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# The Stuart News

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## More noncriminal than criminal illegals deported

■ **Feds can't explain why; ICE says program to enforce immigration laws is still a success**

**By Keona Gardner**  
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### INSIDE

A breakdown of illegal immigrant deportations, by county. **5A**

An immigration enforcement program created to help federal authorities capture and deport illegal immigrants with a violent criminal history is deporting

more people who have no criminal background than those who do, records show.

And federal officials can't explain why.

plain why.

Since February 2009 when the Secure Communities program started on the Treasure Coast, 119 illegal immigrants without a criminal background have been deported, compared to 25 — or about 13 percent — illegal immigrants who have past violent

crime convictions such as murder, drug trafficking or rape, according to Immigrations and Customs Enforcement records.

Statewide, about 42 percent of illegal immigrants labeled "non-criminal" have been deported,

See **DEPORTED, 5A**

### Quick Read

#### 99 YEARS OLD AND DANCING

Marjorie O'Quinn of Fort Pierce says square dancing is a hobby everyone can love.

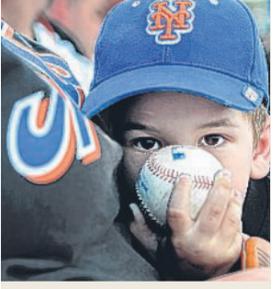
**MONDAY CHAT, 1B**



#### JAPAN QUAKE DEATH TOLL TOPS 10,000

Authorities race to combat threat of nuclear reactor meltdowns.

**STORY, 4A**



#### A LITTLE SPRING IN THEIR STEP

Baseball brings families, friends back together along the Treasure Coast.

**LOCAL, 1B**

#### DEPRESSED DADS MORE LIKELY TO SPANK INFANTS

Survey shows 40% of depressed fathers spanked 1-year-old children vs. 13% of non-depressed dads.

**STORY, 10A**

### Opinion

“South Florida Democrats and Republicans must set aside partisanship to bring home our fair share in what promises to be a grueling budget process.”

OPINION, 6A

## IRSC program is training health information techs



GRAYSON HOFFMAN/SPECIAL TO TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

Ellen Arnold, a registered health information administrator, works at the computer in her Palm City home. She telecommutes to her job with the health care systems company McKesson in Atlanta. “My whole job is right here on my computer,” Arnold said. She also is enrolled in the Indian River State College HITECH Workforce Program that provides training in computerized record keeping. The online HITECH program gives Arnold the opportunity to go back to school, improve her skills and work full time for McKesson.

## ■ Online course prepares students for booming career

**By Christin Erazo**  
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Hospitals' push toward the technological age will close the door on outdated elements such as paper medical records, but will open another door for thousands of new jobs in health information technology.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects the field will hire an estimated 35,000 technicians by 2018.

Indian River State College is preparing the career's future employees with a six-month online-only course called HITECH Workforce, which focuses on entering health records into an electronic database, as well as technical support and information management from a health care perspective. The program, geared to information technology or medical professionals, started in September and a new session will begin on March 21.

HITECH Workforce requires

applicants to have an associate degree or higher in IT or health information management, or two years experience with electronic health records.

“Health care informatics is the computerized aspect of health care and it's a growing field,” said Jane Celebak, dean of health services at IRSC. “The program is taking IT experts who maybe haven't worked in health care and teaching them how we're using electronic health records. And, taking health care people who haven't used a lot of software, hardware applications and teach them the IT side.”

IRSC's program was sparked and funded by a 2009 federal stimulus bill, which ushered in the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act. The college was awarded a \$806,919 grant to jump start the program.

The HITECH Act mandates health records go into a national

See **IRSC, 5A**

### HITECH WORKFORCE PROGRAM

**What:** Six-month online training focusing on six roles in the health information technology field

**Roles:** Practice workflow and information management, clinician/practitioner consultant, implementation support, implementation manager, technical/software support and trainer.

**Who:** Targeted to health care or information technology professionals

**When:** Training begins March 21  
**Cost:** Training for each role is priced at \$400. Student stipends are available for those who qualify.

**Apply:** To submit application, visit [www.irsc.edu](http://www.irsc.edu). Under Quick Links, click on Choose Program or Career and select Health Science Programs. Choose HITECH Workforce program.

**Contact:** Call 772-462-7176

See **SCHOOLS, 8A**

## Experts say the likelihood of a tsunami hitting Florida is remote

**By Elliott Jones**  
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Treasure Coast residents could expect a two-hour advance warning of tsunamis from a federal ocean buoy system installed because of the devastating Indonesian tsunami in 2004.

Still, the likelihood of a tsunami hitting Florida is very remote, according to state and federal officials. And Florida's tsunamis are expected to be limited in height to less than 1 foot and impact only the immediate beachfront area.

But if one came, it would most probably come from undersea earthquakes and landslides about

**But if a tsunami came, it would most probably come from undersea earthquakes and landslides about 1,000 miles away near Puerto Rico, said Scott Kelly with the National Weather Service, Melbourne.**

1,000 miles away near Puerto Rico, said Scott Kelly, with the National Weather Service, Melbourne.

That area has the greatest history of undersea disturbances. For that reason, three of the seven deep-ocean warning buoys off the Eastern United States are in the

area of Puerto Rico, he said.

The buoys are linked to sensors on the ocean floor. If they show a problem, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration — through a central headquarters in Alaska — could notify emergency agencies and send alerts to radio and television.

The Treasure Coast doesn't have permanent public warning sirens, except for the 90 that Florida Power & Light Co. has set up around its nuclear power plant on Hutchinson Island in southern St. Lucie County. But those now are limited to use in nuclear emergencies, said Tom Daly, St. Lucie County Emergency Management coordinator.

The sirens oceanfront residents would hear to alert them of a possible tsunami would be those on patrol cars sent out into neighborhoods, said Daly and Dale Justice, coordinator of Indian

See **TSUNAMI, 8**

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