

# Editorial Opinion

## Naples Daily News

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## Kudos & Kicks

Reviewing the good, the bad and the questionable

**Kudos:** Congratulations to Collier Senior Resources for surpassing the first year of operation of the Golden Gate Senior Center, providing personal and nutritional nourishment to hundreds in the community.

Collier County Senior Resource Center Inc. came together in 2010 to seek nonprofit status and developed a "Center Without Walls" outreach program while also working with Collier County government to make site-based use of the former Golden Gate library, according to the agency's website.

Community response to help pull the project together led to the remake that created the center, which opened its doors in 2014 at 4898 Coronado Parkway and has grown to more than 350 members. Connecting with the area's demographics, it has staff, members and others who can speak English, Spanish and Creole.

Nourishment comes in the form of various classes that provide exercise, games, instruction, computer training, financial literacy and much more. Nourishment also comes through social interaction the center provides, as well as weekday hot lunches that require registration, and a food pantry at 2 p.m. Thursdays serving more than 250 families a week.

Catholic Charities has been among Collier Senior Resources' main supporters.

The senior center is open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information and a list of supplies that are needed to help the senior center, go to [www.collierseniorresources.org/](http://www.collierseniorresources.org/).

**Kick:** In a few days, we'll be halfway into the 2016 state legislative session that convened Jan. 12 and is supposed to wrap up March 11.

Remember last year? A \$1 billion hole opened in the \$78 billion state budget after the federal government reduced Low Income Pool reimbursement for hospitals to provide indigent care. That issue and a House vs. Senate divide over Medicaid money meant the regular session ended without a budget, necessitating a special summer session.

So excuse us for getting nervous that we're nearing the midway point and have seen no significant legislative progress on the financial deal Gov. Rick Scott and a few lawmakers negotiated with the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Called a compact, \$3 billion over seven years is at stake for state coffers. That's substantially more revenue for the budget than the state received under the \$1 billion, five-year deal that expired this past summer.

Scott and tribal leadership did their jobs in getting a proposed deal into lawmakers' hands. But this is a complex deal that will take time to close. It affects not only the tribe's casinos, including one in Immokalee that's helped bolster the local economy, but also pari-mutuels across Florida — one is the greyhound racing track and card room in Bonita Springs.

It wasn't until late this week that there finally were signs of some movement on the compact. Bills are scheduled for committee hearings next week.

**Kudos:** The \$11.1 million for the 2016 Naples Winter Wine Festival brings to more than \$146 million the total that Naples Children & Education Foundation has raised since the event started in 2001. It's all to benefit local children's charities.

This year's special "Fund a Need" focus was raising money for early childhood education. The initiative raised \$615,000 in donations from dozens of folks attending the auction this past weekend. NCEF's Early Learning Initiative supports early childhood care providers who help get Collier kids ready to start school.

While the amount raised from 64 auction lots was down from the \$12.3 million a year ago, that's not surprising given the flux of world and domestic financial markets. During the Great Recession and after, some trustees of the wine festival have noted the correlation between financial market trends and the amount raised at the event.

The Dow Jones industrial average, for example, closed January at 16,466, which was about 4 percent below the 17,165 at the end of January 2015. The Dow lost 5.5 percent of its value in January alone.

The bottom line is that there is \$11.1 million to benefit children that wouldn't be there without this annual event.



## LETTERS

Dennis Kacy, Naples

### Wake-up call

I was awakened early in the morning with a call from the Collier County Sheriff's Office putting out an alert for an autistic man who wandered away from his home.

The message also said he had a history of this behavior, and if seen to alert authorities.

Let's see ... it was pouring rain, in the middle of the night (2:15 a.m.) and I live 5 miles away from the man's home. Really. Somehow I don't think there was a great chance of running into him.

I did call the Sheriff's Office to question this procedure and was told he was found an hour after the alert. When you get a call at that hour, one can only expect the worst and any chance of sleep is gone for the night. How many hundreds of people were contacted and frightened in this manner?

I assume this is a new procedure since I have owned homes in the Naples area for 30 years and have never received such an alert. Is this going to happen every time someone wanders away in the middle of the night?

In the last few weeks we have had some violent storms that have caused damage to property. There were even tornado watches and warnings and not once did I receive a home phone call warning me of the impending danger. I got the news via my cellphone.

I have and always will applaud the Sheriff's Office staff and appreciate their efforts to keep our community safe. However, I do believe there has to be a better way to handle such a situation. If this man has a history, shouldn't he be fitted with a GPS bracelet?

Peter Viscart, Naples

### Debate minus one

Fox News held the "umpteenth" Republican debate amid frantic speculation by pundits and voters alike that the "absent one" from the podium would suffer "the slings and arrows" of righteous condemnation from his colleagues.

What if the single-syllable name of the poll rider was never mentioned by anyone — moderator, dais speaker, commentator — during the entire 90-minute presentation?

What if each candidate would use his minutes to discuss the specifics of his personal platform to return the nation to a democratically functioning facility, governed by representatives of all the people, who aid the impoverished, encourage the enterprising entrepreneur, and effect legislation to return the diplomatic stature of the United States to a pre-eminent stature?

In the family of nations, previous nitpicking and defamation of character will be swept aside as each individual will "get down to cases"

### Letter of the Day

Marv Weisberg, Naples

### The important vote

Why do I keep hearing about the "women's vote" or the "African-American vote" or the "evangelical vote" or the "grass-roots vote" or the "blue-collar vote" or the "Jewish vote" or the "whatever vote?"

Shouldn't there be just one classification — the "informed vote?"

and provide the voting public with common-sense answers to gnawing problems with wages, immigration, public security violence, affordable medical care and dozens of others dear to the individual.

The poll rider, seated in his spacious tower, may begin to realize that bombast is not enough to convince the voter that his vote will contribute to a new kind of establishment — even in name only.

George Mouzakis, Naples

### Bad legislation

Regarding the proposed state law that would force secondhand dealers to return stolen items:

One definition of a bad law would include an element where a burden is shifted to an innocent party from the responsible party.

The current example is a pawnshop unknowingly accepting valuables whose provenance is unproven because there is no information available: Jewelry does not have a VIN number.

The responsible person here is the valuables' owner. It is up to them to safeguard and insure items of value. Because they are unwilling to pay for a safe or insurance premiums, the pawn store must pay? What about the individual who purchases the valuable from the pawn store — do they have to cough it up?

There are safeguards like holding periods and reports in place to discourage complicity.

Definitely a dysfunctional piece of legislation.

Bill MacIvaine, Naples

### Beach champion

A letter writer badly misunderstood a recent statement by Mayor John Sorey that favored doing our very best to maintain Naples beaches.

I attended a recent meeting where the subject came up and listened as the mayoral candidates responded to a question of whether our local tourist tax should be increased by 1 percent.

Sorey explained the crucial importance of the benefit of healthy

Naples beaches, for Naples residents as well as for the tourist industry. Our beaches are the centerpiece, the sparkling diamond necklace, drawing people to Naples. They also continue to be eroded by nature's wind and waves. If we want to keep Naples beaches wide, beautiful and inviting, it is essential that we renourish regularly. Doing that is an expensive and ongoing cost.

The mayor urged us, in maintaining our beaches, to allocate the greater share of any currently available, or anticipated, tax revenue to the preservation of this treasured asset. I agree. He championed the beaches in the best interests of all of us in Naples.

Diane Miranda, Naples

### No more Clintons

In a recent Quinnipiac University poll, people were asked for one word to describe Hillary Clinton. The top three were liar, dishonest and untrustworthy.

In my opinion, this describes her to a tee — the stand-down order that killed four Americans in Benghazi, Libya (she told the American people and relatives of the dead Americans that the attack was spontaneous regarding a video, not an Islamic terrorist attack); the Clinton Foundation regarding millions of donations by foreign nationals to gain favors while she was secretary of state and a potential president of the United States.

She claims to be a staunch supporter of women's rights but was involved in the destruction of the reputations of women who had affairs with her husband, accusing him of sexual abuse and even rape — Gennifer Flowers, Monica Lewinski, Paula Jones, Kathleen Willey and Juanita Broaddrick.

I hope to God Americans don't make the same mistake in November 2016 that they made in 2008 and 2012.

As comedian Jeff Foxworthy says, "Are you smarter than a fifth-grader?"

Beverly Wood, Naples

### My intent

Letter-writer Ed D'Allesandro was correct that one does not have to be here six months and a day to be a resident. Many other things must be in place such as car registration, voting and driver's licensing here, etc.

So thank you for informing me. Two other things: No. 1, although it was very informative, that particular factoid did not change the intent of my original letter to the editor, which was that many visitors, tourists and part-time residents drive vehicles with Florida plates in Naples and can be the cause of traffic violations.

No. 2, my name is Beverly Wood, not Woods. Once again, thanks.