

Kudos & Kicks: The good, bad and questionable

POSTED: 5:25 PM, Mar 27, 2015

TAG: editorials (/topic/editorials)

Kudos:

It's not often you can use the words "seniors" and "1 year old" in the same sentence.

This coming week you can, and there are at least 550 Collier County seniors who are thrilled about that because they have a place to gather weekdays.

The Naples Senior Center, opened a year ago by JFCS of Southwest Florida, became the first local center of its type, providing senior citizens a place to gather for activities, services and friendships instead of facing isolation and loneliness.

The center at 5025 Castello Drive, near the intersection of U.S. 41 and Pine Ridge Road, provides resources and services such as a weekly hot lunch, art classes, computer training, cards and mahjong, tai chi, movies, discussion groups, Dakim brain fitness and more.

From 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, the center will hold an open house celebration for its first year, with refreshments, an art exhibit of drawings and paintings by members, tours of its expansion and an announcement of future plans. The event includes a renaming ceremony for the center, formerly JFCS Senior Center.

The party also celebrates the naming of the center's Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation Café, open daily for coffee, tea, cold drinks and snacks. A \$150,000 challenge grant, matched by other donors in less than five weeks, expands the center by 6,800 square feet.

Another center program this week is "Collier County Then and Now: History Through the Eyes of Pioneering Families." The panel presentation and discussion features members of pioneer families — Cindy Carroll, Ray Carroll and Rex Storter. Panel facilitator is Jeff Lytle. The free forum is 2 to 4 p.m. Monday.

To confirm attendance at either event call 239-325-4444 or email mmendoza@jfcswfl.org

Kudos to Dr. Jaclynn Faffer, president and CEO of the JFCS of Southwest Florida, for guiding this successful year.

Kudos:

Imagine 171 public meetings over the course of 15 years. Imagine scores of other subcommittee meetings.

That's what the volunteer Estero Community Planning Panel did through the years to help create and protect the village's refined image. Leaders during that time period were Neal Noethlich, the panel's former chairman who led the group's first 100 meetings, and Jack Lienesch, who then led the panel as it brought its work to the finish line.

The new Village Council is expected to appoint an advisory zoning and planning board in the coming weeks to pick up the reins the planning panel so admirably held.

Kicks

Pick the statewide issues most important to you. Too much school testing? Conflicts between drivers and bicyclists on the road? K-12 classroom spending? The cost of tuition? Whether Florida should allow fracking? Tax cuts? How Amendment 1 money will be spent? When is the 2015-16 school year going to start so family vacation plans can be made? Should Florida buy U.S. Sugar lands south of Lake Okeechobee to better preserve the Everglades? Medical marijuana? Whether to open up Florida to casinos and, if so, where? Etc. and etc.

How about this one? Create a crime based on a person's choice of bathroom if the gender on their driver's license or passport doesn't match the bathroom they use. The transgender bathroom bill has become a contentious issue in 2015 legislative committee hearings.

Seriously? Floridians are watching to see what the Legislature delivers in an important nonelection, revenue-surplus year. Hopefully, it won't be remembered for potty breaks.

Kudos

Those who have been around Naples long enough to remember the scourge known as McDonald's Quarters salute Lodge McKee II.

McKee has served 35 years on the Carver Finance Board, which oversees the George Washington Carver Section 8 housing project that gave proper housing to residents of the ramshackle wooden shanties that once shamed central Naples. McKee was the recipient of the Naples City Council's 2015 Sam Noe Award for public service.

Copyright 2015 Journal Media Group. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.