

VIEWPOINT

FRIDAY, JAN. 15, 2016 • NORTH BREVARD • WWW.HOMETOWNNEWSOL.COM • PAGE 6

Rants & Raves

Got something to say?

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

Callers and writers are asked to refrain from making slanderous or libelous statements.

Twenty people own half of the country's wealth

I wrote a while back about how 44 people own half of the wealth in the USA, and the other 290 million of us own the other half.

Well, now the number is 20. Yes, 20 people more than half of the wealth in this country.

This is capitalism? Buffet, Zuckerberg and the two Koch brothers are 4 of the 20.

Who do you think the politicians are paying attention to? You?

A quote: There is an unwritten rule in Congress that before you do even a little for the working class, you must do a lot for the donor class.

And you want Hillary?

Subject: Facts not checked

A recent rant claims that (Florida) Gov. Scott turned down "Medicare

expansion." Really?

(Gov.) Scott turned down Medicaid expansion, not Medicare.

The *Hometown News* claims that "Statements of fact will be checked for accuracy," but evidently they don't.

Merry Christmas anyways.

Are they facts or someone's opinion?

Since the "fact checker" at the *Hometown News* apparently nodded off, let's start with the claim seen in the last two Rants & Raves that the deficit during (President Barack) Obama's reign has shrunk by \$1 trillion.

(At the) end of Fiscal Year 2008, the debt stood at \$10,909,829,030,891.48. That's almost \$11 trillion, if you got tired of counting decimal places.

(The year) 2009, saw the debt at almost \$12 trillion. If we skip forward to the end of Fiscal Year 2015, the total was \$18,150,604,277,277,750.63 or \$18 trillion.

Hey, it's OK to support your man, but be honest about it, OK. (Data from www.treasurydirect.gov).

True to form, there was the typical slander of the "subsidies to big oil."

The latest 2014 Annual Report for Exxon shows they had worldwide sales of \$394 billion, paid \$18 billion in taxes and had the subsidies; or, as the less politically-biased call, the depreciation and depletion expenses of \$194 million (accumulated).

For the year, about \$20 million. Oh, to have a discussion using facts instead of blather.

By comparison, Apple Computer's latest annual sales were \$233.7 billion, paid \$19.1 in taxes, \$9.2 billion in subsidies (just using the Ranters slang...for the educated, its depreciation), and took most of their jobs to China.

See RANTS, page 7

Looks good to me!



Randy Barber/staff photographer

Kim and Randy Reynolds of Titusville check out a hot tub during the fifth annual 'Volusia County Home and Garden Show' at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach on Saturday, Jan. 9.

Why we need information

In August, Helping Seniors will be 5 years old. Thinking about saying "Rome was not build in a day" makes me even more cognizant of the progress we have made, the people we have helped and some of the objectives we have set for the organization. Our mission is to educate, inform and connect seniors to available resources.

We know there are many excellent senior service organizations in Brevard County that help people. Most just need better publicity and oversight to ensure services that are funded through federal, state and local dollars are given to those in need. For example, the Older American Services Act of 1965 provides funding for many senior care services, which are managed by local organizations:

- The Brevard Alzheimer's Foundation receives state funding for Project Relief, which provides free respite care, and the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative, which provides about 20 days of adult day health care free-of-charge or on a sliding-



PRESIDENT, HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD
JOE STECKLER

fee scale. The Foundation also provides transportation services. Call (321) 254-4430.

- Aging Matters receives funding to provide services, such as respite care, meals, grab bar installations, raised toilets, case management, transportation and in-home cooking and cleaning services. Call (321) 639-8770.

- The Space Coast Center for Independent Living provides free transportation for those who qualify throughout Brevard County. Veterans can be transported at no cost anywhere in the county. The Center also has excellent free hearing-device services. Call (321) 633-6011.

What is important to note is that almost every service described above See SENIORS, page 7

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Rants

From page 6

A look at America

There was a rant about (Florida) Gov. Scott turning down the free money from Washington.

Well, it's a lot like dope dealers giving suckers free dope until they are hooked. Then, they have to pay for the fix.

The money was free for a few years, but then the full bill came back to the states. Talk about tax increases, gasoline, property, fees; a lot from everywhere would have been required.

I shop a lot at Wal-Mart, obviously the ranter – the same person from the tone and structure – must be too highfalutin to shop there.

I see lots of old people employed who are supplementing their Social Security or other retirement income. I don't see those people when I go the (restaurants) or to Bloomingdales.

The young folks, I suspect, mostly didn't finish high school, but want to be paid like those engineers and PHDs at Apple. Thank you, Wal-Mart, for hiring those 2.1 million Americans.

As a business owner, I know that low-starting wages give those who want to learn a chance. That is what America is about, a chance not a soft pillow to lay on. I'm sure, at Wal-Mart, as in any other business, the ones who work hard move up, those who don't stagnate or move on.

So, if it's Karl Marx you want, see all those who have more than you. Follow me, and I'll make them give you some. Think of the Soviet Union, Cuba, Venezuela, and hundreds of other failed nations. Or does anyone still want a country where everyone has a chance, not a guarantee, to become something better?

Those who improve themselves, learn skills, work hard and play by the rules move up. It has always been that way in the United States, and I hope it stays that way. Maybe the indolent

should languish.

Dispute over the national debt and spending

I was just reading the last rant in your current issue on the national debt and entitlement spending.

I don't believe that, and I don't think it is true. And I think that you should have looked into this before you ever printed it. Because it is a well-know secret that the deficit has really shrunk by \$1 trillion in the Obama-era.

I don't believe that for one minute, and I realize this person is a devout Democrat, which is fine. I don't care.

But I think that that is a big lie, and I think you should retract it.

NOTE: Rants and Raves is a readers' opinion section. Opinions are different and separate from facts and news, as they should be. We do our best to fact-check as many of our rants and raves as we can. Thank you for reading.

Put impact fees back on the builders

This letter is to get an answer as to why all the Brevard County Commissioners refuse to put the impact fees back on the developers instead of imposing a gas tax on the taxpayers.

I wrote an email to each commissioner, and not one of them explained why the builders are still not paying an impact fee on new building since the recession ended a few years ago, and since 2009, they have not paid any impact fees on new building.

Look around you, and see the amount of over building that is going on in Brevard County and tell me why these impact fees have not been put back on the builders; and then to have these same commissioners suggest putting another tax on gasoline paid by the taxpayers is mind boggling.

The next time you vote for a County Commissioner, please keep this in mind.

Seniors

From page 6

is free to those who qualify and ask the right questions. There is an increasing need to know about these services, which is why Helping Seniors of Brevard was founded – to complete the care equation.

Helping Seniors of Brevard provides

a unique service. For example, many know about our local VA clinic, but are unaware of the Veteran's Services office (321) 633-2012, which helps families process VA benefits. At Helping Seniors of Brevard, we receive many calls from elderly widows of WWII and Korea who have remained unmarried and are eligible for a veteran's pension that is often double the size of their Social Security checks. We have been able to direct these

senior women to benefits otherwise unknown, so this alone underscores our mission.

This is what we mean when we say that Helping Seniors of Brevard completes, rather than competes, with others. We help you wind your way through a complicated care system.

Please call our information specialist at (321) 473-7770 to learn more about available services and get connected to the right resource. You

can also visit us at www.helpingseniorsofbrevard.org.

Joe Steckler is the president of Helping Seniors of Brevard, a nonprofit organization designed to advocate, educate and fundraise on behalf of Brevard's senior citizens. Feel free to contact us at info@helpingseniorsofbrevard.org or by calling (321) 473-7770.

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