

LOCAL/STATE

Who will be Collier's manager?

County executive will be focus of special meeting

Rachel Heimann Mercader

Naples Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Collier County plans to select its next county manager at a special meeting Thursday morning.

The decision to call the special meeting was made on the fly after each of the remaining six candidates gave presentations during the Commission's regular meeting on Tuesday, June 14.

At the Board of Commissioner's May 10 meeting, deputy manager Amy Patterson was appointed acting manager fol-

lowing County Manager Mark Isackson's sudden resignation, which was announced the day prior.

Isackson announced in January that he would retire July 1 because of COVID-related health concerns. Early last month he abruptly changed his departure date to May 13 amid disputes over his request to cash out his leave pay, according to a memo obtained by the Naples Daily News.

It was also decided May 10 that each commissioner would self-schedule private interviews with the remaining candidates:

- Dan Rodriguez, deputy county manager for Collier County
- Amy Patterson, acting county manager for Collier County

- George Yilmaz, head of the public utilities division for Collier County

- Leonard Sossamon, interim city manager for Woodbury, New Jersey

- David Puente Jr, deputy director at Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs

- Steve Howard, county administrator for Camden County, Georgia

Howard and Puente gave their presentations in person, while Sossamon did so on Zoom. All in-house candidates presented in person.

Travel reimbursement information for the out-of-state candidates was not available Tuesday afternoon.

"The two candidates who traveled to Collier from out of state will be reimbursed for their travel expenses at a fu-

ture date, so we do not have the costs to provide at this time," Human Resource Director Amy Lyberg wrote in an email to the Naples Daily News.

Prior to the presentations at the June 14 meeting, the commissioners discussed the format of the candidate presentations and how much time they wanted to allow for questions from the board.

"I've already interviewed these people. Unless something new pops up today, I don't really have a need for additional questions or conversation," Commissioner Bill McDaniel said.

"This is more of an opportunity for the public to hear who the board has to select from," he added.

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Tharina Oris leads a Juneteenth march along Fifth Avenue South in Naples June 19, 2020.

PHOTOS: JON AUSTRIA/NAPLES DAILY NEWS USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Celebrate Juneteenth

Events are scheduled in Naples and Fort Myers

Dave Osborn

Naples Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Southwest Florida will mark the end of slavery with Juneteenth celebrations this weekend.

Juneteenth, (also known as Juneteenth Independence Day, African American Freedom Day, Liberation Day, Emancipation Day, Jubilee Day, or Freedom Day), is on June 19 and is considered the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the U.S.

Juneteenth traces its origins back to Galveston, Texas, where on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers — led by Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger — arrived and delivered the news that the Civil War had ended and slavery was abolished.

An estimated 250,000 African-Americans in Texas were emancipated on that day. The announcement came 2½ years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of Jan. 1, 1863, that freed all enslaved people in Confederate states.

Due to a lack of presence of Union troops in Texas as the war ended, enforcement of the proclamation was slow and inconsistent prior to Granger's arrival.

The day's name is a combination of "June" and "nineteenth" in honor of the date of Granger's announcement that signaled the freedom of the last of enslaved people.

And last year, President Biden signed legislation making Juneteenth a federal holiday.

"This will go down for me as one of



Community members listen to speakers during a Juneteenth celebration, Friday, June 19, 2020, at Cambier Park in Naples.

the greatest honors I will have as president," Biden said at the signing ceremony.

Here are some Juneteenth events in Southwest Florida this weekend.

NAPLES JUNETEENTH EVENT SATURDAY

Juneteenth Freedom Day at the Park: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, June 18. River Park Community Center, 301 11th St. N., Naples. A festive day commemorating the official end of slavery in the U.S., sponsored by the NAACP of Collier County. It includes spoken word performances, live music, a kids' corner with games and more, food for purchase and speakers. For vendor and entertainment information/opportunities, call 512-294-0485 or see naacpcolliercounty.org/.

FORT MYERS JUNETEENTH EVENTS

Juneteenth Community Festival: Celebrate the holiday with vendors, live entertainment, music, arts and crafts, food and information on Juneteenth and its significance. Noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, June 18. Free. The 10th annual festival is presented by the Dunbar Festival Committee and the Lee County Black History Society. Roberto Clemente Park, 3265 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Fort Myers. facebook.com/dunbarfestivalcommitteeinc

High tea: Edison Mall, 4125 Cleveland Ave., from noon-3 p.m. Sunday, June 19, hosts high tea inspired by community activist Mina Edison (Thomas Edison's wife) and entrepreneur.

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State leader offers tips to stave off 'shrinkflation'

Packaging shrinks but prices stay the same

Jason Delgado

Tallahassee Democrat
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

The man in charge of managing Florida's purse strings is warning consumers of an emerging threat: "Shrinkflation."

No, it isn't your imagination, or just some silly term. Businesses are actively shrinking packages while maintaining the same sticker prices at many popular grocery stores and restaurants.

The strategy, while subtle, is known as "Shrinkflation." And it can cost consumers a fortune without them even realizing it. Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis issued a statement this week, warning Floridians of the emerging trend.

Shrinkflation is a strategy that businesses are using to salvage profits amid historic inflation, explained Patronis, from toilet paper to yogurt and coffee to corn chips.

"Understandably, companies are doing what they can to keep their doors open as the supply chain remains a disaster and the cost of ingredients for products increase," said Patronis. "This trend, however, is not only bad for business, but it is unfair to consumers."

While shrinkflation isn't new, the practice has taken off worldwide. In the U.S., a small box of Kleenex now has 60 tissues; a few months ago, it had 65. And in the U.K., Nestle slimmed down coffee tins from 100 grams to 90 grams.

The acceleration of shrinkflation is the product of a perfect storm: rising costs, labor issues and transportation woes. Some, including Patronis, lay blame at the feet of President Joe Biden.

Patronis — a GOP leader and restaurant owner — is seeking reelection in November.

"The bad policies of Washington continue to place an unnecessary burden on Florida families and our businesses," he wrote. "As the nation continues to be impacted by an unsettled economy, I suspect there to be more issues like shrinkflation to appear and that's why I am urging Floridians to

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Many shoppers are experiencing higher food prices while receiving less product from popular food brands, something industry leaders call "shrinkflation." Shrinkflation is the downsizing of a product while keeping its sticker price the same.

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'Shrinkflation'

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start saving and spending your money wisely to prepare for the long road ahead."

Money-saving buying tips

Patronis provided consumers with several tips to stave off inflation. Among them, he encouraged shoppers to consider changing brands if needed, and suggested that Floridians capitalize on available reward programs and rebate offers. Checking the unit pricing can also prove useful too, he said.

While those tips may help consumers save extra dollars, economists warn inflation may continue to rise in the coming months and further exacerbate

prices.

"It comes in waves. We happen to be in a tidal wave at the moment because of inflation," said Edgar Dworsky, a consumer advocate and former assistant attorney general in Massachusetts who has documented shrinkflation on his Consumer World website for decades.

Dworsky began noticing smaller boxes in the cereal aisle last fall, and shrinkflation has ballooned from there. He can cite dozens of examples, from Cotonelle Ultra Clean Care toilet paper, which has shrunk from 340 sheets per roll to 312, to Folgers coffee, which downsized its 51-ounce container to 43.5 ounces but still says it will make up to 400 cups. (Folgers says it's using a new technology that results in lighter-weight beans.)

Dworsky said shrinkflation appeals to manufacturers because they know customers will notice price increases

but won't keep track of net weights or small details, like the number of sheets on a roll of toilet paper. Companies can also employ tricks to draw attention away from downsizing, like marking smaller packages with bright new labels that draw shoppers' eyes.

That's what Fritos did. Bags of Fritos Scoops marked "Party Size" used to be 18 ounces; some are still on sale at a grocery chain in Texas. But almost every other big chain is now advertising "Party Size" Fritos Scoops that are 15.5 ounces — and more expensive.

High grocery prices

Alex Aspacher does a lot of the grocery shopping and meal planning for his family of four in Haskins, Ohio. He noticed when the one-pound package of sliced Swiss cheese he used to buy shrank to 12 ounces but kept its \$9.99

price tag. Now, he hunts for deals or buys a block of cheese and slices it himself.

Aspacher said he knew prices would rise when he started reading about higher wages for grocery workers. But the speed of the change — and the shrinking packages — have surprised him.

"I was prepared for it to a degree, but there hasn't been a limit to it so far," Aspacher said. "I hope we find that ceiling pretty soon."

Sometimes the trend can reverse. As inflation eases, competition might force manufacturers to lower their prices or reintroduce larger packages. But Dworsky says once a product has gotten smaller, it often stays that way.

"Upsizing is kind of rare," he said. *Contribution: The Associated Press. JDelgado@gannett.com*

Manager

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Commissioner Rick LoCastro agreed, saying, "I spoke to each candidate for an hour or more. And I asked all my questions, so unless they say something in their presentation that begs the questions, this is a chance for them to have the floor, have the mic, for us to shut up and have them make their final pitch on the heels of what should have been very long and complete interviews."

It was then decided that each candidate had a maximum of 10 minutes to give a presentation followed by five minutes for all questions and answers.

Toward the end of the presentations, as commissioners went to a brief court reporter break, Commissioner Penny Taylor was caught on a hot mic asking McDaniel whether there was an intention to select a final candidate that day.

A reporter with the Naples Daily News, who was watching the meeting live online, texted Taylor and McDaniel and asked what their plan was.

When the meeting resumed, McDaniel acknowledged Taylor's question, saying: "After we went to break, the mics were still on. And you were heard asking the question as to whether or not we were going to make the decision today... So I think we should have some discus-

sion about how we wish to proceed."

LoCastro spoke first, saying he preferred to "sleep on it" and make the decision at their budget workshop meeting this Thursday.

McDaniel said it would be a bad idea for them to make that kind of decision without giving proper notice to the public. "I'm ready today, but if you want to, as Commissioner LoCastro said, sleep on it, then I'm OK with that, too."

Commissioner Burt Saunders then said that he thought it would be a mistake to make any decision Tuesday because the agenda for Tuesday's meeting made "no indication that we're gonna make a decision today."

Taylor agreed, adding that now that the public has had an opportunity to hear the candidate's presentation, they could now weigh in if they wished to do so.

"We all met these candidates, but now the community, the public is meeting them," she said. "And I think there is an advantage there because if they so choose, the public can weigh in too. I'm always welcoming to that kind of input."

Commissioners agreed to call a special meeting at 9 a.m. Thursday, June 16, to choose the next county manager.

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Christian Langford, of Lehigh, helps his 2 children, a friend's daughter and his nephew with their lunch as they enjoy the Seventh Annual Father's Day Celebration. ANDREA MELENDEZ/THE NEWS-PRESS

Juneteenth

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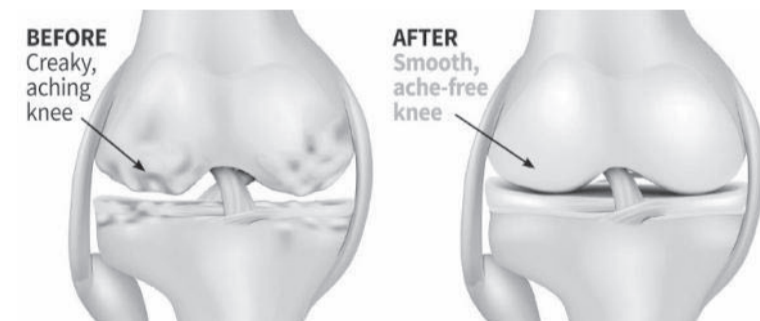
neur and philanthropist, Dr. Ella Mae Piper. Susan Tutko and LaTonga Henderson perform as these legendary historic figures, discussing the changes in Fort Myers since Juneteenth while exploring the rich history of these extraordinary women. Also, onsite artists will create Juneteenth

and 1920s-inspired canvases, available via auction with proceeds going to locally Black-owned nonprofits. Cakes and pastries will be prepared and served by Edison Ford Shoppes. The event is free and open to the public. 239-939-1933 or shopedisonmall.com

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Biblical Bush Shuts Down Joint Discomfort in 5 Days



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 54 million Americans are suffering from joint discomfort.

This epidemic rise in aching joints has led to a search for alternative treatments—as many sufferers want relief without the harmful side effects of conventional "solutions."

Leading the way from nature's pharmacy is the new "King of Oils" that pioneering Florida MD and anti-aging specialist Dr. Al Sears calls "the most significant breakthrough I've ever found for easing joint discomfort."

Biblical scholars treasured this "holy oil." Ancient healers valued it more than gold for its medicinal properties. Marco Polo prized it as he blazed the Silk Road. And Ayurvedic practitioners, to this day, rely on it for healing and detoxification.

Yet what really caught Dr. Sears' attention is how modern medical findings now prove this "King of Oils" can powerfully...

Deactivate 400 Agony-Causing Genes

If you want genuine, long-lasting relief for joint discomfort, you must address inflammation. Too much inflammation will wreak havoc on

joints, break down cartilage and cause unending discomfort. This is why so many natural joint relief solutions try to stop one of the main inflammatory genes called COX-2.

But the truth is, there are hundreds of agony-causing genes like COX-2, 5-LOX, iNOS, TNK, Interleukin 1,6,8 and many more—and stopping just one of them won't give you all the relief you need.

Doctors and scientists now confirm the "King of Oils"—Indian Frankincense—deactivates not one but 400 agony-causing genes. It does so by shutting down the inflammation command center called Nuclear Factor Kappa Beta.

NK-Kappa B is like a switch that can turn 400 inflammatory genes "on" or "off." A study in Journal of Food Lipids reports that Indian Frankincense powerfully deactivates NF-Kappa B. This journal adds that Indian Frankincense is "so powerful it shuts down the pathway triggering aching joints."

Relief That's 10 Times Faster... and in Just 5 Days

Many joint sufferers prefer natural solutions but say they work too slowly. Take the best-seller glucosamine. Good as it is, the National Institutes of Health reports that glucosamine takes as long as eight weeks to work.

Amazing plant "prescription" gives new life to old joints without clobbering you. So safe you can take it every day without worry.

Yet in a study published in the International Journal of Medical Sciences, 60 patients with stiff knees took 100 mg of Indian Frankincense or a placebo daily for 30 days. Remarkably, Indian Frankincense "significantly improved joint function and relieved discomfort in as early as five days." That's relief that is 10 times faster than glucosamine.

78% Better Relief Than the Most Popular Joint Solution

In another study, people suffering from discomfort took a formula containing Indian Frankincense and another natural substance or a popular man-made joint solution every day for 12 weeks.

The results? Stunning! At the end of the study, 64% of those taking the Indian Frankincense formula saw their joint discomfort go from moderate or severe to mild or no discomfort. Only 28% of those taking the placebo got the relief they wanted. So Indian Frankincense delivered relief at a 78% better clip than the popular man-made formula.

In addition, in a randomized, double blind, placebo controlled study, patients suffering from knee discomfort took Indian Frankincense or a placebo daily for eight weeks. Then the groups switched and got the opposite intervention. Every one of the patients taking Indian Frankincense got relief. That's a 100% success rate—numbers unseen by typical solutions.

In addition, BMJ (formerly the British Medical Journal) reports that Indian Frankincense is safe for joint relief — so safe and natural you can take it every day.

Because of clinically proven results like this, Dr. Sears has made Indian Frankincense the centerpiece of a new natural joint relief formula called **Mobilify**.

Great Results for Knees, Hips, Shoulders and Joints

Joni D. says, "Mobilify really helps with soreness, stiffness and mild temporary pain. The day after taking it, I was completely back to normal—so fast." Shirley M. adds, "Two week after taking Mobilify, I

had no knee discomfort and could go up and down the staircase." Larry M. says, "After a week and a half of taking Mobilify, the discomfort, stiffness and minor aches went away... it's almost like being reborn." And avid golfer Dennis H. says, "I can attest to Mobilify easing discomfort to enable me to pursue my golfing days. Definitely one pill that works for me out of the many I have tried."

How to Get Mobilify

To secure the hot, new Mobilify formula, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at **1-800-304-1663 TODAY**. "It's not available in retail stores yet," says Dr. Sears. "The Hotline allows us to ship directly to the custom Mobilify, all orders are backed by a 100% money-back guarantee. "Just send me back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days from purchase date, and I'll send you all your money back"

Call NOW at **1-800-304-1663** to secure your supply of Mobilify. Use Promo Code **NP0622MB42** when you call. Lines are frequently busy, but all calls will be answered!



RISK-FREE TRIAL OF MOBILIFY

Dr. Sears believes in this product so much, he offers a 100% money-back guarantee on every order. "Just send me back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days, and I'll send you your money back," he says.

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