

On The RIVER



*Connecting ALVA Florida NEIGHBORS and
NEIGHBORHOODS*

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The deadline for receipt of any materials is the 15th of the month.

Issues go out before the 1st of each month, and may be edited.

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FEATURED IN THIS MONTH'S OTR:

- LOCAL Alva area news: New High School in ALVA?
- LOCAL history: Local characters
- LOCAL Community services: Lippincott Courtyard
- LOCAL club and organization: Alva School FFA
- LOCAL recipe: Buckingham Fireworks Cake
- LOCAL Sports: Ross Chastain a villain?



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<http://www.alvafl.org/newsletter.html> to see previous Alva INC newsletters archived since 2010.

This link temporarily non-functional

WE NEED YOUR COMMENTS!

**LET US KNOW WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN *ON THE RIVER* BY EMAILING US AT
WWW.KENDEWALT@ONTHERIVER.ORG**

WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO OFFER WHAT YOU WANT.

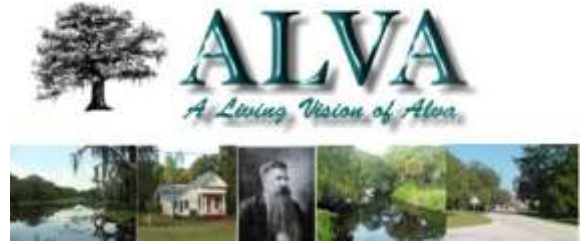
ALVA INC, At the Alva Community Center.

ZOOM access:

<https://zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 852-1643-8980

Passcode: 302401



Info@AlvaFL.org WEBSITE www.ALVAFL.org

NEXT MEETING: Every Second Tuesday, 7pm, Alva Community Center

Alva INC met on May 9th and covered these issues and more...

- Civic Center: Update on the May 2nd BOCC meeting and information on the proposed Workshop _ Connie Dennis
- FDOT SR 31: Update and discussion on the three construction projects--Roxanne Gause
- Olga 20/20 Land: Sheriff's office agricultural crimes livestock impoundment yard--Holly Schwartz
- Caloosa 80: Summary of RVI's Resubmittal Response and Lee County's 2nd response--Roxanne Gause
- Packinghouse Event Center Update--Shari Hunt
- CARY+DUKE+POVIA RPD Update--Shari Hunt
- New Alva High School "NNN": Contracts have been sent out for permitting--Denise Eberle



I had my first experience using ZOOM for the Alva INC meeting and I must say for a meeting of about 25 or so with a lot of comments from the floor I could hear and understand much of what was said. The presenters were quite clear. In addition, the ZOOM host, Patrick Finkler, shared slides on ZOOM of each of the areas we were discussing.

I'll be using ZOOM every month until we return from our continental road trip to the Pacific Northwest seeing friends, family and new vista's around every corner in October.

Connie Dennis and Holly Schwartz, among others, told of their attendance at the May 2 Lee County Board of Commissioners meeting about the fate of the Civic Center at Rte 31 and Bayshore Road.

The news is that the BOCC is having a WORKSHOP meeting to which the public is invited in June. Alva INC will announce the date and time to anyone on their email list.

Anyone may attend this meeting but only those members of the public who attend the previous board meeting, check the Lee County website for that day and time, and register to speak at the workshop may so speak. The workshop's purpose is to allow the board and its planning staff to discuss the civic center together before any public gathered with them. A vote on final civic center decisions will take place at a later BOCC meeting.

Currently no events may use the Civic Center grounds except the Southwest Fair. It also may not be used as a storm shelter, as it was during last fall's IAN.

CIVIC CENTER

BOCC Meeting May 2, 2023

All Events will take Place that were scheduled

- County Manager - By October 1 will hire construction manager for repairs from the engineering report.
- County Manager - Schedule workshop next month (June) - Future process and plans for Civic Center. People can give input and recommendations
- County Manager - No reservations after October 2023 except Fair 2024
- Fair Board Response -There is Meals of Hope event one in December.
- County Manager - Can the fair board send me the contracts for additional events



Roxanne Gause shared a review of the FDOT plans, not yet finalized, for the major rte 31, Bayshore Road and North River Road connections to a new bridge configuration over the Caloosahatchee. Included are plans for an enlarged connection of rte 31 and Palm Beach Blvd. We were reminded once more that the current 5,000 homes in the permit process or approved and being built are only the beginning of the development of Lee County's last rural area.

STATE ROAD 31 CONSTRUCTION State Road 78/Bayshore Road Capacity Study from I-75 to State Road 31



Tuesday, May 16, 2023
In-Person Meeting

The Field House at Wallace Park
4328 Cypress Parkway
Bartlett, FL

6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Open House

View project materials, talk to the project team, and submit comments.

<https://www.yefiready.com/project/448877-1>

Olga 20/20 Land: Sheriff's Livestock Impoundment Yard



15373 OLD OLGA RD, ALVA

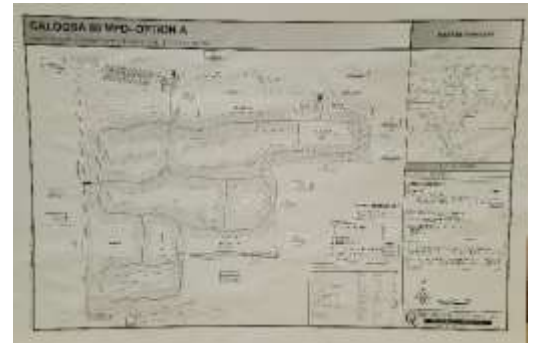
Holly Schwartz asked the crowd to not find fault with the sheriff's request to use 8 acres of the 92-acre Fort Myers Shores 20/20 preserve for a criminal investigation impoundment area for animals of all sizes. Holly shared that the Sheriff's department needed the land and was entitled to ask for 20/20 preserve space by law.

Formerly the Sheriff's department has used space, now inadequate, on Ortiz Blvd in Fort Myers.

What was wrong about this situation was that the Conservation Land and Space Advisory Committee made their decision to give this space without public input. This preserve was being used by the public for river access for canoes and kayaks and nature hikes.

The issue is legally closed now, but Alva INC will demand that correct procedures be followed in the future for full public disclosure.

Roxanne Gause shared that the Caloosa 80 RV project at Bateman and Rte 80 on the south side of the river has a long uphill battle with the county to get approval for their up to 700 site resort-campground. Municipal water and sewer will be required and having it run east from River Hall along rte 80 is now doubtful. A very long list of counties 'insufficiencies' has been sent to the owner beyond the water and sewer issues as well. It is possible that the county and owner will be ready to come back together by August of this year.



PACKINGHOUSE EVENT CENTER



- 2950 Packinghouse Rd, Alva, FL 33920
- Sold on 02/28/23 - \$220,000 (Zillow)
- No Permits Issued To Date

Shari Hunt told us that the Packinghouse Road party and wedding venue was still in the works however they have asked for no permits so far to begin doing anything they plan for the property. Notice in the photo that they now have an OPENING SOON banner on the road side of the building. However, nothing can happen until plans and permitting takes place.

Many believe the owner simply upgraded the property to eventually sell it to someone else. We will sometime see.

For the historian's sake the photo to the right, gleaned from the Alva Friends and Families Facebook Page recently, is of the original packinghouse along the former railroad line from Fort Myers to LaBelle. It



sat where this building, a former Woodmen of the World Clubhouse, now stands.

CARY+DUKE+POVIA RPD



- Neal Communities has not submitted any new documents on the Cary+Duke+Povia RPD after since the Alva Inc meeting.
- It was reported that the Neal Communities have a contract on the Owl Creek RPD property. (North Olga Meeting)

Shari Hunt also updated the meeting about the Cary-Duke-Povia (Neal Communities) 700 plus gated community project on rte 78 at Olga. The acquisition of the already approved Owl Creek development by Neal from DR Horton is moving forward with a yet undisclosed new site plan.

Perhaps the largest, and newest, project in Alva is also the most surprising. None of Alva INC's members or board learned of the Lee County School Board's decision to revisit the construction of a 2,000 student Middle and High School (identified as NNN) on Joel Road south of Tuckahoe. All learned of it through a news release by the district.

Denise Eberle has investigated this project and found that it will compare with the new Gateway High School which, several years ago, was built there instead of at this Alva location.

The school board has owned these 102 acres on Joel for a few years so it is no wonder that they wish to use it. However, Denise pointed out that it is a long way from any infrastructure and is swampy, which will require lots of land development.



HIGH SCHOOL "NNN"

- Located on the Southwest Corner of Joel Blvd and Tuckahoe Rd.
- Design is the same as the new Gateway High School.
- Contracts have been sent out for permitting.
- Community input in approximately 1 year.
- Tentatively scheduled for an August 2027 opening.
 - Depends On Permitting and Utilities.
- Contact: Joel DeGuzman, Planning, Growth, & Capacity.

Ms. Eberle also shared that the school and some news agencies are incorrectly stating that the project is in Lehigh Acres. However, Lehigh Acres begins at 23rd Street, well below this land. The development of this school in Alva, for 98% Lehigh Acres and elsewhere students make no sense. She suggests they look south and west of current development in Lehigh Acres. However, they do own THIS land already.

HIGH SCHOOL "NNN"



The school itself is not a problem for Alva, according to Denise and many at the meeting, as the students and staff would create most traffic going south into Lehigh Acres.

The real issue is the expected proliferation of retail, fast food, etc businesses that the location of the school would bring to Alva. A possible Riverdale-like expansion of commercial property. Denise also pointed out that with the school built here there will be much more pressure to build in and around Alva.

Much discussion from attenders and board members of Alva INC concluded the meeting around the idea of taking more control of our own area by incorporating as a community, separate from the total control the County Commissioners now have over development here.

Many pointed out the need for more control. Others shared the costs of us paying for our own leadership, security, sanitation, etc versus the costs of being under county rule. The legal costs of the process itself would no doubt be high.

A final concern is that such a process is being discussed too late, and Alva, with only over 3,000 residents and a very small commercial tax base, would be hard pressed to make it happen.

I imagine the project will be discussed further at future Alva INC meetings, and around the neighborhood and at the Diner, at Leo's and the Alva Village Market between meetings.

Sheriff 's animal impound facility near ALVA and OLGA draws scrutiny



Under-the-radar development in Lee County raises concerns

(TY News-Press and Amy Bennett Williams)

You may have heard of the Marceno Motel – the Fort Myers lockup where high-profile Lee County Sheriff Carmine Marceno houses (alleged) criminals – but how about Carmine's Corral?

Carved from a Caloosahatchee waterfront preserve on a quiet Olga Road, the new Lee County Sheriff's Office Agricultural Crimes Livestock Impoundment Yard will house animals caught

in legal crossfire.

Though none have yet been moved in, neighbors and preserve advocates are raising concerns. They don't question the need for such a facility, but are dismayed at the way it came about: with neither a heads-up for the volunteer board that advises the county on its preserves, nor any advance notice for its neighbors.

Surprise! Lee County still has livestock

The 5.8-acre state-of-the-art stockyard was built for animals involved in active investigations, the sheriff 's office says. In the past, such critters have been held at the Ortiz Avenue jail in Fort Myers. Though Lee County may be best known for its beaches, barrier islands and canal-crisscrossed Cape Coral, agriculture persists here. Residents still run cattle and ride horseback as their kids raise 4-H hogs and chickens, mostly in inland areas. And sometimes, those animals get out, get rustled or get mistreated. That's where the LCSO comes in.

It happens more often than you might think. "The Agriculture Crimes Unit receives calls on a daily basis for investigations ranging to animal cruelty/abuse, livestock running at large, farm theft, etc.," writes spokesman Nestor Montoya in an email. Last year alone, the ag unit responded to 2,490 calls for service, Montoya said.

'Decisions made in secret'

Preserve advocates are crying foul. Barbara Manzo, retired director of the county's parks and recreation department sums up the objections: "We do not approve of decisions made in secret." Manzo, who now works with the nonprofit Eyes on Conservation 20/20, a watchdog for the county preserve program, said her group understands the need to work with the

sheriff, “but this was a bad decision. It was made without informing anyone. The (advisory) committee did not have any notice about it either.”

Some are also troubled by conservation land – especially a riverfront preserve – used for this purpose. When the county’s Conservation 20/20 program paid \$2.6 million for the 91 acres that would become the Olga Shores Preserve in 2017, the idea was to “conserve, protect, and restore the natural resources ... so they are a productive, functional, and biologically diverse ecosystem.” With a facility like this, “there are land management and restoration plan considerations that should have been presented to (the board),” said environmental policy associate Holly Schwartz with the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, which closely monitors the health of the Caloosahatchee. “That is their very function as written in the ordinance.” Yet that never happened.

‘They violated the intended use of the land’

In the six years it’s been open, the Olga Shores Preserve has become an area favorite. Hikers, fat-tire bikers and birders all enjoy it, including near neighbor Jon Smiley and his family.

Smiley has no trouble with cattle on conservation land, but the stockade has changed the preserve’s character. “The second LCSO brought in infrastructure, they violated the intended use of the land,” Smiley wrote in an email. “They have installed semi-loads of cattle panels, squeeze chutes, signage, fencing and more.

“They are storing equipment on premises as well. This is no longer a preserve. This is a working cattle operation on land that was clearly intended for public use. Period.”



Smiley is also quick to point out that as a former corrections deputy, he’s “110% pro-law enforcement and the farthest thing from a politically involved/motivated person. However, what has happened at the County 20/20 preserve is completely out of line and needs to be addressed.”

Then again, it’s not a gated community, some say

Jennifer Brummer takes the long view. Her family’s Olga roots go deep – at one time, their homestead ran from the river to what’s now State Road 80. She grew up playing on the 30 acres owned by her Uncle Floyd Wilson directly across from the preserve.

“The way I see it, as long as they’re not putting in a development, they’re fine,” she said, “and if it’s housing abused livestock, even better.”

What about all the poop near the already polluted Caloosahatchee?

The county has 15 active cattle leases on Conservation 20/20 parcels, but in terms of manure concentration, a wide-ranging herd is one thing; penned cattle are another. Though the agreement between the county and the sheriff’s office details things like who pays the electric

bill (the sheriff) and who maintains the fencing around the livestock area (the county) the animals' waste isn't addressed.

It can be significant. According to a paper published in The Florida Cattleman and Livestock Journal, cattle produce between 66 and 96 pounds of poop and up to 5.5 gallons of urine a day per animal.

"Improperly managed pasture runoff may adversely affect the quality of our lakes and streams," according to Florida's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in a best management practices handbook it created for ranchers. "Concentrated animal areas such as cow pens and other temporary holding areas have the potential to produce large pollutant loads."

What's this all costing?

The sheriff 's office paid nothing for the 5.8 acres, since the county already owned it and the two agreed to an open-ended deal.



The LCSO paid for the added improvements, The double-fenced, state-of the art facility, with a high-end tubular metal corral, mechanized handling chutes and a multi-stall shed came to \$71,840.26, according to sheriff 's office public records.

A multi-bay goose-neck livestock trailer also is parked near a spacious pole barn the county once promised would be for preserve-goers, but is now blocked off. County documents show it was originally intended to be a public pavilion. (The preserve's web page still advertises the potential picnics.) Also, off-limits now: a huge Ficus that once offered some of the best tree-climbing in Lee County. It's now safely behind barbed wire-topped stock fence.

Multiple safety concerns

For years, Smiley's children have enjoyed the preserve. They hike there, fish from the riverbanks and photograph wildlife. Now, he's having second thoughts about that. "With regular sightings of inmate workers on the property (without visible corrections officers watching them) it raises another concern and further complicates allowing the land usage to my children," Smiley wrote in an email.

He points out that "Impounded livestock traditionally means that an animal has been mistreated, neglected, or abandoned (and) associated with individuals that don't have the best interest of animal or human life in mind.

"What is going to deter the owner of an impounded animal from coming onto the preserve to 'steal' their livestock back?"

South Florida Water Management District fires contractor, what's in store for giant C-43 reservoir?

(TY News-Press)



Construction of the C-43 reservoir is on hold after the South Florida Water Management District fired the contractor for the half-billion-dollar-plus job in early May. The district announced the contract termination Monday. Work won't halt for long, promises Chauncey Goss, who chairs the district's governing board. As it searches for a new firm – or firms, "We're not stopping the project," said Goss, "and the end result is we're going to be finished quicker."

In the coming weeks, "We're going to make sure the site is maintained, we're going to make sure we don't go backwards and we're going to move forward with finding a (replacement)."

What led to the contractor being fired?

It came down to chronic delays, said South Florida Water Management District Communications Director Sean Cooley, who said his agency "was forced to make the difficult decision of terminating our contract (after) the contractor simply couldn't stay on schedule and would not make the necessary changes to get back on schedule or prevent further delays."

Cooley said the contracting outfit, known as C-43 Water Management Builders, which included Lane Construction and Webuild, was averaging "an additional 20 days of delay for every month on the job, which would result in a project delivery upwards of three years late. Such poor performance is contrary to the contract and is unacceptable."

Lane disagrees. "The district's statement is false and self-serving at best," wrote spokeswoman Lauralee Heck-man in an email. "It was the district, and not the contractor, who caused over a year of project delays and millions of dollars of cost overruns that Florida taxpayers ultimately will have to bear. Rather than work with us in good faith and with fair dealing to take care of these problems, the district wrongfully blamed the contractor, and then terminated the contract despite having complimented our immense efforts to successfully complete this project."

"Make no mistake, we will defend ourselves and hold the district accountable for their senseless actions," Heck-man wrote.

A moving finish line

The \$560 million-plus job has been troubled for years. In 2017, the district projected it would be done by 2022. When it hired Lane in 2019, the promised end moved to July 2024, which was later pushed to October of that year. At a district board meeting last March, 2023, Lane CEO Mark Schiller got an earful about the pace of work, but promised his company would get things back on track.

In March of this year, the district gave the contractor one more chance to shape up, in the form of a cure notice, essentially a final warning. Again, Lane said it was trying to keep working on a recovery plan, and blamed the district for the delays.

How the C-43 reservoir fits into the big water quality picture

The reservoir is part of a massive package of water quality improvements ordered by Gov. Ron DeSantis just after he took office in 2019. The reservoir was a part of that, designed to help the Caloosahatchee by storing rainfall, then releasing it during the dry season.

C-43 is the official name for the river, a human-engineered link between Lake Okeechobee and the Gulf of Mexico that regularly suffers from too little freshwater as well as multi-source pollution within its watershed. A healthier river means a cleaner estuary, which means better water for Sanibel, Fort Myers Beach and the region's other barrier islands and coastline.

In an emailed statement, Calusa Waterkeeper Codty Pierce said his nonprofit "has no information or insight regarding the need to change contractors. We do support completion of the project because it is a key component of the Ever-glades restoration plan that will help reduce harmful discharges into the Caloosahatchee," he wrote. "So, we are eager to see the project get back on track and moving forward."

That's what the district wants too – in fact, that's why it fired Lane. "The take-away is we're going to find a new contractor," board chair Goss said. "That's the reason we're doing this. We just don't think they could finish it ... their time period was not acceptable to us.

Given the significance of the river and its estuary Cooley says, completion of the reservoir is a top priority for the district. That's as it should be, says engineer Kevin Shimp, president of Thomas Marine Construction, one of the subcontractors on the project.

"It's just a great thing for our river, because we can't reverse the past, we can't put the old waterfalls back and we can't fix it the way nature intended, but we sure can improve it. This a big, big part of that," Shimp said. "At the end of the day, it's got to be completed and it's got to be done right so it functions and we all get the benefit."



How to identify Florida's most venomous snakes; why you'll be seeing more

(TY WINK NEWS, Reporter: Elizabeth Biro - Writer: Joey Pellegrino, abridged)



At this time of year, you may begin to see more snakes slithering around your home. A local expert explains why that is, how you can tell if the snakes are venomous, and what to do if they are.

“As the rain picks up, and some wetlands start to fill up, snakes need to get on the move to find a new place to stay high and dry, maybe to find water and maybe to find some prey animals,” said Ella Guedouar, a graduate snake biologist at Florida Gulf Coast University.

A high and dry location could well be your home. Guedouar identified one fearsome specimen, recently captured by a man named Mike Falcone in a Fort Myers neighborhood, as a cottonmouth, roughly two years old. “That is a venomous viper; it’s a water snake,” Guedouar said. “You can kind of see this band on the eye, and the triangle-shaped head is a good way to tell what that is.”

Another reason you may notice a more active snake population in the coming weeks: The adults will be out looking for mates. “We’re coming to the end of mating season, so we’re seeing a lot of activity with snakes because they’re looking for their mates, just trying to get that in while the weather’s good,” Guedouar said. “Because then the females do need time to go find a nice place to lay their eggs or give birth.” The egg-laying won’t happen until the end of summer, but for now, they’re hitting the streets.

Guedouar says the two venomous snakes you’re most likely to see are cottonmouths (also known as water moccasins) and eastern diamondback rattlesnakes.

“The way that you can tell those is the diamondback is gonna be this really big snake with diamonds on its back and a rattle at the end,” Guedouar said.

A lot of non-venomous snakes, however, have evolved to resemble venomous species to ward off predators. And some venomous snakes change their appearance as they age. “The best rule of thumb is just to not touch a snake, especially if you don’t know what it is,” Guedouar said. “In the case of the cottonmouth, they are lighter colored as juveniles, and then as they grow bigger, they’ll get fatter and darker colored.”



The eastern diamondback rattlesnake looks roughly the same its whole life. And if they end up on your property, Guedouar says not to reach for a shovel. “You can spray it with the hose; they do not like being sprayed in the face with water,” Guedouar said. “That’s a safe distance for you to be from the snake and get it to move away, or take a broom and push it away.”

As much as you may want to keep snakes away, the biologist stresses their importance in our environment. “I get the safety concern because it can be a concern for little kids or dogs that are in the yard, but the reality is they are here; we are on their land,” Guedouar said. “We need to learn to live with them... From my experience working with snakes, the snakes are so much more afraid of you than we are afraid of them.”

You can also reach out to FGCU’s snake team at swflrattlesnakes@gmail.com to have snakes removed for free.



Fish and Wildlife Commission sets Burmese python hunt for 10 days in August

(TY Fort Myers News-Press Chad Gillis)

Dust off your rusty machetes and polish the edge of your best hunting knife: The annual public python hunt is coming later this summer.

“Since the first Florida Python Challenge in 2013, we have reached a countless number of people across the globe, alerting them to the negative impacts caused by Burmese pythons and other invasive species in Florida,” said Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission chair Rodney Barreto in a press released sent out Wednesday.

This year's hunt will take place from Aug. 4 through Aug. 13, and there are categories for professional and amateur hunters.

FWC says the 2022 hunt removed 231 pythons from the Everglades, with nearly 1,000 people from 32 states and even Latvia taking part in the 10-day hunt.

Over the past 20 years, the Burmese python has established itself as perhaps the most damaging of all invasive animals found in Florida.

In hopes of trimming the population while raising public awareness, the state of Florida holds an annual hunt.

Florida has more invasive species than most countries, and the Burmese python may be the most destructive foreign animal in the entire historic Everglades, which stretches from Lake Okeechobee to Florida Bay.

All kills must be done humanely

Even though Burmese pythons don't belong in Florida, you still must treat them humanely. Many hunters use a 4-inch hunting knife to slice off the head in a way that kills the snake immediately.

They hold the python just behind the skull with one hand and slice through the snake with the other.

It can be a bloody mess, and the snakes will try to bite you and may spray you with liquid feces.

It's legal to hunt year-round

Although the state holds an annual hunt, it is legal to hunt pythons ever day of the year on public lands and on more than two dozen properties managed by FWC.

Summer can be a productive time for hunting as the next generation hatched recently, so there will be plenty of small snakes on the landscape.

Many of the largest snakes are caught during winter months, when snakes will slither onto concrete surfaces, like roads, to warm themselves.

FWC says more than 18,000 snakes have been removed by hunters over the past two decades.

These snakes get big

Burmese pythons can grow to more than 18 feet and weigh more than 200 pounds. If that sounds like a sizeable animal, that's because it is.

Pythons are at the very tip of the food chain here, and they're generalist predators that will eat nearly anything. So, while you may fear alligators, crocodiles, bears or panthers, pythons are the biggest beasts in the woods here.

You can make money

This year the state is giving out a total of \$30,000 in cash and prizes.

Professional hunters registered with the state are paid year-round for snakes they capture and kill.

Note to folks along the Caloosahatchee: The pythons are coming north, so you are protecting your families and native wildlife, and pets when you hunt them.

Look out: It's manatee mating season; also, some wild myths and facts

(TY News Press- Chad Gillis)

Watch out for massive piles of manatees at local beaches this summer as mating season for the sea cow has arrived.

These gentle herbivores get lost in love during the summer months, and they're practically oblivious to any nearby human activity when they're mating.

A dozen or more manatees will gather in the gentle summer surf, and they may stay in that location for a day or more.



Some marine mammals will beach themselves when they're sick, and some whales are known to follow the sick individual to the beach because their social ties are so strong.

But the manatees you might see piled up on local beaches this summer aren't sick or injured. Quite the opposite: they're creating the next generation of sea cows.

The gatherings consist mostly of several males chasing one female.

As manatees are protected by state and federal laws and are one of the most popular creatures in Florida, here are five facts about sea cows and their place in Florida lore.

Were manatees brought to Florida?

A common myth floating around the Sunshine State is that manatees are an invasive species that were brought here to eat and help control invasive plants.

That's completely false as manatees have been swimming in Florida waters for eons, according to Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota.

Mote also mentions online the rumor that manatees were brought here to feed rail workers a century or so ago, and that they're called West Indian manatees because they come from the west part of the Indian Ocean.

How many are left in Florida?

Counting manatees is difficult as they spend much of their lives submerged in murky waters.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that there are 6,300 manatees in Florida and about 13,000 throughout its entire range, which includes much of the East Coast of the United States.

The Florida population has grown rapidly in the past 25 years, with the first estimate of manatees here tallying 1,267 sea cows in 1991.

They're also found in the southeastern U.S., eastern Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panamá, Nicaragua, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and in the Bahamas, according to FWS.

There is only one subspecies in the Sunshine State

Although three different manatees are found around the world — the West Indian (found here), the African manatee and the Amazonian manatee — only one subspecies is found here.

The Florida manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*) is a subspecies of the West Indian manatee, according to FWS.

The Antillean manatee (*Trichechus manatus manatus*) is the other subspecies, and it's found from the Caribbean south to Brazil in South America.

They're called sea cows because they eat grass

These gentle herbivores keep it simple when it comes to their diet, which consists of various types of sea grasses.

And they have no natural predators here, so they're free to roam the coast and look for pockets of what's left of the state's coastal grass systems.

You can look, but don't touch

Manatees are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, among other laws. The basic premise is that it's illegal to do anything to a manatee that will change its behavior.

That could be anything from chasing one in your kayak to actually sitting on one for a photo opp.

And don't get into the group for any reason as it is against the law and potentially dangerous as manatees can grow up to 3,500 pounds.



JUNE 14, 2023



WAVE IT



FLY IT



May 18, 2023

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399



Subject: Veto Request on Fertilizer Ordinances

Dear Governor DeSantis:

On behalf of Captains For Clean Water and our community of supporters, we respectfully request that you veto the following proviso language found in line item 146, page 55 of SB 2500:

From the funds in Specific Appropriation 146, \$250,000 in nonrecurring funds shall be used by the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) to evaluate the effectiveness of the timing of seasonal fertilizer restrictions on urban landscapes toward achieving nutrient target objectives for waterbodies statewide. IFAS must submit a final report, including results and recommendations, by December 31, 2023, to the chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the chair of the House Appropriations Committee.

AND

Page 86, lines 2455-2460 of the implementing bill, SB 2502:

Section 85. In order to implement Specific Appropriation 146 of the 2023-2024 General Appropriations Act, a county or municipal government may not adopt or amend a fertilizer management ordinance, pursuant to s. 403.9337, Florida Statutes, which provides for a prohibited application period not in existence on June 30, 2023. This section expires July 1, 2024.

The hallmark of this administration has been to further and protect clean and usable waterways throughout the state. The proviso language in 146 does nothing to ensure clean and usable waterways in the state of Florida. The potential short and long-term implications of this proposed language on water quality are unknown at this time yet have the potential to result in devastating impacts on waterbodies statewide.

We encourage you to safeguard the momentum you've achieved on restoring and protecting Florida's environment by vetoing this language. Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Capt. Daniel Andrews
Co-Founder & Executive Director

ALVA's OWN Ross Chastain's timeline of controversies: Why NASCAR driver has become Cup Series' latest villain

(NASCAR - David Suggs)



There's a new villain in the NASCAR Cup Series.

He's prickly as a pinecone, though he tries to disarm fans with an ever-mischievous smile. He's one of the series' best drivers but also one of its most controversial.

Ross Chastain has earned quite a reputation since making his Cup debut in 2017. The Trackhouse Racing driver has become a household name in stock car racing by pairing fast cars with an ultra-aggressive approach. He fell just short of a championship last year, finishing second in the final race.

He has become one of NASCAR's most polarizing personalities. Perhaps it's the watermelon tosses off his car's roof when he wins races. Or maybe it's his belligerence; Chastain has gotten into it with nearly every big name in NASCAR, from Denny Hamlin to Kyle Larson. He punched rookie Noah Gragson in the face.

Love him or hate him, fans can't stop watching. Here's what you need to know about the Cup Series' most talked-about driver right now:

Who does Ross Chastain drive for?

Given his ebullient personality, Chastain needed a team capable of promoting his brand. Fortunately for him, he found that in Trackhouse Racing. It doesn't have the name recognition of Hendrick Motorsports, Joe Gibbs Racing or Richard Childress Racing, but Trackhouse is an emerging force in the world of stock car racing. Owned by Miami's 13th-best rapper (Pitbull) and former Cup Series driver Justin Marks, Trackhouse has been a bulwark against blue-chip organizations like Hendrick.

Founded in 2021, the organization deploys two teams in the Cup Series: Chastain's in the No. 1 car and Daniel Suarez's in the No. 99 car.

Ross Chastain timeline of controversies

2015: Chastain introduced himself to the NASCAR world in the Xfinity Series. After finishing 32nd in the U.S. Cellular 250 at Iowa Speedway, he got into an altercation with Ryan Reed, who claimed that the watermelon farmer dumped him into the wall in Turns 3 and 4 on the final lap of the race. Chastain's excuse: it was a green-white-checkered finish.

2017: As Chastain's stock rose in the Xfinity Series, the carnage increased. There was a war of words between he and Jeremy Clements after they pair got into each other under caution at Bristol.

Chastain also showed that he wasn't afraid to duke it out. When he and Brendan Gaughan made contact at Texas. Gaughan grabbed Chastain's shoulder after the race, prompting Chastain to declare he was always going to defend himself if someone were to get physical with him. Keep that in mind for later.

2018: Another Xfinity Series race, another confrontation. Chastain ruffled feathers after putting Joey Gase into the grass during the last lap at Mid-Ohio. That set Gase off, with the No. 35 driver driving his car toward Chastain's No. 4 vehicle on pit road with people on the track. Gase attempted to accost

Chastain but was met with brute force: one of Chastain's crew members drove him into the ground with a perfectly timed tackle.

Chastain followed up his dust-up with Gase by jostling with 2014 Cup Series champion Kevin Harvick at Darlington. During the final stage of an Xfinity race, Chastain dumped Harvick into the middle of the track while racing for the lead. Harvick was less than pleased; he claimed Chastain wouldn't get a chance to race in "really fast" cars again.



Chastain's playoff hopes that year came to an end at Dover, but he made sure to go out with a bang, sending Matt Tifft into Chase Briscoe in the final stage of the final race of the Round of 12. Tifft made sure to get payback, bumping into Chastain after the cooldown lap. He claimed his foot "slipped" off the clutch.

2019: Things were fairly quiet for Chastain this year, save for a collision with Justin Allgaier at Watkins Glen. Chastain spun Allgaier out at the end of Stage 1, a move that Allgaier thought was intentional. Allgaier responded in kind, sending Chastain into the tire barrier in the final moments of the race. Chastain's No. 4 car was totaled, Allgaier got his payback and the world got yet another look at Chastain's aggression.

2022: This was a breakout campaign for Chastain. Not only did he establish himself as one of the fastest drivers in the Cup Series, he also made headlines for his pugnacious style. In a short period of time, he went from afterthought to perhaps the most feared driver in the field. Granted, a lot of that apprehension came from his propensity for ramming into other drivers' vehicles.

He opened the year with a flourish, butting heads with Ryan Blaney and Martin Truex Jr. after contact at Richmond and Dover, respectively. Then came the real kindling for the inferno: his drive at Gateway.

Chastain was a wrecking ball that day, with not one, but two skirmishes. First, sent Denny Hamlin's No. 11 car careening into the wall. He followed that up by spinning out Chase Elliott, a maneuver that really put him in the crosshairs of his fellow Cup Series competitors.

Chastain then cemented his status as one of the Cup Series' top antagonists. And like any great villain, he made sure to leave a trail of wreckage in his wake.

His next victim was Austin Dillon, in a major wreck at Atlanta that sprung from a show of force by Chastain.

"Looks like we were just a casualty of Ross Chastain," Dillon said after being knocked out of the race.

Then came some more Hamlin-Chastain theatrics, this time at Pocono. Hamlin was the aggressor that day, getting next to Chastain's bumper. Chastain went twirling, Hamlin won the race, Chastain tallied a DNF and the racing world was abuzz.

"I think that's something that has been owed to me for a few months now," Chastain said post-race.

Things went quiet on the Chastain front for a few weeks, until he made a detour at The Brickyard.

Chastain tried to cut through an access road on the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Road course. He was promptly handed a 30-second penalty. Then again, if you ain't cheating, you ain't trying.

Chastain saved his best (worst?) for the playoffs. He pulled off one of the most dramatic moves in NASCAR history, his now-infamous "video game" gambit to snag the final spot in the Championship 4



from Hamlin. The now-illegal action represents one of the greatest moments in the sport's history, one that left even his fellow Cup Series drivers speechless.

That wasn't the only time Chastain got under a driver's skin in the postseason. In the championship race at Phoenix, he got into fellow Championship 4 driver Chase Elliott, sending Elliott's No. 9 Chevrolet spinning. Elliott finished 28th.

2023: If anyone thought Chastain was going to ease up on the throttle in 2023, they must have not seen him race. The No. 1 has been a lightning rod for criticism since the start of the season.

He helped precipitate Kyle Larson's massive wreck at Talladega in April, running into Noah Gragson. The move resulted in Larson's car looking like it had been struck by a cannonball.

Then came the fisticuffs. Chastain hit Gragson with a sweet right hand at Kansas, putting an end to post-race proceedings. Gragson confronted Chastain after the two made contact in the Advent Health 400.

Shortly thereafter, Chastain made waves again at Darlington. He put himself and his fellow Chevrolet drivers at Hendrick Motorsports in increasingly awkward positions with his wheel work.

"Why did he run us right into the fence?" Larson's crew chief, Cliff Daniels, asked after Larson was knocked out the race.

"Make those three races he's taken us out of, Chevrolet. Three races," Daniels said. He was alluding to Talladega and an incident at Dover in addition to Darlington.

Hendrick Motorsports owner Rick Hendrick said after the race that Chastain can expect payback for his antics.

"He's got a lot of talent, but he's making a lot of enemies out here," Hendrick said.

A few days later, Chastain told reporters he had spoken with Hendrick and Larson.

"One day, I hope I'm able to laugh with him about it," Chastain said. "Look, it's still crazy for me that Rick Hendrick knows my name. Right now, it's for the wrong reasons, but seriously."

Love him, hate him or somewhere in between, people can't take their eyes off him. They keep talking about him. That can only be a good thing for NASCAR.



Caloosa Humane Center 1200 Pratt Blvd, LaBelle

OUR MISSION

The Mission of Caloosa Humane Society is to serve, shelter, and protect the homeless pets in our care. We are dedicated to finding permanent and loving adoptive homes for our companion animals in need. Our no-kill facility provides low cost spay/neuter services to the community with the goal of reducing the extreme overpopulation of unwanted pets.



South Florida Wildlands Association

a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of wildlife and habitat in the Greater Everglades.

<https://www.southfloridawild.org/>



Lee County Sheriff's Office

SAFETY AT THE GAS STATION

Thefts at gas stations, across the United States, remain a concern for law enforcement. Like many other crimes of opportunity, an unlocked vehicle with personal items in sight makes for a quick and easy target.

Whether you are simply distracted while pumping gas or inside paying, thieves wait for the opportunity to quickly open your vehicle door and grab anything and everything of value. Car thieves sit in waiting for the opportunity to occupy and steal a running and/or unlocked vehicle.

Many elect to use their refueling time as an opportunity to catch up on missed text messages, listening to voice mail and returning phone calls. These distractions make one an easier target. Choosing well-lit fuel stations with surveillance cameras decrease the appeal to criminals.

Whenever possible, purchase fuel during daytime hours and do so from a station that offers significant visibility to the roadway. Select a pump closest to the structure. This increases your visibility to cashiers and staff that work inside. Additionally, due to their proximity to the register, these pumps are generally free of skimming devices. Locking your vehicle doors and keeping valuables out of sight make it extremely difficult for thieves to enter your car or truck. Take your keys with you...do not leave them in the ignition or leave fobs on the seat.

Be certain to terminate your credit card transaction, at the pump, prior to leaving and ensure that the pump handle is fully seated in order to complete your transaction.

BARRON LIBRARY

at the LaBelle Caloosahatchee
Dock Park



*The Alva Chapter USS Hannah,
Daughters of the
American
Revolution*



USS Hannah Chapter, Alva, Florida, <https://usshannahnsdar.org/>

NSDAR is not a part of, or endorsed by, the Department of Defense





FORT MYERS EAST ROTARY CLUB

We meet every Wednesday at 7:30 AM at the Cracker Barrel at I-75 (Exit 141) and Palm Beach Boulevard. Contact Ellen Erickson at 239-218-4789 to learn how you can be a part of this long-standing service and fellowship club.



Fort Myers East Rotary Club awarded six \$1000 scholarships to the following students:

From Dunbar High School:
Chasann Samuels

From Riverdale High School: Cooper McLaughlin, Yashfin Rahman, Kelsey Dodd,

Jose Manuel Roa, and Elizabeth Cordero.



We wish them all the best in their pursuit of college degrees.



Fort Myers East Rotarians visited The Alva School kindergartners with a water safety program. They enjoyed a power point program about Josh, a baby otter, learning to swim. It focused on:

- *Always have an adult present
- *Always swim with a buddy
- *Learn to float on your back

Then Josh the Otter visited the 84 kids who loved high fives and hugs.

The Rotarians gave each student their own book about Josh the Otter and a coloring book to take home.

Firemen from the Alva Fire Department also attended and helped with the program.





**The Alva Library
Museum**
21420 Pearl St, Alva, FL
33920



Public Library, Alva

Originally a public library built in 1909, it now serves as a museum of artifacts from the original settlers of Alva.

The library-museum Board is making the building available as small group venue for parties, clubs, etc.

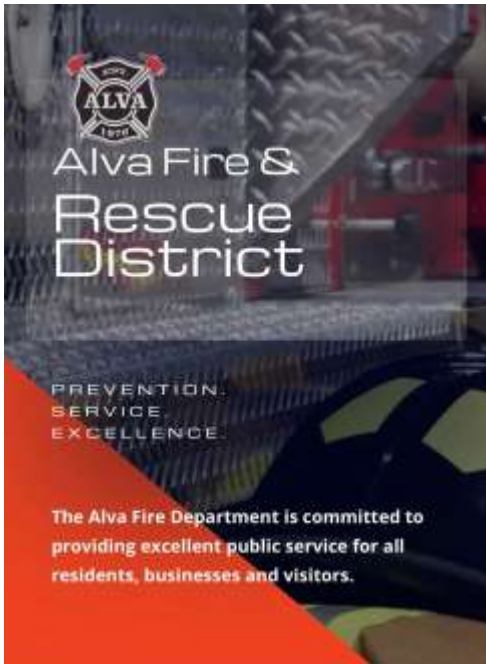
THE LIBRARY IS NOW OPEN FOR FREE TOURS
Every Saturday between 10am and 2pm

See a virtual video tour of the Museum at: <http://alvaflmuseum.com> (click on Virtual Tour)

Grant Fichter is overseeing the museum for the board.

Come on out and check out the Alva Museum this Saturday between 10-2, cool off in the AC and check out some of those long-lost treasures. Also, if you have some Alva area history to share bring it by and let us look at it.





2660 Styles
Road, Alva,
Florida
33920

(239) 728-
2223



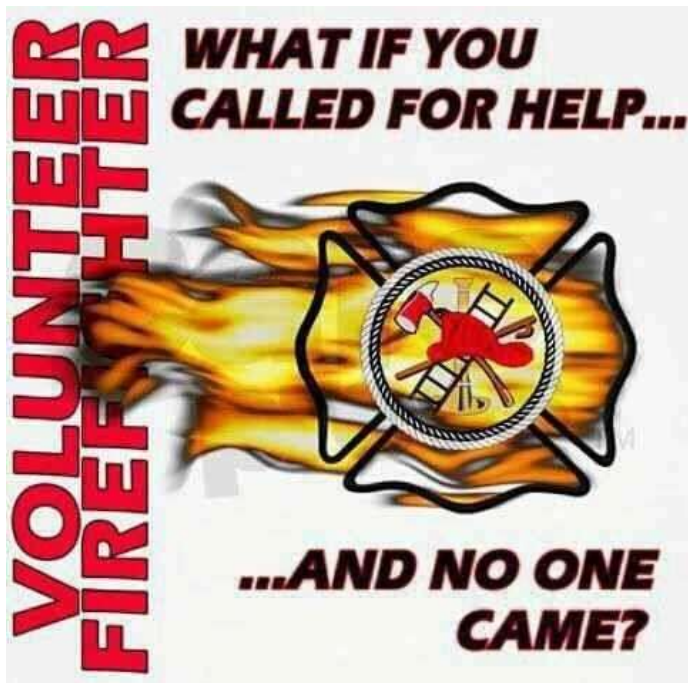
****Donate***

****Volunteer***

****Serve***



***LEARNING THE SKILLS TO
SAVE LIVES***



The Alva Fire Control District is Seeking Firefighter Applicants

The Alva Fire Control District is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Firefighter/EMT. The individual should demonstrate good moral character and judgement, be able to handle high pressure situations and display effective problem solving and leadership skills. The Alva Fire Department continually strives to provide a caring, courteous and a highly competent Fire and Rescue Emergency Service. We service over 39 square miles of predominantly rural development, approximately 3,200 residents and encompass numerous miles of the Caloosahatchee River. Experience preferred. The Alva Fire Control District has a tobacco and drug free workplace environment.

Minimum Application Requirements:

1. Florida Bureau of Fire Standards and Training Certification
2. Valid Florida Motor Vehicle License & Good Driving Record
3. Clean Criminal History
4. Current State of Florida EMT Certification
5. AHA CRP/BLS Provider

Required Documents:

You must present a copy of the following documents with the application:

1. Florida State Firefighter Certificate
2. Current Florida Motor Vehicle License
3. Current State of Florida EMT Certificate
4. AHA CPR/BLS Provider

To Apply:

Please forward a current resume and application to Chief Kuhn at bkuhn@alvafirecontrol.org or drop-off your resume to Station 121, 2660 Styles Rd., Alva, Florida 33920 between the hours of 9 AM - 4 PM. Applications can be picked up and delivered to Station 121.

The process consists of an application, written test and oral interview. Any applicant offered a conditional offer must be able to pass a physical exam, background check and a drug test. For any questions contact the Alva Fire Department at 239-728-2223

Applications will be accepted until 4 PM on April 22nd.



The ALVA GARDEN CLUB

Each month we have special speakers presenting interesting and relevant information. We also plan field trips that enhance our knowledge and inspire good garden practices.

Membership in the Alva Garden Club is still only \$10 per person.

We meet in the Alva United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1 pm.

Everyone is welcomed to join or simply attend the meetings as guests!

Refreshing the Lippincott Courtyard at the Alva School





Help Us Urge Governor DeSantis to Veto the Sprawl Bill

Senate Bill 540 was passed by the Florida state legislature on May 2nd, 2023. It is one of the worst bills of what our coalition of environmental groups has dubbed the "Session of Sprawl."

This bill will eliminate public feedback and challenges on local development decisions throughout the state by discouraging and financially penalizing citizen challengers. In short, it's the legislature's latest bold attempt to streamline unchecked development in our communities and intimidate the public's ability to reign in projects that are bad for water quality, traffic, flood control, resilience and the overall quality of life in Florida.

Help us urge Governor DeSantis to Veto "Sprawl Bill" 540 by sending an email through our campaign and sharing it with your friends and neighbors.

EMAIL THE GOVERNOR NOW

In Partnership With:



EMAIL GOVERNOR DeSANTIS HERE:
<https://www.flgov.com/email-the-governor/>

SCORE Southwest Florida

**3650 Colonial Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33966, (239) 931-9807,
swflscore@gmail.com**

If you are dreaming of starting your own business, or needing to grow your current business, the local 30 plus SCORE volunteers and personal certified mentors are waiting for your call or email. And remember, our services are completely FREE. We volunteer to serve so YOU can succeed.

SCORE is a fully independent private 501-3C non-profit with accountability to and some funding from the SBA

SCORE Mentors...with experience in virtually every business category you can imagine help with:

- Business plan development, sales and marketing strategies
- Financing, taxes and E-commerce
- Management, administrative and operational procedures
- Ongoing advice to help your decision making

Life-Long Learning Made Easy

SCORE mentors, sponsors and local business owners with a specific areas of expertise conduct a variety of very popular, regularly scheduled, low-cost and free educational seminars and online workshops for establishing and managing a successful small business.

Free Resources

With access to a wide variety of documents, templates and tools to assist you in starting or growing your business, the information provided here covers a wide range of subjects including initial business planning, capital sources, government agencies, and much more.

Contact (239) 931-9807, swflscore@gmail.com for more information



JOB-LINK



Florida Job Link connects talent and opportunity, enabling on-the-spot HIRING! UPCOMING EVENTS BELOW! WE KEEP FLORIDA WORKING! The Best and Brightest Candidates connect with Top Florida Employers face-to-face via our Hiring Events in cities throughout Florida! Florida Job Link is voted #1 Job Fair experience in the state of Florida by attendees!

<https://www.indeed.com/q-Goodwill-I-Lee-County,-FL-jobs.html>



Charleston Park Neighborhood Association

2541 Charleston Park Drive, Alva, FL 33920. 239-728-8895
Charlestonpark1926@gmail.com

Community Center Activities & Training, Lee County Children's and youth sport park, Events throughout the year, Meetings for all every second Monday of the month at 6pm at the Community Center are also available virtually via ZOOM.



Next to Barron Park in LaBelle



The Great Calusa Blueway Paddling Trail



A 190-mile marked canoe and kayak trail that meanders through the coastal waters and inland tributaries of Lee County, Florida. It attracts everyone from first-time kayakers to advanced paddlers and is home to abundant marine life, shore birds and crustaceans.

<https://www.fortmyers-sanibel.com/calusablueway>



www.RichAndLaurieInSouthFlorida.com

Listen to the Podcast and follow on Youtube, and more!

For information on where to go and what to do in SWFL!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvcRaJr9jghdQOgsnU2B6Pw>



The Firehouse Community Theatre, Inc.

241 N Bridge St, Labelle, FL 33935 (863) 675-3066



A bit of ALVA History

Every Small town has its well-known characters

And many of them very well liked

(TY Nadene Gariety and Dan Powers, via Alva Facebook Page)



Nadene- Does anyone remember the hermit who we used to call old man Wakefield? It was back in the 1950's and 60's.

He lived deep in the woods near my aunt and uncle. He would sit on their front porch each day and read their paper.

My aunt would do his shopping and even give him a haircut. I remember being so intrigued by him as a kid, and am to this day. He was truly a mystery man.

I have no idea how long he lived there. I know that he died in the house. I don't know what year what year.

Dan- at one time my uncle owned all of Tuckahoe Road (South of the Alva Diner at the end of paved Packinghouse Road) .

The shack old man Wakefield lived in had no power, running water or phone. It wasn't right on Tuckahoe, but back in the woods near this house which is still there.



Ken DeWalt-Several years ago my wife Ramona and I were traveling through Southwest Texas to visit one of the least visited National Parks in America. Big Bend, on the Rio Grande.



We were south of Fort Stockton and it was time for a break so as we entered the small desert town of Marathon, we began looking for lunch. But EVERYTHING in town but the hotel was closed. Why? It wasn't a Sunday. The answer came from the one server at the empty Gage Hotel dining room.

Everyone in the town, at least 98% of the entire area's residents were at this church shown to the right.

The town's oldest resident, a hermit of the desert, had died that week. He had been known to three generations of neighbors as one of the nicest, most willing to work at odd jobs, favorite of kids and adults, full of old-time wisdom and great local stories, and faithful attender in this church.

This street and every open space for a quarter mile was jammed with vehicles.

Sometimes the town hermit, character, beggar, is the best liked resident in the village.



The global farm is not only a hands-on training ground for those searching for help in tropical agriculture, but also an educational tool to make the public aware of hunger related issues and the answers there are to alleviate malnutrition and starvation.



17391 Durrance Road, North Fort Myers, FL 33917 | 239.543.3246 | info@echonet.org
<https://www.echonet.org>



There are six fenced-in "Dog Parks" which allow for off-leash play. On-leash dog walking is allowed at many locations (listed below).

Dogs must be accompanied by an adult and must remain on-leash at all times while walking in the park. Find out more at: <https://www.leegov.com/parks/dog-parks>



Six Mile Cypress Slough, Lee County Park

7751 Penzance Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33966

A mile of wonder 30 minutes away from Alva.



Manatee Park

10901 Palm Beach Blvd,

Fort Myers, FL 33905

239 690 5030



Olga Community Park

2325 S Olga Dr, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 533-7275



Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park

17980 Palm Beach Blvd, Alva, FL, 33920

-Great for quiet creek kayaking. -Fun for walks and picnics.



ALVA BOAT RAMP PARK

21580 Pearl St,

Alva, FL 33920



W.P. Franklin Lock & Dam South Recreation Area

Franklin Lock Rd. , Alva , FL 33920. Contact: (239) 694-2582



WP Franklin South Recreation Area is a day use area located on the Caloosahatchee River adjacent to the WP Franklin Lock and Dam. Visitors can watch boats traversing the 152 mile Okeechobee Waterway

W.P Franklin Lock & Dam CAMPGROUND

Camp by reservation only

17850 NORTH FRANKLIN LOCK ROAD, ALVA, FL 33920, 239-694-8770

<https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/233661>



Alva Community Center PARK

21471 North River Road, Alva, FL 33920 , (239) 728-2882

Shady lawns & baseball field



Telegraph Creek: Unspoiled kayak trail

out-of-the-way, uncrowded, scenic, quiet and full of wildlife.





Caloosahatchee Regional Park

19130 North River Road, Alva, FL 33920 (239) 694-0398

EMAIL: leeparks@leegov.com

Shelter rentals, primitive tent camping, Horse and bike trails.



NORTH FORT MYERS Recreation Park

2000 North Recreation Park Way, North Fort Myers, FL 33903,

This park features an 18 hole Disc Golf course , call (239) 297-8916

Veterans Park Recreation Center

55 Homestead Road South, Lehigh Acres, FL 33936



BABCOCK RANCH ECO TOURS, Museum and Gator Shack Restaurant Go to website to reserve tours

<https://babcockranchecotours.com/>



Alva Angel's



Giving back to the families of our community

Are you cleaning out your house and planning to donate the items you no longer want? Please consider donating those items to Alva Angel's. We can pick up small and large items and we will gift those items to people in need or sell the items to raise money for the upcoming holiday season to purchase wish list items.

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/AlvaAngelsOrganization>



Lee County Conservation 20/20 manages over 50 preserves spread throughout Lee County, including within the boundaries of most cities. These preserves combined total nearly 30,000 acres.

Preserves are open daily during daylight hours. Access may be limited at certain locations due to temporary flooding, special restoration projects, or isolated location. Information about each Conservation 20/20 preserve can be accessed from the website:

<http://www.leegov.com/conservation2020/preserves>



Bob Janes Preserve



Daniel's Preserve at Spanish Creek



Carter's Lane



Buckingham Trails Preserve



Olga Shores Preserve



Oak hammock



Alva Scrub Preserve



Telegraph Creek Preserve



Frank Mann Preserve



2009-036 © INKINCINCT Cartoons www.inkincinct.com.au

SWFL CRIME STOPPERS

SAY IT HERE!
WHY?
We guarantee anonymity!
We pay cash rewards.

HOTLINE: 1-800-780-TIPS
CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT A TIP

DOWNLOAD OUR FREE MOBILE APP FOR CALL

SWFL Crime Stoppers is NOT a substitute for calling 9-1-1. In the event of an emergency, please call 9-1-1. Those who submit a tip are called "tipsters" and will remain 100% anonymous. No caller ID. No recorded lines. No tracking of phone calls. We want your information, not your name!

Put simply it is a three-part approach to solving the crime problem. SWFL Crime Stoppers relies on cooperation between our community, the media, and law enforcement to provide a flow of information about crime, wanted fugitives and suspicious activities.



Mission

Volunteer Florida strengthens Florida's communities through national service, fostering volunteerism and leveraging resources.

<https://volunteer.volunteerflorida.org/>



Effective immediately, persons who are experiencing homelessness (living outside, in a car, or other place not meant for human habitation) and seeking permanent housing resources in the Lee County CoC should contact 239-533-7900, and select options 1, 5, then 3, to complete a Coordinated Assessment.



Southwest Florida Cooking by

MAGGIE Mellmann

of Oak Park, Alva

Contact Maggie to find out more at: Maggi1rn@aatt.net



BUCKINGHAM FIREWORKS CAKE

Ingredients

CAKE:

- Cooking spray
- 1 cup (8 oz.) salted butter, softened
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 4 large eggs, at room temperature
- 3 cups (about 12 3/4 oz.) all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon table salt
- 1 cup whole milk
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract



FILLINGS:

- **1 teaspoon cornstarch, divided**
- **1 teaspoon water, divided**
- **6 ounces fresh blueberries**
- **2/3 cup granulated sugar, divided**



- **3 tablespoons fresh orange juice (from 1 orange), divided**
- **3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice (from 1 lemon), divided**
- **1/4 teaspoon table salt, divided**
- **1 cup chopped fresh strawberries (from 1 3/4 cups whole strawberries)**

FROSTING:

- **1 (8-oz.) container mascarpone cheese**
- **2 teaspoons vanilla extract**
- **1/2 cup (about 2 oz.) powdered sugar, divided**
- **2 cups heavy cream**

GARNISHES

- **Fresh local blueberries and strawberries**

Directions

1. Prepare the Cake: Preheat oven to 350°F. Generously coat a 9-x 13-inch baking pan with cooking spray. Line bottom of baking pan with parchment paper; coat paper with cooking spray. Beat butter with a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment on medium speed until creamy, about 1 minute. Gradually add sugar, beating

until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Add eggs 1 at a time, beating until just blended after each addition.

2. Whisk together flour, baking powder, and salt in a bowl. Add flour mixture to butter mixture alternately with milk, beginning and ending with flour mixture, beating on low speed until just blended after each addition. Stir in vanilla. Pour batter into prepared baking pan.

3. Bake in preheated oven until a wooden pick inserted in center of Cake comes out clean, 30 to 40 minutes. Transfer Cake in baking pan to a wire rack; let cool 10 minutes. Invert Cake onto wire rack; let cool completely, about 1 hour.

4. Prepare the Fillings: Stir together 1/2 teaspoon each of the



cornstarch and water in a small bowl; set aside. Stir together blueberries, 1/3 cup of the sugar, 1 1/2 tablespoons of the orange juice, 1 1/2 tablespoons of the lemon juice, and 1/8 teaspoon of the salt in a medium saucepan. Bring mixture to a simmer over

medium, stirring constantly. Continue simmering, stirring occasionally, until sugar dissolves, about 5 minutes. Stir in cornstarch-water mixture; simmer, stirring constantly, until mixture thickens slightly, 30 seconds to 1 minute. Remove from heat; let cool 15 minutes. Process mixture using an immersion blender until smooth, about 30 seconds. (Alternatively, transfer mixture to a blender, and blend until smooth.) Pour mixture into a bowl; cover and chill until cold, about 1 hour. Meanwhile, repeat procedure with remaining cornstarch, water, sugar, orange juice, lemon juice, and salt, using chopped strawberries in place of the blueberries.

5. Assemble the Cake: Place Cake on a serving plate. Using a 1/4-inch-wide wooden dowel or the round handle of a wooden spoon, poke holes spaced 1 inch apart over the entire Cake surface, poking at least three-quarters of the way through the Cake, but not poking all the way to the bottom. Spoon blueberry and strawberry Fillings alternately in lengthwise rows over Cake surface, being sure to fill all holes. Chill, uncovered, 1 hour.

6. Prepare the Frosting: Beat mascarpone cheese, vanilla, and 1/4 cup powdered of the sugar with a stand mixer fitted with a whisk attachment on medium speed until just combined, about 30 seconds. Add heavy cream; beat on medium speed until foamy, about 30 seconds. Increase speed to medium-high; gradually add remaining 1/4 cup powdered sugar, beating until stiff peaks form, about 1 minute, 30 seconds. (Do not overbeat.)

7. Spread Frosting evenly around sides of chilled Cake. Dollop remaining Frosting onto top of Cake, carefully spreading over top. Garnish with fresh blueberries and strawberries.

When it's windy and you're wearing the straw hat you got at the dollar store



How to Respectfully Retire an old American Flag

(TV https://www.countryliving.com/life/a43886/how-to-dispose-of-american-flag/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=arb_ga_clv_md_pmx_us_urlx_18711248539&gclid=CjwKCAjw0N6hBhAUEiwAXab-TRO_VPF5dxSmEaFQXnIsRs5Na5IWYLYcZnqFk6nKd-IVV8jik1PmtBoCkHEQAvD_BwE)



-
1. Start by folding the flag in a customary triangle manner.
 2. Prepare a fire large enough to burn the flag completely.
 3. Place the flag in the fire.
 4. While it burns, witnesses should recite the Pledge of Allegiance or salute.
 5. End the ceremony with a moment of silence before burying the flag's ashes.
-

Other Ways to Dispose of an Old American Flag

If you have concerns about burning the flag (whether environmental- or safety-related), you can consider this way to retire it:

You can bring it to a flag retirement location, such as a VFW or American Legion, or others in your community. Some post offices provide this service.

LaBelle Downtown Revitalization Corporation

proudly announces the Downtown LaBelle Historic Walking Tour! Take a walk into Old Florida's past through our new self-guided tour, featuring audio clips of those that helped make LaBelle what it is today.

Visit [Downtownlabelle.com/walking-tour.com](https://downtownlabelle.com/walking-tour.com) to start your tour today, or download the app with your Apple or Android device by searching "Downtown LaBelle." Happy trails!



Lee/Hendry County
Office

8280 College
Parkway, Suite 201
Fort Myers, FL 33919

(239) 288-4224



CALL NUMBER AT LEFT FOR CORRECT ZOOM LINK

CRACKDOWN ON MOVING SCAMS



The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) recently announced the launch of Operation Protect Your Move, a nationwide crackdown on scam movers ahead of the busy summer moving season. The crackdown comes in response to frequent complaints alleging some companies of using deceptive business practices that are causing consumers to pay higher fees, experience delays in receiving their household goods, or in some cases not receiving their possessions at all. The FMCSA has also seen an uptick in complaints of movers holding household possessions hostage to extort exorbitant additional charges from consumers.

FMCSA is deploying dozens of investigators across the country in an enforcement sweep to address these complaints and address complaints against moving companies and brokers that are not in compliance with federal safety and consumer protection regulations and statutes while transporting household goods. The Operation covers both movers and the brokers that purport to connect consumers to local movers but instead facilitate fraud by promoting scams.

The agency will formally document violations and has the authority to review and revoke the licenses of movers and brokers. Cases involving potential criminal misconduct may be referred to the U.S. Department of Justice for further investigation. Additionally, FMCSA will work directly with consumers to guide them through the process and help get their money and goods back.

In Florida, intrastate movers and moving brokers are required to comply with The Household Moving Services Act, Section 570, Florida Statutes. Under this statute, intrastate moving companies and moving brokers are required to register with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services prior to conducting business as a mover or moving broker or advertising to engage in the business of moving or offering to move. Florida law also requires intrastate movers to do the following:

- Provide a written estimate covering the total cost of the move.
- Provide a written contract before performing any services.
- Disclose limitation of liability in writing at the time the estimate or contract for services is rendered.
- Accept a minimum of two of the following three forms of payment:
 - Cash, cashier's check, money order, traveler's check
 - Valid personal check
 - Valid credit card

Consumers who decide to use a professional mover should do some advance planning and research to protect themselves from unnecessary expenses.

- **Plan Ahead When Possible** – Have at least three companies provide estimates with an on-site visit. Avoid companies that are only willing to do an estimate over the phone or internet.
- **Do Your Homework** – Research whether the company is registered at FloridaConsumerHelp.com or by calling 1-800-HELP-FLA or 1-800-FL-AYUDA en Español.
- **Read Before You Sign** – Remember, the contract and estimate must be signed and dated by both parties; your signature indicates that you acknowledge and accept its terms. Read the entire contract and estimate thoroughly, ask questions, and do not sign it if you have doubts about anything.
- **Be Aware of Scams** – Scams can occur whether you are dealing directly with a moving company or using a broker. One such scam occurs when a moving company quotes a low price in order to secure your business, then increases the cost substantially after loading your household goods onto the truck. Keep a copy of your contract with you during the move to be able to show law enforcement if necessary. It is a third-degree felony for a mover to refuse to relinquish your household goods if law enforcement has determined you have tendered payment in the amount of the written estimate or contract.
- **Make complaints in writing** – Consumers who are not satisfied should make the mover aware of their claim, in writing, as quickly as possible. If the company does not handle your claim satisfactorily, you may also file a complaint with the Division of Consumer Services at FloridaConsumerHelp.com.

FMCSA also provides important information on its website at www.ProtectYourMove.gov for consumers planning an interstate move. Consumers can download a moving checklist, view videos on spotting red flags, confirm a mover or broker's registration with FMCSA, and check the number of complaints against a particular company. Consumers can also file a complaint against a company regulated by FMCSA by visiting the agency's National Consumer Complaints Database (NCCDB) at <https://nccdb.fmcsa.dot.gov>.



COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE



Community Cafe, Mobile Pantry's, and Meals on Wheels

HOW YOU CAN HELP: DONATE so that we can continue purchasing food to distribute at our Mobile Pantries. HOST A FOOD DRIVE and collect non-perishable food items to stock our shelves.

VOLUNTEER in the Community Cafe, at a Mobile Pantry, or as a Meals on Wheels Driver.

Call (239) 332-7687 Tami@communitycooperative.com or call 239-332-7687, ext. 125.



ALVA MIDDLE FFA



**Find us on
FACEBOOK**



https://www.facebook.com/AlvaMiddleFFA/?show_switched_toast=0&show_invite_to_follow=0&show_switched_tooltip=0&show_podcast_settings=0&show_community_review_changes=0&show_community_rollback=0&show_follower_visibility_disclosure=0

RIVERDALE BRANCH LIBRARY
2421 Buckingham Road, Fort Myers



Approved by the
Lee County Board of County
Commissioners on
Tuesday, April 5, 2022

Construction began May 2022

Reopened April 23, 2023

Architect
John Bryant, Sweet Sparkman

**Architecture and Interiors
Construction Manager**
Stevens Construction

Total Project Cost
\$4,077,309

Construction Cost
\$3,514,460

Funding Source
Library Fund





Harry Chapin Food Bank OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope

TIME. Give MONEY. Give FOOD.

To make a donation, **call (239) 334-7007** or visit
www.harrychapinfoodbank.org

We do our best to keep you all informed on where you can get food and how you can help.

For Food pickup locations:

<https://harrychapinfoodbank.org/?s=Food+locations>



SalusCare is a Fort Myers, Florida based not-for-profit mental health and substance abuse service provider.

SalusCare has 6 locations to serve you throughout Southwest Florida. Our fees are affordable and may be adjusted to the means of our patients based on household income.

SalusCare accepts Medicaid, Medicare, Visa, MasterCard and some major health insurance providers. Please call us beforehand to verify that your insurance is accepted.

SalusCare provides services for all regardless of disability or handicap. Accommodations will be provided upon request. All substance abuse programs and most mental health services are accredited by CARF International, an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services.
<https://www.saluscareflorida.org/>

Call our Welcome Center at 239-275-3222 Mon. – Fri. 8:00 am – 5:00 pm to speak with a customer service representative to schedule a Care Connection appointment in-person or via tele-health.



A New Church Near You!
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 office, kitchen, or phone.

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 POWER
 CHURCH**

HigherPowerChurch.org

ONLINE ONLY REV. JOHN ZIMMERMAN

WORSHIP WITH US

"Higher Power Church is an online church to search, discover, celebrate, and share Jesus Christ as our Higher Power." It is a safe place for all, especially those in addiction, to grow spiritually with God."

John Zimmerman



Reverend John Zimmerman, Ordained Pastor and Evangelist from the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church travels with his wife Christine in their truck and fifth wheel trailer up and down America's east coast all year long.

RAINY SEASON "Officially" begins today in Southwest Florida as we start to transition. The average dates are from May 15th to October 15th.

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
 RAINY SEASON**

BEGINS TODAY!

WINK



FROM



AND



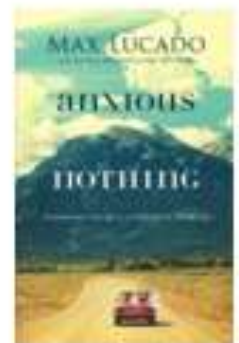
Retired United Methodist Pastor Ken DeWalt has partnered with the new, fully online Higher Power Church to create an INTERNET weekly small LifeGroup using the huge RightNow Media (RNM) library of Christian books and videos and their ZOOM-LIKE group platform to support face to face discussion and personal conversation as well. As close to in-person as we can get without Star Trek *beaming*.

Anyone, or any church or no church, any gender or no specific pronoun, any-anyone, everyone, is invited to consider joining in. There is no cost, unless you choose to purchase books. Workbooks for any subject we choose to discuss will be provided free by our online Higher Power Church.



Our LifeGroup is called **CONNECT;** with God and Each Other

The first subject for our group to discuss is **ANXIETY FOR NONE,** by Max Lucado as author and video presenter.



Our start date is Wednesday, June 7, 8 to 9pm USA Eastern Standard Time.

However, anyone may join at any time.

If you would like more information please contact me, kendewalt1@gmail.com, and I will answer your questions and send you instructions for signing up to link to these FREE small group gatherings.

We will keep the group size to 15 or less, and develop more groups as interest grows.

Check out these links to learn more about our church, our media platform and me.

<https://higherpowerchurch.org/>

<https://zoom.us/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pastorken1>



Alva Area FOOD PANTRIES

Grace UMC, Fort Myers Shores

Second Saturday Free Meal & Food Pantry, 8am to 2pm

CALL to RESERVE your FOOD

239-694-2797

Charleston Park Community Center

239-728-8895

FOOD PANTRY

Every week, Friday, 10am-2pm

ALVA UMC

Food Pantry @ Bethany House

Food Pantry: 9am-12pm 2nd & 4th Wednesdays

239-728-2277

CALVARY NATIONS Church

19850 Palm Beach Boulevard, Alva

Every Saturday, 3pm until supplies run out.

239-7285566

St. Vincent DePaul RC

Our Lady's Cupboard Food Pantry

Call (239) 694-3985 for hours open.

Some of our local ALVA area churches:

St. Vincent DePaul's RC Church

13031 Palm Beach Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.stvincentftmyers.org 239-693-0818

Alva United Methodist Church

21440 Pearl St. P.O Box 96

Alva, FL 33920

Alvamc@embarqmail.com

www.ouralvachurch.org 239-728-2277

Alva Church of God

21520 Park St, Alva, Florida 33920

239-728-2644

Liberation International Church

Avenue D, Charleston Park

Alva, FL 33920,

239-601-4870

New Hope Faith Temple of Jesus Christ

23210 Avenue D, Charleston Park

Alva, FL, 33920 239-770-4974

Buckingham Presbyterian Church

4241 Buckingham Road

Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.buckinghampc.org

Light of the Nations Filipino Congregation

19850 Palm Beach Blvd (at Calvary Church)

Alva, FL, 33920

239-728-5566

First Spanish Assembly of God Church

2219 Joel Blvd

Alva, FL 33920 239-728-5440

Countryside Wesleyan Church

17750 Palm Beach Blvd, Alva, FL 33920

239-368-3270

Calvary Nations Church

19850 Palm Beach Blvd

Alva, FL 33920

CalvaryChurchSwfl@yahoo.com

www.calvarynations.org 239-728-5566

First Baptist Church of Alva

2790 Joel Blvd, Alva, FL, 33920

www.alvabaptist.com 239-728-2034

Grace United Methodist Church, Ft Myers Shores

14036 Matanzas Drive, Ft Myers, Florida 33905

www.egracechurch.com 239-694-2797

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

14531 Old Olga Road,

Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.blcefml.org 239-694-3878

Olga Baptist Church

2364 South Olga Drive

Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.olgabaptist.org 239-694-2012

olgabapch1@embarqmail.com



Types of 12 Step Programs in Lee County, FL: Because Alcoholics Anonymous was exclusive to people who struggled with alcohol addiction, a vast array of other programs were formed to aid and support those in recovery from other addictive disorders. These include the following groups:

Any type of group you do not find listed below may be sought at this website:
<https://www.addicted.org/directory/category/lee-county-3.html>

Before going to the meeting, confirm time and place by phone

ALVA:

Alva Community Center, 21471 N River Rd, Alva, FL 33920

-AA Way, 8pm Wednesdays, Big Book, OPEN

St. Matthews House, Cypress Creek & North River (rte 78) Roads, Alva

Jill's Place (for women) AND Justin's Place (for men), 239-687-7633 or intake@stmatthewshouse.org.

<https://stmatthewshouse.org/whatwedo/justinsplace/jills-place-retreat-center>

FORT MYERS SHORES:

Grace UMC, Fort Myers Shores, (239) 694-2797, 4036 Matanzas Dr, Fort Myers:

-AA COED, Open Disc: Mon, 12pm, office

-AA Men: Mon, 7pm, office

-AA Women: Tues, 7pm, office

-AA COED, Open Disc: Wed, 12pm, office

-AA Open Disc: Thu, 7pm, office

-AL Anon COED: Fri, 12pm, Classroom 2

-AA COED, Open Speaker: Sat, 7pm, Community Center

-AA COED, Open Disc: Sun, 7pm, office

-CHOOSE RECOVERY: 6:00pm, Grace UMC Shores Facebook Page LIVE until COVID-19 is under control.

St. Vincent De Paul RC, 13031 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers: Fort Myers Shores Group OStAH – Tuesday, 8:00 pm

Calvary Assembly of God, 11431 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers:

-Night Owls OD – Saturday, 10:05 pm

LEHIGH ACRES:

-AA SUNRISE GROUP - MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS 7AM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

LEHIGH ACRES (cont):

-AA MONDAY AT A TIME - MONDAY 6:30PM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA CHAIR'S CHOICE - TUESDAY 6:30PM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA SPIRITUAL SEARCH GROUP - TUESDAY 8PM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA THIRSTY THURSDAYS - THURSDAY 6:30PM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA HERE AND NOW- SUNDAY 6:30PM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres, 33971,

(239) 275-5111

**-NA HOPE WITHOUT DOPE - THURSDAY & SATURDAY
6:30PM**

705 Leland Heights Blvd. E., Lehigh Acres,
(866) 819-5346

-AA LEHIGH SUNDAY NIGHT - SUNDAY 8PM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres
(239) 275-5111

**-AA HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE - FRIDAY
6:30PM**

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres
(239) 275-5111

-AL ANON MOVING FORWARD AFG - MONDAY 10AM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres
(888) 425-2666

-AA FIRST THINGS FIRST - MON-SUN 7AM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres
(239) 275-5111

-AA NOONERS - MON-SUN 12PM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres
(239) 275-5111

LABELLE:

**Good Shepherd Church, (239) 275-5111, 1098
Collingswood Pkwy, Labelle**

-AA-PORT LABELLE GROUP – ODH- SUNDAY 7PM

-MAKING THE EFFORT -OLbHD- MONDAY 7:00 PM

-AS BILL SEES IT- OD- SATURDAY 9:00AM

-WED BIG BOOK GROUP- OBBH- WEDNESDAY NOON

-OPEN DISCUSSION -ODH- FRIDAY 7:00PM

First Christian Church, Rte 29 & Ford Ave, LaBelle

-LABELLE GROUP-ODAH- THURSDAY 7:00PM

-STEP GROUP-Cst- TUESDAY 7:00PM

-AI Anon- AFG - THURSDAY 7PM

138 Ford Ave, Labelle
(888) 425-2666

-AA-THURSDAY 7PM

138 Ford Ave, Labelle
(239) 275-5111

-AA-MEETING AT THE INN - WEDNESDAY 7:15PM

Port LaBelle Inn, 1568 Oxbow Dr, Labelle
(239) 275-5111

NOT TODAY - MONDAY 6:00PM

133 N Bridge St, Labelle
(866) 819-5346

IF you know of any other 12 step or non-12 step recovery group in the Alva area (From Hendry County Line to Fort Myers Shores, north and south of our river) please let me know its name, location and the phone number for information to list here. Thank you! kendewalt@ontheriver.org



Important Phone Numbers & Websites

Font Size: [Share & Bookmark](#) [Feedback](#) [Print](#)

AGENCY	NORMAL BUSINESS	EMERGENCY
American Red Cross (Local Chapter)	239-278-3401	239-278-3401
Arson Alert Hotline	800-342-5869	800-342-5869
Blood Donor Centers	888-9-DONATE	
- Lee Memorial Blood Center	239-343-2333	
- Florida's Blood Centers	239-574-3170	
Cape Coral Emergency Management	239-573-3022	911
Cape Coral Police Department (non-emergency)	239-574-3223	911
Dept. of Financial Services (Insurance)	239-461-4001	800-22-STORM
Federal Emergency Management Agency	800-621-3362	800-462-7585
Florida Division of Emergency Management	850-413-9969	
Fort Myers Police Department	239-321-7700	911
Lee County Animal Services	239-533-7387	239-533-7387
Lee County Emergency Information Hotline / United Way 211	239-433-2000	211
Lee County Emergency Management	239-533-0622	239-533-0622
Lee County Government	239-533-2111	
Lee County Health Department	239-332-9501	239-332-9501
Lee County Public Safety & EMS	239-533-3911	911
Lee County Sheriff's Office	239-477-1000	911
Mobile or Manufactured Home Residents	850-617-3004	
National Weather Service/Tampa Bay	813-645-2323	
Poison Information	800-222-1222	800-222-1222
Salvation Army, The	239-278-1551	239-278-1551
Sanibel Police Department	239-472-3111	911
Traffic Conditions in Florida (Current)	511	511
United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades & Okeechobee Counties	239-433-2000	211

AGENCY	WEB ADDRESS
Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)	www.ready.gov/cert
Department of Financial Services (Insurance)	www.myfloridacfo.com
Department of Homeland Security	www.dhs.gov/
Florida Lightning Safety	www.weather.gov/safety/lightning
Mobile or Manufactured Home Residents	www.flhsmv.gov/mobilehome
American Sign Language Preparedness Videos	www.lee.gov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/plan
StormReady	www.weather.gov/stormready/

Manatee & Eco River Tours

March through November – join us for an ECO RIVER TOUR where we leave from Sweetwater Landing Marina on SR 31 in Fort Myers and travel eastbound on the Caloosahatchee River through the original river course (oxbows) learning of the history of the area. Travel through the W.P. Franklin Locks and then return to the marina after a lovely 2-hour narrated cruise.



SUNSET CRUISE!

Join us for a sunset cruise from Sweetwater Landing Marina going westbound on the Caloosahatchee River. A nice spread of hors d'oeuvres is provided along with water and soda. You are welcome to bring your own beverage if you'd like. Enjoy a leisurely cruise on the Caloosahatchee, watch the birds come into rest for the night and enjoy the spectacular southwest Florida sunsets!



All tours leave from Sweetwater Landing Marina located at 16991 S.R. 31, Fort Myers, FL 33905

To book visit our website at: www.ManateeAndEcoRiverTours.com

Turning 65 or new to Medicare?

It's time to get Medicare-ready

Get a free* benefits review from a professional

Whether you have Medicare already or you're taking your first steps toward it, now's the time to learn about what Humana Medicare Advantage plans are available for 2023 and what they offer.

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Humana goes the extra mile to help you get the care you need. This is more than health insurance. It's human care.

See why more than 8.7 million people across the country[†] have chosen Humana Medicare Advantage plans and stand-alone prescription drug plans.

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Breanna Willis
239-771-9949 (TTY: 711)
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7 days a week
bwillis12@humana.com

Humana. A more human way
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* There's no obligation to enroll.

[†] Humana Inc. First Quarter 2022 Earnings Release, April 27, 2022. Humana is a Medicare Advantage HMO, PPO and PFFS organization with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in any Humana plan depends on contract renewal. **At Humana, it is important you are treated fairly.** Humana Inc. and its subsidiaries comply with applicable federal civil rights laws and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, ancestry, ethnicity, marital status, religion or language. **English:** ATTENTION: If you do not speak English, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call **877-320-1235 (TTY: 711).** **Español (Spanish):** ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al **877-320-1235 (TTY: 711).** **繁體中文 (Chinese):** 注意: 如果您使用繁體中文, 您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 **877-320-1235 (聽障專線: 711)**。

Paid Advertisement 6-11/23



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Office
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TEXT OR CALL 239-470-3475
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UKRAINE
EMERGENCY APPEAL
 #STANDWITHUKRAINE

<https://donate.redcrossredcrescent.org/ua/donate/~my-donation?cv=1>

ON THE RIVER Alva Area Newsletter Advertising Rates (current since January 17, 2020)

This monthly newsletter is a free to subscriber on-line offering. We are not offering anything in print form at this time.

We encourage folk to share it with anyone and in any way they wish, and we place the newsletter in the Alva Florida Friends and Family, and the Know Your Neighbors 239, Facebook Pages which have over 3000 subscribers, and the NEXT DOOR ALVA web page which has over 5,000 subscribers. We have over 1,200 personal email subscribers.

Ads run full across the 9x11" OTR page, then down the fraction of the page you choose.

Advertising rates per month :

1/8th Page... one issue: \$15.00, six issues: \$12.00, twelve issues: \$10.00

¼ Page... one issue: \$25.00, six issues: \$20.00, twelve issues: \$17.00

½ Page... one issue: \$45.00, six issues: \$35.00, twelve issues: \$30.00

Full Page... one issue: \$75.00, six issues: \$60.00, twelve issues: \$50.00

Ads will only appear on pages following all articles and nonprofit promotions are formatted. We can format ads for you with WORD.doc copy and j.peg photos or logos. We can also scan any copy and/or photos you provide to create a single j.peg of your ad.

You will receive a screenshot proof of the ad as soon as we have it formatted for your approval before its issue is published. Lack of response to the proof will be considered acceptance.

Full payment for all issues contracted for is to be made in full by the 15th of the month preceding the first month in which the ad is to appear, which is also the date the ad copy is to be received. Payments are to be by check (made out to Ramona DeWalt, noted: OTR.

CONTACT: Ken DeWalt, publisher, with any questions. kendewalt@ontheriver.org

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US.

