



A Word From Our President

Dear Belle Glade Chamber Members,

As we welcome the warmer days of summer, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has already been a vibrant and successful start to 2025.

We recently had the pleasure of hosting two incredible events that brought our community together in the best way - our annual Chamber Golf Tournament and the beloved Black Gold Jubilee. Both were a resounding success, filled with a strong turnout, meaningful connections, and a shared sense of pride in Belle Glade.



Another highlight this spring was the Torry Island BBQ Festival, which once again drew thousands to the shores of Lake Okeechobee for a day of food, fun, and community celebration. More than just a great time, the event serves a greater purpose - raising critical funds for local nonprofits. This year's festival helped support area charities and contributed to the ongoing development of the Glades Veterans Memorial.

We also proudly celebrated the graduation of the 2024 - 2025 Leadership Glades class. This yearlong program brings together emerging leaders from across our region to explore key issues, strengthen professional networks, and foster civic engagement. The graduation ceremony, held at The Drawbridge Restaurant, marked the culmination of months of learning, collaboration, and growth for a group of individuals committed to making a positive difference in the Glades.

Thank you to everyone who sponsored, volunteered, participated, and supported these events. Your involvement continues to make a lasting impact on our Chamber and our community.

As we head into our summer break, we hope you find time to rest, recharge, and enjoy the season. We look forward to reconnecting later this year and continuing our work together to support and uplift our business community.

Warm regards,

Kiley Damone

Chamber's 25th Annual Golf Tournament



25th Annual Chamber Golf Tournament: A Day to Remember

On March 8, 2025, the Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce celebrated a milestone with its 25th Annual Chamber Golf Tournament at the Belle Glade Municipal Golf Course. The event kicked off with registration at 8:00 AM and a 9:00 AM tee-off, welcoming 20 competitive teams for a day of fun, fellowship, and fundraising.

Players enjoyed beautiful weather and a spirited round of golf, all while vying for top prizes - \$1,000 for 1st place, \$500 for 2nd, and \$300 for 3rd. A special highlight of the day was the thrilling chance to win a 2025 Chevy Trax with a hole-in-one, generously sponsored by Gilbert Chevrolet.

Following the tournament, players gathered for a well-earned lunch at the newly opened Drawbridge Restaurant at Torry Island, adding a fresh and flavorful touch to this year's tradition.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our fantastic sponsors whose support made this tournament such a success. Your commitment continues to strengthen our community and keep this annual event going strong.

Tournament Winners



1st

**Aerial Crop
Protection**



2nd

Wedgworth's



3rd

Florida Crystals

Closest to Pin
Hole 3– J.J. Rodriguez
Hole 7– Joseph Harvill
Hole 13– Jim Herring

50/50 Raffle
J.J. Rodriguez

Tournament Moments



2025

Thankyou

Golf Tournament Sponsors

Hole in One -	Gilbert's Chevrolet
Lunch Sponsor -	Bank of Belle Glade
Beer Sponsors -	Turfpro Services, Inc.
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Breakfast Bar -	First Baptist Church
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Golf Tournament Corporate Teams

FINFROCK	Popeyes Chicken
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Duda Farm Fresh Foods	Hand Foundation
First Bank	Florida Crystals
Sugar Cane Growers	Farm Credit
NAPA	

Golf Tournament Tee Sponsors

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Remax Prestige - Tammy Mosley	Leadership Glades
Otherland Society	Bair Electronics
Hundley Farms	Burnt Cane BBQ
Boost Mobile	J&G Transport
Everglades Equipment Group	



2025

2nd Annual Torry Island BBQ Festival



Torry Island BBQ Showdown Fires up Community Spirit

On March 22, 2025, more than 6,000 guests flocked to the shores of Lake Okeechobee for the annual Torry Island BBQ Showdown, turning Belle Glade into a hub of food, music, and community pride. Set against the scenic beauty of Torry Island, the festival offered a jam-packed day of entertainment - from the KCBS-sanctioned BBQ competition and ACL National Cornhole Tournament to the thrilling Airboat Show and beloved Agricultural Olympics.

Live music kept the energy high all day long, featuring One Love Reggae Band, Scoot Teasley, and a headlining performance by country star Joe Nichols, who lit up the stage with his chart-topping hits.

But the real success of the event was its impact. With overwhelming community support, the festival raised:

- \$18,000 in scholarships for youth Ag Olympics participants,
- \$35,000 toward a future Veterans Memorial in Belle Glade, and
- Over \$10,000 for local Glades charities.

A special thanks goes out to our presenting sponsors - the H.E. Hill Foundation, Pioneer Growers, City of Belle Glade, and U.S. Sugar - as well as the 60+ additional sponsors and dedicated volunteers. We also salute Project LIFT students and staff for crafting this year's unique railroad-spike trophies, honoring local heritage with heart and creativity.

Plans are already in motion for **March 21, 2026** as this signature event continues to grow, celebrating all that makes the Glades truly special.

Congratulations to this year's winners:

Professional Division

Grand Champion: Sloppy Hogs BBQ, we're glad to say we will always be remembered by them as our comp was their first GC win!

Reserve Grand Champion: Good Googly Goo

3rd: When Pigs Die

4th: Rum Runners BBQ

5th: Iowa Smokey D's BBQ

Backyard Division:

Grand Champion: 2 Guys Grilling

Reserve Grand Champion: Pompano Pit Kings

3rd: Sweet Sugar Swine Sponsored by U S Sugar

4th: Smoke Showing Backyard BBQ

5th: Jessi James Smoking Guns BBQ Team

Sauce Division:

1st: Playa Famous BBQ

2nd: Cane Country

3rd: Rum Runners BBQ

Mystery Meat Division:

1st: Walker's Country Boy BBQ

2nd: 2 Guys Grilling

3rd: Slab Boys BBQ

People's Choice Division:

1st: Pompano Pit Kings

2nd: BBQ Ribs on Wheels and More

3rd: Jessi James Smoking Guns BBQ Team

Airboats:

Beater Boat: Jimmy Kemp, Brett Usher and Anthony Paul.

Hunt Boat: Kirk Kenndy, Charley Phillips and Jimmy Tripp.

Car Motor: Kirk Kennedy, Marty Howard and Randy Burgen.

4 Cylinder: Chris Haggerty, Tabitha Langford and Andrew Bernett.

6 Cylinder: Harold Otto, Kolton Rhodes and Jacob Carter.

Best In Show: Kirk Kennedy

Haybale Decorating Contest:

- Student Aces - Pig & Pot
- The Shepherd School Middle School Art Class - BBQ Grill
- Glades Day School FFA - Camper Camp Site

Cornhole:

Professional Division: Jordan Camba & Kyle Malone, Lonnie Campos & Chad Fishes, Mason Gundry & Austin Harrelson.

ADVERTISING

Backyard Division: Just Board It, Baggers 2, and Anderson.

Ag Olympics:

Elementary:

- Cowgirls - Layla Brown & Destiny Brown
- Purple Warriors - Jada Joseph & Caiden Mann
- Pretty Girls - Andria Calixte & Cheyenne Trevino
- Bama Bears - Keneth Bain & Jason Bain
- Extreme Machines - Lincoln Garcia & Kendall Usher

- Best Boys - Romeo Trevino & Mason Smith

Middle School:

- Gods Cartel - Santos Rodriguez & Jayden Joseph
- R&A - Ruben Garcia & Angel Carrizales
- The Burrito Bandits - Carlos Muniz & John Perez

High School:

- Dynamic Duo - Diana Chaparro & Janelle Rodriguez
- Cream Team - Thomas Grosso & Josh Mularchyk
- Hawks - Garrett Rimes & Luke Vento
- Black Panthers - Sebastian Depaz & Javier Martinez
- Brew & Moo - Julissa Rodriguez & Jose Sanchez
- Muck Babies - William Perez & Abigail Rodriguez
- Corn Conquerors - Sherlyn Lopez & Eduardo Roman
- Turnip Twins - Mayah Williams & Gizelle Cisneros
- The Baconaters - Zyion Teran & Mattie Brown

We look forward to next year's event which promises to be bigger and better! To stay updated check them out at: www.tibbqshowdown.com or check out their [Facebook page!](#)

SPOILER ALERT..... NEXT YEAR THERE WILL BE A YOUTH BBQ COMPETITION!

47th Annual Black Gold Jubilee



Black Gold Jubilee 2025: A Celebration to Remember

The 2025 Black Gold Jubilee once again brought the community together for a weekend full of fun, tradition, and excitement on the shores of Lake Okeechobee. Held on Saturday, April 12, the Jubilee was packed from sunrise to sunset with activities for all ages.

The festivities kicked off early with the 5K/10K Race, drawing runners from across the region for a scenic and energetic start at 7:00 AM. At 10:00 AM, the heart of Belle Glade

came alive with the Main Street Parade, showcasing colorful floats, local organizations, and community pride.

Throughout the day, families enjoyed a variety of rides, food vendors, games, and live entertainment at the lakefront. One of the highlights of the weekend was the return of Friday Night Fever, featuring a crowd-pleasing performance by a 70s-themed band and the always-entertaining Golf Cart Parade, which rolled through with disco flair and creative designs.

The annual Harvest Queen Pageant on April 5th, added a touch of grace and tradition to the weekend, celebrating the young women who represent the heart and future of our agricultural community.

The Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce extends a sincere thank you to all of our sponsors, whose support makes the Black Gold Jubilee possible year after year. Your commitment helps preserve this cherished local tradition and ensures it continues to grow and thrive.

With strong community spirit, lively entertainment, and unforgettable memories, the 2025 Black Gold Jubilee was one for the books. We can't wait to see what's in store for next year's event scheduled for April 18, 2026.

Stay up to date with next year's event at www.blackgoldjubilee.org or check out their [Facebook page](#)!



Congratulations to our 2025 Harvest Queen and Junior Harvest Queen

Left: Hayden Mosley - Junior Harvest Queen
Right: Reilly Baltazar - Harvest Queen

Annual Leadership Glades Class Graduation



Leadership Glades Class of 2025 Graduates at Drawbridge Restaurant

On May 12th, the Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce proudly celebrated the graduation of the Leadership Glades Class of 2025 at the Drawbridge Restaurant on Torry Island. This year's program concluded with an inspiring evening filled with reflection, fellowship, and celebration.

Graduates were treated to a powerful keynote address by Vernice Bell of 18fortythree, who encouraged the class to carry forward the lessons of leadership, community engagement, and service. Her message resonated deeply with attendees and served as a fitting close to a year of growth and discovery.

The ceremony marked the official wrap-up of this year's Leadership Glades program, which connects emerging leaders with the people, places, and possibilities that define the Glades region. Congratulations to the Class of 2025 - we look forward to seeing the impact you'll continue to make in our community.

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