

IMMOKALEE BULLETIN

Serving Immokalee, Ave Maria and Eastern Collier County

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Thursday, May 24, 2018

Motivating Future Leaders

By Lewis Perkins

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

Thanks to Florida Gulf Coast University, FGCU, Immokalee Middle and High School students have an opportunity to participate in the College Reach-Out Program, (CROP). CROP, established in 1983, is a free program developed to inspire underprivileged middle and high school students to overcome odds and become first-generation college graduates. After they receive their degree, the principles of the CROP program teach students how to become positive influences in their community. FGCU coordinates the CROP programs in Collier, Lee, and Hendry counties and provides transportation to the campus.

Connie Carter, a Language Arts teacher at Immokalee Middle School, has been a CROP Coordinator for 15 years, first at LaBelle Middle School and now, for the past eight or nine years, at Immokalee Middle School.

"I believe it's important to start working with them even before they get to High school," Carter states. Carter further influences the students to "...work as a team, helping one another with issues that can arise while in middle school."

In order to qualify for CROP, students, have to be first generation college students in their family. The program teaches them skills that they will need to be successful at a post-secondary level. For students who are discouraged about college because of their grades, Carter assures them: "...students in college do not have to be A/B students in middle or high school. Some of the best college students are 'C' students who have learned the skills and strategies of how to study." With many obstacles and unsurities facing today's youth, Carter motivates the CROP students to keep focused on college. "I encourage, especially the eighth graders, to stay involved with CROP in high school and to take advantage of all opportunities for visiting and/or learning about colleges. FGCU offers summer residential programs that are a wonderful way for students to learn about and even visit different college campuses."

Along with trips to FGCU's campus, students get to visit CROP programs from other schools. Carter brags: "When the IMS students attend events... they always amaze me with their very positive and polite behav-

See CROP — Page 2



Courtesy photo/Jennifer L. Kupiec

IHS seniors take a "Graduation Walk" through the halls of Edan Park Elementary to cheers and high fives.

IHS Seniors take a Graduation Walk at EPE

By Jennifer L. Kupiec

Specialist, Communications & Community Engagement Collier County Public Schools

It's graduation time! Immokalee High School's graduating seniors will be taking that all-important walk across the stage tomorrow, Friday, May 25 at 7:00 p.m. at Alico Arena. On Tuesday, however, these same Immokalee High School (IHS) seniors took another important walk—through the halls of Immokalee's elementary schools. Graduation walks, as they've been deemed, celebrate the success of our seniors while inspiring our younger students to see what they can one day achieve.

At Eden Park Elementary School (EPE), the graduates were met with cheers and applause. Donned in caps and gowns, they received high-fives and handshakes from the much younger EPE students as they walked the halls to the tune of "Pomp and Circumstance." And there were no shortage of inspirational signs along the way.

Priscilla Perez, a former EPE student and soon-to-be IHS graduate, shared that her brother now attends the school and has been motivated by the graduation walks. "I know my little brother, whenever

he had watched them last year, he was like, 'mom, I can't wait to graduate!' I think it's inspiring to them."

Her advice to the younger generation, "Keep pushing through. Even though it's hard - hard to wake up, hard to do your homework - just keep pushing through because you can do it."

"Our kids connect to each other, but it's really important that they connect to the school and that they begin connecting to their middle school and high school early," shared EPE principal Linda Salazar. "We want them to feel a vested interest in that high school, that they're a part of it even before they get there and that graduation is something that they have to look forward to as well."

Salazar's advice to seniors moving forward, "You belong wherever you want to be. Just like when we move and we buy new homes, we create it and make it our home. That's what they have to do. They have to find their niche, where they belong, and make their place there. It's not anything that's handed to you. You create it. Go forward, be confident, be trustworthy, and cross that finish line which is college graduation."

Congratulations, Class of 2018!

A look at FDOT projects in Immokalee

By Patty Brant

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

FDOT plans have a huge effect on how the community can grow so the SR 29 plans there are important for Immokalee.

FDOT's plans for the area south of LaBelle are important for anyone driving that direction, in particular for farm trucks. At this time, there is no accommodation planned for turn lanes to head south for vehicles entering SR 29 at Porterfield Oil and Evans Road just south of LaBelle.

Folks there feel these key roads and businesses will lack direct access to the south-bound lane of SR 29 - vital because it handles so much Immokalee-bound traffic. In particular, it would affect farm trucks from the Immokalee area, which would have to turn off onto South Loop Road, swing around to North Loop Road and then to Porterfield Oil via a driveway the business would be required to put in itself. They could also continue further north to refuel in an even more congested area. Over time, the extra time, fuel and inconvenience would hit those truckers in the pocketbook. A number of residents foresee long waits and traffic hold-ups if the current plan does not take their fears into account.

Evans Road south of LaBelle would also not have a turn lane to the south, with the same results for many.

Here's a quick PD&E update for the area:

The widening and reconstruction Project Development and Environmental studies (PD&E) for SR 29 from Oil Well Road to SR 82 is ongoing. The PD&E is expected to be completed by November 15. A public hearing is planned for that time with design to begin shortly after. According to JoAnn May, spokesperson, FDOT will begin coordination with all agencies at that time geared toward species and mitigation of any natural resource.

Impact on any parks and recreational facilities and the airport will be considered then.

A Safe Routes to School Sidewalks project in the area of Eden Park Elementary will include six-foot walkways and design to begin in 2019, with construction set for 2022.

SR 29 South of Agricultural Way to CR 846 includes two separate projects: widening an

See FDOT — Page 2





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- 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

Champions For Learning and CenturyLink surprise area teachers with Teachers and Technology Grants

On May 14, Champions For Learning and CenturyLink surprised Collier County teachers with Teacher and Technology grants to enhance educational opportunities for local school children.

During the course of the day, CenturyLink awarded seven grant checks that totaled over \$25,600 to seven schools in Naples and Immokalee, as part of an effort that awarded over \$108,000 to 27 schools throughout the Sunshine State. The checks will provide teachers with the funds needed to incorporate technology into their classrooms.

The Teacher and Technology program, which was established by CenturyLink in 2008, has awarded nearly \$11 million since its inception. This program awards grants (up to \$5,000) to teachers in CenturyLink's local service areas who have created an in-

novative curriculum that allows technology to be implemented in their classrooms. This year, CenturyLink is continuing its commitment to education and students by awarding more than \$1.4 million in grants in 34 states to support innovative technology solutions.

"CenturyLink recognizes the importance of introducing young people to science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, concepts to better prepare them for successful careers," said Sondra Smith, CenturyLink director of corporate social responsibility (CSR). "STEM competencies help prepare students to be critical thinkers, persevere through challenges to achieve success, communicate and collaborate across real and perceived barriers, and solve complex problems."

Below are the names of the grant recip-

ients.

Rocio Bailey from Immokalee High School with a grant titled iLearn English with an iPad.

Debora Mosby from Lake Trafford Elementary with a grant titled Kinder Bots Engineers.

Aileen Zapata from Village Oaks Elementary with a grant titled Technology in Music.

Yolanda Sohn from Calusa Park Elementary with a grant titled Creating, Communicating, and Critical Thinking through Coding.

Brittany Tessier from Corkscrew Elementary with a grant titled Tech Gives the Quietest Students A Voice.

The Career and Technical Education Department from Palmetto Ridge High School with a grant titled Sea Perch Robots.

Heather Van Osten from Veterans Memorial Elementary School with a grant titled iPad= iDo, iLearn, iCollaborate, iDifferentiate...iAchieve!



Submitted photo/Rick Heers

Pastor Frank Williams, seated with Immokalee pastors.

I.M.A honors Pastor Williams

By Rick Heers

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

The Immokalee Ministerial Alliance (I.M.A.) met recently and honored the long-time ministry of Rev. Frank Williams as the pastor of St. Johns Missionary Baptist Church. He was awarded with a gift certificate for a free dinner for two generously donated by Mi Ranchito restaurant. He has served not only his parishioners faithfully, but our community as well. Recently his church on Eustis Avenue has hosted the rehearsals of two developing local gospel choirs, under the direction of Rev. Tarrence Mallory of First Missionary Baptist Church each Saturday, a men's chorus which meets Saturday afternoons, and an open choral group Saturday evenings at 6 p.m. Any local Christians are invited to participate.

In addition to its regular meetings, the I.M.A. recently awarded eight scholarships at Immokalee High School to graduating students who are active members of local church with plans to attend local and state-wide colleges and universities. They also hosted an informative afternoon meeting with Governor Rick Scott which included a number of pastors, as well as civic and busi-

ness leaders from our community.

The recent meeting was well-attended with special guests representing the Blue Zones Project, Mrs. Chante Pemberton and Naples Pastor Irvin Stallworth, who serves as pastor of Unity Faith Missionary Baptist Church and is a board member of the Blue Zone Project. A number of churches are planning to become Blue Zone partners. Many organizations in Immokalee and Collier County are joining with Blue Zone Project to encourage our people to "LIVE LONG AND BETTER" by making wise choices for their daily lives.

Among the projects discussed were having our Alliance work with government and community leaders to investigate starting up a program to provide a residential treatment center to assist those in our community who are fighting addictions, in an effort to supplement the great work being done by St. Matthew's Friendship House. It was also announced that the Benison Distribution Center, established to help local families overcome the ongoing challenges of recovery from Hurricane Irma, has now established a new website, Benison.org to assist local families in getting help they need.

CROP

Continued From Page 1

ior! Without question they always represent themselves, our school, and our community extremely well, and I come home proud of them every time. "

What's more fascinating about CROP is that 82.6 percent of its members get a post-secondary education. CROP has become successful, not only because of the Academic skills taught such as preparation for the ACT/SAT test and offering homework assistance, but CROP teaches personal skills by offering workshops in self-esteem building and conflict resolution training. Many thanks to teachers like Connie Carter and FGCU who dedicate their time and effort to make this program a success.

FDOT

Continued From Page 1

existing bridge and a pedestrian crossing. Advanced design is planned for several years in the future.

Two more sidewalk projects are set for Lake Trafford: from Carson Road to Laurel Street – six-foot sidewalks with design beginning in 2019; and the same from Little League Road to Laurel Street.

A \$13 million TIGER Grant Award, with a 20 percent match from Collier County (total cost \$16.4 million) will go toward design and construction of 22 miles of new sidewalks, upgrade 32 intersections and add 22 shaded bus shelters here in Immokalee. In addition, five miles of streetlights and 22 miles of drainage ditches will be included. Work is expected to begin in late 2019, with a completion date of 2021.

Community Foundation Awards David Lawrence Center \$20,000 for grant program

David Lawrence Center (DLC), 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 Community Foundation of Collier County has awarded the Center a \$20,000 healthcare and mental healthcare grant for the Children's Crisis Stabilization Holistic Wellness Program. The Community Foundation's healthcare and mental healthcare grants are designed to provide teens with disabilities with mental health services, case management and access to health services.

This grant will help fund the comprehensive, holistic services for children and adolescents residing in the eight-bed inpatient unit who are experiencing an acute behavioral, emotional or psychiatric crisis. To meet the growing demand for 24/7 emergency mental health services, DLC doubled the capacity of the Children's Crisis Unit in 2017 by adding four additional beds, a new bathroom and a secure, outdoor fitness and recreation area. The grant funding will support the increased holistic services provided as a result of the increased admissions on the new unit.

DLC's integrated recovery method utilizes a holistic bio-psychosocial treatment approach that combines evidenced-based practices and state-of-the-art medical supervision, while teaching new skills and activities that the individual and family can incorporate into their daily lives after discharge.

The goal of this integrated recovery model is to reduce symptoms related to anxiety, depression and trauma, and improve the child's overall functioning and quality of life. As a result, the child has a better opportunity to succeed in school and develop healthier relationships at home and in social interactions.

The Children's Holistic Wellness Program includes a variety of services provided by licensed professionals, including:

- Certified fitness training and education services
- Dietary and nutrition education
- Occupational therapy
- Music therapy
- Aromatherapy
- Coping skills groups
- Therapeutic journaling

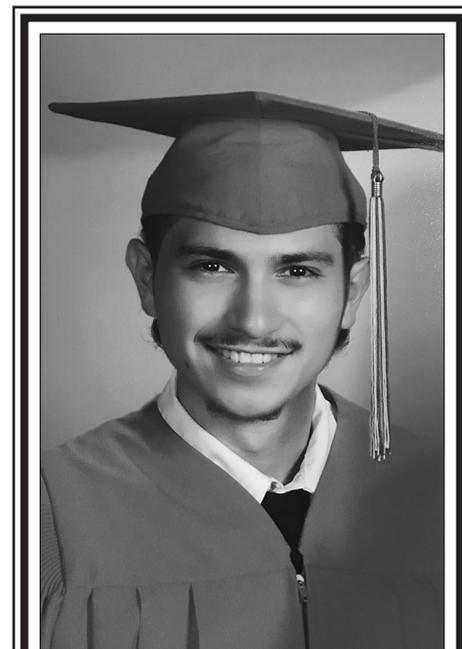
The grant funding will specifically support the expansion of the highly-specialized occupational and music therapy services. Occupational therapy utilizes an activity-based approach to highlight areas of strength and engage the child in functional and age-appropriate tasks. These groups teach children to use the body to calm the mind, become more self-aware and regulate behaviors and emotions. Music therapy incorporates live music, improvisation, guided imagery, creative songwriting and lyric analysis to engage the child or adolescent to shape and target behaviors, explore feelings and emotions, address complex clinical issues in a safe forum and address treatment goals and

objectives.

David Lawrence Center wellness services are complementary and are not covered by insurance.

Scott Burgess Chief Executive Officer, stated, "Maintaining a healthy lifestyle is an essential part of mental health recovery, particularly for children. Holistic wellness services provide troubled children and teens a healthy outlet for stress and anxiety, and help them practice healthy coping and social skills while residing with us. On behalf of the hundreds of children who will benefit from these enriching and holistic therapies, we offer our sincerest appreciation to the Community Foundation and their supporters for their continued support."

Southwest Florida nonprofit David Lawrence Center is a national leader in providing world-class mental health and addiction recovery solutions for children, adolescents and adults. The Center's innovative, integrated treatment includes inpatient, outpatient, residential, and community-based services – a comprehensive system of care funded by community and government support. Each year, David Lawrence Center creates life-changing wellness for more than 9,000 people through over 225,000 treatment sessions. To learn more, please call 239-455-8500 or visit www.DavidLawrenceCenter.org.

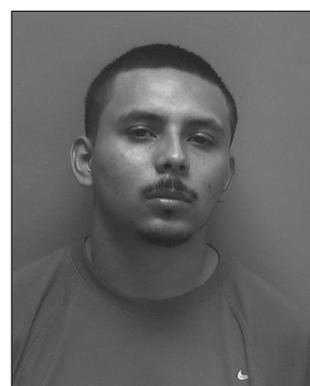


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and love you!

Love,
Mom, Levi, Leilah
& Levian

Man charged in connection with May 5 homicide



Stephen Perez Jr.

Collier County Sheriff's Office detectives have charged a 22-year-old man in connection with a May 5 homicide in Immokalee.

Stephen Perez Jr., of Immokalee, is charged with murder, possession of a weapon in the commission of murder, and distribution of marijuana in connection with the death of Juan Herrera, 19, of Immokalee.

Perez was located Thursday in Lee County by the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force. He was taken into custody initially on a Collier County violation of probation warrant. The other charges were added subsequent to his arrest. He remains incarcerated in the Lee County Jail.

Rising Senior Workshops

The Rising Senior Workshop series provides Collier County rising seniors (Class of 2019) and their parents information about the college access process, financial aid, and scholarship resources on local college campuses.

Each session will cover a different topic and include a campus tour (FSW, LWIT, and FGCU) and a presentation from that school's admission/financial aid team.

All workshops are 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Spots are limited and will be filled on a first come, first serve basis.

Pre-registration is required.

Students currently participating in Champions For Learning Programs will cover this material through the curriculum they receive during the weekly labs and do not need to attend these workshops.

The workshops are:

The Application Process is on Saturday, June 2 at Florida Southwestern State College, capacity 150.

The Financial Aid Process is on Saturday, June 23 at Lorenzon Walker Technical College, capacity 150.

Scholarships is on Saturday, July 21 at Florida Gulf Coast University, capacity 150.

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Courtesy photo/Fred N Thomas, Jr

Excited students are ready for a new adventure in life

Chamber attends day care graduation

By Fred N Thomas, Jr

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

The Immokalee Chamber of Commerce was invited to a very special event that was very rewarding for Danny Gonzalez, President of the Immokalee Chamber of Commerce. While Hurricane Irma left marks on the Immokalee Community, Danny's first decisions after the hurricane left Immokalee was to reach out to all Day Care Centers in Immokalee with assistance.

May 18, 2018 was the VKP Graduation Ceremony which took place at the Pathways Early Education Center affectionately know to the Immokalee Community as "The Immokalee Day Care Center."

The graduation ceremony was beautifully performed by Ms. Regina White, Center Director and her staff. The Pathways Educational Center also has a new Executive Director, Ms. Beth Hatch. Beth, a former principal of the CCPS (Vineyard Elementary) in Naples, gave out lots of special recognitions to VKP teaching staff.

Last but not least, Hatch gave recognition to all of the parents who had kids graduating. The parents of graduating kids all stood

up and gave themselves a "Hugged Clap."

The graduation class sang songs, received books for each Pathway family, completed the graduation walk with "Pomp and Circumstances", and received their graduating Diplomas. The final excitement was enjoying the Graduation Cake Ceremony.

The following students were graduates: Tyler Jeremiah Sims, Sandra Cortez, Jonathan Ruiz Cruz, Rodrigo Pena Terron, Itzariah Colin, Marco Antonio Ramirez, Jr., Yomi Sunshine Smith, Christian Ramirez Santana, Lucia Lopez Patino, Brandon Salisbury, Darriel Chavez Magana, Khloe Paz, Jayden Trejo Abarca, Israel Thomas, Diego Lopez Mjantos, Jaylen Jordon Alviar, Martin Vargas, Melanye tinajero-Perez, Lukas Jesus Maldonado, Nevaeh Marie Lopez, Michael Domingo Gomez, Miracle Rose Vidaurri. Allan Rojas, Nayeli Perez Resendez, Jayce James Aragus, Maria Venegas Lopez, Jovanny Alonso Jeronimo, Wiberline Jean, Christian Mendoza, Jianna Gisella Sifontes, Joseluis Figueroa-Jarquín, Josiah Shaffer. Damian Rubio Magna, Gael Juarez Soriano, Lesly Nava Callejas, Miguel Palma Padilla Jr. and Jose Lito Tlasmanteco.

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Do things that put you in a 'feeling good' space

In today's face paced society we are always on the go. So many people desire peace, happiness, and a sense of fulfillment in their lives, but they don't know how to get it or what to do to keep it when they do experience it in brief snippets between board meetings, baseball games, dinner parties, and dance recitals.

People often say to me "But, I don't have time... isn't there a short cut?"

The best way to get into the



**Hunting Happiness
With Val White**

alignment of all the things you want (like peace, happiness, a sense of fulfillment, a great romantic relationship, more money, and the list goes on...) is to do things that put you in a 'feeling good' space. If taking a walk feels good to you, take a walk. If cooking is fun and brings you joy then cook your favorite meals... amp up the 'good feels' by creating a playlist of your favorite tunes and

dance around the kitchen merrily as you make your family's favorite recipes.

If driving with the top down or windows open is your go to for clearing your mind then take the long way home. Try to inject fun into as many spots in your day so that when you look back on your day it is seasoned with various sorts of 'feeling good' memories.

Make feeling good a priority, so much so that when you notice a circumstance or thought that arises that makes you dip out of your high vibration, you quickly do your

next fun activity to raise you back up!

My teacher and mentor, Gabrielle Bernstein, says that "The Universe works fast when you're having fun." So try to fill your day with moments of fun, laughter, joy, and things that you love.

I created a guided meditation that is available for free on my website (www.valwhite.com) and it is a perfect tool to introduce this type of mindset shift into your daily life.

This week try to have as much fun as possible, and see how other 'problems' in your life seem to start work themselves out.

Celebrity Chef to Come to LaBelle for Memorial Day Event

On May 26, The River's Edge Motel will host Bass, Bikes & BBQ: A Memorial Day Kick-off Event. In addition to the food vendors, merchandise and business displays Chef Taylor Sanders will be performing cooking demonstration on her Fire Disk Grill and meeting with fans.



Chef Taylor Sanders

Chef Taylor, with roots in LaBelle, was recently featured on Food Network's Kids BBQ Championship Series where she took home \$10,000 and was crowned the queen of barbecuing! Her skills have earned her a spot to train at the International Culinary Center in NYC whose alum include Bobby Flay, Dan Barber and more.

Chef Taylor's mother, Jessica (Skinner) Blair, is a LaBelle native who supports her daughter in her cooking adventures. She is thrilled to be able to bring her daughter back to her hometown to showcase her skills. Chef Taylor is active in the regional community with fundraising and local

cooking shows.

The event will also be the final stop for an American Legion Poker Run, feature live music, BBQ vendors food, cold drinks, boat display, an animal show by Gatorama, and a free fireworks show after sunset.

The motel will be hosting Bass, Bikes & BBQ: A Memorial Day Kick-off Event on Saturday, May 26 at the location at 284 Old County Road 78, LaBelle, FL. The River's Edge Motel is located right on the Caloosahatchee River with dock space and beautiful sunset views off the water. Within walking distance from downtown LaBelle, The River's Edge is quickly-growing as an event-venue and recreation facility. They are also home to the Anchor Point Fitness Club. For more information call 863-675-6062.



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Employment - Full Time

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Employment - Full Time

Employment - Full Time

Hendry County BOCC is seeking applications for a full-time Highway Maintenance Technician I. Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on June 1, 2018 at the Human Resources Department, 640 South Main Street, LaBelle, FL 33935. A complete job posting and application forms are available on the Hendry County website at www.hendryfla.net. Hendry County is a VP, EEO/AA, DFWP employer and participates in E-Verify. Individuals needing assistance in the application process should contact the County Human Resources department at 863-675-5352

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Automotive

Keith's Auto Salvage

Need Parts? We may have the parts that you need! Call Victoria or Janet at 239-657-5742
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 1050 Commerce Dr. Suite B. Fax (863) 612-1158

READING TOGETHER A Family Affair

The most important 20 minutes of your day is the time spent reading with your child from birth to age nine.

A.Duda & Son's Equipment Operator

- Be able to operate efficiently and productively the road grader. Able to grade dirt roads, cut ditches and level fields for purposes of drainage or farm production.
- Operate the rubber tire backhoe. Such tasks include digging up existing irrigation lines, clean ditches, set header pipes, drain water off roads and patch holes. Some backhoe work is with a rake, be able to clear right of ways and fence lines.
- Willing and able to get down in the irrigation trenches and utilize a hand shovel when needed. Glue large irrigation lines.
- Operate a tractor and some basic farm implements including mowers, discs, and plows.

Please apply in person @
 A.Duda & Son's
 12250 S.SR. 29
 Felda, Fl. 33930
 Gate #4
 Or call the office
 Ask for Susie Nieto
 863-675-0545
 ext 3110

Employment - Part Time

Employment - Part Time

Help Wanted: REPORTER/WRITER

Love to write? Enjoy talking to people? Interested in the LaBelle community? The Immokalee Bulletin/Caloosa Belle needs a reporter to work part-time.

Please email resumé and writing sample to
kelsken@newszap.com

Every ad you place runs in print and online.

Community Briefs

Ribbon Cutting

Please join First Bank for their Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on **Tuesday, May 29, at 10 a.m.** 316 North 15th Street, Immokalee

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.

“Let’s Talk”

Let’s Talk is a workshop for Parents on How to Communicate Better with their Children. The workshop will be held on June 11 from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. at the Center for Child Strees and Health, FSU College of Medicine, 1441 Heritage Boulevard, Immokalee, FL

34142. Pizza Night! Kids are invited to create their own healthy pizza. Free dinner and childcare Provided. RSVP not required but appreciated at fsustress@med.fsu.edu or call 239-658-3123.

Taller para familias sobre cómo comunicarse mejor con sus hijos 11 de Junio | 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. 1441 Heritage Boulevard, Immokalee, FL 34142. ¡Noche de Pizza para los Niños! Los niños están invitados a venir y crear su propia pizza saludable. No se requiere reservación, pero se agradece fsustress@med.fsu.edu 239-658-3123.

iTech Summer Class

Summer ELL Classes from **June 5 to July 26, Monday – Thursday from 8 a.m.-12 p.m.** The class is \$30. Must be 16 years old to attend and not enrolled in the K-12 system. ELCATE is tuition exempt. Some students may qualify to receive free tuition.

Clases De Inglés Del Verano - 5 de Junio – 26 de Julio Lunes - Jueves 8 a.m. -12 p.m. \$30

Klas Anglè Nan Sezon Ete- A 5 Juin - 26 Juyè Lendi - Jedi 8 A.M. - 12 P.M. \$30

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.

Emergency Preparedness

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. -

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

Coming soon to the Firehouse Community Theatre

This season the Firehouse Community Theatre will offer two Summer Youth Programs. These Summer Youth camps offers area children the experience of live theatre. Registration fees are \$50 per child, \$25 for additional children in a family.

The first Summer Youth Program will be for the “older kids” ages 10 to 16. THE GREAT AMERICAN TALENT SHOW directed by Kristin Green. Play dates are June 14, 15 and 16 at 7p.m. and June 18 at 2 p.m.

The second Summer Youth Program will be for the “younger kids” ages five to 10. MONSTER IN THE CLOSET directed by Kylie Bancroft and Valerie Shough. Play dates are: June 29 and 30 at 7 p.m. and July 1 at 2 p.m.

For more info call 863-675-3066 (leave a message) or online at www.firehousecommunitytheatre.com.

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.

US 41 from Golden Gate Parkway to Orchid Drive: Maintenance permit project: Motorists should expect intermittent south-bound 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.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 30 Boil briefly, as asparagus | 47 Garbage vessel |
| 32 Honest ___ | 50 Bingo relative |
| 33 Tip off | 51 No right ___: road sign |
| 35 Out of control | 52 Jack of “The Texas Rangers” |
| 36 Composer Satie | 54 Really love |
| 37 Whined | 57 Computer game title island |
| 41 Urbane | 59 Studio with a lion mascot |
| 42 States as fact | 60 Submissions to an ed. |
| 43 Book copier of yore | |
| 44 Particle of light | |
| 45 ___ Fables | |

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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E	T	E	S		T	E	N		U	P	S	E	T		

xwordeditor@aol.com

- ACROSS**
- Plant owner: Abbr.
 - Quieted (down)
 - Novelist Clancy
 - Go it alone
 - Starting squads
 - Commotion
 - *Tailor’s fabric marker
 - Fortysomething, e.g.
 - Parts of stairs
 - Paving supply
 - “Suits” actress Torres
 - Off-blessed outburst
 - *Like a job that doesn’t cause ulcers
 - Nonstick kitchen brand
 - Pro offering IRA advice
 - Netherworld
 - Uppy one
 - Chapter in a geology text, maybe
 - Finished first
 - *Anna Sewell novel narrated by a horse
 - Early hrs.
 - Misspell or misspeak
 - Woodshop tools
 - “NCIS” actor Joe
 - Personal connections
 - Extinct emu-like bird
 - *Icon in bill-paying software
 - Top-selling Toyota
 - ___ Hashanah
 - “Bambi” doe
 - Runway figures
 - *What was ___ do?”
 - “Remember what I said!” ... and a hint to what can follow each part of the answers to starred clues
 - Jazz genre
 - Layered rock
 - Full up stakes, to Realtors
 - USCG rank
- DOWN**
- Tribesman in a Cooper title
 - Apparently spontaneous public gathering
 - Logger’s contest
 - Spending limits
 - Completed the course?
 - Slowly, to Mozart
 - Colorful parrot
 - Mideast leaders
 - High-speed www connection
 - Rolled up to the jetway
 - Danish birthplace of Hans Christian Andersen
 - Marshy tract
 - Torn-off paper pieces
 - McDonald’s founder Ray
 - Research funding sources
 - Carefree diversion
 - “___ shalt not ...”
 - Push-up targets, briefly

	1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12
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By Gail Grabowski and Bruce Venzke
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TIF appoints Noemi Perez as new executive director

The board of directors of The Immokalee Foundation has appointed long-time foundation employee Noemi Perez as the organization's executive director effective July 1, 2018.

Steven Kissinger, who has served as the foundation's executive director since 2014, will assume the position of vice president of Take Stock in Children of Florida on July 1.

Perez, who was raised in Immokalee, has worked for The Immokalee Foundation for nine years and currently serves as the foundation's program services director.

After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from

Hodges University, Perez chose to use her knowledge and experience to serve her community through The Immokalee Foundation's programs and services.

"As a lifelong Immokalee resident, Noemi brings a unique and important perspective to our work that will serve the foundation in meaningful ways," said Joyce Hagen, chair of The Immokalee Foundation's board of directors. "We appreciate the substantial advancements made under Steven's leadership and look forward to our next chapter in creating pathways to success for the youth of Immokalee with Noemi at the helm."

Perez will lead the foundation following

several years of successful growth and solid financial health. The organization also has achieved the coveted 4-Star rating from Charity Navigator and the Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar.

Perez is member of the Hodges University Alumni Advisory Board, Immokalee Chamber of Commerce, Immokalee Technical College Advisory Board, and The Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce Leadership Collier Foundation Alumni Association. She completed the Growing Associates in Naples (GAIN) program in 2016, the same year she was honored by Gulfshore Business magazine as a 40 Under 40 professional.

The Immokalee Foundation provides a range of education programs that focus on building pathways to professional careers through support, mentoring and tutoring, 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.



Congratulations Eliana and Gary, Wishing you the best!



Love Dad and Mom Atanasio & Norma RB Harvesting & Trucking, Inc.



CONGRATULATIONS MARITZA L. GONZALEZ and the Class of 2018
Extremely proud of you, and your accomplishments, wishing you the best in the future.
Love Always, Marciano and Monica Calderon



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