

# Newborn baby found in South Florida dumpster

**By Eliot Kleinberg**  
GateHouse Florida

BOCA RATON — A baby believed to be newborn was found crying in a dumpster on Wednesday morning at an apartment complex west of Boca Raton, authorities said.

The baby, a girl, was taken to an unnamed hospital and is expected to survive, the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office said. Authorities had not identified the child or her parents as of Wednesday evening.

A service technician at Alister Boca Raton, off State Road 7 about one-half mile north of the Broward County border, “uncovered a newborn infant in one of our dumpsters,” John Thompson, the community’s senior community manager, said in a letter to community residents. Two people walking at the Boca Entrada apartments nearby told authorities they had heard the sound of a baby crying.

“We share your concern about this incident and are fully cooperating with local authorities who are investigating,” Thompson said in the letter, asking any resident with information to reach out to authorities.

Palm Beach County Fire Rescue also said that its

stations are “safe havens” where parents can anonymously turn over children up to to seven days old who they are unable to care for or support.

Fire Rescue personnel will transport the child to the nearest hospital for medical care. Since the program’s inception in 2000, 18 newborns have been turned over in Palm Beach County, said Capt. Albert Borroto, Fire Rescue spokesman.

The baby was found in a part of the Alister complex that comprises three buildings framing a parking lot and, at the center, a concrete enclosure with a dumpster inside. Residents woke Wednesday to see sheriff’s cruisers there. By then, residents said, the baby already had been discovered and taken away.

Adriana Alva, walking home Wednesday with her parents and daughters, said the family was coming back from a doctor’s visit to their home near the Alister complex when they saw at least three or four sheriff’s cars.

Asked if she’d seen anything unusual Tuesday or Wednesday — perhaps a woman who was pregnant and upset or in distress — she said, “I wish I would have. I definitely would have come and helped.”

# Leatherback nest found in Sarasota

**By Carlos R. Munoz**  
GateHouse Florida

SARASOTA — For only the second time in Sarasota County history, a leatherback sea turtle nest has been found.

The nests were located by turtle patrollers in Venice and Sarasota, according to a Mote Marine Laboratory biologist, who said the exact locations are being kept secret to protect the nest from harm. They have been staked off and caged to ward off predators.

“It’s very exciting for us. We don’t know a lot about leatherbacks here,” said Mote senior biologist Melissa Bernhard of the endangered turtle. “We’re going to do whatever we can to get as much data from this nest as possible without treating it differently or harming the turtles in anyway. We are in the early stages of getting over the shock of it.”

The last nest was found in 2001, but it did not hatch.

A successful hatch could ensure the central expansion of the range for leatherbacks, whose numbers have declined in the last several years, Bernhard said. The turtles are deep-diving animals that spend most of their time in the open ocean. They feed primarily on jellyfish and have soft shells.

Hatchlings take about



**The second-ever documented leatherback nest was found in Sarasota earlier this week, according to Mote Marine Laboratory. The last leatherback nest reported in Sarasota County was in 2001.** [COURTESY OF KIM HEUBERGER]

16 years to reach sexual maturity. They are known to remigrate to their nests to lay eggs.

Leatherbacks are distinguished by their soft streamlined shells and firm, rubbery skin.

“Kind of like all turtles, they are subject to human interaction,” Bernhard said. “They rely really heavily on the coastal environment.”

Initially, volunteer turtle patrollers, who mark and monitor sea turtle nests along 35 miles of Sarasota County beaches, reported the nest found earlier in the week as a green sea turtle crawl.

But Mote biologists questioned the reports because greens normally nest from June to September. Their crawls are about 4 ½-feet and loggerheads are about 3-feet

wide.

This nest was about the width of a car.

“This is much bigger than anything we have seen here in 18 years,” said Bernhard, noting the tracks indicate the flipper span.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said about 50 percent of leatherback nesting in Florida occurs in Martin and Palm Beach counties. There were 949 nests documented in 2018 compared to 1,604 in 2014.

The largest leatherback ever recorded was 10 feet from the tip of its beak to the tip of its tail and weighed 2,019 pounds, the Sea Turtle Conservancy said.

Leatherbacks average between 4- to 6-feet long and between 500 and 2,000 pounds.

There is a possibility, because of the distance between the nests, that both nests were made by the same turtle.

Leatherbacks nest between four and seven times per season, according to the Sea Turtle Conservancy, every two to three years. But they usually average 10 days between nesting.

There could be as many as 80 fertilized eggs and 30 smaller, unfertilized eggs in each nest, the size of billiard balls.

The eggs take about 50 to 80 days to hatch, a period subject to temperature and rainfall.

Leatherback populations worldwide are estimated at 34,000 to 36,000 compared to 115,000 in 1980.

Bernhard said it is unknown what led the this turtle to make a home in Sarasota County.

“They spend more of their life in deeper water further offshore, which I think is why they are on the East Coast rather than the Gulf,” she said. “I don’t know if she got washed in from the storms or got off course and decided to stick around. Maybe she decided to try something new and come here.” An inventory of the nest will be performed once the nest hatches, and to determine weather any live hatchlings are still in the nest. Any stragglers will be sent out to the Gulf.

## CASE

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“It’s a words-only case, which is extremely rare. I think this falls under offensive speech, which is protected by the First Amendment.”

In court, Calvert said prosecutors would have to prove the sticker obscene through the Miller test, a standard used by courts to define obscenity.

The three-part test comes from the 1973 Supreme Court’s 5-4 ruling in Miller v. California in which the court ruled that obscene materials did not enjoy First Amendment protections.

The first step in the Miller test is to determine whether the average person, applying “contemporary community standards would find the work, taken as a whole, appeals to prurient interests.”

In layman’s terms, the prosecutor would have to prove that an average Joe would find the words

almost pornographic, to be hard-core sexual conduct and that it appealed to “shameful or morbid interests in sex,” Calvert said.

Calvert’s skeptical that Webb’s case would make it past the first test. He said prosecutors would have a hard time proving the average person wouldn’t understand the sticker was meant to be a joke.

“I don’t think anyone is going to find this appeals to shameful or morbid interest in sex. It’s a three-word statement that intends to be amusing,” he said. “It might be sophomoric and offensive but I don’t think it’s obscene ... I think it’d be best to not prosecute it.”

Sgt. Murray Smith, spokesman for the Columbia County Sheriff’s Office, said the office stands behind the deputy’s decision to arrest Webb.

“Every deputy has discretion in certain areas,” Smith said. “Our deputy believed this was a violation of state statute.”

Webb was arrested under Florida Statute 847.011.2, which describes

violators as someone “who knowingly has in his or her possession, custody, or control any obscene book, magazine, periodical, pamphlet, newspaper, comic book, story paper, written or printed story or article, writing, paper, card, picture, drawing, photograph, motion picture film, film, any stickers, decals, emblem or other device attached to a motor vehicle ...”

Obscenity cases where there is no imagery attached are extremely rare, Calvert said. The sticker being just three words would make it an even tougher case to prove.

For historical context, Calvert reflected back to an early 1960s case in which comedian Lenny Bruce was convicted of giving obscene comedic performances and sentenced to four months in prison.

Things have changed since then, Calvert said.

Smith said he isn’t sure if the case will make it through the judicial system but that’s not the Sheriff’s Office’s job.

“Our job is not to

interpret the law,” Smith said. “It’s our job to establish whether there is probable cause to make an arrest and he did.”

English gave Webb the opportunity to appear in court on the obscenity charge in lieu of an arrest but he refused, according to Smith.

“If he refuses, then you really have no other option but to arrest him,” he said.

Webb’s truck was turned over to his mother, though Smith said English wanted to have the truck towed. He didn’t want the message on the road anymore.

“We called a tow truck because we did not want the sticker to corrupt the public morals again,” Smith said.

The truck was put on the tow truck but eventually taken back down after Webb paid a fee, he wrote on his Facebook page.

A reporter asked Third Judicial Circuit prosecutor John Durrett if he was aware of the case and if State Attorney Jeff Siegmeister plans to prosecute the case.

Durrett let out a laugh

like he’d heard a good joke, before saying no decision has been made on that front.

“You hear me chuckling but everything has to go through the normal process,” he said, still chuckling. “I mean, it’s making friggin’ national news. We have to look at

everything.”

Webb told The Associated Press he plans to file a wrongful arrest lawsuit with the Sheriff’s Office. Asked Wednesday afternoon if he still intends to, he replied: “Maybe.”

His next court date is May 23. The sticker, he said, is still on his truck.

## PUBLIC NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALACHUA, FLORIDA

Notice is hereby given that the City Commission of the City of Alachua will hold a public hearing on a proposed ordinance. The hearing will be held on May 20, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., in the James A. Lewis Commission Chambers in City Hall, located at 15100 NW 142nd Terrace, Alachua, Florida.

The ordinance title is as follows:

**ORDINANCE 19-25**  
**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALACHUA, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE AMENDMENT OF THE CITY’S LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS (“LDRS”); AMENDING SUBPART B OF THE CITY OF ALACHUA CODE OF ORDINANCES, LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS; AMENDING SECTION 5.1.2, TABLE 5.1-2, RELATED TO DIMENSIONAL STANDARDS WITHIN RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICTS; AMENDING SECTION 7.3.1 (B) (1) RELATING TO REQUIRED STANDARD STREET IMPROVEMENTS FOR SUBDIVISIONS; AMENDING SECTION 7.3.1 (B)(2) RELATING TO DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR STREETS UTILIZING TRANSITIONAL SWALES; AMENDING SECTION 10.2 CREATING A DEFINITION FOR “TRANSITIONAL SWALE”; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

At the public hearing, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the application. Copies of the application are available for public inspection at the Planning and Community Development Department, 15100 NW 142nd Terrace, Alachua, Florida, on any regular business day between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Written comments on the application may be sent to the following address: City of Alachua, Planning and Community Development, P.O. Box 9, Alachua, FL 32616. Notice is given pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, that, in order to appeal any decision made at the public hearing, you will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, you may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any persons with a disability requiring reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk at (386) 418-6100 x 101 at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing.

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## HONOR

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“It feels like a great honor,” he said. “I was doing my duty as were the rest of the boys over there. We were glad to get it over and come home alive.”

Cato loves his family, his time in the military and hunting.

At 102 years old, he killed two turkeys with one shot — a story his family backed up as legitimate when The Sun first interviewed Cato in November.

Cato then said he doesn’t know how he’s lived to be well past 100, but he’s going to have fun as long as he can.

In a letter from Leclerc, Cato was commended for helping liberate France from the Nazis.

“Your decision to fight for freedom in World War II was admirable, demonstrating your courage and selflessness.



**Tam “Sonny” Cato, 104, poses for a portrait in the courtyard of the Palm Garden of Gainesville on Wednesday. Cato was recently awarded the Knight of the Legion of Honor, the highest distinction of the French government, for his military service in WWII.** [LAUREN BACHO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER]

Without you, and those who fought alongside you, France and Europe may have never been liberated from the Nazi barbarity,” Leclerc wrote. “The solidarity that you showed to our country and people will never be forgotten and

will be considered as an example to follow for future generations.”

Congressman Ted Yoho, Susan Crowley, assistant vice president of UF community relations; Alachua Mayor Gib Coerper, a commander at Camp Blanding and

other military members attended the award ceremony.

Cato joins a fraternity of people like Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, Dwight Eisenhower and many others who have received the award.





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