

## Garcia JROTC Cadet of the Year

It is with the greatest pleasure that Immokalee High School JROTC program under the direction of CSM Portes and

Colonel Hines, would like to announce that Cadet Staff Sergeant Eric Garcia was selected as the CCPS JROTC Cadet of the Year. This honor was earned by him at a selection board that was conducted on the 31st of March 2014. Each of the high schools in Collier County was represented by an outstanding cadet. Eric's professionalism, military bearing and military appearance plus his overall knowledge of the JROTC program earned him this distinguished honor. Despite the toughness of the competition, Eric

was able to keep the tradition of excellence alive by being named our 2nd winner in the 3 year existence of the competition. Please join us in congratulating Eric for this outstanding achievement. GO INDIANS

### I.H.S.Upcoming Events:

- April 10:** District Track @ Immokalee
- April 14-18:** FCAT Testing
- April 14-18:** District Softball @ Lely
- April 15-17:** District Girls Lacrosse @ Naples
- April 15-17:** District Boys Lacrosse @ Gulf Coast
- April 21-25:** District baseball @ Cape Coral



Submitted photo

Eric Garcia

## Bass are back at Lake Trafford

After nearly a decade, fishermen are finally catching noteworthy bass in Lake Trafford again.

The good news comes after years of habitat problems for the lake in northwest Collier County, the largest natural lake south of Lake Okeechobee.

During the mid-1990s, excessive amounts of muck created poor water quality with low oxygen levels that led to several large

fish kills. The problems nearly eliminated the largemouth bass population in this location.

In 2004, the South Florida Water Management District (SF-WMD) led a multimillion-dollar dredging/restoration project.

The task took six years to complete after crews removed more than 6 million cubic yards of muck.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) established a plan for controlling problem exotics such as hydrilla and West Indian marsh grass, and helped restore beneficial aquatic plants like bulrush and Illinois pondweed.

Starting in 2010, the FWC began restocking the lake with 500,000 largemouth bass fingerlings to help supplement the native population.

Today, the stocked bass make

up about 40 percent of the bass population at Lake Trafford, and are generally at least 12 inches long.

Several agencies continue to work together to improve the long-term health of the lake, and their efforts are paying off. At a recent bass tournament, the winning team caught five fish that together weighed 28.2 pounds.

The largest fish out of the bag weighed 7.5 pounds. The second-place team had a bag limit of five fish that totaled 25.4 pounds, with the largest fish weighing 6.7 pounds.

As if good fishing alone weren't enough reason to fish Lake Trafford, the FWC's TrophyCatch (TrophyCatchFlorida.com) program just announced

See **Trafford** — Page 2

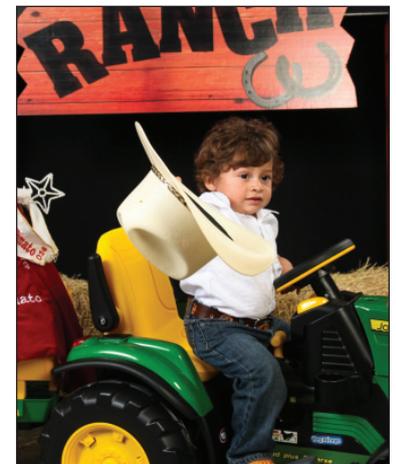
## Harvest Festival 2014

All morning it looked like the Harvest Festival would have to be cancelled due to the rain. Thankfully the rain stopped shortly before 10 A.M. and the parade went forward without a hitch. Although the midway had to be closed later in the afternoon due to the lightning and rain, everyone who came out had a great time.



Submitted photo/Rick Heers

Director of the Harvest Festival, **Cherry Thomas** and her capable assistant, **Fred**.



Submitted photos/Adam Herrera  
**Little Miss Tomato Jadayah Gustave, left, Little Mr. Tomato Abraham Romero.**



Submitted photo/Rick Heers  
**Sitting on the Thunderbird convertible is the Senior Harvest Festival Queen, Taylor Clarke... already accepted at Florida State**

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

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# ESC: Passion for teaching

## By Dr. Duke DiPofi

While most of us shiver at the sight of spiders, roaches, and other creepy crawlers, Dr. Henry Hermann, a newly tenured biology professor at our Edison State College Hendry/Glades Center, views them with wonder. He shares this same passion for teaching, and his students often leave his class viewing biology and bugs in a whole new light.

Dr. Hermann comes to us after retiring from the University of Georgia after 30 years of instruction.

When interviewing for the position, he said to me, "I just got bored in retirement, and I missed teaching terribly."

I first met him on the Lee Campus after being introduced by the now Dean of Pure and Applied Sciences, Dr. Theo Koupelis. Indeed, I was looking for a distinguished elderly gentleman, but what I found was a down-to-earth, pony-tailed man, deep in study about bugs and clinging to a butterfly net! Needless to say, Dr. Hermann has brought a lot of "life" to the Hendry/Glades Center.

His interest, now expertise, in entomology, all began from his childhood exploits on the bayou.

Dr. Hermann is a native of New Orleans and lived just a mile down the road from the swampy regions where the mouth of the Mississippi meets the Gulf of Mexico. His mother would tell him growing up, "Henry, don't spend too much time down by the bayou, or you'll get sick." Despite her best efforts, young Henry was just too attracted to the wildlife.

He would often escape for hours, enchanted by the pristine waters and the simplicity of the natural habitat. In other words, the interactions of reptiles, bugs, ticks and parasites were worth getting poison ivy and

at least one trip to the hospital!

What began as a childhood interest led to a career in both graduate and undergraduate instruction at Louisiana State University. He mused with me once that after receiving his Ph.D. in 1967, he was so immersed in study that he heard a man humming a song about a "yellow submarine" and had no idea what the man was singing about.

That same dedication is displayed today as he instructs our current students.

What I admire most about "Hank," as I like to call him, is that he always has time for everyone else, and he never stops learning. He just recently took on a few new Anatomy and Physiology classes so our students would no longer have to travel to the Lee Campus or take the course online.

The truth is, many of his students just realize how fortunate they are to have him as an instructor and cannot wait to take another one of his classes.

Dr. Hermann has written 17 books, over 100 articles, and co-authored nine chapters in as many books over the past several years, and he has just recently finished a book for children that my son is reading at this moment.

Our goal is to have Dr. Hermann host seminars and workshops for our science teachers in town, and maybe even have a book signing "meet and greet" this fall. Until then, feel free to stop in at the Hendry/Glades Center and see him. His students do it all the time. Feel free to "bug" him—it's okay!

*Dr. Duke DiPofi is the Academic Service Coordinator Academic Coordinator and fellow professor of Religion and the Cornerstone Experience at the Edison State College Hendry/Glades Center.*

## Students First

### by Maribel De Armas

You may recall from last week, that I mentioned something about an important Informational Parent Meeting happening in Immokalee for parents and guardians

of elementary school students. The meeting was held just a few days ago on Tuesday and from what I hear, it was quite successful with nearly 200 people in attendance. Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Kamela Patton, and other district administrators shared information with the audience about Collier County Public Schools' proposed consideration for moving sixth grade back to Immokalee Middle School (IMS) beginning next school year.

This proposal will be up for vote at the next Regular School Board Meeting this coming Tuesday (April 8) in Everglades City.

If approved, it would mean that our current 5th grade students would be attending 6th grade at IMS instead of their current elementary school as has been the practice for the past few years.

The proposal has been set forth for a number of reasons, but primarily because the Immokalee area has seen a significant growth in the number of elementary-aged students attending elementary schools with limited capacity. It goes beyond that, though.

It's really all about the students and the benefits they would reap from attending 6th grade in the middle school environment, including better meeting their academic and social-emotional needs.

At Immokalee Middle School, 6th grade students would be filled with "Immokalee Pride"! They'll enter the school to learn and leave ready to achieve in high school and beyond.

In fact, IMS principal Abel Jaimes believes that "the academic programming we offer, the advanced courses especially, will help prepare students for high school." And it's also all about the middle school experience.

Beginning in 6th grade, students would be able to take part in Immokalee Middle's

after school basketball, cross country, soccer, track, or volleyball programs. Students would have the opportunity to participate in band every day, along with art and physical education. There's a book club, debate team, scholar bowl team, yearbook club, morning tutoring program, and a miracle after school program that 6th graders could join alongside their 7th and 8th grade counterparts. Then there's "CROP," which stands for College Reach Out Program, for college-bound students, and a junior version of Immokalee High School's famous BETA Club.

Whew... if I were an incoming 6th grader at IMS, I'd certainly be excited about going to school! I remember from my middle school days how exciting it was to have the independence to change classes during the day and how much of an academic advantage it was to be taught by teachers who are specialists in the subjects they are teaching.

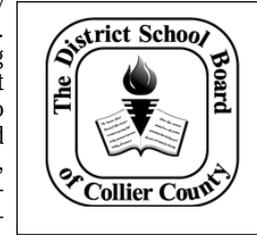
We touched base with a few current IMS 7th and 8th graders who all thought it would have been great to be at the middle school during their 6th grade year, instead of staying at their elementary school. One said, "I just like how there's so much more freedom."

Another shared that the middle school campus would be a good experience because "in sixth grade you're a little more mature." Yet another said, "I'd have to say the teachers make Immokalee Middle School great."

All in all, it sounds like current IMS students would welcome their younger classmates with open arms and a big dose of "Immokalee Pride." And, according to Eden Park Elementary School principal Linda Salazar, "our fifth graders want to move on to the middle school for sixth grade."

Want to find out how the School Board votes on this topic at their next meeting? I invite you to tune in to The Education Channel, Comcast cable 99, at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday (April 8) for a live broadcast of the Regular School Board Meeting.

If you're not going to be near a television at that time, but maybe have a smartphone or computer, you can go online and visit us at [www.collierschools.com](http://www.collierschools.com) to watch from any mobile device.



## Trafford

Continued From Page 1

a special incentive.

An award will be given to the angler who has the first bass heavier than 8 pounds from Lake Trafford that is approved for TrophyCatch recognition.

This package contains several items, including a U.S. Reel casting reel, Glen Lau

DVD, gift certificate for four adults at Airboats and Alligators at Lake Trafford Marina, in addition to standard TrophyCatch incentives.

To learn more see our social media sites at [Facebook.com/TrophyCatchFlorida](http://Facebook.com/TrophyCatchFlorida), and visit [Facebook.com/TheParadiseCoast](http://Facebook.com/TheParadiseCoast).

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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.

# Big Cypress Zone 4 Closure

Beginning at 12:01 a.m. Monday, April 7, 2014 the Zone 4 airboat access within Big Cypress National Preserve will be closed due to low water conditions. This will begin the 60-day recreational off-road vehicle (ORV) closure for this management unit within the Preserve. Pending water levels, this unit will re-open to access by airboats on Friday, June 6, 2014.

All other management units within the Preserve that allow for wheeled ORV access remain open through Sunday, June 1, 2014. On Monday, June 2 the regularly scheduled 60-day ORV closure for these units will begin with ORV access being re-opened on Friday, August 1.

The Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan calls for a 60-day seasonal closure to allow a period free from resource pressures related to ORV use. The ORV closure within Big Cypress National Preserve was first instituted in 2002.

Landowners, and their guests, that hold special use permits to access private properties within the Preserve will retain continued access to property along approved routes.

Zone 4 of the Stairsteps Unit of the Preserve allows for access via airboats only. The Bear Island, Turner River and Corn Dance Units, and Zones 2 and 3 of the Stairsteps Unit provide for access by specified, wheeled ORVs.

# Public access scoping workshop for Big Cypress backcountry access

Acting Superintendent J. D. Lee announced today that Big Cypress National Preserve has set the dates and times for two public scoping workshops for the backcountry access plan and environmental impact statement (EIS) being prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

The purpose of the plan will be to provide off-road vehicle (ORV) secondary trails, non-motorized trails, and a camping management approach that protects the Preserve's natural and cultural resources while providing for public enjoyment. The plan will also establish a permanent route for the Florida National Scenic Trail and other hiking opportunities. A scoping newsletter providing further details on the plan is available at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=49334>.

The public is invited to attend a public scoping workshop at which you will have the opportunity to discuss the plan with Na-

tional Park Service staff and provide input regarding backcountry access into the Preserve and the scope, issues, and alternatives to be addressed in the plan.

The dates and locations of these meetings are:

- 5:30-7:30 p.m., April 7th, Hyatt Regency Bonaventure Conference Center, 250 Racquet Club Road, Weston, Florida 33326

- 5:30-7:30 p.m., April 8th Big Cypress Welcome Center, 33000 Tamiami Trail East Ochopee, Florida 34141

Following the completion of the scoping process, the National Park Service will begin developing draft alternatives for the backcountry access plan and EIS; this stage will likely begin early this summer. There will be opportunities to comment during the development of alternatives as well as during subsequent stages of the planning effort. Notifications will be sent out accordingly.

# Learn about email at the library

Gmail, Yahoo Mail, Hotmail, Comcast Mail, Online, Offline . . . Do all of these terms confuse you? Technology is always changing and Email has changed a lot. This class will focus on using various types of webmail. If you don't know what that is, then this class is for you. Class size is limited.

Wednesday, April 16, 2-4 p.m. at the Immokalee Branch Library. Naples Free Net Teacher. Registration is required. Please call (239) 657-2882

# Road Watch

**Gulf Shore Boulevard from Banyan Boulevard to Mooring Line Drive:** Construction project: The project completes the 5-foot concrete sidewalk and brick pavers on the west side of Gulf Shore Boulevard. Pedestrians may be detoured in some areas. Motorists should expect construction equipment entering/exiting the roadway and possible delays. Estimated project completion is spring 2014. Contractor is Blacktip Services, Inc.

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

**US 41(Tamiami Trail East) from SR 951 to Greenway Road:** Construction project: Crews continue work to expand two-lane US 41 to six lanes from SR 951 to Joseph Lane and to four lanes from Joseph Lane to Greenway Road. A 30-foot median will separate northbound and southbound travel lanes. The project also includes a 10-foot multi-use pathway along southbound travel lanes and a six-foot sidewalk parallel to northbound lanes. Median openings spaced throughout the project allow for left turns and U-turns. Crews also replace the traffic signal at Manatee Road. Work relocating utilities and hauling embankment. Project completion is expected in fall 2016. The design/build team is Wantman Group Inc./Ajax Paving Industries of Florida, LLC.

**US 41 at Pelican Marsh Boulevard:** Construction project: Work on this project includes installing pedestrian features and upgrades to meet current ADA standards, connecting existing sidewalks to ramps, installing signal back plates, and pavement markings. The contractor is installing silt fence for the

purpose of erosion control, installing construction signs, mobilizing construction equipment and setting up maintenance of traffic. Motorists are advised to use caution and watch for construction workers in the construction zone. Project completion is expected in fall 2014. The contractor is Traffic Control Devices, Inc.

**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. A new traffic pattern is in place, motorists are using one eastbound lane and one westbound lane on each side of the road. The inside lane near the median on each side of the road remains closed while crews complete curb work and install brick pavers. Motorists can expect intermittent daytime lane shifts from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. for final paving work. From mid-April to the end of April, crews will add final striping to the road. Please use caution when traveling throughout the work zone as well as when entering and exiting the roadway. Project completion is this spring, weather permitting. The contractor is Guymann Construction.

**SR 84/Davis Boulevard from Florida Club Circle to Falling Waters Boulevard:** Construction project: Crews will be installing light pole bases, pull boxes and underground conduits along both sides of Davis Boulevard. Motorist should expect lane closures from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. for this work. Drivers are asked to use caution and expect delays. Motorists should expect construction equipment entering/exiting the roadway. Estimated project completion is summer 2014. Contractor is American Lighting and Signalization, Inc.

**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 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 early 2014.

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# The Firehouse Community Theatre presents playwrighting competition

Clarence "Bud" Jones served the Hendry County School District at the Clewiston High School as English Teacher for 20 years. Bud passed away in 1994 but left behind his love of the theatre with his family and most importantly, with his brother, John Jones.

John and his wife Betty wished to honor Bud's memory by creating this competition in his name. It is the privilege of the Firehouse Community Theatre to help sponsor this competition: an annual celebration of theatrical arts in our local communities.

## Awards

\$500 cash award to the First Place winning playwright.

\$200 cash award to the Second Place winning playwright

\$100 cash award to the Third Place winning playwright

## Judging

Each play will be received and catalogued by an impartial member of the Firehouse Community Theatre. The scripts will then be blinded and sent to be read and judged by members of a screening committee.

## Winning playwright

The Firehouse Community Theatre has the right to produce a scripted play reading as part of the 2014-2015 theatre season.

All full or part time residents of Southwest Florida as of April 1, 2014 and all members in good standing of the "Arts of the Inland" artistic group of 2014 regardless of residency. Children under the age of 18 must have written permission of parent or guardian.

All manuscripts must be original, unpublished, and full length written in the English language. Translations will not be accepted. They must be family-friendly in both subject and language, meaning no profanity or ex-

PLICIT adult content. Running time of the play must be not less than 60 minutes and not longer than 120 minutes.

An application form and fee must be submitted with each manuscript. Do not staple or bind the manuscript. Multiple manuscripts are allowed, but each one must have the application form and fee with each submission, however, only one play per author will be chosen as finalist. Each manuscript must begin with a title page that shows the play's title and page count with any acknowledgements. Playwright's identification such as name, address, telephone numbers or email address must not be listed anywhere in the manuscript, but only on the application form/title page.

Page 2 of title page should have the title of the play, the running time, followed by a list and description of the characters and a list of the acts and scenes.

Any submission should not be under option or scheduled for production at time of submission. Manuscripts must be computer-printed in dark ink in standard play format with each page numbered. CD and/or score for musicals must be submitted with application, if applicable. All mailed submissions must be postmarked on or before 11:59 PM EDT August 1, 2014, to: Firehouse Community Theatre, Inc. PO Box 958 LaBelle, FL 33975.

Electronic submissions must be sent no later than 11:59 PM EDT, August 1, 2014 to: [playwritingcomp@firehousecommunitytheatre.com](mailto:playwritingcomp@firehousecommunitytheatre.com) and must be accompanied by the appropriate credit card information.

The Firehouse Community Theatre, Inc. reserves the right to reject any manuscript for any reason. The non-refundable applica-

tion fee for each submission is \$25.00 (U.S.) and must be included with each application. Checks and/or money orders must be made out to Firehouse Community Theatre, Inc.

Manuscripts will not be returned unless the applicant provides a self-addressed envelope of sufficient size with appropriate postage for return of each manuscript. Do not send the only copy of the manuscript.

Each play will be received and catalogued by an impartial member of the Firehouse Community Theatre. The scripts will then be blinded and thereafter read and judged by members of the screening committee.

The \$500.00 (U.S.) Award will be the only cash remuneration for the First Place Award as adjudicated by the Selection Committee of the "Clarence (Bud) Jones Playwright Committee Award" of the Firehouse Community Theatre, Inc. The Firehouse Community Theatre agrees to stage a scripted play reading of the first place play as part of the theatre season and for any additional performances.

On all subsequent publications or productions of the first place manuscript (or versions thereof), and as one of the stipulations of the award, the author agrees to indicate in a footnote or in the playbill that the script won the Clarence Bud Jones Playwrighting Award by the Firehouse Community Theatre in LaBelle, FL.

The Firehouse Community Theatre reserves the right to video tape and or record any part of the scripted play reading for archival purposes and/or any other use. The Firehouse Community Theatre has the right

to use the name of the play and the author's name in publicity and promotion. The Firehouse Community Theatre will not make any additional claims to the use of the script.

The Second Place winner will receive an award of \$200.00. The Third Place winner will receive an award of \$100.00. A selection of the top three finalists will be made no later than September 1, 2014, and all applicants will be notified of that determination.

A date, to be determined, during 2014-2015 season will be set to have a stage reading of all three finalists work in black box format before the selection committee and a live audience. The finalist playwrights should be present for this presentation of their work.

The audience will be given the opportunity to fill out a survey sheet of each Play which will be collected by selection committee at the conclusion of the evening.

The selection committee may or may not give comments to the three playwrights about their work. Each play will be given 30 minutes for reading with 10 minutes for comments and questions. There will be a brief intermission between each play reading. The selection committee will review and consider the audience surveys, make a determination of the order of winners. Announcement of same will be made on September 1, 2014.

Winning Playwright or designee must be present to receive the award. The first place winning play will have a scripted play reading at the theatre during the 2014-2015 season.

## Edison State College changes name

TALLAHASSEE, FL. – Senate Bill (SB) 236 was approved by the Florida House of Representatives to change the name of Edison State College to Florida SouthWestern State College. The bill is sponsored by Senator Garrett Richter. SB 236 was substituted in the House for HB 137, its companion measure, sponsored by Representative Matt Hudson.

"This marks a new day for the Southwest Florida region with the continuation of the history and traditions of Edison State College as it now moves forward as Florida SouthWestern State College," said Representative Matt Hudson, who studied at Edison State College. "The impact this college has had and will continue to have is immeasurable with over 40,000 graduates."

"Florida SouthWestern State College brings with it a 52-year history of educational opportunities, especially in workforce-driven careers which are critical to the economic vitality of our region," said Senator Garrett Richter, who sponsored Senate Bill 236 to change the college's name. Senator Richter's District 23 area includes parts of Collier and Lee counties. "I'm also looking forward to cheering for the Buccaneers when the college brings athletic competition back in the fall of 2015."

"The overwhelming support we have received from both the House and Senate

bills by Representative Hudson and Senator Richter is greatly appreciated," said Dr. Jeff Allbritten, President, Edison State College.

"I am very grateful to our sponsors, Senator Richter and Representative Hudson, for their leadership and support in this process," added Matt Holliday, Director of Government Relations at Edison State College, "The rapid approval of this legislation is a testimony to the respect their colleagues have for them".

The bill now goes to the Governor for his signature.

Celebrating over 50 years of excellence, Edison State College is Southwest Florida's largest, most accessible and ranked nationally as one of the most affordable institutions of higher education. Serving more than 22,000 students per year regionally, nationally, and internationally, students are also active in a wide variety of clubs and programs that cater to their interests.

Nationally, Edison State is ranked 45th among associate degree producers and 26th for its prestigious associate producing Nursing program. For more information please visit [www.edison.edu](http://www.edison.edu).

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# Hendry County, Seminoles going to court over proposed Florida Power & Light plant

by **Patty Brant**  
Immokalee Bulletin

A plan by Florida Power & Light to build a "Clean Energy Center" in the southeast corner of Hendry County, adjacent to the Seminole Indian Reservation has pitted the Native American Tribe against the natural gas and solar powered electricity producing giant and Hendry County's economic goals.

A lawsuit seeking to force Hendry County to reverse its May 2011 rezoning of that 2,300-acre proposed site from General Agriculture to Planned Unit Development is scheduled for 9 a.m. April 21 at the Hendry County Circuit Court.

One small piece of that showdown occurred at the February 25 Hendry County Commission meeting in LaBelle when a contingent from the Reservation came to argue against a county vote to amend to the Economic Development Element of the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) and to add the definition of an Economic Engine Project and Target Industries to its Comprehensive Plan.

Tribe members spoke passionately against building the plant, saying it would disrupt their ancient life style and have a serious detrimental effect on the water table and wildlife on the Reservation. They fear the planned FPL 20+ million gallon per

day water plant will put their water source in danger, tap into the aquifer and further stress endangered species.

The group feared that Hendry County is being treated like Palm Beach County - with "everything open for economic development." Spokesmen for the Tribe noted that for the past 100 years changes in South Florida have been all about money and that often results in damage to the environment. They felt that their land is a "unique place" where they have a relationship with God and urged that American society stop destroying the environment and turn the tide around.

Tribal members said in the last few years they have already seen dramatic and dismaying changes in area wildlife, including a reduced number of birds and the contamination of water.

One speaker, Stephanie Hall of the Toad Clan, said her people have lived for 1,000 years on this land and feared the project would ultimately end in "environmental genocide" of indigenous people.

Hendry County Associate Planner Sarah Catala is just as convinced that the amendment to the county's decision will not affect the Tribe. She said that Hendry County is only interested in providing a "target industry" to help build its economic future - target industries like FPL's gas powered electric plant proposed for the property.

Ms. Catala tried to allay the dissenters' fears, saying the change will only streamline the current process. The county is trying to add an economic engine element tool to its abilities. If a project is not in compliance with the ordinance, she said, it will not be allowed. "This is a really good thing," she told a small group of dissenters after the meeting.

Hendry County Commission Chairman Karson Turner also tried to soothe the Seminoles' fears. He said the county's intention is to set up a system of standards to cover all economic development. He noted that developers will still have to abide by state and federal environmental rules and apply for all the normal permits. Any future projects will still have to come back to the county for approval, he told the group.

County Administrator Charles Chapman said there is still a lot to discuss, the county wants to keep natural areas wild and to prevent rural sprawling.

As the commissioner representing the Reservation, Commissioner Turner said he would reach out to the Tribe to try to come to a better understanding of what the county would like to see happen in that area. Tribal representative Frank Billie Jr. seemed to doubt it would make any difference, but invited the commissioner to their community meetings anyway.

At the end of the discussion, Commissioner Don Davis moved to adopt the amendment with Commissioner Darrell Harris' second. The board passed the amendment to the 2011 rezone, 5-0.

The power company did not have a representative at the meeting but according to FPL's Ten Year Power Plant Site Plan 2013-2022:

It is the Company's intent to continue to conduct its business in an environmentally responsible manner. Accordingly, Florida Power & Light Company will:

- Comply with the spirit and intent, as well as the letter of, environmental laws, regulations, and standards;
- Incorporate environmental protection and stewardship as an integral part of the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of our facilities;
- Encourage the wise use of energy to minimize the impact on the environment;
- Communicate effectively on environmental issues; and
- Conduct periodic self-evaluations and report performance.

Joe Frank spoke on behalf of the Tribe, saying they are fighting this power plant on behalf of their families as well as themselves - to ensure that they can live as they wish in the future. "The future," he said, "will always tell the truth."



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#### POSITION SUMMARY

Prepares income and balance sheet statements, consolidated statements, and various other accounting statements and reports. Analyzes financial reports and records, making recommendations relative to the accounting of reserves, assets, and expenditures as well as reviews and verifies the accuracy of journal entries and accounting classifications assigned to various records. Conducts special studies and develops or recommends accounting methods and procedures.

#### QUALIFICATION/REQUIREMENTS:

Two to Three years of accounting experience preferred. Intermediate Microsoft Office skills. Good interpersonal skills. Understanding of company-wide budgets and forecasting processes. Knowledge in accounting software packages and programs.

#### EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

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needed for Redi-Plants in Estero, duties include pollinating tomato plants in the greenhouse, basic plant growing tasks such as pruning and sowing, transplanting and harvesting tomatoes in the field, some occasional spray work as well. Must have a valid driver's license and able to travel when needed. Bi-Lingual is a plus. For more information call 239-229-5937 or to apply fax your resume to 239-949-6536.

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**Public Notices**

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**PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE**  
Disaster Recovery Initiative and Disaster Enhancement Funds

Collier County Housing, Human and Veteran Services (HHVS) have identified approximately \$1,800,000 from unspent funds for reprogramming.

DRI/DREF is state funding from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) disaster relief through the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). Funds available are for long term recovery and mitigation in communities affected by federally declared natural disasters that occurred during the 2008 (Tropical storms Fay, Ike and Gustav) hurricane season. The grants affected in this notice are: Disaster Recovery Initiative #10DB-D4-09-21-01-K09 and Disaster Recovery Enhancement Funds #12DB-P5-09-21-01-K39.

A public meeting will be held at the Immokalee Library, 417 N. First Street, Immokalee, FL 34142 on April 9, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. The meeting will advise Collier citizens of the proposed projects recommended for approval through the supplemental funding cycle that will change the number of beneficiaries, use and/or service area to the DRI/DREF agreement. The new project or projects will benefit the low income residents of Collier County.

Public Comment Period:  
On April 14, 2014 the proposed modification will be presented to the Collier County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) for their review and approval. The regular AHAC meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. in the Board of County Commissioners board hearing room, 3rd Floor, 3299 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, FL, 34112.

Collier County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Collier County complies with the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C 3600, et seq) and Collier County Fair Housing Ordinance 92.9.

Final Action:  
This action will be on the agenda of the May 13, 2014 regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. For additional information, please contact Kristi Sonntag at (239) 252-2486 or KristiSonntag@Colliergov.net.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or other reasonable accommodations in order to participate in this proceeding should contact the Collier County Facilities Management Department located at 3335 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, Florida 34112 or (239) 252-8380 as soon as possible, but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event. Such reasonable accommodations will be provided at no cost to the individual.

Organizations seeking information, technical assistance with the grant application process or for any other questions may contact Ely Soto McKuen at (239) 252-2664 or email at ElyMcKuen@Colliergov.net.

**AVISO DE REUNIÓN PÚBLICA**  
Iniciativa de los Programas de Mejoramiento y Recuperación de Desastres (DRI/DREF)

El Departamento de Vivienda, Servicios Humanos y Veteranos (HHVS) del Condado de Collier ha identificado aproximadamente \$1.8 millones de fondos no utilizados para ser reprogramados.

DRI / DREF son fondos estatales del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano (HUD) del Programa de Desarrollo de la Comunidad (CDBG). Estos fondos son financiados para el alivio de desastres a través del Departamento de Oportunidad Económica del Estado de Florida (DEO) EE-UU. Los fondos disponibles son para la recuperación a largo plazo y la mitigación en las comunidades afectadas por desastres naturales declarados federalmente que ocurrieron durante el tiempo de huracanes del año 2008 (tormentas tropicales Fay, Gustav y Ike). Las becas afectadas en este aviso son: Iniciativa para la Recuperación de Desastres # 10DB-D4-09-21-01-K09 y Recuperación y Mejoramiento de Desastres # 12DB-P5-09-21-01-K39.

Una reunión pública se llevará a cabo en la Biblioteca en Immokalee, localizada en 417 N. First Street, Immokalee, FL 34142, el 9 de abril de 2014, a las 3 p.m. La reunión informará a los ciudadanos de Collier de los proyectos propuestos que son recomendadas para aprobación a través del ciclo de financiamiento suplementario que cambiará el número de beneficiarios, el uso y/o el área de servicio en el contrato de DRI / DREF. El nuevo proyecto, o proyectos, beneficiarán a los residentes de bajos ingresos del Condado de Collier.

Período de comentarios públicos:  
El 14 de abril de 2014, la propuesta de modificación se presentará al Comité de Consultas Sobre Viviendas Asequibles del Condado de Collier (AHAC) para revisión y aprobación. La reunión ordinaria del AHAC se llevará a cabo a las 3:00 pm en la sala de audiencia de la Junta de Comisionados del Condado, 3er Piso, 3299 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, FL, 34112.

El Condado de Collier es un empleador de igualdad de oportunidades. El Condado de Collier cumple con la Ley de Vivienda Justa (42 USC 3600, et seq) y con la Ordenanza 92.9 del Condado de Collier sobre Vivienda Justa.

Acción Final:  
Esta acción estará en el orden del día del 13 de Mayo 2014 de la reunión regular de la Junta de Comisionados del Condado. Para obtener información adicional, por favor póngase en contacto con Kristi Sonntag al (239) 252-2486 o KristiSonntag@Colliergov.net.

Cualquier persona que necesite una ayuda o servicio auxiliar para una comunicación efectiva, u otros ajustes razonables para poder participar en este procedimiento, debe comunicarse con el Departamento de Gestión de Instalaciones del Condado de Collier ubicado en 3335 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, Florida 34112 o (239) 252-8380 lo más pronto posible, pero no menos de 48 horas antes del evento programado. Tales adaptaciones razonables serán proporcionadas sin costo al individuo.

Organizaciones que buscan información, asistencia técnica con el proceso de solicitud de la beca, o para cualquier otra pregunta pueden comunicarse con Ely Soto McKuen al (239) 252-2664 o al correo electrónico ElyMcKuen@Colliergov.net.

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**Movie night**

Immokalee Community Park invites you to InDoor Movie Night April 18 and 25 from 6-8 p.m. Cost \$5. The park is located at 321 N. 1st St.

**LDS Temple Open house**

We invite you to tour the newly completed Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Temple of The

**Kindergarten Round Up under way**

Collier County Public Schools (CCPS) is holding its annual Kindergarten Round-Up for parents and incoming kindergarten students for the 2014-2015 school year. This orientation is for children who turn five-years-old on or before September 1, 2014. At the Round-Up, school staff will share information regarding kindergarten and school procedures. Parents will also learn about the new online Kindergarten registra-

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Open house dates and times; Saturday, March 29, through Saturday, April 19, 2014 is as follows. On Mondays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. On Tuesdays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. On Saturdays, 8 a.m.-8p.m. No tours on Sundays.

Tours are free, and all ages are welcomed. The 40-minute walking tour allows the public to view the many rooms where each is designed to accommodate certain ceremonies, such as marriage, baptism, and instructional sessions. It will also include a short video.

Modest attire is recommended. Cameras, video recorders, and backpacks are not permitted on the tour. Reservations are required and you may visit [fortlauderdalemontemple.org](http://fortlauderdalemontemple.org) or call 1-855-537-2000 (toll free) to schedule your visit. The address is 3901 SW 154th Ave, Davie, Florida (off of I-75 south, Exit 13A). All visitors should approach the temple from the south. Turn west onto Orange Drive from Griffin Road.

tion process. Each CCPS elementary school has scheduled their official Round-Up date which will occur in April and May. For the individual school's Round-Up date and time, please visit [www.collierschools.com](http://www.collierschools.com) and select the "Kindergarten Round-Up 2014" icon in the "What's New" section on the right of the web page. If you have questions, please contact the Department of Student Relations at 377-0547.

**Business & Service Directory**

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**FWC captures panther**

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) biologists and law enforcement officers captured and relocated an endangered Florida panther found near the beach at Clam Pass Park in Collier County today.

Beachgoers spotted the panther in the mangroves as they were walking over a boardwalk that leads to the beach. FWC biologists and law enforcement officers responded to the scene and darted the panther with a tranquilizer.

After a brief health assessment, biologists determined that the panther was in good condition. Biologists will use a radio collar to track future movements of the approximately 2-year-old male panther, which they estimate to weigh about 110 pounds.

"This panther was far from an area where we would typically see these animals, so we decided to relocate it to a more suitable habitat for its own health and safety," said Darrell Land, FWC panther team leader. "We are thankful to the people who noticed this unusual situation and quickly reported it to us so that we could respond."

To report dead or injured panthers, call the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922) or #FWC or \*FWC on a cell phone. For more information on Florida panthers go to [FloridaPantherNet.org](http://FloridaPantherNet.org).



Submitted photo

Getting ready to cut the ribbon on their new office.

## Eye Centers of Florida hosts grand opening in Immokalee

IMMOKALEE, Fla. (Feb. 21, 2013) Eye Centers of Florida will celebrate the relocation of its Immokalee office to the Barron Collier Building at 1320 N. 15th Street on March 20, from 4-5 p.m. The event will include refreshments and a tour of the new facilities, with an official ribbon cutting at 4:30 p.m.

The new facility has been seeing patients since December 30, providing examination and diagnosis of eye diseases, testing for eyeglasses and contact lenses, cataract evaluations, and treatment of glaucoma and retinal diseases. Expanded retail space features a broader inventory of distinctive eyewear frames and sunglasses by Tiffany & Co., Prada, Coach® and other brands, in addition to value eyewear.

"This move has increased our available exam rooms in Immokalee to six, as we continue to expand our ophthalmic services first established in 1986," said Dr. David C. Brown. "My family and I have enjoyed being a part of this community for more than 50 years, and I look forward to seeing many friends at the opening."

Emilio Martinez, OD provides primary eye care exams and diagnostic services, prescribes eyeglasses and contact lenses,

and provides pre- and post-op care. Board certified physicians who also see patients in the office are: Founder and Medical Director David C. Brown, MD, FACS and Barrett Ginsberg, MD, FACS cornea and refractive surgeons specializing in cataract surgery, LASIK vision correction, and glaucoma as well as eyeglasses and contact lenses.

Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Phone: 239.657.4486. Fax: 239.657.4770. Services are available in both English and Spanish.

Founded in 1971 by Dr. David C. Brown, Eye Centers of Florida is the most experienced ophthalmology practice in Southwest Florida. The full-service eye care provider has 18 doctors practicing in 12 locations in Fort Myers, Bonita Springs, Cape Coral, Clewiston, Immokalee, LaBelle, Lehigh Acres, Naples, and Port Charlotte. All offices accept Medicare, Davis Vision and most forms of insurance, with bilingual staff available to assist patients in processing medical claims. Eye Centers of Florida also offers Care Credit, an interest-free financing program. For more information, visit [www.ecof.com](http://www.ecof.com), call the main office at 239.939.3456, or stop by any of its 12 locations.

## New system aids in identifying development delays in children

FORT MYERS, Fla. – March 28, 2014 – In an effort to improve the accuracy and efficiency of data sharing, the Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida (ELC) has introduced the Enterprise Ages and Stages (ASQ) Online System to participating school readiness child care providers in the Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties.

This system supports providers in meeting the State of Florida mandate requiring that all children enrolled in a School Readiness program be screened no later than 45 days from initial enrollment and within each year of their birth date. The Ages and Stages Questionnaire is a screening tool used to help identify children from one month to 5½ years with communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem solving, and personal-social developmental delays.

According to Jill Corbett, Supervisor of Assessment and Screening for the ELC, the result is increased accuracy in screening and scoring, faster online access to questionnaires, and supportive management tools for the entire screening program. Additionally, implementation of the online system means reduced costs for photocopying, mailing and data management.

Susan Block, CEO of the ELC of SWFL stated, "We strive to improve on the delivery of services to children, families and

child care providers. The new on-line system exemplifies our efforts to complete the required assessment and, most importantly, react to assessments that indicate a child is in need of additional supports. Intervening early in a child's life to support healthy development is the reason why we assess children in the first place."

School Readiness programs unite with parents as partners to allow children to achieve social and emotional well-being. Parents can gain information about the School Readiness program by visiting [www.elcofswfl.org/parents](http://www.elcofswfl.org/parents). Limited School Readiness funding (child care assistance) is available by application and on an income basis.

### About the Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida

The Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida exists to enhance the quality of children's lives by providing families, early childhood educators, caregivers and community partners in Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties, with opportunities to positively impact the future. They are located at 2675 Winkler Avenue, Suite 300, Fort Myers, FL 33901. For details on our many services or to donate, please visit <http://www.elcofswfl.org>.



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