

THE DAYTONA BEACH

# NEWS-JOURNAL

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**"Give me the liberty to know, to utter, and to argue  
freely according to conscience, above all liberties."**  
— Milton

### OUR VIEW/QUICK TAKES

*Celebrating what's good in our community*

## Caring for the caregivers

**F**ace masks. Hand sanitizer. Even cookies. Across Northeast Florida, people are going out of their way to provide front-line workers with equipment needed to keep them safe and feeling appreciated.

Start with a group of Latitude Margaritaville residents who have produced hundreds of face masks for workers at SMA Healthcare, which serves Volusia, Flagler and St. Johns counties. The masks, in bright cottons, don't provide as much protection as the N95 masks the agency is trying to get for its counselors and social workers. But they are much better than nothing, and the added care and consideration that go into each mask surely help promote morale.

The same is almost certainly true for the cookies produced by St. Augustine resident Sara Zeilman, who conceived her "bake it forward" project as a way to thank those who are working in hospitals, police stations and most recently grocery stores.

She isn't the only one keeping healthcare workers fed. A group that includes the Daytona Auto Mall, Houligan's restaurants and Food Supply Inc. delivered 1,000 meals to area hospitals this week — then stood and applauded the workers who picked up the meals. And the Sodexo food service, which provides food at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, delivered 300 meals to hospital workers at AdventHealth Medical Center in Daytona Beach with the help of area charity Food Brings Hope.

Companies are also retooling their production lines to produce safety equipment — such as the Bacardi plant in Jacksonville, which has switched production from rum to hand sanitizer to be distributed to hospitals across Florida.

Meanwhile, the Root Family Foundation obtained and donated 500 protective face shields to workers at Halifax Health in Daytona Beach.

In a time of much uncertainty, health care workers are among those putting their own safety at risk to care for others. It's worth celebrating — both for their hard work, and for the labor of those who want to be sure they feel appreciated.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Get ready for short-term rentals

As we crank up the economy, and tourism leaves the "stay at home" to travel towards cautious and safer opportunities, how will cruise ships, airlines, amusement parks go back "on-line?" I think the smaller tourist places will start up first, and gradually go bigger. Maybe every third table at restaurants will morph into every other table, and so on.

I am a supporter of short

term rentals and also plaintiff on the STR lawsuit against The City of Daytona Beach. With that being said, I feel tourists will come back to the smaller sites first, like short term rentals. vs big hotels then to cruise ships going back on the seas. The city of Daytona Beach and Volusia County has a clear choice, either plan for this trend, or ignore the ordinances that are on the books. The latter is tempting, as they can

keep the "grandfathered" status that our lawsuit is challenging. But there is a risk to that. A more prudent course is to plan for this trend and write some reasonable ordinances that deal with this. I think city and county officials need to open their eyes and make positive plans. Ignoring ordinances make it a "wild, wild west" situation, vs. a well-managed and planned path.

**Mike Denis, Daytona Beach**

### Checking on name

If I write a check, I must sign it, and I must have money in my account to back it up. If the money for the printed stimulus checks is coming out of the president's

personal account, then, and only then, should he be permitted to sign them. However, it is nor the president's money! His signature on those checks is simply another ego-driven bizarre happening in what used to be

a democracy.

This presidency has now far surpassed any common, realistic sense, of government for, and by, the people. I question how and why are we allowing this to continue?!

**Jane Curry, New Smyrna Beach**

### TO SUBMIT LETTERS

We welcome letters from readers on matters of public interest. Letters should be no more than 250 words. They must be original and written exclusively for The News-Journal. They can be edited for length and clarity. Anonymous letters and pseudonyms cannot be printed. Letters are printed with the writer's full name and hometown. Those that do not include a home address and daytime phone number will not be considered for publication. Only one letter per writer can be published every 30 days.

**Mail:** Letters to the Editor, The News-Journal, P.O. Box 2831, Daytona Beach, FL 32120-2831

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### FLORIDA VOICES

## Move cautiously to restart Florida's economy the right way



**Mark Wilson**

**L**ike it or not, restarting the world's 17th largest economy is going to be even more strategic, complicated and lengthy than the ramp down has been.

Each day I hear from job creators that are eager to hang an "open for business" sign in their windows. For certain, restarting Florida's economy is weighing heavy on many as we all work to strike the right balance between staying safe, while also keeping workers paid, businesses from going under, and eventually, reimagining an even stronger economy.

While parts of the U.S. have reached their COVID-19 peak, according to the model most have been using, Florida's peak was recently moved up to April 21, then back to April 27, and has now just been moved back to May 6. The timing and process of reopening Florida will have more to do with the virus being contained and the

spread slowing to near zero than any of us wish was the case. As we continue practicing social distancing and working remotely, the Florida Chamber of Commerce and over 150 local chambers of commerce have been virtually meeting for over three weeks already charting a path for restarting Florida's economy.

We were founded more than 100 years ago due to another health scare (albeit a very different one) — the cattle tick. It matters today for the same reason it did more than 100 years ago. Bringing the best thought leaders together to solve problems is not just an idea — it's the best idea — and the root of the Florida Chamber's existence.

The safety of Floridians continues to be our top priority, and certainly, we must be smart in the way Florida reopens and hangs the welcome sign. We do not want to be like Japan, Hong Kong, and Singapore who began reopening their economies only to find a resurgence of cases, a secondary spread and, unfortunately, a redeployment of restrictions on commerce, gatherings, travel and more. I'm convinced Governor Ron DeSantis and his team

understands that the reopening of the economy needs to be as surgical as the move to our current situation.

Friends, we simply have to get this right. Balancing the right health and safety outcomes with the right "re-start" is vital, and we're uniting business around the right measures.

Our research, gathered from some of the brightest minds in Florida and around the globe, shows that returning to work will likely be surgical, measured, vary by regions, industry sectors, the type and size of businesses, and more — all while balancing the health and safety of workers. We can all easily come up with wish lists, legislative agendas and our own timelines, but restarting the world's 17th largest economy can't be a PR effort or some sort of state level show of force. There are economic models that show, the wrong re-start approach, combined with too much relaxing of testing, could prolong our economic recovery into 2023 — yes, 2023.

With hurricane season beginning on June 1, Florida is in an even more unique position. Our traditional hurricane evacuation and safety steps simply don't

mix with social distancing measures.

Restarting Florida's economy won't be as simple as flipping on a light switch. It will require methodical planning for potentially new processes, mandates or limitations for which there simply isn't an example to draw upon. And we must not allow a lack of resources, regulations that are not fit-for-purpose, and/or the fear of litigation to sideline efforts to safely and sustainably return to work and restart our economy.

With Florida's next strategic plan, Florida 2030, we are uniquely well positioned to lead this effort.

From day one, we've been connected with Gov. Ron DeSantis, Surgeon General Scott Rivkees, AHCA Secretary Mary Mayhew, Florida senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott, and the Small Business Administration to lead Florida's business-related relief efforts. From helping businesses better understand what an essential worker is, to the state and federal economic relief efforts to help keep workers paid and businesses from going under, and channeling N95 masks, ventilators and personal protection equipment from businesses all across Florida

to front line healthcare workers, the Florida Chamber and the millions of jobs creators and employees it represents, has been singularly focused on connecting businesses to resources, healthcare heroes to equipment, and policymakers to data and their constituents' concerns.

And as we transition to restarting Florida's economy, we know there are measures Florida will need to take to protect public health while reopening vital economic sectors.

We don't purport to have all the answers, and that's why, along with this broad team of some of the brightest minds, input from over 150 local chambers of commerce and Florida job creators, dozens of leading trade associations and others, we're working around the clock to put Florida on the right path to restarting Florida's economy.

By uniting Florida's business community for good, we can — and will — secure Florida's future by successfully restarting Florida's economy.

*Wilson is president and CEO of the Florida Chamber of Commerce and can be reached at mwilson@flchamber.com.*