

Chamber Chatter

A Publication of the Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce

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Brenda Bunting Retiring

Longtime Chamber Executive Director Brenda Bunting has announced she will be retiring the last week of May. Serving as Executive Director for many years, she chose to go part time in January 2017. At that time, Melanie Grimes, who had just retired from the Clerk of the Courts office in Belle Glade, joined the Chamber as Co-Executive Director. For the past 4 years Brenda and Melanie, along with Office Manager Pam Stevenson have formed a great team working together for the community. Despite the pandemic, the chamber has flourished and continued to grow in their support of local businesses and our community.



Brenda spent the early years of her career working at the local newspaper as a reporter and was the General Manager and Editor before accepting the position at the Chamber in May of 2001. “Working at the newspaper for 22 years and then the Chamber for 20 years have both been wonderful experiences,” she said. “Belle Glade really is a great place to work and live. People in the Glades take care of one another. I truly treasure all the friendships I have made over the years.”

During her tenure at the Chamber, membership increased significantly and the Chamber became more involved in community events. The chamber upped their involvement with the annual Black Gold Jubilee Festival and added organizing and co-hosting the 4th of July Celebration in partnership with the City of Belle Glade in 2017.

Brenda notes highlights of her career were traveling the country while serving as the national editor of the Women Involved in Farm Economics organization; receiving the Women of Accomplishment recognition from Palm Beach State College in 2000 and the Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year award in 2001. She has served on the Black Gold Jubilee committee and the Jubilee Board of Directors for over 35 years, serving as chair of the Jubilee several times and serving as the booklet editor over 10 years. She is past chair of the Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center Board of Directors, a graduate of Leadership Glades, Class of 2002, past secretary of the Lake Okeechobee Regional Economic Alliance (LORE), served on the American Red Cross board; the Farmworkers Council; and currently serves on the City of Belle Glade Board of Adjustments. She is active in her local church, the Belle Glade Church of God, where she teaches adult Sunday School and serves as the Church Clerk. Brenda and her husband Bob have two sons, Bobby and Chris and three grandchildren.

“It has been a joy working with Pam Stevenson and Melanie Grimes. I know I will be leaving the Chamber in good hands,” she said. She says she is looking

forward to spending more time with family at their property on the Florida/Georgia line and also plans to pursue some new hobbies.

Filling Brenda's shoes will be someone well-known and who is already a great asset to the community... Lamar Weathers.

Lamar has been a volunteer at the Chamber for the past few years. He has helped lead some of the Chamber renovation projects, and has been maintaining the Chamber's website and Facebook page. He has also been on the Black Gold Jubilee Committee as Chair of the Corn and Sweets Booth, Editor of the Black Gold Jubilee Booklet for 2019 and 2021, 2021 Co-Chair of Sponsorship, and he makes sure that the Jubilee had signs and banners!

Lamar was born and raised in the Glades and graduated Christian Day School in 1983. He attended West Tech for Cosmetology and after a few years working Lamar attended IRSC and FAU where he earned his Bachelors Degrees in Managing Human Resources and Managing Information Technology. He currently works at Headquarters Hair and Nails in Belle Glade where he will continue to work in addition to working at the Chamber.

Lamar wants to focus on enhancing the Chamber Member's benefits, "through communication, education and support. The Glades is a wonderful and special area and we want to help the businesses of the Glades not only survive but thrive!"

Black Gold Jubilee Was a Huge Success!

We want to thank all of the volunteers who gave many hours of their time to help make this year's Black Gold Jubilee a success. We also would like to thank the donors and the following sponsors whose generosity and continued support have made each this and every year's Jubilee possible.

**Bank of Belle Glade
Belle Glades Lions Club
City of Belle Glade
Duda Farm Fresh Foods
Elberta Crate & Box Company
Everglades Equipment Group
Florida Crystals
FPL
H.E Hill Foundation**

**Law Offices of Shannon J. Sagan
Rotary Club of Belle Glade
State Farm Insurance - Bernie Walker
Sugarcane Growers Cooperative
The Palm Beaches
TKM Bengard Farms, LLC
Wedgworth's
Wellington Regional Medical Center
Wilkinson Cooper Produce**

JEM Farms Inc



Black Gold Jubilee
Growing where we're planted

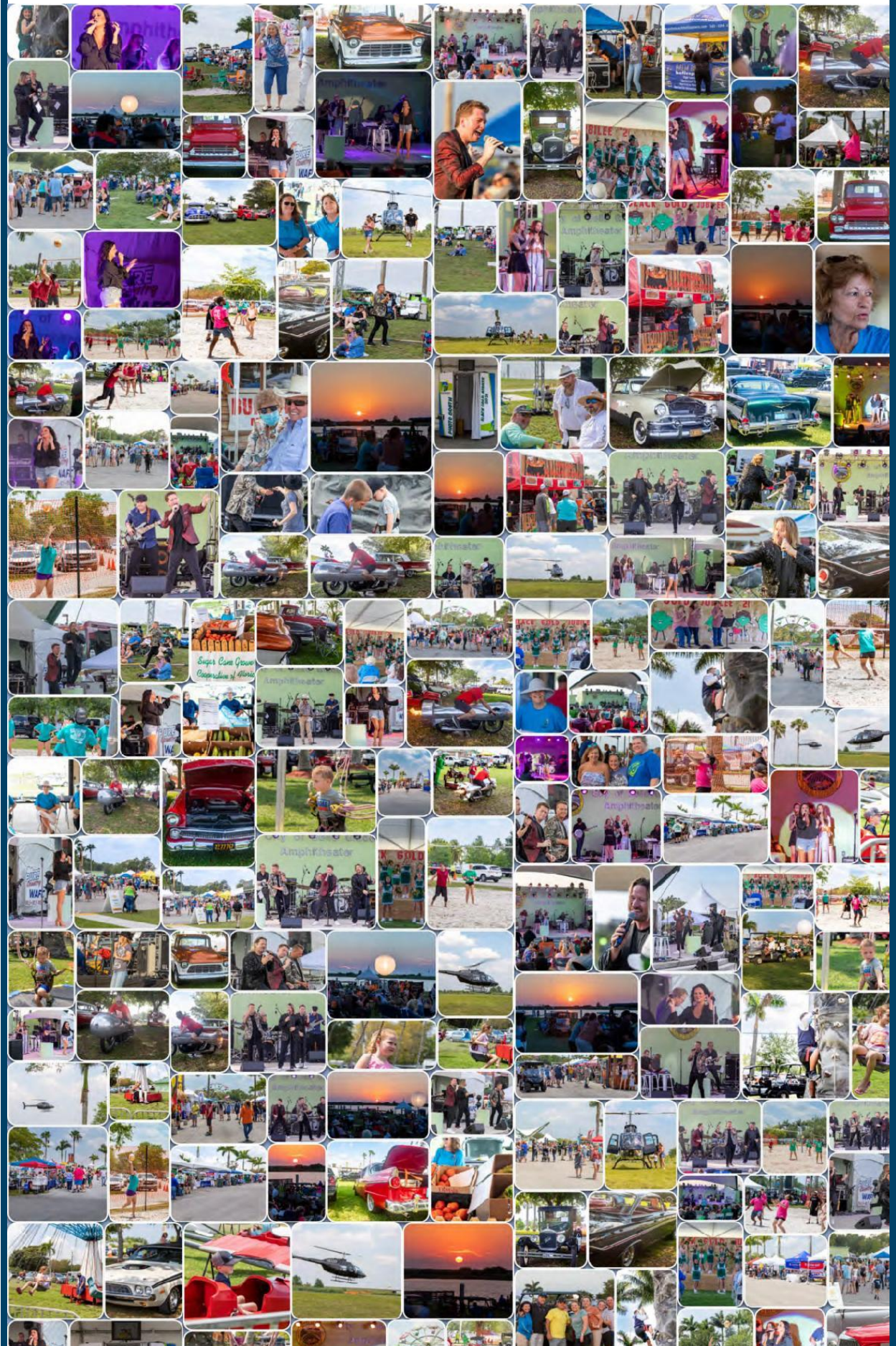
WE



OUR
SPONSORS!

Thank You!

Here's a snapshot of all the fun and exciting festivities that took place at this year's Black Gold Jubilee!



Chamber Member Spotlight



**ALZHEIMER'S
COMMUNITY
CARE®**

Serving You Since 1996

Alzheimer's Community Care

Corporate Headquarters is located at 800 Northpoint Parkway, Suite 101-B, West Palm Beach. Telephone: 561-683-2700.

Mary M. Barnes, President & Chief Executive Officer

The Pahokee Adult Day Care facility is located at 470 Barack Obama Blvd., Pahokee. Telephone: 561-924-7283. The center has been providing services at this location since 2004.

Alzheimer's Community Care is a community-based not-for-profit organization that provides quality, compassionate and specialized dementia care to patients and caregivers living with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders in Palm Beach, Martin, and St. Lucie counties since 1996. Its mission is to promote and provide community-based, family-centered care for patients and their caregivers living with neurocognitive disorders, through the belief, where there is help, there is hope.

Alzheimer's Community Care is the largest provider of community-based, dementia-specific services in Florida, serving over 4,500 individuals in Palm Beach, Martin, and St. Lucie counties. It consists of 12 specialized Adult Day Care and Service Centers, one of which is in Pahokee, and offers family nurse consultants, a 24/7 crisis line, an ID Locator bracelet service, support groups, case management, education, training, and advocacy.

To find out how you can support, donate, or volunteer, please visit www.alzcare.org



Affordable Dry Cleaning/ StitchWorks Plus

Affordable Dry Cleaning and StitchWorks Plus are located at 349 S. Main Street, in Belle Glade, Florida.

Affordable Dry Cleaning offers dry cleaning and alteration services, their hours of operation are:

Monday and Tuesday- 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday- 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Thursday and Friday- 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Closed Saturday and Sunday

StitchWorks Plus has been providing custom embroidery and screen printing to residents and businesses in the Glades since 2001. They stock school uniforms for all of the local schools! They do any and all types of promotional products from pens, keychains, hand fans to coolers, mugs, cups and more. They can put your business logo on almost anything!

Please check out StitchWorks Plus on Facebook to see all they can do!!!

Stitchworks Plus hours of Operation are:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday-10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Closed on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday

Email them at sales@stichwp.com for more information.

Jeff and Terri are lifelong residents and huge supporters of the Glades and Glades businesses. Jeff opened Affordable Dry Cleaning in 1997 and StitchWorks Plus in 2001.

[Check them out on Facebook](#)

New MyPalmBeachClerk.com

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT
COURT & COMPTROLLER
PALM BEACH COUNTY

JOSEPH ABRUZZO



Introducing the New MyPalmBeachClerk.com

Your time is valuable, and quickly getting the information you need, when you need it, is my top priority. Today, your Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller is making it easier than ever to access the information and services you need from our office.

Our newly redesigned [MyPalmBeachClerk.com](https://www.mypalmbeachclerk.com) will help you quickly access our most popular services, including records searches, marriage licenses, traffic ticket payments and more. The website's service-focused design reduces the number of clicks it takes for you to find the information you need.

In addition to the new user-friendly format, website improvements include:

- Service Finder: This intuitive tool takes visitors directly to the assistance they need.
- Home Buttons: New buttons on the homepage link directly to the most visited pages on the website.
- Mobile-Friendly design: The website is optimized for viewing on smartphones and tablets.

The [improvements you're seeing today](#) are based on the results of a month-long community survey, testing by user groups and visitor trend data from the previous website. Our website had more than 1.8 million visitors in 2020, and we hope those numbers grow even more with the launch of the new website.

If you have any feedback to share on the new site, we want to hear it so we can make it even better for you. Please share your thoughts by completing this brief [online survey](#).

I look forward to hearing from you about the new [MyPalmBeachClerk.com!](#)

Regards,

Joseph Abruzzo
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller

Chamber Board Member Spotlight

Dr. Charlene R. Ford has worked for the School District of Palm Beach County at West Technical Education Center (West Tech) for the past five years and is the Principal.



As the leader of West Tech, she is responsible for all the day the day and evening secondary and adult program offerings. Because West Tech was closed for over a decade, the chief task of her job is job to reconstitute West Tech, which includes addressing the needs of the facility and the offering of career and technical training to meet the needs of the residents and businesses that make up the Glades Region. Her work is made possible through the support and guidance of the School District, community stakeholders, local businesses, local elected officials, and interested citizens.

Dr. Ford has been on the Chamber BOD since August 2019 and also serves on the board of Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County – Glades Advisory Board, Lake Okeechobee Regional Economic Alliance (LORE), Planned Approach to Community Health (PATCH), Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated – South Palm Beach County Alumnae, Leadership FOCUS Class of 2020, and the Leadership Glades Class of 2018.

Dr. Ford and her husband, Benjamin, who teaches at Gove Elementary School, have been married for 27 years. Together, they have three children – sons Brentton and Vincent and daughter Carrie Elizabeth. Her hobbies include

delighting in her family! Working with youth in the community, and enjoying good food and good conversation with her sorority sisters.

A fun fact about Dr. Ford is that she was a student worker in the Explosives Technology Division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms for three years while she was in college in Washington, DC!

New and Renewing Members



Leon's Quality Professional Painting

Located at 44 Prewitt Village in Belle Glade, Florida. Rene offers both residential and commercial painting as well as pressure cleaning services. Rene Leon owner is insured, you can him at 561-261-8363 or email him at ReneLeon1973@gmail.com

Hanna's Soul Food and Kitchen - "Real Food for Real People"

Located at 949 W. Canal Street N in Belle Glade, Florida is open for breakfast and lunch, their hours are Wednesday thru Sunday 7am - 2pm. Owner, Tyrone Hanna invites you to stop in and see them. Hanna's also offers catering for corporate events, birthday parties, and funerals. Call them at 561-463-7073.

Thank You! **RENEWING MEMBERS**

Thank you to the following businesses who renewed their membership during the month of January, including:

American Insurance Brokers
American Youth Soccer
League
Eddie Rhodes
C4 Rents
Hundley Farms

JMA Electric
Performance Napa
St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church
State Farm Insurance – Joanne Jordan
Sugar Cane Growers Co-Op

Chamber Events

May 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Rotary Club Meetings Every Tuesday at 12:00 noon at the Community United Methodist Church						1
2	3	4 	5	6	7	8
9 Happy Mother's Day! 	10	11 Lore meeting 3:00 	12	13 BG Chamber Board meeting 12 pm.	14	15
16	17 Belle Glade City Commission Meeting 6:30	18 	19	20 Black Gold Committee Meeting LEW Museum at 5pm	21	22
23	24	25 	26	27	28 Chamber Closed	29
30	31 Memorial Day Chamber Closed	Lions Club Meetings The 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 11:30 for lunch at the Drawbridge Café. The Chamber will be closed for the summer beginning Friday the 28 th , we will be opening August 2, 2021.				

Chamber May Calendar

Click on the link below to download the May 2021 Calendar.

[Download May 2021 Calendar](#)

Member News

FBC Belle Glade Summer & Sports Camp!



FBC Belle Glade's 2021 Summer & Sports Camp

Summer Camp:
8 weeks starting June 1st and
ending July 23rd
*July is dependent upon enough interest

Sports Camp

Sports camp is a three day camp (Monday- Wednesday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.) and is for kids 4 years old - going into 6th grade. Cost is \$50 & includes a t-shirt. More info about game times to follow! Kids can join our field trip Thursday for \$25 more. Sign-ups open online 4/19. Check our FBC Belle Glade Facebook page for the link! You can also stop by the office and fill out a paper form.

week 1: Basketball & Cheer
June 14-16

week 2: Soccer & Cheer
June 21-23

week 3: Basketball & Cheer
July 12-14

week 4: Volleyball & Cheer
July 19-21

Summer Camp

Our all day summer camp is one giant adventure! Drop-off's are available starting 7:45 AM, with pick up time ending at 5:15 PM, Monday-Friday. Not only do our summer campers get to participate in Sports Camp mornings, they also get to go on Thursday Field Trips, have fun with awesome weekly themes, go swimming twice a week, create fun DIY projects to bring home and show you, learn some cooking skills, AND THIS ISN'T EVEN HALF OF THE THINGS WE HAVE PLANNED!!!! FBC Summer Camp is the place to be! \$150/camper per week. Sign-ups open 4/19 online, check our FBC Facebook page, OR stop by our office to sign up your camper.

contact our office for more info: (561) 996-5596

SUMMER CAMP DAILY SCHEDULE

7:45 - 8:50 AM **ARRIVAL/EARLY CARE**
Organized activity stations
 (simply project/games- varied daily)

9 AM **ALL CAMP OPENING CEREMONY**
 All campers come together to welcome the day
Tuesdays: Daniel Gonzalez, 4-H extension agent will talk to us about emotional intelligence.

9:40 AM **PERSONAL BIBLE TIME**
 Kids will have be taught how to read the Bible and do a personal devotion/quiet time.
 Non-readers will go into our Clubhouse & do Bible time with a teacher

10 AM **ACTIVITY PERIOD 1, GYM TIME!**
(Except Weds., which is Kid Zumba with Mrs. Ashlee!)

11 AM **ACTIVITY PERIOD 2: ADVENTURE CLUB**
 We're back to the Backyard to learn songs, memorize verses and hear true stories from the Bible!

12 PM **LUNCH!**
 Please bring non-heat ups. Napkins & utensils are available

- Please note: Schedule can vary from day to day and from group to group. The schedule may vary to accomodate special events at camp.

Please note, phones & tablets will not be available to campers unless a time has been set aside by workers for tech time.

What to bring
 It is important that your child comes to camp after having received a good night's sleep (8-10 hours) as well as a healthy breakfast in order to ensure for a fun, safe and energetic day. Our staff wants your child to get the most out of what our camp has to offer.

Campers should be dressed in comfortable clothing, including tennis shoes.

Please send a refillable water bottle with your child's name on it every day.

Please pack an extra mask for your child every day

Field Trip Thursdays!
 This varies weekly, but typically we will be gone from 9:30-3:30 each Thursday. We'll handle lunches these days, but please pack a snack.

SUMMER CAMP AFTERNOON SCHEDULE

NOON **Lunch**

12:40 PM **Clean up & Free play time**
Tuesdays and Friday prep for swim time

1 PM
Mondays: Kid's Zumba
Tuesdays & Fridays: Swim time (1-3 PM)
Wednesdays: Mystery Moment
 Will we go on a nature walk? Have a special guest?
 Weds. Mystery Moments are something to look forward to!

2 PM **Mondays & Wednesdays:**
 Activity Period 3, The Next Iron Chef

3 PM **Mondays & Wednesdays:**
 Activity period 4: D.E.A.R./Snack Time
 Reading: Drop Everything and Read, snack time (We'll eat what we made!)

Tuesdays & Fridays: Back from swim time, rinse off & change, snack time
Thursdays: Back from Field Trip! Get settled in

3:30 PM **Activity Period 5: Fine arts**
 Depending on the week, our friends will learn something about music, work on a skit, or create their own art masterpiece!

4 PM **Celebration Station**
 Campers come together to celebrate wins of the days | Individual and/or group beads to celebrate displays of kindness & character values | Announcements | Review time | Song Time

4:15 PM **Clean up, movie time!**
 Campers tidy up their space, gather items they brought with them/made at camp and need to bring home, then snuggle in for a movie before their grown up comes and picks them up

Everyone checked out by 5:15

**Schedule can vary from day to day and from group to group. The schedule may vary to accomodate special events at camp.*

Field Trip Thursdays!

Sports Camp will be starting soon! Contact FBC Belle Glade!
 Click [here](#) to download the schedule.

Saluting Six over 60 Nominations!



NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN UNTIL MAY 7, 2021

Senior Citizens gave us birth, built our nation, fought our wars and gave us opportunities to be who we are today. They have established and contributed to the businesses, organizations, and way of life in our communities.

Join us in recognizing these community leaders in an upcoming special section highlighting the honorees and their accomplishments.

Six Over 60 Nominee Criteria

The following criteria will be considered.

Community Volunteer Achievements – Significant lifetime contributions to their community marked by care and concern for others.

Personal Achievements – In pursuit of one's daily life the individual is the epitome of devotion to family, friends, faith, and individual effort.

Professional Achievements – Having achieved a level of success in business, education, or government that your community benefits from.

Rules of Eligibility

1. The nominee must be 60 years of age or older as of May 1, 2021.
2. The nominee must live in, or "winter in" a community served by Lake Okeechobee News, Caloosa Belle or Immokalee Bulletin including the communities of Okeechobee, Buckhead Ridge, Lakeport, Moore Haven, Clewiston, South Bay, Belle Glade, Pahokee, Indiantown, LaBelle and Immokalee.
3. The award recipient must agree to be featured in our special publication and provide a photo.

Submit the nominee's name, contact information, and 20 words or more telling us why they are deserving of this honor in an email to jlimoges@newszap.com. Please include Six Over 60 in your email subject line.

You may also mail in submissions to:

Lake Okeechobee News

Attn: Six Over 60

107 SW 17th Street, Okeechobee, FL 34974

Presented by:



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Immokalee Bulletin • Belle Glade & Pahokee Sun • Indiantown Independent

**Coming Soon to
Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center**



Students 1st- 12th grade:
Missoula Children's Theatre is back!
June 21 – 25



You must pre-register for auditions
by calling the box office!

Fliers will be sent to schools in late May/early June

1977 SW College Drive – Belle Glade, FL 33430
Box Office: 561-993-1160 www.dollyhand.org

Job Opportunities



Glades Health Care Center

The Glades Health Care Center is looking to fill a CNA and LPN position. For information click on one of the links below.

CNA [click here](#)

LPN [click here](#)

West Technical Education Center



West Technical Education Center
Where you learn to earn!

West Technical Education Center has openings for 2 possibly three part-time instructors to teach in their Medical Science program.

Interested parties can contact Dr. Ford directly or apply through the School Districts employment webpage.

Dr. Ford Contact [click here](#)

District Website [click here](#)

Newsletter Sponsor Opportunities

Share Your News in the Newsletter!

Interested in becoming a Newsletter Sponsor?

We have both monthly and yearly opportunities, call Lamar Weathers at the Chamber to discuss which option is best for your business.

561-996-2745 or Lamar@bellegladechamber.com.



Have any News to Share?

How about an announcement that you would like make, then let us know!

Just contact us by the 20th of the month and we will place it in the newsletter for the following month.

Contact Lamar Weathers at the Chamber.

561-996-2745 or Lamar@bellegladechamber.com

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