

IMMOKALEE BULLETIN

Serving Immokalee, Ave Maria and Eastern Collier County

Vol. 53 No. 51

Thursday, December 17, 2020



Submitted photos

In the Little Mr. & Miss Snowflake contest, Little Miss Carla Jane Aponte won with 617.56 votes, and Little Mr. Angel Aguayo won with 190.00 votes.

Immokalee community celebrates holidays

Seventh annual Christmas Tree Lighting

By Danny Gonzalez
(President of ICOC)

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

The event, sponsored by the Immokalee Chamber of Commerce (ICOC), started at 6 p.m. on Dec. 3 at the corner of First and Main streets in Zocalo Plaza. Because of the COVID-19 guidelines the event had to be slimmed-down to be sure that all agencies were following the proper guidelines.

The Little Mr & Miss Snowflake competition was also held at the event for the seventh season. The contest was open to all children residing in Immokalee or Ave Maria, ages 0-5years old. One Penny = One Vote.

Each candidate could ask any local business for permission to put their child's jar in their storefronts. All jars had to have the picture of the candidates on the jar. All jars had a timeline to be turned in and money counted. The two winners of the competition would ride in the Christmas Parade; unfortunately, this year's Christmas Parade was canceled because of the virus and for

the safety of the parade-goers.

All proceeds from this competition would benefit the ICOC's Scholarship Program.

Candidates for the Little Mr. & Miss snowflakes were as follows:

1. Delilah Jade Perez, 1 year;
2. Angel Aguayo, 11 months;
3. Aniya An Osceola, 8 months;
4. Carla Jane Aponte, 5 months;
5. Anayeli Zenoria Gonzalez, 4 years;
6. Aubriella C. Aguilar, 6 months;
7. Ariana Garcia Navarrete, 16 months;
8. Awebree Aguayo 1 year;
9. Olivia Jersey-Skye Flores, 1 year;
10. Daniel M. Gonzalez IV, 5 months

The 2020 winners of the Little Mr & Miss Competition are:

Carla Jane Aponte, won with 617.56 votes

Angel Aguayo, won with 190.00 votes

They both received Bike Tykes appropriate for their ages.

Special thanks goes to the decoration staff of Zocalo Plaza!

The Christmas around the World Parade & Snow Gala Event committee would like to thank everyone who participated in making this event... Wonderful!!

Commissioner eyes infrastructure as a way to increase growth

By Travis Anderson

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

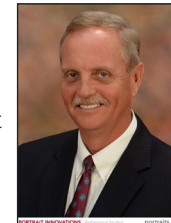
When William "Bill" McDaniel was first elected as Collier County Commissioner in 2016, he sought to change how Collier County spent taxpayer money.

One of the first items on the chopping block was cutting a portion of the \$5 million Collier County was using for improvements to median landscaping.

Throughout his first term, Commissioner McDaniel worked to help bring

change to District 5 which encompasses the Immokalee area. McDaniel pointed out that he spent his first term emphasizing needed improvements to Lake Trafford Memorial Gardens to help alleviate flooding of the cemetery grounds and completing and passing the Immokalee Area Master Plan.

Now that he is in his second term, McDaniel said that three areas concerning him most are public safety funding, infrastructure



William McDaniel

See Growth — Page 2

State Farm agent donates \$10,000 in clothing to Shelter for Abused Women & Children

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

NAPLES — The holidays are a time to reconnect with family and friends. A time to give a helping hand to those in need. Even though COVID-19 has changed the way we work, live and even celebrate the holidays, State Farm Agent Adam Bock of Bonita

Springs is dedicated and passionate in helping his customers and our communities to remain strong!

Bock is teaming up with The Shelter for Abused Women & Children to donate \$10,000 in new clothing for the woman and

See Donation — Page 2



Submitted photo

The Shelter Options Shoppe Manager Paul Kallenberg, left, and State Farm agent Adam Bock with donations of clothing for Options.

Students First - HLE participates in virtual STREAM

By Jennifer L. Kupiec
Collier County Public Schools

Can students really make snow storms? In a jar, sure! How about magic crystals? No problem!

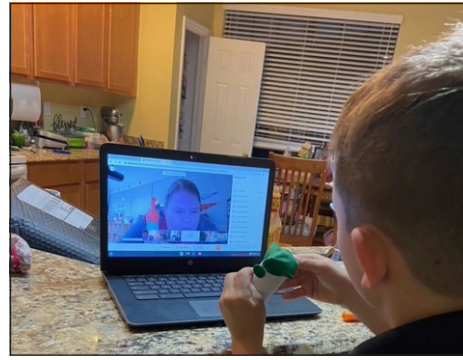
On Tuesday, Dec. 8, staff, students, and families at Highlands Elementary School (HLE) participated in a virtual STREAM night. You may remember our use of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math). The Hawks took it one step further adding the "R" for Reading!

Thanks to the coordination of HLE science coach Jolie Wilkinson, HLE math coach Michelle Garafola, and the entire STREAM action team, students were able to choose two of the 18 activities presented such as making snowflake slime, creating a winter wonderland (with instant snow), or

joining a live dance party! The HLE Student Lighthouse Team created short videos about unique scientists to start each session, celebrating their diverse backgrounds and pathways to great discoveries. Teachers then led hands-on explorations and experiences, all from behind computer screens.

This is just one example of how schools are adjusting events and learning opportunities in light of the health pandemic. We are happy to report that more than 200 families participated in the event and shared their night with HLE! Thank you to everyone involved — you are all a shining example of synergy!

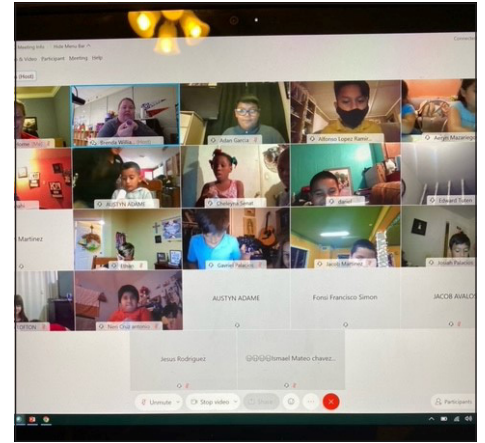
Before we sign off, we would like to remind everyone that there will be no school beginning Monday, Dec. 21. Students will return to school on Monday, Jan. 4, 2021.



Submitted photos

A Highlands Elementary School student working on his STREAM activity.

We wish everyone a joyous winter break and a Happy New Year!



This STREAM session is full of students ready to tackle their project. Even siblings get in on the action

Growth

Continued From Page 1

improvements and improvements that help promote a better quality of life for area residents.

McDaniel pointed to several infrastructure changes on the horizon for Immokalee that would allow for increased import and exports of local goods. Expansion of the Immokalee Regional Airport is just one improvement that McDaniel sees as necessary.

Currently, runway 9-27 sits at just 5,000 feet long. McDaniel said that the upcoming expansion will increase that to 7,500 feet with room to eventually increase the runway to 10,000 feet.

"We finally have a Master Plan that matches the needs of the Airport Master Plan and for the first time those two plans are in sync," McDaniel said.

"With the added runway length comes jobs," McDaniel said. For starters, Immokalee Regional Airport is now home to at least one flight school and all of the

existing hangers are currently occupied. "As it stands, there is currently a waiting list for a tenant to occupy a hanger. It costs approximately \$1 million to build each new hanger. I would like to see the county build additional hangers, lease them for a period of time and then sell them," McDaniel said.

Beyond increased anticipated air traffic and jobs associated with it, McDaniel pointed out that local roads will also see a much needed improvement. What was once a plan to build a new toll road from Lakeland to Alligator Alley, the plan has now changed to improve existing roadways instead.

McDaniel cited the recent completion of the Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance (M-CORES) report. According to McDaniel, one option the task-force is now looking at is widening State Road 29 on both ends of Immokalee and adding a toll to generate funds to pay for the project. Widening the existing roadway would minimize impact on the natural environment and would be less of an impact to local wildlife.

Immokalee is still slated to see a bypass that will connect State Road 29 to the south

of the Immokalee Regional Airport to the northern end of State Road 29 north of New Market Road.

One concern that many have is the increased development of communities in eastern Collier County and the destruction of natural habitat that comes with it. McDaniel recognized this concern. "We need to protect agricultural land around Immokalee by providing credits to landowners to keep those properties available for farming," McDaniel said.

Impact fees are another topic that Commissioner McDaniel is concerned about. With the average new home costing the homebuyer approximately \$30,000 in impact fees, first time home buyers may be priced out of the local market. In recent years, McDaniel has proposed a pilot program for Immokalee where residents could finance their impact fees over a period of time rather than paying those fees up front. Previously that measure didn't gain traction but McDaniel plans to bring it up again when the County Commissioners meet to hire a new county manager.

When it comes to healthcare and

improving access to care, McDaniel said "Immokalee doesn't have the population to support a hospital yet. We need close to 150,000 residents in this part of the county before we can expect a hospital in this area." McDaniel didn't rule out the possibility of private-sector urgent care facilities coming to the area with the growth that is taking place in Ave Maria.

McDaniel said although this election has been challenging for many, we may see a push for nationwide standards when it comes to national elections.

"I'm not opposed to same-day registration [to vote], but we need to end it across the nation on the same day. If your state allows mail-in ballots, then we need to implement a very good system that's designed to track those ballots," McDaniel said. McDaniel also said that we need to develop a national standard for how long states have to accept mail-in ballots.

McDaniel said that regardless of the outcome, there will still be challenges that we will face at the local level that leaders will have to face including job growth, education, and improving health care.

Donation

Continued From Page 1

children. This year, The Shelter has given hope and healing to over 1,500 survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking in

our community.

"The Shelter for Abused Women & Children is extremely grateful to Adam Bock for this generous gift of new clothing to The Shelter Options Shoppe," said Paul Kallenberg, Options Manager. "Whether directly donated to victims or sold at Options, this

donation directly benefits victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. Such kindness is especially appreciated during these difficult times."

Bock is asking residents in the community to also support The Shelter, which operates facilities in Naples and Immoka-

lee. With the community's help, survivors receive the care, counseling, skills and resources they need to heal. Online donations can be safely and easily made at <https://naplesshelter.org/gifts/>. Now, more than ever, any assistance will be greatly appreciated.



To Reach Us

Mailing Address: P.O. Box • LaBelle, FL 33975
Phone: (239) 657-6000
Website: southcentralfloridalife.com

To Submit News

The Immokalee Bulletin welcomes submissions from its readers. Opinion, calendar items, story ideas, and photographs are welcome. Call (863) 675-2541 to reach our newsroom. Items may be mailed or emailed.
Email: ibnews@newszap.com

To Place a Display Ad

Phone: (239) 657-6000
Email: cbadsales@newszap.com

To Place a Classifieds Ad

Call: (877) 353-2424 to place a classified advertisement from home
Fax: (877) 354-2424
Email: classads@newszap.com

Billing Department

Email: billteam@newszap.com

Staff

Publisher/Editor: Katrina Elsken
Advertising Sales Manager: Jaime Limoges
Editor: Dale Conyers
Advertising Services: Barbara Calfee
Reporter: Danika J. Fornear

Our Purpose...

The Immokalee Bulletin is published by Independent News Media Inc, USA. 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 the 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

ITECH December Student of the Month



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

IMMOKALEE - There are some people who always forge ahead no matter how tough life is. They are the ones who are determined to succeed, to be the best they can be and prosper. One of those people is Alex De La Cruz, Immokalee Technical College's December Student of the Month.

Throughout high school, Alex didn't have much of a support system. Although there were friends and acquaintances who helped out from time to time, the only one that Alex could always rely on was himself! By the time he graduated from Immokalee High School in 2019, he had learned to speak English, and he had a plan. He was determined to enroll in ITECH's cosmetology program, which he did in August 2019.

"I always heard what a good teacher

she (Delia Lozano) is, and I like how she works," recalls Alex. "The class is fun. The class is like a family." That was the motivation that enabled Alex to work three jobs-Domino's Pizza, Oakes Farms, and Home Depot- while attending the cosmetology program full time.

Alex said that in class some of the skills he learned were how to color hair, cut and style hair, apply make-up, and do nails, but his speciality and favorite thing to do is cut hair. When asked about the most challenging part of the class Alex said, "It was learning to believe in myself and having confidence in my work." He added, "We do a lot of art in the class. Doing hair is doing art. It is exciting to make a change for the client."

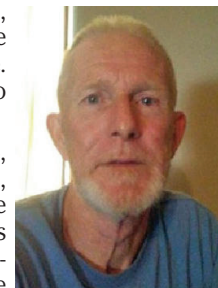
Mr. De La Cruz is enhancing his ex-

perience by interning at the Dal Meraki Salon (his cosmetology teacher's salon) in Immokalee and at a barber shop in Golden Gate. His goal is to own his own salon in downtown Naples. Don't be surprised if you see the Alex De La Cruz Salon on 5th Ave. one of these days!

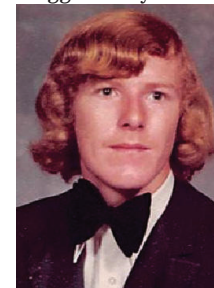
Obituaries

James 'Jimmy' Scaggs, Jr., 63

RUSSELL SPRINGS — James "Jimmy" Scaggs, Jr., of Russell Springs, passed away on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, at his home. He was 63 years of age. Jimmy was an auto mechanic by trade.



Born on March 4, 1957, in Long Beach, California, he was the son of the late James and Margaret (Harden) Scaggs, Sr. The Scaggs family resided in Immokalee FL for many years; Jimmy was a 1975 graduate of Immokalee High School.



Survivors include two sons, Shawn (and Amy) Scaggs of Michigan and James (and Deb Bray) Scaggs, III of Russell Springs; a stepson, Skylor Lee of Indiana; two daughters, Mary Eliza-

beth Sears of Columbia and Karlie Scaggs of Russell Springs; two sisters, Vickie Scaggs of Tallahassee FL and Wanda Faulkner of Berry KY; five grandchildren, Zabrielle Scaggs, Jace Scaggs, Braylee Scaggs, Makenna Sears, and Addison Sears; four step grandchildren, Cody Connolly, Casey Connolly, Cassidy Connolly and C.J. Bray; and five step great-grandchildren, Jonathan Connolly, Tristin Connolly, Aubrey Connolly, Xander Connolly, Esme Connolly, Aries Connolly and Xavier Bray.

Visitation and a Memorial service was held at 7:00 P.M. Monday, December 14, 2020, at Bernard Funeral Home. A photo gallery of Jimmy's life and an online guestbook is available at www.bernardfuneralhome.com Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Bernard Funeral Home.

Collier County Road Watch

Collier County Road Watch for week of Dec. 13

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin
COLLIER COUNTY — The Florida Department of Transportation plans roadwork on area highways during the coming week. Motorists are reminded to wear safety belts and drive with caution, courtesy, common sense and patience as they travel through work zones. Remember, speeding fines are doubled in work zones. Travelers can visit www.FL511.com or dial "511" from their phone to learn about traffic conditions on major roadways across the state. Roadwork planned this week includes the following:

- **US 41/Tamiami Trail from Southwest Boulevard to Barefoot Williams Road:** Maintenance permit project: Motorists should expect intermittent eastbound and westbound lane closures during daytime hours while crews construct a turn lane, weather permitting. Motorists should expect slow moving traffic and possible delays.

- **US 41/Tamiami Trail at Castello Drive:** Maintenance permit project: Motorists should expect intermittent southbound lane closures during daytime and nighttime/overnight hours while crews extend the turn lane, weather permitting. Motorists should expect slow moving traffic

and possible delays.

- **US 41/Tamiami Trail from Wooten's Everglades Airboat Tours to Satinwood Drive:** Maintenance permit project: Motorists should expect intermittent southbound lane closures during daytime hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, while crews install a water main, weather permitting. Motorists should expect slow moving traffic and possible delays.

- **SR 82/Immokalee from Gator**

SR 29 from North 1st Street to North 9th Street: Construction project: Crews are installing new pedestrian signals and constructing sidewalk, curb & gutter, as well as making drainage improvements on the north and south sides of US 29. Motorists should expect lane closures through the duration of the project during daytime hours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Motorists and pedestrians should use caution while traveling in this area.

Estimated completion is early spring 2021. The contractor is Wright Construction Group, Inc.

Mac Daddy Carpet & Tile Cleaning

Special!
3 Areas of Carpet OR 2 Areas of Tile just \$125!
Call 863-843-5039

"Give me a Call"

- METAL ROOFING EXPERTS
- SHINGLES
- FLAT ROOFS
- REPAIRS

BRYANT ROOFING

863-675-7045
SINCE 1982
bryanroofing@yahoo.com Lic#CCC1331770

Call Us at 239-657-6000
To Place Your Ad Here
or email
cbadsales@newszap.com

KOBIE KOOLING INC.

Sales/Service
CAC1813722
CAC057313

Mold & Odor Testing
HVAC Design Expert
Certified Home Inspections
Certified Mold Assessment
Radon Testing

FRED H. KOBIE "POP"
President, CEO
"The Mold Detective"

PO Box 60099
Fort Myers, FL 33906
(239) 482-1542
Fax (239) 275-7422

Toll Free (888) 482-1542
Visit us at: www.kobiecooling.com
fredkobie@aol.com
(239) 229-7135

DOH-Collier encourages a healthy holiday season

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

NAPLES — The Florida Department of Health in Collier County (DOH-Collier) encourages healthy holiday habits to help residents and visitors celebrate. The information below can help keep you, your family and your community safe.

Mask up against COVID-19. While celebrating this holiday season, remember COVID-19 is still in our community.

It is important to avoid the following:

- Visiting the homes of others or hosting gatherings with those not in your immediate household, unless you can wear a mask or cloth face covering and socially distance.
- Large gatherings; per the State Surgeon General's Public Health Advisory, avoid gatherings of 10 or larger.
- Sharing food, cups, forks, spoons, knives and serving utensils.
- Crowded indoor events.
- Attending crowded parades, runs, or other events.

Ways to celebrate at home include:

- Have a small celebratory dinner with only the people who live in your household.
- Have a virtual dinner and share recipes with friends and family.
- Shop online rather than in person.
- Watch sports events, parades, and movies from home.

Fires, falls and food safety should be a priority year-round, but even more so during the busy holiday season. In fact, according to the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA FEMA), the top three days of the year for home candle fires are Christmas, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day; and more than one-third of home decoration fires are caused by a candle. When decorating for the holiday season, it is important to make safety a priority.

Candle safety — Help avoid fires in your house by keeping all candles away from children, pets, trees and curtains. Candles should be at least 12 inches away from anything that burns.

Fire safety — The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends testing your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors in your home once a month and replace the batteries twice a year.

Tree safety — If you have a real tree in your house this season, keep it watered. A tree that is not well watered is very dangerous and can turn into a fire hazard. It is best to water the tree every day and dispose of the tree after the holidays or when it is dry.

Decoration safety — Use step stools or ladders while putting up decorations. Never stand on furniture; this can result in an injury.

Shoe safety — When putting up holiday lights and other decorations, make sure to wear protective and sturdy shoes inside or outside of the house. No flip-flops!

Oven safety — Always use an oven mitt while taking food out or putting food into the oven.

Kitchen safety — While in the kitchen, be sure to remove any scarves, long necklaces or flowy clothing. These items can be a hazard while cooking and baking.

Food safety — Before and after handling raw meat, poultry, eggs and seafood make sure to wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. Cook all foods to the proper temperature by using a food thermometer. If you do not have one, purchase one! Baking holiday sweets might come with the temptation of eating the dough or batter, but that is not safe. Make sure to refrigerate perishable food within two hours. If the temperature is above 90 degrees Fahrenheit, chill food within 1 hour.

Brighten your holiday season by making health and safety a priority with these healthy holiday habits!

For more information regarding virus spreading risk at holiday celebrations, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>

For more information regarding COVID-19, visit <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/>

DOH-Collier Exhorta a unas Saludables Fiestas en esta Temporada

NAPLES — El Departamento de Salud del Estado de la Florida en el Condado de Collier (DOH-Collier), incita a los residentes y visitantes, a celebrar las fiestas con los siguientes hábitos de buena salud para ayudar a mantener su familia y la comunidad seguros.

Mascarilla Contra COVID-19. Mientras celebre esta temporada, recuerde que el COVID-19 aún sigue vigente en nuestra comunidad.

Es importante evitar lo siguiente:

- Visitar otros hogares, o albergar reuniones invitando personas con quienes no convive, a menos que lleve puesto una mascarilla facial y mantenga distancia social.
- Multitud; el Cirujano General Estatal de Salud Pública, advierte evitar asistir a reuniones con más de diez personas.
- Compartir comida, vasos, tenedores, cucharas, cuchillos, y utensilios de servir.
- Actividades dentro un salón que sean conglomeradas.
- Asistir a desfiles, carreras, u otros eventos de multitud.

Recomendaciones para festejar en casa:

- Celebración pequeña con solo aquellos que conviven en su hogar.
- Cena virtual para compartir con sus demás familiares y amistades.
- Comprar en línea por internet y no en persona.
- Mirar eventos deportivos, desfiles, y películas desde su hogar.

Incendios, caídas, y seguridad alimenticia deben ser una prioridad durante todo el año, pero más aún, durante las temporadas festivas. De hecho, de acuerdo con la Administración de Fuegos de los Estados Unidos (USFA FEMA), los tres días del año que más reportan fuegos provocados por velas son: Navidad, 31 de Diciembre y Año Nuevo. Más de un tercio de los fuegos decorativos son causados por velas. Entonces, al decorar, es importante priorizar la seguridad.

Hábitos de Seguridad y Velas – Evite incendios en su casa, manteniendo todas las velas fuera del alcance de niños, mascotas, plantas, árboles y cortinas. Las velas deben colocarse por lo menos a una distancia de doce pulgadas de lejanía a cualquier objeto que pueda incendiarse.

Hábitos de Seguridad e Incendios – El Centro de Control de Enfermedades (CDC), recomienda examinar los detectores de humo y de monóxido de carbono en su hogar una vez al mes, al igual que reemplazar sus baterías dos veces al año.

Hábitos de Seguridad y Arboles – Si usted tiene un árbol real en su casa durante esta época festiva, manténgalo hidratado. Un árbol que no está bien hidratado es muy peligroso y puede

convertirse en un objeto de riesgo de incendio. Es mayor hidratarlo todos los días y deshacerse de él después que terminen las fiestas o cuando se seque.

Hábitos de Seguridad y Decoración – Emplee un peldaño o una escalera para colocar su decoración. Nunca se pare sobre un mueble, esto puede resultar en una lesión.

Hábitos de Seguridad y Calzado – Al

instalar sus luces decorativas, asegúrese de calzar zapatos protectores y fuertes dentro y fuera de la vivienda. No vista calizos.

Hábitos de Seguridad y Hornos – Siempre utilice un guante de hornos al colocar alimentos dentro del horno. Igual al sacarlos.

Hábitos de Seguridad y Cocina – Mientras este en la cocina cerciórese de remover cualquier bufanda, collar largo o ropa suelta. Estos objetos pueden ser un peligro al cocinar y hornear.

Hábitos de Seguridad y Alimentos – Antes de tocar carnes crudas, mariscos y huevos, asegúrese de lavarse las manos con agua y jabón por veinte segundos. Cocine los alimentos a la temperatura justa usando un termómetro de cocina. Si no tiene uno, compre uno! Hornear los dulces festivos puede tentarlos a comer la masa o la mezcla, sin cocinar, pero eso no es prudente. Cerciórese de refrigerar los alimentos perecederos a más tardar dos horas. Si la temperatura está sobre noventa grados Fahrenheit, refrigérelos en una hora.

Ilumine sus celebraciones priorizando salud y seguridad con éstos hábitos para sus fiestas!

Para más información respecto a riesgos de difunción del virus durante las fiestas, visite <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>

Para más información sobre COVID-19, visite <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/>

HOLIDAY Giveaway

Giveaways begin December 20th!

Follow us on Facebook for updates!

Lake Okeechobee News Caloosa Belle Immokalee Bulletin

Holiday events planned at Collier County Parks

News from Collier County Parks

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin
 COLLIER COUNTY – Celebrate the holidays with fun activities in Collier County parks.

NOTE: Collier County parks are asking all participants feeling sick to stay home. Temperatures will be taken at the door for buildings. Participants must wear masks. Sanitization stations will be provided and hand washing is required.

Holiday Bright – Light Up the Parks

Monday – Saturday, Dec. 7 – 31, 5 p.m. – 9 p.m., Cost: FREE

The holiday season is right around the corner! Collier County Parks & Recreation will be presenting amazing holiday light displays at our community parks to celebrate and capture the best of the season's spirit. This is the perfect way to brighten up your year and stay COVID-19 safe during the holidays. Holiday Bright - Light Up the Parks will be one of the most sought after attractions across Southwest Florida. So this year make it all yours!

- Locations include:
- Donna Fiala Eagle Lakes Community Park - 11565 Tamiami Tr. E., Naples;
 - East Naples Community Park - 3500 Thomasson Drive, Naples;
 - Golden Gate Community Center - 4701 Golden Gate Parkway, Naples;
 - Golden Gate Community Park - 3300 Santa Barbara Boulevard, Naples;
 - Immokalee Community Park - 321 North 1st Street, Immokalee;
 - Immokalee South Park - 418 School

- Drive, Immokalee;
 - Immokalee Sports Complex- 505 Escambia Street, Immokalee;
 - Max A. Hasse Jr. Community Park - 3390 Golden Gate Boulevard, Naples;
 - North Collier Regional Park - 15000 Livingston Road, Naples;
 - Sugden Regional Park - 4284 Avalon Drive, Naples;
 - Vineyards Community Park - 6231 Arbor Boulevard, Naples; and,
 - Veterans Community Park - 1895 Veterans Park Drive, Naples.
- For information, call 239-252-4000.

Supper with Santa

Friday, Dec. 11, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., Cost: \$5
 Location: Immokalee Community Park, 321 N. 1st Street, Immokalee

This event will have you celebrating the holidays with decorating cookies, sweet treats, crafts, face painting and pictures with Santa. For information, call 239-252-4449.

Christmas Movie Night – The Polar Express

Friday, December 11, 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Cost: \$10 per child, pre-registration is required

East Naples Community Park, 3500 Thomasson Drive, Naples
 Join us for an evening of holiday fun! Activities will include the movie Polar Express, pizza, treats, hot cocoa, pajama party and a special visit from Santa! You must pre-register for this event. Space is limited. For more information, call (239) 252-4414.

Merry Maker Workshop

Friday, Dec. 11, 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Cost:

\$30
 Location: Vineyards Community Park, 6231 Arbor Boulevard, Naples
 Get into the holiday spirit while making friends, creating holiday crafts, gifts and cookies. Pre-register by December 8. For more information, call (239) 252-4105.

Cookies & Milk with Santa

Saturday, Dec. 12, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., Ages 5-12, Cost: \$2
 Location: Donna Fiala Eagle Lakes Community Park, 11565 Tamiami Trail E., Naples
 Come and enjoy Cookies and Milk with Santa! For more information, call (239) 252-3527.

Santa's Drive-Through Experience

Saturday, Dec. 12, 3 p.m. – 7 p.m., Cost: FREE

Location: North Collier Regional Park, 15000 Livingston Road, Naples
 Join Collier County Parks & Recreation Division and Collier County Sheriff's Office for a FREE holiday event. Kids can enjoy displays from their cars for a safe and socially distanced holiday experience.
 For more information, call (239) 252-9300.

Christmas Cookie Party

Saturday, Dec. 12, 10:30 a.m. – noon, Cost: \$12

Location: Veterans Community Park, 1895 Veterans Park Drive, Naples
 Drop your kids off for a fun time while decorating cookies. Kids will be able to make some creative holiday crafts and cards for friends and family that will get

them in the holiday spirit! Social distancing and masks will be required. Pre-register by Wednesday, December 9. For more information, call (239) 252-4682.

Kids Christmas Party

Friday, December 18, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Ages K - 5th grade, Cost: \$10 per child
 Location: Max Hasse Community Park, 3390 Golden Gate Boulevard W., Naples
 Join us for a Kids Christmas Party at the Max Hasse Community Park. Holiday music, crafts, candy, games, prizes, pizza and drinks will be provided. Participants must pre-register for this event, as space is limited. All CDC guidelines will be followed and masks must be worn. For more information, call 239-252-4200.

Candy House Creation

Friday, December 18, 4 p.m. – 5 p.m., Ages 5-12, Cost: \$10 per child, pre-registration is required by December 16.
 Location: Vineyards Community Park, 6231 Arbor Boulevard, Naples
 Children will use an assortment of candy, frosting and cookies to design their own candy house. For more information, call (239) 252-4105.

Pancakes & Pajamas

Saturday, December 19, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Cost: \$2
 Location: Immokalee South Park, 418 School Dr., Immokalee
 Join us for our Pancakes & Pajamas event and pictures with Santa. There will be crafts, food, and music to enjoy. For more information, call 239-252-4677.

DOH-Collier mobile COVID-19 testing locations

NAPLES — The Florida Department of Health in Collier County (DOH-Collier) Mobile COVID-19 Testing Unit will be located at these locations during the week of Dec. 14, through Dec. 20:

Veterans' Community Park: 901 Park Avenue, Marco Island, FL 34145.

Thursday, Dec. 17, 9 a.m to 1 p.m.

Immokalee South Park: 418 School Drive, Immokalee, FL 34142.

Saturday, Dec. 19, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Please note: Testing sites are outside facilities. Heavy rain, gusty wind, lightning, etc... may postpone or close testing.

For more information regarding COVID-19, visit floridahealth-covid19.gov/.

Community Briefs

Tram tours of Fakahatchee

The 'Ghost Rider' tram will resume operations in January, giving visitors two ways to see the wonders of Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park. Visitors to Florida's largest state park can choose from a 10 a.m. tour twice a month or the monthly moonlit evening tour that sells out rapidly. To provide a safe experience and comply with CDC guidelines, both tours operated by The Friends of Fakahatchee will be limited to 10

guests per trip. Both tours are led by naturalists skilled in bringing the history, flora, and fauna of the park to life.

The first daytime Ghost Rider Tram Tour will be at 10 a.m to 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 7. This \$25 per person tour features a stop for short walk down a cleared trail.

For complete details, additional dates, and required reservations for both tours, visit www.orchidswamp.org and click "Tours and Events."

Send Us Your Photos!

Baby's First Christmas & Santa's Little Helpers

We will publish a special Keepsake edition on December 24 with all of the contributed photos!

Log onto southcentralfloridalife.com/baby to submit online or e-mail them to jlimoges@newszap.com. Include child's first name, one line of text & be sure to sign your names!

Please include the newspapers you would like your photo to be published in. Choices are: Lake Okechobee News, Caloosa Belle & Immokalee Bulletin

Deadline to submit photos: Monday, December 21 noon

You are also welcome to bring your photos by our office at 22 Fort Thompson Ave in LaBelle



Anita Peterson
Merry Christmas to our beautiful bundle of joy! Love, Mommy & Daddy



Joseph Farling
You are the best gift we can imagine! Love, Grandma & Grandpa Garrett

CCSO launches 'Planning for Success' drive

By Danika J. Fornear
Immokalee Bulletin

IMMOKALEE - The Collier County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) recently asked for any extra, complimentary day planners or calendars, especially the common complimentary items that are often given out over the holidays, to be donated to their "Planning for Success" drive. These appointment books will be provided to individuals going through Drug Court, Mental Health Court or Veterans Court. Calendars and planners, that are not being used, can be donated to help recipients list their appointments and meetings on specific dates, and can be quite helpful.

"The goal of these programs is to help qualifying nonviolent offenders reintegrate into the community by completing probation," explained the CCSO. "Attending treatment court requires participants to go through a rigorous schedule of multiple mandatory court appearances as well as attend regular group and individual therapy sessions. Missing a court date or other mandatory appearance can mean the participant fails the program. A day planner

or calendar can be the best tool to help program participants complete probation and rebuild their lives."

Donating unused promotional items or buying new calendars or planners is a great way to help encourage success, and in turn, strengthen the community. The CCSO also suggested, if you are so inclined, to jot down an inspirational message on the planner or calendar for the recipient to read.

"Our treatment courts help people turn their lives from chaos into structure, and being organized is critical to their recovery," said Collier County Judge Janeice Martin, who presides over the treatment courts in addition to her regular caseload.

Planners and calendars may be dropped off Monday through Friday during business hours at any Collier County Sheriff's Office substation, the CCSO administration building in the government complex, or in the lobby of the Collier County Courthouse, which is also located in the government complex.

Drop off locations are:

- CCSO Administration Building
3319 Tamiami Trail East, Building J.
Naples, Florida 34112
- CCSO North Naples Substation
776 Vanderbilt Beach Road
Naples, FL 34108-8707

- CCSO Golden Gate Substation
4707 Golden Gate Parkway
Naples, FL 34116-6901
- CCSO Golden Gate Estates Substation
14750 Immokalee Road
Naples, FL 34120
- CCSO South and Everglades Substation
13245 Tamiami Trail East #100
Naples, FL 34114
- CCSO Immokalee Substation
112 South First Street
Immokalee, FL 34142-3900
- Collier County Courthouse Lobby
3315 Tamiami Trail East
Naples, FL 34112

Guadalupe has sponsorship opportunities

NAPLES – Guadalupe Center has announced five circus-themed sponsorship opportunities for Cirtacular, a livestreamed fundraising extravaganza to be held under the virtual big top on Jan. 21.

The virtual event will be streamed to an audience of philanthropists, business and community leaders, entrepreneurs and educators across Southwest Florida and beyond. Proceeds from Cirtacular will support Guadalupe Center's mission of breaking the cycle of poverty through education for the children of Immokalee.

Cirtacular's top sponsorship level, the Presenting Sponsor, is still available. Benefits for the Presenting Sponsor include event passes, custom party boxes, naming rights to Cirtacular's signature cocktail, a 30-second pre-event commercial, pre-recorded video to air during the livestream, invitations to exclusive VIP events and a guest blog on GuadalupeCenter.org. The Presenting Sponsor also can provide promotional items for the custom party boxes as well as a "freemium" offer to all guests.

Sponsors will be recognized on Guadalupe Center's donor wall and in marketing materials, traditional media and social media.

For sponsorship or ticket opportunities, please contact Special Events Coordinator Tammy Richelieu at 239-963-3668 or email TRichelieu@GuadalupeCenter.org.

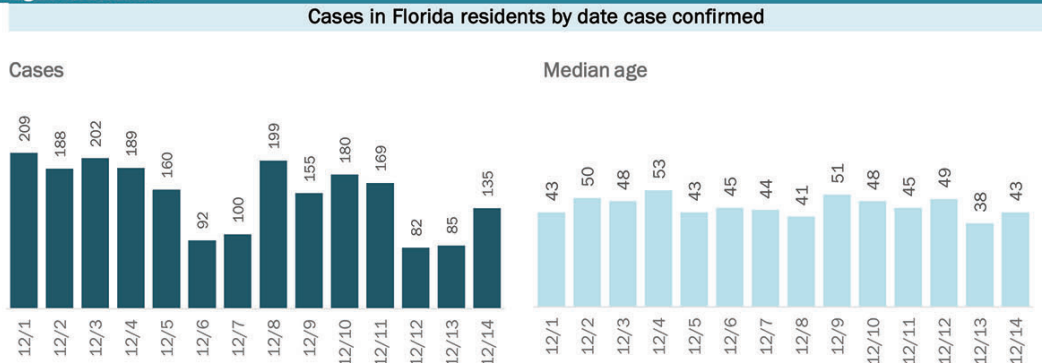
COVID-19: summary for Collier County

Data through Dec 14, 2020 verified as of Dec 15, 2020 at 09:25 AM

Data in this report are provisional and subject to change.

Cases: people with positive PCR or antigen test result

Total cases	20,151
Florida residents	19,675
Non-Florida residents	476
Type of case	
PCR positive	16,295
Antigen positive	3,380
Gender for Florida residents	
Men	9,634
Women	9,961
Unknown	80
Age for Florida residents	
Range	0 - 105
Median age	43



Race, ethnicity	Cases	Hospitalizations	Deaths
White	11,133	811	246
Hispanic	4,660	288	57
Non-Hispanic	5,862	499	182
Unknown ethnicity	611	24	7
Black	1,042	99	24
Hispanic	61	1	1
Non-Hispanic	929	98	21
Unknown ethnicity	52	0	2
Other	2,091	121	18
Hispanic	1,324	87	12
Non-Hispanic	577	29	5
Unknown ethnicity	190	5	1
Unknown race	5,409	148	22
Hispanic	680	31	0
Non-Hispanic	387	10	1
Unknown ethnicity	4,342	107	21
Total	19,675	1,179	310

Outcomes for Florida residents

Collier		
Hospitalizations	1,179	(6% of all cases)
Deaths	310	(2% of all cases)
Statewide		
Hospitalizations	58,612	(5% of all cases)
Deaths	20,082	(2% of all cases)

Cases in facility staff/residents

Collier		
Long-term care	864	(4% of all cases)
Correctional	90	(0% of all cases)
Statewide		
Long-term care	59,915	(5% of all cases)
Correctional	26,331	(2% of all cases)

Age group	All cases	New cases (12/14)	Hospitalizations	Deaths
0-4 years	434	3	16	0
5-14 years	987	11	8	0
15-24 years	3,022	21	37	0
25-34 years	3,080	16	70	2
35-44 years	2,939	19	110	6
45-54 years	3,099	25	158	12
55-64 years	2,741	17	174	29
65-74 years	1,804	13	202	50
75-84 years	1,092	8	243	90
85+ years	473	2	161	121
Unknown	4	0	0	0
Total	19,675	135	1,179	310

Hospitalization counts include anyone who was hospitalized at some point during their illness. It does not reflect the number of people currently hospitalized. Other race includes any person with a race of American Indian/Alaskan native, Asian, native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, or other.

STOREWIDE SAVINGS

SAVE UP TO 50% OFF SELECT ITEMS. OFFER VALID 11/24-12/28, 2020

50%+ OFF

SELECT ITEMS

*Select items up to 50% off. Discount taken before tax and delivery. Excludes iComfort. Offer valid November 24 through December 28, 2020.



SAVE ON KING, TOO!

Liam 889270/71
5 PC Includes Queen Bed (Headboard, Footboard, Rails), Dresser & Mirror

\$599
SAVE \$400.90
REG. \$999.90



STANHOPE™

SAVE ON KING, TOO!

Carden 880012/13
5 PC Includes Queen Bed (Headboard, Footboard, Rails), Dresser & Mirror

\$1999
SAVE \$1000.90
REG. \$2999.90



SAVE ON KING, TOO!

Verona 880482/83
5 PC Includes Queen Bed (Headboard, Footboard, Rails), Dresser & Mirror

\$1499
SAVE \$400.90
REG. \$1899.90



Forrester \$299
887234/35
Twin over Twin Bunkbed

Save \$100.95
Reg. \$399.95



Grace \$699
884325/26
5 PC Includes Twin Bed (Headboard, Footboard, Rails), Dresser & Mirror

Save \$300.90
Reg. \$999.90

Storewide Savings!

Badcock HOME FURNITURE & more
Since 1904

**575 S MAIN ST
LABELLE, FL 33935
863-675-2999**