

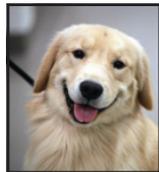
Inside...

Women's Shelter Outreach
Page 2



Letters to the Editor
...Page 3

PAWS Assistance Program
...Page 5



Red, White and Zoo!...
Page 8



CRA hosts Technology Center ribbon-cutting

Find a job with computer training

By **Patty Brant**
Immokalee Bulletin

The Immokalee Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) is a busy place these days. On June 20

the CRA officially opened its new computer room.

The 12 computers are loaded with top of line Microsoft Business programs so Immokaleeans have access to the best technology available.

The computers are available for all business-related needs for

people returning to the job market and needing computer skills. Anyone wishing to use the computers must make an appointment to make sure no classes are going on at the time.

The computers were donated by Suncoast School Information Systems. The PCs are only a couple years old, are in wonder-

See CRA — Page 2



Immokalee Bulletin/Patty Brant

Cynthia Clinton, seated, gets a little one-on-one computer time with CRA Executive Secretary Rosemary Dillon at the June 20 ribbon cutting for the new computer room.



Immokalee Bulletin/Patty Brant

Norman Friedman of Suncoast School Information System cut the ribbon to the new CRA computer room June 20 and Immokalee Business Center Manager Marie Capita presented him with a plaque in recognition of the company's assistance.

Miner's Market set to be bigger and better



Courtesy photo/Immokalee Today

The front entrance of the new Miner's Market will look more like a new mall than its former "old west" facade.

By **Steve Hart**
Immokalee Today

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

Immokaleans and most regular visitors to Immokalee remember the distinctive landmark of the old Miner's Market on First Street (Immokalee Road), with its "old west" exterior.

Miner's Market burned to the ground in March 2011 but the new Miner's Market is quickly coming out of the ground and will reopen within the next two or three months.

Located across First Street (CR 846) from the Immokalee Seminole Casino, the new market's exterior will be modern and reflective of the overall Latin/Caribbean flavor of architecture in Immokalee's future.

Construction on the old market's replacement got underway a couple of months ago with the help of incentives from Immokalee's Enterprise Zone. It's exterior construction comes as a result of a

See MARKET — Page 2



See Page 2 for information about how to contact the newspaper.

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Women's Shelter provides safety, hope, and resources

By Albert Batista, Esq.

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

For many years, The Shelter for Abused Women & Children's Immokalee Outreach Office has worked to provide safety to families, and to offer hope, counseling, legal and court advocacy, prevention education and other resources to the victims of abuse in the Immokalee community. The Shelter began in May 1986 when the Spouse & Abuse Task Force, operating as the Hotline & Rape Crisis Program of Collier County, organized a meeting of volunteers to plan a domestic violence shelter.

Since that time, concerned members of the community have supported the work of The Shelter. Lucy Ortiz, Director of the Immokalee Outreach Office, has been helping families in our community for over eighteen years. During that time, her goal has always been to provide a safe shelter for families, and to help them receive all of the services that they may need. Ms. Ortiz has often gone to the homes of victimized women who are too terrified to visit the shelter because they are afraid to get another beating.

On some occasions, Ms. Ortiz has been threatened herself, but her courage has never wavered. As Ms. Ortiz puts it, "I know what these ladies are going through, and I am not going let any abusive man continue to beat on them. I have told them, "If you want to touch her, you will have to do it over my dead body!" The abusers always back

off, like the cowards that they are.

A typical day at the Immokalee Outreach Office may find The Shelter's Advocates safety planning with program participants, offering counseling services to adults and children, providing legal and court advocacy, attending court proceedings with participants and offering referrals to other organizations in the community that can assist victims in rebuilding their lives free from abuse.

Catalina Rosales, one of the case workers, focuses her attention on the children of the abused. Even when these children have not been physically abused themselves, they have suffered psychological trauma, as a result of having seen their mothers get beaten and verbally abused over and over again. Ms. Rosales works on making sure that the children are in school, and if they need any special counseling or other special assistance, Ms. Rosales contacts the providers and makes the necessary arrangements. Sometimes, she will take the family to their medical appointments when they have no transportation.

Who are the victims of domestic violence? Often it is women and their children who are being physically, verbally, financially, sexually and/or psychologically abused by their husbands or boyfriends. It can also be men. Most of the time, the abused spouse is constantly being intimidated and told that she cannot survive without her abuser.

After years of abuse, the victims come

to believe that they deserve the abuse. That is not true. Nobody deserves to be abused. The Shelter provides these families with a safe haven and counseling so they can regain their dignity and learn to survive on their own, without suffering the humiliation and abuse.

Beth Estrada and Elizabeth De La Cruz are case workers whose primary goal is to help the victims of domestic violence to seek the appropriate medical care, counseling, and police resources. They are the front line counselors, who usually meet the victims when they come in through the door, still sporting the bruises and hematomas of abuse. They sometimes contact the police from their offices, when the victim is too much in fear to do so.

In some cases, there are Hispanic or Creole victims who are afraid that they will not be able to communicate with an English speaking officer. So the staff will contact the Collier County Sheriff and help the victims file an accurate complaint with the police. Ms. Ortiz appreciates the help of the Collier

County Sheriff's Office, and their dedication to helping the victims of domestic violence.

For victims of domestic violence, The Shelter can also provide them with resources in the community that can help them find a new home, child support and other financial assistance towards paying the electric bills, water, rent, and food.

For anyone suffering abuse, The Shelter for Abused Women & Children, the only certified abuse shelter in Collier County, is the only organization with twenty-five years of experience in helping families who need protection. Nobody can guarantee anyone's safety under all circumstances, but The Shelter provides the bridge to escape into a better life, where people give each other love and positive support, instead of abuse.

If you, or someone you know needs support, please call The Shelter's confidential 24-hour crisis line at 239.775.1101, TTY 239.775.4265, or visit: www.naplesshelter.org. Take the first step to a healthy, abuse-free life today!

CRA

Continued From Page 1

ful condition and have everything anyone would need to learn - or brush up on - their business computer skills.

On June 20, the ribbon to the new computer room was cut by Norman Friedman of Suncoast School Information System. David Moxam, branch manager of Suncoast School Federal Credit Union, was also on hand for the event.

Suncoast has also donated computers to St. Matthew's House, churches and schools. Mr. Friedman said, "I'm glad to see somebody use them."

Several iTECH students who will be taking advantage of the new computer resource attended the ribbon cutting.

Eva Gonzalez is new to Immokalee, just learning about the community. She said she is taking a two-year class at iTECH in Computer Systems Technology.

Although she has worked in technical fields before, she said she needs to earn the certification iTECH offers to continue working with computers.

Her class involves analyzing and networking, and also involves some security and permission aspects. Eva is committed to her education saying, "Learning does not stop, it evolves."

Lifelong Immokalee resident Claudette Williams was a teacher for some 28 years. A former vocational education teacher of life skills, her job was downsized by the school district, so she needs to find a new niche for

herself.

"I need to add a little spark to my background," she said. Finding a job, she said "is all about education and experience.

She's at iTECH to brush up on her technical skills and seeking certification in Cyber Security. She has been at iTECH since March. When she completes her course, she will be able to protect computers from viruses, hackers and other dangers as well as analyze and trouble shoot problems.

She said she already has many of the skills she needs, but has to learn computer language and is focusing on her new objective. In addition, Claudette has a degree in administration and is taking advantage of the opportunity to enhance it with a computer certification.

CRA Executive Director, Penny Phillippi said the new computer room will help students figure out what they want to do. "It's all about job creation," she pointed out.

Tim Nevarez of Southwest Florida Works commented on his agency's part in job creation. "It's a process," he said. Southwest Florida Works has a list of targeted occupations and together with services at the CRA, work toward positive outcomes in job training.

advancing to take its place as a shining example of "Florida in the 21st Century."

Construction is also underway (and will be featured here) at the Kountry Kitchen restaurant, Dr. Francois's Haitian Grocery, the old Santos Corner in South Immokalee, the Haitian Restaurant on Main Street, Goodwill Industries on Main Street and a new headquarters for the Immokalee Foundation on Roberts Avenue.

MARKET

Continued From Page 1

facade grant from the Immokalee Community Redevelopment Zone.

Reconstruction of Miner's Market is just one of several construction projects currently underway in Immokalee, which stands as further evidence the community is rapidly

Immokalee Bulletin

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The Caloosa Belle 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 help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
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- 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

Edison State College on probation

We received a call on Monday from Dr. Barry Goldstein, Vice President of SACS COC, who informed us that Edison State College has been placed on probation for a period of 12 months. The SACS COC Board of Trustees found non-compliance with the following seven Principles of Accreditation:

- Non -Compliance
 - 1.1 Integrity
 - 2.8 Full-time faculty
 - 3.2.8 Qualified Administrative/Academic Officers
 - 3.3.1.1 Institutional Effectiveness, Education Programs
 - 3.3.1.5 Institutional Effectiveness, Community Public Service
 - 3.4.5 Academic Policies
 - 3.5.3 Undergraduate Program Requirements

We are pleased that the Board of Trustees found compliance with seven of the 14 recommendations made by the On-Site Visiting Committee. In a short period of time, we have made tremendous progress.

- Compliance
 - 2.7.2 Program Content
 - 3.2.7 Organizational Structure
 - 3.2.13 Institution-Related Foundations
 - 3.3.1.2 Administrative Support Service
 - 3.3.1 Quality Enhancement Plan (Two recommendations)
 - 3.4.3 Admissions Policies

We expect an on-site committee visit by January 2013 to validate our continued efforts. More detailed information will be shared once we receive the written report during the second week of July.

Edison State College is a great institution

and we are confident we can overcome these challenges while continuing to serve our students.

**J. Dudley Goodlette,
Interim District President**

Immigration decisions

Even though the leaders of some groups are offended by the various efforts to make it harder for illegal aliens to live freely in America, the bottom line is that there is a security issue to be considered. If a few million migrant workers can cross the border into America every year, then so can any terrorist of any nation or religious group.

The only way that America can avoid future terrorist attacks is by tightening the border, and forcing people to identify themselves. Every nation on Earth has control of its borders to a greater degree than America. There is no other nation where literally millions of people can cross illegally in any other country, except the U.S.A.

When the supply of migrant workers becomes too low, then the Congress will have to change the laws, so that a pool of registered migrant workers can be allowed to enter the USA legally. Migrant workers should not have to live in terror of deportation. If a migrant is in the USA and he is employed, then he should be given a Work Permit and a temporary visa. Migrant workers who have worked in the agricultural fields for a set period, perhaps ten years, should be given a Permanent Resident, with a goal of U.S. Citizenship.

The U.S. Government needs to figure out a way to reward the good migrant workers, who are bringing their skills and hard work the community.

Albert Batista, Esq.

Collier Sheriff's Office to offer identity theft awareness course

With identity theft on the rise, the Collier County Sheriff's Office is offering a course to help to help protect your identity, your safety and your financial well-being.

The hour-long course is scheduled for Tuesday, July 3, at 10 a.m. at the Sheriff's Office's Professional Development Center, 615 Third Ave. S., room 108, Naples.

The course is free and open to the public.

Lt. Chad Parker of the sheriff's Financial Crimes Bureau will teach the course,

which he said will focus on what people can do to minimize becoming a victim of identity theft.

The course will also discuss current scams in Southwest Florida and how to recognize them.

Seating is limited.

To sign up, contact the CCSO Training Bureau at 239-252.0687

County School District communications department wins state awards

Collier County Public Schools' (CCPS) Communications and Community Engagement Department received high honors at the recent Sunshine State School Public Relations Association (SUNSPRA) Sunshine Medallion Awards presentation held in Tampa. CCPS brought home three first place Sunshine Medallion Awards and a prestigious Best of Show designation chosen from the field of 20 award winners:

Best of Show – District-Based Publications and Public Relations Tools

- Collier County Public Schools' District Website (www.collierschools.com)

Sunshine Medallion Awards

- Promotional Video Category (medium district) Engaging Our Students and the Community Career Academy

- Special Purpose Publication Category (medium district) 2011 Report to the Community

- Website Category (medium district) Collier County Public Schools' District Website

This was the second year in a row that the website received a first place Sunshine Medallion Award.

Judging for all categories was conducted independently by nine Manatee County business professionals unaffiliated with any school or district.

To learn more, please contact the Communications and Community Engagement Department at 377-0180 or send an email to communications@collierschools.com.

Weather Forecast

Local weather forecast from the National Weather Service for Immokalee and surrounding area

Thursday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 91. Breezy, with a west wind between 8 and 17 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph.

Thursday night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 70. West wind between 3 and 10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 92. Light wind becoming west between 12 and 15 mph. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

Friday night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy,

with a low around 70. West wind between 4 and 7 mph becoming calm.

Saturday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 93.

Saturday night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 70.

Sunday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 93.

Sunday night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 71.

Monday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 95.

El Club De Leones De Immokalee Bingo (Loteria Mexicana)

El Club De Leones De Immokalee invita la comunida de Immokalee para participar en Bingo Mexicano (Loteria) para recaudar fondos para cuando venga la temporara de cheqello de ojos. El Bingo (Loteria) se va llevar acavo el dia primero de Julio (Domingo) ah las dos de la tarde en el lugar de Kemp's Plaza, Ofecina #10. Se va jugar un total de 30 juegos. Sigue los anuncios

que dirijen en onde esta el lugar. Se puede ganar dinero y premios. Se va vender Hot Dogs, Nachos, Frito Pies, Sodas y Sabritas. Si tienen cual quier pregunta, llamen ah los numeros siguientes:

- William R. Trevino Jr. - 239-324-3075
- William B. Trevino III - 239-324-3072
- Adan Labra - 239-229-9196
- Rigoberto Mendoza - 239-357-2235

ECity Independence Day parade planned for June 30

Celebrate Independence Day at a family-fun event in historic Everglades City on Saturday, June 30. This small friendly community will have a parade, arts and crafts sale, raffle, contest for best-dressed kiddies, music and food.

The event kicks off at 9:30 a.m. with the opening ceremony. The Patriotic Parade begins to wend its way through the streets at 10 a.m. with everyone competing to win a prize for the best float, swamp buggy or golf cart.

After that, there will be hot dogs, cold drinks and baked goods for sale under the

pavilion in McLeod Park where the Arts and Crafts booths will be set up.

The "Little Miss Firecracker" and "Little Mister Firecracker" contests try to find the most patriotically-dressed children. While the judging is taking place, adults are encouraged to buy tickets for a 50/50 raffle which helps support the festivities.

A magnificent display of fireworks starts at 9 p.m. and provides a dramatic ending to the day.

For more information, phone Elaine at (239) 695-2695.

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Surprise visitor

(Top) Kids at the Immokalee Sports Complex had a wonderful surprise Tuesday, June 19, when NFL Philadelphia Eagles linebacker Brian Rolle, a graduate from Immokalee High school, came in to work out in the fitness area. At the time a Miracle Program was going on in the gym for 3rd-6th graders. On his way out, he stopped in to say hi and signed some of the kids' shirts. He was humbled to the point of letting the children sign his shirt as well - a bit of a turn around for the popular football player. In fact, Brian was heard to say, "Hey, I'm just another person." The kids were very excited to see someone famous for his athletic ability who came from Immokalee.

Don't forget about good nutrition in summer

CCPS offers hot meals during summer food program

It's summertime and kids are out of school enjoying fun activities. Busy summer activities and summer's heat are best faced with a nutritional diet.

Parents are reminded that Collier County Public Schools' (CCPS) Nutrition Services Department is offering its Summer Food Service Program each week at locations throughout the district. Free, nutritionally balanced, hot meals (breakfast and lunch) will be available to all children 18 years old and younger at the following sites:

- Monday thru Friday (5 days per week)
- (Sites will open Monday through Friday, until August 3rd)
- Immokalee High - 701 Immokalee



Drive, in Immokalee (377-1943)

- Lake Trafford Elementary - 3500 Lake Trafford Road, in Immokalee (377-7355)
- Pinecrest Elementary - 313 9th Street South, in Immokalee (377-8083)

The CCPS Summer Food Service Program locations are limited to geographical areas of need where at least 50% of the children are classified as being economically needy because they qualify for free or reduced-price meals during the school year.

The program is open to all children under the age of 18 whether enrolled in

a summer school or not, and regardless of race, color, sex, disability, age, or national origin. Be sure to call the site in advance and ask for serving times.

To learn more, please contact one of the locations listed above or the Nutrition Services Department at 239-377-0280.

Shelter needs school supplies

The Shelter for Abused Women & Children hosts Give Back - Fill a Pack, a back-to-school drive ensuring the non-profit organization's younger participants have the supplies they need for school.

All materials will be distributed by Aug. 1. Please drop off donations at Options Thrift Shoppe, 968 Second Avenue North, open Monday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information and to host a Give Back - Fill a Pack Drive, please call 239.775.3862, ext. 235, or email RGrabau@NaplesShelter.org.

For information on The Shelter, please call 239.775.3862, or visit www.naplesshelter.org.



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Come see for yourself!

CCSO inmates begin training dogs to help veterans, children

Hannah Grant was just six when a distracted speeding driver struck the car she was in while it was stopped at a red light, leaving her paralyzed.

Since that day in 2007, Hannah, now 11, hasn't been able to walk, talk or feed herself. All she can do is blink her eyes.

Soon Hannah will get a helping paw from a golden retriever named Fosse.

But first Fosse must get out of jail.

Fosse is currently living at the Collier County jail, where he is training to be a service dog for Hannah.

The Collier County Sheriff's Office is partnering with Naples-based PAWS Assistance Dogs Inc. to train inmates as dog handlers and to have the inmates train the dogs to become assistance and service dogs for wounded veterans and children with disabilities.

The program provides dogs to veterans and children in need, while allowing inmates to experience a feeling of giving back something positive to the community and gaining a sense of responsibility and satisfaction by teaching and taking care of the animals.

Training started June 12, with 10 female inmates and three dogs, all golden retrievers. Two more golden retrievers will join the program in July.

The program is a more rigorous extension of CCSO's Second Chance Cell Dog program, in which inmates care for and train homeless shelter dogs to prepare them for adoption. The cell dog program, which debuted in November 2011, is a partnership with the Humane Society Naples and the Southwest Florida Professional Dog Trainers Alliance.

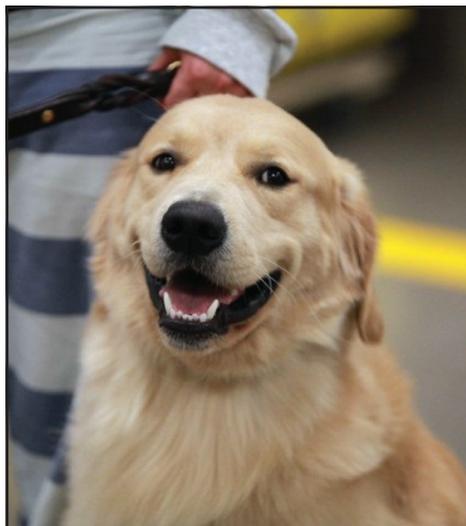
The programs are part of a continuing effort by CCSO to teach inmates life skills in conjunction with the agency's community partners from across Collier County.

"We always work toward providing inmates with skills that will help them lead positive lives when they are released, but it is particularly rewarding to know that in this case we are also helping to pair up some highly trained and loving dogs with some very deserving owners," said Collier County Sheriff Kevin Rambosk.

Over the course of hundreds of hours, inmates will become skilled in teaching dogs physical tasks such as opening and closing doors, turning lights on and off, retrieving items such as a remote control, and assisting in getting dressed.

They'll also teach the dogs more vital tasks such as acting as a balance when someone falls and needs help standing up, or finding a quick path out of a crowded room when bouts of post-traumatic stress disorder suddenly arise.

"Once these dogs are fully trained they



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/CCSO August, a 10 month old Golden Retriever in the PAWS Assistance Program based in Naples will be trained to offer assistance to veterans by the time he is two years old.

will be certified as therapy, service or assistance dogs," said PAWS Executive Director Jeannie Bates.

PAWS dogs are primarily golden retrievers bred under strict service dog standards. These breeding programs have a proven history of producing top-quality working canine partners and health screenings are traceable as far back as 10 generations or more, according to Bates.

The three golden retrievers arrived at the jail in different stages of their training. Fourteen-week-old Blue is in the beginning stages of his training, while 10-month-old August and 14-month-old Fosse are in the intermediate stages.

Most service and assistance dogs can't be placed until they are around 2 years old, said Bates.

While the majority of the dogs trained at the jail will be donated to wounded military men and women, Fosse will be gifted to Hannah and her family.

Lynn Grant, Hannah's mother, said the family is looking forward to their new furry member. If the initial meeting between Hannah and Fosse at their home in Lee County last fall is any indication, the two will be fast friends.

"It went very well," Grant said of the meeting. "Hannah seemed very focused on the animal. He just fit right in. He's such a sweet dog."

She said she and her husband started out looking for a service dog that could alert for seizures, which Hannah suffers due to the head injury she received in the crash. Because the girl's seizures are difficult to detect,



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/CCSO Fosse, is just 14 months old and has more skills than most dogs his age. It won't be long until he will have a command of skills allowing him to help 11 year old Hannah, paralyzed after the car that the child was riding in was hit by an unattentive driver.

they explored other options. They contacted the PAWS program after seeing a video on the Internet of Bates and a service dog she trained named Cody Bear for a wounded veteran.

Fosse will be more of a companion to Hannah rather than a task dog, her mother said. She's also hoping he'll trigger interaction between Hannah and other children



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/CCSO Blue is the youngest of the three dogs at 14 weeks old being trained in the PAWS program by female inmates in Collier County's partnership with Naples-based PAWS Assistance Program.

when they are out in public, something now lacking in her life.

Grant said she thinks it's "wonderful" that inmates are now involved in training Fosse.

"It's a great program," Grant said. "We're really looking forward to this. We're just really happy that there will be something that will enrich Hannah's life."

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Immokalee Lions Club to host Spanish BINGO fundraiser

The Immokalee Lions Club would like to invite the community of Immokalee to participate in a Fundraiser. Spanish Bingo (Loteria). The Bingo events will be held at Kemps Plaza, suite #10, follow the signs. All proceeds will go towards the eyescreenings that are held in Immokalee four times a year. It all about giving back to the community. There will be Hot Dogs, Nachos, Frito Pies, Sodas and different snacks for sale. Please come out and join us for a good cause. If you have any questions feel free to give us a call at the number provided. William R. Trevino Jr. 239-324-3075; William B. Trevino III 239-324-3072; Adan Labra 239-229-9196; Rigoberto Mendoza 239-357-2235.

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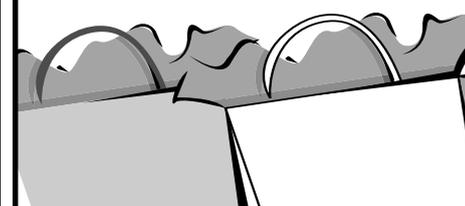
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Lipman recognized for prestigious partnership

Named 2012 Ag business Partner of the Year

Lipman, North America's largest field tomato grower, was recently named 2012 Agribusiness Partner of the Year by Collier County Public Schools (CCPS). This Florida Exemplary Migrant Education Award is given to the agribusiness company that best supports the migrant community through philanthropy and other programs geared to assist farm workers and their families.

"Lipman is more than an agribusiness partner – the company is a community partner," said Oscar Olguin, migrant coordinator for CCPS. "They not only provide migrant farm workers with jobs, but also donate

time and resources to support educational programs – making them one of the most valuable agribusiness partners in our area."

The company was recognized for its contributions to the community and dedication to improving and expanding educational opportunities. In the past year, Lipman provided \$50,000 to the Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RMCA) and \$10,000 to the Guadalupe Center, plus awarded \$30,000 in scholarships to 15 Immokalee High School (IHS) graduates. These donations are part of larger partnerships as well. Since 2005, Lipman has given more than \$350,000 to RMCA, \$100,000 to the Guadalupe Center to fund its library and more than 100 IHS students have received scholarships.

In addition to financial contributions, Lip-

man supports the migrant community in other ways. The company donated a building on its Naples farm to RMCA for a daycare facility; hosted the Second Annual Homerun Harvest, which collected funds to purchase more than 500 backpacks and school supplies for Immokalee children; and hosted a free health screening for more than 350 of its employees.

"Much of our labor force is comprised of migrant workers — and they are important to our company," said Jaime Weisinger, director of community and government relations for Lipman. "Because of that, we try to support organizations that help our employees and their children."

SMH food pantry staples supplies inventory very low

Donations needed now!

Due to the recent increase of families in need of groceries, the St. Matthew's House food pantries are running dangerously low on staple items like mac 'n cheese, dry cereal, peanut butter and jelly (small jars), canned tuna, pasta, spaghetti sauce (16 oz. jars), and both powdered and evaporated milk. Over 100 grateful families come to SMH each week for agency referrals and bags filled with \$40 worth of groceries. Donations can be brought to the kitchen entrance at St. Matthew's House, 2001 Airport

Rd, South in Naples. SMH is thankful for any and all donations to continue their mission to serve those less fortunate in this time of need. For more information about SMH or any additional Food Pantry and Direct Assistance program needs, please contact Kerri Sparks, Director of Development & Communications 239-298-5034. Outside of business hours, please call the Front Desk at 239-774-0500.

The mission of St. Matthew's House is to change lives in a spiritual environment that is both compassionate and disciplined, as well as providing housing for the homeless and food for the needy. A 501(c)(3) non-profit entity, SMH, along with Immokalee Friend-

ship House, has been serving the homeless, hungry and hopeless in Collier County since 1987. SMH is the only emergency housing and recovery program in the county, offering 170 beds for men, women, and families. SMH is also the only feeding ministry in Naples, serving meals at Justin's Place and operating a substance-abuse recovery program (the first of its kind in Southwest Florida) under the same name. SMH also operates three thrift stores, two food pantries, a full service catering company, Wolfe Apartments transitional affordable housing, and a direct assistance program to individuals and families in need.

RCMA leader named a 'Champion of Change'

WASHINGTON, DC – On Monday, June 18, the White House honored Lourdes Villanueva as one of 11 individuals from Head Start programs across the country who have demonstrated a commitment to delivering on the promise of Head Start in their local communities. Over 45 years after its incep-

tion, Head Start continues to serve as a national laboratory for how we think about educating and caring for our youngest, most vulnerable children.

"Today's Head Start Champions of Change have collectively shaped the lives of thousands of children and their families,"

said Roberto Rodriguez, Special Assistant to the President for Education Policy. "Each day, these Champions work to innovate and forge new paths to deliver the support that our most vulnerable children and families need to reach their full potential and break the intergenerational cycle of poverty. This work is essential in helping our country win the future."

The Champions of Change program was created as a part of President Obama's Winning the Future initiative. Each week, a different sector is highlighted and groups of Champions, ranging from educators to entrepreneurs to community leaders, are recognized for the work they are doing to serve and strengthen their communities.

The event was broadcast live from the White House.

Lourdes Villanueva is Director of Farmworker Advocacy for Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA) and works in Plant City. She has worked for RCMA in various positions for almost 30 years, earning a college degree in the process. Ms. Villanueva is proud to come from a migrant farmworker family and wants to ensure that today's children and families receive the same opportunities she did. She continues to promote awareness and support of these families in local rural communities.

Fourth of July Fireworks by the water

Just in time for the summer's biggest holiday, Florida By Water is releasing its 2012 list of places to view fireworks from your boat. So far, the web site is featuring more than 50 locations submitted by local Chambers of Commerce and Tourism & Visitors bureaus from across the Sunshine State. <http://www.floridabywater.com/component/content/article/1745-4th-of-july-events-by-boat>

Florida is one of the few states that offers this many elaborate displays over water, allowing spectators to view the celebration from the comfort of their boat and making for the perfect holiday outing.

There are, however, a few things you should keep in mind before venturing out for an evening on the water. Rusty Gardner, founder of Florida By Water, reminds us that although this can be a great boating experience, safety must always come first. He offers up a few suggestions:

- Make sure that all of your navigation lights are working. It is imperative that other boaters are able to see you in the dark.
- It is very helpful to have a chart plotter or other navigation device on board when navigating at night. Slow speeds are always better in these conditions and an extra lookout can be invaluable.
- Ensure that you have all of the required safety equipment on board and always wear your life jacket!
- Never drink and boat. As the captain you are responsible for the safety of everyone on your vessel. With so many boats on the water, the 4th of July is not a time to take risks.
- Be patient. Boat ramps and waterways will be congested after the fireworks. Hang around for a few extra minutes after the display and let the crowds clear out before you head home.

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Naples Zoo offers free admission to military personnel

July 4 celebration **Red, White, and Zoo!**

In honor of those who protect our country today or who have served in the past, Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens is offering free admission to all active military and veterans from Sunday, July 1, 2012 through Saturday, July 7. Military personnel will receive free admission to Naples Zoo by presenting current military ID, membership card in a veteran's organization, or similar papers and matching name photo ID. Plus, guests in their party also receive \$2 off regular Zoo admission during this time. It's a great time to come feed the giraffe herd and enjoy animals from apes to zebras in the tropical botanical garden. Along with a daily discount for members of the military, Naples Zoo offers completely free admission like this three times a year to honor their service.

About Naples Zoo

Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization cooperating in conservation and education programs both in and outside the wild for endangered species. Daily presentations include hand-feeding at Alligator Bay, Meet the Keeper Series, Jungle Larry™ and Safari Jane's™ Snakes Alive!, and two premiere presentations in the Safari Canyon Theater. One of the zoo's most popular activities is the Primate Expedition Cruise where guests embark on a guided cruise through islands of monkeys, lemurs, and apes.

The all-day pay-one-price ticket includes admission to both the nationally accredited zoo and historic garden along with all shows, exhibits, and the boat ride. (\$19.95 adults age 13+ / \$12.95 children 3 to 12, under 3 free. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age). Zoo memberships and discount tickets are also available online at www.napleszoo.org. Naples Zoo welcomes guests daily from



A veteran photographs a Malayan tiger at Tiger Forest in Naples Zoo. Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens participates in the Species Survival Plan coordinated by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums for the longterm survival of these endangered cats.

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Naples Zoo

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with the last ticket sold at 4:00 and is located at 1590 Goodlette-Frank Road across from the Coastland Center mall in the heart of Naples. For more, visit www.napleszoo.org, call 239-262-5409, or www.twitter.com/NaplesZoo and www.facebook.com/napleszoo and www.youtube.com/napleszoo.

Warm weather means active alligators, crocodiles

As the weather has heated up, so too have Florida's alligator and crocodile activities, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) reminds Floridians and visitors to be cautious when having fun in and around water.

Florida is home to two native crocodilians: the American alligator, which is found in all 67 counties; and the American crocodile, which may be found in coastal areas of the Keys and in southeast and southwest Florida. Both species have shared Florida's waters with people for centuries.

The FWC recommends keeping pets away from the water. There are other precautionary measures people should take to reduce the chances for conflicts with alligators and crocodiles, and they are available in the Living with Alligators brochure at MyFWC.com/Alligator and the Living with Crocodiles brochure at MyFWC.com/Crocodile.

The FWC advises, if you have concerns with an alligator or crocodile that poses a



Immokalee Bulletin/D. Hamilton
Gators and other reptiles enjoy basking in the summer Florida sun.

threat to you, your pets or property, call the FWC's Nuisance Alligator Hotline at 866-FWC-GATOR (392-4286).

Alligators and crocodiles are an important part of Florida's heritage and play a valuable role in the ecosystems where they live. For more information on alligators and crocodiles, visit MyFWC.com/Alligator.

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