



CAROLINA HIDALGO/STAFF

Ross Lenehan, of Cape Coral, finishes first Sunday in the fifth annual Marco Island Triathlon at the Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort.

TRIATHLON from 3A

Organizers were forced to scrap the swim this year because of hazardous water conditions, and added a quarter-mile run in its place.

Gregory said that left some athletes feeling a little relieved, because the swim often is considered the most difficult part of the race.

Ross Lenehan, 28, of Cape Coral, placed first overall in the men's event with a time of 56:59; Christina Kolstedt, 32, of Winter Garden, placed first in the women's event with a time of 1:05:30.

Alexa Phillips wasn't among those cheering that the swim was canceled. The 56-year-old said the swim is her favorite part of the race, and she was a little disappointed when she heard it was canceled.

Still, she said adding a run to the beginning of the race made it a little easier because running a quarter-mile is easier than swimming one.

This was the second time Phillips participated in the Marco Island event, but she said she has participated in about 20 triathlons. She said she keeps returning because she likes the location and the route.

Gregory said one reason people are drawn to the event is because the run takes place on the beach.

The beach run had Bryce Millis a little worried. This was the first time she's done

a race on sand, and she said it made the final few miles a little difficult.

"It was a challenge," said Millis, who has been doing triathlons since 2012.

The 31-year-old Oakwood, Illinois, resident has spent the past few months working in Naples as a traveling physical therapist.

When she learned she'd be in Southwest Florida for a few more weeks, she decided to give the race a try.

Although some of Sunday's competitors weren't new to triathlons, Drew McIntosh, the assistant race director, said many of those running were first-timers.

He said the event is geared toward locals and is meant to be a way for them to become active in their community.

"It's a community event," he said. "This is a triathlon that is ultimately a fitness challenge."

As runners pounded the sand toward the finish line Sunday morning, supporters stood nearby clapping their hands and cheering them on in the final stretch.

Competitors milled around near the finish line, drinking water and chatting with friends and family.

For some, the plans for the rest of the day included a big breakfast and a long nap.

Not Phillips. She still needed to get home to mow the grass and grade papers. But first, she said, she was going to take a dip in the rocky Gulf of Mexico.

KNOW from 3A

Airport-Pulling Road to Heritage Trail. The project includes resurfacing the road, connecting 2 miles of bicycle lanes, replacing existing traffic signals and improving pedestrian crossings at every intersection, May said.

"The travel lanes were milled at 3 inches deep and a temporary, 1½-inch-thick layer of pavement was placed on top," she said. "All the turn lanes, drive-ways and side streets only received a 1½-inch-thick course of asphalt. Those side streets will receive a final layer of asphalt once the signal work is close to being complete."

The road project is estimated to be complete by the end of this year, May said.

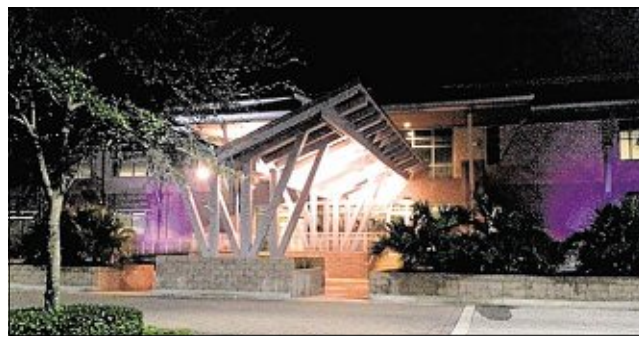
NAPLES PARK PROJECT

Q: We have been watching pipes being planted in the ground around Vanderbilt and Vanderbilt Beach Road and the streets on each of the channels. We were told all the pipes and lines would be down and in the ground and finished by the end of October. It seems the work has slowed down. They do not work on Fridays, sometimes they do not work on Thursdays and some Mondays. Do you know anything about this and the timeline that this will be finished?

— Pam C., North Naples

A: The local project to bury lines for Florida Power & Light, Century Link, Comcast and Summit Broadband utilities will not be completed until the second quarter of 2016.

"We never talked about ending in October," said project manager Harry Sells of Collier County's Public Transit & Neighborhood Enhancement Department.



ROBERT CATON/STAFF

Beginning on the night of Oct. 1 and continuing through the month, purple spotlights will color the front of the Naples Daily News' headquarters at 1100 Immokalee Road as part of the "Purple Night Lights" nationwide campaign to increase awareness of domestic violence issues.

The main part of the underground cable project is targeted to finish in April or May, and crews will start taking down utility poles in July, Sells said.

"That's a guess at this point in time, because I haven't even started pulling network cables," Sells said. "Once I get closer to doing that, I will have a better idea."

Crews will be burying conduit for months yet, and cable installation is expected to begin next month.

The project to bury utility lines in that area has been in the works for more than a decade. The idea was conceived in 2002, but it wasn't until the Vanderbilt Beach municipal services taxing unit, or MSTU, was formed in 2004 that funds started to be collected and significant planning began for the beautification effort, Sells said.

"It definitely changes the look of the neighborhood," he said.

In addition to the aesthetic improvement, underground utilities assure less service outages caused by high winds. To make the project happen, county government had to work with FPL, which resisted the idea until about 2008, Sells said.

Work began in 2012 to bury cables along nearby Gulfshore Drive. That ini-

tial project was completed two years ago, Sells said.

"I think it turned out extremely well," he said. "The landscape has matured and everything has been restored. It's a dramatic change because of the lack of wires and poles."

PURPLE NIGHT LIGHTS

Q: Can the Naples Daily News light its building in purple for Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October?


— K.T., Golden Gate

A: The newspaper office reflects your wish to shed light on an issue that hits home for too many people.

Beginning on the night of Oct. 1 and continuing through the month, purple spotlights will color the front of the newspaper's headquarters at 1100 Immokalee Road.

The "Purple Night Lights" nationwide campaign is intended to increase awareness of domestic violence issues and their effect on local children and families.

Have a local question? Email it with your name and city of residence to intheknow@naplesnews.com. "In the Know" is published every Monday and Wednesday. Like In the Know on Facebook now at [facebook.com/timaten.intheknow](https://www.facebook.com/timaten.intheknow).



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