

Salazars named Grand Marshals

Pete and Linda Salazar: Immokalee's 2013 Harvest Festival Parade Grand Marshals

It's a family affair. The 2013 Harvest Festival will be led by Pete and Linda Salazar. The Salazars are longtime residents and true believers in this community, freely offering their time and talents to improve Immokalee.

Linda Salazar

While working with her daughter on a college application, Linda Salazar wrote educator on the line requesting mother's occupation. A few days later she noticed her daughter's edit; she had drawn a line through occupation and written the word passion.

Education is at the center of Linda's life. She began her teaching career at Pinecrest Elementary and was transferred to Lake Trafford Elementary the following year when other programs were returned to

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

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I.M.S. student Billy Jules carried the torch for the Special Olympics parade at Lake Trafford Elementary February 22.

Immokalee Bulletin/Patty Brant

Sports are for everyone

by Patty Brant
Immokalee Bulletin

Sports and outdoor activities have always been great teachers, opening doors to social and personal growth.

Faculty and staff at Lake Trafford Elementary understand this and have extended their welcoming embrace to disabled athletes.

On February 22, LTE presented its first Special Olympics complete with a visit from internationally known Special Olympian Lo-retta Claiborne.

"Intellectually challenged" herself, Ms. Claiborne has successfully overcome her own disabilities and has become a role model for the disadvantaged.

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from Athletics Director Tony Allen

Indian Nation where has this school year gone? We are already heading into Spring Break and it seems like the year just started. Let me start off by thanking the entire community for the support you have shown us thus far.

Through the highs and lows the Indian Nation has been there. I would also like to thank the many supports that have been given to the students of Immokalee High school.

Without your help it would be very difficult for us to do the many things that we do for our

students.

Although the year is not yet complete, 2012-2013 has given us a lot to celebrate in the activities department. Here are some examples

Fall:

Boys Cross Country- 2012 State Runner Up
Football- 2012 State Runner Up

Winter:

Boys Soccer -Regional Finals
Wrestling Jerry Ruiz- State Qualifier
National Signing Day- 5 BSC Signings
National Signing Day- 1 Softball Signing
Other Signings- 4 Division II Signings

As I mentioned before, the

See Drum — Page 5

I.H.S. Drumbeat



Submitted photo

I.H.S. is proud of its football athletes going to BCS schools: Mackensie Alexander (Clemson), Mackenro Alexander (Auburn), Dedrin Sedat (South Florida), Jacky Marcellus (W. Va.) and Tshumbi Johnson (Cincinnati). Danielle Garcia (softbal) is headed to Santa Fe. Other athletes heading on are: Kirby Henry, Jocelyn Alberique, Jummy Victorin and Michael Campbell.

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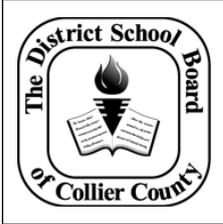
Students First

by Maribel De Armas

"Spring is in the air!" It's been a bit chilly weather-wise during the last week or so, but for our Collier County Public Schools' students, spring is definitely in the air with Spring Break just around the corner. Students in Kindergarten through 12th grade are getting an official break from the books next week, March 8 through March 15, for Spring Break. Students are likely planning to enjoy a few extra hours of sleep or get a few more hours in at their jobs. And, parents are maybe planning fun play dates, juggling day-camp schedules, or embarking on some sort of trip.

The time off is certainly well-deserved, for both students and teachers alike. But, with every break there is likelihood of idle downtime for our students. Parents – we have resources for you to beat the boredom! Even though classes won't be in session, learning doesn't need to stop. There are a ton of resources available on the "Parents" page of the school district website (www.collierschools.com/parents).

One particularly good link you'll find right at the top of this webpage, inside the "Parents Latest News" box, is called "School is Closed: Now What?" – a resource full of Boredom Busters: Ideas for Parents to Keep Children Focused on Learning. We have the



document available to you in English, Spanish, and Creole. You'll find reading and writing activities for students of all ages, plus a section on match activities and exercises.

There's a lot you can do to keep your child's brain active during the break. Try to plan a fun trip to the library and make reading a part of every day. The library also has computers you may use to explore the plethora of online resources on the school district website.

Try reading to your children daily – it helps increase their listening comprehension, vocabulary, and fluency. Have a conversation about what you've read. Ask them questions about the reading material. And, if you can't read to your kids every day, we've got an option for you there, too. After Spring Break, tune in to Storytime – the TV read-aloud show that will read to your child for you.

You can find it on The Education Channel, Comcast cable 99, at 7 p.m. each evening, Monday thru Sunday, or at 7 a.m. and again at 12 p.m. each day, Monday thru Friday. Plus, a two and half hour Storytime marathon airs beginning at 8 a.m. every Saturday. And, if you're not by a television set, but do have Internet access, you can watch Storytime right on your computer screen at www.collierschools.com.

We wish all of our students and teachers a relaxing and fun Spring Break. Enjoy!

Salazars

Continued From Page 1

their home schools. After a few years, Mrs. Salazar became the Dean of Students at Immokalee Middle School. The following year she became the principal at The Learning Center, the pre-kindergarten site.

During her tenure at Highlands Elementary, it became the first Title I school in Collier County to earn an 'A' grade. Shortly after this accomplishment Mrs. Salazar was moved to Immokalee High School to assist with student achievement. With a team of quality teachers, the school grade was improved to a 'C' and the graduation rate rose from 46 percent to 76 percent in four years. Mrs. Salazar returned to what she calls her "niche" and is currently the principal of Eden Park Elementary.

She was born the youngest child to Teofilo and Albina Nevarez, farmworkers. She grew up in Eden Park, an area currently served by Eden Park Elementary. Her parents continually stressed the importance of education and the many opportunities available to an educated person. Her parents were continually working but were always a consistent positive influence with high expectations. Linda also found a support system in teachers like Miss Thelma Wolgemuth, Mr. Francis Tompkins and Mr. Wayne Pringle.

Although originally desiring to seek a law degree, Linda decided that an educator would allow her the opportunity to influence children in the same manner. Linda went on to achieve a Bachelors in Elementary Education, Masters in Curriculum & Instruction/Educational Leadership, and is currently working on her dissertation through the University of Florida.

With one parent in business and another in education, it is no surprise that the Salazar's three daughters have gone in the same directions. Marisa (IHS class of 1997) is a primary teacher, Amanda (IHS class of 1999) teaches children with autism, and Lora (IHS class of 2001) is a Marketing Coordinator for Universal Orlando.

Pete Salazar III

The visionary creator for Salazar Ma-

chine & Steel, Inc. is still the main driving force today. Mr. Pete Salazar, III was raised in Immokalee and started his career in welding and metal working right out of high school by attending the Albuquerque Technical Vocational Institute in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In 1978, Mr. Salazar received his foundational training and certification as a pipe welder.

The following year he and Linda moved to Lansing, Michigan in search of better opportunities in his field. He continued his education at Lansing Community College. He studied drafting, machining and mathematics, earning more accreditations. In 1984, the family returned home where Pete began working for a local structural steel firm, quickly achieving supervisor status.

He also began teaching welding evenings at Lee County Vocational Technical Center in Fort Myers. Pete had a desire to operate his own venture and developed a five year plan toward that goal. In 1985 Salazar Welding was created, operating as a one-man operation with his "old pick-up truck and his trusty 1950 welder." In 1987 that he hired his first employee and purchased another truck and welder. As much as he loved teaching, Pete had to bring it to an end after seven years.

In the past 25 years, Mr. Salazar has seen his company grow from a one-man welding operation to numerous employees, two locations totaling over 40,000 square feet of workspace, a fleet of vehicles, machinery and equipment. His company has not forgotten the core values of always helping, listening and filling the customer's needs, and doing whatever it takes to get the job done.

Along with this mindset, other values like integrity, honesty, reliability and respect have all directly attributed to the success of the company, and the numerous awards Salazar Machine & Steel, Inc. has received for its service and innovative designs with agriculture machinery. Awards for the firm's patented designs include the 2006 Innovation Award by the Economic Development Council of Collier County and the 2007 Florida Governor's New Product Award (small company category) by the Florida Engineering Society, 2008 National New Product Award by the National Society of Professional Engineers.

Mr. Salazar has also been profiled over the years in the Naples Daily News as an up-and-coming entrepreneur, and was also awarded the National 2008 Success Story of the Year by the Migrant Education Harvest of Hope program and the 2008 Agriculturalist of the Year by the Eastern Collier Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Salazar attributes his success to his wife of 35 years, Linda, and his commitment to his daughters and grandchildren, values, faith, and his dedicated employees.



Pete and Linda Salazar

Submitted photo



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 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.

Citizenship and Immigration

US Citizenship and Immigration will be at the Guadalupe Social Services, 211 South 9th Street, Sunday, March 17, from 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Topics covered at this free session will include:

- 10:30- till noon Information sessions
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
- Asylum overview
- Noon-3 p.m.
- Walk-in INFOPASS appointments
- USCIS staff will be on hand to answer questions.

USCIS en su comunidad domingo 17 de marzo 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Guadalupe Social Services, 211 S. 9th Street.

10:30-medioidia Informacion sera ofrecida sin costo alguno e incluirea Sesiones informativas sobre:

- Accion diferida para los jovenes
- El proceso de asilo
- 10:30 a.m.-Mediodia
- Cita abierta de INFOPASS con USCIS
- Representantes de USCIS estaran disponibles para responder sus preguntas.

USCIS 9Imigrasyon) nan kominote nau an!

Dat: Dimanch, 17 Mas
Le a se: 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Lokasyon an se: Guadalupe Social Services, 211 S. 9th St, Immokalee

Seyans sa a ap gratis, e sije k ap kouvri yo se 10:30-a midi Seyans enformasyon:

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- Kouvri kisa ki azil
Midi-3 p.m.

- Nou pap bezwen pran yon randevou pou nou ka vin mande keksyon sou yon dosye nou genyen (INFO PASS)

- Seyans enformasyon sou tout sije imigrasyon an ap an Kreyol e an Panyol

- Ap gen ofisyè imigrasyon sou plas pou repon n tout kensyon nou genyen.

New Haitian Church of the Nazarene

The church will hold a DACA clinic Monday, March 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The church is located at 5085 Bayshore Drive, Naples.

You can apply for Deferred Action now. You may be able to live in the US free from fear of deportation and possibly obtain a work permit for two years, if you:

- Arrived in the US before the age of 16;
- Are between 15 and 30 years old
- Were physically present in the US for at least five years prior to June 15, 2012;
- Are currently in school, have a high school diploma or equivalent such as GED;
- Have had no convictions of crimes, significant misdemeanors or multiple minor misdemeanors.



Submitted photo

Connecting with the world

Immokalee students, Candace Perez and Mariela Vega took their places at the Washington D.C. third annual "Building a Grad Nation" Summit, measuring progress in the nation's efforts to increase high school graduation rates and close opportunity gaps for youth. Students from across the country examined the progress and remaining challenges in the nation's effort to help more youth graduate high school with the skills necessary to succeed in college and career.

Participants connected with hundreds of educators, policymakers, business leaders and community organizers attending from around the country. Rising Stars Award student scholarship winners each received a \$5,000 college scholarship for their commitment to education and their communities.

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Immokalee Bulletin/Patty Brant

Jonathan Martinez , 8, loves soccer and football. His mom, Margie Delacruz, said she gives him a chance to express himself and show off his abilities. Jonathan has a hearing and speech problem. Mom said he has the ability to do what he wants - his disability doesn't hold him back.

Olympics

Continued From Page 1

LTE Principal Brian Castellani welcomed classmates in the stands, parents and staff - every bit as excited for the athletes as they were themselves - and introduced their very special guest.

Now an international celebrity, Ms. Claiborne was born partially blind. She was unable to walk and talk till she was four years old. Growing up she battled discrimination on three levels: race, gender and disability. Not surprisingly, her behavior suffered, she admits, and she acted out - until a counselor introduced her to Special Olympics.

A born runner, she also learned from her older brother, a state running champion in Pennsylvania in 1966. She trained with him and ultimately placed her feet on her true path.

She has been a world class runner since 1970 and is still competing to this day. In fact, she is even taking on new challenges like tennis.

Walt Disney Productions chronicled her low points and her triumphs in its 2000 movie, *The Loretta Claiborne Story*.

After a lifetime of meeting and overcoming challenges, she is now an advocate for the intellectually and physically disabled.

Ms. Claiborne said she dreams of a time when unified sports will come about; when athletes can just be athletes.

At the LTE event MC (Mentally Challenged) students were able to show off their athletic skills for their peers as student volunteers from I.M.S., I.H.S. and iTECH helped.

In addition to physical ability, these games open the door to building courage and leadership in young athletes with special challenges.

Ms. Claiborne said she is proud of all of the kids who have already conquered hurdles at such an early age. She, herself, has spent her life fighting for diversity and acceptance and against bullying.

She recalled her own behavior problems as a youngster - problems that she is certain would have landed her in prison had sports not saved her. Living through triple discrimi-

nation - color, gender and disability - could easily have overwhelmed her. Instead, she found a sanctuary and gateway to the larger world in sports.

Now she devotes her time and talent to teaching others to overcome, deal with and accept those same challenges.

Growing up she remembers having to take lots of "pills" - some good, some bad - prescribed to help her deal with the world around her. When she found Special Olympics, though, "It was the right pill for me," she said with a smile.

When a counselor noticed that she was a good runner, her brother took her under his wing. She began to train with him and her natural abilities shone.

Student athletes at the LTE event earned ribbons from Collier County Special Olympics - perhaps symbols of what could be their own life-changing experience.

Faculty and staff are behind this effort to strengthen connections with disabled and mentally challenged students. Tiffany Palafox, ESE assistant, said she hopes they can get even more support from the community. MC2 teacher Mandy Vidaurri is a fourth year teacher who got the ball rolling with a grant from the Education Foundation, which was then supported by one from the school district to make the LTE Special Olympic event a reality.

These games included special students from all over Immokalee, since LTE is the only one with Mentally Challenged Classes. Next year organizers hope to include pre-K and all wheelchair students in the event.

She hopes the games will motivate kids and their parents to break through their barriers and push through their boundaries.

The special day of fun, glory and camaraderie were sponsored by the Collier County Education Foundation, Lipman, Winn-Dixie, Publix, Little Caesars, Rib City, Beeline Flowers and Lozano's Restaurant.

The games opened with a grand parade of athletes as justly proud and excited as any in the worldwide Olympic Games.



Immokalee Bulletin/Patty Brant

Special Olympic athlete Loretta Claiborne, center, is surrounded by iTECH Latasja Gardner, Sodanie Louis iTECH student in child education, Wilder Vasquez Sanchez culinary arts prep chef student and Martha Gonzalez volunteer.

LPNs to graduate

The iTECH Health Sciences Program will be graduating 18 new Practical Nurses on Thursday, March 21.

This hardworking group began their program in January of 2012 and are now completing their final practicum at various clinics, schools and facilities in Immokalee and throughout Collier County. A big thank you to the work partners and funding agencies in the area who continue to support our Health Sciences programs and ensure that well trained, work-ready individuals are out there caring for the people of our community.

The graduating class, under the expert training of their instructor, Linda Moseley

RN, MSN includes: Anabel Ayala, Jamie Benigno, Angelica Coronilla, Anaelis Garci, Priscila Gazga, Anahi Guerra, Roodler Jeanis, Crystal Ledezma, Marianna Martinez, Lory Molina, Nancy Montero, Martha Rodriguez, Hilario Rodriguez-Mendez, Clarissa Salinas, Ulla Torres, Hugo Uriostegui, Andriana Valdez and Jacqueline Woodard.

The iTECH Health Sciences Program is starting new classes in Practical Nursing and in Nursing Assistant/Home Health Aide in mid-April. Both programs are still accepting applications. Apply now, as enrollment is limited.

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Submitted photo

Immokalee High School Cross Country



Submitted photo

Immokalee High School Football Team



Submitted photo

Immokalee High School Soccer Team

Drum

Continued From Page 1

spring sports are in full swing for 2013 and our students always appreciate the support the community brings. Here are some upcoming events at I.H.S.

- March 18 Tennis and Softball (Home)
- March 19 Boys and Girls Lacrosse at Golden Gate

- Softball and Baseball at Golden Gate
- March 21 Boys and Girls Lacrosse at Naples
- Softball and Baseball at Estero
- March 22 Relay for Life Gary Bates Stadium
- Boys and Girls Lax at Canterbury

Preserve generates \$117.4 million in local economy

A 2011 study recently released by the National Park Service shows that the 941,393 visitors to Big Cypress National Preserve generated \$117,467,000 of revenue in local communities. Additionally, the report shows that the preserve assists in supporting 1,891 jobs in the area.

"Big Cypress National Preserve is the backyard of South Florida and wonderful place to learn about America's story," said preserve superintendent Pedro Ramos.

"We attract visitors from across the U.S. and around the world who come here to experience the preserve and then spend time and money enjoying the services provided by our neighboring communities and getting to know this amazing part of the country. The National Park Service is proud to have been entrusted with the care of America's most treasured places and delighted that the visitors we welcome generate significant contributions to the local, state, and national economy."

The information on Big Cypress National Preserve is part of a peer-reviewed spending

analysis of national park visitors across the country conducted by Michigan State University for the National Park Service.

For 2011, that report shows \$13 billion of direct spending by 279 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. That visitor spending had a \$30 billion impact on the entire U.S. economy and supported 252,000 jobs nationwide.

Most visitor spending supports jobs in lodging, food, and beverage service (63 percent) followed by recreation and entertainment (17 percent), other retail (11 percent), transportation and fuel (7 percent) and wholesale and manufacturing (2 percent.)

To download the report visit www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/products.cfm#MGM and click on Economic Benefits to Local Communities from National Park Visitation, 2011.

The report includes information for visitor spending at individual parks and by state. In total the report shows that visitors to the four South Florida National Park Units - Big Cypress National Preserve, Everglades, Biscayne and Dry Tortugas National Parks - spend more than \$305.3 million and support 4,716 jobs in the area.

To learn more about national parks in Florida and how the National Park Service works with communities to preserve local history, conserve the environment, and provide local recreation opportunities, go to www.nps.gov/FLORIDA.

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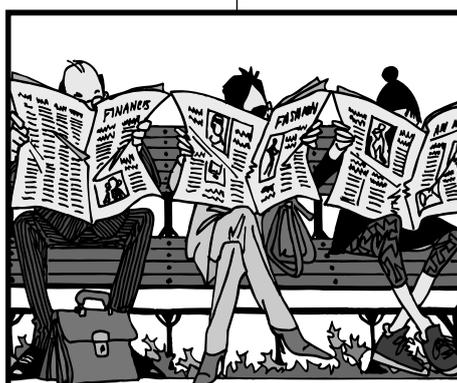
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Community Briefs

Relive your childhood memories!

The Everglades Society for Historic Preservation is hosting an "Old-Fashioned Movie Night" featuring two of the 38 segments from the TV program "The Everglades," which ran for one season, 1961-62.

Ron Hayes stars as Constable Lincoln Vail, an Everglades "county patrol officer," who travels by airboat to solve crimes. The series was produced locally by Budd Schulberg who made "Wind Across the Everglades" several years earlier.

Come enjoy popcorn and soda while

you indulge in nostalgia at 5:30 p.m. in the Jinkins Fellowship Hall in Everglades Community Church on Friday, March 15. The event is free and open to the public.

For information, call Marya at 695-2905 or see www.evergladeshistorical.org.

Be on Immokalee's Kickin Cancer team

Come one come all! Learn more about the exciting events being planned for "KICKIN CANCER COUNTRY STYLE" Team Party March 20 at Immokalee High School Football Field 5:30 p.m. You will bank your

money, pick up your t-shirts, and finalize plans for the best Relay For Life Event yet! Mark your calendars- Immokalee Relay For Life event is Friday, March 22, 1 p.m. until Saturday, March 23, 7 a.m.

Farmworker information

This information for Farmworkers and their families is open to the entire community. Saturday, March 9, 10 a.m.-2: p.m. at

the Collier County Health Department, 419 N. 1st Street. Get information for migrant farmworkers and their families on available services, health, education opportunities, legal rights and responsibilities. It's all free - food — education — flu shots— health services. For more information, call 252-7332. Sponsored by Collier County Health Department and Pacific Tomato Growers.

Register now for summer camp

Registration for Collier County Parks and Recreation Summer Camps begins Monday, April 8, at 9 a.m.

Camp Collier offers a fun, lively environment where children can play, connect, and discover. Each week is a different theme. Children have the opportunity to attend weekly or for the entire summer. Campers will take nature walks, play games, make arts and crafts, participate in different sports, host guests from the community, as well as take weekly swimming and field trips.

Camp Collier is offered Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., between June 10 and August 9 (no camp on July 4).

The cost is \$85 per week. There is a discount for the full nine weeks; \$66 per week payable in four payments of \$150 each. There is also a ten percent discount for siblings; \$60 per week payable in four payments of \$135 each.

Before and After Camp is available from 7:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., and from 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., at a cost of \$15 per week.

Camp Collier offers Elementary School Day Camp for children in grades K-5 (must be five years of age by June 1), and Middle School Day Camp for children in grades 6-8.

Look for elementary school day camp at Elementary School Day Camp at Immokalee Community Park, 321 N. 1st St., Immokalee. Call (239)657-4449.

Collier County also offers specialty camps that run weekly or just a few days at a time. These include educational camps, arts and theater camps, robotic camps, video game design camps, extreme sports camps, sport camps, skiing, sailing, fishing and beach camps. Summer camp programs offer a variety of rewards and experiences for children of all ages and abilities.

For more information, contact Collier County Parks & Recreation at 239-252-4000 or www.collierparks.com

Free eye exams from Lions Club

The Immokalee Lions Club offers free eye tests for adults and children Saturday, March 16, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.. Registration closes at 1:30 p.m. Come to the iTECH Center, 508 N. 9th Street. Screening for glaucoma, macular degeneration, tests for diabetes and blood pressure and free eye glasses. this is in partnership with Collier County Health Department, Edison College School of Nursing, Southwest Florida College of Nursing, Friendship Health Clinic, Bonita Springs Lions Eye Clinic and Health Care Network of Southwest Florida.

examen presion arterial, espejuelos lentes gratis. En cooperacion con: Collier County Health Department, Edison College School of Nursing, Southwest Florida College of Nursing, Friendship Health Clinic, Bonita Springs Lions Eye Clinic and Health Care Network of Southwest Florida.

Club Lions invite-ou examen zie gratis pou granmoun ak timoune Samedi 16 Mas 10:00 e nan matin pou 3:00 e nan apre midi tout enskription fini a 1:30 p.m. Nan lekol iTECH la ki nan, 508 N. 0th Street, Immokalee. Nap fe examen pou glokoma, karat sik ak tansion, oganizasyon ki patrone akivite sa-a: Collier County Health Department, Edison College School of Nursing, Southwest Florida College of Nursing, Friendship Health Clinic, Bonita Springs Lions Eye Clinic and Health Care Network of Southwest Florida.

Club de Leones invita examen de vista gratis para adultos y ninos. Sabado 16 de marzo 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Nota: Inscricion cierra a las 1:30 p.m. iTECH Center, 508 N. 9th Street, Immokalee. Examen de vista, glaucoma, cataratas, degeneracion macular, exemen de diabetes (azucar) ,

Sport Short

Basketball clinic

Shooting for the Stars, a free Basketball Clinic for kids ages 8-17, is scheduled for March 16 in Golden Gate. The clinic is sponsored by the Mental Health Association and the Rushman-Micah Angel Foundation. It will be conducted by former NBA player Wali Jones and will emphasize human development, academic skills, and self-esteem building among participants. Lunch will also be provided.

Registration is at 9 a.m. with orientation at 9:30 including a film, Academic Action Plan with rientation film at 9:30; 11 a.m. team development and lunch will provided at noon. 1 p.m. is set aside for stretch/exercise, 2 p.m. Competition Foul Shooting Contest; and closing ceremonies at 3 p.m. 2:45 p.m. is kids pickup time

Players should wear a t-shirt, shorts and appropriate shoes.

Remember your cooperative learning attitude!

Please contact the Mental Health Association of SW Florida for more details (239) 252-7308 phone.

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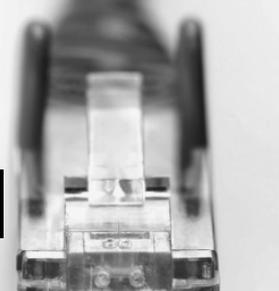
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Literacy and the Arts working together to make learning fun

By Valarie Bostic

Frank Serafini once said, "There is no such thing as a child who hates to read; there are only children who have not found the right book."

In this new age of technology, flipping through the dog-eared pages of a favorite book is now often done electronically. Technology and literacy are the new combination for success.

At Immokalee Child Care Center, the children are exposed to literacy through many different avenues. In celebration of National Literacy Month, Andy Spaulding, the Center's Assistant Director, decided finding interactive ways to get children interested

in literacy could be a positive venture. A music major with a concentration in education, Spaulding enjoys incorporating the arts and literacy together in the Immokalee Child Care Center curriculum.

In celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday, Spaulding took on the character of "cat in the hat," to act out one of Dr. Seuss's classic children's stories. The children experienced the delicacy of "Green Eggs and Ham," and made individual cat in the hat masks. "Children learn through play," said Valarie Bostic, Executive Director. "Incorporating the arts with literacy is simply an creative way to make learning fun."



Submitted photo
The children at Immokalee Child Care Center experienced the delicacy of "Green Eggs and Ham,"



Submitted photos/Melinda Moreno

Celebrating Dr. Seuss

Firefighter Tom Manning interacting and answering third graders questions at the RCMA during celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday.

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