

OPINION

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sports decision at FIT damages relationships

On June 24, the Board of Trustees of Florida Institute of Technology voted to demote varsity men’s/women’s rowing, men’s/women’s cross country and men’s golf to club status. This decision was announced shortly after President McCay resigned and days before the interim present was to arrive. The students involved were blindsided and had few options open to them so close to the start of the school year. The decision to demote men’s and women’s rowing was unbelievable. A successful varsity rowing program was a vision of Dr. Keuper’s when he founded FIT.

Many rowing alumni have signed pledges to support the Bill Jurgens Rowing Center Endowment. The purpose of the endowment is to support rowing at FIT and build a much-needed rowing center. Research has shown it will be very difficult for club rowing to survive at such a small university. There is concern about what will happen to this endowment and two other endowments designated for the rowing team.

Rowing is now under Student Life with a very limited budget. It is not enough to hire fully trained rowing coaches, repair equipment and purchase equipment as needed. Two coaches have already left for head coaching positions at Georgetown and Dartmouth.

Rowing was a huge part of my experience at FIT. The Board of Trustees should vote to reinstate rowing as a varsity sport. A lot of work needs to be done to heal the damage done to the relationship between the university, students, and alumni.

Marian Dionne, Rockledge

Nothing unusual about Ivey’s support for candidate

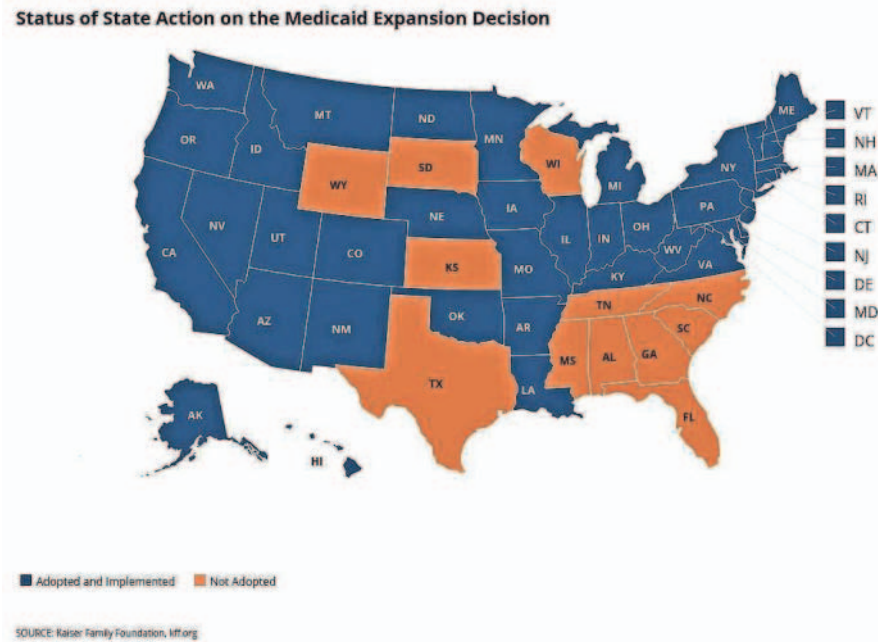
Eric Rogers, “watchdog” reporter, makes a poor attempt at making Ivey’s endorsement of Renee Torpy look like something it is not. I use quotation marks because I am not sure who he is a watchdog for — certainly not for me or, for that matter, for any Brevard voter.

He points out that not one of Musselman’s supporters who have clout have bothered to put their money where their mouth is like Torpy’s supporters have. Like that is a good and noble thing when it is actually just poor politics. In today’s environment voters have to fight for their candidates like their lives depend on it — because it does.

So, Eric, instead of whining about your candidate (yes, I said your candi-



DARKOW



Florida is one of 12 states that has not expanded Medicaid since the Affordable Care Act went into effect in 2014. COURTESY OF KFF

date, because isn’t that what this is?) why don’t you rage at her supporters for being, well, unsupportive? If Ivey believes in Torpy, is an old family friend, and chooses to be proactive- why would you call that “unusual”? In reality, the vocal supporters of Musselman are the unusual ones for not fully supporting their candidate with the same gusto

Ivey is.

Marie Muller, Port St. John

Less-affluent shouldn’t struggle for basic health care

I am on the front lines of Florida’s drug crisis. Addiction does not exist in a vacuum, and it cannot be treated with-

out treating the problems that led to it. For many patients, drugs are an escape from the demons of mental illness. Others are dealing with chronic pain, often due to injuries, and with disease, poverty, homelessness, and fragmentation of families. They all need basic but caring treatment for the unique medical and psychiatric problems each patient faces. Otherwise they are likely to be disabled, killed, or left addicted to drugs by problems that have simple solutions.

That’s why, if Gov. DeSantis is serious about reducing the toll of human lives trapped by drugs, he first needs to stop blocking Florida’s working poor from getting the minimal benefits they are eligible to receive under the Affordable Care Act. The ACA provides federal funding to expand Medicaid to the working poor, who often get no health benefits from their employers and do not make enough to pay for individual insurance. Medicaid expansion would reduce uninsured ER visits and actually lower our taxes, since the program is paid for by existing federal tax dollars. But our elected leaders went all the way to the Supreme Court to demand the right to refuse the federal funds and block access to Medicaid for our working poor.

I challenge our elected leaders to explain why they try so hard to prevent less-affluent Floridians, who are struggling to support their families, from getting even the basic health care they need.

Dan Woodard, M.D., Merritt Island

Rubio is wrong on prescription drugs

Every single senior citizen in the U.S. (especially those in Florida) must be made aware of a bill being sponsored in the Senate by Marco Rubio.

The president’s Inflation Reduction Act, recently signed into law, covers many issues. One in particular, that is wildly popular, is the reduction of drug prices for seniors. It reads as follows: Lower prescription drug prices in Medicare through price negotiation with manufacturers; a yearly cap (\$2,000 in 2025) on out-of-pocket prescription drug costs in Medicare.

Sen. Rubio is currently sponsoring a bill to repeal this particular portion (and only this portion) of the new law. Oddly enough, he is running for re-election in a state known to have a very high senior population.

My husband is on several medications and I have a few myself. I know how I’ll be voting.

Susan Termini, Merritt Island

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