



## Christmas Events

### Christmas play and sing along

Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church, 208 S. 3d Street, will hold its first Christmas play and singalong Sunday, Dec. 22, at 11 a.m.. A delicious dessert and sandwich buffet will follow.

On Saturday, Dec. 21, the church will hold its 4th Annual Personal Care and Household Cleaning Items Giveaway. The event begins at 4 p.m. and continues until all items are gone.

### Free (GPS) Super Sports Saturday

Basketball: Saturday- December 7 14

Time: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Ages: 4th - 8th Grade Only!

Parents will have to come into the office Located at

321 N. 1st St., in Immokalee to fill out a registration form.

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

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## The big question: Naughty or Nice?

Are you ready for Santa? Ready or not, here he comes!

Saturday, December 14, is the big day when the Big Man makes his appearance in Immokalee. Cherryle Thomas and the folks from Christmas Around the World have the whole thing ready - all you have to do is show and have a good time.

Let's all head out to the 21st-Christmas Around the World Parade and Snow Gala and get in the holiday mood.

Co-Grand Marshals Jaime Weisinger and Jim Coletta will lead the big parade.

Born in Elmira NY, the Coletta family moved to Collier County in 1984. Jim owned and managed a meat processing plant and school in Elmira NY, and an Equipment Rental Business in Golden Gate. He served as Immokalee's Collier County Commissioner for 12 years. Prior to becoming a commissioner he helped revive the Immokalee Civic Association. As president of Catholic Charities he brought Guadalupe Social Services under their umbrella. He served sixteen years on the Immokalee Developmental Services Board working with challenged adults.

Jaime is a lifelong Florida resident who lived in Immokalee until he was 10 years old. He is the Director of Community and Government Relations at Lipman, the largest field

grower of fresh tomatoes in North America. Jaime is active in the community and serves

See Christmas — Page 2



File photo Christmas Around the World is where all the fun will be Saturday, December 14. A parade, gala, contest, snow and Santa! All in one big event!

## They live modestly, yet dream big

Wilson Vasquez, whose dad works in a nursery, wants to be an engineer someday. Eduardo Diego, son of a landscape worker, wants to work in an office building.

The imaginations of both boys are taking flight this month in the form of Christmas cards. The boys are among dozens of children from low-income Florida families whose art won a place in the annual collection of cards sold by Redlands Christian Migrant Association.

The cards can be ordered online at [www.rcma.org](http://www.rcma.org). From there, click "How you can help," then "Christmas Card Drive." RCMA's Judy Brill also takes phone orders at (800) 282-6540, ext. 242.

The nonprofit RCMA, based in Immokalee, operates 70 child-care centers and three charter schools for Florida's rural poor. Wilson and



Eduardo Diego



Wilson Vasquez

See Cards — Page 2

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# Casino toy drive to benefit Guadalupe Center

With the holiday season always producing a spirit of giving, Seminole Casino Immokalee (SCI) will be doing its part in the form of a toy drive to benefit the Guadalupe Center in Immokalee.

From now until December 15, SCI is ask-

ing players to bring in a new unwrapped toy or gift card valued at \$5 or more and in return the casino will provide \$5 in free play (limited one offer per player, per day).

All donations will be delivered to the Guadalupe Center and distributed to the children

of Immokalee.

"We're hopeful we'll be able to pack a big truck full of toys and gift cards to bring over to the Guadalupe Center," said Jim Gibson, SCI's Director of Marketing.

"We would like nothing better than to know that every child in Immokalee had toys to play with on Christmas morning."

For over 30 years, the Guadalupe Center has been offering the children of Immokalee

a pipeline to prosperity through educational and special support programs strategically designed to start from six weeks of age and continue through college graduation.

Its programs are designed to break the cycle of poverty and provide the children with the hope of a prosperous and productive life.

## Christmas

Continued From Page 1

on a number of non-profit organization's governing boards. He is currently a member of the board of the Edison Festival of Light, the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte County, the Thomas A. Edison Regional Science and Inventors Fairs, The Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA), and the Farm City BBQ executive board.

The highlight of the Christmas Gala is the Grand Finale of the arrival of Santa Claus from the North Pole via helicopter, courtesy of the Seminole Casino of Immokalee. The Seminole Casino also provides free books to all kids who take an individual picture with Santa during the Event. Our Santa believes that Reading is "FUNDAMENTAL".

The parade starts at 5:30 p.m. with a mandatory line-up time of 4 p.m. on the corner of Carver and Main Street directly across the street from the Seminole Casino of Immokalee. Immediately after the parade the Snow Gala will start in the Collier County Aquatic Center, 505 Escambia Street. Admission is \$1 per person 36 inches and taller.

Partial proceeds from this event will go toward Scholarships to graduating Seniors from Immokalee High School.

The gala starts at 5 p.m. at the swimming pool and ends at 10 p.m. Let's all Roll out the Red Carpet for your Best Hollywood movie theme. Pictures with Santa start at \$5 (4x6) per person in all elementary schools.

Don't forget the "Best Dressed Theme Costume Contest" immediately after the parade. Students can just step off their floats and enter the contest. Since all of our Float entries always dress to their current theme, we would like for all schools to enter our contest. You should already have your application in, but you may still be able to get in. (First Place-\$100. Second Place- \$50, Third Place- \$25) for the Best Dressed Theme Walker on our Red Carpet.

Need information? Please call: Cherryle Thomas at 239-657-0080 or the Chamber Office (239-657-3237).



**Grand Marshal  
Jaime Weisinger**



**Grand Marshal  
Jim Coletta**

## Cards

Continued From Page 1

Eduardo drew their Christmas art at RCMA's Immokalee Community School, a K-6 charter school.

Eduardo's card has a hometown touch: juicy red tomatoes rain down from Santa's sleigh. Wilson's art depicts hot chocolate and cookies.

The boys' Christmas cards are among those offered exclusively to buyers who purchase at least 100 cards. That's a popular option among the agribusinesses that support RCMA. But smaller orders - variety packs of 10 cards each - also are for sale.

"We love our cards for many reasons," said Barbara Mainster, RCMA's executive director. "The money raised qualifies RCMA for matching funds from the State of Florida, one of our most important funding sources. Every dollar spent on RCMA Christmas cards can be matched by \$16 from the state.

"Also, they showcase the talents of our children."

## Students First

by Maribel De Armas

I have a special story of accomplishment to share with you today. Just this week, on Tuesday, the District School Board of Collier County recognized a young man from Immokalee High School (IHS) at its Regular School Board Meeting.

Leonel Delacruz, a senior at IHS, was the honoree and his list of accomplishments is quite impressive.

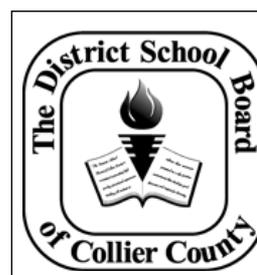
The School Board's recognition was specifically for Leonel's cross country running skills that made him

the 2013 Class 2A Individual State Champion. He took this title after running a race on November 9 in Tallahassee, which he dedicated to Jerry Ruiz, a friend and classmate that was victim to the horrible car crash that occurred just over a week before the race.

According to Leonel's coach, Hugo Gijon, "Athletically, Leonel has been the leader on the Immokalee High School cross country and track team for four years.

Through his commitment and dedication, Leonel has developed into an exceptional athlete and has become the greatest distance runner in school history."

But the accomplishments really go beyond just Leonel's athleticism...they include academic success, volunteerism and dedication to family. On the academic side of things, Leonel takes honors.



Advanced Placement and dual enrollment classes with stellar grades resulting in a 4.1 grade point average. In fact, his academic successes paired with his skill on the cross country terrain have paved the road for him to attend Florida Gulf Coast University in the fall as a Division 1 student athlete.

In the philanthropic arena, Leonel enjoys giving back to his community. During his spare time, Leonel can be found either volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club of Collier County or at the public library, or helping to coach younger children develop their running with the Immokalee Track Club.

All of these athletic, academic and community accomplishments have been made despite facing some adversity at times.

Leonel, the oldest of five siblings, has kept his family as a top priority. He helps with his younger siblings and takes on jobs to help out his family when needed, all signs that he matured into a young adult more rapidly than most students his age.

But he has done it with compassion in his heart.

Leonel's coach sums it up well. "He is a great role model for his school, community, family, classmates and teammates. He is a dynamic and special student athlete, but an even greater person.

Leonel is well-respected among his teachers, coaches and fellow classmates. It has been a great pleasure seeing this young man develop into the person he has become. Everyone is anxiously looking forward to hearing about his future successful endeavors."

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### To Reach Us

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### To Submit News

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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### Our Purpose...

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

### We Pledge...

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

## Road Watch

I-75/Alligator Alley Rest Area at mile marker 63: Construction project: Work continues to build two recreational access areas adjacent to the Big Cypress National Preserve backcountry trails, replace the existing rest area, build a new public safety center and water treatment plant, and upgrade the existing wastewater treatment plant.

- The entire rest area is closed until project completion, estimated Fall 2014. All facilities (including the picnic area, parking, restrooms or potable water) are unavailable. Entrance and exit ramps at mile marker 63 are open for motorists to turn around if needed. Motorists are cautioned to remain clear of the construction zone and be aware of construction vehicles entering/exiting the roadways around the rest area. Signs are posted to advise motorists of this closure. The rest area at mile marker 34 is open.

- Crews are scheduled to burn cleared vegetation at the rest area, weather permitting. Motorists are advised that smoke may be present in the area and are reminded to turn headlights on low and reduce speed if smoke approaches the interstate.

Estimated project completion is fall 2014. The design/build contractor is Stantec/Wright Construction Group.

- US 4 from Rattlesnake Hammock Road to Broward Street: Construction project: Crews are removing asphalt sidewalk and replacing it with concrete sidewalk. Pedestrians may be detoured in some areas. Motorists should expect construction equipment entering/exiting the roadway and possible delays. Estimated project completion is early 2014. Contractor is L-J Construction Company.

- SR 84/Davis Boulevard from west of Radio Road to Santa Barbara Boulevard: Construction project: Crews are expanding the road to six lanes, adding sidewalk, bike lanes, and street lights, and building a noise wall. Crews recently shifted traffic onto new westbound lanes from east of Cedar Hammock Boulevard to west of Naples Heritage Drive for the eastbound roadway to be constructed. This new traffic configuration is expected to be in effect into early 2014. Crews will continue placing fill dirt, installing drainage structures on the south roadway of the project. Motorists should expect intermittent lane closures during these activities. Please use caution when traveling throughout the work zone as well as when entering and exiting SR 84. Estimated project completion

date is early 2014, weather permitting. The contractor is Guymann Construction.

- SR 84/Davis Boulevard from County Barn Road/Glen Eagle Boulevard to Whitten Drive: Maintenance permit project: Motorists should expect intermittent lane closures for westbound traffic for approximately six months, from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m., weather permitting, as crews continue work to rehabilitate a pump station. The pedestrian/bike pathway westbound between Bald Eagle Drive and Whitten Drive is closed. Temporary crosswalks for alternate pedestrian routes have been provided to cross Davis Boulevard at County Barn Road and West Crown Pointe Boulevard. Detour signs are posted. Electronic message boards, advance warning signs and barricades are in use to assist motorists traveling in the area. Work is expected to be completed by first part of 2014.

- SR 29/Main Street: Immokalee Christmas Parade: Westbound motorists should expect delays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, December 14 on SR 29/Main Street for the Immokalee Christmas Parade. Westbound SR 29 traffic will be stopped for approximately one hour for the parade to pass. Law enforcement will be present to assist with temporarily stopping traffic as the parade progresses. The parade begins on S. 1st Street and progresses to westbound SR 29/Main Street to N. 9th Street to east on Immokalee Drive ending at Immokalee Community Park. Drivers are asked to plan extra time when traveling in the area.

## Reward offered for information regarding Florida panther death

The National Park Service is requesting assistance with an investigation involving the suspected illegal take of a Florida Panther that was recently found dead. The federally protected panther was found with a suspected gunshot wound on December 7, 2013, in the Turner River Unit of Big Cypress National Preserve in Collier County.

Anyone with information that directly leads to an arrest, a criminal conviction, a civil penalty assessment, or forfeiture of property on the subject or subjects responsible for the suspected unlawful take of this Florida Panther may be eligible for a reward.

"The Florida panther is one of the most

endangered mammals in the United States. This is a serious incident and we are asking the public to assist us with discovering details related to this incident," stated Pedro Ramos, Superintendent, Big Cypress National Preserve.

The Florida Panther is protected under The Endangered Species Act. The maximum criminal penalties for the unlawful taking of a Florida Panther are one year imprisonment and \$100,000 fine per individual. Anyone with information on the death of this panther or any others, past or future, is urged to contact Special Agent David Mayeski through NPS Dispatch at 1-800-788-0511.

## Pepper Ranch Preserve hunts

For the past three years, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission volunteers and Conservation Collier have joined forces to offer safe, educational, and affordable youth hunts at Pepper Ranch Preserve in Immokalee. These introductory, instructive hunts include mentors, lodging and meals.

This season, we are hosting a youth hog hunt January 10-12, 2014 and a youth turkey hunt February 21-23, 2014:

- During a youth hunt, children will:
  - Learn how to hunt safely, legally and

ethically

- Learn the relationship between hunting and conservation
- Appreciate nature first-hand
- Develop marksmanship and firearm skills
- Learn how to track and process game
- Make new friends
- Spend quality time with family, friends and other experienced hunters
- Leave with experiences and memories that will last a lifetime

# Goodwill

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# Look Good Feel Better

Look Good . . . Feel Better is a free program that teaches people in active cancer treatment ways to deal with the appearance-related side effects of treatment.

This program is offered jointly by the American Cancer Society; the Personal Care Products Council Foundation; and the National Cosmetology Association.

The make up kit is provided as part of this free service...

To register and for more information, call 1.800.227.2345 or 239.261.0337.

The local American Cancer Society office is located at at Vitas Healthcare, 550 New Market Road E. Open for cancer patients in Immokalee and surrounding areas on the fourth Tuesday of each month, from 10 a.m.–Noon or by appointment. Please call 239-261-0337.

For more information call 1-800-227-2345. This service is free.

## Tener cancer es difícil. Encontrar ayuda no debe ser

Restaura su apariencia durante el tratamiento "Luzca bien . . . Sientarse me-

yor" Immokalee.

Es un programa gratuito que enseña a las personas en forma de tratamiento del cáncer activos para hacer frente a los efectos secundarios relacionados con el tratamiento. Este programa es ofrecido conjuntamente por La Sociedad Americana del Cáncer, Los Productos de Cuidado Personal Council Fundación y La Asociación Nacional de Cosmotología.

Se proporciona el juego de maquillaje. Este servicio es gratuito.

Para inscribirse y obtener más información llame al 1.800.227.2345 or 239.261.0337.

American Cancer Society esta situado al Vitas Healthcare, 550 New Market Road E, Immokalee. AÑO 2014, el cuarto martes de cada mes o por cita - Teléfono - 239-261-0337. Lunes fechas en Immokalee 10 a.m./mediodía. Este servicio es gratuito.

Para obtener más información llame 1-800-227-2345 or 239-261-0337.

# Collier County Supervisor of Elections Office accepting scholarship applications

Collier County, Fla.—December 10, 2013: Jennifer J. Edwards, Collier County Supervisor of Elections, is currently accepting applications for a scholarship opportunity provided by the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections (FSASE). The FSASE is offering three \$1,200 scholarships to eligible Florida residents enrolled or accepted as full-time students in a senior college or university in Florida.

Applicants must be Political Science, Public or Business Administration, or Journalism/Mass Communication majors who have finished two years of junior college or undergraduate work. Students should also demonstrate a financial need.

The scholarship applications and guidelines are available at [www.CollierVotes.com](http://www.CollierVotes.com),

or can be obtained at the Collier County Supervisor of Elections Office located at 3295 Tamiami Trail East, Naples.

Completed applications and two letters of recommendation must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on March 17, 2014 to the Supervisor of Elections of the county in which the applicant is registered to vote. Each county's Supervisor will review the applications received and select one finalist to be sent to the FSASE Scholarship Committee. The committee will announce the scholarship recipients at the FSASE Summer Conference.

FSASE is a statewide, professional organization of 67 county Supervisors of Elections, dedicated to "supporting fair, honest, and accurate elections in the state of Florida".



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# Seniors avoid these holiday scams

The holidays are almost upon us. It seems that one minute we are buying Halloween Candy and the next we are planning our Christmas dinner. Holidays are busy times. They are times of sharing good cheer with family and friends, socializing, shopping and unfortunately a time for vicious predators to take advantage of unsuspecting seniors. Senior Choices of Southwest Florida urges everyone to take special care to avoid being exploited by scammers.

Black Friday dominates the calendar as the busiest shopping day of the year. Close behind is Cyber Monday. Cyber Monday is the Monday following Black Friday and is busiest shopping day on the internet. Cyber scammers are in full force on Cyber Monday with many "free" offers, including some of the hottest and most popular seasonal gifts. You name it and someone is trying to give it away. You simply have to provide some personal information and your credit card number to get the incredible deal. When you see these "opportunities", be reminded that if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is too good to be true. Stay away from phony freebies. Never sup-

ply any personal information unless you have assurance that you are working on a trusted website that you have accessed on your own. Scam artists know your favorite shopping websites and they know how to duplicate them. Watch out for forged sites by being sure to enter the complete site address of every site you visit. Take care to use strong password protection and only use secure websites that are denoted by "http"s" in the address line. Be safe...shop safely on the internet and have a happy holiday season

Elder abuse affects us all. If you or someone you know is a victim of physical, emotional, sexual abuse, or self-neglect, report it by calling the Elder Abuse Hotline toll-free at 1-800-96-ABUSE(1-800-962-2873).

If you or someone you know has been adversely affected by financial exploitation, call the Senior Choices Helpline toll-free at 1-866-413-5337 for referral and information.

Be safe...shop safely on the internet and have a happy holiday season.

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# Big Cypress: Fire crews prepare for 2014 prescribed fire season

Natural lightning fires were a regular feature of the land long before the development of roads and human settlements. Natural plant communities found in south Florida evolved to depend on fire for reproduction and overall health.

Recognizing the value of fire in the ecosystem, national preserve managers use prescribed burning to not only protect property and maintain human safety, but also to maintain the natural processes fire dependent communities rely on.

Big Cypress National Preserve anticipates burning approximately 20,000 acres in 2014, and potentially more, as conditions and funding allow. There are four areas Big Cypress will be focusing on in the coming year:

The Sanctuary, northeast corner of the Preserve. In 2012 the National Park Service implemented a mechanical treatment around the community. In the coming weeks, if conditions allow, crews will utilize prescribed fire in the vicinity to reduce the risk of high severity wildfire in the area. With the accumulation of vegetation this operation is anticipated to be a slow, expensive, long duration treatment. The prescribed fire will initially be done while water levels are high, to reduce the risk of tree mortality. The operation in the area will increase protection of homes in the vicinity.

Little Deer, central area of the Preserve. Treatments will focus on protecting the cluster of private properties in the interior of the national preserve, building off of the Jarhead Fire in 2011 and recent prescribed fire treatments. This burn, in addition to protecting numerous private properties, will enhance habitat for a number of threatened and endangered species that call Big Cypress home.

Bear Island Unit, northwest corner of the Preserve. This operation will protect State Road 29 and Florida Panther National Wild-

life Refuge from wildfires that could occur within the national preserve north of Interstate-75 and east of State Road 29.

South of Loop Road in the Paces Dike area. Burns south of Loop Road are anticipated to be combined with burns being planned by Everglades National Park just east of the BICY/EVER boundary. Over the next few years the National Park Service plans to burn the majority of the area east of Pace's Dike towards Everglades National Park. The objective of the operation is to protect private properties, reduce invasive plant clusters, and improve deer habitat.

Implementation of burn operations is dependent upon a variety of conditions. The above are goals that the National Park Service aims to achieve during the prescribed fire season, which in Florida is typically from October through April. For more information on the fire program at Big Cypress and current fire activity, go to - <http://www.nps.gov/bicy/naturescience/fire-activity-and-related-closures.htm>

Private property owners within the national preserve are encouraged to maintain a defensible fire perimeter around their structures. For more information on the Florida Forest Service's "Firewise" program go to - <http://www.nps.gov/bicy/naturescience/fireregime.htm> and <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/For-Communities/Firewise-Communities>

Big Cypress National Preserve has the largest prescribed burning program in the National Park System, typically burning more than 60,000 acres, annually.

# Florida's success in health security preparedness highlighted

TALLAHASSEE – The 2013 National Health Security Preparedness Index (NHS-PI) was released today, providing Florida and other states a current snapshot of health security preparedness. The Index indicates Florida is ready across a wide spectrum of areas including health surveillance, community planning, communications and overall preparedness.

"The Florida Department of Health works with multiple state agencies to ensure Florida is fully prepared for any health-related emergency," said Bob Eadie, J.D., Interim Director, Division of Emergency Preparedness and Community Support. "We will continue to explore opportunities to support quality improvement, enhance collaboration with our partners and advance Florida's health security preparedness capabilities."

The Department's Bureau of Preparedness and Response works daily to provide expertise, leadership and support in the planning, preparation and coordination for potential health-related emergencies. This includes man-made and natural disasters that may affect the health of Floridians. In addition, the Department collaborates with emergency management, response partners and others at the local, state and federal level by conducting ongoing training and practice exercises. This helps to ensure responders are able to effectively deliver necessary health care services where

and when they are needed.

The 2013 Index demonstrates Florida is well prepared for health security threats. On a scale of 1-10, Florida was ranked:

- 7.3 for overall Health Security Preparedness, above the national average of 7.2.
- 7.4 for Health Surveillance, above the national average of 7.3.
- 8.4 for Incident and Information Management, well above the national average of 7.8.
- 8.7 for Countermeasure Management, approaching the national average of 9.0.
- 6.1 for Community Planning and Engagement, which is the national average.
- 5.8 for Surge Management, which is also the national average.

The Association of State and Territorial health Officials (ASTHO), in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), coordinated input from a wide variety of stakeholders to prepare the index. More than 25 organizations and 75 stakeholders contributed to the 2013 Index, including representatives from the Florida Department of Health.

For more information about the National Health Security Preparedness Index, visit <http://www.nhspi.org/>.

The Florida Department of Health works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, & community efforts.

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AVE CHILDREN'S THEATER IS HOLDING AUDITIONS FOR THE AWARD-WINNING, BROADWAY MUSICAL, HONK Jr.! Auditions will be held at 7pm on 10/22 for ages 10-18 and at 6pm on 10/25 for ages 6-9 at Ave Maria Dance Academy.

NOTE: Auditions are open to registered members ONLY. To register your child and get audition scripts and info go to: [www.avechildrenstheater.com](http://www.avechildrenstheater.com). October classes will focus on tips & techniques to prepare actors to give their best audition! A PARENT MUST ACCOMPANY ACTORS FOR AUDITIONS.

# Online Classifieds

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 • Absolutely FREE!  
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 florida.newszap.com  
 click on classifieds

**Employment**

**Employment**

**Employment Full Time**

**Financial**

**Rentals**

**PURCHASING SPECIALIST (Southern Gardens Citrus)**

This position will be responsible for the day to day purchasing activities for Southern Gardens Citrus Processing, and serve as back up for the Southern Gardens Groves purchasing function. Position responsibilities include, but are not limited to, requisition processing, purchase order issuance and confirmation, quoting, expediting and reporting. Also responsible for maintaining purchasing procedure documentation, and keeping the organization up to date with regard to these procedures. Position is responsible for ensuring that the purchasing function supports and is in compliance with the Quality and Food Safety Management System.

- Skill set desired:**
- High school diploma or GED required.
  - Must be self motivated and able to function independently.
  - Effective and assertive interpersonal skills, analytical ability, and problem solving skills.
  - Excellent written and verbal communication Skills.
  - Ability to handle multiple projects simultaneously.
  - Must function effectively in a team based environment.
  - Proficiency in Microsoft Word and Excel is a must.
  - Computer skills in Power Point, Outlook and SAP a plus.
  - Prefer A.P.P. certification.
  - Prefer AA degree with 3 to 5 years purchasing experience, and /or Accounting background.
- Southern Gardens is both a citrus grower and major supplier of 100% pure Florida not-from-concentrate orange juice to the private label industry and major brands. Position provides an excellent benefits package that includes health, dental, vision, life insurance, 401-K, and others.

Qualified local candidates send resumes to:  
 Fax 863-902-4315  
[dmelton@southerngardens.com](mailto:dmelton@southerngardens.com)  
 EOE

**DRIVERS \$5000** Sign-n-Bonus! Great Pay! Consistent Freight, Great Miles on this Regional Account. Werner Enterprises 1-855-517-2488

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

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



**RAILROAD MECHANIC WELDER**

US Sugar is seeking mechanics with experience on engines, transmissions, drive train, brakes, chassis and Hydraulic systems. Candidates with previous Railroad or Heavy Diesel experience are ideal. This position also requires Welding experience. Please apply if you can perform the following tasks.

- Ability to perform work on engines, transmissions, drive train, brakes, chassis, hydraulic systems.
- Be able to inspect, troubleshoot, complete diagnostics, and repair these types of systems as they pertain to Railroad Track equipment and road equipment

- Repair and Weld Frogs
  - Repair and Weld Switch Points
  - Repair and Weld Rail (Field Weld)
- Jdooley@ussugar.com OR

Apply online at [www.ussugar.com](http://www.ussugar.com)

**Reading a newspaper provides the opportunity to get involved in your community.**

*No wonder newspaper readers are more popular!*



**Journeyman Plant Mechanic**

**\$22.88 per Hour Perm Full Time**

**Responsibilities:** Maintain inspect, troubleshoot and repair processing equipment such as pumps, screw conveyors, belt conveyors, hydraulic systems, centrifugals, gear boxes, fans, pipe fittings and valves. Minimum three years experience.

**ABOUT US SUGAR CORPORATION**

United States Sugar Corporation is one of America's largest diversified, privately-held agribusiness firms. The company is headquartered on the southern shore of Florida's Lake Okeechobee. In addition to growing, milling and refining cane sugar, U.S. Sugar owns a short line railroad and its Southern Gardens subsidiary is one of Florida's foremost producers and processors of oranges and orange juice products.

Email [Jdooley@ussugar.com](mailto:Jdooley@ussugar.com)  
 Apply online at [www.ussugar.com](http://www.ussugar.com)

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

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

Join all the people who say, "I sold it in the classifieds."  
 Earn some extra cash. Sell your used items in the classifieds



**MECHANICS/HEAVY FARM EQUIPMENT**

\$22.88 PER HOUR, EXTENSIVE OT Majority of work EAST of Clewiston

- \* Experience with trucks, farm machinery and other diesel equipment.
- \* Perform engine, transmission, drive train, brakes, chassis, diagnosis and repairs on cane harvesting and industrial equipment.

Email your resume or Apply Online

[Jdooley@ussugar.com](mailto:Jdooley@ussugar.com)  
[www.ussugar.com](http://www.ussugar.com)

Need a few more bucks to purchase something deer? Pick up some extra bucks when you sell your used items in the classifieds.

Shop here first! The classified ads

**Reading a newspaper provides the opportunity to get involved in your community.**

*No wonder newspaper readers are more popular!*



**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.

**Condos/Townhouses Rent**

**TRAFFORD PINE ESTATES INC.**

3 BR & 2 BR  
 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.  
 NEW Management Privately Owned  
 Call (239)777-2788

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

**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.

**Recreation**

**Campers/RVs**

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

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

# Community Briefs

## Apply now for school choice or out-of-zone

Parents – if you are seeking to have your student attend a school other than the one he or she is zoned for, it's time for you to submit a Collier County Public Schools Out-of-Zone or School Choice request. Parents of students who are currently in either program must reapply. Approval is based on space available at each school, and school bus service is not available in either case.

For priority consideration, Out-of-Zone applications must be submitted between December 15 and January 15. For priority consideration, School Choice applications must be submitted any time during January.

You may apply for either application online at <http://www.collierschools.com/parents/zoninginfo.asp>. For further questions or to submit documents:

Email: [zoninginfo@collierschools.com](mailto:zoninginfo@collierschools.com)  
Phone: 239-377-0540 • FAX: 239-377-0506

Mail: Lisa Roa/Student Relations at 5775 Osceola Trail, Naples, FL, 34109.

## Enjoy night excursions to Fakahatchee

Park visitors can now see the magnificent Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park in a new light—the illumination of a full moon. The new “Ghost Rider” tram, named in honor of the famous Ghost Orchid found in the park, is operated by the Friends of Fakahatchee. The Fakahatchee is home to more orchid species than any other place on the

North American continent. The Preserve is also a haven for diverse wildlife and migratory birds.

Only three Full Moon tours will be offered this season: Thursday, January 16; Friday, February 14; and Saturday, March 15. All tours start as the sun is setting, prime time for spotting some of the mammal residents of the Strand as well as the birds settling in for the evening. A naturalist will lead each tour to point out interesting features of the park.

The Full Moon tours leave from the ranger station at 137 Coastline Drive, Copeland, off Janes Scenic Drive. Please arrive early as the tram leaves promptly according to the following schedule:

Thursday, January 16 – Depart at 4:45 p.m., return 7:00 p.m.

Friday, February 14 – Depart at 5:00 p.m., return 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, March 15 – Depart at 6:00 p.m., return 8:15 p.m.

Reservations for the Full Moon tours are \$25 per person and can be made by visiting [www.orchidswamp.org](http://www.orchidswamp.org)

## Want to make a real difference?

Become a VITA volunteer! You can help a family get back the money they have earned and become more financially stable. VITA is a program offered through the United Way that helps low to moderate income persons by providing free tax preparation assistance. We are looking for volunteers to better serve our clients. No experience is necessary and volunteers are provided free training online. Flexible hours are available January through

mid April. Taxes will be prepared at many locations in Lee, Hendry, Glades, Collier and Charlotte counties. For more information email Amy Singer at [amy@unitedwaylee.org](mailto:amy@unitedwaylee.org) or 239.433.2000 ext. 229.

## VPK

If you live in Florida and your child turns 4 years of age by September 1, Your child is eligible to participate in Florida's free Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) education program. For more information please call (239) 252-4449.

## iTECH class open

Machining class, 1500 hours, Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-2:15 p.m. at the Immokalee Technical Center, 508 North 9th Street, (239) 377-9900. Program supported by: Arthrex, US Sugar, Haynes Corporation, Shaw Development. For more information about our graduation rates, costs and other important information, please visit our website at [http://www.itech.edu/gainful\\_employment.html](http://www.itech.edu/gainful_employment.html)

## After school 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.

Community Center 321 North 1st Street, Immokalee.

Sports Complex 505 Escambia St, Immokalee.

## 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 launches web site

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

Access [www.collierparks.com](http://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.collierchildcare.org](http://www.collierchildcare.org).

## South Park closed for construction

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.

## Everglades Winter Nationals

The Hendry County Motorsports Park, in response to feedback from fans in the stands and Race Teams in the pits, has combined the Saturday/Sunday Everglades Winter Nationals event into one extended day of racing.

Fans can see both the heat races and the feature events without a two day commitment and race teams can make the decision to stay the night or make the trip home.

The pits and facilities will be open Friday and Saturday night for overnight camping. The HCMP Points Season will end with a Saturday Night Band, under the lights. The Lil John Wheelie Magic Fire Truck and the Eagle Jet Top Gun Sprint Car Meet and Greet will be the biggest intermission event of the year.

There will be a bounce house, a 22' slide, Smokey the Bear and Santa Claus himself will make a visit to the speedway on Saturday afternoon from 1-5 p.m. Pictures will be taken and all the kids 12 and under will be admitted absolutely free.

The racing will include all of the divisions that have been with us this year, Visit [www.HendryRacing.com](http://www.HendryRacing.com) or Hendry Racing on Facebook to get more details for this weekend and the 2014 Season.



**Public Notices**



**Public Notices**

**Public Notice**

**Public Notice**

NOTICE OF MEETING

There will be a Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the Immokalee Water & Sewer District, on Wednesday, December 18, 2013 at 4:00 P.M., at the office of the Immokalee Water & Sewer District, located at 1020 Sanitation Rd, Immokalee, FL 34142.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Preliminaries
  - A. Pledge of Allegiance
  - B. Roll Call
  - C. Public Comment/Adoption of Agenda
  - D. Employee Recognition
    1. October-November 2013- TBA
  - E. Public Concerns
  - F. Staff Good Cause Items
  - G. Board Concerns
  - H. Old Business
  - I. New Business
3. Public Comment/Consent Agenda
  - A. Adoption of Minutes
    1. November 22, 2013 Regular Meeting
  - B. Civil Rights Compliance Report
  - C. November Budget Review
  - D. Fixed Assets Acquisitions-Disposals
  - E. Various Reports
  - F. USDA Reporting for Stimulus Money
  - G. Project Change Orders
  - H. Engineer's Report - Greeley and Hansen
    1. Director's Report
4. Action Agenda
  - A. 2014 Budget Amendment
  - B. Bid Recommendation from Staff
5. Discussion Agenda
  - A. Attorney's Report
6. Other Public Interests
7. Adjournment

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: If you require special aid or services as addressed in the American Disabilities Act, please contact the District office at (239) 658-3630, no less than five (5) days prior to the above stated workshop date.  
438313 1B 12/12/2013

Business & Service Directory

AUCTION

Time for a new car? Check out this auction on  
**December 23, 2013 at 9am**

Keith's Towing

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

2002 Dodge  
1B3ES26C12D621547

ROOFING

Metal Roofs	Seamless Gutters
Re-Roofs	Soffit & Fascia
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Office: (863) 675-7045

1050 Commerce Dr. Suite B.

Fax (863) 612-1158

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

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

# Ana Rivera wins two Southwest Airlines passes!

Ana Rivera of Immokalee won two roundtrip passes good for anywhere Southwest Airlines flies in a raffle held by the Collier County Housing Authority's Family Literacy Academy of Immokalee. The winning ticket was drawn by Fred N. Thomas, Jr. at the December 4th Immokalee Chamber of Commerce Breakfast meeting. The passes are good until May 31, 2014 and can be extended for another year with a small fee. Ms Rivera is thinking of using the passes to visit her parents.

The airline passes were donated by Southwest Airlines through an rfp process held by the Florida Literacy Coalition for fundraising purposes. All donations from the raffle benefit the Family Literacy Academy

of Immokalee aka Jump Start, a nonprofit under the Collier County Housing Authority Land Inc.'s 501(c)3.

The Family Literacy Academy of Immokalee, managed by Jump Start, provides full service family literacy to Immokalee families with children age birth to five. Classes include preschool instruction and educational play for children 0 to 5 as well as classes in English as a second language, reading and parenting for parents. The Family Literacy Academy of Immokalee is structured to involve the family as a whole, thereby making long-term intergenerational change in order to secure a healthy quality of life for children thus breaking the cycle of illiteracy.



Submitted photos

TOP: Fred Thomas drawing the winning ticket, with Dee Siemianowski at the Immokalee Chamber of Commerce December 4 breakfast meeting.

LEFT: Ana Rivera accepting her winnings from Dee Siemianowski, FLAI Program Manager, and Maria Segura, Lead PreK Teacher.



# FREE

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- Post your ads in these Florida newspapers for as low as \$8.00 each: Okeechobee News, Caloosa Belle, Immokalee Bulletin, Clewiston News, Belle Glade Sun & The Glades County Democrat



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