

# IMMOKALEE BULLETIN

Serving Immokalee, Ave Maria and Eastern Collier County

Vol. 51 No. 39

Thursday, September 27, 2018

## New mentoring organization launches in Immokalee

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

Florida Dreamcatchers launches as a new, unique mentoring nonprofit organization dedicated to raising aspirations of Immokalee youth.

Dreamcatchers was created as an offshoot of the Immokalee-based 1by1 Leadership Foundation, with the hope of creating a program that would be relationship-centered and committed to student's lives from the sixth grade through post-secondary education.

"Our children face many obstacles during their adolescence, including poverty, fear, depression and hopelessness. To overcome these challenges, students need on-going adult support, opportunities to discover their gifts and the confidence and skills to live out their dreams. This is what Dreamcatchers is all about. I really feel like this 9-year program has the ability to transform lives," says Gloria Padilla, a member of the Board and active Immokalee community member.

Dreamcatchers offers a unique approach to long-term mentorship; engaging students early in their educational career, and utilizing experiential education, travel, and the outdoors to expand young people's horizons.

To learn more, lend support or get involved, please visit [www.floridadreamcatchers.org](http://www.floridadreamcatchers.org).

## Dads Take Your Child to School Day

By Jennifer L. Kupiec

Specialist, Communications & Community Engagement Collier County Public Schools

Governor Rick Scott proclaimed yesterday, September 26, 2018, Dads Take Your Child to School Day. The day stresses the importance of family involvement. Fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, foster fathers, and other significant male role models are invited to take part in this special day. And I am proud to share that we had many of those male role models visible and active across our elementary schools yesterday.

At Lake Trafford Elementary, dads and  
See Dads — Page 2



Submitted photo/Jennifer L. Kupiec  
A male role model poses with a child at Highlands Elementary.



Submitted photo/Jennifer L. Kupiec  
A male role model poses with a child at Lake Trafford Elementary.

## Bank of America awards \$7,500 grant to TIF program

NAPLES - The Immokalee Foundation has received a \$7,500 grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation to support the Career Development program, a multifaceted curriculum that introduces Immokalee youth to potential occupations, business etiquette and networking, and matches students with adult mentors in the community.

The foundation's Career Development program empowers Immokalee's youth to imagine and prepare for a future they may not have envisioned, whether they attend a university, vocational program, or professional certification course that help prepare them for jobs requiring specific skills.

They are students like Julio Estrella, who describes The Immokalee Foundation's pro-

See Grant — Page 2



Submitted photo  
Julio Estrella supports his growing family with a high-wage job achieved after he graduated from The Immokalee Foundation's Heavy Equipment Service Technician program.

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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.

E-Mail: [ibnews@newszap.com](mailto:ibnews@newszap.com)

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

## Dads

Continued From Page 1

other male role models joined their children for breakfast and were treated to special guest speaker and father of a fifth grade student, Mr. Frank Rincon. Mr. Rincon has already inspired many from his work with the Benison Center and shared some special words with our guests.

Village Oaks Elementary also hosted breakfast. Visiting dads and male role models joined their children in making a very special photo frame. The day also included a brief training on parent/child engagement which helps to support parental interaction, "a win-win for our families," shared Princi-

pal Renee Hanson.

Eden Park and Pinecrest Elementary schools decided they would hold a Pastries with Parents event and will welcome ALL caregivers on October 5.

And Highlands Elementary, in addition to their Donuts with Dad event yesterday, is hosting an event tomorrow morning, September 28, as part of their Watch DOGS (Dads of Great Students) program. Watch DOGS are invited every quarter to attend a special event with their student. The school asks that all DOGS volunteer one day on campus each year. DOGS get an official shirt, a desk, and a daily schedule. The goal is to have these positive male role models visible while on campus. They are scheduled in classrooms, on the recess field, in related arts rooms, and they get to have lunch

with their child. According to Principal Laura Mendicino, "Male role models are critical to all children and these DOGS are here to help!"

For tomorrow's Watch DOGS event at Highlands, dads and their children will learn about "big rocks" and how to prioritize their schedules for a healthy and happy life. Dad and child will then create their family "big rocks" together. To learn more about Watch DOGS, visit [dadsogreatstudents.com/about-watch-dogs](http://dadsogreatstudents.com/about-watch-dogs).

A big thank you to all of our dads and important male role models for taking part in the activities above as parental involvement plays a key role in a child's academic success.

## Grant

Continued From Page 1

gram as "a life changer."

Raised in Immokalee with two siblings by a single mother, Estrella went to work at a convenience store immediately after high school to help support his mother and younger brother.

Estrella later was accepted into The Immokalee Foundation's Heavy Equipment Service Technician two-year program, a collaboration between the Career Development program and Immokalee Technical College.

Since graduating from the program in 2015, Estrella has worked for Vulcan Materials as a mobile maintenance mechanic. Rather than living paycheck to paycheck, he now lives a very comfortable life, earning almost five times what he earned in his prior job at the convenience store. In addition, significant employment benefits, including health and life insurance, provide security for his young and growing family.

Like Estrella, most of Immokalee's stu-

dents will be the first of their families to attend college or a vocational school, and many of them come from homes in which English is not the spoken language.

The world opens up to them through their participation in more than a dozen Career Development panels annually. The program also provides industry and office tours, job shadowing, internships, apprenticeships, career interest inventories, employment skills classes, and resume workshops.

"The Career Development program empowers Immokalee youth to imagine and prepare for a different future," said Gerri Moll, Fort Myers/Naples market president for Bank of America. "We're proud to support The Immokalee Foundation in preparing local economically disadvantaged children for the modern workforce through education and training."

Collier County is poised to experience an employment gap: The county population grew 42 percent between 2000 and 2015 and is projected to grow to 482,000 by 2040, representing an additional 35 percent growth. With about 50 percent of its population under the age of 27, Immokalee's youth

are the next generation of employees for Naples and Collier County.

An equally important component to the Career Development program is the ability to facilitate and foster internships with local organizations, enabling students to seek high-paying jobs. Local participating organizations include Arthrex, Naples Community Hospital, BCB Homes, Thomas Riley Artisans' Guild, Caterpillar, Kelly Tractor, Lipman Produce, Naples Daily News, The News-Press, Immokalee Technical College and Boston Red Sox.

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 <http://immokaleefoundation.org>.

## LaBelle Museum Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

LaBelle Heritage Museum's Wednesday, October 3 Program Meeting at the Dallas B. Townsend Agricultural Center at 1085 Pratt Boulevard will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with a local flavor. Ramon Sanalfonso Rodriguez, a member of the 2018 Swamp Cabbage Pioneer Family headed by his parents the late Ramon S. Rodriguez and his 100 year old surviving wife Bersabe, will recollect his youthful experiences with Rudy Juarez in O.M.I.C.A. – Organized Migrants In Community Action – and later with Cesar Chavez as a farm labor union organizer with UFW, United Farm Workers, and his hand in negotiating union contracts with some the largest Citrus operations in Florida. Rodriguez later worked with the local telephone company and is now retired from CenturyLink where his son Ramon Rodriguez III works today in basically the same position his father did.

Since Hendry County ranks second only to Miami-Dade County in the percentage of those identifying themselves as Hispanic, this program should be of more than passing interest to the majority, Chicano or Anglo. The Townsend Agricultural Center's

doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for the program which begins at 7 o'clock. The public is welcome and there is no charge.

El miércoles 3 de octubre, LaBelle Heritage Museum celebrará el mes de la herencia hispana con un sabor local en el Dallas B. Townsend Agricultural Center en el 1085 Pratt Boulevard. Ramón Sanalfonso Rodríguez, miembro de la familia pionera de la 2018 Swamp Cabbage Festival, encabezado por sus padres el difunto Ramón S. Rodríguez y su esposa Bersabe, de 100 años, recordará sus experiencias juveniles con Rudy Juárez en O.M.I.C.A. – migrantes organizados en Acción comunitaria – y más tarde con César Chávez como organizador sindical agrícola con UFW, trabajadores agrícolas unidos, y su mano en la negociación de contratos de unión con algunas de las operaciones más grandes de cítricos en la Florida. Rodríguez más tarde trabajó con la compañía telefónica local y ahora se retira de CenturyLink donde su hijo Ramón Rodríguez III trabaja hoy en la misma posición que su padre.

Dado que el Condado de Hendry ocupa el segundo lugar sólo en el Condado de

Miami-Dade en el porcentaje de los que se identifican como hispanos, este programa debe que ser un interés para la mayoría, Chicano o anglo. Las puertas del Townsend Agricultural Center se abrirán en 6:30 de la tarde para el programa que comienza a las 7 en punto. El público es bienvenido y no hay cargo.

## Did You Know?

- Members of a chimpanzee troop in Senegal have been observed by scientists fashioning tree branches into spears and using them as hunting tools.

- The first ever photocopier, the Xerox 914, caught fire so frequently that a "scorch eliminator", a small fire extinguisher, was provided with the copier.

- A team of thieves stole \$18,000 worth of tracking devices from a warehouse. They were apprehended within hours.

- Deodorant was first sold in the 1900s and didn't become popular until advertising agencies convinced consumers that body odor was bad.w

# Champions For Learning earns highest 4-star rating from Charity Navigator

(September 25, 2018—Naples, FL) Strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned Champions For Learning (The Education Foundation of Collier County, Inc), a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator.

This is the sixth time that Champions For Learning has earned this top distinction. The 4-star rating is the highest possible rating and indicates that Champions For Learning adheres to sector best practices and executes its mission in a financially efficient way.

Champions For Learning is among only 23% of the charities evaluated who have received at least 3 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Champions For Learning outperforms most other charities

in America.

"Champions For Learning's exceptional 4-star rating sets it apart from its peers and demonstrates its trustworthiness to the public," according to Michael Thatcher, President & CEO of Charity Navigator. "Only a quarter of charities rated by Charity Navigator receive the distinction of our 4-star rating. This adds Champions For Learning to a pre-eminent group of charities working to overcome our world's most pressing challenges. Based on its 4-star rating, people can trust that their donations are going to a financially responsible and ethical charity when they decide to support Champions For Learning."

"We are extremely proud to be receiving a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator," says Lynn Davidson, Chair of the Board of Direc-

tors. "Our Board of Directors and staff are committed to ensuring that the investments from the community create life-changing learning experiences for every student in Collier County."

To learn more about Champions For Learning visit [www.ChampionsForLearning.org](http://www.ChampionsForLearning.org) or call (239) 643-4755.

About Champions For Learning™

Champions For Learning™, the education foundation in Collier County, is an independent, community-based, non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization that creates life-changing learning experiences for every student. With a vision of a community that is 100% engaged in support of student success, Champions For Learning serves a unique role in bringing the community together to

support a culture of learning and innovation. The organization has been awarded a four-star rating for sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency by Charity Navigator and has been ranked among one of the top 50 education foundations in a national study. Become a Champion for Learning and visit [www.ChampionsForLearning.org](http://www.ChampionsForLearning.org).

About Charity Navigator

Charity Navigator, [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org), is the largest charity evaluator in America and its website attracts more visitors than all other charity rating groups combined. The organization helps guide intelligent giving by evaluating the Financial Health and Accountability & Transparency of more than 8,000 charities.

## Chemical reaction leaves 3 sick

On Wednesday, September 19 at least three people in the Summer Glen Apartment complex in Immokalee fell ill after unknowingly mixing dangerous chemicals in their home.

The family who lives in the apartment said they called maintenance for some clogged pipes. They believe there was a possible mixture of something similar to Drano and bleach put down the pipes about a week ago, but the smell had been getting progressively worse.

Maria Alvarado, the daughter of the

woman who lives there said her reaction to it was bad.

Around noon Immokalee Fire Control District came out to the area along with North Collier Fire Control and Rescue District and the hazmat team. They checked the entire building and did not find anything.

The landlord told firefighters it was a Drano-like substance put in the drain. No one was injured and the family is back home.

## Collier County Traffic Enforcement Spots

### Monday, Oct. 1:

Livingston Road and Biscayne Court – Speeding Golden Gate Boulevard and Big Cypress Elementary School – Speeding Collier Boulevard and Mission Hills Drive – Aggressive driving

### Tuesday, Oct. 2:

Immokalee Road and I75 southbound exit – Aggressive driving U.S. 41 North and Old 41 Road – Red-light running Radio Road and Industrial Boulevard – Red-light running

### Wednesday, Oct. 3:

Tropicana Boulevard and 26th Place SW – Speeding Cougar Drive at Barron Collier

High School – Aggressive driving Goodlette-Frank Road and Orange Blossom Drive – Speeding

### Thursday, Oct. 4:

Airport-Pulling Road and Golden Gate Parkway – Red-light running Santa Barbara and Hunter boulevards – Speeding U.S. 41 East and Rattlesnake Hammock Road – Red-light running

### Friday, Oct. 5:

Naples Boulevard – Aggressive driving Vanderbilt Beach Road and Tiburon Drive – Speeding Randall Boulevard and Immokalee Road – Red-light running

To place an ad call 239-657-6000 or go online to [www.immokaleebulletin.com](http://www.immokaleebulletin.com)

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## Immokalee Branch Library October Events

**FAMILY STORY TIME: Tuesdays, October 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 starting at 10 a.m.**, All ages.

(Stories, songs, learning activities and crafts) Registration is not required.

**PEACEFUL COLORING - October - All Month**

Coloring is the latest stress buster. Add your creative coloring skills to the large picture in the teen area. Ages 11-17 years. Registration is not required.

**TEEN READ WEEK: WHITE ELEPHANT BOOK EXCHANGE - Monday, October 8, 4-4:45 p.m.**

It's written in the stars! Come have a snack, watch movie trailers, and swap books to get the one right for you to take home. Ages 11-17 years. Registration is not required.

**DINE AND LEARN- Monday, October 1, 5:30-6:30 p.m.**

Presenter: Avow Representative

Come for a dinner with other local families to learn to cope with loss during the holidays. Food will be provided. All ages. Registration required.

**BOOK BINGO - Thursday, October 11, 5:30-6:30 p.m.**

Are you ready for Bingo? Join us for an afternoon of fun! Bring a friend and win some prizes! All ages. Registration is not required.

**HAUNTED HOUSE AFTERNOON MOVIE - Tuesday, October 16, 3-4:30 p.m.**

Afraid of the dark? Spend your early re-

lease afternoon at the Immokalee Library with popcorn and our ghostly friends to view a haunted house movie! First come, first seated. Registration is not required.

**NOT YOUR MUMMY'S MAGIC SHOW! - Thursday, October 25, 5:30-6:30 p.m.**

Join Master Magician Joey Evans and Alexandra Evans as they take you on a hilarious journey through some of Halloween's greatest characters and stories. The show features magic, comedy, music, and eye popping balloon creations in a twisted air adventure. This one of a kind show is only offered once a year, so be sure to not miss the show that will keep you on the edge of your seat! All ages. Registration required.

**TRICK OR TREAT AT YOUR LIBRARY - Wednesday, October 31, Noon-4:30 p.m.**

Put on your Halloween costume (optional) and stop by the Immokalee Library for a scavenger hunt, a spooky craft, and a treat. All ages. Registration is not required.

The Immokalee Branch Library is located at 417 N. First Street, Immokalee, FL 34142. For more information call 239-657-2882 or visit their website at CollierLibrary.org.

### HOURS:

Monday & Thursday: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Saturday.

Programs sponsored by the Friends of the Library

## Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Launches Rebuild Florida

To help repair and rebuild homes damaged by Hurricane Irma

Collier County residents who still need assistance in repairing property are encouraged to register.

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) launched Rebuild Florida, a long-term recovery effort, that will provide \$616 million to help Florida families whose homes were significantly damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Irma repair or rebuild their homes. Rebuild Florida is a program run by DEO in partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This program was announced jointly by Governor Rick Scott and HUD Secretary Dr. Ben Carson in June and will connect eligible Floridians with federal disaster recovery funding, prioritizing most-impacted communities and the most vulnerable low-income individuals, including the elderly, those with disabilities

and families with young children.

Registration is open now at RebuildFlorida.gov, by calling the Rebuild Florida representatives at 844-833-1010, or by visiting the Rebuild Florida Intake Center opening tomorrow, Wed., Sept. 26, 2018, at 3050 Horseshoe Drive North, Naples, Florida 34104. The Intake Center will be open between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Eligible Florida residents have until Dec. 23 to register for the Rebuild Florida Housing Repair and Replacement Program.

The program is open to residents who own their homes and to owners of rental properties. Detailed eligibility requirements are available at RebuildFlorida.gov.

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# The Sixth Annual High School Voter Registration Challenge gains the participation of 11 Collier County High Schools

Getting students involved in the Electoral Process!

Collier County, Fla – September 21, 2018: The Collier County Supervisor of Elections office kicked off their annual High School Voter Registration Challenge earlier this month and so far, 11 high schools have scheduled their voter registration drives.

The Supervisor of Elections is challenging local high schools to get students registered for future elections and so far, the following schools are scheduled to participate: Barron Collier High School, First Baptist Academy,

Golden Gate High School, Gulf Coast High School, Immokalee High School, Lely High School, Lorenzo Walker Technical College, Marco Island Academy, Naples High School, Palmetto Ridge High School and St. John Neumann High School. The high school with the highest level of participation after their registration drive will be presented with a plaque from Jennifer J. Edwards, Supervisor of Elections.

Registered voters must be legal US citizens and must be at least 18 years old. Students under 18 are encouraged to

pre-register to vote as early as the age of 16. Pre-registered voters who turn 18 on or before November 6, will be qualified to vote in the 2018 General Election. The voter registration deadline for the upcoming General Election is October 9, 2018.

The Collier County Supervisor of Elections office continues to strengthen its partnerships with Collier County schools and engage students in the democratic process

by providing educational programs, conducting voter registration drives, and participating in other events that familiarize students with voting and the electoral process. To learn more about voter outreach and educational programs provided by the Supervisor of Elections office, contact Heather Doane, Voter Education Coordinator, by email at HeatherDoane@colliergov.net or call (239)252-8805.

## Area Agency on Aging Celebrates 40th Anniversary with milestone

Forty years ago this week, the Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida (AAASWFL) filed articles of incorporation to serve older adults in our region. The regional non-profit agency became official on September 12, 1978. Coincidentally, AAASWFL will reach more than one milestone this week. It will also accept its 500,000th call to the Southwest Florida Elder Helpline.

The Elder Helpline is a toll-free service that helps connect seniors and adults with disabilities to needed resources in our community. The Area Agency on Aging has operated the Southwest Florida Elder Helpline since 2003. Last year, the agency received nearly 64,000 calls to the toll-free service. This year, that number is expected to climb to more than 70,000.

“It’s amazing to think that our team has handled half a million calls since we started operating the Helpline,” says AAASWFL President and CEO Marianne Lorini. “To have it happen the same week as our 40th anniversary is really something special. Our Helpline specialists are the first contact that most folks have with us, so they’re really the unsung heroes of our organization.”

The Elder Helpline accepts calls Mondays through Fridays from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., excluding holidays. The state’s

network of 11 Area Agencies on Aging share a database of service providers to assist seniors, people with disabilities, caregivers, and other individuals with locating resources in their communities. Assistance is available in 200 languages.

In 2017, the most frequent request to the Helpline was for assessments for government-funded elder care and long-term care services, followed by assistance with utility payments and health insurance counseling. Other frequently requested needs include meals and nutrition services, affordable housing, and transportation.

“The average caller to the Helpline isn’t just looking for just one thing. They’re usually calling us for help with two or three needs,” explains Lorini. “Our goal is to be able to connect our callers with at least three resources. Those resources might be government-funded, nonprofit, or even private-pay. If there’s an available resource in our community, we want to make sure our callers know about it.”

More information is available at [www.aaaswfl.org](http://www.aaaswfl.org) or by calling the toll-free Helpline at 866-413-5337 (866-41-ELDER).

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Household Bread Assorted Vanitas, 14-oz bot. SAVE UP TO \$1.99

24-Pack Assorted Vanitas, 12 oz can or bot. SAVE UP TO \$1.99

12-Pack Assorted Michel's Bites, 12 oz bot. SAVE UP TO \$1.99

18-Pack Assorted Cornini or Henele 12-oz can or bot. or 24-pack Stella Artois Imported Pilsener Beer, 12 oz bot. SAVE UP TO \$1.99

12-Pack Samuel Adams Boston Lager, 12 oz bot. SAVE UP TO \$1.99

## Community Briefs

### After School Program

Immokalee South Park, 418 School Drive, has an After School Program, **Monday - Friday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.** We have homework help, games, arts and crafts and more. Plus snacks will be provided. Sign up today! Call (239) 252-4677 for more info.

### Calling All Artists and Photographers

Arts of the Inland (AOI) and the Barron Park House Gallery and Gift Shop invite you to exhibit your art, including photography, sculpture, and fabric art, in the Gallery during the month of October. You may display and sell small art, crafts, jewelry, cards, and books in the gift shop throughout the year. Receiving day for art and gift shop items is **Tuesday, October 2 from 3 to 6.** Gift shop items may be brought to the Gallery that day and anytime during regular hours.

All artists may submit 5 works for display and/or sell. The fee for members of Arts of the Inland is \$20 and \$25 for non-members. Memberships will be available at the Gallery. Gift shop items are not limited in number. Art must be original with artist's name, medium, and sale price on the back of each piece that is for sale. Please have each piece of wall art suitably framed with a wire hanging system on the back. Saw tooth hangers do not work with the Gallery hanging system. The AOI Barron Park House Gallery welcomes new and returning artists. For more details, you may call Marty Cowen at 239-290-6837 or Connie Killebrew at 239-771-0213. The Gallery is located at 471 No. Lee St. in LaBelle. See you there!

### Penny Fox Offers Painting Class at Barron Park House

Well-known South Florida artist, Penny Fox, is once again offering painting classes

**October 13 and 14** at the Barron Park House Gallery located at 471 N. Lee St. in LaBelle. Penny has been an art teacher for many years and has been the winner of many awards in the art community of South Florida. Any medium. Some painting experience is preferred. "Country Landscapes" Members of AOI pay \$20 for one day, \$35 for 2 days. Non-members \$25 and \$40. Hours are 1 to 4. Contact her to RSVP at 239-292-7105.

### Collier County Tax Collector Offices to Close for Training

All Collier County Tax Collector offices will be closed **Monday, October 1**, for mandatory employee training. All offices will resume normal business operations Tuesday, October 2. This includes the temporary tax collector office located inside Rose Hall at the Marco Island Library. For more information or for questions regarding the services the Collier County Tax Collector offers, please call (239) 252-8171 or visit [colliertax.com](http://colliertax.com).

### Big Bus Event

The 4th Annual Big Bus Event is planned for **October 6, from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** at the Florida Department of Health in Collier County, 419 North 1st Street, Immokalee, FL 34142. The free event will have Health, Vision, and Dental Screenings (Adult and Children), Visits from the Tooth Fairy, Bike Inspections, Repairs, and Helmets, Child Safety Seat Inspection, Adult Flu Vaccines, Collier Mosquito Control District Helicopter, Food...and MORE!

### Children's Peace Fair

The Children's Peace Fair will be on **Monday, Oct. 22, from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.** at the Immokalee Sports Complex, 505 Escambia Street, Immokalee FL 34142. There will be entertainment and games on the field. Join The Shelter's Immokalee Outreach Office for an afternoon of FREE family fun. For more information call The Shelter's Immokalee Outreach Office at 239-657-5700.

### Feria de la Paz Infantil

La Feria de la Paz de los Niños será el **lunes 22 de octubre a partir de las 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.** en el Complejo Deportivo Immokalee, 505 Escambia Street, Immokalee FL 34142. Habrá entretenimiento y juegos en el campo. Únase a la Oficina de Alcance Immokalee de The Shelter para una tarde de diversión familiar GRATIS. Para obtener más información, llame a la Oficina de Alcance Immokalee de The Shelter al 239-657-5700.

### Fwa lapè timoun yo

Fwa lapè Timoun yo pral nan **Lendi 22 oktòb, ki soti nan 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.** nan Immokalee Espò Complex la, 505 Escambia Street, Immokalee FL 34142. Li pral fè amizman, ak jwèt sou jaden an. Antre nan Immokalee Outreach biwo Abri a pou yon apremidi nan plezi fanmi GRATIS. Pou plis enfòmasyon, rele Immokalee Outreach Biwo abri pou abri a nan 239-657-5700.

### Donate Christmas Ornaments

Get your creative juices flowing and donate your finished ornaments to The Barron Park House Gallery from **November 1 until December 15.** All ornaments donated will be displayed and sold throughout the months of November and December. All proceeds will help support the Arts of the Inland and The Barron Park House Gallery. 471 N Lee St, LaBelle. For info call Barbara Swift 863-484-2005.

### Christmas Around the World Parade and Snow Gala

The Immokalee Chamber of Commerce (ICOC) is hosting the Annual Christmas Around the World Parade and Snow Gala on **December 8 starting at 5:30 pm.** All the applications for the parade, Little Mr/Ms Snowflake, vendors for the Snow Gala at the Park and Recreation field, and the 5th Annual Lighting of the Christmas Tree at Zocalo Plaza are available NOW at the Immokalee Chamber of Commerce Office-1255 North 15th Street, Suite #3 in Immokalee. For details and applications contact Cherryle Thomas at 239-657-0080.

### Christmas Tree Lighting

The 5th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting will take place on **Thursday, November 29 starting at 6 p.m.** at the Immokalee Zocalo Plaza, 107 1st Street, Immokalee, FL. There will be Santa's Personal Mail Drop Station, live performances, photo props for pictures with Santa, refreshments from the North Pole and the Coronation of the Little Mr & Miss Snowflake. Decorations for the event donated by the Seminole Casino Hotel. For more information contact Leonor Montelongo at 239-252-4677.

### Public Information Meetings on the One-Cent Sales Tax

On the November 6, General Election ballot voters will have the opportunity to vote on a County Referendum regarding a Collier County and Municipal Infrastructure One-Cent Sales Surtax. Notice is hereby given that public information meetings about the One-Cent Sales Surtax will be held on the following dates at the following locations:

**6 p.m., Thursday, September 27**

Center Point Community Church, 6590 Golden Gate Parkway, Naples, Florida 34105

**6 p.m., Tuesday, October 2**

North Collier Regional Park Exhibit Hall, 15000 Livingston Road, Naples, Florida 34109

Additional information about the One-Cent Sales Surtax can be found at [collierecenttax.com](http://collierecenttax.com).

For more information, call Geoffrey Wilig at (239) 252-8369.

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# Black Maria Film Festival Returns to FSW for 37th Anniversary

Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW) welcomes the Black Maria Film Festival back to the college for its 37th anniversary tour at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 13, at the FSW Thomas Edison Campus, Rush Library Auditorium, Building J, Room 103. Tickets are \$10 for the general public, free for FSW students with their Buc Card, and \$5 for FSW staff and faculty. Tickets must be purchased at the door in cash.

Founded in New Jersey in 1981 to honor Thomas Edison's pioneering spirit in cinema, this festival celebrates the creative vision of contemporary independent directors by showcasing an eclectic variety of bold short films. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences recognizes the Black Maria as an Academy Award qualifying festival. Its annual collection of cutting-edge films travels across the nation to universities, museums and other venues. Festival organizers work directly with the host institution to select a variety of short narrative, experimental, animation and documentary films that are tailored to their particular audience.

"This year's festival selections were curated by students who are currently taking film classes at the college or who are affiliated with our Honors Scholars Program," said Dr. Wendy Chase, program coordinator, FSW Honors Scholar Program. "They selected these particular films in hopes that they will provide a platform to engage in civil conversations about pressing issues of social justice. The students will facilitate a discussion following the screening."

Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit FSW's Sustainability Club, which is currently focused on designing a food forest on campus and addressing issues of food insecurity.

This year's films are:

**"The Driver is Red" - Animation**

15 min. by Randall Christopher, San Diego, Calif.

Set in Argentina in 1960, this true crime documentary follows the story of secret agent Zvi Aharoni as he searched for a mysterious man named Ricardo Klement. What he discovered in the remote outskirts of Buenos Aires would send shockwaves around the world.

**"Mama" - Narrative**

10 min. by Mert Canatan, Valencia, Spain  
Life can change in a blink of an eye, a thin line separates heaven from hell. You may never know when you have to leave your safe zone until you get the hit and everything that used to be there, is gone in the next minute. This is the story of a Syrian refugee girl, who crossed that thin line and saw her entire life altered forever.

**"Little Fiel" - Documentary**

17 min. by Irina Patkanian, NY, N.Y.  
When the Civil War in Mozambique began in 1975, Fiel dos Santos was three years old. He had a large family of five siblings and numerous cousins. Toward the end of the war, Fiel found himself living alone in a dilapidated house with no electricity or water at the age of 14. To overcome depression and madness he started drawing on the walls of the house. Today Fiel is a renowned sculptor and visual artist. He is one of four artists from Mozambique who created Tree of Life a sculpture commissioned and then installed in the British Museum in 2005. Fiel dos Santos is the only member of his family

who hasn't shot a gun. His life's work is to destroy guns and turn them into art.

**"Ginevra" - Animation**

4 min. by Tess Martin, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Based on Percy Shelley's poem "The Dirge," "Ginevra" depicts the aftermath of the murder of a young woman. As her distraught mother looks on, she learns that life after death involves a transition she never could have imagined.

**"Analog Orange" - Experimental**

3 min. by John Hawk, Agua Dulce, Calif.

Lyrical video abstraction created utilizing antique video synthesizers, referencing art forms from Buddhist, Islamic, Native American and 20th century modernist traditions. The process of working with these real-time video synthesizers is intuitive and very similar to improvising on a musical instrument. This all makes for a workflow that constantly produces the unexpected and in so doing becomes a real joy.

**"Dandelion" - Animation**

3 min. by Lisa Talentino, Torino, Italy

The double time Bourrée dance is full of romantic meaning. Dancers come close, reaching towards each other, then they turn away, find and avoid each other, without ever touching. The dandelion flower is a spring oracle. The legend says that lovers give their wishes to the flower and then blow them away to make them come true. "Dandelion" is an antique dance and courting ritual - a dandelion flower to blow desires.

**"Lady Eva" - Documentary**

11 min. by Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu, Honolulu, Hawaii

In the Kingdom of Tonga, the last remaining monarchy in the Pacific, traditional culture clashes with modern religious zealotry. On the eve of the biggest day in her life, a young transgender beauty contestant is given an ultimatum by her Mormon family. They tell her, "If you choose to participate in that pageant, you can pack your bags and get out of this house." Fiercely determined, Lady Eva takes off on a journey to become her true self - with a little inspiration from Tina Turner along the way.

**"Lion in a Box" - Documentary**

4 min. by Melanie Brown, Los Angeles, Calif.

This first-person documentary recounts one woman's military training, and the battles she endured to achieve her goals. Created in a short film class for veterans, Brown uses voice-over, photomontage and animation to tell her story. "Lion in a Box" shines a light on the traditional definitions of sacrifice and combat.

**"Red Lopez" - Narrative**

15 min. by Stephen Frandsen and Hadleigh Arnst, Brooklyn, N.Y.

"Red Lopez" is a narrative short about a Mexican-American outlaw who sparked one of the greatest manhunts the West has ever seen. Based on the real-life story of Rafael 'Red' Lopez, the film takes us back to 1913, and another immigrant, Julius Sorenson, who emigrated from Denmark. Sorenson, one of the deputies involved in the manhunt, is given the chance to prove himself in his adopted country as he pursues his nemesis.

**"Insecta" - Experimental**

5 min. by Ramey Newell, Vancouver, BC, Canada

"Insecta" questions humans' relationship with the natural world through the dual lenses of scientific inquiry and the aesthetics of documentary filmmaking. Utilizing archival video and narration in conjunction with original laboratory photography and rhythmic insect sound compositions, the film constructs an increasingly unsettling portrait of human callousness toward non-human animals in our compulsive quests for knowledge and domination of the natural world.

**"Sans Chlorophyll" - Animation**

3 min. by Phil Davis, Baltimore, Md.

A short experimental film created using hundreds of scanned and photographed leaves animated and choreographed in time to an original banjo score by the filmmaker.

For more information, contact Dr. Chase at Wendy.Chase@fsw.edu or (239) 489-9470, or visit www.blackmariafilmfestival.org.

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Meg, to Jo
  - 4 Lighter
  - 8 Fashion first name
  - 12 Cathedral feature
  - 14 "Frère Jacques," e.g.
  - 15 Heartfelt class?
  - 16 Dismiss, in a way
  - 17 Adopted
  - 18 Daughter of Oceanus
  - 19 Monopoly acquisition
  - 20 Installments
  - 22 Run using water, as a plant
  - 24 Unsettled items
  - 25 Gets absorbed
  - 26 Lightweight boxer?
  - 27 Redcap's workplace: Abbr.
  - 28 "\_\_\_ Down In Darkness": Styron novel
  - 29 Little projectiles
  - 32 Hardly keeps cool
  - 34 Rock \_\_\_
  - 35 Greeting words
  - 37 Like some pasta
  - 38 Full of vitality
  - 39 Filing aid
  - 40 Call before a head-to-head contest
  - 43 Reacted to a sock
  - 44 Fruit sometimes fried
  - 45 City on the Rhone
  - 46 Like some fancy stationery
  - 47 Forest coat
  - 48 "Walkabout" director Nicolas
  - 49 Many boomers: Abbr.
- DOWN**
- 1 Plastic surgeon's concern
  - 2 "Roger that"
  - 3 Reduced to ashes
  - 4 Drive in the bedroom?
  - 5 Words with throw or have
  - 6 One of an elite eatery trio
  - 7 Spots for private shoppers?: Abbr.
  - 8 Gave
  - 9 "Almost ready!"
  - 10 Covers
  - 11 More than not sure about
  - 13 Quails
  - 14 Nutritionist's unit
  - 16 Lincoln Center locale
  - 18 Subject of a 1996 holiday craze
  - 21 Sword's superior?
  - 22 Not square
  - 23 Venerable
  - 27 Forms a new state
  - 29 Aquatic plant that reduces erosion
  - 30 More rare, in a way
  - 31 \_\_\_ Redman, Gary Sinise's role in Stephen King's "The Stand"
  - 32 Like expressions?
  - 33 Fuel \_\_\_: reactor component
  - 34 Rabbit predators
  - 35 They have plots
  - 36 Traditional beverage
  - 37 Prefix meaning "sacred"
  - 39 Scotch serving
  - 41 Local theater, informally
  - 42 Purposes
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**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

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By Julian Lim  
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Submitted photo

## Work starts on Lake Trafford Memorial Gardens flooding

After years of complaints about the flooding at Lake Trafford Memorial Gardens, Collier officials have allotted \$270,000 for the project and hired Quality Enterprises to do the work.



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