

## IFD gets increase approval by majority

By Patty Brant  
Immokalee Bulletin

It's been a time for the Immokalee Fire Department and its members, including mass layoffs, the firing of Chief Scott Birge and the closing of the Carson Road station. One of the main causes of these upheavals is a serious loss of funding. Like the rest of the country, the economic downturn has battered the small institution.

Interim Immokalee Fire Chief Rita Greenberg was installed to guide the department through the rebuilding process. Last weekend, IFD opened its doors to the public for a little fun and a little education.

The event had a two-fold purpose. It gave the community a chance to get an up-close look at the trucks and equipment, and also provide information and education about the referendum on the ballot Tuesday, Jan. 31.

Immokalee voters were being asked to pony up a little more on their property taxes. Immokalee fire commissioners were seeking \$3.75 per \$1,000 of taxable value - a 25 percent increase. That increase was approved by the voters Tuesday two to one, and should help ease the gap in funding caused by the economic downturn.

See IFD — Page 2

## Soccer Day!



Local kids learn new soccer skills on a fun-filled day with FCCU Mens Soccer team. See more on Page 8

**Inside...**  
Students First -  
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IHS gets  
'Best Feat'  
...Page 8

See Page 2 for information about how to contact the newspaper.

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Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/CCDS  
**A new play to play! What elementary school student would not delight in having access to a brand new state of the art playground to be the feature of the 25th celebration at Village Oaks Elementary School in Immokalee. The playground will be dedicated on Feb. 9 as part of the anniversary celebration.**

## Village Oaks Elementary dedicates new playground

New playground equipment celebrates a quarter-century of learning

Village Oaks Elementary School (VOE) received a pretty big 25th Anniversary gift - a brand-new playground! It even wears the school colors of purple and silver. A dedication ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 9, at 3:30 p.m. The ceremony will begin in the school's cafeteria (1601 State Road 29, in Immokalee) with a video presentation, a student dance performance, and refreshments, followed by a trip to the playground for the ribbon cutting

and a VOE 5th and 6th grade band performance.

VOE students have been waiting patiently for the opening of their new playground since they first heard about it before Winter Break. As the playground was nearing completion, students learned about each piece of equipment, as well as safety rules and procedures, during Physical Education classes. Students even tried their hand at teaching, as they were the ones that explained proper procedures and equipment names to the school's Tutors and Assistants. The playground officially opened for use early this month.

To learn more, please contact Village Oaks Elementary at 239-377-8600.

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## IFD

Continued From Page 1

According to Chief Greenberg, the department has lost some \$7,000 in funding, based on current property taxes. If the tax increase is approved, it will only replace about \$450,000 of that loss.

"Still short, but better," said Chief Greenberg. She added that the increase would allow the department to bring back some of the firefighters who had been laid off earlier.

Station #31, closed due to unsanitary conditions including vermin infestation and unsafe structural conditions, was renovated with the help of volunteers last year. However, opening the facility is still sporadic because of lack of volunteers to man the station. Chief Greenberg said that the station is closed about 60-75 percent of the time.

The fire board is working on the budget process, trying to create a balanced budget - a difficult task as property values remain low and the economy is still extremely sluggish. Although the economic situation hurts everyone, the community still needs the same services, the chief observed.

In 2011 IFD answered some 3,000 calls for service. Of these 54 percent were fire-related, the rest were emergency medical calls.

In order to open up communication, Chief Greenberg and the fire union are working to get out into the community, participating in events like chamber breakfasts and rotary

lunches to share information.

Handling both Big Corkscrew and Immokalee fire stations requires serious time management skills for the chief. She said the two departments are dramatically different organizations, cultures.

"Immokalee (fire department) has been up and down the last few years," she said. "It needs to develop a more team culture between the community, firefighters and volunteers."

Chief Greenberg is the fifth chief to lead the IFD in five years; there have also been ten fire commissioners during that time, adding to the turmoil the department has been experiencing.

Part of her job is to foster a positive working relationship.

"We're ready to move forward," Chief Greenberg said, adding that she understands the need for teamwork and positive working relations for all involved. She said that morale among the 15 firefighters on the line remains low.

She said the department is working though its differences and a cohesiveness is starting to come through.

Chief Greenberg originally volunteered at Big Corkscrew Fire Department in 1991 and was hired there in '93. She became chief in 2004.

Chief Greenberg's contract runs from Oct. 1, 2011 through Sept. 30, 2012. However, it may be extended or ended with a 30-day written notice.

## Local Immokalee woman dies in Hendry vehicular incident

An Immokalee woman died as a result of a one-vehicle incident Jan. 19, in Hendry County. The incident occurred on C.R. 846 about 1.9 miles south of C.R. 833 at 2:25 a.m., that morning.

According to the Florida Highway Patrol, Texas Bille, 64, of Clewiston was driving a 2006 Ford F-150 north on C.R. 846 approaching a curve in the road.

Seated on the passenger side, Carmen Diego, 41, exited the truck when it was in motion through the passenger side door.

She landed on the northbound lane and continued to travel on the road coming to a final rest on the east shoulder of C.R. 846. She sustained fatal injuries as a result of the action and was pronounced dead at the scene.

The crash report indicated that the incident was alcohol related and that both occupants had been wearing their seatbelts before the incident occurred. Florida Highway Patrol continues to investigate the incident.

## Head Start program registration open

The Collier County Public Schools (CCPS) Head Start Program will begin registering children for the upcoming 2012-2013 school year on Feb. 1. Head Start is a high quality early childhood program that serves eligible children whose families meet low income guidelines. To be eligible, a child must be four years old by September 1st of the current year.

To register a child, parents need to call the Head Start office starting on Feb. 1. When registering, parents must provide:

- Proof of income (tax return, W-2)
- Child's certified birth certificate
- Child's current immunization certificate with Varicella (chicken pox)
- Child's current physical exam with hemoglobin and lead results

- Parent's picture identification
- Medicaid/insurance card
- Three proofs of residency (rental agreement, electricity bill, two water bills)

Transportation must be provided by parents. Families most in need may apply for limited transportation spots.

The Head Start program offers high quality educational, nutritional, medical, dental, mental health, disability and other services through strong partnerships that promote success through school readiness and family strengthening.

To learn more, please contact the Head Start office at 239-377-0590 or visit their website at: [www.collierschools.com/head-start/](http://www.collierschools.com/head-start/).

## Community News in Brief

### League of Women

#### Voters to host guest speaker

Collier Circuit Judge Hugh D. Hayes and Collier Attorney Sharon Hanlon will speak at the League of Women Voters of Collier County meeting on Feb. 7, at noon at the Country Club of Naples. They will address How Florida Citizens Can Maintain an Independent Judiciary. The speakers will explain:

- how the Florida Judiciary works;
- how our courts are funded;
- the qualifications required to be a judge;
- how judges are appointed, elected and retained;
- the authority and responsibility of the Florida Bar Association; and,
- the Judges' and Bar Associations' priorities for the 2012 Legislative Session.

The cost of the optional luncheon for LWVCC members is \$20; non-members--\$25. Reservations can be made at [www.lwv-colliercounty.org](http://www.lwv-colliercounty.org) or by calling 239-263-4656 before 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 4.

### Searching public records workshop offered

The popular "Searching Public Records Using Collier Clerk.com" will be held Tuesday, Feb. 21, from 2-4 p.m. at the South Regional Library on Lely Cultural Blvd. You can

register by phone by calling 239-252-7542.

### 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.

### Entrepreneur School to begin in February

So you think you want to start a business? Sign up now for the IBDC Entrepreneur School. The six week course is designed to provide and approach for thinking through the development of a new business idea or the growth of an existing small business.

The next class starts on Feb. 7 and continues through March 13.

Each class is held on Tuesday from 6 until 7:30 p.m. at 1320 N. 15th Street, Suite 2, Immokalee.

To register or for more information, please contact Rosemary Dillon at 239-867-4121 ext 206.

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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
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- 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.

## Letters to the Editor

### IFD increase approved by overwhelming majority

Immokalee area voters stake their claim for greater fire protection in Tuesday's landslide vote. With 100 percent of the precincts counted 67 percent of the voters said "YES" to an increase in the millage for the Immokalee Fire Department, while 37 percent voted "No." Compared to all the other

voting districts, Immokalee and Ave Maria voters have spoken loudly and clearly. "We are willing to increase our taxes for a return to safer standards for our fire protection." Congratulations to all those who worked so hard to accomplish this Herculean task and a special "thank you" to the Immokalee and Ave Maria voters!

**Rick Heers**  
Immokalee

## Students First

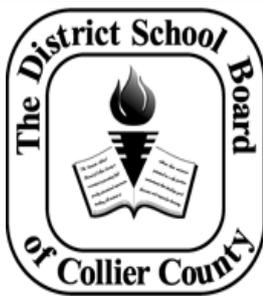
### A great first half!

By Joe Landon

Collier County District Schools

As promised in last week's column, Immokalee High School (IHS) Principal, Dr. Mary Murray, is sharing the top 25 highlights from the first semester. There's a lot of great stuff going on at IHS!

1. Varsity Football – Class 5A District Champs, advanced to regional finals
2. Four students invited to the Army Football Combine – Top 500 Juniors in the Country
3. Deadrin Senat named Defensive Player of Combine for 11th grade Under Armour Combine
4. Varsity Head Football Coach Jerrod Ackley – Class 5A Coach of the Year
5. Tshumbi Johnson – Class 5A Offensive Player of the Year, 1st Team All-State
6. CCPS Special Olympics Male Athlete of the Year – Johnny Garza
7. Special Olympics Basketball Team qualifies for state tournament
8. Junior Kerby Henry elected State of Florida BETA Club Vice President
9. IHS BETA Club Overall State Champs, qualified in several categories for national competition
10. State Farm Friday Night Feats Video Contest Winner
11. Senior Mariela Vega received a \$5,000 Sun Life Rising Star Scholarship from the Miami Dolphins Foundation in a surprise visit from a Dolphin entourage
12. Girls and Boys Cross Country Teams advanced to State
13. IHS volunteer John Henry named Take Stock In Children Statewide Mentor



of the Year

14. Varsity Boys Basketball Team won two holiday tournaments over winter break
  15. Freshman Boys Basketball Team won the MLK tournament
  16. Project Nook – all 9th/10th grade students have Nooks
  17. Project Nook – 11th/12th grade migrant students have Nooks
  18. Two new freshman inductees into Take Stock In Children Program
  19. Teacher Heather Viniar honored by Governor Rick Scott at his State of the State Address
  20. Governor Rick Scott visited IHS and taught several classes
  21. Two Teachers of Distinction: James Dixon and Kim Owens
  22. Won the "Top Team" trophy for the Take Stock In Children 5K Run
  23. Boys Golf Regional qualifier – freshman Trey Boone
  24. Four entries in the Immokalee Christmas parade plus booths, acts, and security detail for Winterfest after the parade
  25. 40+ families were provided food and Christmas gifts via IHS clubs and donations
- According to Principal Murray, "IHS has had a very positive first semester. We couldn't be more proud of how our students have performed this semester and we look forward to an even better second semester. Our IHS team, staff, students, parents, and community, are looking forward to making 2011-2012 a record setting year for IHS. Go Indians!"

## Financial Aid and College Night

IHS Students and parents for grades nine through 12 will have the opportunity to gather important information from college representatives on financial aid for their upcoming college years.

The college night program will be held on Monday, Feb. 6 from 6-8 p.m. in the IHS Gym and will include representatives from iTECH, FGCU, NOVA Southeastern University, Johnson and Wales University, ITT Technical University, Edison State College, Full Sail University, Hodges University, University of South Florida and others. Displays will be available to provide individual information on individual colleges. A financial aid presentation for seniors and parents will take place in the auditorium. Pizza and drinks will be available for purchase.

## Obituaries

### Judy Faye Greer Roebuck

IMMOKALEE — Judy Faye Greer Roebuck's spirit separated from her earthly body Sunday, Jan. 22, 2012.

Judy was born in St. Louis, Mo., on Aug. 19, 1946. She graduated from Waynesville, Mo., High School in 1964. She and Ted were wed that same year on Dec. 19, 1964, at the UMC in Immokalee.

Judy was a great mother, wife and grandmother. She taught Headstart for 13 years at Pinecrest and worked for 14 years as a florist. She was a member of First United Methodist Church for over 40 years as an active member, singing in the choir, working with various youth groups for many years and serving on many committees, especially worship and pastor parish.

She was a band booster and cherished the pin

she was given for riding Bus #2- Percussion and Flag Line for 8 years.

She will be missed by her friends and church family.

She is now with her mother and father, Sylvia and Walter Greer; her older brother, Dale; and her four sisters, Betty, Dean, Norma, and Maxine.

She is survived by her sweetheart of 50 years, Ted; children, Joshua Roebuck, and Amanda Paul Roebuck; one grandchild, Ella Angel; as well as her daughter and son by marriage, Tanya Garland Roebuck and Matthew Paul.

The celebration of her life will begin at 10 a.m. with an informal remembrance on Saturday, Feb. 4, at First United Methodist Church, Immokalee. A formal service will follow at 11 a.m.

Brister Funeral Home was entrusted with her care. Sign the guestbook at [bristerfuneral-home.com](http://bristerfuneral-home.com).

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## Hundreds of People Cash In at the Port LaBelle Inn Yesterday!

By Jason Delong

THR's Treasure Hunters Roadshow  
STAFF WRITER

Yesterday at the **Port LaBelle Inn**, hundreds lined up to cash antiques, collectibles, gold and jewelry in at the event. The free event is in **LaBelle** all week buying gold, silver antiques and collectibles.

*"It is unbelievable, I brought in some old coins that had been in a little cigar box for years and some old herringbone necklaces and in less than fifteen minutes I left with a check for \$712.37."*

One visitor I spoke with yesterday said "It's unbelievable, I brought in some old coins that had been in a little cigar box for years and some old herringbone necklaces and in less than fifteen minutes I left with a check for \$712.37. That stuff has been in my jewelry box and dresser for at least 20 years." Another gentlemen brought an old Fender guitar his father bought years

*Gold and Silver pour into yesterday's event due to highest prices in 40 years.*



**Above • A couple waits with anticipation while an event specialist examines their antiques and gold items. The event is at the Port LaBelle Inn this week.**

ago. "Dad had less than fifty bucks in that guitar." The event specialist that assisted him, made a few phone calls and a veterinarian in Seattle, Washington bought the guitar for \$5700.00. The seller continued, "I got another \$150.00 for a broken necklace and an old class ring. It's

not every day that someone brings six thousand dollars to town with your name on it."

Jeff Parsons, President of THR's Treasure Hunters Roadshow commented, "Lots of people have items that they know are valuable but just don't know where to sell

them. Old toys, trains, swords, guitars, pocket watches or just about anything old is valuable to collectors. These collectors are willing to pay big money for those items they are looking for."

This week's event is the place to get connected with those collectors. The process is free and anyone can bring items down to the event. If the event specialist finds items that their collectors are interested in, offers will be made to purchase those items. About 80% of the guests that attend the show end up selling one or more items at the event.

Antiques and collectibles are not the only items that THR's Treasure Hunters Roadshow is buying. "Gold and silver markets are soaring," says Archie Davis, a THR representative. "Broken jewelry and gold or silver coins add up very quickly. I just

THR's Treasure Hunters Roadshow is not affiliated with or related to the Antiques Roadshow television series, PBS or WGBH

finished working with a gentleman that had an old class ring, two bracelets, and handful of silver dollars,... his check was for over \$650.00. I would say that there were well over 100 people in here yesterday that sold their scrap gold."

*"If you go to the event, you can cash-in your items for competitive prices. THR representatives will be available to assess and purchase your items at the Port LaBelle Inn through Saturday in LaBelle ."*

One gentleman holding his check for over \$1250.00 in the lobby of the event yesterday had this comment, "I am so happy I decided to come to the event. I saw the newspaper ad for the event and brought in an old German sword I brought back from World War II and some old coins and here is my check. What a great thing for our community. I am heading home now to see what else I have they might be interested in."

The event continues today starting at 9am. The event is free and no appointment is needed.

### Our International Collectors Association members are looking for the following types of items.

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- **WATCHES & POCKET WATCHES** Rolex, Tiffany, Hublot, Omega, Chopard, Cartier, Philippe, Ebel, Waltham, Swatch, Chopard, Elgin, Bunn Special, Railroad, Hamilton, all others.
- **TOYS, TRAINS & DOLLS** All types of toys made before 1970 including: Hot Wheels, Tonka, Buddy L, Smith Miller, Nylint, Robots, battery toys, Mickey Mouse, all other toys - Train sets, all gauges, accessories, individual cars, Marklin, American Flyer, Lionel, Hafner, all other trains - Barbie Dolls, GI Joe, Shirley Temple, Characters, German, all makers accepted.
- **MILITARY ITEMS & SWORDS** Civil, Revolutionary, WWI, WWII, etc. Items of interest include swords, badges, clothes, photos, medals, knives, gear, letters, etc.
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## www.treasurehuntersroadshow.com

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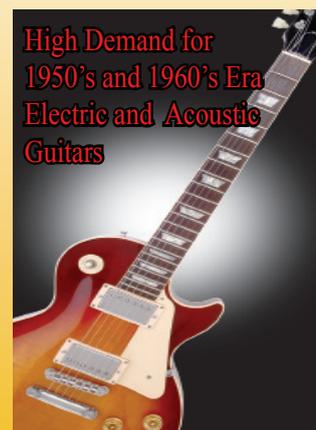
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Thursday, January 26, 2012  
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306 East Main Street, Immokalee, Florida

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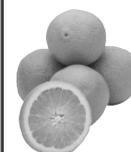
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## Employment Full Time

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**Public Notices**  
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**Public Notice**

**COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA Proposed Reprogramming of CDBG Funds Citizen Participation NOTICE**  
Collier County is proposing an amendment to its 2011-2012 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Action Plan. This amendment will reprogram a total of \$775,016 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds into another Infrastructure/Public Facilities Project to benefit the citizens of Collier County.  
  
The proposed amendment would move CDBG funding from a Collier County Parks and Recreation Department proposed project for construction of a Community Center at Eagle Lakes in East Naples to a project for the construction of a Community Center at South Immokalee Neighborhood Park in Immokalee, FL.  
  
Collier County Parks and Recreation Department is requesting this change to expend federal funds more efficiently. The Eagle Lakes Park Community Center will still be constructed using general and ad valorem funds. Both Community Centers will be used for Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) Programs and other community uses.  
  
**Public Comment Period**  
There will be a public comment period from **February 2, 2012 thru March 3, 2012** regarding the proposed use of CDBG funds. During this period, citizens may send their comments regarding the proposed reprogramming of funds to the Department of Housing, Human, and Veteran Services, ATTN: Margo Castorena, 3339 Tamiami Trail East, Suite 211, Naples, FL 34112. The County will respond to all written comments in writing, within 15 days of receipt.  
  
**Final Action**  
This action is on the agenda for the March 27, 2012 regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. If you have any public comments and require special aid or services as addressed in the Americans with Disabilities Act or require someone to translate or sign, please contact the HHVS office at (239) 252-4663, no later than two (2) days prior to the Public Hearing date. For additional information, please contact Margo Castorena at (239) 252-2912 or margocastorena@colliergov.net. 408687 IB 2/2/2012

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**Immokalee Foundation celebrates National Mentoring Month**

This month marks the 11th anniversary of National Mentoring Month, an annual outreach campaign held each January that aims to increase national attention about the need for mentors and positive effects mentoring can have on the lives of the nation's youth. It is something the folks at The Immokalee Foundation have seen firsthand.

Since 2001, the foundation has supported the matching of mentors with qualified seventh-, eighth- and ninth-grade students from Immokalee Middle School and Immokalee High School through its scholarship and mentoring program, Take Stock in Children. Students who successfully fulfill their required pledge to earn good grades, exhibit good behavior and meet weekly with a mentor are awarded a full college scholarship upon high school graduation.

Liz Allbritten, executive director of The Immokalee Foundation, said more than 80 community volunteers from Lee and Collier counties currently mentor students in Immokalee, but more are needed. "These children are our future. Mentoring can help them realize their value and potential - it can change their lives."

A community mentor meets with a student once a week throughout the school year and helps them find their path to success. With a time commitment of only a few hours each week, a volunteer can get to know a student and help them navigate challenges of education and life. And it works.

Students raised in Immokalee face a bleak future with a low graduation rate and a lack of opportunities, as evidenced by the 80 percent high school graduation rate. Last year 100 percent of the seventh-grade students in Immokalee inducted into the program graduated from high school and continued their post-secondary education. "We attribute much of this success to the hard work of our volunteer mentors," Allbritten said. "We couldn't do what we do without them."

Kay Fumo currently mentors

two Immokalee High School students: ninth grader, Francisco Cuevas and tenth grader, Joanna Chavez. Now in her fourth year as a mentor, Fumo says she gets just as much out of the experience as the students. "I find spending time with these bright, hard-working young students - who have so much to offer - very rewarding. It is wonderful to see them grow and mature, while helping them see and experience new things. I'm excited for them and their future. It enriches my life as I am able to participate in theirs."

Mentor, Jim DeCuzzi agrees. DeCuzzi currently serves as executive director of Immokalee Housing & Family Services and is a member of adjunct faculty of ITT Technical Institute in Fort Myers, but still takes time to mentor Jovenel Benjamin. "I really enjoy the experience and Jovenel is terrific. Mentoring affords me the chance to give something back and make a positive difference in the life of a young person."

This month, TIF will host an official ceremony inducting 27 students into the TSIC program, therefore the need for additional mentors is great.

"If you want to change the life of a child and contribute to your community, please consider donating your time as a mentor," said Ms. Allbritten. "It will change your life as well."

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).

# Immokalee High receives award for best gridiron play

Quarterback sneak, tackle, blitz, punt - all well known football plays. Immokalee High School's (IHS) football team just added 'hurdle' to that list. IHS was recently voted one of the winners of a \$2,500 State Farm Friday Night Feats Video Contest award for a player's track and field-type hurdle on the football field. State Farm representatives visited the school last week for the check presentation.

It was during last fall's football game between the IHS Indians and Cape Coral High School that IHS wide receiver Jacky Marcellus caught a short pass from his quarterback, took off towards the end zone and avoided an early tackle by skillfully jumping over a Cape Coral defensive back to continue his

25 yard run. The big play was caught on film and submitted to State Farm's Friday Night Feats Video Contest, which honors big moments in high school football. It's the fans who vote for their favorite plays and IHS fans came through. Immokalee High School was one of four Florida schools, and among 52 schools nationwide, to be voted a winner. The Indians will put their award towards purchasing new football uniforms and improving equipment.

Take a look at the IHS's winning play by visiting [fridaynightfeats.com/fnf/?play=35682](http://fridaynightfeats.com/fnf/?play=35682). To learn more, please contact the school at 239-377-1800.



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Manny Touron

The Florida Gulf Coast University Eagles Men's Soccer team spent some quality time with Immokalee local kids at Immokalee High School. From Pre-k little ones through the sixth grade, little "soccerheads" learned skills of the game.

# FGCU Eagles Mens Soccer host special day for kids

By Manny Touron  
Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

What a day for soccer. The FGCU Eagles men soccer team along with Head Coach Bob Butehorn and Assistant Coach Alex Aldaz visited Immokalee this past Saturday to participate in the ICS Academy held every weekend at the practice fields of Immokalee High School. Nearly 70 students from the Immokalee Community School in grades Pre-k through 6th receive instruction in the fundamentals of soccer every Saturday with the assistance of nine Immokalee High School/Soccer Pit Cobras players. This is part of the school culture being established at ICS. Mr. Jim McDevitt, ICS principal believes that physical activity and academics are beneficial in creating well rounded individuals.

Having the FGCU men's team there meant a great deal for the program and for the movement of soccer in Immokalee. The players from FGCU seemed to have a lot of

fun with our kids. We hope that they return one more time before the end of the academy at the end of February.

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# Balgas supports I HOPE

By Rick Heers  
Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

Office Manager Ana Martinez and receptionist Lupita Garcia are pictured donating a gas tank to Executive Director of I HOPE Rick Heers to assist them in operating their donated forklift. A number of organizations in Immokalee have been so kind to the ministry of the IDC-I HOPE Distribution Center.

As of the end of January, I HOPE has enrolled over 300 families and business-

es into membership at their warehouse located at the Technology Tradeport Park in the TMI building. Since starting in one warehouse and office, the IDC now operates out of 3 storage bays with a capacity of nearly 9,000 square feet of storage. In addition to a multitude of home improvement-tile, windows, shutters, doors, tools, cabinets, countertops, toilets and appliances-one warehouse is devoted to a variety of good, slightly used furniture items. All



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Rick Heers  
**Local business, Balgas Gas helps out in a number of ways in support of the I HOPE Immokalee Distribution Center including donating bottled gas to power the forklift in the distribution warehouse.**

goods are available at a fraction of what you'd pay in most stores. Individual members come from the surrounding area, and pay an annual membership fee of \$25, whereas business members pay an annual fee of \$100.

In order to serve the community fully, I HOPE will be open this Saturday morning from 8:30-11:30. Come out and save yourself some money while supporting the ongoing work of I HOPE!

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