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ELECTION 2016

RUBIO'S FATE ON THE LINE



Republican presidential candidate Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., gives a thumbs-up to supporters as he boards his campaign bus during a stop Monday at the Maple Street Biscuit Company in Jacksonville.



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks to his supporters Monday at a campaign event in Tampa where he was endorsed by Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi.

Mayoral races Naples' hopefuls slow down; Bonita's march on

By Joseph Cranney
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The race for Naples mayor slowed Monday, as the three candidates wrapped up campaigning in what has been several months of one of the most competitive races in the city's history.

Bill Barnett, a City Councilman running for Naples mayor against City Councilwoman Teresa Heitmann and John Sorey, the incumbent, took it easy Monday. He went for a morning run and planned a dinner at home with his wife, Chris. In the afternoon, Barnett went for a full-body massage.

Heitmann, who has served on the council since 2008, wore her campaign shirt during a walk to the Naples Pier on Monday. Sorey attended a noon luncheon hosted by the Friends of the Library of Collier County.

"Who knows how many of them are city or county voters, but you want to be out there and be seen," Sorey said as he left his office



Bill Barnett



Teresa Heitmann



John Sorey

Today's primaries in Florida, Ohio seen as last gasp against Trump

By Julie Pace
and Kathleen Ronayne
Associated Press

Marco Rubio, in full campaign mode on the last day before Florida's primary and perhaps his last full day campaigning for president, remained optimistic Monday that he would defy conventional political wisdom with a surprising win over GOP front-runner Donald Trump.

"Tomorrow's the day where we are going to shock the country," Rubio said Monday during a stop in Jacksonville, just hours after yet another statewide poll showed him trailing Trump by 20 points or more in Florida.

It was a hectic day of campaign stops and appearances for

“Tomorrow's the day where we are going to shock the country.”

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., campaigning in Jacksonville, as statewide polls show him trailing Trump by 20 points or more

Rubio, as the tumultuous presidential primary season barreled toward a potentially decisive day for both Republicans and Democrats, with enough delegates up for grabs Tuesday to turn Trump and Hillary Clinton from front-runners to likely nominees.

The biggest prizes are Florida and Ohio, states with a long history of making or breaking White House aspirations. Missouri, Illinois, and North Carolina also offer a crucial cache of delegates that could help Trump and Clinton pull further away

from their rivals.

Rubio and Ohio Gov. John Kasich hoped the two big states would give them a boost instead. Kasich seemed to have a better chance at that than Rubio.

Campaigning statewide over the weekend, Rubio looked exhausted. He nearly lost his composure talking to reporters about violence at recent Trump rallies.

He rushed through crowds at restaurants and retail shops, shaking hands, kissing elderly women, tilting his head and furrowing his brow to convey his

appreciation. A funereal mood set in, similar to what cloaked the campaign of former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush in its waning days.

In Largo, Rubio's voice cracked as he acknowledged that "it's getting harder every day" to fathom supporting Trump as the GOP nominee. Video of the moment quickly went viral, because it caught a rare flash of emotion from the usually scripted Rubio.

The contests Tuesday come at a remarkable moment in the presidential race for Republicans. Animosity toward Trump has risen to the point where he can rarely get through an event without being interrupted by protesters.

See PRIMARIES, 4A

See MAYORS, 4A



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\$11M from Naples Winter Wine Festival goes to nonprofits

By Liz Freeman
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Grant proceeds from this year's Naples Winter Wine Festival will be used to broaden mental health counseling, expand early learning services and continue crucial funding to dozens of nonprofit children's programs in Collier County.

Trustees with the Naples Children & Education Foundation awarded more than \$11 million in grants Monday, which includes \$4.4 million

to four multiyear initiatives that involve partnered projects.

■ The Early Learning Initiative is receiving \$1 million;

■ the children's mental health initiative is receiving \$2.9 million;

■ and the children's oral health initiative is awarded \$260,000.

■ The fourth is the children's out of school initiative, and it was awarded \$200,000.

In addition, 31 nonprofit organizations are sharing \$6.6 million for their programs.

The 2016 wine festival auction, held Jan. 30 at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, raised \$11.1 million. This was the 16th year for the signature event.

Since its inception in 2001, the wine festival has more than \$146 million to address the needs of underprivileged children in Collier County.

"My heartfelt thanks to all of the festival's guests and winning bidders who make our

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NCEF
from **1A**

work possible,” Susie McCurry, the grant committee chairwoman said.

The funding for the four initiatives are for one to three years with several agencies working together.

The mental health initiative, called Beautiful Minds, involves the David Lawrence Center, the Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida, the National Alliance on Mental Illness and Florida State University’s College of Medicine in Immokalee.

The program involves mental health screening of children at risk for behavioral health problems and getting them referred to services.

What’s key is the integrated approach where mental health counselors are available in primary care clinics run by the health care network and services are integrated with pediatrician’s offices, the schools and law enforcement.

“The poverty level has increased by 10 percent this past decade,” McCurry said.

About 63 percent of local children come from economically needy homes and the children face stress, trauma and some end up in foster care, McCurry said.

Dr. Elena Reyes, regional director of FSU’s medical school in Southwest Florida and a partner entity with Beautiful Minds, told NCEF trustees that the integrated approach is widely supported by research and is cutting edge.

“Complex problems need complex solutions,” Reyes said.

The integrated model locally starts when a mother takes a child to the pediatrician’s office each year before school starts for the



Sandi Moran, left, listens to Chuck Hallberg, right, before Monday’s Naples Children & Education Fund Great Expectations 2016 Grant Awards Ceremony at the Bay Colony Golf Club in Naples.

naplesnews.com

See more photos from the Naples Children & Education Foundation grants ceremony.

wellness visit and staff can do a mental health screening of the child. It’s an opportunity to find out what stress the mother may be facing and if the child is showing symptoms of early stress, Reyes said.

“There are many communities across the country that are enviable of the support we have in Naples,” she said.

Nearly 4,000 children have been screened this fiscal year and are receiving three counseling sessions each but the total screenings will likely double by the end of the year when siblings are added, Maria Jimenez-Lara, executive director of NCEF, said.

Jackie Stephens, chief executive officer of the Children’s Advocacy Center, said grant funding is crucial for serving severely abused and traumatized children who are removed



After the Great Expectations 2016 Grant Awards Ceremony, guests and members of the Naples Children & Education Foundation are treated to dinner Monday at the Bay Colony Golf Club.

from their homes for domestic violence, substance abuse, economic crisis or other issues.

On average, a child placed in foster care is moved three to six times in a year, she said.

The grant funding pays for medical exams, case management and other services and the need for service is growing.

“These children have so many needs and need so

many services,” she said.

“These children have the services they need. Without you, this could not happen.”

All told, 58 nonprofit organizations applied for grant funds this year, McCurry said.

“It’s a difficult process because there are so many worthwhile charities,” McCurry said, who has been on the grants committee for four years.

GRANT RECIPIENTS AND AMOUNTS:

ABLE Academy	\$250,000
Angels Undercover	\$51,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast	\$93,500
Boys & Girls Club of Collier County	\$750,000
Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation	\$150,000
Catholic Charities	\$145,000
Children’s Advocacy Center	\$490,000
Collier Child Care Resources (CCCR)	\$100,000
Conservancy of Southwest Florida	\$68,000
Early Literacy & Learning Model (ELLM)	\$425,000
Friends of Foster Children Forever	\$330,000
Fun Time Early Childhood Academy	\$135,000
Gargiulo Education Center	\$62,000
Golisano Children’s Museum of Naples	\$220,000
Grace Place for Children & Families	\$80,750
Greater Marco Family YMCA	\$365,000
Greater Naples YMCA	\$315,000
Guadalupe Center	\$658,750
Holocaust Museum of SWFL	\$42,500
Immokalee Child Care Center	\$195,000
Legal Aid	\$365,000
MusicScores!	\$45,000
Naples Botanical Garden	\$75,000
Naples Equestrian Challenge	\$155,000
Redlands Christian Migrant Association	\$415,000
Safe & Healthy Children’s Coalition of Collier Cty	\$52,000
Special Olympics	\$60,000
St. Matthew’s House	\$42,000
The Immokalee Foundation	\$230,000
The Shelter for Abused Women & Children	\$240,000
United Arts Council	\$49,000



Maria Jimenez-Lara, CEO of the Naples Children & Education Foundation, speaks Monday at the Bay Colony Golf Club.

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