



## 5 restaurants that stand the test of time

TASTE, INSIDE



SERVING CAPE CORAL, NORTH FORT MYERS, FORT MYERS, LEHIGH, ESTERO AND BONITA



# THE NEWS-PRESS

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## Trump threatens Iran over waterway

### Warns country not to block Strait of Hormuz

**Michael Loria, Cybele Mayes-Osterman, Bart Jansen and Jeanine Santucci**  
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump on March 9 predicted the Iran war will end "very soon" now that U.S. forces have decimated the country's navy, air force and political leadership, but a spokesperson for Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps slammed the president's comments as "nonsense" and said Iran "will deter-

mine the end of the war."

Iran will also challenge efforts to open the Strait of Hormuz, a major oil shipping route, according to the spokesperson, saying not "one liter of oil" will be exported.

It remains unclear if Iran will be dissuaded by threats Trump made in re-

sponse late on March 9, declaring "If Iran does anything that stops the flow of Oil within the Strait of Hormuz, they will be hit by the United States of America TWENTY TIMES HARDER than they have been hit thus far."

See IRAN WAR, Page 9A



Shubhangi Purani, an employee of Skanska, signs a picture at a ceremony for phase one of the new Lee Health's Fort Myers Hospital on Monday, March 9. PHOTOS BY ANDREW WEST/FORT MYERS NEWS-PRESS & NAPLES DAILY NEWS/USA TODAY NETWORK

## Burrowing owls back in FL after Spain trip

**Kimberly Miller**  
Fort Myers News-Press & Naples Daily News  
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

A pair of burrowing owls are back in Florida after a yearlong adventure that started with them stowing away on a bedazzled Royal Caribbean cruise to Spain.

The owls, which were found hanging out in a densely landscaped area of the towering, 18-deck Allure of the Seas, made the sojourn to Cartagena in February 2025.

The pint-sized expats spent a year overseas before returning to Miami in February. They are currently in quarantine, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

How and why the long-legged owls, who prefer terra firma over the open seas, were on the ship is a bit of a mystery. The ship left out of Port Miami, and the owls weren't noticed until the ship was already making its

See OWLS, Page 11A

## \$824M hospital marks construction milestone

### Lee Health officials hold topping off ceremony

**Liz Freeman**  
Fort Myers News-Press & Naples Daily News  
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Lee Health officials celebrated progress Monday, March 9, in the construction of its new \$824 million Fort Myers hospital.

Thirteen months into the start of construction of the hospital at Jones Walker and Colonial boulevards, officials held a topping off ceremony to

place the final beam in for phase one of the project. It also marked the groundbreaking for the west tower.

The new hospital will encompass 535,000 square feet of building space and will have 236 private patient rooms at opening, targeted for fall 2028. The future bed count is 260 at full capacity.

"It's really a defining milestone for this campus and the important work that's happening throughout Southwest Florida as we advance health care in the region," Dr. Larry Antonucci, president and chief executive officer of

See HOSPITAL, Page 7A



Lee Health's new Fort Myers Hospital held a topping off ceremony for phase one of construction on March 9.

### INSIDE, 4A



Nominate your pick for the best pizza in Lee County for our annual pizza bracket. ROBYN GEORGE/THE NEWS-PRESS

MIROMAR OUTLETS

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