

VIEWPOINT

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Rants & Raves

Got something to say?

Email the Hometown Rants & Raves at

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or call (321) 242-1276.

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

Thank you for the meal

Recently, in June, I was sitting in Dustin's Bar-B-Q having a meal.

It was my first time eating out alone since my wife passed away the day before Christmas.

There was a couple across the way with a couple of kids, and I was looking at them and thinking, "What a nice family they look to be."

Well, they were indeed just that! I guess the woman saw right through me, all alone, and I guess looking sad, thinking about things.

She came over and told me my meal was paid for. I asked, "why?" And she replied that they just want to do it for me.

So, there are still some great people around, with understanding and compassion to others.

In this case the lady nailed it. I was sad, lonely and feeling alone.

The couple renewed by faith in my fellow people. Nice people. I will never forget what they did.

Talking about traffic laws

I have been a school bus driver for a couple of years now and love it. It is my part-time job after my career job retirement.

However, being out there on rush hours (and non-rush hours during field trips or other midday trips) I can say there is a real problem with people disobeying traffic laws, especially when they see a school bus or get stuck behind one.

It is as nerve wrecking for us bus drivers as it is for private or commercial vehicular drivers. The transportation services for the Brevard Public School System spends a ton of money on initial training and on-going training. School bus drivers are not only "drivers," but "rolling classroom substitute teachers" who, not only must pay attention to traffic laws and patterns, but also to the behavior of the precious cargo we carry to and from schools; we are also "janitors" (got

motion sicknesses on board?) in addition to keeping our buses clean and tidy at all times.

Our supervisors demands and paperwork are unstoppable and we must adhere strictly to traffic rules, school board rules, ethical rules (with students, public, parents and other drivers). We must only use our two way radios for communicating (even 911 emergencies are not allowed to be dialed from our personal phones); we cannot back up with students on board or make U-turns; we must watch street signs with "dead ends" or "no through traffic," "private road," etc; we must stop (stop) at stop signs, not roll through them, must use our signals for every move of the steering wheel, must drive on the right lane at all times, although this becomes a challenge if we are to make a left turn at the upcoming traffic light. Most drivers will not allow us to switch lanes. That is the reason why we sometimes take possession of the left lane way before we get to that intersection, and then our boss gets a phone call (Ha! Ha!).

Our buses are somewhat "slow manatees" in comparison to boaters navigating the waterways; and although we get complains about driving too fast, it is just an illusion because our buses are so big and it appears we are speeding through a 25 mph zone if we are in fact driving at 25 mph.

Private drivers do not respect our buses (which are big and yellow for a good reason of peripheral view to others), they try their best, at whatever cost, to get around us and slam on the brakes in front of us because traffic is slowing down and takes away the room in front of us; they speed up when we turn our Amber Student Lights on instead of slowing down and stop by the time we turn our Stop Red lights and Stop arms at a complete stop.

Another challenge is with drivers waiting at an intersection make that right turn with their traffic red light on, if they see us coming down the road even if we are only 25 feet away from that intersection, make the daredevil turn anyways, they don't care to butt in front of us. It is hard to stop a vehicle that large and heavy when someone cuts in front of you.

Keeping fit!



Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer

Kirsten Grodzki of Indialantic and Tamin Holm of Melbourne practice their AcroYoga during Adventure HQ's ribbon-cutting ceremony Tuesday, June 20 in Palm Shores.

Another reason for senior leadership

I was sitting in my reclining chair with that wonderful invention, the back vibrator, stimulating my weary muscles when I asked myself this question; "Where do I go if I perceive a problem associated with senior living?" There is no established plan at the county level that states where senior leadership is located.

The Commissioners recently demonstrated a lack of knowledge of senior problems by kicking that can down the road: reducing already insufficient funds for seniors to address budget shortfalls for road repair. Compounding the problem is Brevard's Housing and Human Services department, which is relying on local nonprofits to fight the funding battle for them.

We have been a long time without a



HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD
JOE STECKLER

national budget signed by the President. I just reviewed the results of the Governor's vetoes and believe he did a good job with his pen. We have a balanced state budget because we must do so by law. At the local level we have a budget, but I am not convinced our county government and staff have a true understanding of current and foreseeable problems regarding seniors.

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