

2013 in Review

January 4, 2013

Immokalee teachers named Teachers of Distinction for 2012 were: Donna E. Cornwell of Lake Trafford Elementary, Cindy Sans of Pinecrest Elementary and Yudelka (Judy) Ramirez of Eden Park Elementary.

January 11, 2013

Salvador Garcia was named 2012 Employee of the Year: Mr. Salvador Garcia. He was hired in January 2009 and has worked in maintenance of wastewater components, vehicle and equipment repair, repairing wells, facilities and many other types of repair work throughout the district.

January 17, 2013

Charity Navigator, America's largest and most-utilized independent evaluator of charities, gave the Guadalupe Center of Immokalee four stars, its highest rating, for its sound fiscal management practices and commitment to accountability and transparency.

Most Reverend Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida, was to bless and dedicate the new Soup Kitchen at Guadalupe Social Services of Cath-

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Submitted photos/Bill Coats

Mothers of RCMA children assemble tamales in a traditional Latino "tamalera."

Latino tradition restored

Hundreds of people paraded through the darkness, and door after door remained closed.

Finally, one door was flung wide open, and wonderful things waited inside. The Posada, a beloved holiday tradition throughout Latin America, was revived in Immokalee. A new generation of American Hispanics was introduced to a cultural treasure of their parents. And 2,000 tasty tamales waited, steaming, in huge metal pots.

The Posada, staged by Redlands Christian Migrant Association, drew some 300 people



Submitted photo/Bill Coats

Angelina Velasquez prepares to cook Guatemalan-style tamales - wrapped in plantain leaves.

Tuesday to Immokalee Community School, RCMA's K-6 charter school.

For many, the tamales were a familiar favorite, but the festival was a first.

Angelina Velasquez, who immigrated from Guatemala in 2003, had wanted to join Posadas as a child, but her parents objected on religious grounds. So she spent two days with a team of other women preparing tamales at ICS.

"I like collaborating with the other women at the school," Velasquez said.

Even the tamales reflected diversity. Velasquez and other Guatemalans wrapped their tamales in plantain leaves. The Mexican moms wrapped theirs in damp corn husks, and featured flavors from three Mexican regions.

The Posada was part of RCMA's extensive outreach to families it serves at ICS and its eight area child-care centers. Parents who immigrated recently were the experts and taught the second generation how to prepare the traditional holiday treat.

In far too many immigrant families, children rapidly absorb American culture and language while their parents lack the time and resources to become multicultural themselves. English-speaking children grow up

See Tradition — Page 2

I.H.S. earns an overall 'B'

The release of high school grades by the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) comes on the heels of the good news released recently regarding improvement in high school graduation rates.

"We have cause to celebrate today," said Dr. Kamela Patton, Superintendent of Collier County Public Schools. "All but one of our eight comprehensive high schools received an 'A.' That one, Immokalee High School, received its first-ever 'B' and they missed being an 'A' by just 32 points out of a possible 1,050 needed to earn an 'A.' I am happy to report that Golden Gate and Palmetto Ridge high schools received an 'A' for the first time in each school's 10-year history." Dr. Patton emphasized that she is proudest of the work done by our teachers, school counselors, other school staff, school and district administrators, and the outside organizations that provide assistance to help at-risk students achieve. "You can see the results in the school grades today and in the graduation rates released last week, especially those rates specifically assigned to our at-risk student population." Students who scored at Level 1 or 2 on FCAT Reading and Math in 8th grade are considered to be at-risk. The at-risk graduation rate improved for all high schools.

"I am very pleased with how we performed compared to the rest of the state," said Dr. Patton. While 48 percent of Florida's high schools received an "A," 88 percent of our high schools received an "A!"

The Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) accounts for 800 points, which is only half of the 1,600 points used to compute high school grades. The other 800 points (50 percent) of the high school grade is computed by including non-FCAT components such as the graduation rate of all students and those identified as academically at-risk, participation

See Grades — Page 2

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Review

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olic Charities of Collier County, Diocese of Venice, Inc.

Little two-year old Denise Hernandez was 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. Many cooperating agencies and the prayers of many Christians were credited with the safe outcome.

January 24, 2013

On Jan. 1, 2013, Guadalupe Social Services took over a soup kitchen previously run by the neighboring Guadalupe Center.

Tradition

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unable to communicate meaningfully with their Spanish-speaking parents. RCMA, which serves thousands of Latino families across Florida, works to preserve the parent-child bonds. It teaches children respect for their parents cultures. It involves parents in their children's educations and school activities. And it encourages the children to learn Spanish.

"Parents are their children's first teachers," said Barbara Mainster, RCMA's executive director. "They are the most influential people in their children's lives. Multiculturalism ought to enhance those relationships, not get in the way."

The tamalada traditionally involves all family members in preparing tamales. Spices are ground from fresh chiles, pumpkin seeds and sesame seeds. Chicken and pork are boiled. The tamale dough is mixed from corn meal.

The traditional Mexican Posada is a representation of the Biblical Joseph and Mary seeking shelter in Bethlehem. Latino Posada-goers are turned away at several locations until being accepted, when the celebration begins.

Because RCMA receives government funding, it cannot conduct religious observances. So its version of the Posada contained stations where immigration experiences were described.

The soup kitchen, clothing and shower programs are now part of a deal by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Venice as the social service agency assumed a more prominent role in the community.

The community was shocked and saddened by the deaths of a mother and two children. Thirty-three year-old Cecilia Douglas of Immokalee died as the result of a two-vehicle crash at 8:27 a.m. Her two daughters also lost their struggle for life. Monday, January 21. The crash occurred on I-75 (SR 93), at mile marker 88, in Collier County.

Collier Family Farms was to host a Grand Opening event January 26 on their farm in Ave Maria.

January 31, 2013

A comprehensive public awareness campaign began to educate Floridians about their obligation to report suspected abuse under Florida's sweeping new child abuse reporting law, which took effect Oct. 1, 2012.

February 7, 2013

The Archbishop Carlos Garfias Merlos of the Diocese of Acapulco in the state of

Grades

Continued From Page 1

and performance of students in accelerated coursework, and the post-secondary readiness of students.

We are very proud of our high school accomplishments; however, we need to remember the FCAT is the only accountability measure used to calculate elementary and middle school grades. Therefore, we are asking the state to include multiple non-FCAT measures in determining the grades of these schools.

While Everglades City School, a kindergarten through grade 12 school, is classified as a high school by the state for school grading purposes, it did not have the minimum number of students required to calculate the non-FCAT components. Immokalee High School's total FCAT points for Fiscal Year 2011 were: 421; FY12 448; FY 13 456. It's total non-FCAT points were: FY11 477; FY12 464; FY 13 562. Overall totals for each year are: FY 11 898; FY 12 912; FY 13 1,018. It's total grades for FY11, FY12 was a C and for FY13 a B.

Guerrero, Mexico, met with CIW members in Immokalee January 30, hearing stories of the organization's struggles for fundamental human rights and warmly expressing his own support and encouragement to the workers, many of whom hail from the Archbishop's diocese in southwestern Mexico.

Immokalee High School (IHS) BETA Club participated in the 71st Annual State of Florida BETA Club Convention, bringing home multiple State Championships and other honors.

The Indians placed first in the state in the Sketching, Character Skit, and Group Talent competitions; second in Ceramics, On-site Art (colored pencil), Philanthropy, Spanish, and Scrapbook; and third in Wood Working, Watercolor, and Service.

After five years, Penny Phillippi gave up the reins of the Immokalee Community Development Agency.

After rescinding her new three-year contract, the county commission offered Ms. Phillippi a six-month contract, with up to a year to "prove herself" in the position she has held for five years. She pointed out that she had always received outstanding evaluations.

She felt shepherding all the components of the proposed new Master Plan, then working to build consensus on the finished product, was her highest achievement.

February 14, 2013

Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida, Inc. was one of 45 Goodwill® agencies across the country to take part in an innovative program that provides job training and placement services to women.

February 21, 2013

Bradley Muckel, a veteran of the CRA staff, was appointed February 12 as the agency's interim director by the Collier County Commission. He assumed the post in the wake of longtime leader Penny Phillippi's departure.

Mr. Muckel's experience and training in architectural design and project management made him a pivotal member of the CRA team.

He joined the Immokalee CRA in June 2008.

The Haitian Community Group threw a party January 26 to celebrate the second inauguration of President Obama. The group banded together to support the needs of the Haitian people in Immokalee and was

already helping Haitians by teaching them to vote.

February 28, 2013

Hundreds of farmworkers from the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) and their consumer allies from across the state and country were preparing to gather at Jesus Obrero Catholic Church in Ft. Myers, to begin a two-week, 200-mile march to Public corporate headquarters in Lakeland.

Marchers would call on the Florida-based grocery giant to honor the breakthrough social responsibility partnership for farm labor reform known as the Fair Food Program

Immokalee students, Candace Perez and Mariela Vega received an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. along with 15 other Sun Life Rising Star students to take part in the third annual "Building a Grad Nation" Summit, the nation's premier annual event focused on measuring progress in the nation's efforts to increase high school graduation rates and close opportunity gaps for youth. General Colin Powell is the founding chairman of America's Promise.

March 7, 2013

The 2013 Harvest Festival would be led by Pete and Linda Salazar. The Salazars are longtime residents and true believers in this community, freely offering their time and talents to improve Immokalee.

On February 22, Lake Trafford Elementary presented its first Special Olympics complete with a visit from internationally known Special Olympian Loretta Claiborne.

"Intellectually challenged" herself, Ms. Claiborne successfully overcame her own disabilities and became a role model for the disadvantaged.

LTE Principal Brian Castellani welcomed classmates, parents and staff - every bit as excited for the athletes as they were themselves - and introduced their very special guest.

March 14, 2013

Yudelka (Judy) Ramirez, a kindergarten teacher at Eden Park Elementary School, was one of the year's Golden Apple Award winners.

March 21, 2013

Ave Maria University and the AMU foot-

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- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

Review

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ball coaches worked hard during spring break in preparation for scrimmages in Immokalee as well as at Ave Maria University to help galvanize the team for fall football.

One of the strategies the coaches were using to instill team spirit was mentoring.

It was Immokalee's turn to stand up against cancer, holding a Relay for Life event at the Immokalee High School track.

The community was encouraged to join in this 18-hour event, a symbolic journey of the battle for life fought by those diagnosed with cancer and those who care for them.

Soccer Pit U18 boys beat Manasotta by the score of 3-2 with only two minutes left in the second overtime period. The team took two titles thus far that season - the league's Championship and the Region C Championship. The team would be playing in the President's Cup the weekend of April 6-7 in Auburndale as they faced the Champions of the other three Florida Regions.

March 28, 2013

Two young men died in a crash on A Road March 22. The crash occurred at 2:28 a.m.

According to the Florida Highway Patrol, three men were traveling eastbound on A Road in a 2003 Cadillac CTS when it traveled onto the south shoulder into a ditch. The front right of the vehicle struck the embankment and caused the vehicle to overturn. All three occupants were ejected. The driver, Tomy Olivarez, 21, of LeHigh and passenger Epifanio Hernandez, 26, of Naples, died from their injuries.

Jose Alonzo, 21, of Immokalee, was taken to Lee Memorial Hospital with minor injuries from a crash in LaBelle. A LeHigh man and a Naples man died from their injuries.

On March 15, 2013 the \$3 Million jury award in the David Bowdler suit against State Farm Insurance Company was upheld by the District Court of Appeal of Florida, Second District.

David Bowdler was the victim of a Fort Myers car accident in 2008, two days after Christmas in Lehigh Acres.

It was announced that Immokalee's Relay for Life had achieved its goal of \$28,000!

April 4, 2013

Catholic Charities of Collier County, Diocese of Venice, Inc. received a grant from both the Community Foundation of Collier County and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Collier County Housing, Human and Veteran Services Department (HHVS) to provide rental assistance to people who are under imminent risk of homelessness.

A \$40,000 grant was awarded from the Community Foundation and monies in the amount of \$62,490 was given from the HUD Emergency Solutions Grants Program through HHVS.

Dr. Joan Colfer, Director, Florida Department of Health in Collier County was thrilled to learn that Collier County ranked

as the third healthiest county in the state behind first and second ranking St. Johns and Martin counties. In the past four years, since the rankings were established, Collier County has consistently ranked within the top four out of 67 counties in Florida.

April 11, 2013

With 32 years as a firefighter, new Immokalee Fire Chief Paul Anderson understood the complexity of the task before him. Interim Chief Rita Greenberg of Big Cypress shepherded the department through rough financial times in 2011-12 and on March 25, turned over a department ready to take the next step into its future.

Chief Anderson had been serving in the Clermont Fire Department for 31 years, retiring as assistant chief. Previous to that he was a civilian firefighter with the Navy in the Bahamas. Chief Anderson also has 31 years in law enforcement as a reserve or part time officer.

The 2013 Immokalee Harvest Festival was set for April 12 and 13, beginning on April 12 with the Harvest Festival Queen Court competition.

April 18, 2013

Harvest Festival Queen Maleighna Cade would reign over the festival with First Runner Up Carica Astrel, Kathy Romero and Jaqueline Villa. Maleighna also won the most talented trophy with her classical and jazz number to "Carmen Fantasie" by German Classical Violinist David Garrett.

Harvest Festival Jr. Queen Jaylen Car-

roll, was chosen as Junior Queen. Her court included Cartaya Billie, Tania De Santiago, First Runner Up and Talent Winner Elizabeth Hamman, Josselyn Solorzano and Jennifer Villa.

April 25, 2013

The Board of Collier County Commissioners on requested Commissioner Tom Henning, District 3, participate in lease negotiations with long-time business Fletcher Flying Service, Inc. currently leasing a facility at the Immokalee Airport

It was the 35th year Habitat for Humanity provided a path to home ownership to many who would never be able to achieve it. Habitat makes home ownership more than a dream.

At that time, Collier County had funds to build 100 Habitat homes.

The Immokalee Foundation hosted a tennis clinic featuring the Gwynedd-Mercy College women's tennis head coach and players at Immokalee High School. Assisting Coach Jim Holt Jr. and his players were the Center Court Athletics, members of the Pelican Marsh Tennis Club including member Jim Holt Sr., who was also assistant coach of the Gwynedd-Mercy College women's tennis team in Gwynedd Valley, Penn.

May 2, 2013

A 55-year-old Immokalee woman died after being struck by a vehicle on W. Delaware Ave. The Florida Highway Patrol said Marie Francois was attempting to cross W. Delaware Ave. and walked directly into the

path of a 2000 Ford F-150 driven by Jean Mary Estime, 60, also of Immokalee. Ms. Francois was transported to Physicians Regional Medical Center on Pine Ridge Road where she was pronounced deceased. The driver left the scene and returned a short time later on foot. The accident occurred Saturday, April 27.

May 9, 2013

On May 1 people gathered from Immokalee and beyond to recognize Immokalee's own Pete Salazara for yet another first.

Salazar Machine and Steel, Inc., the core business at Immokalee Airport, continued to prosper and even excel. This time, Pete had come up with a new harvesting machine, five years in development.

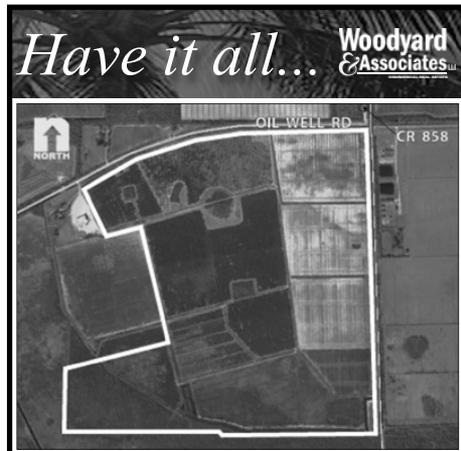
LaBelle's Sgt. Stephen E. McIntyre in the United States Marine Corps, was home on leave from Iwakuni, Japan, and wanted to surprise his girlfriend Erma Sturgeon by giving her an engagement ring at work. The staff at Eden Park Elementary School in Immokalee, went out of their way to make it a very special event, hiding Stephen in a back room as they waited for Miss Sturgeon to come into the office.

Obituaries

R.T. Weeks

IMMOKALEE — R.T. Weeks passed away on Nov. 13, 2013.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on December 28, 2013 at the Richmond Avenue Baptist Church in Lehigh Acres.



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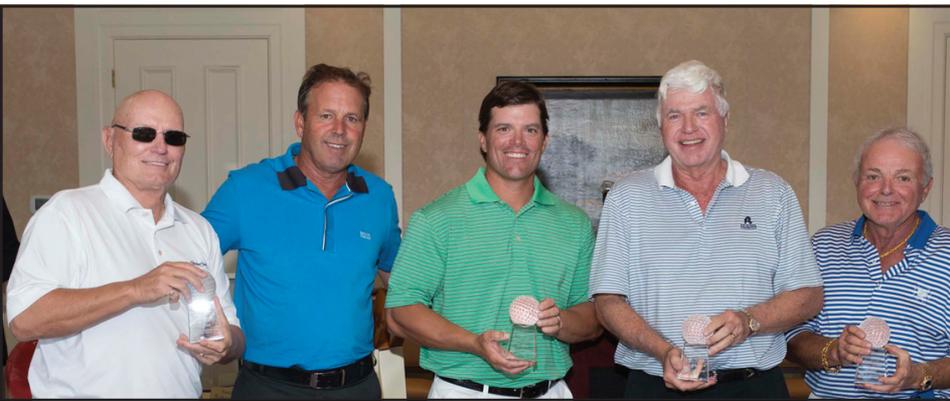
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Submitted photos/Charlie McDonald Photography

TIF Charity Classic Pro-Am

Overall winners: Leo Hertzog, Kevin Johnson, Tom Rush, John Koffel with golf pros Chip Beck and Donnie Hammond.



Submitted photos/Charlie McDonald Photography

First place ladies team: Shirley Hubers, Lori Crawford, Ellen O'Neill, Marie Stonesifer with pros Kris Tschetter and Pernilla Lindberg.

Golf to success with The Immokalee Foundation

NAPLES, Fla. (Dec. 18, 2013) – Twenty-seven professional golfers paired with Naples' most philanthropic players and four Immokalee students to participate in The Immokalee Foundation's annual Charity Classic Pro-Am, hosted by Bay Colony Golf Club in Naples. It was a record year for the tournament raising \$390,000, the most in tournament history, to benefit the youth of Immokalee through The Immokalee Foundation's educational programs. Coupled with the Charity Classic Celebration fundraising dinner and auction, both events raised a record-breaking total of more than \$1.7 million for the nonprofit organization.

Pro-Am event chair Kevin Johnson, with Morgan Stanley Private Wealth Management, is thrilled with the results. "I am always so impressed with this community that just keeps giving. It is so appreciated."

The tournament included breakfast on the patio and a golf clinic by pros Luke List, Michelle McGann and Pernilla Lindberg. "Jamie Sadlowski also hit some balls that just blew the crowd away," said Johnson. Breakfast and golf demonstration were followed by a shotgun start. The scramble format paired players with a different pro for each of the nine holes. An awards luncheon was held immediately following the tournament.

The team of Kevin Johnson, Leo Hertzog, John Koffel, Tom Rush – playing the front

nine holes with Champions Tour golfer Chip Beck and the back nine holes with Champions Tour pro Donnie Hammond – took first place at the golf tournament. The group was awarded the Rick Kletjian Cup, named in honor of the late Rick Kletjian, an early and passionate supporter of TIF's Take Stock in Children program.

The foursome wasn't the only group that walked away victorious. In second place overall was Mike Morris, Tim Dooney, Peter Dreyfuss and Marc Stoll, playing with pros Veronica Felibert and Michael Bradley. Ladies' first place winning team was Shirley Hubers, Marie Stonesifer, Lori Crawford and Ellen O'Neill with professionals Kris Tschetter and Pernilla Lindberg.

The biggest winners of the day had to be the TIF student team, Gerardo Lugo, Charity Gonzales, Alan Cuevas and Heather Martinez, who had the opportunity to play 18 holes with Nationwide Tour professional Eric Booker.

Johnson said Mark Lye, a PGA Tour professional and Golf Channel analyst, deserves particular recognition for the crucial role he plays in the success of the Charity Classic Pro-Am, "Mark is a fantastic partner and manages to recruit an impressive group of professionals from the LPGA, PGA, Champions and Nationwide tours to participate. We've received so much support from the pro golfers."

Having completed his third year as chair of the Pro-Am, Johnson just signed on again for next year, "The Immokalee Foundation's programs make a direct impact on kids' futures. By being involved, we see their successes and hear stories of what they've achieved thanks to the organization. If I can play a small part in raising more money to help more kids, I'm happy to do it."

Sponsors of the 2013 Charity Classic Celebration and Pro-Am were Arthrex Inc., hope society; Fifth Third Bank, founding sponsor; Jaguar Naples; Porsche of Naples; Bigham Jewelers, education circle spon-

sors; Naples Illustrated, media sponsor; and Kevin Johnson with Morgan Stanley Private Wealth Management. Corporate matching sponsors were 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 or for additional information, call 239-430-9122 or visit www.immokaleefoundation.org.

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Suspicious panther death is under investigation

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), National Park Service (NPS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) are looking for help from the public with an investigation involving the suspected illegal take of a Florida panther that was recently found dead in the Turner River Unit of Big Cypress National Preserve in Collier County.

For information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for killing the panther, the FWC's Wildlife Alert Reward Association and USFWS are offering a combined reward of up to \$12,000.

The government agencies are also working with other conservation organizations.

Those organizations include: the Big Cypress Sportsmen's Alliance, Collier Sportsmen's Club, Defenders of Wildlife, Everglades Association, Everglades Conservation and Sportsmen's Club, Everglades

Coordinating Council, Florida National Parks Association, Florida Wildlife Federation, Humane Society of the United States, National Parks and Conservation Association and South Florida National Parks Trust.

Anyone who provides information can remain anonymous by calling the FWC at 888-404-3922, texting Tip@MyFWC.com or going online to MyFWC.com/WildlifeAlert.

"We appreciate the support from a broad diversity of conservation organizations," stated Preserve Superintendent Pedro Ramos.

"We all recognize how serious this situation is and know that working together increases the likelihood of a successful outcome to the investigation."

The dead panther was found with a suspected gunshot wound last weekend.

"The cat was an 18-month-old female that was the offspring of 'Florida Panther (FP) 162,' a female panther that is collared

and continues to be monitored within the Preserve," said Bob DeGross of the NPS.

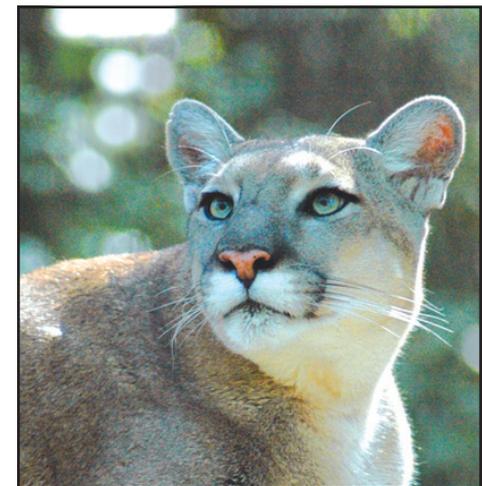
It was handled by NPS staff in the den, along with a sibling male, in June of 2012, when a micro-chip was implanted and it was identified as "K 368."

The dead panther will eventually be transported to the USFWS forensics laboratory in Ashland, Ore., for further analysis.

The Florida panther is protected under The Endangered Species Act.

Under Florida Statute, people found guilty of unlawfully killing one can be charged with a third-degree felony and could face up to one year in prison and \$100,000 in fines.

Anyone who wants to support the Wildlife Alert Reward Program should visit MyFWC.com/WildlifeAlert or contact the FWC's Investigations Section at 850-488-6253 to learn more.



Endangered Florida panther

File photo

Collier County panther territory: Take panther precautions

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service want to remind residents of Collier County that they are living in panther country.

Florida panthers are rarely seen by people. Typically, they live in remote, undeveloped areas. But they also can live in fairly rural areas, like eastern Golden Gate Estates, and occasionally they pass through more urbanized areas where people live.

Collier County residents and visitors need to be aware of precautions they should take if they see a panther and how they can help protect panthers by slowing down on highways with panther-related speed zones. People also are asked to report their panther sightings online at MyFWC.com/Panther-Sightings.

In recent weeks, the FWC received reports of a panther lingering in an area of the Golden Gate Estates west of Collier Boulevard (County Road 951).

The area under observation is relatively small and not ideal panther habitat. The frequency of sightings of this particular panther raised concerns among panther biologists, who are attempting to capture it.

"Over the years, the FWC has monitored panthers wandering into urbanized areas, and in all of those cases the panthers were able to find their way back to better habitat," FWC Panther Team Leader Darrell Land said.

"The FWC will continue to monitor the current panther situation closely and is prepared to take any actions deemed necessary."

If you see a panther, here are some safety tips:

- Keep children close to you. Pick up small children so they don't panic and run away.
- Avoid crouching or bending over, which can make you look smaller, resembling a prey animal. Make yourself appear larger and intimidating by raising your arms and gesturing.
- Give them space. Florida panthers typically avoid a confrontation. Make sure they have a way to escape.
- Do not run. Running may stimulate a panther's instinct to chase. Stand and face the animal. Make eye contact.
- If attacked, fight back. Large cats usually try to bite the head or neck, so remain

standing.

For more on Florida panthers, including a guide to living with Florida panthers and safe roads for people and panthers, go to MyFWC.com/Panther.

People who see an injured or dead panther should call the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922) or #FWC

or *FWC on a cell phone. Another option is texting Tip@MyFWC.com (standard usage fees may apply).

Floridians can support the FWC's research and conservation of the endangered Florida panther by purchasing a Protect the Panther license plate at BuyAPlate.com.

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Auditions will be held at 7pm on 10/22 for ages 10-18 and at 6pm on 10/25 for ages 6-9 at Ave Maria Dance Academy.

NOTE: Auditions are open to registered members ONLY. To register your child and get audition scripts and info go to: www.avechildrenstheater.com. October classes will focus on tips & techniques to prepare actors to give their best audition! A PARENT MUST ACCOMPANY ACTORS FOR AUDITIONS.

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Employment

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Full time exp. house cleaners in Naples area. ASAP. Responsible, dependable and attention to detail. Need to be physically fit and very fast work. One group may do 4 to 5 houses per day. Only serious persons apply. Leave detailed message @ 239-353-0557.

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

Mechanic Needed

5 yrs. experience Own tools Repair grove equipment such as tractors, mowers, trucks. Benefits provided (health, life, 401K) dental/vision at some cost Mon-Fri (some weekends) 7am - 4pm send resume to: dimas margarita@yahoo.com or fax to: 239/369-2267

Semi-Drivers Needed

5 yrs. experience FLA CDL A License Required Background/drivers license check Clean Drivers License Hours & Days Vary (wknds) Benefits provide (Health, Life, 401K) (Dental & Vision as some cost) Send resume: dimas margarita@yahoo.com or Fax: 239/369-7794

Employment Part Time

Employment Part Time

FARM WORKERS

Planting, cultivating and harvesting crops, 39 hrs./wk., 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$10.87/hr. Overtime + 1/2 after 60 hrs. 4 Temp. Jobs. March - mid - Dec. Pine Valley Farms guarantees to offer the worker work for at least 3/4 of the workdays of the contract period. Transportation & Subsistence expenses to worksite provided upon completion of 50% Work Contract. Housing provided for those living a long distance from permanent residence. Tools provided at no cost. 1 month exp. required on tree farm. Call farm, Sykesville, MD (410-795-8314) between 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. for appointment or apply for this job at the local State Workforce Agency using job listing #305094.

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Business Opportunities

NOTICE

Independent Newspapers will never accept any advertisement that is illegal or considered fraudulent. In all cases of questionable value, such as promises of guaranteed income from work-at-home programs - if it sounds too good to be true, chances are that it is. If you have questions or doubts about any ad on these pages, we advise that before responding or sending money ahead of time, you check with the Better Business Bureau at 772-878-2010 for previous complaints.

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

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Sun, Dec. 29, 9-4
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Tele: 239-223-3370
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Handicap Unit Available Energy efficient appliances, washer/dryer hook ups, spacious floor plans, community center on site with computer lab for resident use and classes. From access to Carl Kuehner Community Center educational and social programs. Must be farm or grove labor employed 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



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

Houses - Rent

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



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

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

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

Recreation

Campers/RVs

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

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

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

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

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

Business & Service Directory

AUCTION

Keith's Auto Salvage

Need Parts? We may have the parts that you need! Call Victoria or Janet at 239-657-5741 925 Delaware Ave • Immokalee, FL

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Community Briefs

Apply now for school choice or out-of-zone

Parents – if you are seeking to have your student attend a school other than the one he or she is zoned for, it's time for you to submit a Collier County Public Schools Out-of-Zone or School Choice request. Parents of students who are currently in either program must reapply. Approval is based on space available at each school, and school bus service is not available in either case.

For priority consideration, Out-of-Zone applications must be submitted between December 15 and January 15. For priority consideration, School Choice applications must be submitted any time during January.

You may apply for either application online at <http://www.collierschools.com/parents/zoninginfo.asp>. For further questions or to submit documents:

Email: zoninginfo@collierschools.com
Phone: 239-377-0540 • FAX: 239-377-0506

Mail: Lisa Roa/Student Relations at 5775 Osceola Trail, Naples, FL, 34109.

Enjoy night excursions to Fakahatchee

Park visitors can now see the magnificent Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park in a new light—the illumination of a full moon. The new “Ghost Rider” tram, named in honor of the famous Ghost Orchid found in the park, is operated by the Friends of Fakahatchee. The Fakahatchee is home to more orchid species than any other place on the North American continent. The Preserve is also a haven for diverse wildlife and migratory birds.

Only three Full Moon tours will be offered this season: Thursday, January 16; Friday, February 14; and Saturday, March 15. All tours start as the sun is setting, prime time for spotting some of the mammal residents of the Strand as well as birds settling in for the evening. A naturalist will lead each tour to point out interesting features of the park.

The Full Moon tours leave from the ranger station at 137 Coastline Drive, Copeland, off Janes Scenic Drive. Please arrive early as the tram leaves promptly according to the following schedule:

Thursday, January 16 – Depart at 4:45 p.m., return 7:00 p.m.

Friday, February 14 – Depart at 5:00 p.m., return 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, March 15 – Depart at 6:00 p.m., return 8:15 p.m.

Reservations for the Full Moon tours are \$25 per person and can be made by visiting www.orchidswamp.org

Photo excursions

The Friends of Fakahatchee and noted Naples photographer Dennis Goodman have teamed up to offer a new series of “photo excursions” into Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park. Each unique excursion is limited to 12 participants and combines Dennis’ extensive photographic knowledge with the expertise of Park Ranger Mike Owen. Excursions will be offered the second

Wednesday of each month from January 2014 through April. The programs are designed for seasoned photographers who want to improve their skills.

“We’ll be photographing the best this amazing preserve has to offer,” says Dennis. “Park Ranger Mike Owen will guide us to the park’s best sites each month, and I’ll be working hard to improve everyone’s photographic technique.”

The excursion schedule for 2014 is as follows:

January 8 -- Orchids and plants of the Fakahatchee, 8 am to 10 am. Take a swamp walk into the Fakahatchee to photograph rare plants and orchids.

February 12 -- Fakahatchee Landscapes and Swamps, 8 am to 10 am. Mike Owen will lead group to restricted park areas to capture unique landscapes.

March 12 -- 8 am to 10 am -- Wildflower and macrophotography, 8 am to 10 am. Capture the beauty of Fakahatchee’s flowers, butterflies and insects.

April 9 -- Capturing Fakahatchee Sunsets, 6 pm to 8 pm. This evening program will teach participants how to translate sunsets into striking photographs.

The fee for each excursion is \$115, payable in advance at dennisgoodmanphotography.com. Reservations may also be made by calling Dennis Goodman Photography at 239.825.4677. Each excursion will begin at the ranger station at 137 Coastline Drive, Copeland, FL. From I-75, take exit 80 and go south on SR 29 14 miles, turning right on Janes Scenic Drive.

Want to make a real difference?

Become a VITA volunteer! You can help a family get back the money they have earned and become more financially stable. VITA is a program offered through the United Way that helps low to moderate income persons by providing free tax preparation assistance. We are looking for volunteers to better serve our clients. No experience is necessary and volunteers are provided free training online. Flexible hours are available January through mid April. Taxes will be prepared at many locations in Lee, Hendry, Glades, Collier and Charlotte counties. For more information email Amy Singer at amy@unitedwaylee.org or 239.433.2000 ext. 229.

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.

Community Center 321 North 1st Street, Immokalee.

Sports Complex 505 Escambia St, Immokalee.

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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Submitted photos/Bill Coats

POSADA from Page 1 – RCMA families assemble tamales in a traditional Latino “tamalera” Monday night at Immokalee Community School.



Submitted photos/Bill Coats

POSADA from Page 1 - The traditional pinata is always popular.

Holiday fun

Winter hours for pool

The Immokalee Sports Complex pool, 506 Escambia Street, Immokalee, Fla., switched to winter hours beginning December 16. Monday through Saturday, March 1, 2014, pool hours will be:
 Saturday: noon to 6 p.m.
 Sunday and Monday: closed
 Tuesday – Friday: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Facility amenities include a 23 x 25 meter heated pool, a one-meter springboard, a water slide, and children’s activity pool. For more information, please call (239) 657-1951.

Sun N Fun open for Collier County break

Sun-N-Fun Lagoon Water Park will open up for the Collier County schools’ winter holiday break through Monday, January 6, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. The park

will be closed December 25, Christmas Day.

The park is offering a special discount for the winter holiday break for Collier County residents. Residents with a Florida driver’s license showing a Collier County address will receive \$2 off any entry for those 48-inches or taller (normally \$12). Individuals less than 48-inches tall enter for \$5.50: children three and under enter free. Sales tax added to all fees.

Sun-N-Fun Lagoon Water Park Facility Attractions

- One waterslide drops into the 1,200

foot long Sunny’s Lazy River

- Four water slides lead to a drop pool
- Heated family pool
- Tadpole Pool, a children’s wading water area with a fish slide and more
- Turtle Cove, a pool for children ages 5 to 12 years of age with lily pads and ropes for climbing

Group rates, seasonal passes, and party packages are available. Call (239) 252-4073.

For information about Sun-N-Fun Lagoon visit www.napleswaterpark.com or call the Sun-N-Fun Lagoon at (239) 252-4021.



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