

Airport renovations pathway to economic success

by **Patty Brant**
Immokalee Bulletin

A busy, up-to-date airport is a sign of a thriving town.

That's why the renovations going on at Immokalee Regional Airport are so important. It's not just Immokalee's face to the world, it's also a pathway to growth and success. The airport is often the first seen area when a prospective business visits the Immokalee Area.

It seems work is going on all over the airport. Runway 9-27 and Taxiway Bravo project are continuing with pulverizing asphalt and reusing it for a new base for the runway.

Crews are doing site work for three new taxiway connectors and laying electrical conduit for a new edge lighting system on Taxiway Bravo.

Improved drainage is always paramount at a transportation hub so new drainage pipe for Taxiway Bravo and Runway 9-27 is in the works along with more earth moving and grade compacting.

Crews need to decouple 450 feet of concrete from the existing north/west Runway and shift the entire Runway 9-27 450 feet to the east, a shift that should provide more safety for planes and pilots.

This current phase of renovation will also include a replacement lighting vault to house the

switch gear for the entire airport to include the AWOS weather system, Runway and Taxiway edge lighting circuits, new lighted wind socks, PAPIs, REILs and enhanced ground signage.

A backup generator will make the airport ready to function in the hours after a disaster to help relay lifesaving supplies both locally and throughout the area. At 37 feet above sea level, Mr. Vergo said Immokalee Airport makes a perfect staging area that will allow authorities to get necessities in and out quickly when other local airports could be inoperable.

The airport upgrades are intended to help spur imminent anticipated growth for Immokalee, which includes a "big box" store on Westclox and future hotel for the Seminole Casino complex.

Immokalee airport caters mainly to the agricultural community, flight schools and corporate aviation sectors.

The construction includes the demolition of three large concrete runway sections that, during the airport's original function as a military training base in World War II, allowed large heavy bombers operate out of the airport. Since modern large aircraft include engineered gear systems with better wheel loading footprints, these pads are no longer necessary. Mr. Vergo plans to save several large pieces for a future exhibit at the airfield.

Eventually, both the original concrete-asphalt runways will be replaced with asphalt. Work is beginning with the primary Runway, 9-27 and will progress in future years to Runway 18-36 and the associated Taxiways.

Mr. Vergo said Immokalee Regional Airport sees 36,500 operations per year, that's 3,000 take offs or landings per month.



Caloosa Belle/Patty Brant

Immokalee Regional Airport is getting a substantial makeover to prepare it and the community to become more attractive to business and agribusiness. Work should continue till the summertime.

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Gary Nunez 2014 festival grand marshal

The Annual Harvest Festival Event is being hosted by the Immokalee Chamber of Commerce along with the Collier County Parks & Recreation on March 29, 2014.

Our Harvest Festival committee has selected our 2014 Grand Parade Marshal for this year's event.

Gary Nunez, is a Florida labor contractor who owns his business, known as Gary Nunez Harvesting in Immokalee, for over 26 years. Gary is married to Lucinda Nunez, a teacher at Eden Park Elementary. They have three wonderful children: Alyssa, Gary Jr, and Chelsea.

Gary graduated from Immokalee High School in 1982 and attended Lorenzo Walker Technical Institute in Naples, Florida where

he received his certification as an auto technician. He worked for Devoe Cadillac in Naples, but found out that his passion was in field crop harvesting. Gary grew up as a migrant child whose family followed the crops for a living. Gary's decision to leave a good job for field work was a risky choice, but he followed his heart and his passion for field harvesting. Gary excelled in good work ethic and business knowledge while working at Devoe's, which stuck with him in delivering the "best services" you can provide for others, no matter what profession it is.

Gary enjoys working outdoors

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Submitted photo

Harvest Festival Grand Marshal Gary Nunez, left, is congratulated by Bernardo Barnhardt of the Immokalee Chamber of Commerce.

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

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Airport

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He has been at the Immokalee Airport for 3.5 years, coming from Marco Island where he was a high school intern before becoming operations specialist. He was eventually tapped to be the Operations Supervisor before transferring out to the Immokalee Airport as the Airport Manager.

Owen-Ames-Kimball are the contractors for this almost \$8 million project. The project is funded by 90 percent FAA, 5 percent FDOT and 5 percent Collier County.

Supervising the environmental side of the project is Shane Johnson of Passarella and Associates, and the construction oversight contractor and Engineer of Record is Hole Montes,

The new runway is expected to be open in April or May and Runway 18-36 will be temporarily shut down for some minor pavement work. The entire project was designed to have minimal Airport closures and disruptions to normal operations.

The National Guard remains excited about building a Readiness Center here at the airport in a few years. Twenty-six acres off Airport Blvd. on the southeast side of the airport are earmarked for the National Guard.

In the future runway 18-36 will get its turn at a full renovation.

Mr. Vergo said he hopes they can manage to put in a grass runway along Runway 18-36 in a few years also while they rehabilitate Runway 18-36. He said it would be ideal to build both at once.

The county is working toward making Immokalee Regional Airport self-sustaining. For instance, Immokalee is a fuel stop for many flight schools and others. The sale of Avgas has increased over the last three years since Mr. Vergo and the now departed Mr. Chris Curry took over the operations of the Airport.

In addition, the airport collects fees for land use, concessions, advertising fees, vending operations, tie-downs, ramp fees for transient aircraft

and building leases.

Across the street from the airport proper, are a number of businesses call the Airport their home. The entire 1,330 acre site includes the Immokalee Regional Racetrack and a 180-acre preserve area for turtles, scrub jays, and other animals.

Environmental sensitivities are always a challenge in large projects these days and gopher turtles are being moved off the airport premises daily by Passarella and Associates environmental conservation during the project.

Employees delicately use a back hoe to dig and scrape away to get into the sandy burrows. They continue by hand shoveling, then workers use a pole to test for the presence of a gopher turtle, which can dig down to the water table, often seven or eight feet.

When they're finally close enough, a



Immokalee Bulletin/Patty Brant
Mike Myers shows off one of the gopher tortoises being relocated.

worker sticks their hand in to pull out one of the shy creatures before they are relocated on the west of the airport to the preserve area by licensed and certified environmental consultant.

The company regularly burns off the preserve area to accommodate scrub jays and other species as required by the Airport's PUD and Upland Management Program.



Immokalee Bulletin/Patty Brant
Intern Lauren Edinger, left, extracted her first gopher tortoise ever a few days ago. She started with Passarella in January. Seventeen-year employee Mike Myers is pictured preparing to go in after a gopher tortoise as eight-year employee Evaristo Baten looks on.

Marshal

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and working with many diverse groups of people. Gary credits his mother, Trinidad H. Nunez-Chita, with his drive to be successful and taking pride in his work and respecting those who work with you. Gary partnered up with his mother in 1988 as a harvesting crew for Pacific Tomato Growers. In 2002,

he started to work with Lipman Produce, Inc, formerly known as Six L's.

Gary life long motto for his business is "Harvesting with Pride." Gary Nunez loves his family, his business and the community of Immokalee. Hats off to a very good community leader.

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

Students First

We truly do live in a generous community when it comes to organizations giving to and collaborating with our schools. There are many examples of this happening every day throughout Collier County Public Schools, but I'd like to share one coming out of Eden Park Elementary School (EPE) right here in Immokalee.

You may recall the name Yudelka (Judy) Ramirez from one of our columns about a year ago. Judy, an EPE teacher, was one of the 2013 Golden Apple Recipients. She is a bundle of energy that inspires her students each and every day. Earlier this school year, the Northside Naples Kiwanis Club decided to adopt her third grade class.



This Kiwanis Club is an organization of service and community-minded men and women who support children and young adults. They have donated supplies and provided support to their

EPE classroom throughout the year.

"The Northside Naples Kiwanis Club has been beyond generous to my students and I," Judy shared with me recently. "I do not know of one teacher that does not buy classroom supplies with his or her money. Kiwanis adopting my class is a true bless-

ing! When I saw all the supplies they generously donated, I felt like a child on Christmas morning!"

Earlier this month, on February 6, the Northside Naples Kiwanis took the time to visit their adopted third grade class. They brought the students breakfast and even took their visit a step further by conducting their monthly meeting right in the classroom. Students got to see the Kiwanis in action and had the chance to interact with club members during the meeting. And I hear that this Kiwanis visit even inspired the class to hold their own class election, voting for a class president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.

What a wonderful way to learn about the election process! Thank you to the members of Northside Naples Kiwanis Club for their kind generosity. In Judy's words, "The day they visited my class was an awesome experience! My students and I are extremely grateful for all their help. They truly go above and beyond to help benefit our education."

I invite you to visit our photo gallery online at www.collierschools.com to see photos of the Kiwanis' visit to Eden Park Elementary.

Obituaries

Elvira Rojas Garcia, 71

IMMOKALEE — Elvira Rojas Garcia, departed this world to be with the Lord on Tuesday, Feb. 11th, 2014. She was born on Aug. 26th, 1942 in El Acebuche, Guanajuato, Mexico.

She is survived by her loving husband, Juan D. Garcia Sr.; and their eight children, Carmen (Jose Espinoza), Candelario (Belinda), Rosa (Jose P. Perez), Janie (Victor Lopez), Norma (Arnoldo Perales), Juan Jr. (Corina), Lado Sr., Rodolfo (Crystal); 25 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

"Our Family Chain is Broken, and nothing seems the same, but as God calls us one by one, the Chain will link again."

The Lord Be With You and May You Rest in Peace.

Tu Querido Esposo, Juan D. Garcia Sr.
We Love You Mom (Grandma) and Miss You Dearly, Your Loving Family.

Biologists rescue panther kitten in Collier County

A team of panther biologists rescued an approximately week-old Florida panther kitten at the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge in Collier County in mid-January.

Biologists from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Conservancy of Southwest Florida discovered the kitten while conducting research. The 1-pound male kitten had a dangerously low body temperature and was nonresponsive.

"We want to give any panther kitten the best opportunity to survive in the wild," said FWC veterinarian Dr. Mark Cunningham. "But clearly this kitten was in poor condition and almost certainly would have died without intervention."

Biologists transported the kitten to the Animal Specialty Hospital of Florida in Naples, where veterinarians and staff performed life-saving measures. Although his condition improved quickly, he still required 24-hour care.

Once the kitten was strong enough to travel, biologists transported him to Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo. The young male is the fourth kitten and eighth panther to receive rehabilitation at the zoo.

Because this kitten was so young at the time of rescue, he will not learn survival skills from his mother and therefore can-

not be released into the wild.

Although he will not return to the wild population, this panther will help to raise awareness and aid with potential research efforts. Initially the kitten will not be on public display but, once old enough, he will be transported to the Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park, where park visitors may observe him.

"This kitten exemplifies how joint efforts of the FWC, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and our partners are helping recover imperiled species in Florida," said Kevin Godsea, manager of the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge for the USFWS. "We are certainly pulling for him and hope he leads a long, healthy life."

The rehabilitation of this kitten would not be possible without the help of the Animal Specialty Hospital of Florida, Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo and the Department of Environmental Protection's Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park.

Florida residents can support conservation efforts like the rescue of this kitten by purchasing a "Protect the Panther" license plate at BuyaPlate.com. Fees from license plate sales are the primary funding source for the FWC's research and management of Florida panthers.

For more information on Florida panthers, visit www.floridapanther.net.

Immokalee Community Park Programs

Flag Football

April 8- May 1, 6-7p.m.
Tuesdays & Thursdays, \$25
Ages: 4-14 years

Cheerleading

April 8 - May 1, 6-7 p.m.
Tuesdays & Thursdays \$25
Ages: 5- 3 years

Immokalee Community Yard Sale

Out with the Old in with the New! Find yard sale bargains with the convenience of having all the sales in one location. If you are interested in reserving a spot to sell used items from your home. Please call (239) 252-4449 to reserve your spot today.

Saturday March 1, 8a.m.-12 p.m. \$10 per space. Pre registration required by Friday, February 28

Free (GPS) Super Sports Saturdays

Ultimate Frisbee/Golf: Saturday- February 22-March 1 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Ages: 3rd-8th Grade Only!!

Volleyball

Saturday- 3/8/14 - 3/15/14, 10am-1pm
Ages: 3rd- 8th Grade Only!!

Wrestling:

Saturday- March 22-March 29 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Ages: 3rd-8th Grade Only!

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Missionaries honored for service at A.M.E Church

On Saturday, February 8, 2014 Allen Chapel A.M.E Church (208 S. 3rd Street) was converged upon by excited missionaries, and well-wishers who had come from near and far to celebrate Christian women who were being honored by the Annie Mobley Missionary Society of Allen Chapel, for outstanding work in the field of missions as well as, Christian lawyers, who are making positive contributions to their community, church and family. This special service was two special occasions in one sitting: The Night in White Missionary Award Service and the Women Accomplishing Much (W.A.M) Awards Service.

This year's missionary honorees were: Dr. Judy C. Johnson, who serves as the president of the South Conference Missionary Society of the Eleventh Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E) Church. She presides over the mission works of well over 100 churches, spanning from West Palm Beach to Punta Gorda. The other missionary honoree was Sis. Angela Mitchell of Pahokee, who represents the Young Women Initiative (YWI) missionaries of the South Conference, well. She serves as the chair of the Scholarship Committee, which is only one of many positions she holds.

The W.A.M Award, which is the brainchild of Pastor Lori Snell, is annually bestowed upon deserving Christian women from all walks of life, for unselfishly sharing their gifts and resources to help others. Business owners, principals, teachers, civic workers



Submitted photo

Pastor Lori Snell and the missionaries who were honored.

and nurses have been honored over the years with this prestigious award. This year's W.A.M focus was on Christian lawyers. Our two distinguished honorees were: Attorney Ava Parker (Jacksonville) and Attorney Melissa Barris (Ft. Myers). The contributions that they make to their community, church

and family are too numerous to name. However, they would hasten to tell anybody that they give God all of the glory for what He allows them to accomplish in His name.

This grand celebration was enjoyed by all. The powerful singing of the St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church of Ft. Myers (Pastor

Charles Chapman) made it hard for anyone to sit motionless. Then, we were told in a most articulate and thought-provoking way by our guest speaker, Dr. Shirley Chapman, the former founding principal of Lee Charter School of Ft. Myers, that God will give His workers mountaintop experiences, but they must come down to continue the work on the ground. This message really complimented the theme for this occasion: Productive Servants.

Another one of the many highlights from this service occurred during the presentation of the honorees. Each of them were uniquely and lovingly introduced by their spouses, whose comments generated smiles, laughs and even tears from the onlookers. After the honorees were introduced, Rev. Snell, the host pastor, before presenting the honorees with lovely trophies and several gift cards for shipping and dining, prayed for each of them, powerfully decreeing and declaring God's blessings over them, their families and the works of their hands.

At the end of this special worship service, Sister Loretha Hughes, the newly appointed missionary president at Allen Chapel, along with Rev. Snell, presented Dr. Johnson and Sister Mitchell with 5 Home Depot gift cards to assist the Conference Branch Missionary Society with a mission project that they are helping the Episcopal level missionary society accomplish. To God be the glory for the great things He has done!

Art show celebrates Immokalee Child Care Center's 50th Anniversary

By Valarie Bostic

Art is the manifestation of the creativity of one's soul in expressive form. Yet for Jason Fleenor, Immokalee Child Care Center's START Program Coordinator and Resident Artist, it is so much more.

"Coming up with ways to combine Science, Technology, Art and Reading not only gives me the opportunity as an educator to challenge myself and be creative but it allows me to challenge the kids and expose them to information and ideas that will hopefully stick with them for many years. If I can create a memory with an activity that will stay with the child and help them do better in school as they grow older than I have done my job," he commented.

"Cultivating curiosity about how things work helps the children develop a love of science and reasoning. In sharing a book with them and making the characters come alive they learn to love reading and expand their imaginations. Making art together lets them know they can make the things in their imagination come to life and using technology to make all of those things even more interesting keeps me challenged and the students learning with a big grin on their faces every day," Fleenor states emphatically.

START (Science, Technology, Arts and Reading Together) is a program exclusive to Immokalee Child Care Center. The program is designed to enhance the overall learning



experience for children and bring literacy to life through hands-on creative means. The Center provides quality early childhood education and child care to low-income and at risk children.

On February 13, The Immokalee Child Care Center hosted a Children's Art Show in celebration of the upcoming 50th Anniversary. Art enthusiasts from all over Collier and Lee County attended the event.

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Survivors welcome at Relay for Life 2014

An estimated 13 million people living in America have not only had cancer but survived the fight and you could be one of them.

Relay For Life Immokalee (<https://www.facebook.com/relayforlifeimmokalee>) invites survivors of our beautiful Southwest Florida community to be recognized during this year's Immokalee's 10th Relay For Life Birthday Bash on Friday, March 14, 2014 at 6 p.m.

Survivors are our inspiration for why we Relay. Not only do survivors prove that the fight can be won, survivors instill in us hope for a cure. A small gift will be given to all survivors that register to attend this year's Birthday Bash.

If you would like to spread your inspiration and share your survivor story please sign-up on-line as a survivor at <http://www.relayforlife.org> or for more information please contact Kelly Stevenson at Steven-Ke@collierschools.com.

Florida Enchantments; Early Everglades Photography

Today we snap pictures with a handy pocket-sized digital device but imagine lugging around a huge camera and glass plate negatives as you travelled by canoe or oxcart through the untamed wilderness of the Everglades over 100 years ago.

That's what Julian Dimock did between 1904 and 1913 on visits to the area with his father A.W. Dimock and two thousand of the negatives have survived to this day. The Dimocks' base was pioneering Marco Island from which they ventured along the coast through the Ten Thousand Island or into the hinterland where there were no roads and few people besides Seminoles.

You can see some of the photos at an illustrated presentation on Thursday, March 20, at 5:30 p.m. in historic Everglades City Hall. The speaker is Dr. Jerald T. Milanich who, with Nina J. Root of the American Museum of Natural History, has produced a book from a selection of the negatives entitled "Enchantments; Julian Dimock's Photographs of Southwest Florida". Dr. Milanich, emeritus professor at the University of Florida, will talk about the Dimocks and their travels as he shows the photographs.

After the presentation, Dr Milanich will be signing copies of the book which recently won Gold Medal in the Florida Book Awards Visual Arts Category.

The event is hosted by the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation who helped fund the restoration of the photographs for publication. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge but reservations are required. To book your places, email ESHP@hotmail.com or phone Marya at (239) 695-2905.

FHP: Low visibility advisory for the area

Southwest Florida: Visibility can change within seconds, so use extreme caution when driving within fog. To make sure drivers know what to do when you encounter fog, the Florida Highway Patrol urges the motoring public to travel with caution anytime there is reduced visibility. Wildfires, smoke, fog and heavy rain can all lower visibility on the roads so it is important for motorist to drive as safely as possible in these conditions.

- **DRIVE WITH LIGHTS** on low beam. High beams will only be reflected back off the fog and actually impair visibility even more. Your lights help other drivers see your vehicle, so be sure they all work. Keep your windshield and headlights clean, to reduce the glare and increase visibility.

- **SLOW DOWN** - and watch your speedometer - before you enter a patch of fog. Be sure that you can stop within the distance that you can see. Fog creates a visual illusion of slow motion when you may actually be speeding. Speed is a major factor in fog-related crashes.

- **WATCH OUT** for slow-moving and parked vehicles. Open your window a little and listen for traffic you cannot see.

- **REDUCE THE DISTRACTIONS** in your vehicle. Turn off the radio and cell phone. Your full attention is required.

- **USE WIPERS AND DEFROSTERS** liberally for maximum visibility. Sometimes it is difficult to determine if poor visibility is due to fog or moisture on the windshield.

- **USE THE RIGHT EDGE** of the road or painted road markings as a guide.

- **BE PATIENT.** Avoid passing and/or changing lanes.

- **SIGNAL TURNS** well in advance and brake early as you approach a stop.

- **DO NOT STOP** on a freeway or heavily traveled road. You could become the first link in a chain-reaction collision. If you must pull off the road, signal (people tend to follow tail lights when driving in fog), then carefully pull off as far as possible. After pulling off the road, turn on your hazard flashers (hazard lights should only be used when you pull over to show that you are parked on the side of the road). Move away from the vehicle.

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The Change Management Analyst will play a key role in ensuring projects (change initiatives) meet defined objectives both on time and on budget by increasing employee adoption and engagement. This person will focus on the people side of change; including managing changes to business processes, systems and technology and job roles. The primary responsibility will be creating and implementing change management strategies and plans that maximize the potential for project success by minimizing user resistance and maximizing user engagement. The ultimate goal will be to ensure increased project success through improved benefit realization, value creation and ROI.

Requirements:

Change management certification or designation desired. Prosci Certification a plus. Experience with large-scale organizational change efforts. Familiarity with project management approaches, tools and phases of the project lifecycle

EMAIL Jdooley@ussugar.com

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STAFF ACCOUNTANT

POSITION SUMMARY

Prepares income and balance sheet statements, consolidated statements, and various other accounting statements and reports. Analyzes financial reports and records, making recommendations relative to the accounting of reserves, assets, and expenditures as well as reviews and verifies the accuracy of journal entries and accounting classifications assigned to various records. Conducts special studies and develops or recommends accounting methods and procedures.

QUALIFICATION/REQUIREMENTS:

Two to Three years of accounting experience preferred. Intermediate Microsoft Office skills. Good interpersonal skills. Understanding of company-wide budgets and forecasting processes. Knowledge in accounting software packages and programs.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

Bachelor's degree in Accounting.

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Financial

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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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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No wonder newspaper readers are more successful!



What to do during the Annual Harvest Festival 2014

Harvest Festival, here we come! This year's event theme is "Gone Country."

Queen Court Competition

Saturday, March 22, 2014, I.H.S Auditorium at 7 p.m. Pre sale tickets are \$5. Children under 6 years of age are free. Now accepting candidates ages 11-20 years of age. Entry deadline is February 28. Contact Pete and Julie Cade at (239) 281-5418 (239) 628-6132.

Little Mr. & Miss Tomato

Saturday, March 22nd 2014. Crowning takes place during Queen Pageant. Winners take home crown & a GRAND Prize! Applicants must be between the ages of 0-5 yrs old. Contact Mariela Romero (239) 658-0704 mromero@first1bank.com. Applications are now being accepted. Jars go out the first day of February.

Harvest Festival Event

Saturday, March 29, 2014, Airport Park from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Event is free, parking is \$3.00

Parade starts at 10:30 a.m. Line up begins at 9 a.m. at the corner of 9th & Main St.

BBQ Cook Off Competition

Airport Park. Winners announced at 6 p.m. on stage. First place winners receive \$1,000 Grand Cash Prize with beautiful trophy, second and third place winners receive

trophy and small cash prize.

Cost to enter competition: January \$125; February \$150; March \$175. Chamber will provide all contestants with ribs & chicken. Now accepting applications for Parade, Vendors & BBQ contestants. Please contact Mariela Romero (239) 658-0704 mromero@first1bank.com or Cheryl Thomas (239) 657-0080. ecoc@comcast.net.

Be a Harvest Festival Sponsor Platinum \$4,500

- Business Advertisement on any radio, newspaper and/or magazine contracted for event exposure

- Banner represented on main stage (must provide us with your banner by Wednesday prior to the event 3-24-2014)

- Proud "Platinum Sponsor" certificate on behalf of the Immokalee Chamber of Commerce

- 1 – 10x10 tent to use as either as an informational booth, Arts & Craft booth or as a food vendor

(Please specify which one you would prefer so we know where to set you up-this information must be provided to us no later than 3-25-2014)

- 2 – Sponsor VIP parking pass
- 1 – FREE float entry registry (please fill out a float registration form along with your sponsorship)

- Name or Logo of your business on all promotional material including our 4 Sponsorship Banners (4x10)

(Chamber's Website, Posters & Mailings)

Gold \$3,500

- Banner represented on main stage (must provide us with your banner by Monday prior to the event 3-24-2014)

- Proud "Gold Sponsor" certificate on behalf of the Immokalee Chamber of Commerce

- 1 – 10x10 tent to use as either as an informational booth, Arts & Craft booth or as a food vendor

(Please specify which one you would prefer so we know where to set you up-this information must be provided to us no later than 3-25-14)

- 1 – Sponsor VIP parking pass
- 1 – Free float entry registry (please fill out a float registration form along with your sponsorship)

- Name or Logo of your business on all promotional material including our 4 Sponsorship Banners (4x10)

(Chamber's Website, Posters & Mailings)

Silver \$2,500

- Proud "Silver Sponsor" certificate on behalf of the Immokalee Chamber of Commerce

- 1 – 10x10 tent to use as either an informational booth, Arts & Craft booth or as a food vendor

(Please specify which one you would prefer so we know where to set you up-this information must be provided to us no later

than 3-25-14)

- 1 – Free float entry registry (please fill out a float registration form along with your sponsorship)

- Name or Logo of your business on all promotional material including our 4 Sponsorship Banners (4x10)

(Chamber's Website, Posters & Mailings)

- Business Banner at the front entrance of the event (must provide us with your banner by Wednesday prior to the event 3-24-2014)

Bronze \$1,500

- 1 – Sponsor VIP parking pass
- 1 – Free float entry registry (please fill out a float registration form along with your sponsorship)

- Name or Logo of your business on all promotional material including our 4 Sponsorship Banners (4x10)

(Chamber's Website, Posters & Mailings)

- Business Banner located at the event (must provide us with your banner by Wednesday prior to the event 3-24-2014)

Supporter \$500

- Business Logo on our four banners (4x10)

- Business Logo on our Website as sponsor for the event

- Business Banner located at the event (must provide us with your banner by Wednesday prior to the event 3-24-2014).



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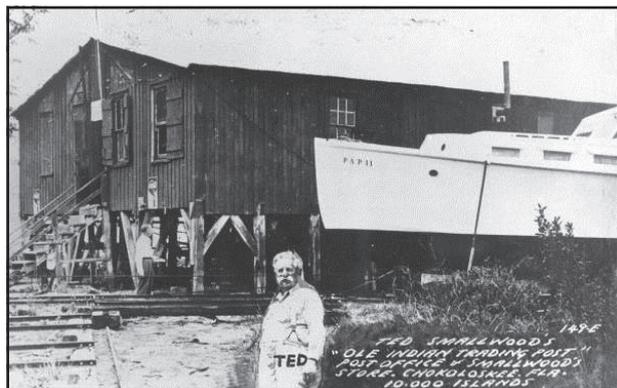
1. VISIT www.newszap.com
2. CLICK on "Classifieds"
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- First 400 words are FREE! Create your ad online 24/7 at www.newszap.com.
- Post your ads in these Florida newspapers for as low as \$8.00 each: Okeechobee News, Caloosa Belle, Immokalee Bulletin, Clewiston News, Belle Glade Sun & The Glades County Democrat

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Explore Historic Chokoloskee



Courtesy of Florida State Archives

The Smallwood Store & Museum is one of the highlights of the Walking Tour of Historic Chokoloskee on March 8.

The little village of Chokoloskee is about as far south as you can go in Southwest Florida. It is fascinating with its shell mounds, old buildings, and cemeteries. The Everglades Society for Historic Preservation (ESHP) will conduct a guided Walking Tour of this historic island on Saturday, March 8.

“Visitors during the past four years enjoyed our tours of Everglades homes and public buildings so we thought they might like to explore the neighboring area for a change. One of the highlights of the tour is the Smallwood Store & Museum founded almost 100 years ago.” said Marya Repko, ESHP president.

The cost of the guided tour is only \$20 which includes a souvenir ticket booklet with pictures and historical information. Registration is at 10:00 a.m. in the parking lot at Chokoloskee Church of God.

You can also buy tickets in McLeod Park

in the center of Everglades City at Art-in-the-Glades from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. which will feature local artists selling their crafts, live music, and authors signing their books.

If you reserve on-line, your ticket booklets will be posted to you so you can do not have to wait to buy them. For more info, see the organizer’s website at www.evergladeshistorical.org or phone Marya at 239-695-2905.

DIRECTIONS: From I-75 (Alligator Alley), take Exit 80 south on SR-29. After 20 miles, you will cross US-41 (Tamiami Trail) and continue another four miles to Everglades City where you go around the circle and travel south over the Chokoloskee causeway about 4 more miles. The Church of God is the first right after Chokoloskee Post Office. Or, take US-41 to the corner of SR-29 and proceed south through Everglades City.



Submitted photo

Special Olympics

The Immokalee Indians Unified Basketball team came back in very close games with Masters receiving the Gold over the weekend in Gainesville. Seniors almost pulled it out at the buzzer. The ball circled twice around the rim and bounced out to an “On Your Knees game”! They received the silver! Thankful to all the partners who developed as team players and coaches and made friendships along the way! March 1 Collier County Track and Field Meet at Golden Gate High School 10 a.m. Angel Gonzalez – Unified Partner, Davirus Johnson – Unified Partner, Hunter Dimas – Unified Partner, Jay Rodriguez – Unified Partner/coach, Oscar Malayan – Unified Partner, Jose Benavides – Unified Partner, Alberto Bonilla – S.O. athlete, Andres Domingo-Perez – S.O. athlete, Billy Jules – S.O. athlete/Manager, Julio Loya – S.O. athlete, Steven Villareal – S.O. athlete, Michael Temaj – S.O. athlete, Katrina Jackson – S.O. athlete/Cheerleader, Daniel Jose – S.O. athlete, Johnny Garza – S.O. athlete, Damian Johnson – S.O. athlete.

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Tuesday, March 11.....	Immokalee, FL
Wednesday, March 12.....	Cape Coral, FL
Thursday, March 13.....	Punta Gorda, FL
Friday, March 14.....	Lehigh Acres, FL

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