber Ridge
2726 Wilton Court (Rental Office: 2449 Sanders Pines Circle)
\$1200 Free Rent*
*1 year lease
@ \$100/mo reduction
Must be farm or grove labor employed
3Br & 4Br/1Ba Single Family Homes
Starting at \$700 plus utilities.
Social/Education Services Offered:
Early Beginnings Program, iTeens Youth Program
Adult Literacy, Resident's Council
Rental applications available at the Rental Office or call 657-8333
Mon-Fri, 8:00AM-5:00PM
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For more listings, go to www.newszap.com

Campers/RVs

2003 ALFA SEEYA - 40 ft diesel pusher, 57k, exc cond. Asking \$95,000 (317)443-3529. Can see at Glades Resort on Route 80.



Celebration of Reading student writing contest announced

“Diary of a Wimpy Kid” children’s author and Volunteer USA Foundation

Volunteer USA Foundation and best-selling children’s author Jeff Kinney announced an entertaining writing contest open to students in southwest Florida. Kinney is well-known for his “Diary of a Wimpy Kid” book series, which combines funny stories about growing up with doodles and cartoons.

“The greatest thing about Kinney’s books

is that they make kids laugh – from the crazy situations his characters get involved with to his silly illustrations – he is hands down a favorite among young readers,” said Liza McFadden, president of Volunteer USA Foundation. “We are thrilled this hugely popular children’s author will be on hand in 2012 to celebrate our talented young writers in Southwest Florida and help us reward their talent and imagination.”

In Kinney’s recently released book, “Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Cabin Fever” beloved character Greg Heffley is in trouble. When the authorities begin closing in, a surprise blizzard hits and Greg is trapped indoors with his family, causing even more chaos. In the Celebration of Reading writing contest, students in Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Hendry and Glades counties, grades 4 to 7, are invited to participate and create a funny story involving Florida’s very own storm season of hurricanes, tornadoes and tropical storms. The short-story contest involves simple illustrations or a comic strip based on the “storm watch” theme.

“As a resident of New England, I’ve weathered a number of storms that have turned my life upside down for days or even weeks. I’ve found that the best way to get through a tough situation is with a positive attitude and a good sense of humor. I’m very excited to read the contestants’ essays on the ‘storm watch’ theme and see how they inject humor into their work,” said Kinney.

Contest winners accompanied by their parents will be recognized at a VIP breakfast, sponsored by Brown & Brown Public Risk Insurance Agency, to kickoff Volunteer USA Foundation’s 12th Celebration of Reading. The annual literacy event will take place Friday, Feb. 17, 2012 at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa and is hosted by former Gov. Jeb Bush, Mrs. Barbara Bush and members of the Bush family to support successful family literacy programs in the southeast U.S. The students will be Kinney’s guests of honor at the Celebration of Reading breakfast and have the opportunity to visit with the author and share their winning submissions.

Entries must be submitted electronically to Contest@VolunteerUSAFund.org or post-marked no later than the Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2012 to: Volunteer USA Foundation, Attn: COR 2012 Writing Contest, 516 North Adams Street, Tallahassee, Fla. 32301.

Fifteen winners will be selected based on their writing and imagination. Winners will be listed at www.volunteerusafoundation.org and schools will be notified on Jan.27, 2012 in conjunction with Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida.

For more information, call Volunteer USA Foundation at 850-562-5300.

BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

AUCTION

Time for a New Car? Check out this auction on January 2, 2012 at 9am

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Immokalee Bulletin/Patty Brant

Holiday network luncheon

Immokalee area women enjoyed a monthly networking luncheon Dec. 8. This month they gathered at the Roberts Ranch Museum for a festive time together. Among a large group of committed and hard working women, County Commissioners Georgia Hiller and Donna Fiala both attended. CRA Executive Director Penny Phillippi, left, and CRA Executive Secretary Rosemary Dillon both enjoyed the event.



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Adam Herrera

Visiting with Santa

Santa's visit to Christmas Around the World made the holidays special for Alexia Kay and Adam III Turrubiardez. The holiday event including the parade featuring an environmentally friendly theme and the gala following the parade brought out many in the community to enjoy the holiday season.

Soccer Pit Cobras U18 Boys travel to Tampa

By Manny Tournon

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

Thanks to the Immokalee Foundation, the Soccer Pit Cobras U18 Boys will be traveling to the Tampa Bay Sun Bowl December 26-30 to play in a College Showcase Tournament. Last year the Soccer Pit received a Community Grant from the Immokalee Foundation that would sponsor the boys in this tournament.

We are hoping that a college coach sees the playing ability of some of our boys, es-

pecially the seniors. It would certainly open the door to other players in the future. The boys will play two Florida teams and a team from Georgia in the opening round. Hopefully we'll be around on Friday the 30th of December to play in semi-finals and finals.

This type of tournament was only a dream a few years ago due to the cost involved, but The Immokalee Foundation has made this dream come true for our club and for that we are extremely grateful. We will represent them well.

Sun-N-Fun open for Collier County Schools Winter Break

Sun-N-Fun Lagoon Water Park will open for Winter Break from Thursday, Dec. 22 through Wednesday, Jan. 4, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Sun-N-Fun Lagoon will be closed Christmas Day.

Relax right in your own back yard at Sun-N-Fun Lagoon's family friendly attractions. Plus, Collier County residents with a driver's license showing a Collier County address receive a discount of \$2 on entries for those 48 inches or taller!

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 or call Sun-N-Fun Lagoon at 239-252-4021.



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