

From tragedy to triumph

A terrifying incident came to a safe resolution Monday when a two-year-old child was returned to her family.

Little two-year old Denise Hernandez is back home after being found wandering through a field next to her home. Bloodhounds located the child not far from the back of her home in a cow pasture that runs behind Immokalee Drive and Wells Avenue. Thanks to many cooperating agencies and the prayers of many Christians in the area and across the United States the child was unharmed aside from a number of mosquito bites. Although some family members are concerned that the youngster may have been abducted through her bedroom window and then released, law enforcement officials are happy to be able to see a positive reunion of a child with her family.

An Amber Alert set the community in action at midnight on Sunday, January 13, Around 10 p.m. Sunday the sheriff's department had been notified that the child,

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

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TIF supports 'Strides For Education'

More than 125 participated in the Take Stock in Children program of Collier County/Immokalee second annual "Strides For Education" 5K Walk/Run at the Collier County School District Administration Center.

The Immokalee Foundation-sponsored event was part of a statewide effort which raised \$6,850 to educate and provide an opportunity for Florida's low-income and deserving students through college scholarships. Take Stock in Children of Collier County/Immokalee currently serves 122 students in grades 7-12 annually and 66 students in college.

Local sponsors included Arthrex, Fifth Third Bank, Florida Community Bank, GE Foundation, Naples Jaguar and Porsche of Naples, Jamaica Bearings Company, Kevin Johnson and

Wayne Meland with Morgan Stanley Private Wealth Management, Lipman Produce, Pollo Tropical, Texas Roadhouse and The Print Shop.

Water sponsors included Fifth Third Bank and Winn-Dixie in Immokalee. Lorenzo Walker Institute of Technology was on-site providing massages.

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, Take Stock in Children/Immokalee, volunteering as a mentor or for additional information, call 239-430-9122 or visit www.immokaleefoundation.org.



Submitted photo

Bryan Reyes, Naomi Reyes, Brisa Martinez and Paula Rosalez.

Chamber bursts into 2013 with events

by **Patty Brant**
Immokalee Bulletin

Members of the Immokalee Chamber of Commerce welcomed their new Board of Directors at their first monthly breakfast of the new year, January 9.

The energized crowd listen attentively as President Bernardo Barnhart led the meeting. He praised the group for its efforts in growing the membership from just 36 members to over 100 in a few months.

President Barnhart said they should all be humbled, that they all need each other as he introduced a new member "blitz." He said the chamber will issue discount cards to members each month - two to \$125 members;

four to \$250 and six to \$500 members.

These cards will be recognized only by other chamber members.

One day each month members will be asked to show their pride in local businesses by coming in to local establishments to purchase something or just to say hello.

Cherryle Thomas, organizer of the huge Christmas Around the World celebration, told the group about this past year's excellent effort and noted that "We are partners." She also invited everyone out to the Community Friendship Day on February 2. Beginning at 6 p.m. that day and

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Immokalee Bulletin/Patty Brant

The 2013 Immokalee Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, from left: Dave Dawson (Winn-Dixie General Manager), Danny Campos (incoming Chamber Executive Director), Robert Halman (IFAS), Jay Roth (Lutgurt Insurance), Bernardo Barnhardt (Chamber President, Vice President Florida Community Bank), Joe Hohmann (Express Employment), Fred Thomas (retired), "Ski" Oleski (Lake Trafford Marina) and Norma Garcia (Immokalee Water & Sewer District). Not pictured: Estil Null (Null's Tax and Notary), Josh Rincon (Bethel Assembly), Michael Taylor (Collier Enterprises) and Everett Loukonen (retired).

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Parents: Complete Title I school survey

Collier County Public Schools (CCPS) is working to strengthen partnerships between schools and families in order to help children perform better in school.

All parents with children in Title I funded schools are invited to participate in the Title I Parent Survey.

Parents may complete one survey for each child (Grades K-12). Each survey should only take a few minutes to complete.

Triumph

Continued From Page 1

clad only in her nightgown and diaper, was missing. She was last seen when she was put to bed Sunday night.

People in the area were called to check around their homes and any unlocked vehicles to see if they could locate the child.

Early Monday morning there were scores of deputies, local and from around the area, many with trained bloodhounds, and a number of local concerned citizens searching for any trace of the child. Several television stations had mobile units set up to cover the developing story.

Individual responses will then be summarized and used to make improvements.

Title I funded schools in Immokalee include: Eden Park Elementary, Highlands Elementary, Immokalee Community School, Immokalee Middle, Immokalee High, Lake Trafford Elementary, Pinecrest Elementary and Village Oaks Elementary.

Parents will receive a paper copy of the 2012-2013 Title I Parent Survey (Grades K-12) via their student's backpack between Monday, January 14 and Friday, January 18.

By Friday, February 1, parents may return the completed survey to their child's school, or it may also be submitted by mail or delivered in person to the Office of Federal and State Grants (FSG), located at 5775 Osceola Trail, Naples, Florida 34109.

The survey is available in English, Spanish, and Creole. To access the survey online beginning on Monday, January 14, please visit the Parents page at www.collierschools.com/parents/ and click on the Title I Parent Survey link in the "Parents Latest News" section.

To learn more or for assistance, please contact Collier County Public Schools' Federal Grants Specialist Jenny Cruz or Grant Evaluator Dr. Courtney Zmach at 239-377-0560.

Students First

by Maribel De Armas

Before I delve into our topic today, I want to take a moment to update you on something I shared in our previous column. You may recall reading about our Immokalee Middle School (IMS) Junior BETAs (Better Education Through Achievement) who recently competed at the Florida Junior BETA Club Convention in Orlando.

Just after submitting the column for publication last week, I learned that the IMS BETAs actually took second place in the Living Literature category for their performance of the Croquet and Queen of Hearts scenes from Alice in Wonderland. Congratulations BETAs!

So, think back to our school days. Remember those parent-teacher conferences – mom and dad meeting face-to-face with our teacher. And we (the young student) never really knew what they talked about. Was the teacher going to tell about the time I may or may not have pulled on Katie's hair (I was six...she started it and that's the story I'm sticking to), or that homework assignment I may have forgotten to turn in?

Not being involved in the meeting was nerve-racking! Well, I'm happy to report that things have changed a bit on that front. Now we have student-led conferences at the elementary and middle school levels. As its name implies, students lead the discussion with their parents – telling them all about their work and about their aca-

ademic and social goals. The teacher serves as the facilitator during the meeting, and of course, helps students in preparation for their conference.

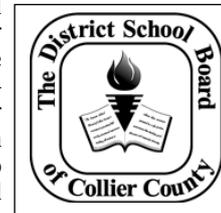
What a wonderful way to put students first and teach accountability starting at an early age. Beyond the important benefit of supporting improvement of student academics, student-led conferences teach so many basic skills needed as successful individuals.

As students prepare for their conference, the first step is to meet with the teacher and set goals – academic and social/behavioral. Then they work to organize and analyze their work and data – self-reflecting and collecting evidence to validate their learning. During each conference, the student becomes the leader and clearly communicates with mom and dad – sharing the information they've collected and receiving feedback directly from their parents.

Bundled up in one neat package, we have students setting goals, organizing and analyzing, becoming leaders and learning to communicate effectively, all while fostering the parent-child relationship and empowering students to be responsible for their learning.

Student-led conferences have proven to be successful throughout the district and are a wonderful way to encourage parent involvement. IMS Principal Abel Jaimes reported to us that some 400 parents participated in his school's student-led conferences just last week!

Again, what a great way to involve everyone in the learning process – teachers, parents, and most importantly, students.



Immokalee Bulletin

Serving Immokalee, Ave Maria and Eastern Collier County

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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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- 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.

Chamber

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continuing to 2 a.m., residents are asked to come celebrate Immokalee's southside businesses at a big block party on 802-804 Boston Ave, directly in front of Chili Caliente. Enjoy tasting ethnic foods from food vendors, check out the crafts, informational booths and great entertainment by ethnic bands.

You can become a vendor by calling the chamber at 239-657-3237. Food vendors \$50, craft vendors \$25.

Other dates to remember: Harvest Festival April 12 Harvest Jr./Sr. Queen Pageant and Saturday, April 13, with the grand parade and festival. Schools in particular are being asked to participate this year.

Doors open for the pageant at 6 p.m. Advance tickets \$5; \$7 at the door. Kids under six admitted free.

The grand parade begins at 11:30 a.m.. Before the parade the Immokalee Literacy 5K Run & Ride heads down the parade route beginning at the corner of 9th Street, down Main Street, left on Jerome St., and ending at the Airport Park.
Gate admission for the



Cherryle Thomas

festival will be \$3 and parking is free.

For more information contact Event Chair Mariela Pena 239-557-1792 mepna@fcg1923.com; Co-Chair/Ex. Dir. Danny Campos 239-657-3237 dboi00@gmail.com or Chamber President Bernardo Barnhart 239-229-3697 bbarnhart@fct1923.com.

Proceeds benefit the Immokalee Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund for six graduating IHS seniors.

In other news: the Immokalee Seminole Casino is getting ready to put on its Carnival in the Sky with the largest fireworks display in Florida Saturday, January 26. It will be free for all and begins at 8:30 p.m.

Folks can start the day at Ave Maria's Steak Cook-off, then wind up their day at the fireworks.

Also, the chamber is in partnership with the Third Annual Immokalee Run and Ride to benefit the Family Literacy Academy of Immokalee. The event will be April 13 and 14. For information on helping sponsor the event call 239-657-2398.

Fred Thomas continued extolling Immokalee's possible future as a hub for industry and tourism. Within just a 2.5 mile drive from so many population centers, he reminded members that Immokalee has a bright future to be worked toward.

President Barnhart mentioned that the chamber is looking for a small bus to retrofit for Immokalee tours to such attractions as Lake Trafford Marina, the Farmers Market and the racetrack.

Little League information

Register early, save \$100

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 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. Register at the Immokalee Little League Park, Monday through Friday between the

hours of 6-8 p.m.

We are still looking for coaches and volunteers.

For the ages of 9 to 16 years of age, make sure you bring three proofs of residency with the same address.

All utilities will be considered as one (water, electric, gas, 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.

Career Corner

New Year's Resolution

by Matt Kindermann

Common News Year's resolutions include dieting, so that we can fit in to our teenager's clothes, or changing jobs, because we are determined to never having to work another holiday. While eating healthy and enjoying life are noble goals, also consider a reoccurring goal to learn something new. The State of Florida projects labor needs eight years ahead. State statisticians regularly call employers of all sizes and in all industries, they ask a series of questions designed to gauge the labor needs and hiring sentiments and use the information to publish annual reports that entities like colleges use to forecast what educational or vocational programs they should support. You can find the 2012 Occupations in Demand list at www.swflworks.org/job-seekers/occupations-in-demand with links to local training programs.



Matt Kindermann

A school environment is not for everyone. Many Baby Boomers do not care to attend the same programs that Millennials attend, as many training programs today are web-based verse traditional brick and mortar classroom instruction. No matter your generation, or feelings toward receiving training at a college, there are many op-

tions available for everyone. For example, one occupation in demand is Optometry Assistant where the training does not involve a traditional classroom but can be achieved through Vocational Certification at schools such as Edison State College through their Continuing Education department at <http://www.edison.edu/ce>.

Other ways to learn include on-line training, which most schools offer and is the learning type of the future. For the in-demand occupation of Health Information Technicians, the people who manage medical records and reconcile insurance payments, schools like Southwest Florida College offers both certificates and associate degrees where the learning takes place in the classroom, on-line, or both at <http://www.swfc.edu>.

The beauty about many of these academic training programs, unlike some vocational programs, is that you do not have to commit to attending full time. If you can only afford the time and tuition to take one class at a time, then do that. Every little bit helps and once you have passed a college level class you never have to take that class again. In Florida during 2011, the average high school graduate earned \$33,176 annually, and faced a 9.4% unemployment rate. Associate degree graduates earned \$39,936 annually, and only faced a 6.8% unemployment rate collectively. Better still, Bachelor degree holders earned an average of \$54,756 annually and only faced a 4.9% unemployment amongst themselves.

Umpire clinic

If you are interested in being a Little League volunteer to umpire, there will be an umpire clinic held in Bonita Springs on Saturday, February 16, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. There will be no charge for the clinic and will be

available from the age of 16 years old and up. Please call at the numbers provided. A form needs to be filled out. William Trevino III 239-324-3072, Juan Garcia 239-628-2549, Hector Ramos 239-564-9645 or William Trevino Jr. 239-324-3075.

Medical class available

iTECH is pleased to announce the opening of a brand new Medical Billing and Coding class to begin on or about March 1st of this year.

This 1,000 hour training program gives students a certificate of completion and prepares them to be nationally certified as

a biller/coder. This course is also eligible for Pell Scholarship funding.

Also, please welcome the school's newest instructor, Donna Jolly, who comes from Georgia with several years of teaching experience in Medical Billing and Coding.

Help needed for bereaved family

Recently, Immokalee High School lost a student who died of an apparent heart attack while participating in the Special Olympics Golf Tournament this past Saturday. The Immokalee Technical Center is assisting by setting up a bereavement account to collect

money for the family to assist them in this time of sadness.

If you wish to contribute to this, please send funds made out to the Immokalee Technical Center, noting Canuto Bereavement in the memo section.

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Flu vaccinations now available statewide

TALLAHASSEE – Though flu season has already started, the Florida Department of Health encourages unvaccinated residents and visitors to get vaccinated against influenza (flu). Compared with most other viral respiratory infections, such as the common cold, influenza infection often causes a more severe illness, and at times can lead to death.

“It is not too late to get vaccinated against the flu, and we encourage anyone age six months and older to get a flu shot,” said State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health Dr. John Armstrong. “Influenza A is the most common flu type in Florida this season and is countered by the vaccine.”

Be sure to watch for symptoms of the flu, such as headache, fever, a severe cough, runny nose or body aches. Contact your primary care physician or a local hospital immediately if symptoms appear. This is particularly important for people at high risk for serious complications from flu. For those with the flu, antiviral medication may shorten both the duration and severity of illness.

The Florida Department of Health urges the following preventive steps for the flu:

- Get vaccinated EVERY YEAR because as the flu types change, the vaccine changes.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, because germs spread this way.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- If you are sick with flu-like illness, contact your primary care physician to determine whether you need antiviral medication. Stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone (except to get medical care or for other necessities).

To locate flu vaccine, contact your County Health Department at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/chdsitelist.htm>.

DOH protects, promotes and improves the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at @HealthyFla and on Facebook. For news story ideas, interviews, videos and more from DOH Communications visit the DOH Online Newsroom.

Gripe vacunas disponibles en la actualidad en todo el estado

TALLAHASSEE - Aunque la temporada de gripe ya ha comenzado, el Departamento de Salud de Florida exhorta a los residentes no vacunados y visitantes a que se vacunen contra la influenza (gripe). En comparación con la mayoría de otras infecciones respiratorias virales, como el resfriado común, infección de la influenza a menudo causa una enfermedad más grave, y en ocasiones puede conducir a la muerte.

“No es demasiado tarde para vacunarse contra la gripe, y animamos a cualquier persona de seis meses y mayores a vacunarse contra la gripe,” dijo el Cirujano General del Estado y el Secretario de Salud Dr. John Armstrong. “La gripe A es el tipo más común de gripe en Florida esta temporada y es contrarrestado por la vacuna.”

Asegúrese de ver a los síntomas de la gripe, tales como dolor de cabeza, fiebre, tos severa, secreción o dolor en el cuerpo. Comuníquese con su médico de atención primaria o un hospital local inmediatamente si aparecen los síntomas. Esto es particularmente importante para las personas con alto riesgo de sufrir complicaciones graves por la gripe. Para los que tienen la gripe, los medicamentos antivirales pueden acortar la duración y severidad de la enfermedad.

El Departamento de Salud insta a los siguientes pasos preventivos para la gripe:

- Hágase vacunar cada año debido a que hay cambio en los tipos de gripe, y cambios de vacunas.
- Lávese las manos a menudo con agua y jabón. Si el jabón y el agua no están disponibles, use un desinfectante para manos a base de alcohol.
- Evite tocarse los ojos, la nariz y la boca, ya que los gérmenes se propagan de esta



manera.

- Evite el contacto cercano con personas enfermas.
- Cúbrase la nariz y la boca con un pañuelo desechable cuando tosa o estornude. Tire el pañuelo a la basura después de usarlo.
- Si usted está enfermo con síntomas de gripe, llame a su médico de atención primaria para determinar si usted necesita medicamentos antivirales. Quédese en su casa durante al menos 24 horas después de que la fiebre haya desaparecido (excepto para recibir atención médica o para otras necesidades).

Para localizar la vacuna contra la gripe, comuníquese con el Departamento de Salud del Condado de <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/chdsitelist.htm>.

DOH protege, promueve y mejora la salud de todos los habitantes de Florida a través integrado estatales, del condado y de los esfuerzos de la comunidad.

Siga con nosotros en Twitter en @ HealthyFla y en Facebook. Para obtener ideas para historias de noticias, entrevistas, videos y más de Comunicaciones DOH DOH visite la Sala de prensa online.

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TIF Charity Classic Pro-Am raises funds for Immokalee youth

NAPLES, Fla. (Jan. 15, 2013) – Twenty-four of the world's greatest golfers paired up with Naples' most philanthropic players to participate in The Immokalee Foundation's seventh annual Charity Classic Pro-Am, hosted by Bay Colony Golf Club in Naples. The day included breakfast and golf demonstrations, followed by a shotgun start. The scramble format paired players with a different pro for each nine holes. An awards luncheon was held immediately following the tournament. Proceeds benefited the youth of Immokalee through The Immokalee Foundation's educational programs.

It was a day filled with winners – both on and off the course. The tournament raised more than \$300,000, making it one of Southwest Florida's most successful charity golf tournaments. Coupled with the Charity Classic Celebration fundraising dinner and auction, both events raised more than \$1.5 million for the nonprofit organization.

The team of Steve Kirkpatrick, Dave Reed, Howard Crossman and Jodie Gloré – playing with golf pro Brad Bryant – took first

place at the golf tournament. The group was awarded the Rick Kletjian Memorial Trophy, named in honor of the late Rick Kletjian, an early supporter of TIF's Take Stock in Children program.

However, the foursome wasn't the only group that walked away victorious. Several TIF students had the opportunity to play alongside an impressive group of professionals such as Russ Cochran, Brad Bryant, Gene Sauers, Chip Beck, Michael Bradley, Mike Hulbert, Craig Perks, Steve Flesch, Blaine McCallister, Wayne Levi, Frank Nobilo, Cindy Rarick, Kris Tschetter, Curt Byrum, Belen Mozo, Terry-Jo Myers, Michelle McGann and more.

Kevin Johnson with Morgan Stanley Private Wealth Management and co-chair of the Charity Classic Pro-Am said Mark Lye, a PGA Tour professional and Golf Channel analyst, not only plays in the tournament, but also deserves recognition for the important role he plays in the success of the tournament year after year. For years, Lye has recruited professionals from the LPGA, PGA

Tour, Champions Tour and Nationwide Tour to participate in the tournament.

"This event would not be where it is today without the tremendous support of Mark and his wife, Lisa, as well as our sponsors, 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 2012 Charity Classic Celebration and Pro-Am was Kevin Johnson and Wayne Meland with Morgan Stanley Private Wealth Management. Additional sponsors were Fifth Third Bank, founding sponsor; and GE Foundation, corporate matching sponsor. Hope Society

sponsor was Arthrex. The Empowerment Circle sponsor was Kelly Tractor/CAT. Naples Illustrated was the corporate media sponsor. The Education Circle sponsor was Jaguar of Naples and Porsche of Naples. Jewelry sponsor was Provident Jewelry.

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 TIF, the Charity Classic Celebration, volunteering as a mentor or for additional information, call 239-430-9122 or visit www.immokaleefoundation.org.

Phone Discounts Available To CenturyLink Customers

The Florida Public Utility Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$19.50 per month and business services are \$28.00-\$32.50 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in a government benefit program (Lifeline) to make residential telephone service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the FCC and state commissions. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone per household, which can be either a wireline or wireless telephone. A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain Lifeline telephone service can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

Lifeline eligible subscribers may also qualify for reliable home high-speed Internet service up to 1.5Mbps for \$9.95* per month for the first 12 months of service. Further details are available at centurylink.com/internetbasics.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-800-201-4099 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.

***CenturyLink Internet Basics Program** – Residential customers only who qualify based on meeting income level or program participation eligibility requirements, and requires remaining eligible for the entire offer period. First bill will include charges for the first full month of service billed in advance, prorated charges for service from the date of installation to bill date, and one-time charges and fees described above. Qualifying customers may keep this program for a maximum of 60 months after service activation provided customer still qualifies during that time. Listed High-Speed Internet rate of \$9.95/mo. applies for first 12 months of service (after which the rate reverts to \$14.95/mo. for the next 48 months of service), and requires a 12-month term agreement. Customer must either lease a modem/router from CenturyLink for an additional monthly charge or independently purchase a modem/router, and a one-time High-Speed Internet activation fee applies. A one-time professional installation charge (if selected by customer) and a one-time shipping and handling fee applies to customer's modem/router.

General – Services not available everywhere. CenturyLink may change or cancel services or substitute similar services at its sole discretion without notice. Offer, plans, and stated rates are subject to change and may vary by service area. Deposit may be required. Additional restrictions apply. **Terms and Conditions** – All products and services listed are governed by tariffs, terms of service, or terms and conditions posted at centurylink.com. **Taxes, Fees, and Surcharges** – Applicable taxes, fees, and surcharges include a carrier Universal Service charge, carrier cost recovery surcharges, state and local fees that vary by area and certain in-state surcharges. Cost recovery fees are not taxes or government-required charges for user-required charges for use. Taxes, fees, and surcharges apply based on standard monthly, not promotional, rates.



Submitted photos
Arthrex sponsored team: Tejash Naik, Mike Boose, Karen Biegel, Craig Perks (pro) and Gary Boesch.



Submitted photos
Winning team of the Rick Kletjian Memorial Trophy: Steve Kirkpatrick, Dave Reed, Howard Crossman, Jodie Gloré with pros Gene Sauers and Brad Bryant.

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Very large 2004 doublewide 4br, 2bath to be set up on your lot or ours. Only \$49,900 includes a/c and setup. This home is a Wind Zone III in mint condition. Call Kenny at 863-675-8888 or 863-673-4325

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Community Briefs

Chamber plans yard sale

The Immokalee Chamber of Commerce, Inc. invites you to its First Community Yard Sale Saturday, January 19, at the Florida Community Bank parking lot 7 a.m.-noon. \$10 a slot. Please call the chamber to reserve your spot today! Chamber Office: (239) 657-3237 or Mariela (239) 692-2178.

Project Graduation

Project Graduation is need of parent support and donations. If you are a parent of a 2013 graduating senior please come and show your support. We meet every second Tuesday at Immokalee High School. Also community members, we need your help in making 2013 Project Graduation a success. If you would like to donate, please mail your donation to 701 Immokalee Drive, Immokalee, FL 34142. Checks should be made out to Immokalee High Schol - Project Graduation. If you need any more information please contact Floreida Ocanas at 239.834.2576 or Veronica Guerrero at 239.377.1819.

Animal Clinic to be held in Immokalee

Volunteer Services for Animals, Inc., a Naples-based not for profit agency is coming to Immokalee on Saturday, January 26, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Immokalee Community Park, 321 North First Street to provide local cat and dog owners VERY low-cost vaccinations for their cats and dogs. As an example of their pricing, rabies shots are available for \$10, and worming for \$5. They also provide vouchers for low-cost spay/neuter services. County representatives will also be available to provide required county licensing for families who may need that service also.

VSA is a volunteer organization serving Collier County for 30 years, and operates through the contributions of anonymous donors who care about animals. You may reach VSA online at vsarescue@aol.com, or by calling 239.261.4768/290.6274.

Bookkeeping workshop

The key to a successful business is good record keeping. Learn how to get timely and accurate bookkeeping information including cash vs. accrual accounting, proper accounting data flow processes, accounting records and files, the cart of accounts, the puprose of different financial reports and more.

Understand the components of business, the importance and purpose of bookeeping, budgeting and financial reports, accounting and bookeeping terminology. Learn how to keep your business books organized Saturday, January 26, 10 am.-noon at the IMMBIZ office, 1320 N. 15th Street. Pre-registration required.

Volunteer tax assistance

Get all the money back you deserve. If you learned less than \$49,000 in 2012, you may be eligible for up to \$5,186 in Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit and free e-file and tax preparation. Bring proof of identificatin, social security cards, birth dates

for you, your spouse and dependents, W-2, W-2-G and 1099-R statements, interest and dividend statements, a copy of last year's Federal and State returns if available, bank routing and account numbers for direct deposit and total paid for day care provider and day care provider taxpayer ID number. Come to Catholic Charities Guadalupe Social Services, 211 South 9th St. Wednesdays 6-9 p.m. and Saturdays 10 am.-2 p.m.

Asistencia de declaracion de impuestos

Asistencia voluntaria de declaracion de impuestos. Toma el dinero que has ganado.

Recibe todo el dinero que usted se merece. Si usted gano menos de \$49,000 en el 2012, usted puede ser elegible para recibir hasta \$5,186 del Credito Tributario por ingreso del Trabajo o Credito por su hijo(a). Es gratis la preparacion de su declaracion de impuesto.

Que debe traer para su cita:

- Su identificacion
- Tarjetas de seguro social
- Fechas de nacimiento para usted, esposo(a) y dependes

- Reporte de ingresos y ganancias de sus empleadores (W-2, W-2G, 1099-R)

- Intereses y financia dividendos de su banco

- Una copia de su declaracion de impuesto del ano anterior si esta disponible Numero de su cuenta bancaria incluyendo el numero de ruta si quiere hacer un deposito directo de su reembolso a su cuenta de banco

- El total que usted pago por servicios de guarderia incluyendo el numero de impuesto de la guarderia.

Locacion: Guadalupe Social Services/Caridades Catolicas, 211 Calle 9 Sur, Puerta #7, Immokalee; 239-657-6242 o 813-732-6615.

Dias y horario: Miercoles 6-9 p.m. y Sabados 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Living the call

All are invited to the "Living the Call" Conference Saturday, February 23, 2013 at Ave Maria University in Ave Maria, Florida. Join us as we explore together the calling we have each received as Catholics to live the mission God has given us and to become saints! Speakers include EWTN and Ave Maria Radio host Teresa Tomeo, former US Ambassador and author Michael Novak, Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist, Sr. Teresa Benedicta, Journalist and Editor of Legatus Magazine, Patrick Novecosky and Fr. Dennis Cooney, Pastor of St. Raphael Parish in Lehigh Acres. The cost of the conference is \$50 with on campus lodging available at Xavier Hall by calling (239) 304-7206. Mass is at 9 a.m. and the conference will conclude at 5 p.m. Visit www.avemaria.edu and look under news and events for this and all conference information or call (239) 348-4724 or email conferences@avemaria.edu.

Swamp walks

Get wet? You bet! That's the whole point of the famous swamp walks in the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park. The

Friends of Fakahatchee have spaces available in their one remaining January Swamp Walk on Saturday, January 19.

The walks through knee to waist high waters of the park are led by naturalists who are experts in the flora and fauna of the 80,000 acre state park. Fakahatchee Strand is called the "Amazon of North America" and is home to the famous ghost orchid and many other rare plants and animals. The walks begin promptly at 9:30 am and conclude by 4 p.m. Be sure to bring dry clothes for the drive home!

The Swamp Walk fee is \$70 per person or \$50 per person for members of the Friends of Fakahatchee. The walks begin at the ranger station off Jane's Scenic Drive. The park entrance is on the west side of SR 29 between I-75 and U.S. 41.

Advance reservations are required. To see a Swamp Walk and make reservations, visit www.orchidswamp.org and click Events. For more information or to reserve by telephone, call Pam at (239) 695-1023

2013 ORV permits on sale

The 2012 the 2013 ORV permits for Big Cypress National Preserve are on sale at the ORV Permit Office located in the Oasis Visitor Center. For more information on ORV use within the preserve and permits required for this recreational access go to - <http://www.nps.gov/bicy/planyourvisit/orv-use.htm>

You may also contact the ORV office at 239-695-1205. The ORV office is open from Thursday through Monday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. On Mondays the office is open for permit renewals only.

Steak cook off

The Donahue Academy in Ave Maria announces its 3rd annual Sunshine State Steak Cook-Off and Family Festival on Saturday, January 26, featuring a concert by Casey Weston, one of the eight finalists on the inaugural season of The Voice. The fundraiser for this private kindergarten through 12th grade school is one of the town's most popular events with over 1,200 steaks sold last year. Tickets are now on sale and guests are encouraged to purchase them early as the event sold out last year. Tickets may be purchased at the Ave Maria University Bookstore at 2064 Annunciation Circle, by calling 239-304-7032, or online at www.sssscookoff.com.

The day-long celebration includes a Family Festival beginning at 11:00 am featuring the parade of grills, youth games, silent auction, and live performances by Quest Band at 12:00 p.m. and Casey Weston at 4:30 p.m. Steak dinners will be serves at 5:30 p.m.

For more information, please contact Tom Smith at 239-280-2536 or thomas.smith@avemaria.edu. More information can also be found at www.sssscookoff.com.

Community Friendship Day

You are invited to our First Community Block Party located at 802-804 Boston Ave. (parking facilities of Chili Caliente) February 2, from 6 p.m.-2 a.m. Admission is free!

The south side businesses of Immokalee would like the community to take part in

its ethnic taste-testing Block Party activities. There will be food vendor booths, crafts of all kind and an informational booth handing out pamphlets about Immokalee. You can't miss the highlights of many ethic bands playing the night away.

To participate as a vendor:

You must register with our Immokalee Chamber of Commerce and have your own tent. Cost to be a Vendor.....Food \$50 and Crafts \$25.

No one is allowed to sell beverages except Chili Caliente, Donated prizes will be raffled off every hour!

Please call our Chamber at 239-657-3237 (Danny) for additional information if needed. Danny will discuss set-up times for the Block Party when application is completed.

Business & Service Directory

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Goodwill helps a record number of clients in 2012

North Fort Myers- Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida, Inc. is reporting an increase in the number of individuals served in 2012 through Goodwill's various community programs and services in Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry, and Glades Counties. Over 30,000 people were served during the year- a record for the organization.

"We've seen an increased number of people seeking our services," says Fred Richards, Vice President of Career Development Services at Goodwill. "Goodwill served over 30,000 individuals in 2012. This is an increase from the 23,000 served in 2011."

A program that saw a large increase of individuals served was Goodwill's Job-Link centers, which help people with employment, skills training, and family strengthening. Services range from resume creation and job placement to financial planning and referrals to other local agencies. 501 individuals were placed in employment through Goodwill's employment programs and vocational rehabilitation in 2012, an increase from the 106 placed in 2011. More than 4,700 new clients came through the Job-Link centers, accessing the services an average of 4 to 5 times.

Other programs and services offered by Goodwill include Goodwill's L.I.F.E. Academy charter school which provides schooling for students with developmental disabilities ages 11 through 22, The Goodwill SWFL MicroEnterprise Institute which helps aspiring entrepreneurs of low to moderate income levels with the skills they need to start their own businesses, income sensitive housing for seniors and people with disabilities, and Goodwill's Neighborhood Outreach program which assists the communities of Pine Manor, Charleston Park, Page Park, and Suncoast Estates. Every one of these programs saw growth in 2012.

Goodwill's numbers also reflect how the community's need for these programs and services are growing. Aside from new clients, Goodwill saw over 136,000 returning clients, or individuals who used multiple services.

Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida, Inc. helps people overcome their barriers to employment and independence in Charlotte, Collier, Lee, Hendry, and Glades Counties. To learn more about Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida, please visit the agency's website at www.goodwillswfl.org.

Immokalee Pregnancy Center, Inc., launches services for pregnancy

Immokalee Pregnancy Center, Inc., opened its present facility located at 1011 West Main Street, Suite 5 in Immokalee on January 5, 2011. Immokalee Pregnancy Center, Inc. provides peer counseling to women and men facing crisis or unplanned pregnancies; free pregnancy tests; fetal development education and abortion risk education; "Earn While You Learn" maternity and parenting classes and a bible based study, "Surrendering the Secret" for women who have had an abortion in the past. All services are confidential and offered free of charge.

IPC is excited to announce that it can now provide free Limited Ultrasound Imaging to its clients in Immokalee and surrounding communities. This significant addition was made possible with the help of local and national Knights of Columbus Councils, as well as support from financial partners of the ministry.

In December 2011 IPC launched the effort to have ultrasound services as part of its service offerings. Fundraising efforts included several benefits, many church presentations and a matching grant from the national Knights Council.

All the funding was secured in the late spring of 2012 and a nurse manager and medical director joined the ranks in early



Submitted photo
Diane Hanson, Director of IPC welcomes Dr. Neal Beightol, MD as its medical director and Rachel Hautamaki, BSN-RN as nurse manager.

summer. IPC wants to welcome Dr. Neal Beightol, MD as its medical director and Rachel Hautamaki, BSN-RN as nurse manager.

To celebrate this milestone and introduce the community to its organization, IPC will host an open house on Sunday, January 20, 2013 from 1-4 p.m. Come and tour the center and meet the staff and board. Diane Hanson, Director of IPC is available for interviews, inquiries and welcomes visitors for tours of the center.



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