

SWFL CHRONICLE

SERVING CHARLOTTE, LEE & COLLIER COUNTIES | JUNE 2025



IT'S OK TO BE A *Cougar*

SENIORS & SEX
PAGE

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LATIFA LOWERY

The first African-American woman to win an Ironman event. p3



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Latifa Lowery

The first African-American woman to win an Ironman event.

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This isn't just my victory; it's for every woman who was told she was too late, too different, or too unlikely. Let this be proof that you are never too far from your breakthrough. Oh, and I did it as a Mom!

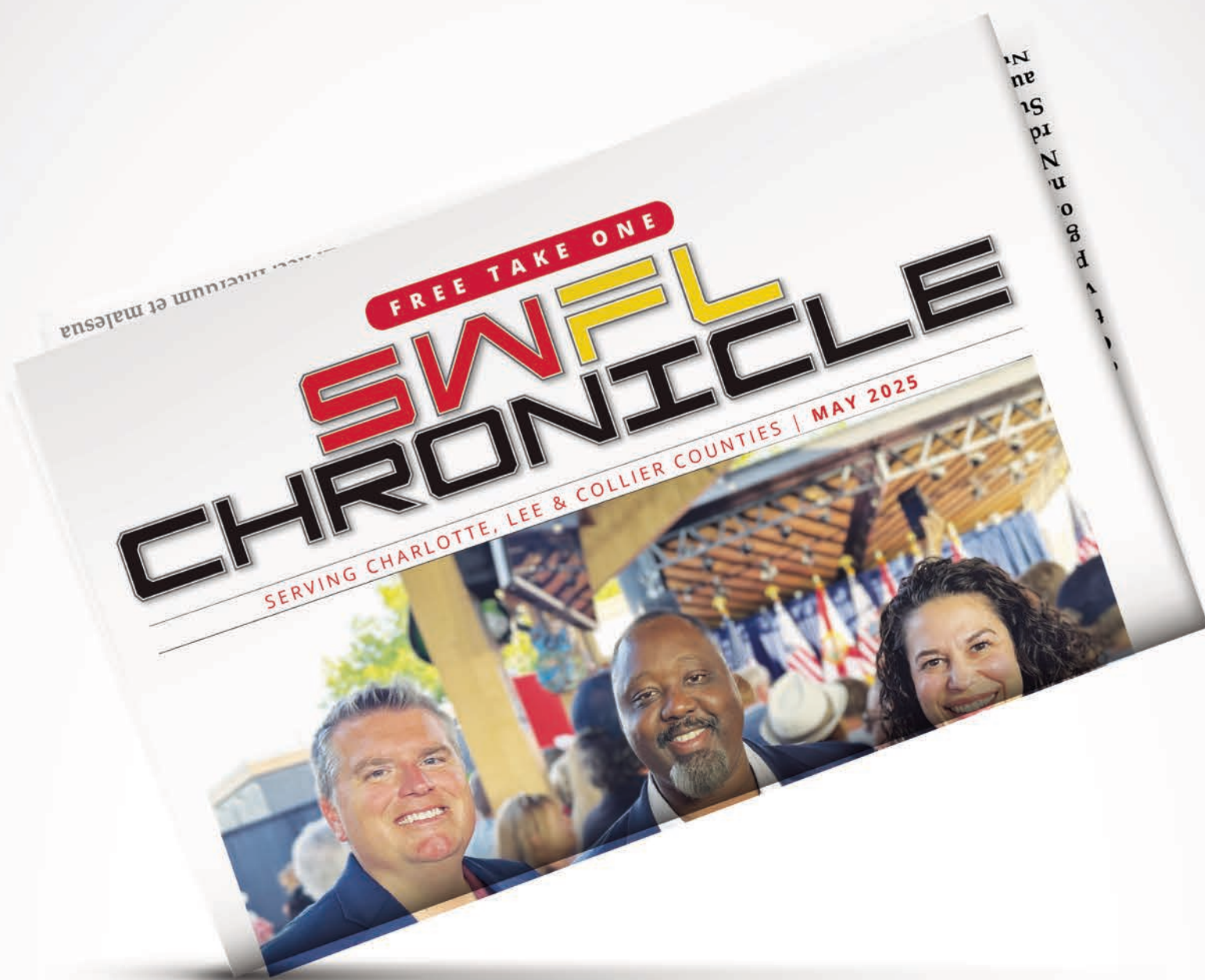
This wasn't just a race; it was a revolution! Proof that your past does not define your FUTURE. Failure is simply a stepping stone. Motherhood is not a limitation; it's a SUPERPOWER!

The stars finally aligned, and I ran straight into my DESTINY.

To every woman who thinks she missed her chance: you are not too late, you are not too old, you are not past your prime. You are just getting started!

photo courtesy of Latifa Lowery & FinisherPix

read more about
Latifa's journey online
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I PRAY that the eyes of your heart be opened right now. Enlightened. You may be at a place of change. A new season. Maybe there is a person or a thing you will have to let go of. A season of goodbye? A season of stepping out into the uncertainty? Nothing stays the same forever. Things will be different for you. Every step will make you stronger. We got here not knowing how we will make it through... but here we are making it through. From a challenge to a miracle.

The lesson to be learned is invaluable. When you no longer grasp for an answer... space opens. This is a timeless truth. Because our time is a very sacred thing. And this has been very costly. This could be a place of rescue. Rescue from suffering, this could be a place of stillness where all the other noise has been dropped. I want you to know what it is I have learned.

Inside I'm enveloped with a peace for which there are no words. I want you to know that contentment is possible in the place you are in and that may seem hard. In the midst of it all... I want you to know that all those things in your life will be worked together for good, even if it doesn't seem good.

Believe in the invisible. Release your baggage you will not be able to walk straight. You will lose your balance.

Balance. Do you want to know what happens when you light a fire inside of you? It burns every obstacle in your way. It's never too late to change what's not been working. We have all been broken however we can be healed, become whole, and become more beautiful than ever. The things you have lost are not lost they are within you. Their job is finished. And what is in front of you is still at work.

God says "I see you."

Having the desire for something better is the beginning of your breakthrough. Look for direction. Look for signs. This is what love does. It guides in wisdom. It directs in goodness. It always wants to be found. Love creates a place of safety. It instills courage. It upholds, it protects.

We have been made brave through this. By life's most perfect teacher. And there is no place I'd rather be. Where pain turns into freedom. You are strong, you will find what it is you seek. Know that all of the right things will happen in it's perfect time. Trust that incredible blessings will walk the path beside the pain.

You will find yourself at an intersection. A crossroads? But when you listen you will always know which way to go.

Do not be distracted. Be calm, centered and grounded sometimes the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself. Someone will need what you have to give. Maybe you only see what you want to see... but this is a moment for you.

It is OK if you are still broken. And broken moments don't always make sense. Did you know that Psalm 6:8 says that God hears the voice of your tears. What does that mean to you? You will find confidence. You will move forward without fear of failure, you will be free. You are something far better than this. You will move forward without fear of the future.

Let nothing stop you, you will know what to do. Seems like our lives were mapped out to fight. Push past the opposition.

There will be a shift in your life. When you live in the truth, the lies will lose power. The storms will come but you will be able to stand. Circumstances may be complicated don't be discouraged. As long as what you're doing is working. Know the difference between what you expect and what you experience.

A perfect setup for defeat can also be the perfect setup for victory. This right here... is making you this is not the thing that knocked you down this is the thing that gets you ready for what's on the other side.





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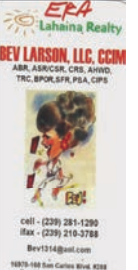
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JUNE 2025

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 - Navigation – The U.S. Aids to Navigation system; types of buoys and beacons; navigation rules (sometimes referred to as right-of-way rules); avoiding collisions; sound signals; PWC “tunnel vision.”
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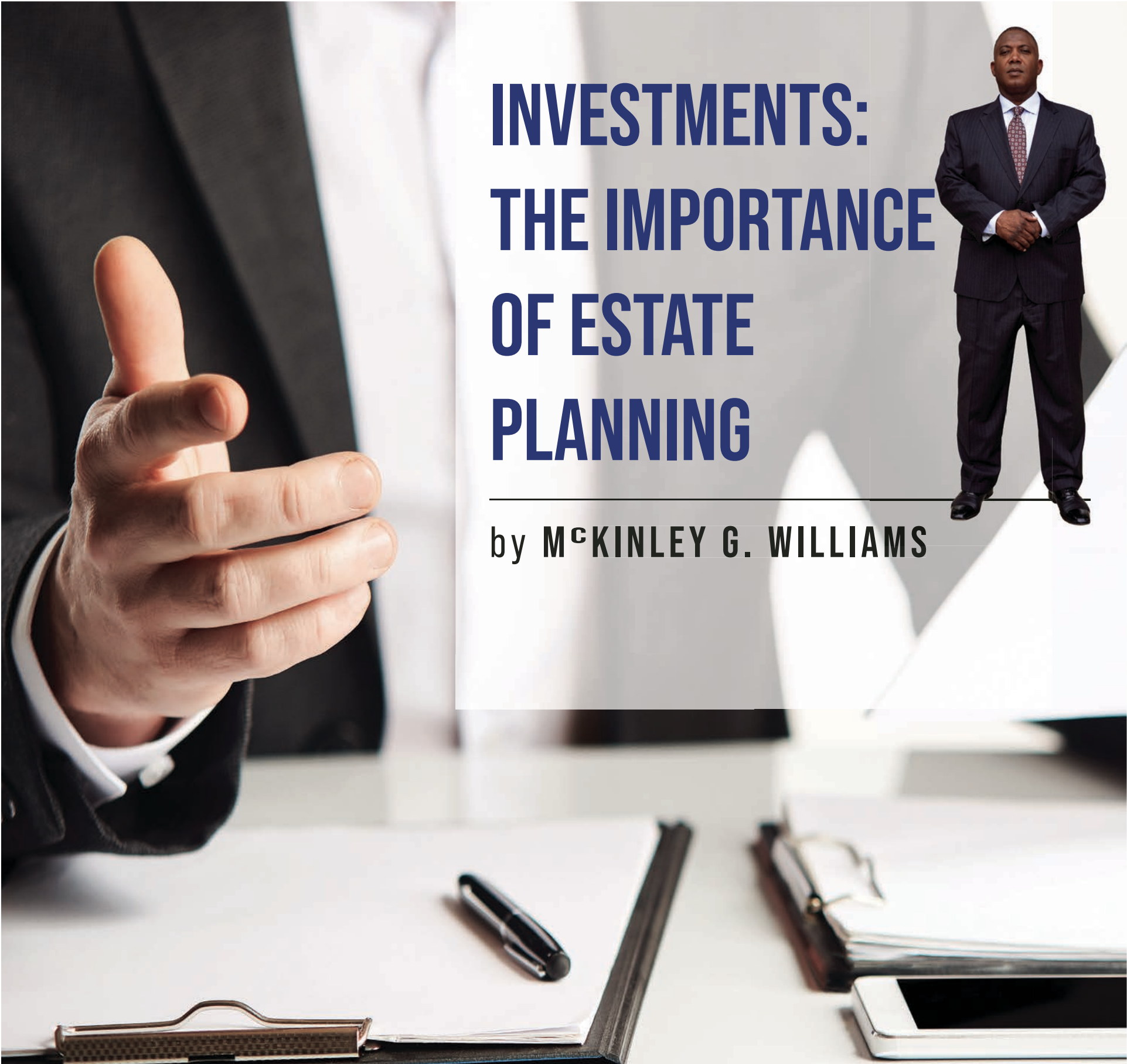
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INVESTMENTS: THE IMPORTANCE OF ESTATE PLANNING

by **M^CKINLEY G. WILLIAMS**

Estate planning is a crucial aspect of financial management that often gets overlooked or delayed by many individuals. It gets delayed because no one wants to talk about death. However, its importance cannot be overstated, as it not only ensures the orderly distribution of assets but also provides peace of mind and security for you and your loved ones. The significance of estate planning and its various facets is essential for everyone, regardless of age or financial status.

At its core, estate planning involves making arrangements for the management and distribution of your assets in the event of your death or incapacity. While it may seem daunting or morbid to contemplate such matters, proper estate planning is essential for safeguarding your wealth and ensuring that your wishes are carried out according to your intentions.

One of the primary purposes of estate planning is to minimize the tax burden on your estate and beneficiaries. Without proper planning, your heirs could be saddled with hefty estate taxes, potentially diminishing the value of the inheritance you leave behind. By implementing strategies such as trusts, gifting, and charitable contributions, you can minimize estate taxes and maximize the assets passed on to your loved ones.

Furthermore, estate planning allows you to specify how your assets will be distributed among your beneficiaries. Without a will or trust in place, state laws will dictate the distribution of your estate, which may not align with your wishes. By creating a comprehensive estate plan, you can ensure that your assets are distributed according to your desires, whether it involves providing for family members, supporting charitable causes, or preserving a family business.

In addition to asset distribution, estate planning also encompasses important healthcare directives and decision-making processes. By drafting documents such as a healthcare proxy and living will, you can designate a trusted individual to make medical decisions on your behalf if you become incapacitated and outline your preferences regarding end-of-life care. These directives offer clarity and guidance to your loved ones during challenging times, alleviating the burden of uncertainty and ensuring that your wishes are respected.



Estate planning allows you to specify how your assets will be distributed among your beneficiaries. Without a will or trust in place, state laws will dictate the distribution of your estate, which may not align with your wishes.

Moreover, estate planning allows you to appoint guardians for minor children or dependents, ensuring that they are cared for in the event of your passing. By designating guardianship in your will or trust, you can provide peace of mind for both yourself and your children, knowing that their well-being is prioritized and protected.

Another critical aspect of estate planning is asset protection. By structuring your assets effectively through trusts, limited liability entities, and other legal mechanisms, you can shield them from creditors, lawsuits, and other potential threats. Asset protection strategies not only safeguard your wealth but also provide added security for your beneficiaries, protecting their inheritance from unforeseen risks and challenges.

Furthermore, estate planning allows you to establish provisions for business succession if you own a business or have significant business interests. Without a clear plan in place, the future of your business may be uncertain in the event of your incapacity or death, potentially leading to disputes among partners or family members. By creating a succession plan, you can ensure a smooth transition of ownership and management, preserving the legacy of your business for future generations.

It's important to note that estate planning is not a one-time event but an ongoing process that should be reviewed and updated regularly to reflect changes in your life circumstances, financial situation, and legal requirements. Major life events such as marriage, divorce, birth of children, or significant changes in assets should prompt a review of your estate plan to ensure that it remains relevant and effective.

Additionally, working with experienced professionals such as estate planning attorneys, financial advisors, and tax specialists is essential to creating a comprehensive and tailored estate plan that meets your specific needs and goals. These professionals can provide invaluable guidance, expertise, and support throughout the estate planning process, helping you navigate complex legal and financial considerations with confidence and clarity.

In a nutshell, estate planning is a vital component of financial planning that deserves careful attention and consideration. By taking proactive steps to create a comprehensive estate plan, you can protect your assets, provide for your loved ones, and ensure that your wishes are carried out according to your intentions. Whether you're young or old, wealthy or of modest means, estate planning is an essential tool for securing your legacy and leaving a lasting impact on future generations





by MONIQUE WOOLEY



As we are approaching graduation season, I want to share these thoughts. When your measuring success, be sure to factor in professionalism.

I instruct local students in the areas of business preparedness which includes resume writing, interview readiness and clinical skills. Just as I raised my own successful children, I often teach the importance of professionalism. Basic skills such as sitting up straight, early preparation, eye to eye contact, direct speaking, confidence and of course showing up on time. Two of the most important topics in professionalism are The Dress Code and Attitude.

I was raised and mentored on the pretenses that “People take you more seriously when you dress for success”. I certainly understand that in today’s world, dress codes has been made to be more lack-luster in the name of convenience. But certainly if mediocrity isn’t tolerated in performance well then it should never be tolerated in how you show up to perform. Only you can set the bar for you.

THE DRESS CODE

We all understand that education is key. However, how you present yourself definitely plays an essential part in landing and keeping any professional roll especially in a high standard environment. We can all be trained to fulfill rolls but dressing appropriately and having the right attitude is an indication of how you view yourself which leads to how others view you in that roll. How you present yourself can also potentially create conditions for upward mobility as well as promote your image and respect.

Now when I say “dressing appropriately” I’m in no way speaking in terms of name brands or even new but at the very least wrinkle free, spot free, tucked, belted, zipped, buttoned and clean.

My Grandmother would say “it’s not what you ware but how you ware it that matters”.

THE ATTITUDE

Complaining about the roll in which you accepted is not a issue of supervision. It is an issue of your choosing. I encourage my clients and students to take the time to discover what brings them joy so that it isn’t a job but a passion. Your passion will always lead you to broader opportunities. If you see something that can be changed within a roll, shift that roll by becoming a agent of change, not the liability of complain.

The brilliant Maya Angelo is often quoted in many American graduation ceremonies in which she states, “I’ve learned that people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel”.

Professional etiquette should compel you to greet peers and colleagues whether coming or going in any professional setting. The beauty of a welcoming gesture such as a distant wave, a quick hug, a firm hand shake or just an acknowledgment can build connections and affirm your sincerity. You never know, one day you may see the same people coming down as you saw going up so be mindful to treat others with dignity and respect. Personal issues should never be brought into professional environments.

Always remember, a simple smile will never harm anyone but can certainly brighten a day, maybe even your own.

Success is unmeasurable without professionalism.

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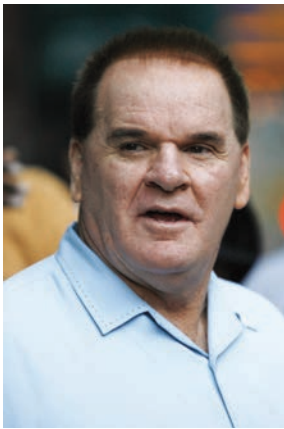
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Will the MLB Wait Until Barry Bonds is Dead

TO MAKE HIM A HALL OF FAMER? BY MEL WHITLOCK



On September 30, 2024, legendary baseball player Pete Rose passed away at his home in Las Vegas. A 23-year playing career in Major League Baseball (MLB), Rose achieved astronomical success as a player that includes the 1973 National League (NL) MVP, 3-World Series titles, 3-NL batting titles, and his 4,256 hits record all-time has stood for almost 40 years. Despite Rose being regarded as one of the greatest hitters

the game has ever seen, he was permanently banned from the game by then-MLB commissioner Bart Giamatti, when it was discovered that Rose had been betting on his team while he was a manager from 1986 until 1989. Earlier this year, current MLB commissioner Rob Manfred, reversed the decision of Giamatti, and removed the ban on Rose so that he could be posthumously eligible for the National Baseball Hall of Fame (NBHOF) as voted on by the Baseball Writers Association of America (BBWAA). Marcus, the son of the late Bart Giamatti, called Rose's eligibility for the NBHOF a "dark day in baseball" during a recent interview with USA Today. Giamatti said of his father's decision to ban Pete Rose that it was all about "protecting the integrity of the game," and he added "how, without integrity, will the fans ever trust the purity of the game?" Firstly, who in the heck is Marcus Giamatti to the game of baseball and why is his judgment on Pete Rose's place in baseball history important? Secondly, even if statisticians were to omit Rose's final year stats as a player-coach in 1986 as a player-coach (a year he gambled), Rose's preceding stats would have still been hall of fame worthy. Keeping Rose out of the hall of fame to protect the 'integrity' of the game appears hypocritical considering that the NBHOF currently has members who have long compromised the

integrity of the game. For example, Cap Anson is considered the most vocal reason for the MLB to unofficially ban Black baseball players from the 1880s until 1947. However, Anson's bust is firmly cemented in Cooperstown not for his integrity, but because he batted .300 over 20 years and modernized the game with strategy. The point of my Anson example is not to disqualify him from being a member of the NBHOF, but rather, to give reference to the subjectiveness of integrity as it relates to Cooperstown. I will give a later example as well.

Barry Bonds Deserves to be in the Hall of Fame...Period!

BARRY BONDS SHOULD BE IN THE NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME!

I hope those letters are bold enough for the readers to read, and I find it extremely disappointing that many of our 'so called' community activist has been silent on his behalf. The same 'so called' activist who held rallies to support Colin Kaepernick, a third string quarterback at the time of his police brutality protest, seemingly have nothing to say regarding to the BBWAA unofficially black-listing Bonds from the NBHOF for the tenth straight year of his eligibility in 2022. Through the silence of these 'so called leaders' I have learned just as integrity is subjective, so is the perception of 'injustice.'

Bonds is the all-time leader in MLB home runs for a career (762) and for a season (73). Additionally, Bonds is an 8-time Gold Glove winner and has the record for most MVP awards in MLB history at 7. However, because Bonds was closely affiliated with the BALCO scandal in the 2000s that uncovered massive steroid use in the MLB through a federal investigation. Although Bonds has never admitted to knowingly using steroids, he was found guilty for obstruction of justice in 2011 based on "rambled off

answers” during his interviews with federal prosecutors on whether or not he used steroids. Bonds conviction for obstruction of justice will be overturned with a ruling of 10-1 by the 9th Circuit Court in 2015. To this day, legally Bonds is free and clear from any fault relating to steroid usage during his 22-season career.

Most of the information surrounding Bonds alleged steroid use through BALCO was published in Lance Williams’ book Game of Shadows. In the book, Williams alluded to Bonds decision to take steroids due to jealousy over Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa’s history 98 season. Similar to Rose, even if Bonds stats postdating the 1997 season were to be omitted, he would still be considered, by all accounts, a first ballot hall of famer. Before 1997, Bonds was already a 3-time MVP

and was only the second player in MLB history with 40 homeruns and 40 stolen bases.

In 2016, despite admitting in his 2014 autobiography that he used performance enhancing drugs (PEDs), Mike Piazza was still voted in by the BBWAA to the NBHOF. Both Ivan Rodriguez and Jeff Bagwell, members of the 2017 NBHOF class, have been tied to allegations relating to steroid usage. Therefore, if Bonds has never admitted nor been found guilty of knowingly using PEDs during his playing career, then why was he not voted as a NBHOF? In closing, I would argue that the integrity of the game is not compromised by those who play it like Bonds and Rose, but rather, its compromised by those who use it to selectively decide who it should be used against.

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JUNE 2025

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DEAR *Beloved*

Pastor Dr. Deb Walsh | Mountain Mover & Water Walkers

As we celebrate Father's Day this month, let's remember that we have a Father in heaven who is worthy of our praise. We also are commanded by God to honor your mother and father. This was so we will live long on the earth. Fathers are human and will sometimes fail so even if you have an absent dad, thank him for helping to bring you into this world. Thank him for what he has taught you (even if it is teaching you what "not" to do). This is because forgiving is the best gift we can give ourselves and give others.

To the fathers that are not yet fathers but long to be a father, Psalm 16:6 tells us "the lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a goodly heritage." "This would be a great prayer to have a goodly heritage. The Lord knows the desires of your heart and helped to place that desire in your heart to come to pass. Utilize this time to read the Bible to learn what God says about parenting and be under mentorship of a father. God will teach you all you need to know about childrearing.

To fathers that never had a father to learn from or may also be considered fatherless. Psalm 68:5 states God is a father to the fatherless. He never leaves. He never disappoints. He never forsakes you. As a born-again believer, you have the power to

break generational curses and start a new lineage of great dads. My daughter didn't have a father growing up and I found it to be a unique opportunity to let God fill that part of her life. In times where she may have needed or wanted a dad, I would go to prayer with her. God did many miracles in her life to show her He was her Father. Look at what you have and not what you lack. God will fill and bind up your wounds (Psalm 147:3).

To the great fathers, keep going. Don't think your children ever stop needing you. As adults, they need you even more. I encourage you to stay a father and not transition to the "friend zone". For adult children; ask, "Can I share my opinion?" This shows respect for them as an adult and puts the responsibility on them. Ephesians 6:4: Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath; instead, bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Fathers provide the bumper rails to life which includes, at times, discipline. There was a study to show children actually take comfort in discipline to know their limits and feel safe.

Being a good father is not easy but it is possible with God. Mark 9:23 states, "Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Happy Father's Day,

Pastor Dr. Deb Walsh



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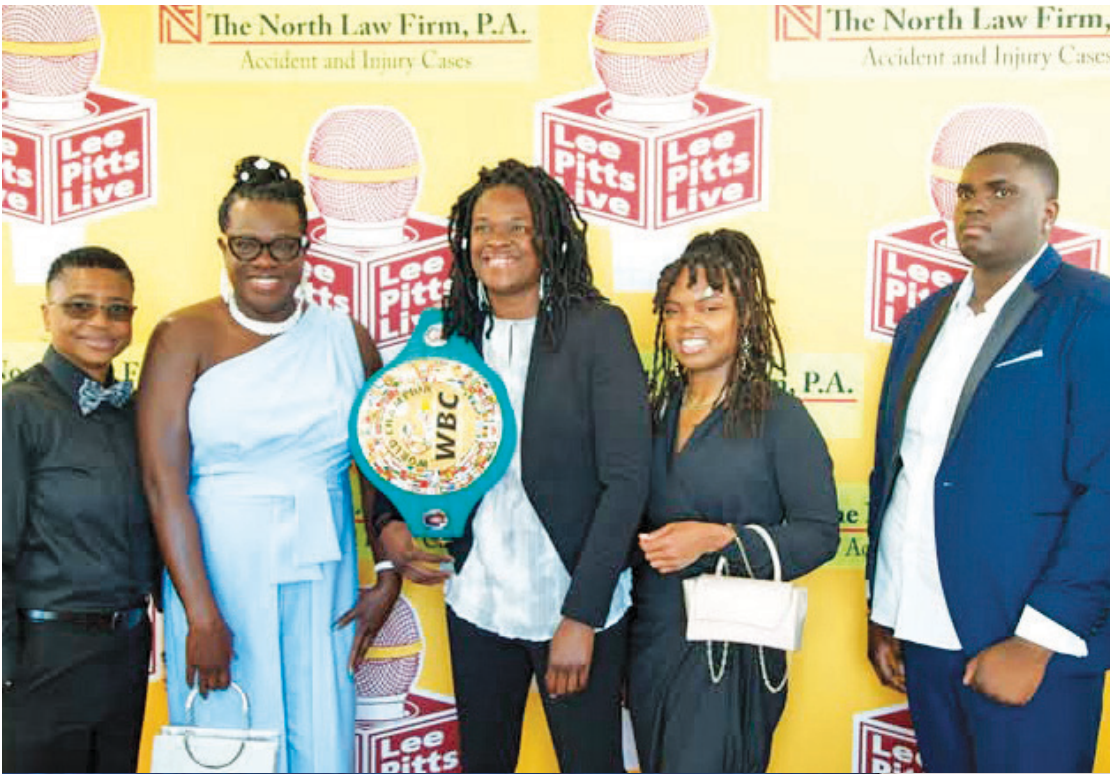
The 27th Annual LEE PITTS Live

Persons of the Year Awards Gala

The 27th Annual Lee Pitts Persons of the Year Awards Gala took place in the beautiful ballroom of Franklin Park Elementary School in Dunbar. Over 320 people attended the elegant invitation-only affair. The honorees were treated with love, an award, swag bag, and medals. The community showed tremendous appreciation for their contributions to our society. This year's honorees were: Dr. Selynto Anderson, Tiara Brown, Taunya Cola, Edward Hardin Jaden Perry, A'Nyah Moorner, Kristy Mathews, Solomon Mitchell, III, Nadereh Salim, Keith White, and St. John First Missionary Baptist Church, Fort Myers (Church of the Year). "It gives me such a heartwarming feeling to pause and acknowledge these tremendous citizens who have quietly moved the community forward", smiles Lee Pitts, founder, of the award gala, host and executive producer Lee Pitts Live on FOX 4.

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MUSINGS

OF AN EPISCOPAL PRIEST

The Very Rev. A Charles Cannon, III | Saint Hilary's Episcopal Church

As People of God, Coming Closer to God's Heart

As we come to know more deeply that we belong to God and are part of God's life, we also come to see ourselves in the heart of God. Some of life's pressing questions arise: What must I do to deepen my relationship with God? How can I determine what I need to do to draw closer to God? How will I know that I am indeed getting closer to God?

The questions seem to fade away when we come closer to God's heart in prayer, meditation, and spiritual practice. Then we can begin to hear the questions we have asked and see the struggles that we encounter from a sacred place, assisted by God's Holy Spirit.

In my life, I have found that my relationship with God enables me to gain new ears to hear, new eyes to see, and a new heart to discern what is happening in my world, my lives, and my faith communities as I become more deeply engaged with God, my life gains deeper meaning.

Distinctions that seemed so confident and vitally important to me dissolve when my views and vantage points home in on God. What seemed like a reason to fear no longer holds me in its power; what made me travel everywhere no longer drives me. Instead, my inner being is filled with a deep desire to see God's will be done on earth as in heaven.

June is a month rich in Christian feasts, celebrating key aspects of our

faith and spiritual devotion. Here are some notable feasts:

- The Feast of Pentecost is celebrated on June 8th this year. It is a commemoration of the day that we remember the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, often considered the birth of the Church.
- The Feast of Corpus Christi is celebrated in June, and it varies by year. The feast honors the real presence of Jesus Christ in the body and blood of the Holy Eucharist and is often accompanied by congregational processions.
- Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which is celebrated on Friday after the feast of Corpus Christi, and is devoted to the love and mercy of Jesus Christ, widely celebrated in Roman Catholic tradition.
- Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which is celebrated on June 28, 2025. This feast honors Blessed Mary's pure heart and her devotion to God and Jesus Christ.

These feasts reflect deep theological themes, which I hope you appreciate in one way or another. It is spiritually uplifting to celebrate the many holy days and commemorations throughout the calendar.

The Very Rev. A. Charles Cannon, III
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SUMMER
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HONORING
DUNBAR'S OWN
WALT WESLEY!

The **WALT WESLEY SUMMER LEAGUE** was created to highlight the legacy of the first and only NBA player from the city of Fort Myers. Walt left a tremendous impression on the city of Fort Myers and an even bigger one on the community of Dunbar. He graduated from the historic Dunbar High School in 1962 and committed to playing collegiate basketball at the University of Kansas, where he was an All American in 1965 and 1966. He was selected sixth overall in the NBA draft, by the Cincinnati Royals and had a successful 10-year career in the NBA. He served as a Division 1 college basketball coach for over 25 years at the University of Kansas, Western Michigan University and the United States Military Academy at West Point. After his retirement from coaching, Walt served as an executive director for the Police Athletic League in Fort Myers.

Walt passed away in March of 2024, at the age of 79. We thought that this would be one of many ways, to highlight a man who has given so much back to,not only the city of Fort Myers, but to the Dunbar community as well.

The goal of the summer league is to highlight the talented young men and women who play basketball in the Southwest Florida community. We have invited high schools from all over Southwest Florida, to participate, in what we feel is a much needed summertime event. The league will give coaches and players an opportunity to hone their basketball skills, while competing against some of the best players in the area.

After returning back to Fort Myers, Walt Wesley, with the help of the NBA started the JRNBA. Dunbar will partner up with the JRNBA, to host a one-day skills camp. Our high school athletes will be required to work the skills camp, to foster a commitment to given back to the community as Walt Wesley did.



THURSDAY JUNE 5 - 25			
4:00 PM	Dunbar vs Moore Haven	Court 1	Girls
4:00 PM	Babcock vs Cape Coral	Court 2	Girls
5:00 PM	Dunbar vs Island Coast	Court 1	Boys
5:00 PM	Moore Haven vs North	Court 2	Boys
6:00 PM	Ecs vs Fort Myers	Court 1	Girls
6:00 PM	South vs Babcock	Court 2	Boys
7:00 PM	Dunbar vs Estero	Court 1	Boys
7:00 PM	Ecs vs Donahue	Court 2	Girls

TUESDAY JUNE 10 - 25			
4:00 PM	Fort Myers vs Babcock	Court 1	Girls
4:00 PM	Riverdale vs Cape Coral	Court 2	Girls
5:00 PM	North vs Island Coast	Court 1	Boys
5:00 PM	Moore Haven vs Estero	Court 2	Boys
6:00 PM	Dunbar vs South	Court 1	Boys
7:00 PM	Dunbar vs Donahue	Court 1	Girls

THURSDAY JUNE 12 - 25			
4:00 PM	Dunbar vs Riverdale	Court 1	Girls
4:00 PM	Babcock vs Ecs	Court 2	Girls
5:00 PM	Dunbar vs Moore Haven	Court 1	Boys
5:00 PM	Island Coast vs Babcock	Court 2	Boys
6:00 PM	Cape Coral vs Ecs	Court 1	Girls
6:00 PM	Estero vs South	Court 2	Boys
7:00 PM	Dunbar vs North	Court 1	Boys
7:00 PM	Moore Haven vs Donahue	Court 2	Girls

TUESDAY JUNE 17 - 25			
4:00 PM	Dunbar vs ECS	Court 1	Girls
4:00 PM	Babcock vs Riverdale	Court 2	Girls
5:00 PM	North vs Estero	Court 1	Boys
5:00 PM	South vs Island Coast	Court 2	Boys
6:00 PM	Cape Coral vs Moore Haven	Court 1	Girls
7:00 PM	Dunbar vs Babcock	Court 1	Boys

THURSDAY JUNE 19 - 25			
4:00 PM	ECS vs Moore Haven	Court 1	Girls
4:00 PM	Cape Coral vs Fort Myers	Court 2	Girls
5:00 PM	South vs North	Court 1	Boys
5:00 PM	Babcock vs Estero	Court 2	Boys
6:00 PM	Dunbar vs Riverdale	Court 1	Girls
7:00 PM	Dunbar vs Island Coast	Court 1	Boys

TUESDAY JUNE 24 - 25			
4:00 PM	Cape Coral vs ECS	Court 1	Girls
4:00 PM	Riverdale vs Moore Haven	Court 2	Girls
5:00 PM	TBA	Court 1	Boys
5:00 PM	TBA	Court 2	Boys
6:00 PM	Dunbar vs Babcock	Court 1	Girls
7:00 PM	TBA	Court 1	Boys
7:00 PM	TBA	Court 2	Boys

TUESDAY JUNE 26 - 25			
4:00 PM	Babcock vs Riverdale	Court 1	Girls
4:00 PM	Moore Haven vs ECS	Court 2	Girls
5:00 PM	TBA	Court 1	Boys
5:00 PM	TBA	Court 2	Boys
6:00 PM	Dunbar vs ECS	Court 1	Girls
7:00 PM	TBA Championship Game	Court 1	Boys

MORE INFORMATION

- All games will be played at Dunbar High School.
- Court 1 is the main gym and court 2 is the auxiliary gym.
- The last week, the boys will play to determine a Summer League Champion.
- The schedule is subject to change and we will update it accordingly.
- Daily admission is \$5 and can be paid in cash or via Go Fan.

Hiring a good personal injury attorney is crucial for several reasons:

- 1

EXPERTISE IN PERSONAL INJURY LAW: Personal injury law can be complex, and having an attorney who specializes in this area ensures that you have someone who understands the nuances of these cases. This includes knowledge of statutes of limitations, liability laws, and the specifics of what victims are entitled to in terms of compensation.
- 2

VALUING YOUR CLAIM: An experienced personal injury attorney will know how to properly value your claim. This involves understanding and quantifying not just direct costs like medical bills, but also intangibles like pain and suffering, loss of enjoyment of life, future medical bills, and lost earning capacity.
- 3

NEGOTIATION SKILLS: Most personal injury cases are settled out of court. An attorney with strong negotiation skills will be able to ensure that you receive a fair settlement, as they'll know how to present evidence, counter lowball offers, and argue effectively on your behalf.
- 4

ACCESS TO RESOURCES: Good personal injury attorneys have access to a network of experts, from medical professionals to accident reconstructionists. These experts can testify on your behalf or provide important information to strengthen your case.
- 5

OBJECTIVE PERSPECTIVE: After an accident, you may be dealing with physical pain, emotional trauma, and stress. A personal injury attorney offers an objective perspective on your situation and can make decisions based on the facts and law rather than emotions.
- 6

CONTINGENCY FEE BASIS: Many personal injury attorneys work on a contingency fee basis, meaning they only get paid if you do. This aligns their interests with yours, as they have a vested interest in ensuring you receive the maximum possible settlement or judgment.
- 7

FACING INSURANCE COMPANIES: Insurance companies are in the business of making money, which means they'll often aim to minimize payouts. A seasoned personal injury attorney knows the tactics these companies use and can counteract them to ensure your rights are protected.
- 8

COURT EXPERIENCE: If negotiations fail and your case goes to trial, having an attorney with court experience is invaluable. They'll understand the procedures, what evidence is compelling, and how to present your case effectively to a jury.
- 9

SAVES TIME: Dealing with the aftermath of an accident can be time-consuming. From obtaining medical records to communicating with insurance adjusters, a personal injury attorney can handle these tasks for you.
- 10

PEACE OF MIND: Knowing that you have a competent professional handling your case allows you to focus on recovery and healing. They'll ensure all paperwork is filed correctly, deadlines are met, and that you're kept informed throughout the process.

Ultimately, while it's possible to handle a personal injury claim on your own, the expertise and guidance provided by a good personal injury attorney can make a significant difference in the outcome of your case.

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Bear Witness

Have you ever wondered why we teach our kids to ride bikes? It teaches developmental and navigation skills. It gives a sense of independence and freedom. It could also represent strength, endurance, a need for balance, and a journey towards achieving goals.

LIFE IS MUCH OF THE SAME.

Fact is, it is so vividly apparent there has been a shift in societal values like integrity, morals, dignity, and even respect has unfortunately become minimalist in today's existence. Perhaps people have chosen to put their emphasis more on personal gains rather than on their faith or spiritual beliefs.

When it becomes popular or normal to build a career and monetize off protecting people from the shameless greed of individuals, businesses, insurance companies, and even our unraveling government system, it's no surprise that Big Pharma and Alcohol Sales are top contenders in investments these days.

Like most of us, I went through a difficult time dealing with life's struggles. It was my faith that carried me through. My strength came when that calm soft, still, voice assured me "not to worry, but to just keep moving forward."

I share this story realizing that because of my purpose, my work, my consciousness, and my testimony, it has allowed me to bear witness to the stories of pain, anxiety, fear, frustration, and uncertainties surrounding many in our community.

ENCOURAGEMENT

Know that suffering doesn't last forever. However, it is a necessary process that we go through as a result of our actions, free will. GOD will never break his greatest creation down. He will, however, allow us to misuse our autonomy through our disobedience which is how we break ourselves down. Suffering may be a way of awakening to bring us back into consciousness or awareness as a result of our actions. The key is his forgiveness.

So as you're going through difficulties, give yourself grace. Keep moving forward. Take the focus off your pain by finding ways to become a beacon for others. Smile, stand tall, be positive, and speak words of encouragement over your situation. Give of yourself more than you take and expect nothing in return. Why? Because there are conscious, loving, honest, and caring human beings such as yourself still out there amongst the chaos, filled with gratitude and compassion waiting to connect.

Lastly, Without allowing others to impress their beliefs upon what you do in your journey, share your truth, and your story because you may never know who will bear witness for the sake of igniting awakening in someone else.

Albert Einstein's advice in a letter to his son was "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving."

Those who are fortunate enough to find their purpose, balance, and consciousness will rise from the pain to a new.



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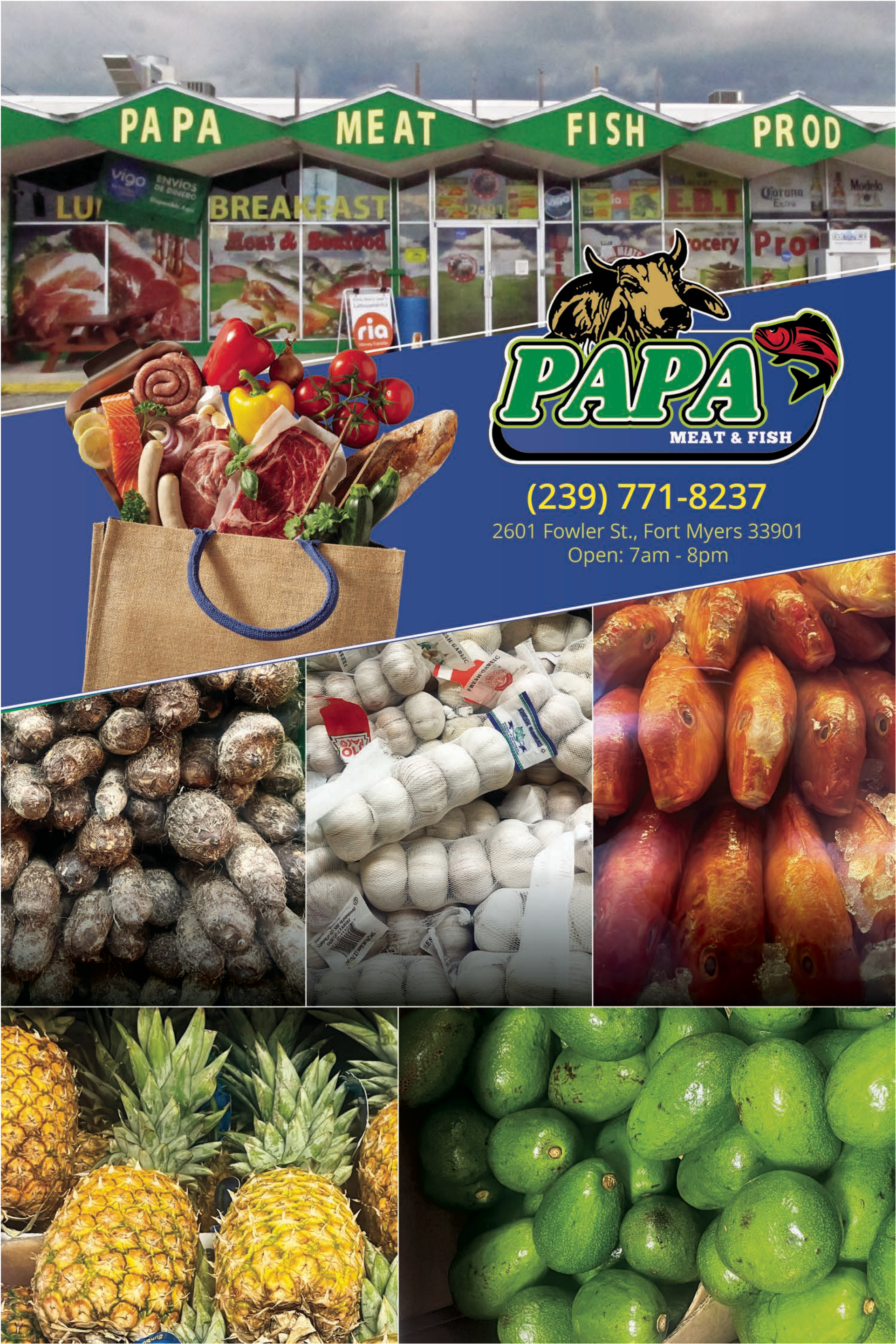
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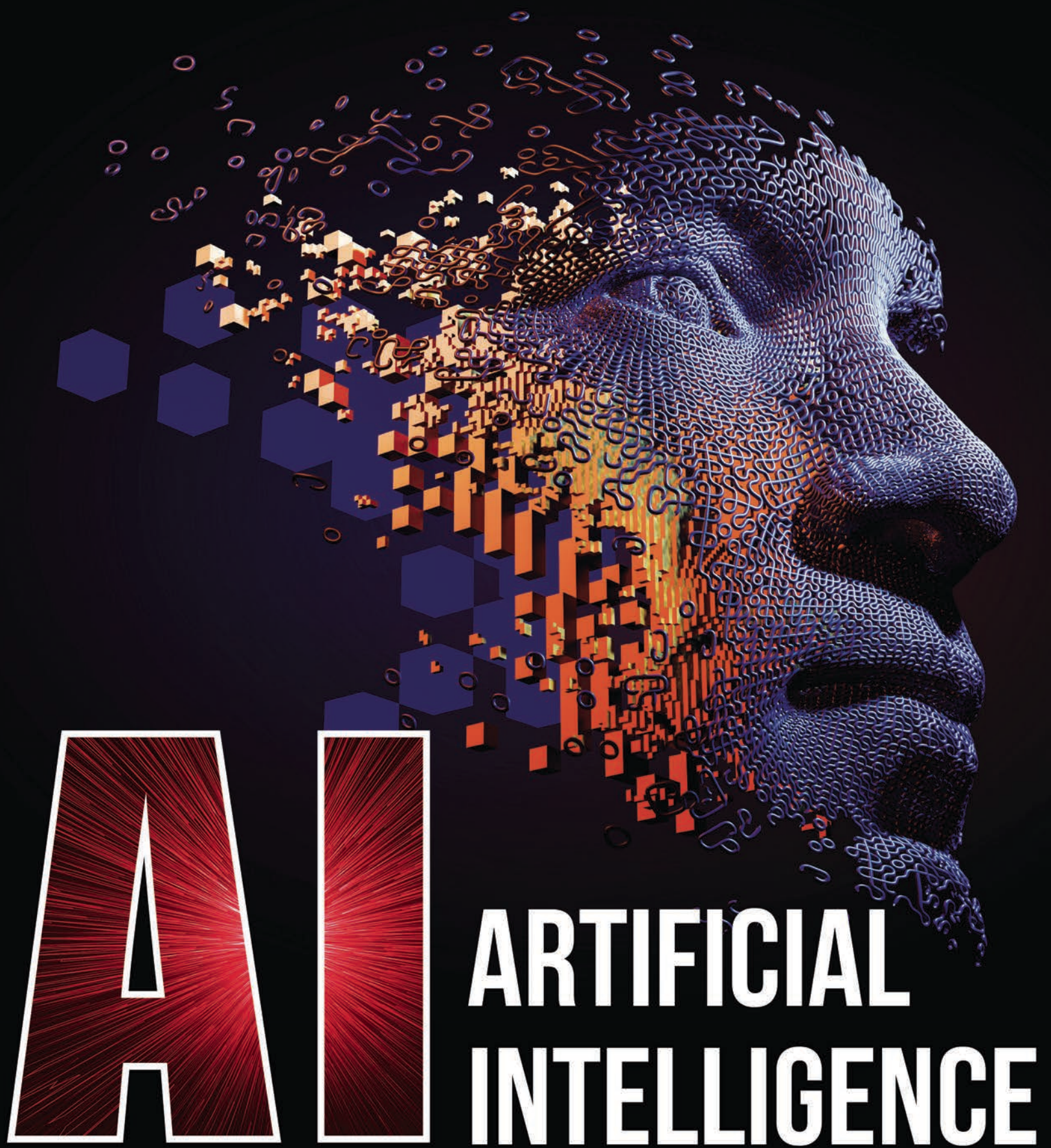
M E E T T H E

CALENDAR GIRLS

Calendar Girls is a volunteer song and dance team. Each dancer brings to the team love of dance, dedication to the team, creativity and passion for the Southeastern Guide Dogs organization. We strive to be role models for women of all ages, showing that age is a state of mind. Many of the team members are retired, others continue to work full time. The time commitment to the team is enormous as we practice several hours per week and perform over 100 public and private performances each year. Our performances take us as far north as Port Charlotte and as far south as Marco Island. Our dance routines incorporate music from Broadway, country, rock 'n roll, patriotic and sacred.







AI ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

How Artificial Intelligence Can Deepen Racial and Economic Inequities

Olga Akselrod, Senior Staff Attorney
ACLU Racial Justice Program

Proponents of expanding the use of artificial intelligence (AI) often point to its potential to stimulate economic growth — increased productivity at lower costs, a higher GDP per capita, and job creation have all been touted as possible benefits. The promise of an economic boost via machine learning is understandably seductive, and private and government actors are now regularly using AI in key areas of economic opportunity, including education, housing, employment, and credit, to name just a few. But as AI adoption is cast as a smart economic investment in the future, it's important to pause and ask: Whose futures and whose wallets are we talking about?

There is ample evidence of the discriminatory harm that AI tools can cause to already marginalized groups. After all, AI is built by humans and deployed in systems and institutions that have been marked by entrenched discrimination — from the criminal legal system, to housing, to the workplace, to our financial systems. Bias is often baked into the outcomes the AI is asked to predict. Likewise, bias is in the data used to train the AI — data that is often discriminatory or unrepresentative for people of color, women, or other marginalized groups — and can rear its head throughout the AI's design, development, implementation, and use. The tech industry's lack of representation of people who understand and can work to address the potential harms of these technologies only exacerbates this problem.

There are numerous examples of the harms that AI can have. AI tools have perpetuated housing discrimination, such as in tenant selection and mortgage qualifications, as well as hiring and financial lending discrimination. —————>

How Artificial Intelligence Can Deepen Racial and Economic Inequities

For example, AI systems used to evaluate potential tenants rely on court records and other datasets that have their own built-in biases that reflect systemic racism, sexism, and ableism, and are notoriously full of errors. People are regularly denied housing, despite their ability to pay rent, because tenant screening algorithms deem them ineligible or unworthy.

These algorithms use data such as eviction and criminal histories, which reflect long standing racial disparities in housing and the criminal legal system that are discriminatory towards marginalized communities. People of color seeking loans to purchase homes or refinance have been overcharged by millions thanks to AI tools used by lenders. And many employers now use AI-driven tools to interview and screen job seekers, many of which pose enormous risks for discrimination against people with disabilities and other protected groups. Rather than help eliminate discriminatory practices, AI has worsened them — hampering the economic security of marginalized groups that have long dealt with systemic discrimination.

That’s why today, the ACLU, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Upturn, and two dozen partner organizations are calling on the Biden administration to take concrete steps to bring civil rights and equity to the forefront of its AI and technology policies, and to actively work to address the systemic harms of these technologies. Just two weeks ago, many of the same groups also joined together in an in-depth response to a request for information by federal financial agencies on the use of AI, raising many of the same concerns. Many groups have also offered concrete policy recommendations to federal agencies on addressing technology’s role in discrimination in the domains of

hiring, housing, and financial services.

Thus far, federal agencies that regulate industries using AI have not taken the steps necessary to ensure that AI systems are accountable to the people they impact or that they comply with civil rights laws. Federal legislative and regulatory efforts have not yet methodically undertaken the task of ensuring our civil rights laws protect vulnerable people from the harms exacerbated by today’s technologies. In fact, while the Biden administration has made an overarching commitment to center racial equity throughout federal policymaking, the administration’s emerging AI and technology priorities have lacked the necessary focus on equity for people of color and others who have been subject to discrimination and bias. The administration to date has overlooked necessary civil rights and civil liberties perspectives as AI and technology policies are being developed, which risks further perpetuating systemic racism and economic inequality.

The bottom line is that the administration and federal agencies must prioritize and address all the ways that AI and technology can exacerbate racial and other inequities and ensure that its policies and enforcement activities lead to more equitable outcomes. Decades of discrimination have left people of color and Black people in particular, women, and other marginalized groups at an economic disadvantage in the U.S. The Biden administration must work to reverse the trends that continue to this day, which must necessarily include an emphasis on how modern digital technologies perpetuate inequity. The economic and racial divide in our country will only deepen if the administration fails to do so.

● END





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Cannabis Means Business: The Premier B2B Cannabis Conference That's Redefining the Industry

BY CANNABIS NOW | MAY 25, 2025



The CMB Expo is gathering cannabis professionals this June for high-level education, powerful networking and immersive brand activations.

As the cannabis industry continues to evolve at lightning speed, the Cannabis Means Business (CMB) expo is carving out its place as the definitive event for professionals who want to stay ahead of the curve. Taking place this June in the heart of New York City, CMB offers more than just a trade show—it's a full-scale experience for entrepreneurs, executives, investors, advocates and innovators determined to shape the future of cannabis.

WHAT SETS CMB APART

CMB isn't your typical cannabis expo. The event blends high-level education, powerful networking and immersive brand activations, creating an environment where meaningful connections and deals happen. Let's take a closer look at what you can expect when attending the Cannabis Means Business expo:

1. **Curated Conference Sessions:** The CMB conference program is designed to challenge, inform and inspire. Attendees will hear from top industry leaders, policymakers, legacy operators and trailblazing entrepreneurs. Topics range from regulation and social equity to investment strategy, retail innovation and product development.
2. **Whoopi Goldberg Live Fireside Chat:** One of the most anticipated moments at CMB is the live fireside chat with cultural icon and cannabis advocate Whoopi Goldberg, joined by CNBC's Tim Seymour. Whoopi will share her personal journey, insights into the cannabis space, and her latest venture. This is a rare opportunity for attendees to hear from one of the cannabis industry's most passionate and recognizable voices.
3. **Dynamic Networking Events:** From the lively B2B Rooftop Bash featuring the iconic NORML FORML, to the exclusive O2VAPE Industry Yacht Party cruising the Hudson, CMB's networking events are as powerful as its business programming. These events offer a more relaxed setting to build real relationships, spark partnerships and celebrate the community.
4. **The Women's Entrepreneur Luncheon:** CMB continues to uplift the voices and leadership of women in cannabis with this dedicated gathering focused on connection, storytelling and visibility.
5. **Immersive Floor Activations:** The exhibit hall is not only a marketplace — it's a hands-on experience. Attendees can discover emerging brands, explore product showcase, and engage in curated activations that bring innovation to life.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The CMB Expo is designed for professionals across the cannabis spectrum. This includes:

- Brand Founders & Executives looking to scale and make meaningful connections.
- Retailers & Distributors scouting new products and insights.
- Investors seeking the next big idea in cannabis.
- Advocates & Policy Leaders working to build a more equitable industry.
- Newcomers eager to enter the space with knowledge and support.

MORE THAN A CONFERENCE

At its core, The Cannabis Means Business Expo is about community, opportunity and progress. It's where deals get done, ideas are sparked and the industry gets a little more connected.

Whether you're launching a brand, growing your network or shaping policy, CMB is the place to be. Join us in New York this June. Because in this industry, connections mean everything—and at CMB, business is personal. For more information and to register to attend, visit

CannabisMeansBusiness.com.

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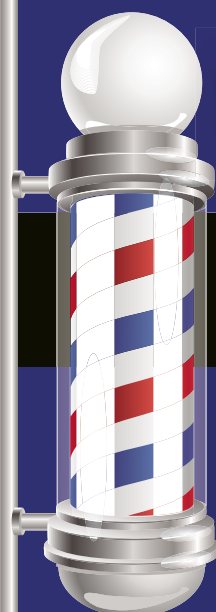
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LaChe's Art Print & Design

Dear Future Clients of SELLSTATE ON 5TH,

As publisher, I have the privilege of meeting a plethora of people throughout Lee, Charlotte, and Collier County. While in Naples on 5th Ave Downtown; I was blown away at the warm and fuzzy feeling the administrator of the office exudes. My father, a former executive with Time Warner, told me; “Son, no matter how much technology there is... business is still people.” That’s what resounded in my mind as I was greeted by Cathy Dame. Often people get it twisted with the bells and whistles. However, Cathy reminded me how important the right administrator is to any business where sales and relationships are the lifeblood of the company.

Cathy made it obvious that her mission has always been to make the real estate process at SELLSTATE ON 5TH as seamless, supportive, and successful as possible. Although their agents are among the best in the business, they have a unique asset that sets their office apart—a person whose role is so impactful that many of their deals are well on their way to closing before an agent even picks up the phone. That person is their beloved administrator, Cathy Dame.

It may seem unusual to highlight an office administrator in a field often dominated by high-performing agents and sales metrics, but Cathy Dame is anything but typical. She is the heartbeat of the brokerage—the welcoming voice, the steady hand, and the human connection that makes every person who walks through their doors feel like family. Her ability to close deals, establish trust, and generate genuine goodwill is unparalleled in the industry. Please note that I meet new people every day, and she is a rare find that makes a future client return, because of the warm and fuzzy feeling they get.

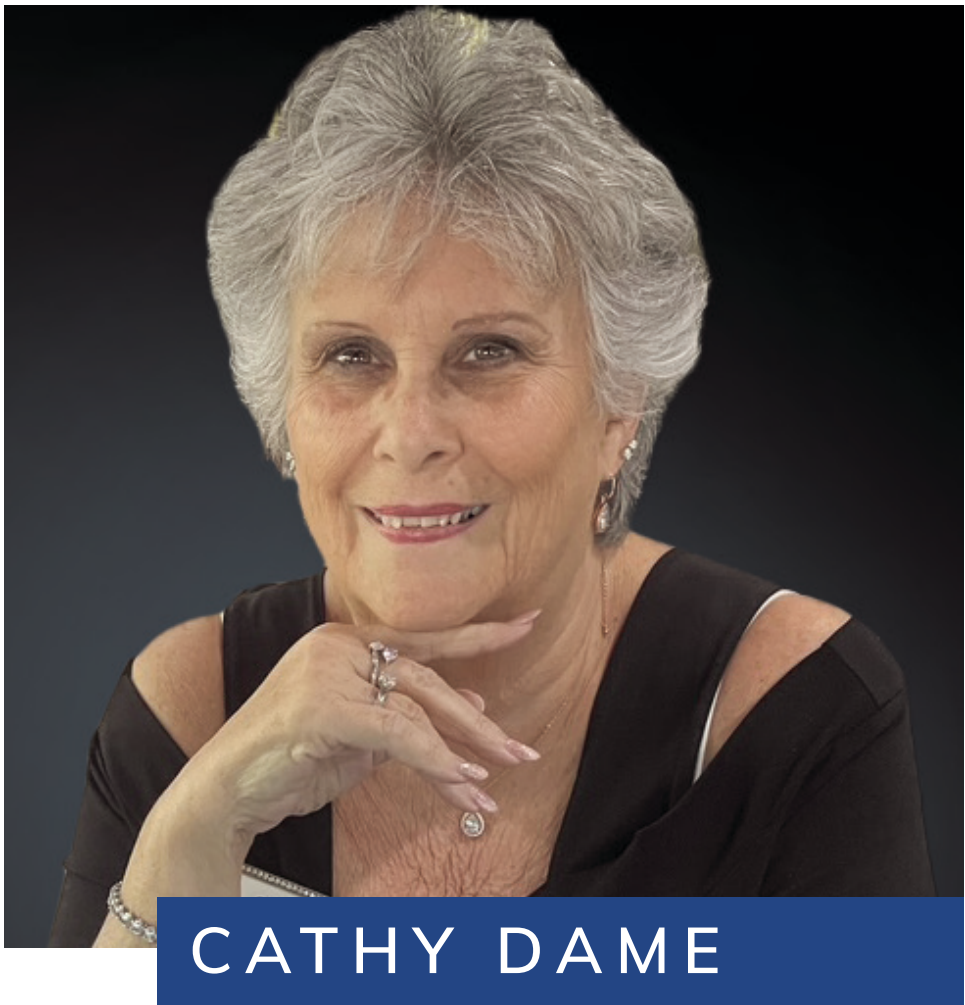
First impressions are everything in real estate. Before a home is shown, before a property is listed, and before a single contract is signed, there is a moment of introduction—a point of entry into the experience. At SELLSTATE ON 5TH that moment is almost always guided by Cathy Dame. And time and again, it becomes the foundation for a long-standing relationship with clients.

When someone calls the office, Cathy answers with a voice that exudes both warmth and professionalism. She has a way of making people feel immediately valued and at ease, as though they are speaking with a trusted friend. Whether it’s a first-time homebuyer nervously inquiring about the process or a seasoned investor looking for the right opportunity, Cathy meets them where they are—patiently, kindly, and confidently.

That ability to instantly build rapport is not just a pleasant attribute; it is a powerful business tool. Clients are more willing to take the next step when they feel comfortable and understood. Cathy doesn’t just answer questions—she anticipates concerns, reassures uncertainties, and lays the groundwork for a smooth and successful transaction. By the time the client speaks with one of the licensed agents, they’re not just ready—they’re eager to move forward.

Cathy Dame’s gift lies in the rare intersection of emotional intelligence and strategic business sense. She understands that buying or selling a home is one of the most significant decisions in a person’s life. She treats it with the care it deserves. But she also knows how to guide a conversation toward clarity, qualification, and action—all while maintaining grace and a genuine interest in the client’s needs.

This is not a skill that can be easily taught. It is a natural talent, honed by years of experience and a sincere passion for helping people. Cathy’s instincts are finely tuned: she knows when to listen, when to offer reassurance, and when to connect the client with the



CATHY DAME

right agent. And because she has taken the time to truly understand her agents’ strengths and specialties, her referrals are always spot-on, resulting in faster matches, better communication, and quicker closings.

It’s not an exaggeration to say that Cathy Dame plays a direct role in the office’s high closing rate. In many ways, she functions as a pre-agent, priming clients with confidence and clarity before they ever engage in a formal consultation. She removes obstacles, reduces friction, and builds momentum from the very first interaction.

In today’s world, where automation often replaces authenticity, Cathy Dame reminds us of the enduring power of human connection. She remembers birthdays. She asks about families. She follows up just to check in. These small gestures build loyalty and trust in ways that marketing campaigns simply can’t replicate.

There are countless stories of clients who’ve mentioned Cathy by name in their testimonials—not because she sold them a house, but because she made them feel seen and heard. One client described their experience this way: “Before I ever met my agent, I felt like I already had someone on my side. Cathy listened to my concerns, made me laugh, and helped me feel excited instead of overwhelmed.”

That level of personal care doesn’t just improve the client experience; it enhances the entire office culture. Cathy sets the tone for how agents interact—with clients, with colleagues, and with the community at large. Her enthusiasm is contagious, her standards are high, and her dedication to excellence makes everyone better at what they do.

“Cathy is Truly An Indispensable Asset to SELLSTATE ON 5TH’s Team. “ McKinley G. Williams

As the administrator at SELLSTATE ON 5TH Cathy wears many hats—scheduler, problem solver, client liaison, team motivator—but her true role is much larger: she is the emotional and operational backbone of the business. And that is something you simply can’t put a price on.

I’m sure Tony Feliciano, the debonair manager, often suggests, “Cathy doesn’t just support the business—she is the business.” It’s a sentiment echoed by every agent in her office. Because they know

that no matter how talented they are, no matter how many deals they close, they would not have the same level of success without Cathy setting the stage for every client relationship with her trademark care, class, and competence.

If you are considering working with SELLSTATE ON 5TH—whether to buy, sell, invest, or partner— I want you to know that you won't just be working with a great real estate team. You'll be entering an ecosystem where every touchpoint is thoughtful, every interaction is intentional, and every detail matters. And that begins with Cathy Dame.

She will likely be the first person you speak with. And I can promise you this: she will set the tone for a positive experience that makes you feel informed, empowered, and truly welcome. By the time you're paired with one of their expert agents, you'll already feel like part of the family.

I invite you to reach out, say hello, and experience the SELLSTATE ON 5TH difference for yourself. Let Cathy Dame welcome you the way only she can—genuinely, warmly, and with an understanding of what matters most to you. Because that's not just good business. That's what turns transactions into relationships, and relationships into lifelong trust.

They look forward to working with you—and I know Cathy does too.

Sincerely,
McKinley G. Williams



****As Publisher of THE SWFL CHRONICLE; I'd be remiss if I didn't publicly thank Cathy for a wonderful and pleasant greeting and reception. Real Genuine people are Rare & Cathy Dame is definitely one of the greatest administrators I've met in years.*



Through our diverse backgrounds and decades of experience, we were founded on ethical principles to serve communities far and abroad with their Real Estate needs. Trust, devotion, integrity, and reliability are just a few of the qualities we hold close to each purchase and sale.

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Adultery and its Impact on Family

a•dul•ter•y *noun*
voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and a person who is not his or her spouse.



by Vernon Brown The Dunbar Shade Tree Phd.

Adultery, the act of engaging in a romantic or sexual relationship outside the bounds of a committed partnership, is a complex and emotionally charged issue that has the potential to profoundly impact families. While it may seem like a personal matter between adults involved, its repercussions often extend far beyond the immediate parties involved, affecting spouses, children, and the family unit as a whole. There are multifaceted ways in which adultery can destroy a family, exploring both the emotional and practical dimensions of this issue.

TRUST EROSION: The foundation of any healthy family is trust. Adultery shatters this trust like a fragile glass, leaving spouses betrayed and emotionally scarred. The revelation of an affair is akin to a seismic shock, shaking the core of the family unit. Trust once broken is not easily mended, and the emotional turmoil that ensues can last for years. Spouses may find it difficult to trust each other again, leading to a strained and distant relationship that can undermine the stability of the family.

EMOTIONAL TURMOIL: When adultery comes to light, it often triggers a tidal wave of emotions. The spouse who has been cheated on experiences a profound sense of betrayal, anger, and hurt. These intense emotions can spill over into other aspects of family life, affecting the children, extended family members, and even friends. Children, in particular, are highly susceptible to the emotional turmoil resulting from their parents' infidelity. Witnessing their parents' pain and distress can lead to anxiety, depression, and behavioral issues that persist long after the affair has ended.

EROSION OF INTIMACY: Intimacy is a cornerstone of a healthy family life. Adultery corrodes this essential element by introducing an element of secrecy, deceit, and emotional detachment. The spouse involved in the affair may become emotionally distant from their partner, prioritizing their illicit relationship over their family. This emotional withdrawal can have a cascading effect, leading to a breakdown in communication, reduced affection, and further distancing between family members.

FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES: Adultery can have significant financial repercussions for a family. Legal fees associated with divorce proceedings, property division, and child custody battles can drain family resources. Additionally, one or both spouses may



experience a decline in work performance due to the emotional distress caused by the affair, leading to a decrease in income and financial stability. The strain of supporting separate households post-divorce can also lead to financial hardship for all family members.

IMPACT ON CHILDREN: Children are often the most vulnerable victims of adultery. The emotional turmoil and instability resulting from their parents' infidelity can leave lasting scars. Children may blame themselves for their parents' problems or struggle with feelings of abandonment and insecurity. In cases of divorce, custody battles can expose children to ongoing conflict between their parents, further exacerbating their emotional distress.

BREAKDOWN OF COMMUNICATION:

Effective communication is essential for resolving conflicts and maintaining a healthy family dynamic. Adultery, however, often leads to a breakdown in communication between spouses. The hurt and anger associated with betrayal can make open and honest dialogue challenging. This lack of communication can hinder the ability to address and resolve the underlying issues that contributed to the affair in the first place.

SOCIAL STIGMA: The impact of adultery extends beyond the immediate family circle and can carry social stigma. Friends and extended family members may take sides, leading to further division and tension within the family. This social fallout can compound the emotional distress experienced by family members and isolate them from their support networks.

LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES: The effects of adultery can linger long after the affair has ended. Emotional scars may never fully heal, and the family may struggle to rebuild trust and intimacy. Children who experience the fallout from their parents' infidelity may carry emotional baggage into their own adult lives, affecting their relationships and overall well-being.

LEGAL COMPLICATIONS: In cases where divorce becomes the outcome of adultery, legal battles over property, alimony, and child custody can be protracted and acrimonious. These legal complications can further strain family relationships and financial resources, exacerbating the destructive impact of adultery.

HEALING AND RECOVERY: While adultery can have devastating effects on families, it is possible for some to rebuild and heal over time. This process often involves therapy, open communication, and a commitment to addressing the underlying issues that contributed to the affair. However, the road to recovery is long and challenging, and not all families are able to overcome the damage caused by adultery.

Adultery is a deeply complex issue that can have far-reaching and destructive consequences for families. It erodes trust, triggers emotional turmoil, undermines intimacy, has financial ramifications, and leaves lasting scars on children. The impact of adultery extends beyond the immediate parties involved, affecting the entire family unit and even the broader social network. While some families may eventually find a path to healing, the destruction caused by adultery is a stark reminder of the importance of honesty, communication, and commitment within the family structure. ●END

CARS ON 1ST:

An Inaugural Celebration of Cars & Culture – Fort Myers Unites for Community, Creativity, and Horsepower

Downtown Fort Myers will shift into high gear on Saturday, June 28, 2025, with the debut of Cars On 1st: An Inaugural Celebration of Cars & Culture — a one-of-a-kind experience that fuses automotive excellence with the vibrant creative spirit and community pride of Southwest Florida.

GENERAL ADMISSION TO THE PUBLIC IS FREE.

This event is poised to become one of the region’s most anticipated annual traditions. Stretching along First Street from Royal Palm Blvd. to Monroe Street, and filling every cross street in between, the event will feature over 300 stunning vehicles, including classic, muscle, exotic, import, and custom builds. This isn’t just a car show—it’s an immersive festival highlighting everything that makes Fort Myers special.

Three live performance stages will showcase an all-local lineup of musicians, DJs, and performing artists from right here in Downtown Fort Myers, turning the city streets into an open-air celebration of music, culture, and community.

DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES TAKE CENTER STAGE

Happening during the traditionally slower summer season, Cars On 1st arrives as a powerful economic engine for local businesses. With dozens of downtown restaurants, galleries, boutiques, and service providers participating through vendor activations, special promotions, and pop-ups, the event is expected to draw thousands of residents and visitors—helping reignite off-season foot traffic and boost sales throughout the district.

MORE THAN A CAR SHOW – A CAUSE WITH PURPOSE

Cars On 1st also serves as a powerful fundraising platform, supporting four local nonprofit organizations:

- SJC Boxing Club – Mentors 200+ at-risk youth through boxing, discipline, and leadership.
- Ubuntu Spirit – Promotes community health, empowerment, and cultural education.
- Kimmie’s Zone – Supports youth recovery through peer-led mental health programs.
- Halo Project – Helps foster youth build essential life and academic skills.

WHY SPONSOR THIS COMMUNITY CELEBRATION?

Cars On 1st offers a 100% tax-deductible sponsorship opportunity and unparalleled community exposure. Sponsors benefit from:

- Media coverage across television, radio, digital, and print platforms
- Custom marketing activations, brand visibility, and on-site engagement
- VIP networking experiences and brand recognition
- The opportunity to support a cultural cornerstone for Fort Myers

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

TITLE SPONSOR – \$50,000 (1 Available)

- Exclusive naming rights, full-scale branding, media spotlight, 15 VIP passes

PRESENTING SPONSOR – \$20,000 (3 Available)

- Premium booth and logo placement, stage mentions, 10 VIP passes

VIP SPONSOR – \$10,000 (2 Available)

- Strategic signage and booth, gift bag opportunities, 6 VIP passes

PLATINUM SPONSOR – \$5,000 (3 Available)

- Logo on printed/digital media, reserved booth, 4 VIP passes

GOLD SPONSOR – \$500 (Unlimited)

- Signage placement and event guide acknowledgment, 1 VIP pass

VIP Experience Tent Includes:

- Complimentary gourmet food and beverages
- Celebrity guests and exclusive performances
- Live boxing exhibitions by SJC Boxing youth
- Comfortable seating and networking access

In-Kind Sponsorships (event materials, services, auction items) are also available and include equivalent tier benefits.

BE PART OF THE MOVEMENT

Whether you’re a business, vendor, artist, or car enthusiast, Cars On 1st: An Inaugural Celebration of Cars & Culture is your opportunity to contribute to a meaningful cause, promote local pride, and be part of something unforgettable.

TO BECOME A SPONSOR OR PARTICIPANT, CONTACT RICK RHODES AT (239) 722-9982 OR INFO@CARSON1ST.COM, OR VISIT

WWW.CARSON1ST.COM



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BOXING EXHIBITION

Fort Myers
Cars on
1st

FROM ONE END OF FIRST STREET TO THE OTHER

Fort Myers, FL
JUNE 28TH 2025
10am to 7pm

Cars and Vendors Register at
www.carson1st.com



Register Cars



Register Sponsor



Volunteer



Vendors

QR Code for Registration

TOP 15 THINGS RETIRED PEOPLE CAN DO TO NOT BE BORED

by Vernon Brown The Dunbar Shade Tree PhD

Retirement marks a significant life transition where individuals often find themselves with more free time and fewer obligations. To make the most of this period and avoid boredom, it's important to stay engaged, active, and maintain a sense of purpose. Here are various fulfilling and engaging activities that retired individuals can consider to prevent boredom:

1 PURSUE HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

Retirement offers an excellent opportunity to explore passions and hobbies. Whether it's painting, gardening, woodworking, playing a musical instrument, or learning a new language, engaging in activities that one enjoys is a great way to stay occupied and fulfilled.

2 VOLUNTEER WORK

Volunteering provides a sense of purpose and fulfillment. Retired individuals can contribute to causes they are passionate about, whether in their local community, at a school, a hospital, or for various nonprofit organizations. It's an excellent way to give back and stay socially engaged.

3 TRAVEL AND EXPLORATION

Retirement is an ideal time to travel and explore new places. Whether it's taking a cruise, embarking on road trips, or exploring different countries, travel broadens horizons, introduces new experiences, and keeps life exciting.

4 EXERCISE AND STAY ACTIVE

Physical activity is crucial for health and well-being. Engage in regular exercise, whether it's walking, swimming, yoga, or joining a fitness class. Staying active not only maintains physical health but also boosts mental well-being.

5 LIFELONG LEARNING

Retirement doesn't mean the end of learning. Many retired individuals find joy in taking classes or courses on subjects they've always been interested in. Whether it's through local community centers, online courses, or workshops, continued learning keeps the mind active and engaged.

6 SOCIALIZE AND BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

Maintaining social connections is essential. Join clubs, community groups, or social gatherings. Regular interaction with friends, family, and meeting new people can prevent feelings of isolation and keep life vibrant and meaningful.

7 PURSUE PART-TIME WORK OR CONSULTANCY

For those who want to remain professionally engaged, part-time work or consultancy in their area of expertise can offer a sense of structure, purpose, and social interaction.

8 READING AND BOOK CLUBS

Reading is a wonderful way to relax and expand knowledge. Joining a book club or a discussion group





For animal lovers, having a pet can offer companionship and a reason to stay active. Walking a dog or caring for pets can be highly rewarding.

adds a social element and allows for sharing thoughts and ideas with others.

9 MIND GAMES AND PUZZLES

Engaging in activities like puzzles, crossword puzzles, Sudoku, or brain games can be both enjoyable and beneficial for mental acuity.

10 ART AND CREATIVE PURSUITS

Express creativity through art, writing, or crafting. Exploring one’s artistic side can be incredibly rewarding and offer a sense of accomplishment.

11 MENTORSHIP AND TEACHING

Sharing wisdom and expertise by mentoring others or teaching can be incredibly gratifying. Whether it’s tutoring, coaching, or guiding others, it offers a way to stay involved and make a positive impact.

12 COOKING AND CULINARY ADVENTURES

Cooking classes, experimenting with new recipes, or even starting a small garden to grow fresh produce for cooking can be an exciting and delicious way to spend time.

13 CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Attend theater performances, visit museums, enjoy

concerts, or participate in cultural events in the local community. These activities can enrich life and provide entertainment.

14 PET COMPANIONSHIP

For animal lovers, having a pet can offer companionship and a reason to stay active. Walking a dog or caring for pets can be highly rewarding.

15 EMBRACE TECHNOLOGY

Learning and using technology can open up a whole new world. Whether it’s connecting with loved ones through video calls, exploring social media, or delving into online communities, technology can help stay connected and engaged. Technology also keeps the brain thinking, because technology is always evolving.

Retirement is a phase to savor life’s possibilities. It’s an opportunity to do what one loves and to discover new passions. By staying active, engaged, and exploring various interests and activities, retired individuals can lead fulfilling, vibrant, and purposeful lives, making the most of this unique chapter and avoiding feelings of boredom. The key is to find activities that resonate personally and offer a sense of satisfaction and joy. ●END

SAT, 21 JUN, 2025 | 9-10AM

Yoga by the Pool International Yoga Day Celebration

The Perry Hotel Naples
12155 Tamiami Trail North, Naples, United States

Join us for a relaxing and rejuvenating Yoga session by the pool at The Perry Hotel Naples to celebrate International Yoga Day and the arrival of the Summer Solstice!

Whether you're a seasoned yogi or just starting out, this event is perfect for all levels. Breathe in the fresh air, feel the warmth of the sun on your skin, and let go of all your stress as you flow through various poses.

Missy Anzivino will guide you through a series of movements designed to improve flexibility, strength, and mindfulness.

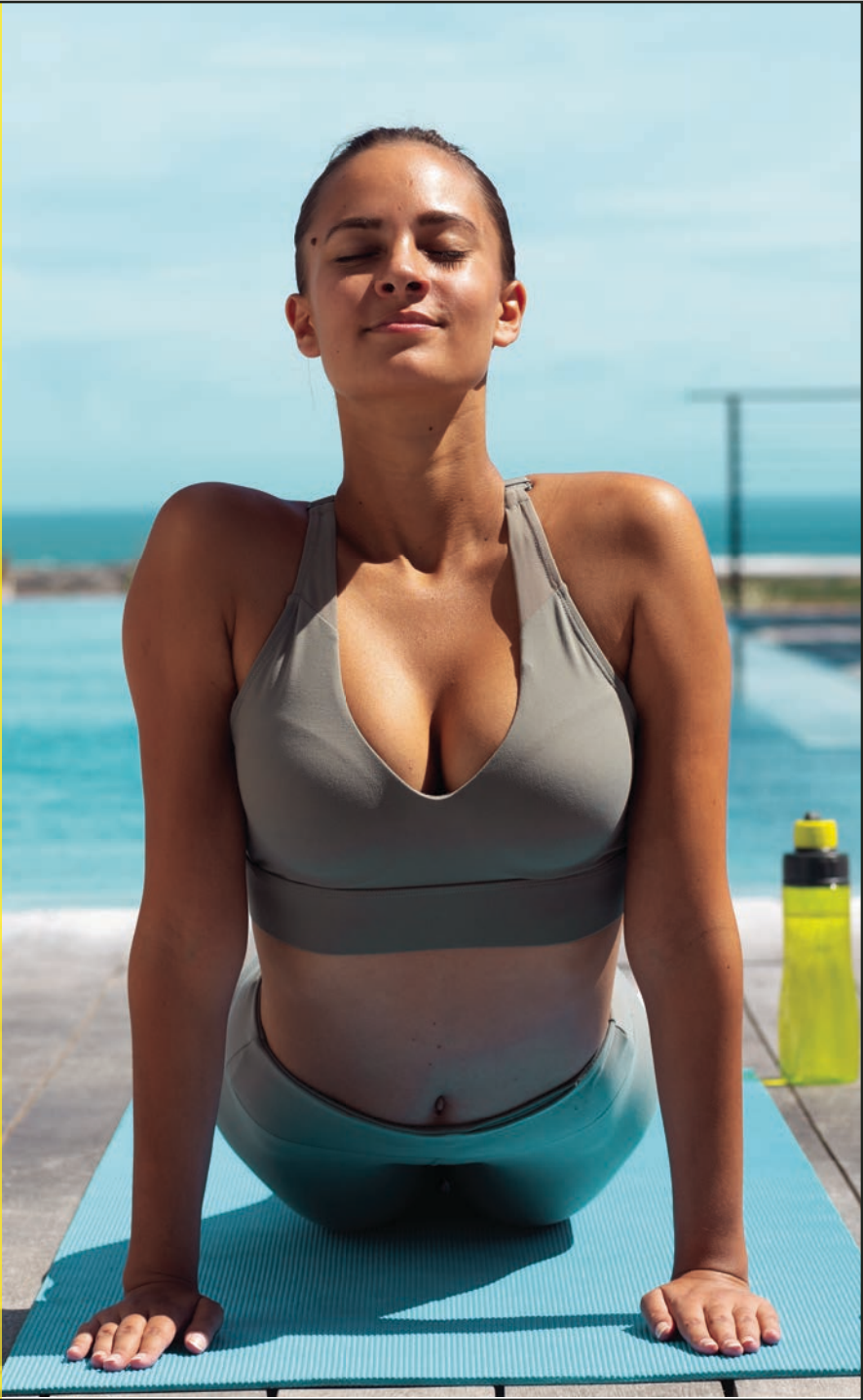
Take this opportunity to connect with your body, mind, and spirit in a beautiful outdoor setting.

Don't forget to bring your yoga mat, water bottle, and positive energy! (we will have yoga mats available as well)

Come celebrate the joy of yoga with us on this special day. Namaste!

This FREE event is donation based with all contributions supporting SNIP Collier a nonprofit helping local pets
Ideas for Donating:
Wet and Dry Puppy and Kitten Food
Laundry detergent

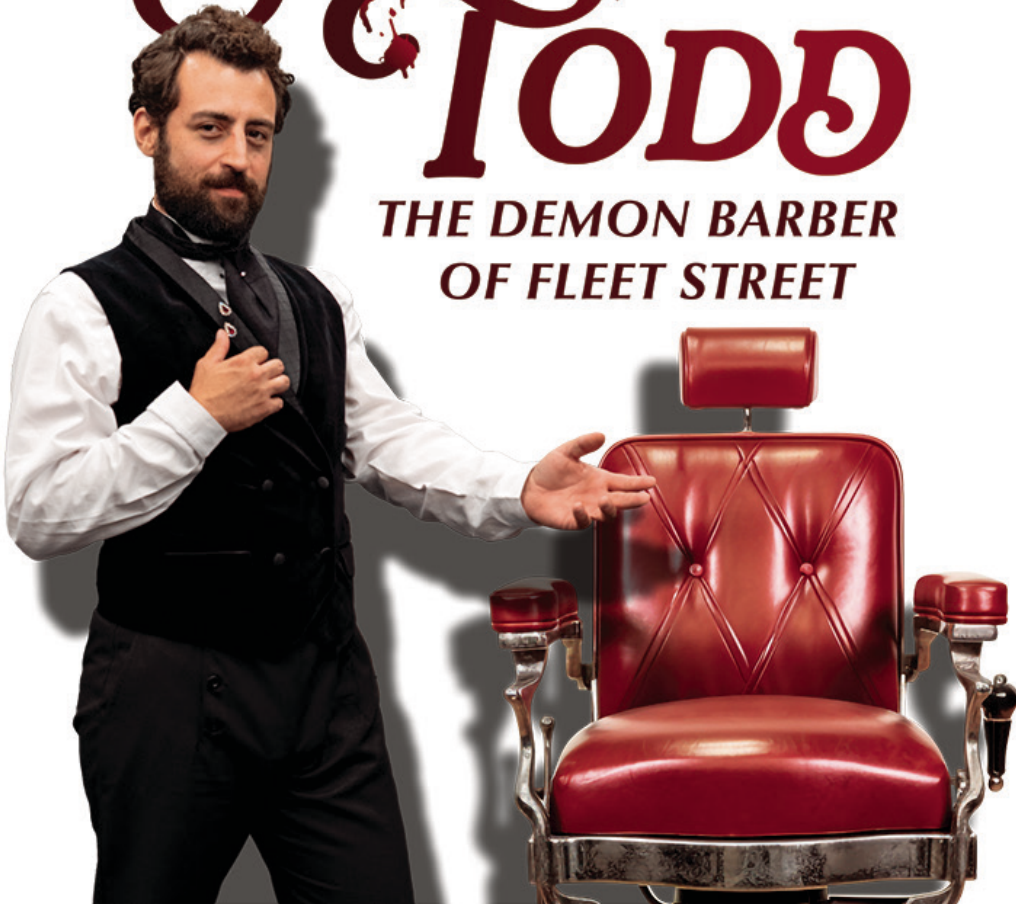
Tall Kitchen bags
Pee pads
Towels/Blankets
Dawn Dish Soap
also can go to www.snipcollier.org/ to donate



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Serving the Voice of Naples

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In the City of Naples, we are privileged to live in a place where civic engagement and community values form the foundation of our local government. As Mayor, I believe that the true strength of public leadership lies in our ability to drive policy with discernment and diplomacy, guided always by the voices of the people we serve.

The Naples City Council serves as the legislative body responsible for setting policy, approving budgets, enacting ordinances, and directing the overall course of our city. Each member of the Council, including myself, has a solemn responsibility to approach decisions with care, integrity, and a deep sense of purpose. Our mission is to preserve what makes Naples extraordinary while preparing responsibly for its future. City Council meetings are more than routine procedures. They are open forums where transparency, collaboration, and public input come together. Through public comment, workshops, and community outreach, residents are encouraged to share their views. This input is not only welcomed, but also essential. It ensures that policy is shaped by those who are most affected by it.

Effective governance requires discernment, the thoughtful evaluation of complex issues with a commitment to long-term impacts rather than short-term pressures. It means asking the right questions, seeking expert guidance, and reflecting on how each decision aligns with our shared values.

It also means protecting the foundational priorities of our community, safety, resiliency, and quality of life. Whether addressing infrastructure, emergency preparedness, or environmental preservation, we must be forward-thinking and intentional in how we respond to evolving challenges.

Equally important is the role of diplomacy. Policy is not shaped in a vacuum. It takes mutual respect, open communication, and a willingness to listen – even when we disagree. As leaders, we

must model civility and encourage constructive conversation. Listening to all points of view is not just good practice, it is essential to a functioning democracy. Every resident brings a unique perspective shaped by personal experience, and every voice deserves to be heard. From those who have lived here for decades to new families planting roots, everyone contributes to the richness of our civic dialogue.

We may not always agree, but we can strive for compromise that honors the core interests of our community. True leadership is not about winning arguments; it is about finding common ground that moves Naples forward in a way that is inclusive and just.

At the heart of everything we do is our commitment to the people of Naples. Your concerns, your hopes, and your vision for our city are what guide our work. We hear you when you speak up for environmental stewardship, responsible development, public health and safety, and fiscal accountability.

By remaining engaged and informed, you help shape the future of our city. Your involvement is not just appreciated; it is the cornerstone of our success.

I am proud of our Council as we remain committed to leading with discernment and diplomacy, and to making decisions grounded in safety, resilience, and community well-being. My prayer and my aim are that we continue to work together as neighbors and partners listening, collaborating, and acting with intention.

Together, we can preserve the character of Naples while embracing a future built on thoughtful leadership, shared responsibility, and respect for every voice in our community. With gratitude for your trust and continued engagement,

Teresa Lee Heitmann
Mayor, City of Naples



IT'S OK TO BE A Cougar

THE LIBERATION AND
EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN
OVER 70 DATING YOUNGER MEN

age•ism *noun*
*prejudice or discrimination on the
grounds of a person's age*

by Vernon Brown The Dunbar Shade Tree Phd.

In recent years, society has witnessed a remarkable shift in dating norms, particularly among women over 70 who are choosing to engage in relationships with younger men. This phenomenon challenges age-old stereotypes and celebrates the empowerment and liberation of older women. Why being a cougar – defined as a mature woman who dates younger men – is not only beneficial but also a positive society trend. You can see the reasons behind the growing number of women over 70 entering such relationships and the numerous advantages it brings for both individuals and society as a whole.

BREAKING THE MOLD: DEFYING AGE AND GENDER NORMS

The Isley Brothers had a hit song in 1969 “It’s Your Thang, do what you want to do. I can’t tell you who to sock it to.” Traditionally, society has imposed rigid standards regarding relationships, often dictating that women should seek partners who are older or at least the same age. In other words, society wants to tell women “who to sock it to.” However, the rise of the cougar phenomenon disrupts these norms, challenging age beliefs and outdated gender roles. By dating younger men, women over 70 assert their new norm and reject the notion that their romantic pursuits should be confined by arbitrary age boundaries. Moreover, these relationships serve as a powerful statement against ageism, highlighting the beauty and desirability of older women. By embracing their sexuality and pursuing relationships with younger partners, these women shatter stereotypes and inspire others to embrace their age with pride rather than shame.

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SELF-CONFIDENCE AND INDEPENDENCE

Entering into relationships with younger men can be an empowering experience for women over 70. It often requires a strong sense of self-confidence and independence, qualities that are honed over years of life experience. By choosing partners who may be significantly younger, these women demonstrate a willingness to assert their desires and prioritize their own happiness above society’s expectations. Furthermore, dating younger men can invigorate older women, fostering a sense of vitality and rejuvenation. The excitement of a new romance can reignite passion and enthusiasm, leading to a more fulfilling and enriching life in later years. Rather than resigning themselves to the sidelines of romance, these women actively engage in the pursuit of love and companionship, embracing the opportunities that come their way.

MUTUAL FULFILLMENT AND COMPANIONSHIP

Contrary to stereotypes, relationships between older women and younger men are not solely based on physical attraction. Instead, they often stem from genuine emotional connections and shared interests. Both parties bring unique perspectives and life experiences to the relationship, enriching each other’s lives in meaningful ways. For younger men, dating older women can offer valuable insights and wisdom, as well as a deeper understanding of themselves and their goals. Conversely, older women benefit from the enthusiasm and vitality that younger partners bring, creating a dynamic and fulfilling partnership based on mutual respect and admiration. Moreover, these relationships provide companionship and support, which are especially important in later life. By building strong emotional bonds with younger partners, women over 70 can enjoy fulfilling relationships that enhance their overall well-being and quality of life. Which explains why “Stella got her groove back.”

CHALLENGING AGE-GAP STIGMA: DISPELLING MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS

Despite the numerous benefits of cougar relationships, they are often met with skepticism and judgment from society. Age-gap stigma persists, fueled by outdated stereotypes and misconceptions. However, it’s essential to challenge these preconceived notions and recognize that love knows no age limit.

Firstly, concerns about the longevity of such relationships are unfounded. Research has shown that age differences have minimal impact on relationship satisfaction and stability when other factors such as compatibility and communication are strong. By focusing on the quality of the connection rather than age disparities, cougar couples can build lasting and meaningful partnerships.

Secondly, the assumption that younger men pursue older women solely for financial gain or a fleeting thrill is misguided. While financial security may be a factor in some cases, it is rarely the primary motivation for entering into these relationships. Instead, mutual respect, emotional connection, and shared values are the foundation of successful cougar partnerships.

EMBRACING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY IN LOVE

As society becomes more inclusive and accepting of diverse relationship dynamics, it’s crucial to celebrate the myriad ways in which people express love and companionship. Cougar relationships represent a beautiful example of age-positive romance, challenging stereotypes and expanding the boundaries of what is considered acceptable in dating.

By embracing the cougar lifestyle, women over 70 reclaim their position and assert their right to pursue happiness and fulfillment on their own terms. They refuse to be defined by their age and instead embrace their sexuality, vitality, and zest for life. In doing so, they inspire others to break free from society’s constraints and live authentically, regardless of age or conventional expectations.

The growing number of women over 70 who choose to date younger men represents a powerful shift in societal attitudes toward age, gender, and relationships. By defying age stereotypes and embracing their desires, these women reclaim their position and assert their right to love and companionship at any age. Cougar relationships offer mutual fulfillment, companionship, and empowerment for both partners, challenging age-gap stigma and promoting inclusivity in love.

As we celebrate the liberation and empowerment of women over 70 who date younger men, let us recognize the beauty and strength of these relationships. They embody the resilience, wisdom, and vitality of older women, serving as a testament to the transformative power of love, regardless of age or societal norms. In a world that often seeks to confine individuals within narrow definitions of acceptability, cougar relationships remind us that love knows no bounds and that true liberation comes from living authentically and fearlessly.

So Remember The Isley Brothers 1969 hit song “ It’s Your Thang. Do what you want to do...” and know that “It’s Ok to Be a Cougar.”



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