

VIEWPOINT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017 • MELBOURNE • 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.

Contributors are asked to refrain from making slanderous or libelous statements.

Calling a company

When you call a company these days, one of five things happen.

1. You are put on hold and listen to elevator music.
2. You get a recording that says, "We are experiencing heavy call volume. Please try again later."
3. A recording that says, "Please listen carefully, as our menu has changed."
4. You speak to a computer instead of a person.
5. On rare occasions, you get to speak to someone immediately.

It is our American flag

I just saw the article about don't disrespect the American flag. Well, I go along with what that person wrote and said.

Well, I feel the same way. It is our American flag, and anybody who disrespects it should be brought up on charges of whatever has to be done to stop it, because we had a lot of American men and women who have died for that flag and our freedom.

Thank you. And it is long overdue.

About south Babcock Road

When I moved to southeast Palm Bay 10 years ago, the condition of the road surface on south Babcock Street - from south of Malabar Road to the county line - was poor.

Since then, little has been done to correct the serious deficiencies which today make the road deplorable.

Brevard County Commissioners, who have responsibility for funding the maintenance of the road, should be ashamed that a major artery into and out of Palm Bay is in the same terrible condition -

extensive pot holes, lack of adequate lighting, poor markings and drainage.

With the opening of the new I-95 interchange (someday), traffic on the road is almost certain to increase and worsen the deterioration.

One probable reason for the neglect by the county is that when Spanish settlers first came to Florida more than 500 years ago, the only road they paved was south Babcock Street. Therefore, since the roadway has important historical significance, the county refuses to repair it by leaving it in its original condition. So, today, those of us forced to drive on south Babcock Street suffer loose fillings in our teeth from the bone-jarring ride and expensive front-end repairs to our cars.

What miracle funding are the County Commissioners hoping for? At the current rate of neglect, the road may never receive the much needed repairs. Another example of "kick-the-can-down-road" for future elected officials to resolve.

Great way to waste my taxes

Who came up with the stupid idea of putting a curve sign and reflectors on Emerson Drive N.E., Palm Bay, by the daycare center?

Why is Palm Bay wasting my tax dollars on a curve sign for a road that barely bends 10 degrees? What is next, a sign to warn drivers that the road is going to go straight after the curve? I am sure that the sign and labor to put it up was not donated by Palm Bay Works on its own time. We have so many more pressing road repairs that my tax dollars could be used on. I am so glad that that my taxes are going to keeping the sign makers and Palm Bay works worker busy.

What we really need is a sign saying "BAD ROADS AHEAD and YOUR TAX
See RANTS, page 7

Horsin' around



Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer

Emma Verse, 5, of Melbourne, rides a pony, guided by Ashton Wallace, 15, of Melbourne, during 'Farm Day' Wednesday, Jan. 4 at Princess/Cox Farm in Melbourne.

Making use of programs

When I wrote my first column about senior issues in Florida Today 11 years ago, I was asked if there was enough material to keep such a column going and hold reader interest. It quickly became apparent that many people wanted to know more about the aging process and how to develop both a financial and medical aging plan.

Elder law attorney Bill Johnson has been an excellent resource for information about what is required to put together an effective aging plan, keeping it as simple as possible. He has been a long-time panelist on our radio and TV shows and guest columnist for our newsletter. Bill has never charged us for his services, but rather, has financially supported senior programs as long as I have been doing this work. He also has advised me about legal issues and shared resources, such as the newsletter of the National Association of Elder Law Attorneys.

When I first became involved with senior programs, I was not as well



HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD
JOE STECKLER

informed as I am today, but studied and read over the years to gain knowledge. Recently, I read an article in the Elder Law Journal about the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid. Individual states want to lower Medicaid costs, but are hampered by possible reduction in services and loss of funding for 20 million people currently covered through the Affordable Care Act. In fact, there is not enough money in these Medicaid programs to meet current needs. At last count, there were about 50,000 seniors in Florida who were on Medicaid waiting lists.

This is a real problem. We have huge numbers of people who need assistance
See SENIORS, page 7

Hometown News

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

Copyright © 2016, 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



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
 Alicia Vasquez Office Manager
 Rick Keelan Senior Account Manager
 Lillian Belmont Advertising Consultant
 Mark Miller Advertising Consultant
 Lori Ciambriello Advertising Consultant

Mercedes Lee-Paquette Production Manager
 Karen Wood Graphic Artist
 Heather Donaldson Inside Sales Manager
 Lora Uber Inside Sales/Classified
 Steve Waddell Inside Sales/Classified
 Tiffany Robertson Circulation Manager
 Amanda H. Anderson Staff Writer
 Brittany Mulligan Staff Writer
 Alex Schierholtz Staff Photographer
 Michael Hibbard News Clerk

MELBOURNE

Seniors

From page 6

to age with dignity. The value of a program that advocates for seniors and helps ensure the use of state and federal funds for senior services, rather than overhead costs, cannot be underestimated. This need has emerged over and over again through my Helping Senior work these past five years and through surveys of seniors and those who care for seniors.

Brevard County does not have an aging plan, and I believe that we must work together and impress upon our leadership the need to promote development of services that will be needed to care for an increasing elder population. Resources allocated to the development of senior programs to address transportation, senior housing, provision of senior food programs and assistance to those who cannot provide their own care as they age can no longer be deferred.

In a county as rich as ours, it can be argued that more attention should be paid earlier and more adequate planning for aging needs must happen. We elect five people to serve as County

Commissioners, yet do not hold them accountable to provide cross-the-board leadership. This can be verified by the extremely low amount of funding directed to community nonprofit organizations.

For one week in December, I answered the phone for Helping Seniors and the calls for assistance demonstrated that needs are increasing and financial support for early-care services does not exist. This year, we will strive to make our readers more aware of unmet needs while identifying ways for community resources to work together to improve senior services.

I encourage you to visit our website at www.helpingseniorsofbrevard.org and or call us at (321) 473-7770 to learn more about the many wonderful services that are available and how they can be used to assist all. I wish you a joyous and prosperous 2017.

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.

Rants

From page 6

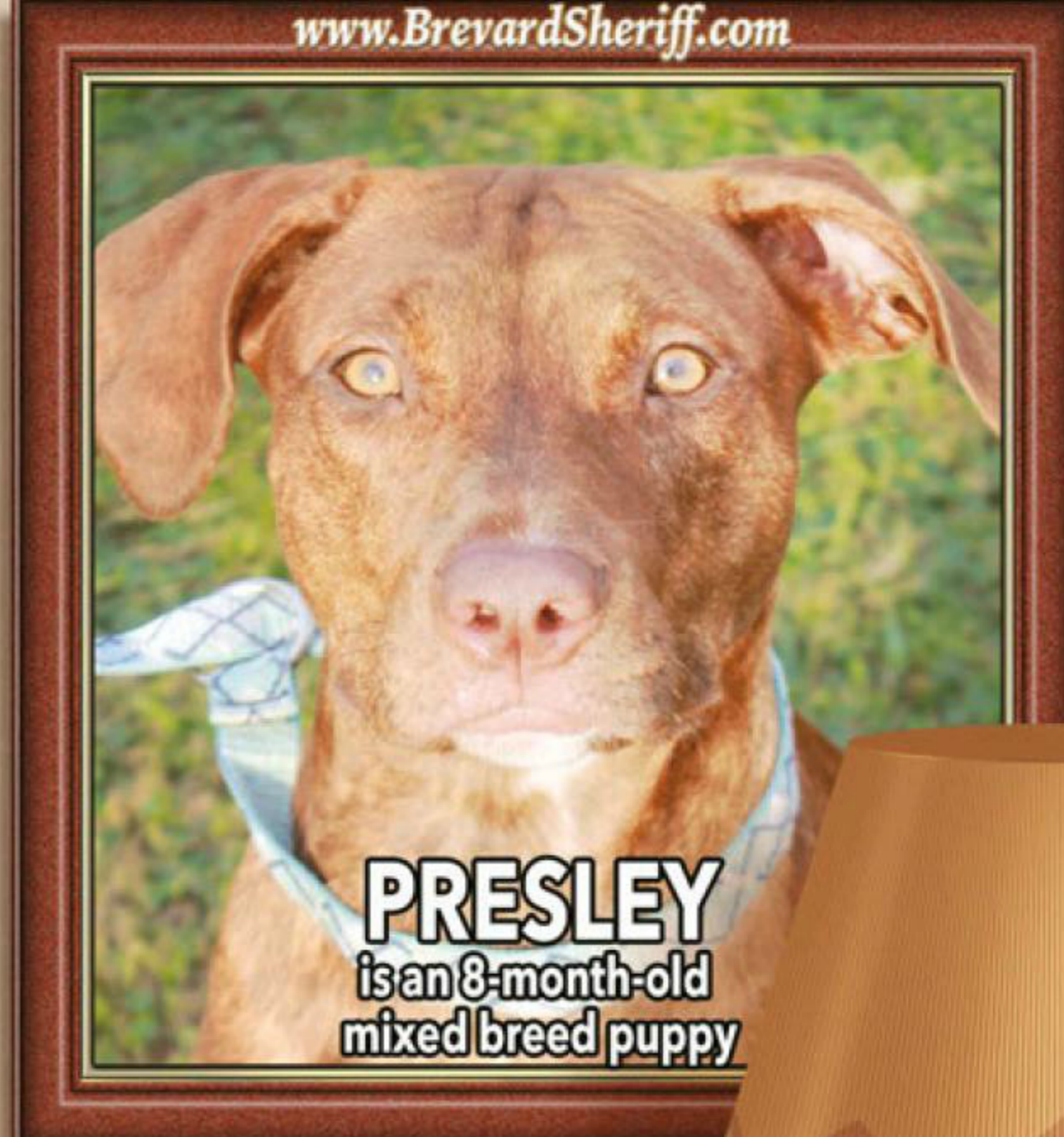
DOLLARS BEING WASTED HERE."

Our newspaper carrier

Yes, I have a rave. I am calling in behalf of our newspaper carrier. How considerate and polite she is. She keeps See RANTS, page 16


Adoptable Pet of the Week

www.BrevardSheriff.com



PRESLEY
is an 8-month-old
mixed breed puppy

To meet Presley, visit the
Brevard County Sheriff's Office
South Animal Care Center
5100 West Eau Gallie Blvd.
321-633-2024




Mike Willis
ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION LLC
321-254-7176

www.mikewillisroofing.com
1901 N. Harbor City Blvd. Melbourne, FL 34935
Licensed & Insured • Commercial & Residential

Here before and after the Storms!
Mike Willis, Owner

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Certified General Contractor C.G.C.#1509962 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reroofs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additions |
| Certified Roofing Contractor C.C.C. #1327501 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Repairs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Screening |
| Home Inspections #HI5687 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Skylights | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Soffit & Fascia |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remodeling | |

 Serving Brevard Since 1988

SOT #36723



BILOXI CASINO TOURS

3 Nights

NEW FOR 2017!!
MELBOURNE ONLY BUS

Feb. 20-23 • March 20-23
6:30 a.m. departure
No other pick ups stops!
includes gratuity for driver & hostess



IP \$239 pp/dbl **Beau Rivage \$239 pp/dbl**

Call for more information 1-877-498-3310

Best in Brevard to provide bladeless cataract laser surgery. Accepting new patients now - call today!




MUKESH AGGARWAL, M.D.

- Comprehensive Ophthalmology
 - Cataract Laser Surgery
 - LASIK Surgery
 - Glaucoma Surgery
 - Eye Lid Surgery/Brow Lift
 - Dry Eye Specialist
- Medical Retina Treatments for Diabetes & Macular Degeneration

Please schedule your appointments at:
(321) 266-3896



MUKESH AGGARWAL, M.D.
Board Certified Ophthalmologist

1045 N. Courtenay Parkway, Merritt Island or 1832 Garden Street, Titusville