

# IMMOKALEE BULLETIN

Serving Immokalee, Ave Maria and Eastern Collier County

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Thursday, October 22, 2015

## Peace March October 26

The Shelter for Abused Women & Children will recognize National Domestic Violence Awareness Month with its Annual Children's Fair and Peace March on Monday, Oct. 26, 2015 at the Collier County Immokalee Sports Complex, 505 Escambia St. in Immokalee.

"The Peace March is an annual highlight for our Immokalee outreach program," said Shelter Executive Director Linda Oberhaus, "In addition to bringing the community together for some family-friendly fun, this march embodies our mission to prevent, protect and prevail over domestic violence through advocacy, empowerment and social change."

The Children's Fair will run from 3-6 p.m., followed by the police-escorted

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## Barnhart, Crews Co-Grand Marshals

With the unanimous out pouring of votes from our Christmas Committee, Bernardo Barnhart and Kelly Stevenson Crews were selected as this year's Christmas Around the World Parade Grand Paradeand & Co-Parade Marshal for 2015.

### Barnardo Barnhart is Grand Parade Marshal for 2015

Bernardo Barnhart was born and raised in Immokalee, Bernardo is a local community activist. After graduating from the



Bernardo Barnhart

University of Florida in 2001, Bernardo returned to Immokalee and focused on serving the community through the Banking Industry. From previously serving as President of the Immokalee Chamber of Commerce, to coaching little league, to serving on the boards of different organizations such as Goodwill of Southwest Florida and Rotary, Bernardo balances his career as Vice President of First Bank with his devotion to making a positive impact in Immokalee. He pioneers events such as the Reader's Program, and continues to give back through actively taking part in local governance. With his wife Michele, and three sons Bernardo Jr., Xavier and Benito, Bernardo and his family proudly represent the Immokalee community.

### Kelly Stevenson Crews is Co-Parade marshal for 2015

Mrs. Kelly Stevenson Crews is married to Steve Crews who is a ESE teacher at Golden Gate Middle School in Collier County, Fl. They both have one son named Guy Henley who is an ESE paraprofessional and Varsity Assistant Basketball Coach at Golden Gate High School.

Ms. Kelly Stevenson works at Immokalee High School as a ESE Teacher, and has been

at IHS for the last 19 years, right here in Immokalee.

Ms Kelly is a 1987 graduate of the University of Cincinnati. She started her career as a ESE Teacher at Middletown High School, Middletown, Ohio for 9 years.

While teaching at IHS she has been a High School Varsity Girls Golf and Tennis coach – 5 years, a High School JV softball, soccer coach – 2 years, a Club Sponsor – Student Government – 5 years, a High School Special Olympics Coach – bowling, soccer, flag

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Kelly Stevenson Crews

## Hall of Famer counsels I.H.S. students

by **Patty Brant**  
Immokalee Bulletin

Immokalee High School students had another great opportunity to gain some first hand knowledge from a world class gentleman on and off the sports arena.

Thanks to 1x1 Leadership, two periods of students filled the auditorium on October 16 to see Basketball Hall of Famer Ralph Sampson and hear about his life and his guiding philosophy first-hand.

Principal Ken Fairchild started things off with a video clip of one of his own role models - none other than Ralph Sampson - at the top of his form when he played for the Houston Rockets in the 1980s.

2012 inductee Basketball Hall of Fame Board of Director member Sherman Brown introduced the man himself saying that Ralph Sampson could be anywhere in world he wanted to be - but chose to come to Im-



Immokalee Bulletin/Patty Brant  
**Basketball Hall of Famer Ralph Sampson with Sinclair Williams of 1x1 Leadership, Principal Ken Fairchild and John Lawson of 1x1 Leadership. More photos on Page 4.**

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## Indians win again!

Congratulations to our Immokalee Indians on their 37-6 victory over Mariner on October 16! Good luck at their home conference game vs. Dunbar Friday, October 23 at 7 p.m.

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

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# IMMOKALEE BULLETIN

Serving Immokalee, Ave Maria and Eastern Collier County

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

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## Our Purpose...

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

## We Pledge...

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

Masthead photo courtesy of Waddy Thompson  
[www.facebook.com/waddyphotos](http://www.facebook.com/waddyphotos)

# March

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Peace March at 6 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Activities include children's games, entertainment, food, and prizes. For more information, call The Shelter's Immokalee Outreach office at 239-657-5700.

The Shelter, Collier County's only certified domestic violence center, is leading the community to prevent, protect and prevail over domestic violence [and human trafficking] through advocacy, empowerment and social change. To help provide a solution to end violence at home and in our communities, go to [www.naplesshelter.org](http://www.naplesshelter.org).

The Shelter has received the coveted 4-star rating by independent charity evaluator Charity Navigator for the fifth consecutive year.

# Parade

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football, tennis, track, basketball, golf – 10 years, a Project Unify Sponsor – 3 years, and with Immokalee's Relay for Life Committee for 12 years.

Ms. Kelly has dedicated herself to all of IHS students and in the community of Immokalee in all types of community needs. Ms. Kelly has given her time and energy in volunteering for the Christmas around the World Parade & Snow Gala Events also.

Both, Grand Parade & Co-Parade Marshals will be at the December 3, 2015 "2nd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting", on Zocola Plaza (107 -1st Street) for photos with our community and both candidates will be riding in the December 12, 2015 "Christmas around the World Parade & Snow Gala for the community of Immokalee. They will see you there!

# Hall of Fame

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Immokalee to talk to them.

One of only 350 elite professional basketball players of all time who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame, Ralph Sampson is 7'4", just 180 pounds and one of the best centers to play the game.

Mr. Sampson told the students that "the greatest assets of this community are in this room" before launching into his message.

From the first, he explained how education is the key to success and how he, with the blessing of his parents, turned down \$1 million to play for Boston Celtics right out of high school. He knew he wasn't ready to play with the pros and that an education would serve him much better. Coming from a hard working farm family, much like so many of Immokalee's families, he did not let the lure of money and fame get in the way of becoming the person he really wanted to be.

He chose to go to the University of Virginia where every year he turned down offers from the pros, and chose to continue his education. By the end of his college career, he had been named college Player of the Year twice, and earned his degree in speech communications.

# Students First

by Katie Tanner

From a new place to climb to generous donations from our community partners, here's a quick snapshot of some of the great things happening in our Immokalee area schools this month.

Lake Trafford Elementary (LTE) is looking forward to the 2015 Fall Festival to be held on October 30th, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. There will be lots of games, prizes, and food for everyone to enjoy. There will also be a wonderful performance from the second grade students. LTE also showcased new playground equipment for students to enjoy. Principal Joy Alvarez tells me, "The kids absolutely love it!"

Pinecrest Elementary (PCR) will be holding another Harry Chapin Food Bank event at their school on October 27th, starting at 3:30 p.m. PCR would also like to thank

L o w e ' s Home Improvement for their recent donation of cement blocks to help fix the school's vegetable garden.

Finally, great job to Deputy Varaly and the Highlands EL-HLE Troop Action Support Team

ementary (HLE) Troop Support Action Team! They recently collected lots of goodies to send to members of the U.S. Military overseas.



Submitted photos/Katie Tanner  
LTE Playground



HLE Troop Action Support Team

As he shared snippets of his growing up, Immokalee kids learned that, in spite of the years between them, the young Ralph Sampson was not really very different from themselves.

He was one in a small high school class with only four African American students in Harrisonburg, VA. His early years instilled a solid work ethic in him and motivated him to become successful. He learned discipline from his parents. As he told the students, "It's your own fault if you don't use your assets."

He used his passion, motive and potential to become a success on the basketball court but more importantly in life and challenged the students about what they would do with theirs.

As he often does at such events, Mr. Sampson took contact information from several students in the audience, promising to keep in touch and follow up on their progress.

One student, Keana Miller, captured his attention when he asked her what she wanted to be. She refined her first response, "I want to be a nurse" with "I will be a nurse." To further questioning, she told

him she is so adamant because of her internal drive and because of support from her mom and brother.

Mr. Sampson drove his points home with one simple word: MAP: Motivation (you must self motivate to go to school daily); Attitude (makes a difference in everything you do); and Plan (allow your parents, teachers and coaches to help you plan for success).

He even illustrated the importance of these three strategies through a tragedy in his own family. Every person is capable of being a success, he showed them, "it depends on how bad you want it."

Tish Sotello, a life coach, accompanied Mr. Sampson and helped the students understand the importance of self affirmation. Tell yourself every day that you're amazing, she said, and see what you can achieve by the end of the school year.

Mr. Sampson said he will be back in April for a golf tournament and promised to follow up on students at that time.

Thanks to 1x1 Leadership, Immokalee students have had the opportunity to learn from several Basketball Hall of Famers over the past several years: Spencer Haywood, Manny Jackson and Calvin Murphy.