

Food Truck Wars battle in Fort Myers

ANNE REED and ANNABELLE TOMETICH, ATOMETICH@NEWS-PRESS.COM 9:22 a.m. EDT March 23, 2016

This week in A La Carte, mark your calendars for a foodie throw-down, a downtown staple forced to move plus more dining news



(Photo: special to news-press)

Mark your calendars for a foodie throw-down.

Six Bends Harley-Davidson, located at 9501 Thunder Rd, Fort Myers, will be the site of the inaugural Food Truck Wars on April 16 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Food trucks from all over the state will compete for the following awards: Top Ticket Taker, Top Food Sales, Delectable Desserts, Casual Cuisine and the

People's Choice Award. Up to 40 trucks are expected to participate, including five from Southwest Florida: [The Sizzle Truck](#), Naples; [Smokin R's BBQ](#), Bonita Springs; [Serious Cookie Company](#), Naples; [The Butcher's Son](#), Naples; and [Doner Kebab King Karl](#), Fort Myers.



Local food truck [Doner Kebab](#) will participate in Food Truck Wars April 16 at Six Bends Harley Davidson. (Photo: special to news-press)

Other food trucks from Florida include [Latin Fixin's](#), Miami; [Dawgs & Wiches](#), Sunrise; [Churros & Cream](#), Port Orange; [Shefu](#), Celebration; and [Croz's Surf Shack](#), Bradenton.

Celebrity judges, led by Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association's Jim Whaples, will help decide the winners.

Admission to the event is free, as is parking. All ages are welcome. Live entertainment will be provided by local band Electric Lipstick, and a kids zone will be available (\$5 admission).

A portion of the proceeds from the event will benefit local charities. For more information visit foodtruckwars.com.

LITTLE BITES



An overnight fire has shut down [Smoke'n Pit Bar-B-Q](#) in [North Fort Myers](#). (Photo: Bill Smith/The News-Press)

An overnight fire closed [Smoke'n Pit Bar-B-Q](#) in North Fort Myers on Monday. A glowing ember sparked the blaze which burned parts of the kitchen at the 18-year-old restaurant. No one was injured. Owner Larry Johnson plans to reopen as quickly as possible.

[Spirits of Bacchus](#), a downtown Fort Myers staple for close to 15 years, will close the doors on its current location at 1406 Hendry St. before June 1. Owners Suzy and Jeff Lewis hope to reopen in a new location as soon as possible.

TOP VIDEOS



4 'Idol' contestants that didn't win but made it big
01:21



5 of Merle Haggard's classic hits
01:33



Merle Haggard: 'The Poet of the Common Man'
05:02



Kelly Mains' classroom is a Golden Apple classroom
03:17



How it's made: Nevermind's Pork Belly Grilled Cheese
01:53

MORE STORIES



SPOTLIGHT: Beer in the bushes
April 7, 2016, 9:50 a.m.



New movies playing in Fort Myers Naples
April 7, 2016, 9:47 a.m.



Show times for movies in Fort Myers, Naples, April 8-14
April 7, 2016, 9:19 a.m.



A new food truck is on the scene in Collier County. [Parmesan Pete's](#) launched its [Little Pete's Italian Food Truck](#) recently. The truck is available for catering, corporate functions, fundraisers and private events. Follow it on [Facebook](#), visit littlepetesfoodtruck.com or call 272-2627 for more.

[Royal Scoop Homemade Ice Cream](#) is now open at 3695 Santa Barbara Blvd., Suite 104 in Naples. Find them on [Facebook](#) or visit royalscoop.com for more.

IN NORMAN LOVE NEWS



World-renowned Fort Myers chocolatier Norman Love will open a chocolate salon on McGregor Blvd. in Fort Myers this summer. (Photo: Brian Tietz/Special to The News-Press)

Norman Love Confections is coming to McGregor Boulevard in south Fort Myers. The master chocolatier is opening his fifth Southwest Florida chocolate salon and dessert bar in the Terra Design Center, which is also home to The Melting Pot and First Watch, at 13211 McGregor Blvd. Love hopes to have the location open by mid-summer.

Also from Love: Get your egg hunt on now through Easter Sunday. Norman Love and Mark Loren have teamed up to hide very special Easter eggs at locations in Lee and Collier counties. The eggs are in [Norman Love Confections](#) or [Mark Loren Designs](#) bags and contain either a voucher for artisan chocolates or a gemstone and gift certificates toward a gemstone setting.

WINE WHISPERER

[Jerry Greenfield](#), the [Wine Whisperer](#), will return to the Pine Island Elks Lodge on March 29, thanks to the Friends of Pine Island Library. A book signing and wine tasting from Greenfield's "How to Taste Wine Like a Pro" will be held from 4-6 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. Space is limited. For tickets, call Jane Kushe at 920-370-2313 or email jwk615@icloud.com.

FOODIE FIND OF THE WEEK



Alo Comfort Watermelon Peach drink from Chef Brooke's Natural Cafe. (Photo: [Anne Reed/The News-Press](#))

What: Alo Comfort Watermelon Peach

Cost: \$2.99

Where: Chef Brooke's Natural Cafe, 1850 Boy Scout Drive, Fort Myers; 332-2433.

Why: This isn't water, and it isn't juice. It's more like water with chewy fruit, which meant I was sipping and chewing my juice. Think of it as a healthier version of bubble tea.

LAST CALL FOR EGG CAKES

Need a dessert that is tasty and a centerpiece for your Easter dinner table? Sweet Odin's Danish Bakery at 24830 S. [Tamiami Trail](#), Bonita Springs, is accepting a limited number of orders for decorated Easter cakes. The egg-shaped cakes are \$26 and are available in white or chocolate. Sweet Odin's also offers custom quiche, available for \$14.95. Call 676-8120 for details and to check availability.

A La Carte is a compilation of news and notes from Southwest Florida's dining scene. Send info and story ideas to taste@news-press.com. Connect with these reporters: [@AnneKahtrynReed](#) and [@ATometich](#) (Twitter).