

IMMOKALEE BULLETIN

Serving Immokalee, Ave Maria and Eastern Collier County

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Submitted photo

Immokalee area students meet their Penpals from Georgia.

STUDENTS FIRST Local students meet their penpals

By Jennifer L. Kupiec
Specialist, Communications & Community Engagement Collier County Public Schools

It is no secret that Hurricane Irma left the community of Immokalee in disrepair. In these tough times, however, a community comes together. We have heard numerous heartwarming stories of neighbors helping neighbors. We also had an outpouring of support from those outside the community.

One example from Eden Park Elementary School started right after Hurricane Irma. An associate professor at Thomas University in Thomasville, Georgia, was very concerned about the Immokalee community in the aftermath of the storm. She and her students decided to have a Scholastic Book Fair to benefit a fourth grade class at Eden Park. The university also sent each child in the class a backpack with the book, *The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet*, by Carmen Agra Deedy, along with an additional book, pencil, and frisbee.

Thomas University also works with local Boys & Girls Clubs in Cairo and Thomasville, Georgia. After much back and forth about what they could do to help, they came up with the idea of becoming pen pals with

Eden Park's fourth grade students in an effort to give them emotional support following the storm.

The first letters from Georgia were heartfelt and incredible to read. The students have since written back and forth a couple of times.

But it didn't stop there. Nineteen students from Georgia decided to come for a visit a few weeks ago to meet their pen pals in person! It was such an uplifting and amazing experience for the students at Eden Park. The young Georgia visitors told our students about Albert Nobel and the Nobel Peace Prize. The visitors were excited to see that our students already knew about the Nobel Prize as it was just discussed in class during a lesson on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the youngest recipient of the Nobel Prize. In fact, they found many commonalities during their visit. It was an incredible day for everyone involved.

For the fourth grade students at Eden Park, the simple act of kindness and empathy, of writing a letter and sharing experiences, has proven to ease the impact of Hurricane Irma. And life-long friendships have been formed.

Rural Lands Stewardship Area Restudy Workshop

The Collier County Growth Management Department's Planning and Zoning Division continues to seek input from community members for the Rural Lands Stewardship Area (RLSA) Restudy. The next workshop will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 26 at the North Collier Regional Park Exhibit Hall, 15000 Livingston Road, Naples, Florida 34109. This meeting will include a discussion on policies related to the preservation of natural resources and will seek input from those in attendance. The existing provisions in Group 3 Policies can be found at: <https://www.colliercountyfl.gov/your-government/divisions-s-z/zoning-division/community-planning-section/rural-lands-stewardship-area-restudy/rural-lands-stewardship-area-restudy-pub/-fsiteid-1>.

The RLSA is an area surrounding the Immokalee urban area, comprising approximately 195,000 acres. A subsequent meeting is scheduled for May 24 to continue the discussion of natural resource preservation. Additional meetings are planned throughout 2018 to consider important topics for review. Please consult our meetings webpage (link above) for updates to future meeting times and related information.

Agendas will be posted on the meetings website prior to each meeting. This website

also includes background materials, current planning efforts and areas for public input so that the restudy team can capture the preferences and concerns of all citizens and stakeholders.

Two or more members of the Board of County Commissioners, City of Naples City Council, the City of Marco Island City Council and any of their respective advisory committees may be present and may participate at the workshop. The subject matter of this workshop may be an item for discussion and action at future meetings of these boards, councils, committees and agencies.

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 Division, located at 3335 Tamiami Trail E., 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.

For more information, contact Community Planning Manager Kris Van Lengen at 239-252-7268.

Grant Ensures 5,600 Books for local children at two schools

Books for Collier Kids (BCK), a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing a steady stream of new books to children in low-income families throughout Collier County, is pleased to announce that the charity received a \$13,950 grant from The League Club, Inc.

"As a result of The League Club's generous support, Books for Collier Kids will provide approximately 5,600 books to 560 children in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, first – and second-grades at two elementary schools during the 2018-2019 academic year," explains Board Chair Sallie Williams. "But, what's most important about this funding is that the 10 books each child receives helps to improve their academic experience, and success in school and life,

opens new worlds to them, establishes their personal libraries and a life-long love of reading."

The nonprofit, volunteer-run organization already provides books to disadvantaged children (pre-k through second grade) in another sixteen School District of Collier County Title I elementary schools, donating more than 75,000 new, high-quality books to at-risk students annually.

The funds, part of \$327,920 awarded from its Community Trust Fund during an April 5, 2018, breakfast, allow BCK to provide new, high-quality, age- and curriculum appropriate books to students in two new Title I schools in Collier County.

See Books — Page 2





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

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- 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.

Masthead photo courtesy of Waddy Thompson
www.facebook.com/waddyphotos

Books

Continued From Page 1

The League Club is a 501(c)(3) organization of Southwest Florida strengthening communities through fellowship, education, volunteerism, and philanthropy. The League Club women have also contributed thousands of volunteer hours in various areas. Members have served on numerous agency boards, worked in childcare and adult centers, with the illiterate and homeless, in conservation and arts groups and in churches. For more information, visit www.leagueclub.org.

Liz Winebrenner, President of The League Club, stated, "We are pleased and grateful to be able to give so much to help our community partners raise the quality of life for residents in Collier and Lee counties. We thank our 600 members, Circle of

Friends supporters, the community member who support our events, and our business sponsors. Their financial generosity and caring for the community are what enable us to make these grants."

The mission of Books for Collier Kids is to provide new books to children in need, addressing one of the most important factors affecting literacy: access to books. Launched in 2005 as First Book-Collier County, Books for Collier Kids has distributed more than one million new, high-quality, age-appropriate and personalized books to pre-K, kindergarten, first- and second-grade students in need to transform children's lives.

The nonprofit organization partners with more than 20 local organizations, including Fun Time Early Childhood Academy, Christ Child Society of Naples, Grace Place, Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida, The Shelter for Abused Women & Children, Habitat for Humanity of Collier County, Friends of Foster Care, the Boys and Girls Club of

Collier County and Guadalupe Center.

Books for Collier Kids:

- Addresses one of the most important factors affecting literacy – access to books – by providing children from low-income families a new, high-quality, age-appropriate book, complete with their name inside the cover once a month throughout the academic year.

- Ensures more than 7,500 Pre-K through second grade children that live below the federal poverty line have access to books and can build their home libraries.

- Addresses "summer slide" reading concerns through a summer program, ensuring students don't fall behind in their reading skills during the break.

For more information on Books for Collier Kids, please visit www.booksforcollierkids.org, or call Sallie Williams, Board Chair at 239-394-4062.

Prepare for Prom with safety in mind

With proms approaching, the Collier County Sheriff's Office reminds teens and their parents to celebrate safely.

Deputies say it is important for parents, teens and party hosts to understand the laws in order to keep everyone safe.

Some parents host after-prom parties where alcohol is provided, thinking that they can better protect teens by supervising their drinking, and by keeping them from driving drunk. Deputies are warning parents and guardians that they will be held responsible if any underage drinking occurs on their property and they could be subject to criminal and civil sanctions.

Establishments that sell alcohol are reminded to ask patrons for ID. Underage

sales and purchases could result in criminal prosecution.

CCSO offers these tips to help keep teens safe during prom:

- Communicate with your teens regularly and openly about alcohol and drugs.
- Communicate with other parents about your expectations and theirs.
- Discuss your expectations and rules for prom and graduation outings.
- Know who will be driving and what your teen's plans are.
- Make sure your teen has a cell phone. Have pre-established times when your teen calls in to check in with you.
- Remind your teen not to use alcohol or drugs, or ride in a vehicle with anyone

under the influence.

- Never provide alcohol or drugs to your teen or others.
- Remind your teen to buckle up when riding in a vehicle.
- Get involved by volunteering to supervise prom events.
- Don't rent a hotel room for teens.
- Stay up until your teen gets home.

Regular and open communication between parents and teens can make a difference in preventing drunken driving, drug use, DUI accidents, and other destructive behavior. Take the time to give your teens the information and tools they need to stay safe.

David Lawrence Center receives Art Therapy Grant

David Lawrence Center, Collier County's only comprehensive, not-for-profit mental health and addiction recovery treatment center serving children, adults and families, is pleased to announce that the Harmon-Meek Gallery Fund at the Southwest Florida Community Foundation has awarded the Center a \$2,500 grant for the "Creative Expressions: Arts for Health and Wellness" art therapy program.

What originally began in 2014 as a six-month pilot program, this community-based art therapy program is now in its fourth year, thanks to the continued generosity of the Harmon-Meek Gallery Fund. To date, more

than 73 children enrolled in the Center's Children's Community Action Team have reaped the many therapeutic benefits of their total investment of \$41,500.

Research suggests that artistic contemplation and expression can improve problem solving, increase focus, interpersonal skills and feelings of empathy while reducing stress levels.

Scott Burgess, President and CEO of David Lawrence Center, said, "David Lawrence Center greatly values the continued investment and partnership of the Meek Family on this highly effective, holistic opportunity to teach children who are struggling how to positively channel their emotions and communicate through art."

This innovative art therapy program was developed and is run by licensed mental health counselors and registered art therapists. It provides participants the opportunity to visit, view, and discuss artwork created by professional artists within a gallery space—such as The Baker Museum at Artis-Naples and Harmon-Meek|modern, where children learn how artists express thoughts and emotions through the use of line, shape, color and pictorial metaphors. They then practice these learned techniques, share their

artwork, and process their experiences and associated feelings in a group setting and with their treatment team.

The overall program objectives are to help children develop new coping skills, learn socially appropriate methods to express and contain thoughts and emotions, experience healthy leisure and recreational skills, gain self-reflection, and enhance communication skills.

Kristine Meek, Director /Co-owner of Harmon-Meek Gallery, stated, "The goal of our donor-advised fund is to support at-risk youth and children's arts programs in Lee and Collier Counties. As long-time supporters of David Lawrence Center, we're thrilled they came to us with such a collaborative and constructive art-based program. Teaching children to express themselves through art can be an incredibly powerful coping skill and it is our honor to be part of making this healing, therapeutic technique available for children struggling with their mental health."

Harmon-Meek Gallery Fund awards grants to local charities through funds raised at the annual Harmon-Meek Gallery Visionaries of the Visual Arts Award Dinner.



It is time to overcome the fear that stops you in your tracks

Have you ever decided that it's finally time to take action on that thing that you've always wanted to do only to be inundated with a paralyzing fear or feeling of overwhelm that stops you dead in your tracks?

Maybe it's painting a mural on your kid's wall, or planting an organic garden of veggies in your backyard, starting a home business, or writing a book; whatever it is you've been wanting to get started doing but have had difficulty amping up your 'getting started' juices. But you've finally worked up the motivation to do it and just before you get ready to take that first action you are flooded with thoughts like "What if I fail? What if I'm really bad at this? Who am I to think I could paint a life size painting? Who am I to write a book? I will never be able to tend a garden. I should just stop now before I even have the opportunity to fail."

If you know what I'm talking about, and I know you probably do, then I want you to know you are not alone in this. We all have these fears and these limiting beliefs. It took the famous inventor, Thomas Edison, over 1,000 attempts to successfully create the light bulb; but, instead of giving up he kept pursuing his desire to invent the light bulb. He said "I didn't fail 1,000 times. The light bulb was an invention with 1,000 steps."

Ask yourself "What if I don't fail? What if I'm an overwhelming success at painting, or gardening, or writing a book?" and add



Hunting Happiness With Val White

to that "Even if I do fail at first, imagine how much better I'll be equipped to begin again!" This week I encourage you to take a look at the list of things you've always wanted to do and just start. Just take one little tiny action daily toward getting that thing done. If it's gardening, go and buy some organic potting soil, if it's painting a mural then sketch out some ideas. If writing a book is your thing, then start by writing an outline or just sitting down to your computer and start typing. Get something done and see how the energy of actually doing that which you've always wanted to do pulls you forward to your goal! It's a really exciting feeling to create something from a space of diving in head first, so go ahead and let yourself get excited. Even if you fail at first, it'll be an exciting journey; and as Ralph Waldo Emerson said "Life is a journey, not a destination."

Tourney aids farmworkers' children

Participants in the Lipman Golf Classic will enjoy a morning of championship-caliber golf while they help the low-income families of south Florida.

The tournament, a key fund-raiser for Redlands Christian Migrant Association, is scheduled for May 5 at Naples Heritage Golf & Country Club. Golfers will receive a continental breakfast and buffet lunch, with door prizes galore.

Sponsorships range from \$225 for an individual golfer up to the \$10,000 title

sponsorship held by Lipman Family Farms. These fees are largely tax-deductible. Each dollar raised qualifies RCMA for \$16 in operations funding from the state.

Based in Immokalee, the nonprofit RCMA operates 66 child-care centers and three charter schools for Florida's rural, low-income families.

For information, call Kathleen Roehm at (863) 781-2874, send an email to cr@rcma.org or check online at www.rcma.org.

Collier County Road Watch

US 41 from Pine Ridge Road to Sandpine Drive: Construction project: Crews will be placing sidewalk, drainage structures and lighting on the east side of US 41. Crews will also resurface the intersection of US 41 and Pelican Bay Boulevard. Work occurs during daytime and nighttime hours. Motorists should expect intermittent lane closures through the duration of the project during nighttime/overnight hours from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. Drivers should use caution traveling in this area. Estimated completion is summer 2018. The contractor is American Lighting & Signalization, Inc.

US 41 from Habitat Drive to SR 951/Collier Boulevard: Maintenance permit project: Motorists should expect intermittent southbound and northbound lane closures during daytime hours weekdays, while crews ex-

tend turn lanes, weather permitting. Motorists should use caution as crews work in the roadway.

8th Street NE from Golden Gate Boulevard to Randall Boulevard: Construction project: This project constructs a new bridge over the Cypress Canal. Crews will also widen existing lanes, add sidewalk to the west side of the roadway and improve drainage throughout the project area. Work will occur during daytime hours. Motorists should expect intermittent lane closures from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Local area residents will have access at all times. Motorists and pedestrians should use caution while traveling in this area. Estimated project completion is spring 2019. The contractor is Bergeron Land Development, Inc.

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Progress on Glades training center picks up speed

By **Patty Brant**

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

For years there has been a widely held belief that education – training – is the way this long-time agricultural area will survive and thrive in the future. Although it is a standing goal to bring vocational training to Hendry and Glades on a large scale, the reality has been extremely difficult to accomplish.

For several years both Hendry and Glades have been systematically working toward that goal. The Glades County Regional Training Center (GCRTC) is at the core of the plan, the place where they hope to provide the training that will spark this area's economic rebirth by providing trained employees for manufacturing and logistics jobs.

Interest has waxed and waned over the years as a number of large companies have shown strong interest in the center, then backed away as the recession took its toll.

Now the counties are again ready to pool their efforts to make that center, which is located at U.S. 27 and SR 78 near the Glades County Sheriff's Office and health department, a focal point for growth.

Several years ago, the State of Florida provided \$3.5 million for the center's first year and Glades kicked in \$0.5 million for the building and parking lot, along with another \$1 million for infrastructure, including roadway, electric and water.

The facility is currently offering GED and citizenship classes, provided by the Glades County School Board, and CDL classes, by Suncoast Trucking.

At a joint meeting Thursday, April 5, commissioners, administrators and educators from both counties continued brainstorming about the future of GCRTC and its poten-

tial impact on the area. A successful training program like the one envisioned for the center could provide residents with good, solid employment and the county with economic stability.

Planners know that goal is not yet in reach, and they know they will need support from outside the immediate area to make it so. One of the topics of discussion was lining up just that kind of support.

In previous conversations, the commissioners had discussed hiring a director for the facility. However at the joint meeting they were more inclined toward hiring a single administrative person to coordinate the center.

The planners had a consensus that the GCRTC should be run through the Local Educational Agency (LEA), keeping control of the project local.

However, the hope is that an experienced educational entity can be found to underwrite and run the project. Planners are looking forward to providing a center like iTech in Immokalee, on a smaller scale.

Collier County Public Schools, with its highly successful iTech facility, is willing to work on the project. In fact CCPS Superintendent Dr. Kamela Patton is scheduled to visit here in the next few weeks.

Assistance is also being sought from Florida Gulf Coast University, Hodges University, Florida Southwestern College, Fort Myers Technical College and more.

An experienced educational entity will be able to run the facility and expand into appropriate courses for incoming businesses.

Perhaps, a local VISTA volunteer, which would not require any local funding, would be useful as well.

Planners are seriously considering using money from Hendry, Glades and the Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board (each has pledged \$20,000) for three years to cover salary and benefits for an administrator to coordinate the facility.

Senator Denise Grimsley is looking at possible funding that might be available from Senate Bill 10, which expedites construction of water storage reservoir in the Everglades Agricultural Area. Tuition may also provide some funding.

Planners agreed that they need to market the center to area high school students,

including Hendry, Glades, Okeechobee and other surrounding counties to make the project viable.

There are many variables to consider, but the commissioners would like to see some additional progress for the fall term. They realize local students are at an economic disadvantage and this center could ultimately provide them with a way of life through a good living in the trades.

The two commissions will meet again on June 12 at 11:30 a.m. in Glades County to continue sharing information and discussion points.



Submitted photo/Patty Brant

Glades County Regional Training Center.

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Women's Foundation of Collier County awarded \$60,000 in scholarships

The Women's Foundation of Collier County, a fund at the Community Foundation of Collier County, awarded twelve \$5,000 scholarships for local women at the 2018 Women of Initiative Honorees Luncheon. The Women of Initiative Scholarship Fund was founded by Women of Initiative alumnae in honor of the 20th anniversary of the awards.

The scholarship is for women of any age who wish to pursue the completion of a post-secondary degree or certificate. They may be a graduating high school senior, a nontraditional student returning to school, or a student already in her post-secondary path.

Among the twelve scholarships recipients is Jasmine Lopez-Ramirez who will graduate from Lely High School this year and will be attending Embry Riddle Aeronautical University to major in Aerospace Engineering and minor in flight. She will also have her private pilot's license by the end of her senior year.

In addition, Gerta Laine, single mother

of 2 young children, received a scholarship. Gerta is a Naples High School graduate, who was previously homeless and car-less, and is now enrolling in Lorenzo Walker Institute of Technology to study Practical Nursing.

The following women were awarded scholarships:

- Stephanie Desinor - University of Richmond
- Daniela Fernandez - Hodges University
- Tammy Gutierrez - Hodges University
- Brittany Ignell - Rasmussen College
- Gerta Laine - Lorenzo Walker Institute of Technology
- Jasmine Lopez-Ramirez - Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
- Maria Lourdes Lopez-Whitney - Florida Gulf Coast University
- Yveleissa Martino - Florida SouthWestern University
- Adjhany Severe - Florida SouthWestern University
- Heather VanBrummelen - Hodges University
- Jean Viva - Hodges University

Ashley Williamson - Rasmussen College "We understand that education is the key to escaping poverty and a brighter future," said Eileen Connolly-Keesler, President and CEO of the Community Foundation of Collier County. "We are so grateful to the Women's Foundation of Collier County Class Ambassadors for taking on this new scholarship initiative that will change lives for local women."

To learn more information about this scholarship or to make a donation to help more local women, visit swflscholarships.org or call 239-649-5000.

The 2018 Women of Initiative honorees recognized for their achievements are: Alice Arena, Bunny Brooks, Debra Haley, Judy Hushon, Emily James, Amanda Jaron, Patricia Jilk, Brenda Melton, Jeanne Nealon, and Wynnell Schrenk.

The 2018 Women of Initiative (WOI) Honorees Luncheon was sponsored by BMO Private Bank, eBella Magazine and Waterside Shops.

Regional Try Transit Day
April 20, 2018

- Free Rides on Regional Try Transit Day
- Track Your Trips for Prizes

www.commuterservicesfl.com/information/trip-tracker/

Try Transit Day

Free Rides on Collier Area Transit

Collier Area Transit (CAT) is offering free rides on all fixed-route buses Friday, April 20, to promote Try Transit Day. In recognition of Earth Day, the Collier County Board of Commissioners and CAT are raising awareness of the CAT system and its routes throughout the county to increase ridership while supporting environmental protection.

Try Transit Day is intended to encourage residents and visitors to use public transit. The use of public transit helps to reduce traffic congestion, reduce energy consumption, improve air quality, and promote health and physical fitness. This event is organized in collaboration with the Florida Department of Transportation's Commuter Services program. Individuals who use alternative transportation modes such as transit, carpooling or cycling can track their trips here and will be entered to win prizes donated by Commuter Services.

For more information on Try Transit Day, visit CAT's website at goCATbus.com or call customer service at (239) 252-7777. To register to win prizes, visit commuterservicesfl.com or call Commuter Services at (866) 585-RIDE (7433).



Photo by Reagan Rule Photography

Back row, l-r: Stacey Herring (WOI Event Chair), Emily James, Amanda Jaron, Patricia Jilk, Jeanne Nealon, Brenda Melton, Debra Haley and Vicki Tracy (WOI Event Vice-Chair). Front row, l-r: Bunny Brooks, Judy Hushon, Wynnell Schrenk and Alice Arena.

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Public Notice

Public Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

To Whom it May Concern: Notice is hereby given of intention to apply to the 2018 session of the Florida Legislature for passage of (Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida), Hence 768.28 F.S. of an act for Relief of Claimant(s): Peggy Bryan Dupree, Betty R. Gosnell, Karen J. Federighi, Excess Judgment Claim filed pursuant as required by Article III, Section 10 of the Constitution. Article X Section 13 Florida Constitution.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED:

WHEREAS, Peggy Bryan Dupree & Kenneth Lee Bryan in Collier County Florida. Nature of Injuries: Arising out of Gross Negligence (Torture, Premeditated Attempted Murder, Brain Injuries, Other Health Illness & Irrevocable Physiological Damages), Medical Malpractice, Professional Malpractice. Property Damages: Incident(s): 10/12/2015, 10/16/2015, 10/19/2015, 10/29/2015, 01/09/2016, 04/14/2016, 05/01/2016 & other dates unknown.

WHEREAS, Betty R. Gosnell & Jamie L. Curtis. Nature of Injuries: Arising out of Gross Negligence (Torture, Premeditated Attempted Murder, Possible Death & Irrevocable Psychological Damages), Medical Malpractice, Professional Malpractice, Property Damages. Incident(s): 07/07/2016, 09/16/2016, 04/19/2017 to present.

WHEREAS, Karen J. Federighi. Nature of Injuries: Arising out of Gross Negligence (Torture & Premeditated Murder), Medical Malpractice, Professional Malpractice, Property Damages. Incident(s): 01/14/2016, 01/22/2016 to present.

Respondent(s) Caused Claimant(s) Injuries: Lee County Sheriff (Mike Scott) Office, Collier County Sheriff (Kevin J. Rambosk) Office, Agency With Persons With Disabilities Director (Barbara Palmer), David Lawrence Center Director/President (Darcy Taylor, Scott Burgess), Department of Children & Families Director/Secretary (Mike Carroll), Collier County Clerk of Court Chief Judge McHugh, Lauren L. Brodie, James Shenko, Christine Greider, Larry Pivacek, Patrick Charles Weber.

Claimant Peggy Bryan Dupree: Claim Amount: \$166,666,666.00 against State of Florida & Municipal, Collier County Sheriff Office, Agency With Persons With Disabilities, David Lawrence Center, Department of Children & Families & Protective Services, Collier County Clerk of Court, Larry Pivacek.

Claimant Betty R. Gosnell: Claim Amount: \$166,666,666.00 against State of Florida & Municipal, Lee County Sheriff Office, Collier County Sheriff Office, Department of Children & Families & Protective Services, Collier County Clerk of Court.

Claimant Karen J. Federighi: Claim Amount: \$166,666,666.00 against State of Florida & Municipal, Collier County Sheriff Office, Collier County Clerk of Court, Patrick Charles Weber, Larry Pivacek.
485000 B/3/15,22,29/4/5,12/2018

NOTICE OF MEETING

There will be a Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the Immokalee Water & Sewer District, on Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 4:30 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. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Employee Recognition
 1. February 2018-Norma Garcia
 - E. Public Concerns
 - F. Staff Good Cause Items
 - G. Board Concerns
 - H. Old Business
 1. USDA Documents
 - I. New Business
3. Consent Agenda
 - A. Adoption of Minutes
 1. March 21, 2018 Board Meeting
 - B. Civil Rights Compliance Report
 - C. March Budget Review
 - D. Fixed Assets Acquisitions-Disposals
 - E. Various Reports
 - F. Project Change Orders
 - G. Engineer's Report - Greeley and Hansen
 - H. Director's Report
4. Action Agenda
 - A. Resolution 18-06-Closing on USDA Bond Contract
 - B. Resolution on 18-07-Authorizing Executive Director to Pay Contractors
5. Discussion Agenda
 - A. Attorney's Report
6. Other Public Interests
7. Adjournment

"Public discussion will be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker, unless additional information is requested, and additional time is granted by the Board Members."

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.
254561 IB 4/12/2018

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Community Briefs

Blue Zone event planned

Blue Zones Project event, "Learn the Secrets to Well-Being" will be on April 16. NY Times Bestseller and Blue Zones Project co-founder, Dan Buettner will be speaking at Florida Gulf Coast University's Alico Arena at 6 p.m. Come learn about the people around the world that are living the longest and what their secrets to longevity are. We'll be giving away Blue Zones Project t-shirts, 25 copies of Dan's new book, Blue Zones of Happiness, and more than \$1,800 in restaurant gift

cards! After Dan's presentation we will host an optional walk, followed by plant-based food tastings and a ribbon cutting ceremony at The Boardwalk Café. Come join us for this FREE event! Doors open at 5 p.m.!RSVP at wellbeingsofl.eventbrite.com

Youth Extravaganza

Are you between the ages of 16-24 and interested in a GED, Continuing Education or Employment? Then join the CareerSource of Southwest Florida at 750 S. 5th Street in

Immokalee on April 14 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be free food, door prizes and a guest speaker. Contact Yvar Pierre or Verdier Clement for more info at 239-658-3300 ext. 6506 or 6713.

Master Plan Meeting scheduled

The Immokalee Area Master Plan guides the future growth in your community – how land uses are arranged for housing, businesses, and civic uses; how these are supported and connected by the transportation network, and with the protection of important environmental areas. The next round of Public Workshops will be on April 25. The Morning Workshop will be from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. at CareerSource 750 South 5th St. Immokalee, FL 34142 OR Evening Workshop 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Immokalee Community Park 321 North 1st St. Immokalee, FL 34142. For more information call Anita Jenkins, AICP Collier County Community Planning Anita.Jenkins@colliercountyfl.gov (239) 252-8288 www.colliergov.net/GMPrestudies.

Emergency Preparedness & Planning:

Collier County Emergency Management invites you to participate in Emergency Preparedness & Planning: A Workshop for the Immokalee Unmet Needs Coalition. The event will be on Saturday, May 12, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at 8075 Lely Cultural Parkway, Naples, FL 34113 in the Collier County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on the third floor. -

Learn how to further assist Immokalee before, during and after an emergency

-Participate in an Immokalee-designed Table Top Exercise (TTX)

-Take a tour of the Emergency Operations Center

-Earn a certificate for this free training!

-Registration is limited!

To register, please contact Lauren D. Bonica, Human Services Program Manager, Collier County Emergency Management, Lauren.Bonica@CollierCountyFL.Gov or 239-252-3608

- ACROSS**
- 1 18th Greek letter
 - 6 Instagram account creator
 - 0 Gunpowder container
 - 3 Contest submission
 - 4 Campus sports gp.
 - 5 Call, retro-style
 - 6 Symbol of a good try
 - 8 To be, to Cato
 - 9 Just okay
 - 0 Place to apply gloss
 - 1 Use unwisely, as time
 - 2 Movie for all
 - 6 Organ near the stomach
 - 9 Playground threat
 - 2 Rips
 - 3 Clash of clans
 - 4 Ornamental pond fish
 - 5 JFK postings
 - 6 Straight-A student's bane
 - 8 Show sleepiness
 - 9 Christmas tree
 - 0 Follow one's new job, in Realtor-speak
 - 1 Private student
 - 2 Go up alone
 - 4 Persian Gulf ships
 - 5 "Lady Chatterley's Lover" author
 - 8 Gaze intently
 - 0 Before, to Frost
 - 1 Like skyscrapers
 - 5 Bee flat?
 - 6 Noted O.J. Simpson attorney
 - 9 Bone-dry
 - 0 Bartlett cousin
 - 1 Like the man of one's dreams
 - 2 Marry
 - 3 "Yeah, sure!"
 - 4 Tractor maker

- 7 Check (out)
- 8 Musical skill
- 9 Singer in an interrogation room?
- 10 Musical inspired by "The Taming of the Shrew"
- 11 Fort Worth-to-Dallas direction
- 12 Merriment
- 15 Passed out cards
- 17 Caramel-topped custard dessert
- 21 Like some very bad pitches
- 23 Legal matter
- 24 God, in Grenoble
- 25 Reasons for school absences
- 26 Sheet music quintet, and with
- 31-Down, what the first letters of
- 16-, 22-, 36-, 45- and 56-Across represent
- 27 Danger
- 28 "Seinfeld" co-creator
- 30 Farther down
- 31 See 26-Down
- 33 Progressive Insurance spokeswoman

- 36 "Dracula" star Lugosi
- 37 Furrow the fields
- 38 Christmas season
- 40 Part on stage
- 41 Muscle spasm
- 43 Destroy, as files
- 44 Premium plane seat, usually
- 46 Pee Wee in Brooklyn

- 47 Upright
- 48 "Pygmalion" playwright
- 49 Radial
- 52 Out of the wind
- 53 Goneril's father
- 54 Country singer Lovett
- 56 Source of DVD warnings
- 57 Easy throw
- 58 Help out

We hope you enjoy this new feature we are adding to the Immokalee Bulletin. Check back next week for the answers to this weeks crossword in this space.

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	
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62						63					64			

By Ron Toth and C.C. Burnikel
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Training and support group

This support group is for families of children with special needs of any kind. It provides the ability for parent training and for families to connect and establish supportive relationships. When: The last Wednesday of every month from 9 a. m.-11 a.m. Where: Florida State University College of Medicine, Immokalee Health Education Site, 1441 Heritage Boulevard, Immokalee. Cost: Free to families. Snacks and beverages will be provided for free. For more information or to register to attend, call Tara Tallaksen at (239) 254-4279 or Rosa Martinez (239) 658-3129.

Este grupo de apoyo es para familias de niños con necesidades especiales de cualquier tipo. Proporciona la capacidad para el entrenamiento de los padres y para que las familias se conecten y establezcan relaciones de apoyo. Cuándo: El último miércoles de cada mes de 9 a. m.-11 a.m. Dónde: Colegio de Medicina de la Universidad Estatal de Florida, Sitio de Educación de Salud de Immokalee, 1441 Heritage Boulevard, Immokalee. Costo: Gratuito para familias. Se ofrecerán refrigerios y bebidas gratis. Para más información o para inscribirse para asistir, llame a Tara Tallaksen al (239) 254-4279 o Rosa Martínez (239) 658-3129.

Looking for volunteers

One of the best investments we can make in the life of a child is in their early education experiences. We are looking for volunteers. The goal of the Literacy Buddy Program is to put books into the hands of 3, 4 and 5-year old children. Once you volunteer, you are matched with a child in a preschool contracted by the coalition. Your child writes to you and tells you what they are interested in and then you write back and include a book about those interests. These exchanges happen three times during the school year. It's a great way to start a young child on the path to literacy and the love of learning. For more information visit www.ELCofSWFL.org and click on the Big Buddy Button.

Baby Shower Planned

The Third Annual Immokalee Community Baby Shower is being planned for May 3 for the low income and Migrant farm working pregnant women of Immokalee. Healthy Start of Southwest Florida and FSU College of Medicine partner together to host a community baby shower for these women that may not have anything for their babies, and whom may never have a baby shower of their own. There will be a morning of games, food, gifts, raffles and education. They would like to invite community partners to come and set up tables with services and information, and an educational presentation by one of the FSU- Psychologist. The organization is asking for any one or any agency/organization interested in being a sponsor for this event to please contact me: Rosa Martinez -239-658-3129 or Estela Aguilar- 239-425-6922.

5th Annual Leadership Day

Highlands Elementary School, 1101 Lake Trafford Rd—Immokalee, FL 34142 will celebrate their 5th Annual Leadership Day on Friday, May 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. We encourage you to join us as we celebrate our recently achieved "Lighthouse" status! Our Student Leadership Teams will spotlight the 7 Habits through an array of approaches in order to provide guests with a first hand look at the important role of each habit! With our theme of "Lighting the Way"- our young leaders are eager to showcase their accomplishments through leadership! Please RSVP so that we may plan accordingly. Send name(s) of each person attending along with their physical mailing address. Formal invitations will be mailed out prior to the event. Please feel free to contact the school with any questions @ 239.377.7100. RSVP to cadepe@collierschools.com.



Enjoy the Sounds of Spring during FSW's free Concert Series

Music lovers can enjoy a series of spring concerts performed by students in Florida SouthWestern State College's (FSW) Music program in April. Concerts are held in the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, 8099 College Parkway, Fort Myers. Doors open at 7 p.m. Concert begins at 7:30. The concerts are free and open to the public.

Concert schedule:

The FSW Symphony Orchestra, along with the FSW 70-member Chorale, will present Johannes Brahms' "Ein deutsches Requiem" Op. 45. Brahms began work on this piece in 1858 in memory of his friend and mentor, Robert Schumann. The resulting "Requiem" did not approach maturity, however, until after the death of Brahms' beloved mother in 1865. Rather than a mass for the deceased, this work is his personal statement of affirmation and consolation for the living who have suffered loss.

Tuesday, April 17, 7:30 p.m. – FSW Concert Band, Percussion Ensemble,

Trombone Choir, and Trumpet Trio

The FSW Concert Band will be performing movements from "Carmina Burana" by Carl Orf; Bizet's "L'Arlésienne Suite;" Fillmore's arrangement of "Poet and Peasant Overture;" "Hungarian March" by Berlioz; Frank Ticheli's band arrangement of "Ave Maria," and Glenn Bainum's concert band arrangement of Hanssen's Norwegian march "Valdres."

Tuesday, April 24, 7:30 p.m. – FSW Jazz Ensemble

FSW's two Big-Band Ensembles and two Jazz Combos will play the sounds of New Orleans jazz, swing, blues, big band, hard-bop and mainstream jazz by such composers as Les Hooper, Count Basie, Sammy Nestico, John Coltrane, Pat Metheny, Snarky Puppy, Frank Mantooth and Oliver Nelson.

For more information, contact Kelly O'Neil, FSW Music department, at 239-432-5203 or koneill@fsw.edu.

The Immokalee Foundation receives \$10,000 grant

The Immokalee Foundation recently received \$10,000 from the Naples Daily News, which administered a grant awarded by the Gannett Foundation Grant Program. The parent company of the Naples Daily News and The News-Press, the Gannett Foundation awarded a total of \$40,000 to five non-profits chosen from among more than 100 applicants. Grants ranged from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

"We're pleased to receive this significant grant, which will enhance our ability to provide pathways to success through education for the youth of Immokalee," said Executive Director Steven Kissinger, who accepted the award on behalf of The Immokalee Foundation.

The nonprofit was founded in 1991 to assist the Immokalee community by investing in its youth. In 2001, the foundation began partnering with the statewide Take Stock in Children scholarship program; it also offers Immokalee Readers, Career Development and Career Success, among others.

A look at the numbers proves the success of the foundation's programs, made possible through a strong staff, committed

volunteers, and generous community and corporate support. Students enrolled in The Immokalee Foundation programs have a 100 percent high school graduation rate. In addition, 84 percent of enrolled students are post-secondary graduates from college or vocational institutions.

The Immokalee Foundation provides a range of education programs that focus on building pathways to professional careers through college and post-secondary preparation and support, mentoring and tutoring, opportunities for broadening experiences, and life skills development leading to economic independence. To learn more about The Immokalee Foundation, volunteering as a career panel speaker or host, becoming a mentor, making a donation, including the foundation in your estate plans, or for additional information, call 239-430-9122 or visit www.immokaleefoundation.org.

Submitted photo



Last show of the season

Held over for another week! LaBelle's own Elton John impersonator will be performing with the Firehouse Singers nightly at 7 p.m. from April 12 - 14 and the April 15 Sunday Matinee at 2 p.m. at the Firehouse Community Theatre. Come out and see this fantabulous celebration of the Theatre's 25th Anniversary! Get your tickets by calling our ticket hotline at (863) 675-3066 or online at firehousecommunitytheatre.com, and come on down and enjoy the show. Tickets are \$14 in advance and \$16 at the door. The Firehouse Community Theatre is located at 241 N. Bridge Street in LaBelle.

Collier County Looking for Artwork/Photography to display at the county government center

Collier County continues to display a rotating exhibit of local artists' and photographers' work in the Board of County Commissioners' chambers, third floor, Collier County Government Center, 3299 Tamiami Trail E., Naples, Florida 34112.

Artists must be residents of Collier County, at least on a part-time basis. The artwork must be appropriate imagery for a public space and should have a broad appeal to people of all ages, backgrounds and cul

Those interested in being considered must submit a brief letter of interest describing their level of expertise, training and experience along with digital images of seven art pieces proposed to display to Mike Sheffield, director of the County's Communication and Customer Relations Division at Mike.Sheffield@colliercountyfl.gov.

For more information, contact Mike Sheffield at (239) 252-8569.

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