



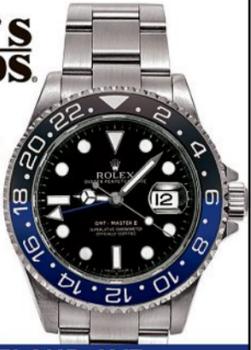
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THE NEWS-PRESS

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Lee commissioner blesses ICE presence at airport



Members of Immigration and Customs Enforcement are seen at Southwest Florida International Airport on March 23 amid Transportation Security Administration staff shortages. ANDREW WEST/FORT MYERS NEWS-PRESS & NAPLES DAILY NEWS

Pendergrass says agents aren't asking for birth certificates

Tomas Rodriguez and Tayeba Hussein
Fort Myers News-Press & Naples Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

A day after federal immigration agents began to patrol Southwest Florida International Airport in Fort Myers, officials are addressing their presence.

Lee County Commissioner Cecil

Inside

Union leaders calling for congressional compromise to end the shutdown. **10A**

ICE officers can't operate TSA screening machines. **11A**

Pendergrass' immigration remarks followed a press conference in Matlacha

on another matter.

Pendergrass' remarks come a day after at least 10 federal immigration agents patrolled the departure and arrival floors, and the concourses at RSW. Pendergrass is also the chairman of the Board of Port Commissioners.

"RSW is the only airport in the state

See **AIRPORT**, Page 5A

Genesis dealership, Sprouts Farmers Market coming to Pine Ridge Road



In the Know

Phil Fernandez
Fort Myers News-Press & Naples Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

The Pine Ridge Road corridor of Collier County is proving to be one of Southwest Florida's hottest intersections.

Genesis of Naples marked the official

beginning of construction on March 23 of a standalone automobile dealership at Pine Ridge and I-75, one of many endeavors transforming the North Naples stretch including a major national grocery chain ready to set up shop.

With answers to your questions, here's what to know.

How large will new Genesis be?

Owned and operated by the Zellers

family of Naples since 2018, the new 12-acre Genesis campus will feature more than 30,000 square feet dedicated exclusively to the brand - one of the first of its kind for the Hyundai Motor Group's luxury division.

The spot will join a growing number of new standalone locations being built in the U.S. for Genesis, which had its first in 2022 with a goal of more than

See **KNOW**, Page 8A

Progress reported on Cape projects

City says park upgrades entering final weeks

Mickenzie Hannon

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

Cape Coral's next wave of growth is starting to come into focus.

City leaders and developers laid out timelines for parks, retail, industrial growth and major waterfront projects during the 14th annual Catch the Vision event on Monday, March 23 at First Cape Church.

With the population now around 240,000, the push to build out places to live, work and play is accelerating, with several long-awaited projects nearing completion this year and others moving into early construction phases.

Jaycee Park

- Entering the final weeks of upland construction
- Expected to open mid-to-late April
- Includes a bistro building, bandshell and overlook boardwalk along the Caloosahatchee River
- More than \$12 million invested in the renovation

"Jaycee Park's under construction right now. We're really excited about the future of it, where we're going with it," said Parks and Recreation Director Joe Petrella. "Right now, we're looking at, hopefully, opening in mid-April to late April, and then really starting to do events there after that."

Festival Park

- Turf fields are installed, and work continues on grass fields and the amphitheater. The park is near Wilmington Parkway and Chiquita Boulevard.
- Opening is expected in June
- Event programming is planned to begin this fall
- Minor delays were caused by irrigation and pump issues

Yellow Fever Creek Preserve

- Contractors are finishing site work
- Opening is expected in June
- Will include hiking trails and a disc golf course

See **CAPE**, Page 6A



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