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Immokalee Bulletin/Patty Brant  
Phillip Sherrod greets his mother with a smile as she gets off the bus for a tour of their old home.

## Mildred Sherrod: History is for sharing

By Patty Brant  
Immokalee Bulletin

Many areas of southwest Florida still enjoy a living connection with its roots. Mildred Sherrod is part of Immokalee's living history. In the early years of the 20th Century her family, the Robert Roberts family and their Red Cattle Company, helped open the door to settlement and make Immokalee a center of the cattle industry.

At age 92, Mildred Sherrod is in good health and proud of her heritage. She is anxious to share her family's story.

Mrs. Sherrod recently moved to the Sterling House in LeHigh Acres, an assisted living facility. Last Friday she returned to the

family's old homestead, the Roberts Ranch, to provide a tour for some of her new friends at the home.

The tour was part of a program called Optimum Life, designed to provide residents with interesting and entertaining activities.

The ranch is now a museum showcasing the old way of life.

Robert Roberts and his wife, Henri Cordell Roberts, brought their family which included six of their children, to Immokalee from Wauchula, some 100 miles, in 1914 by oxcart with the idea of expanding their herd of cattle. They began on their 40-acre homestead. Their success is itself history. At one time the Red

See HISTORY — Page 2

## Bullies get the message: 'DNTH8'

The best way to stop bullying is to tell someone it's happening

That's why the Collier County Sheriff's Office is partnering with Collier County Public Schools and Southwest Florida Crime Stoppers to provide the community with a text-messaging line to report bully-

ing and remain anonymous.

According to the Pew Internet Research Center, 33 percent of teenagers who own a cell phone text more than 100 messages per day, and 11 percent send more than 200 texts per day.

"We recognize that texting is a method of communication that young people are comfortable with," said Sheriff Kevin Rambosk.

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Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Katrina Elsken

## Keeping traditions alive

Leroy Osecola, accompanied by his grandchildren, Eleanor, 1, Sally, 2, and Noah, 4 of Collier County, participated in arts and crafts demonstrations during the Brighton Seminole Field Day and Rodeo festivities at Brighton Seminole Reservation in Glades County, Feb. 16-19. Mr. Osceola, accom, carved toy knives and small figures of animals.

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# SHERROD

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Cattle Company was one of the top ranches in the state.

The family came to live in a log cabin built by Charles Hendry, uncle to Capt. Frances Asbury Hendry, after the Civil War in 1871. The log cabin is long gone, but evidence of its wooden foundation remains. In 1926, the Robertses built the two-story house that stands on the property and serves as a focal point of the museum. When Collier County purchased the property for use as a museum, it retrofitted the home to the 1920s, when it was first built. At one time, the front room served as the local post office.

The tour met in the old Baptist Church, the first in Immokalee, which was built in 1926 and moved to Robert Ranch by the county as part of the living exhibit. Mildred recalled it was originally located by the old cemetery.

Mr. Mitchell told the group that the church cost about \$628 to build, but cost the county some \$300,000 to move and restore.

Lee Mitchell explained to the group that when the Roberts family arrived, "This area was no man's land - no law enforcement." This area was raw and a magnet for the disenfranchised and the rowdies. He mentioned one incident when the Roberts' ox-cart was attempting to cross a river. They were challenged by some bandits but Mr. Roberts stood his ground. They crossed and took up residence in that old log cabin - the first step toward building their new home.

Mildred recalled there were some "hard times" but was obviously thrilled to be back in her old home.

Mr. Mitchell told the tour group about how ranchers like the Robertses battled screwworms by plunging each of their cows into an arsenic dip every two weeks.

Eventually times improved. The railroad came in and it became easier to take their cows to market.

The Roberts family came through the Depression and by the late '50s and '60s had built their ranch up to 168,000 acres - one of the top ten ranches in Florida.

Oil was found on their property in 1964, but ranching was always the heart of the family.

In 1995, the family donated the five acres

with the house to Collier County for a museum. The county later bought another ten acres of the property. All the buildings on the place are original and have been meticulously restored. All stand on their original sites, except the old outhouse, which had to be moved off the fence line.

Mildred's son, Phillip, and his wife Susan also attended the tour. Phillip lived in Immokalee for many years and graduated from Immokalee High School in 1957. Now a retired pharmacist, he also manages a small ranch on his mother's property in Felda.

He called the property a "Treasury of Memories."

He felt very lucky that, when he was young, his grandfather was "retired" and had time to talk to him and his other grandchildren, telling them stories about how ranching in South Florida used to be.

"I never really realized how rich I was," he said, "Not in money but in a great heritage, family unity, the vast resources here." Growing up, he said, "I never thought of these things."

He said Immokalee had advantages then like access to property, no fences. "And people had the freedom to do things back then - good people."

He said he remembers when they moved steers from the Felda to the Rock Lake pasture, his mother took the jeep with drinks and Snickers for the cowboys. She and his Aunt Nila cooked at the camp.

His mother also served as bookkeeper for the ranch and was active with the Cattlemen's Association.

Mildred Sherrod is still lovely and still lively. She cherishes her roots in ranching and in Immokalee and is proud to share their richness with others. Her original home is a museum, preserving the memories of a way of life for future generations. Her home on 11th Street across from the old homestead is soon to be a Boys and Girls Club.

Both are assets to this community and both underscore a comment Mrs. Sherrod shared during the tour when she smiled and revealed, "I love people."

## Edison State offers 'Explore Your Estuary' classes

Edison State College Collier Campus, in partnership with Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, presents a three-day series of classes, "Explore Your Estuary" on March 15, 22 and 29.

The classes are limited to only 15 people. For more information and to register, call 239-732-3128. Advance registration and payment is required.

## BULLY

Continued From Page 1

"This tool allows us to communicate with them on a platform with which they identify."

Using the keyword DNTH8 (don't hate), anyone wishing to report bullying can text a tip to 274637 (c-r-i-m-e-s). The software provider, TipSoft, encrypts text message and routes it through several secure servers, protecting the tipster's identity. The tip will come in through Crime Stoppers, whose hotline is monitored around the clock, and then be sent immediately to CCSO. Once CCSO receives the tip it will be evaluated to determine the most appropriate course of action. Potential actions include everything from contacting the alleged bully and victim and their respective parents, to informing the school guidance counselor, principal and Youth Relations deputy if the alleged bullying is taking place at school.

CCPS Superintendent Dr. Kamela Patton said, "We know how important it is for a responsible adult to be made aware of instances of bullying. By providing this new bullying reporting system, we are meeting students in the digital world in which they live. We would hope that by using this 21st century technology as yet another tool, we will be able to continue to maintain our schools as the safe havens they are today."

The system also allows a deputy to respond by text message to the originating cell phone without ever knowing the identity of the person who left the tip. The user's information is always assigned an alias and a unique ID before being sent. This secure application allows the tipster and the investigator to have two-way dialog while keeping the user's identity anonymous.

The service is not for acts of bullying in progress, which should be reported by

calling 911 or CCSO's non-emergency line 239.252.9300, depending on the seriousness of the act.

CCSO paid the cost of adding the DNTH8 keyword to the existing TipSoft account of Southwest Florida Crime Stoppers. This approach saves tax dollars because it is less expensive than creating a new account. In addition, it means that DNTH8 is available to law enforcement agencies throughout the Southwest Florida Crime Stoppers service area of Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry and Glades counties as a tool to address bullying.

"Teens who are being bullied may be hesitant to tell a trusted adult, or even a friend, that they're being antagonized," said Crime Stoppers Coordinator, Trish Route. "Our goal is to provide a safe and secure outlet for students to share that information so that law enforcement can intervene and protect them - all while keeping their identity anonymous."

DNTH8 is the latest addition to the many bullying prevention measures already in place through CCSO, CCPS and Crime Stoppers. Youth Relations Bureau deputies are assigned to all CCPS schools, serving as a law enforcement presence to mentor students and deter crime, including bullying. In addition, teachers and deputies undergo training to recognize and address instances of bullying. CCSO also provides the school district with an array of safety videos to play during morning announcements. Several of these videos are on the topic of bullying. Deputies also make sure students are aware that they can report crime anonymously and be eligible for an award by calling the Student Crime Stoppers phone number, 1-800-780-8477.

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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 operate this newspaper as a public trust
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- To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
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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

### Ash Wednesday Services

I went to mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church for Ash Wednesday, which is the first day of Lent. The service was so over crowded with the families of Immokalee, that the audience spilled outside the church. The music was beautiful.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of 40 days of prayer and fasting. The practice of placing ashes on the forehead is a sign of

morning and repentance. According to the gospels, Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the desert during which he endured temptation.

I was honored to receive the Holy Sacrament of the "Ash of Crosses" on my forehead.

**John Lundin**  
Immokalee

## Migrant Expo set for Saturday

### The Collier County Health Department, Immokalee office partners with local agencies for the 8th Annual Migrant Expo

The Collier County Health Department, Immokalee office will hold its 8th Annual Migrant Expo on Saturday, March 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This community event for migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families is aimed to provide information on health, social and support services as well as educational/vocational opportunities. A group of students from The Florida State University College of Medicine and College of Law, in partnership with the Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida

(formerly CHS Healthcare), will participate in the Expo providing outreach, health screenings, and educational information to the Immokalee community. In addition, the Immokalee Arts in Health, an initiative of the Arts in Healthcare for Rural Communities, will host local artist that will display their talents during the event. Some of the performances include singing, poetry, individual and group dances, a Zumba demonstration, and several other pieces performed by local artists, Immokalee students, and other community members. The 8th Annual Migrant Expo will be held at the Collier County Health Department, 419 North 1st Street, Immokalee.

To learn more, please contact Victoria Frehe-Torres, PhD, at: victoria.frehe-torres@med.fsu.edu.

## Weather Forecast

Weather forecast for Collier County from the National Weather Service  
**Local Forecast**

**Thursday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. Calm wind becoming south between 6 and 9 mph.

**Thursday night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 66. West wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

### Extended Forecast

**Friday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 87. Calm wind becoming south between 10 and 13 mph.

**Friday night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 66. South wind between 3 and 7 mph.

**Saturday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 87.

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

**Sunday:** A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 82.

**Sunday night:** A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly clear, with a low around 60.

**Monday:** Sunny, with a high near 82.

## Commissioner Coletta plans March visit

Jim Coletta, Collier County District 5 Commissioner, will be in Immokalee on Wednesday, March 7. Commissioner Coletta will be holding office hours in the Immokalee office at 310 Alachua Street from 1:30 until 4 p.m.

He will also be attending the Rotary Luncheon at noon. Commissioner Coletta is a fellow Rotarian and invites you to join him.

Anyone who would like an appointment to meet with him, please contact his Aide, Paula Springs, at 239-252-8097. If you would like to speak with him on an immediate matter, please feel free to contact his cell phone at 239-370-0509.

Commissioner Coletta remains available by telephone at 239-252-8391 or e-mail at jimcoletta@colliergov.net.

## Community News in Brief

### Campaign fundraiser dinner planned

Ski Olesky cordially invites you and yours to attend a campaign fundraiser meet and greet to support Bill McDaniel for County Commission District 3 on March 4, from 1 to 4 p.m., Lake Trafford Marina, 6001 Lake Trafford Road, Immokalee. <http://mapq.st/wESK1i>

Casual dress. Barbeque and refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Dee Dee at 239-253-6310.

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Bill McDaniel, Republican, for County Commission. Individuals and businesses can contribute a maximum of \$500 to Bill's Campaign; however, contributions from minors are limited to \$100. Bill's Campaign must indicate a name and address for every contributor and for contributions of \$100 or more, please list your occupation.

### ANNIE! - Children's Theatre presents play

A.C.T. - Ave Children's Theater presents Little Orphan Annie! Starring Lea Baker as Annie, Christina Ledesma as Miss Hannigan, Tyler Sievert as Daddy Warbucks and Marco Snaider as Sandy! The story takes you into the heart of an orphan, her search for her parents and how she finds a new home with the billionaire Oliver Warbucks.

Great entertainment for the whole family so bring the kids and grandkids for lots of singing, dancing, and good old-fashioned fun! Performances are March 2 and 3 (7 p.m. both nights) in the Ballroom of the Bob

Thomas Student Union. Ticket prices - \$10/ adults -\$5/children 12 and under. Get your "Annie" tickets today online at: <http://plus.allforms.mailjol.net/u/0451ebc5.php> or by calling 239-261-2606.

### Mr. Legs contest invites contestants

Get in line for the Mr. Legs Contest at this year's Annual Harvest Festival. The contest will be held on April 14 and will include several categories including: darkest, whitest, hairiest (?), most muscular, thinnest, youngest, oldest sexiest and overall best. Come show your legs! Contact Jo Anna Villanueva 239-826-5453 or Oona Reyna at 239-872-6147 for an application.

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# Schools celebrate Read Across America Day

National Read Across America Day is set for this Friday, March 2 – Dr. Suess's birthday. Collier County Public Schools is celebrating with activities planned at several elementary schools during this week, Feb. 27-March 2 and next week, March 5-9.

The National Education Association (NEA) launched the Read Across America program in 1998 as a way to honor the works of Dr. Seuss, which are effective tools for teaching children the basic skills needed to be successful.

Several schools have fun and engaging activities planned, including visits from the beloved Dr. Suess character "The Cat in the Hat" and green eggs and ham breakfasts.

Plus, Avalon Elementary will hold a Reading and Rocking Chair Marathon, 5th grade Sea Gate Elementary students will read Dr. Suess books to Kindergarten students in their media center's "Cat Café," and Tommie Barfield Elementary School's technology classes at all grade levels will interact with Suessville online throughout the week.

To learn more, and to see a full list of activities, please visit the district Web site at [www.collierschools.com](http://www.collierschools.com) and click on "Read Across America Week Events" under "Highlights." If your child's school is not listed, please contact the school directly.

## Adventure scholarships available for high schoolers

Are you a high school junior or senior with an itch for some adventure – maybe some backpacking, mountaineering, or sea kayaking in Alaska? That's exactly what The Gene Doyle Memorial Foundation is offering with \$3,500 scholarships to be awarded to three students. The 16th Annual Gene Doyle Scholarship is open to all Collier County high school juniors and seniors, and college freshman who graduated from a Collier County high school.

Students applying for this scholarship can propose an adventure of their own design or choose to participate in a structured adventure such as Outward Bound, National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), or the Alaska Mountaineering School. Structured programs are available around the world and run from two weeks

to one month, depending on the chosen program.

Completed applications are due Friday, March 9. Finalists will be interviewed on Thursday, March 29, and the three scholarship recipients will be announced the next day, Friday, March 30.

To learn more about adventure programs and to access the scholarship application, please visit The Gene Doyle Memorial Foundation online at: [http://www.genedoyle.org/scholarships\\_overview.php](http://www.genedoyle.org/scholarships_overview.php), or students may find information in their school's Guidance Office. For information on additional scholarships available to Collier County students, visit: [www.collierschools.com/student\\_services/scholarships/](http://www.collierschools.com/student_services/scholarships/).

## Lorenzo Walker Technical High holds prom expo

Attention prom goers from Collier County high schools. The Lorenzo Walker Technical High School (LWTHS) senior class is sponsoring a Prom Expo from 7-9 p.m. this Friday, March 2, in the school's dining hall, located at 3702 Estey Avenue. The Class of 2012 will model dresses and tuxedos, as well as distribute information about florists, limo companies, photographers, and more – all items pertaining to going to prom.

All Collier County high school students are invited to attend. Cost is \$10 at

the door (\$8 in advance), and everyone admitted will receive one ticket for a dessert and many available door prizes. The dresses and tuxedos to be showcased will be from Udene's Bridal Shoppe and Men's Warehouse. So, come out and enjoy this fabulous event where everything is about prom!

To learn more, please contact senior class sponsor Nancy Bieberdorf at 239-377-3300.

## Students First

### A beautiful day for learning

By Joe Landon

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin



The song "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning!" from the musical "Oklahoma!" kept running through my head last Saturday morning as I visited Immokalee High School and then Golden Gate High School. Yes, I said it was a Saturday morning! I was amazed by the sea of smiles I saw as Immokalee students arrived on campus by bus, and I was so very pleased to see the happy students and teachers I found inside the classrooms once the "Saturday for Success Academy" got underway moments later. These brand new academies are in place at four of our high schools with Lely High School and Lorenzo Walker Technical High School being included as well. I was actually in awe as I watched students who were actively engaged in the lessons being taught. It was very apparent to me that both the students and teachers wanted to be there. Hands were being raised high by students eager to answer their teacher's questions with students in the FCAT and ACT prep classes as much into what was going on as those there for the Advanced Placement exam prep classes. These are students who were chosen to take part, those who perhaps need some extra help. The schools were chosen because they are Title 1 schools,

having economically needy populations of 59 percent or greater. Now you'll find students engaged in their lessons and passionate teachers doing awesome work with them every day of the week in all of our schools, but during my visits to the two schools last Saturday, I had to keep reminding myself that this was a Saturday morning, a truly "beautiful" morning on so many levels. I thought back to my days in high school long, long ago. And while I worked in my dad's store every Saturday, I can't imagine that I would have been very happy about going to school on a Saturday, let alone on eight Saturdays. But these kids are – and their dedicated teachers are! So were the school administrators, Assistant Principals Jim Ragusa and Dan Cox, who gave me the million dollar classroom tours. These innovative Saturdays for Success Academies first opened their doors to students on Feb. 4 and the last one is set for April 14. Nearly 800 students are taking part, hard at work in the classroom from 9 a.m. until noon each Saturday. So we need to keep in mind that all high school students must pass the FCAT, or the ACT instead of the FCAT, to graduate. Our hope is that 80 percent of the students enrolled in the Saturday program will earn a passing or improved score or scores on the standardized assessments and exams that have been targeted. The true payoff will come as they walk across that stage with smiles on their faces on graduation day.

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# Education Foundation inducts new TSIC scholars

On Thursday, Feb. 23, The Education Foundation of Collier County inducted 28 new students into the Take Stock in Children Scholarship and Mentoring program, at a ceremony hosted by Moorings Park.

Students are matched with an adult mentor with whom they meet weekly through graduation. Students commit to maintaining a 2.5 grade point average, remain drug and crime free, and participate in Take Stock in Children events. Their parents commit to support and encourage their child in meeting his or her obligations. The emphasis is on providing an exemplary one-to-one mentoring and life-skills program to support students throughout high school. When the students fulfill their commitments and graduate high school, they receive a tuition scholarship to a Florida state university or post-secondary training program.

To-date, The Education Foundation has had 106 graduates, 122 currently in the program, including the 22 eighth-graders that were recently inducted, representing

14 schools. Since the beginning of the program in 2000, the retention rate has averaged 90 percent. Ninety-nine percent of the 106 graduates have gone on to some type of post-secondary education.

This year, 104 eligible applicants from middle schools across Collier County went through the application and selection process. A selection committee, made up of community volunteers, had the difficult task of evaluating these highly qualified eighth graders.

This year, in addition to the eighth-grade inductees, The Education Foundation is inducting five students who are earning scholarships through Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board. Take Stock in Children is a statewide college scholarship and mentoring program. The Education Foundation manages this program in all areas of Collier County except for Immokalee Middle and High school, which is managed by The Immokalee Foundation.

Congratulations to this year's inductees:

Stephanie Abreu, East Naples Middle

Carlos Adames, East Naples Middle

Dominic Bartholomew, Lely High

Jennifer Buck, Lorenzo Walker Technical High

Manuel Carrion, East Naples Middle

Matthew Cleare, Naples High

Guy Gaponenko, Oakridge Middle

Maria Marrugo, Gulfview Middle

Patricia Morejón, East Naples Middle

Sergio Morquecho, East Naples Middle

Maggie Moxam, Golden Gate Middle

Benjamin Nguyen, East Naples Middle

Sarmento Palomo, Golden Gate High

Lindsey Peña, Manatee Middle

Jennifer Perez, East Naples Middle

Joe Rodriguez, Golden Gate Middle

Luz Maria Rodriguez, Cypress Palm Middle

Victoria Rogers, Golden Gate Middle

Annisa Setiawan, East Naples Middle

Tiah Thompson, Cypress Palm Middle

Natalia Vargas, Cypress Palm Middle



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Gail Rothenberg  
**In the back row from left to right are: Jennifer Buck, Maria Marrugo, Maggie Moxam, Benjamin Nguyen, Lindsey Peña, Jennifer Perez, Tiarra Woods, Patricia Morejón, Luz Maria Rodriguez, Victoria Rogers, Annisa Setiawan. In the middle row: Manuel Carrion, Stephanie Abreu, Natalie Vargas, Linda Vasquez, Jennifer Vergara, Kaitlyn Ziegelmaier, Valentina Zuniga, Tiah Thompson, Carlos Adames. Seated: Dominic Bartholomew, Guy Gaponenko, Sarmento Palomo, Jaheem Washington, Matthew Cleare, Brian Withrow, Joe Rodriguez, Sergio Morquecho.**

Cypress Palm Middle, Linda Vasquez, Cypress Palm Middle, Jennifer Vergara, Corkscrew Middle, Jaheem Washington, Cypress Palm Middle, Brian Withrow, Oakridge Middle, Tiarra Woods, Golden Gate High Kaitlyn Ziegelmaier, East Naples Middle, Valentina Zuniga, Corkscrew Middle.



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/CCPS

Teachers get ready to explore the Golisano Children's Museum of Naples during Teacher Orientation.

## CCPS teachers get sneak peek of new children's museum

Even adults like to play and learn! And, that's exactly what some 400 Collier County teachers did last weekend during Teacher Orientation sessions at the new Golisano Children's Museum of Naples (C'mon). Public and private school teachers registered for this special opportunity to explore the museum before its grand opening next week.

The excitement was palpable as soon as the museum doors opened. Teachers tried their hand at farming, harvesting and selling products in the market; they put their veterinarian hats on and took care of sick animals; they climbed the banyan tree,

crawled through the mangroves of the Everglades, and fished off the Naples Pier; plus, they learned about the "green technology" that supports the construction of the new museum. And the exploration didn't stop there – they got to try all of the exhibits and interactive areas.

Throughout their sessions, teachers learned how the museum can support their classroom curriculum. Many look forward to taking their students on field trips to further explore C'mon.

To learn more, visit [www.cmon.org](http://www.cmon.org).

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# Local history highlighted in possible survey

## Immokalee Today

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

Despite moving rapidly forward as a shining example of Florida in the 21st Century, history is as rich – if not more rich – than anywhere else in Southwest Florida.

And, like many other places around the Sunshine State that rich history is often hidden in plain sight.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) may soon bring some of that rich Immokalee history to light as it conducts a formal survey of a historic cemetery right on Main Street.

It's easy to overlook the historic marker and remnant headstones of the Christ Episcopal Mission cemetery, just east of 9th Street's intersection with Main Street (S.R. 29). But the cemetery may date back as far as 1896, when white American Anglicans established the mission as an outpost to the Seminole people.

Immokalee was once known as Gopher

Ridge, of course, and legend has it one of the few Florida skirmishes of the U.S. Civil War took place on the Gopher Ridge high ground as confederate and federal troops out of Fort Myers battled over cattle meat and hides.

Doris Moody Lewis writes in a history of Immokalee, Immokalee, Formerly Gopher Ridge, notes the Christ Episcopal Mission was damaged by the famous hurricanes of 1910 and 1926 and that graves were moved out of the site when S.R. 29 was built.

The FDOT survey of the cemetery will attempt to discover if the burial ground extends outside the currently fenced in area and, perhaps, discover remnants of the mission itself.

Anyone with information about the site can reach the FHWA's Linda Anderson at [Linda.Anderson@dot.gov](mailto:Linda.Anderson@dot.gov).



Courtesy photo

**A possible upcoming survey to determine the exact area of a historic burial ground would bring to light the rich history of the Immokalee area. The area which was originally known as "Gopher Ridge" has a historic cemetery found in the main thoroughfare in downtown Immokalee.**

## Sheriff Rambosk honored with Men Of Distinction award

The Education Foundation of Collier County has honored Sheriff Kevin Rambosk for his outstanding commitment and service to children.

Sheriff Rambosk was one of 10 Men Of Distinction recognized at a special awards celebration dinner at the Hilton Naples this past Thursday evening.

The Education Foundation of Collier County is a non-profit organization that eliminates barriers and creates opportunities for students, families, education, and the community to work together to help students succeed

"We can think of no one who better exemplifies the personal and professional qualities that the Education Foundation of Collier County honors through this award," the CCSO Command Staff wrote in a letter nominating Sheriff Rambosk for the award.

The Foundation apparently agreed, selecting Sheriff Rambosk from a field of distinguished nominees.

"The Men of Distinction Awards honor men for their dedication and philanthropic service to benefit the Collier County community," said Susan McManus, president of The Education Foundation. "These individuals work in a variety of ways throughout the community to make an impact on our quality of life and that of students and families."

Chances are Sheriff Rambosk will be written in the local history books as a true champion of children in Collier County.

As the top law enforcement officer of Collier County, Sheriff Rambosk has led the way in creating a multitude of programs and initiatives aimed at keeping kids safe and engaged in positive activities. Here are just a few examples:

Summerfest. For the past two summers kids of all ages in Collier County have had the opportunity to participate in hundreds of free activities in a safe environment, thanks to the vision and initiative of Sheriff Rambosk. With the help of more than 200 supportive businesses and community partners,

Summerfest is the most ambitious youth program in CCSO history.

Youth Resource Center. Sheriff Rambosk led the multi-agency creation of the Youth Resource Center, which offers an array of referral services to at-risk youth. Located at the Collier County Courthouse, the center will act as the hub for the youth-centered services available in the community.

D.A.R.E. Board. In March, Sheriff Rambosk agreed to serve on the prestigious D.A.R.E. America International Executive Law Enforcement Advisory Board to ensure that the DARE curriculum reflects the trends that our deputies are seeing in the community. This summer the Florida D.A.R.E. Officers Association presented the Sheriff with the organization's 2011 Leadership Award in recognition of his ongoing commitment to our community's youth.

Kids Zone. The CCSO website, [www.colliersheriff.org](http://www.colliersheriff.org), prominently features a Kids Zone where children of all ages can find safety and crime prevention tips.

Expert blogger. Sheriff Rambosk blogs about safety on the Golisano Children's Museum of Naples (C'mon) website. His topics have included online safety, bicycle safety and Summerfest.

Back-to-school message. At the start of every school year, each elementary-level stu-

dent receives a letter with a back-to-school safety message from Sheriff Rambosk.

Do The Right Thing Award. Each month during the school year Sheriff Rambosk recognizes selected children for performing a good deed within their school, community or family.

Celebrate With A Star. CCSO's Celebrate With A Star program seeks to make the holidays merry and bright for children. Groups that have benefitted from the annual holiday giving program include Boys and Girls Club, Youth Haven and Grace Place.

Art Gallery. CCSO's Community Gallery features children's art. The gallery, open to the public, has featured works by children from Everglades City School, Youth Haven and K Is For Kids Foundation.

Sheriff Rambosk has served as honorary chairman of the Baby Basics Biking and Walking Challenge at North Collier Regional Park. He is a member of the board of directors for the Junior Deputies League Inc. and a past board member for Youth Haven. He serves as a literacy buddy for the Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida.

The 2012 Men of Distinction also included: Doug Campbell; Eugene Frey; Lt. Col. (Ret.) Paul Garrah; F. Craig Jilk; Thomas D. McCann; West McCann; Dr. Bob Morantz; Dr. Keith Riley; and George M. Walters Jr.

## Calling All Artists - Art Workshop at the Preserve

Damien Joseph, a graphic artist employed by the National Park Service in Colorado will be conducting a two-hour intermediate/advanced watercolor paint workshop on March 10, at 10 a.m. at the end of Seagrape Drive within the Preserve. The site is near the Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center at 33000 Tamiami Trail East, Ochopee.

For generations artists, through a variety of mediums, have inspired appreciation for protected areas around the world. For the past 20 years, Damien's job has been to cre-

ate original art works for exhibits, which are displayed at national parks all over the United States. Mr. Joseph is passionate about art and has a passion to teach and inspire.

During his visit to South Florida Damien will also be working with students at Everglades City School.

If you would like to participate in the workshop, please bring your paint set and a closable container to collect your water after painting. There won't be an opportunity to discard it on-site.

Proceeds from the awards celebration will benefit The Education Foundation and its Take Stock in Children scholarships and mentoring program. For the 2011 Men of Distinction Awards Celebration, \$45,000 was raised to support the work of The Education Foundation.

## Business & Service Directory

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## Tour of historic Everglades homes and buildings opens next weekend



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/**Everglades City Tour**

The Everglades Bank is one of the buildings open for touring in the upcoming Everglades City Tour of Homes beginning on March 10.



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/**Everglades City Tour**

Cottages and local historic shops will invite guests to have a peek at how some of the oldest buildings in the county have held up over the decades.



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/**Everglades City Tour**

Riverside cottages such as this one are some of the earliest seen in the area and are open for the upcoming Everglades City Tour. More than 50 such homes and buildings are included in the tour with proceeds to benefit an enhancement program for the city.

Everglades City has over 50 historic buildings, and a few of these will open their doors to visitors on March 10, at the Third Annual Everglades Homes Tour. The Everglades Society for Historic Preservation (ESHP) is again sponsoring the event from 1 to 5 p.m.

Cost of seeing some of the oldest homes and buildings in Collier County is only \$20 per person. The price includes a souvenir booklet with a map, pictures, and historical information. Registration for those without advanced tickets will be in McLeod Park, across the street from City Hall, right on the circle in the center of this Olde Florida town.

"Over 200 people showed up to tour homes last year, and new places will be open for viewing this year," said Jean Shultz, organizer of the event.

Once visitors obtain their souvenir ticket booklets, they are free to wander the streets and tour the open buildings. Volunteer docents will be working at each location to provide additional information.

This year ESHP plans to use the money raised at the tour for signage to enhance the unique character of the city.

On the same day, Art-in-the-Glades, a showcase for local artists to sell their crafts, will feature live music and refreshments in McLeod Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come early to savor the relaxed atmosphere of this rural outpost and purchase your tickets, if you do not already have them.

When you book on-line or send in a reservation form with check, your ticket booklets will be posted to you so you can start visiting the buildings right away when you arrive. For more info, see the organizer's website at [www.evergladeshistorical.org](http://www.evergladeshistorical.org) or phone Jane at 239-695-0333 or Marya at 239-695-2905.

Everglades City is easy to reach. From I-75 (Alligator Alley), take Exit 80 south on SR-29. After 20 miles, you will cross US-41 (Tamiami Trail) and continue another four miles to the circle. McLeod Park is to the left of City Hall. Or, take US-41 from Naples or Marco to the corner of SR-29 and proceed south into Everglades City.

## Naples Zoo trapping Panthers . . . Camera trapping, that is

See the results Saturday, March 3 at the Zoo's Annual Save the Panther Day Celebration

Across Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, 70 synchronized high speed camera traps are now remotely monitoring our state's endangered cats and other wildlife. These cameras were purchased in 2011 by the Naples Zoo Conservation Fund as part of a long-term study to monitor the health of the cats and their environment. Guests are invited to see some of the latest images and videos captured by these cameras at Naples Zoo's annual Save the Panther Day celebration from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 3. This date is also a Free Saturday for Collier County residents! ([www.napleszoo.org/collier](http://www.napleszoo.org/collier))

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, the Friends of the Florida Panther Refuge, and other conservation organizations will be at Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens on Saturday, March 3, for Save the Panther Day. With the growing population of our local endangered cats, this event provides an excellent opportunity to meet panther

experts and get a firsthand look at what's being done to save our state animal as well as how to best live together.

Guests can see the short video clips and panther images collected by the camera traps during the 11 a.m. feature show in Safari Canyon. Guests can ask Larry Richardson questions during special Meet the Biologist presentations at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. at Naples Zoo's Panther Glade habitat, an exhibit created in cooperation with National Wildlife Federation®. Richardson has served as biologist at the panther refuge since it opened in 1989. The official state Save the Panther Day takes place on March 17, 2012.

Each year, the Naples Zoo Conservation Fund supports efforts from our local species to wildlife from Madagascar to Malaysia. In addition, the Fund helps plant tens of thousands of trees each year in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Along with the panther research, highlights from last year's projects include helping the lemurs and foscas in Madagascar; tigers in Asia; crocodiles in the Philippines; lions in Africa; and endangered butterflies in the United States.

For more, visit [www.napleszoo.org](http://www.napleszoo.org), call 239-262-5409, or [www.twitter.com/NaplesZoo](http://www.twitter.com/NaplesZoo) and [www.facebook.com/napleszoo](http://www.facebook.com/napleszoo) and [www.youtube.com/napleszoo](http://www.youtube.com/napleszoo).

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