

Two area businesses make big donations to addiction services

Southwest Florida Addiction Services received a boost to its capital campaign last week with the announcement of two pledges from First Community Bank of Southwest Florida and Oswald, Trippe and Company to support construction of the service's new Detoxification Center and Outpatient Treatment Facility.



First Community Bank pledged \$25,000 to help equip the dining room, which will be named in the bank's honor.

Oswald, Trippe and Company pledged \$20,000 to fund the conference room of the Outpatient Treatment Facility, which will be named in their honor.

"We are very grateful to First Community Bank and Oswald, Trippe and Company for recognizing the importance of providing treatment for residents with the chronic disease of addiction, which impacts one in five people in our community. This is an issue that impacts every segment of our community, and they are both stepping up to help respond to this need," said SWFAS CEO Kevin B. Lewis.

SWFAS now has raised more than \$5.7 million toward the \$9.5 million cost of the new facility. Other major gifts have been received from the Lee County Commission, State Housing Initiatives Program, U. S. Department of Health & Human Services, The Kleist Family Foundation, Jim and Donna Sublett, Southwest Florida Community Foundation, Lee Memorial Health System, and the Gannett Foundation.

"There isn't a day that passes that we aren't forced to turn away people in need of

immediate detoxification because there are no beds available," Lewis said. "Each day the headlines tell the stories of tragedies associated with untreated substance use disorders, and these consequences will continue until we can respond to this unmet need."

While the population at risk has nearly tripled in the past 20 years, Lewis said the number of detox beds has decreased from 28 beds in 1984 to 25 beds in 2007, due to the lack of resources to treat this chronic disease.

"Families need a place to turn in times of crisis," Lewis said. "The Board of Directors is acutely aware of this need and is committed to raising the money needed to build a new facility."

The new 40-bed Detoxification Center will be built on land on Evans Avenue donated by the City of Fort Myers under a long-term lease. The four-acre parcel formerly was the home of the Fort Myers Recreation Center adjacent to Southwest Regional Medical Center.

The planned 44,000 square foot facility also will include room for outpatient counseling and prevention offices now located on McGregor Boulevard as well as administrative staff.

The SWFAS Board of Directors and Capital Campaign Cabinet currently are requesting funding from local individuals, businesses, and foundations to help with the project.

SWFAS plans to break ground later in February with completion one year later. ■

Cattle Barons' Ball is rearing to raise money

After more than nine months of planning and countless hours of meetings, the fifth annual American Cancer Society's Cattle Barons' Ball will kick off Saturday, Jan. 26 at the City of Palms Park, in the Fort Myers' River District.

As the New Year begins, the efforts of all those involved will have a positive impact on the fight against cancer. Every year, more than 6,000 residents in the Southwest Florida area are diagnosed with cancer. From the scholarships awarded through the R.O.C.K. (Reaching Out to Cancer Kids) program or by providing transportation to cancer patients through the "Road to Recovery" program, the Lee County chapter of the American Cancer Society will feel the astounding effects through the funds raised in this one-night-only event.

Looking to surpass their 2007 success, the Cattle Barons' Ball committee has many new and exciting fundraising events on the list. For the second consecutive year, the Lee County Cattle Barons' Ball has grown to

become the largest in the state of Florida. The continued display of support from the community has shown that Fort Myers has found an event to which they can truly relate.

Melinda Isley, chair for this year's event said, "The community's response has been amazing. The Cattle Barons' Ball is an event that allows the community to have a direct impact on the fight against cancer, created perfectly as a good ole' fashioned country gathering. It's a truly unique event!"

With more than 3,400 offices nationwide, The American Cancer Society is organized to deliver cancer prevention, early detection, and patient services programs at the community level. The organization is dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy, and service.

For more information on the event, volunteer opportunities or ways to contribute, contact the American Cancer Society at (239) 936-1113 ext.112. ■

IT'S TAX TIME!
ARE YOU READY?
239.390.8882
WWW.BRIERSCPA.COM
BONITA SPRINGS
3301 BONITA BEACH RD
SUITE 306
FORT MYERS
12800 UNIVERSITY DR
SUITE 200

BriersCPA

RESERVE
Cigar and Wine Bar
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
A SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT THAT CATERS TO EVERYONES' NEEDS

- FINE WINES • TOBACCO • LIQUOR •
- DELECTABLE APPETIZERS • DESSERTS •
- NOW SERVING LUNCH • WI FI •

LIQUOR STORE NOW OPEN HAPPY HOUR 3-7 EVERYDAY

Decadent... Sophisticated... Elegance... Flavor

PRIVATE MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE
FOR DETAILS VISIT
WWW.RESERVECIGARANDWINEBAR.COM
239-210-0300
10950 SOUTH CLEVELAND AVE • FORT MYERS
(ACROSS FROM PAGE FIELD)



NEW YEAR, NEW BANK, NEW SNEAKERS?

OPEN A BANKING RELATIONSHIP WITH Panther Community Bank, N.A. and make a difference for Lehigh children. We will donate a pair of new sneakers, in your name through LACES OF LOVE, to a Lehigh child so they can participate in gym class and enjoy the playground at recess.

More Than You Expect.™



50 Joel Boulevard
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936
www.PantherCommunityBank.com
(239) 303-7310

