

# EDITORIAL OPINION

## Naples Daily News

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### KUDOS AND KICKS

# Shelter adds much needed space

Abuse survivors will have a safe space near support system

**Editorial Board**  
Naples Daily News

### Kudos

Kudos to the Shelter for Abused Women and Children.

The group, which operates a shelter in the Naples area, opened a new facility in Immokalee on Tuesday.

The Shelly Stayer Shelter for Victims of Human Trafficking & Domestic Violence has three main areas: a section to accommodate the long-term therapeutic needs of victims of human trafficking; a section to shelter victims of domestic abuse; and a section dedicated to Immokalee outreach.

It was made possible by donations, including those by lead benefactors Shelly and Ralph Stayer and Patricia and Craig Jilk, who were all present for the ribbon cutting.

The addition of an Immokalee emergency shelter will allow survivors to be safe as well as close to their family support systems, employment and their children's schools. Currently, many survivors return to unsafe circumstances rather than travel to Naples for emergency shelter, according to shelter CEO Linda Oberhaus.

To measure the need for an emergency facility in Immokalee, the shelter launched an extensive needs assessment. The study utilized data from law enforcement and judiciary sources, information from focus groups, surveys, interviews with Immokalee residents as well as the input of 32 community organizations.

### Kudos

Kudos to drug court in Collier County.

At the county commissioners' meeting Tuesday, they recognized May as National Drug Court Month with a proclamation.

Drug courts seek to divert low-level drug offenders from the normal route of jail and into more productive forms of treatment and rehabilitation.

"Drug courts aim to help these individuals find a lasting recovery that allows them to repair their relationships, make whole their victims, and become contributing members of society," the proclamation reads, in part.

The proclamation was accepted by Judge Janeice Martin, Presiding Judge of the Collier County Drug Court.

### Kudos

Kudos to tax relief in all its forms.

The state's sales tax holiday for disaster preparedness and response items began Friday and runs through June 4.

The sales tax holiday provides an opportunity to purchase qualifying disaster preparedness supplies without having to pay sales tax. Qualifying supplies include flashlights, batteries, radios and portable generators.

The 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season officially begins Monday and ends on Nov. 30. Forecasters are expecting a busy year for tropical storms and hurricanes.

For more information about the tax holiday, or to view the full list of qualifying disaster preparedness items, go to [www.floridarevenue.com](http://www.floridarevenue.com)

### Kick

A kick to Collier County commissioners for not fully opening beaches when they had the chance at their Tuesday meeting.

The Memorial Day holiday has passed, and no major beach crowding or parking incidents were reported.

Still, they left in place prohibitions that keep people from setting up for a day at the beach with chairs, tents coolers, etc.

Mother Nature is about to enact her own midday prohibition on crowding at the beach via regular afternoon thunderstorms.

Commissioners called a special meeting for Tuesday, June 2 to reconsider the opening. They could have saved the trouble and approved the reopening Tuesday.

Brent Batten wrote this for the Naples Daily News editorial board.



### LETTERS

#### Florida owes other states?

Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., rails against a federal bailout of other states\* suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Has he forgotten that only 36% of Floridians are actually native-born?

Most of Florida's registered voters came from other states. Not just chilly New Jersey, New York or Pennsylvania but also from Southern states such as Georgia, Texas and North Carolina.

We may be Floridians now, but we also love the states from which we came — states where we were born and educated; states from which we retired and then brought our pension money to Florida.

Hundreds of thousands of snowbirds come here from other states each year. Yes, they enjoy their time in the Sunshine State and spend money to feed our economy. But they return home to other states.

Florida's economy has benefited from people coming here from all over this country, but Scott does not want us to help our neighbors and friends? This is not the time to turn our backs on other Americans.

Joy Sokeitous, Fort Myers area

\*Editor's note: "It's not fair to Florida citizens to send their tax dollars to bail out liberal politicians in states like New York for their unwillingness to make tough and responsible choices," Scott wrote in a letter published online May 6 by *The New York Times*.

#### HOAs can't issue speeding tickets?

Many homeowners associations for gated communities in Florida are using cameras and radar, without the state's permission, to catch speeders and issue tickets for violating HOA rules.

The Florida Uniform Traffic Control Statute says the Legislature's intent is for traffic control laws to apply uniformly throughout the state and that a homeowners association's board of directors "may" elect to have state traffic laws enforced by local law enforcement agencies on the HOA's private roads. Also, regulation of the use of cameras for enforcing Florida traffic laws is expressly preempted to the state.

A 2009 Florida Law Journal article says "shall" means mandatory, "may" means permissive. If reading "may" as permissive leads to an unreasonable result or one contrary to legislative intent, courts look to the context in which "may" is used and the "legislature's intent" to determine whether "may" should be read as a mandatory term.

"In matters of statutory construction, we have repeatedly recognized that legislative intent is the polestar that guides the court," the Florida Supreme Court has stated.

HOAs must, not "may," have traffic laws enforced by the local police. The HOA cannot issue tickets for speeding violations. Only law enforcement officers can issue tickets for speeding and other traffic violations. No police involved, no ticket from HOA allowed.

Gary Loser, North Naples

#### Thanks for COVID-19 test

I want to express my gratitude to the Florida National Guard, the Florida Department of Health in Collier County and most especially the health care professionals from NCH for their efficiency and compassion in providing and administering the COVID-19 testing program.

I took advantage of the opportunity to be tested at the South Regional Library (in East Naples). Even though the day was hot and the wait was about an hour, the above-mentioned staff remained patient and treated everyone with kindness and care. They distributed water and masks and provided any other special assistance to those of us waiting to be tested.

It was edifying to witness the cooperation of all these agencies and the commitment and dedication of each individual in organizing and carrying out this humanitarian mission. Thank you.

Virginia Segaloff, North Naples

#### No masks? Dining elsewhere

I cautiously stepped out of two months of quarantine and invited friends to meet at a restaurant (near Fort Myers, name withheld by an editor) thinking they have outside seating, it is on the water and we could get a big table and sit far apart.

Unfortunately, the waiters were not wearing masks or gloves. We walked in wearing masks and asked our waiter why he wasn't wearing one. We were told they were not required to.

Well, we are not required to go out, especially to restaurants that won't protect their employees or patrons.

Toni Latino, North Fort Myers

#### How to pay for COVID-caused debt?

During and after World War I and WWII, the U.S. incurred massive debt to pay for the wars, and the top marginal tax rate was increased — to 73% and later to 94% — to pay down the debts.

We will incur massive debt to cover this (COVID-19) crisis. Our top marginal tax rate is 37%, and it needs to be increased to pay down the debt.

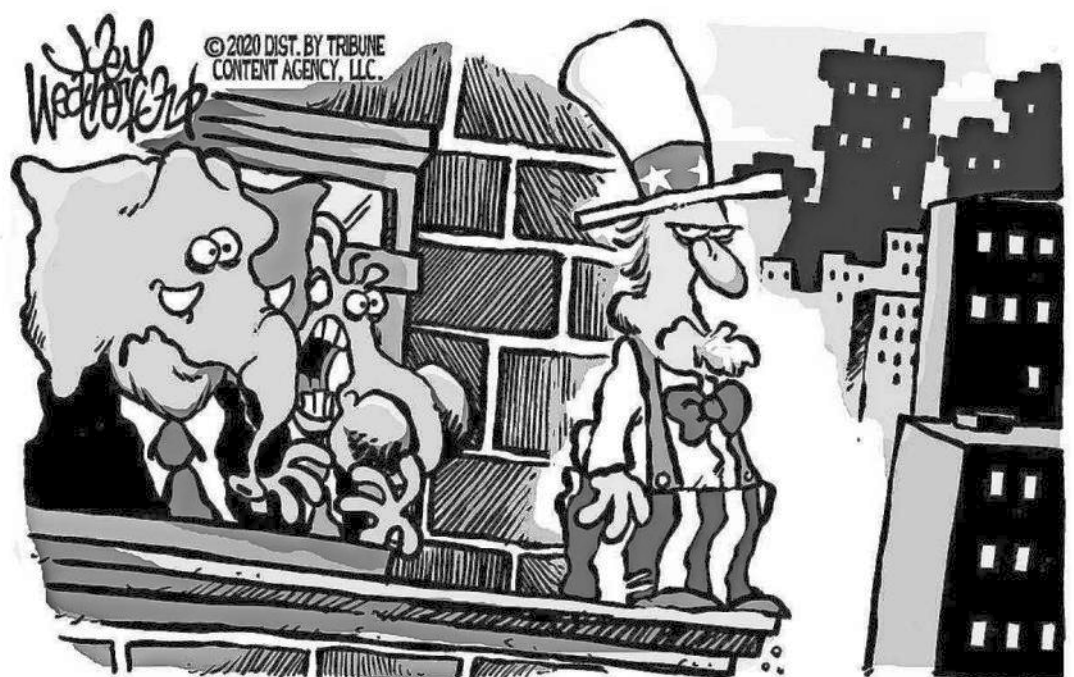
The super rich have rigged the system for years, and the resulting economic inequality threatens our country.

It is time for the wealthy to step up to the plate. Don't worry; they can afford it.

(Statistics from [taxpolicycenter.org](http://taxpolicycenter.org).)

Tom Grier, Cape Coral

Editor's note: This letter refers to taxes on individual incomes. On corporations' incomes, the top marginal tax rate is now 21 percent, down from 35 percent before 2017's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Over the last 100 years, this tax rate has been as high as 53 percent in 1968 and 1969, according to [taxpolicycenter.org](http://taxpolicycenter.org).



**C'MON, WE PROMISE TO WORK TOGETHER TO GET THROUGH THIS PANDEMIC... MAYBE NOT**