

## Golden Apple Teacher: believes 'School should be fun!'

by **Patty Brant**

Immokalee Bulletin

For Eden Park Elementary Golden Apple Teacher Yudelka (Judy) Ramirez, the whole experience has been "a little surreal." In fact, this young teacher said that just to be in the same room with so many "amazing educators" was humbling. "I was beyond honored," she commented. "I'm thankful to God for letting me represent my school."

May 10 was surely one of the biggest nights of Yudelka (Judy) Ramirez' life. As an educator, the only thing better than the recognition of your peers is the success of the children in your charge.

Every day she sees the wonder of learning in the eyes of her kindergartners at Eden Park Elementary School. Judy's own experience as a young student just coming to this country was a major factor in shaping her teaching style. In an interview last March, she said she realized that, "If I ever have my own class I want to make it fun; to create a place where kids would want to come."

Although she was born in New York, she soon returned to the Dominican Republic with her family. When she returned to this country at the age of four, she spoke only Spanish. That experience gave her an intimate understanding of the many students in Immokalee

schools who struggle with learning English as they try to absorb their ABCs.

Judy's love of dance has helped her connect with her students. Also a dance instructor, she can use fun physical motion to help engage her students in the learning process. In fact, these kindergartners even have their own dance troupe known as the Eden Park Elementary Dance Team. They won their first official competition on March 9, at the Beach Battle in Miami, a national competition for all types of dance troupes.

With this Golden Apple Teacher at the helm, gyrating to hip hop and Latino routines helps keep the kids interested and focused.

Kids all learn at different levels, she believes, they do not learn the same. You have to teach to the needs of each child.

Teaching is Judy's ultimate goal, she said. She has attained that goal and excelled, but her profession is still wide open to

her. As long as there are children to teach, it will remain different and exciting. Judy said she has no aspirations for anything other than teaching - no goal of administration or anything else. It doesn't matter what grade she teaches. She just wants to continue to teach for years to come.

She said her mother has been her inspiration. "She was always positive regardless of what was going on in her life. Her outlook was always optimistic. She'd find good in everything."

"My mother always worked hard for my sister, brother and I to make something of ourselves," she added.

Judy credits a number of people for her success in the classroom. First, she points to Eden Park Elementary Principal Linda Salazar. "I have learned so much from her. She has a real open door policy. I can go to her for help. She



Submitted photos/Reagan Rule Photography and Ashley Koehler Yudelka (Judy) Ramirez with her husband Alex.

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Submitted photos

Sima scholarship winners Annie Morgan and Natrone Means.

## Ministers provide scholarships for seniors

On Monday, May 13, the Reverend Lori M. Snell, who serves as the founder and president of the South Immokalee Ministerial Alliance (S.I.M.A), delivered a \$1,000 scholarship check from that organization, to Immokalee High School. This money will be equally split between two well deserving minority seniors, who are on their way to college: Annie Morgan and Natrone Means.

Rev. Snell, who is also an educator at Pinecrest Elementary School in Immokalee, presented the check to a very appreciative Dr. Mary Murray, the principal of Immokalee High School, who was accompanied by one of the scholarship recipients, Natrone Means.

S.I.M.A started a Roaming Revival in 2011, which was the brainchild of one of its founding members, Bishop Remar Scott. Every January, S.I.M.A hosts a five-night revival that moves each night to a different church in the community. Each night a differ-

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

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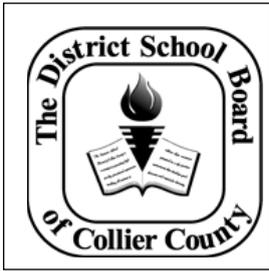
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## Students First

### by Maribel De Armas

"Kids just say the darndest things!" We've all heard that saying at one time or another, and what a true statement it is. For a school district, what's one of the best ways to get information about what we're doing right and what we could improve on? Go straight to the source – our kids – especially if those "kids" are now young men and women on the cusp of crossing the stage with their high school diplomas in a couple of weeks. Our Superintendent, Dr. Kamela Patton, just recently completed her annual tour of Student Roundtables, sitting down with high school seniors to chat about their experience as students in Collier County Public Schools. Students from each of our nine high schools were selected to participate in these roundtable meetings and they all had some great comments to share.

Homecoming is hands down at the top of the list on most of these students' "best experiences" tally. For one young man from Immokalee High School (IHS), the entire Homecoming Week this school year tops as his "best." This young man happily and selflessly cut his campaign for homecoming king short because of the campus-wide



support of a special needs student's run for the throne. This same IHS student, chatting with Dr. Patton during the last roundtable discussion, shared that he had mixed emotions about the Indians making it to the state championship football game – "Just being in the Citrus Bowl Stadium in Orlando was amazing, but losing by one point after the team tried so hard was really sad." Lacrosse made the top of the "best" list for another IHS student who started playing as a freshman when it was introduced as a new sport at the school. She marveled at how the program has grown in just a few years. One "best" experience from Immokalee High that I was certainly not surprised to hear about from one of the students was about BETA Club and becoming a part of the school's tradition of success at both state and national BETA conventions.

It is always wonderful to hear about these positive experiences and the things we, as a school district, do well. But, Dr. Patton always ends her Student Roundtable meetings asking what we can do better in the future. "Wish there was less testing" was a resounding plea from all of the seniors. More SAT prep, focus on real-world life skills, and better communication about dual enrollment high school-college options were all added to the "things to improve on" list.

So now that these students will be crossing the stage on May 31st, what's next for them? Some have enlisted and will be joining a military branch shortly after graduation.

Other choices shared ranged from heading to the Immokalee Technical Center and Lorenzo Walker Institute of Technology to study nursing, to pursuing degrees at colleges and universities throughout the country. One young man is off to Florida International University to study finance and marketing,

another is going to Stetson University on a football scholarship, and a young lady will be headed to Florida State University with a career in obstetrics in mind.

I have no doubt that the future is bright for our graduating seniors – our future leaders.

## Scholarships

Continued From Page 1

ent community pastor delivers the sermon. Each night an offering is received. All monies received during the revival are earmarked for scholarships for Immokalee High School seniors, who have been accepted into a college or trade school.

This makes the second year that S.I.M.A has given \$1,000 for scholarships to Immokalee High School. When the offerings don't add up to \$1,000, the churches affiliated with the association give the difference. S.I.M.A would love to have all of the churches in our community be a part of this great ministry. Business owners are also welcome to partner with S.I.M.A.

S.I.M.A was founded in 2010, for the purpose of bringing unity in the Immokalee community among the churches. The theme

of this infant organization is: Unity in the Community. S.I.M.A believes that if the citizens of its community see the body of Christ working together, that it will encourage all to draw closer together in unity, to better solve problems and issues that our community faces like hunger, homelessness, domestic and youth violence and poverty.

S.I.M.A is currently comprised of the following ministries: Allen Chapel Africar Methodist Episcopal Church (Rev Lori Snell) Lilly Bass Church of God in Unity (Bishop Remar Scott), Victory in Jesus Christ Tabernacle (Pastor Clareth Thomas) and The International Healing and Deliverance Ministry (Pastor Christine Vedrine), and St. John Missionary Baptist Church (Rev. Frank Williams).

## Golden

Continued From Page 1

has opened so many doors for me."

This incredible teacher doesn't forget her students, either. "They are such a unique group," she said, and also gave a share of her gratitude to her colleagues and the community.

In fact, Judy quickly shares the responsibility for her success with her school and her community.

"I'm thankful for the support of the Immokalee community and my school. I could not have picked a better school to work at. I want the community to see what our kids can do."

Judy is grateful to the Collier County School District for providing "top notch professional development," and to her principal for having an open door.

The special dinner May 10 for Teachers of Distinction and Teachers of the Year by the Champions For Learning, formerly known as the Collier County Education Foundation. The 23rd Annual Golden Apple Celebration banquet was presented by Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Foundation and hosted by the Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club.

A true teacher, Judy knows her kindergartners will soon move on and eventually this time will be a memory. She hopes that memory will serve them well.

"I want them to remember that people truly believe in them; that they can be whatever they want. They're all intelligent, with unique abilities. I want them to always know that somebody believes in them and to remember that school is fun."

Other 2013 Golden Apple Teachers are: Khris Betten-Jutasi, Lorenzo Walker Tech-

nical High, Grade: 9, World Cultural Geography; Catherine Hunt, Lely High, Criminal Justice/Legal Studies, Grade: 9-12; Andrew Klatzkow, Corkscrew Elementary, Grade: 4; Sarah B. Nick, Golden Gate Elementary, Grade: 3; and Kathleen Weitzel, Naples Park Elementary, Grade: 5.



**Golden Apple Teacher 2013**  
Eden Park Elementary  
Yudelka (Judy) Remirez



# Bulletin

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

### We Pledge...

- To operate this newspaper as a public trust
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# Begin your “No More Than 2!” challenge today

**Deb Millsap, M.Ed., R.D., LD/N**  
*Director of Nutrition & Health Education & PIO*  
*Florida Department of Health - Collier County*  
 Collier: Screen time, whether the television, computer, smart phone or video games, is one of the largest contributors to childhood and adult obesity.

Several studies have also linked excessive screen time to lower literacy rates in children of all ages and language delays among children less than two years of age.

The first two years of life are considered a critical time for brain development. TV and other electronic media can interfere with time to explore, play and interact with others; activities which are vital to encourage

learning, as well as healthy physical and social development.

Research has identified children 8-18 years spend an average of over 7 hours per day in front of a screen (outside of school work).

Meanwhile, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends children under two years of age not watch any TV (or screen) and the rest of us should limit our screen time to less than 2 hours a day (outside of school and work).

Scale back on screen time by practicing the following:

- Keep TVs and computers out of bedrooms.

- Turn TVs off and ban smart phone usage during mealtime.

- Don't allow children to watch TV while doing homework.

- Allow screen time (no more than a total of two hours/day) AFTER home work and chores are completed.

- Substitute with playing outside, a trip to the beach, card or board games and reading books.

- Lead children/ grandchildren by example; limit your own screen time.

Before you know it, you will be spending less time in front of a screen and you will be surprised with the extra time you have to enjoy other aspects of your life! Begin your

“No More Than 2” challenge today! To track your progress, go to [www.95210.org/Collier](http://www.95210.org/Collier).

“2”, or the recommendation to limit to no more than two hours of screen time daily, is part of the “9-5-2-1-0 BFF, Let's Go!” campaign recommended by physicians, dietitians, nurses, fitness experts and other healthcare practitioners in partnership with the Safe & Healthy Children's Coalition of Collier County.

Each week, a different number will be highlighted as the Coalition reaches out to educate the community about this important public health message. For more information, go to [www.95210.org/Collier](http://www.95210.org/Collier).

## DLC Adds Art Therapy to Crossroads Treatment Services

Naples, FL – The David Lawrence Center, Collier County's only comprehensive, not-for-profit mental health and substance abuse treatment facility serving children, adults and families, is pleased to announce that clients in the Crossroads adult residential substance abuse treatment program will now benefit from a new creative, expressive art therapy program designed to help them access their innermost selves.

This is one of several program enhancements made to the Crossroads treatment services in the last year with the goal of creating the best opportunities to attain life-changing wellness.

Additional alternative methods implemented include yoga, equine-facilitated psychotherapy, tobacco cessation groups, music therapy as well as enhanced aftercare and family support services.

Art therapy provides an opportunity for clients to explore feelings, fears and desires in forms other than words and to process them in a healthy way.

The creative process involved in artistic self-expression helps people to resolve conflicts and problems, develop interpersonal skills, manage behavior, reduce stress, in-

crease self-esteem and self-awareness, and achieve insight

The Crossroads registered art therapist, who is also a licensed mental health counselor, helps clients look deeper into their inner world through symbols evoked in their artwork.

Crossroads Clinical Supervisor Nancy Dauphinais says, “This process allows substance abuse treatment to address areas that otherwise may not be addressed in standard therapies.

David Lawrence Center is the Southwest Florida-based, not-for-profit leading provider of behavioral health solutions dedicated to inspiring and creating life-changing wellness for every individual.

The Center provides innovative, comprehensive inpatient, outpatient, residential and community based prevention and treatment services for the one in four local children and adults who experience mental health, emotional, psychological and substance abuse challenges.

For more information about the David Lawrence Center please call 239-455-8500 or go online and visit [www.DavidLawrenceCenter.org](http://www.DavidLawrenceCenter.org).

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## I.H.S. Drumbeat

### Important Dates

**May 21:** Senior Awards 5:30 I.H.S Cafeteria

**May 23:** The Immokalee Foundation Banquet 5:30 Ave Maria

**May 31:** Graduation 7:00 Harbor Side Convention Center



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Submitted photo/Manny Tournon

## FIRE Spring Classic Champions

The Soccer Pit U13 boys were undefeated throughout the tournament, which took place on May 4 and 5 at the North Collier Regional Park. The boys faced some tough opponents but were able to play a controlled style of soccer to take the Championship. Congratulations to Coach Moya and his boys. The team will also be participating in the Sweetbay Memorial Day Cup this weekend at The North Collier Regional Park.

## Students will be released early three days

The end of the 2012-2013 school year is just two weeks away. As a reminder to parents, please note that the last three days of the 2012-2013 school year will be early dismissal days for all Collier County Public Schools students.

Elementary, middle, and high school students will be dismissed three hours earlier than the usual dismissal time on Friday (May 31st), Monday (June 3rd), and the last day of school Tuesday (June 4th).

At the middle and high school level, the early dismissal days provide extended time for exam periods, while providing suf-

ficient time for teachers to carefully score the assessments. At the elementary level, while the early dismissal days are not used for exams, they will provide teachers with time for professional development and school improvement activities.

To view the entire 2012-2013 school calendar, as well as the upcoming 2013-2014 Academic School Calendar, visit the district's Web site ([www.collierschools.com](http://www.collierschools.com)) and click on "Calendars" under the "Quick Links" heading on the left side of the home page.

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Immokalee Bulletin/Patty Brant

## Viva Florida 500

Roberts Ranch Museum is joining in Viva Florida 500, the celebration of 500 years of Florida history. Posters on the walls of the original Baptist church in Immokalee that serves as the museum tell the story of Florida from the Ponce de Leon's first landing in Florida on April 2, 1513. The posters reflect Immokalee's agricultural history as well, an important piece in modern Florida's growth. Visitors welcome: 1215 Roberts Ave., Open Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (239) 658-2466

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Just Voted 2013 "Best Place to Take Kids" by Gulfshore Life magazine

Naples, FL - Looking for a great way to spend time with your family during Memorial Day weekend? Naples Zoo is offering parents and grandparents a weekend of wild fun with all that's new from feeding the giraffe herd to seeing the rare fosas (pronounced foose-uhs) from Madagascar plus the YouTube sensation: African honey badgers. And with a coupon from [www.napleszoo.org](http://www.napleszoo.org), a child is free with each paid adult from Friday, May 24 through Monday, May 27, 2013. Voted "Best Place to Take the Kids" in 2013 by readers of Gulfshore Life magazine, Naples Zoo offers fun for all generations. Online coupon is required.

### ABOUT NAPLES ZOO

Naples Zoo is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization cooperating in conservation 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](http://www.napleszoo.org). Naples Zoo welcomes guests daily from 9:00 to 5:00 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](http://www.napleszoo.org), call (239) 262-5409, or [www.twitter.com/NaplesZoo](http://www.twitter.com/NaplesZoo) and [www.facebook.com/napleszoo](http://www.facebook.com/napleszoo) and [www.youtube.com/napleszoo](http://www.youtube.com/napleszoo).

# DLC receives Foundation Grant

Naples, FL – The David Lawrence Center, Collier County's only comprehensive, not-for-profit mental health and substance abuse treatment facility serving children, adults and families, is pleased to announce that the Enterprise Holdings Foundation has awarded the Center a \$1,000 grant to support operations.

David Lawrence Center Chief Financial Officer Scott Geltemeyer says, "We are very pleased that the Enterprise Holdings Foundation has chosen to invest in our mission. We are honored to work with organizations who believe in the work we are doing for the community and for those in need."

### About Enterprise Holdings

Enterprise Holdings, through its regional subsidiaries, operates more than 1 million cars and trucks, the largest fleet of passenger vehicles in the world today. Enterprise Holdings is North America's largest and most comprehensive service provider in the car rental industry, operating the Alamo Rent A

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### About David Lawrence Center

David Lawrence Center is the Southwest Florida-based, not-for-profit leading provider of behavioral health solutions dedicated to inspiring and creating life-changing wellness for every individual. The Center provides innovative, comprehensive inpatient, outpatient, residential and community based prevention and treatment services for the one in four local children and adults who experience mental health, emotional, psychological and substance abuse challenges. David Lawrence Center has eight locations in Collier County and touches the lives of more than 30,000 people each year. For more information about David Lawrence Center call 239-455-8500 or visit [www.DavidLawrenceCenter.org](http://www.DavidLawrenceCenter.org).



Submitted photo

## New Chamber Member

Immokalee Chamber of Commerce President Bernardo Barnhart, left, on behalf of the Chamber welcomed Ibrahim Ozbay of Kountry Kitchen as a new member of the chamber and also recognized his new business.

# Viral Hepatitis - need to know

Every year, approximately 15,000 Americans die from liver cancer or chronic liver disease associated with viral hepatitis. Despite these statistics, many people are unaware of the risks associated with viral hepatitis. In fact, as many as 75 percent of people with chronic viral hepatitis do not know that they are infected. Without knowing if they are infected, these individuals cannot receive lifesaving care and treatment.

- 3.5-5.3 million Americans are living with chronic (lifelong) viral hepatitis—hepatitis B or hepatitis C. Most of them do not know that they are infected, placing them at greater risk for severe, even fatal, complications from the disease and increasing the likelihood they will spread the virus to others.

- A specific blood test is the only way to know if you have viral hepatitis.

- Hepatitis B and C viruses can cause chronic hepatitis, leading to cirrhosis, liver failure, and liver cancer.

- Anyone can get hepatitis B or C, but some populations are disproportionately burdened with these infections, including African Americans; Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; past and current injection drug users; persons born between 1945-1965; and men who have sex with men.

**May 16:** Marion E. Fether Medical Center Free Rapid HIV Testing 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Collier County Health Department 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

**May 17:** Marion E. Fether Medical Center, Free HIV testing 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

### ACHEIVEMENT

## ALEXIS AGUILAR

Alexis will be graduating on May 31, 2013 from Immokalee High school where she will then go on to FGCU in the Fall, and then on to Florida State in the Spring of 2014 to pursue her degree in Criminal Physiology

Alexis is the Daughter of Pete & Vanessa Aguilar. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2013!!!



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## Employment

### Employment Full Time

#### Office Assistant

Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Florida, Immokalee, Florida. Responsible for personnel/payroll and office operations for approximately 75 employees. Requires a minimum high school diploma and four years of appropriate experience. Appropriate college coursework or vocational/technical training may substitute at an equivalent rate for the required experience. Application deadline June 15, 2013. Full position description and on-line application at:

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### Employment Medical

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Time to clean out the attic, basement and/or garage? Advertise your yard sale in the classifieds and make your clean up a breeze!

## Financial

### Business Opportunities

#### NOTICE

Independent Newspapers will never accept any advertisement that is illegal or considered fraudulent. In all cases of questionable value, such as promises of guaranteed income from work-at-home programs - if it sounds too good to be true, chances are that it is. If you have questions or doubts about any ad on these pages, we advise that before responding or sending money ahead of time, you check with the Better Business Bureau at 772-878-2010 for previous complaints.

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

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The classified ads

Love the earth Recycle your used items by selling them in the classifieds.

How fast can your car go? It can go even faster when you sell it in the classifieds.

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

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1, 2, & 3 Bedroom Apts

Willowbrook Place, Garden Lake, Summer Glen, Heritage Villas & Southern Villas.

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Equal Housing Opportunity

This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

When doing those chores is doing you in, it's time to look for a helper in the classifieds.

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CBS Construction All include Stove, Refrig., Air, Ceiling Fans, Util. Rm. w/W&D Hookup, Sound Barrier Between Apt./Twnhs. Free Trash Pickup, Free Lawn Service. Pets Allowed w/Deposit. Walk to Store.

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

## Houses - Rent

**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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It's never too late to find the perfect gift. Look for it in the classifieds.

Your new home could be in today's paper. Have you looked for it?

Earn some extra cash. Sell your used items in the classifieds

Looking for a place to hang your hat? Look no further than the classifieds.

## Recreation

### Campers/RVs

**Wanted all** Travel Trailers, Motor Homes and Fifth Wheels. Any Condition, Cash paid on the spot.  
Call 941-347-7171

Join all the people who say, "I sold it in the classifieds."

Get a quick response to any item you may be selling with a classified ad.

Your next job could be in today's classifieds. Did you look for it?

Buying a car? Look in the classifieds. Selling a car? Look in the classifieds.

## Business & Service Directory

### AUCTION

Time for a new car? Check out this auction on  
**June 3, 2013 at 9am**

## Keith's Towing

925 E. Delaware Ave. • Immokalee, FL  
(239) 657-5741

**2000 GMC**

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**1995 Chevy**

1GNEC16K3SJ307047

**2000 Ford**

1FMRE11WBHYA33824

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# Community Briefs

## New fire commissioner sought

The Immokalee Fire Control District's Board of Commissioners has a vacant seat on the board due to the resignation of one of the commissioners. Anyone interested in applying for this position may turn in their resume to the administration office at 502 E. New Market Road, Monday through Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Resumes must be submitted by 5 p.m. on June 14, 2013. You must live in the Immokalee Fire Control District to obtain this position.

## South Park closed

Immokalee South Park, located at 418 School Drive, will close for construction beginning June 3. A new community park building will be under construction throughout this summer and fall. Construction is expected to be complete by January 2014.

The new building will house programs such as voluntary pre-kindergarten, after school programs, summer camp, senior programs, arts and crafts, and special events. The building will have classrooms and a community room for residents to enjoy. For more information, contact Annie Alvarez at (239) 867-4121 ext 206, or (239) 252-4449.

## Dems to meet

The Democratic Club of Immokalee will meet Tuesday, May 28, at 6:45 p.m., at Mi Ranchito, 710 W. Main St., Immokalee, 239-657-1766. The club will discuss the Immokalee Votes campaign, which is designed to increase voter participation in the electoral process. The meetings are open to all.

## Project Graduation

We have one week left till our Seniors graduate. Donations of money, food and volunteers for the event are much needed. Any Senior or Junior parents that can volunteer please contact Floreida Ocanas at 239-834-2576.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 239-834-2576.

## Colossal Coaster World

Immokalee First Seminole Baptist Church, 810 Church Lane, is putting on a

Colossal Coaster World July 17-20 nightly from 6-8:30 p.m.

The church would like you to join them for some fun, food and games. For rides call Pastor Josh Leadingfox at 239-370-0230.

## Breastfeeding mothers group

Learn about the many benefits of breastfeeding, get advice and tips, speak with breast-feeding peer counselors Myda and Noemi, meet and share experiences with other breastfeeding mothers. Pregnant women welcome.

Come to the Collier County Department of Health Room 133 every Tuesday from 10-11:30 a.m. For additional information call 239-252-7347 or 239-252-7312.

## Nance office in Immokalee

Collier Commissioner Tim Nance opened his new office in the Immokalee Government Center, 106 South First Street. Regular office hours for Nance at the government center will be established soon.

## Sun Life accepting applications for grants

Sun Life Financial is accepting Sun Life Rising Star Award grant applications from nonprofit organizations in the South Florida area that advocate for youth from under-served communities.

Sun Life will award four winning organizations with a \$50,000 grant, who will each nominate an exemplary student to receive a \$5,000 Sun Life Rising Star scholarship towards financing a college education.

The Sun Life Rising Star Awards program, now in its fourth year, provides financial resources to students and nonprofit organizations in large urban school districts that are committed to encouraging under-served youth to continue their education as a means to achieve life-long financial wellness. The Sun Life Rising Star Awards program is the educational cornerstone program of the Miami Dolphins Foundation. Organizations which have 501(c) (3) tax-exempt status, promote skills that directly translate to educational success in high school to students under the age of 21 and are aligned with a

secondary or post-secondary educational institution. Applications are due by June 7, and are available now at sunliferisingstar.com

Keith Gainsboro, elevate, 617-895-7905, kgainsboro@elevatecom.com.

## Summer Programs for Students

Providers of Immokalee youth programs are planning an expanded summer program through GPS, a youth initiative of the Naples Children & Education Foundation. GPS is looking for highly qualified teachers, artists and coaches who enjoy working with students and would like to share their special talents and skills during the summer. If you are interested in applying, résumés should be sent to Jamie Scott by email at jscott@sfwdb.org or mail to 750 South 5th Street, Immokalee, Florida 34142. Résumés should include areas of expertise and fees, if applicable. Note that all applicants are required to complete a background screening prior to beginning work.

GPS programs offer a diversity of opportunities for Immokalee youth in out-of-school-time settings. The new collaboration seeks to improve educational outcomes and provide students tools for life-long success. GPS Summer 2013 is the result of planning by Miracle/Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board, RCMA, Parks and Recreation, Guadalupe Center, Immokalee Foundation, Boys and Girls Club of Collier County, RCMA and Immokalee Housing and Family Services. Enrollment information available in May.

## Prevent foreclosure

The Foreclosure Prevention and Advocacy Project will provide to income-eligible clients free legal advice and counsel or representation as deemed appropriate, in the areas of: bank, homeowner and condo association foreclosure defense; deficiency judgments; pre-foreclosure issues; and tax liens.

Staff is available Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Appointments are also available by calling 239-775-4024 or visiting the office at 4124 Tamiami Trail East, Naples 34112.

Eligible clients will be accepted on a first come, first served basis and will be seen according to the urgency of their legal needs.

Eligibility criteria; Collier County resident; home is the applicant's homestead residence (investment properties are ineligible); low to moderate income individuals or families.

The project runs through June 20, 2013.

## Thank you

### Dear Editor:

The Williams Family of Immokalee would like to thank everyone and the community of Immokalee for all their sincere wishes of kindness for the recent death of our beloved Ms. Linda Williams. The Williams Family (Ms. Claudette Williams and Ms. Elaine Lane) would like to say thank you from our entire family.

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# Help Winn Dixie fight MD

Winn-Dixie has launched a month long campaign to help support children that have been affected by muscular dystrophy. This is a genetic disorder that weakens the muscles that help the body move. Children with MD have incorrect or missing information in their genes, which prevents them from making the proteins they need for healthy muscles. Because MD is genetic, children are born with the problem - it isn't contagious and you can't catch it from someone who has it.

MD weakens the muscles over time, so children who have the disease can gradually lose the ability to do the things most people take for granted, like walking or sitting up. Someone with MD might start

having muscle problems as a baby or their symptoms might stay dormant until later in life.

Winn-Dixie has partnered with a group out if Lehigh which helps families in Immokalee, Lehigh and Fort Myers. Anyone that stops by the store to donate is helping our local community.

To donate, simply stop by the Immokalee Winn-Dixie and see a cashier. They can scan our donation code at the register so that anyone can donate any amount. The goal is to reach \$3,000 by the 10th of June. Please support the venture to assist children with MD. Any help you can provide is graciously accepted and appreciated.

# Immokalee students' art selected in contest for recycling calendar

From more than 1,000 submissions, a pair of young Immokalee artists were recognized in a special ceremony at downtown Naples's Tony Von Liebig Art Center on Monday.

Mayor John Sorey told those gathered in the elegant gallery filled with framed editions of the students' art, "On behalf of the city, I'm amazed by the ability I see."

Keep Collier Beautiful, the all-volunteer

organization devoted to stewardship of our county's natural resources, hosted the competition with a dozen entries selected for inclusion in the 2013 calendar. All the submissions were themed around environmental protection.

Among the young artists from Immokalee honored by Keep Collier Beautiful were David Rodriguez, a sixth grader at Highlands

Elementary, and Noe Vega, a sixth grader at Pinecrest Elementary.

Immediately following the ceremony, Noe Vega was approached by the coordinator of Collier County Schools Arts Program, Linda Cummings, and complimented on his artwork. Ms. Cummings visited with his mother Carmen Esquivel, whose other son Jaime, a student at Immokalee High School,

had art selected for the 2012 Keep Collier Beautiful calendar.

Her sons' mutual success is no coincidence, according to Mayor John Sorey, who singled out the crucial role played by caring parents in producing the young artists' accomplishments: "It takes some nurturing to achieve what we are seeing tonight."



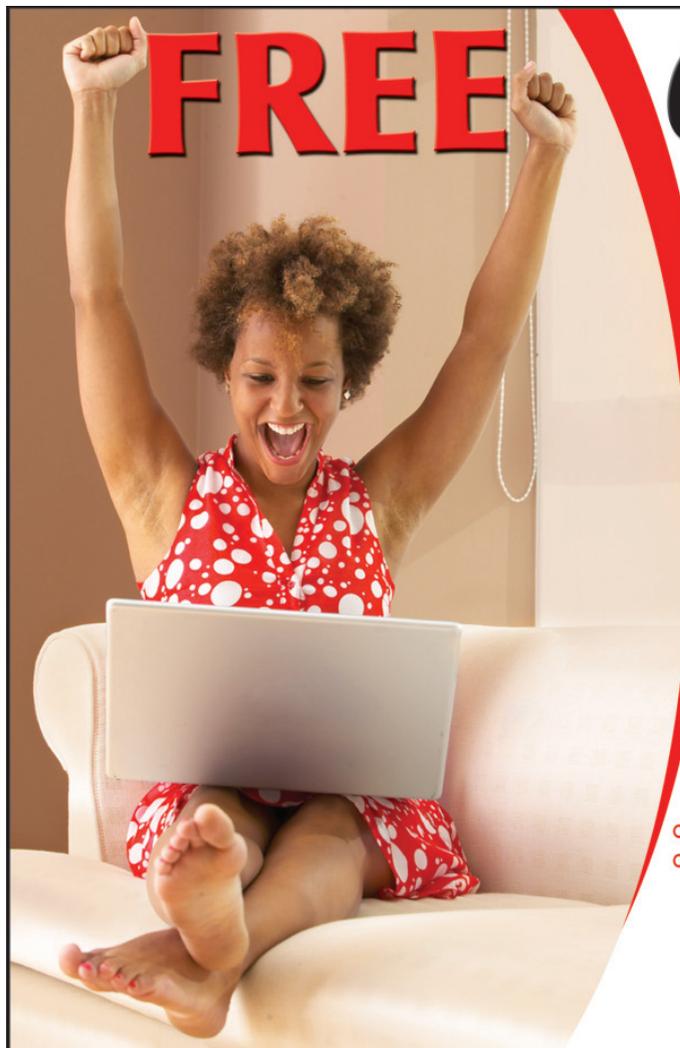
Submitted photo/Jordan Buckley

Noe Vega with his mom, Carmen Esquivel.



Submitted photo/Jordan Buckley

Noe Vega with Linda Cummings.



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