Youth summit hopes to inspire change

BY SANDY SIERRA

Imperial Countys first youth summit brought together students from 20 different schools around the county to discuss some of the biggest problems facing teens. The Arlington High School student government, with the help of Timmons Early Childhood Education Center, hosted the summit on Saturday at the Timmons Center.

“I was kind of nervous but at the same time I was excited to be here,” said Keleena Blackman, a senior at Arlington High School. “I think it was very beneficial to hear different perspectives.”

Around 200 students and teachers attended the event, which also featured a lunch, a video presentation and small group activities. Students were asked to discuss their most important issues they faced and how they could work together to solve them.

“Im told it to keep the area clean. Im not sure why they dump trash in this area. Maybe they are not aware of the impact of their trash or doesn’t know how to afford to throw it else where,” said Jonathan Martinez.

Lack of awareness is one of the problems mentioned by many students. “The area is clean and nice,” said a student.

“Thats why we want to keep it beautiful so people can check it out in future,” added Jonathan.

Lance has also tried to get police involved in the area and work with other community programs to keep it clean.

FAMILY FUN

BY KARINA LOPEZ

Family Treehouse booth during the third annual tri-tip cook-off Saturday at Eager Park in Imperial.

Nonprofit earns community support at annual event

BY VICKI LONCZ

Imperial — In an effort to improve family functioning, promote education and development and the overall health of the community, Family Treehouse has provided free developmental assessments and low-cost early childhood education services for more than 15 years.

As a nonprofit organization, Family Treehouse relies on the support of the community in order to keep its doors open and continue to serve the community, said Rosie Nava, Family Treehouse director.

“If we didnt get support from the community we wouldnt be able to serve,” Nava said. “We have fundraisers that start to add up at the end of year and help us stay open.”

On Saturday, the nonprofit held one of its fundraisers with the help of Spreckels Sugar Co. and the El Centro Mirror.

“They have been wonderful,” Nava said. “We were out all night setting up.”

The proceeds from the “Out of This World BBQ” went directly to the organization for much-needed supplies and offered free activities and photo opportunities for children.

Imperial County Youth Summit hopes to inspire change

BY SANDY SIERRA

Imperial — Twenty guest speakers including local and national speakers gave a half-day program to inspire change at the first Imperial County Youth Summit on Saturday at the Timmons Early Childhood Education Center.

The summit was designed for students to learn about current issues facing youth, including drug and alcohol use, problems surrounding the Salton Sea, health and working hard together.

“The event was an event coming up at the Salton Sea,” said Troy Martini, who gave some info on the project they do. The project does not have a name but has given a bad reputation of those located in the area. “We have a lot of things coming out, said Martini.

“They want to start an event that would include beautiful people so people can check it out in future,” added Martini.

Also added was the need to get police involved in the area and work with other community programs to keep it clean.

BOY SCOUT GARDEN

Imperial Scout earns eagle rank with project

BY NEAL HITCH

Imperial — Hector A. Sanchez has earned the Eagle Scout rank by completing his project, “The Boy Scout Garden at the Imperial Valley Desert Museum.”

Hector started planning the project in 2013, beginning the garden. His project was to create a garden for children.

“The project fits right in,” said the director of The EcoMedia Corporation that uses media and volunteer, Kerry Morrison.

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