

# VIEWPOINT

FRIDAY, AUG. 21, 2015 • MELBOURNE • WWW.HOMETOWNNEWSOL.COM • PAGE 6

## Waiting, waiting for a change

Dear friends,

For some time, the Florida Legislature has been deeply divided over Medicaid expansion as a result of the Affordable Care Act, and this division runs through Brevard County.

One sympathetic Brevard legislator said that he grieved over the potential loss of Medicaid expansion, while another suggested that expansion dollars had to be borrowed from China and would put us on the same path as Greece.

Given the amount of money on the table for discussion, the consideration for the legislature is staggering and demands a cautious approach.

However, as so often happens in our public discourse, the cautious approach is abandoned in favor of gridlock and those who have need of legislative action are left hanging in the lurch. I refer here to seniors with expensive long-term care needs, particularly those who require some degree of care at home. The governor and legislature are failing these seniors terribly.

This failure is highlighted by the existence of a waiting list for Medicaid services at home. (Medicaid inpatient nursing home services are available at all times).

Supposedly, when funding becomes available for non-nursing home services, individuals are moved off the waiting list based on their medical



**PRESIDENT,  
HELPING SENIORS  
OF BREVARD**  
JOE STECKLER

need, referred to as the Activities of Daily Living, which generally includes eating, bathing, dressing, toileting, transferring and walking. Those individuals occupying the waiting list are priority-ranked according to their needs on a scale of 1 to 8, with "1" being an individual with a minimal amount of need and "8" being an individual with the need to be sheltered by the Department of Children and Families.

My understanding from the Department of Elder Affairs is that statewide there are currently more than 45,000 individuals on the waiting list, which I find alarming. What I find more even more alarming is that roughly 30 percent of those individuals are ranked "4" to "8" on the scale, which means they have a significant medical need for services and are forced to wait. I imagine a large number of these seniors are veterans or the widows of veterans. Unfortunately, these individuals do not appear to be any meaningful part of the dialogue in Tallahassee.

Florida's newest budget may provide a few million dollars more for non-nursing home care, which may offer relief to 400 or 500 people, but this is woefully inadequate given how many are in need and waiting.

Moreover, this is also ultimately costly to taxpayers. If assistance cannot be delivered at home, many of the individuals on the waiting list will have no choice but to pursue Medicaid nursing home benefits because they can wait no longer. These Medicaid nursing home benefits are the most burdensome to taxpayers. It is simply more cost-effective to provide individuals care at home or, in some cases, through an assisted living facility.

No senior should have to face the prospect of nursing home placement because Florida's government is unable to come to terms with new economic and demographic realities. They can and should do better.

We have an obligation to our loved

See SENIORS, page 7

## Taste-testing!



By Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer  
Alyson Alley and Breanne Brown, both of Melbourne, have fun and enjoy the food during the 'Big Green Egg Cooking Class,' featuring 'Pork U' Saturday, Aug. 15 at Wassi's Meat Market in Melbourne.

## Rants & Raves

### Got something to say?

Email the Hometown Rants & Raves at [brevnews@hometownnewsol.com](mailto:brevnews@hometownnewsol.com) or call (321) 242-1276.

Callers are asked to refrain from making slanderous statements.

### Who is protecting our unarmed soldiers?

How many more soldiers have to be hurt? The government spends millions of dollars training our military to protect and defend.

The government then sends our protectors off to foreign lands to serve their country, armed to protect us and their brothers. After a deployment, they come home to supposedly safe soil, only to be stripped of their weapons.

Our great country has become a battleground for Americans. Homegrown

terrorists are being born on social media. Last news report was 26,000 looking to join a terrorist organization, and their goal is to take out anyone in uniform, including police, not just military.

Police are armed even when off duty. The military member is stripped of his weapon when he hits American soil and is left defenseless.

I, being a concealed-weapons-permit holder, cannot enter a military recruiting station or any federal property.

Also, banks are under this law, as the funds are federally protected. As I trav-

See RANTS, page 7

**This Week's Prize** **WIN \$100**  
My Hometown News  
**THIS WEEK'S LUCKY BUMPER STICKER VEHICLE**  
**DNI E12**  
Is this your license plate number? Go to the nearest HTN Office to verify by noon Tuesday.  
**GET YOUR BUMPER STICKER TODAY!**  
STOP BY ANY OFFICE OR CALL!!!  
VOLUSIA CO. 386-322-5900 | BREVARD CO. 321-242-1013 | INDIAN RIVER/MARTIN/ST LUCIE CO. 772-465-5656

## Hometown News

Published weekly by Hometown News, L.C.,  
5059 Turnpike Feeder Road, Ft. Pierce, FL 34951

Copyright © 2015, Hometown News, L.C.

Phone (321) 242-1013 Fax (321) 242-1281

Classified (321) 242-0442 • 1-800-823-0466

Rants & Raves (321) 242-1276

Circulation Inquiries 1-866-913-6397

[circulation@hometownnewsol.com](mailto:circulation@hometownnewsol.com)



Voted # 1 Community Newspaper in America in 2005, 2006, 2007.  
One of the top 3 in America every year since 2003.



Farris Robinson .....President  
Vernon D. Smith .....Managing Partner  
Tammy Farmer .....Managing Editor  
Robin Bevilacqua .....Human Resources  
Kathy Young .....Major/Natl. Accounts Manager  
Amanda Tucker .....Major/Natl. Accounts Consultant  
Terence Hart .....Sales Manager  
Teresa Buecker .....Office Manager  
Rick Keelan .....Senior Account Manager  
Paul Robinson .....Advertising Consultant  
Dennis Black .....Advertising Consultant  
Rick Edwards .....Advertising Consultant  
Mercedes Lee-Paquette .....Production Manager

Rita Zeblin .....Classified Paginator  
Karen Wood .....Graphic Artist  
Patricia Snyder .....Director Classified Advertising  
Carol Deprey-Zelenak .....Inside Sales/Classified  
Heather Donaldson .....Inside Sales/Classified  
Joe Brewi .....Inside Sales/Classified  
Dolan Hoggatt .....Circulation Manager  
Tiffany Robertson .....District Circulation Manager  
Amanda H. Anderson .....Staff Writer  
Tony Judnich .....Staff Writer  
Alex Schierholtz .....Staff Photographer  
Michael Hibbard .....News Clerk

# Rants

From page 6

el 18 miles to the Vieira Veterans Administration, I cannot carry a weapon because the parking lot is federal, and I could face criminal charges to have a gun in my vehicle.

Last week, after all that has happened with the killings on federal land, I had to enter the VA defenseless.

The recent shooting at another movie theater has not revealed if the owner had a sign that weapons were not allowed, as the one in Colorado.

I do know that President (Barack) Obama's comment was another remark that gun owners need more restrictions. (It's) hind site, but maybe the tragedy at the recruiting station might have been halted at that point if all trained military were armed. Instead, their only option was being able to hide in the back room until the "all clear" was given.

Why is Congress not working on keeping our soldiers armed and protected?

If you love this great country and want to do your part, get involved;

write your congressmen and senators. Let them know that changes need to be created today, not in the future for our soldiers.

Our country's military needs to have the power to protect not only their lives but the lives of the American people.

*Editor's note: See the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' July 27, 2015 letter, "Commissioner (Adam H.) Putnam's Department Expedites Concealed Weapon License Applications for Active Military Members and Veterans."*

*"The men and women who serve and have served our country deserve all of the support we can provide," Commissioner Putnam stated in the letter.*

## Leaving animals outside

Why do people leave their dogs and cats outside all day, while they sit in their cool houses?

I'd like to see those people sit outside all day.

Those people are just cruel.

## It's a crazy, mixed-up world

See RANTS, page 14

*Helping Seniors of Brevard, a non-profit organization designed to advocate, educate and fundraise on behalf of Brevard's senior citizens.*

*Feel free to contact us at info@helpingseniorsofbrevard.org or (321) 473-7770.*

# Seniors

From page 6

ones and to ourselves to insist that they do.

*Joe Steckler is the president of*

**Paying too much for Homeowners Insurance?**  
**Never heard of your Insurance Company?**  
**Worried whether your new insurance company can pay a claim?**

Let our experts look over your current policy and give you a no obligation quote.  
**321-255-3337**

**ALL BREVARD INSURANCE** AUTO HOME WORK LIFE  
[www.allbrevardinsurance.com](http://www.allbrevardinsurance.com)

We insure anything that moves  
**452 N. Harbor City Blvd. • Melbourne**  
**(1 light south of Sarno Road on U.S. 1)**  
**Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Sat. 9 a.m. to Noon**



# Hometown News PET OF THE WEEK

A 6-year-old Cocker Spaniel, 'Joey' is the loyal pet of John Kent of Indialantic. Joey loves his morning walks in the park, riding in the car and playing with 'Teddy,' his well-worn teddy bear.

## Is your pet worthy of the spotlight?

Hometown News will be the judge of that. We are asking our readers to submit photos of their beloved pets, as part of our "Pet of the Week" Contest. The winner for the week will have his or her pet displayed in our newspaper, while also being qualified to become the Hometown News "Pet of the Year!" Email a photo of your pet (one entry per owner) that is at least 1 MB in size to [brevnews@hometownnewsol.com](mailto:brevnews@hometownnewsol.com). Write "PET OF THE WEEK CONTEST" in the subject line, and in the body of the email, please include the following information:

- Name of pet
- Age
- Breed
- Three of your pet's favorite things to do
- Pet owner's full name and hometown
- Phone number (in case we have questions)

# OPEN HOUSE

EYE CLINIC & LASER INSTITUTE IS PLEASED TO WELCOME AND INTRODUCE OUR NEWEST MEMBER OF OUR STAFF.

Dr. Craig Cole is a board certified ophthalmologist with experience in Cataracts, Glaucoma, Diabetic Retinopathy, and Advanced-Technology Lens Implants.

**Stop by to meet and greet Dr. Cole**  
**Tuesday September 1<sup>st</sup> from 11:00 a.m – 1:00 p.m.**  
**232 S. Wickham Rd. Melbourne, FL 32904**

- Door Prizes & Gift Basket
- Snacks & Refreshments

For additional information call **(321) 723-3937 or (321) 266-3896**

[YourEyeClinic.com](http://YourEyeClinic.com)

**Dr. Aggarwal Dr. Pefkaros Dr. Kazi**

**EYE CLINIC & LASER INSTITUTE**  
 Board Certified Ophthalmologists