

# VIEWPOINT

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## Rants & Raves

### Got something to say?

Email the Hometown Rants & Raves at

[brevnews@hometownnewsol.com](mailto: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  
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Phone (321) 242-1013 Fax (321) 242-1281

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Rants & Raves (321) 242-1276

Circulation Inquiries 1-866-913-6397

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



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