



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/TSIC

Following are the 27 students chosen to participate in the Take Stock in Children program. The group selected were added to the program after submitting an essay and being interviewed along with having maintained a high GPA and those who are exemplary students. Those fortunate and deserving students included are: Jorge Armando, 7th grade; Maria Espinoza, 7th grade; Jennifer Flores, 7th grade; Jose Flores, 9th grade; Leslie Gallegos, 7th grade; Maria Gomez, 8th grade; Francisco Gonzalez, 7th grade; Damian Gonzalez-Perez, 7th grade; Gael Henry, 7th grade; Eduardo Hernandez, 7th grade; Luz Celeste Herrera, 7th grade; Benjamin Lucio, 7th grade; Erfrain Martinez, 9th grade; Adriana Lynn Mateo, 7th grade; Vanessa Ortiz, 7th grade; Mandi Perez, 7th grade; Irian Reyes, 7th grade; Bryan Reyes, 7th grade; Clarissa Rios, 7th grade; Jean-Phillip Sanon, 7th grade; Lizbeth Soriano, 7th grade; Valerie Soto, 7th grade; Mark Trejo, 7th grade; Christopher Turrubiardez, 7th grade; Siomara Varela, 7th grade; Gabriela Velazco-Salazar, 8th grade; Jessica Chaparro Venegas, 7th grade.

## Local students receive special invitations

More than two dozen local students enjoyed early Christmas

interviewed prior to the holidays and told they would receive a letter in the mail with news of their acceptance, and that it should arrive before Christmas.

Christmas wishes came true for 27 students in Immokalee when they received news that they had been accepted into The Immokalee Foundation's Take Stock in Children Immokalee program, a scholarship and mentoring program that will provide the students with the opportunity to attend four years of college tuition free.

The students were selected based on economic need, essay questions and an interview. Approximately 70 applicants were

"The students kept telling us what a great Christmas present the news would make, so it gave us an idea to make their holiday extra special," said Liz Allbritten, TIF's executive director. The foundation worked with Immokalee Middle School and on the last day of school before Winter Break, the boys and girls were invited to the cafeteria, presented with a festive holiday box and instructed to open them all at one time. The box

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## Gift a Bike - bicycles for local children

By Frank Rincon  
Special to the Immokalee  
Bulletin

Gift A Bike began with just a couple of bicycles donated by a local business man in Immokalee over eleven years ago, one boys bike and one girls bicycle those two bicycles were then raffled and awarded to two very excited and lucky children. The Gift A Bike event has always taken place on the Wednesday nearest to Christmas. Last year was our biggest year ever providing 250 bicycles and helmets for the children of Immokalee, this year's Gift A Bike event at Bethel Assembly almost did not materialize due to a shipping issue, the 110 bicycles ordered directly from

Huffy for this year's event made it into Immokalee with just minutes to spare 180 minutes to be exact, the event would start at 7 p.m., and the delivery truck arrived right at around 4 p.m. The challenging aspect was not only the fact that they arrived on the exact day of the event, no, the pickle was that all the bicycles arrive from Huffy disassembled and in boxes as they always do in order to facilitate shipping.

As you can imagine having to unload, un-box, assemble, bringing the tires up to the correct air pressure and then finally inspecting 110 bicycles in less than three hours. This all seemed like a formidable and impossible task,

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Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/TIF

From left to right are TSIC participants and amateur golfers, Gerardo Lugo, Alex Galvan, nationwide tour pro- Erik Compton, Charly Gonzalez and Erial Perez are part of the fundraiser tournev.

## TIF Pro-Am is a grand success

\$1.6M raised to  
benefit local children

One hundred amateurs paired with some of the biggest names in golf, participated in The Immokalee Foundation's sixth annual Charity Classic Pro-Am hosted by

Bay Colony Golf Club in Naples. The day included a round of golf, clinics, breakfast and lunch – with proceeds benefitting the children of Immokalee through TIF.

It was a day filled with winners – both on and off the course. The

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## TIF

Continued From Page 1

tournament raised \$372,700, coupled with a fundraising dinner and auction, both events raised \$1.6 million for the nonprofit organization.

The team of Kevin Johnson, Wayne Meland, Greg Stupinski and John Wajda – playing nine holes with 11-time PGA Tour winner, Andy Bean, and nine holes with Naples native and golf pro, George McNeill – took first place at the golf tournament. The group was awarded the Rick Kletjian Cup, named in honor of the late Rick Kletjian, an early supporter of TIF's Take Stock in Children program.

According to TIF board member, Don O'Neill, Kletjian was one of the first true believers in the foundation's vocational success program, which helps non-college bound kids participate in vocational and on-the-job training. "After hearing about the pilot program, Rick gave us a substantial gift to help launch the program," he said. "He chose TIF because we were helping kids who had few advantages but lots of heart. We thought it only appropriate to name the Pro-Am first place prize in his honor to recognize his contributions."

The foursome wasn't the only group that walked away victorious. Alex Galvan, Gerardo Lugo, Charity Gonzalez and Erial Perez, all TIF students, had the privilege of playing alongside Nationwide Tour pro Erik Compton, and receiving golf tips from four-time PGA Tour winner Michael Bradley.

The tournament left quite an impression on Naples resident, Frank Pinto. Playing in the Charity Classic Pro-Am for the first time, Pinto sunk a hole-in-one on the 16th hole of the Bay Colony course, winning him his choice of a Jaguar or Porsche (he chose the Jaguar) graciously donated by Jaguar Naples.

Kevin Johnson of The Johnson Meland Group at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney and chairperson of the Charity Classic Pro-Am said Mark Lye, a PGA Tour professional and Golf Channel analyst, deserves particular

recognition for the crucial role he plays in the success of the tournament. This year, Lye once again recruited an impressive group of professionals from the LPGA, PGA Tour, Champions Tour and Nationwide Tour to participate in the tournament including Brian Gay, Russ Cochran, Bruce Fleisher, Daniel Chopra, Chip Beck, Andy Bean, Jim Gallagher, Wayne Levi, Brad Bryant, Derek Lamely, Terry Jo Myers, Cindy Rarick, Kris Tschetter and many more.

"This event would not be where it is today without the tremendous support of Mark and his wife, Lisa, as well as our sponsors, the golf professionals, participants, volunteers and other supporters," said Johnson. "With their help, we are able to provide a brighter future for the children of Immokalee."

Presenting sponsor for the 2011 Charity Classic Celebration was The Johnson Meland Group at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. Additional sponsors were Fifth Third Bank, founding sponsor; and GE Foundation, corporate matching sponsor. Hope Society sponsors included Arthrex Inc., and Texas Roadhouse. The Empowerment Circle sponsor was Kelly Tractor. Education Circle sponsors included Bigham Jewelers, Caterpillar Foundation, Jaguar Naples and Porsche of Naples, and Joseph's Custom Clothiers. Naples Illustrated was the corporate media sponsor.

The Immokalee Foundation has a range of programs that focus on building pathways to success through college and vocational school, mentoring and tutoring, and opportunities for broadening experiences and life skills development. To learn more about the Charity Classic Celebration, volunteering as a mentor or for additional information, call 239-430-9122 or visit [www.immokaleefoundation.org](http://www.immokaleefoundation.org).

## BIKES

Continued From Page 1

then I started to ponder on the fact that if we could build Hoover Dam in five years then surely this was possible.

Well sad to say somewhere in the world someone just drank a Pepsi it just so happens that I'm a Coke drinker myself but what does this have to do with our story absolutely nada. The truth is that what seemed unachievable just three hours earlier one hundred and ten bicycles did come together thanks to the help from many people who took up the challenge of laying everything

## GIFT

Continued From Page 2

contained a letter congratulating them on their acceptance to Take Stock in Children Immokalee program. Although a surprise with little notice, many parents were able to attend and their tears of joy conveyed their excitement.

"All of the parents were so grateful and so proud," explained Allbritten. "One mother told me she couldn't express in words how she felt and the appreciation she had. It is those moments that remind us what a difference we are making in the Immokalee community."

For the students, it was a giant step toward achieving their dreams. Jose Flores, a ninth-grader at Immokalee High School, had no idea what to expect when he was told to go to the middle school, but he was pleasantly surprised. "This means everything to me. By helping me pay for college, I won't have to settle for a low paying job. It is helping me build a better life."

Seventh-grader, Irian Reyes said she was amazed when she realized she had been accepted. "I wanted that scholarship so badly. I wanted to make my parents proud and show them I could do it. To see them at the school congratulating me was great."

The students understand the commitment that is required of them. At an official ceremony, to be held in January, the scholarship recipients will sign a pledge to earn good grades, stay out of trouble and meet weekly with a mentor through high school graduation. Ms. Allbritten says the pledge

else aside and putting their mechanical gifts to work. So on behalf of 110 very happy children this Christmas I would like to thank the Collier County Sheriff's Office, Destiny Church Naples, Bethel Assembly, I HOPE and many other loving people who made the impossible, possible. Gift A Bike would also like to thank Palm Beach Community Church, A. Duda & Sons, Destiny Church Naples, Bethel Assembly and many others for their charitable support whom without all of you this yearly event would not be possible. It is this coming together of different entities for one common purpose that truly embodies what Christmas is all about giving of our selves so that others may receive.

makes students accountable and teaches them to be responsible. "They have to do the work and in the end, they reap the benefits of their commitment."

For Reyes, it also serves as a reminder to stay positive. "I know I need to believe in myself and not let anybody bring me down."

The students receive scholarships thanks to the generosity of donors who raised their paddles at Fund A Dream, a live bidding experience held during TIF's annual Charity Classic Celebration that allowed benefactors the unique chance to support the young people of Immokalee by giving directly to the children. The donors will be invited to the TSIC induction ceremony so that they have the opportunity to see first-hand the impact they have made on a child's life.

"From the bottom of my heart, I thank our wonderful donors," said Ms. Allbritten. "This program, as well as other TIF programs, would not be possible without their commitment. I am so grateful and I know these kids are grateful."

The Immokalee Foundation has a range of programs that focus on building pathways to success through college and vocational school, mentoring and tutoring, and opportunities for broadening experiences and life skills development. To learn more about volunteering as a mentor or for additional information, call 239-430-9122 or visit: [www.immokaleefoundation.org](http://www.immokaleefoundation.org).

## COFFO plans first quarter meeting in Immokalee

COFFO will be holding quarterly Board meeting 214 South 1st Street, Immokalee, Friday, Jan. 27, at 10:30 a.m. If any question please call me 305-970-2350.

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### To Reach Us

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### To Submit News

The Immokalee Bulletin welcomes submissions from its readers. Opinions, calendar items, story ideas and photographs are welcome. Call (239) 657-6000 to reach our newsroom. The deadline for all news items is 11 a.m. on Monday prior to the following Thursday's publication.  
E-Mail: [ibnews@newszap.com](mailto:ibnews@newszap.com)

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### Our Purpose...

The Immokalee Bulletin is published by Independent Newspapers of Florida. 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 this 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.

# Got technology? The Collier County Supervisor of Elections office does

Earlier this month, the Collier County Supervisor of Elections Office launched a newly redesigned web site, as well as a mobile web site. Welcoming technology, the Supervisor of Elections Office is always exploring ways to expand its reach to a broader audience. The latest addition, a mobile web site, targets 'Voters on the Go!'

The new user-friendly web site was designed to make it easier for visitors to navigate and more aesthetically pleasing. The site boosts some new and enhanced features including a scrolling slide show with current election information and various images. Designed with a more transactional approach, the top of the home page includes links with picture icons making access quick and easy to one of seven options – Am I Registered?, Register to Vote, Vote by Mail, Find My Precinct, My Sample Ballots, Work at the Polls, and a Calendar.

The web site allows voters to review and

update their voter registration information; request, check the status and track mail/absentee ballots; and review their sample ballot. Visitors will also find information on working at the polls or becoming a candidate.

For 'Voters on the Go,' the mobile web site is as simple as the process is seamless. Users simply go to [www.CollierVotes.com](http://www.CollierVotes.com) and their smart phone will direct them to a minimized version, as shown, of the Supervisor of Elections web site. Voters on the Go users will have access to What is My Registration Status?, Request an Absentee Ballot, Where do I Vote? and What is My Ballot Status? Users also have the option of viewing the full web site on their smart phone with just the click of a button.

We invite you to visit our newly designed web site at [www.CollierVotes.com](http://www.CollierVotes.com) or visit us through your mobile device.

## Community News in Brief

### Beginner violin lessons offered

The Ave Maria Hometown Band & Orchestra will be starting a beginning violin program in Ave Maria, 10 minutes away from Immokalee for children that are nine years old or older. Our organization started with a concert band group, then progressed to a band. Last year, we added an orchestra. This January, we are continuing with the orchestra for musicians that are in eighth grade to university level, with 3 years experience or more and also the Classical Virtuosi of Ave Maria beginning violin program. The cost for the beginning violin program is approximately \$10-11 a lesson for 41 lessons, and the cost for the orchestra program is about \$20 a lesson. For more information, visit our website [www.amhbo.org](http://www.amhbo.org). For more information, please contact Mary Stuller, founder at 239-300-2742 or cell: 239-200-4331.

### Special C.E.R.T. Training to be held

Andrew Marfongella, Fire Safety Inspector for the Big Corkscrew Island Fire Rescue located at Station #10-13240 Immokalee Rd. (at the corner of Immokalee Road and Randall Boulevard) in Naples. If you are interested in being a part of this class please call Andy at 239-348-8006. Anyone from Immokalee is welcomed to attend.

### Quit Smoking in 2012

Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of disease and premature death in the U.S. Tobacco Free Florida offers a number of free and convenient resources to help Floridians quit using tobacco. Call the Florida Quitline at 1-877-U-CAN-NOW to speak with a Quit Coach who will help you assess your addiction and help you create a personalized quit plan. Enroll in the Web Coach®, which will help you create your own web-

based quit plan that's right for you, visit <https://www.quitnow.net/florida>. Sign up for Quit Smoking Now group classes at your local Area Health Education Center (AHEC) by calling 1-877-819-2357.

### Repair your credit

Understanding Your Credit Rating will be presented by Empowerment Alliance Saturday, January 21, 2012, from 10 a.m.-noon. Learn about your credit score and what it means; Register now: 239-867-4121 ext: 206 or e-mail [RosemaryDillon@immokalee.biz](mailto:RosemaryDillon@immokalee.biz).

Come to the Credit Repair Workshop at 1320 N. 15th Street, Immokalee, FL 34142.

### Join new business class

Sign up now for the IBDC - Entrepreneur School. Contact [RosemaryDillon@immokalee.biz](mailto:RosemaryDillon@immokalee.biz) or 239-867-4121 ext: 206. Classes will be Tuesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. from Feb. 7-March 13. This six-week course is designed to provide an approach for thinking through the development of a new business. Come to 1320 N. 15th Street-Suite 2. Immokalee.

### Free landlord/tenant workshop offered

The Immokalee Business Development Center (IMMBIZ) will host a free workshop for Landlord/Tenant rights concerning commercial properties on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 10 a.m. until noon at the Immokalee CRA/IBDC office, 1320 North 15th Street, Ste 2, Immokalee. The workshop will be presented by Sam J. Saad, III, Attorney at Law. Pre-registration is necessary. For information, please call Rosemary Dillon at 239-867-4121 ext. 206.

## Weather Forecast

Weather forecast for Collier County from the National Weather Service

### Local Forecast

### Extended Forecast

**Thursday: Patchy frost before 8 a.m. Otherwise, sunny, with a high near 68. North wind between 6 and 8 mph.**

**Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 40. North wind between 3 and 6 mph.**

### Extended Forecast

**Friday: Sunny, with a high near 71. North wind between 3 and 6 mph.**

**Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 47. East wind at 5 mph becoming south.**

**Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 77. South wind between 3 and 5 mph.**

**Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 50.**

**Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 79.**

**Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 53.**

**Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 74.**

## Public Meetings

- Collier County Affordable Housing Advisory Subcommittee will meet Thursday, **Jan. 5**, at 9 a.m. in the conference room of the Public Services Division located on the Collier Government Campus, Suite 217 at 3339 Tamiami Trail E., Naples.

- Collier County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee will meet Monday, **Jan. 9**, at 3 p.m., at the Board of County Commissioners chambers, located on the third floor of the Collier County Government Center, 3299 Tamiami Trail E., Naples.

- Conservation Collier Land Acquisition

Advisory Committee (CCLAAC) will hold a public meeting on Monday, **Jan. 9**, at 9 a.m., in the Board of County Commissioners Chambers, located on the third floor of the Collier County Government Center, 3299 Tamiami Trail E., Naples.

- The Collier County Floodplain Management Planning Committee will meet Monday, **Jan. 9**, at 9 a.m., in the Growth Management Division – Planning and Regulation building, Conference Room 610, located at 2800 N. Horseshoe Drive, Naples.

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## South Florida National Parks Trust supports education program

The South Florida National Parks Trust is a long standing partner of Big Cypress National Preserve. Once again the Trust has shown support for the Preserve's Swamp, Water and Me Program (S.W.A.M.P.), which aims at getting every Sixth Grade student in Collier County out of the classroom and into the waters of the Big Cypress Swamp.

"This is the seventh year that the Trust has provided monetary support to our curriculum based education program," said Pedro Ramos, Superintendent of the Preserve. He added, "Without the support of the Trust, Collier County School District and other organizations this program would not be able to serve as many students as it does."

Since 2004, the Trust has provided \$25,000 annually to help fund salaries for seasonal employees, provide reimbursement of incidental expenses to interns and pay for supplies and materials for the program. The Collier County School District arranges and pays

for the transportation to the field trip site.

The S.W.A.M.P. program gets Collier County students into their "backyard" - the swamps of southwest Florida. Swamps can often be unfamiliar, foreboding places, this program allows the students the opportunity to explore this vital habitat. The program also encourages students to think like a scientist and use their observational skills as they work together to record water levels, soil depths, wind speeds and use wildlife tracking equipment in three distinct micro-habitats of the swamp - a cypress strand, pine flatwoods forest and a sawgrass prairie.

Annually the S.W.A.M.P. program reaches about 5,000 students from a variety of backgrounds.

The South Florida National Parks Trust was founded in 2002 to improve the quality of life in south Florida by supporting the national parks that define our landscape and enrich our culture.



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/TIF

### Special surprise

Jose Flores, a ninth-grader at Immokalee High School and seventh-grader, Irian Reyes had no idea what to expect when as they opened TIF gifts along with other students in the cafeteria at Immokalee Middle School on the last day before Winter Break. Jose was told to go to the middle school and was pleasantly surprised by the gift bestowed upon him by the Immokalee Foundation. "This means everything to me." Irian was excited and amazed when she realized she had been accepted into the TSIC program. "I wanted to make my parents proud."

## Presidential Firm Search Board of Trustees to hold public meeting

The Presidential Search Firm Selection Committee of the District Board of Trustees Meeting at Edison State College will be held Friday, Jan. 6, 2012.

The agenda includes reviewing and discussing recommendations for potential presidential search firms.

The ESC Board of Trustees could vote to take action to approve a presidential search firm.

The meeting will be held in Building O,

Room 105 at 10 a.m.

Copies of the agenda and all documentation are available for review in the libraries of the campuses located in Charlotte, Collier, Lee and Hendry/Glades Counties, and are also available on the College website at [www.edison.edu/district/board/meetings.php](http://www.edison.edu/district/board/meetings.php).

The information can be found in the subfolder: District Board of Trustees Meeting Agendas.

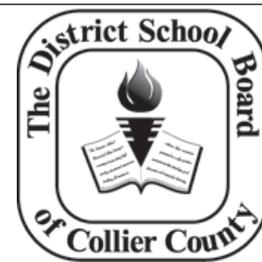
## Students First

Now showing - Your future in education

By Joe Landon

Collier County District Schools

It seems like everyone watches School Board Meetings on TV, but did you know that The Education Channel, "Your Window to Education," is home to a bunch of locally produced programming as well? On one of our current shows, District Digest, we're giving you the chance to get up close and personal with our five School Board Members. Newly selected School Board Chairman Roy Terry, Immediate Past Chair Julie Sprague, new Vice Chair Barbara Berry, and Board Members Pat Carroll and Kathy Curatolo guest on a special edition of District Digest, on TV at 6 p.m. Monday thru Friday of this week, on The Education Channel, Comcast cable 99, and on the "World Wide Web" as we like to say, streamed for you online at [www.collierschools.com](http://www.collierschools.com). Terry discusses his goals for the Board for the year ahead, while Sprague looks back at the year gone by. Both speak about the openness and transparency of the Superintendent Search which resulted in the hiring of Dr. Kamela Patton. Roy Terry says that the working relationship of the Governance Team - the Board and the Superintendent - is the best he can recall in the many years he has been associated with the district (since 1978): first as a coach, teacher, and assistant principal; then as a longtime



principal at Lely High School and Palmetto Ridge High School; and since early 2010 as a Board Member. Terry stresses that "our focus is always on students," and

that carries through to the monthly School Board Meetings (which are indeed televised). Each meeting opens with the Presentation of Colors by JROTC cadets, a student leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance, students singing a patriotic song, and yet another group of students featured in one more musical performance. A display of student artwork is also in the spotlight at each meeting. During their District Digest interviews, a couple of the Board Members mention the cost-neutral referendum to be placed on a 2012 ballot. They explain that since funding from the first referendum, approved by voters in 2008, expires during the 2012-13 school year, another referendum is needed to help maintain financial stability during these years of reduced funding from the state. The guests also reflect on their time spent on the Board and the work of the Board through the years and agree that the Board is in the best place it's been in several years, pointing to the relationship with our new Superintendent as the primary reason.



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# Immokalee High School student one of four honored

There were stars were on the field at Sun Life Stadium at the Dolphins vs Bills game, but this time it wasn't the players that garnered the all the recognition. Instead it was four outstanding South Florida students and nonprofit organizations, as they were each honored by the Miami Dolphins and Sun Life Financial at a special on-field ceremony as part of the Sun Life Rising Star Awards program.

In September, Sun Life Financial awarded a total of \$220,000 in grants and scholarships to four youth-oriented nonprofits and to an exemplary student nominated by each organization. The winning non-profit organizations — Take Stock in Children of Palm Beach County; Urban League of Broward County, Inc.; The Education Fund of Miami-Dade County; and The Guadalupe Center of Immokalee — each received a \$50,000 grant. Amanatulla Khan (Take Stock in Children), Miles Mallinson (Urban League of Broward, Inc.), Sarah Moreno (The Education Fund) and Mariela Vega (The Guadalupe Center) each received a \$5,000 Sun Life Rising Star scholarship towards financing a college education. Sun Life will collaborate with the organizations to increase financial literacy through curriculum and educational resources beyond the monetary support,

In addition to their on-field recognition, the honorees were also treated to a special breakfast reception hosted by Dolphins CEO Mike Dee, Sun Life Financial Regional Vice President Rob Georgiou and head coach Tony Sparano's wife, Jeanette Sparano, who

helped select the recipients as a Sun Life Rising Star Awards judge.

The Sun Life Rising Star Awards program aims to address low high school graduation rates in large urban school districts by providing financial and educational resources to students and nonprofit organizations committed to increasing success in high school and beyond. The program, now in its second year, also seeks to promote financial literacy as a means to achieve life-long financial wellness and stability. In 2011, Sun Life invested more than \$1 million to outstanding students and nonprofit organizations affiliated with large urban school districts across the country, including Boston, Detroit, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and South Florida. The Sun Life Rising Star Awards program is the education cornerstone program of the Miami Dolphins Foundation.

"These remarkable students and organizations are true rising stars and we are thrilled to have them join us here today as we celebrate their outstanding achievements," said Miami Dolphins Chief Executive Officer Mike Dee. "Rewarding students and organizations who are committed to giving back to their communities is precisely what we had in mind when we partnered with Sun Life and selected the Sun Life Rising Star Awards as the cornerstone educational program of the Dolphins Foundation."

An independent panel of judges comprised of some of South Florida's foremost education and community leaders, philanthropists, financial advisors, city officials and



Submitted photo

**Nat Moore, Mariela Vega, Rob Georgiou at the Sun Life Stadium this past September when IHS student, Mariela was awarded a \$5,000 scholarship.**

local activists selected the winning organizations. In addition to Miami Dolphins star Davone Bess, the panel included: Champion Services Group President and CEO James Champion; Consortium of Florida Education Foundations President Mary Chance; local philanthropist Ada Cole; Florida College System Foundation President Judy Green; Sun Sentinel "Society Scene" Publisher

Stacy Ostrau; Sapoznik Insurance & Associates Founder, President and CEO Rachel Sapoznik; City of Miami Protocol Officer Dr. Wallis Tinnie; and Jeanette Sparano, wife of Miami Dolphins Head Coach Tony Sparano. For more information on the Sun Life Rising Star Awards visit [www.sunliferisingstar.com](http://www.sunliferisingstar.com).



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/TIF

## By special invitation

Only certain students were invited to this party on the final day of school before Winter Break. Students from Immokalee Middle School and some from the high school were brought to the middle school cafeteria to open a very special Christmas gift - Take Stock in Children program invitations. Each student was given a wrapped box with the invitation to participate in the program inside.

## Immokalee Little League - Save when you register early

It's that time of year to register your little one for baseball or softball. If you register your child between Jan 7-28, the cost will be \$65, after that the cost will be \$75. We will be registering starting Jan. 7 every day Monday through Friday from 6-8 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Little League park. We are still looking for

Coaches and volunteer. For registrations you will need a copy of birth certificate, parents or guardians ID, 3 proofs of residential address. If you have any questions feel free to contact us for any information:

Juan Garcia 239-634-2407, Hector Ramos 239-564-9645, William Trevino 239-324-3072, and Lisa Garcia 239-503-0922.

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## Employment Full Time

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For more listings,  
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## Business Opportunities

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Independent Newspapers will never accept any advertisement that is illegal or considered fraudulent. In all cases of questionable value, such as promises of guaranteed income from work-at-home programs - if it sounds too good to be true, chances are that it is. If you have questions or doubts about any ad on these pages, we advise that before responding or sending money ahead of time, you check with the Better Business Bureau at 772-878-2010 for previous complaints.

Some 800 and 900 telephone numbers may require an extra charge, as well as long distance toll costs. We will do our best to alert our reader of these charges in the ads, but occasionally we may not be aware of the charges. Therefore, if you call a number out of your area, use caution.



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## Public Notice

## Public Notice

## NOTICE OF WORKSHOP MEETING

There will be a Rate Study Workshop of the Board of Commissioners for the Immokalee Water & Sewer District on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 2:00 P.M., at the office of the Immokalee Water & Sewer District, located at 1020 Sanitation Road, Immokalee, Florida 34142.

## RATE STUDY WORKSHOP AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Preliminaries
  - A. Roll Call
3. Review of Rate Study Assumptions - PRMG
4. Public Comments
5. Adjournment

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: If you require special aid or services as addressed in the American Disabilities Act, please contact the District office at (239) 658-3630, no less than five (5) days prior to the above stated workshop date.  
406589 IB 1/5/2012

## BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

### AUCTION

**Time for a New Car?  
Check out this auction on  
January 16, 2012 at 9am**

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# Phishing? Scammers are out for your money

The Collier County Sheriff's Office wants the community to be aware that consumers are being contacted by individuals who give the impression they work for financial institutions and retailers. This is called phishing, and it is an attempt to steal money from consumer accounts.

Financial institutions will never ask for personal information over the phone or via text or email. This includes PIN, passwords, credit card or debit card account numbers, expiration dates, or other confidential information. Perpetrators "blast" calls, texts or e-mails to thousands of people knowing that a small percentage will respond. The fraud is set in motion when a consumer responds with personal information.

Financial institutions actively monitor this type of scam. Banks and credit unions engage in fraud-prevention services, putting rules in place that result in calls being made

to members if unusual or potentially fraudulent activity occurs on an account. When these calls are placed, questions will be asked to verify the customer's identity - such as the last four digits of the account holder's Social Security number or confirmation of recent transactions. However, they will not ask for personal account information other than that which confirms the identity of the account holder.

### Key Facts

\*Phishing is when a criminal makes fraudulent attempts to obtain personal information, including PIN numbers, passwords, credit card or debit card account numbers, expiration dates, or other confidential information.

\*These messages are received by thousands of consumers, and the best way to avoid becoming a victim is not to respond.

\*Banks and credit unions will not ask for personal information of any kind in a phone call or e-mail.

\*Personal information includes PIN numbers, passwords, credit card or debit card account numbers, expiration dates, or other confidential information. Never share or verify any personal information over the phone or by e-mail.

### How it Works:

\*The perpetrators obtain a list or group of cell phone numbers for potential victims.

\*Calls are made or text messages are sent to potential victims implying there is a problem with their debit/credit/ATM card or other issue needing attention and personal information. For example: Your bank check card has a hold on it. Press 1 to reactivate and then enter your account number.

\*Do not respond to a phone call asking for personal information.

\*If you receive a phone call asking to verify your information, contact your financial institution.

If information was provided, contact the financial institution so that the account can be monitored.



Submitted photo/Adam Herrera

## Retirement celebration

Florida Community Bank, N.A. celebrated Mrs. Karen Shirley's 45 years of commitment to the bank on Friday, December 16, 2011, with a couple of her coworkers and a few of her long time customers. Mrs. Karen Shirley started working at Florida Community Bank on October 3, 1966, when it was called the First Bank of Immokalee, with Mr. William G. Price. She took on this job at age 21, three years after graduating high school. Mrs. Shirley has provided great customer service to the bank and its customers throughout the years she's been employed. Everyone at Florida Community Bank, N.A. wants to thank her for the excellent work she has done at the bank and want to wish her a happy retirement. Bank employees who helped celebrate included: Bernardo Barnhart, VP & Market Executive; Mariela Peña, Administrative Assistant; Nancy Bischel, Labelle AVP & Market Executive; Karen C. Shirley (seated) and other staff of FCB.

## CCSO to partner in arts exhibit

The Collier County Sheriff's Office has partnered with The Shy Wolf Sanctuary, Education and Experience Center Inc., to display a series of photographs of exotic animals housed at the sanctuary in Golden Gate Estates.

CCSO will host a public reception for the sixth installment of the Community Gallery, an arts exhibit housed within the Sheriff's Office, on Thursday, Jan. 12, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The gallery is located at the administrative offices on the second floor of CSO headquarters, 3319 U.S. 41 E., Bldg. J., East Naples.

"Reflections of Shy Wolf: A Photographic Essay" features photos taken by the Digital Photography and Imaging Club of Naples.

The exhibit runs through March during normal business hours and is open to the

public.

Founded in 2001, the sanctuary is a nonprofit organization that rescues and provides sanctuary to unwanted, neglected, abused and abandoned exotic animals. It is solely run by volunteers and donor support. Animals on site include wolves, wolf dogs, sugar gliders, prairie dogs, gopher tortoises, bobcat, cougar, and silver-tipped red foxes.

The exhibits featured at the Community Gallery rotate every three months. Opening receptions are held for each new exhibit to continually showcase the art and partnership of the participating organization. The Sheriff's Office headquarters is a community building and welcomes all members of the public to come and view the exhibits.

For more information, call 239-252-0810.

## Celebrate the New Year in Florida - Plant a tree

### Free Crapemyrtles offered from the Arbor Day Foundation

Residents of Florida can ring in the New Year by receiving 5 free crapemyrtle trees by joining the Arbor Day Foundation any time during January 2012.

"These small flowering trees will provide any landscape in Florida with a splash of color for much of the year, from pink and red flowers in the spring, to green in the summer to red, orange and yellow in the autumn," said John Rosenow, chief executive and founder of the Arbor Day Foundation.

The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign. The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting, between Feb. 1 and April 30, with enclosed planting instructions. The 6- to 12-inch tall trees are guaranteed to grow, or they will be replaced free of charge.

Arbor Day Foundation members also receive a subscription to the Foundation's colorful bimonthly publication, Arbor Day, and The Tree Book, which includes information about tree planting and care.

To receive the free trees, send a \$10 membership contribution to 5 CRAPEMYRTLES, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by January 31, 2012. Florida residents can also join online at [arborday.org/january](http://arborday.org/january).

# TIF Charity Classic - building blocks for a brighter future

Organizers of The Immokalee Foundation's 2011 Charity Classic Celebration have declared the nonprofit fundraising event a grand success. The evening included dinner, dancing, a silent auction and the one-of-a-kind Fund A Dream auction for 393 guests at The Ritz-Carlton, Naples as well as the sixth annual Pro-Am golf tournament at Bay Colony that brought many of golf's most esteemed names to Southwest Florida.

The events raised a combined total of approximately \$1.6 million to fund the foundation's educational programs for the children of Immokalee.

Joe Zednik, chair of the 2011 Charity Classic Celebration and TIF board member, is delighted with the results, "In tough economic times, a successful event like this one is so important. We invited patrons to help us make a real impact on the lives of the Immokalee children – to help make dreams come true – and their generosity has simply exceeded our expectations."

The children of Immokalee were the heart and soul of the 2011 Charity Classic Celebration which was dedicated to fulfilling their dreams and providing them with the building blocks for a brighter future. Zednik said the only thing more exciting than raising funds was giving guests the opportunity to meet the kids and hear their stories and experiences during a special presentation by current and former TIF students.

"These kids are why we do what we do," said Zednik. "Hearing their stories and realizing what a difference we are making was incredibly rewarding for all of us in attendance."

During the dinner and auction, the evening was overflowing with action, emotion and fun. During the evening's welcome reception, guests had the opportunity to bid on an incredible selection of auction items while enjoying an Immokalee Cocktail and listening to the sounds of the Immokalee High Beta Club, recognized as Florida's number one Beta performance group. The silent auction raised \$46,840 and served as an indicator of the generosity still to come.

Now in its second year, Fund A Dream is a live bidding experience organized into eight categories, each providing benefactors the unique chance to support the young people of Immokalee by giving directly to the children. According to Zednik, 100 percent of the funds raised during Fund A Dream to benefit the bidders category of choice and is 100 percent tax deductible. In addition, all of the money raised is placed in a restricted account to be used only for its designated Fund A Dream opportunity. "In other words, if \$500 was given to help fund a tutor, that \$500 will only be used for that purpose," he explained. "It cannot and will not be used for anything else."

"Fund A Dream provides these children with the kinds of experiences they've only dreamed about – from attending a summer camp in New England, taking a trip to our nation's capital, or attending their first professional baseball game to actually going to a four-year college or a vocational school," Zednik said.

The live auction got under way during the second half of the dinner. With paddles in hand, bidders had the option to bid at the

level of their choice, and to fund as many dreams as they'd like. And did they ever.

The initial Fund A Dream opportunity raised \$60,000 for 122 students to receive one year of tutoring – making way for academic achievement and invaluable self confidence. An impressive \$163,000 was raised for the second item, which will send 25 students to a Florida college or university for four years. Realizing a four-year college is not for everyone, enough funds were raised to provide 71 children with two years of vocational training.

Thanks to numerous paddle raisers, students will have experiences of a lifetime by participating in summer camps and programs which will provide leadership and life skill opportunities; TIF can purchase a new vehicle so that Immokalee's children – who are often constrained by lack of transportation – can take advantage of the enrichment services, after-school programs and life experiences that TIF offers; and \$60,000 in donations provided for the purchase of 60 new computers for a TIF computer room. Plus, 100 children can now participate in the Immokalee Readers program, a partnership between the public schools and The Immokalee Foundation.

In total, Fund A Dream raised approximately \$594,960 with 100 percent going directly to Immokalee children. The Pro-Am raised \$372,700, making it one of the most successful charity golf events in Southwest Florida.

Although the organization is thrilled with the results, Zednik said the demand for funding is still great. "Each year we receive approximately 80 applications from students wishing to become involved with TIF and its programs," he said. "Unfortunately, we are only able to accept 30 of those individuals." The goal of the organization is to increase that number and continue providing a pathway to success for the youth of Immokalee.

"It was such a pleasure and a privilege to chair this year's event as we celebrated the 20th anniversary of The Immokalee Foundation," noted Zednik. "Over the years we have improved the lives of more than 35,000 children by emphasizing education, vocation and life skills. Celebrating this accomplishment with the community and ensuring that we continue providing building blocks for a brighter future made for a magnificent event."

According to Zednik, the Charity Classic Celebration would not have been possible without the support of the sponsors. "We owe much of the success of both events to our wonderful sponsors and other supporters that help underwrite the event, as well as additional programs. We thank them for their generosity and commitment to the foundation."

Charity Classic Celebration sponsors were The Johnson Meland Group at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, presenting sponsor; Fifth Third Bank, founding sponsor; and GE Foundation, corporate matching sponsor. Hope Society sponsors included Arthrex Inc. and Texas Roadhouse. The Empowerment Circle sponsor was Kelly Tractor. Education Circle sponsors included Bigham Jewelers, Caterpillar Foundation, Jaguar Naples and Porsche of Naples, and Joseph's Custom



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/TIF  
**Immokalee Foundation students "Ride the Bus" during the recent Charity Classic Celebration event held at the Ritz-Carlton in Naples. The event for 2011 was a huge success raising more than a million dollars with the inclusion of the Pro-Am Golf tourney held at Bay Colony. All proceeds from these events will fund a better life and higher education and many, many dreams for Immokalee students.**

Clothers. Naples Illustrated was the corporate media sponsor.

The Immokalee Foundation has a range of programs that focus on building pathways to success through college and vocational school, mentoring and tutoring, and oppor-

tunities for broadening experiences and life skills development. To learn more about the Charity Classic Celebration, volunteering as a mentor or for additional information, call 239-430-9122 or visit [www.immokaleefoundation.org](http://www.immokaleefoundation.org).

Engaged? Just married? Golden anniversary?  
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## Celebrations

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