

IMMOKALEE BULLETIN

Serving Immokalee, Ave Maria and Eastern Collier County

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Courtesy photo/Fred N. Thomas, Jr

Carey Soud, President of First1Bank had the job of cutting the ribbon as community members and bank personal looked on.

First1Bank has opened an Immokalee branch

By Fred N. Thomas, Jr
Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

May 29 was the day for the grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony for the First1Bank of Immokalee. The bank's current President, Cary Soud said it took 94 years to get a full service bank in Immokalee. The new bank is located at 316 North 15th Street in Immokalee.

The newly designed bank compliments the community of Immokalee beautifully. The bank and its full services are managed by Bernardo Barnhart, Vice President-Area Manager.

Barnhart is a native of Immokalee. He attended the area schools and went on to further his education and graduated from Florida State.

Barnardo is very visible in the community of Immokalee. He is currently a member of the Rotary Club of Immokalee, the local Immokalee Chamber of Commerce, a member of the MSTU (Lighting & Beautifica-

tion Committee) and is an announcer at IHS football games.

Bernardo is definitely a role model for any young resident who is trying to make a difference in their community with furthering their education and coming back to Immokalee.

Bernardo is married to Michelle, a teacher with the Collier County School District, and they have three children.

The community of Immokalee and The Immokalee Chamber of Commerce welcome First One Bank with all of its full banking services.

At the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony two local community businesses surprised Barnhart with his unique flavors of ice cream in his mobile wagon for the community to taste from Ralph Hester of the Immokalee Raceway and Buddy Fuller who prepared his delicious Pulled Pork Sandwiches for all the attendees.

Florida regulators approve plans for Braden Hospital in Ave Maria

The Braden Hospital's "Certificate of Need (CON)" has been approved by Florida's Agency for Healthcare Administration (ACHA). Although the approval by ACHA can be challenged by other healthcare institutions one more time (a challenge must be filed within 21 days from June 1), it is clear that the Braden Hospital's application was successful in demonstrating to the state what the residents of Ave Maria and Immokalee have known for a while: it is time to build a hospital in Eastern Collier County.

The Braden Hospital staff "wish to thank everyone who has helped us reach this important goal and we look forward to forging partnerships with all of the shareholders in the community."

"We humbly ask for your continued support as we champion the health needs of our community and as we work towards opening the doors to the new hospital."

The hospital will provide Ave Maria, Immokalee and the surrounding rural communities with needed hospital services such as:

- 24 hour emergency care
- Inpatient care
- Swing bed care
- Pharmacy
- Infusion center
- Imaging
- Laboratory
- Rehabilitation
- Cardiorespiratory

"The hurricane that swept through the Immokalee and Ave Maria area left us isolated from hospitals in Lee and Collier county. We had a tremendous need and little to no resources. This brought home to us the need for a local hospital so that we will have access to healthcare in an emergency," said Dr. Braden, Owner, Managing Physician of the Braden Clinic.

HLE Principal sleeps on school roof for reading points

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

For the students of Highlands Elementary School (HLE), reading has been a focus since the arrival of Principal Laura Mendicino.

"I believe we must encourage students to read for enjoyment because reading teaches children about the world around them and breeds creativity, allowing time to explore imaginary places. Reading for pleasure is also strongly correlated to academic achievement and increased employment opportunities later in life. To me, that's a win-win!" Mendicino said.

Three years ago, only 25 percent of HLE's third grade students were reading on grade level at the end of the year per state standardized testing. The school adjusted its focus and implemented many opportunities to celebrate student achievement and challenge students to reach higher.

One example, over the past three years, HLE has gone from 19,000 Reading Counts points to 77,000 annual points. How? Media Specialist, Pete Cade, has worked closely



Courtesy photo

Principal Mendicino on the Highlands Elementary School roof prepares to spend the night there in her tent.

See Reading — Page 2





To Reach Us

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To Submit News

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

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

We Pledge...

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

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

Reading

Continued From Page 1

with administration to incorporate a Reading Counts Yearly Challenge. Each year, the school sets a goal for the students to achieve. If they meet their goal, Principal Mendicino has to do something crazy.

"Over the past three years," shares Mendicino, "the students have crushed their reading goals!"

Principal Mendicino has had to kiss a pig, hold a snake, and most recently, sleep on the roof of the school.

According to Mendicino, "Our annual Reading Counts challenge motivates our students to read nightly. Research shows that students who read 20 minutes each night read on average 1,800,000 words per year and typically score within the 90th percentile on standardized tests."

How do the students feel about Mendicino sleeping on the school's roof? "At first I was scared for her safety. But then I was excited to see Mrs. Mendicino camping on the roof so I began reading more each night. I wanted to help the school reach the goal!" shares fifth grade student, Joaquin Renteria Vega.

Guadalupe Center appoints three new members to its Board of Trustees

NAPLES – Guadalupe Center Board of Trustee President Linda Yost has announced the appointment of three new members to the nonprofit organization's Board of Trustees.

Abel Jaimes, Marguerite Hambleton and Mark Nagan join Guadalupe Center's 22-member board that serves as an advocate and ambassador for the children of Immokalee.

"The leadership of our Board of Trustees has been exemplary, and their expertise and enthusiasm help guide the entire organization, from myself and our leadership team down to teachers and students," said Dawn Montecalvo, Guadalupe Center president. "Our board members also are some of Guadalupe Center's most active volunteers and generous donors, and their commitment to this organization is unquestionably strong."

Jaimes is director of the Title I program for the Collier County School District, focusing on enhancing education for the region's low-income students and schools. He also has been a teacher and principal in Immokalee schools, and is the parent of three high school students in Guadalupe Center's

Tutor Corps program. Jaimes was raised in Immokalee and is still a resident of the community, and is involved with several area organizations, include the Kiwanis Club of Immokalee.

Hambleton is the former president and CEO of AAA Western & Central New York. She was director of the Buffalo, N.Y. branch of the Federal Reserve and has been an independent trustee of the M&T U.S. Treasury Money Market Fund since 2005. Hambleton has served on many professional boards, including the Greater Buffalo Partnership to the Boy Scouts, Western New York Public Broadcasting, Canisius College, SPCA, HSBC Bank and The Buffalo Club.

Since retiring from a manufacturing company he founded, Nagan has become ingrained with several Collier County nonprofit organizations. He is an active Rotarian and works on Habitat for Humanity projects in Immokalee every Monday, and is responsible for the creation of 12 "little free libraries" in Collier and Iowa. Nagan has volunteered as a "big buddy" at Guadalupe Center's Buddy Day for more than a decade and continues to mentor Tutor Corps students pur-

And the results of the Reading Counts challenge have been proven. This year's goal was to reach 60,000 points and the students surpassed that by over 17,000 points! And after only three years, 61 percent of grade level per our most recent Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) scores. That's a 36 percent increase of students reading on grade level in just three years!

Principal Mendicino has set the goal for the 2018-19 school year at 100,000 Reading Counts points. We can't wait to see what "crazy" thing she has to do next year!

suing careers in engineering.

Guadalupe Center is a nonprofit organization focused on breaking the cycle of poverty through education for the children of Immokalee. The center operates an Early Childhood Education Program, After-School and Summer Enrichment Program, and the college preparatory Tutor Corps Program. For more information, please visit GuadalupeCenter.org or call 239-657-7711.

About Guadalupe Center

Guadalupe Center is a purpose-driven, nonprofit organization with proven results in creating endless possibilities for the students of Immokalee through education and fostering personal and academic success that leads to economic independence. With a focus on breaking the cycle of poverty through education, Guadalupe Center is proud of the children's accomplishments: 94 percent exceed kindergarten readiness measures, 100 percent of Tutor Corps high school seniors graduate high school and are accepted into college, and more than 90 percent graduated with a post-secondary degree.

Guadalupe Center raises more than \$72,000 at fourth annual Guadalupe Charity Golf Classic

NAPLES – The fourth annual Guadalupe Charity Golf Classic raised more than \$72,000 as a record 132 golfers and 15 business sponsors helped infuse additional financial support into Guadalupe Center's summer enrichment program.

The event, which was held at Vineyards Country Club in Naples, included a lunch buffet, championship golf, cocktails, evening hors d'oeuvres, silent auction and awards party.

The First Florida Integrity Bank team of Brad Butrum, Dan Griffin, Jack Griffin and Chuck Sammons won the scramble to win first place among 33 teams that entered the Golf Classic.

"The golf tournament was a resounding success, and we couldn't have asked for a better turnout," said Dawn Montecalvo,

president of the Guadalupe Center. "In fact, we've already decided to hold our fifth annual Golf Classic next year. See you on April 8, 2019, at Vineyards Country Club!"

Guadalupe Center's summer enrichment program is offered free of charge to 350 Immokalee-area students identified as at-risk of failure by the Collier County School District. The nonprofit organization strives to break the cycle of poverty through education for the children of Immokalee, and its educational programs serve children from infancy through high school graduation.

Beyond individual golfers and donors who helped make the Guadalupe Charity Golf Classic a success, these business sponsors also provided assistance:

- Platinum sponsors: Vineyards Country Club and the Seminole Tribe of Florida

- Gold sponsors: BCB Homes, Fifth Third Bank, First Florida Integrity Bank and Lee Health Foundation

- Silver sponsor: The Moglia Family Foundation on behalf of Amy and Paul Heurman

- Bronze sponsor: London Bay Homes
- Hole-in-one sponsors: Audi of Naples and Naples Infinity

- Media and lunch sponsor: Gulfshore Life

- Auction partners: Naples Wine Collection, Ritz-Carlton Tiburon Golf Resort, Seasons 52 and Tastebuds Custom Catering

For more information, please contact Guadalupe Center at 239-657-7711 or visit GuadalupeCenter.org.

Summer is the Peak Season in Florida for Lightning Strikes

When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

Summer is the peak season in Florida for one of the nation's deadliest weather phenomena – lightning. We'd like to take the time to remind you that when thunder roars, go indoors.

On average, lightning accounts for more deaths per year than tornados. We have people working outdoors in this county every day. Remember, the safest place to be during lightning activity is a large enclosed building. If you are away from a building, the second safest location is an enclosed vehicle (car, van, etc.), but not a convertible, on a bike, or in other topless or soft top vehicles. If you are caught outdoors with no shelter nearby, stay away from tall trees. Crouch in the open, keeping twice as far away from a tree as the tree is tall.

Historically, the months of June, July and August are the deadliest months for lightning strikes in South Florida. This is due to the combination of our region's near daily thunderstorms and the plethora of outdoor activities held during this time when children are out of school. Nevertheless, lightning is a threat year-round in South Florida.

Lightning safety tips for inside the home include:

- Avoid contact with corded phones.
- Avoid contact with electrical equipment or cords. If you plan to unplug any electronic equipment, do so well before the storm arrives.
- Avoid contact with plumbing. Do not wash your hands, take a shower, wash dishes or do laundry.
- Stay away from windows and doors; stay off porches.
- Do not lie on concrete floors or lean against concrete walls.

For more information visit lightningsafety.noaa.gov. Please think ahead to keep your family safe. When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

Domestic Animal services celebrates Adopt-A-Shelter-Cat Month

Collier County Domestic Animal Services (DAS) strives to find loving homes for all animals that enter its shelter. But, June is Adopt-a-Shelter-Cat Month so throughout this month the focus is on shelter cats. DAS encourages you to come check out its Certified Pre-owned Cats.

DAS is offering huge savings on all cat adoptions during June. All cat adoptions, all ages, are just \$10.00 (regularly \$60.00). DAS has all makes and models of cats with standard four-paw drive, free microchip and a 100,000-purr warranty. Big or small DAS have them all.

Adoption hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at our main Naples shelter, 7610 Davis Blvd., Naples, Florida 34104. Adoption hours at the Immokalee shelter, 405 Sgt. Joe Jones Road, Immokalee, Florida 34142, are Tuesday through Saturday, 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Adoptions include spay/neuter surgery, microchip, age appropriate vaccinations, flea treatment, heartworm test for dogs, FELV/FIV test for cats, and 30 days of free pet insurance. That's a value of more than \$400.

For more information, call DAS at (239) 252-PETS (7387), or go to CollierPets.com.

Collier Traffic Enforcement Spots

- Monday, June 11:**
 U.S. 41 East and Bayshore Drive – Red-light running
 Collier Boulevard and Rattlesnake Hammock Road - Speeding
 Immokalee Road at I75 southbound exit – Aggressive driving
- Tuesday, June 12:**
 Livingston Road and Positano Circle - Speeding
 Pine Ridge Road and Napa Boulevard –

- Red-light running
 U.S. 41 North and Strada Place – Red-light running
- Wednesday, June 13:**
 Coronado and Golden Gate parkways – Aggressive driving
 Golden Gate and Collier boulevards - Speeding
 Airport-Pulling Road and Orange Blossom Drive – Aggressive driving

To place an ad call 239-657-6000 or go online to www.immokaleebulletin.com

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CCSO offers tips to help you before, during and after a hurricane

Hurricane season started on June 1 and ends Nov. 30, and making a hurricane plan ahead of time and stocking up on vital supplies will go a long way toward helping you and your loved ones stay safe in a storm.

Your Collier County Sheriff's Office offers these basic tips to help you before, during and after a storm:

Before a storm

Stock up on essential supplies and secure all important documents in an accessible location. Use CCSO's suggested supply list and make sure to include anything else that may be important for you and your family.

Develop a family disaster plan that meets the specific needs of your family by visiting www.floridadisaster.org.

Don't forget to also develop a pet disaster plan by micro-chipping your pet, keeping current on vaccinations and determining how to keep your pet safe during the storm. Contact Collier County Domestic Animal Services at 239-252-PETS (7387) for more information.

CCSO and Naples Police Department have implemented the Smart911 database that allows citizens to create a secure safety profile of vital personal and household information, including medications, medical conditions and even photographs of each member of the household. Information about family pets can also be entered. The safety profile will be displayed to 911 call-takers immediately when that citizen places an emergency call. This safety profile provides much richer information than is currently available on incoming calls and can contain the specific details that first responders need in order to save lives.

Smart911 is free and 100 percent private and secure. Safety profiles can be created by

visiting www.smart911.com.

During a Storm

Keep telephone numbers of local emergency responders readily available. Collier County Bureau of Emergency Services can be reached at 239.252.3600 for a wide variety of public concerns including shelter, weather updates and disaster recovery information. The Sheriff's Office non-emergency hotline can also be reached at 239-252-9300. Only call 911 if you are faced with an immediate, life-threatening emergency.

CCSO will also provide updates throughout the storm through its website, www.colliersheriff.org; its Facebook page, www.facebook.com/colliersheriff; and its Twitter account, www.twitter.com/colliersheriff. CCSO will also send out push notifications as necessary on its iPhone and Android app, CCSO2go, which is free and available in the iTunes and Google Play app stores.

If you choose to evacuate your home and go to a shelter, it is recommended to bring any prescription medications, drinking water, snacks, bedding (ex: air mattress), entertainment items to help pass the time, and at least one pair of clothing.

Follow local media reports about shelter openings.

A person with specific medical needs can qualify to go to a special needs shelter to ensure they receive any needed treatment during the storm. CCEM maintains a "Person's With Special Needs" registry. Persons with special needs must register prior to a storm.

After a Storm

If you evacuate, make sure to bring along photo identification (ex: driver's license) and proof of residency (ex: copy of a utility bill) in order to re-enter your home.

Before re-entering your home after evacuation, emergency responders will have to

ensure it is safe to return. Please be patient as emergency responders must take debris, flooding and other hazards into consideration.

If your property has endured significant damage requiring repair, make sure to hire licensed contractors. Unlicensed persons may try to solicit business immediately following a storm and will often ask for payments up-front and perform little to no repair work. The Federal Trade Commission works to prevent fraudulent, deceptive and unfair business practices. To file a complaint or learn more about contractor fraud, visit www.ftc.gov, or call toll free at 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357).

Supply List

The National Hurricane Center suggests residents should put together a disaster supply kit before a hurricane hits the Collier County area.

A supply kit should contain at least the following items:

- * Water – at least one gallon daily per person for about three to seven days
- * Food – supply should last about three to seven days.
- Types of food include:
 - nonperishable packaged or canned food/juices
 - foods for infants or the elderly
 - snack foods
 - a nonelectric can opener
 - cooking tools and fuel
 - paper plates and plastic utensils

- * Bedding – blankets, pillows, air mattresses, etc.
- * Clean clothing – everyday clothes and rain gear
- * Medical necessities – first aid kit and medications
- * Any special items especially for infants or the elderly
- * Toiletries and hygiene items
- * Flashlights with batteries and a box of matches
- * Battery operated or hand-crank radio
- * Fully charged cell phone(s) with back-up charger
- * Cash, credit cards and change – banks and ATMs may not be available for extended periods following a hurricane
- * Keys to your home, vehicle(s), safes, etc.
- * Toys, books and games
- * Important documents - insurance information, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security cards, and any other forms of photo identification such as a driver's license or passport. These documents should be safely contained in a water-proof container or a plastic bag
- * A set of tools
- * Remember to fill your vehicle's gas tank
- * Pet care items – identification/shot records/medications, ample supply of food and water, and a carrier or cage.



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Big Cypress National Preserve sees wettest May on record

By Chris Felker
INI Florida

The past month was the rainiest May

ever recorded in the history of Big Cypress National Preserve, according to hydrologist Robert (Bob) Sobczak, who works for the

National Park Service there and writes a blog at www.gohydrology.org.

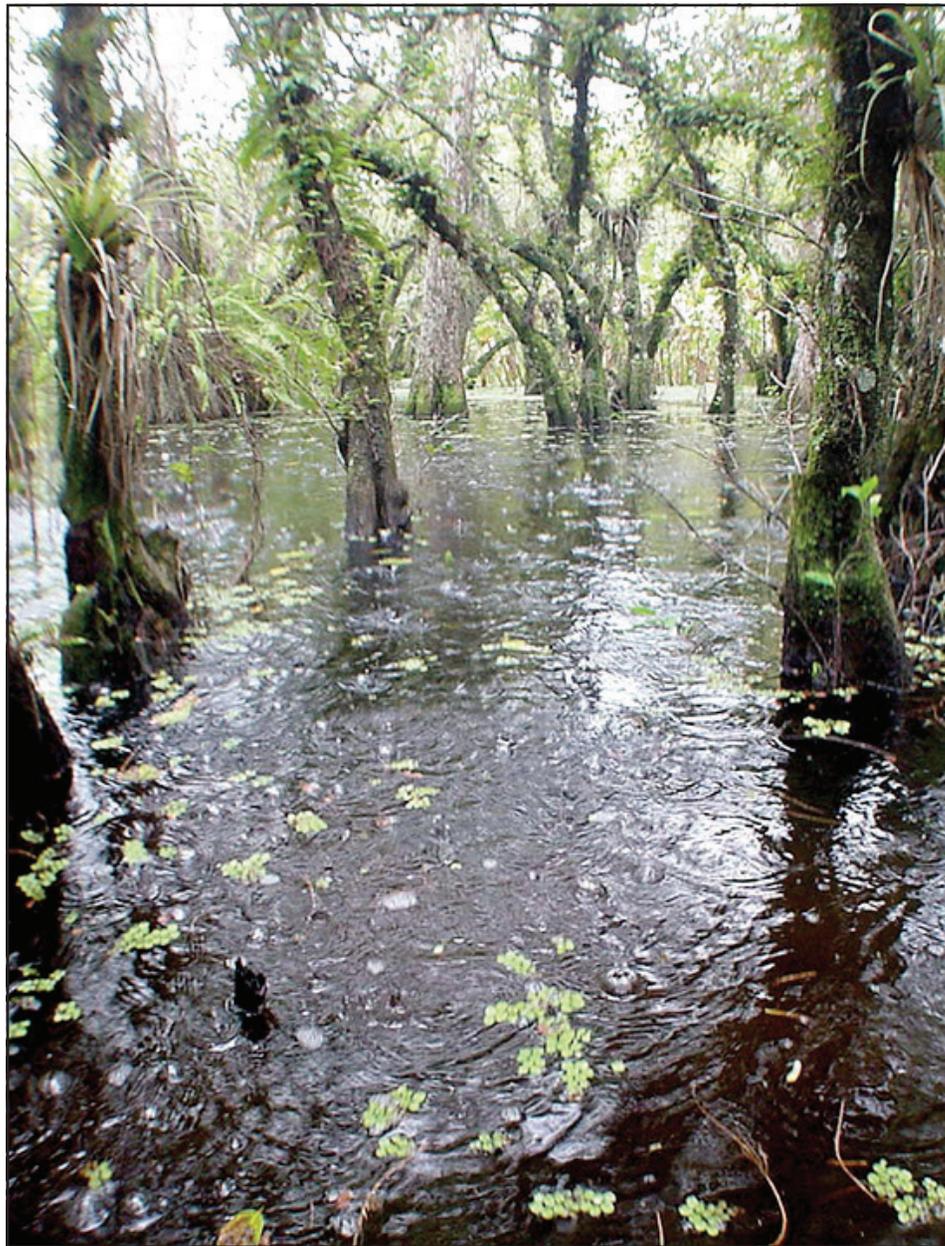
His journal, he writes, “illustrates and celebrates the continuously changing and always interesting wetlands, waterways and watersheds of South Florida.”

Bob’s blog reported Friday, June 1, that while the long-term average for rainfall during May in the sprawling Southwest Florida preserve (which covers a large part of Collier County) is 4 inches, this year there was a record 9.5 inches of rain during May, breaking the 2009 record on the last day of

the month with another record rainfall.

“And now it’s June,” Mr. Sobczak wrote, noting that “over the long term, it’s our rainiest month.”

This record comes on the heels of the just-concluded dry season, which was the second-driest dry season “drought of record” with just 5 inches of precipitation, and last rainy season’s new “flood of record” with 70 inches of rain in 2017.



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Courtesy of Go Hydrology blog
Record rainfall on Thursday, May 31, added up to culminate in the wettest May ever at Big Cypress National Preserve.

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Community Briefs

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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.

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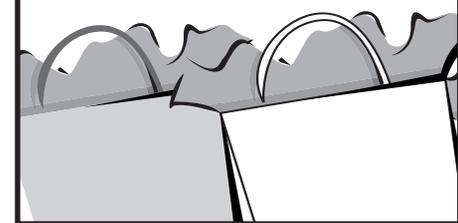
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Some 800 and 900 telephone numbers may require an extra charge, as well as long distance toll costs. We will do our best to alert our reader of these charges in the ads, but occasionally we may not be aware of the charges. Therefore, if you call a number out of your area, use caution.

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Auctions

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Recreation

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Auctions

Auction Date: JUNE 18, 2018 at 9 am

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239-200-3762

"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. iNoche 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

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 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 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,

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.ELCoSWFL.org and click on the Big Buddy Button.

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.

while crews replace a driveway, weather permitting. Motorists should use caution as crews work in the roadway.

US 41 from Habitat Drive to SR 951/Collier Boulevard: Maintenance permit project: Motorists should expect intermittent southbound lane closures during daytime hours weekdays, while crews perform underground utility work, weather permitting. Motorists should use caution as crews work in the roadway.

SR 29 from South 7th Street to South 2nd Street: Maintenance contract project: Motorists should expect intermittent eastbound lane closures during daytime hours, while crews make water main connections, weather permitting. Motorists should use caution as crews work near 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.

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

Everglades National Park and FWC to expand python removal efforts

- ACROSS**
- 1 Crawled, perhaps
 - 5 Broadway show whose title woman can "coax the blues right out of the horn"
 - 9 Renege, with "out"
 - 12 Andalusian appetizer
 - 13 Accord competitor
 - 15 Hole starter
 - 16 Postal service
 - 18 ___pitch
 - 19 Kanakaredes of "CSI: NY"
 - 20 Plastered
 - 22 Curled-lip look
 - 23 Brigades, e.g.
 - 25 The tar, in Spanish
 - 27 Anonymous John
 - 28 "The Black Cat" author
 - 31 ___ moss
 - 32 Mountains dividing Europe and Asia
 - 35 With 37-Across, sentence openings, and what the ends of 16-, 23-, 47-, and 57-Across can be when rearranged
 - 37 See 35-Across
 - 40 Hop follower
 - 41 Modest dress
 - 42 NASCAR ___
 - 43 Lion or tiger
 - 45 Exercises begun in a supine position
 - 47 "You made your point"
 - 50 "... if you want to ___ man's character, give him power": Lincoln
 - 54 Part of 56-Across
 - 55 Eats pretzels, say
 - 56 Google hit
 - 57 Form small teams at school
 - 60 What "I" may indicate
 - 61 Common soccer score
 - 62 Only
 - 63 June honorees
 - 64 Blind component
 - 65 Breyers competitor

- DOWN**
- 1 Restrains
 - 2 Like Madame Tussauds figures
 - 3 Traditional temptation
 - 4 "Manhattan" Oscar nominee Hemingway
 - 5 Galaxy gp.
 - 6 Source of 20s, briefly
 - 7 Harmful gas
 - 8 One of the Brontës
 - 9 Dishonorably dismissed
 - 10 Bird that's probably not wise and certainly not old
 - 11 Trudges
 - 13 Fit ___ fiddle
 - 14 One way to think
 - 17 Mesmerized
 - 21 Porcine sniffer
 - 23 Kazakhstan border sea
 - 24 Collecting Soc. Sec.
 - 26 Arthur who won a Tony for 5-Across
 - 28 IBM 5150s, e.g.
 - 29 Furniture wood
 - 30 Inner circles, in astronomy models

- 33 Coach Parseghian
- 34 '60s hallucinogen
- 36 Old Bristol-Myers toothpaste
- 37 Beer choice
- 38 College email ending
- 39 Extreme summit
- 41 Former space station
- 44 "Solve ___ decimal places"
- 45 Reddish-brown horse
- 46 Bagel choice
- 47 Eat loudly
- 48 Main artery
- 49 Mars pair
- 51 Drew back
- 52 NFL analyst Bradshaw
- 53 Beasts of burden
- 55 St. Louis-to-Chicago dir.
- 58 Place to see RVs
- 59 NFL mistake

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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By Jerry Edelstein
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HOMESTEAD - Everglades National Park and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) are partnering together to expand efforts to remove Burmese pythons from within the park. The partnership will expand the park's Python Removal Authorized Agent Program by allowing paid FWC contractors to remove pythons in Everglades National Park. The expansion will triple the maximum allowed number of participants in the park from 40 to 120, allow FWC contractors to use firearms or other humane methods to euthanize pythons in the wild, and qualify additional trained NPS personnel to live capture and turn in pythons. The purpose of this controlled invasive species management program remains to remove invasive pythons and other invasive species from the wild and advance research in methods to control pythons.

The Park is working closely with the FWC on the terms of the agreement which would allow FWC contractors to engage in python removals in the park, potentially as early as July 2018.

"We are excited to partner with FWC on invasive species management and are certain this partnership will increase python removals within our park," said Everglades National Park Superintendent Pedro Ramos. "We worked hard in planning this expansion to ensure it won't harm the park and its exceptional resources."

To that end, the Park and the FWC will hold a required Everglades National Park orientation for the contractors so they fully understand the park's program and rules they must follow prior to beginning removals within the park.

"We appreciate the support and efforts of our partners, especially Everglades National Park and Superintendent Ramos. With the leadership and support of Gov. Scott and our Commissioners, we have seen a significant increase in efforts and results to remove the Burmese pythons and other invasive species," said FWC Executive Director, Eric Sutton. "Our success moving forward relies on everyone pulling together collectively including agencies, nonprofits, private landowners and individual citizens."

Burmese pythons pose a significant threat to the Everglades ecosystem. Along with State, Federal, Tribal, and local partners, Everglades National Park and the FWC have invested millions of dollars and countless hours in developing and testing ways to remove pythons from the Everglades. While this research has improved knowledge of

the python population, eliminating pythons using current technology is impossible. Search and removal by trained individuals remains the best method to remove pythons. The park used volunteers for removal in the past, and while it will continue to do so, the addition of FWC contractors will allow greater numbers of skilled people to engage in removals than ever before.

"While hunting remains prohibited by law in Everglades National Park," said Everglades National Park Superintendent Pedro Ramos, "we believe the expansion of the program to include allowing FWC contractors to remove pythons in the park will be welcomed by concerned citizens that want to play a role in helping with this significant problem."

The FWC designed the Python Removal Contractor Program to further engage qualified individuals with python management efforts. Python removal contractors are paid for their efforts to survey for and, when possible, capture Burmese pythons in specific areas which will soon include Everglades National Park. They may also respond to survey requests in areas where pythons have been reported.

Burmese pythons became established in Florida as a result of escaped or released pets. People should never release nonnative pets in the wild in Florida. It is illegal and can negatively impact native wildlife and habitat. The FWC has an Exotic Pet Amnesty Program that allows nonnative pets to be surrendered without penalty.

For more information about the FWC's Python Removal Contractor Program or Exotic Pet Amnesty Program, visit MyFWC.com/Python.

For more information about invasive Burmese pythons in Everglades National Park: <https://www.nps.gov/ever/learn/nature/burmese-python.htm>

For more information about python management in the Park: <https://www.nps.gov/ever/learn/nature/npspythonmanagement.htm>

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Guadalupe Center opening doors to higher education for another 29 Immokalee students through Tutor Corps

By Helen Midney, Guadalupe Center

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

It was 90-minute ceremony that ultimately will change their lives.

Although the magnitude of becoming a Tutor Corps student likely hasn't yet hit them, 29 Immokalee students took the first major step toward college by saying "yes" on Tuesday, May 15.

Guadalupe Center held a formal induction ceremony to welcome a new group of underclassmen into Tutor Corps, a college preparatory program that has produced an astonishing 100 percent college admission rate for 13 consecutive years.

"It truly is a life-changing program," said Dawn Montecalvo, president of the Guadalupe Center. "Our Tutor Corps students show great academic promise and leadership abilities, and our objective is to help prepare them for college while reducing financial obstacles that often pose roadblocks in higher education."

Tutor Corps students are eligible for Guadalupe Center scholarships of up to \$16,000, and the average wage earned by tutoring younger children in Guadalupe Center's programs is \$2,500 annually. Additionally, Guadalupe Center staff members help students secure merit and need-based scholarships to defray the cost of a college education. The 29 members of Tutor Corp's Class of 2018, for example, were offered an estimated \$2.6 million in scholarships, grants and financial aid.

"We've all heard the phrase 'money is no object,' but in reality, money is an object – a big roadblock – that prevents many capable

students from pursuing a college degree," Montecalvo said. "Guadalupe Center has mitigated that roadblock for Tutor Corps students."

The newly inducted Tutor Corps students include 25 incoming freshmen and four incoming sophomores. Throughout their time at Immokalee High, Tutor Corps students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average while leaning on an adult mentor for guidance and support. Guadalupe Center staff also provide workshops on financial literacy

and public speaking in addition to SAT and ACT prep.

Federal statistics show that a bachelor's degree leads to about \$1 million more in lifetime earnings compared to individuals with high school diplomas. Put simply, a college degree is a difference maker in an impoverished community like Immokalee, where the U.S. Census reports only 7.7 percent of adults have a college degree and the average annual household income is \$38,071. By comparison, the Florida average is 37.2

percent and \$69,936, respectively.

"Guadalupe Center's mission is to break the cycle of poverty through education for the children of Immokalee, and the fact that we've been able to send every Tutor Corps graduate to college and achieve a 92 percent college graduation rate for more than a decade is a testament that we're fulfilling our mission," Montecalvo said.

For more information about Guadalupe Center's Tutor Corps program, please visit GuadalupeCenter.org or call 239-657-7711.



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Did You Know?

A section of passenger railroad in Alaska called the Hurricane Turn. Rather than making scheduled station stops, it operates as a flag-stop meaning passengers in this remote area can simply wave the train down to stop. It's one of the last true flag-stop trains in the U.S.



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