

Taylor Clarke reigns at festival

In the gala "Gone Country" themed Immokalee Harvest Festival Queen Pageant March 22, Miss Taylor Clarke was named Harvest Festival Queen for 2014. First Runner-Up is Elizabeth Hamman and Second Runner-Up Alejandra Escobedo.

Immokalee's 2014 Harvest Festival Junior Miss is Tra'Quavia Prince. First Runner-Up Saragine Rhau and Second Runner Up Marie Rhau.

Contestants were judged in four categories: Modeling and Costume Creativity, Talent, Evening Gown and On-Stage Interview. Awards were presented for Miss Photogenic and Most Ad Sales. The pageant paved the way for the main event this Saturday, March 29, at Airport Park from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. The event is free, parking is \$3.00

The parade starts at 10:30 a.m. Line up begins at 9 a.m. at the corner of 9th & Main St. BBQ winners will be announced at 6 p.m. on stage.

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

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Locals walk for epilepsy awareness

by Marylou V. Navarrete



Submitted photos/Marylou Navarrete
The Castro family back row- Maria and Lupe Castro.
Front row -Natalia and Diana Castro.

On Saturday, March 22, 2014 the Epilepsy Foundation of America held its National walk for "Epilepsy Awareness" in Washington D.C. Thousands of parents and supporters joined to help bring Awareness on Epilepsy and raise funds for more research on a cure.

This same day here in our town of Immokalee at 3 p.m., parents Lupe and Maria Castro organized an Epilepsy Awareness walk in honor of their seven-year-old daughter, Natalia Castro, as well as for others who are diagnosed with epilepsy. Many family, friends, co-workers, residents of Immokalee, and even Natalia's ESE Teacher, Mrs. Barbra Southwick who works at Eden Park Elementary but lives in Naples, came out to walk in this peaceful event to show love and support.

So what is epilepsy? It is a neurological condition which affects the nervous system in the brain. It is also known as a "Seizure disorder." Epilepsy is usually diagnosed in a person when they have had at least two seizures that were not caused by some known medical condition, like alcohol withdrawal or extreme low blood sugar. Epilepsy is not contagious, it is not a disease, it is not a physical disorder. Again, it is a neurological condition which currently has no cure. This is one of the reasons awareness needs to be shared with everyone not just those affected by it.

The supporters for the event gathered at the Immokalee Community Park and walked the block toward the public library, down past the Immokalee

See Walk— Page 2

Submitted photo/Andi DeLisle

Fire delays traffic on SR 29

Firefighters battled a fire involving a trailer loaded with 13 bales of hay Sunday, March 23, closing SR 29 at Westclox Road for about two hours, according to the Immokalee Fire Department. Fortunately, no other vehicles were involved. The cause of the fire is undetermined at this time, although the driver believes someone driving by flung out a lit cigarette which landed on trailer. Firefighters utilized over 5,500 gallons of water and three pieces of apparatus to extinguish the stubborn blaze. Firefighters had to unload each bale off the trailer to extinguish the bales as the fire was deeply imbedded in each bale. The owner of the trailer is Ronald D. Malburg of Naples.



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Vergo heading to Tallahassee

Immokalee Regional Airport Manger Tom Vergo has accepted a position as Assistant Superintendent at the Tallahassee Regional Airport. His last day here at the Immokalee Regional Airport will be Wednesday, April 9.

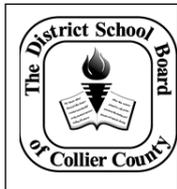
Mr. Vergo has been with the County Airports for over 11 ½ years. "I have had the

opportunity to see great changes to all of our Airports, especially over the last 3.5 years here in Immokalee. My great successes over the years have been largely in part to the dedication, assistance, and guidance from all of you." He added that it has been a pleasure working with people in Immokalee.

Students First

by Maribel De Armas

Before I delve into some information regarding next year's Kindergarten students, there's an important message we want to make sure gets out to all parents and guardians of current students at any of our Immokalee area elementary schools. There's an Informational Parent Meeting set for this coming Tuesday (April 1) at 6:00 p.m. in Immokalee High School's Auditorium (701 Immokalee Drive). You see, Collier County Public Schools wishes to inform you of the consideration for moving sixth grade back to Immokalee Middle School (IMS) beginning next school year. This means that our current fifth grade students may be attending 6th grade at IMS instead of their current elementary school as has been the practice for the past few years. Please make sure this important meeting on the evening of April 1st is on your calendar, especially if you are the parent or guardian of a current fifth grader in Immokalee. Spanish and Haitian Creole translators will be available.



Kindergarten Roundup

So, I can't believe we've already reached the tail end of Spring Break, marking the beginning of the home stretch to the end of the school year and the time when parents of our youngest crowd – our incoming Kindergarten class – have to start thinking about next school year. If you are the parent of a child who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2014, and will be ready to start Kindergarten come the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year in August, here is some important information for you.

First, make sure you know which elementary school your child is zoned to attend. If you don't know, we have an easy way for you to find out by visiting the Parent's page on the Collier County Public Schools (CCPS) website at www.collierschools.com/parents. Click on the "Enrollment" icon, which will take you to some great information about enrolling your child in school including a link to the "School Boundaries Page" where you can enter your home address and automatically find out which elementary school your child will attend. All of this information is available on the website in English, Spanish, and Creole.

The yearly "Kindergarten Roundup" is about to start at all CCPS elementary schools. Each school has scheduled an official "roundup" date and time between now and May for parents and future Kindergartners to visit the school, get a bit of an orientation, and receive information on how to enroll. The schedule for our Immokalee area schools is as follows:

- Eden Park Elementary – Thursday, April 3rd, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Highlands Elementary – Monday, April 7th, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.
- Lake Trafford Elementary – Tuesday, April 29th, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Pinecrest Elementary – Tuesday, May 13th, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Village Oaks Elementary – Friday, April 4th, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and Tuesday, May 13th, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Kindergarten can be an exciting and scary milestone for children and their parents, so we want to make sure the transition process is made as easy as possible. We look forward to meeting our 2014-2015 Kindergarten class!



Submitted photo

Julian Vallejo pushing his twin little brothers Ethan and Ivan along with more supporters for the recent epilepsy awareness event.

Walk

Continued From Page 1

High School, past the baseball fields and back around toward the park. Many of the participants wore a purple colored shirt which represents epilepsy awareness for the month of March. As they walked many held a banner and signs with information, stopping at each corner of the block to read out loud. Linda Rios, an aunt to Natalia said, "I am glad I came out to this event because I learned a lot of good information and have a better understanding of why parents with children who have disabilities do this."

Information like 1-in-26 persons has epilepsy. Medication does not stop a seizure it just tries to help block it from happening. Signs of common symptoms or also known as a "First Aid for Seizures" are blank staring, chewing or grinding of teeth, fumbling, wandering, shaking or twitching uncontrollably and confused speech. If you come across this please do not grab a hold of the person. Calmly let others around you know what is happening, have someone call for help, block any hazards so the person does not harm themselves, try to keep track of the time and remain nearby until the seizure ends and help arrives.

Maria Castro says, "From my own personal experience I know that as a parent you can feel scared, frustrated, overwhelmed, and lonely when you don't know what to do or what is happening to your child. Natalia

was only 18 months when she had her first seizure, only I did not know what was happening to her at the time. She just woke-up vomiting, shaking and twitching for about a minute. The aftermath left her whole left side of her body limp for a day. This is called partial paralyzing of the body and can last up to 72 hours. She was taken to the St. Petersburg All Children's Hospital for testing.

"Early detection is the best help for your child. Do not stay in denial that there is nothing wrong with your child, Maria continues to say. It is a challenge that will continue for many years to come. Till this day we are still learning more by researching on line and talking with other parents who have children with Epilepsy."

Maria and Lupe are speaking out not only to let people in Immokalee know they are parents of a child with epilepsy but that there is a lot of organizations and resources to help - like Family Network on Disabilities (FND.com), Epilepsy Foundation in Florida (efof.org). She would also like to help with any questions or point you to someone who can help. You can contact Maria Castro at (239) 503-5596. On March 26 the Epilepsy Foundation asks all to light a purple candle at 8 p.m., representing Hope for a cure. This was the first of many Walk for Epilepsy Awareness and the Castro family would like to thank all who participated.

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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.

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- 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.

Spring Fling at Ave Maria

Ave Maria Town Center will host a Spring Fling event on Saturday, April 5 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Town Center. The public is invited to attend the free event featuring outdoor music by Moony Mann Band, prize drawings throughout the day, and food and beverages from town center merchants including Milano's Pizza, Queen Mary Pub, Scoopz Ice Cream, and Tropical Smoothie. A car show will be on display by West Coast Muscle Car Club and Cool Cruisers. The event is scheduled during the town's Model Mania Week, April 1 - 7, where visitors are invited to tour 17 model homes including two new models at Hampton Village by Pulte Homes.

For more information about the Spring Fling and Model Mania, please call 239-352-3903.

Ave Maria is located at the intersection of Oil Well and Camp Keais Roads in Eastern Collier County. The main entrance, on Oil Well just west of Camp Keais, leads to the Town Center. For more information, please visit www.avemaria.com or call 239-352.3903.

Community Briefs

Learn about email

Gmail, Yahoo Mail, Hotmail, Comcast Mail, Online, Offline . . . Do all of these terms confuse you? Technology is always changing and Email has changed a lot. This class will focus on using various types of webmail. If you don't know what that is, then this class is for you. Class size is limited.

Wednesday, April 16, 2-4 p.m. at the Immokalee Branch Library. Naples Free Net Teacher. Registration is required. Please call (239) 657-2882

Learn about MS Word

This course is designed to teach the basics of MS Word, including editing text, changing fonts, alignment and justification, saving, printing, and more! Class size is limited. Immokalee Branch Library Instructor: Naples Free Net Teacher.

Wednesday, April 9, 2-4 p.m. Registration is required. (239) 657-2882.

Sun-N-Fun

Sun-N-Fun Lagoon Water Park will open for spring break until Monday, March 31, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

- 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 with lily pads and ropes for climbing, for children ages 5 - 12 years

For more information about Sun-N-Fun Lagoon or other public pool facilities, please visit the Parks and Recreation Department online at www.napleswaterpark.com. The public may call Sun-N-Fun Lagoon at (239) 252-4021.

ESC officially changed to Florida SouthWestern State College

March 18, 2014 - TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - The Florida Senate unanimously passed Senate Bill 236 to rename Edison State College to Florida SouthWestern State College. The bill is sponsored by Senator Garrett Richter, whose District 23 area includes parts of Collier and Lee counties.

"Edison State College has a long history of contributing to the well-being of the region and to its students. As Florida SouthWestern State College that tradition will continue for generations to come," said Senator Richter.

"Our mission to 'inspire learning; prepare a diverse population for creative and responsible participation in a global society; and serve as a leader for intellectual, economic and cultural awareness in the community' remains unchanged," said Dr. Jeff Allbritten, President, Edison State College. "We thank Senator Richter for his support and leadership throughout this process."

"We appreciate the Senate's recognition and support for our need to fully embrace the region we serve," said Matthew Holliday, Director of Government Relations at Edison State College. The next step, said Holliday, is for House Bill 137 to come before the Florida House for a final vote. That vote is expected in the next week.

Celebrating over 50 years of excellence, Edison State College is Southwest Florida's largest, most accessible and ranked nationally as one of the most affordable institutions of higher education. Serving more than 22,000 students per year regionally, nationally, and internationally, students are also active in a wide variety of clubs and programs that cater to their interests. Nationally, Edison State is ranked 45th among associate degree producers and 26th for its prestigious associate producing Nursing program. For more information please visit edison.edu.

Collier's Teens Tell Big Tobacco: I am NOT a "Replacement!"

Collier- The tobacco industry is losing customers. Not only are more smokers quitting, every day, an estimated 1,315 people in the United States die because of smoking.

In response, the tobacco industry targets a new generation of potential nicotine addicts, which they call "replacement smokers." A 1984 internal document from R.J. Reynolds', the makers of Camel, stated: "Younger adult smokers are the only source of replacement smokers... If younger adults turn away from smoking, the industry must decline, just as a population which does not give birth will eventually dwindle."

This Kick Butts Day, Collier's Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) are speaking up and taking action to let Big Tobacco know they will be not replacements. Kick Butts Day, on March 19, is the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids national day of activism that empowers youth to fight back against Big Tobacco.

Recently, members of Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) at Lely High School won second place in this year's national Kicking Butts on Film (and Radio) Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest, the unofficial kick-off event of Kick Butts Day. The PSA Contest was hosted by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, which received numerous entries from across the United States. The Lely High School SWAT video,

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TAJmZyWp8jc>, titled "Cigarette Dissection" aims to expose the thousands of deadly chemicals in tobacco, 70 of which are known to cause cancer. By dressing up as surgeons, SWAT members dissected a large handmade cigarette and one by one took out various chemicals, including urea, tar, rat poison, and ammonia, from inside the "dead" cigarette.

"After learning about the manipulative tactics of Big Tobacco, like the ingredients they use in tobacco that addict kids like me, I want to get the message out to fellow classmates", said Lely High School's SWAT President. "During Kick Butts Day, we will work with other SWAT members in Collier County to let people in our community know how harmful tobacco use really is."

The first and second place PSAs will be featured in an upcoming blog post on Tobacco Unfiltered (The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids' official blog) as well as the Kick Butts Day website and social media channels.

For each smoking-related death, at least two youth or young adults become regular smokers each day. These young people rarely consider the long-term health consequences of smoking when they start. Because of nicotine, a highly addictive drug, three out of four youth continue smoking well into adulthood, often with serious and even deadly consequences. In fact, about half of long-term smokers will die prematurely from smoking-related causes.

"Youth have always been a target for the tobacco industry," said Tobacco Free Florida Bureau Chief Shannon Hughes. "Numerous internal tobacco industry documents reveal that the tobacco companies perceived young people as an important target. They developed products, like flavored tobacco, and marketing campaigns aimed at teens."

The fact is that nine out of 10 smokers start by age 18. If current smoking rates continue, 5.6 million U.S. children alive today who are younger than 18 years of age will die prematurely as a result of smoking.



Submitted photo

Airman James Sainvilus

Sainvilus graduates from basic training

Air Force Reserve Airman James Sainvilus graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Sainvilus is the son of Jean and Eliamene Sainvilus of Immokalee.

He is a 1997 graduate of Immokalee High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in 2001 from Alabama A&M University, Huntsville, Ala.

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FSU med students learn important lessons

Working in the field took on new meaning for a group of Florida State University first-year medical students who spent their spring break in Immokalee, conducting health screenings at migrant housing camps in partnership with the Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida.

"We had an amazing week of service," said Dr. Javier Rosado, FSU Clinical Assistant Professor. "Our students touched the lives of the Immokalee community as they served literally hundreds of local migrant farm-workers."

As part of the FSU Cares program, the med students spent March 6-9 working with the Healthcare Network's Ronald McDonald Care Mobile staff, setting up shop in parking lots, farm fields and churches. Through this experience, students were able to see firsthand the significant challenges faced by the working poor.

"They now better understand the importance of providing compassionate care," said Dr. Rosado. "As I reflect on the week, I am inspired by the resiliency of the patients we serve. Many are individuals that persevere despite some very significant challenges, and I now better understand how privileged we are to serve our patients."

He noted this opportunity would not be possible without the partnership of the Health-

care Network.

"Their selfless efforts and compassion have taught the Immokalee community that we can be trusted with their healthcare," he said. "The Network's staff has also been wonderful with our young enthusiastic first year students, welcoming them with open arms and helping to provide them with a memorable learning experience."

During the four days of outreach, students conducted vision and hearing exams, checked blood pressure and monitored vital signs aboard the Healthcare Network's Ronald McDonald Care Mobile®.

"That's the most rewarding part about the process," said second-year student Gesnyr Ocean, "because the people who can't afford it are most times the ones who need the most help."

Ocean said the experience is inspiring him to go into primary care medicine and return to Immokalee for the school's cross cultural medicine rotation.

For more information on Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida and its Foundation, go online to www.healthcareswfl.org or call 239-658-3116.



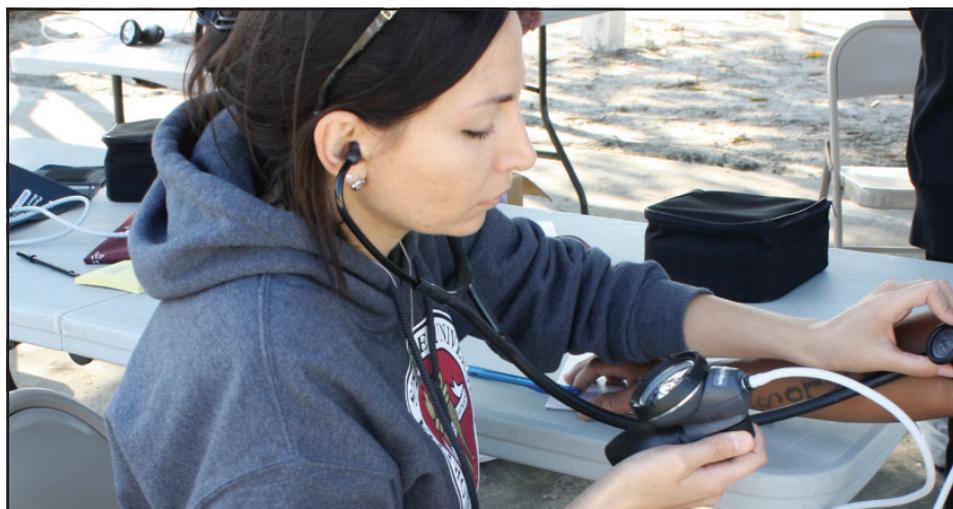
Submitted photos/Kaydee Tuff

TOP RIGHT: Florida State University first-year med student Rachel Johnson administers blood glucose readings to an Immokalee resident as part of the FSU Cares program.

TOP LEFT: First year medical students from Florida State University College of Medicine spent spring break serving the working poor in Immokalee through the FSU Cares program. From left, Paulin Gotrace, Dr. Kim Driscoll, Rachel Johnson, Sanaz Vaziri, Dorthy Morency, Donay Salmasinia, Heather Cross, Karen Myers, ARNP and Gesnyr Ocean.

LEFT MIDDLE: Nurse Karen Myers takes height and weight readings to determine body mass index during the Migrant Expo in Immokalee. Myers was assisting with the FSU Cares program.

BOTTOM LEFT: For FSU first year med student Donay Salmasinia, spring break activities included giving blood pressure readings to migrant farm workers as part of the FSU Cares program.



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Collier's 2014 Alligator District Camporee

by Stephen E. Thompson

On February 8, Immokalee's Boy Scout Troop 65, sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, joined other Collier County Boy Scout Troops in the 2014 overnight Alligator District Camporee at Camp Miles. The campsite is located inland from Punta Gorda. Troops 65, which were last year's "Top Troop" in the Alligator District, passed its trophy on to another troop from Naples at the Camporee.

The Eagle Patrol Scouts (11 year old Scouts) that had been the 2013 Top Patrol likewise passed on its trophy to another troop. The Scouts had a tremendous time, which involved competing in a wide variety of events with this year's theme on Outer Space. Competitions included an obstacle course, BB Gun shooting, archery, tomahawk throwing, climbing a 50 foot high tower, rocket launching, a boy-made cardboard canoe race, and many other activities.

There are more than 150 awards you can earn as a Boy Scout. Whether it's a rank advancement, merit badge, or one of the many other individual awards, there is plenty for you to set your sights on. As a Scout, you can learn how to camp and hike without leaving a trace and how to take care of the land.. There are plenty of skills for you to master,

and you can teach others what you have learned.

The Eagle Patrol completed a night-time compass course where they were required to hike a mile following directions by compass and navigating by star constellations. The Scouts cooked their own three out of four meals that enabled them to practice cooking and camping skills. Many of the Scouts completed rank advancement requirements while at the Camporee.

Eagle Patrol Leader, Jean St. Facile related, "We had a great time – my brother and I climbed the tower even faster this year than last year." Immokalee's Troop 65 is hopeful of retaking the trophy for top troop in 2015, and that will take unified effort from the Scouts as they fine tune their skills to prepare throughout this year.

Anything is possible for all Scouts when they strive to live by the Scout Oath (or Promise)- On my honor I will do my best, To do my duty to God and my country, and to obey the Scout Law; To help other people at all times; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight, and the Scout Law -A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.



Submitted photos/MaryLou Navarette
Scouts of the Eagle Patrol of LDS Troop 65 waving from their tents at the BSA Alligator District Camporee.



Submitted photos/MaryLou Navarette
Troop 65 Scouts, Camilo "CJ" Martinez and Benito Canales, climbing to the top of the 50 foot high adventure tower at Boy Scout Camp Miles.

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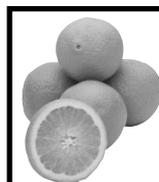
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Southern Gardens Citrus GROVE SUPERVISOR

Position Requirements

REQUIRED SKILLS: Successful candidate must possess a BS Degree in an Ag. Science, Business Management, or similar field of study. Computer skills such as Word, Excel, Outlook, etc. Excellent written and verbal communication skills. Proven record of handling multiple tasks successfully. Must be capable of managing the daily activities of up to 25 employees. Willing to work Grove operations schedule that requires long hours and weekends. Must be able to function well in a team environment. Must possess a current and valid driver's license with a good driving record.

PREFERRED SKILLS: 5 - 7 years experience in agricultural production and management/supervisory experience. Bilingual preferred. Familiarity with fertilizing/irrigation/insecticide programs. Pesticide license. WPS trained trainer.

Southern Gardens is a citrus grower and a major supplier of 100% pure Florida not-from-concentrate orange juice to the private label industry and major brands. Position provides competitive compensation as well as a benefits package that includes health, dental, vision, life insurance, 401-K, and bonus potential. EOE

Qualified candidates please send resumes to:

Fax: 863-902-4315

E-mail: dmelton@southerngardens.com

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Employment Full Time

Employment Full Time

TECHNICIAN needed for Redi-Plants in Estero, duties include pollinating tomato plants in the greenhouse, basic plant growing tasks such as pruning and sowing, transplanting and harvesting tomatoes in the field, some occasional spray work as well. Must have a valid driver's license and able to travel when needed. Bi-Lingual is a plus. For more information call 239-229-5937 or to apply fax your resume to 239-949-6536.

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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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Get ready for the third annual Balloons Over Paradise Festival

Seminole Casino Immokalee will bring its third annual Balloons Over Paradise Festival to the Seminole Tribe Youth Ranch, April 26-27, starting at 6 a.m. daily.

The two-day event will feature 60 hot air balloons and performances by Sister Hazel, Rachel/Hughes Band and JJ McCoy.

Additionally, there will be delicious food, arts & crafts, tethered balloon rides, classic car show, dog agility performances, a polo exhibition and an equestrian drill team performance. Admission is free to the all-ages festival.

Festival-goers will be able to walk among the balloons as they inflate for a mass ascension into the sky. Specialty balloons include Flying Pig, Sugar Bear, Elvis, Purple People Eater and much more.

Headlining this year's festival on Saturday, April 26, is Gainesville rock band Sister Hazel, known for such hits as "All For You," "Change Your Mind," "Happy" and "Life Got In The Way." The band's style has blended elements of folk rock, pop, classic rock 'n' roll and southern rock to create highly melodic tunes and prominent harmonies since its inception in 1993.

The band, comprised of Ken Block, Jett Beres, Andrew Copeland, Ryan Newell and Mark Trojanowski, released its 8th full-length album "Heartland Highway" in 2010 and continues to tour the U.S.

Also performing that day are South Florida's Rachel/Hughes Band and JJ McCoy.

History will be made at this year's festival. For the first time ever, Polo will be brought to Southwest Florida, with more than 30 top Polo ponies. Six international players will be featured in an exhibition match and will be available to meet and sign autographs for festival-goers after the game.

For those unfamiliar with the game, professional Polo player Kris Kampsen will showcase the basics of Polo to the crowd before the match.

The fun, vibrant hot air balloons will also engage in games throughout the weekend. In the hare and hound competition, the hare balloon takes off first. The other balloons, called the hounds, will launch a predetermined time after the hare. Soon afterward, the hare will land, laying out a large fabric X, about 50 feet in diameter, and radios the coordinates to the hounds. The hound balloons will then attempt to drop their markers as close to the center of the X as possible, with the closest marker achieving the highest score. Cash prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners.

The Third Annual Balloons Over Paradise Festival schedule is as follows:

Saturday, April 26

- 6 a.m. – Gates and food vendors open
- 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. – Balloons ascend
- 8 a.m. – Arts & crafts and kid's experience
- 8:30 a.m. to noon – Tethered balloon rides \$15 (weather permitting)
- 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. – Native Cultural Village opens, featuring alligator wrestling and demonstrations
- 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Classic car show

- 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Dog agility performances
- 10 a.m. – Balloon education team will host Q-and-A
- 11 a.m. – Special Equestrian Drill Team performance
- 11:30 a.m. – Polo exhibition
- Noon – Polo match
- 1 p.m. – Stomping of the Divots (festival-goers are encouraged to join)
- 1:30 p.m. – Polo match
- 3 p.m. – Rachel/Hughes Band
- 4:45 p.m. – JJ McCoy
- 6:30 p.m. – Sister Hazel
- 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. – Balloon Glow

Sunday, April 27

At Seminole Tribe Youth Ranch

- 6 a.m. – Gates and food vendors open
- 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. – Balloons ascend
- 8 a.m. – Arts & crafts and kid's experience begin
- 8:30 a.m. – Tethered balloon rides \$15 (weather permitting)
- 9 a.m. – Native Cultural Village Opens, featuring alligator wrestling and demonstrations
- Noon – Festival ends

Parking for the event is free at Seminole Casino Immokalee. Pets and coolers are not permitted.

For more information about the 3rd Annual Balloons Over Paradise Festival, visit www.seminoleimmokaleecasino.com.

Community Briefs

Parent meeting

We want to make you aware of an important Informational Parent Meeting scheduled to give the school district the opportunity to inform parents and guardians of students attending our five Immokalee elementary schools are invited to an important information meeting to consider moving sixth grade back to Immokalee Middle School beginning next school year.

This move would affect current fifth grade students attending Eden Park, Highlands, Lake Trafford, Pinecrest and Village Oaks Elementary Schools, but parents of students in any grade are invited to attend.

The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, in the Immokalee High School Auditorium. Spanish and Haitian Creole translators will be available to parents needing their services.

Apply to iTECH free

Save \$20 March 31-April 4. Get started with Fall Enrollment at iTECH. Schedule your TABE testing appointment now for the week of March 31-April 4. Limited space available - act now! Testing times: Monday-Thursday 8:15 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. 3 p.m.

and Wednesday night 6 p.m. Download the TABE Study Guide @ <http://www.itech.edu>. Study for the TABE! Call ITECH for more information 377-9700.

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.

The excursion schedule for 2014 is as follows: 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.

Business & Service Directory

AUCTION

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IFD answers all kinds of emergencies

Immokalee firefighters and their union, the Professional Firefighters of Immokalee Local 4657 along with Northside Kiwanis Club, all joined forces recently in bringing smiles to the faces of two deserving young Immokalee boys.

On Sunday February 23, the bicycle owned by a 7-year-old Andy S. from the Farm Worker Village community in Immokalee became virtually inoperative as it was unfortunately damaged by firefighters. The damages occurred when crew members of IFCD EN30 A-shift, were left with no other alternative than to sacrifice the bike in order to free the entangled left foot of a five-year-old boy. His foot became entangled when it slipped off one of the bike's pedals as he rode around the neighborhood on the bike he borrowed from his cousin. Feeling terrible of the outcome of the incident firefighters immediately reached out to their local for assistance in replacing the damaged bike.

At next scheduled monthly union meeting a few days' later firefighters brought up the question to replace the bicycle to a vote. The outcome of the vote was unanimous in favor of not only replacing the damaged bike, but it was also decided that a second bike would be bought and given to five-year-old victim, Matthew A., the boy whose foot became entangled. Hearing of this, members of the local Kiwanis Club quickly sprang into action and through their support two brand new shiny green bicycles were purchased



Submitted photos
Immokalee Firefighters and the Northside Kiwanis Club joined forces replace boys bike.

and delivered to the boys on March 10, along with safety helmets for each boy.

The Professional Firefighters of Immokalee L4657 would like to extend their most sincere appreciation to the Northside Kiwanis Club for the generosity demonstrated by their actions.



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