

# IMMOKALEE BULLETIN

Serving Immokalee, Ave Maria and Eastern Collier County

Vol. 51 No. 19

Thursday, May 10, 2018



Submitted photo/Lewis Perkins

## United We Walk

At 5:30 on Thursday, May 3, the National Day of Prayer, different religious denominations gathered at the Immokalee Parks and Rec to unite in a march around the high school's and middle school's campuses. However, to Immokalee residents, this was more than celebrating the National Day of Prayer. Since the beginning of this year, Immokalee residents have been faced with depression, illness, deaths, teen-suicides, and crime. Over a hundred participants prayed and sang petitioning God to bring His loving peace and to restore health back to Immokalee. People who were unable to participate in the walk were encouraged to join in prayer. Remember Matthew 18:20; "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Thanks to the leaders of the Immokalee Ministerial Alliance (I.M.A), a multi-denominational and cultural group, Pastors Richard Heers and Terry Mallory who organized this walk. Both Heers and Mallory have been serving the the Immokalee community for several decades.

## Elections Office staff recognized by the SWFL Chapter of FPRA

The Southwest Florida Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association (FPRA) has honored Heather Doane with the 2018 Rising Star Award and Trish Robertson, APR with the Unsung Hero Award.

Rising Star Award recognizes an up and coming leader in the chapter, who has shown enthusiasm and passion for their profession, is likely to be making a positive difference through their service to FPRA chapter events, career pursuits and in other arenas.

The Unsung Hero Award recognizes the contributions of an individual member for

their hard work and dedication to the chapter "behind the scenes" and who helps to enhance and promote the public relations profession. The Unsung Hero is someone who consistently provides support and assistance to the chapter and its professional goals without hesitation.

Heather Doane is the Voter Education Coordinator for the Collier County Supervisor of Elections office and has been a member of the Southwest Florida Chapter of FPRA since 2015. She currently serves on the

See **Recognized** — Page 2

## Collier County man charged with Cruelty to Animals

Robert David Starkweather, 51, of Collier County, has been charged with 144 counts related to cruelty to animals. The State Attorney's Office has filed 131 counts of the charge Cruelty to Animals and 13 counts of Animals (Improper Disposing/Dead) for the handling of animals that allegedly died in his care. The cruelty charges filed by the office involve alleged crimes that occurred in Hendry County with the animals being starved with no access to food.

There were 77 cows, 48 calves, and 2 donkeys found on property on Fort De-naud Road in LaBelle by the Hendry County Sheriff's Office after an anonymous tip was

called in. There were 13 animals found dead upon arrival.

The Hendry County Sheriff's Office investigated the case with substantial assistance from the Lee County Sheriff's Office and Collier County Sheriff's Office. The animals were seized and were taken from the property and moved to another location. One calf died and five had to be euthanized due to their poor health conditions after being looked at by a veterinarian.

Starkweather was arrested on March 23rd. Starkweather will be arraigned on May 17th at 9 a.m. Assistant State Attorney Mitchell Cooper is prosecuting the case.

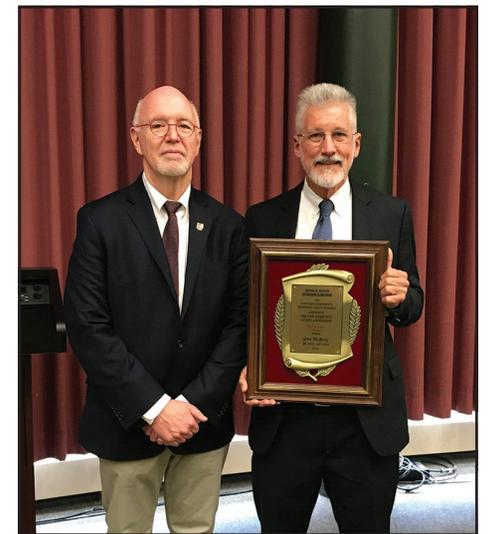
## McAvoy receives award from Rutgers University

Gene McAvoy, Hendry County Extension Director traveled to his alma mater Rutgers University recently where he was honored with the Dennis M. Fenton Distinguished Graduate Alumni Award for outstanding achievement in professional and civic endeavors.

Established in 2003 this award honors Dennis Fenton, executive vice-president of Amgen Inc., and a strong supporter of graduate education at the School of Environmental and Biological Science, formerly Cook College, and Rutgers University. Successful candidates will have a demonstrated and significant impact in their field of study. The Fenton Award is the highest honor presented by the Cook Alumni Association to advanced degree alumni.

Eligible alumni are graduates of Rutgers University's Graduate School of New Brunswick who earned a Masters or Doctoral degree from a program or department currently or historically associated with the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, Cook College, the College of Agriculture and Environmental Science or the Rutgers College of Agriculture.

McAvoy graduated from Rutgers University, College of Agriculture and Environmental Science in 1974 with a BS Agricultural Science and returned to earn his MS in Horticulture in 1983.



Submitted photo

Pictured with Gene McAvoy is Dr Mark Robson of Rutgers University who nominated him for the award and presented it on behalf of the Alumni Association.

Gene is currently a faculty member at the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and serves as the Regional Specialized Vegetable Agent IV in SW

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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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### 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
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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](http://www.facebook.com/waddyphotos)

## Award

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Florida as well as County Extension Director in Hendry County.

McAvoy is currently the Vice President of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. He was Inducted into Syngenta Resistance Fighter Leadership Program – Class of 2015 and has won numerous awards including the Florida Farm Bureau Excellence in Crop Advising Award (2009), the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) Achievement Award (2005) and NACAA Distinguished Service Award (2008) as well as the University of Florida Christine Taylor Waddill Professional Enhancement Award (2011), University of Florida Seymour Goldweber Extension Professional Enhancement Award (2008), University of Florida Dallas Townsend Extension Professional Enhancement Award (2005), and the Farm Credit Young Professional Award (2002).

Before arriving at the University of Florida in 1997, Gene spent 14 years in West Africa, South Africa and the Caribbean working on various United States Agency for International Development agriculture projects.

McAvoy resides in LaBelle with his loving wife Donna on their ranch just south of town.

## Recognized

Continued From Page 1

chapter's board as Secretary. Trish Robertson is the Communications Coordinator for



Submitted photo  
**Communications Coordinator, Trish Robertson, honored by FPRA with the 2018 Unsung Hero Award**

the Collier County Supervisor of Elections office and is a past-president of the Southwest Florida Chapter of FPRA. Trish currently serves as the VP of Technology on the association's Executive Committee and has been a member since 2011.



Submitted photo  
**Voter Education Coordinator, Heather Doane, honored by FPRA with the 2018 Rising Leader Award.**

## Students First

### By Jennifer L. Kupiec

Specialist, Communications & Community Engagement Collier County Public Schools

Student registration for the 2018-2019 school year is now open. All students new to the district must register. There are three easy steps to the registration process: 1) Pre-Register Online, 2) Gather Required Documents, and 3) Visit the Appropriate Registration Location.

To begin the registration process, visit [www.collierschools.com/registration](http://www.collierschools.com/registration) to pre-register online. After finishing the online component, gather the required documents which are listed on the website and visit your registration location to complete the process. Registration locations are open Monday thru Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

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### EVERGLADES CITY

(Everglades City residents)  
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415 School Drive

It is very important to pay attention to the list of required documents. You must have all documentation in order to complete the registration process. A missing document means another trip to registration.

Here is another tip. Register early. As the new school year approaches, the registration lines get longer. Visiting Student Registration the week before school starts can mean hours of waiting time. If you have your documentation ready, visit your registration location now. It will make for a

quick and smooth experience.

Once your child is registered, you'll probably have questions regarding school supplies, dress code, start times... the list goes on. Your child's school website is going to be the best source for back-to-school information. To find your school's website, visit [www.collierschools.com](http://www.collierschools.com) and select Schools in the green navigation bar. Click on your child's school and choose the School Website link under the picture.

Every school website will be updated at the end of the school year with a 2018-2019 school supply list as well as any dress code or school uniform requirements. Information about upcoming Meet the Teacher and Curriculum Night events will be posted in the summer.

For registration questions, you may contact our Student Relations department at (239) 377-0540. We look forward to having you and your child join our #CCPSFamily.

## Collier County Road Watch

I-75 from Alligator Alley (mile marker 61) to just north of SR 78 (exit 143): Construction project: Work is underway to replace 24 Dynamic Message Signs. Motorists should expect intermittent lane closures during nighttime/overnight hours. Estimated project completion is fall 2018. The contractor is Horsepower Electric, Inc.

I-75/Alligator Alley Rest Area (mile marker 63): Construction project: Work is underway to build a new rest area and water treatment plant on the north side of the roadway. Estimated project completion is spring 2018. The contractor is West Construction, Inc.

US 41 from Golden Gate Parkway to

Orchid Drive: Maintenance permit project: Motorists should expect intermittent southbound lane closures during nighttime/overnight hours from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. weekdays, while crews replace a driveway, weather permitting. Motorists should use caution as crews work in the roadway.

# Alliance of nature, art groups launching 'Monarch Initiative'

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

An alliance of four conservation and art-oriented groups, along with other partners in the community, is launching "The Monarch Initiative," focused on the iconic, imperiled monarch butterfly, which has become a symbol in Florida and around the globe of the many conservation challenges that pollinators, wildlife, natural systems and people face in the 21st century.

The Nature Conservancy is establishing a unique program alongside Full Sail University, based in Winter Park, to increase awareness of the value of nature in our lives and encourage conservation action. The Monarch Initiative is a multifaceted campaign of digital and social media engagement, on the ground activities, compelling outdoor art, and community partnerships.

The Nature Conservancy is the world's largest conservation organization, working to protect lands and habitats that are critical to monarchs and pollinators and support healthy natural systems that sustain us. The conservancy is addressing climate change, leading sustainable agriculture practices on farmland and supporting greenspace in urban areas. In Florida, the conservancy has helped protect more than 1.2 million acres of vulnerable lands and waters, including most recently land in Glades County that extends a protected space for the Florida panther, and owns and manages more than 52,000 acres in 25 conservancy preserves.

"The Monarch Initiative brings the importance of well-functioning natural systems into sharp focus. Monarch butterflies rely on the same landscapes that support clean air and water and benefit all of us," says Temperance Morgan, The Nature Conservancy in Florida's executive director. "The initiative aims to inspire action from Floridians who are passionate about creating a healthier, more sustainable world. The world we depend on, also depends on us – as a community, we can build a future where people and nature thrive together."

The orange-and-black monarch butterfly, *Danaus plexippus*, completes an astonishing, nearly 3,000 mile multi-generational migration from Mexico to the United States and

Canada, and requires habitat in U.S. cities, on farmland, along America's coasts and throughout our natural places. Meadows, marshes, pastures and fields offer the milkweed on which they lay their eggs, and upon which their caterpillars feed. It is required for their survival.

In the fall, a single generation makes the trip to Mexico to overwinter. Over the last two decades, monarch numbers have dropped by more than 80 percent, from an estimated 1 billion butterflies in their winter range in Mexico in 1996 to only about 100 million in 2016. Major threats to monarch butterflies and all pollinators include habitat loss, pesticide use and climate change. Like the "canary in the coal mine," the monarch butterfly is a key indicator species of environmental health. Its dramatic population decline signals the need for urgent attention.

As lead collaborator and sponsor of The Monarch Initiative, Full Sail University, an award-winning educational institution focused on entertainment, media, arts and technology, is playing a pivotal role in helping to create needed attention. Full Sail is engaging its university community – students, staff, faculty and alumni – as well as community partners, including local municipalities, institutions and businesses, to create a broader reach and highly visible campaign.

Full Sail is also designing and hosting the campaign's microsite, boosting awareness through student-led online initiatives, creating the campaign's logo, supporting user-generated content and engaging its alumni network to increase impact. The university has an on-campus commitment to environmental responsibility and students and faculty that are engaged in conservation issues.

"Our campus is home to a creative community of technology-savvy individuals with a passion for utilizing their talents to inspire change. In listening to our own community, I learned that our students, staff and alumni were interested in taking part in an environmental effort where they could utilize their talents to make a global impact for good," said Full Sail University President Garry Jones.

"In partnering with the Nature Conser-



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/The Nature Conservancy

The Monarch Migrating Mural in progress in downtown Orlando this month.

vancy and Ink Dwell studio two years ago to bring The Monarch Initiative to life, this allowed Full Sail to engage the Central Florida community in an effort to create a template for community activation that can be replicated across the nation and beyond. So far the response from our civic, legislative, educational and commerce leaders has been tremendous, and we are excited to see continued acceptance and participation in The Monarch Initiative," Mr. Jones said.

The Monarch Initiative is further raising awareness through the Migrating Mural, an acclaimed public art initiative. Founded by Ink Dwell studio, the Migrating Mural is a series of public art installations that celebrate wildlife along migration corridors it shares

with people. The installations add beauty to the local environment while driving conservation education focused on species and ecosystems under threat. This new multi-year Migrating Mural, which will stretch across North America mirroring the monarch's migration from Canada to Mexico, focuses on this butterfly, their habitats, its role as a pollinator and the challenges it faces.

"Monarch butterflies and other pollinators are beautiful animals vital to the health of our planet, but they're small and easy to overlook," says Jane Kim, the artist who is creating the work and co-founder of San Francisco-based Ink Dwell art studio. "Public art of this magnitude makes them impossible to ignore."



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/The Nature Conservancy

Florida's first Monarch Migrating Mural, being painted in Winter Park in January, shows the butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) on the swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) native to Florida that helps sustain the species.

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# SFWMD completes restoration of regional ecosystem watershed

## Project restores natural hydrology and ecology of more than 1,000 acres of critical habitat in southern Lee County

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) today officially completed the restoration of 1,000 acres of the Southern Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) in Lee County before handing the project over to its Land Stewardship Division for long term management.

“By taking out roads and plugging ditches, this agency continues much needed restoration while also maintaining flood control by providing water storage to protect nearby residential properties,” said Big

Cypress Basin Board Chairman and SFWMD Governing Board Member Rick Barber, an avid hiker of the CREW region and longtime secretary of the CREW Trust Executive Committee. “As the results of our efforts begin to pay dividends, I have no doubt that Southern Corkscrew will be fully restored to its natural beauty.”

SFWMD and its partners -- representing businesses, environmental groups, landowners and governmental agencies -- manage the watershed

A Great Crested Flycatcher in CREW. Click on the image for a larger version.

for its numerous benefits to water storage and wildlife preservation. The 60,000-acre watershed, spanning Lee and Collier counties, includes a 5,000-acre marsh at its headwaters, as well as the famous Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary.

Work began on this SFWMD restoration undertaking back in 2016. The project included degrading approximately 10 miles of roads built decades ago, as well as berms, while also removing spoil piles, plugging ditches and canal drainage systems.

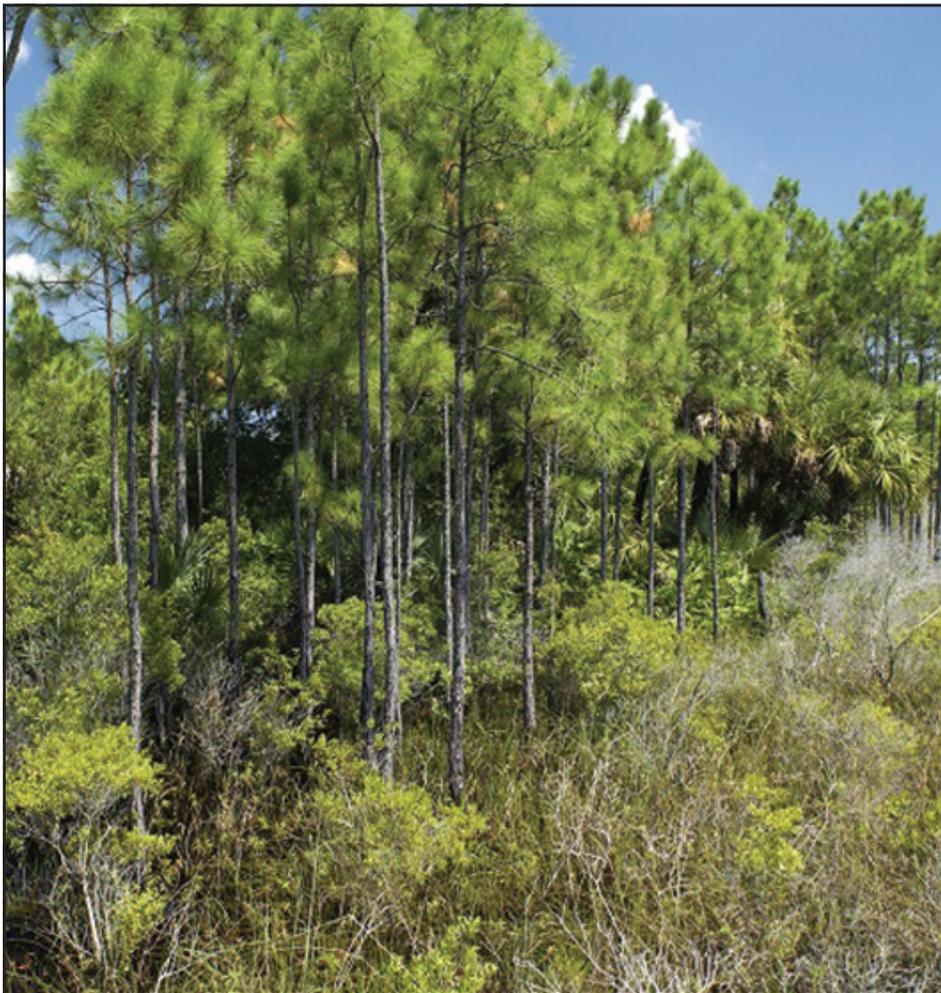
All of this work allowed the area to return to its natural hydrological conditions of periodic inundation. The restoration project benefits the entire Southwest Florida ecosystem and its residents by restoring wetlands and historic sheetflow of water, improving regional flood protection, drainage and increasing water storage and aquifer recharge capability.

### About CREW

Water once flowed freely across the pristine landscape of what is now Bonita Springs in Lee County. Historic sheetflow in the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed was later blocked by dirt roads, agricultural ditches and several residential communities. This altered the ecosystem and contributed to flooding in areas.

Floods in 1995 led the SFWMD to develop the Southern CREW Restoration Project to restore the ecosystem while protecting residents and their properties.

With work spanning more than a decade, the SFWMD acquired approximately 4,000 acres for this project, cleared exotic vegetation from more than 2,500 acres, removed roads and plugged agricultural ditches on more than 600 acres. To date, the SFWMD and State have invested more than \$32 million to conserve the lands, with the U.S. Department of the Interior contributing another \$7 million to the restoration effort.



Submitted photo

SFWMD has completed its restoration work in the Southern Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW).

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# Amp up your happiness level by doing something nice today

One of the quickest ways I amp up my happiness level is by doing something nice for someone else. If I'm feeling down and out, I could choose to stay sitting in no-fun-ville, or I could do something to spread a little joy to someone else. Maybe I pick up the phone and text my best friend to tell her how much I appreciate her, or maybe I surprise my co-worker with his favorite latte, or cook my beloved's favorite meal for dinner.

The act of doing something to bring joy to another automatically puts you in the receiving mode for happiness because by the act of doing something to make someone else

happy you are sowing seeds of joy, which will in turn bring you the benefits of reaping joy in your own life. But above and beyond the eventual reaping benefits, it just feels really good to do something nice for someone you care about. It automatically sends endorphins rushing to your brain and instantly makes you feel better; in no time at all you'll be strolling happily down the street noticing all the good things you have to be grateful for.

Give it a try this week; see if you can do one new nice thing for someone each day. Try to make it a different deed for a different person each day! Remember it doesn't have to be huge and you don't have to spend money to do this - just try and do something that you know would bring a smile to someone else's face and I'll bet you'll be the one smiling soon.



Hunting Happiness With Val White

## Almost Maine is now playing at the Firehouse Community Theatre

By Jo Coombs

Special to the Caloosa Belle

This play is set in a small community in the northern part of Maine about a hundred miles from the sea. Almost Maine is a series of vignettes by John Cariani about love, people that live in the area, and a few that just happen to show up there.

There is not much to do there in the form of entertainment. Seeing the "aurora borealis," eating at the local diner, and drinking at the "Moose Paddie" are three of the most

popular things to do.

Eight scenes or vignettes are brought together with a prologue, interlogue, and epilogue about Pete and Ginette, who have been dating for a little while. Director is Joel Hawkins and Assistant Director is Maureen Doucette.

This cast puts forth an outstanding performance which you definitely don't want to miss. So come on down to the Firehouse Community Theatre on May 11, 12, at 7 p.m. or on May 13 at 2 p.m. to see Almost Maine. For tickets call (863) 675-3066.



Submitted photo/Jo Coombs

Cast in alphabetical order: Isaac Cadena, Ashley Corbitt, Ashley Curry, Tina Johnson Kirby, Brittany Morrison, Jeff Schmitt, James Paul Shephard and Tim Smith.



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## North Collier Fire Fighters Local 2297 to Fill the Boot for MDA

Members of the North Collier Professional Fire Fighters Local 2297 will kick off their annual Fill the Boot fundraising campaign to benefit children and adults affected by muscle disease in Southwest Florida.

"Throughout 2018, MDA and fire fighters are celebrating 64 years of proud partnership, joined together in the fight against life-threatening muscle disease", said Executive Director, Cindy Nichols. "Fire fighters do more for MDA and the families we serve than any other group. In the Naples area, they spend countless hours every year participating in Fill the Boot drives and at MDA Summer Camp. We're grateful for the support of these inspiring, selfless individuals who have made a profound impact on our families' health, well-being and quality of life."

Members of the North Collier Professional Fire Fighters Local 2297 will be at the intersection of Vanderbilt Beach Rd. and Airport Pulling Rd. N. on the following dates:

Saturday May 12 and Saturday May 19 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Funds raised through the 2018 Fill the Boot event will help support MDA's programs of worldwide research, specialized health care services at the MDA Clinic in Sarasota, FL, and day-to-day support which includes sending children affected by muscular dystrophy and related diseases to a weeklong, barrier-free MDA summer camp at the Florida Elks Youth Camp in Umatilla, Florida.

As the Muscular Dystrophy Association's largest national sponsor, the IAFF fuels MDA's mission to find treatments and cures for life-threatening muscle diseases. IAFF

support for MDA began in 1954 when the organization committed by proclamation to support MDA until a cure is found, and the organization's unwavering commitment to MDA has remained strong to this day. The IAFF raised \$100,000 for MDA in 1955, and \$1 million in 1970, and fire fighters continue to raise the bar in their fundraising efforts. In 2013, more than 100,000 fire fighters participated in Fill the Boot events across the country and raised \$26.2 million. To date the IAFF has raised \$530 million for MDA.

### About the IAFF

The International Association of Fire Fighters represents more than 300,000 professional fire fighters and paramedics who protect 85 percent of the nation's population. More than 3,200 affiliates and their members protect communities in every state in the United States and in Canada.

### About MDA

The Muscular Dystrophy Association is the world's leading nonprofit health agency dedicated to saving and improving the lives of anyone with muscle disease, including muscular dystrophy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and other neuromuscular diseases. It does so by funding worldwide research to find treatments and cures; by providing comprehensive health care services and support to MDA families nationwide; and by rallying communities to fight back through advocacy, fundraising and local engagement. Visit [mda.org](http://mda.org) and follow us at [facebook.com/MDAnational](https://www.facebook.com/MDAnational) and @MDAnews.



Submitted photo

## On the next Carpool Cruiser

School's almost out but there's still time to learn about the job of a youth relations deputy. Cpl. Nicholas Shaffer of the Collier County Sheriff's Office's Youth Relations Bureau is the special guest in the latest edition of "Carpool Cruiser." CCSO's occasional video series features deputies talking about their jobs while riding around in a sheriff's cruiser. The episode features host Lt. J.J. Carroll behind the wheel asking his passenger Shaffer questions about his job as a youth relations deputy in the schools ranging from the training that is required to some of his most memorable experiences on the job. Lt. Carroll and Cpl. Shaffer also talk about the agency's current search to hire more youth relations deputies. (Interested? Go to [www.colliersheriff.org/careers](http://www.colliersheriff.org/careers) for more information)

## ATTENTION: PARENTS!



The Immokalee Bulletin will be publishing a **Special Tribute** to the Graduating Class of 2018!

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