

End of hurricane season an opportunity for reflection

By Hector Flores

This past Saturday the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season ended, providing an opportunity to reflect on a year that truly tested the strength and resilience of our organization and our community. With 18 named storms, 11 hurricanes, and five major hurricanes, Charlotte County endured significant impacts from hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton, including devastating storm surges.

While the season has ended, the journey to recovery continues. Rebuilding takes time, patience, and the unwavering spirit of a community that refuses to give up. We've seen neighbors helping neighbors, teams working tirelessly to restore what's been lost, and countless acts of hope and determination that remind us of who we are.

Our essential roles and "all hands on deck" approach served us well and we'll continue to improve and stay flexible on how we prepare and respond. Together, we are stronger. Together, we are rebuilding. And together, we will rise above any challenge.

For information about recovery assistance, facility status, debris removal and more, visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/storm.

Santa breakfast

Charlotte County Public Safety is hosting the 25th Annual Santa Pancake Breakfast from 9-11 a.m., Dec. 20, in the parking lot of the Charlotte County Public Safety Building, 26571 Airport Road in Punta Gorda.

The public is invited to the free pancake breakfast sponsored by HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital. Santa will arrive on a fire engine at 9:30 a.m. Families can enjoy free breakfast, pictures with Santa, children's activities, live Christmas music and demonstrations by Charlotte County Fire & EMS and the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office. Families will also be able to see helicopters and equipment on display from the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, Public Works, Florida Forest Service and more.

Register for Santa's Pancake Breakfast by visiting tinyurl.com/SantaPancakeBreakfast.

For information, contact Dawn Johnston at 941-833-5634 or Dawn.Johnston@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.

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