

Community supports neighbor

by Richard Heers

The call went out from mouth-to-mouth and through church gatherings around the Immokalee area for two special prayer gatherings. Last Thursday morning-August 15, shortly after 7 a.m. over 100 people from a variety of churches and backgrounds gathered at the Immokalee Parks and Rec baseball diamond to join their voices and hearts on behalf of young Zachary Reyna, a youngster in LaBelle who has contracted a very deadly form of meningitis-Primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM, or PAME)- while swimming with friends in a fresh water area near his home in LaBelle. This disease is extremely deadly, with very few who are infected surviving.

A drizzling rain did nothing to dampen the fervor of the crowd as they prayed fervently for the young child's healing and restoration.

Zachary is being cared for at Miami Children's Hospital and has survived for over 10 days as of the writing of this article.

Zachary's family was able to be a part of this prayer gathering with

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

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Submitted photo/Bill Coats

Fifth-grader Melissa Lorenzo and Literacy Teacher Melissa Garcia enjoy a reading conference at Immokalee Community School. Last month, the 13-year-old charter school became the only school in Collier County to earn a higher school grade based on the students' FCAT scores.

Immokalee Community School swims against the tide

IMMOKALEE — Applying tougher grading standards, Florida lowered the school grades last month of 21 Collier County schools. The state raised the grade of only one: Immokalee Community School.

The charter school's climb to a C from the previous D continued a three-year renaissance for the low-income student body of 240, and had the school buzzing as classes opened on Monday.

"Most of the parents didn't know, so we've been spreading the good news," said school Director Jim McDevitt. "The kids are beaming, and so are the teach-

ers." The school plans a "Celebration of Success" Friday afternoon.

It has enjoyed a run of success since 2010, when ICS became Collier County's only "F" school. McDevitt, a veteran principal, arrived that summer from Colorado. He required that every teacher and every student set a course for improving. He made sure that the school taught and tested students relentlessly and celebrated every achievement.

McDevitt lengthened the school day by 40 minutes and devoted the time to math instruc-

tion. High-scoring math students were publicly honored as "Math Masters." ICS embraced innovation and technology. Throughout the school, learning became competitive and fun.

"We're accelerating all learning," McDevitt said.

In 2011, ICS rebounded from its "F." Its average FCAT score rose 72 points, the greatest increase of any school in Collier County. ICS became a "C" school.

For the 2012 tests, ICS confronted the new statewide challenge of higher "cut scores" in

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Students get 'happy feet'

NAPLES, FL (Aug. 20, 2013) — IHOP and the company's IHOPE (Helping Others Prosper Everyday) Charity partnered with Boys & Girls Clubs to launch "Hope in a Box, Sneakers for Students," a program established to provide new sneakers to children in need.

Restaurant-goers who brought a pair of sneakers to any Florida IHOP recently, received a complimentary short stack of pancakes. The sneakers collected at the local IHOPs were distributed to children at the Boys & Girls Club of Collier County - just in time for the new school year.

"Some of our members have never had the opportunity to have a pair of sneakers of their own. We are so thankful to IHOP and the IHOPE Charity for providing for some of our less fortunate children. They are now able to start the new school year off right," said Tony Orr, Chief Operating Officer at the Boys & Girls Club of Collier County.

The Boys & Girls Club of Collier County (BGCCC) is a non-profit, youth development organization, which annually serves 3,000 of the most at-risk children and teens in Collier County. The Club provides a safe, positive place where local youth can acquire: academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. The Boys & Girls Club is dedicated to its mission, which is: to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. To learn more about the Boys & Girls Club of Collier County or to arrange a tour, call 239-325-1700 or visit www.bgccc.com.

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Immokalee Water and Sewer District to flush hydrants

It is time again for Immokalee Water & Sewer District to do the quarterly flushing of the water lines.

District employees will open the fire hydrants and flushout valves to let the water run. This is an important part of our maintenance program, to prevent sediment and

rust from building up inside the lines. This buildup can cause discoloration in the water, and result in undesirable tastes and odors. It can also cause a reduction in the effective diameter of the water line.

The water lines are flushed by opening a series of hydrants and flushout valves and

allowing them to flow freely until the water is clear. This can take anywhere from fifteen to thirty minutes, or more, at each site.

After water lines have been flushed in your area, you may have some discoloration in your water, a yellowish or brownish color. This is normal, and can be alleviated by allowing the water to run in your faucet for about ten to fifteen minutes until it is clear. Some customers may still have discoloration.

If the cold water is clear, and the hot water is discolored, then the sediment is in your hot water heater, and you will need to drain it.

Most hot water heater manufacturers advise that you flush them at least once a year. If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Warden, or Kerbi Alexandre at (239) 658-3630.

Limpeza con Agua de Hidrante de Incendios

Es el tiempo otra vez para Immokalee Water & Sewer District hacer la limpieza con agua trimestral de las líneas de agua. Los empleados de distrito abren los hidrantes de incendios y válvulas flushout para dejar al agua dirigida.

Este es una parte importante de nuestro programa de mantenimiento, impedir a

sedimento y herrumbre aumentar dentro de las líneas.

Esta concentración puede causar la decoloración en el agua, y causar gustos indeseables y olores. Esto también puede causar una reducción del diámetro eficaz de la línea de agua.

Las líneas de agua son limpiadas con agua abriendo una serie de bocas de riego y válvulas flushout y permitiéndolos fluir libremente hasta que el agua esté clara. Este puede tomar en todas partes a partir de quince a treinta minutos, o más, en cada sitio.

Después de que las líneas de agua han sido limpiadas con agua en su área, usted puede tener alguna decoloración en su agua, un color amarillento o pardusco.

Este es normal, y puede ser aliviado permitiendo al agua correr en su grifo durante aproximadamente diez a quince minutos hasta que esté claro. Algunos clientes todavía pueden tener la decoloración.

Si el agua fría está clara, y el agua caliente es descolorada, entonces el sedimento está en su calentador de agua caliente, y usted tendrá que drenarlo.

La mayoría de los fabricantes de calentador de agua calientes informan que usted los limpia con agua al menos una vez al año.

Si usted tiene alguna pregunta, por favor póngase en contacto con Jerry Warden, o KerbiAlexandre en (239) 658-3630.

Support

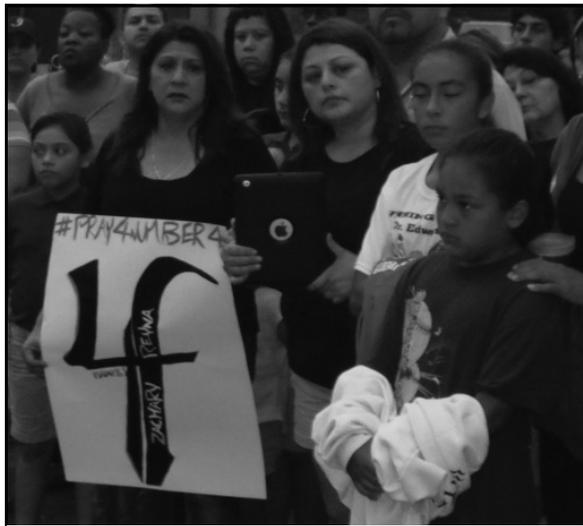
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relatives, friends and strangers via live Skype. Leading in prayer and faith for the young child were his uncle, Rick Garcia and a number of pastors from Immokalee and LaBelle.

Earlier in the week nearly 300 participants attended a similar prayer vigil in LaBelle.

Later in the week a number of pastors and laypersons gathered together at Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church under the leadership of Rev. Lori Snell and prayed for the new school year just starting in Collier County.

Intercession was made for parents, students, school staff, teachers and administrators. Special music was provided and everyone felt blessed to be a part of inviting God to bring success to our schools in Immokalee.



Submitted photo/Rick Heerslm
Immokalee residents open their hearts to 12-year-old Zac Reyna, who has been stricken with a rare disease.



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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- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.



Submitted photo

Happy Feet

Boys and Girls Club of Collier County member Emely Escobar proudly shows off her new sneakers she received from "Hope in a Box, Sneakers for Students." IHOP and the company's IHOPE (Helping Others Prosper Everyday) Charity partnered with Boys & Girls Clubs partnered to put on the program to help disadvantaged students. Story on Page 1.

Tide

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the FCAT grading. While the school-wide score dropped to a D, ICS registered the highest scores of any elementary school in Immokalee in reading, math and science.

This spring, new, more stringent, cut scores took effect. Across Florida, 53 percent of public schools dropped by a letter grade. Of those, 548 schools would have fallen farther if the state had not enacted a "safety net" protecting any school from falling two or more grades.

Yet ICS rose a grade, unlike any of Collier County's other 50 public schools.

One of McDevitt's proudest reforms is engaging parents as partners in their children's educations. Each family received a postcard

recently, introducing them to their child's teacher. The teacher will visit their home in the next two weeks to set goals for the student. Then, the teacher and parents will plan how the parents can help and how the teacher will chronicle the child's progress.

"The parents and teachers will work one-on-one to set dreams for their child," McDevitt said.

In the meantime, a party is taking shape. McDevitt said Friday's celebration will feature an "unveiling" of the ICS grade and some congratulatory phone calls from make-believe celebrities. "We'll have lots of cake and ice cream," he said. "There will be music. There will be dancing."

Afterschool Nutrition Program

The Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board, Inc. announces the sponsorship of the Afterschool Nutrition Program, a subcomponent of the Child Care Food Program. This program is designed primarily to provide nutritious snacks and suppers to children in afterschool programs. Snacks and suppers are available at

no separate charge to the children at the sites listed below:

iGeneration Charter School 1411 Lake Trafford Rd, Immokalee, FL

Community Center 321 North 1st Street, Immokalee, FL

Sports Complex 505 Escambia St, Immokalee, FL

Community Briefs

Attention, 2nd Infantry Division Veterans

The Florida Branch of the Second Infantry Division Association will have its annual reunion in Titusville, Florida on October 18-20, 2013 at the Best Western Space Shuttle Inn. All veterans of the 2nd Infantry Divisions are invited. For more information, call the branch secretary-treasurer, Donald Calnan, at (561) 742-5379 or send an email to zida.mail@charter.net.

Running Club Comes to Immokalee

The Gulf Coast Runners Youth Team is creating a running branch in Immokalee. The GCR youth team is open to all young runners 7-17. Most of our members are in elementary or middle school. We train for both fitness and competition year round. Runners have to learn skills such as self-discipline, motivation, and setting and achieving goals. The GCR youth team wants to give every young athlete who has the desire to run, the opportunity to run. If you are interested in joining the running club- there are practices are twice a week, Monday and Wednesday, located at the Immokalee High School Track at 5:00pm. There is no cost to join-get involved! If you have any questions Hugo Gijon (239) 273-3171.

Parks and Rec web site

Collier County Parks and Recreation recently launched its mobile web site.

Access www.collierparks.com on your smart phone or tablet to view the mobile device-friendly site. Add the Collier County Parks and Recreation icon to your home screen to access quickly the information you need to enjoy all the recreational amenities offered by Collier County Parks and Recreation.

For more information, contact Parks and Recreation Administration at (239) 252-4000.

Childcare available

A Step Up Immokalee, operated by Collier Child Care Resources, Inc., provides childcare for teen parents, school district teachers and staff, county workers. They care for infants to four years of age Monday through Friday 6:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. with extended hours till 3 p.m. There is a warm and inviting atmosphere with nurturing childcare providers, free childcare tuition to members of the Teenage parenting Program. Located at

701 Immokalee Drive. Phone 239-377-1172; cell 239-980-9021 or go to www.collierchild-care.org.

iGeneration

Coming this fall a new charter school (grades 6-12). Limited space - enrolling now! iGeneration Empowerment Academy, 1411 Lake Trafford Road. Call 239-304-1221 Irma Miller, Campus Director. Parent meetings every Monday at 3 p.m. till school begins.

South Park closed

Immokalee South Park, located at 418 School Drive, is closed. 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.

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.

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Tickets on sale now for Love That Dress!

Naples, FL (August 7, 2013) – Are you ready for Naples's fashion event of the season? Tickets for Love That Dress! benefiting PACE Center for Girls Collier County, Immokalee are now on sale for \$30 per person online only at www.LoveThatDress.org.

Hundreds of fashionistas will gather in Collier county for the most anticipated shopping spree fashion event of the year.

Saturday, September 7th from 6-9 p.m. at Naples Beach Hotel in Naples, ladies will stake their claim on thousands of new and gently worn dresses and accessories at deeply discounted prices.

In addition to browsing the fabulous array of dresses, attendees can also place a bid in the lavish silent auction and enjoy cocktails with friends with special announcements from the event emcee Krista Fogelson.

Proceeds from Love That Dress! benefit PACE Center for Girls, Collier County a non-residential juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention program targeting the unique needs of girls, ages 12 to 18, facing challenges such as physical and sexual abuse, domestic violence, substance abuse, foster care, neglect, death of a parent, family history of incarceration and declining grades.

"Love That Dress! would not be possible without the love and support of our spon-

sors and the community.

Thousands of dresses and accessories are donated and money is raised at dress collection parties and drop off sites across the county.

"This is the 3rd LDT! in Collier and we are very excited for this year's event. We are proud to support a wonderful cause" states Stacey Herring, Chair for Collier County Love That Dress!

Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to shop, socialize, and support a great organization.

For tickets or additional information on Love That Dress! events in other counties, visit www.LoveThatDress.org.

PACE is a 501c3 organization and works with young women between the ages of 12-18 living in at risk situations.

PACE provides guidance and educational opportunities providing them with a path to a successful life.

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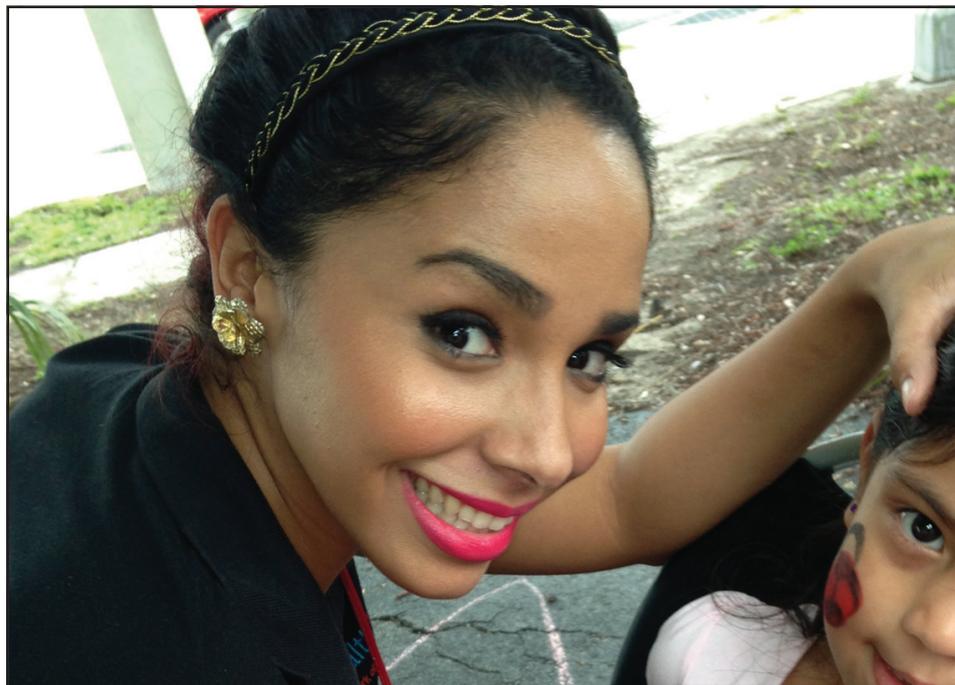
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Healthcare Network Community celebrations wrap

Tatiana Bejarano giggled at the results of her daughter's face paint, Aug. 13, during the Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida's National Health Center Week celebration at



University of Florida dental resident Dr. Maegen McCabe conducted pediatric dental screenings inside the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile during National Health Center Week festivities. Operated by the Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida, the mobile pediatric office has served over 15,000 children since 2004.



Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida dental assistant Anamaria Llorca paints a lady bug on Emily Bejarano's face during National Health Center Week festivities.

the Marion E. Fether Medical Center.

But her smile faded when asked about the five-year-old's dental care.

"We had a dentist but Medicaid changed," she explained. "Now I have to pay and I don't have the money."

Providing parents like Bejarano with access to quality healthcare is the mission of the Healthcare Network.

Last year, the Network provided primary care to more than 45,000 people (32,000 of whom were children) at 13 locations throughout Collier County, including the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile.

The Healthcare Network is among 1,128 non-profit, federally supported health centers in the United States, serving more than 20 million people, regardless of ability to pay. During National Health Center Week, Aug. 11-17, centers across the country celebrated with a variety of events and activities.

"The goal was outreach and education, but we had a lot of fun as well," said Healthcare Network Medical Operations Manager Lydia Posada, chair of the operations team that coordinated events in Immokalee and Golden Gate.

"We were thrilled with the turn-out. The community response was excellent and validates the need for quality healthcare for all."

Joining in the festivities were the David Lawrence Center, Integral, Radiology Regional, Early Steps, the HIV mobile unit, the Mammogram Mobile, the Collier County

Sheriff's Office and local fire control and rescue district personnel, among others.

As she watched her daughters romp in the bounce house, participant Nadia Aparicio shared her thoughts on the availability of local healthcare.

"We have health insurance now, but we didn't when the girls were younger," she said,

"If you don't have insurance, it's difficult. You don't know where to go for help."

Statistics show the high cost of not finding help.

Delayed care turns low-cost health maintenance into major medical care, resulting in costly emergency, hospital and specialty care at public expense.

By providing a "patient centered home," the Healthcare Network is able to follow patients, ensure necessary treatment and provide preventative education that reduces long-term healthcare costs.

Funding for the Healthcare Network comes from patient fees and reimbursements, federal grants and generous philanthropic support.

More than 96 percent of funding goes directly to patient care.

For more information on the Healthcare Network, contact Kaydee Tuff at (239) 658-3116 or ktuff@healthcareswfl.org.

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Students First

by Joe Landon

"The first day of school is so much fun!" I say this Lake Trafford Elementary School third grader sums it up quite well in less than ten words. We're just a few days into the brand new 2013-2014 school year and it's been a great start! In fact, our Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Kamela Patton, reports that it was a smooth opening day throughout the entire District. I had the pleasure of stopping by an elementary, middle, and high school bright and early Monday morning and the smiles on happy faces were astounding. Even the cautious and slightly anxious little ones joining the Kindergarten ranks shared shy smiles with me. But the most fulfilling first-day stories come straight from our teachers and I have two to share with you today – one coming out of Eden Park Elementary School and the other from Lake Trafford Elementary School.

At Eden Park, third grade teacher and 2013 Golden Apple Recipient Judy Ramirez enthusiastically shared her first day synopsis. "I have never seen a more excited group of students on the first day of school! It was heartwarming to see such eager, dedicated students ready to learn. The students helped one another throughout the day and were inclusive of all their peers. When it was time to go home, there was a chorus of disappointment because they did not want to leave." Judy shared that she asked her students to write about their first day of school. One student said, "I love coming to school because I get to learn." Another said, "My teacher is cool." And, of course, we have



the expected "I liked the lunch we ate today," from yet another student. All in all, a great first day in Judy's classroom.

And from Lake Trafford, first grade teacher Donna Cornwell also shared thoughts on the first day. "There was excitement on most faces, but a few appeared apprehensive at best. There were also a few tears and one anguished plea for mom to return. We got to know each other a bit and share silly stories and favorites. Soon they were feeling more comfortable and we shared a "friendship salad" made up of kind kids, hard workers, those who share, kind words, and the happiness we feel when we are at school. We are starting to build our classroom family. By the end of the day they were happy to go home and share their day's adventures, but eager to return tomorrow to 'see what we can do in first grade.' According to one student, it was 'the best day ever!'"

So it seems we have consensus – the first day of school was awesome! Before we part ways today, I want to make sure parents of students at Village Oaks Elementary School (VOE) are aware of two important dates. If your child is in third, fourth, fifth, or sixth grade at VOE, you are invited to a Title I/Curriculum Night next Tuesday (August 27) from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the school's cafeteria. If your child is in Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, first grade, or second grade, VOE will host your Title I/Curriculum Night on Tuesday, September 3rd, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the school's cafeteria. Contact the school (377-8600) with any questions.

IHS Drumbeat

As the Activities Director of Immokalee High School, it gives me great pleasure to announce the schedules of our fall sports teams. All of our young people have been working really hard this summer and in the preseason to prepare for the season. We are looking forward to exciting season of Indian action.

This Friday, August 23, will be our first home football game. This is a FHSAA sponsored event and all FHSAA rules apply. Admission will be \$7.00 and only individuals who have a FHSAA State series pass will be admitted free of charge. If you are parking at the field, it will be \$5.00 and parking at the

school will be \$2.00.

This is a great time for Immokalee athletics. When our young people are competing, regardless if it's on the track or the playing field, they are representing the entire community. So don't hesitate to come out and support our students in all their efforts.

Yours in Athletics,
 Tony Allen, Activities Director
 What: Preseason Football
 Who: Immokalee Indians vs. Labelle Cowboys
 Where: Gary Bates Stadium
 When: August 23, 7:30 p.m. Kick-off
 Admission: \$7.00

Immokalee Indians Give Back to the Community Fundraiser to Benefit Zachery Reyna

The Immokalee High School football team will be hosting the LaBelle Cowboys on Friday August 23, 2013. This is a long standing rivalry where fierce competition has been displayed for many years. Although this year's version of Cowboys vs. Indians will carry the same level of intensity, there is a more important issue at hand. There is a young man by the name of Zachery Reyna and his family who live in Labelle who are in need and in an unfortunate situation.

Immokalee High and the community of Immokalee would like to take this opportunity to support the Reyna family during this

very difficult time. We are asking the fans to give a donation during the game with all proceeds going to the Reyna family. These are times when despite of difference, we should come together and help someone who's in need.

If you are unable to make a donation during the game, please feel free to call or send donations to the:

Immokalee High School
 C/O Zachery Reyna
 701 Immokalee Drive
 Immokalee, FL 34142.

Thank you, look forward to seeing on Friday and GO INDIANS

Collier school had a great first day

The school doors opened and students poured in! Collier County Public Schools began the 2013-2014 school year today (August 19) with nearly 45,000 students returning to the classroom. Some 3,200 teachers at the district's 50 schools welcomed their students.

"It was a very smooth opening," says Dr. Kamela Patton, Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Patton spent her early morning at Parkside Elementary School serving breakfast in the school's cafeteria, then headed to schools throughout the district bringing her total visits today to eight schools.

School buses will transport more than 21,000 students to and from school on a

daily basis. And, the district's Nutrition Services Department will serve approximately 14,000 breakfast and 26,000 lunch meals on average daily.

Visit www.collierschools.com and click on the camera icon in the "What's New" section on the right of the home page to view photos from the first day of school, as well as a video documenting the start of the new school year.

And parents – if you still have back-to-school questions, visit www.collierschools.com and click on the red school house in the same "What's New" section for the latest information.

Recover funds from bad checks

The State Attorney's Office, 20th Judicial Circuit announces a new partnership with CheckRighter to administer the recovery of funds through our Bad Check Diversion Unit. The service is provided through the company adventfs.com. The company offers a variety of educational programs for people who write bad checks as well as works towards recovering the funds for the victim.

Under Florida law, some people who write bad checks qualify for diversion. Our

office through our Bad Check Diversion Unit maintains oversight and control of the process but with the help of CheckRighter the financial recovery process moves more swiftly. Education specifically targeted to the bad check writer reduces reoccurrences.

Tens of thousands of dollars are recovered annually through our Bad Check Diversion Unit and we look forward to additional continued success.

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Reminder: Late school bus notices

Parents of the more than 21,000 Collier County Public Schools students who ride a school bus every day are reminded of an easy way to learn if their child's bus is delayed on the trip home. Late bus notices are posted, as needed, on the home page of the district Web site at www.collierschools.com. Look for the school bus "Late Bus Notice" icon on the page. It appears any afternoon that a school bus is running more than a half hour behind schedule. Just click on the Late Bus Notice icon to find out if, by chance, your child's bus is running late. If more than one bus is late, a listing of the bus numbers that are

delayed can be found. If a school dismisses students later than usual on a given afternoon, we'll post a similar Late Dismissal notice there, as well.

Parents may call the Transportation Dispatch Offices:

- South Naples-Marco Island, 377-1021
- Golden Gate, 377-1022
- North Naples, 377-1023
- Golden Gate Estates, 377-1024
- North Central Naples, 377-1025
- East Naples, 377-1026
- Immokalee, 377-1027

Thank you

A tradition is born!

The Immokalee Chamber of Commerce held its 1st Annual BBQ Competition on Saturday, August 10, 2013 out at Lake Trafford Marina.

Chamber President Bernardo Barnhart along with the Chamber's Board of Directors would like to thank our very own Board Director; "Ski" Olesky for letting us have this successful event at his place of business; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas for all their help in putting

this event together and to all of the judges; Mrs. Veronica Barnhart, Jaime Weisinger of Lipman, Angie Torres Principal at Village Oaks Elementary, Mariela Romero of Florida Community Bank, N.A., Tony Allen Athletic Director at Immokalee High School, Tony Aviles GM at Seminole Casino Immokalee and Mr. Estil Null of Null's Notary and Tax. We enjoyed having each of you out there; it was great fun, and look forward to seeing you at our next event!

Elections Office employee earns CERA credentials

Collier County, FL—August 20, 2013: Melissa Blazier, CERA, of Collier County's Elections Office, was recently recognized as a Certified Elections/Registration Administrator (CERA) last week, joining approximately 800 others who have gone through the credentialing process.

CERA is offered through Election Center which is also known as the National Association of Election Officials. The certification requirements for graduation include completing course work provided through Auburn University on topics ranging from election planning and management to ethics and election laws.

Blazier has been employed with Collier's Elections Office for approximately eight years and currently serves as the Assistant

Supervisor of Elections. Her commencement was held at Election Center's National Conference last week where she was supported by Jennifer J. Edwards, Supervisor of Elections, and some of her peers.

Collier County's Elections Office always encourages their employees to further their professional education to help improve the electoral process. For more information regarding news and events at the Collier Elections Office, visit www.colliervotes.com or call (239) 252-8450.

The Election Center's purpose is to promote, preserve, and improve democracy. To learn more about Election Center and their CERA program, visit <http://www.election-center.org/>.

Creative Movement and Story Sharing

Beacon Dance will come to the Roberts Center on Wednesday, August 21, Thursday, August 22, and Friday, August 23, to facilitate a workshop and Learning Exchange with the residents of Immokalee.

Each workshop will begin with an opportunity to reconnect with our bodies. Focusing our attention on the skeleton, joints and muscles, we will engage in an invigorating warm up of the body, to bring us to a place where we can move more freely. Following the warm up activities, time will be spent on learning about the elements of dance (the body, time, space and energy), and how we can use them to create choreography. This

will then lead to an activity called a Story Circle, during which the participants will address a thematic question (for example, "Please share a story about a memorable summer family vacation"). Once stories have been shared, we will create short poems inspired by the stories, and then the participants will develop gestural movements inspired by their stories.

For those who are interested, we will then share these stories and dances with the group, and also perform them for the video camera. The captured footage will be edited into a video poem/dance to be shared with the community.

Back To School Road Safety Tips

POMPANO BEACH (Aug. 19, 2013) – Every year at this time, Waste Management re-trains employees about maintaining a safe environment for students traveling to and from school.

"School buses and garbage trucks both can slow traffic and are at risk of accidents if drivers are distracted," said Dawn McCormick, Community Affairs Manager for Waste Management. "Safety is our top priority and we urge drivers to be extra careful."

McCormick shares 10 safe driving tips:

- Children are most in danger of being hit in the area 10 feet around a school bus. Stop with enough room for children to safely enter and exit.

- Florida has laws making it illegal to pass a school bus that is loading and unloading students. Traffic in both directions must also stop on undivided roadways.

- It takes 2.2 seconds for the average adult to react to unexpected events. Cover your brake when you see children.

- A child's field of vision is not fully developed so they may not be able to tell how close you are or they may not see you.

- When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch for children walking or biking to school.

- There are more bikes on the roads in

the early morning and afternoon hours as children ride to and from school.

- Inexperienced teenage drivers can often be distracted by friends, phones and music so be alert around high school parking lots.

- All passengers should wear a seat belt or an age- and size-appropriate car safety seat or booster seat.

- Do not text or talk on your cell phone while driving.

- Watch for school zones and slow down and obey all traffic laws and speed limits.

ABOUT WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste Management, Inc., based in Houston, Texas, is the leading provider of comprehensive waste management services in North America. Through its subsidiaries, the company provides collection, transfer, recycling and resource recovery, and disposal services. It is also the largest residential recycler and a leading developer, operator and owner of waste-to-energy and landfill gas-to-energy facilities in the United States. The company's customers include residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal customers throughout North America. To learn more information about Waste Management visit www.wm.com or www.think-green.com.

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Submitted photos/Bernardo Barnhardt



Chamber barbecue

It was a barbecue fan's paradise August 10, when Immokalee's cooks fired up their grills and met the challenge laid down by the Immokalee Chamber of Commerce. The grand prize of \$500 for the "Best Overall," as well as a trophy, of course, and all bragging rights went to Adam Sanchez.

Top left: The judges of the event from left to right: Angie Torres, new principal of Village Oaks Elementary, Tony Allen, IHS athletic director, Estel Null, with Null Tax services, Veronica Barnhart, local business owner, Jaime and Jensen Wesigner representing Lipman, Tony Aviles, GM of Immokalee Casino, and Mariela Romero, Immokalee Chamber event director. Bottom left: Mariela Romero and Angie Torres enjoying the smell of good BBQ. Bottom right: Benny Barnhart turning in his plate with his famous BBQ sauce. Top right: Jaime Wesigner, one of the judges of the event, and his son Jensen Wesigner, enjoying the food.



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