

# the vote is in... all politics is local



BY ROGER WILLIAMS  
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We asked significant political players in town how they'd vote and got interesting responses

**A8**

**A**s the most dramatic moment in decades of American electioneering unfolds this autumn, four men and women compete to take the helm of the greatest democratic ship of state the world has ever seen. And none of them come from Lee or Collier counties, or even from the Sunshine State. Nor do they hail from most other places in America.

In concept, therefore, the race for the White House may seem far removed from the lives of individual Americans – some 300 million of us, many of whom will now watch these aspiring commanders-in-chief navigate the remaining seven weeks to election day with eager optimism or anxious trepidation, or a middle range of those feelings.

But a paradox lies at the heart

SEE POLITICS, A8 ►



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## Father Anglim Academy helps fill education gap

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“She was one of those kids who fall through the cracks,” said Lehigh Acres resident Tammy Hoffman, whose daughter Katelyn struggled to keep up in kindergarten at a public school. “When you have a child with special needs, you’re kind of caught in that Catch-22.”

This year, the 7-year-old is catching up on her studies at Father Anglim Academy, a private, Catholic school in downtown Fort Myers with small classes and personal instruction.

Attending are a select 68 students: first through 12th-graders who may be unsuited for general education programs, but are in many other ways normal, or unusually bright. Dyslexia, Asperger’s Syndrome and attention disorders are some of their typical diagnoses — conditions that can alienate students from their peers and frustrate teachers who don’t have the resources or training to accommodate them.

Hoffman has nothing but good things to say about Katelyn’s new surroundings, although it means driving 45 minutes out of the way every

morning and costs her about \$600 a month in tuition, even after a scholarship pays half of it.

“Already I can see the difference and it’s only been a few weeks,” she said. “I’m just very, very blessed that the school is there and provides opportunities for these children.”

The Academy was created in 2002 inside a former Catholic convent; the tiny chapel became Principal Lori Moreau’s office; the bedrooms became classrooms.

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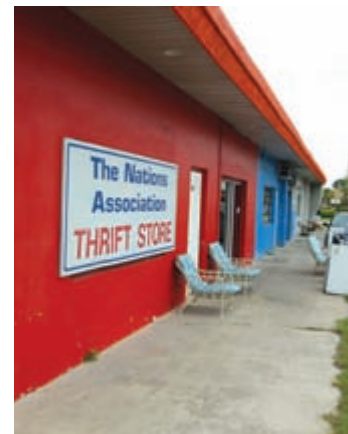
### Summer vacation

We asked the leaders of the area's arts community what they did this summer. They were all busy. **C1** ►



### McFlat's Invitational

And other events in Fort Myers' society. **C19 & 21** ►



### Thrifty buying

Thrift store operators have a mixed view of the economy. For some, it's good. For others, not so good. **B1** ►



### Weekly Wheels

The new Honda Pilot takes small steps forward but its still built for hauling a lot of people. **E1** ►

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