

IMMOKALEE BULLETIN

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Immokalee Children's Fair and Peace March

Travis Anderson, M.S.

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

Men, women, children and multiple organizations came together to promote Domestic Violence Awareness month by attending the the Shelter for Abused Women & Children's annual Immokalee Children's Fair and Peace March.

Josie Means, Outreach Office Manager, said that their goal is to prevent, protect, and prevail over domestic violence through social change and that's why the Shelter for Abused Women & Children once again hosted the fair and peace march. Means said that their ultimate goal is to be a voice in the neighborhood in an effort to put an end to domestic violence. That's done through a cooperative effort with the public and local organizations.

Means went on to say that every nine seconds in the United States, a woman is assaulted or battered and that each year there are over 10 million victims of domestic violence nationwide. Additionally, one in three women are abused by their partner.

Some may think that women and children are the only victims of domestic violence, but as Means points out, one and four men are abused by their partner.

The National Network to End Domestic Violence classifies domestic violence as "coercive, controlling behavior that can include emotional or psychological abuse, sexual abuse or financial abuse (using money and financial tools to exert control)."

For those interested in joining forces and helping to put an end to domestic violence, please visit naplesshelter.org/how-to-help/

If you, or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, call 911 and get to a safe place or call the Shelter for Abused Women & Children's 24-hour confidential hotline at 239-775-1101. For more information about the Shelter, please visit naplesshelter.org



Submitted photo/Travis Anderson

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Submitted photo/Fred N. Thomas, Jr.

Sen. Nelson responding to County Commissioner Tim Nance.

Nelson discusses Promise Zone with local leaders

By Fred N. Thomas, Jr.

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

Sen. Bill Nelson flew into the Immokalee airport on Saturday, October 22, to meet with local businesses, to discuss the South Florida Promise Zone, (SFPZ). Lunch was provided by Lozano's Restaurant of Immokalee. About three dozen local leaders and business owners came together to learn more about SFPZ and what it can do to help local businesses become more successful.

He was met by his Regional Director, Tami Holiday, who has an office in Ft. Myers.

They discussed all of the dynamics that caused the SFPZ, such as the poverty rate in Immokalee, compared to other communities in southwest Florida, the income levels and the educational levels of the population.

The goals of SFPZ are job creation, to encourage economical activity to improve educational opportunities, reduce crime, human trafficking and drug intervention and to improve infrastructure.

Success in these areas will create an environment that will make Immokalee the industrial hub of South Florida.

Commissioner snubs public comment; Chief gets raise

Travis Anderson, M.S.

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The regular Fire Commissioner meeting on Thursday was anything but 'normal.'

For months now, Fire Commissioners have mulled over financial data in an effort to meet the auditing recommendations given by their auditor Tuscan & Company. In fact, some of these issues are the same issues the department has faced for years.

At present, Fire Commissioners were presented with two options: enter into an

agreement with Labelle CPA to provide oversight for payroll and accounts payable functions or contract with North Collier Fire Control and Rescue District to do the same.

The argument is that while Labelle CPA is capable of working with IFD staff, the need exists for IFD to hire additional administrative staff to assist with processing payroll and accounts payable functions in-house. On the other hand, North Collier Fire Control

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