

Christmas comes to Immokalee

It's finally time! Christmas Around the World Parade & Gala celebrate "Fun N' Games" on Saturday, December 8 - and you're invited!

Don't miss the parade, followed by all kinds of food, games, entertainment, Snowfest and pictures with Santa! Just \$1 gets you into the Snow Gala...under 6 years old it's free!

Activities include a lighted night parade followed by a Christmas Gala at our community swimming pool with lots of food, games, music, machine-produced snow, singing and dancing, and lots of other entertainment. The Grand Finale that features the arrival of Santa Claus, via helicopter, courtesy of the Seminole Indian Casino of Immokalee. This annual sponsor provides free books that include individual pictures taken with Santa during the celebration.

There will be lots of teen/adult activities going on at the gala this year.

Co Grand Marshals Wayne and Beverly Pringle along with Rev. Howard Allen will reign over the parade.

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

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Immokalee Bulletin/Patty Brant

Immokalee may have been looking at Rick Heers in celebration of his contributions to Immokalee, but the man was looking at his lady, Judy.

Heers contributions celebrated

by **Patty Brant**
Immokalee Bulletin

It was an evening to look back on amazing accomplishments, but also to look forward to new roads.

November 30 many of Immokalee's most dedicated community servants gathered to pay homage to a man who quite possibly has done more to uplift Immokalee than anyone else in the past 20 years.

Rick Heers is a man with many different images, but just one heart - and it is focused entirely on his Lord, his family and

his community.

The occasion was Rick's retirement from the iHOPE board and the event focused on how he has doggedly worked to implement his dynamic visions for Immokalee and its most vulnerable residents. Sometimes pushing, sometimes pulling, but always shouldering a heavy burden, always patiently guiding, always working, worrying and praying.

It was not uncommon for him to leap into the unknown if he felt his Lord's direction. He did not go blindly, he always had both eyes open and understood the

enormity of the task before him. That dedication and faith paved the way for a new organization called iHOPE, which reached out to help rebuild homes devastated by Hurricane Wilma.

As an assistant pastor of Friendship Baptist Church and director of Immokalee ministries for One by One Leadership Foundation of Southwest Florida, Rick was called upon to gather community leaders. The resulting organization, iHOPE, became a long term relief organization.

See **Heers** — Page 2

Nine hurt in pile up

A pig in the middle of SR 29 in north Collier County caused a three vehicle pile up December 1 at about 9:01 p.m. that resulted in nine injuries.

According to the Florida Highway Patrol, Gabriela Resendiz, 24, of Stuart was southbound on SR 29 and struck a pig in the middle of the roadway. Her 2001 Ford Escape was disabled.

A second vehicle, a 2002 Chevy Impala, driven by Rosa Anaya, 58, of Felda was traveling northbound. The front of the Chevy struck the front of the Escape. I

t traveled off the road onto the east shoulder. The driver and passenger of the Escape exited the vehicle.

The third vehicle, a 1997 Honda Odyssey driven by Elvia Rosa Shaffer, 57, of Felda, was northbound and collided with the Escape, which remained in the southbound lane.

The Chevy was facing west and occupying both the north and south lanes.

The driver of the Escape, Gabriela Resendiz, was transported to Lee Memorial Hospital with serious injuries.

Her passenger, Carlos Estrada, 23, sustained only minor injuries. Both had been wearing seatbelts.

In the Anaya vehicle, the driver and an infant, Roman Perez, both sustained serious injuries. Anaya

See **Pile up** — Page 2

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Immokalee Bulletin/Patty Brant Sinclair Williams of the Rotary and Leadership presented the evening's awards to Rick Heers.



Immokalee Bulletin/Patty Brant Man of the Hour Rick Heers sang a duet with daughter Becca - "It Is Well with My Soul."



Immokalee Bulletin/Patty Brant CCSO Lt. Michael Dolan sat with the Heers family before his tribute to his friend and mentor, Rick Heers, November 30.



Bulletin

Serving Immokalee, Ave Maria and Eastern Collier County

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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.
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Our Purpose...

The Caloosa Belle 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.

Heers

Continued From Page 1

A quick synopsis of iHOPE's achievements under Rick include:

- The rehab of some 600 unlivable homes
- The rebuilding of seven green homes
- Accrual of \$3 million for devastated home renovations
- Establishment of the iHOPE Distribution Center
- Helping to implement a CERT Community Emergency Response Team

Acquisition of 80 FEMA trailers, valued at some \$2 million, provided for permanent Immokalee residences.

Emcee John Lawson said that it was an evening to lift up Immokalee's leader and reminded the audience that "Nothing happens without a leader."

The Heers family came together for the event in honor of their husband, father and grandfather - the family that "prayed, held him together" - throughout the years of hard work and sacrifice.

President of the 1x1 Leadership Foundation Reid Carpenter explained that the international group reaches four million people daily, including those in Immokalee. He referred to a current internet video gone viral showing a NYC policemen giving a pair of boots to a homeless man. He noted that the act affirmed the worth of human kindness but also pointed out that heroes are often not recognized in their own home - heroes like Jesus.

We often don't appreciate the saints in our midst, Mr. Carpenter noted, reaffirming the common reason for everyone to be there. Every guest came in recognition of Rick Heers' unique talents as a local "saint" - an ordinary man in touch with the pain of his community.

He added that Rick has a special passion for children and families.

He said Rick brought many talents and experiences with him to Immokalee in 1988. He was the "great architect and organizer behind several Christian schools." He has been an educator and principal, always

a churchman and pastor, who believes a church divided cannot stand.

The sponsor of the evening 1x1 Leadership connects community leaders, pools their efforts and magnifies their successes.

The founder of the Leadership Foundation Reid Carpenter invited Rick to be a cofounder and leader along with John Lawson.

Unique among those who stood to testify to Rick's kindness and skill as a community leader was a woman named Felipa, who has raised 14 grandchildren. Her home was unlivable after Wilma but, with the aid of iHOPE, it is now the safe and warm shelter a home should be.

"Gracias," she told Rick and the iHOPE organization. Through an interpreter, she said that her new house covers her from the elements and that she has no words to express her joy in the house.

CCSO Lt. Mike Dolan spoke of the guest of honor saying, "He who walks with the wise grows wise." He said Rick is a servant, leader and mentor. "When I grow up," he ended, "I want to be just like you."

Sinclair Williams presented an award from the Immokalee Rotary Club and the very first 1x1 Leadership Service Award to Rick.

The evening ended with words from the honoree. Rick called the evening "breath-taking" and noted that the accolades "belong to Jesus Christ . . . who enabled me to see beyond my limitations."

He noted many other leaders who have worked alongside him through the years. Chief among his supporters were his family and his wife Judy, who he said helped him through "immense stress. She loved me when I wasn't lovable," he explained.

He said that the evening was no farewell. Immokalee is their home. He and Judy both are pursuing their passion for education as substitute teachers.

"God enlarged my borders. He's just directing us in a different way,"

Christmas

Continued From Page 1

The parade will again feature a float competition. Our Christmas Around the World Parade Event is attempting to be included in the World's Guinness Book Records as the "Second Largest Winter Festival" in Southwest Florida. If you prefer a pre-packaged float, The parade starts at 5:30 p.m. with a mandatory line-up time of 4 p.m.

The parade will start on the corner of Carver and First (1st) Streets directly across from the Seminole Casino and continue on a path that leads to the Immokalee High School's football field parking lot. While unloading all floats, parents must pick up their children at the High School football field only. The gala will start immediately thereafter at the Immokalee Soccer Field across from Immokalee High School.

If further information is needed, please call 239-657-3237...Cherryle Thomas -Event Chair.

Pile up

Continued From Page 1

was taken to Lee Memorial Hospital and the child to Tampa. Other passengers: Danna Vega, 14, was taken to LeHigh Regional, Destiny Vega, 7, was taken to North Collier, Jakelin Vega, 12, was taken to LeHigh Regional and Maria Anaya, 38, was taken to North Collier. All sustained minor injuries.

The infant was the only one in the Anaya vehicle not restrained at the time of the crash. All passengers in the Chevy were from Felda.

In the Honda, driver Elvia Rosa Shafer was uninjured. Passengers: Alejandra Brito, 46, Luis Segura, 17, and Alexandra Segura, 3, all sustained minor injuries. All were taken to LeHigh Regional.

The child was the only one in the Shafer vehicle that was unrestrained.

The investigation into the crash is ongoing.

St. Laurant brothers candies and nuts open in Ave Maria

St Laurent Brothers Candies & Nuts is now open in the Ave Maria Town Center featuring old-fashioned candies, all natural peanut butter, roasted nuts, gifts and dry-cleaning service. The store, located at 5064 Annunciation Circle, Suite 102, is the second location of the family-owned business of Tom and Nancy Klopp, with the original store located in Saginaw, Michigan.

In 1904, St. Laurent Brothers started roasting peanuts for its all natural peanut butter. As the demand for the fresh peanut taste increased, so did the need to roast more kinds of nuts. St. Laurent Bros now sells roasted peanuts, cashews and pecans. The Ave Maria location retails favorite items such as fine chocolates, squirrels, Mary Janes, salt water taffy, jams and Mackinac Island fudge.

In addition to its candies and nuts, St Laurent offers convenient services including a Fashion Fresh dry-cleaning pick-up every Thursday and golf cart rental with hourly, daily, weekly and monthly rates.

Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For more information, contact Store Manager Chip Kiesel at 800-842-9511.

The Town of Ave Maria has been designed as a hometown for the 21st century, a place where residents of different generations and backgrounds can find all they need to live life to the fullest – schools, shopping, employment opportunities, recreational facilities, and more. In addition, the presence of Ave Maria University offers educational and cultural experiences unlike any other in the area. At its build out, it will include 11,000 residences in its 4,000 acres

Ave Maria is located at the intersection of Oil Well and Camp Keais Roads in Eastern Collier County. The main entrance, on Oil Well just west of Camp Keais, leads to the Town Center. For more information, please visit www.avemaria.com or call 239-352-3903.

Lions Club offers free eye exams

The Lions Club invites everyone to free eye tests for adults and children Sunday, Dec. 9, from 10 am.-2 p.m. Note: Registration closes at 1:30 p.m.

Come to the iTECH Center, 508 - 9th Street for screening for claucoma, cataracts, macular degeneration, also tests for diabetes and blood pressure. Free flu shots for adults and free eye glasses.

In partnership with the Collier County Health Department, Friendship Health Clinic, Edison College School of Nursing, Bonita Springs Lions Eye Clinic, Southwest Florida College of Nursing and Visiting Nurses Association of Southwest Florida.

Examen de visita gratis

Club de Leones invita todos para un examen de vista gratis para adultos y niños. Domingo 9 de diciembre 10 a.m.-2 p.m. NOTA: inscripcion cierra a las 1:30 p.m. a la iTECH Center, 508 - 9th Street. Examen de la vista - glaucoma, cataratas, degeneracion macular, examen de diabetes (azucar), examen presio artrial, vacunas gratis

contra la gripa para adultos, espejuelos lentes gradis.

En cooperacion con: Collier County Health Department, Friendship Health Clinic, Edison College School of Nursing, Bonita Springs Lions Eye Clinic, Southwest Florida College of Nursing and Visiting Nurses Association of Southwest Florida.

Egzamen zye gratis

Klib Lions invie ou egzamen zye gratis pou granmoun ak timoun. Dimanch 9 Desanm 10:00 E' nan matin pou 3:00 E' nan apre midi tout enskripsyon fini a 1:30 p.m. Nan lekol iTECH LA, 508 N. 9t Street.

Nap fe egzamn pou glakom, ktarak, nap fe tes pou sik ak tansyon, nap bay vaksen grip la gratis, nap gen linet gratis.

Oganizasyon ki patrone aktivite sa Collier County Health Department, Friendship Health Clinic, Edison College School of Nursing, Bonita Springs Lions Eye Clinic, Southwest Florida College of Nursing and Visiting Nurses Association of Southwest Florida.

Community Briefs

Help Winn-Dixie help needy

Mr. David Dawson from our local Winn-Dixie, has requested help from the Immokalee Community. He is putting together about 30 Turkey Dinners for 30 needy families in Immokalee, and would like to know if any member, business or organization is interested in sponsoring the Turkey Dinner. For \$35 you will be sponsoring a nice "Turkey Dinner" with four dinner sides to be provided to the families in a nice box. On the box, will be a logo or name of your business so that the families would know who provided the dinner for them. The dinners will be handed out on December 17.

If you say "yes" to the challenge please contact: David Dawson at Winn Dixie #751 in Immokalee 239-657-7666 or email him at Daviddawson.wd@icloud.com.

Also, the Winn-Dixie Hunger Relief program continue until Dec. 25. Winn-Dixie is asking its customers to help make a difference by donating any amount they choose at the point of checkout though easy-to-use tear pads/scan sheets found at the register or by purchasing specially-marked Winn-Dixie

brand products, including water, coffee, diapers and condiments, whose manufacturers have generously donated to this program. All dollars raised by tear pads/scan sheets will go directly to local Feeding America-affiliated food banks, including the Harry Chapin Food Bank,

Computer courses at library

Starting in January there will be regular classes on Basic Computer Skills and Internet at the public library. It's a program called Collier Connect and kicked off this month in East Naples. It will go in full swing after the holidays and rotate the location: Immokalee, East Naples and Estates library.

The schedule for Immokalee:
Wed. Jan. 9, 2013 @10 a.m. - PC Basics Class

Wed., Jan. 16, 2013 @ 10 a.m. - Internet Basics Class

Wed., Jan. 23, 2013 @ 10 a.m. - E-mail Basics Class

All classes are free and conducted in English. To register call Collier Connects at 239-252-4534.

Relay for Life events

Relay For Life Holiday Party- December 12, 2012

Come join them and discover what Relay For Life is all about!

Meal provided at 5 p.m. informational meeting 5-7 p.m. Prizes, Prizes, Prizes!

Come to iTech Conference Room, 508 North 9th Street,

Save the date: Relay For Life Event- Kick-in' Cancer Country Style, March 22-23, 2013 1 p.m.-7 a.m.

Register for second annual STEM Conference

Collier County Public Schools (CCPS) is excited to announce that registration for the 2nd Annual STEM Conference is now open. School district staff, students, parents, and community members are invited to attend this innovative STEM Conference to be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, January 12, 2013, at Golden Gate High School (2925 Titan Way). STEM stands for Science, Tech-

nology, Engineering, and Math.

Interested in attending? Registration is currently available and will be open until Monday, December 31. Online registration can be found by visiting the STEM Conference website at <http://apps.collierschools.com/events/Pages/Guest/6/Register.aspx>. Participants will be able to choose from over 30 break-out sessions offered during this STEM Conference.

The opening keynote speaker will be Reed Timmer, Chief Meteorologist and star of the former Discovery Channel series Storm Chasers. In 2008, Reed became the first person in history to capture High Definition video from inside a tornado.

The closing keynote will be presented by Matt Monjan, Vice President of Strategic Accounts and Implementation for Discovery Education. .

For additional information about the conference, please contact Jennifer Kincaid at kincaije@collierschools.com, Traci Kohler at kohlet@collierschools.com or contact the Communications and Community Engagement Office at (239) 377-0180.

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Monsanto employees across the country help to stamp out rural hunger

FELDA, Fla. (Nov. 12, 2012) – Hundreds of Monsanto Company employees at nearly 40 different locations across the U.S. – ranging from Hawaii to Massachusetts – will be involved in the company's first "Rural Hunger Volunteer Week." The employees will be volunteering in teams at their local food banks this November as part of Monsanto's push to raise awareness about and combat hunger in rural America.

By mobilizing employees across the country, Monsanto hopes to make a real impact while bringing the issue of rural hunger into people's consciousness this holiday season.

One such site volunteering their efforts is the Monsanto Vegetable Seeds Division in Felda. The team donates not only their resources, but also their time. "I think Monsanto's Rural Hunger Volunteer Week is a really great cause," said Lynette Tindall, the Felda site outreach lead. "You don't always realize there are hunger issues occurring in your own community of rural America, but there are."

Even before Monsanto decided to implement Rural Hunger Volunteer Week, the Felda site has already spent the past four Thanksgivings with United Way. "The most rewarding part is how appreciative the people are," Tindall said. Along with preparing 15 food baskets, Tindall's team will once again serve Thanksgiving dinner at United Way along with their families.

Brenda Cockrell, Monsanto's Global Volunteer Program Manager, is grateful for the opportunity to launch the program. "As counterintuitive as it may seem, there are millions of rural families who simply don't know where their next meal will come from," she said. "As a company with deep roots in rural America, we are committed to helping address this problem. That is what Rural Hunger Volunteer Week is all about."

Even though America's farmers are among the most productive and efficient in the world, hunger is a significant problem in America – and rural America is no exception. According to Feeding America, more than 15 percent of rural households are food insecure. That is around three million households in the very communities where much of the world's supply is raised.

Monsanto is a consistent supporter of America's farmers and their communities. In addition to Rural Hunger Volunteer Week, the company is involved in several other key efforts to fight hunger in America. Recently, Monsanto pledged \$3 million to Invest an Acre, a partnership which helps farmers support their local food banks. Other efforts include annual food drives at industry trade-shows, which have raised 80,000 pounds of food over three years, as well as donations to rural food banks amounting to \$300,000 through the Monsanto Fund's America's Farmers Grow Communities program.

Monsanto is continuing to develop tools for farmers that help them get the most from their land – but the company recognizes that production is only part of the solution. That is why the company is working to raise awareness about rural hunger in America. It is going to take collaboration and people willing to lend a helping hand to get food on the tables of those who need it most.

More information about Monsanto's commitment to end rural hunger can be found at www.monsanto.com/fightinghunger.

About Monsanto

Monsanto Company is a leading global provider of technology-based solutions and agricultural products that improve farm productivity and food quality. Monsanto remains focused on enabling both small-holder and large-scale farmers to produce more from their land while conserving more of



Submitted photo

Members of Monsanto's Felda site take a moment to display their artistic skills upon painting the new United Way home in Felda. From left to right: Ken Bailey, Lynette Tindall, Colette Willis, Mary Jane Lopez, Carlos Amaya and Josefa Lagunas.

our world's natural resources such as water and energy. To learn more about our business and our commitments, please visit: www.monsanto.com. Follow our business

on Twitter® at <http://www.twitter.com/MonsantoNews>, on the company blog, Beyond the Rows at www.monsantoblog.com, or subscribe to our News Release RSS Feed.

Sport Shorts

Little League season

It's that time of year to register your little one for baseball or softball. If you register your child between now and January 31 the cost will be \$65, after the 31st the cost will go up \$75. Ages will be from 5 years old to 16 years of age. 50/70 Division: There is a new division that is starting up for Little League and those between the ages of 13 and 14 years of age need to sign up as soon as they can because their season will begin earlier. Registration starts November 15 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 5:30-8 p.m. at the Little League Park. Little League is still looking for coaches and volunteers. Make sure you bring three proofs of residency with the same address. All utilities will be considered as one (water, electric, gas, etc..., etc...). If you have any questions or need information, feel free to give us a

call at the numbers provided:

William Trevino III 239-324-3072, Juan Garcia 239-628-2549, Hector Ramos 239-564-9645 or William Trevino Jr. 239-324-3075.

Little League umpire clinic

Immokalee Little League is starting the season with a bang. If you are interested in being a volunteer to umpire, there will be an umpire clinic held in Bonita Springs on Saturday, Feb. 16, between the hours of 9 a.m.-3 p.m. There will be no charge for the clinic which will be available to those aged 16 years old and up. If you are interested please give us a call at the numbers provided. A volunteer form needs to be filled out prior to adding you to the list. William Trevino 239-324-3072. Juan Garcia 239-628-2549, Hector Ramos 239-564-9645 or William Trevino Jr. 239-324-3075.

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We also like to let you know about our
EARLY DEADLINES
for the December 27th issue:

Display ads - Thursday, December 20 at 4pm
Classified ads - Thursday, December 20 at 4pm
Obituaries will deadline on Monday, December 24 at 2 pm



Volunteer mentors needed for Immokalee students

NAPLES, Fla. (Nov. 28, 2012) – The Immokalee Foundation is looking for mentors to participate in Take Stock in Children, a statewide program that makes it possible for at-risk students in the community to reach academic and personal success.

In 2001, TIF brought to Immokalee and since then, the foundation has matched volunteer mentors with qualified students from Immokalee Middle School and Immokalee High School to inspire, guide and be involved in the students' lives. Those students who successfully fulfill their required pledge to earn good grades, exhibit good behavior and meet weekly with their mentor are awarded a full college scholarship upon high school graduation.

A community mentor is required to meet with a student once a week for about 45 minutes, plus attend school activities and events when necessary – all in an effort to encourage and motivate a young person to reach his or her potential and claim the promise of a college education. To make it more convenient and cut down on travel time for mentors, they can now meet with

the students at the TIF offices after school or the students can Skype with their mentor.

Though the foundation currently has approximately 80 mentors, the number of children in the program exceeds the number of mentors, so additional volunteers are needed to share their time, knowledge and experience with students.

Volunteers must complete a program application, clear a background screening, attend new mentor orientation and participate in quarterly training. Mentors must also believe in the importance of education, be enthusiastic and have a positive attitude and strong desire to make a difference in the life of a child.

Manny Touron, a former Immokalee principal, is currently mentoring two seniors in high school, Jesus Velazco and Jose Guzman. He says he gets just as much out of the experience as the students, "These boys do more for me, for my soul, than I could ever do for them."

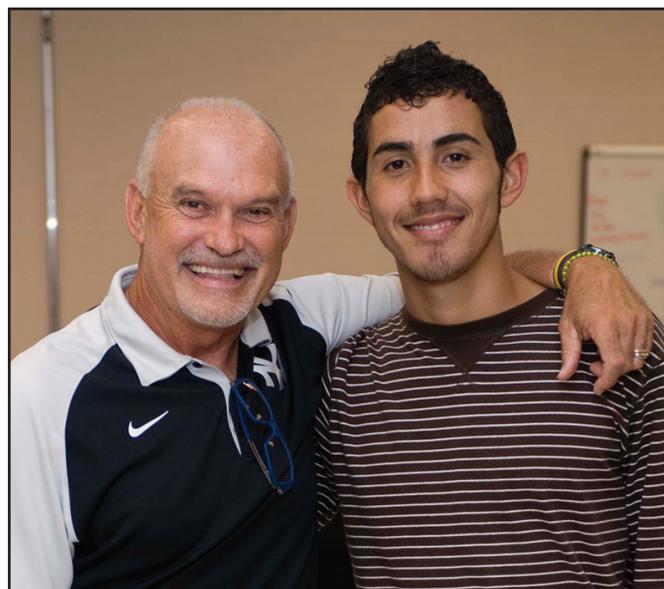
Touron said one of the most important criteria for being a mentor is having the ability to listen and share, "Sometimes the stu-

dents just need someone to sit down and listen; to know that for the next 30 minutes or so, they have your undivided attention."

Teddy Sitter, a seasonal Naples resident, was inspired to become a mentor more than a year ago after reading that students inducted into TIF's Take Stock in Children Immokalee program were in need of mentors. She said it's hard for her to imagine doing something more important with her time.

"Mentoring is among the most gratifying experiences I've had because of the opportunity to really make a difference," Sitter said.

For those hesitant to become a mentor, Sitter said that the program is well-organized and structured, making it simple for the mentors to navigate their way to making a connection with the students. "The foundation provides the materials necessary to be effective, such as workbooks, worksheets, goal assessments, expectations and more. These materials help communication and build the relationship."



Submitted photos

Volunteers Manny Touron and Jesus Velazco.

The Immokalee Foundation has a range of programs that focus on building pathways to success through college and career development, direct scholarships, mentoring and tutoring, and opportunities for broadening experiences and life skills development. To learn more about TIF, volunteering as a mentor or for additional information, call 239-430-9122 or visit www.immokaleefoundation.org.

Holiday Heroes Needed to Support Shelter's Holiday Drive

The Shelter for Abused Women & Children is seeking new, nonviolent, unwrapped gift items for children, teens, adults and their pets this season as part of nonprofit domestic violence center's 2012 Holiday Drive.

"While we collect items for participants of all ages, we have a special need for gifts for teens, especially boys, and adults," explains Volunteer & Resource Coordinator Rebecca Thompson.

This year's Wish List includes:

- Gift Certificates: Winn Dixie, Publix, Walmart, Payless Shoes, Target, Walgreens, CVS, Best Buy, Coastland Center
- Phone & gasoline cards
- Movie passes
- Pedicure/hair salon certificates
- Board games & instructional toys
- Sesame Street (anything)
- Dolls/ethnic dolls
- Dora the Explorer
- Girls dress-up (princess)
- Sports equipment
- Clothing (especially boys, all ages, & kids 5-12 yrs.)

- Play dough sets
- Tea sets/play kitchens
- Barbie/Bratz (anything)
- Trucks/model cars
- Remote control cars
- Arts/craft sets
- Lego's/K-Nex Sets
- Fisher Price Toys ("Little People")
- Leap Frog
- V-Tech
- Disney DVD's
- Remote control cars
- CD's/DVD's
- Books & audio books (non-violent, for all ages)
- Clothes for children, teens & adults (male & female)
- Nightgowns/PJs for children & adults

(male & female)

- Perfume/cologne & lotion sets
- Electric razors
- Skateboards
- Jewelry-making kits
- Diaries/journals
- CD players
- Purses/wallets
- Jewelry, watches & jewelry boxes
- Hair brushes, dryers, flatirons, curling irons & accessories
- Make-up
- Bubble bath & aromatherapy
- Towels & bath items
- Calendars/journals
- Picture frames
- Robes & slippers (all ages, male & female)
- Sunglasses
- Cookbooks
- Houseware items
- Dishes, pots & pans
- Detergent (laundry/dish)
- Toiletries
- Twin comforters, sheets & pillows

New, unwrapped and nonviolent items and should be dropped-off before Friday, December 14, 2012, to ensure timely delivery to participants.

Gifts may be returned to Spirit of Giving Tree/Holiday Donation Drive sites or dropped at Options Thrift Shoppe between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, at 968 Second Avenue North, Naples

To Adopt-a-Family, host a Spirit of Giving Tree, or a Holiday Drive, please call 239.775.3862, ext. 235, or email RThompson@NaplesShelter.org

For information on The Shelter's life-transforming programs and services, please call 239.775.3862, or visit www.naplesshelter.org.

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• Online for 4 weeks - 400 words + 4 photos
• Absolutely FREE!
• Post your ads in our papers for as little as \$8 each
florida.newszip.com
click on classifieds



Announcements

Important Information: Please read your ad carefully the first day it appears. In case of an inadvertent error, please notify us prior to the deadline listed. We will not be responsible for more than 1 incorrect insertion, or for more than the extent of the ad rendered valueless by such errors. Advertiser assumes responsibility for all statements, names and content of an ad, and assumes responsibility for any claims against Independent Newsmedia Inc. USA. All advertising is subject to publisher's approval. The publisher reserves the right to accept or reject any or all copy, and to insert above the copy the word "advertisement". All ads accepted are subject to credit approval. All ads must conform to Independent Newsmedia Inc. USA style and are restricted to their proper classifications. Some classified categories require advance payment. These classifications are denoted with an asterisk *.

For more listings, go to www.newszip.com

Services

FREE ULTRASOUND

Immokalee Pregnancy Center is offering Free Ultrasounds, you take home the picture. Our Nurse Manager is a Sonographer in training and needs to obtain 50 practice scans under the direction of a licensed Sonographer. You can help us by signing up for a free scan with no obligations. Call 657-2016 to schedule.

Earn some extra cash. Sell your used items in the classifieds

Time to clean out the attic, basement and/or garage? Advertise your yard sale in the classifieds and make your clean up a breeze!



Employment

For more listings, go to www.newszip.com

Employment Full Time

Clothing/ Shower Room Attendant

The Guadalupe Center is looking for a Clothing/shower room attendant. This position is responsible for the operation of the clothing room and shower room. The employee ensures that all clients are treated with respect and compassion and makes sure that no client leaves without a set of clothes or a decent shower.

-Must be able to demonstrate supervisory and organizational skills

-Able to read and write English

-Bilingual in English/Spanish (and Creole if possible)

-Able to keep accurate records of clients (statistics)

-Must have a clean driving record

-High School diploma/GED

-Prior experience working with poverty population and multi-cultural setting

To apply send resume to: hr@guadalupecenter.org or pick up employment application at: 509 Hope Circle

EOE/Drug Free Workplace

Reading a newspaper helps you understand the world around you. No wonder newspaper readers are more successful people!

DRIVERS: \$2,000.00

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Employment Full Time



Journeyman Mechanics-Full Time

PLANT MACHINERY

Maintain inspect, troubleshoot and repair processing equipment such as pumps, screw conveyors, belt conveyors, hydraulic systems, centrifugals, gear boxes, fans, pipe fittings and valves. Minimum three years experience.

FARM MACHINERY

Diagnoses and performs repairs, maintenance and inspections on heavy machinery. Operates hydraulic excavators. Experience with trucks, farm machinery and other diesel equipment.

For Immediate consideration

Email: Jdooley@ussugar.com

Apply online at: www.ussugar.com

Love the earth Recycle your used items by selling them in the classifieds.

One man's trash is another man's treasure. Turn your trash to treasure with an ad in the classifieds.

How do you find a job in today's competitive market? In the employment section of the classifieds

Need a few more bucks to purchase something deer? Pick up some extra bucks when you sell your used items in the classifieds.

Employment Full Time



Machinist Full Time Perm \$22.43 Per Hour

Job Responsibilities:

Sets up, calibrates and operates machining equipment including manual engine lathes, shapers, jig boxes, brakes, grinders, drill presses, milling machines, and heavy duty presses to assemble and or fabricate parts and complex assemblies.

Email: Jdooley@ussugar.com

Apply online at: www.ussugar.com

Join all the people who say, "I sold it in the classifieds."

It's never too late to find the perfect gift. Look for it in the classifieds.

Your next job could be in today's classifieds. Did you look for it?

Buying a car? Look in the classifieds. Selling a car? Look in the classifieds.

When doing those chores is doing you in, it's time to look for a helper in the classifieds.

How fast can your car go? It can go even faster when you sell it in the classifieds.

Grab a bargain from your neighbor's garage, attic, basement or closet in today's classifieds.

Looking for a place to hang your hat? Look no further than the classifieds.



Financial

For more listings, go to www.newszip.com

Business Opportunities

NOTICE

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.



Merchandise

For more listings, go to www.newszip.com

Computer/Supplies

Dell - Desktop w/flat screen Quaranteed to work! Internet ready, Games & Educational programs Christmas special \$30 & up. Laptops \$125 & up We also fix computers cheap! Call Tony239 247 4839.



Rentals

For more listings, go to www.newszip.com

Apartments



Rentals

For more listings, go to www.newszip.com

Apartments

MIRA VERDE

HOLIDAY MOVE IN SPECIAL
Pay no Application fee for November or December
FIRST MONTH FREE!!

- 2 BEDROOMS AT \$364.00 PER MONTH
- 3 BEDROOMS AT \$411.00 PER MONTH
- 4 BEDROOMS AT \$464.00 PER MONTH

****Looking for FARMWORKERS****

LOCATED AT: 6760 Santa Fe North LaBelle, FL
CALL US AT: (863)675-3339

Give your family the greatest present in the world...a nice home!

MIRA VERDE

ESPECIAL DE LAS NAVIDADES!!
No pagan por costo de aplicacion para Noviembre y Diciembre.
PRIMER MES ES GRATIS!!

- 2 RECAMARRAS A \$364.00 POR MES
- 3 RECAMARRAS A \$411.00 POR MES
- 4 RECAMARRAS A \$464.00 POR MES

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Dale a su familia el presente mas mejor del mundo.....un casa bella!

Houses - Rent

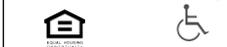
LEHIGH Duplex, 3br./2ba. Mirror Lakes area. Near SR 82. Lawn care included. excellent cond. \$600 mo. plus sec. 239-369-9567.

The classifieds are the most successful salesperson in town.

Time to clean out the attic, basement and/or garage? Advertise your yard sale in the classifieds and make your clean up a breeze!

Houses - Rent

Farm Worker Village invites you to come home. Available now 1, 2, 3 & 4 bedroom rental homes, starting as low as \$425 per month. You may qualify for Rental assistance. Please Call us at: 239-657-3649 or stop by at 1800 Farm Worker Way.



Mobile Homes

For more listings, go to www.newszip.com

Mobile Home Rent

FELDA - 2 br./2 ba. off CR 830. Good cond. \$500/month. Call: 239-369-9567 or 239-565-5033

Mobile Home Sale

2004 Zone III double-wide, 4br, 2bath. This home is in mint condition. \$49,900 Easy financing available. Call 863-673-4325 or 863-675-8888



For more listings, go to www.newszip.com

Campers/RVs

Wanted all Travel Trailers, Motor Homes and Fifth Wheels. Any Condition, Cash paid on the spot. Call 941-347-7171

Get a quick response to any item you may be selling with a classified ad.

Letter to the Editor

Here Is Where We Stand

Republicans vilify entitlements which help to insure dignity for the poor, as well as providing a chance at the American Dream for all.

Democrats vilify tax loop holes and those who avoid taxes by sending their money off shore.

Man has been able to solve many complex problems in mathematics and science,

but has failed to answer a key ethical question needed for his survival. We have not been able to figure out what we should keep and what we should share, in order to optimize stability and survival in society. Our founding fathers did not have the answer to this question, but they left us the promising tool of democracy to insure that all of us have a role in finding the answer.

Juan Puerto, M.D.

Loan fund for women owned businesses in Hendry, Glades and Collier counties

The Revolving Loan Fund* provides loans to new and existing small businesses. A small business is an owner and operator of a business with ten or fewer full-time employees for this program. Loans of \$50,000 or less are available to startup and growing small businesses, including agricultural producers that meet the definition of a microenterprise. Funding of businesses or small farmers that may not qualify for traditional loans, as well as funding for entrepreneurs with creative and innovative ideas, are prioritized. As a part of the program, borrowers can also apply for training and technical assistance to boost their development and ongoing success.

Who can apply:

- Individual citizens or individuals who have been legally admitted to the U.S.,
- Those located in a rural area defined as an area of a State not in a city or town that has a population of more than 50,000 inhabitants in the contiguous and adjacent urbanized area.
- A microentrepreneur, or microenterprise as defined is a business entity with not more than 10 full-time equivalent employees that is in need of \$50,000 or less in business capital and/or in need of business based technical assistance and training.

What is eligible:

- Working capital
- Purchase of furniture, fixtures, supplies, inventory or equipment

- Debt refinancing
- Business acquisitions
- Purchase or lease of real estate that is already improved and will be used for the location of the subject business only (construction of any type is strictly prohibited).

How to apply:

To apply for funding complete and submit the attached inquiry form or request form at contact@womensfundflorida.org.

**Administered by Economic Development Investment Fund (EDIF) through a USDA government program - Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP).*

Business & Service Directory

AUCTION

Time for a new car? Check out this auction on December 17, 2012 at 9am

Keith's Towing

925 E. Delaware Ave. • Immokalee, FL
(239) 657-5741

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Career Corner

Regional Economic Indicators

by Matt Kindermann

Florida Gulf Coast University just released its annual report on economic indicators, and presents an optimistic view about the economic future of the region.

An economic indicator can be any market or industry that is tracked statistically. For instance, the number of washing machines manufactured can be an economic indicator because it shows that not only is there a demand for new washers, but people also have the money to buy them and there is a strong possibility that more new homes being built that require these machines.

Therefore, production of washers has a lot to say about other parts of the economy; it is an indicator.

For the 2012 FGCU study, researchers looked at airport traffic, employment rates, building permits, tourism tax revenues (such as taxes collected from hotels), population trends, and the Consumer Price Index that we discussed a few weeks ago.

They found that passenger traffic at

SWFL Regional Airport (RSW) has ticked up 1% over last year, keeping in line with the 1.6 percent of annual population growth in the region. One indicator that is growing quickly is median home prices, which rose in Lee County approximately \$40,000 over last year.

What may be interesting to retailers is that the tourism tax revenues and taxable sales, both historically begin to rise in October and peak in March.

This forecasts your potentially most profitable period, and can lead to you to determine your need for seasonal labor well into the month of March.

Other optimistic news includes the unemployment rate, which has decreased in Hendry County 2.7% over the same period last year. To request a copy of this report, go to www.swflworks.org/about/contact, include an e-mail address and write "Please send the Regional Economic Indicator report."

Southwest Florida Works is the regional state workforce board for Hendry, Glades, Charlotte, Lee and Collier counties. For job search assistance or employer support, speak with an employment representative nearest you by going to www.swflworks.org and click on "Locations."



Matthew Kindermann

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Apts. 601 to 613 Nassau St., 2BR, Central A/C, heat, carpet, verticals, laundry on premises.

Convenient location in quiet residential area.

\$600 includes water/sewer/trash No Application Fee.

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Save up to \$8,418

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\$19,297 Lease for... **\$399***

New 2012 R1500 Reg Cab Express



Stk: 2279750

Save up to \$7,912

MSRP \$25,745

\$14,833 Lease for... **\$260***

New 2012 Chrysler Town & Country Touring



Stk: CR175138

Save up to \$4,050

MSRP \$31,480

\$24,303 Lease for... **\$285***

New 2012 R2500 crew Cab ST 4WD Diesel



Stk: 2291268

Save up to \$10,392

MSRP \$46,815

\$33,423 Lease for... **\$590***

New 2012 Dodge Journey SE AVP*



Stk: 2340923

Save up to \$3,603

MSRP \$20,985

\$14,382 Lease for... **\$235***

Plattner's CLEWISTON SUPERSTORE

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 Hwy 27 & 80
 602 East Sugarland Hwy
 Clewiston, FL 33440

 A Division of **BELLE GLADE**


2012 Chevrolet Captiva

Almost New! **LT Black** Only 14,000 Miles

Full Factory Warranty Left!



MSRP When New \$26,585

Sale Price: \$19,584

Any Trade Worth: \$3,000

Stk: 3538644

\$16,584 Lease for... **\$278***

2012 Chevrolet Malibu

LT w/Sunroof Only 12,000 Miles

Full Factory Warranty Left!



MSRP When New \$23,470

Sale Price: \$16,884

Any Trade Worth: \$3,000

Stk: 3261819

\$13,884 Lease for... **\$232***

2011 Chevrolet Aveo

LT Red 41,459 Miles

4 Year Warranty Available!



MSRP When New \$15,336

Sale Price: \$10,484

Any Trade Worth: \$3,000

Stk: 3113916

\$7,484 Lease for... **\$123***

2009 Kia Rio LX

4 Year Warranty Available! 59,016 Miles



MSRP When New \$14,500

Sale Price: \$7,384

Any Trade Worth: \$3,000

Stk: 5495481

\$4,384 Lease for... **\$71***

2009 Nissan Cube

4 Year **Economy+** 57,062 Miles

Warranty Available!



MSRP When New \$18,680

Sale Price: \$12,984

Any Trade Worth: \$3,000

Stk: 3100195

\$9,984 Lease for... **\$166***

Plattner's BELLE GLADE

 Phone: 561-992-9700
 1700 East Palm Beach Rd
 Belle Glade, FL 33430


New 2012 SRX Cadillac



MSRP \$36,860

24 MPG

Cash or Trade Equity worth \$3,000

Stk: CS654601

\$31,510 Save up to... **\$4,000**

New 2012 Chevrolet Impala LT



MSRP \$28,110

30 MPG

Save up to: \$5,933

Cash or Trade Equity worth \$3,000

Stk: 1239558

\$17,177 Lease for... **\$242***

New 2012 Silverado Ext Cab LT



MSRP \$31,125

30 MPG

Save up to: \$10,000

Cash or Trade Equity worth \$3,000

Stk: CZ265258

\$24,125 Lease for... **\$395***

2012 Buick Verano 1SD



MSRP \$23,470

32 MPG

Save up to: \$3,470

Cash or Trade Equity worth \$3,000

Stk: C4232359

\$15,784 Lease for... **\$199***

New 2012 Malibu 1LT



MSRP \$25,810

38 MPG

Save up to: \$9,723

Cash or Trade Equity worth \$3,000

Stk: CF309678

\$16,087 Lease for... **\$199***

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