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IT IS THE BEST OF TIMES, IT IS THE WORST OF TIMES — well, maybe a little of both. It's hard to get too depressed about the economy when the sun shines bright every day, world-class beaches and fishing holes are mere minutes away, breathtaking sunsets appear nightly and the local political theater-of-the-absurd keeps us all entertained.

And, things are changing. New restaurants and shops and entertainment venues and people are popping up as old standbys fade into the sunset (a spectacular sunset at that).

To keep up on what makes Lee County so special, *Florida Weekly's* staff searched high and low for the Best of.... well, everything.

The Best place for a first date? We got it. The best use of local tax dollars? It's here. The best local band? Yep. The best place to meet single men or women? We've got the 411.

It's all here in Florida Weekly's Best, along with the heart and soul of Lee County.

Have fun.