

IMMOKALEE BULLETIN

Serving Immokalee, Ave Maria and Eastern Collier County

Vol. 47 No. 19

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Scramble for I.H.S. athletics

Immokalee High School's Second Annual Golf Scramble is coming up soon!

Saturday, May 17, at Panther Run Golf Club in Ave Maria, players will tee off with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. Entry fee is \$80 per player, which includes golf, prizes and lunch. The event is sponsored by the Immokalee High School Athletic Department and all proceeds will benefit the student-athletes at I.H.S.

For further information contact Athletic Director Tony Allen at 239-377-1818 or mail allento@collierschools.com.



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

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RCMA, focal point for many paths

by **Patty Brant**
Immokalee Bulletin

There was a buzz of unusual activity at the RCMA Community School May 1, with 19 adult volunteers on campus painting, sanding and generally spiffing up the school.

Employees of the Goldman Sachs Group's Community Team World Works Project coordinated the work day with members of the Wounded Warriors Project and the Naples' law firm of Quarles & Brady.

Goldman Sachs is a sponsor of the Naples Children & Education Foundation, which fielded several volunteers on the renovation project. RCMA has been a beneficiary of NCEF's work since 2005.

Children from kindergarten through sixth grade attend the charter school run by the Redlands Christian Migrant Association, which serves the rural poor.

James W. Swanson is a 32-year veteran of the US Air Force. This CEO Naples Children and Education Foundation, was part of his company's work team. New to the area, Mr. Swanson arrived in Naples just last January from Washington, D.C. where he worked with the American Bar Association, ready to share his experience with his new neighbors. His newness to the area did not hinder his passion for the project in any way.

Watching the work transform the school



Immokalee Bulletin/Patty Brant

Veterans and Wounded Warrior Project alumni Carlos and Rick work together to refurbish railings at the RCMA Community School.

grounds was bitter sweet for RCMA Community School Principal Jim McDevitt, who is leaving the school for family reasons. He's going off to Colorado soon, but his heart may well be staying at the school. Covered with personal little notes students pasted all over his shirt,

he declared, "I'll be back!"

RCMA Executive Director Barbara Mainster noted that the school recently had the highest rating in Collier County in math, reading and

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Soccer School: Update from Mexico

Last week we ran a story about Immokalee Soccer School player, Esteban Acevedo, as he was about to embark on a unique soccer training experience to Mexico. As a last minute addition, two more players were able to join him! Thanks to Inter Cups, the organization running the camp, players Jesus Paz and Luis Pablo Ramirez were also able to attend.

While at camp the boys trained with other young players from Mexico and Guatemala. They were also given a special opportunity to tour the Azteca soccer stadium, visit the Cruz Azul training facilities, and attend the Cruz

Azul vs. Leon Mexico game!

A tremendous thank you goes out again to Inter Cups for believing in the Immokalee Soccer School and providing this experience to our players. We are very grateful.

We also would like to thank the parents for supporting the kids in the way that they can follow their dreams.

We are very proud of players. Esteban, Jesus and Luis Pablo are examples of what Immokalee Soccer School is all about: Working with the youth of Immokalee to inspire them to set goals, to work hard, and to be the

best people they can be in all areas of their lives.

Check back next week for a full report on the trip! The boys will be returning home this week and we are very excited to hear all of their stories from this unique and memorable experience.

For more information on these organizations visit:

<http://www.immokaleesoccerschool.org/>
<http://www.intercups.com.mx/>

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- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

Masthead photo courtesy of Waddy Thompson
www.facebook.com/waddytpphotos

Haitian study

A research study in Immokalee is seeking participants in a prenatal care use study. You must be: 18 years old or older, Haitian and pregnant. No medical care is this study, but you will be compensated for your time. Interviews scheduled around work hours. Michele Bolduc, a doctoral student in geography at the University of Kentucky, is the investigator. Call China Pierrelus at ((239) 601-6258 or email cpierrel@eagle.fgcu.edu.

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Michele Bolduc, yon elèv doktora nan jwografi nan University of Kentucky, se ankète a pou pwòje rechèch sa a. Si w vle aprann plis sou etid sa a oswa ou vle detèmine si ou ka kalifye, tanpri rele China Pierrelus, yon elèv nan Florida Gulf Coast University, nan (239) 601-6258 oswa voye yon imèl à cpierrel@eagle.fgcu.edu.

RCMA From Page 1

science scores. She said the school is successful because it has a "laser" focus on the students.

Two alumni of the Wounded Warrior Project lent their skills to the work day as well. Rick enlisted in the Army three weeks after 9/11, when he was just 22. He was working as a carpenter but felt he was



Immokalee Bulletin/Patty Brant
Shantel Jilani of the Quarles & Brady law firm, Greg Ferrero of Goldman Sachs and RCMA's Kristina O'Hern rejuvenate the alligator in the RCMA Community School's courtyard with some fresh paint and a little love.

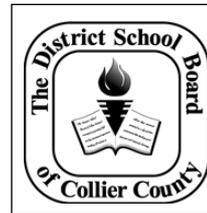
Students First

by Maribel De Armas

There are so many times during the year that we highlight student achievement. And, that's okay! Education really should be all about the kids. But, it is also important to recognize the teachers that make student achievement possible; individuals who put students first every single day. A few of months ago, you may recall that I shared thoughts from a handful of the twenty-six Champions For Learning Teachers of Distinction.

The teachers I highlighted spend their school days right here in Immokalee. Since that time, one of these fine Immokalee teachers joined the ranks of "best of the best." Frederick Rimmner, physics teacher from Immokalee High School, was named one of the five 2013-2014 Champions For Learning Golden Apple Recipients.

I had a chance to chat with Fred a few weeks ago when we interviewed him for The Education Channel's yearly Golden Apple edition of "District Digest." He shared that the surprise visit he received announcing him as a Golden Apple Recipient was fun for the entire class. Although he did say "it really didn't sink in until a little later on." I always like to ask our teachers what inspires them to do what they do. Fred's answer... "I work with a great group of kids and a great group of teachers. I genuinely enjoy my job and my students make it enjoyable for me. They make it fun and exciting." Fred also shared one last thing



with me, a piece of advice for folks just starting out as teachers or maybe thinking about being a teacher. He said, "Be flexible. My teaching style, I've adapted from about half a dozen great teachers that I've worked with over the past couple of years. My style continues to change in response to students, integrating technology, and seeing what really works for the kids. It's that flexibility that I would recommend."

Another Immokalee-area teacher also received recent recognition, this time as a Collier County Public Schools Teacher of the Year. Bob Moore from Immokalee Technical Center (iTECH) was named the 2013-2014 Post-Secondary Teacher of the Year. He teaches Heavy Equipment Mechanics. Principal Dorin Oxender says, "Bob came to us with more than 25 years of corporate training for heavy equipment dealers across North America. His contacts and outstanding instruction have been the one-two punch for student achievement and job placement success. He boasts the highest placement percentage in the school, an amazing 99 percent!"

Fred, along with the rest of the Golden Apple class of 2014 and Teachers of Distinction, and Bob, along with all of this year's CCPS Teachers of the Year, will be officially recognized tomorrow evening at the Champions For Learning 24th Annual Golden Apple Celebration of Teachers Dinner. Congratulations and thank you to all of our wonderful teachers.

Stay tuned for next week when I'll share news of yet another special recognition that recently happened right here in Immokalee.

meant to do something different.

He served in the infantry in Kuwait and Iraq, suffered injuries and was medevaced to Germany. He served in the Army from 2001-04 and described himself as having been "shell shocked" and "lost" for years. He visited Florida from Michigan in 2007 to see a friend - and promptly came back to stay.

Eventually veterans community outreach helped him "find himself" and he's been involved in the WWP for a year. The program offers social opportunities that can make a big difference for veterans living with the aftermath of war.

He feels the WWP helped him find a niche - serving others is a lifestyle, he said, and he's "ready to give back." He'll be turning 36 in June and things are looking up. Taking a break from sanding the second floor railing at the school, he said, "I like today!"

At the other end of that railing, also wielding an electric sander, was veteran Carlos Ruiz, who served in Afghanistan from 2005-06. He was a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne and has the knees to prove it.

Carlos is also an alumnus of the WWP. It was both men's first work project with the WWP.

Carlos entered the Army at 17 and volunteered to go to Afghanistan. He spent five years in the Army before being discharged with disabilities in 2008.

He knows first-hand about the isolation and alienation of PTSD and the group is

helping him work through it.

"It's a lonely road," he said.

Now 28, he is going to college on the GI Bill, and is in his last year at Edison State College studying corporate finance. His goal is to start an online nonprofit that focuses on funding projects for PTSD.

Jack Shelar is the outreach coordinator for South Florida and Puerto Rico with the WWP. For three years he was the managing liaison with the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, where wounded servicemen and women were treated before going home.

Working with the WWP is personal for him. "These are my guys," he said proudly. He said the WWP has 50,000 alumni in the US, with about 1,200 in South Florida.

The project sets up events like fishing and baseball games for the alumni as well as community service like the one at the school and also helps the vets with benefits.

Marie Jimenez Grants Director for Naples Children & Education Foundation, a private foundation. She coordinates these projects with other groups. Their Winter Wine Festival is their most successful fundraiser, she said, the largest global event of its kind.

The volunteers at the RCMA Community School came from many walks of life. They came there via many different paths, but it was exactly where each needed to be at that moment, working a common goal - to make the educational experience a little bit nicer for Immokalee's children.

Letter to the Editor

Fire Consolidation Equals Bigger Government

By now, I'm sure that many of you have heard about the consolidation of various fire departments in Naples. If you have read some of the latest editions of the *Naples Daily News*, you may have seen Fire Commissioner Jim Burke's (North Naples Fire Control and Rescue District) articles. You may have also heard that the Fire Commissioners from North Naples and Big Corkscrew Island have started holding joint meetings similar to that of what the Fire Commissioners from East Naples and Golden Gate have been doing for some time now.

Fire Commissioner Burke asks several questions in his April 12, 2014, article published in the *Collier Citizen* which include:

- How will this consolidation improve my service?
- How will this consolidation save taxpayer dollars?
- Give me an example of a service improvement that I will receive.
- Can these objectives be achieved without a consolidation? If not, why not?

But with all the questions, we have yet to see any answers. In fact, Fire Commissioner Burke even writes "Ask questions, demand answers."

Let's take a moment to look a little further back in time. Fire Commissioner Burke ran another article this time in the *Pelican Bay Post* where he boasted about how much money Pelican Bay residents paid for fire protection. Pardon me if I'm wrong, but I didn't think it was the Pelican Pay Fire Control and Rescue District, I thought that Fire Commissioner Burke was supposed to represent the entire area encompassed by North Naples Fire Control and Rescue District. Again, Fire Commissioner Burke writes, "Pelican Bay residents should ask many questions, among them:

- How will this improve the service I already receive?
- How will this improve response times to Pelican Bay 911 calls?
- What functions will be consolidated and how will that improve service? Will it save tax dollars?
- How will such a consolidation make more efficient use of my tax dollars?
- What will I see of the dollar savings to come from consolidation?
- Pelican Bay is a tax dollar donor com-

munity. Will our money fund Big Corkscrew service improvements? Budget deficits?

- Can these objectives be achieved without a consolidation? If not, why not?"

Again, we see no answers, suggestions of improved service, or any hint of his thoughts on how to save taxpayer money.

Fire Commissioner Burke ran another article in the March 15, 2014 edition of the *Collier Citizen* and the March 11, 2014 edition of the *Naples Daily News* where he wrote, "Let's first consider the reality of a 911 medical call. The caller wants help to arrive as soon as possible." When someone calls 911, the Collier County Sheriff's Office dispatches all calls for service directly to the most appropriate fire and EMS units predetermined by the local Fire Chiefs. If Fire Commissioner Burke is somehow thinking that consolidation will improve or "fix" response times, maybe he should answer the question as to how changing names on a building and creating a larger fire district will somehow magically make a fire unit respond faster to a call for service.

Fire Commissioner Jim Burke also went on to say in his February 20, 2014 article posted in the *Naples Daily News* that "For seven years I have been commenting on and touting the benefits of streamlining the emergency services delivery structure...that would allow us to fully utilize 21st century personnel, equipment and technology." I don't know what kind of emergency response system is being used in North Naples, but I almost bet that the staff of the North Naples Fire Control and Rescue District certainly is not stuck in the 20th century, that their equipment is not substandard, and that their technology is not limited. As Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the Immokalee Fire Control District, I find Fire Commissioner Burke's comments to be offensive toward the professional firefighters throughout the county (many of whom are EMT and/or Paramedic certified already).

In reading through Fire Commissioner Burke's list of questions and articles, I could never seem to find an answer to his many questions that he says you the taxpayer should be asking. So, let's help him out a bit, shall we?

- How will this improve the service I already receive?

o My answer: Unless Fire Commissioner Burke plans on taking out additional loans to fund new station construction based

on population differences throughout the county/district or somehow finds funding for construction of new stations, fire units will still respond from the same stations they have been responding from. So from a noticeable service standpoint, you aren't going to see a difference.

- How will this improve response times to Pelican Bay 911 calls?

o My answer: I don't know about you, but if I were concerned about response times, it would be on a county-wide basis, not just in one residential community in North Naples. But, I am not concerned at all about how 911 responds to calls period. The fine men and women who work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, handle several hundred thousand calls for service per year here in Collier County. Changing the name on a fire station will have no impact what so ever on how fast a dispatcher answers your call, type's information into the system, or dispatches units.

- Will it save tax dollars?

o My answer: Well, not if consolidation means building new stations, purchasing equipment and hiring additional staff, it sure won't. Look at East Naples-Golden Gate Fire Control and Rescue District for example. Their Fire Commissioners are working through an administrative consolidation, but let's say they complete their consolidation efforts. What are they going to do with their numerous office staff members? I say "numerous" but even that's an understatement. Have you seen their website? They now have a Fire Chief, an Assistant Chief of Operations, a Deputy Chief of Fleet, Facilities, and Logistics, a Deputy Chief of Fire and Life Safety, and a Deputy Chief of Administration and Finance. Really? Do they really need all of these administrative positions? I can certainly understand a Fire Chief and an Assistant or Deputy Chief to help with day-to-day functions, but what's next a Deputy Chief to handle janitorial services or lawn care?

So, here's my point. Prior to November of 2012, YOUR fire department was facing many issues. At the time, you didn't have Fire Chief. The prior Fire Board (through years of not focusing on the budget), terminated the Fire Chief, laid off firefighters and closed Station 31 on Carson Road leaving many of you with a response time of close to 12 minutes if units were coming from Station 30 on New Market Road and even longer if the nearest unit responded from Ave

Maria. Since 2012, YOUR Fire Commissioners have made sure that Station 31 has been reopened and staffed. We would certainly like to have additional staff in place at each station not only for YOUR safety, but for the safety of the limited crew we do have. The taxpayers within the Immokalee Fire Control District supported an increase in property tax in order to continue the service YOUR fire department provides. Did you notice that when you were asked to help support YOUR fire department, you stood up and did so while the citizens East Naples and Golden Gate said no to their fire departments?

Each Fire Commissioner across the county, with the exception of YOUR Fire Commissioners here in Immokalee, receives a salary! If you don't believe me, take a look at their websites and click on their budget information or pick up the phone and call to ask. The information about their salary is all public record. YOUR Fire Commissioners have voted in the past to not receive a salary for their services. I wholeheartedly agree with this vote! Why should we take taxpayer money, when firefighters have been laid off and stations have been closed? But, while you hear about Fire Commissioners in Naples wanting to consolidate to save money, not one Fire Commissioner in Naples has voted to put an end to receiving a salary. All it takes is a simple vote to do so. I wonder why it is that they refuse to do so. Why is it they want to create a larger, county-wide fire department? Could it be that if they create a

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Lipman recently hosted Homerun Harvest

IMMOKALEE, Fla. (April 30, 2014) – Lipman recently hosted its fourth annual Homerun Harvest, a free community event to benefit the children of Immokalee. As a result of the event, enough money was collected to purchase an estimated 1,200 backpacks filled with school supplies to be distributed to Immokalee students prior to the start of the 2014-15 school year.

“We’re very pleased with the turn-out and want to thank the Immokalee community, especially our fellow produce companies, for the support,” said Jaime Weisinger, director of government and community relations for Lipman. “Each year this event becomes even more meaningful because it’s so close to our home and hearts.”

The majority of involvement came from produce companies also headquartered in rural areas. Like Lipman, these companies recognize a similar need to support the children in the communities where they’re based.

In addition to Lipman, main event sponsors included Everglades Farm Equipment, Bronco Packaging, Aljoma Lumber, Bruno Air Conditioning, Immokalee Produce Shippers and Produce Connection.

“This was just the first step,” said Weisinger. “We look forward to distributing the well-deserved and much-needed backpacks and school supplies at the end of the summer.”

About Lipman

Based in Immokalee, Fla., Lipman is the



Submitted photo
Some of the players in this years event.

largest open field tomato grower in North America, providing dependable year-round fresh produce through an integrated network of research & development, farming, processing, and repacking. Farms in Florida, South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, California and Mexico – totaling tens of thousands of acres – allow Lipman to grow and ship fresh produce 365 days a year. For more information, visit www.LipmanProduce.com.



Letter

Continued From Page 3

county-wide department, taxpayers and residents will have less input on day-to-day activities?

Remember, each fire district must provide ample public notice (newspaper, website, and at the fire station) as to when and where public meetings will be held. In fact, a recent meeting was scheduled in Naples so that YOUR Fire Commissioners could hear how East Naples Fire Commissioners planned to dissolve the Fire Code Official’s Office. But, yet again many of the fire districts in Naples failed to publicly notice the meeting. However, YOUR fire district publicly noticed the meeting at the administrative offices (Station 30) and on the District’s website (www.immfire.com). So, the meeting has now been postponed until the other fire districts, with their large organizational structures and abundant amount of office staff, figure out if the left hand knows what the right hand should be doing. Once this meeting is re-scheduled, it will again be posted on the Immokalee Fire Control District’s website and at Station 30 on New Market Rd. Prior to this incident, East Naples and Golden Gate Fire Commissioners held a meeting at the Fire Code Official’s Office without fully publicly noticing the meeting. While they ran the notice in the *Naples Daily News*, they failed to list the meeting on their own calendar of public meetings on their joint website. YOUR Fire Commissioners only heard about the meeting through word of mouth.

Remember, YOUR Fire Commissioners typically meet at 6 p.m., on the third Thursday of every month at Station 30. Twice a year (April and October), YOUR Fire Commissioners meet at the workout facility on Annunciation Circle in Ave Maria. These meetings are always publicly noticed so that you can stay up to date with changes at the department and speak out against or in support of an item on the agenda. As scheduling conflicts arise, monthly meeting dates and times may be changed, so I encourage you to check the District’s website (www.immfire.com) often.

As a firm supporter of local government, open access to public records, and input from local citizens who need to have their voice heard, I leave you with this to consider... The Department of Fire Rescue Command Staff (working under the umbrella of the Broward County Sheriff’s Office) has 24 Chiefs, Deputy Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs, Division Chiefs, District Chiefs, Battalion Chiefs, a Medical Director and a Business Manager. Do you think the residents of Broward County have a voice in their fire service after years of consolidation? Keeping Immokalee Fire Control District a local government entity ensures that you will always have a voice in what happens in YOUR community.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you,
Travis Anderson
 Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners
Immokalee Fire Control District
tanderson@immfire.com
The opinions expressed here are my own and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the other Fire Commissioners with the Immokalee Fire Control District.

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Some news for Immokalee Little League

The Immokalee Little League hosted the Girls Senior Softball Tournament (ages 13-16) at the Tony Rosbough Park on April 25 and 26. It was a very good turnout. We had two teams from Lehigh Acres that participated (Lehigh Acres Hurricanes and the Lehigh Acres Seminoles). We had another team from LaBelle called the LaBelle Seminoles and of course our very own the Immokalee Lady Royals. The Lehigh Hurricanes had 2 losses and one win, The LaBelle Seminoles had also 2 losses and one win. The Lehigh Seminoles had 2 wins and 1 loss and The Immokalee Lady Royals also had 2 wins and 1 loss. The Lehigh Acres Seminoles came out on top for the Championship and our Immokalee Lady Royals came in second. Congratulations to all the girls that participated in the Tournament for a job well done.

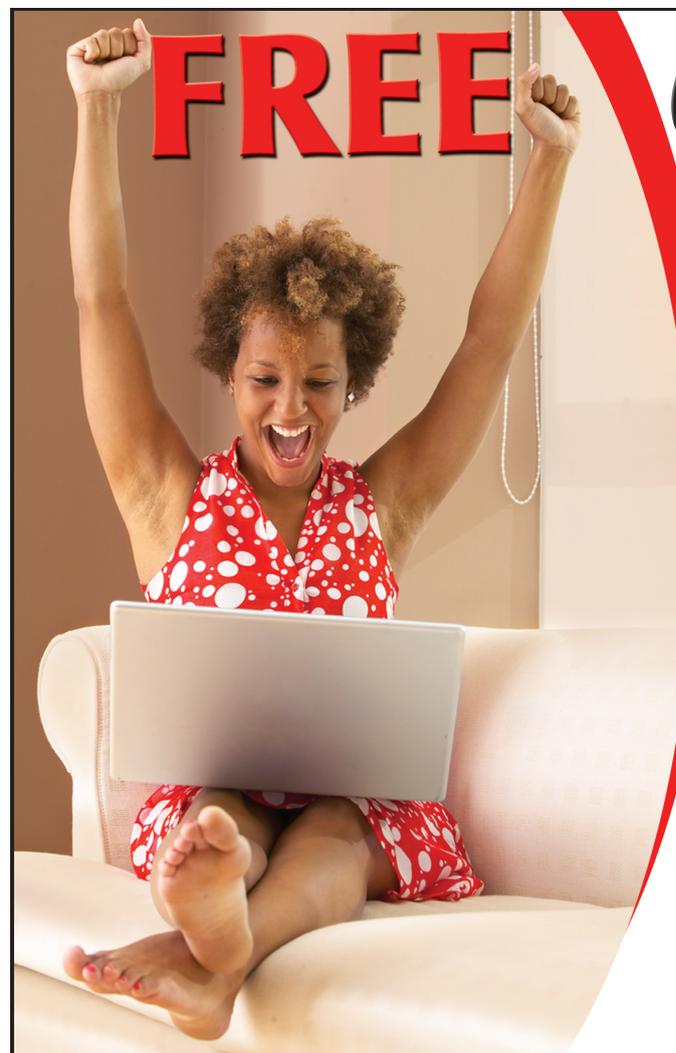
VOLUNTEERS

We would also like to thank all our volunteers who came out and helped when we really needed it. Our Immokalee High School Beta Club kids, Immokalee Foundation, Our umpires and coaches who gave their time to be here with us on the field and of course our Immokalee Little League Board of Directors. Thanks again to all our volunteers that were here at the Little League Park instead of being with their families. Thanks again for all your help. We are still in bad need of umpires. If you would like to make a difference please call at the number provided. 239-324-3072.

"Our Kids Today, is our Future Tomorrow."



Submitted photos
 Left: The Lehigh Acres Seminoles came out on top for the Championship.
 Top: Batter up!



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The Guadalupe Center is currently seeking an **Administrative Assistant** for our management team. Duties include compiling board meeting packets, scheduling volunteer groups, processing mail, technology liaison, and other clerical duties. Full time benefits eligible position.

Requirements:
- Minimum High School Degree
- Minimum 2-3 years administrative experience in deadline-oriented environment
- Bilingual a plus
- Excellent MS Office skills required
- Efficient, well organized, productive

Please submit resumes to **hr@guadalupecenter.org**
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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.

Real Estate

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14 acres for sale. Road frontage, Hwy 29 and Heritage Rd, Felda, FL. Great commercial site \$8900/acre More info call 239-503-4037

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

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Mobile Home Sale

Large 3br, 2 bath doublewide located on 1/2 acre lake front lot. Property on A Road (short drive from Immokalee) Only \$54,900 with \$5,000 down. Financing available with your average credit. Call 863-675-8888

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FWC highlights efforts of 4,000 volunteers for Volunteer Month

“No time is better than Florida Volunteer Month to reflect on how much the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) appreciates its volunteers,” said FWC Executive Director Nick Wiley. “FWC volunteers are exceptional – collectively and individually – in offering their time and efforts to help conserve Florida’s amazing wildlife diversity.”

More than 4,000 volunteers help with 80 volunteer projects annually, bringing a wide range of skills, experiences and perspectives to the FWC team. Their efforts lend to the agency’s success in conserving the naturally beautiful habitat of Florida, which is a key to wildlife sustainability.

Over the past six years, FWC volunteers have contributed 656,955 volunteer hours to make great strides in conservation as they tirelessly continue to:

- Fight the formidable battle against invasive species.
- Expand the range of many valuable imperiled-species-monitoring projects.
- Instruct Florida’s youth, residents and visitors on how to become responsible anglers and hunters.
- Educate the public about living with wildlife.
- Improve the visitor experience at many wildlife management and wildlife environmental areas.

For example, volunteers discovered a rare wasp species. This rare invertebrate effort was a partnership with the Florida Natural Areas Inventory to identify rare invertebrate species as well as determine invertebrate diversity at Chinsegut Wildlife and Environmental Area and the Citrus Tract of the Withlacoochee State Forest. Volunteers also expanded the nest box monitoring range for the Southeastern America Kestrel Partnership. Volunteers monitored 10 boxes in Hernando County during the 2011 breeding season and are currently monitoring 95 boxes throughout the north central and southwest regions of Florida. The kestrel nest box monitoring program is a citizen science effort to help biologists assess kestrel populations statewide.

Individual volunteers also shine as much as the collective work of all 4,000:

- David Blatt, from Chassahowitzka, became the FWC’s Division of Habitat and Species Conservation Volunteer of the Year for 2011-2012.
- Bruce Antognoni, from White Springs, was the FWC’s Volunteer Hunter Safety Instructor of the Year in 2012.
- Danielle DeSilvestro, a high school student from Gibsonton, became a national finalist for the 2013 Future Farmers of America Proficiency Award for work completed with the Tarpon Genetic Recapture Study through the FWC’s Fish and Wildlife Research Institute during the summer of 2012.

To those who have not yet explored the rewarding experience of volunteering, it is never too late to get involved.

Learn more about the FWC Volunteer Program at MyFWC.com/Get-Involved.

Community Briefs

Early dismissal Friday

Collier County Public Schools will be dismissed early this Friday, May 9. The early dismissal time for elementary, middle, and high school students is three hours earlier than the dismissal time on other days.

Summer fun coming

Kids! Get ready for the summer programs at Immokalee South Park, at 418 School Dr.:
 Camp Collier June 9- August 9
 Movie nights June 13, July 11, and August 8; \$5.00
 Daddy and me dance.
 School aged dances.
 We also have space available for rent.

For more information and upcoming events feel free to call us at 239-252-IMSP(4677).

Mothers Day

On Sunday, May 11, at 11 a.m. Allen Chapel is having a very special Mother’s Day Worship Service to honor three community mothers who sacrificed much. Their sons (Jacob, Joseph and Jerry) were best friends and they were killed in a car accident on Halloween night. They were only 17 and one was 18. The mothers are Soyla Gutierrez, Regina Hall and Isabel Ruiz. The Allen Chapel Mother of the Year is Sister Alice German.

Come out for worship and fellowship and to show these deserving mothers love and support. Speaker: Pastor Melinda Hernandez. Allen Chapel is located at 208 S. 3rd Street.

Martha’s Kitchen to feed hungry

Allen Chapel AME Church will open Martha’s Kitchen Feeding Ministry once a month to provide free hot meals for those in need, alternating between breakfast one month and lunch the next. The kitchen is set to open May 17, when the ministry will provide breakfast at 9 a.m. Lunch will be served the following month at noon. The church is located at 208 S. Third Street. This is a joint ministry with the Missionary Society and Evangelism.

Computer basics

Learn computer basics. No prerequisites. This is an introductory computer class for beginners. Learn terminology, how to operate a PC and how to create and manage files. Class size limited.

Come to the Immokalee Branch Library Thursday, May 15, 5-7 p.m. Registration required. Call 239-657-2882.

Register for Pop Warner

Apply with the Immokalee Seminole Pop Warner league for Cheer and Football players ages 5-15 for the upcoming season.

If you would like to register your child you can pick up an application at the Print Shop, 1390 North 15th Street Suite 300 (across the Florida Community Bank) or go online at www.ImmokaleeSeminole.com. Register Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at the Print Shop from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Chamber needs photos

The Immokalee Chamber of Commerce is seeking old pictures of Immokalee and its events to display at the office. Please contact Mariela at 657-3237.

Get government contracts

Small Business Administration can help your business get state and federal government contracts. Come to the Southwest Florida Works Building (One-Stop), 750 S. Fifth Street Friday, July 19, from noon-1:30 p.m. This is a free workshop but, due to seating, registration is required. Call Marie Capita at 239-867-4121 or go to MarieCapita@Immokalee_Biz.

Business & Service Directory

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Submitted photos

Soccer experience

Thanks to Inter Cups, the organization running the camp, three Immokalee soccer players are enjoying a unique soccer training experience with other players from Mexico and Guatemala. Watch for more information about their experiences.

Lipman golf classic May 10

NAPLES – Thousands of Florida's most vulnerable children will benefit on May 10 when the Lipman Golf Classic tees off at Naples Heritage Golf & Country Club.

The tournament is the largest annual fund-raising event for the nonprofit Redlands Christian Migrant Association, based in Immokalee.

RCMA operates some 70 child-care centers and three charter schools in 21 Florida counties.

All target the rural poor, especially the children of migrant farm workers.

Lipman Produce is one of RCMA's leading supporters, and RCMA has a child-care center on a Lipman farm near Immokalee. Lipman became a major sponsor of RCMA's annual golf tournament in 2012.

"RCMA serves the kind of people we like to employ," said Jaime Weisinger, Lipman's Director of Community Relations and a board member of RCMA. "They are dependable, hard-working parents who want their children to have all the benefits of the American Dream. RCMA gives those little kids a terrific start."

Last year, the Lipman Golf Classic netted \$85,000 for RCMA, used to enhance services statewide, and much of the money helped RCMA qualify for 16:1 matching funds from the state of Florida's Office of Early Learning.

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Drum Beat

I, along with Indian Nation, wanted to take the time to let everyone know about a great accomplishment that took place this weekend at the state track meet in Jacksonville. Senior, Anita Munoz became the fastest girl to ever run the 3200 meters (2 miles, 8 laps on the track) for Immokalee High School. Her time of 11 minutes and seven seconds shattered her previous record of 11:19. In addition to that Anita became the 2nd fastest girl ever to run the 1600 (1 mile) in 5 minutes and 8 seconds, again shattering her previous record of 5:14. We also had a great showing by another Immokalee High student who closed out his career in grand fashion. Leonel Delacruz, who will also be attending Florida Gulf Coast University with Anita, placed fourth in the one mile while capturing his second state championship of his senior year with a resounding victory in the 2 mile. Another placer from Immokalee was Jaymon Thomas, who placed 6th in the high jump.

Another exciting event taking place at



I.H.S will be The May Mayhem Talent show sponsored by the Immokalee High BETA club. The show will take place Friday, May 9, in the auditorium starting at 7:30. Admission is \$5.00 and all school rules will apply.

Upcoming Events:

Booster Meeting May 12 -5:00

Red and White Game May 16 -6:00

I.H.S Golf Scramble May 17 -7:30 a.m.
Registration (Panther Run Golf Course)

I.H.S Prom May 17 at Pelican Preserve

Senior and spring awards May 20 -5:30