

Inside...

Easter Egg Hunt!

Come one, come all! Put on your Spring things and bring a basket! The Key Club, Kiwanis and Robert's Ranch will be hosting an Easter Egg hunt this Saturday, March 31, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Key Club will have games, face painting and the egg hunt for free. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.



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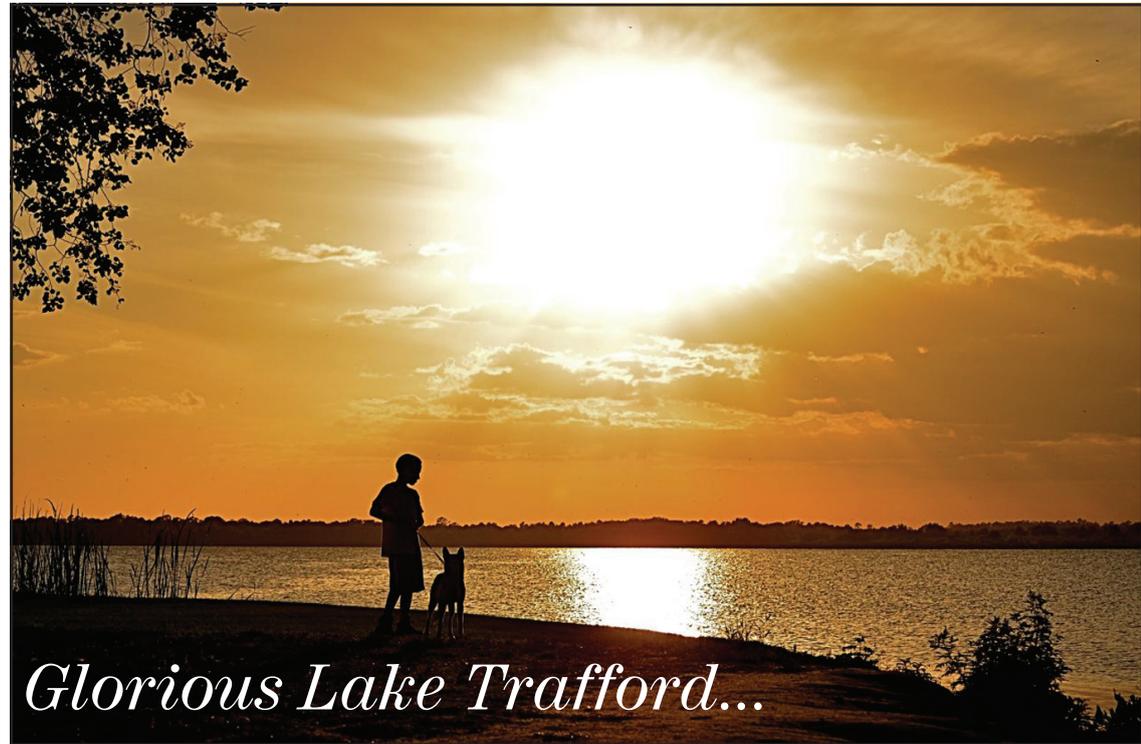
Local voices needed to speak up for children

If abused, neglected and abandoned children could vote, they might have a voice in their own future, but it would take too long. They need a voice right now. The Statewide Guardian ad Litem Program, supporting volunteers who independently speak up for the best interests of these children, has recently launched a strategic campaign to recruit 10,000 child advocates. There are approximately 31,000 in Florida's foster care system today. With nearly 8,000 volunteers, the program is able to give a voice to 22,000 of those children. Who will be a voice for those 10,000 children without an advocate?

To promote awareness and recruit volunteers, the Florida Guardian ad Litem Program has begun promoting the airing of public service announcements (PSAs) throughout the state. The PSAs capturing the mission were created by National CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) for use by local member groups to raise awareness for these most vulnerable children. CASA's "I AM for the Child" recruitment campaign includes 30-second PSA's available for use by local media.

"Our volunteers, supported by staff, are the true heroes for these children," says Guardian ad Litem 20th Circuit Director, Raelyn Means. "We just don't have enough volunteers. We're hoping the public will become more aware of the need locally through the 10,000 Voices Campaign. We

See GAL— Page 2



Glorious Lake Trafford...

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Waddy Thompson
The lake's return to health is good for everybody - from the smallest bit of plankton to this boy and his dog, enjoying the lake under a truly magnificent evening sky.

Citrus growers warm up to peach growing

By Patty Brant
Immokalee Bulletin

The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Services (IFAS) station at Immokalee is on the cutting edge of agricultural science - the hallmark of Immokalee's past, present and future. For decades Immokalee has been renowned for its winter vegetables, with citrus and other ag products in a supporting role.

IFAS and the University of Florida have been working on a new south Florida crop - one that looks like a great fit for the area and another great support crop.

Peaches, those sweet, juicy beautiful fruits are welcome on tables throughout the world and

many new varieties are very compatible with South Florida's growing conditions.

Dr. Robert Rouse is one of the leading figures in developing terrific South Florida peaches.

Dr. Rouse's research has shown peaches can be a viable alternate crop for citrus growers. With no freeze worries, a good market price and a perfect niche in the growing season, the Florida peach has a lot going for it.

Agricultural scientists have developed a number of low chill subtropical peaches for this area.

As deciduous fruit trees, peaches require a dormant winter period in order to produce fruit - hours

See PEACH — Page 2



Submitted photos/Dr. Robert Rouse, IFAS

Flordaglo peaches are beautiful as well as tasty.

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PEACH

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at or below specific temperatures - called chill units, Dr. Rouse explained. That chill unit fluctuates, as you move further south the Florida peninsula. Scientists have managed to develop types of fruit with chill hour requirements that vary, making them viable for Florida's striated temperature zones.

Some varieties have been developed that only need 150 chill hours per winter at 58 degrees or below - these are the ones south Florida can produce.

Peaches coming from Chile will end as of April 1 and more northern US states won't have crops available for a couple months after that, leaving the market open for Florida peaches that mature only in April and May.

Right now these high quality varieties are coming into season. It's perfect timing, with no other peaches on the market at this time - anywhere in the world, Dr. Rouse said.

There are some drawbacks to growing peaches in South Florida, however.

Peaches are an "intense" crop that needs a lot of care, so they're not for everybody.

Citrus growers used to fruit that can take a lot of handling will need a little education to add peaches to their agricultural repertoire.

First, the trees must be "trained" by pruning twice each year, once in summer and once in winter.

Fruit on the tree must be thinned by hand to ensure large fruit for market. Leaving too much fruit on the tree will result in small fruit, according to Dr. Rouse. They'll still be tasty, but too small for marketing. Also, any tree will only support a certain amount of fruit.

Harvesting the delicate fruit must be done by hand, with the fruit being gently placed in small baskets. Unlike citrus, peaches bruise easily.

There is also only about a week-long window to pick the fruit. When they're ripe, they must be picked immediately.

To be a viable crop for a commercial grower, Dr. Rouse advises a serious peach grower put in several varieties so that when one is picked, the other is coming right behind it.

Right now no one is growing peaches in the Immokalee area, Dr. Rouse said, although a few years ago one grower experimented with them. At this time, Southwest

Florida has about 160,000 acres of peaches from Charlotte to Collier County. Hendry has 65,000 acres. They have already found markets at Walmarts south of Lakeland and at Sweetbay markets.

Dr. Rouse warns prospective peach growers to take care with choosing varieties. During extra warm winters, like this past one, fruit production decreases due to a lack of minimum dormancy. Right now these high quality varieties are coming into season.

Zoe Schobert, IFAS Ag Assistant Supervisor, has been with the facility for about ten years, starting in the soil department. She has been working with Dr. Rouse seven years on the peach project, which occupies approximately five acres at the IFAS station and includes some plum trees. She said peaches are easy to grow but labor intensive. She underscores that cold is essential for fruit growth, as is pruning twice each year. She added that chemicals can be used to help induce dormancy when necessary and peach trees are fertilized similarly to citrus.

She cautions that it takes time to learn when peaches are ripe and each variety is different. They cannot be harvested when still green because they will not continue to ripen once they're picked.

Zoe advises anyone interested in starting to start small till they get the hang of it and know they really want to do it.

Of course, as with all market fruits, peaches require fertilizer, watering, pest and disease control. One advantage for this area is that these new varieties ripen during our dry season. During the summer rainy season pests become more of a problem, but the harvest is over by then.

Dr. Phillip Stansly, Professor of Entomology at IFAS, explained some of the pest problems associated with peach trees. He said the Caribbean fruit fly is the biggest pest for peaches. Growers should set out bait to detect them. Then take steps to irradiate them.

Peaches are also susceptible to types of stink bugs that attack the fruit, weevils that attack the root and white peach scale which attacks the woody part of the plant. Dr. Stansly said peach growers must be observant when Caribbean flies are detected before harvest time. They should also be careful of what they plant in the vicinity of their peach trees because certain pests will move from one to the other.

GAL

Continued From Page 1

never know how many children are going to need a trained volunteer. We've had to prioritize who gets an advocate. It's a difficult choice. Every child deserves a voice in his or her situation today and for the future."

Currently, both Lee County and Collier County volunteers are advocating for only 65 percent and 68 percent of children who need an advocate, respectively with Hendry and Glades counties needing at least 15 more advocates.

Guardian ad Litem volunteers are ordinary citizens who are Florida residents, at least 21 years old, pass a background check and complete free training. No legal background is required as a program attorney is assigned to every child's case and a Volunteer Supervisor/Facilitator assigned to every volunteer to help navigate systems and coach. An average of 8-10 hours monthly on the volunteer's own time is required, with the volunteer being in charge of his/her day-

time schedule.

Secretary of the Florida Department of Children and Families David Wilkins has added his support to this initiative by stating, "The challenge of providing all of Florida's children with the opportunity to dream of a better future is enormous. But it is truly the highest of moral callings and it requires the work of our Department, our community partners, businesses and volunteers. I have repeatedly seen first-hand the impact of a volunteer Guardian ad Litem on a child's life and the rewards are great for the child, the volunteer and our state's future. I encourage any Floridian who wishes to help a child to volunteer with the Guardian ad Litem Program. The impact one person can have is incredible."

Alan Abramowitz, Statewide Guardian ad Litem Executive Director, often visits offices around the state encouraging both volunteers and staff to help even more children. "Our message is simple, but profound, by becoming a Guardian ad Litem child advocate you will quickly understand this reality: 'To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world.' We're hoping every Florida resident hears us loud

and clear through the 10,000 Voice Campaign and gets involved."

The 20th Circuit Guardian ad Litem Program supports volunteers advocating for the best interests of abused, neglected and abandoned children in Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry and Glades Counties.

Voices for Kids of Southwest Florida is a non-profit, United Way agency, supporting the 20th Circuit Guardian ad Litem Pro-

gram by funding recruitment and training of volunteers, and working to fund children's individual needs not provided by any other source.

Volunteer information and the upcoming 1-hour orientations open to the public are available by contacting Mary Ann Brownstein at 239-995-3737. See also www.guardianadlitem.org and www.voicesforkids.org.

Homicide investigation under way

Collier County Sheriff's Office detectives are conducting a homicide investigation after a man was found dead in Immokalee on Tuesday.

The man who was identified by detectives as Juan Flores Monroy, 24, 321 Wells St., Immokalee, was discovered on the side of a dirt road in the 200 block of Wells Street by a passing motorist who reported it to the Sheriff's Office at 8:19 a.m.

The Collier County Medical Examiner's Office determined the manner of death to be homicide.

Detectives were not disclosing how the man died because of the active investigation, but they did note the presence of traumatic injuries. An arrest has not been made. The investigation continues.

Information will be released as it becomes available.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Collier County Sheriff's Office at 239.252.9300, or if you wish to remain anonymous call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-780-TIPS (8477).

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Our Purpose...

The Immokalee Bulletin is published by Independent Newspapers of Florida. Independent is owned by a unique trust that enables this newspaper to pursue a mission of journalistic service to the citizens of the community. Since no dividends are paid, the company is able to thrive on profit margins below industry standards. All after-tax surpluses are reinvested in Independent's mission of journalistic service, commitment to the ideals of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and support of the community's deliberation of public issues.

We Pledge...

- To operate this newspaper as a public trust
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- To provide the information citizens need to make their own intelligent decisions about public issues.
- To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
- To disclose our own conflicts of interest or potential conflicts to our readers.
- To correct our errors and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

Letters to the Editor

Immokalee High School Hall of Fame

Hello Immokalee and community friends, it's time once again to submit names for the Immokalee High School Hall of Fame class of 2012. It gave us great pleasure to start the Hall of Fame in 2011 with our inaugural class which included some great names in the history of Immokalee High School. Many in this group have helped build the tradition we have here today. That list included: Vic Kirk (Boys Basketball Coach), Bill Broxon (Football Coach), Ike Brown (Boys Track), Mary Stubs (Girls Track and Basketball), Johnny Smith (Football and Track), Edgerin James (Football), John Weber (Football Coach) and Linda Ayer (I.H.S Contributor). Although these were the names chosen, each person who was nominated and completed an application last year is still eligible. If you were nominated and did not complete your application, do so and submit it to the high school as soon as possible. Any new potential candidates must be submitted to the high school by April 9.

Some items considered for induction include:

- Graduated from Immokalee High School for at least 5 years
- High school achievements
- Achievements beyond high school
- Established records

Again we are only looking for potential candidates. If you are chosen as an applicant, you will receive further instructions about the process. I would like to say thank you to the community for all your support. Continue to encourage our young people to be their best and to keep The Immokalee Pride Alive!

**Yours in Activities,
Tony Allen, Activities Director**

Immigration

I thank Mr. Rick Heers for his response to my letter to the editor of two weeks ago about immigration. I am sincere in my appreciation of Mr. Heers response and hope

that others will become involved in what is happening in our unique community. If you prefer not to write, you can register to vote and assist others to do the same. You can help mold your community instead of letting others do it.

Getting back to Mr. Heers's response in which he disagrees with my statement: "The emotional and scholastic toll that it takes on American children of those workers, when they see the deputy at school." This statement in my letter does not repudiate the youth resource deputy program in the schools. I take Mr. Heers at his word that this program has been a good thing, at least for the thirteen years that he was involved with the Collier County School System.

My point is, that for the past few years, the Collier County Sheriff, Kevin Rombosk, has taken it upon himself to assist the Federal Government in doing its job of apprehending the undocumented. When the sheriff takes this action, he taints all individuals wearing the uniform and thereby surely undermines the work of the school resource officers.

I immigrated to this country as a child and know what it is like to be separated from your family for many years. It is heartbreaking and it takes exceptional determination and sacrifice. I cannot imagine breaking up the family and sending them back to where they came from after this ordeal.

I am for immigration reform, but what is happening to these children is criminal regardless who is doing it.

Our elected officials and those with financial power who can put a stop to this shameful persecution, have abrogated their responsibility and are complacent in letting the sheriff do their work under a thin legal veil. These people are standing by while children suffer.

**Juan Puerto, M.D.
Immokalee**

County Commissioner Coletta plans April 4, Immokalee visit

Jim Coletta, Collier County District 5 Commissioner, will be in Immokalee on Wednesday April 4.

Commissioner Coletta will be attending the Immokalee Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting at 8 a.m. at the Roma In Havana Restaurant, located at 1025 West Main Street. The public is welcome to join Commissioner Coletta at the Chamber breakfast as he discusses the latest news about our community, and we encourage you to bring a friend and attend this very informative meeting.

Commissioner Coletta will be holding office hours in the Immokalee office at 310 Alachua Street from 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. 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.

"The past three years have been an economic challenge for not only Collier County Government, but many of our citizens. While times are still tough, I can see a light at the end of the tunnel. Some companies are now looking at Immokalee to relocate or grow their existing businesses. When this happens, we will start to see more local jobs and more business for the existing merchants in Immokalee."

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.

News in Brief

Democrats to meet

The Democratic Club of Immokalee will meet on Tuesday, March 27, at 6:45 p.m. at Rib City, 621 North 15th Street, Immokalee. (239) 657-4003.

Groundbreaking for new IWSD Treatment Plant set

You are cordially invited to attend the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Immoka-

lee Water & Sewer District Wastewater Treatment Plant and Forcemain Extension.

This project is funded by USDA Rural Development. Jonathan Adelstein, USDA Rural Utilities Administrator will be the guest of honor along with state and local dignitaries on Tuesday, April 3, at 11 a.m. Immokalee Water & Sewer District, 1020 Sanitation Road, Immokalee. Refreshments provided following ceremony. RSVP by March 27, 239-658-3630 or E-mail normaramirez@iw-sd.com

Immokalee Forecast

Local Forecast

Weather forecast from the National Weather Service for the Immokalee and surrounding area.

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of showers after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 86. Calm wind becoming southeast between 4 and 7 mph

Thursday night: A 10 percent chance of showers before 8 p.m. Mostly clear, with a low around 60. South wind around 6 mph becoming calm.

Extended Forecast

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 87. Calm wind becoming southeast between 6 and 9 mph.

Friday night: Mostly clear, with a low around 62. Southeast wind around 7 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 87. South wind between 3 and 5 mph.

Saturday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 65. West wind between 3 and 8 mph.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 88. Calm wind becoming west around 5 mph.

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

Monday: A 10 percent chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 89.

Monday night: A 10 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 67.

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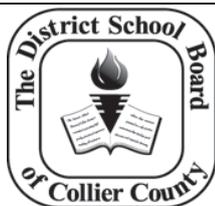
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Students First

They came, they saw, we're accredited!

By Joe Landon
Collier County District Schools



We did quite well, thank you, when visited recently by a regional school district accreditation team. They declared Collier County Public Schools to be, once again, "fully accredited" – presenting us with five commendations. The 10-member on-site Quality Assurance Review Team from AdvancedED, the parent group of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement, spent several days here. Team members – educational leaders from across Florida and elsewhere – worked morning 'til night interviewing more than 450 of our stakeholders in numerous settings, and poured over reams of documentation they had requested of us. The end result, the five commendations:

1)For having "a comprehensive Data Warehouse with the capacity to provide the foundation for district, school, and classroom decision-making with growing utilization, powerful capabilities to impact student performance, and district opportunities for customization."

2)For "well-maintained, equitable and functional facilities and a commitment to quality, safety, and to an optimal learning environment."

3)For "innovative and expanding two-way communication network with a myriad of outreach activities, stakeholder satisfaction with communication efforts, a commitment to efficient use of technology to facilitate communication throughout the district, and a commitment to continuously extend the conversations."

4)For a "technology-rich culture facilitated by high expectations for district wide utilization among stakeholder groups, equitable hardware distribution, extensive professional learning opportunities, and appropriate planning for maintenance and replacement."

5)For "increasing community and business partnerships, leveraging additional resources, aligning with the Vision (Workforce Development), and enhancing communication channels."

Now the team measured the district using seven standards giving us "highly functional" ratings in the areas of "Documenting and Using Results," "Resources and Support Systems," and "Stakeholder Communications and Relationships," and they gave us "operational" ratings on the four other standards.

Following the visit, Superintendent, Dr. Kamela Patton, said that "the team has provided us with a road map as we continue our work in a continuous improvement process and as we pursue excellence in education."

Education News

Learn to run a better business

- Business Plan Writing Workshop** – six sessions begin on April 5, 5:30-7 p.m.
- Women & Minority Owned Business Certification** – 4/21/12 10 a.m.
- Mastering QuickBooks** – 10 hour course – April 28th & May 5th
- Procuring Government Contracts – 5/26/12

Business Plan Writing - Key to Success is in the Plan!

Class begins Thursday, April 5, 5:30-7 p.m.
Pre-Registration Required, 1320 N. 15th Street, Immokalee. 239-867-4121. RosemaryDillon@Immokalee.Biz

Obituaries

Laberta Brown Thompson, 96

LABELLE — Laberta Brown Thompson, age 96, passed away Nov. 2, 2011.

Laberta was born Jan. 16, 1915, on Chokoloskee Island, Fla. She was a lifetime resident of Southwest Florida spending her life in Everglades City, Immokalee and LaBelle.

She was preceded in death by her father and mother, John J. Brown II and Alice McKinney Brown, pioneers of Chokoloskee Island; her husband, Waddy Thompson of LaBelle; and son, Oscar Thompson (surviving wife Miladie) of Ft. Myers;



brothers, Bert Brown, Melvin "Peg" Brown and Loren "Totch" Brown.

Survivors include her daughter, Vivian Martin of LaBelle; son, Waddy Thompson (Karen) of Labelle; sister, Audrey Hancock of Lake Placid; seven grandchildren, Tommy Williams Jr, Susan Williams, Rose Williams, Christina Davidson, Doug Thompson, Tracy Thompson, and Robert Thompson. She was the great-grandmother of 11 and great-great-grandmother of 13.

Laberta was a devoted wife and mother, an excellent seamstress and enjoyed working in her yard.

At Laberta's request a memorial service will be held at International Christian Fellowship Church, 233 Clark St., LaBelle, Sunday, April 1, 2012, at 2 p.m. The eulogy will be delivered by Rev. Sammy Co. Service will be closed with the hymn "How Great Thou Art" being sung by Mrs. Tracie Co and Miss Micaiah Co.

Applications for summer drivers ed now available

Collier County Public Schools will be offering the Driver Education Summer School program beginning in June. Here is some important information for parents of high school students interested in taking the class.

Step one – complete an application for your child. Registration will be held next week and is only available online at www.collierschools.com/pe/drivered.htm. The application will be accessible starting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 26, until the same time on Friday, March 30. Seats will be filled on a first come/first served basis. As soon as the application is completed and submitted, you will automatically receive a confirmation number, if accepted. If not accepted, you will be given the opportunity to accept or decline an offer to be placed on a waiting list. All applicants will also receive an email confirming their status.

School computers may be used to complete the application for parents/students without computer access at home. These computers may be used in the school's media center beginning Tuesday, March 27 through Thursday, March 29, from 7:15 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., daily.

Students must have a learner's permit in hand on the first day of the program. Stu-

dents who do not have their permits in hand will forfeit their seat and the seat will be given to the next student on the waiting list.

The Driver Education Summer School program will be held at Gulf Coast High School (7878 Shark Way) and Barron Collier High School (5600 Cougar Drive). Each school will conduct two sessions: the first session will run from Monday, June 18 through Tuesday, July 3, and the second session will begin Monday, July 9 and end Tuesday, July 24. No classes will be held on Fridays for either session. There are two time slots available to choose from for each session: 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., or 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Please note that only a pass or fail grade is given for this class, and this credit will not be used towards graduation. Neither lunch nor transportation will be provided for Driver Education Summer School program students.

To learn more, please contact Health and Physical Education Coordinator Trish Ackerman at 239-377-9264.

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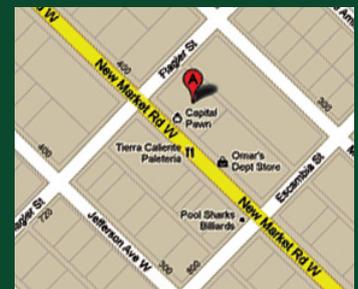
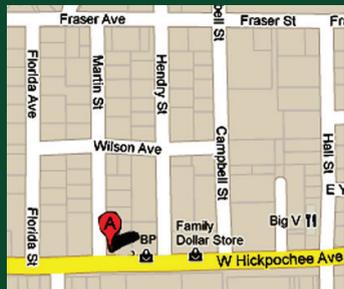
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District students benefit from innovative new learning program

Miracles happen in Immokalee schools

By Rick Heers

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

Believe it or not, all eight schools in Immokalee are experiencing a miraculous, positive change in the way children think, plan and perform. The first annual Leadership Day took place at Miracle Place-Highlands Elementary School last week.

Thanks to a great partnership with 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC), Naples Children and Education Foundation (NCEF), the Collier County School District, the Boys & Girls Club of Collier County and the Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board each day, 1200 students in grades 3-12 finish their school day and enter Miracle Place. All five elementary schools, the Immokalee Community Charter School, Immokalee Middle and High Schools are grateful recipients of this innovative, exciting program that is truly impacting youth in a very positive manner.

Stephen Covey's powerful book 7 Habits of Highly Effective People has been adapted for schools, The 7 Habits of Happy Kids, and 6 Most Important Decisions You'll Ever Make, geared for elementary students, and 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens for middle and high school students.

It was amazing to see how actively the students were involved in great, creative learning activities that promoted higher level thinking, problem solving, planning and working cooperatively with others. All students seemed to be thrilled with their activities, many of them perhaps unaware that their learning was being expanded in very practical ways that would benefit them throughout their lives. One of the great positives that comes out for children in the program is that it helps them to set goals for their future.

The 7 habits follow:

1. Be proactive-You are in charge
2. Begin with the end in mind-Have a plan
3. Put first things first-Work first, then play
4. Think win-win-Everyone can win
5. Seek first to understand and then to be



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Rick Heers
Jamie Scott, Site Coordinator for Highlands and the Immokalee Community Charter Schools.

understood-Listen before you talk

6. Synergize-Together is better

7. Sharpen the saw-Balance feels best

The priority of MIRACLE is to provide reading and STEM academic support for its students,

cooperating with school teachers and administrators to support student learning needs, monitors their progress and ensures the program's continuous improvement through written formative and end-of-year evaluation reports.

Students excitedly shared reports and quickly and politely gave their personal, positive summaries of their involvement in the program. They elect their own "mayor", vote on laws, apply for jobs in government, finance, education communication, or create their own businesses. One of the best "take homes" was their concern about helping others in their class to be successful. They even responded how to use their lessons to overcome the occasion bully they might come across in or out of school. They can even earn "Miracle Money" to spend on snacks and other items in their store.

One afternoon spent shadowing the "Miracle" children in any of the schools will convince any observer of the great value that this program provides for participants.

Women's Shelter in need of food and clothing items

The Shelter for Abused Women & Children is seeking food donations for residents living in the nonprofit domestic violence center's 60-bed emergency safe-haven.

"As we transition towards summer," explains Volunteer & Resource Coordinator Rebecca Grabau, "we see a decrease in supplies of our most needed items, including food."

Immediate needs include: Mac n' cheese, Pasta & sauce, Spaghetti-O's, Canned ravioli, Cereal, Peanut butter & jelly, Fresh & canned meats, Fresh & canned vegetables, Beans & rice, Soup, Juice & juice boxes, Milk, Oil, sugar, flour & other baking supplies, Snack foods, Coffee &

tea, Ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, Also needed are: Toilet paper, paper towels, Laundry detergent & fabric softener, Dish soap, dishwasher soap, Baby wipes, Diaper, Twin sheet sets, Pillows, Towel sets, Cat litter & food, Dog food

Items can be dropped at The Shelter's Options Thrift Shoppe, 968 Second Avenue North in Naples. The store is open Monday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information on needed supplies, or to host a Donation Drive, please call 239.775.3862, ext. 235, or email RGrabau@NaplesShelter.org



Submitted photo

Chamber

Bernadette Starling, Noelia Martinez of B-Hive Flowers and Gifts in Immokalee along with Bernardo Barnhart of the Immokalee Chamber.

Second Annual Immokalee Run and Ride for Literacy 5K Run and 1 mile 'Fun Run' planned for April 14 and 15

There will be 62, 30, & 15 mile rides at the Farm Worker Village—Immokalee on April 14 & 15, presented by:

*Collier County Housing Authority, *Endurance Sports Timing - www.endurancesportstiming.com; *Immokalee Track Club and Caloosa Riders - www.caloosariders.org.

Supporting the Family Literacy Academy of Immokalee, managed by Jump Start. Details and registration for both events at: www.immokaleerunsandrises.com

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Hundreds of People Cash In at the Holiday Inn Express Yesterday!

Treasure Hunters is not affiliated with or related to the Antiques Roadshow television series, PBS or WGBH

By Jason Delong
Treasure Hunters
STAFF WRITER

Gold and Silver pour into yesterday's event due to highest prices in 40 years.

Yesterday at the **Holiday Inn Express**, hundreds lined up to cash antiques, collectibles, gold and jewelry in at the event. The free event is in **Clewiston** all week buying gold, silver antiques and

"It is unbelievable, I brought in some old coins that had been in a little cigar box for years and some old herringbone necklaces and in less than fifteen minutes I left with a check for \$712.37."

collectibles. One visitor I spoke with yesterday said "It's unbelievable, I brought in some old coins that had been in a little cigar box for years and some old herringbone necklaces and in less than fifteen minutes I left with a check for \$712.37. That stuff has been in my jewelry box and dresser for at least 20 years." Another gentlemen brought an old Fender guitar his father bought years



Above • A couple waits with anticipation while an event specialist examines their antiques and gold items. The event is at the Holiday Inn Express this week.

ago. "Dad had less than fifty bucks in that guitar." The event specialist that assisted him, made a few phone calls and a veterinarian in Seattle, Washington bought the guitar for \$5700.00. The seller continued, "I got another \$150.00 for a broken necklace and an old class ring. It's

not every day that someone brings six thousand dollars to town with your name on it." Jeff Parsons, President of Treasure Hunters commented, "Lots of people have items that they know are valuable but just don't know where to sell them. Old toys, trains, swords,

guitars, pocket watches or just about anything old is valuable to collectors. These collectors are willing to pay big money for those items they are looking for." This week's event is the place to get connected with those collectors. The process is free and anyone can bring items down to the event. If the event specialist finds items that their collectors are interested in, offers will be made to purchase

those items. About 80% of the guests that attend the show end up selling one or more items at the event.

Antiques and collectibles are not the only items that Treasure Hunters is buying. "Gold and silver markets are soaring," says Archie Davis, a THR representative. "Broken jewelry and gold or silver coins add up very quickly. I just finished working with a gentleman that had an old class

ring, two bracelets, and handful of silver dollars,... his check was for over \$650.00. I would say that

there were well over 100 people in here yesterday that sold their scrap gold."

"If you go to the event, you can cash-in your items for competitive prices. THR representatives will be available to assess and purchase your items at the Holiday Inn Express through Saturday in Clewiston."

One gentleman holding his check for over \$1250.00 in the lobby of the event yesterday had this comment, "I am so happy I decided to come to the event. I saw the newspaper ad for the event and brought in an old German sword I

brought back from World War II and some old coins and here is my check. What a great thing for our community. I am heading home now to see what else I have they might be interested in."

The event continues today starting at 9am. The event is free and no appointment is needed.

Our International Collectors Association members are looking for the following types of items.

- **COINS** Any and all coins made before 1970. This includes all silver and gold coins, dollars, half dollars, quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies. All conditions wanted!
- **GOLD, SILVER & JEWELRY** PRICES AT 40 YEAR HIGHS! for platinum, gold and silver during this event. Broken Jewelry, dental gold, old coins, pocket watches, Kruggerands, Gold Bars Canadian Maple Leafs, Gold, Silver, Platinum, diamonds, rubies, sapphires and all types of stones, metals, etc. Rings, bracelets, necklaces, all others including broken jewelry. Early costume jewelry wanted.
- **WATCHES & POCKET WATCHES** Rolex, Tiffany, Hublot, Omega, Chopard, Cartier, Philippe, Ebel, Waltham, Swatch, Chopard, Elgin, Bunn Special, Railroad, Hamilton, all others.
- **TOYS, TRAINS & DOLLS** All types of toys made before 1970 including: Hot Wheels, Tonka, Buddy L, Smith Miller, Nylint, Robots, battery toys, Mickey Mouse, all other toys - Train sets, all gauges, accessories, individual cars, Marklin, American Flyer, Lionel, Hafner, all other trains - Barbie Dolls, GI Joe, Shirley Temple, Characters, German, all makers accepted.
- **MILITARY ITEMS & SWORDS** Civil, Revolutionary, WWI, WWII, etc. Items of interest include swords, badges, clothes, photos, medals, knives, gear, letters, etc.
- **ADVERTISING ITEMS** Metal and Porcelain signs, gas companies, beer and liquor makers, automobile, implements, etc.



All sports memorabilia is in high demand including: Pre 1970's baseball cards; autographed baseballs, footballs & basketballs; jerseys; signed photos; etc...

www.treasurehuntersevents.com

The event is featured next week:

March 27th - 31st

Tues - Fri: 9AM - 6PM & Saturday: 9AM - 4PM

FREE ADMISSION

Holiday Inn Express

1024 W. Sugarland Hwy., Clewiston, FL 33440

Directions: 863.983.5100

Show Info: 217.787.7767



Gold and Coin Prices High, Cash In Now
"It's a modern day gold rush," said Jeff Parsons of Treasure Hunters.

Gold is now trading near 40 year highs, and you can cash in at Treasure Hunters. All types of gold are wanted, including gold coins, Krugerrands, Maple Leafs, and other gold bars, etc. All gold jewelry, including broken jewelry is accepted. Anything gold and silver is wanted.

WE BUY 10¢ & 12¢ COMIC BOOKS!

High Demand for 1950's and 1960's Era Electric and Acoustic Guitars

Education Foundation presents Heart of the Apple Award



Courtesy photo/Education Foundation
Education Foundation of Collier County will be awarding Herb and Ann Rowe the Heart of the Apple Award at the upcoming presentation event.

The Education Foundation of Collier County is pleased to announce the 2012 Heart of the Apple Award Recipients: Herb and Ann Rowe. The Heart of the Apple award recognizes individuals in the community who have made a significant collective impact on education.

Herb and Ann Rowe have a passion and commitment to education and the students in Collier County. By generously giving thousands of volunteer hours and financial support for the work of The Education Foundation, the Rowes help teachers to ensure that every child can get a good education.

The Rowes have been pioneers encour-

aging high standards in science and technology in our schools and providing opportunities for students to learn from real life experiences. They have done this through thousands of volunteer hours and financial support of classroom grants through The Education Foundation's Connect with a Classroom Program and their involvement with the English-Speaking Union.

Dianne Mayberry-Hatt, 2012 Chair of The Education Foundation says "Countless students and teachers have benefited from the Rowes' dedication and generosity and The Education Foundation applauds them for being true leaders in education."

Ann and Herb have been involved in several science programs, investing time and funding for special projects including The JASON Project which connects students with scientists and researchers from all over the world using video conferencing and live webcasts to provide interactive science learning experiences.

Curt Witthoff, Coordinator of Science & Environmental Education for Collier County Public Schools remarked, "Ann has been a very positive voice in our community. She helped educate our community about the exciting things happening with the science education of our children."

Herb and Ann will be honored with this award at the 22nd Annual Golden Apple Celebration of Teachers presented by Suncoast

for Kids Foundation on April 11, from 7-8:30 pm, hosted by Waldorf Astoria Naples (475 Seagate). Additional support for this event is provided by the Mary Ingram Fund of the Columbus Foundation, Naples Daily News, and WINK-TV. There are limited quantities of open seating tickets for \$10, and additional preferred seating packages. For information,

visit www.GetOnTheBusCollier.org/GA.

The Golden Apple Teachers of Distinction and Collier County Public Schools' Teachers of the Year will also be honored at the celebration.

WINK-TV will produce a Golden Apple program that will be aired on May 5 and May 13 near Teacher Appreciation Week.

Voluntary pre-kindergarten registration coming soon

Parents – do you have a child who will be entering kindergarten in August 2012 and who has not attended a Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) Program during the school year? Collier County Public Schools invites you to register your youngster for the free Summer VPK Program. Registration will be available from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., every Tuesday and Thursday from April 3rd thru June 7th, at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Administration Center located at 5775 Osceola Trail (behind Barron Collier High School).

Please bring the following documents when you register your child.

- Your child's birth certificate (from the Office of Vital Statistics)
- Three(3) proofs of residency (i.e. copy of utility bill or mail addressed to parent's name)
- Immunizations or shot records form (blue form)
- Most recent physical exam within the

last year (yellow form)

Collier County's Summer VPK Program will be held from 8 a.m. to 4:35 p.m., Monday through Thursday (no school on Fridays), beginning on Monday, June 11, and running through Thursday, August 9, at Mike Davis Elementary School (MDE) located at 3215 Magnolia Pond Drive.

The VPK Program is free to all students who enroll, but parents are responsible for transportation to and from Mike Davis Elementary School. Lunch and breakfast will be provided. Please note that the VPK Program has an attendance policy. More information can be found online by visiting www.collierschools.com/vpk/.

To learn more, please contact Collier County Public Schools' VPK office at 239-377-0092.

Key words for hurricane season-Be prepared

Mitigation program helps homeowners to be ready

By Rick Heers

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

In an effort to help local homeowners to be prepared for future disasters when they arrive and save families hundreds of dollars each year on their rising insurance costs, Florida's Volunteer and Florida's S.E.R.T. in cooperation with I HOPE conducted a Mitigation seminar for Immokalee families last week.

Unfortunately with the way the government is re-drawing the "wind" maps for Southwest Florida, even residents of Immokalee may find dramatic rises in their wind coverage on their home insurance. There are so many changes that homeowners can make to make their insurance more affordable. Here are some examples of reductions that can potentially be applied to the wind-mitigation portion of your insurance-18% savings if there is a water barrier placed on your roof plywood sheets, and shingles that meet the Florida Building Code; 35-44% savings for shutters that meet the Miami-Dade Building Code Standards (I HOPE has over 150 approved, aluminum panels); 35% roof-to-wall connections using clips, single wraps or double wraps.

Many homes, especially those built

within the past 10 years may have many of these features. Without checking, having an inspection by a certified inspector and sending in forms to your insurance office, these discounts will not be automatically applied. The homeowner must call their own insurance carrier to request a list of approved inspectors. While the cost may be \$75-\$150, it could save you hundreds or thousands of dollars over the next 5-10 years.

I HOPE also introduced a local banker who is working on a potential grant to provide funds to assist low-income families do mitigation and repairs on their homes... loans up to \$15,000 that will assist homeowners with shutters, high-energy a/c units as well as general household repairs. I HOPE could know within the next few weeks if the grant is approved. At present, I HOPE has 65 families on a waiting list to have repairs done as soon as funds become available.

For those interested in doing their own shutters, I HOPE has approved aluminum shutters and the hardware to install them at \$12 per panel-1/4th of what the normal cost would be. I HOPE Distribution Center is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at 2050 Commerce Avenue, across from the airport entrance at the Tradeport Technology Park, Unit #7.

Request for STEM program conference presenters

School district staff and community members are invited to present at an exciting STEM Conference being held by Collier County Public Schools (CCPS) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Saturday, May 19, at Gulf Coast High School (7878 Shark Way). STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

CCPS Superintendent Dr. Kamela Patton says, "Because of the rapid evolution of technology, we must provide our students with the kind of STEM activities and processes that will prepare them to thrive in the world that will await them when they complete their school careers – a world much different than the one in which we live today. The STEM activities they engage in today will help our students develop the skill sets they will need in the real world of tomorrow."

The STEM Conference will include keynote speaker Danny Forster, host of the Science Channel series Build it Bigger and Discovery Education's Chief Architecture and Engineering Expert. Mr. Forster is also the creator and executive producer of The Rising, a documentary series about the

rebuilding of Ground Zero. Emmy-award winner Hall Davidson will close the conference. Mr. Davidson joined Discovery Education in 2005 where he blogs, creates webinars, and works in educational partnerships and Global Learning Initiatives as a director of the Discovery Educator Network. He has spoken about technology and education to audiences around the world.

School district staff and community members should submit a proposal to present at the upcoming STEM Conference by going to <http://apps.collierschools.com/events> before April 9, 2012. Proposal submissions will be evaluated and all potential presenters will be notified on April 16. Registration for attendance at this May STEM Conference will be open on April 23.

For additional information about the conference, please contact Jennifer Kincaid at kincaije@collierschools.com, Traci Dami at damitr@collierschools.com or contact the Communications and Community Engagement Office at 239-377-0180.

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Announcements

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- Ensures the implementation of the safety programs and compliance with MSPA in the harvesting operations.
- Develops and implements a good forecasting and fruit quality testing program.
- Oversees accurate record keeping of crop yield and payroll.
- Creates an annual crop estimate.
- Actively involved in recruiting process for both H2A and domestic workers.
- Recruits in-house crewleaders and Hauling Contractors.
- Maintains a good equipment maintenance program on all harvesting equipment.

Position Requirements:

- A Bachelor's degree is preferred.
- Three to four years of experience is preferred.
- Harvesting equipment knowledge.
- Familiar with remote computerized time keeping systems.
- Computer skills - SAP, Word, Excel
- Knowledgeable of all H2A program regulations and requirements
- Bilingual preferred

Southern Gardens is both a citrus grower and major supplier of 100% pure Florida not-from - concentrate orange juice to the private label industry and major brands. Position provides an excellent benefits package that includes health, dental, vision, life insurance, 401-K, and potential annual bonus. Qualified local candidates send resumes to: Fax 863-902-4315, E-mail to: dmelton@southerngardens.com
EOE

Employment Full Time

Employment Full Time

UNITED STATES SUGAR CORPORATION

Machinist-Full Time Perm

Job Responsibilities

Sets up, calibrates and operates machining equipment including manual engine lathes, shapers, jig boxes, brakes, grinders, drill presses, milling machines, and heavy duty presses to assemble and or fabricate parts and complex assemblies.

Job Requirements

- 3 + years conventional machining experience.
- Ability to read and interpret specification manuals, blueprints, templates and layouts.
- Ability to read caliper's, micrometers and gauges.
- Ability to grind tool bits.
- Ability to work shifts and overtime as necessary.

Email Jdooley@ussugar.com
Apply online at www.ussugar.com

Employment Full Time

Financial

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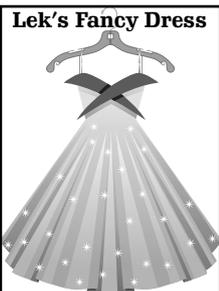
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Some 800 and 900 telephone numbers may require an extra charge, as well as long distance toll costs. We will do our best to alert our reader of these charges in the ads, but occasionally we may not be aware of the charges. Therefore, if you call a number out of your area, use caution.

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This is a responsible position in citrus harvesting employee camp management and maintenance.

Work is performed independently within established policies and procedures under the general direction of the Safety/Labor Compliance Manager.

Performs maintenance and repairs on camp facilities including plumbing, painting, carpentry, cleaning, and electrical duties.

Assumes responsibility for security of camp facilities and camp personnel, and residents.

Responsible for order entry, inventory control, and distribution of equipment and supplies.

Organize and manage the camp facility to promote and maintain good employee relations.

Organize the camp facility in a manner that ensures the health and safety for all employees.

Ensure that all government regulations are met regarding camp management.

Complete building inspections as required to maintain camp safety, cleanliness, and security.

Responsible for camp records, attendance summary, and reporting of exit and entry of guests, visitors, and residents.

Oversee garbage collection, house-keeping, and maintenance of all camp facilities.

Transport workers to required locations as needed.

Provide training to employees in camp safety, security, rules, and regulations. Perform all other associated duties as assigned.

Graduation from a standard high school or vocational school & 1-3 years prior related experience
Bi-lingual (Spanish) required.

Effective interpersonal skills to establish and maintain positive employee relations

Current CDL's with Passenger Endorsement

Ability to pass a drug screen and background check.

Must reside at camp location in Clewiston, Florida

FAX: 863-902-4315

EMAIL:

dmelton@southerngardens.com



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Rentals

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Farm Worker Village invites you to come home. Available now 1, 2, 3 & 4 bedroom rental homes, starting as low as \$425 per month. You may qualify for Rental assistance. Please Call us at: 239-657-3649 or stop by at 1800 Farm Worker Way.



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Houses - Sale

HOUSE FOR SALE: In Immokalee, near Casino. Needs TLC. Owner will consider financing. Please call (239)244-5807

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Mobile Home Sale

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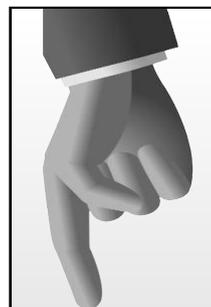
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Public Notice

Balloons Over Paradise Community Meeting

April 3, 2012 at 6:00 pm in the Event Pavilion at the Seminole Casino Immokalee

The casino will host an open discussion with the property owners in the surrounding area of Immokalee Regional Airport about the Balloons over Paradise and the aerial events included in this event.
413190 IB 3/29/2012



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Public Notice

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

HUD FY2012-2013 HUD Entitlement Application Cycle

The Collier County Housing, Human & Veteran Services Department (HHVS) announces the opening of the FY 2012-2013 grant application cycle. During FY 2012-2013 Collier County will receive approximately 2.4 million dollars in federal funds. Collier County expects to receive Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds.

The application period will begin on Thursday, March 29, 2012 and will continue through 2 p.m. Monday, April 16, 2012. The applications are available on the HHVS website at www.colliergov.net under the HHVS Main page link and paper copies of the application may also be obtained at our offices at 3339 Tamiami Trail East, Suite 211, Naples, FL 34112.

Administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), this federal program funds projects that meet one or more of three objectives:

- Benefits low- and moderate-income persons or households
- Aids in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight
- Meets a recent community need having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to health or welfare

The following CDBG type of projects/programs will be considered:

- o Economic Development
- o Energy Efficiency Projects
- o TBRA Administration
- o Public Facilities & Infrastructure
- o Public Services
- o Property Acquisition

The HUD HOME program type of projects/programs will be considered:

- o Energy Efficiency Projects
- o Tenant Based Rental Assistance
- o Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO)

The Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) program type of projects/programs will be considered:

- o Homeless Shelter Operations

Organizations seeking information or technical assistance with the grant application process may contact the HHVS Grants Section, or Margo Castorena, Grant Operations Manager, at (239) 252-2912 or margocastorena@colliergov.net
413439 IB 3/29/2012

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Business & Service Directory

AUCTION

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2C3HD46J1XH621272

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SWAT educates others on tobacco dangers



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/CCDOH (Group Photo of Immokalee HS SWAT Students) in left photo- L to R standing- Phiyolene Louissant, Wezd Servius, Collier County Health Department SWAT Coordinator- Jennifer Smith, Sitting- L to R- Ingrid Shkelton and Martha Vilcin at their tobacco education booth "What is in Tobacco?" In the photo on the right, SWAT Member-Ingrid Shkelton educating a student about the dangerous chemicals in tobacco products.

Student athlete heads for higher education

Immokalee High School senior, Jean Deceus, will be attending Florida Gulf Coast University in the fall of 2012. Jean has lead the IHS cross country and track team for the past two seasons and is excited for the opportunity to continue to improve and compete at the collegiate level. This year he led his team to a District title and Regional runner-up title. He has personal records of 1:56 for the 800 meter run, 4:30 for the mile, and 16:13 for 5k (3.1 mile). Accompanied with a 3.7 GPA, Jean plans to major in Human Performance, with hopes of working with athletes or in the medical field in the future. FGCU Coach Cassandra Harbin is excited to for the opportunity to coach a hardworking, talented and dynamic athlete. The combination of natural speed and endurance will be a great addition the FGCU roster. He is a great leader and role model for younger athletes in the community. The talented and dynamic senior will join former IHS alumni Argeo Cruz, who is a sophomore at the University. Florida Gulf Coast is a Division 1 University in the Athletic Sun Conference. We wish Jean the very best in his future endeavors and as always, "Go Indians"!



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/IHS IHS Cross-Country and track team sensation, Jean Deceus will be off and running at FGCU in the Fall of 2012.

Walk on the Wild Side at the 10th Annual CREW Wildflower Festival



Courtesy photo/SFWMD

Wildflower slide show and hikes showcase recreation on public lands at the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed.

The public is invited to the 10th Annual CREW Wildflower Festival to enjoy a kaleidoscope of colorful wildflowers and learn about the valuable role that the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) fills in protecting Southwest Florida's water supply.

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and its partners — representing businesses, environmental groups, landowners and governmental agencies — manage the watershed for its numerous benefits to water storage, wildlife preservation and public recreation opportunities. The 60,000-acre watershed spanning Lee and Collier counties includes a majestic 5,000-acre marsh at its headwaters and the famous Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary.

As the CREW Trust celebrates more than

20 years of preservation and education, festival visitors will be treated to an array of activities, including a slide show by local authors and wildflower experts and guided wildflower and butterfly hikes.

Suggested donations are \$3 for CREW members and \$5 for nonmembers. Call for reservations.

Wildflower Slide Show

Bass Pro Shops
10040 Gulf Coast Drive
Fort Myers, FL 33913
Friday, March 30,
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Wildflower Hikes

CREW Cypress Dome Trails
3980 Corkscrew Road
Immokalee, FL 33928
Saturday, March 31,
8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

A.M.E. Church to host Women's Conference

Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church, 208 South Third Street, Immokalee and the Rev. Lori M. Snell presents Women after God's Heart Conference. The conference will take place April 5-7 at 7 p.m. nightly with guest preachers including: Annie Knight of Global Ministries, Marjorie Ford of First Assembly Cornerstone Ministries and Melinda Hernandez of First Assembly in Arcadia. The conference is free.

Come and enjoy our very special guest speakers. Refreshments, door prizes and fellowship.

For more information, please call the Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church in Immokalee.

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Generic FEMARA 2.5MG – 30 TABLETS	\$30
Generic ZOFRAN 4MG – 90 TABLETS	\$50
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Generic TOPAMAX 50MG – 180 TABLETS	\$30
Generic VALTREX 500MG – 30 TABLETS	\$90
Generic FOSAMAX 35 & 70MG – 12 TABLETS	\$20
Generic MIRAPEX (all strengths) 90 TABLETS	\$20
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Generic METFORMIN 1000MG	\$10
	XR 500MG \$12
Generic KEPPRA (most strengths) – 90 TABLETS	\$40
Generic LAMICTAL (all strengths) – 180 TABLETS	\$50
Generic DEPAKOTE – 180 TABLETS – 250MG	\$30
	500MG \$40
Generic NEURONTIN 100 & 300MG – 90 CAPSULES	\$12
Generic EFFEXOR XR (most strengths) 90 CAPSULES	\$70

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Furosemide 40mg tabs	Lasix 40mg	90
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	Hydrodiuril 25mg	90
Lisinopril 2.5mg tabs	Zestril 2.5mg	90
Lisinopril 5mg tabs	Zestril 5mg	90
Lisinopril 10mg tabs	Zestril 10mg	90
Lisinopril 20mg tabs	Zestril 20mg	90
Lisinopril 30mg tabs	Zestril 30mg	90
Warfarin 5mg tabs	Coumadin 5mg	90
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