

FREE TAKE ONE

SWFL CHRONICLE

SERVING CHARLOTTE, LEE & COLLIER COUNTIES | NOVEMBER 2025

COMMISSIONER
DEUTSCH
NEEDS TO GO!

PAGE
24-25

MR.
CORNELL,
AGENT
PAGE 28

MARTY
WISHER
& SWAN
STUDIOS
PAGE 30

SPIRO & ASSOCIATES..... 4
NAPLES: STATE OF THE CITY..... 6
FREE AUTISM SCREENING..... 14

MLK ART CONTEST..... 22
SENIORS & SEX..... 34
SEC FOOTBALL: ARKANSAS..... 35

SWFL CHRONICLE

theswflchronicle.com

PRINT PRICING

Outside Back Cover \$1700

Ad size: 10" wide x 15" high. Or by pixel: 3,000 px wide x 4,500 px high.

Double Center Spread \$1360

Ad size: 10" wide x 15" high. Or by pixel: 3,000 px wide x 4,500 px high.

Inside Front/Back Covers \$892

Ad size: 10" wide x 15" high. Or by pixel: 3,000 px wide x 4,500 px high.

Full Page \$700

Ad size: 10" wide x 15" high. Or by pixel: 3,000 px wide x 4,500 px high.

Half Page \$375

Ad size: 10" wide x 7.35" high. Or by pixel: 3,000 px wide x 2,205 px high.

Quarter Page \$200

Ad size: 4.875" wide x 7.35" high. Or by pixel: 1,463 px wide x 2,205 px high.

Business Card \$125

Ad size: 4.875" wide x 3.5" high. Or by pixel: 1,463 px wide x 1,050 px high.

AD DEADLINES & SPECS

DEADLINE FOR ADS IS THE 18TH OF THE MONTH PRIOR TO PUBLICATION.

Please send **PRINT READY ADS** to specifications listed below) High resolution PDF files are preferred but will accept .jpg and .png files as long as they are 300 dpi (high resolution).

Questions, please do not hesitate to contact production@oasgraphics.com.

**** E-mail pictures to:**

production@oasgraphics.com

**** Make checks payable** to The SWFL Chronicle,
PO Box 61947, Fort Myers, FL 33906
(Memo line: The SWFL Chronicle Ad & Size)

DIGITAL PRICING

Main Banner \$2,700

Homepage: 1,260 px wide x 240 px high. Pricing per month.

Video - Center \$2,400

YouTube Video. Centered. Pricing per month.

Ad One - Top \$1,500

Homepage, 600 px x 480 px. Pricing per month.

Ad Two - Bottom \$900

Homepage, 600 px x 480 px. Pricing per month.

Ad Three - inside pages \$750

Inside pages, 600 px x 480 px. Pricing per month.

WHO WE ARE

Publisher: McKinley G. Williams

Advertising Director/Operations: Elbert Zeigler

Administration: Maisha Custard

Distribution: Jean Pierre, Joe Wise, Frank Reagan,
and Rebeca Gonzalez

Production: OAS Graphics

Photography: Broderick Hall

Contributing Writers: Vernon Brown, Dr. Petruchka Moise, Michael H. Blank, Monique Wooley, Roberto Fuller, Melvin Whitlock



GOT AN EVENT?

Visit us online at
theswflchronicle.com/community-events

Submit your community
event to go online.

TheSWFLChronicle@gmail.com | Address: P.O. Box 61947, Fort Myers, Florida 33906

COLLIER COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS LAUNCHES ART FOR DEMOCRACY CONTEST

The Collier County Supervisor of Elections office is excited to announce their partnership with *Collier County Public Schools and Champions For Learning for the 2025 Art for Democracy* contest – a unique opportunity for student artists, of all ages and backgrounds, to celebrate civic engagement through their creative talents.

A \$500 scholarship will be awarded to one winning entry submitted by a high school student and a \$500 donation will be awarded to the art program at the school with the “Best of Show” entry. Ten additional runner-up entries will be featured in election materials including the new “I Voted” sticker for the 2026 Election Cycle.

The \$500 awards are provided by Champions For Learning through the Chuck Mohlke Endowment Fund of the Community Foundation of Collier County. Mr. Mohlke left a legacy of respect, charity, kindness, and a commitment to civic engagement and a passion for learning.

“Each year we are blown away by the talent of our Collier County art students,” – Melissa R. Blazier, Supervisor of Elections. “Our office looks forward to seeing the stunning art pieces that students will create this year, especially for the 2026 ‘I Voted’ sticker.”

A call for entries will take place between **OCTOBER 1 AND NOVEMBER 12**. Winning entries will be announced in December. For further information, please visit the Collier County Supervisor of Elections website at CollierVotes.gov or call 239-252-VOTE (8683).

CALL FOR ENTRIES BEGINS TODAY FOR THE 2026 “I VOTED” STICKER

your awesome design here!

Hurry to submit
Oct 1 – Nov 12

HELP OUR SENIORS GET TO

Universal Studios for their Senior trip April 18, 2026.

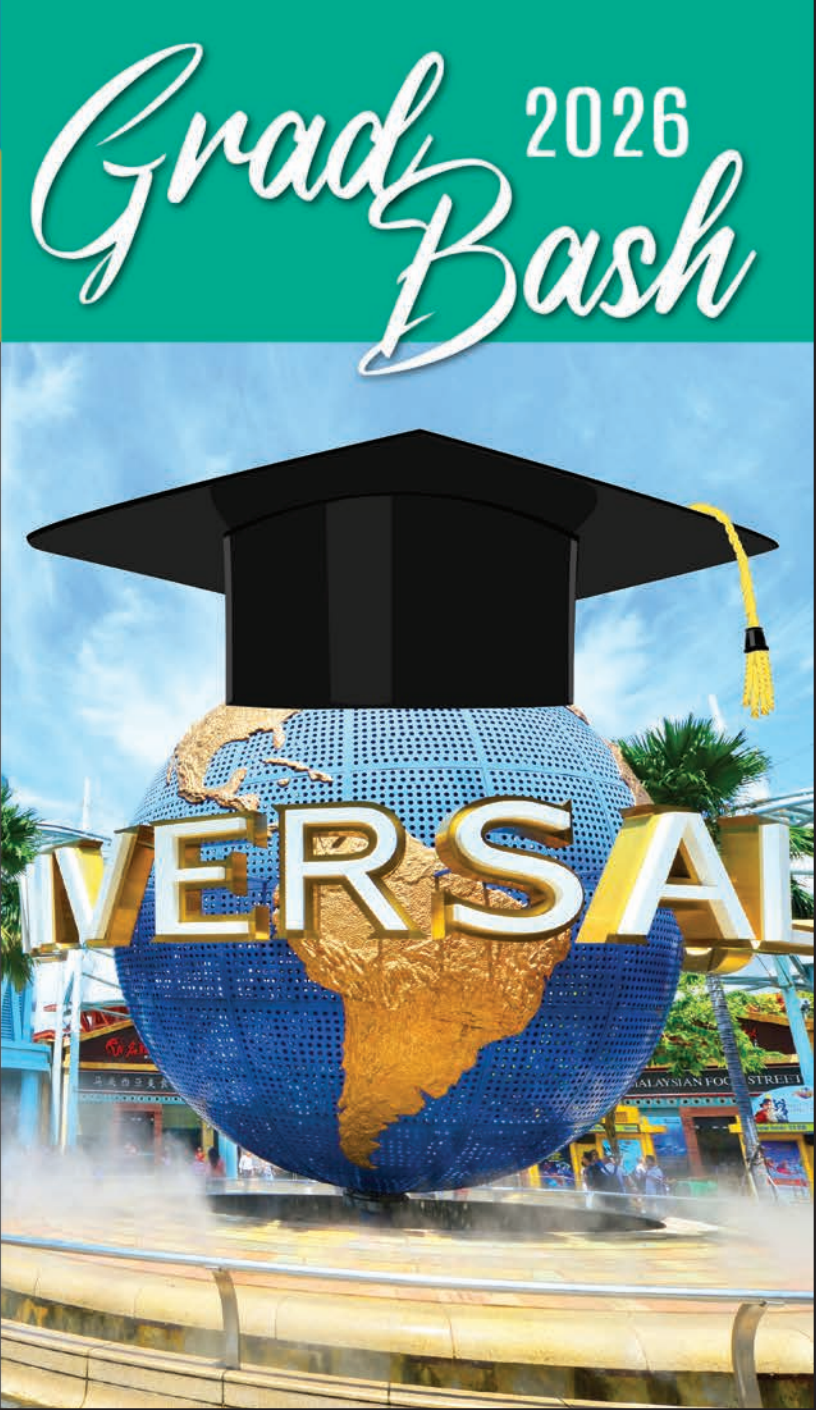
If you know of someone or would like to donate to help the seniors get on the bus – please pass the word.

Cost is \$225 per student and includes coach buses and the ticket. Any amount is helpful.

Payments are due by December 18, 2025.

Checks should be made to Dunbar High School and in the bottom left memo line “Grad Bash”. Payments can be made in the front office with Mrs. Jackson or in Liddle’s room 230.

Checks should be made out to Dunbar High School mailed to the school: Attention “ROB LIDDLE-GRAD BASH”, 3800 East Edison Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33916. NO REFUNDS!





SPIRO & ASSOCIATES

A BRAND ARCHITECTURE BOUTIQUE

CULTURE BUILT ON
RESULTS, INNOVATION,
AND CLIENT-FIRST
THINKING.

CHRIS SPIRO

Chris Spiro. As the Chief Creative Officer (CCO) of Spiro & Associates of Fort Myers, he has guided his agency from modest beginnings into a powerhouse of marketing, branding, and public relations—earning a reputation not only for creativity, but for delivering real results. Most importantly, the people who make up his team are very approachable and are very friendly.

Chris's story is rooted in an early love of design and persuasion. Starting as an art director more than three decades ago, he honed his craft across industries—from hospitality to real estate, from automotive to marine. In 1989 he founded his own agency, originally The Spiro Group, which would evolve into the full-service marketing firm known today.

From the start, he embraced an unconventional mantra—"We're Not Normal"—an ethos that challenged the status quo in the region's marketing scene. I totally concur with his mantra, because there is something unique about his company that I can't seem to put a finger on that makes it so awesome. His goal was simple yet ambitious: to help clients break free from the ordinary, and make their brands unforgettable.

Under Chris's leadership, Spiro & Associates expanded both in scope and reputation. Today, the firm proudly states it is "one of Southwest Florida's largest marketing, advertising, public relations and brand architecture firms." If you don't believe me the proof is in the pudding.

KEY MILESTONES MARK THE JOURNEY:

- Award-winning work: In 2021, the agency won 21 Pinnacle and 12 Summit Awards from the Lee Building Industry Association, a testament to its dominance in the region's builder and developer

market. Chris himself earned "Marketing Manager of the Year" and the agency "Marketing Firm of the Year."

- Industry recognition: In 2023, Chris was inducted into the inaugural class of the Florida & Caribbean Advertising Hall of Fame—a rare honor recognizing his more than 20 years elevating the industry in Florida.
- Business accolades: Spiro & Associates was named Small Business of the Year in Lee County's Industry Appreciation Awards—marking the first time a marketing firm claimed that honor.

These honors reflect something deeper than trophies: they reflect a culture built on results, innovation, and client-first thinking.

Let me break down what sets Chris and his agency apart in a crowded market.

RELENTLESS CREATIVITY FUSED WITH STRATEGY

Chris's background as an art director gives him a rare blend: the visual flair of a designer plus the strategic mind of a marketer. The agency's website emphasizes their focus: "Branding with unforgettable market identity," "data analysis," "storytelling," "conscious design." In other words: beauty alone is not enough—they demand effectiveness.

A WILLINGNESS TO DISRUPT "NORMAL"

The "We're Not Normal" tagline isn't just a buzz-phrase—it's a behavioral code. Whether it's taking on bold campaigns, unusual positioning, or unconventional media, the agency has leaned into differentiation as its competitive edge. In an age where everyone is vying for attention, Chris has made standing out a strategic necessity. In fact, there is No way in Hell a company/person/ or nonprofit cannot shine when Spiro & Associates is behind the campaign.

DEEP ROOTS IN LOCAL INDUSTRY, BUT NATIONAL AMBITION

While the agency serves local clients—from builders to real-estate developers to service firms—it also brings the caliber of national work.

“This is the most eclectic group of employees THE SWFL CHRONICLE staff has ever interacted with during deliveries and we love their genuineness, hospitality, and creativity.”

MCKINLEY G. WILLIAMS

COMMUNITY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Chris believes that business success and community contribution go hand-in-hand. He has been active on boards including the Cape Coral Caring Center and other nonprofit organizations. He understands that branding isn't just for commerce—it's for communities.

LANDMARK CAMPAIGNS & RESULTS

Under Chris's oversight, Spiro & Associates has achieved real impact for clients. A few highlights:

- For builder clients: they helped 13 builder-clients sell more than 2,750 homes in a single year—a staggering achievement.
- When the housing market cooled, they pivoted fast. One campaign for Engle Homes, titled “The End Is Near,” launched as the market was crashing—but yielded a result of 141 of 145 homes sold in just 90 days.
- For attractions: taking on the marketing for The Shell Factory & Nature Park, a historic roadside tourist icon, Chris and his team sought to revive its charm, broaden its audience, and reclaim its vintage appeal.

These successes reflect not just clever copy or flashy visuals—but deep immersion into client challenges, market dynamics, and customer psychology.

LEADERSHIP STYLE & CULTURE

Chris fosters a “No Walls” environment—a workspace built on cross-discipline collaboration. This open environment reminds me of the old school firms on Wall Street that fostered collaboration of different skill sets on the floor and indirectly brings out the best in people. According to the agency's profile, post-Hurricane Ian and during the pandemic the team embraced open collaboration between web/digital developers, graphic designers, writers, account staff, and even bookkeepers.

This culture does several things:

- Encourages ideas from every corner, not just creative directors.
- Accelerates response to market shifts and client needs.
- Builds employee loyalty—many staff boast long tenures and diverse roles.

Chris himself keeps his creative muscles sharp—he still talks about getting involved in the design, the strategy, the client results. He is quoted as saying: “The biggest success we have is when we get that ‘thank you’ from our clients.”

Under Chris's stewardship, Spiro & Associates hasn't just succeeded—it has shaped the region's business landscape. The agency helped clients across land-development, construction, retail, marine, real estate and services sectors achieve breakout results.

In doing so, Chris has raised the bar: marketing in Southwest Florida is no longer an after-thought—it's strategic, creative, results-driven. The success of his agency has had ripple effects: attracting talent, elevating expectations, and ramping up regional marketing capacity.

As of 2025 the firm enters its 40th year—standing tall amid a

rapidly evolving digital world. Their new website touts enhanced tools: AI-driven keyword optimization, social tracking, advanced analytics.

Under Chris's leadership, the agency is poised for the next frontier: blending classic brand architecture with data-driven digital performance; marrying artistry with machine-learning; keeping the irrepressible “Not Normal” spirit alive in a world that too often settles for “normal.”

WHY CHRIS SPIRO'S STORY MATTERS

In an era of cookie-cutter agencies and templated branding, Chris stands out because he built something both deeply rooted in his locale and broadly ambitious. He transformed his love of design into a full-blown strategic engine. He built a team that challenges norms rather than conforms to them. He helped businesses not just look good—but perform better, sell more, and endure.

For Southwest Florida—and for anyone seeking to transform marketing from a cost into a catalyst—Chris's story is instructive. It's about vision backed by action; it's about culture backed by results; it's about standing out in a sea of sameness.

When asked about being inducted into the Hall of Fame, Chris said:

“It's very humbling ... It's an organization and an industry I've spent a lifetime in.”

And when asked about awards, he emphasized the team:

“This award—... is about the dedication and creative work of the team.”

Chris is an amazing man with an amazing journey, and an amazing team. Chris Spiro is more than a marketing executive—he's a regional architect of branding, a cultivator of creativity, and a champion of community. Through his leadership of Spiro & Associates, he has turned an agency into the premier marketing company in Southwest Florida: one that wins awards, drives results, enriches culture, and refuses to be “normal.”

In the end, the proof is in the sales, the sold-out developments, the elevated brands—and the gratitude of clients who recognize that behind every great campaign is a great story. Chris's story is still being written, but already it stands as a declaration: in the world of marketing, standing out isn't optional—it's essential. And under his hand, brands in Southwest Florida have found their edge.

I salute Chris and the associates at Spiro & Associates.....
Keep Kicking Butt guys and helping persons, non-profits, and businesses grow. You guys are doing an amazing job.

THEY'RE NOT NORMAL!

2200 Broadway, Suite 200

Fort Myers, FL 33901

239.481.5511

info@spiroandassociates.com

spiroandassociates.com

NEXT STEPS IN THE LEGISLATIVE
PATHWAY FOR THE

Naples Airport Authority Bill

MAYOR TERESA LEE HEITMANN
CITY OF NAPLES

239-213-1000
Mayorheitmann@naplesgov.com



I'd like to clarify a mistake in a previous article, Protecting Local Control of the Naples Airport, regarding the Naples Airport Authority (NAA) Special Act bill and provide an update on its legislative progress. The earlier article incorrectly described the bill's status, and that information has since been corrected. This article aims to give a clear overview of where the bill currently stands and the next steps in the legislative pathway.

On September 15, 2025, the Collier County legislative delegation unanimously voted to advance the bill to the state level. It will now proceed to the relevant committees for review during the Florida Legislature's 2026 Regular Session, which begins in January. The session is scheduled to last a maximum of 60 consecutive days, unless extended by a three-fifths vote of both the House and Senate.

HOW THE BILL PROGRESSES AT THE STATE LEVEL

After passing the local legislative delegation, a special act begins its journey through the Florida Legislature. First, it is filed in the House and assigned to committees that review its content and hold public hearings. Stakeholders, including city officials and residents, can provide input and suggest amendments during the committee process.

The bill was officially filed in the Florida House on October 27, 2025, as HB 4005. It's now waiting to be assigned to committees for discussion. A local bill is different from a regular bill because it doesn't need a matching bill in the Senate. It only moves through one side of the Legislature. Therefore, if the House committees approve the bill, it moves to the full House for a vote. If passed by the House, the bill bypasses the Senate committee process and goes straight to the full Senate floor for a vote. If the Senate passes the bill, it is then sent to the Governor, who may sign it into law, allow it to become law without a signature, or veto it. Once approved, the special act takes effect on the date specified in the legislation.

This multi-step process ensures careful review and opportunities for public input at every stage—from local approval to state oversight—before the law takes effect.

LOCAL OVERSIGHT MATTERS

As the bill progresses, the City of Naples will continue to advocate for thoughtful and transparent dialogue that reflects the long-standing relationship between the Naples Airport and the community it serves.

Established in 1969, the Naples Airport Authority (NAA) was created by a special act of the Florida Legislature at the City's request to manage and operate airport property that is, importantly, owned by the City of Naples. Essentially, the act gave the framework for local control and management of the airport while keeping the City as the landowner.

I believe that local governance of city-owned property is a cornerstone of effective community stewardship. Local oversight ensures that decisions about land use, operations, and infrastructure reflect the interests and values of those who live and work in Naples.

While residents of unincorporated Collier County benefit from airport services, the airport itself is a City asset, the lease is held by the City, and the City bears significant responsibility for oversight and accountability. Expanding board representation to include non-city residents would dilute local accountability and risk decisions that do not reflect the priorities of city residents.

As the legislative pathway unfolds, the City will continue to monitor the bill's progress and engage constructively with state leaders to ensure that any future changes to the NAA's structure maintain this vital principle: local governance should remain in local hands. Naples has a proud tradition of collaboration between its residents, elected officials, and partners at every level of government. Protecting that tradition remains a top priority as this important discussion continues in Tallahassee.

Please continue to stay engaged and make your voices heard.
Mayor Teresa Lee Heitmann



Veronica Shoemaker

FLORIST

A Professional Certified Full-Service Florist

"Fabulous Flower Arrangements with Flair"

Flowers and Gifts for Every Occasion

Every customer is very important to us. Our expert florists and professional staff are dedicated to making your experience a pleasant one.

Call Now to Place Your Order!

Phone: 239-332-1802 Fax: 239-332-4588

Hours of Operation
M—F 8:30 a.m.— 5:30 p.m. & Saturday 9 a.m.—1 p.m.

3510 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
 Fort Myers, FL 33916

www.VeronicaShoemakerFlorist.net

Cypress Lake United Methodist Church Servers

Chain Gang for Dunbar High School

Pastor Marcus, Mark Jones, George Fox
 Sally and Mark Scott







The North Law Firm, P.A.

Accident and Injury Cases

Call Joseph Jr. at (239) 337-1191

Car & Truck Accidents

Motorcycle Accidents

Drunk Driving Accidents

Serious Injury Cases

Family Law

Custody & Support Cases

Paralysis Cases

Apartment Shootings

Gun Violence Cases

Workers Compensation

Wrongful Death Cases

Pedestrian Accidents

Bicycle Accidents

Dog Bite Cases

Slip & Fall Accidents

Negligent Security Cases

Settlements

Courtroom Trials

Joseph Jr. is here for you!

TheNorthLawFirm.com

5220 Summerlin Commons Blvd., Suite 300
 Fort Myers, Florida 33907

Attorney Joseph North, Jr.



SWAT STANDOFF

at North Naples Home after gunshots were allegedly fired over Infidelity and Divorce.

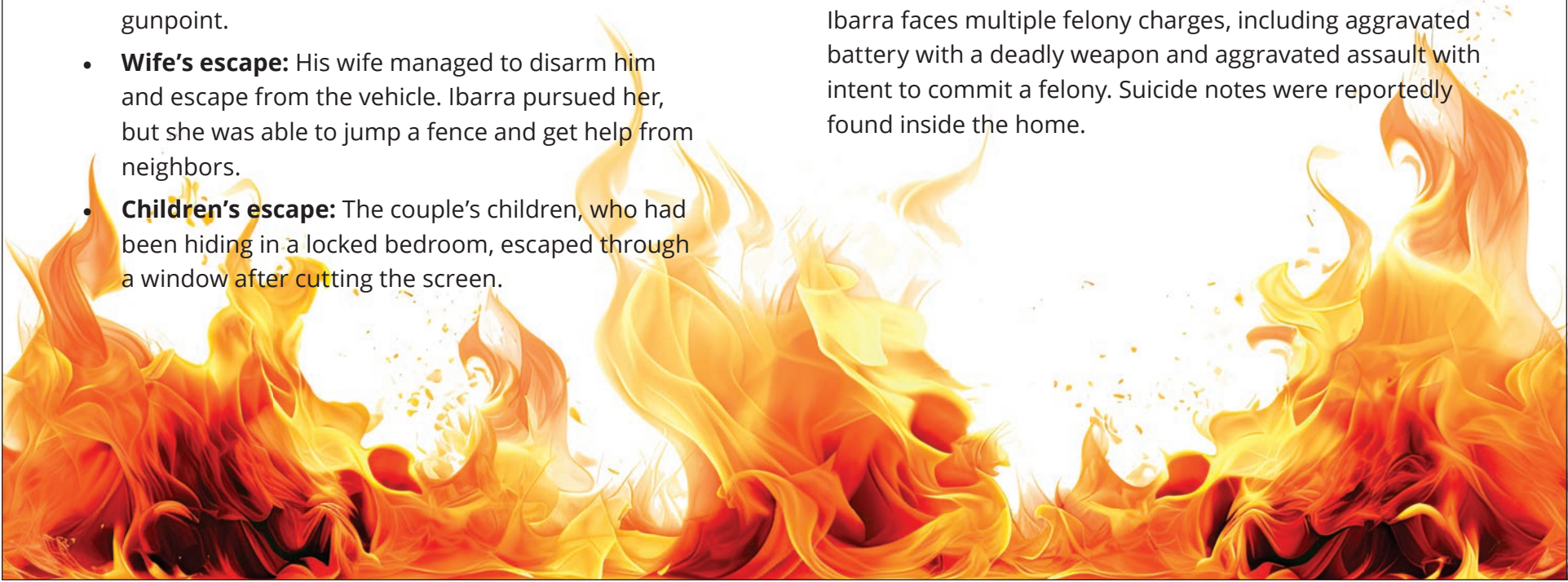
James Ricardo Ibarra, 42, was arrested after a SWAT standoff at a North Naples home on Kirtland Drive. The standoff followed a domestic violence incident in which Ibarra allegedly threatened his wife and children with a gun.

Details of the incident:

- **Initial dispute:** The incident began with an argument between Ibarra and his wife over divorce and infidelity.
- **Violence and kidnapping:** During the altercation, Ibarra allegedly kicked his wife in the chest, fired a gun near her head, and forced her into an SUV at gunpoint.
- **Wife's escape:** His wife managed to disarm him and escape from the vehicle. Ibarra pursued her, but she was able to jump a fence and get help from neighbors.
- **Children's escape:** The couple's children, who had been hiding in a locked bedroom, escaped through a window after cutting the screen.

- **Crash and barricade:** After his family escaped, Ibarra crashed his vehicle into multiple cars and a building before barricading himself inside his home.
- **SWAT standoff:** When deputies and a SWAT team arrived, Ibarra refused to come out. He was also seen setting items on fire on a grill outside the home.
- **Negotiations and arrest:** Following several hours of negotiation, Ibarra surrendered peacefully and was taken into custody around 3 a.m.. He was later taken to Collier County Jail.

Ibarra faces multiple felony charges, including aggravated battery with a deadly weapon and aggravated assault with intent to commit a felony. Suicide notes were reportedly found inside the home.



30 Years of Experience

Chosen by the Florida State Chapter of the National Bar Association as one of 15 trailblazing Black Attorneys who were admitted to practice in the 1980's.

Donald Isaac Esq.

Attorney at Law

239-275-2200

5237 Summerlin Commons Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33907



AREAS OF PRACTICE:

- Guardianships
- Probate of Estates, Administration of Trusts
- Real Estate Matters, Deeds, Landlord / Tenant Matters
- Drafting Wills, Trusts, and Durable Powers of Attorney
- Defense of Collection Lawsuits and Garnishments
- Civil Litigation
- Business Formation, Drafting Contracts, and Advice in Contract and Business Matters

Call for a consultation today, 239-275-2200

Evenings and Saturdays by appointment only | disaac@donaldisaaclaw.com



AWAKEN
CHURCH

AWAKEN CHURCH

GENEROSITY | RELEVANCE | AUTHENTICITY | COMPASSION | EXHUBERANCE

SERVICE TIMES | SUN 8:30AM, 10:00AM, 11:30AM

3990 FLAMINGO BLVD, PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33954 | myawaken.church



Before...

BY LISA ESWAY

You want to know what? If I could discover unshakable confidence that would change everything, it would no longer be ever changing. I would be able to give my weaknesses on a platform. Instead of thinking myself as someone God could not use because of my endless flaws. Then I would be able to do better moving forward in faith. Without being afraid of failure. Even if. I still have this waging war going on inside my head and in my heart and how can I silence that deafening voice... the overly loud one? When it is inside of my mind? I choose to allow God's voice to arise in me. And this. This requires consistency. Discipline. The deeper reality is the condition of my heart and mind. You are always speaking to me... to everyone. Always. Directing. Sometimes warning. Sometimes affirming. Sometimes encouraging. Always loving. You do in me what prepares and empowers me for the work You desire to do through me. However, sometimes I just passively stand by.

Waiting for You to fix my issues that you called me to fight in Your strength. Because whichever voice I believe will determine the future I will experience. That's fire. I must fight back. The voice of God speaks to me in precision and power inviting me to live

a life where I am truly free. Live. Any other opposing voice seeks to draw me away through seduction, desire, and temptation. You are mine. You belong to me. And You know that You always will. Before. And ever after. Even while knowing me inwardly and intimately You chose me intentionally. Even though the choices You already knew I would choose. Every weakness that I already know about myself... You know in greater detail. I can't even imagine.

You know that I am something far better than “this”. Nothing....no nothing stopped You from calling me. To You. And setting me apart. And even when I cannot get my act together, I know that I know that I am completely secure and intact in You. I matter to You. And that alone is supernatural. When I am able to link an understanding to my own personal experience... it melts down all those things that are in my way. The world fights against what I lie secure in. I plan to teach my children to be strong but as of now they are the ones who end up teaching me. I accept where my life is... at this moment within and without. But this is temporary. It is training, so I will be unstoppable in the face of situations that seem impossible. You whisper to me “When you know who you are

you will know what to do". You have placed something significant inside of me.

I must be able to push past the opposition. When I am able to understand what is under attack and at stake I can make a plan for protecting it. I need that shift in my life. Back to what I already know to be true. When I can live in the truth. Those old lies will lose their power over my life. I am able to replace them. I can overcome them. Will I continue to run from place to place and person to person? I choose right now not to be driven away from where I am supposed to be. Like living in this place right here right now. I will believe I will leave here with a purpose. I will set out to embrace a new discipline in my life. Sometimes I am afraid of the things I cannot control and at the same time tremble at the things that I can.

And remember... complacency is the most dangerous place to be for me. The storms will always come. Nevertheless the storm will stand still. I will not fear the thing I will face. There is no hiding in times like this. The ability to hear Your voice above all others will make the difference between life and death. For me. Your voice is there and when there is only silence You are still there. Providing a sense of peace that I can not explain.

A Peaceful
Garden
Funeral Home, Inc



Quality Service at an Affordable Price

Paulette Lubin Leopold, CEO

Willie Lee, Manager | Horace Barrett, Jr., Director in Charge



**Juan Carlos
Theobal
07/31/2025**



Antoine Henrilus
08/09/2025

3580 Fowler Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901 | 239.337.3223 | F: 239.337.3220 | APeacefulGardenFH@yahoo.com



Saint Hilary's Episcopal Church



Sunday Morning Worship:
8:00am, Contemplative Rite I | 10:00am Rite II

We are a faith community where progressive Christianity meets the tradition of common prayer, social justice, and outreach.

The mission of Saint Hilary's Church is "to make known the love and kindness of Jesus Christ to all people" within our congregation and in the wider Fort Myers community through worship, service, and compassion.

5011 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers 33901
239-936-1000 | sainthilarys.org



CYPRESS LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



MISSION: To LOVE God, to GROW as disciples, and to SERVE others.



VISION: Radiating God's love – here, there, and everywhere.



8570 Cypress Lake Drive
Fort Myers, Florida 33919
(239) 482-1250
cypresslakeumc.com



ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



St. Mark's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rooted in love.

Shaped by prayer.



ST. MARKS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1101 N Collier Blvd.
Marco Island 34145
stmarksmarco.org
239-394-7242

St. Mark's Is Here to Serve

Episcopalians believe in a loving, liberating, and life-giving God and follow the teachings of Jesus Christ, whose life, death, and resurrection saved the world. All faith traditions are welcome here: the seekers, explorers, the lost, the found, the drifters and the stayers. All of God's Children are welcome here. There are no exceptions.

Winter Schedule: November – April
9:00 AM Contemporary Family Service with Band
10:30 AM Traditional Service with Choir



McGREGOR BAPTIST CHURCH



By God's grace, we
desire to glorify God
by magnifying His
Word to develop
disciples who:
think biblically
live missionally
give generously
love sacrificially

3750 Colonial Blvd,
Fort Myers, FL 33966
mcgregor.net
239-936-1754

LEE HEALTH FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lee Health Foundation is proud to announce the 2026 board of trustees. Returning trustee Dominic Cameratta has been appointed to serve as chair.

Cameratta is chief financial officer and co-owner of his family company Cameratta Companies, a full-service real estate development company in Southwest Florida. Cameratta oversees all financial aspects of Cameratta Companies including financial processes, financial reporting, deal financing, and tax planning. He is a graduate of Boston College Carrol School of Management and also serves on the board of trustees for Canterbury School Fort Myers.

The board of trustees helps guide philanthropic initiatives for Lee Health Foundation. Since 1995, Lee Health Foundation, its supporters, and trustees have made it possible for Lee Health to serve a growing community with comprehensive medical services close to home.



“Each of our trustees plays a vital role in shaping the future of Lee Health,” said Chris Simoneau, chief development, marketing, and communications officer for Lee Health. “Their strategic insight and dedication will help us expand our impact and continue building a stronger, healthier community for years to come.”

The board’s officers include Jenny Gezella of Naples who will be serving as vice chair, Bill Cronin of Cape Coral as treasurer, and Gary Price of Naples as secretary.

Newly appointed trustees are Dr. Mark Bloomston, Pason Gaddis, Dr. Gurpal “Gigi” Jones, Monica Luna, Melva McKay-Bass, and Samantha Sheridan.

Returning trustees are David Call, Ryan D. Carter, Richard Forman, Garrett Richter, Onur Haytac, Chetan Gulati, Jennifer “JJ” McCurry, Fred Pezeshkan, all of Naples. Also serving are Jospeh R. Catti, Susan Chicone, and Sandy Stilwell Youngquist of Fort Myers, Kristin Haag of Cape Coral, Brian Rist and Dr. Brett Shannon of Sanibel, Debbie Toler and Ian Schmoyer of Bonita Springs, and Joshua Dorcey of Alva.

Ex-officio trustees are Dr. Larry Antonucci, Lee Health president and CEO; David Klein, Chair of the Lee Health System Board; Margaret Embroli, Cape Coral Hospital Auxiliary president; Gary Gold, Gulf Coast Medical Center Auxiliary president; and Jerry Sushil, Lee Memorial Hospital Auxiliary president. The board’s emeriti committee includes Amanda Cross, Dorothy Fitzgerald, Joe Gammons, Elaine Hawkins, Dr. James W. Orr Jr., and Garrett Reasoner.

For information about the role of philanthropy at Lee Health or to donate to Lee Health Foundation, visit LeeHealthFoundation.org or call (239) 343-6950.



ABOUT LEE HEALTH FOUNDATION

Lee Health Foundation raises philanthropic support on behalf of community-focused nonprofit Lee Health to establish, expand, and enhance lifesaving and preventive programs in Southwest Florida. Contributions to the Foundation benefit all five Lee Health hospitals, including Golisano Children’s Hospital and the future Lee Health Fort Myers campus, as well as key service areas such as Lee Health Cancer Institute, Lee Health Coconut Point, Lee Health Heart Institute, Community Health Clinics, Lee Health Musculoskeletal Institute, Golisano Children’s Health Center in Naples and the Pediatric Specialty Clinic in Port Charlotte. In the past year, the Foundation provided more than \$34+ million in funding to enhance patient care throughout the region. Please visit LeeHealthFoundation.org or call 239-343-6950 for more information about the role of Lee Health philanthropy in Southwest Florida.

IT'S NOT PERFECT
DOUG'S SEAFOOD
BUT IT'S WICKED GOOD!

DIVE INTO A WICKED
YOU DESERVE TO FEAST ON SEAFOOD EVERYDAY

It's Not Perfect, But It's Wicked Good Since 2013!



Fresh Seafood
Market



Homemade
Chowdas



Succulent
Lobster Rolls



Delectable
Desserts

Order Now



Visit Our Website
www.dougsseafoodfl.com



For More Information
239-319-5702



Our Address
3411 Bonita Bch. Rd.
Bonita Springs



Dolphin
Tiki Bar
& Grill

Marco
Island

1021 Anglers Cove
Marco Island 34145



Lighthouse Grill & Tiki Bar
260 Maryland Ave.
Channel Marker 17A
Englewood, FL 34224

Free Autism Screening for Young Children

Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida offers free monthly autism spectrum disorder screenings for toddlers **18 months to five years of age**.

THE NEXT SCREENINGS WILL BE HELD ON NOV. 12 AND NOV. 14, 2025, FROM 9 A.M. - 2 P.M. AT THE PEDIATRIC SPECIALIST OFFICE, 15901 BASS ROAD, SUITE 102, FORT MYERS.

It is estimated that one in every 44 children is diagnosed with some form of Autism Spectrum Disorder, making it more common than childhood cancer, juvenile diabetes and pediatric AIDS combined.

Medical consultants for the project stress that an early diagnosis can make a vast difference for toddlers and their families. They say early intensive behavioral intervention can make an immense difference not just in the development of the child, but in their families as well.

The ASD screening is conducted by the Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida. The screenings are administered by an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, who has extensive training and experience in typical child development and developmental disorders.

A physician referral is not required. To schedule a screening, please call 239-343-6838.



ABOUT GOLISANO CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL

Established in 1994, Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida has been named a “Top Hospital” three consecutive years by The Leapfrog Group. It is the only recognized children’s hospital between Tampa and Miami. Lee Health opened the new 134-bed Golisano Children’s Hospital in May 2017, relocating the children’s hospital from the adjacent HealthPark Medical Center. It includes comprehensive pediatric services including a 24-hour pediatric emergency department, hematology-oncology unit, milk lab, Regional Perinatal Intensive Care Center, and Level II and Level III NICU with 70 private rooms. Golisano Children’s Hospital is proud to have been named Soliant’s 2018 Most Beautiful Hospital in the U.S., a recognition determined by popular vote For more information, visit GolisanoChildrensSWFL.org

FL STANLEY COOLING LLC

EXPERT REPAIR & INSTALLATION



AIR CONDITIONING SERVICE

STANLEY offers the highest quality heating, ventilation, and air conditioning services in Southwest Florida.



INSTALLATIONS

Whether it's a small repair, or an entirely new installation, call STANLEY to make sure that it's done right, no matter the size of the job.



PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

Being proactive on your maintenance prevents unexpected failures to maximize the longevity of the unit. Our maintenance programs will save you money.

239-653-8848
stanleycooling.com

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am truly honored to share this word of encouragement with you from my heart. Some of you may feel like your life is falling apart. You may be experiencing distance from family and friends, or perhaps you've been affected by the government shutdown, unsure of when your next income will come to provide for your family. Maybe you're behind on your bills and overwhelmed by the weight of it all. Life just seems to be getting the best of you.

But please don't give up and don't give in! Let me encourage you to keep the faith. The Word of God in Hebrews 11:1 reminds us:

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Our faith in God must remain strong. Faith produces hope, even when the results are not yet visible in our lives. A person can survive days without food or water, but not even a minute without hope.

Brothers and sisters, our faith in God gives us a hope that remains steadfast even in difficult times. It encourages us to endure and to remain faithful, even when there is no visible evidence of change.

Remember, this is just a season, and seasons always change. We must hold on to a hope that is unshakable, a hope rooted in God's unchanging nature and in our identity as His children.

We are His children, and He promises never to leave us nor forsake us. So take courage, keep believing, and hold on to faith because God is faithful, and He will see you through.

And when the storm passes and the season shifts, you will stand stronger than before, not because of what you've endured, but because of God who carried you through it.

With Love,
Pastor Demetrius Thomas
St. Mary Baptist Church of Punta Gorda

Pastor Demetrius Thomas
St. Mary Baptist Church of Punta Gorda

ST. MARY BAPTIST CHURCH
605 MARY STREET
PUNTA GORDA, FL 33950
(941) 637-7782







The North Law Firm, P.A.

Accident and Injury Cases

Call Joe at (239) 337-1191

Car & Truck Accidents

Motorcycle Accidents

Drunk Driving Accidents

Serious Injury Cases

Family Law

Custody & Support Cases

Paralysis Cases

Apartment Shootings

Gun Violence Cases

Workers Compensation

Wrongful Death Cases

Pedestrian Accidents

Bicycle Accidents

Dog Bite Cases

Slip & Fall Accidents

Negligent Security Cases

Settlements

Courtroom Trials

Joe North has been helping clients with injury cases and death cases for more than 30 years.

TheNorthLawFirm.com

5220 Summerlin Commons Blvd., Suite 300
Fort Myers, Florida 33907

Attorney Joe North

NOVEMBER 2025

THESWFLCHRONICLE.COM

PAGE 15



LEE HEALTH ANNOUNCES PROMOTION OF

Dr. Mary Beth Saunders

to Vice President of Medical Affairs

Lee Health is pleased to announce the promotion of Dr. Mary Beth Saunders to Vice President of Medical Affairs. Dr. Saunders brings more than two decades of experience and leadership to this new role, where she will oversee clinical strategy, ensure quality and compliance in medical practices, serve as a liaison between medical staff and executive leadership, and help ensure compliance with regulatory agencies and industry best practices.

Dr. Saunders founded and directed Lee Health's infectious disease practice and has served in key leadership positions within Epidemiology and Infection Prevention since 2003, first as Director and later as System Director.

She also serves as Medical Director for Antimicrobial Stewardship at Lee Health. Prior to these leadership roles, she was a practicing internal medicine and infectious disease physician.

"We are thrilled that Dr. Saunders is assuming the role of Vice President of Medical Affairs. Having already demonstrated herself as a valuable asset to our team, Dr. Saunders brings visionary leadership and a deep commitment to patient-centered care. We are confident she will continue to champion a strong and meaningful relationship with the community of physicians in Lee and surrounding counties, drive innovation and support the Lee Health System to maintain the highest standards in this critical role, strengthening our mission and enhancing health outcomes for the Southwest Florida community," said Chief Medical Officer Dr. Iahn Gonsenhauser.

Additionally, Dr. Saunders helped establish the health system's first infusion clinic, improving access and continuity of care for complex patients. She also led DNV Accreditation efforts, earning Advanced Certification in Infection Prevention for the Infection Prevention Program.

Dr. Saunders received her Doctor of Osteopathy degree from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences in Kansas City, Mo., and completed her residency in internal medicine at Garden City Hospital in association with Michigan State University College of Medicine, and her fellowship in infectious disease at Henry Ford Hospital/Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills, Mich.

She also holds a Master of Public Health degree in Health Services Administration from the University of Arizona in Tucson, Ariz., and maintains board certification in infectious diseases.

To learn more about Lee Health, please visit www.leehealth.org.



ABOUT LEE HEALTH

Lee Health has been a cornerstone of health care in Southwest Florida since opening its first hospital in 1916. As a non-profit, integrated health system, Lee Health is dedicated to providing high-quality, compassionate care to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. With a strong commitment to community health and wellness, Lee Health commits to evolving with the growing and changing needs of the region. The system offers comprehensive services through four acute care hospitals, Golisano Children's Hospital, three skilled nursing locations, outpatient facilities, urgent care centers, and a wide network of primary care and specialty practices. Lee Health supports every step of the health journey, from pre-ventive care to advanced treatment for every member of our community. Learn more at www.LeeHealth.org.

SWFL CRIME STOPPERS

CRIME
DOESN'T PAY,
BUT WE DO

CALL US WITH YOUR TIP.
ANONYMOUS • CASH REWARDS

1-800

780-TIPS (8477)

PD BY CSTF

SHERIFF CARMINE MARCENO REMINDS YOU ABOUT...



ONLINE ORDER SCAMS

Here are some tips to avoid online order scams!

1) BE SKEPTICAL OF DEALS

AVOID DEALS THAT SEEM TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.

2) CHECK THE WEBSITE

LOOK FOR A SECURE CONNECTION WITH "HTTPS://"

3) RESEARCH THE SELLER

LOOK FOR CLEAR CONTACT INFORMATION, SUCH AS A PHONE NUMBER AND PHYSICAL ADDRESS.

4) USE A SECURE PAYMENT METHOD

ONLY USE A SECURE PAYMENT SERVICE, AND AVOID PAYING WITH GIFT CARDS, WIRE TRANSFERS, OR CRYPTOCURRENCY.

5) FREEZE YOUR CREDIT

IF YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION WAS COMPROMISED, YOU MAY NEED TO FREEZE YOUR CREDIT TO PREVENT FURTHER DAMAGE.

**IF YOU THINK YOU'VE BEEN A VICTIM OF AN ONLINE SCAM,
CALL LCSO HEADQUARTERS AT (239) 477-1000.**



**AUTO ACCIDENT?
WORK INJURY?**

Attorney Victor Arias

Protects And Defends Your Rights





239-945-2121
AriasLawFirm.com

Free Consultation



DEAR *Beloved*

Pastor Dr. Deb Walsh | Mountain Mover & Water Walkers

Don't Miss the Feast

I know we are all excited to gather with our family and friends for Thanksgiving. Those of us who cook—we prepare the menu, purchase the ingredients and prepare a feast! We do all this out of love for those who will be assembling together around the table. The same thing is true for God. He is preparing a feast for the day we will be in heaven with Him. Matthew 22 1-14 is the wedding feast parable. In verse 4 ***“Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.”’*** We are living in the times that God has already prepared dinner and all things are ready. Come! This is an invitation to the world that God gave His one and only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

The prophecy of the end of times is being fulfilled faster than the past times. We have wars and rumors of wars. We have weather events that are more severe than ever experienced. We are seeing evil as in the days of Noah. There is good called evil and evil called good. We have the Euphrates River dried up. We have the bear joining forces with other countries and flexing his muscles. We are poised for the “mark of the beast” with digital currency and digital ID. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is now taking jobs (i.e. Amazon will not need hundreds of thousands of employees to fulfill what robots can do) which will make unemployment higher, inflation higher and many will fall on tough times. There is water in the deserts and Israel being the largest producer of roses (***Isaiah 35:1 The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose;***). There are too many to mention and these signs are indicative to Jesus’ return being any moment.

It is interesting to see later in verse 11 (NKJV) ***“But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. 12 So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind***

him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ This is significant to note that unless we accept Jesus and put on His righteousness (wedding clothes), we will not be able to attend the feast. The result is being cast into hell. The guest the King called out was because only God knows the hearts of man. He knew this guest was not supposed to be there. He didn’t have the wedding garments. However, the servants let this guest in. There will be many false prophets and wolves in sheep clothing. They may talk a good talk but they can’t walk the walk. There will be a time of separation (throne of judgment) that will separate the wheat from the tares and the goats from the sheep. You cannot fool God. Make the commitment to make Jesus your Savior. Once you do, find a bible-believing church, read the Bible and start talking to Him in prayer. God is a personal God and He will not fail you nor will He ever leave or forsake you.

It is imperative to not miss the feast. Accept Jesus into your heart and life and put on His righteousness. Let God clothe you, re-robe you, as you are part of the royal priesthood. If you know Him as your personal Lord and Savior, you are the servants. You are the ones to go “invite” others to the kingdom of God and the wedding feast. Also, note you have the power to bind the enemy (V13). Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven (Matt 18:18). You have authority over scorpions and snakes (Luke 10:19). The time is now and we want everyone at the wedding feast. Father God, I ask You for forgiveness of my sin. I am a sinner in need of salvation. I believe You sent Your son to die for my sins. He rose from the dead, defeating all sickness, disease and death so that I may have life and live it abundantly. Thank You for giving me hope and glory and inviting me to Your feast.

Love, Pastor Dr. Deb Walsh

14 “For many are called, but few are chosen.”

■ ■ ■ ■

QUICK
FOOD
MART

Stop by today!

Open 6a-10p everyday

■ ■ ■ ■

1802 Victoria Ave
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Utopia UniSex Salon

where ideas become perfection

Shop - (239) 337-7574 or Cell - (239) 745-8423
DeborahANewson@yahoo.com

3069 Martin Luther King Blvd.
Fort Myers, Florida 33916

Birthday Celebration

FOR
REV. LANCE ABERCROMBIA



\$25

SAT. NOV
15TH
2025

TIME:
DOORS OPEN
@5PM

TIME:
CONCERT STARTS
@6PM



St. Mary Baptist Church
605 Mary Street, Punta Gorda, FL 33983



Contact
239-940-1832

FEATURING
PAUL PORTER &
THE CHRISTIANAIRES



Dr Ronald James & The James Sisters
Fort Myers, FL



St. Mary Bapt. Church Male Chorus



The Shekinah Glory Dance Ministry



MC - Min. Jasmin Escobar



Gospel Sensationairs of Fort Myers



One God One Praise, Fort Myers



BRIDGING THE GAP CENTER FOR THE ARTS ANNOUNCES THE 2026 MLK Art Contest for Lee County Students

In Partnership with the Dunbar Festival Committee and the School District of Lee County

Bridging the Gap Center for the Arts, in collaboration with the Dunbar Festival Committee and the School District of Lee County, proudly presents the 2026 Martin Luther King Jr. Art Contest, inviting all Lee County students—from kindergarten through 12th grade—to participate, including homeschool and charter school students.

This year’s theme draws inspiration from Dr. King’s enduring message of perseverance:

“If you can’t fly then run, if you can’t run then walk, if you can’t walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.”

Students are encouraged to bring this message to life by illustrating their personal interpretation of resilience, determination, and hope.

Artwork may be created in paint, ink, pencil, colored pencil, mixed media, digital media, or crayon on paper sized between 8½×11 and 11×17 inches (PLEASE DO NOT FOLD ENTRIES).

All submissions will be showcased during the MLK Day Celebration at Centennial Park on January 19, 2026, where division winners will be announced and awards presented.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
Friday, December 19, 2025, by 5:00 PM

ABOUT THE MLK ART CONTEST

The MLK Art Contest aims to honor Dr. King’s legacy while encouraging students to explore how his message connects to their own lives, families, and communities. By using art as a vehicle for reflection and expression, this event helps nurture empathy, creativity, and civic engagement among Lee County youth.

This initiative is made possible through the partnership of Bridging the Gap Center for the Arts, the Dunbar Festival Committee, the School District of Lee County, the Alliance for the Arts, the Lee County Public Library, and the Lee County Black History Society.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Organizations, businesses, and individuals are invited to support this meaningful community program through sponsorships. Sponsorship opportunities help fund student prizes, art supplies, and event programming—ensuring access to the arts for all.

For sponsorship information email info@btgart.org or contest details, visit www.btgart.org

CONTEST DIVISIONS

- Elementary: Grades K–5
- Middle School: Grades 6–8
- High School: Grades 9–12

PRIZES

- 1st Place: \$200
- 2nd Place: \$150
- 3rd Place: \$100

DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:

- Alliance for the Arts – 10091 McGregor Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33919
- Lee County Black History Society – 1936 Henderson Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33916
- Fort Myers Regional Library – 2450 First St, Fort Myers, FL 33901
- Dunbar-Jupiter Hammon Public Library – 3095 Blount St, Fort Myers, FL 33916



UNLOCKING THE POWER

OF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS (REITS):

A WISE INVESTMENT CHOICE

In today's fast-paced financial landscape, finding a stable and profitable investment option can be a daunting task. Investors seek opportunities that not only promise substantial returns but also come with manageable risks. One such investment avenue that has been gaining momentum and deserves your attention is Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs). We will explore why investing in REITs should be a fundamental part of your investment strategy.

UNDERSTANDING REITS

Before delving into the reasons behind investing in REITs, it's essential to understand what they are. REITs are a unique investment vehicle that allows individuals to invest in real estate without directly owning or managing properties. These trusts are primarily companies that own, operate, or finance income-producing real estate across various sectors such as residential, commercial, retail, and healthcare.

Now, let's dive into the compelling reasons why you should consider adding REITs to your investment portfolio.

DIVERSIFICATION OF YOUR PORTFOLIO

One of the primary reasons to invest in REITs is portfolio diversification. A diversified portfolio reduces your risk exposure by spreading investments across various asset classes. REITs offer a unique opportunity to diversify into the real estate market, which often behaves differently from traditional stocks and bonds. This diversification can help cushion your portfolio against market volatility.

REGULAR INCOME STREAM

REITs are known for their dividend-paying nature. By law, REITs must distribute at least 90% of their taxable income to shareholders in the form of dividends. This commitment to regular income payments can provide investors with a consistent cash flow, making them particularly appealing to income-oriented investors, such as retirees.

LIQUIDITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Unlike traditional real estate investments that may require substantial capital and long-term commitments, investing in REITs is accessible to a wide range of investors. REIT shares are traded on major stock exchanges, making them easy to buy and sell. This liquidity ensures that your investment can be converted into cash relatively quickly when needed.

PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT

REITs are managed by experienced real estate professionals who have the expertise to identify and manage income-producing properties. This professional management not only reduces the burden on

investors but also increases the chances of generating consistent returns from real estate investments.

TAX ADVANTAGES

REITs enjoy favorable tax treatment. They are not subject to federal income tax at the corporate level, provided they distribute at least 90% of their taxable income to shareholders. This tax-efficient structure can result in higher dividend yields compared to other stocks.

CAPITAL APPRECIATION POTENTIAL

In addition to regular dividend income, REIT investors can benefit from potential capital appreciation. As real estate values increase over time, the underlying properties in which REITs invest can appreciate in value, potentially leading to higher share prices and capital gains for investors.

INFLATION HEDGE

Real estate is often considered a natural hedge against inflation. As the prices of goods and services rise over time, the value of real estate tends to increase as well. By investing in REITs, you can protect your purchasing power and potentially outpace inflation.

INDUSTRY DIVERSIFICATION

REITs offer exposure to a wide range of real estate sectors, from office buildings and shopping malls to apartment complexes and healthcare facilities. This diversity allows you to select REITs that align with your investment goals and risk tolerance.

TRANSPARENCY AND REGULATION

REITs are subject to strict regulations and reporting requirements, providing investors with transparency and assurance. This level of oversight helps reduce the risk of fraudulent or unethical behavior often associated with other real estate investments.

HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE

Over the years, REITs have delivered solid performance. Studies have shown that, on average, REITs have outperformed both the broader stock market and bonds over long-term periods. While past performance is not indicative of future results, this historical track record is encouraging for potential investors.

In a world where investment choices are abundant and complex, REITs stand out as a compelling option. Their potential for regular income, capital appreciation, tax advantages, and diversification benefits make them an attractive addition to any investment portfolio. Whether you are a seasoned investor looking to expand your horizons or a novice seeking a reliable avenue to grow your wealth, consider the many advantages of Real Estate Investment Trusts.

By incorporating REITs into your investment strategy, you can unlock the power of real estate and secure a brighter financial future.

BY MCKINLEY G. WILLIAMS



TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing as a concerned resident of Charlotte County to express my alarm over recent reports involving County Commissioner Stephen Deutsch and allegations that a 50/50 raffle may have been used to raise money for his reelection campaign—an act that, if confirmed, would constitute a clear violation of Florida election law.

This issue deserves close public scrutiny, as it raises serious questions about the ethical conduct of one of our sitting commissioners and the integrity of local governance.

According to reports, State Attorney Amira Fox has turned over evidence to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) after photographs surfaced that appear to show a 50/50 raffle taking place during one of Commissioner Deutsch’s campaign fundraisers. The presence of campaign stickers on the raffle box and the appearance of the event being politically affiliated have led to significant concern among community members and legal experts.

Former State Attorney Steve Russell publicly explained that Florida law explicitly forbids candidates from using raffles or lotteries to raise campaign funds. “It very specifically says that raffles or lotteries are prohibited as a fundraising mechanism,” Russell noted. These laws exist for a simple and vital reason: to prevent gambling-related fundraising from influencing the political process and to ensure that campaign financing remains transparent and accountable.

Commissioner Deutsch, when contacted by reporters, denied that his campaign conducted any raffle, claiming instead that “some groups conducted it and gave the money to various charities.” However, this explanation does not resolve the troubling questions raised by the visual evidence or by the timing of donations reportedly made to his campaign on the same date as the fundraiser. If campaign branding was present on raffle materials and the event was clearly tied to a campaign function, it becomes difficult to separate the candidate’s campaign from the activity itself.

Whether intentional or not, such an action would represent a serious lapse in judgment for any elected official. Candidates are responsible not only for the direct actions of their campaigns but also for ensuring that no event conducted under their name or for their benefit crosses legal or ethical lines.

This latest controversy comes only months after Commissioner Deutsch faced public backlash for reportedly using a racial slur during a county-related discussion, a matter that resulted in public apology and required management training. While that issue was considered resolved, the recurrence of ethical concerns involving the same official reflects a pattern that cannot be ignored. Charlotte County citizens deserve elected leaders who set examples of professionalism, integrity, and respect for the law.

Even if it is ultimately determined that Commissioner Deutsch’s campaign did not directly profit from the raffle, the perception of impropriety alone is deeply damaging. Public trust in government depends not only on compliance with the law but on the consistent demonstration of ethical leadership. When officials blur the lines between campaign activity and legality—or even appear to—confidence in local institutions erodes.

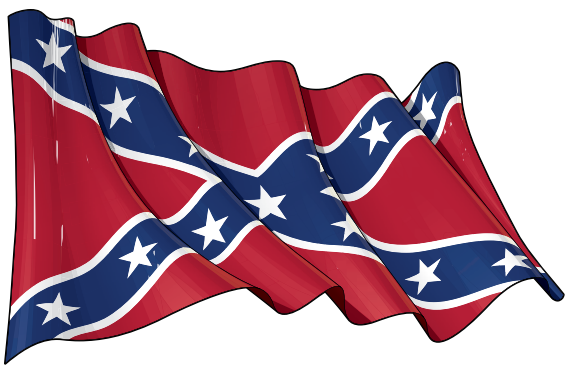
It is therefore essential that the Florida Department of Law Enforcement pursue a full and transparent investigation into these allegations, and that the findings be made available to the public. The citizens of this county have a right to know whether any violations of campaign or gaming laws occurred and, if so, what consequences will follow.

Moreover, this moment should prompt reflection within the Charlotte County Board of Commissioners itself. Stronger internal guidelines may be needed to ensure that all campaign-related activities conducted by sitting commissioners are fully compliant with state law and free of any perception of impropriety.

Our local democracy depends on accountability and transparency at every level. Allegations like these cannot be brushed aside or treated as mere misunderstandings. If the evidence supports the claim that an illegal fundraising raffle occurred, appropriate legal and ethical measures should be taken. If not, then the community still deserves a clear, factual explanation that restores public confidence.

I urge The SWFL Chronical to continue reporting on this story and to hold our elected officials to the same standards of accountability they pledge to uphold. Sunshine is the best disinfectant, and the public deserves to know the full truth about this matter.

Conservatively,
“Buck”
Port Charlotte Cracker



WHY CHARLOTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH NEEDS TO GO!

DEAR CITIZENS OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY,

There comes a moment in the life of every community when truth can no longer be deferred. When half-truths, evasions and betrayals — once buried under the polite chess of politics — claw their way into daylight and demand judgment. I write to you now because we have reached such a moment in Charlotte County: the moment when leadership must answer to the people it serves, when the fragile trust between elected officials and electorate must be mended or severed.

For months, whispers hardened into headlines, and headlines into incontrovertible evidence that Richard Deutsch, a man who promised open governance and collaborative stewardship, chose instead a path of concealment and misrepresentation. He lied to his fellow commissioners. He willfully abandoned the norms of collegial governance. He was stripped of critical assignments by a board that could no longer, in conscience, entrust him with the duties he swore to uphold. Those aren't partisan soundbites — they are facts that demand scrutiny and a civil, unwavering response.

What makes this betrayal so corrosive is not only the content of the falsehoods but the manner in which they were offered. A public servant who misleads colleagues corrodes the very mechanisms that allow our county to function. Committees are not ornaments of convenience; they are instruments of oversight and expertise. To be removed from them is not a petty reprimand — it is a clear, institutional refusal to accept misbehavior. It is the board saying, in effect: “We cannot trust you to carry out these responsibilities.” That is extraordinary, and it should alarm every voter, regardless of party or prior sympathy.

Yet perhaps the gravest damage is the slow, insidious alienation that followed. Leadership does not blossom in isolation. It is cultivated in conversation, in the exchange of perspectives, in the hard work of negotiating differences and finding common ground. ***Commissioner Deutsch's choices have not only cost him assignments; they have cost him relationships — the essential social capital that allows the county government to navigate crises, to fund schools, to fix roads, to protect the most vulnerable among us. You cannot govern effectively from the margins, and when a commissioner isolates himself from the board, the entire county pays the price.***

We must be clear about the consequences. We are not here to savor the downfall of any single individual. Public life invites scrutiny and accountability; it should not be a stadium for schadenfreude. But we are here to insist that behavior has ramifications. To permit dishonesty to pass without consequence is to accept erosion of civic norms. It says that officeholders may lie, sow distrust, and expect to continue as if nothing has happened. That is a corruption of the social contract between public servants and the public.

Let me be candid: Charlotte County is at a crossroads. Charlotte County deserves commissioners who are rigorous in the facts they present, transparent in their dealings, and humble in their recognition of public trust. Our priorities — from economic stability to environmental stewardship, from public safety to the integrity of local elections — hinge on a board that operates transparently, respectfully, and collaboratively. Anything less breeds dysfunction.

I do not intend, therefore, to indulge the fiction that this is merely a temporary lapse. The pattern of behavior — lying to colleagues, being stripped of duties, alienating fellow commissioners — is a pattern that matters. Patterns reveal character. They reveal whether a person will place ego above service, whether they will choose personal theatrics over the tedious, patient labor of governance. That is not an abstract judgment; it is a practical one with immediate consequences for every resident's daily life.

To those who are tempted to dismiss this as “politics as usual,” I say: the stakes are too high. We cannot let cynicism be our political ethic. Our responsibility as voters is to demand better. We must insist that our leaders be measured by their fidelity to truth, their willingness to collaborate, and their capacity to repair the damage they cause. We must hold them to account not because we enjoy punishment but because we cherish the institutions that allow our county to flourish.

So what will I — and others who share this conviction — do in response? First, we will continue to bring the facts into the light. Transparency is not a slogan; it is a habit. We will ensure that citizens have full access to the record, to the minutes, and to the decisions that led to the board's actions. We will document, calmly and comprehensively, the steps that produced the board's loss of confidence — not to humiliate, but to inform.

Second, we will pursue a program of healing and repair. Mistakes, when acknowledged, can be the seeds of renewal. If any public servant wishes to rebuild trust, there is a path: full, unambiguous apology; a demonstration of concrete corrective steps; and sustained collaboration with colleagues and constituents. If those steps happen, we will judge them on their substance, not their spectacle. But absence of meaningful repair is not a neutral act — it is a renewal of past injuries.

Third, and perhaps most importantly, we will ask the voters to decide. Democracy is not a passive system; it is a participatory one. Elections are where the public weighs character and competence and casts a verdict. This upcoming election offers Charlotte County the chance to speak clearly. It is not merely about one man's future; it is about the future direction of our governance. Do we want leaders who prioritize transparency, humility and cooperation? Or will we tolerate conduct that undermines those very values?

To my fellow commissioners who endured the consequences of this breach, I offer solidarity. To the staff who were saddled with the fallout, I offer gratitude for their persistence in keeping the county functioning. To the citizens who have watched this drama with dismay and fatigue, I say: ***your voice matters more now than ever.*** Come to the meetings, read the records, ask the questions. We cannot repair what we will not examine.

Some will call this letter theatrical. Fine. Let it be theatrical if it wakes us from complacency. But do not mistake drama for vacuity. Behind every impassioned plea for accountability lies a simple moral and civic truth: leadership without honesty is an empty shell. A commission that cannot trust itself cannot be trusted to steward our schools, roads, emergency services and budgets.

I will stand, openly and firmly, for the values we need: truth, accountability, and the steady work of rebuilding trust. I will not nurture revenge — that is small and petty. I will fight for consequence and for the restoration of the institutional norms that make Charlotte County functional. I will ask voters to judge based on record, and I will respect their decision. That is democracy. That is duty.

In closing, let me be as simple and direct as possible: Charlotte County deserves better. You deserve commissioners who respect truth, who collaborate in good faith, who place the public interest above personal spectacle. If that means a political consequence for someone who chose otherwise, then so be it. The people will decide. And when they do, let them do so with eyes wide open, guided by the facts and by their best judgment.

With resolve and respect,
CONCERNED “GRASSY POINT” ADVOCATE



REFLECTIONS

OF AN EPISCOPAL PRIEST

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

REFLECTIONS ON THE FUTURE

As a longtime resident and minister here in Fort Myers, I’ve spent twelve years reflecting on what it means to help lead our community move into the future. Every week, organizations, churches, schools, and businesses face a choice. Do they hunker down and get by? Or do they open their doors, invite new voices, and look ahead with hope?

I believe our most significant strength in this community is our willingness to listen, adapt, and grow together. After all, we have bonded together after hurricanes, tax increases, and rising insurance rates, showing how much we can accomplish when we listen and work together. Many organizations, including churches, regularly decide whether to maintain or actively invite new voices into their conversations as they connect with those seeking hope.

Our community’s greatest strength is our willingness to listen, adapt, and grow together. Encourage everyone you know to share their hopes for our beloved community’s future, whether through volunteering, joining local discussion groups, or simply reaching out to help a neighbor.

Being the eldest living member of a family of priests, this experience has shaped my life journey. I learned many lessons from books and real-life experiences. From watching my father

as a child, making mistakes of my own as a young adult, and now as a priest myself, I have seen many changes. Every new chapter brings both uncertainty and possibility.”

Recently, I have been focusing on a book entitled “Invite, Welcome and Connect” written by Mary Foster Parmer. Whether you’re a member of our faith-based community or simply a neighbor, there is much to learn from this book. The book is designed to help communities and individuals share thoughts and experiences, identify obstacles to success, seek ways to minimize the challenges, and build success.

By implementing solutions that align with the future that is foreseen for our community, we can move forward with hope, trusting that the future is something we build together. Guided by love and shared purpose, lasting change can occur.

As we step into the coming busy months, let’s do so with open hearts and minds. Let’s embrace those things for which we are grateful, discard things that hold us back, and give thanks for the time we must reflect on and enjoy the beginning of the holiday season.

GOD IS THE FUTURE.





SEAFOOD

Fresh Daily

ASIAN MARKET

TWIN SEAFOOD & GROCERY MARKET

NEW WAY TO EAT BLUE CRABS
Healthy and Delicious Food Options
Find fresh and wholesome food options at
Twin Seafood & Grocery Market. We make healthy eating
convenient and affordable.

EXPLORE **TWIN SEAFOOD GROCERY’S**
DELICIOUS OFFERINGS

WE ACCEPT EBT

Store Hours: Mon-Sat 9a-9p | Sun 9a-8p
(239) 332-8537 | TWINSEAFOODGROCERY.MARKET
3346 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Fort Myers 33916
VISIT US ONLINE TO SEE OUR LIMITED TIME OFFERINGS





A Thank You Letter

to Mr. Cornell – Agent from the Dunbar Community

Dear Mr. Agent,

On behalf of the entire Dunbar Community, we extend our deepest gratitude and heartfelt appreciation for all that you have done—and continue to do—to preserve, uplift, and celebrate the proud heritage of our neighborhood. Your tireless dedication to keeping the traditions and history of Dunbar alive through the Annual Easter Parade, the Dunbar All-Class Reunion, and your countless efforts as a community organizer have left an indelible mark on every one of us.

The Dunbar community has always stood as a beacon of unity, resilience, and pride. Our neighborhood’s story is one of perseverance, culture, and connection—a story that could easily fade with time if not for individuals like you who take it upon themselves to ensure that our legacy continues. Through your leadership and commitment, you have helped preserve not just events, but the very spirit of Dunbar—the laughter of our children, the memories of our elders, and the sense of belonging that ties us all together.

The Dunbar Easter Parade has become far more than an annual celebration; it is a living tribute to our shared history and community pride. Year after year, you have organized, coordinated, and inspired volunteers, families, and local organizations to come together in joy and fellowship. You have turned what could have been a simple procession into a powerful symbol of unity—a moment when generations come together to celebrate who we are, where we come from, and the values that continue to guide us.

Likewise, the Dunbar All-Class Reunion has become a cornerstone of our community identity. Through your vision and guidance, former students, teachers, and friends from near and far have been able to reconnect and reminisce about the formative experiences that shaped their lives. What began as a gathering of classmates has evolved—under your direction—into a tradition that strengthens bonds across decades. You have created a space where history lives, memories are honored, and new friendships are born. These reunions have rekindled a sense of belonging and pride that is felt deeply by everyone who has ever called Dunbar home.

Your work as a community organizer has gone beyond

event planning. You have become a steward of our history, a guardian of our traditions, and a mentor to those who follow in your footsteps. Your ability to bring people together—regardless of age, background, or circumstance—has been nothing short of inspiring. You remind us that community is not just about geography; it is about shared purpose, love, and the collective will to build something meaningful together.

In a time when so many neighborhoods struggle to hold on to their roots, Dunbar continues to thrive because of leaders like you. You have shown us the importance of honoring our past while building for the future. You have taught us that preserving tradition is not about clinging to what was, but about keeping our stories alive for generations to come. Every parade, every reunion, every handshake and smile shared under your leadership reflects your passion and commitment to this community.

We recognize the countless hours, the personal sacrifices, and the quiet determination that go into making these events possible year after year. Your work often happens behind the scenes, but its impact is visible everywhere—in the joy on the faces of our children, in the gratitude of our elders, and in the renewed sense of unity that fills our streets. Because of you, the Dunbar name continues to stand for excellence, community, and pride.

As we look to the future, we want you to know that your efforts have not gone unnoticed. The Dunbar Community is stronger, prouder, and more connected because of you. You have not only preserved our traditions—you have strengthened our identity and inspired us all to give back, to stay involved, and to continue celebrating the rich legacy that makes Dunbar so special.

Thank you, Mr. Cornell Agent, for being a steadfast leader, a passionate organizer, and a true pillar of our community. Your work ensures that the heartbeat of Dunbar will continue to echo through the years, reminding future generations of the power of heritage, togetherness, and love for one’s community.

***With sincere appreciation and warmest regards,
The Dunbar Community***

TOBLER CONSTRUCTION, INC.

COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE!

When it comes to construction
we do it all.

PROVEN EXPERIENCE

RESIDENTIAL | ROOFING | HVAC | COMMERCIAL

LOCAL TALENT

We take pride in our personal attention to detail and close relationships with our clients and would be honored to be considered for your future projects. We are in the business of building quality.

With our guaranteed pricing, easy step-by-step building process, and exceptional customer service we are dedicated to your project.



CGC1511572 CCC1327749 CMC1249805

 **239.337.1320**
 **TOBLERCONSTRUCTION.COM**
 **INFO@TOBLERCONSTRUCTION.COM**
 **3071 DR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR BLVD,
FORT MYERS 33916**

Marty Wisher & Swan Studios: Turning Spaces into Living Works of Art



As a true thespian who appreciates the arts in all its forms; there is one person in the world of interior design and artistic expression who I admire the most. In fact, few names carry the same sense of creative energy and mastery as Marty Wisher. Through her company, Swan Studios, Marty has elevated interior decorating to an art form—literally. Known for her breathtaking murals and imaginative decorative finishes, Marty’s work transcends simple design. Each project she undertakes is a deeply personal artistic journey, transforming ordinary spaces into extraordinary environments filled with color, emotion, and meaning.

Swan Studios is not just an interior decorating business—it is a creative studio that offers a full range of artistic and design services, all conceived and executed by the renowned artist herself. Marty’s distinctive approach allows her to merge traditional decorating techniques with fine art, offering her clients endless visual and aesthetic possibilities.

Whether she’s creating a mural that spans an entire wall, adding depth and drama through faux finishes, or crafting an elegant floral arrangement, Marty’s artistic touch can be seen and felt in every detail. Her portfolio showcases her versatility and passion: from ceiling artwork and window treatments to complete room makeovers, furniture painting, specialty finishes, and more.

“We are surrounded every day by walls. We should make them lovely and inspiring to look at,” Marty says. “The walls and rooms that surround you should make you feel that this is the place you want to be.”

“Marty’s Murals Literally Transform Spaces” McKinley G. Williams

Perhaps nothing demonstrates Marty Wisher’s artistic genius more vividly than her murals. Her work in this area has earned her a reputation that is virtually unmatched in the industry today. Each mural she creates is a unique masterpiece, designed not only to beautify a space but also to tell a story, evoke emotion, and reflect the client’s vision.

When commissioned to design a commercial mural, Marty brings a highly personalized approach to every project. For instance, when creating a mural for a restaurant, she carefully considers factors

such as the menu, location, lighting, and the owner’s vision. Every element influences the final design, resulting in a cohesive and meaningful work of art that enhances the ambiance and identity of the space.

Murals have the power to transform any public setting. Imagine walking into an aquarium and being greeted by a breathtaking 30-foot seascape, or entering a tropical-themed nursery where the walls bloom with color and life. For Marty, the possibilities are as limitless as imagination itself.

Her clients consistently find that investing in a mural yields a return far beyond what can be measured financially. The joy and atmosphere her art creates—whether through the smiles of guests or the inviting ambiance that encourages customers to linger—are truly priceless. A mural by Marty Wisher is not just decoration; it’s an experience.

Marty’s journey in art began long before Swan Studios came to life. She was, as many who know her say, born an artist. Her love affair with drawing and painting began when she was just a toddler—“God bless Crayola crayons,” she laughs. By the age of five, she was already sketching crucifixes and churches inspired by travels through Europe with her parents.

Her natural talent flourished throughout her youth. In high school, she was recognized as Louisiana’s State Champion for pencil sketching and oil painting, later going on to compete at the national level in the United States. She pursued formal studies in visual design in both Minnesota and Florida, refining her technical skills





while continuing to explore her own creative voice.

In 2005, Marty’s artistic accomplishments were celebrated in a one-woman exhibition at the Cape Coral Courthouse in Florida—a milestone that further cemented her reputation as a serious artist. Today, her pieces can be found throughout Florida’s art galleries and commercial buildings, serving as testaments to her evolving artistry and enduring vision.

THE PHILOSOPHY BEHIND THE PAINTBRUSH

At the core of Marty’s work is a deep respect for both the artistic process and the individual vision of her clients. She views each project as a collaborative partnership, where her creative expertise meets the client’s dreams and desires.

“Art, especially murals, has two sides,” she explains. “As an artist, I can have my own style and flair. But there’s also the side of the viewer. Each client has their own vision. I take that idea and bring it to glorious full-color life. In the end, my goal is to take their breath away—make it even better than they imagined. There is joy in the painting. Each one has a piece of my heart in it.”

This heartfelt philosophy is evident in every brushstroke of her work. Her ability to interpret emotion and personality through color, texture, and composition is what sets her apart from other decorators and muralists. Every wall becomes a canvas, every room a stage for visual storytelling.

FAUX FINISHES AND BEYOND

In addition to her celebrated murals, Marty is also widely recognized as a faux finish artist of exceptional skill. Her expertise includes marbleizing columns, painting furniture, and creating specialty finishes for floors and doors that bring a touch of elegance and sophistication to any environment. Whether the goal is to achieve a timeless old-world charm or a sleek, contemporary effect,

Marty’s eye for design ensures each finish feels authentic and harmonious within the space.

THE EXPERIENCE OF WORKING WITH SWAN STUDIOS

What truly distinguishes Swan Studios is the personalized service Marty offers. The process begins with a simple conversation. She listens closely to her clients’ ideas, goals, and inspirations, seeking to understand not only what they want but also how they want to feel in their space. From there, she develops a vision that marries aesthetics with emotion—designing rooms that not only look stunning but also uplift and inspire.

Her clients describe the decorating process as fun, exciting, and deeply rewarding. Marty’s enthusiasm is contagious; her professionalism and artistry ensure that the end result always exceeds expectations. It’s no wonder she has become one of the most sought-after designers and artists in her field today.

Through Swan Studios, Marty Wisner continues to redefine what interior decorating can be. Her art turns spaces into sanctuaries, restaurants into experiences, and homes into reflections of the people who live within them. With each project, she brings a blend of passion, precision, and imagination that makes her work truly timeless.

For those seeking to elevate their surroundings and infuse their spaces with beauty, emotion, and artistry, the first step is simple: contact Marty Wisner. From there, the journey begins—one that promises to turn your vision into a living work of art.



J. REAL

To every soul reading these words,
To the thinkers, the dreamers, the broken yet unbowed —
To the ones who've been searching for truth in a world full of
noise —

This message is for you.

My name is J. Real, and I come to you not as a
celebrity, not as a self-proclaimed guru, not as a voice
seeking followers or fame. I come to you as a man —
a real one — who has felt the fire of failure, the sting
of silence, and the ache of awakening. I come to you
as a writer, an orator, a messenger for those who've
been forgotten, misjudged, or misunderstood.

I'm not here to sell you dreams. I'm here to wake them back up inside you.

For too long, our world has been drowning in illusion — fed by systems
that profit from distraction, by algorithms that shape our emotions, and
by voices that echo lies in polished tones. Somewhere along the way, we
stopped listening to our souls. We forgot the sound of truth. We began chasing
validation instead of vision.

But I'm here to tell you — the time has come to remember who we are.

People ask me, "J. Real, what makes you different? What makes you authentic?"

My answer is simple: I don't write to impress — I write to express.

Authenticity isn't a style; it's a spirit. It's what remains when the mask falls off. It's
the unfiltered honesty that spills from the heart when you stop pretending to be
perfect. I've lived the lows. I've wrestled with doubt. I've looked in the mirror and
asked myself if my voice mattered — and that's why I know it does.

BECAUSE THE TRUTH IS: EVERY REAL STORY MATTERS.

Every scar carries a lesson. Every struggle hides a seed of strength.

I don't dress my message in fancy words or false promises. My writing, my speaking,
my purpose — it's all born from the trenches of real life. I speak to those who've cried
behind closed doors, who've smiled in public while breaking in private, who've carried
pain but still choose purpose. I speak to those who are ready to rise.

And when I speak, I don't just use words — I use truth.

Truth cuts through noise.

Truth breaks chains.

Truth heals.

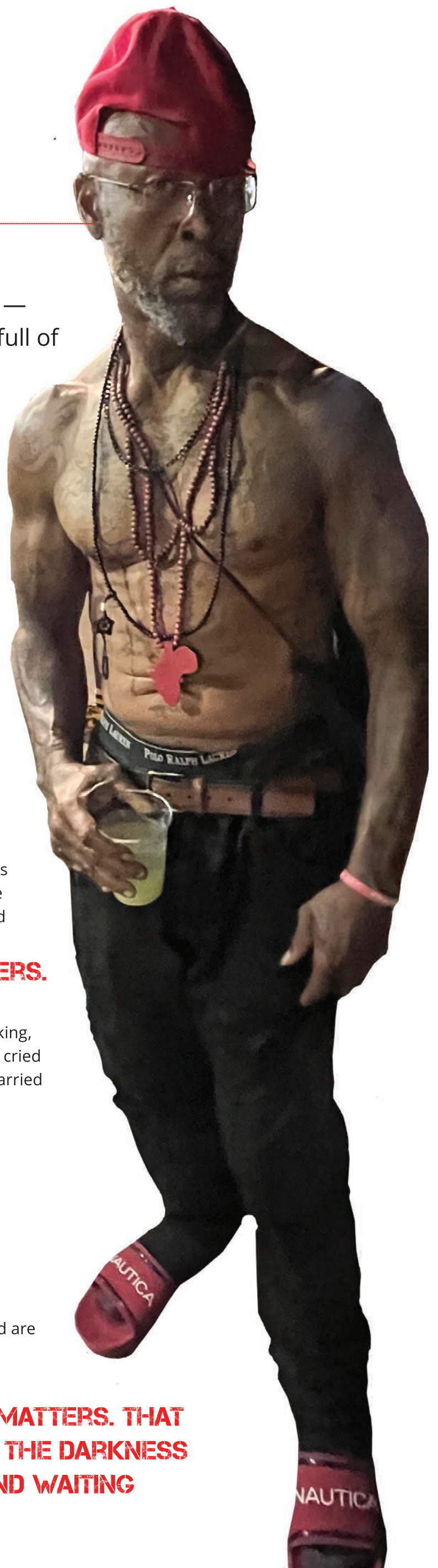
That's why I say: I'm not just a creative writer. I'm a messenger of awakening.

There's a shift happening — you feel it too, don't you?

People are tired of the fake. They're hungry for meaning again. They're craving
connection, community, and clarity. The conscious men and women of this world are
waking up — but many are waking up alone.

That's where I come in.

**I'M HERE TO REMIND YOU THAT YOUR LIGHT STILL MATTERS. THAT
YOUR VOICE STILL CARRIES POWER. THAT EVEN IN THE DARKNESS
OF UNCERTAINTY, YOUR PURPOSE IS STILL ALIVE AND WAITING
FOR YOU TO STEP INTO IT.**



I WRITE FOR THE LOST BUT WILLING, THE HURT BUT HEALING, THE SILENCED BUT STRONG. I WRITE TO IGNITE THE FIRE IN THE ONES WHO THOUGHT IT WENT OUT.

We don't need more idols. We need inspiration with intention.

We don't need more influencers. We need impact-makers.

We don't need more noise. We need narratives of truth.

My mission is to bring that truth to the surface — through words that touch the mind but also move the soul.

I write for the lost but willing, the hurt but healing, the silenced but strong. I write to ignite the fire in the ones who thought it went out.

If you're reading this right now, this is not a coincidence. This is a connection.

When I write, I don't just tell stories — I build bridges. I craft sentences that carry spirit, not just structure. I let rhythm and reason dance together because the right words, spoken with the right heart, can transform lives.

Oratory and writing are my weapons of peace.

They are how I fight hopelessness.

They are how I heal.

Every poem, every speech, every letter I share carries a pulse. A heartbeat. A reminder that realness still exists in a world that's gone numb.

I don't just want to entertain you — I want to empower you.

I don't just want you to hear me — I want you to feel yourself again.

Because when you awaken the real in you, you begin to see the world differently. You start walking with purpose instead of fear. You start creating from love instead of lack. You start recognizing that your story — with all its twists and turns — is not your punishment; it's your power.

I write because silence kills dreams.

I write because truth deserves a microphone.

I write because too many people are pretending to be alive while their spirits are sleeping.

I've seen what happens when people rediscover their "why." I've seen eyes light up again. I've seen men find meaning beyond their mistakes. I've seen women rise from heartbreak into healing. That's the power of words when they're used with integrity and intent.

When I speak, I don't aim to be liked — I aim to wake up hearts.

I don't chase applause — I chase alignment.

Because when you're aligned with purpose, the right people will always hear you.

I am not perfect, but I am present.

I am not flawless, but I am fearless in truth.

And that's what makes me J. Real.

We are living in a time where authenticity is rebellion.

To be real is to resist.

To speak truth is to stand against a tide of manipulation and apathy.

That's why my message isn't just poetry — it's prophecy.

It's a reminder that consciousness is not a trend; it's a transformation.

To the conscious men: Stand tall. Lead with integrity. Protect peace. Speak your emotions instead of suppressing them. Be strong enough to feel and humble enough to grow.

To the conscious women: Rise with grace. Know your worth. Shine without apology. You are not too much — you are precisely what this world needs to rebalance its energy.

Together, we are the pulse of change. Together, we are the generation that refuses to fake it anymore.

If you've ever felt unseen, unworthy, or unheard — I see you.

If you've ever doubted your own brilliance — I remind you.

Hope is not gone; it's just waiting for you to pick it back up.

Hope doesn't whisper in comfort; it roars in conviction. It says, "You are not done yet."

And neither am I.

As long as I have breath, I'll keep speaking life. I'll keep writing light. I'll keep showing up — not to be the loudest voice, but to be the truest one.

Because authenticity is the language of the awakened.

And I promise you this: when you live in truth, you'll never walk alone again.

This isn't just a letter — it's a declaration.

It's a message from the heart of one who's seen the darkness and decided to build light instead of curses.

I am J. Real, the writer who bleeds words that heal.

I am the orator who turns pain into poetry and chaos into clarity.

I am the reminder that real still exists.

If my words reach even one soul who needed a sign to keep going — then my purpose is fulfilled.

To all the conscious men and women reading this:

The world doesn't need you to be perfect. It needs you to be present.

It needs your story, your scars, your truth.

It needs your hope — raw, imperfect, and real.

Let's rise together — not just as individuals, but as a movement of awakened souls ready to rebuild this world on a foundation of truth, purpose, and love.

Stay real. Stay awake. Stay hopeful.

With purpose and peace,

— J. Real

Embrace the Moment: Seniors to Embrace Love and Intimacy

In a world where Society often dictates societal norms and expectations, senior citizens are frequently marginalized, especially concerning matters of love and intimacy. However, age should never be a barrier to experiencing the joy and fulfillment that come from romantic relationships and physical intimacy. Seniors deserve to embrace the present moment, cherish their significant others, and engage in acts of love and affection without hesitation. Seniors should not “Fight the Feeling” when it comes to expressing love and intimacy, emphasizing the importance of living life to the fullest regardless of age.

The Value of Love and Companionship: As individuals age, the need for companionship and emotional support becomes increasingly vital. Studies have consistently shown that strong relationships contribute to better mental and physical health outcomes among seniors. Whether it’s holding hands, cuddling, or engaging in intimate acts (e.g. canoodling), the presence of a loving partner can significantly enhance one’s quality of life. Seniors should prioritize nurturing these connections and not deny themselves the joy that comes from being with someone they care about deeply. In other words, “Get it While it’s Hot.”

Breaking Societal Stigmas: Society often perpetuates harmful stereotypes about aging and sexuality, suggesting that older adults should suppress their desires and conform to outdated expectations. However, love knows no age limits, and seniors have every right to pursue romantic relationships and express their affection openly. By challenging these stigmas and embracing their desires, seniors can reclaim control over their love lives and inspire others to do the same.

Living with No Regrets: Life is fleeting, and none of us are guaranteed tomorrow. Seniors, perhaps more than any other demographic, understand the importance of seizing the moment and living with no regrets. By embracing love and intimacy without reservation, seniors can create meaningful memories and cultivate deeper connections with their significant others. Whether it’s a spontaneous kiss or a passionate embrace, every moment shared is a reminder of the beauty of human connection and the joy of sex.

Enhancing Physical and Emotional Well-being: Engaging in acts of physical intimacy has been shown to have numerous health benefits for seniors, including stress reduction, improved heart health, and increased feelings of happiness and fulfillment. Moreover, the emotional bond formed through intimate moments strengthens the relationship and fosters a sense of closeness and trust between partners. Seniors should prioritize their well-being by embracing the positive effects of love and intimacy on both body and mind.

Setting an Example for Future Generations: By refusing to conform to ageist attitudes and embracing love and intimacy wholeheartedly, seniors can set a powerful example for future generations. Breaking down barriers and challenging societal norms sends a message of empowerment and resilience, demonstrating that love knows no bounds and that every senior deserves to pursue happiness and fulfillment if they desire to.

Seniors should not “ Fight the Feeling ” when it comes to expressing love and intimacy with their significant others. By embracing the present moment and living each day as though it were their last, seniors can experience the joy, fulfillment, and companionship that come from nurturing meaningful relationships. It’s time to break free from societal stigmas and embrace love without reservation, knowing that every moment shared is a celebration of life and the human spirit. Let us encourage seniors to cherish their significant others, indulge in acts of affection, and live each day with passion and purpose, knowing that they deserve nothing less.

BY VERNON BROWN,
THE DUNBAR SHADE
TREE PHD



ARKANSAS NEEDS TO MAKE A MOVE:

The Williams Brothers Could Be the SEC’s Next Great Package Deal

MICHAEL H. BLANK

The buzz out of Western High School is getting too loud for SEC recruiters to ignore. Two brothers — Caleb and Bryce Williams — are lighting up scout reports and film rooms across the South. They’ve got the speed, the swagger, and the skill to change a program’s future.

And now? They want to do it together.

With a handful of SEC programs — including Arkansas, Tennessee, Ole Miss, and Kentucky — already showing interest, the race is on. The brothers have made it clear: if a school steps up and offers them as a package deal, they’re ready to commit.

“If we can play together, we’re doing it,” Caleb said after Western’s latest win. “We’ve been doing this our whole lives — one plays safety, one plays corner. It just makes sense.”

CALEB WILLIAMS: THE “NEXT ED REED”

At 6’0” and 190 pounds, Caleb Williams is the definition of versatility. He also has a 3.4 cumulative GPA. The Western High senior has lined up at strong safety, quarterback, running back, and wide receiver this season. But his best work — and his best future — is at safety.

Scouts rave about his football IQ and instinctive playmaking ability. One SEC evaluator went so far as to call him “the next Ed Reed,” citing his ability to diagnose plays and punish receivers with highlight-reel hits.

“He’s a ball hawk with the instincts of a pro,” said one SEC scout. “When he breaks on a pass, it’s over. And when he hits, people feel it. He’s got that throwback toughness you just don’t see anymore.”

Caleb’s combination of leadership, versatility, and physicality makes him a true defensive cornerstone. He’s the kind of player you build a secondary around.

BRYCE WILLIAMS: THE CORNER WITH COACH PRIME’S SEAL OF APPROVAL

Younger brother Bryce Williams might not be a senior yet — but you’d never know it watching him play. (He has a 3.6 cumulative GPA and wants to be a Maritime Lawyer) The 6’3”, 185-pound junior is already built like

an SEC defensive back, with the length and recovery speed to lock down top receivers.

Bryce recently announced he’s reclassifying to graduate early, aligning his college timeline with his brother’s. That commitment to staying side-by-side is rare — and it’s one reason recruiters are paying attention.

At a national prospect camp in Colorado, Bryce’s breakout moment came when he intercepted five passes in one day. That performance caught the eye of none other than Deion Sanders, who extended a scholarship offer on the spot.

“When Coach Prime noticed me — that was a dream,” Bryce said. “But I’ve always said, wherever we go, we go together.”

Bryce’s frame and footwork have led some scouts to compare him to a young Patrick Surtain II — patient, technically sound, and confident in isolation coverage.

SEC PROGRAMS ARE WATCHING — BUT ARKANSAS COULD LEAD THE WAY

According to multiple sources close to the family, Arkansas has emerged as a serious contender. The Razorbacks have been quietly evaluating both brothers, impressed by their tape and chemistry on the field.

For a program that prides itself on grit, culture, and player development, the Williams brothers fit perfectly. Caleb brings the energy and leadership; Bryce brings the size and coverage skill that’s hard to find in high school corners.

“Arkansas has always had that underdog edge,” one Florida-based recruiting analyst said. “The Williams brothers would fit that perfectly — two kids who play with chips on their shoulders, who love the game, and who just want to compete.”

The Hogs have a chance to make a statement here — one that says Arkansas can compete with anyone in the SEC when it comes to finding and developing elite defensive talent.

THE BOULDER FACTOR

Of course, Coach Prime isn’t going to back down quietly. With Bryce already holding a Colorado offer and Caleb now on their radar,

the Buffaloes could swoop in with a package deal of their own.

The brothers have made no secret of their admiration for Sanders, and the opportunity to learn from one of the greatest defensive backs in football history is tempting.

“Coach Prime told me to keep working — that my time will come,” Bryce said. “If he offers us both, that’s hard to pass up.”

Still, the pull of SEC football is strong. The speed, the competition, the tradition — that’s where the brothers see themselves proving they belong among the nation’s best.

WHY THIS PACKAGE DEAL MATTERS

Family connections in football aren’t new — but they matter. The McCourty twins did it at Rutgers. The Griffin brothers did it at UCF. Chemistry, communication, and loyalty are built in. And in today’s recruiting world, those intangibles can be as valuable as a forty-yard dash time.

The Williams brothers don’t just bring two scholarships’ worth of talent — they bring a defensive identity. Caleb is the enforcer; Bryce is the lockdown. Together, they’re the heartbeat of a defense that could define a recruiting class.

BOTTOM LINE: THE SEC IS ON THE CLOCK

The Williams brothers have made it clear: they want to play together. They’re ready to commit to a program that values both — not just as individuals, but as a duo with the potential to lead a defense for years to come.

Arkansas has the chance to move first — and if the Razorbacks do, they could land two future stars before the rest of the SEC wakes up.

“We just want a place that believes in us,” Caleb said. “If they believe in both of us, we’ll give them everything we’ve got.”

Two brothers. One dream. One opportunity. Now the question is — which SEC school will pull the trigger first?



PLAYER	POSITION	HGT/WGT	CLASS	SCHOOL	STATUS
Caleb Williams	SS / QB / RB / WR	6’0” 190lbs	2025 (Senior)	Western HS (FL)	Uncommitted
Bryce Williams	CB	6’3” 185lbs	2026 (reclassifying to 2025)	Western HS (FL)	Offer from Colorado
Top Interests			Georgia, Arkansas, Colorado Tennessee, Ole Miss, Kentucky		





The North Law Firm, P.A.

Accident and Injury Cases

For over 30 years, we have been representing clients in Accident and Injury cases.



Attorney Joe North

Attorney Joseph North

Car & Truck Accidents
Motorcycle Accidents
Drunk Driving Accidents
Serious Injury Cases
Family Law
Custody & Support Cases
Hurricane Property Damage Claims
Paralysis Cases
Apartment Shootings
Gun Violence Cases
Courtroom Trials
Workers Compensation
Wrongful Death Cases
Pedestrian Accidents
Bicycle Accidents
Dog Bite Cases
Slip & Fall Accidents
Negligent Security Cases
Settlements

(239) 337-1191
TheNorthLawFirm.com

5220 Summerlin Commons Blvd., Suite 300 | Fort Myers, Florida 33907