



Submitted photo/Katie Tuff

From left, Shelter Immokalee Outreach Manager Josie Means, youth leaders Esmeralda Cardenas and Araceli Martinez and Immokalee Outreach Children's Advocate Catalina Rosales.

Local teens stand against dating violence

Local youth took a stand against teen dating violence, Friday, Feb. 27, during February's National teen Dating Violence awareness Month. Statistics show that one in five teenage girls will be physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner before they graduate from high school.

Members of The Shelter's Youth Advisory Council hosted an informational booth at Immokalee Zocalo, on the corner of Main Street and North First Street. During the two hour event, the six-member group held up signs and distributed information to more than 85 people. The event was part of several awareness raising activities held in Immokalee during the month of February.

"Our goal is to break the cycle of abuse by raising awareness on teen dating abuse," said Immokalee Outreach Office Manager Josie Means. "We are encouraging everyone – especially parents and teens – to start talking about what it means to have a healthy relationship."

On Feb. 10 advocates at The Shelter's Im-

kokalee Outreach Office commemorated Orange4love by wearing orange to promote Teen Dating Violence Awareness. They also presented 40 outreach classes to more than 1,600 youth at Collier County Public Schools.

The Shelter, Collier County's only certified domestic violence center, is leading the community to prevent, protect and prevail over domestic violence through advocacy, empowerment and social change. Since 1989, the nonprofit organization has served more than 68,000 children, women, men and their pets. To help provide a solution to end violence at home and in our communities, go to www.naplesshelter.org.

The Shelter has received the coveted 4-star rating by independent charity evaluator Charity Navigator for the fourth consecutive year.

FSW waiving application fee March 23-29

Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW) will waive application fees for applicants who apply online from March 23–29. To apply, visit www.fsw.edu/admissions.

"FSW has a variety of great programs, and we want to encourage students to apply and explore what our programs can offer them," said Mark Bukowski, Director of Admissions at FSW.

FSW will be hosting an Open House event in April, for more information visit www.FSW.edu/openhouse. Registration for Summer 2015 begins on Monday, March 16.

Florida SouthWestern State College is Southwest Florida's largest and one of the most affordable institutions of higher education. Annually serving more than 22,000 students globally, FSW offers a variety of nationally-ranked, career-focused academic programs with two- and four-year degrees, and professional certifications. FSW will debut its intercollegiate athletics program in the fall 2015. Visit www.FSW.edu for more information.

Health insurance enrollment at Planned Parenthood

NAPLES, Fla. (March 10, 2015) – The enrollment period for health insurance through the Affordable Care Act will reopen March 15 through April 30.

Planned Parenthood of Collier County has employees and volunteers who are certified and ready to assist consumers with their applications.

Appointments are available April 2, 16 and 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Planned Parenthood office in Naples.

Those making appointments should plan to spend an hour with a certified application counselor and bring proof of income, such as a pay stub or tax statement.

To learn more or to schedule an appointment, call Courtney Curatolo, director of public affairs and education for Planned Parenthood of Collier County, at 239-262-8923, ext. 301.

PPCC is located at 1425 Creech Road in Naples.

There are five plan categories under the Affordable Care Act: bronze, silver, gold, platinum and catastrophic. They differ by how much the plan pays for medical costs, the responsibilities assumed by consumers and the cost of monthly premiums.

For instance, bronze plans, which have the lowest premiums, pay 60 percent of medical costs, while platinum plans pay 90 percent.

According to the state's insurance office, about 90 percent of Floridians who enrolled for coverage in 2014 had incomes that qualified them for premium subsidies.

Planned Parenthood of Collier County is an affiliate of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the nation's largest and longest running family planning organization.

The Naples and Immokalee health centers provided care to more than 12,000 local residents during 2014.

These patients rely on Planned Parenthood's comprehensive and affordable services to make responsible and informed decisions about sexual and reproductive health.

One in five women has turned to Planned Parenthood at some point in her life for reasonably priced, high-quality health care and nonjudgmental, confidential information and advice.

Planned Parenthood of Collier County works every day to provide excellent preventive health care, including well-women exams, breast and cervical cancer screenings, and HIV and STI testing and treatment. Fees Waived for Applications Received from March 23 – 29



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