

SWFL CHRONICLE

SERVING CHARLOTTE, LEE & COLLIER COUNTIES | JULY 2026

DEMOCRATS ATTACK CONSERVATIVES

JAMES H. ROSINUS
CHAIRMAN
LEE COUNTY
FLORIDA
DEMOCRATIC PARTY

GISELE "GIGI" GENTILE
FOR LEE COUNTY
SCHOOL BOARD
★ ★ 2026 ★ ★

NAACP Elections
p26

Liza King
p10

Casa Blu p24

READING
MATH
HISTORY
PARENTAL RIGHTS

OUR WAY OR NO WAY!

WOKE AGENDA
CRT 4 KIDS
GENDER THEORY
NO PARENTS ALLOWED

LEE COUNTY FLORIDA DEMOCRATIC PARTY
BLUE NO MATTER WHO!

PARENT. PATRIOT. COMMON SENSE.

AWWW... DID SOMEONE LOSE HIS SAFE SPACE?

You are the biggest threat to the ONLY DEMOCRAT on The School Board which is why I personally filed a complaint with The State of Florida to Stop you!

PARTY BOSS

FLORIDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION
307 West Gaines Street, Suite 224, Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

COMPLAINT

The Commission's records and proceedings in a case are confidential until the Commission rules on a probable cause. A copy of the complaint will be provided to the person against whom it is brought.

I. PERSON BRINGING COMPLAINT:
Name: James H Rosinus
Address: 627 SE 23rd Terrace
City: Coral Gables County: Dade State: FL Zip Code: 33134-2548
Work Phone: 335-939-2866 Home Phone: 335-939-2866

II. PERSON AGAINST WHOM COMPLAINT IS BROUGHT:
Name of individual or entity: Gisele "Gigi" Gentile
Address: 1925 Virginia Ave, Unit 1301
City: Fort Myers County: Lee State: FL Zip Code: 33901
Phone: 239-810-0693
If individual is a candidate, list the office or position sought: School Board Dist 4

Have you filed this complaint with the State Attorney's Office? (check one) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Are you alleging a violation of Section 104.27(1)(b), F.S.? (check one) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Are you alleging a violation of Section 104.27(1)(c), F.S.? (check one) ☐ Yes ☒ No

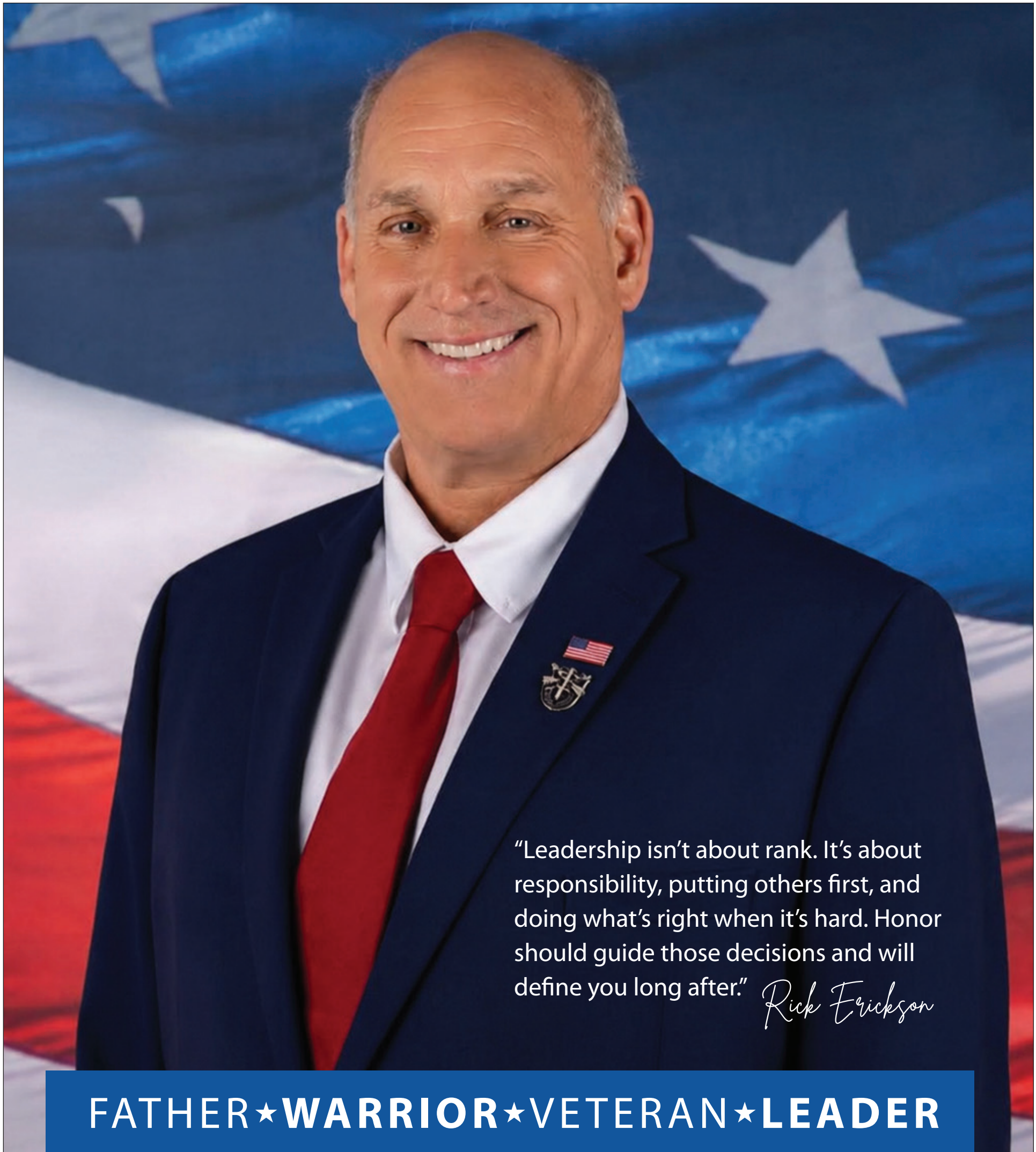
Alleged Violation(s):

Attach a signed statement in which you list the provisions of the Florida Election Code that you believe the person named above may have violated. The Commission has jurisdiction to investigate provisions of Chapter 104 and Chapter 106, Florida Statutes. Please include the following information as part of your statement(s):

- The facts and actions that you believe support the violations you allege.
- A copy of each document you mention in your statement.
- An evaluation of why you believe the information you provided is relevant, and any other evidence supporting your allegations.

SEE REVERSE SIDE OF DOCUMENT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. This document is provided to persons 175-082 and 175-083, Florida Statutes.

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FATHER★WARRIOR★VETERAN★LEADER

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CAPE CORAL MAYOR ★ LEAD WITH HONOR



ERICKSONFORMAYOR.COM

PAID FOR AND APPROVED BY RICK ERICKSON CAMPAIGN FOR CAPE CORAL MAYOR.



Dr. Charles Dailey
NAACP Candidate



John Gunter
Cape Coral Mayor



Amanda Cochran
Candidate for Lee County
Commissioner



Darrin Palumbo
Marco Island



Cecil Pendergrass
District 2 Commissioner



Brian Hamman
District 4 Commissioner



Chris Hall
Collier County Commission



Daniel Kowal
Collier County Commission



Ray Sandelli
Bonita Springs



Nigel Fullick
Bonita Springs



Tiffany Esposito
State Representative



Timothy Moshier
Collier County School Board



Kim Ammontree
Candidate for County
Commissioner



Christopher Constance
Charlotte County
Commissioner



Amber Ware
Candidate for
Fort Myers Mayor



Sam Fischer
Candidate for Lee County
School Board



Jeannine Polk
Punta Gorda City Council



Janice Denton
Punta Gorda City Council



Adam Botana
State Representative



Armor Persons
Candidate for Lee County
School Board



Chantel Rhodes
Candidate for Fort Myers City
Council (Ward 3)



Raymond Christman
Naples City Council



Ted Blankenship
Naples City Council



Victor Arias
Congressional Candidate



ENDORSES AMANDA COCHRAN

FOR LEE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5

VoteWater, a South Florida clean-water advocacy group, has endorsed Amanda Cochran for Lee County Commissioner, District 5. “Growth in Lee County is outpacing infrastructure and threatens wetlands, waterways and the natural beauty so many residents cherish,” said VoteWater Executive Director Gil Smart. “Amanda Cochran understands the need to safeguard our natural resources and protect rural areas and established communities from inappropriate development.”

“She’s also an advocate for transparent, accountable government that serves the people rather than special interests,” said Smart.

In accepting the endorsement, Cochran said: “Clean water, responsible growth, and a strong economy are not competing priorities — they are inseparable. If we fail to protect our water resources, we risk the very quality of life that makes Lee County such a special place to live, work, and raise a family.”

Cochran, a sixth-generation Lee County resident and lifelong Republican, has been involved in efforts to preserve rural areas of Lee County like her hometown of Alva. She has consistently raised concerns about development approvals that outpace roads, stormwater systems, and other critical infrastructure, and recognizes the connection between growth management and water quality. She’s also promoted the preservation of environmentally sensitive lands that play a vital role in water quality, flood mitigation, wildlife habitat, and aquifer recharge.

“Waterways, wetlands, and natural lands are part of our identity. Once they are lost, they cannot simply be replaced,” she said. “We have a duty to be good stewards of the resources that make this community special.”

The District 5 primary will be a countywide open primary where all eligible Lee County voters can cast their ballot regardless of party affiliation. A write-in candidate who could have closed the election to just Republican voters failed to qualify.

Cochran is a local business owner and long-time community volunteer whose campaign also addresses public safety, affordability and the need for open and accountable government.

“Public officials who answer to developers before constituents have forgotten who they work for,” said VoteWater’s Smart. “Amanda Cochran knows that protecting a community’s natural resources isn’t an obstacle to progress — it’s the job. And that’s why she’s our pick in the Aug. 18 primary.”

Said Cochran: “Our water is our heritage, our economy, and our future. I am honored to have VoteWater’s support in this campaign to keep Lee County a place where future generations can enjoy the same Florida we were fortunate enough to inherit.”

Headquartered in Stuart, VoteWater is a 501(c)(4) organization which works to inspire Floridians to demand leaders and policies that promote clean water.



The logo for VoteWater, featuring a large blue checkmark to the left of the word "VOTE" in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by "WATER" in a similar font with a stylized wave integrated into the letter "A".

★ ENDORSES ★

AMANDA COCHRAN

FOR LEE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5

A circular seal with a blue border. Inside, there is a map of Florida with a checkmark over it. The text "I VOTE WATER" is written around the top inner edge, and "VOTEWATER.ORG" is at the bottom.

by Monique Wooley



Transactional Control

Basic fundamental principles, from a faith-based perspectives teaches us that *generosity should not be used as a way to promote your own righteousness.*

We've all heard reasons of those who chose not to give because they don't know what really happens with their money after they give. Or what about the person that volunteers to give but has subtle expectations of something in return? Then there are the ones who give but tell their story of giving to everyone in efforts to feel empowered or as if they've purchased moral credibility with their good deeds.

Beware. That type of mindset is Transactional Control.

Listen carefully; whether you're giving to a foundation, a religious group, sponsoring, assisting a friend in need, or donating plasma to a blood bank, ***giving should be of the heart.*** It should be a feeling of compassion that you receive that prompts you to share from the purest part of your heart. When you give, you should never worry about how your gift will be used, whether it will be appreciated, or if you'll get something back in return.

Learn about Generosity Without Selfish Motives (Luke 14:12-14)

Real generosity tends to remain generous, it's given in joy and most often done in silence. Righteousness-driven generosity often turns into resentment or judgment when you come to terms

that you've given something that you weren't prepared to give.

Moral leverage: is when someone gives then later describes themselves as having “done so much,” using it to override your autonomy.

If you're giving with mixed motives such as genuine kindness plus ego, insecurity, or a need to feel righteous or empowered, It's probably not of your heart and you probably should not be giving at that time.

My humble suggestion would be to go into prayer for clarity on your heart's motives, and to understand why your generosity may be insincere.

2 Corinthians 9:7 ESV "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Always remember that we are not on this earth for our own selfish gains, for blessings are bestowed upon us as gifts, gifts in which we should share to be of service as great stewards with each other!

So give in purity, keep creating, and keep asking what you can do for others. Keep sharing your time, your gifts and your wisdom with others. But let it be done in sincerity, because only then will you receive real fulfillment.



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- ✓ Former Federal Special Agent (post 9-11)
- ✓ State Attorney's Office, 20th Circuit (FL), over a decade
- ✓ Special Victim's Unit (State Attorney's Office - Florida)
- ✓ State Attorney's Office and Private Practice (civil, criminal defense, family & employment law)- Connecticut
- ✓ Private Practice, Florida (criminal defense and civil)
- ✓ Over 100 trials+ to verdict, to include nationally recognized results.

Paid by Michael Colombo, non-partisan, for Lee County Judge

- ✓ Florida Bar and Lee County Bar Association
- ✓ Professional Ethics Committee, Florida Bar (appointment by the Florida Supreme Court in June 2023 and re-appointed in June 2026)
- ✓ Connecticut Bar
- ✓ Georgia Bar
- ✓ U.S. District Court of Connecticut
- ✓ U.S. Southern District of Florida
- ✓ U.S. Northern District of Florida

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In a world that often focuses on building careers, wealth, and personal success, God calls His people to become Kingdom Builders. In Acts 1:8, Jesus reminds His followers, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me..." This powerful verse teaches us that building God's Kingdom begins with a personal relationship with Him. Before we can impact others, we must stay connected to the Source of our strength. Through prayer, worship, and daily faith, we allow God to shape our hearts so that His love can shine through our lives.

Kingdom building also happens at home. Strong families are one of God's greatest tools for transforming communities. Every act of love, forgiveness, encouragement, and spiritual guidance strengthens the foundation of the next generation. As believers, we are called to invest in our spouses, children, relatives, and friends, demonstrating the grace and compassion of Christ. When families grow stronger in faith, churches become stronger, and communities begin to experience the positive influence of God's presence.

Jesus told His disciples they would be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. In today's language, that means starting where we are and extending God's love wherever we go. Our "Jerusalem" may be our neighborhood, workplace, school, or local church. Kingdom Builders look for opportunities to serve, encourage, and uplift others regardless of culture, background, or circumstance. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ordinary people can make an extraordinary impact. As we build our relationship with God, strengthen our families, support our churches, and serve our communities, we become living examples of God's Kingdom at work in the world today.

With Love, Pastor Demetrius Thomas
St. Mary Baptist Church



Pastor Demetrius Thomas
St. Mary Baptist Church
of Punta Gorda

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

PRESENTED BY MOUNTAIN MOVERS WATER WALKERS



SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 19



CHARLOTTE HARBOR
CONVENTION CENTER
PUNTA GORDA



9:00AM
4:00PM

WORSHIP:
SEP. 18TH
FRI. 7PM
ST MARY'S
BAPTIST
CHURCH
PUNTA
GORDA

CULMINATION:
SEP. 20TH
SUN. 10:30AM
TRINITY
CHURCH
FORT MYERS

RISE UP

CONFERENCE

CHOSEN FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

MEET YOUR HOSTS

"Refined by Fire.
Chosen to Bloom.
Sidelined No More!"



REVEREND
LANCE ABERCROMBIA

"Let Your Faith
Catch Fire and Your
Purpose Bloom—It's
Time to Rise Up!"



Pastor
DR. DEBORAH WALSH

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:



Pastor
**TEKOA
POUERIE**



Prophet
**TERRI
RAVEN**
Sunday @ Trinity
Church, FM



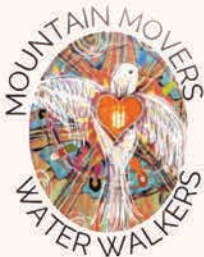
Apostle
**LEVAUGHN
FLANDERS**
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Evangelist
**DR. SHAKIRA
THOMAS**



Pastor
**KYNAN
BRIDGES**



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registration scan
the QR code to
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REGISTER



TODAY



GUBERNATORIAL PRIMARY ELECTION 2026

Deadline to send Vote-by-Mail Ballots to UOCAVA Voters: **July 4, 2026**

Deadline to send Vote-by-Mail Ballots to Domestic Voters: **July 9-16, 2026**

Deadline to Register to Vote or Change Party Affiliation: **July 20, 2026**

Deadline to Request that Ballot be mailed: **August 6, 2026**

Early Voting Period (Mandatory Period): **August 8-15, 2026**



ELECTION DAY: AUGUST 18, 2026

GO VOTE

EDUCATE. ENERGIZE. EXPAND.



LEE COUNTY DISTRICT SOCIALS

Presented by the Lee County Republican Executive Committee



MAY 27 • 6-7:30 PM

- 1** District 1 – Duffy's Sports Grill, Cape Coral
- 5** District 5 – Buckingham Blues Bar

MAY 28 • 6-7:30 PM

- 2** District 2 – Venue TBA
- 3** District 3 – O'Leary's Bar & Grill
- 4** District 4 – Millennial Brewing Company

★ OPEN TO SPONSORS ★

CONNECT ★ ENGAGE ★ SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

2026 LCREC Campaign Timeline Overview

MARCH - MAY 2026
Launch & Early Outreach

JUNE - JULY 2026
Intensified Outreach & Voter Mobilization

CANDIDATE FORUM AT FSW
JULY 18 | 3-7PM
ALL local and state-wide races invited

AUGUST 2026
Primary Push & Election Day

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2026
Post Primary Momentum

Get updates and learn more at
www.LeeGOP.org
or call us at 239.936.8779



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Regarding Liza King's Candidacy for Cape Coral City Council District 6

I am writing to share information about Liza King, who has announced her candidacy for Cape Coral City Council, District 6.

King is a lifelong Cape Coral resident and Lee County native with Cuban-American roots. She was born and raised in the area and continues to call Southwest Florida home. Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice with an emphasis in Forensic Psychology from Florida Gulf Coast University.

King has spent more than three decades working in Florida's court system.

She began her career with the Lee County Clerk's Office in 1993 and later became a Court Investigator with the Administrative Office of the Courts. Over the years, she advanced through the judicial system and currently serves as Chief Deputy Court Administrator for Florida's 20th Judicial Circuit. Her experience includes responsibilities involving budgeting, contracts, accountability, and court administration. In addition to her public service career, King is a certified court manager and executive. She has also served as a Commissioner for the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission

and has received professional recognition, including a Women of Distinction award and a nomination as a "40 Under 40" recipient.

King is also a licensed Realtor who specializes in complex real estate transactions. Her experience in real estate and property investment has provided her with exposure to housing, development, and economic issues affecting Southwest Florida communities.

Throughout her career, King has participated in numerous civic and community organizations. Her service has included the Lee County Charter Review Commission, the City of Cape Coral Charter Review process, the Florida Gulf Coast University Department of Justice Studies Advisory Board, and the Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens Advisory Board. She has also been involved with community initiatives such as the Hispanic Heritage Festival and 5K event, United Way allocation review efforts, and the Multicultural Centre of Southwest Florida's Big Backpack program.

King is the founder of Alice's Wings of Hope, a nonprofit organization established to honor her late sister's legacy. She has also been active in her faith community and various local volunteer efforts.

According to her campaign announcement, King's priorities include fiscal responsibility, public safety, sustainable growth, and community engagement. She has stated that she wants to focus on responsible management of public funds, support for first responders, infrastructure-conscious development, and open communication with residents.

King is a mother of three adult children and a grandmother. She has said that her lifelong connection to Cape Coral has given her firsthand knowledge of the city's neighborhoods, challenges, and opportunities.

Residents interested in learning more about her candidacy are encouraged to review campaign materials, attend public forums, and evaluate all candidates based on their qualifications, experience, and policy positions.

Sincerely,
TAKE OUT THE TRASH MEMBER



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.

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9:00 AM Contemporary Family Service with Band

10:30 AM Traditional Service with Choir



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AMERICA AT 250

HONORING THE PAST BY VOTING FOR THE FUTURE



AS America approaches its 250th anniversary, we are reminded that the strength of our nation has always depended on the participation of its citizens. For 250 years, generations of Americans have defended and expanded the right to vote, recognizing that elections are not just civic duties, but opportunities to shape the future of our country, state, and local community.

That is why preparing to vote matters. Now is the time to verify your voter registration status, confirm that your address and party affiliation are current, and make a plan to vote whether it is casting your ballot by mail, during early voting, or on Election Day.

2026 PRIMARY ELECTION

The 2026 Primary Election gives voters the opportunity to vote for federal, state, and local representatives within their respective political parties. If opposed within their parties, voters will be able to vote for United States Senators, Representatives in Congress, Governor, State Cabinet Members, State Senators, State Representatives, and County Commissioners. Voters will also vote for nonpartisan seats including school board, judges, and local referendum questions depending on their district.

Florida is a closed primary state, meaning voters registered with a political party may only vote for candidates within their own party in partisan contests. However, all voters can participate in nonpartisan races. The winning candidates of the Primary Election, who see opposition from another party, will then move on to the General Election in November.

Important dates for the 2026 Primary Election

Voter Registration/Political Party Change Deadline – July 20

Vote-by-Mail Request Deadline – August 6 at 5 p.m.

Early Voting in Collier County – August 8-15, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Election Day – August 18, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.



**MELISSA R.
BLAZIER**
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

2026 GENERAL ELECTION

The 2026 General Election will list the winning candidates from the Primary, and voters can vote for any candidate regardless of their party affiliation. There will also be judicial retention questions as well as state-wide amendments and local referendum. Special district contests including Mosquito Control, and various fire districts may also appear on the ballot depending on a voter's address. Citizens residing on Marco Island will also have an opportunity to vote for three City Council seats.

Important dates for the 2026 General Election

Voter Registration Deadline – October 5

Vote-by-Mail Request Deadline – October 22 at 5 p.m.

Early Voting in Collier County – October 22-31, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Election Day – November 3, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

As we reflect on the past 250 years of our country, the Collier County Supervisor of Elections office remains committed to ensuring every eligible voter has access to accurate election information and secure voting options. Visit CollierVotes.gov to learn more about how you can prepare for the 2026 Elections or call us at 239-252-VOTE (8683).

As we prepare to celebrate America's 250th anniversary, there is no better way to honor the generations who built and protected our country than by participating in this year's elections.





DEAR *Beloved*

Pastor Dr. Deb Walsh | Mountain Mover & Water Walkers

God Hates Divorce

God Hates Divorce. Malachi 2:16 states “For I hate divorce!” says the LORD, the God of Israel. To divorce your wife is to overwhelm her with cruelty,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. So guard your heart; do not be unfaithful to your wife.” We have become familiar with or even “numb to” divorce. Statistics show 40-50% of all marriages end in divorce. Let’s look at this covenant of marriage. It is a lifelong, sacred agreement between one man and one woman, established in the presence of God and grounded in mutual fidelity and love. This is a solemn, binding promise made before God, who serves as the ultimate witness and guarantor. In a covenant marriage, spouses commit not merely to a contractual arrangement, but to a divinely recognized union intended to reflect God’s own faithfulness.

Do you know God has made a covenant with you? Do you know you are His bride? Therefore, He has promised to a lifelong commitment of love and faithfulness to you! He will never leave you—or divorce you. However, let me ask you, “Have you divorced Him?” Have you abandoned Him in your life? Do you not believe that He can and will do far above what you ask or expect (Eph 3:20)? Have you become a prodigal and left to go the way of the world or on your own? Another example, this country was founded on God. The constitution, written by the founding fathers, was to commit that we are “one country under God”. Our money has “in God we trust”. The declaration of

Independence states “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator...”. However, as a nation, we have divorced God. We have called good - evil and evil - good. We are lovers of self. This country needs to go back to its original covenant with God. As we celebrate our 250th anniversary, please join in prayer to bring this nation back to God.

Let me pray with you today that whatever area of your life may be divorced from God that you will come back to Him. Say this prayer, “Lord, restore me to the covenant relationship with You. I give you my heart and life to have Your way and to do what only You can do. Forgive me of my sins and divorcing You. Help me to be what you have ordained me to be. Have your way in my life and put people in my life that will help me and guide me back to You. Bring us back to the covenant relationship You provided to us through Your blood shed on the cross. We submit our lives and our hearts to you. In Jesus name I pray, Amen and Amen!” Find a Bible and a Bible-believing church to help you in this journey. God is faithful and just to forgive us and there is nothing impossible with God. He can do what you can’t. I can’t wait to hear about it!

Love, Pastor Dr. Deb Walsh

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RE-ELECT
**JOHN
GUNTER**
FOR CAPE CORAL MAYOR

WHEN EXPERIENCE MATTERS

Mayor John Gunter is an experienced mayor with tested, proven leadership. Experience matters most in the 7th largest city in Florida. It matters most when unforeseen natural disasters occur. It matters most when Cape Coral is ranked the second safest city in Florida and one of the fastest growing cities in our nation.

The Citizens Of Cape Coral Need a Mayor who is experienced with proven results.

Accomplishments & Policy Platform

Public Safety Expansion: Mayor Gunter emphasizes the addition of three new firehouses, a fire training facility, and a police training facility during his tenure. He also highlights the hiring of approximately 80 new police officers and 80 firefighters to keep pace with the city's growth.

Tax Rate Reductions

A central part of his campaign is the reduction of the city's millage rate from 6.75 to 5.1 mills, which is a historic low for the city over the last 50 years.

Experience & Stability

Mayor John Gunter has five years of experience on the City Council and his time as Mayor. The City of Cape Coral needs "an experienced Mayor" rather than someone who'd be on a learning curve or on the job training. Cape Coral's status is one of the fastest-growing cities in the country.

Infrastructure Management

Mayor Gunter identifies ongoing needs in transportation and utility expansion as his next priorities, advocating for "creative funding solutions" to address these growth challenges.



Paid for by Re-Elect John Gunter For Cape Coral Mayor



How Long

BY LISA ESWAY

Psalm 13.1-6

"How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever?"

How long will You hide Your face from me?

How long shall I take counsel in my soul, Having sorrow in my heart daily?

How long will my enemy be exalted over me?"

Let's learn about David... I believe many of us can relate to this deeply broken place.

This begins in a place many of us know all too well, maybe? He is in a valley of confusion, pain, and waiting. Four times he asks, "How long?" Have you ever prayed that prayer? How long will this hurt? How long will I struggle? How long will I feel alone? How long until things change? How long do I keep going through this? Time and time again I have seen in other peoples walk, including my own that this is the place it takes for the change to begin. This is the place.

This is that exact place. Before freedom comes honesty. Before healing comes surrender. Before victory comes the painful admission that we may be powerless and must cry out to God. David doesn't hide his emotions. He doesn't pretend to be strong. He pours out the broken of his soul before God. That is one of the greatest lesson. God can heal what we are willing to reveal. Release it to Him. The Bible says we have not because we ask not. Ask Him!! There are seasons when God seems quiet. Not absent... only quiet. He will never leave you. Yet silence is not abandonment. Some may wonder why? How long? No one knows the cost of the things I have went through. Feeling like God is so far away. This is about the struggle. Just like a seed buried in the soil might feel forgotten, but it is actually being prepared for growth. Something happens in this place. In the same way, God often does His deepest work in hidden places. Come on!! Its what happened to me!! Some of the greatest transformations happen underground before anyone sees the fruit. Here we turn.

"Consider and hear me, O Lord my God;
Enlighten my eyes,
Lest I sleep the sleep of death;
Lest my enemy say, 'I have prevailed against him';
Lest those who trouble me rejoice when I am moved.
But I have trusted in Your mercy;
My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord,

Because He has dealt bountifully with me."

The circumstances have not changed. The enemy is still present. The struggle is still real. Yet David shifts his focus. Like a dove. What are you focused on? Let it be ONE thing. For me the most powerful word in Psalm 13 may be the first word of verse 5...

"But."

Everything changes there. "But I have trusted in Your mercy." Life will be filled with "but" moments. I was broken, but God restored me. I was lost, but God found me. I was addicted, but God delivered me. I was hopeless, but God had another plan. I was one way, but now I am completely different. Faith does not deny reality. Faith declares that God is greater than reality.

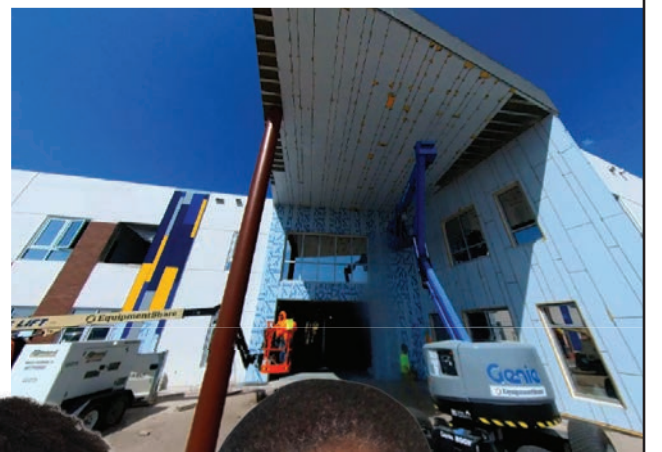
Deliverance... here is the proof that God finishes what He starts. I am living proof. I am still being molded, still being refined. Not riding anymore roller coasters. Because there is more. He has so so so so much more. Then more. Then more. I smell more. Anyone who has walked through addiction, incarceration, heartbreak, betrayal, loss, depression, hopelessness... understands Psalm 13. There were days when giving up seemed easier. Fact. Days when shame whispered louder than hope. Yet here you are. Here we are. Not because you were strong enough. Not because you figured it all out. BUT because God's mercy carried you one day at a time. But I trust in you alone. This is the miracle of God rebuilding a life from the inside out. It is evidence that grace is stronger than failure. David ends the psalm singing. This praise on the other side. What is remarkable is that he begins the psalm weeping. Humility. Courage. The situation may not have fully changed, but David has changed. Hope has returned. Trust has returned. Perspective has returned. That is what God does. He takes people from the trenches and teaches them to sing again. The same mouth that cried, "How long, O Lord?" eventually says, "He has dealt bountifully with me." Chills. The same heart that was drowning in sorrow becomes a heart overflowing with gratitude. A state of being. If you find yourself living in the first half of Psalm 13 today, do not quit before you reach the second half. The same God who meets people at the end of themselves...is the same God who brings resurrection power and beauty from ashes. One day you will look back and realize that what felt like abandonment was actually preparation, what may have been delay was actually development, and what felt like the end was only the beginning. The God who heard David's cry still hears yours. And the same psalm that begins with, "How long, O Lord?" ends with, "He has dealt bountifully with me." You too. I can't repay that kind of love.

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WELCOMING A NEW CHAPTER
**The Grand Opening of
Olde Naples Hotel**

MAYOR TERESA LEE HEITMANN
CITY OF NAPLES

239-213-1000
Mayorheitmann@naplesgov.com



On Thursday, June 11th, I had the privilege of joining residents, community leaders, guests, and friends to celebrate the grand opening of the Olde Naples Hotel, a milestone that represents both a new beginning and a meaningful tribute to our city's rich history.

This remarkable project reflects the vision, dedication, and hard work of many people. I extend special appreciation to the Walsh family and the Camalier family for their commitment to preserving and celebrating the history and character of Naples through this extraordinary endeavor. Their investment in our community reflects a deep respect for the traditions that have helped define Naples for generations.

I would also like to recognize Tim McCarthy with Hart Howerton as well as Nichols Architects, whose thoughtful design helped bring this vision to life while honoring the timeless architectural character of Old Naples. I am also grateful to our city staff, whose professionalism, diligence, and collaboration helped guide this project from concept to completion, along with the many contractors, craftsmen, consultants, and community partners whose expertise helped make this special achievement possible.

The occasion was about far more than opening the doors to a beautiful new destination. It was an opportunity to reflect on the people, places, and values that helped shape Naples into the community we know and cherish today.

The story of Naples hospitality began in 1889, when the original Naples Hotel opened as the first hotel in our community. At the time, Naples was little more than a small settlement along the Gulf, but the hotel quickly became the center of civic and social life. Visitors came to enjoy our beaches, fish from the pier, collect shells along the shoreline, and experience the natural beauty and warmth that would become hallmarks of Naples.

Originally, the hotel featured just 16 guest rooms, a far cry from the 109 rooms that welcome visitors at the newly reopened Olde Naples Hotel today. Despite its modest size, the hotel quickly became a centerpiece of community life and a destination for travelers seeking an authentic Florida experience. The hotel was known for its fresh, locally sourced cuisine, serving fruits, vegetables, and other

ingredients grown in the area or obtained from nearby farms. In an era before modern supply chains, it was said that canned vegetables were never served, a point of pride that reflected both the abundance of Southwest Florida and the commitment to providing guests with the freshest possible fare. These simple but meaningful details offer a glimpse into the hospitality, self-reliance, and sense of community that helped establish Naples' reputation as a welcoming destination more than a century ago.

For generations, residents and visitors alike have gathered along the beach and at the Pier to watch the sun dip below the horizon, a tradition that remains as timeless today as it was more than a century ago. From the hotel's elevated vantage point, guests can experience that same sense of wonder while overlooking the shoreline that has long defined Naples' character. The view serves as a reminder that while Naples continues to grow and evolve, the natural beauty, sense of place, and cherished traditions that first drew people here remain unchanged.

In many ways, the original Naples Hotel helped introduce Naples to the world. It welcomed early visitors, encouraged connection, and contributed to the character of a growing community. Its legacy reminds us that the Naples we enjoy today was not built by chance. It was shaped over generations by vision, careful stewardship, and the hard work of people who believed in this city's future.

That is what made the grand opening of the Olde Naples Hotel especially meaningful. The project honors the spirit of the original hotel while thoughtfully welcoming a new chapter. Its design reflects the scale, charm, and timeless architectural character of historic Old Naples. A project of this caliber is made possible through the contributions of many talented individuals and organizations. I would like to extend special appreciation to Unique Wood Floor Co. for providing the beautiful flooring featured throughout the hotel, adding warmth, craftsmanship, and timeless character to the guest experience. I would also like to recognize Gardner Colby Gallery for curating and providing artwork that celebrates the beauty, culture, and spirit of Naples. Every detail feels intentional, creating a welcoming space that is deeply connected to the identity of our community.

continued on next page...

This celebration also reflected an important principle that continues to guide the City of Naples: honoring the past, celebrating the present, and responsibly shaping the future.

Good governance is not only about the decisions made today. It is about understanding what came before us, protecting what makes our community special, and ensuring that progress strengthens rather than diminishes the character of Naples. Projects like this remind us that preservation and progress can work together when guided by respect, collaboration, and a shared commitment to place.

As part of the ceremony, I was honored to present a copy of Naples: A Second Paradise by Lila Zuck. The book is a beautiful tribute to the people, places, and stories that helped shape Naples into the remarkable community it is today. It was a fitting way to recognize the history surrounding us and the importance of preserving those stories for future generations.

As we move forward, may we continue to honor our history, support thoughtful investment, and work together to preserve the beauty, character, and spirit of Naples for generations to come.

God bless Naples, and God bless America.
Teresa Lee Heitmann, Mayor



SHERIFF CARMINE MARCENO REMINDS YOU...

If You Abuse an Animal... You Will Go to Jail!





DEMOCRAT CHAIR ATTACKS CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE VIA ETHICS COMPLAINT.

The Chairman of the Lee County Democratic Party has allegedly attacked Gisele “GiGi” Gentile by filing a report to the Florida Ethics Commission in Tallahassee. Pundits within the Democratic Party have stated that Gisele is the biggest threat to unseat the current Lee County School Board Incumbent. The Democrats have stated they are NOT concerned about “The Elf” - a label they gave to the Republican’s establishment’s pick for School Board, because he is handpicked and has no knowledge of the school board according to liberals. Lee County is divided by party and the conservatives will blow out any Democrats based on the numbers in any election.

The SPLAC and The Teachers’ Union actually support another candidate over the current incumbent Sam Fisher also. The candidate The Teachers’ Union and SPLAC support is married to a woman and they have a child. No wonder the teachers got screwed over. The union is playing politics instead of backing who they think will support them.

The Teachers Union and SPLAC are NOT endorsing Gisele “GiGi” Gentile, because while employed by Lee County Schools she spoke up as a union representative (who happened to be Republican) and was backstabbed and told not to let the parents in Lee County Schools know about IEPs (individual education plans) that were available to students and parents. She currently has several hundred parents and former teachers who will be filing individual lawsuits against the Lee County School Board for threatening teachers who educate the parents about their right to Individual Education Plans for their kids.

Former teachers and angry parents have stated they will wait until the election is over to file the lawsuits out of respect for her, but Gisele has stated there is a way to do the right thing and avoid a lawsuit that would be costly to taxpayers, and avoid the tarnished reputation The Lee County School Board

has managed to cement.

The unions have decided to wait until the general to endorse a candidate, because they say they don’t want the incumbent. That is B.S!!!!!!

That is the unions’ way of Endorsing the incumbent and keeping her in office.

Public opinion says The Teachers Union and SPLAC are not representing their members properly which is why the teachers and support staff got screwed over in the form of terminations. In fact, Pundits have stated that both the Teachers Union and SPLAC unions sold their members down the drain by protecting ONLY the employees that were close friends, or friends of a relative on the Union Boards from the axe (i.e. getting fired).

I hope Sam Fisher and Jada Langford Flemming get reelected to expose the fallacy about union support and representation in Lee County Schools which is Bologna. Trust me if they (Sam & Jada) get reelected; and the lawsuits come in there is only one person who the parents and teachers will be calling as their expert witness with documentation of principals who literally dragged ESE students to the office, administrators who threaten to put their feet on a child’s neck, and a principal at another school who literally picked up an ESE student by the armpits while another administrator carried him by the ankles. While the UNIONS DID NOTHING!

THE UNION IS TWO FACED IN MY OPINION AND ARE PLAYING POLITICS WITH THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN, BECAUSE IF THEY WEREN’T NOONE WOULD HAVE BEEN FIRED FROM LEE COUNTY SCHOOLS, BUT THE UNION indirectly coerced the Termination of faculty and staff, because they wouldn’t negotiate properly when the Board tried to.



Jim Rosinus



Jada Langford Flemming



Sam Fischer



Gisele Gentile

LETTER
TO THE EDITOR

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR
CHANTEL RHODES FOR CITY COUNCIL

Dear Mr. Editor,

I am honored to offer my wholehearted support for Chantel Rhodes as a candidate for City Council representing the Dunbar community. As someone who was born and raised in Dunbar, Chantel understands firsthand the strengths, challenges, history, and potential of the neighborhood she proudly calls home. Her commitment to serving others, combined with her unique life experiences, makes her exceptionally qualified to lead and advocate for the residents of our community.

Dunbar is more than just a neighborhood—it is a community rich in culture, resilience, and history. As a predominantly Black neighborhood, Dunbar has produced generations of hardworking families, entrepreneurs, educators, veterans, and community leaders. Chantel Rhodes is a reflection of that legacy. She grew up in this community, learned its values, and developed a deep appreciation for the people who have shaped it. Her connection to Dunbar is not political—it is personal.

After leaving home to serve her country in the United States military, Chantel demonstrated her dedication to service on a much larger scale. Her military career instilled in her the principles of leadership, discipline, accountability, and teamwork. These qualities are essential for effective public service and decision-making. Through her service, she gained valuable experience working with people from diverse backgrounds while remaining grounded in the values she learned growing up in Dunbar.

What further distinguishes Chantel is her global perspective. Having traveled to more than fifty countries,



she has witnessed a wide range of successful community development strategies, economic opportunities, educational initiatives, and public service models. These experiences have broadened her understanding of what is possible for communities like Dunbar. Rather than simply accepting the status quo, Chantel brings fresh ideas and innovative thinking that can help address long-standing challenges while building on the neighborhood's existing strengths.

Most importantly, Chantel's vision is rooted in a desire to give back to the community that helped shape her. She understands that meaningful progress requires listening to residents, supporting local businesses, investing in youth, promoting public safety, creating economic opportunities, and preserving the cultural heritage that makes Dunbar unique. Her goal is not to change the identity of the community, but to strengthen it and ensure that future generations have greater opportunities to succeed.

Chantel Rhodes has spent her life serving others—first through her community, then through military service, and now through her desire to serve as a City Council member. She possesses the character, experience, and vision necessary to be an effective advocate for the residents of Dunbar. Her leadership will be guided by integrity, informed by experience, and focused on results.

I strongly encourage voters and community stakeholders to support Chantel Rhodes for City Council. She represents the best of Dunbar's past, understands its present needs, and is prepared to help lead it toward a brighter future.

Sincerely,
Deacon Gilliard



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Three Brothers, Five Family Restaurants, a Seed Oil-Free Kitchen, and a Shared Dream in Southwest Florida

Casa Blu is more than a new restaurant opening in Estero—it's the realization of a dream shared by three brothers who grew up surrounded by the restaurant industry in Bolivia.

Coming from a family that owns and operates five successful restaurants in Bolivia, brothers Matias, Chef Carlos, and Mario have spent their lives learning the art of hospitality. Today, they are bringing that passion to Southwest Florida with the opening of Casa Blu, a restaurant rooted in family tradition, culinary excellence, and genuine hospitality.

What sets Casa Blu apart is not only its family story, but its commitment to quality ingredients. The restaurant operates with a seed oil-free kitchen, utilizing carefully selected cooking fats and premium ingredients to create dishes that are both flavorful and thoughtfully prepared.

Each brother plays a vital role in the restaurant's success:

- **Chef Carlos** leads the culinary program, creating a menu focused on fresh ingredients, bold flavors, and elevated dining experiences.
- **Mario** oversees restaurant operations, ensuring guests receive exceptional service and a welcoming atmosphere.
- **Matias** directs the beverage program and bar experience. His impressive hospitality background includes working at Arzak, the renowned Michelin-starred restaurant in San Sebastián, Spain, widely considered one of the world's most influential culinary destinations.

For the brothers, Casa Blu represents more than a business venture—it is the continuation of a family legacy built through generations of hospitality.

"Our family has always believed that great restaurants start with great ingredients and genuine hospitality," said the brothers. "We grew up watching our family build restaurants in Bolivia, and we're proud to bring those values to Estero. Casa Blu is our way of sharing our culture, our passion for food, and our commitment to quality with this community."

The brothers chose Estero as the home for Casa Blu because of the



area's growth, strong community spirit, and appreciation for elevated dining experiences. While Casa Blu marks their first restaurant venture in the United States, they bring decades of collective experience from a family deeply established in the restaurant industry.

Guests can expect a sophisticated yet welcoming atmosphere, thoughtfully crafted cuisine, handcrafted cocktails, and attentive service designed to make every visit memorable.

As Casa Blu opens its doors, the brothers hope to create more than a restaurant—they hope to establish a gathering place where friends, families, and visitors can come together and experience the warmth, hospitality, and culinary excellence that have defined their family's restaurants for generations.

About Casa Blu

Casa Blu is a chef-driven restaurant in Estero, Florida, founded by brothers Matias, Chef Carlos, and Mario. Inspired by a family legacy that includes five successful restaurants in Bolivia, Casa Blu combines elevated cuisine, handcrafted cocktails, a seed oil-free kitchen philosophy, and exceptional hospitality to create a distinctive dining experience in Southwest Florida.





What Happens When a Mentor Gets a Seat at the Table?

Most college trustees arrive from business, political, or academic backgrounds. Dewayne Moore arrives with a different perspective: one shaped by service, mentorship, and years spent helping young people discover opportunities beyond the paths they thought were available.

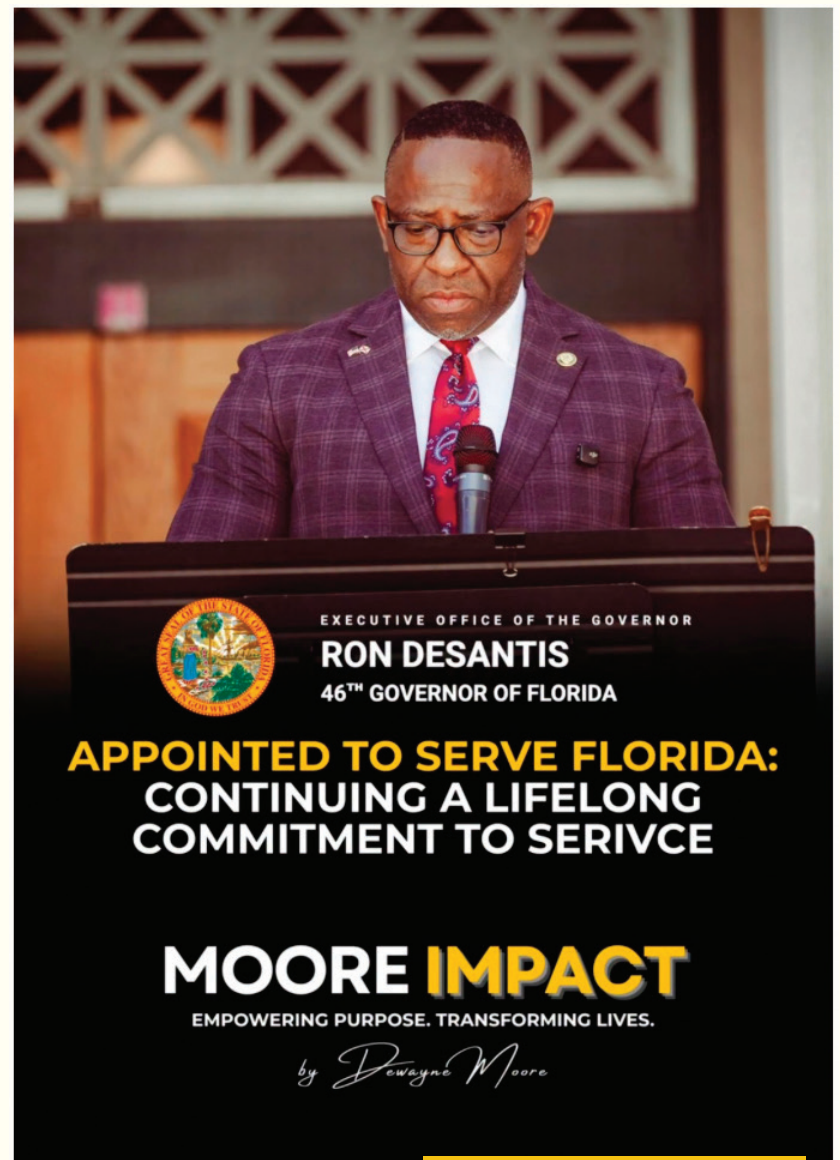
Governor Ron Desantis has appointed Moore, founder of The Dewayne Moore Foundation, to the Florida South Western State College District Board of Trustees.

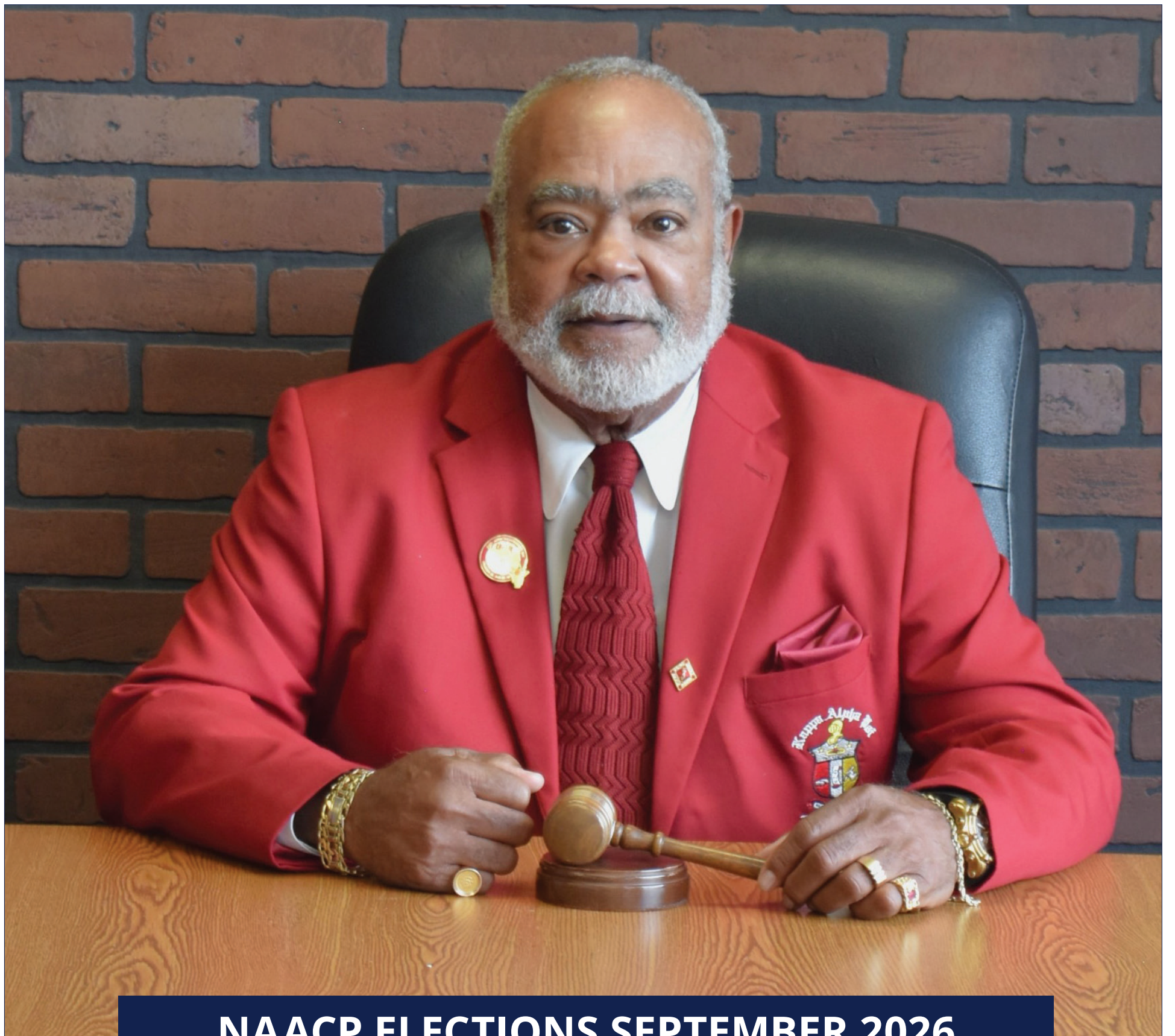
A Navy veteran and community leader, Moore has dedicated much of his work to helping students-particularly studentathletes-understand that their future is bigger than a single career path. Through mentorship and community engagement, he has encouraged young people to explore entrepreneurship, leadership, workforce opportunities, and purpose-driven careers that extend beyond traditional expectations.

“Many young people have tremendous potential but limited exposure to what’s possible,” Moore said. “I’ve always believed that education should help students discover opportunities, not just occupations.”

As colleges across the country face growing pressure to prepare students for an evolving workforce, Moore brings a perspective grounded in real-world mentorship and community impact. His appointment adds a voice that has spent years working directly with the next generation, helping them connect their talents to meaningful futures.

For Moore, the appointment is more than a leadership role-it’s an opportunity to continue advocating for students, expand access to opportunity, and help ensure education remains connected to the realities and aspirations of the communities it serves.





NAACP ELECTIONS SEPTEMBER 2026

My fellow community members, after learning of the two Candidates competing for the next President of the Lee County Branch of the NAACP, I began to research and inquired from many of you living especially in the Historically Dunbar Community for a fair assessment of the two candidates. After receiving comments from a large variety of citizens, community leaders, past students, and spiritual leaders, it was apparent that there is tremendous and overwhelming support for Dr. Dailey based on his over 45 years of service to the citizens and the community in which they live.

Needless to say, I had my own opinion, which, after speaking to many of you, strengthened my support of Dr. Dailey. I did not realize how far back his services were used and the many battles he was involved in until I actually read his resume and talked with people he had helped. He has continuously fought for the rights of others and has never bent to the pressure of backing down. This is why this newspaper endorses Dr. Charles B. Dailey for President of the Lee County Branch of the NAACP. All that is needed is for each of us to register to vote by going to WWW.NAACP.ORG Unit 5110. The cost is \$30.00 for coverage. To vote, you MUST have become a member 60 days before the election, which is the week after the general election. I would recommend not putting it off and going to register immediately or no later than September 15, 2026. Let's help make a change in our County by improving the current direction of the NAACP and supporting Dr. Charles B. Dailey and his vision for the NAACP.

JUST ONE MORE THING!

COLUMBO!?! Did the rumpled, cigar-smoking, trench-coat-wearing Lieutenant for more than three decades, who earned four Emmy Awards for his role, RISE FROM THE DEAD?

- OR -

IS **MICHAEL COLOMBO**, who is running for judge, an Avatar?

Someone please explain and email explanation to:
McKinley@theswflchronicle.com





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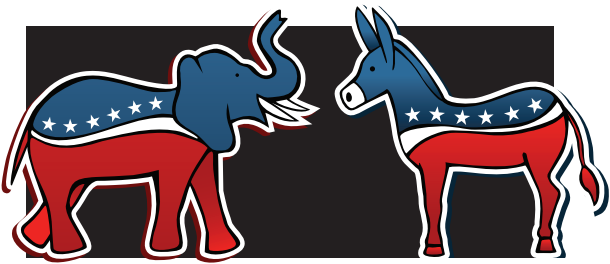
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TRUST ISSUES:

THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS OFFICE



Amanda Cochran



Mike Greenwell



Cecil Pendergrass



Gov Ron DeSantis

The Supervisor of Elections office has been under scrutiny since the huge disparity in the absentee ballots and the mail in ballots surrounding the Amanda Cochran vs. Mike Greenwell race for County Commissioner.



Amanda Cochran



Mike Greenwell

Amanda kicked butt in every area, except those two areas (absentee & mail in ballots). So Tommy Doyle is out in the pasture now after reopening a private indiscretion that was already settled. Only the rookies in politics will fall for that one. Fast forward with Cecil Pendergrass and Jena vying for the Supervisor of Elections seat. Surprisingly, Cecil had WAY MORE grassroots support countywide than the current Supervisor of Elections, but She had the juice with the Governor....So she (Jena) got the nod.



Tommy Doyle



Cecil Pendergrass

Unfortunately, Jena may never get a chance to show that Governor DeSantis made the right decision because of one word. TRUST!



Governor Ron DeSantis

Only the people inside of Terry Miller's circle trust her. Everyone else (i.e. Republicans outside the aforementioned circle, Democrats, and Independents) do not.

What led to this?

Over five hundred school board employees were fired and are furious. Her Father is Chairman of the School Board. The people in Estero are furious because her husband David allegedly dumped toxic things in the area years ago. Then Jena passed a bill etc.etc.etc. The public thinks that her appointment is the

next step in a power grab to maintain control in Lee County. Jena needs to address the entire staff in her office, because the majority of them do not trust her, and once employees' distrust of the main Boss is present in any organization, mistrust is impossible to remove, because the first termination will lead to more suspicion and more distrust.

The scary part is this mistrust of Jena is even within the Lee County Republican Party, which I DO NOT THINK IS FAIR TO HER.

I personally applaud any family who is civic minded enough to take control of the region where they live. What Armor Persons has done with his family is an awesome feat. He positioned his daughter for success as any good father would. Then he vetted the man who would continue his family's legacy in the person of David, his son-in-law. Plus he kept his childhood sweetheart by his side at all times for decades as a faithful husband. So kudos to him.

Business is business, and government is procurement - bottom line.

...and to the person who sent me the scathing letter because I wouldn't expose what I know about David....

YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND!

DAVID is NOT an environmentalist. David IS a businessman....& As a businessman WE (collectively) sometimes have to pay fines, and fees, etc....to us - it is the cost of doing business. All businessmen who "produce big numbers" understand one thing. Anytime you do serious numbers in any profession - guess what - here come the Regulators. We understand that Fines & Fees come with the territory.

I got the emails, inboxes, texts, phone calls, letters to the editor etc. regarding Jena's appointment as the new Lee County Supervisor of Elections. I also received hundreds of emails complaining that the Amanda Cochran race will be rigged again.

My heart goes out to Jena because "Trust" is the one thing that changes everything according to Stephen M.R. Covey's book The Speed of Trust, and that trust was broken before her appointment by the governor according to the public.

Congratulations to Jena on her appointment and keep her in your prayers, because "ALL THINGS WILL WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD." ROMANS 8:28

p.s. My father's mentor Meyer Lansky told him "Crown Prince (which he affectionately nicknamed my father) Success Breeds Silent Enemies."



Support Costs Us Nothing

Recently, I heard a story of someone who was allegedly being neglected by those closest to them and also taking advantage of their monetary value to care for them. This person was afraid to speak up for fear of their rights being stripped from them or even worse, for fear of abuse or further neglect.

I also stumbled across a story of young people being abused or exploited by someone they trusted.

Instead of posting about it, in efforts to gain likes, pay attention to those around you. If you see personality changes, or a change in someone's hygiene, appearance or mood.

Even a shift in their environment such as the folks they hang around is usually a sign.

A simple smile and a few words will let someone know your sincerity. Words like: "if you need anything, I'm here for you" or "how can I assist you" or "if you ever need to talk, between you and I, I'll listen."

This almost always opens the door for more dialogue.

You never know what others may be suffering through. A little time to stop and listen may change a

person's entire life. Young people or senior citizens are the most vulnerable because they are confused and don't know how to sort through tough situations. Positive guidance is always helpful.

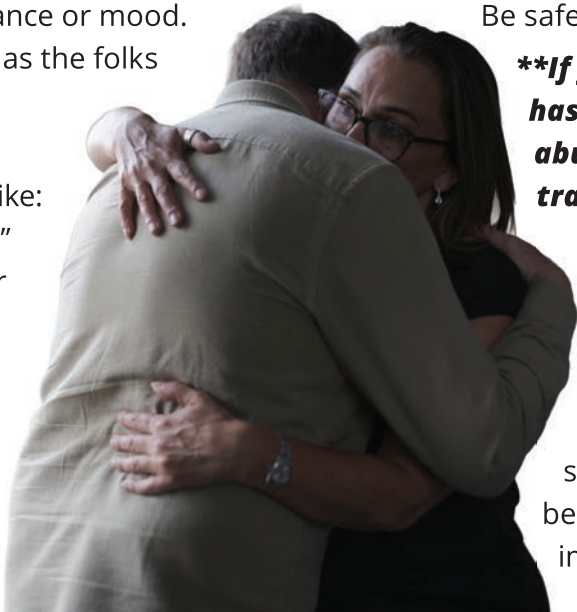
And let's not be so quick to judge what a person has done because we don't know or may not understand the road they've had to travel. Instead, lend a hand or an ear. And more importantly, pray for them and with them. This kind of support, my friend, costs us nothing.

Be safe, and protect those around us.

****If you or someone you know or believe is being or has been abused or neglected—whether through abuse, bullied, abandonment, exploitation, or trafficking of a child or a vulnerable adult—please do not hesitate to call the Florida Abuse Hotline at 1-800-962-2863.**

The Florida Abuse Hotline will accept your call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

A report can be filed before, during or after suspected abuse. (No limited time frame) It can also be filed anonymously or otherwise and will result in immediate action.



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RAY SANDELLI



How Leveraged ETFs Can Benefit a Sophisticated Investor

Last month I wrote about investing in ETF's in a basic format so anyone can mentally digest it. This month I'm going to write about Leveraged Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs). This is for the people who eat, breath, and sleep "The Market" like I use to. Leveraged exchange traded ETFs are specialized investment vehicles designed to amplify the daily returns of an underlying index, sector, or asset. Unlike traditional ETFs, which generally seek to match the performance of a benchmark, leveraged ETFs use financial instruments such as derivatives, futures contracts, swaps, and debt to achieve returns that are typically two or three times the daily performance of the underlying index. While these products are often considered unsuitable for inexperienced investors, they can offer meaningful benefits when used by sophisticated investors who fully understand their risks and mechanics. Also, if you have a good accountant, leveraged ETFs are like a steroid shot in your portfolio. Did he actually write that? I sure did! Now you know this is NOT AI. (SMILE)

Now that I have your attention; One of the primary advantages of leveraged ETFs is capital efficiency (and yes I am a Smart A\$\$ - oops pardon the telepathic idea that has you REALLY wanting to read more)....where was I?...oh yeah... Sophisticated investors often seek ways to maximize market exposure without committing large amounts of capital. A leveraged ETF also allows an investor to gain amplified exposure to a market segment while deploying only a portion of the capital that would otherwise be required. For example, a 3x leveraged ETF seeks to generate approximately three times the daily return of its benchmark index. This enables investors to achieve a desired level of exposure while retaining additional capital for diversification, risk management, or other investment opportunities.

Another benefit is accessibility. Traditionally, investors seeking leverage would need to use margin accounts, futures contracts, or options strategies. These approaches often require specialized knowledge, regulatory approvals, and

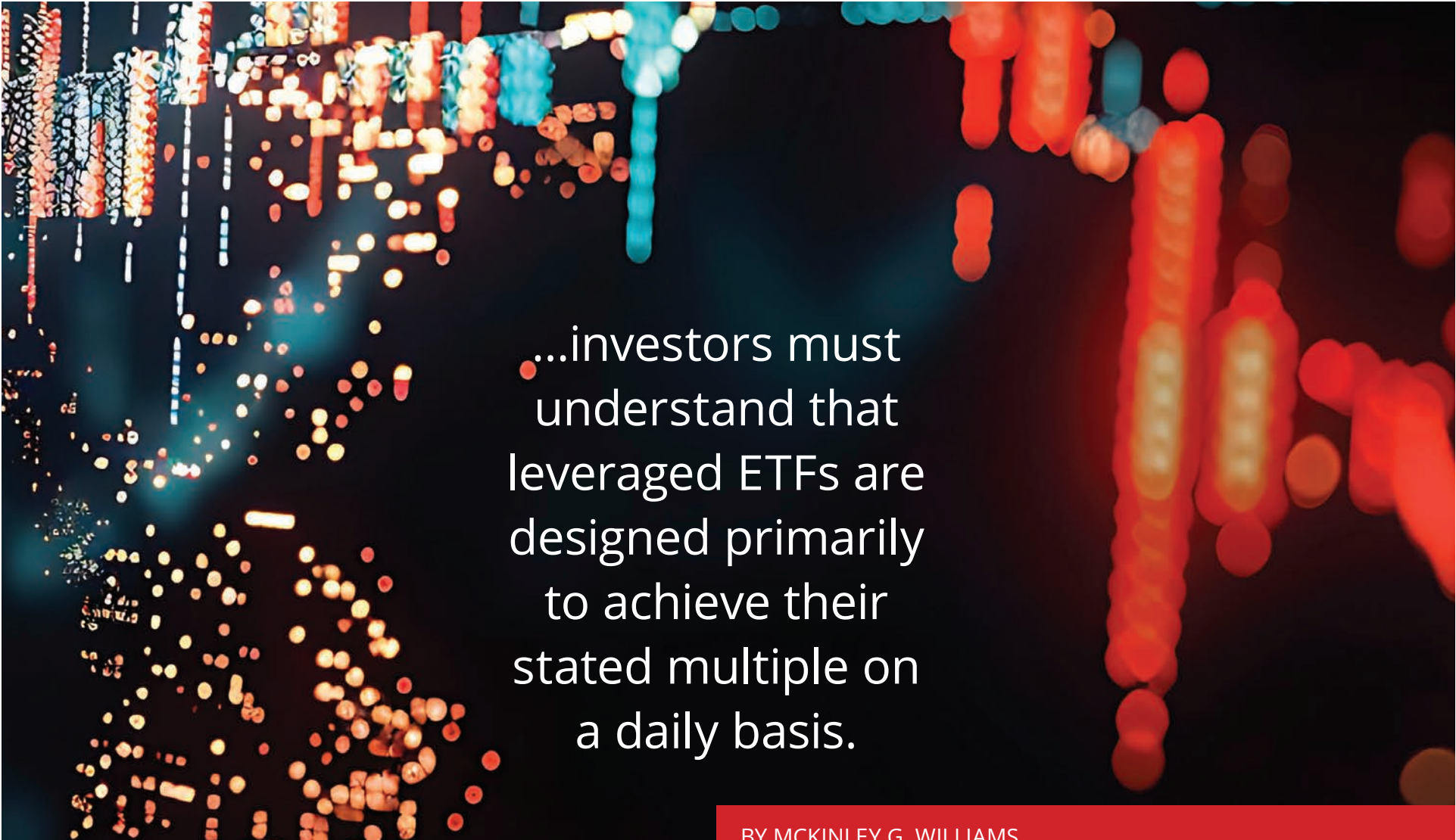
ongoing monitoring of margin requirements. In other words, you better know what the Hell you're doing! Leveraged ETFs simplify the process by packaging leverage into a single security that can be bought and sold through a standard brokerage account. This ease of access allows sophisticated investors to implement tactical strategies without the complexity associated with many traditional leveraged instruments.

Leveraged ETFs can also be valuable tools for expressing short-term market views. Investors who have strong convictions about the direction of a particular market, sector, or index may use leveraged ETFs to capitalize on anticipated price movements.

Check this out, if an investor expects a technology index to rise sharply over the next several days or weeks, a leveraged ETF may provide greater upside potential than a standard ETF tracking the same benchmark. In situations where the investor's market outlook proves correct, the amplified returns can significantly enhance portfolio performance. It's almost like playing double dutch; you have to jump in and out at the right time and while you're in the game you better pay attention or you might screw up.

In addition to pursuing higher returns, leveraged ETFs can be used for portfolio management and hedging purposes. Sophisticated investors may employ inverse leveraged ETFs, which are designed to move in the opposite direction of an underlying index. These instruments can provide a convenient method of protecting a portfolio during periods of anticipated market weakness. Rather than liquidating long-term investments and potentially triggering tax consequences, an investor may use an inverse leveraged ETF to temporarily offset downside risk.

****(The aforementioned paragraph needs to be memorized and tucked away with your trust or estate papers.) I suggest forwarding this to your accountant once per year albeit he has an original copy. This reinforced reminder also protects you from any residual financial shrapnel.*



...investors must understand that leveraged ETFs are designed primarily to achieve their stated multiple on a daily basis.

BY MCKINLEY G. WILLIAMS

Another advantage is flexibility. Leveraged ETFs are available across a whole bunch of asset classes, including equities, bonds, commodities, currencies, and international markets. This variety allows investors to implement targeted strategies based on specific economic, geopolitical, or market conditions. Check this out, an investor anticipating rising energy prices may use a leveraged energy-sector ETF, while another expecting a decline in long-term interest rates may select a leveraged bond ETF. The broad selection of products provides sophisticated investors with numerous strategic options.

Leveraged ETFs may also enhance trading efficiency. Because these funds trade on major stock exchanges throughout the trading day, investors can quickly enter and exit positions as market conditions change. This liquidity can be particularly valuable during periods of heightened volatility when rapid decision-making is essential. Unlike mutual funds, which are priced only once at the end of the trading day, leveraged ETFs offer real-time pricing and execution.

Despite these potential benefits, investors must understand that leveraged ETFs are designed primarily to achieve their stated multiple on a daily basis. Due to daily rebalancing, returns over longer periods may differ significantly from the simple multiple of the underlying index's cumulative return. This phenomenon, often referred to as volatility decay or compounding risk, can produce unexpected results, especially in highly volatile or sideways markets. Depending on how smart, lucky, or fortunate you are.

Check this out, if an index experiences substantial daily fluctuations without establishing a clear trend, a leveraged ETF may lose value even if the index ultimately returns to its original level. As a result, these products generally require active monitoring and disciplined risk management. Sophisticated investors who use leveraged ETFs successfully often have predefined entry and exit strategies and continuously evaluate market conditions.

You always have to be on point because risk management is critical.

Position sizing, stop-loss orders, portfolio diversification, and ongoing analysis are essential components of using leveraged ETFs responsibly. Because losses can accumulate rapidly when markets move against a position, investors must carefully assess their risk tolerance and investment objectives before incorporating leverage into their portfolios.

The Bottom line is leveraged ETFs can provide significant benefits for sophisticated investors who understand their structure and risks. These benefits include capital efficiency, enhanced market exposure, accessibility, tactical flexibility, hedging capabilities, and trading convenience. When you follow the unwritten rules, leveraged ETFs can serve as powerful tools for implementing short-term market views and managing portfolio risk. However, their complexity and potential for amplified losses require a disciplined approach, thorough understanding, and active oversight. For investors with the knowledge and experience to manage these challenges, leveraged ETFs can be valuable additions to an advanced investment strategy.

I tried to explain leveraged ETFs in a balanced manner, highlighting their strategic uses while clearly explaining the risks associated with leverage, daily rebalancing, and volatility decay. I hope this helps.

Financially,
McKinley G. Williams



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

from
Mercedes Price Harry



As Chair of the Lee County Republican Party, I am reaching out to my neighbors, especially conservative minority, independent, and women voters, who may not always participate in elections or have traditionally supported Republican candidates. With important elections coming in a few short months, including local races that shape our daily lives here in Lee County, I invite you to consider joining us for the August 18th primary election where we will choose from a pool of God-fearing, freedom-loving Republican candidates to represent us in the November 3rd election against Democrats. Our shared American values and love for freedom, God, and family offer common ground that transcends Party labels.

Local elections matter profoundly because they determine what happens closest to home. Your school board decides the quality of education your children receive. County commissioners control taxes, roads, public safety, and growth. These choices affect your family's safety, your property values, and the kind of community we build together far more directly than distant debates in Washington, D.C. When the right leaders serve at the local level, our families thrive.

Look at the story of our own congressman who began as a local activist during the historic rise of the T.E.A. Party. His passion for education took him to the state house where he served two terms before he represented us in D.C. and is now a viable candidate for Governor. His journey shows that the Republican Party welcomes principled leaders from all backgrounds who put freedom and community first, no matter their demographic. Simply put, we are a Party open to those ready to serve and fight for our beliefs.

We are all God-fearing people who cherish family. Black and Hispanic Americans across the country also hold these values deeply. Faith in God and His plan, the importance of strong families, and the desire to build a better future for our children. Unfortunately, too many Democrats dismiss or actively distort these foundations. Republicans respect and defend them, even when it isn't popular.

Americans want freedom above all. We must never forget the painful and unforgivable lessons of COVID-19. Across our country and the globe, the stark difference between "red" and "blue" leadership was undeniable. Republican-led states rejected prolonged lockdowns and heavy-handed government overreach. They protected jobs, small businesses and personal liberties, kept schools open where possible, and trusted your family and you to make responsible decisions. Only Republican governance spared millions from years of extended restrictions. Florida is thriving today because of the bold, principled leadership of Ron DeSantis, our Republican Governor. He and other Republicans across the country showed the world that when it matters most our Party will fight for your freedom and liberty against all odds. Today, our economy is strong, our children are thriving, and opportunity is real. Hard proof that conservative policies work for everyone.

Republicans are also committed to practical protections that matter to women and their families. It took a Republican president to secure our borders after years of chaos that endangered communities and strained resources. Our Party stands up for women and children, refusing to allow policies that put them at risk. Strong borders and safe streets are not partisan, they are basic responsibilities of government that allow families to flourish.

If you value freedom, faith, family, safety, and opportunity, I urge you to register to vote as a Republican before July 20th so your voice is heard in the August 18th primary election. You do not need to agree with us on every issue, but when you look at results, Florida's success versus the struggles in many blue-led areas, the choice becomes clear. Your voice and your vote are powerful. Lee County and Florida are better when more of our neighbors participate, especially those who have felt overlooked. Together, as Americans who love this country, we can keep building a Florida that works for every family, regardless of background.

Help us keep Lee County red by registering Republican by July 20th. Educate yourself on Republican candidates by visiting www.LeeGOP.org, and get out to vote on August 18th. In ruby-red Lee County, the Republicans who win in August will almost certainly beat the Democrats in November so do not overlook the August 18th primary election. We need strong Republicans in office.

When you vote Republican, you vote for freedom.

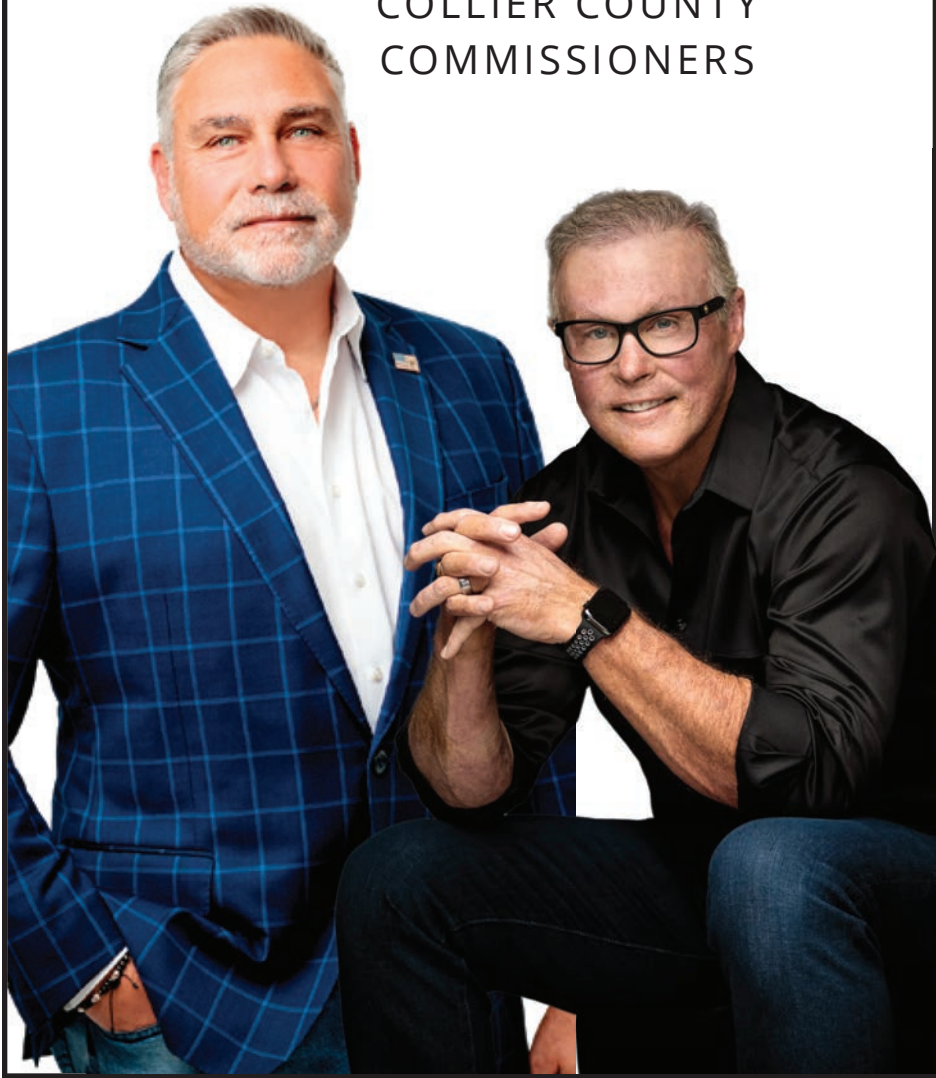
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SENIORS & SEX: THE ART OF SEDUCTION IN RETIREMENT

A Guide to Winning Hearts Later in Life

by Vernon Brown The Dunbar ShadeTree Phd.

Retirement marks a significant milestone in one’s life—a time to savor the fruits of labor, pursue passions long deferred, and perhaps even embark on new adventures, including romance.

While the landscape of love and seduction may shift with age, the essence of attraction and connection remains timeless. So how do you seduce someone you desire when you are retired? You do it by focusing on the nuances of maturity, experience, and genuine connection.

EMBRACE YOUR AUTHENTIC SELF

One of the most compelling aspects of seduction in retirement is the freedom to be authentically oneself. Years of life experience have likely shaped your personality, preferences, and values. Embrace these fully. Confidence in who you are is inherently attractive. Whether you’re a seasoned traveler, an avid reader, a skilled gardener, or a connoisseur of fine wines, share your passions enthusiastically. Your genuine enthusiasm and depth of character will naturally draw others towards you.

CULTIVATE INNER CONFIDENCE

Confidence is magnetic at any age. In retirement, you’ve likely overcome numerous challenges and achieved personal milestones. Reflect on these triumphs to bolster your self-assurance. Stand tall, maintain eye contact, and speak with conviction. A confident demeanor signals that you are comfortable in your own skin—a quality that is universally appealing.

Years of life experience have likely shaped your personality, preferences, and values. Embrace these fully.

NURTURE YOUR APPEARANCE

While inner beauty transcends age, nurturing your appearance can enhance your allure. Take pride in grooming and dressing in a way that reflects your personal style and compliments your physique. This doesn't mean conforming to youthful trends but rather choosing attire that is . A well-groomed appearance demonstrates self-respect and attention to detail, qualities that speak volumes about your approach to life.

ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS

Seduction in retirement often unfolds through meaningful conversations. Engage others with genuine curiosity and a willingness to listen. Share stories from your rich tapestry of experiences, but also be attentive to their narratives. Ask open-ended questions that encourage reflection and deep discussion. By demonstrating empathy and a genuine interest in others, you create a connection that transcends superficial attraction.

SHOWCASE YOUR WISDOM AND HUMOR

Years of life experience endow retirees with wisdom and a unique perspective on the world. Share your insights thoughtfully, offering guidance when appropriate and refraining from being patronizing. Humor, too, is a powerful tool in seduction. A well-timed joke or a playful anecdote can lighten the mood and foster camaraderie. Laughter shared between two people creates an emotional bond that strengthens connection.

EXPLORE SHARED INTERESTS

Finding common ground is essential in building romantic rapport. Explore activities and hobbies that align with your interests and values. Join clubs, attend cultural events, or volunteer for causes you are passionate about. These shared experiences provide opportunities to connect with like-minded individuals who appreciate your passions and perspectives. Shared interests lay the foundation for lasting bonds built on mutual respect and understanding.

EMBRACE TECHNOLOGY

In today's digital age, technology offers myriad opportunities to connect with others. Embrace social media platforms, dating apps, and online forums tailored to older adults. These platforms enable you to expand your social circle and meet individuals who

share your values and interests. Be open-minded and discerning in your interactions, and prioritize safety when meeting new acquaintances in person.

PRIORITIZE EMOTIONAL INTIMACY

Seduction is not solely about physical attraction but also about emotional intimacy. Show vulnerability by sharing your hopes, fears, and dreams with someone you trust. Express genuine affection through gestures of kindness, such as handwritten notes, thoughtful gifts, or acts of service. These gestures cultivate a sense of closeness and deepen the emotional bond between you and your romantic interest.

RESPECT BOUNDARIES AND CONSENT

In all romantic pursuits, respect for boundaries and consent is paramount. Pay attention to verbal and nonverbal cues to ensure that your advances are welcomed and reciprocated. Take the time to build trust and mutual respect before progressing to more intimate gestures. A respectful approach demonstrates maturity and consideration for the other person's feelings and comfort level.

EMBRACE THE JOURNEY

Above all, embrace the journey of seduction in retirement with an open heart and a sense of adventure. Approach each interaction as an opportunity to learn, grow, and connect on a deeper level. Celebrate the joy of discovering new companionship and experiencing the magic of mutual attraction later in life.

Seducing someone you desire in retirement is a nuanced art that combines authenticity, confidence, meaningful connection, and mutual respect. By embracing your true self, nurturing your appearance, engaging in meaningful conversations, and prioritizing emotional intimacy, you can cultivate lasting bonds built on mutual admiration and shared experiences. Remember that age is not a barrier to romance but rather a testament to the richness of life experiences that shape who we are and how we love.

People have to remember importance of authenticity, emotional connection, and respect in the pursuit of romance during retirement, highlighting that age is not a limitation but an opportunity for deeper, more meaningful relationships.

VOTE ⁴ GIGI

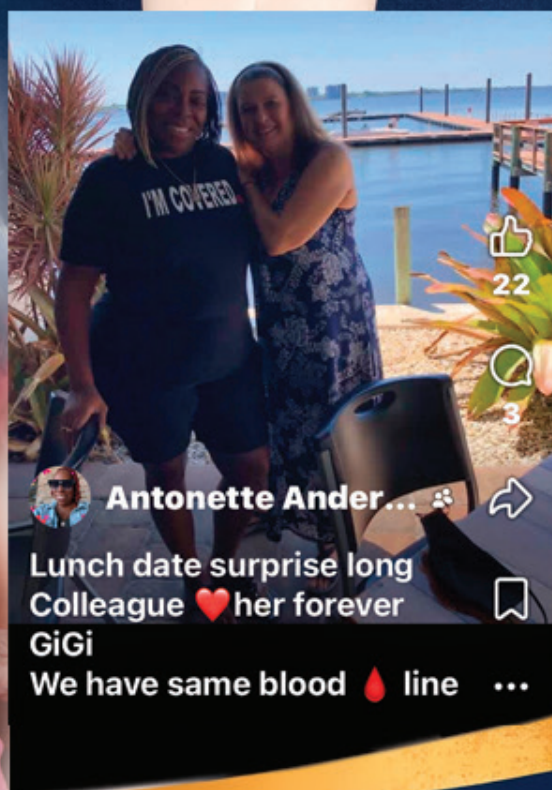
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Candidate for
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