

2013 in Review

July 4, 2013

The 54 IHS Indians making the trip to the 33rd Annual National BETA Club Convention held in Mobile, Alabama, last weekend were joined by about 2,950 students from other schools across the nation. The Immokalee troop was the runner up in the Campaign Skit category. The IHS students also pulled off a fifth place finish in the Spanish category, and came in seventh in the Talent competition.

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers was selected to receive the Roosevelt Institute's prestigious Freedom from Want Medal for 2013 in recognition of our two decades of work on behalf of farmworkers' human and economic rights and the unprecedented advances of the Fair Food Program.

The CRA, now with a reduced staff of three, will take up residence in the Southwest Florida Workforce Development Center, 750 5th Street South, a building known to most Immokaleans as the "One Stop Shop" because it houses a variety of governmental and quasi-governmental agencies and offices.

Collier County Commissioners, sitting as the CRA board of directors, approved the move in May.

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

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Submitted Photo

Luis smiles now instead of crying after reading a homemade book by Dr. Johnson.

Book changes the life of boy

This holiday season, many books will be given as presents, but for one Immokalee migrant child, a very personalized book from the Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida proved to be a life-changing gift.

Eight-year-old Luis is a profoundly deaf child transported to the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile by a home/school liaison for migrant Children. Luis was initially seen by dentists at Healthcare Network's Marion E. Fether and the University of Florida clinics in Immokalee, but because of financial difficulty (his family had no insurance) and the extent of his treatment plan, the Network started caring for him aboard the Care Mobile.

A sign language interpreter was required for all of Luis' visits and at first, he needed extra time and care to address his fear of dentists. During his first exam on the Care Mobile, he was frightened but cooperative. While receiving restorative services under local anesthesia, Luis cried but remained still for treatment.

Luis' reaction touched the heart of Dr. Kelley Johnson, Chief Dental Officer for the Healthcare Network, who saw opportunity to help him address his fears and avoid a lifetime of anxiety regarding dental visits.

Using her home computer and Google clip art, Dr. Johnson made a kid-friendly picture book of dental equipment with cartoon images relating to the tactile feelings associated with dental treatment; like a mosquito bite for the anesthetic injection and an image of a tooth and a shower for the hand piece that removes decay.

The book also included photos of healthy food choices and oral hygiene instructions. In addition to the book used on the Care Mobile, Dr. Johnson made a copy for Luis' parents and a copy for the school interpreter to help prepare him for dental visits.

The book helped change Luis' life. Instead of tears, he now smiles and gives staff high fives when boarding the Care Mobile. More recently, Luis participated in the Oral Health America Sealant program and Care Mobile staff was able to see him at his elementary school to place sealants on his teeth and provide a dental screening. Thanks to Dr. Johnson's concern for her patients and passion to meet their needs, Luis understands the routine of dental care and faces a future with less fear of dental visits.

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Review

Continued From Page 1

July 11, 2013

Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida, Inc. and PACE Center for Girls of Lee and Collier Counties partnered to collect new and gently used dresses for the annual Love That Dress!

July 18, 2013

The 4th Annual Edgerrin James Football Skills Camp was to be held on Monday, July 29, 2013 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the North Park in Ave Maria. The camp is for football enthusiasts of all levels and helps develop an all-around athlete from the inside out, giving each attendee the ability to fully realize his/her potential in a fun and safe environment.

The Salvation Army in Collier County was throwing out its net in search of monetary donations to help the needy and the destitute.

July 25, 2013

Lipman, in partnership with Pacific Tomato Growers, was preparing to distribute more than 1,400 backpacks filled with school supplies to Immokalee elementary and middle school students. This free, community event will be held at the Sports Complex Field.

Florida's PACE Center for Girls was awarded a three-year investment of \$3.5 million from the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation (EMCF), consisting of funding from EMCF and the federal Social Innovation Fund (SIF). This investment will enable PACE Center for Girls to provide more services to more girls in Florida, conduct a rigorous study of effectiveness and cost benefit over time, and create a platform for becoming the national model for what works with teen-aged girls who want to turn their lives in a positive direction.

A number of Immokalee residents trekked to the historic Naples Pier to take part in a countywide demonstration to denounce the recent killing of Trayvon Martin, a Black teenager gunned down near Orlando last year in a case that has gripped the nation's consciousness.

August 1, 2013

Physician MSO of Southwest Florida an-

nounced the opening of the Medical Center of Ave Maria in August 2013. The Medical Center would be located in the heart of Ave Maria at 5068 Annunciation Circle. Initially the center services were to be limited to Urgent Care and OB/GYN; however, plans include expanding location into a full service primary care center offering Urgent Care, Internal Medicine, Family Practice, OB/GYN and Pediatric services.

August 15, 2013

Over the summer, 11-year-old Francisco Brito took a huge step toward growing up.

Thanks to the recommendation of his science mentor at Eden Park, Ms. Madeline, he attended the week long Junior National Young Leaders Conference July 21-26 in Washington, D.C.

New Immokalee High School Principal Ken Fairbanks had one main rule. It's all about the kids. He has 38 years in education to back that up. As both an administrator and teacher in dozens of schools, elementary through high school, he has used that mantra to the advantage of thousands of students.

August 29, 2013

Immokalee's Roberts Center is a place for local seniors to enjoy life and share good times. The building, located on Roberts Ave., was rented from the county from Goodwill.

Supervisor Heidi Fahnesock has been on the job with Collier County Human and Veterans Services for five years, overseeing all four community sites (Immokalee, Golden Gate, East Naples Goodlette) as well as home delivery of meals totaling some 300 clients. The search is on for a new Immokalee site coordinator to keep things running on a day-to-day basis.

Immokalee Special Olympic Athletes participate in year-long training and competitions in bowling, flag football, basketball, track and field, soccer, tennis, and cycling! They were looking for sponsors who would like to mentor an athlete.

September 5, 2013

Twelve area residents were involved in a three-car crash September 2. Two were taken to Lee Memorial Hospital in critical condition. The crash occurred just 467 feet inside the Hendry/Collier county line and occurred during the rain.

On Saturday, August 24, The Haitian

DCL honored with award

Naples, FL – The David Lawrence Center, Collier County's only comprehensive, not-for-profit mental health and substance abuse treatment facility serving children, adults and families, is pleased to announce that CEO David Schimmel was honored with the President's Award by the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Collier County (NAMI) at their annual luncheon held this month at the Waldorf Astoria in Naples.

NAMI is a nonprofit organization that aims to improve the quality of life for persons affected by serious and persistent mental illness and their caregivers through education, support and advocacy. The luncheon was a special recognition award ceremony for those who support their mission and included the naming of the President's Award, Crisis Intervention Training Officer of the Year and the Hope Award.

Schimmel was honored with the prestigious President's Award, a rare award only given out when an individual truly deserves to receive an honor of distinction. Schimmel, who retires at the end of 2013, was honored for the 30 years of service he devoted to the David Lawrence Center and the lasting relationship he cultivated with NAMI. Through that partnership, the orga-

nizations collaborate on many programs including the Forensic Intensive Reintegration Support Team, HUGS Program, and Mental Health First Aid Program.

"He has truly been a catalyst as a change agent in our local system of care," says NAMI of Collier County's Executive Director Kathryn Leib Hunter. "Collier County is blessed to have had Dave as a community leader, and NAMI is blessed to have him as an ally."

David Lawrence Center is the Southwest Florida-based, not-for-profit leading provider of behavioral health solutions dedicated to inspiring and creating life-changing wellness for every individual. The Center provides innovative, comprehensive inpatient, outpatient, residential and community based prevention and treatment services for the one in four local children and adults who experience mental health, emotional, psychological and substance abuse challenges. David Lawrence Center has eight locations in Collier County and touches the lives of more than 30,000 people each year. For more information about David Lawrence Center call 239-455-8500 or visit www.DavidLawrenceCenter.org.

Coalition of Collier County (HCCC) held its second in a series of health fairs for the Haitian Community in Immokalee. Held on the campus of Southwest Florida Works in Immokalee, the event drew 196 attendees and 19 service providers.

Student athletes from Immokalee and Maryland gathered August 29 to share a meal and hear from a legend whose influence has been felt far beyond the basketball courts of his playing days. The occasion was the One by One Leadership Immokalee arranged the event, dubbed "Hall of Fame Dinner."

Immokalee Indians and Our Lady of Good Counsel Falcons from Olney, Maryland, would meet on the football field, but first the young athletes would hear from basketball greats Mannie Jackson and his friend, Sherman Brown.

September 12, 2013

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers was making quite a name for itself, garnering attention from some of the most prestigious organizations in the world.

In October, CIW members would travel to New York City to receive a high honor that has been presented to some of the world's most brilliant people - the Four Freedoms Award. CIW earned the Freedom from Want medal "for their efforts to improve labor conditions for Florida's agricultural workers." It was expected that staff members Gerardo Reyes, Neli Rodriguez and Greg Asbed will travel to New York to receive the medal.

For 16 years Lucy Ortiz was the guiding hand - the guiding light - that helped battered women find peace and a safe way to make their way in the world. She retired from that important position, allowing Josie Means to become acting manager at the Shelter for Abused Women Immokalee.

September 26, 2013

Immokalee lost a wonderful asset earlier in the year when iHOPE closed its doors for the last time. The program, began after Hurricane Wilma devastated so many Immoka-

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To Reach Us

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To Submit News

The Immokalee Bulletin welcomes submissions from its readers. Opinions, calendar items, story ideas and photographs are welcome. Call (239) 657-6000 to reach our newsroom. The deadline for all news items is 11 a.m. on Monday prior to the following Thursday's publication.
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Our Purpose...

The Immokalee Bulletin is published by Independent Newspapers of Florida. Independent is owned by a unique trust that enables this newspaper to pursue a mission of journalistic service to the citizens of the community. Since no dividends are paid, the company is able to thrive on profit margins below industry standards. All after-tax surpluses are reinvested in Independent's mission of journalistic service, commitment to the ideals of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and support of the community's deliberation of public issues.

We Pledge...

- To operate this newspaper as a public trust
- To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
- To provide the information citizens need to make their own intelligent decisions about public issues.
- To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
- To disclose our own conflicts of interest or potential conflicts to our readers.
- To correct our errors and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

Review

Continued From Page 2

lee homes, and eventually provided 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.

October 3, 2013

Local agriculture representatives were raising some concerns about the recent decision by University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) to "repurpose" the IFAS Research Center in Immokalee as a demonstration center.

Located on 320 acres on SR 29 outside of Immokalee, the IFAS Center in Immokalee opened in 1986 to provide research for agriculturalists in a five-county area - Collier, Charlotte, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties.

A demonstration center uses applied research and works with the ag community.

October 10, 2013

Immokalee High School faculty and students were witnesses to the acknowledgment of yet another local young man who, thanks to his hard work and drive, was on the verge of a bright future.

Maybe even more important to JC Jackson, his family was there. JC has been getting a lot of attention in the world of football and has been chosen for the Under Armour All American team. He was to throw his considerable talents into the American Family Insurance Selection Tour for the 2014 Under Armour All-America High School Football Game. The game, to be televised in ESPN, was to be played January 2, 2014 in St. Petersburg at Tropicana field.

October 17, 2013

Patricia "Anne" Goodnight was appointed to the Immokalee Water & Sewer District Board of Commissioners, by Governor Rick Scott. Mrs. Goodnight was appointed to the seat formerly held by Raymond Holland, who moved out to the District in May 2011.

Coach Garza guided the soccer Cobra U19 boys to 31 wins, no losses, going back to last season when the U19 boys won their Division, the Region C Championship, and The President's Cup. A streak of 22 consecutive games without a loss is not easy to attain. Many of the boys on that team had started with the Cobras since their middle school days and continued right through high school.

Along the way they won many tournaments and several league championships.

October 24, 2013

In the historic, two-century-old St. James Episcopal Church in New York City, the one-time parish of Eleanor and Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Institute named for them and charged with carrying forth their legacy awarded the Coalition of Immokalee Workers the Four Freedoms Medal.

The prestigious award came in recognition of the success of the CIW's Fair Food Program, a collaboration with tomato industry leaders and major retailers to ensure respect for human rights in the fields.

Bernardo Barnhardt was the first subject for a new Immokalee Bulletin series, recognizing local residents who have become successful.

October 31, 2013

Immokalee High School Homecoming representatives included seniors Benny Valdez and Ashley Nunez; Jeffrey Flores and Selena Huapilla; Dave Rouzard and Samantha Trevino; Efren Varela and Paula Rosales; Rolando Reyna and Melissa Soto; Juan Villarreal and Maleighna Cade; and Martin Quintanilla and Amy Mendez. Juniors Eliud Trejo and Saraphina Casseus.

Sopomores Eric Garcia and Hannah Hernandez and Freshmen: Rocky Marcano and Faith Navarro.

At St. Matthews House, you could find bargains on every aisle and have an enjoyable shopping experience at the same time. There were actually two St. Matthews House Thrift Stores in Immokalee. The original was located at 630 W Main Street. It's housed in an old building next to the Friendship House and is basically used as a warehouse and venue for "last chance goods" to be sold.

The new Lake Trafford Road store (in the Winn Dixie Plaza) opened in January 2013 and quickly out-grew the smaller older store. It was very much like a top brand department store.

November 7, 2013

The Christmas Around the World committee chose co-grand marshals for the parade.

Jaime Weisinger was selected because of his various in-service comments to the community of Immokalee. former Collier County District 5 Commissioner Jim Coletta would join him at the the head of the parade. He was selected for his unending support for Immokalee to determine its own future

The Immokalee Unified Special Olympics Flag Football team knocked out their opponent at the Area tourney in Venice. The Indians were victorious 2-1 and advanced to State!

November 14, 2013

Collier County was investing so much effort into upgrading the airport. The building on site had seen some pretty nice renovations with a new pilot lounge and flight plan area, airport users can enjoy a comfortable respite. Outside irrigation and picnic tables were yet to be done, but they're all part of the plan to increase the attractiveness of the facility.

The "real stuff" -renovating the runways - will begin in just a couple months. Funding for this project has come from the Federal Aviation Association - to the tune of \$6.7 million - with Florida Department of Transportation kicking in another \$134,000.

November 14, 2013

The Collier County Sheriff's Office obtained an arrest warrant Monday for a 34-year-old man in connection with the shooting deaths of two people in Immokalee on Sunday evening. The warrant charges Evoull Bachat with two counts of second-degree murder in the slayings of Guilene Toussaint, 21, and Elkim Angervil, 30.

November 21, 2013

IHS Athletic Director Tony Allen was born in Miami and came to Immokalee with his family in 1976 at six years of age. He is a 1988 graduate of Immokalee High School, where he was a three-sport athlete: football, basketball and track. Growing up, TA played Pop Warner and high school football - receiver, defensive back, quarterback and basketball. Sports helped shape him as a man. He said he especially responded to the responsibility, the leadership, of being quarterback. "It taught me I could handle pressure."

November 28, 2013

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conserva-

tion Commission (FWC), in Weston, presented a position paper designed to help guide Everglades restoration.

The position paper provided guidance on how to resolve habitat and wildlife issues as the FWC and partners work together on Everglades-restoration efforts. This document was an important tool for managing the habitats and species in this complex ecosystem.

Lionel Cruz, Immokalee' High School's very first 2A State individual champion. Lionel led the Indians boys cross country team to a first place in the district meet, where he was the overall winner. At state, the boys placed fourth.

Anita Munoz placed second at Districts and was also overall winner for the girls. At state, the girls tenth.

December 5, 2013

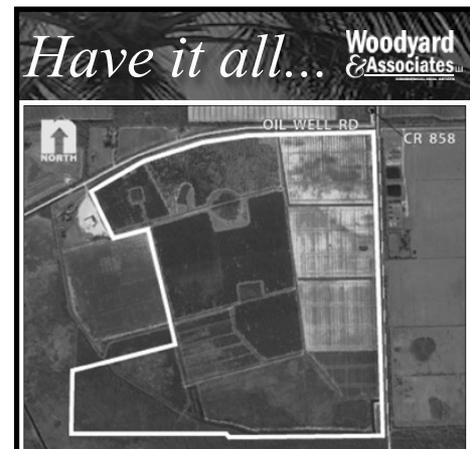
Several Immokalee students were inducted into The Immokalee Foundation's Take Stock in Children scholarship and mentoring program at a dinner ceremony held at Ave Maria University.

The students pledged to attend classes and maintain a 2.5 grade point average, be a positive role model, remain drug and crime free, be a community volunteer, meet with their TIF mentor and attend TSIC workshops and events.

December 12, 2013

Look Good . . . Feel Better was a free program that teaches people in active can-

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542.65 Acres - Collier County CR 858 / Oil Well Rd.

Located on the south side of CR858/Oil Well Rd. at the Collier-Hendry County line, just 3.5 miles east of SR 29. Zoned Agricultural, current agricultural use of the property is citrus, row crop, and improved pasture. 200± acres currently planted in citrus. Modular home on site. Production records are available upon request to qualified buyers.

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AVE CHILDREN'S THEATER IS HOLDING AUDITIONS FOR THE AWARD-WINNING, BROADWAY MUSICAL, HONK Jr.!

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.

Review

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cer treatment ways to deal with the appearance-related side effects of treatment. This program was offered jointly by the American Cancer Society; the Personal Care Products Council Foundation; and the National Cosmetology Association. Make up kit provided. This service is free. The office for the American Cancer Society is located at Vitas Healthcare Corp., 550 New Market Road E.

December 19, 2013

Redlands Christian Migrant Association reintroduced the Posada, a beloved holiday tradition throughout Latin America, in Immokalee. A new generation of American Hispanics was introduced to a cultural treat-

sure of their parents. And 2,000 tasty tamales waited, steaming, in huge metal pots.

The Immokalee High School Unified Special Olympics Flag Football team defeated their final opponent from Marion County in a hard fought battle to win the Gold Medal in division two!

The Christmas around the World Parade and Gala delighted hometown folks December 14, 2013.

Outstanding community leaders Jaime Weisinger and Co-Parade Marshal Jim Colletta, were Co-Grand Marshals.

December 26, 2013

All but one of our eight comprehensive high schools received an 'A.' 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.' The test included FCAT and non FCAT components.

David C. Brown Realty is moving

David C. Brown Realty, Inc. is proud to announce that they are moving locations.

For 23 years, David C. Brown Realty has been at its current address.

The office at 1320 15th Street N, the old Barron Collier building (recently vacated by the Community Redevelopment Agency), is being renovated and should be ready for occupancy December 27.

David C. Brown has two realtors on staff. Elvira Nodal, with over 20 years experience, and Patricia A. Regas, with over 25 years experience. Elvira specializes in first home buy-

ers, short sales and bank owned properties. Patricia specializes in general real estate.

The office staff is rounded out by assistant/receptionist Suleyda Mendez, who has been with them for three years.

Call 657-7777.

En David C. Brown Realty, Inc. estamos orgullosos de anunciar que movimos posiciones. Nuestra nueva dirección se pone en una lista abajo. Toda otra información permanece sin alterar. Nos moveremos el 27 de Diciembre de 2013. Llama 657-7777.

FLDOH in Collier County Nursing Director Graduates

Collier: Stephanie Vick, Executive Community Health Nursing Director for the Department of Health in Collier County, along with more than 100 other new and aspiring public health officials from across the nation, recently graduated from the National Association of County and City Health Officials' (NACCHO) Survive and Thrive: Roadmap for New Local Health Officials program. The program, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the de Beaumont Foundation, is designed to enhance the skills of top executives at local health departments.

Participants in the 12-month program gained practical tools and experiences to help them work with elected officials and community partners, manage strategic planning and health department resources, and discover approaches for addressing challenges unique to local health department leaders.

"My participation in Survive and Thrive was extremely rewarding. I feel empowered and better equipped to help lead our team at the Florida Department of Health in Collier County and engage with vital community stakeholders to help those we serve," Vick commented.

"We are proud to have the opportunity to train public health leaders through Survive and Thrive," said NACCHO Executive Di-

rector Robert M. Pestronk. "The Affordable Care Act and other factors are making our country's health climate increasingly complex and competitive. That's why it is even more important that dedicated public health leaders have the insights and tools they need to grow, flourish, and adapt with the times."

Since 2008, nearly 190 new and aspiring local health officials have been trained through the Survive and Thrive program. Current and retired local health officials with five or more years of experience serve as Survive and Thrive coaches. These volunteer coaches complement the formal Survive and Thrive curriculum by guiding individual development plans, leading discussions about issues important to the program fellows, and reviewing assessments and performance reports.

Regarding the program, Vick states, "It was an honor to be selected for NACCHO's Survive and Thrive program. NACCHO is at the forefront of public health improvement and provides local health departments with the tools and resources they need to succeed. As a result of this training, I am even more confident in the ability of our agency to tackle our community's most pressing health issues such as the obesity epidemic and access to health care issues."

Eye Centers of Florida relocates its Immokalee office December 30

(December 17, 2013) Effective December 30, 2013 Eye Centers of Florida will relocate its Immokalee office currently at 555 N. 15th Street to a larger office in the former Barron Collier Building at 1320 N. 15th Street, Immokalee, Florida 34142. Services include examination and diagnosis of eye diseases; testing for eyeglasses and contact lenses; cataract evaluations; and treatment of glaucoma and retinal diseases. Expanded retail space will include an array of Tiffany & Co., Prada, Coach® and other distinctive eyewear frames and sunglasses, in addition to a selection of value eyewear.

"The larger office doubles the number of exam rooms available so we can continue to expand our services to the community," said Dr. David C. Brown. "The Immokalee office is one of three that now provide high quality eye services to members of the Davis Vision benefit plan offered through several city, county and state government programs."

The new office will be staffed with board certified physicians under the direction of founder and Medical Director David C. Brown, MD, FACS. Barrett Ginsberg, MD, FACS and Quentin Allen, MD, both cornea and refractive surgeons specializing in cataract surgery, laser vision correction and glaucoma. Claudio A. Ferreira, MD, a retinal surgeon specializing in macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, retinal vas-

cular occlusions, and retinal detachments and tears. Allison Yee, MD, an ophthalmic plastic surgeon. Emilio Martinez, OD will provide primary eye care exams and diagnostic services, prescribe eyeglasses and contact lenses, and provide pre- and post-op care.

Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Phone: 239.657.4486. Fax: 239.657.4770. Services are available in both English and Spanish.

Founded in 1971 by Dr. David C. Brown, Eye Centers of Florida is the most experienced ophthalmology practice in Southwest Florida. The full-service eye care provider has 19 doctors practicing in 12 locations in Fort Myers, Bonita Springs, Cape Coral, Clewiston, Immokalee, LaBelle, Lehigh Acres, Naples, and Port Charlotte. Eye Centers of Florida's Immokalee, LaBelle and Clewiston offices accept Davis Vision. All offices accept Medicare and most forms of insurance, with bilingual staff available to assist patients in processing medical claims. Eye Centers of Florida also offers Care Credit, an interest-free financing program. For more information, visit www.ecof.com, call the main office at 239.939.3456, or stop by any of its 12 locations.

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Foundation offers scholarships

FORT MYERS (Dec. 18, 2013) – The Southwest Florida Community Foundation's scholarship application process for the 2014-2015 school year will begin on Friday, Dec. 20. Approximately \$400,000 in scholarship money is available from 37 scholarships for local high school seniors and 22 scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students from Lee, Charlotte, Glades, Hendry and Collier counties through the SWFLCF scholarship funds.

Students interested in applying for a scholarship can access the E-Apply online scholarship application tool through the SWFLCF's website at www.floridacomunity.com on the Scholarships page. Even before the application process opens on Dec. 20, students can review the scholarships available online as well as a tutorial about how to create and submit the online application.

Students may apply for multiple scholarships and are given the option to upload transcripts, SAT/ACT scores, letters of recommendation and financial documentation (if required). For need-based scholarships, students are required to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2014.

According to Douglas, examples of some of the more unique scholarships include support for students with disabilities, student athletes, adult students going back to school, students from particular schools or communities and students pursuing a graduate or professional degree.

For example, The Howard P. and Magdalen K. Breitenbach Scholarship was established to fund a needy student who was either a service member in the United States Navy or is a child or grandchild of a service member in the United States Navy.

The G. Napier and Ellen Wilson Scholarship was established in honor of U.S. Navy pilots killed in Korea and will support high school students volunteering at the veteran's administration clinic to help veterans.

The Mary Ann Elder Scholarship was established to provide funding for students entering or continuing a master's degree program in social work. The scholarship was established by Rudy Elder in honor of his wife who was a social worker and worked for a number of local nonprofit organizations.

The SWFLCF chose the month of December as the launch date after receiving numerous calls from students who wanted to be able to work on scholarship application submissions during winter break. In 2013, the SWFLCF awarded nearly \$450,000 in scholarships.

For more information about the SWFLCF, call 239-274-5900 or visit www.floridacomunity.com.

Allen Chapel presents bicycles to Immokalee Children

IMMOKALEE — Joy, Joy, Joy! On Sunday, December 22, 2013 after the 11a.m. special Christmas worship service at Allen Chapel A.M.E Church (208 S. 3rd St-Immokalee) Pastor Lori Snell and the president of the Sons of Allen Men's Ministry of Allen Chapel, Bro. Ernest Freeman, presented bicycles to six happy children of single moms. Also, an assortment of toys and dolls were given to all of the children, who attended the worship service. On Christmas Eve, Bro. Freeman, who not only gave of his own financial resources, but was instrumental in getting local business owners to help sponsor this auspicious event, delivered 4 more new bicycles to deserving youth of the church. This brought the total of bikes given away to 10.

"The big, radiant smiles were priceless," said Pastor Snell. The mothers of these new bike owners were very appreciative of the caring support that was given by their church. Bro. Freeman's face beamed with happiness as he watched the children riding around the church with their new bikes.

Pastor Snell, who has a huge passion for assisting and encouraging others as well as, reaching out to the Immokalee community to show the love of Jesus Christ, was well pleased with the efforts of Bro. Freeman. When she thanked him for allowing God to use him to be a big blessing to the children of the church, he quickly replied, "Pastor, it was an honor and I give God all the glory!" Truly, it is this kind of attitude that is allowing this small ministry to be able to do big ministry in Immokalee. They give God all the praise and glory, and they are walking by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).



TOP: Pastor Lori Snell, Bro. Ernest Freeman and six happy children. BOTTOM: Pastor Snell and some more of the children Allen's Chapel presented gifts too.

Community Briefs

Breastfeeding mothers group

Learn about the many benefits of breastfeeding, get advice and tips, and share experiences with other breastfeeding mothers. 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.

PAID CONTENT Immokalee Unite Night

Have you ever lost someone you love?
Maybe a friend?
Maybe a loved one?
Maybe you've even lost sight of yourself and your purpose in life...

Join us for Immokalee's first ever Unite Night. Where the community will gather together in honor of those we've lost on Jan 2nd 2014 at 6:00pm. We will enjoy special performances, music, and an awesome message from guest speaker Reggie Dabbs. For more information on this life changing night and the locations where you can purchase you \$1 refundable ticket. Please visit our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/Immokaleeunite-night



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Employment Full Time

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B - \$ 22.88
A - \$ 24.15

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Apply online at www.ussugar.com

Financial

Business Opportunities

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

Business & Service Directory

AUCTION

Time for a new car? Check out this auction on **January 13, 2014 at 9am**
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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 sec-

ond 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 m 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.

Afterschool 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/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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Rotary thanks everyone for Christmas Party success

The Rotary Club of Immokalee would like to express its appreciation to everyone who made the 2013 Senior Christmas Party at the Goodwill Robert's Center a success. First and foremost we would like to express our appreciation to the Manager at Popeye's, Marco Polo. They have provided chicken dinners for this project for over fourteen years. This year, they provided a boxed lunch for 75 folks. What an awesome commitment to our Senior Citizens, and our community! Next was Walgreen's on N15th and Immokalee Drive, Manager Benito Blandon - who provided powder, lotion, sunscreen, mouthwash, and personal care items. Then was GoldToe Stores/Ryan Builders and Installers, Gerard Ryan - who provided men's and women's socks.

We also received the following contributions:

Suncoast Dental Center, Dr. Kevin Goodlet - toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss
I-Tech Salon - Dorin Oxender, Principal - gift certificates for a haircut

Family Dollar Stores - cookies, miscellaneous snacks

Dollar General Stores - crackers, miscellaneous snacks

Farmers of Immokalee - peppers, cucumbers and tomatoes

Corporal Annie/Ms. Dodi, Collier County Sheriff's Office Communications Center - vegetables, cookies, crackers, soup, miscellaneous items.

Publix Corporate, through Publix at Ave Maria - mashed potatoes



Submitted photos/Eva Deyo
RIGHT: Center Stage is Santa Claus. TOP: Senior citizens enjoying their Popeye's chicken dinners, and the gifts provided by the many sponsors. Far right is Project Chairman - Rita Greenberg.

Florida Community Bank and Individual Santa Helpers provided for - wrapping paper, ribbon, knit caps, gloves, baskets, candies, macaroni and cheese, canned hams, drinks, pizza and miscellaneous items

A special thanks to all those who contributed to the Goodwill Roberts Senior Center Christmas Party, especially to our Project Chairman - Rita Greenberg, who made this the best Senior Christmas Party ever!



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