

Homerun Harvest Saturday

On Saturday, April 20, Lipman, in partnership with Pacific Tomato Growers, will host the 2013 Homerun Harvest to raise funds to purchase school supplies and backpacks for the children of Immokalee. The free event includes a charity softball tournament and children's activities like face painting, a bounce house, games and arts and crafts. Food and drink tents will provide refreshments.

Come to 321 N. 1st St., Immokalee Saturday, April 20, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

About Lipman

Based in Immokalee, Fla., Lipman is the largest field open tomato grower in North America, providing dependable year-round fresh produce through an integrated network of research & development, farming, processing, and repacking. Farms in Florida, South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, California and Mexico – totaling tens of thousands of acres – allow Lipman to grow and ship fresh produce 365 days a year. For more information, visit www.LipmanProduce.com.

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

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GOOD TIME HAD BY AT IMMOKALEES 2013 Harvest Festival

by Jerri Lynn Merritt

The 2013 Harvest Festival Queen and Junior Queen Pageant took the audience back to the fun filled era of the 1950s. Audience members were treated to an array of fun '50s music throughout the evening, beginning with the contestants' opening number to Rock Around The Clock. Linda Ayer and Cristina Perez kept everything rocking along smoothly as the MC's of the evening with DJ Bad Boy Entertainment.

After the opening was the highly anticipated crowning of Little Mr. and Miss Tomato. The 2013 Little Mr. Tomato is Abraham Romero and Little Miss Tomato is Saidee Rincon. A very special guest, Miss Florida US International Alayna Jones, came home to Immokalee to participate in the festivities and help with the crowning.

The contestants' first competition was the '50s costume competition. The six Junior Queen contestants were first to compete followed by the four queen contestants. The young ladies were quite creative in their costumes - it was like a '50s fashion show from poodle skirts, pink ladies, greasers, soda fountain girls and the elegance of the era as well. It was worth 30 percent of the contestant's score.

After the costume competition the reigning Junior Queen Azariah Howard entertained the audience with her upbeat tap routine to "Rockin' at the House of Mickey". Other guest performers were The reigning Swamp Cabbage Festival Princess Cassidy Pascher and Swamp Cabbage

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Submitted photo/Jerri Lynn Merritt

The 2013 Harvest Queen and court, pictured from left: Kathy Romero, Jaqueline Villa, Harvest Festival Queen Maleighna Cade and First Runner Up Carica Astrel. Maleighna won the most talented trophy with her classical and jazz number to "Carmen Fantasie" by German Classical Violinist David Garrett.



Submitted photo/Jerri Lynn Merritt

The 2013 Harvest Festival Jr. Queen & Her Court, pictured from left: Cartaya Billie, Tania De Santiago, First Runner Up and Talent Winner Elizabeth Hamman, Jr. Queen Jaylen Carroll, Josselyn Solorzano and Jennifer Villa.

Casino bringing balloons back

Seminole Casino Immokalee will bring its 2nd Annual Balloons Over Paradise Festival to the Seminole Tribe Youth Ranch on April 20-21, starting at 5:30 a.m. daily. This celebration of flight will feature more than 50 custom hot air balloons and plenty of fun for the whole family including tethered balloon rides, live music, children's activities, gator wrestling, pony rides, carnival games, art showcase, food vendors, show and stunt kites, classic car show, demonstrations by agility dogs and more. Admission is free to the all-ages festival. The Seminole Tribe Youth Ranch is located at 1195 SR 29 in Immokalee.

The colorful balloons will kick off each morning with an illuminated light show to orchestral music. Festival-goers will be able to walk among the balloons as they inflate for a mass ascension into the sky. Specialty balloons include "Ella Phant," "Miss Daisy," "Sugar Bear," "Sunny Boy," "Old McDonald's Farm," "Spunky" (the flying skunk) and "Planet Earth."

"Last year's Balloons Over Paradise Festival had over 18,000 attendees, and we're thrilled to bring this entertainment-packed weekend back to Southwest Florida," said Jim Gibson, director of marketing at Seminole Casino Immokalee. "There's something for everyone,

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Balloons

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and for the first time, we're offering tethered balloon rides."

Headlining this year's festival on Saturday, April 20, is rocker Eddie Money who will perform his greatest hits including "Baby Hold On," "Shakin'," "Think I'm in Love," "Take Me Home Tonight," "I Wanna Go Back," "Walk on Water," and "Peace in Our Time." On Sunday, April 21, solid gold pop-rockers The Buckinghams will perform. Backing Dennis Tufano's buoyant lead vocals with prominent harmonies and punchy soul-styled brass, the group's "Kind of Drag" became a million-selling pop chart-topper. Other hits include "Don't You Care," "Hey Baby (They're Playing Our Song)," the pseudo-psychedelic "Susan," and the Cannonball Adderley jazz standard "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy." Following will be The Grass Roots belting out their major hits, most notably "Let's Live for Today," "Midnight Confessions," "Temptation Eyes," and "Two Dives by Love."

Event attendees will delight in seeing hot air balloons engage in games throughout the weekend. In the hare and hound competition, one balloon takes off first and is the hare balloon. The other balloons are called the hounds, and they will launch a predetermined time after the hare. The hare will land and lay out a large fabric X, about 50 feet in diameter. The hare will then radio the coordinates to the hounds. The hound balloons will attempt to drop their markers as close to

the center of the X as possible. The closest marker achieves the highest score. The first place prize is \$500, second place is \$300 and third place is \$200.

Children will join in on the fun with pony rides, hay rides, storytelling, bounce houses and a climbing wall. Food vendors will be on hand with Amish donuts, kettle corn, crepes, hamburgers, hot dogs and sausage. Attendees will also enjoy funnel cakes, cotton candy and other treats.

The 2nd Annual Balloons Over Paradise Festival schedule is as follows:

Saturday, April 20
At Seminole Tribe Youth Ranch

- 5:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. – DJ Tommy Tunes

- 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. – balloon inflations, mass ascension

- 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. – cultural village

- 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – children's activities, art showcase

- 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. – gator wrestling

- 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – Indigie Femme Band

- 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. – pony rides, hay rides

- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – agility dog shows, show and stunt kites, British car show

- 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. – tethered balloon rides (weather permitting)

- Noon to 1:30 p.m. – Grayson Rogers Band

- 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – DVS

- *At Seminole Casino Immokalee

- 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. – TPTS in concert

- 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. – motorcycle rally

- 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. – A200 in con-

cert

- 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. – Eddie Money in concert

- 7:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. – balloon glow Sunday, April 21

- At Seminole Tribe Youth Ranch

- 5:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. – DJ Tommy Tunes

- 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. – balloon inflations, mass ascension

- 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. – cultural village

- 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – children's activities, art showcase

- 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. – gator wrestling

- 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – Indigie Femme Band

- 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Hot Rod Show

- 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. – pony rides, hay rides

- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – agility dog shows, show and stunt kites

- 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. – tethered balloon rides (weather permitting)

- Noon to 1:30 p.m. – Grayson Rogers Band

- 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – DVS

- *At Seminole Casino Immokalee

- 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. – Gypsy Lane in concert

- 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. – motorcycle rally

- 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. – The Buckinghams in concert

- 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. – The Grass Roots in concert

- 7:15 p.m. to 8 p.m. – balloon glow

Parking is free at Seminole Casino Immokalee. Tethered balloon rides (weather permitting) are \$15. Pets and coolers are not permitted.

For more information on the 2nd Annual Balloons Over Paradise Festival, visit www.seminolecasinoevents.com.

Harvest

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Festival First Runner up Ashley Curry.

Everyone was thrilled with this year's talent competition. The young ladies really shined as they performed their talents for the judges and audience. Cartaya Billie, daughter of Pete and Vanessa Aguilar, was just lovely as she walked onto the stage in her full Seminole Attire and recited the Seminole Pledge. Elizabeth Hammon sang "Turning The Tables," which earned her the Most Talented Award for the Junior Queen Pageant. She is in the 9th grade at Immokalee High School and is the daughter of Francis Samba. She is also the First Runner up to the new Junior Queen Jaylon Carroll whose monologue "Operator Neverland 911" had the audience in stitches! She is the daughter of Norma and James Carroll and in the 8th grade at Immokalee Middle School where she is active in the BETA Club. Jennifer Villa is an 8th grader at IMS and loves swimming and singing, she chose the song "Happy" to perform for the talent presentation. Tania De Santiago recited a poem she had written from personal experiences and Josselyn Solarzano danced to one of her favorite songs, Cowboy Casanova.

Not to be outdone by their younger counterparts, the Queen contestants turned up the heat with Carica Astrel's terrific flag and dance routine to Michael Jackson's "Rock with You and Thriller." Carica is also the First

Runner up this year! She said, "My goal in life is to encourage young females to be the best that they can be and to strive for success. This competition means more to me than a crown and sash. It's me reaching out to the underdogs." She is a Junior at Immokalee High School and the daughter of Olive Elie and Sonch Astrel.

Kathy Romero slowed it down a bit as she played her acoustic guitar and sang "Autumn Leaves" by Nat King Cole. She is a Senior at Immokalee High School, where she is active in Color Guard and has a 3.5 GPA.

Jaqueline Villa performed "What a Wonderful World" by Louis Armstrong. She is a senior at Beacon High School and loves writing, swimming and singing.

Maleighna Cade, daughter of Pete and Julie Cade, performed a classical jazz routine to "Carmen Fantasie" by violinist David Garrett. Her performance earned her the top talent award and she is the reigning 2013 Harvest Festival Queen. She is a junior at Immokalee High School, where she maintains a 4.0 GPA, is active in BETA Club and is a dancer with Ave Maria Dance Company. Maleighna volunteers her time with the American Heart Association, Kiwanis Club and the annual Thanksgiving Feast held annually here in Immokalee. This lifelong resident is proud to be your reigning Queen and vows to represent her community positively and with dignity.

See more pictures from the 2013 Harvest Festival at <http://florida.newszap.com/immokalee/>

Immokalee Bulletin

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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 provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.



Submitted photos/Rick Heers
The beautiful Clydesdale horses made an appearance in the Harvest Festival Parade.

Thank you!

2013 Harvest Festival Pageant

I would like to thank the following individuals that made the 2013 Harvest Festival Pageant such a success this year. Our beautiful '50s themed decorations were made by Amanda Williams with assistance from her husband, Gerald Williams. Thanks to ITECH for the use of their equipment and space to make them. Our choreography for opening number was done by Sherrie Siers. JR Perez of BadBoy Entertainment handled the sound. Everett Loukonen took care of lighting. Our stagehands were courtesy of the Beta Club and were assisted by Edgar Valle. The IHS Security Club handled crowd control. Thanks to Immokalee High School for use of the auditorium. Yurida Rojas of A Plus Photography was our photographer. Jerri Lynn Merritt, Swamp Cabbage Pageant Director, also photographed the Queens and their Courts for the Bulletin.

The vegetables and fruit for the judges and accountants' gift baskets were donated by Gary Nunez. They are always thrilled to get Immokalee's finest produce. The beautiful floral bouquets were donated by Bernadette and Benny Starling of B-Hive Flowers and Gifts. Bernadette is a past Harvest Festival Queen (1967) and I want to give special appreciation to the B-Hive as they have donated the flowers for the pageant for the last three years.

The guest entertainment was provided by 2013 Swamp Cabbage Princess Cassidy Pascher and 2013 First Runnerup Swamp Cabbage Queen Ashley Curry.

Guest visiting Queen, the 2013 Miss Florida US International Alayna Jones, assisted with the Little Mr. and Miss Tomato awards and the Harvest Festival Pageant crowning. A big thank you to our five outstanding judges for the evening. Cindy Miller, Mallory Allen and Nicholas Tanner, all from LaBelle; Elizabeth Starkweather from Naples and Angel Terry Jones who came all the way from Gainesville.

Our two accountants were Sam Gonga from First Bank of Clewiston, LaBelle Branch; and Josh Hajek from Cohen & Grigsby Law Firm in Naples. Thank you also to our two "dressers" that assisted the girls backstage with lineup, repairing dresses and settling nerves. They were Christine Caro and Rachael Loukonen, also from Cohen & Grigsby in Naples.

A very heartfelt thank you to Azariah Howard, our 2012 Junior Queen for being at every practice, helping teach the girls the opening number and assisting on stage at the pageant. Thanks to Reggie and Sharon Howard for raising such a wonderful daughter! Thank you to all the businesses and individuals that sponsored our contestants.

Since it would take several pages to list all of the responsibilities and work that was done by the pageant committee that goes

into putting on a pageant of this calibre I will just have to say thank you to our committee members for everything that has to be done that no one ever knows about! Thank you, Linda Ayer, Mariela Romero and Cristina Perez.

Finally, a huge thank you to our audience of parents, relatives and friends. You all were so enthusiastic and courteous to all of the contestants, and the signs that you made to support your own contestant were wonderful and so much fun! It is not easy to get up in front of an audience and you were such a help to the girls confidence. Thanks for a job well done!

Joanne Loukonen
Harvest Festival Pageant Committee

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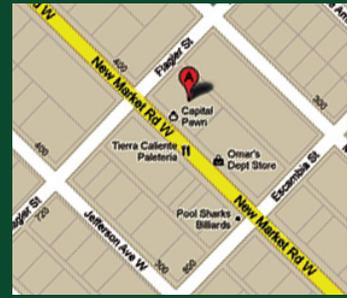
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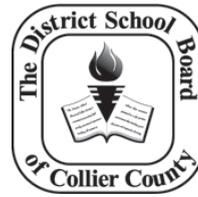
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Students First

By Maribel De Armas

Do you find yourself thinking about a future with a career you are passionate about, not just a job you go to day in and day out? Maybe you want to reinvent yourself and pursue a new career. Or, are you a soon-to-be high school graduate ready for

the next step in your education? If you find yourself nodding “yes” for any of these scenarios, I have a challenge for you. Ready? I challenge you to find your passion and do something about making it a part of who you are – take your future into your own hands. There are many ways to do this, but



post-secondary education is usually the first step in taking on this challenge. Several options are available here in Collier County and one is right in Immokalee’s backyard at the Immokalee Technical

Center, warmly known as iTECH. With a mission to provide rigorous and relevant real-world educational experiences using both traditional and distance learning models in order to qualify students for employment and career advancement, iTECH has career education certificate programs that can make your passions your future. You have more than 15 certificate programs to choose from, ranging from accounting to legal or medical administration, cybersecurity technology to medical billing and coding, nursing to automotive service technology, culinary arts to cosmetology, and so many others in between. You can get a full list and detailed descriptions by visiting www.itech.edu.

I hope you’re getting excited about my challenge and that you’re still nodding your head. If you are, then you’ll like this next part. It just so happens that iTECH has a special week coming up that will make taking on my challenge just a little bit easier. They are calling it “Free Application Week.” During the week of May 6th through 10th, iTECH is waiving their application/testing fee. This means that if you submit your ap-

plication and take the required TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) during that week, you won’t have to worry about the usual \$30 fee. But, you have to schedule your testing appointment soon because space is limited. You’ll have to first visit www.itech.edu to download and complete the iTECH application, then call the school (377-9900) to schedule an appointment to take the TABE. And now you are probably wondering what I’m talking about when I refer to the TABE. You see, our state’s Department of Education requires students enrolling in post-secondary education vocational certificate programs to take an academic skills test such as the TABE. It’s a standardized test to assess your mastery of basic skills in reading, math, and language. If you already have an associate’s or bachelor’s degree from an accredited U.S. college, or recent ACT/SAT/PERT scores that meet the required levels, you are good to go and won’t have to take the TABE. But, if you do need to take this test, iTECH has a study guide right on their website that will help you prepare.

So, challenge accepted? I hope you are still nodding “yes.” Participating in iTECH’s “Free Application Week” will get you well on your way to enrolling in a program that starts in the fall (or even the summer if you are interested in the cybersecurity or computer systems technology program). So, make that call to iTECH today and take the first step to a new career.



Submitted photos/Manny Touron

Newest Soccer Pit Cobras!

These U10 are boys playing in the Southwest Florida Spring Season. Top row from left: Adrian Gonzalez, Elvis Velazquez, Omar Velazquez, Osbaldo Encarnacion, Eduardo Garcia, Eladio Soto. Bottom row from left; Angel Velazco, Aurelio Gonzalez. Also in the top row: Coach PJ Gonzalez (left) and Coach Jose Hernandez.

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Public Notices

Public Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On Thursday April 25, 2013 a public hearing will be held at 12:00 noon at the Immokalee Seminole Reservation Administrative Building, 295 Stockade Road, Immokalee, Florida for the purpose of discussing an application for federal funds to provide supplementary educational services to Indian children. The program is administered by Collier County Public Schools. All Seminole families and the general public are invited to attend. For additional information contact Victoria Soto, at (239) 867-5303 or Maria Longa, Director of Federal and State Grants, at (239) 377-0583. 440928 IB 4/18/2013



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Community Briefs

Entrepreneurial Day

The House of Prayer at 401 S 2nd Street Immokalee is holding a multi-family yard sale on Saturday, April 20, 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m. There will be many items for sale. Come shop and support our local residents in their efforts to earn cash. A portion of the proceeds will benefit our outreach ministry. For more information or to setup a table, call 239-826-7073.

Apply to iTECH free

Get started with Fall Enrollment at iTECH. Schedule your TABE testing appointment now for the week of May 6 through May 10. Limited space available. Act now. Save \$30. Testing times: Monday-Friday 9 a.m. and 12 p.m.; Monday and Wednesday 6 p.m. only; Monday-Thursday 2:30 p.m.

Download the TABE Study Guide at <http://www.itech.edu>. Study for the TABE! Call iTECH for more information at 377-9900.

Breastfeeding mothers group

Learn about the many benefits of breastfeeding, get advice and tips, speak with breastfeeding peer counselors Myda and Noemi, meet and share experiences with other breastfeeding mothers. Pregnant women welcome.

Come to the Collier County Department of Health Room 133 every

Tuesday from 10-11:30 a.m. For additional information call 239-252-7347 or 239-252-7312.

Pastor's benefit

We are having a benefit for Pastor John Bex at New Testament Church in Immokalee on April 20. The church is located between Immokalee Inn and AutoZone, 801 N. 15th Street. We are selling rib, chicken and pulled pork dinners starting at 10:30 a.m, Yard sale starts at 8 a.m. and gospel singing at noon. We can deliver dinners in the Immokalee area if needed. Come by and purchase some great food. If you want to send in donation make check payable to John Bex and send to April Bex Sanchez at 1346 Dupree Rd. Immokalee.

Call April Sanchez at 239-842-1805 or 239-657-7866 for any question or to place orders. All donations greatly appreciated

Sun Life accepting applications for grants

Sun Life Financial is accepting Sun Life Rising Star Award grant applications from nonprofit organizations in the South Florida area that advocate for youth from under-served communities.

Sun Life will award four winning organizations with a \$50,000 grant, who will each nominate an exemplary student to receive a \$5,000 Sun Life Rising Star scholarship towards financing a college education.

The Sun Life Rising Star Awards program, now in its fourth year, provides financial resources to students and nonprofit organizations in large urban school districts that are committed to encouraging under-served youth to continue their education as a means to achieve life-long financial wellness. The Sun Life Rising Star Awards program is the educational

cornerstone program of the Miami Dolphins Foundation organizations which have 501(c) (3) tax-exempt status, promote skills that directly translate to educational success in high school to students under the age of 21 and are aligned with a secondary or post-secondary educational institution.

Applications are due by June 7, and are available now at sunliferisingstar.com

Keith Gainsboro, Elevate, 617-895-7905, kgainsboro@elevatecom.com.

Home Buyer Workshop

The Empowerment Alliance of Southwest Florida is holding a Home Buyers Workshop Saturday, April 27, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at 750 South Fifth Street, Immoklaee. (Light lunch included.) Topics include: Determining the price you can afford; managing your money; understanding credit, getting a mortgage loan, shopping for a home, insuring your property and keeping your home and managing your finances. Registration required. Call now: Angela Johnson 239-658-3325 or Lillie Flories 239-658-3318. Classes are free. You must attend the entire class to receive a certificate. No children preferred.

Taller de comprador de casa

The Empowerment Alliance of Southwest Florida presentaria un taller de comprador de casa 27 abril 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 750 South Fifth Street, Immokalee (almuerzo incluido). Los temas incluyen: Determinar que precio puede comprar; administrando su dinero; comprender el credito; obtener un prestamo hipotecario; comprar una casa; asegurar su propiedad; y mantener tu casa y administrando sus finanzas. Registrar a Angela Johnson 239-658-3325 o Lillie Flores 239-658-3318. Clase.gratis.

AMU plans conference

All are invited to the 2nd Annual Marian Eucharistic Conference at Ave Maria University "Do Whatever He Tells You" May 10-12, 2013. Speakers include; Fr. Michael Gaitley, Fr. Larry Richards, Jesse Romero, Vinny Flynn, Annie Karto and Dr. Mary Healy with a special concert by Croation singer Tacji. The cost per person is \$150 basic dorm or \$180 premium room and includes conference fee and meals. Call (239) 348-4724, email: conferences@avemaria.edu or visit www.avemaria.edu and look under news and events for more conference information.

Summer Programs for Students

Providers of Immokalee youth programs are planning an expanded summer program through GPS, a youth initiative of the Naples Children & Education Foundation. GPS is looking for highly qualified teachers, artists and coaches who enjoy working with students and would like to share their special talents and skills during the summer. If you are interested in applying, résumés should be sent to Jamie Scott by email at jscott@sfwdb.org or mail to 750 South 5th Street, Immokalee, Florida 34142. Résumés should include areas of expertise and fees, if applicable. Note that all applicants are required to complete a background screening prior to beginning work.

GPS programs offer a diversity of opportunities for Immokalee youth in out-of-school-time settings. The new collaboration seeks to improve educational outcomes and provide students tools for life-long success. GPS Summer 2013 is the result of planning by Miracle/Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board, RCMA, Parks and Recreation, Guadalupe Center, Immokalee Foundation, Boys and Girls Club of Collier County, RCMA and Immokalee Housing and Family Services. Enrollment information will be available in May.

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Students learn the work behind playing ball with the Red Sox

The Spring Training home of the Boston Red Sox recently was the site of once-in-a-life opportunities for nine Immokalee High School students and two Florida Gulf Coast University students who job-shadowed Red Sox staff as well as participated in game day activities plus 43 students who attended the game.

The Immokalee Foundation students, with a mission to inspire the underserved youth of Immokalee through education, participated in game preparations and game activities. The experience allowed them to see for themselves what is involved in making a professional baseball game happen.

"It is critical for these young people to have opportunities to witness a variety of jobs that will be available to them when they complete their education," said Liz Allbritten, TIF executive director. "This experience illustrated that baseball is much more than players and coaches."

Upon arriving at the park, five TIF students partnered with Red Sox personnel prior to the game to learn the business of baseball. Participating with Boston Red Sox interns, Regine Francois assisted with event management and Daniel Hernandez worked with community relations. Both were amazed at all the jobs that exist behind the scenes. "Baseball is not just players and coaches," Francois said. "I never imagined how everything comes together to make the game happen."

Hernandez, a junior at FGCU, noted that "if not for The Immokalee Foundation, I would have never had the chance to learn of



Submitted photos
Salvador Preciado with Joe and Dee Zednik.

all the job opportunities."

Junette Desrosier learned the importance of corporate partnerships and watched the game from the control room. Marco Hernandez participated in stadium operations and transportation. Migdalia Pena was responsible for administrative duties and assisting environmental volunteers.

As game time approached, six TIF students warmed up to be on the field. Immokalee High School senior Olivia Tercero-Rafael rocked the park with her traditional rendition of the national anthem. Manson Vilsaint was joined by Lee County Commissioners

Cecil Pendergrass and Larry Kiker on the pitcher's mound, to throw out the first pitch. Christopher Oriz started the game when he emphatically declared, "Play Ball."

Once the game began, bat girl and boys, Monique Williams, Eduardo Sanchez and Jean Baptiste were on the field for nine innings retrieving equipment for the Red Sox and visiting Pittsburgh Pirates.

The unforgettable experience was made possible with proceeds from last November's Charity Classic Celebration Fund A Dream auction. During TIF's fundraiser, guests made dreams come true for the chil-



Submitted photos
Quentin Ybarra and Migdalia Pena.

dren of Immokalee by bidding on packages that offered very specific opportunities to change a child's life for the better. This day at the ballpark was one of the many life, educational and career experiences thanks to the generosity of TIF donors.

The 2013 Charity Classic Celebration is slated for Saturday, Nov. 16 at The Ritz-Carlton, Naples, the beach resort.

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, volunteering as a mentor or for additional information, call 239-430-9122 or visit www.immokaleefoundation.org.



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