

iHope Closed

by Patty Brant
Immokalee Bulletin

Immokalee lost a wonderful asset last May when iHOPE closed its doors for the last time.

The program, began after Hurricane Wilma devastated so many Immokalee homes, eventually providing decent homes for many residents.

When organizer Rick Heers retired First United Methodist Church Pastor Thom Street took the helm. He said organizers were simply unable to make a go of it any longer.

Rent of the warehouse, located near the Immokalee Airport, was expensive and impossible to meet, Pastor Street said, and the location was not very convenient for most people. Members of the warehouse plan could find many bargains for construction and household goods. At one time the huge warehouse encompassed three bays and office space.

Pastor Street said all items from the warehouse were sold off to pay the organization's debts.

The United Methodist Church's

See iHope — Page 2

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

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TIF 2013 Charity Classic Celebration

NAPLES, Fla. (Sept. 16, 2013) – The Immokalee Foundation 2013 Charity Classic Celebration dinner and auction will take place Saturday, Nov. 16, at The Ritz-Carlton, Naples. Donors are invited to follow the “Pathways to Success: Voices of the Future” at The Immokalee Foundation’s 2013 Charity Classic Celebration to support TIF’s mission in providing sustained educational opportunities that make aspirations come true for the youth of Immokalee. The extraordinary evening of fine dining, entertainment and auctions of once-in-a-lifetime experiences will benefit TIF students.

Charity Classic Celebration includes Fund A Dream, a “fund-a-need” unique live bidding experience enabling donors to contribute to Immokalee’s children in a specific and tangible way. Fund A Dream is organized into specific categories that provide students with opportunities to grow, learn and advance, such as attending a College Success boot camp, studying abroad, attending their first professional baseball game, attending career and networking seminars, going to a play, becoming involved in youth leadership and attending a four-year college or vocational school. Donors may even provide students with college scholarships, literacy enhancement, career development, ac-



See Celebration — Page 2 Alex Manujano-Rios and Cynthis Rodriguez at the charity dinner.

Submitted photos

St. Matthew’s House interested in HCI site

by Patty Brant
Immokalee Bulletin

President and CEO of St. Matthew’s House Vann Ellison said his organization is looking at purchasing the old Hendry Corrections Institution site outside of Immokalee to relocate its Justin’s Place, a residence for its men’s substance rehabilitation operation.

The Department of Corrections closed HCI several years ago and the property has been vacant ever since. Mr. Ellison noted that this is just an inquiry - no real negotiations have taken place. He also has concerns that, the longer DoC takes to put the property “on the block,” the worse its condition will deteriorate. In fact, it could destroy the marketability of that property for anyone, he said.

At this time, St. Matthews is only in the process of researching the property.

If anything is to happen with the St. Matthew’s House inquiry, he added that talks will have to be expedited.

No possible cost is known as yet.

Mr. Ellison said that several sites have potential as locations for the program, which requires a remote area in order to isolate clients from the temptations of more populated areas. Justin’s Place is currently in East Naples.

Justin’s Place has several levels of programs, according to Mr. Ellison. The first is a seven month residential level - a soul searching look at the client’s life. At present the program has some 60-70 clients, This is the level for which St. Matthew’s is considering the HCI site.

The second level encompasses the client’s transition, looking toward getting back into the community. This level takes place during the last several months.

The third is recovery. St. Matthew’s House has one of these programs in its Golden Gate complex.

When a client does well and is ready to get a job in the community, they may opt to work as a peer mentor over day-to-day operations at the residential program site. They would go through training and live on-site.

The program would also employ non residential staff.

Mr. Ellison has been with St. Matthew’s House for nine years. A former jail chaplain at HCI, he is very familiar with the property.

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Christmas Around the World Parade and Gala is coming

December 14 - the biggest day in Immokalee - there's only one place to be. Christmas Around the World Parade and Gala starts at 5:30 p.m. on the corner of Carver and Main Street. Pick up an application for the Parade at the local Chamber Office-now! The Snow Gala Entrance Fee will be \$1:00 per person. You must be 36 inches and taller for this one! Please call Parks and Recreations for your vendor information (Leonor@239-657-1951).

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Just get off your floats and come on over to the Snow Gala where the Red Carpet will be displayed and make sure you are ready to strut your costume down our Run Way. To sign up in advance, call or email the Chamber Office with your name

and contact numbers.

If additional information is needed, call Cherryle Thomas (239-657-0080) or email cherryle@FNTJr@aol.com or ecoc@comcast.net, ASAP about the parade. Call Leonor (239-657-1951) about being a vendor at the Snow Gala).

Parade: 5:30 p.m. (across from The Immokalee Seminole Casino) The Gala starts at 5 p.m. at our local swimming pool and ends at 10 p.m.

Theme: "Rolling Out the Red Carpet at Christmas for your Best Hollywood Movie."

All float entries must be displayed on your float - the year the movie was made/produced (this is part of your judging scores).

Pictures with Santa start at \$5.00 (4x6) per person in all our elementary Schools

We have lots of exciting ideas but need your support and participation.

Celebration

Continued From Page 1

cess to technology and experiences to build leadership and life skills.

"Fund A Dream provides endless opportunities for TIF students," said Pete Negri, TIF board member and CCC host. "You can send a child to a prestigious educational summer camp, a two-year vocational school or even a four-year college. It's life changing for them."

This year, Fund A Dream will feature five categories. One hundred percent of the funds raised during Fund A Dream will benefit the category of choice selected and is 100 percent tax deductible. A "super" silent auction, which is new this year, featuring premium items up for bid, including trips to Pebble Beach, Calif.; Linville Ridge, N.C.; a trip to Cabo San Lucas and a Jewelry Dream of Pearls Package provided by Bigham Jewelers; and a day with professional golfer Brandt Snedeker.

During the CCC, patrons will have the opportunity to get to know TIF students as the children share their stories, challenges and will to succeed.

Ticket prices are \$550 per guest; tables are available at \$5,000 for 10. Sponsor-

ship and underwriting opportunities are also available. For more information or to make reservations, contact The Immokalee Foundation at 239-430-9122, email info@immokaleefoundation.org or visit www.immokaleefoundation.org.

Last year's Charity Classic Celebration and Pro-Am raised a combined total of approximately \$1.35 million to fund the foundation's educational programs for the children of Immokalee.

Sponsors of the 2013 Charity Classic Celebration and Pro-Am are Arthrex Inc., hope society; Fifth Third Bank, founding sponsor; Jaguar Naples; Porsche of Naples; Bigham Jewelers; Naples Illustrated, media sponsor; and Kevin Johnson with Morgan Stanley Private Wealth Management. Corporate matching sponsors are GE Foundation and Caterpillar Foundation.

The Immokalee Foundation has a range of programs that focus on building pathways to success through college and post-secondary training, mentoring and tutoring, and opportunities for broadening experiences, life skills development and economic independence. 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.

IHS Drum Beat



All American Selection

Immokalee High School will celebrated its Under Armor All American Selection Thursday, October 3, at 11:30 a.m. J.C. Jackson from our own Indian football team will be honored.



Bulletin

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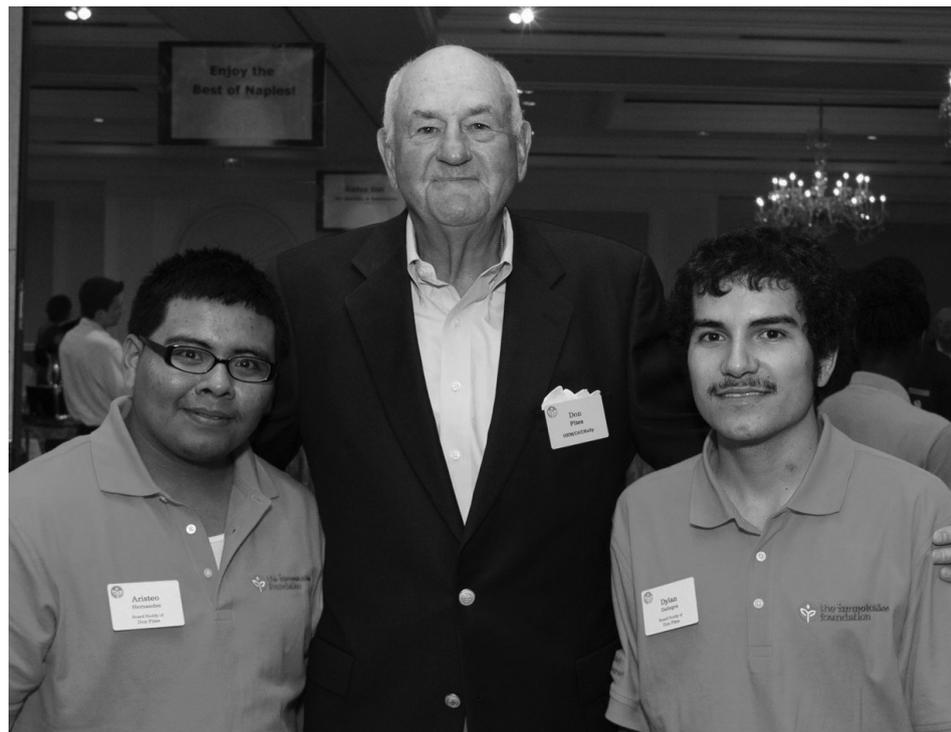
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- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.



Submitted photo

Aristeo Hernandez, Don Fites and Dylan Gallegos at this year's event.

iHOPE

Continued From Page 1

disaster recovery response mission will go on in Immokalee as the church connects with other churches and organizations. They will pull together to face any local disaster, he said, with UMC as the organization's center point.

Resources, such as personnel and donations will be gathered from other organizations, private companies and donors.

Pastor Street came to Immokalee from Glades County where he worked with some

800 other CREW personnel in Hendry and Glades to help people recover there from Hurricane Wilma. He said he spent three years with CREW in Hendry-Glades before coming on with iHOPE.

"I know churches will pull together with non-governmental organizations to respond to any emergencies," Pastor Street said. He added that the Immokalee Recovery Committee will be the starting point to assess needs.

Pastor Street characterized iHOPE as a "noble effort" that the economy just didn't allow to become a success, but promised, "If needed, all will pull together."

Students First

By Maribel De Armas

Every now and then I like taking the opportunity to remind you that if you have a student in your family who is an English Language Learner, you have an opportunity each afternoon to learn what the Collier County Public Schools' English Language Learners program is all about. There is actually a TV show you can watch that's full of the information you need to help your child. It's called Passport to America and the good news is that the information that's shared on the show can be viewed and listened to in three languages: English, Spanish, and Creole. Topics cover just about every aspect of school and home life for students who are English Language Learners – everything from info about the services offered to you by the school district's English Language Learners program, to help with writing, reading, math, and science for you and your child. You will also learn how to improve your child's vocabulary.

I'm happy to share that a new season of Passport to America just started this week with an episode focusing on Collier County Public Schools' enrollment process. So,



make sure to catch the show whenever you have the chance. Just turn your TV on to The Education Channel, Comcast cable 99, at 5:30 p.m. on any day of the week. We start a new episode every month. And, if you happen to be by a computer, you can tune in to current and past episodes of Passport to America online at www.collierschools.com. Just click on The Education Channel icon on our home page, go to the Videos on Demand menu item near the top of the page to get to the Webisodes. Then click on the Passport to America icon to pick a topic of interest.

So tonight is the night for our second Superintendent's Town Hall Meeting of this year's series! We are certainly looking forward to seeing you from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Immokalee Technical Center, also known as iTech (508 N. 9th Street). Spanish and Haitian Creole translators will be ready and eager to assist you. Dr. Kamela Patton, our Superintendent of Schools, will be leading the conversation where you'll learn all about many of the things going on within Collier County Public Schools. You'll also get a chance to ask Dr. Patton a question, if you wish. See you at iTech!

Love your own (animals) and leave others animals alone

The Florida Department of Health in Collier County (DOH-Collier) promotes rabies awareness, education, and prevention by celebrating World Rabies Day on September 28, 2013. With the DOH-Collier investigating over 73 cases per year where an animal bites a human and post-exposure treatment is recommended to prevent rabies transmission, Collier County health officials remind residents that rabies prevention begins at home.

"World Rabies Day provides an opportunity to increase awareness of a serious disease that affects humans and animals," informs Joan Colfer, MD, MPH, DOH-Collier Director. "Rabies is 100% preventable. Preventing rabies is as simple as ensuring adequate vaccination of pets and farm animals, avoiding contact with wild animals, and educating those at risk. We recommend, love your own animals and leave others alone."

Rabies is caused by a virus that people and other mammals can get through certain exposures to the saliva or nervous tissue from a rabid animal and is nearly always fatal without proper post-exposure treatment. When an animal is infected with rabies, the virus is shed in the saliva and can be passed to another animal or a person, usually through a bite. Transmission may also occur if this saliva or the animal's nervous tissue enters open wounds, the mouth, nose or eyes of another animal or person. In Flor-

ida in 2012 there were 102 animals found to be rabid including 59 raccoons, 14 bats, 11 foxes and 8 cats. Unvaccinated outdoor cats are the domestic animal most likely to develop rabies. Because of good animal vaccination programs and human post-exposure treatment, rabies is an uncommon human disease in the U.S. In the U.S., typically 1-3 cases of human rabies are reported per year, 4 were confirmed by the CDC in 2011.

If your pet, farm animal, or any wild animal bites you or someone, you should wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water for at least 5 minutes, contact your physician immediately, and report the bite to the local health department and/or Domestic Animal Services. If your pet or farm animal is bitten by another animal, you should contact Domestic Animal Services, and your veterinarian immediately and have him/her examine your pet and assess your pet's vaccination needs.

DOH-Collier promotes, protects and improves the health of all people in Collier County. Please protect your family and join the DOH-Collier and other community agencies in raising awareness about this serious disease, and the methods for preventing it. To learn about rabies and World Rabies Day, visit www.worldrabiesday.org or <http://doh.state.fl.us/Environment/medicine/rabies/rabies-index.html>.

Negotiations settled for 2013/14 year

Thursday, September 19, the District and the Collier County Education Association (CCEA) settled negotiations for the 2013-14 school year. As part of this settlement, the parties reached tentative agreement on the District's salary proposal to provide teachers with an average increase of approximately \$3,500 on a revised salary schedule. This means that teachers will receive an average salary increase of just over seven percent (7%) this year. The revised salary schedule also increases the starting teacher salary from \$38,198 to \$40,400 which will support the District's continued ability to recruit and retain highly effective teachers.

Using District funds combined with an additional \$7.9 million received this year from the Legislature designated for teacher salary raises, the District was able to bring forward a proposal that provides teachers with a substantial increase in salary. Based on the mutual desire of the District and

the CCEA to reach settlement quickly and avoid delaying salary increases for teachers, negotiations successfully progressed in a collaborative and expeditious manner.

Superintendent, Dr. Kamela Patton, very much appreciates the efforts of both the District and the CCEA bargaining teams. "I am so pleased that we are able to recognize the commitment, dedication, and hard work of our teachers," Dr. Patton said. "We are grateful that the Legislature helped make an even larger raise possible."

Prior to being finalized, the tentative agreements reached during negotiations on salary and other items must be ratified first by the CCEA and then by the School Board. The target date for submission to the School Board for ratification is the School Board meeting being held on October 15, 2013.

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Immokalee Fire Control District earns 2012 Life Safety Achievement Award

The Immokalee Fire Control District was recently presented with a Life Safety Achievement Award for its fire prevention accomplishments in 2012 by the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) Fire Research and Education Foundation in partnership with Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company. The award was announced by J. William Degnan, president of the NASFM Fire Research and Education Foundation.

"When we hear the fire truck coming down the street and see its lights, we know firefighters are responding to someone in trouble. What we don't know is that these unsung heroes are doing a lot of things behind the scenes that save lives," said Alan Clark, assistant vice president of Special Investigations at Grinnell Mutual. "The Life Safety Achievement Award recognizes fire departments for their fire prevention programs that have been proven to save lives year after year."

Since 1994, the Life Safety Achievement Award has recognized local fire prevention efforts that have contributed to reducing the number of lives lost in residential fires. Immokalee Fire Control District is one of 117 fire departments across the United States to receive the award this year for recording zero fire deaths in 2012 or reducing fire deaths by at least 10 percent during the year. In addition, award recipients documented active and effective fire prevention programs as well as a clear commitment to reducing the number of house fires in the community.

Although residential fires in the U.S. account for only 20 percent of all fires, they result in 80 percent of all fire deaths. The NASFM Fire Research and Education Foundation

is committed to reducing that number.

"Experience tells us that fire prevention activity and public education can significantly reduce life and property loss from residential fires," Degnan said. "Prevention and education are very cost effective compared to the traditional approach of relying on fire suppression. The Life Safety Achievement Award recognizes fire departments for their fire prevention efforts and encourages them to continually improve upon those efforts."

About NASFM Fire Research & Education Foundation

The NASFM Fire Research & Education Foundation is a public interest group whose mission is to reduce residential fire deaths and injuries. The Foundation advocates the use of residential fire sprinklers, smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors and teaching people fire-safe behavior. The Foundation assists fire departments with implementing residential sprinkler/smoke alarm programs on a local basis. The Foundation's partners include the United States Fire Administration, the National Association of State Fire Marshals and private industry/associations with an interest in and commitment to residential fire safety.

About Grinnell Mutual

Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company, in business since 1909, provides reinsurance for farm mutual insurance companies and property and casualty insurance products through more than 1,600 independent agents in 12 Midwestern states. Grinnell Mutual is the 123rd largest property-casualty insurance company in the United States and the largest primary reinsurer of farm mutual companies in North America.

Community Brief

Commissioner Nance office open

Collier Commissioner Tim Nance opened his new office in the Immokalee Government Center, 106 South First Street. Regular office hours for Nance at the government center will be established soon.



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- Plus much, much more!

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Immokaleean uninjured in eight-car pile up

An Immokalee woman was uninjured in an eight-vehicle crash on CR 876 (Daniels Parkway) and CR 865 (Ben C. Pratt Parkway) on September 22. at 6:14 p.m. All vehicles were westbound on CR 876 in Lee County.

According to the Florida Highway Patrol report, a 2013 Chevrolet Malibu driven by Julia Marie Wellman, 63, of Fort Myers failed to maintain a single lane and traveled into the inside lane of CR 876, colliding with a 2012 Cadillac SRX, driven by Ronald Frank Patterson, 69, of Fort Myers.

Traveling into outside lane of CR 876, the Wellman vehicle collided with a third vehicle, a 2002 Chevrolet Siiverado, driven by Gregory Paul Hardwick, 41, also of Fort Myers. The Malibu continued westbound in the center lane and failed to stop for traffic ahead, striking a fourth vehicle, a 2013 Toyota Corolla driven by Huy Do, 40, of LeHigh Acres.

The Do vehicle was stopped for a red light. The impact forced the Do vehicle into the back of a fifth vehicle, a 2011 Hyundai Sonata, driven by Brian Charles Kelly, 25, of LeHigh Acres, also stopped for the light.

The Kelly vehicle then struck the rear of a sixth vehicle - also stopped for the light - a 2009 Hyundai Sonata, driven by David L. Keepler, 74, of Savannah, GA.

Vehicle 5, the Hyundai driven by Mr. Kelly, collided left front to right side of vehicle 7, a 2008 Lincoln Navigator driven by Ashley Latisha Sanchez, 22, of Immokalee - also stopped for the light.

The right side of an eighth vehicle, a 2010 Lincoln MKS, driven by Stanley A. Gerwing, 62, of Tomah, WI., sustained minor damage from debris.

Ms. Wellman was transported to Lee Memorial Hospital in critical condition. Mr. Patterson and passenger Sue Carol Patterson, 73, both sustained minor injuries and were taken to Gulf Coast Medical Center.

Mr. Do was transported to Lee Memorial Hospital in critical condition. Passenger Khang Do, 5, was transported to Lee Memorial, also in critical condition. Thirty-nine-year-old Hanh Ngoc Quach, was uninjured and Truc Do, 8, was also taken to Lee Memorial in serious condition.

None of the other drivers and passengers sustained any injuries.

Lisa D. Zack, MD



Brad T. Kovach, MD



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FWC wants boaters to stay safe while tubing

Inner tubes. Towables. Inflatable tubes. All are commonly used names for a popular boating item, and they come in many different shapes and sizes.

“Towed water sports can be a great way to enjoy Florida’s beautiful waterways,” said Maj. Richard Moore, head of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s (FWC) Boating and Waterways Section. “We just want everyone to be as safe as possible when doing so.”

Unfortunately, there have been several recent accidents around the state in which passengers on a towable device struck an object, such as a dock, channel marker, piling or other boat. Last year, five people were injured and two were killed during these types of accidents.

The FWC says these and other accidents can be prevented through a few key precautions, including one particularly important one.

“When you are operating a boat that is towing passengers on a tube or something similar, their fate is in your hands,” Moore said. “They are not able to steer themselves in a safe direction and must rely on you to keep them safe. The main safety consideration is keeping them away from all other objects.”

Although there is no required specific distance to keep away from fixed objects or other boats, operators should not pull the tuber close enough to anything where there is risk of collision.

Doing so could not only result in a citation but, more importantly, it puts the life of

the person being towed in jeopardy.

“A good rule of thumb is this: Twice the line should be fine,” Moore said. “If you consider the length of your towline and are diligent in keeping your boat at least two lengths of your towline away from all boats and other objects, you are much more likely to provide your riders with an enjoyable, safe time on the water.”

The FWC says that these additional safety tips are very important as well:

- Any riders being towed behind a vessel are required to wear a life jacket; however, it cannot be the inflatable style.

- The boat operator must have another person onboard who can observe the rider(s) being towed and alert the operator of any issues. In place of the observer, the operator may use appropriate wide-angle rear-view mirrors. However, the safest bet is to use a “spotter” or observer. That way, the operator can concentrate on driving the boat and pay attention to what is in front of and around him or her. The spotter has a much better ability to watch the person being towed.

- Boaters may pull riders on towable water sport items only during the day – from a half-hour before sunrise until a half-hour past sunset.

The FWC wants to ensure that boaters can enjoy all that Florida’s waterways have to offer. For more boating information, go to MyFWC.com/Boating and click on “Boating Regulations” or “Safety & Education.”



Submitted photo

The Kountry Kitchen’s facade was remodeled and rebuilt with the help of a facade grant from the Immokalee Community Redevelopment Agency.

Remodeled showing a new facade but the same great food

With all the construction and revitalization taking place in Immokalee it’s hard to believe anyone finds time to eat.

But Abey’s Kountry Kitchen knows hardy appetites are the norm in this community, not the exception and the long-popular spot for down home cookin’ has changed with the times.

The Kountry Kitchen, located at the corner of New Market Road and Nixon Drive opened last year an entirely new restaurant - with the same flavorful menu - on the same spot as the current restaurant and renovat-

ed the “old” restaurant into a banquet hall for parties and weddings, quinceaneras and all sorts of festive gatherings.

The “old” building’s facade was remodeled and rebuilt with the help of a facade grant from the Immokalee Community Redevelopment Agency. Collier County commissioners approved September 10 the reimbursed facade grant.

The Kountry Kitchen is available online through Urban Spoon and on Yelp, two popular online restaurant referral and geolocation platforms.

iTECH hosts second school town hall meeting tonight

Dr. Kamela Patton’s series of Superintendent’s Town Hall Meetings will continue on Thursday (September 26) at the Immokalee Technical Center (508 N. 9th Street, Immokalee). The meeting will be held from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Spanish and Haitian Creole translation services will be available.

Topics of discussion will include BYOD (Bring Your Own Device), STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), workforce education, and the B-fit wellness campaign. Dr. Patton will also share the district’s 2014-2016 Strategic Plan, as well as steps taken to promote safety and mental health awareness. Plus, with networked laptops available at each meeting location, parents will have an opportunity to receive technical assistance in setting up their Parent Portal access and authorizing their child(ren) to participate in BYOD.

A question-and-answer period is planned for each meeting. Questions will be accepted the evening of each meeting, but you may submit a question in advance by visiting www.collierschools.com. Click on the “Ask the Superintendent” link under Community

Input Requested on the right of the page or send your question directly to question@collierschools.com.

To learn more, call the Communications & Community Engagement Dept at 377-0180, or e-mail to info@collierschools.com.

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WEDDING
JOSEPH W. EXAMPLE & JANE A. ILLUSTRATION
Joseph W. Example and Jane A. Illustration were united in marriage on September 10, 2013, in a beautiful ceremony at the St. John's Episcopal Church. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Example and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jane Illustration. The couple will be celebrating their first anniversary on September 10, 2014.

BIRTHDAY
SUSAN A. EXAMPLE
Susan A. Example was born on 09/26/13 at 11:15 a.m. in Immokalee, Florida. She weighed 8 lbs 10 oz and was 20 inches long. Her mother is Mrs. Jane Example and her father is Mr. John Example.

ACHIEVEMENT
ALEX EXAMPLE
Alex Example has been named the recipient of the 2013-2014 National Merit Scholarship. Alex is a student at the State Central High School in Newberry, Florida.

ANNIVERSARY
JOSEPH W. EXAMPLE & SALLY A. EXAMPLE
Joseph W. Example and Sally A. Example were united in marriage on September 10, 2013, in a beautiful ceremony at the St. John's Episcopal Church. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Example and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jane Illustration. The couple will be celebrating their first anniversary on September 10, 2014.

BIRTHDAY
SALLY A. EXAMPLE
Sally A. Example was born on 09/26/13 at 11:15 a.m. in Immokalee, Florida. She weighed 8 lbs 10 oz and was 20 inches long. Her mother is Mrs. Jane Example and her father is Mr. John Example.

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Announcements

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

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

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Pay no more than 30% of your households adjusted monthly income for rent and utilities.

Call Rental Office at 657-2009 Mon-Fri, 8:00AM-5:00PM 2693 Marianna Way, #308 (TDD 1-800-955-8771) Equal Housing Opportunity Provider & Employer

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

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

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

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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.

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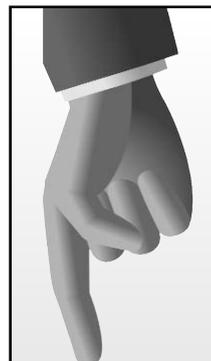
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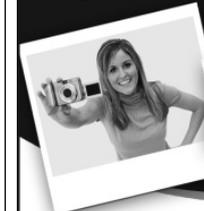


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Community Briefs

Spaghetti dinners for sale

Immokalee Chamber President Bernardo Barnhart and his assistant-Mariela Romero have been very busy with their change of career positions and new location, they are now ready to get back into the saddle with our monthly community spaghetti dinners for the sole purpose of fundraising for Immokalee Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Funds. We need your community support.

The Immokalee Chamber of Commerce will be selling spaghetti dinners for \$10 per plate on September 27, at our local Chamber Office, 1390 North 15th Street. The spaghetti dinner will be prepared by the first place winner of our Chamber of Commerce Meatball Cook-off. The menu: Home made spaghetti with meatballs and sauce, Famous Immokalee Salad, hot garlic bread, oineapple-upside cake. If you purchase five dinners or more, we will deliver! Tickets go on sale now! Serving 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on September 27. This fundraiser will benefit IHS Athletic Department.

Please call Cherryle Thomas 239-657-0080 or the Chamber Office @239-657-3237 to reserve your dinner ticket.

Participate in Wellness Day

Immokalee Wellness Day is set for Saturday, October 1, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Collier County Health Department, 419 North 1st Street. This event provides health screenings for residents and information about locally available services including after school programs, educational opportunities, affordable housing, health resources, legal services and job training programs. To set up a booth, bring your own display table and chairs for staff. There will be outside space between the library and the health department. To register submit the following information by September 27: Agency name, contact name, address, phone and email address to: Empowerment Alliance of Southwest Florida, Attn. Dottie Cook, Phone 239-658-3315 Fax 800-619-7317 email east@earthlink.net.

iTECH class open

Machining class, 1500 hours, Monday-Friday 9 am.-2:15 p.m. Class begins on or around December 2, 2013 at the Immokalee Technical Center, 508 North 9th Street,

(239) 377-9900. Program supported by: Arthrex, US Sugar, Haynes Corporation, Shaw Development. For more information about our graduation rates, costs and other important information, please visit our website at http://www.itech.edu/gainful_employment.html

IWSD meeting postponed

The regular board meeting for the Immokalee Water & Sewer District scheduled for September 18, 2013 at 3:30 p.m. has been rescheduled for September 27, 2013 at 3:30 p.m., due to a lack of quorum.

Landscaping

At the Collier County UF/IFAS Extension Office: Saturday, September 28, 9 to 12 a.m.

Avocados and More for Your South Florida Landscape. Gene Joyner, retired UF/IFAS Extension educator and manager/proprietor of Unbelievable Acres (see:<http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/load/flgard/msg110902529107.html>) will give a presentation on his experiences in growing avocado, carambola, bananas and other fruit trees in south Florida.

Hopkins Tropical Fruit Nursery will have fruit trees for sale after the presentation.

Where: 14700 Immokalee Rd. (11 miles east of 75, in front of the Collier County Fairgrounds— just north of Waterways Community on 39th Ave NE). FNGLA CEUs pending. Cost: \$7

Please register at: <http://colliercofruittreesjoyner-eorg.eventbrite.com/>

South Park closed for construction

Immokalee South Park, located at 418 School Drive, is closed. A new community park building will be under construction throughout this summer and fall. Construction is expected to be complete by January 2014.

The new building will house programs such as voluntary pre-kindergarten, after school programs, summer camp, senior programs, arts and crafts, and special events. The building will have classrooms and a community room for residents to enjoy. For more information, contact Annie Alvarez at (239) 867-4121 ext 206, or (239) 252-4449.

After school Nutrition Program

The Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board, Inc. announces the sponsorship of the Afterschool Nutrition Program, a subcomponent of the Child Care Food Program. This program is designed primarily to provide nutritious snacks and suppers to children in afterschool programs. Snacks and suppers are available at no separate charge to the children at the sites listed below:

iGeneration Charter School 1411 Lake Trafford Rd, Immokalee, FL

Community Center 321 North 1st Street, Immokalee, FL

Sports Complex 505 Escambia St, Immokalee, FL

Attention, 2nd Infantry Division Veterans

The Florida Branch of the Second Infantry Division Association will have its annual reunion in Titusville, Florida on October 18-20, 2013 at the Best Western Space Shuttle Inn. All veterans of the 2nd Infantry Divisions are invited. For more information, call the branch secretary-treasurer, Donald Calnan, at (561) 742-5379 or send an email to 2ida.mail@charter.net.

Running Club Comes to Immokalee

The Gulf Coast Runners Youth Team is creating a running branch in Immokalee.

The GCR youth team is open to all young runners 7-17. Most of our members are in elementary or middle school. We train for both fitness and competition year round. Runners have to learn skills such as self-discipline, motivation, and setting and achieving goals. The GCR youth team wants to give every young athlete who has the desire to run, the opportunity to run. If you are interested in joining the running club- there are practices are twice a week, Monday and Wednesday, located at the Immokalee High School Track at 5:00pm. There is no cost to join-get involved! If you have any questions Hugo Gijon (239) 273-3171.

Parks and Rec launches web site

Collier County Parks and Recreation recently launched its mobile web site.

Access www.collierparks.com on your smart phone or tablet to view the mobile device-friendly site. Add the Collier County Parks and Recreation icon to your home

screen to access quickly the information you need to enjoy all the recreational amenities offered by Collier County Parks and Recreation.

For more information, contact Parks and Recreation Administration at (239) 252-4000.

Childcare available

A Step Up Immokalee, operated by Collier Child Care Resources, Inc., provides childcare for teen parents, school district teachers and staff, county workers. They care for infants to four years of age Monday through Friday 6:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. with extended hours till 3 p.m. There is a warm and inviting atmosphere with nurturing childcare providers, free childcare tuition to members of the Teenage Parenting Program. Located at 701 Immokalee Drive. Phone 239-377-1172; cell 239-980-9021 or go to www.collierchildcare.org.



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Champions For Learning announces 2013-14 Board

(September 20, 2013 – Naples, FL) The Education Foundation—Champions For Learning™ is pleased to announce the Board of Directors for the 2013-14 term.

Jim Hoppensteadt, Board Chair, explains, "Champions For Learning is very fortunate to have such dedicated board leadership. The time and talent each of our board members brings to this organization makes an incredible impact as we work to bring our community together to invest in innovative practices that enrich the environment for student learning."

Champions For Learning strives to be the voice of a community that values learning by providing real world learning for students and families; teacher, principal and community engagement; community-based networks; and strong, sustainable financial support.

Members of Champions For Learning 2013-14 Board of Directors are: Jim Hoppensteadt Chair, Dianne Mayberry-Hatt

Immediate Past Chair, John Brooks Vice Chair, Kathy Connelly Vice Chair, Dick Munro Vice Chair, Keith Walker, Treasurer, Brad Galbraith Secretary, Susan McManus President, Carol Boyd, Steve Brinkert, Andrew Buschle, Mary Cone, Lynn Yaeger Davidson, Brian Hamman, Hunter Hansen, Sharon Hood, Jim Lintzenich, Peter Manion, Sandy Parker, Greg Pasanen, Dr. Kamela Patton,

Gary Personette, Roy Terry, George Walters, Jr., Trudy Weisberg

"We are excited to welcome our newest members to the board, who will bring with them a fresh perspective and new ideas," states Susan McManus, President of The Education Foundation—Champions For Learning. "Together with our returning members, their knowledge and guidance will offer tremendous benefit to the organization."

Champions For Learning's Board is happy to share that the foundation has received the coveted 4-star Charity Navigator rating. "This puts The Education Foundation of Collier County in a very select group of high-performing charities," according to Ken Berger, President and CEO, Charity Navigator. "Out of the thousands of nonprofits Charity Navigator evaluates, only one out of four earns 4 stars -- a rating that, now, with our new Accountability and Transparency metrics, demands even greater rigor, responsibility and commitment to openness. Champions For Learning supporters should feel much more confident that their hard-earned dollars are being used efficiently and responsibly when it acquires such a high rating."

To learn more about Champions For Learning, please visit www.ChampionsForLearning.org or call 239-643-4755.

Salvation Army accepting Thanksgiving and Christmas applications in Immokalee

(September 23, 2013 - Naples, Fla.) The Salvation Army in Collier County will accept Thanksgiving and Christmas assistance applications in Immokalee on October 2 and October 3 (remainder of Collier on Oct 22, 23, 24 and 25). Families who registered with Toys for Tots previously should now apply through The Salvation Army in Collier County.

Residents can also apply online at <http://napleschristmascheer.com>. Applicants will still need to register in person with their documentation, but will save time at the "Express Application" line.

"This year we know there will be an increase in requests for toys and food. Just last year The Salvation Army in Collier County helped more than 2,200 children and seniors with gifts and 25,000 individuals received Thanksgiving and Christmas meals," says Major Dan Proctor, Regional Coordinator. "We are grateful for all the community support we receive every year. With that help, we can do everything in our power to make sure that every family and every child is taken

care of for the holidays."

Apply in person at 2050 Commerce Ave #3 in Immokalee:

- Wednesday, October 2 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
- Thursday, October 3 from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm

Applicants need to bring:

- Photo ID – Valid Driver License preferred (other acceptable ID includes Passport, Birth Certificate, School ID or Green Card)
- Proof of child's age – Must bring child's Birth Certificate

- Child's clothing and shoe size(s)

Learn about The Salvation Army in Collier County at www.SalvationArmyNaples.org, on Facebook search for SalvationArmyNaples, and follow them on Twitter: @SalArmyNaples.



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