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Baccus Center to Launch Online Lake Wales News Site

The Baccus Center for Engaged Communications and Leadership (Baccus Center) is announcing plans to launch an online Lake Wales news site in late February. The web address will be www.lakewalesnews.net.

“We have heard so many people say they miss our hometown newspaper,” said Publisher Chevon Baccus, “LakeWalesNews.net will seek to fill the void and become a mobile-friendly, go-to site for local news about government, business, people, entertainment, sports, education, wellness, lifestyles and other topics of interest to our readers.”

Baccus has recruited local volunteers, many with newspaper experience, but she says the success of the online news site will be the photos, videos, stories and opinions submitted by readers. Correspondents are needed to cover sports, schools, clubs, and community events and to submit photos and videos of local happenings.

Volunteer staff so far includes: Robert Connors, Associate Editor; Palmer Wood, News Editor; Jeff Roslow, County Editor; Terri Miller, Entertainment Editor; Drew Truitt, Sports Editor; Cassie Jacoby, Lifestyle Editor; and Nancy Gossard, Wellness Editor. Staff writers include: Robert Bullock, Cindy Turner, Mike Carter, Angela Buchanan, Sandy Odom, Trey Heath, and Leslie Leege. Contributing writers include Linda Ann Truitt, Kevin Kieft, Dorothy Wilson, Cynthia Rignanese, Curtis Gibson, Catherine Price and Gary Vause. Additional photographers and writers are encouraged to volunteer by e-mailing editor@lakewalesnews.net.



Chevon Baccus, Publisher

“More than 900 communities have lost their local newspapers in recent years, and regional publications have cut staff dramatically,” Baccus said. “Quality local news outlets play a vital role as watchdogs of the public interest and promoters of community spirit and vitality. We are excited to offer this in our hometown of Lake Wales.”

The local business community will be asked to support the endeavor by becoming Charter Sponsors. Individuals who love Lake Wales and believe it needs a news source will be encouraged to make a donation.

“Our readers will be invited to engage actively in the news site and to help promote community,” Baccus said. “The site will be free, but registration will be required for full access and the ability to post comments. Classified ads, including up to 4 photos, also will be free.”

Baccus served eight years as an award winning newspaper reporter and editor and wrote extensively for publication during her 30-plus-year career in marketing, public relations and advertising. She also has worked as a business development consultant and newspaper advertising sales manager.