

## Naples Zoo details its fundraising, future

Attraction hopes to raise \$25 million, build hospital

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The Naples Zoo on Tuesday announced plans for a \$25 million capital campaign, a \$5 million endowment drive and a number of future projects, including a new on-site animal hospital, education center, welcome center and a revamped zoo entrance.

Zoo officials revealed details about the campaign, the first of its kind for the non-

profit zoo, during a 30-minute press conference in front of the zoo entrance where the organization's board of directors, zoo employees and current and former local politicians gathered.

The campaign's silent phase started three years ago "after about a hundred meetings with community leaders and donors and members to find out what the community wanted from their zoo," said Jack Mulvena, president and CEO of the zoo.

"Because this zoo is not our zoo," he said. "This zoo is your zoo. And it's really important for us to know what the community saw in the zoo's future."

Since then, the zoo has raised \$13.7 million and used some of that money to build new exhibits for Florida panthers, pythons, giant anteaters, red-ruffed lemurs and clouded leopards.

But the biggest improvement to date, Mulvena said, included a new entryway to the zoo off Goodlette-Frank Road and a parking lot. Those projects cost a combined \$2.6 million and were funded with

the help of Collier County, he said. Just under \$4 million has been spent on improvements since the campaign kicked off three years ago.

The "top zoo priority," though, Mulvena said, is a new animal hospital.

"We are currently the only AZA - Association of Zoo and Aquarium - accredited zoo in Florida that does not have its own on-site hospital," he said. "To provide optimal care you really need your own hospital."

Funding for the \$2.5 million project,

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PHOTOS BY DAVID ALBERS/NAPLES DAILY NEWS

Angel Chavez, a pricing associate at J.C. Penney, prepares bedding inventory for Black Friday sales at the department store's Coastland Center mall location in Naples on Monday.

## \$3M gift will mean shelter for Immokalee

Abused and trafficked women will get help

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The Shelter for Abused Women is planning a shelter in Immokalee to help victims of domestic violence and human trafficking, the nonprofit group announced.

The 32-bed shelter is possible because of a \$3 million gift from Shelly Stayer, a longtime shelter supporter and owner, with her husband, Ralph Stayer, of Johnsonville, the Wisconsin-based sausage business and marketplace.



Shelly Stayer

The 15,000-square-foot shelter is being designed by Naples architect David Corban and will feature three areas: one to accommodate the long-term therapeutic needs of victims of human trafficking, a second area a domestic violence shelter and the third component for outreach in Immokalee.

The location of the new \$5.4 million shelter in Immokalee is confidential

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**Coastland Center:** Open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday.

**Target:** Open from 6 p.m. Thanksgiving Day to 11 p.m. Friday

**Kohl's:** Open 6 p.m. Thanksgiving Day to midnight Friday

**Best Buy:** Open 5 p.m. Thanksgiving Day, will close at 1 a.m. Friday and reopen at 8 a.m. Friday.

**Wal-Mart:** Will open at 6 p.m. Thanksgiving Day

**Costco:** Open 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Friday

**Miromar Outlets:** Open 10 p.m. Thanksgiving Day to 9 p.m. Friday

**Coconut Point:** Open 6 p.m. to midnight Thanksgiving Day, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday.

## Stores prep for hordes: Black Friday

Managers, staff get ready for the end of 'slow days'

**PATRICK RILEY AND ALEXI C. CARDONA**  
NAPLES DAILY NEWS

The soundtrack to the quiet before the storm at J.C. Penney at Coastland Center mall in Naples is cheery Christmas carols and jolly holiday tunes.

It is 9 a.m. Monday — an hour before the department store opens and 78 hours before its second-biggest shopping day of the year is followed by its biggest — and general manager Ron Worley is navigating the merchandise maze of clothes, appliances and jewelry while seasonal music war-

bles from the public address system.

Like thousands of stores across the country, Worley's J.C. Penney is gearing up for an onslaught of deal-seeking customers who will flock to the department store from Thursday afternoon through Friday night.

On Thanksgiving Day and Black Friday, Worley said he expects to see about 25 times more customers than on a regular day.

To keep up with the sheer volume of shoppers, he added four temporary full-size registers, 22 handheld mobile devices to swipe credit cards and 40 addi-

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Chavez puts up sales signs for Black Friday.

## Naples Daily News to host free forum on shrinking shores

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A public forum next week by the Naples Daily News to discuss the future of Florida's beaches will be a chance for residents and local leaders to participate in the conversation over how the state manages this important resource, said state Rep. Ben Albritton, who will be on the panel.

"The goal," he said, "is to keep the conversation moving and do the best we can to move the ball for beaches."

The free forum will be held from 6-7:30 p.m. Nov. 30 in the Naples Daily News TV studio, 1100 Immokalee Road. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m.

Albritton, R-Wauchula, who led the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and has proposed changes to how Florida ranks and chooses beach projects, will be joined on the panel by Gary McAlpin, Collier County's coastal zone manager; Brian Flynn, Miami-Dade County's former beach manager; and Naples Vice Mayor Linda Penniman.

The forum, to be live-streamed on naplesnews.com, will come on the heels of the Daily News special report "Shrinking Shores," which examined how Florida's leaders have failed to protect the state's greatest natural asset.

"It's been demonstrated over and over and over that beaches are an enormous economic engine for the whole state, especially in Southeast and

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# Shelter gift

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for the safety of the future clients, Linda Oberhaus, executive director of the shelter, said Tuesday.

"It is a project that has been in our plans for several years," Oberhaus said.

The plan is to break ground in 18 months to two years after raising an additional \$7.4 million, of which \$2.4 million is for the capital need of the Immokalee center and \$5 million is to establish an endowment, Oberhaus said.

"I think we will be able to develop confidence in members of the community that this is worthwhile," she said.

The shelter organization has been operating in Collier County for 27 years, and its current 60-bed shelter in Naples and seven transitional housing cottages have provided more than 26,418 nights of shelter, primarily for women and children, this past fiscal year.

A supporter of the local organization for eight years, Stayer has now turned her focus to the victims of human trafficking, and her gift has allowed the Immokalee project to be fast-tracked. It will be named The Shelly Stayer Shelter.

"Family is very important to me so I was immediately attracted to the work that The Shelter is doing to help individuals and families heal from the devastating effects of domestic violence," Stayer said in a written statement. "It is personally rewarding to know this shelter will fill a significant need in the Immokalee area as well as provide for the specialized long-term care of victims of human trafficking."

The need to serve victims of human trafficking has increased dramatically, evident in part by the shelter serving 38 victims of human trafficking in the past two years, Oberhaus said.

In addition, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, along with the Collier County Sheriff's Office and other agencies, arrested 15 human traffickers and rescued six women in March 2015. Some of the victims were forced to perform 25 to 45 sex acts a day, according to the shelter.

The Immokalee center will earmark 24 beds for domestic violence victims and eight beds for human trafficking victims, Oberhaus said. But when any of the human trafficking beds are available and the need for domestic abuse victims is greater, the human trafficking beds will be filled by domestic abuse victims, she said.

Domestic violence shelters around the state serve victims of human trafficking, but Oberhaus said she is not aware of any that have developed separate housing. The Immokalee complex will have a separate entrance and parking for each program component.

Law enforcement agencies identify victims of human trafficking to the shelter and, while the volume is lower, they typically need more time with therapeutic services, Oberhaus said. They may stay six to eight months, she said.

Collier County Sheriff Kevin Rambosk, who serves on the shelter's board, has been involved with the new shelter development, she said.

"We live in a sprawling county that spans more than 2,025 square miles," Rambosk said in a statement. "By providing a shelter in Immokalee The Shelter is increasing its services to domestic violence and human trafficking victims in rural eastern Collier County. The facility will allow domestic violence and human trafficking victims in this part of our county to not only find safety, but also remain close to their family support systems, their jobs and their children's schools. I share The Shelter's vision of a Collier County community in which everyone feels safe in their home."

The shelter staff will not only want to make sure the human trafficking victims are stable but will prepare them to assist with the prosecution of the traffickers, Oberhaus said.

"The magnitude of human trafficking in Southwest Florida continues to come to light," according to the shelter's needs assessment. "A recent photo acquired by the Collier County Sheriff's Office shows a 'mobile brothel' driven to farm fields, construction sites and local neighborhoods. The women in the van were forced to have sex with men that lined up outside the vehicle."

The assessment shows Immokalee domestic violence victims tend to leave the Naples-based shelter within 24 hours, which often places them and their children at risk. They leave the shelter because Immokalee is their community, they may have jobs and they feel supported there.

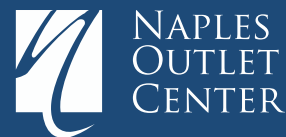
Between Jan. 1, 2008, and June 15, 2015, the shelter's outreach office in Immokalee served 1,248 individuals, of which 367 were adults who would have gone to an emergency shelter had there been a safe haven in their community, according to the assessment. In addition, 647 children would have accompanied the adults, for a combined total of 1,014 victims.

For more information, go online to [naplesshelter.org](http://naplesshelter.org) or call 239-775-3862.

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