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Administration: Maisha Custard

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

Production: OAS Graphics

Photography: Broderick Hall

Contributing Writers: Vernon

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AMERICA 250 Celebrating Our Nation Together

MAYOR TERESA LEE HEITMANN
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Across our nation, communities are preparing to mark an extraordinary milestone — the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. Known as America 250, this historic moment invites all of us to reflect on our country's founding ideals and to celebrate the freedoms and opportunities that continue to shape our lives today.

Here in the City of Naples, we look forward to joining communities across Florida and the nation in honoring this remarkable anniversary. Our local celebration will kick off at the April 1 City Council meeting, where we will begin recognizing the spirit of America 250 and share plans for the year ahead.

One of the most meaningful ways we are celebrating is through the voices of our young people. The City of Naples is launching an America 250 Student Essay Contest for students who attend schools within city limits. Through their essays, students will reflect on what America means to them — its history, its values, and the possibilities that lie ahead for the next 250 years. I look forward to reading their thoughtful perspectives and celebrating their contributions to the celebration.

During our April 1 meeting, we will also welcome members of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), who will lead the Pledge of Allegiance and share their own America 250 initiatives. The morning will also include the presentation of a City of Naples proclamation recognizing the importance of this historic anniversary.

Later this summer, we invite residents to gather with us for a very special moment in our celebration. On July 8th, the Declaration of Independence will be recited on the steps of City Hall, reminding us of the powerful words that gave birth to our nation and continue to inspire generations of Americans.

We are also grateful to Governor Ron DeSantis for recognizing the important role Florida's state parks play in preserving the natural beauty and heritage of our state as we approach America's 250th anniversary. These treasured places reflect the same spirit of stewardship and appreciation for our land that has long defined our nation.

In that spirit, I encourage everyone to join us for the City of Naples Tree Fest on June 6 at Baker Park, when we will pay a special tribute to America 250 while celebrating the natural environment that makes Naples such a beautiful place to live. In the months ahead, the City will continue working with our Community Services Department and community partners to create festive events and meaningful opportunities for residents to come together and celebrate this historic milestone.

Most importantly, America 250 is not only about looking back — it is about celebrating the people who make our community and our country strong today.

I invite you to share how you and your family are celebrating our nation's anniversary. Perhaps you have a favorite place in America, a meaningful family tradition, or a story about a moment that reminds you why our country is so special. Please consider sharing your memories with us as we celebrate together.

Over the next year, as we reflect on the past and look ahead to the future, may we be reminded of the enduring values that unite us — freedom, opportunity, community, and hope.

I look forward to celebrating America 250 with all of you.

Mayor Teresa Lee Heitmann
City of Naples

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April 7 // 7pm

Moorings Presbyterian Church

.....
Samantha Hankey mezzo-soprano Ramón Tebar piano

A much sought after recitalist who has been praised by the Financial Times for her “much elegance and youthful tone,” Hankey has enjoyed a rapidly rising career with appearances at The Metropolitan Opera, Vienna State Opera, Royal Opera House, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Carnegie Hall and The Kennedy Center, among other premier performance halls around the world.

A resident of Naples, Florida, Hankey will be joined for this performance by Opera Naples Artistic and Music Director Ramón Tebar at the piano. Maestro Tebar commented, “I have been following Samantha’s career for some years now, and she is an artist I wanted very much to perform with. When I found out that she is local and spent many summers in Naples during childhood and is now living in town, I couldn’t resist adding a performance with her as soon as possible. I am very happy that she made herself available while in town between her international engagements to perform in this recital.”

.....
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Happy Resurrection Day

Happy Resurrection Day! As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord this first Sunday of April, 2026; keep in mind that the entire word of God would be null and void if He didn't rise from the dead. God had the plan of salvation from the beginning of our time of creation. When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, God said in Genesis 3:15 "And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel." This is the depiction of prophecy of Jesus as He was born from the woman's seed and was in opposition to sinful man or the "seed of Adam". The conversation between God the Father and the Son probably went something like this:

"Son, our creation has sinned. You know we are holy and this will separate us forever from our creation." "Father, I agree. This would separate us and we will have no relationship with them like we did when we walked in the garden." "Son—this means there has to be a sacrifice that is perfect, without sin or blemish, that can cleanse them from their sin." "Father, that is the only way we can be with them is to cleanse them from their sin. Let me be the sacrifice. I will die for our bride. I will take their place and take on the sin of the world." "Son, this means you will have to leave Your glory and be born into human creation. You will have to live on earth, die a death no human could withstand, and be raised back to life after three days." "Father, I will do that. I love them more than measure. I want to be able to have the relationship and intimacy like you and I have--with them."

The Bible also tells us that Jesus willingly went to the cross to die for us and even considered it joy!

In Hebrews 12:2 "Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

This is completely mind blowing to think of God taking our place to pay our sin debt and reconcile us back to Him. We do nothing but receive by faith the grace of God for our sin.

What you may not know is this is the picture of God's design of marriage. It also shows us the level of intimacy God wants to have with us—marriage. The most intimate relationship possible with human beings. God calls us His bride. The foundation of marriage is found in Ephesians 5. The parallel of the cross is found in verse 25 which states, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her." In the garden, Adam didn't stop his wife from eating the fruit, blamed her and told God it was her fault. Jesus, the perfect husband, does what he commands husbands to do. Love her as Christ and give yourself up for her. It was reversing the curse and also gave us the ability to have marriage reinstated as God intended.

God's plan is perfect and His love is measureless. He has plans for you and He wants to have a relationship with you. He can be found right now because He hasn't taken His spirit from the earth yet. Seek Him while you can find Him. He has so much for you that you can't even imagine. I can testify that I couldn't imagine some of the things God has done in my life. There are many testimonies. God wants you to have a testimony as well. He delights in you! Will you give Him your heart so He can help you to have life eternal? So you can live abundantly? Right now, say in your heart, "God, forgive me of my sins, come into my life and I want to live for you. I believe you lived, died and rose again for me." That's it! You have become a new creature as if you have been risen from the dead yourself. Start reading the Bible and get to know the Savior who loves you. Get into a family of Christ who can help to encourage you in your new life. You are so loved! You have a future! I can't wait to hear about it! I pray you have the fullness of His Spirit enfused with all power and glory of the Lord.

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Justified

BY LISA ESWAY



Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength. Mount up on wings like eagles. It takes a while to get our life together, it takes only a moment to get right with God. Father I am yours. Sometimes we don't call on God, He calls on us. I believe that God calls us all. In certain ways. In particular times. You could be called by God no one else knows the call He puts inside of you. He knows. God knew it all when He called me. My next step, my next season is going to involve things I never saw coming. But God saw it all when He called me. He foreknew.

Romans 8:29:
"For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His son."

Ahhhh.. So His calling is really about character and purpose The calling is less about where you go but more about who you are going to become when you get there. Be more committed and submitted and surrendered to the moment He has placed you in. God knew when He called you that He was calling you. Away. A half hearted me to a God who called ALL of me. And gave me all of Himself. So that I could be saved. And redeem. And justified.

Romans 8:30:
"And those He predestined, He also called. Those He called, He also justified. Those He justified, He also glorified."

God called me to be something ...a mother, a mentor, a leader, a servant. A minister to women. He has called me to glorify Him in a difficult situation... like jail, and prison, in the streets, and inside strip clubs. Inside my workplace. No matter what the situation God gives a revelation in every situation of who He is. That is changeless. Do not limit God with our own broken understanding of who He is. I AM.

There is a lot of room because there has to be. I am going to need God to be a lot of different things in my life at a lot of different times. I may be in the wilderness and thirsty. He will be that living water for my soul. Another time I may need guidance. I might be in the dark and need a pillar of fire to guide me. God will light up

the sky and show me the next step. I am justified all I will ever need is the next step. And He goes with me. That's why He said I AM... you see... things seem simple on the surface. If you don't dig down deep you won't get too complex. My potential is a mystery that will be revealed in my maturity. The more forward I decide to go and grow into what God speaks into me... the more I will see of what was there all along. Never use the point of view of my past. Because God has used all of that for all of this! Moses had passion. Moses had a past. Moses was a murderer. Have you ever been called to something but caught in something at the same time? I know that God is calling me forward but I am also caught in something. I am called to this but I am caught in that.

He knows exactly what He called you to do and He knows exactly what it is that you are caught in.

And God knew what you would be caught in when He called you to what He called you to. He knew He called me up even as He saw me caught up in the things I am walking through in my life right now. I am forgiven but I am not completely free yet. But How will He not also graciously give us all things? It's not just about you, He is God when I got it together He is also God when I don't got it together. He is water, He is fire. I was predestined to be here

God is calling me out of something that I am caught in because I see myself as justified.

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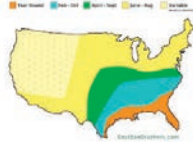
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MASKS AND BEADS

No-See-Ums and Mosquitoes in Southwest Florida

Residents often tell me they hate no-see-ums more than mosquitoes. These microscopic gnats slip through standard window screens and leave bites far more painful than a typical mosquito's. While both are blood feeders, they pose distinct challenges for SWFL. NO-SEE-UMS are nastier, but they do not pose a public health danger



The Collier Mosquito Control District (CMCD) operates as an independent special taxing district with the authority to levy ad valorem taxes. Currently, the district manages a \$60 million annual budget. This significant financial mandate requires a strong focus on public health and fiscal accountability.

No-see-ums are only 1 to 3mm—small enough to make standard screens useless. Only ultra-fine 20x20 mesh provides a barrier. Because they breed in vast coastal marshes, large-scale spraying is logistically difficult and ecologically sensitive. While they rarely spread disease to humans in Florida, their bites cause itchy, persistent welts. Control remains difficult due to the sheer biological volume of these insects.



For personal protection, I recommend treating gear and clothing with permethrin, such as Sawyer Products. This synthetic repellent offers strong protection. However, safety is paramount: permethrin is strictly for use on fabrics and gear. It should never be applied directly to human skin, as it can cause irritation and is not formulated for dermal absorption.



LIFESTYLE CHANGES

The CMCD must prioritize its resources on mosquitoes that transmit diseases. Trying to eliminate every nuisance gnat is a financial and logistical impossibility. The solution is straightforward: if you take steps to avoid mosquitoes—like wearing treated clothing and avoiding the outdoors at dawn and dusk—you will also achieve a partial victory against no-see-ums.

BEBE KANTER

After moving to Naples 14 years ago, Bebe Kanter developed an interest in insect disease vectors after suffering from unexplained skin welts. Discovering inadequate window screens prompted her to focus on mosquito control. Now, seeking election, she plans to launch a public health initiative to help residents and their dogs avoid insect bites.

Everyone deserves a second chance.



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The Fort Myers Republican Women's Club Spring Fling was a huge success. Razzle Dazzle the unique women's boutique located in Cape Coral did an excellent job seeing the show and adding lots of excitement. This is the annual fundraiser with an amazing silent auction to boot.



Above from left: Lynn Carpenter, Angela Melvin, MaryAnne Preston, Claudia Zambor, Rachele Mills, Lauri Albion, Kathy Smith, Lilly Canfield



Above: Madison Cawthorne candidate for Congressional district 19, Giselle "GiGi" Gentile Candidate for Lee County school board district 4, and future Lee County commissioner Amanda Cochran were in attendance as well.



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FIX THE CIVIC CENTER

By: Amanda Cochran



Lee County has consistently shown a strong and growing demand for agricultural and civic events.

The recent 65th Annual Cracker Day Rodeo, hosted by the Lee County Posse, was a tremendous success — exactly as many in our community expected.

Year after year, the Posse demonstrates exceptional leadership, volunteerism, and a deep commitment to Lee County agricultural activities. As a non-profit organization, they consistently deliver high-quality events using their own property and resources.

And yet, this year, many people were turned away.

Not because of poor planning.

Not because of lack of effort.

And certainly not because of the Posse.

The reality is simple: demand exceeded capacity.

A PROVEN DEMAND — AND A MISSED OPPORTUNITY

The success of Posse rodeo events makes one thing clear: Lee County has a strong and growing demand for agricultural and civic events.

Just a short distance away from the Lee County Posse Rodeo Grounds sits a county-owned asset that could help meet that demand — the Lee County Civic Center at Mike Greenwell Regional Park.

- 100 acres
- 65,000-square-foot arena

- 12 years ago, it could seat 7,800 people

For decades, this facility served the community. Today, it sits underutilized — not because it's unusable, but because it has not been properly maintained.

THE FIX IS NOT COMPLICATED

For years, residents have asked county leadership for basic, practical improvements:

- Replace seating
- Renovate restrooms

These are not extravagant requests. They are fundamental upgrades that would allow the arena to return to its full 7,800-seat capacity and functionality — something it sustained for decades.

In 2022, an independent assessment by engineering and environmental consulting firm, Weston & Sampson confirmed that the Civic Center structure remains sound.

This is not a question of feasibility.

It is a question of priority.

Restoring the Civic Center is not about replacing the Lee County Posse or diminishing its role.

It's about supporting organizations like them — providing a venue that can meet the demand they have spent decades building through trust, consistency, and community engagement.

A functional Civic Center could once again host:

- Large-scale Rodeos
- Large-scale Equestrian Events
- Concerts and Graduations

- Large Trade Expos

- Other Major Community Gatherings

While outdoor venues serve well in cooler months, Florida's extreme heat and unpredictable storm weather limit their use. An indoor, air-conditioned, functional facility would once again allow events to take place year-round - benefiting nonprofits, small businesses, and residents alike.

THE COST OF INACTION - WHAT IS PREVENTING PROGRESS?

In March 2023, following the sudden and unnecessary closure of the Civic Center by the Board of County Commissioners, Lee County lost long-standing contracted vendors — including the Citrus Expo, which had been held there for over three decades.

These losses were not due to lack of interest.

They were the result of inaction and a failure to maintain one of the largest county-owned facilities.

In recent years, county leadership has attributed deferred maintenance to hurricanes, COVID-19, and prior nonprofit management. Yet other county-owned event facilities have continued to receive consistent maintenance and investment.

With a population exceeding 850,000, Lee County should be a regional hub for large-scale agricultural events. Instead, those opportunities — and the economic activity that comes with them — are being lost.

When fully operational, the Civic Center has the potential to:

- Attract statewide and regional events
- Generate millions in tourism revenue
- Support local hotels, restaurants, and businesses

Revenue from events in previous years has historically helped offset operating costs. Maintaining a community-ready facility is not just a community investment — it is fiscally responsible.

A QUESTION WORTH ASKING

Why hasn't existing tourism development tax revenue (bed tax) been used to make these basic improvements such as seating to allow the arena to be fully functional?

Why does a county of this size lack a fully functional agricultural and civic venue?

Consider this: DeSoto County, with a population under 40,000, operates the Turner Agri-Civic Center — a fully functional facility with adequate seating.

Lee County, with a population of more than 850,000, does not.

From Discussion to Action

For years, the Civic Center has been the subject of studies, surveys, and ongoing discussions — with little to show in terms of action.

These discussions by county leaders point to a larger question: how long will it take

to move from conversation to action? How can a county government of this size fail to provide basic seating at a structurally sound facility, limiting its ability to serve the community—particularly senior citizens, disabled veterans, and other residents?

In 2021, developers submitted a proposal to Lee County for a public-private partnership (P3) that would have included demolishing all the existing Civic Center facilities to make way for large-scale redevelopment.

At the February 23, 2026 Budget and Strategic Planning Workshop, the District 5 Commissioner raised the suggestion again of pursuing an invitation for public-private partnership at the Civic Center site.

Yet public input has consistently and loudly shown strong support for preserving and improving the Civic Center for its intended use.

This raises an important question:

Are current discussions aligned with the clearly expressed priorities of Lee County residents?

A PRACTICAL PATH FORWARD

Rather than spending years on additional plans, studies, and long-range concepts, there is a practical path in front of Lee County leaders — implementing the basic improvements now and utilizing an asset

the county already owns. Residents should not have to wait years.

Because the reality is if we wait for a brand-new Civic Center, it may never materialize. County leadership has already expressed concerns about funding large-scale capital projects. In the meantime, the cost of inaction continues to grow — and residents are left without a facility that once served all of Southwest Florida.

The continued success of events like the ones at the Lee County Posse Rodeo Arena demonstrates something very clearly — the demand exists.

THE BOTTOM LINE

The path ahead should be:

Make the necessary improvements now and put this building back into fully functional service.

If the Civic Center is restored, the events — and the people — will follow.

The demand is proven.

The structure is sound.

The neglect is undeniable.

Lee County deserves an agricultural and civic facility that meets the needs of its community.



Dear Editor of the SWFL Chronicle,

I am writing to share my opinion about the upcoming county commissioner election and why I believe Kim Amontree will win over the current county commissioner. Many people are talking about this race, and I think it's important to understand why Kim Amontree is the better choice for our community.

First, I want to talk about Kim Amontree's experience and dedication. Kim has been involved in our community for many years. She has worked hard to improve our schools, parks, and local businesses. She cares about what people in SWFL need and is willing to listen to residents' concerns. She has a strong record of volunteering and making positive changes, which shows she truly cares about our area.

In contrast, the current county commissioner has been in office for a while, but many residents feel he hasn't done enough to address important issues. Some believe he is more focused on politics than on helping the people. He even made racist remarks and tried to smooth it over. It's important that our county leader listens to the needs of the community and takes action, and many think Kim is more committed to that than the current commissioner.

One of the biggest issues in our county is growth and development. Our community is growing fast, and we need someone who can manage this growth responsibly. Kim Amontree has shown that she understands the importance of balancing new development with protecting our environment and quality of life. She supports smart growth policies that prevent overbuilding and ensure that our natural spaces are preserved.

The current commissioner, on the other hand, has been criticized for supporting policies that encourage rapid development without enough regard for traffic, pollution, and the strain on our public services. Many residents are worried that if growth is not managed carefully, it could lead to more traffic jams, loss of green spaces, and higher taxes. Kim's approach is to listen to residents and work on plans that benefit our community now and in the future.

Another reason why Kim Amontree will win is her focus on public safety. She believes that everyone should feel safe in their neighborhoods. She supports better policing and community programs to reduce crime. Plus she gets along with our Sheriff very well. The current commissioner has not made enough progress in improving safety, and some residents feel more secure with Kim's ideas and plans.

Kim also cares about education. She understands that our children's future depends on good schools and opportunities. She has supported initiatives to improve school facilities and increase resources for teachers and students. A strong education system helps our community grow stronger and more successful.

In addition, Kim is known for being honest and approachable. She takes the time to talk with residents and understands their concerns. She is open to new ideas and willing to work with different groups of people to find solutions. This kind of leadership is what Charlotte County needs right now—someone who listens, cares, and acts.

Many people also appreciate Kim's honesty and transparency. She is not just talking about making promises but actually working to deliver results. Her honesty builds trust, which is very important in a leader. When leaders are honest and transparent, residents feel more confident that their voices are heard and their interests are protected.

In conclusion, I believe Kim Amontree is the best choice for county commissioner because of her experience, dedication, and focus on the issues that matter most to our community. She understands the importance of responsible growth, public safety, education, and honesty. I am confident that she will work hard to make Charlotte County a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

I encourage everyone to look at what Kim stands for and consider voting for her in the upcoming election. Our community deserves a leader who truly cares and is committed to making positive changes. Kim Amontree is that leader, and I believe she will win because more people are recognizing her dedication and plans for our future.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,

Debbie Ford



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In a world captivated by dramatic turnarounds and underdog victories, the idea of a "Comeback" resonates far beyond sports arenas. Comeback stories remind us that defeat is never final. For people of faith, the ultimate example is the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In Luke 24:1-7, His followers discover the empty tomb, a moment that symbolizes victory over death and the promise of new life. No matter how difficult life may seem, restoration is always within reach. Though we are all born into sin and separated from God, Romans 10:9-10 reminds us that through faith and confession, we are offered salvation—a personal comeback that restores our purpose and connection with Christ.

This message of redemption is reflected in both extraordinary and everyday moments. From historic sports comebacks to personal battles, people continue to overcome addiction, rebuild relationships, recover from illness, and persevere through hardship. These journeys become powerful testimonies that change is possible. As believers, we understand that such transformation is not by human strength alone, but through divine power at work within us. Scripture assures us that present struggles are temporary and cannot compare to the glory ahead, encouraging us to endure with hope.

At the center of it all is the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. What appeared to be a devastating defeat became the greatest victory in history when He rose three days later, demonstrating power over death. As Resurrection Sunday approaches, we are reminded that no situation is beyond redemption. I pray this message is clear: everyone has the opportunity for a comeback, and often the greatest victories follow what seemed like the greatest defeats.

With Love,
Pastor Demetrius Thomas



*Pastor Demetrius Thomas
St. Mary Baptist Church
of Punta Gorda*

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AMONTREE
FOR CHARLOTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONER
CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE





Having gone through the trenches of unforgiving challenges, she now walks in wisdom, no longer seeking validation from others.

She knows how to speak, when to speak, and when to just listen.

She understands that the foundation of a house is the most valuable part of a home yet it is never seen. Meaning that not everything needs to be shared in order to be understood or appreciated.

When she moves, she moves with grace and without the need to attract attention, but without a word she commands respect. Because she knows that only the Queen has the full ability to move at all angles on a chessboard.

There's wisdom and discipline in her silence. Understanding that no explanation is ever needed. She knows her wisdom may not always be recognized by those who don't possess it or understand it so she stands tall and confident.

She's been compared to diamonds that are built to withstand tremendous pressure and pearls that comes from the ocean locked in the shell of an oyster and even gold that is only found in the depths of the earth. Because neither of these precious jewels is found on the surface, she knows the value is in its rarity.

She understands the complexities of her struggles, her battles, and her bruises because they gave her undeniable strength and are the very reason she's learned to be silent for hearing and healing. She knows that because of her quietness, she's viewed as cold, shy, or even unkind however, she knows her purpose is greater than the approval of mankind.

She doesn't live by societal limitations of being told that if you don't bear all, or all of your heart, your not trustworthy. Because she understands that no matter how much she tries to explain herself they will never understand the kind of wealth she has because her journey takes an unfamiliar path.

She realizes that most people see through reflective lenses therefore can't see beyond their own selfish perspectives.

So she's learned not to live for the understanding of people, but for the understanding of the Most High. She allows her steps to be guided not by hers but by those of the one who created she.

She embraced that in the right season, for the right reasons, at the right place, and during the right time she would be granted a blessing. Gifted to her the one who will understand the depths of her soul, accept her flaws, and realize her true worth. The gift that found her knows that she is clothed in strength and in dignity, bound by determination, and rooted in faith.

You see, she patiently waited for the one who's meant to understand her journey and resonate within her testimony and will accept her and passionately, gently embrace all of her bumps, battles, and bruises that have become beauty marks to the one who affectionately captures all the corners of her heart.

To give up or to have settled was never an option because she knows, she knows, she knows Her Worth.





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APRIL 15, 2026



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Location: North Water Treatment Plant,
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Time: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Presentation: 9:30 AM, Tour immediately following presentation

Reminder: Closed toe shoes required for tour.

Think of it as a different kind of audit – one that actually shows you where things go! Enjoy an informative, engaging (and slightly less taxing) experience.

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Dear Friends and Supporters of the Arts,

History is rarely a static thing found only in dusty textbooks; sometimes, it is a living, breathing pulse waiting for the right moment to be heard. Today, we stand on the precipice of a monumental cultural event for Southwest Florida, thanks to the visionary dedication of the Koller family and the Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers. They put on an awesome performance at First Presbyterian Church. A special thank you to the City of Ft. Myers councilwoman Teresa Watkins Brown for attending.

At the heart of this excitement is Artistic Director Matthew Koller, whose commitment to both musical excellence and familial legacy has unearthed a national treasure. Matthew has painstakingly transcribed the handwritten journal entries of his great-great-grandfather, a Union soldier who served during the American Civil War. These aren't just historical records; they are raw, intimate dispatches from one of the most transformative eras in our nation's history.

To honor these stories, the Mastersingers have taken a bold and brilliant step by commissioning the world-renowned contemporary composer Thomas LaVoy to compose a Civil War

Cantata based entirely on these journals. Most major choral repertoire is built upon the foundation of sacred masses, requiems, oratorios, and traditional cantatas. While those works are timeless, this project offers something truly unique. Instead of liturgical Latin or ancient texts, we are breathing life into the "untold stories" of an American soldier. We are moving from the abstract to the deeply personal, sharing the specific hopes, fears, and daily realities of a man who lived through the fire of the 1860s. By centering a major choral and orchestral work on these primary source documents, the Koller family and the Mastersingers are creating a bridge across time. This is more than a concert; it is a historical reclamation. Bringing a work of this magnitude and form to our area does more than just fill a concert hall—it increases social awareness and fosters vital dialogue. Music has the singular power to humanize history, turning dates and battle sites into feelings and shared experiences.

This Civil War Cantata will:

- **Unify the Region:** By drawing on local talent and a universal American story, it invites diverse audiences to reflect on our shared heritage.
- **Spark Dialogue:** The performance serves as a catalyst for conversations about courage, sacrifice, and the evolution of our society.
- **Elevate the Arts:** This commission places Fort Myers on the map as a hub for contemporary classical innovation.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the Koller family for their stewardship of these journals and to the Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers for their courage in commissioning new art. This project proves that when we look back with respect, we find the inspiration to move forward with harmony.

If you see the performance: prepare to be emotionally touched, prepare to be moved, prepare to be enlightened, and prepare to witness history set to music. This is a journey through the soul of a soldier, and it is an experience you will not want to miss.

With profound excitement,
Michael H. Blank





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GUEST PSALMIST
TANESHA HUNT

To the Citizens and Residents of Bonita Springs,

As the vibrant community of Bonita Springs continues to grow and evolve, the importance of steady, principled leadership has never been more apparent. The decisions made within the walls of City Hall ripple through your neighborhoods, affecting your quality of life, your local economy, and the natural beauty that defines your home. It is with a deep sense of civic duty and personal conviction that I am writing to share my observations regarding three individuals who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the well-being of Bonita Springs: Councilmen Nigel Fullick and Jamie Bogacz, and County Commissioner Ray Sandelli.

In observing the local political landscape, it is often very easy to become disillusioned by the noise of modern governance, or some elected official making bonehead decisions or statements (e.g. like the Commissioner Stephen Deutsch of Charlotte County who used the “N WORD.”

However, when you look closely at the actions of Councilpeople Nigel Fullick and Jamie Bogacz, a different picture emerges—one of “integrity, purpose, and intent.” These are not merely buzzwords; they are the pillars upon which these two have built their service to our city.

Integrity in public office is characterized by a consistency between one’s words and one’s actions. Both Fullick and Bogacz have shown a remarkable ability to stand by their principles, even when faced with complex or controversial issues. They approach each council meeting not with a predetermined agenda, but with a sincere desire to listen to the concerns of the residents they represent. Their “purpose” is clear: the long-term health and stability of Bonita Springs. They don’t give a fat baby’s “load” about popularity. They have the interest of the people in mind. Whether discussing infrastructure, environmental preservation, or fiscal responsibility, their “intent” is always rooted in what serves the many rather than the few. They represent a brand of leadership that prioritizes the citizen’s voice, ensuring that the unique character of our city is protected for future generations.

Last but not least is my buddie Ray Sandelli.

“I will cherish the dialog and wisdom Ray Shared with me at the Caloosa Sound Convention after an event. Ray gave me jewels and advice that is priceless and I am forever grateful to him for taking the time to share his wisdom with me.”

McKinley G. Williams

While local council members are vital to our immediate governance, the collaboration between city and county leadership is equally essential. This brings me to Ray Sandelli. My personal interactions with Ray have left an indelible mark on my understanding of what it means to be a true public servant.

Ray Sandelli possesses a “wealth of wisdom” that he shares generously and without pretension. In an era where political discourse can often feel shallow, Ray offers depth. He draws from a vast reservoir of “business experience” that allows him to view community challenges through a pragmatic, results-oriented lens. His background in the private sector isn’t just a line on a resume; it is a toolset he uses to ensure that public resources are managed with the same efficiency and foresight as a successful enterprise.

What distinguishes Ray most, however, is the “unselfish manner” in which he serves. He does not seek the spotlight or personal accolades. Instead, he focuses on the work—mentoring others, sharing insights, and helping navigate the complexities of regional growth. I have been the fortunate recipient of his insights, and I can say with certainty that his guidance is rooted in a genuine desire to see our region thrive. He understands that a leader’s greatest legacy is not what they build for themselves, but the knowledge and support they provide to others to keep the community moving forward.

The synergy between leaders like Fullick, Bogacz, and Sandelli creates a framework of stability that is rare in today’s political climate. When we have council members who act with intentionality and a former Lee County Commissioner like Ray who provides a foundation of seasoned wisdom, the entire community benefits.

- **INTEGRITY:** We need leaders who are beyond reproach and whose primary motivation is the public good.
- **EXPERIENCE:** We need the steady hand of those who understand the economic drivers of our region.
- **SERVICE:** We need individuals who view their roles as a sacrifice of time and energy for the betterment of their neighbors.

Because of the dedication I have witnessed, I will “always support” Ray Sandelli. His willingness to share his time and his brilliance has earned my lifelong respect. Similarly, the work being done by Nigel Fullick and Jamie Bogacz at the municipal level gives me great confidence in the direction the City of Bonita Springs is going. They have proven themselves to be diligent stewards of our trust.

A PERSONAL ENDORSEMENT

It is for these reasons that I “personally endorse” Nigel Fullick, Jamie Bogacz, and Ray Sandelli. Leadership is not just about holding a title; it is about the character of the person holding it. These three have demonstrated, through consistent action and unselfish service, that they are the right choice for Bonita Springs.

I “urge others to do the same” and support these individuals. As residents, your most powerful tool is your voice and your vote. By supporting leaders who operate with integrity and a wealth of experience, you ensure that Bonita Springs remains a place of opportunity, beauty, and strong community spirit.

Let us choose the path of purposeful leadership. Let us support those who have already proven they are willing to do the hard work of serving us all with excellence.

Sincerely,

McKinley G. Williams
 Publisher, THE SWFL CHRONICLE



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Illuminating History: Students Explore the Legacy of Lewis Latimer in Mock Trial

Southwest Florida Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. Hosts 2026 Mock Trial

Fort Myers, FL – The Southwest Florida Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. hosted its 2026 Mock Trial, “Latimer v. Edison”: A Trial to Defend and Illuminate the Legacy of Lewis Latimer, on Friday, March 13, 2026, at 1:00 PM in Courtroom 2B of the Lee County Courthouse. Presiding over the proceedings was the honorable Judge Devon S. George, providing students with an authentic courtroom experience as they examined the historical legacy and contributions of inventor Lewis Latimer.

The case was authored and facilitated by Jack and Jill Dad and attorney James L. Holloway III, a partner at Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP, who guided participants through the legal framework and preparation process. Students also received mentorship from local attorneys Kristie Scott, Andrea Fraser, and Joe North, whose guidance helped them develop advocacy skills, courtroom strategy, and a deeper understanding of the legal system.

After several preparation sessions and a Business Etiquette Workshop, students entered the courtroom prepared and confident. This year’s program introduced a dynamic format with Junior Teens serving as the jury while Teens represented the plaintiffs and defendants, creating a realistic and engaging trial experience. Participants demonstrated strong critical thinking, teamwork, and persuasive advocacy as they delivered opening statements, examined witnesses, and presented closing arguments.

“Our Mock Trial program continues to be a powerful example of how experiential learning can inspire and empower our youth,” said Chapter President Autumn Watkins Holloway. “This year’s trial challenged students to think critically about history and justice while celebrating

the brilliance and contributions of Lewis Latimer. Our young people truly showcased preparation, confidence, and excellence.”

Best Team (Defendants): Jairus Boyd II, Telicia Carter, Jayden Davis, Lydia-Joi Holloway, and Akeem Watkins

Special Awards:

- Most Outstanding Advocate: Jayden Davis, Cypress Lake High School
- Spirit of Advocacy Award: Jordyn Scot, Gateway Intermediate Charter School
- MVP – Plaintiff’s Team: Tamia Hernandez, Dunbar High School
- MVP – Defendant’s Team: Lydia-Joi Holloway, Fort Myers High School

The event was hosted by Jack and Jill mothers Autumn and Kristie, alongside youth hosts Lydia-Joi, James, Jordyn, and Jaylyn. The Chapter extends sincere appreciation to the attorney mentors, court officials, parents, and community supporters whose support made this meaningful educational experience possible.

View the photo album from the event here: [2026 Mock Trial Photos](#)

For more information about this event or the Southwest Florida Chapter’s ongoing initiatives, please visit the chapter’s social media page or contact:

Autumn Watkins Holloway at HollowayFamilyAutumn@gmail.com or (239) 898-7577.



About Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

Jack and Jill of America, Inc. is a membership organization of mothers dedicated to nurturing future African-American leaders by strengthening children through leadership development, volunteer service, philanthropic giving, and civic duty. Founded in 1938, Jack and Jill boasts 271 chapters nationwide, representing more than 50,000 family members. The organization continues to empower children through a wide array of enriching programs and activities. For more information, visit the organization’s website at JackandJillInc.org.

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HOW SENIORS CAN REIGNITE ROMANCE WITH HUMOR AND *Heart*

VERNON BROWN, THE DUNBAR SHADETREE PHD

Romance isn't a spring fling you outgrow; it's a long-running TV series you keep updating with new seasons. For seniors, the challenge isn't a lack of love, but a need for fresh energy, playful detours, and a reminder that intimacy can evolve—like a fine wine, not a stale bottle in the back of the pantry. Here's a practical, warm, and lightly humorous guide to keeping the flame burning bright well into the golden years.

Many people assume that once you're past retirement, romance becomes a quiet hum rather than a bold symphony. That's true for some, but not for all. The secret is reframing "spice" as something flexible, not flashy. Spicy can mean shared laughter over a misprinted recipe, rather than a risky midnight errand. It can be whispered conversations after a long day, a touch as you pass in the kitchen, or a memory that you revisit with a wink. The key is recognizing that romance isn't a single mode of operation; it's an evolving practice—one that rewards patience, curiosity, and a willingness to try new things (even if you need to write them down in big, legible letters).

There are a lot of misconceptions we (men and women) need to let go of. For example:

- **Misconception A:** Age means no desire. Reality: Desire may travel at a different speed, but it can still steer the ship.
- **Misconception B:** Routine equals dull. Reality: Routine can be a canvas for spontaneous color, especially when you add a dash of playfulness. Like swimming in the pool together or having a private tea time to embrace the moment and truly bask in the moment with that special someone.
- **Misconception C:** Humor undermines romance. Reality: Humor often deepens connection by lowering defenses and inviting closeness. Also, humor adds a bit of vulnerability in the relationship because of its candid openness. More importantly, humor says I'm willing to be silly enough to make you laugh because your happiness means everything to me.

Letting go of these myths frees you to experiment with affection in small, manageable ways.

CREATIVE WAYS TO BRING BACK THE LITTLE JOLT

1) PLAYFUL RITUALS

Create tiny rituals that belong only to you two. It could be a nightly "three compliments" routine, a Sunday "roast your partner's favorite memory" session, or a shared playlist that flips from classic love songs to goofy oldie tracks that make you laugh. The ritual is less about grand gestures and more about predictable delight—the kind that makes you smile from the moment you wake.



2) ADVENTURE, LIGHTLY SPICED

Adventure doesn't have to involve skydiving or speedboats. It can mean trying a new activity together: a dance class, a cooking workshop, or even a virtual reality tour of a place you've never visited. The goal is to generate fresh shared experiences. You'll have stories to tell, which naturally stirs conversation—and laughter. You can even go to a beach town and peruse the shops for his and her manicures and pedicures. You can even stop by an oceanside restaurant outside and people watch. You can even share two crispy cream donuts and joke about the ways you both will work it off. (SMILE)

3) COMMUNICATION AS COMFORT, NOT CRITIQUE

Open, kind communication is the lifeblood of lasting romance. Share what feels good and what doesn't, in a manner that invites collaboration rather than defensiveness. "I miss the way we used to connect in the evenings" beats "You never listen to me." The former invites joint problem-solving; the latter traps you in blame. When in doubt, pause, breathe, reflect, and then say what you need with warmth. Communication is crucial with the one you love, and if you really care for them ALWAYS speak the truth in love. It is important to let your sweetheart know your likes, wants, and dislikes in a loving manner by paying attention to the tone of your words.

4) TOUCH WITHOUT PRESSURE

Affection can be as simple as a hand on the back, a squeeze, or a soft kiss on the forehead. The goal is not to perform but to acknowledge the other person's presence. If one partner isn't in the mood, respect that and offer a different form of closeness later. Consistency matters as much. Sometimes as seniors there may be health issues that limit affection every now and then. However, nothing beats a sincere hug that says; It's ok. I just want to be close to you, because you mean everything to me.

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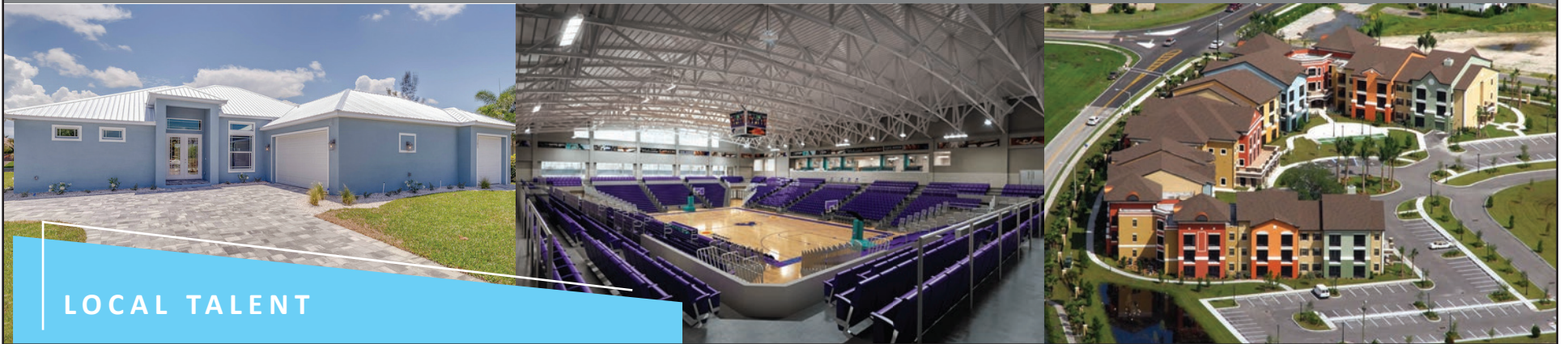
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On Vietnam Memorial Day 2026,

the community gathered at Veterans Park in Punta Gorda for a meaningful Huey helicopter groundbreaking ceremony, marking a powerful addition to the Vietnam Wall of Southwest Florida.

The event brought together veterans, families, and community leaders in a shared moment of reflection and gratitude. The iconic Huey, synonymous with the Vietnam War, stands as a symbol of courage, sacrifice, and the unbreakable bond among those who served. As the first shovels broke ground, attendees were reminded that this memorial continues to grow not just in structure, but in purpose and significance.

The Vietnam Wall of Southwest Florida honors the more than 58,300 men and women who gave their lives in service to our nation. Beyond remembrance, the wall serves as an enduring educational tribute—ensuring that present and future generations understand the history, lessons, and human cost of the Vietnam War. Events like this groundbreaking reinforce a solemn commitment: to never forget those who sacrificed, and to carry forward the responsibility of preserving their legacy so that such turbulent times are never repeated.





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HOW TO TRADE THE “DEAD CAT BOUNCE” ON WALL STREET

BY MCKINLEY G. WILLIAMS

The best time periods in “the market” is when all Hell breaks loose in the market and the bottom falls out. I recall Dave yelled “Drop an expletive ticket it’s gonna do a dead cat bounce!”

Few phrases are as vivid as the “dead cat bounce!” Popularized during sharp market downturns—including the crashes of Dow Jones Industrial Average and the volatility seen in the S&P 500—the term describes a temporary recovery in the price of a declining stock or market, followed by a continuation of the downtrend. The idea is blunt: even a dead cat will bounce if it falls far enough.

For traders, the dead cat bounce (DCB) presents both opportunity and risk. When recognized and traded correctly, it can offer high-probability short setups. When misread, it can trap traders in premature positions against a genuine reversal. This article explores how to identify, confirm, and trade a dead cat bounce effectively.

What Is a Dead Cat Bounce?

A dead cat bounce typically occurs after a sharp and often emotional sell-off. Prices fall rapidly due to panic selling, negative news, or systemic shocks. Eventually, the selling pressure becomes temporarily exhausted. Short sellers take profits, bargain hunters step in, and prices rebound. However, the key feature is this: the bounce lacks strong fundamentals or structural support. Once the temporary buying pressure fades, the prevailing downtrend resumes, often breaking to new lows.

Historically, dead cat bounces have appeared during major downturns such as the 2008 financial crisis and the early 2020 pandemic crash. Many traders misinterpreted these rallies as trend reversals, only to see markets roll over again.

The Psychology Behind the Bounce

Understanding psychology is crucial.

- 1. Capitulation:** A steep decline creates fear. Weak hands sell aggressively.
- 2. Short covering:** Traders who were short lock in profits, creating buying pressure.

- 3. Value perception:** Some investors perceive the stock as “cheap” after a large drop.
- 4. Hope:** Retail traders often mistake a relief rally for a bottom.

But without improving fundamentals or broader market strength, the bounce lacks durability. Institutional money may use the rally to unload additional shares at better prices.

How to Identify a Dead Cat Bounce

While no setup is guaranteed, several characteristics commonly define a dead cat bounce:

1. Strong Prior Downtrend

The stock should already be in a clear bearish trend—lower highs and lower lows. A DCB is a continuation



pattern, not an initial breakdown.

2. Sharp, Vertical Drop

Look for a dramatic sell-off, often on high volume. The sharper the drop, the more likely a reflex rally will follow.

3. Weak Bounce Structure

The rebound tends to be choppy and corrective rather than impulsive. Volume often decreases during the bounce.

4. Resistance Confluence

The bounce frequently stalls near:

- Previous support turned resistance
- 20-day or 50-day moving averages
- Fibonacci retracement levels (38.2% or 50%)
- Prior breakdown zones

The rally’s inability to break through these levels is a warning sign that the broader trend remains intact.

Step-by-Step Strategy to Trade It

Step 1: Wait for the Bounce

Patience is critical. Do not short into the initial collapse. After a severe drop, markets are often oversold. Entering too early risks being caught in a powerful short-covering rally.

Allow the bounce to develop toward resistance.

Step 2: Look for Reversal Signals

At resistance, watch for confirmation that the bounce is losing steam:

- Bearish engulfing candlesticks
- Shooting star patterns
- Lower highs on intraday charts
- Declining volume
- RSI rolling over from neutral levels

Confirmation reduces the chance of mistaking a true trend reversal for a dead cat bounce.

Step 3: Plan Entry and Risk Management

A common entry approach is to short when price fails at resistance and breaks below the prior day's low.

Stop-loss placement is critical:

- Above the bounce high
- Above key resistance or moving averages

Risk management is non-negotiable. Dead cat bounces can sometimes evolve into genuine reversals.

Step 4: Set Profit Targets

Targets may include:

- Prior swing low
- Measured move equal to the prior drop
- Key support zones

Some traders scale out, taking partial profits at the first target and trailing stops to capture further downside.

Example Scenario

Imagine a stock that drops from \$100 to \$70 in five trading sessions after disappointing earnings. Panic sets in. Volume spikes. Two days later, the stock rebounds to \$82, approaching the previous support level around \$85 that recently broke.

Volume during the rebound is significantly lighter than during the sell-off. The stock prints a bearish reversal candle near \$82.

A trader might:

- Enter short at \$80
- Place a stop at \$84 (above resistance)
- Target a move back toward \$70 or lower

If the broader market—such as the Nasdaq Composite—is also trending lower, the probability of continuation increases.

When Not to Trade a Dead Cat Bounce

Not every bounce is a trap. Avoid trading the pattern when:

- Strong fundamental catalysts support recovery.

- The broader market is in a confirmed uptrend.
- Institutional accumulation is visible.
- Volume expands during the rebound.

In such cases, what appears to be a dead cat bounce may actually be a V-shaped recovery.

Tools That Help

Professional traders use a combination of:

- Volume analysis
- Moving averages (20, 50, 200-day)
- RSI and MACD
- Market breadth indicators
- Sector performance comparisons

For instance, if a stock bounces but its sector ETF continues to decline, weakness is likely to resume.

Trading dead cat bounces can be profitable but dangerous.

1. **Short squeezes:** Crowded short positions can trigger explosive upside rallies.
2. **News shocks:** Unexpected announcements can invalidate the setup.
3. **Emotional bias:** Traders eager to “call the top” may enter prematurely.

Discipline, confirmation, and defined risk parameters are essential.

The dead cat bounce is a classic continuation setup in bearish markets. It thrives on emotion—fear during the drop, hope during the rebound. By understanding its structure and psychology, traders can position themselves on the right side of the prevailing trend.

However, no strategy guarantees success. The key lies in patience, confirmation, and strict risk management. When properly executed, trading the dead cat bounce can become a powerful addition to a trader's Wall Street playbook—especially during volatile periods when major indices like the Russell 2000 are under sustained pressure.

As with all strategies, education, practice, and discipline separate professional execution from costly mistakes.



Will Senator Jonathan Martin, Rep. Jenna Persons-Mulicka, and Governor Ron DeSantis

DISMANTLE

THE IUPAT UNION?

In Florida, the future of organized labor, especially unions like the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT), is uncertain. Leaders like Governor Ron DeSantis, Senator Jonathan Martin, and political Rep. Jenna Persons-Mulicka are actively working to weaken or dismantle unions across the state. They are employing a variety of strategies that threaten the existence and influence of IUPAT. Understanding these methods helps us see how their actions could significantly diminish union power in Florida.

One of the primary ways DeSantis, Martin, and Persons-Mulicka plan to dismantle IUPAT is through new laws that restrict union activities. They support legislation that makes it harder for unions to organize workers. For example, they promote laws requiring workers to pay union fees directly out of their paychecks, which can discourage union membership because workers may choose to avoid the hassle or costs. They also push for "right-to-work" laws, which allow workers to benefit from union negotiations without being required to join or pay dues. These laws weaken the union's financial resources and reduce their bargaining strength. Additionally, they support rules that make union elections more difficult. This includes requiring lengthy certification processes or increasing the paperwork and legal hurdles unions must clear to organize workers. By creating barriers, they aim to slow down or prevent union growth, effectively starving IUPAT of new members and influence.

DeSantis and Persons-Mulicka also seek to restrict the ways unions can communicate and reach workers. They may back policies that limit union representatives' access to workplaces. For instance, they may pass laws that prevent union organizers from entering job sites or holding meetings during work hours. This limits union outreach efforts, making it harder for IUPAT to recruit new members or provide support to current members. Furthermore, they may push for laws that restrict union advertising or communication through social media and other

platforms. This reduces the union's ability to raise awareness about workers' rights or mobilize members for collective action, which is vital for maintaining union strength.

In addition to legislative tactics, DeSantis, Martin, and Persons-Mulicka plan to use the legal system to weaken unions like IUPAT. They may support court cases that challenge the legality of union activities, such as campaign efforts or collective bargaining negotiations. By litigating against unions, they aim to create legal uncertainty and drain union resources through costly court battles.

They might also support legislation that limits the legal power of unions to negotiate contracts or enforce worker protections. For example, laws that restrict the scope of bargaining or limit the types of issues unions can negotiate on could significantly weaken IUPAT's influence.

DeSantis and Persons-Mulicka are also working to shape public opinion against unions. They often portray unions as unnecessary or even harmful to economic progress. They may emphasize stories of corruption or inefficiency within unions to create skepticism among the general public.

Nepotism is a form of discrimination in Unions according to labor law. However, many unions including IUPAT have made sure their relatives are vested in five years and conversely there are workers who have been working 15 years or more and

are still NOT vested. **MANY OF THE MEMBERS " NOT " VESTED ARE REPUBLICAN. THIS IS A BLATANT VIOLATION.....**which COULD be the downfall of IUPAT. This negative perception among workers unfortunately falls on deaf ears. In fact, one manager was warned a year in advance about workforce retaliation and that stupid bastard still retaliated even after being warned.

This negative perception makes it easier for them to pass legislation that targets unions, including IUPAT. The goal is to sway voters and lawmakers alike to support policies that limit union power, ultimately leading to a decline in union membership and influence.

The ultimate goal of these strategies is to weaken IUPAT's ability



From Top, left to right:
Senator Jonathan Martin
Rep. Jenna Persons-Mulicka
Attorney Ben Crump
Councilwoman Darla Bonk
Cape Coral City Manager Michael Ilczyszyn
Yolanda Clark Cade
Governor Ron Desantis

to advocate for workers. Without strong unions, workers are less likely to have fair wages, safe working conditions, or job security. DeSantis and Persons-Mulicka argue that dismantling unions promotes individual freedom and economic growth, but critics believe it leaves workers vulnerable to exploitation and unfair treatment.

As union influence declines, many workers in the trades and other industries may find it increasingly challenging to secure the benefits and protections they currently enjoy. The erosion of union power would likely lead to lower wages, less job security, and diminished workplace safety standards.

Jenna Persons-Mulicka and Governor Ron DeSantis are actively working to dismantle unions like IUPAT in Florida through a combination of legislative restrictions, legal challenges, and public opinion campaigns. Their strategies include passing laws that limit union organization and communication, supporting court actions to weaken union rights, and shaping public perception to reduce support for organized labor. If successful, these efforts could significantly diminish the influence of IUPAT and other unions, leaving workers with fewer protections and less power to negotiate for fair wages and safe working conditions. Their actions reflect a broader political agenda focused on reducing union influence and promoting a free-market approach at the expense of workers' rights.

Jenna faces an uphill battle should she run for office again, especially since the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades runs phone banks, canvassing, bridge waves, and plastered neighborhoods with campaign literature in the City of Cape Coral. They have an army of people that even Terry Miller

cannot match. Terry Miller may accumulate the dollars but his machine is no match for fifty to one hundred people who will go all out to keep control of Cape Coral Council consistently.

Heck - even Darla Bonk city council woman in the city of Ft. Myers was the recipient of IUPAT's support in her initial election. As a result... Bonk won and is still sitting on the dais as an elected official.

One thing is for certain and two things are for sure: it's now or never for TM Consulting, because IUPAT has the majority of Cape Coral City Council members behind them, including the Mayor and City Manager of Cape Coral (who is the son of the former State President of the IUPAT Union). Iupat also is the tail that wags the dog on the Ft. Myers City Council.

*NOTE: Albeit Michael Illczyszyn is the son of the Former state president of IUPAT; He is one of the top ten City Managers in the State of Florida and Cape Coral is fortunate to have him.

** It will be interesting to see if TM Consulting will maintain its stronghold on Lee County Politics and use its cadre of elected officials to maintain and smother IUPAT with state statutes in an attempt to further dismantle union power in the state, or will IUPAT move stealthily to protect its interest.

*** Attorney Ben Crump is aware of IUPAT's nepotism vesting problem in South Florida. Additionally, Yolanda Clark Cade VP of Communications and Public Affairs at Disney will have to consider suggesting Disney nix their relationship/contract with IUPAT Union in Orlando if it negatively affects Disney's brand.

I've known both Ben and Yolanda since childhood.

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