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# E NEWS-PR

ALTA RESOURCES CORP.

# Lee call center may add 800 jobs

\$21M office building planned near airport

Laura Ruane Fort Myers News-Fress USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

More jobs for Lee County - an esti-

mated 800. A new \$21 million, 90,000-square-foot Class A office building at South-west Florida International Airport.

Those are two big takeaways from call center Alta Resources Corp.'s ex-pansion plan that moved two steps closer to reality on Tuesday, when:

I Lee County on Tuesday, when:

I Lee County commissioners
unanimously voted their support for
the company's application for the
Florida Qualified Target Industry Tax
Refund Program; and

I Separately, citizen-advisers to commissioners on airport matters endorsed a proposed ground lease for Alta Resources at RSW's Skyplex commerce park. County commis-sioners sitting as the port authority board are expected to make the final call on that lease at a Thursday,

See ALTA RESOURCES, Page 8A



#### Marshall dies at 75

Penny Marshall died Monday a age 75 of complications from became a successful director

and Hollywood royalty, but for mil-lions of Americans she remains Laverne DeFazio of "Laverne & Shir-ley." 14A

Weather ligh 76° I Low 66

Rain, Forecast, 8C

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### ISLAND COAST HIGH EDUCATOR WINS LEE TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Island Coast High School digital media technology teacher Jeffrey Becker is congratulated Tuesday by Lee Schools Superintendent Greg Adkins after being selected as Lee County Teacher of the Year. Becker will be nominated for Florida Teacher of the Year. ANGREW WEST/INE INEWS-PRESS

Thyric Bland Fort Myers News-Press USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

When Jeffrey Becker was a copier salesman, he

When Jeffrey Becker was a copier salesman, he had a nagging feeling he should have been doing something else with his life.

T was making a ton of money and having fun with friends and stuff like that, but I just felt like there was more to life, 'said Becker, 35. 'There was more that I had to offer and my specific selli set and he way lhat God created me was to do more than

just sell conjers'

Becker received confirmation Tuesday his gut feeling was right. The Island Coast High video production teacher was honored as the Lee County school district's 2018 Teacher of the Year. Becker's family, Superintendent Greg Adkins,

some school board members and others gathered in Island Coast High's auditorium Monday morning to surprise Becker with the news. They all quietly

See TEACHER, Page 5A

## Lee commissioners approve 60-foot Big Carlos bridge



Lee County engineers and consultants say the 60-foot, single span replacement for the failing Big Carlos bridge will be a lot cheaper than a lower model preferred by some

Inside

The Lee County Board of County Com-missioners voted Tuesday to approve a fixed span bridge with a 60-foot vertical clearance over Big Carlos Pass, despite re-quests from some nearby residents and lo-cal representatives to delay the vote or pick a smaller alternative.

pick a smaller alternative.

The motion to approve county staff's recommended alternative passed 4-1, with just Commission Chairman Larry Kiker opposed, Kiker represents the district

See NEW BRIDGE, Page 4A

## MIROMAR OUTLETS

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Motion to restore

bridge name fails

Estero

to get vote 3A

#### Alta Resources

ed from Page 1A

Jan. 17, meeting.

esed Alta Resources and its 4,100 employees worldwide provide customer care, sales fulfillment, e-comerce and back-office services. It's sen in business for more than 20 years and already employs about 500 people

and already employs about 500 people in Lee County.

Alta declined to talk with The News-Press on Monday and Tuesday, with a spokesperson saying the project was still in the "due-diligence" stage. It also didn't return calls last month when the project was bouncing around county of-fices as "Project Arrow." However, according to county docu-

ments, the company wants to grow its business-process outsourcing services with a focus on the health care industry. This expansion is projected to create 485 full-time jobs and 315 part-time

Commissioners didn't discuss their decision publicly before the vote. A few hours later, County Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass told The News-Press he's happy to see the county partner with a business that already employs people

And even if most of the new jobs went to people who came from outside the region, Pendergrass sees a positive

ripple effect:

"They bring in new people to work for them, who become consumers – which

them, who become consumers — which creates more jobs for the community." Alta Resources had been considering Albuquerque, New Mexico; Augusta, Georgia; and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for the expansion project.

The Qualified Target Industry Tax

Refund incentive consists of up to \$39,000 from Lee County and \$156,000 from the state.

In addition, Lee County Industria Development Authority has approved a not-to-exceed incentive award of \$250,000 for Alta, for the creation of up to 500 jobs.

The incentives package requires the company to increase its local workforce by at least 65 additional employees over four years (2019-23) with an average

our years (2019-23) with an ainimum pay of \$42,923 a year The tax refund incentive will be dispersed on a per-job basis as new hires start work. Alta Resources would pay any taxes that are due, with refunds processed after the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity verifies the

of Economic Opportunity versues are company has met the requirements. "I'm happy for Alta: They're a great company offering high-skilled, high-wage jobs," said Jim Wall, Fort Myers-based spokesman for GareerSource, the statewide organization that connects businesses with workers and training

On the incentives, Wall said: "I think it's good (county leaders) are focusing on helping a local business to expand. I just wish there was a way for the process to be more transparent." to be more transparent

To house the bigger workforce, Alta intends to build and equip a 90,000-square-foot office building on just over

square-rock onice building on just over 12.5 acres fronting Paul. Doberty Park-way, at Southwest Florida Interna-tional's Skyplex commerce park. For the first five years, its ground rent would be \$72.67.36 per month, with payments beginning no later than March 1, 2007.

March 1, 2021 It's a 30-year lease initially, with four tions to extend the term for 20 addi-

At Skyplex, Alta will be a close neighbor to Gartner Inc., a global research advisory firm that employs more than

1,600 people in Southwest Florida. In early November, more than 600 Gartner staffers moved into two new of Cartner statiers moved into two new of-fice buildings constructed off Paul J. Do-herty Parkway in Skyplex. This was the first phase of a two-phase expansion from Gartner's original Fort Myers cam-pus in the Gateway community just scath of the size of pus in the Gatewa north of the airport.

Skyplex is a redevelopment effort the port authority launched after the pre-sent passenger terminal opened south of the runway in 2005 – and the former terminal to the north was deemed obso-lete, and demolished.

The commerce park was conceived of to help diversify Lee County Port Au-thority's revenue base by attracting non-aviation businesses that could

benefit from proximity to Interstate 75 and to the international airport. The Great Recession stiffed leasing at Skyplex. The port authority revamped its marketing efforts after the economy

Now things are happening.





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