

# VIEWPOINT

FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2017 • NORTH BREVARD • WWW.HOMETOWNNEWSBREVARD.COM • PAGE 6

## 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.

#### Where are the public restrooms?

Yes, lovely job on Minuteman Causeway - lots of bricks, lots of trees. But where the public restrooms? And where in this town of Cocoa Beach are the public restrooms?

Thank you.

#### 'You know? You know what I mean?'

I am calling to get some feedback on this and get it off my chest.

What irritates me is when people are talking and every other word is "you know, you know, you know;" or "you know what I mean."

Please, people, leave that out of your sentence. I gets on my nerves - I don't know about anybody else - but I would sure like to know if anybody else agrees with me.

#### For the health of our kids

I am trying to understand why the Palm Bay and Melbourne areas have every possible fast food restaurant there is available?

With our population overweight and diabetes on the rise why wouldn't family restaurants be encouraged here instead?

I was most disappointed when Bob Evans left, as they served good meals at a low cost for families. I'm sure there are others that could be had.

Too many families don't cook at home today, so good family restaurants at low cost are a must, without needing to drive a distance to Viera.

I was most disappointed that Michelle Obama's healthy lunch program was abolished. I can't believe really good food preparers couldn't serve "healthy"

meals that are palatable to children instead of the high calorie meals often served. If kids were throwing out food, then I tend to blame the people who didn't serve "whole wheat" pizza, for example, instead of the normal fare. There is a need to become creative for the health of our kids.

#### It has all changed here

I could have written the letter titled "It used to be a nice place to live," which appeared a couple of weeks ago.

We moved from Winter Haven three years ago because of the traffic, and we were told what a great place Viera was. We cannot believe what has taken place here over the last three years.

This area has become so congested and crowded, not to mention the trash that has suddenly appeared on the sides of the roads. I was witness to a pick-up truck with a construction sign on the back and three men - I pulled along side of them at the rotary briefly - in the truck who threw bags of lunch, cups and trays out the window on the road. I called the number on the back, and no one ever answered.

I want to know where are the signs for fines for littering we all grew up with.

Our country is becoming a dump, as we have traveled recently and see the same trash on the sides of the roads.

Back to the destruction of our land. With the birds, turtles, snakes, lizards, etc. destroyed for land development comes more and more mosquitoes and ants, which need more and more chemicals to kill them and eventually us.

#### Be a defensive driver

See RANTS, page 7

## Getting creative



Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer

Lilyanna Sanders, 5, of Merritt Island, plays with sensory water beads during the 3rd annual Space Coast Baby & Kids Expo on Saturday, July 8, at the Melbourne Auditorium.

## Do we need nonprofits?

This is a fair question, one that should be better explained to the readership at large. Since there are many books written on the subject, I will confine my comments to a discussion of what we generally perceive of as nonprofits.

Here I mean those organizations in Brevard County that address basic needs, such as housing for the homeless, care of the frail and elderly, feeding the hungry, etc.

Numerous organizations meet the criteria for being designated as a nonprofit. Unfortunately, some of these are self-serving organizations that pass themselves off as being necessary providers to those in need when, in fact, they are primarily money-making machines.

The purpose of my column is to help the generous and giving citizens in Brevard be better informed about where their money goes and how it is used to assist others.

There are many worthwhile causes that seek our support. Generally speaking, I will not donate to any cause that has a profit-making phone-calling



HELPING SENIORS  
OF BREVARD  
JOE STECKLER

service seeking the donation.

There are many views on what constitutes a "fair" up-front cost to solicit your donation, but in my book any such cost turns me off.

Years ago when I was the alumni director at Florida Tech, I used students to solicit donations from graduates. They were fed pizza, made calls, told the person why they were calling and did a good job obtaining funds for alumni programs.

One way to establish the "worthiness" of a soliciting organization is to look up its IRS Form 990 online, which will give you its actual revenues and expenses. If you determine that salaries, medical and retirement benefits and building operational costs are in the 50-percent range, you may not want to donate to it.

See NONPROFITS, 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](mailto:circulation@hometownnewsol.com)



Farris Robinson ..... President  
Vernon D. Smith ..... Managing Partner  
Don Hornbeck ..... Circulation Director  
Robin Bevilacqua ..... Human Resources  
Isabel Harmon ..... Account Receivable  
Annita Ferrante ..... Credit & Collections  
Kathy Young ..... Major/Natl. Accounts Manager  
Kelly King ..... Major/Natl. Accounts Consultant  
Mercedes Lee-Paquette ..... Production Manager  
Heather Donaldson ..... Inside Sales Manager  
Terence Hart ..... Brevard County Sales Manager  
Catherine Cawthon ..... Office Manager

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



NBREVARD

Rick Keelan ..... Senior Account Manager  
Shawn Alexander ..... Advertising Consultant  
Mark Miller ..... Advertising Consultant  
Karen Wood ..... Graphic Artist  
Amanda Wheaton ..... Inside Sales Assistant  
Lora Uber ..... Inside Sales/Classified  
Tiffany Robertson ..... Circulation Manager  
Michael Gaffey ..... Managing Editor  
Austin Rushnell ..... Staff Writer  
Brittany Mulligan ..... Staff Writer  
Alex Schierholtz ..... Staff Photographer  
Michael Hibbard ..... News Clerk



## Rants

From page 6

I just read the rant from the school bus driver about how rude and dangerous people are to them on the road. I totally agree but it's not to them, is also to truck drivers and anyone pulling a trailer. It's an "all about me" world now.

Unfortunately, bus drivers have precious cargo on board, and extra care and caution should be given them. But it works both ways. Where I drive, the bus drivers never use their blinkers or seem to respect other drivers. I used to have to travel in town, back and forth, to work when school buses were on the road, and I used to get very annoyed with their drivers, just like semis on I-95. I like the middle lane, they are normally in the right lane, and it's nerve-wracking every time there's an on ramp because if there are cars, the semi "zips" over in front of me, and cuts me off, since no one seems to know how to merge anymore, everyone seems to think we, on the main road, have to move out of their way. What's that yield sign for? You have to really be a defensive driver these days.

### Response to 'Brighthouse/ Spectrum'

I agree with the writer of the Brighthouse/Spectrum rant. Our service has declined, the equipment, especially the remotes, are inferior and cheap and our prices have skyrocketed.

They are giving super deals to pull in new customers; yet, all of us long-time customers get higher prices to subsidize these newer customers.

When they installed my rotor for my internet, they put it on one end of our house, so that we can barely get WiFi on our back porch. When I called them up about it, it's of course not their problem. They told me it's a \$50 charge to come out and see what they can do, plus whatever it costs to do it in excess of that \$50. We need a new, better cable company here to give them some competition.

### Artists up to the challenge?

I've attended art festivals but seldom find anything worth buying. So, I have a few suggestions if there are any enterprising artists up to the challenge.

First, paint portraits or profiles of kids, grandkids and adults. Work from a digital photo if necessary. Use paint, pencil or charcoal. Make it inexpensive and quick. Personal art like this is kept forever.

Second, make an American flag, using material that won't fray and fade within a year of flying in our harsh weather. There is nothing on the market today.

Lastly, instead of a flag made of material, paint an American flag or other images on garage doors, driveways or interior walls using large, custom-made stencils. Multiple stencils may be needed per image per color. Hold the stencil in place with Velcro at the corners. Make your own images or purchase copyrighted ones to sell. Godspeed!

## Nonprofits

From page 6

You can also determine how many organizations provide similar type services to identify those known to you and worthy of your support.

Like you, I receive calls from all over the United States and some foreign countries and make it a point to give only to a charity I know.

There are ways for you to determine the worthiness of almost any soliciting organization. You can certainly ask your friends, for many have already done the research I mention above. Why give to an organization that does not answer the required questions on its IRS 990, or that demonstrates poor leadership through mismanagement of already scarce funds, or that does not provide the service for which it is funded? Most importantly, as funding becomes more stringent, are its services really needed?

Helping Seniors did a county-wide survey in 2014 and found that the two biggest senior needs were for informa-

tion and financial support. "Do we need nonprofits?" is a significant question for seniors. We have some of the best nonprofit adult day care organizations in Brevard, but only a few receive United Way or county assistance.

Perhaps it is time for the Housing and Human Services Department to conduct its own survey to determine the actual needs of Brevard's elderly and the capability of the nonprofit community to serve them.

Without timely surveys to determine actual need, how do the county commissioners and United Way determine funding priorities? Both county and United Way dollars come from the private sector, so this is a valid request. The need for advocacy and information has been demonstrated in many ways. We do need nonprofits, and we do need to find ways to financially support them.

*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. Contact us at info@helpingse-niorsofbrevard.org or (321) 473-7770.*

## Notes

From page 3

Leaves and a Bud" (published by West-Bow Press), Yvonne Tomlin tells the story of growing up in of Dr. Graham's Homes in Kalimpong, India, and her difficulty fitting in.

The book begins with the story of

how six Anglo-Indian children – Ivan, Rick, Mitchell, Ashton, Julian, Sandra and the author – were abandoned by their father and their mother was forced to give them to a group home in the remote foothills of the Himalayan Mountains. The fourth child tells her story of growing up in the 1940s in a restricted and sheltered environment

See NOTES, page 9



**Hometown News**  
**Reader's Choice Awards**

**2017**

**Vote for your favorite businesses!**

**Find your ballot inside our Readers' Choice Special Edition Coming July 28th!**

**To advertise in this special edition call 321-242-1013**



**Quality Meats & Produce**  
Corner of Peachtree & Fiske  
**11 N. Fiske • Cocoa • 321.633.0804**  
**WE ACCEPT VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER & EBT!**

**DELIVERY AVAILABLE**

- ☐ **Tender Delicious T-Bone Steaks \$4.99lb**
- ☐ **Center Cut Lean Pork Chops \$2.99lb**
- ☐ **Fresh Fryer Leg Quarters 69¢lb./10lb bag**
- ☐ **Vine Ripe Tomatoes 99¢lb**

Expires 7/28/17

<p><b>Gourmet Steak COMBO #6</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 - 8 oz. NY Strip Steaks</li> <li>4 - 8 oz Sirloin Steaks</li> <li>4 - 8 oz Rib Eye Steaks</li> <li>4 - 6 oz. Chopped Sirloin Steaks</li> <li>4 - 6 oz. Cubed Steaks</li> <li>4 - 8 oz. Bacon Wrapped Filets</li> </ul> <p><b>\$89<sup>99</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Meat For the Month COMBO #8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 - 1 lb. Pkg. Ground Chuck</li> <li>4 - 8 oz. KC Sirloin Steaks</li> <li>2 - 2 lb. Chuck Roast</li> <li>3 - 1 lb. Round Steaks</li> <li>1 - 3 lb. Pkg. Boneless Fryer Breast</li> <li>2 - 2 1/2 lb. Pkg. Fryer Leg Quarters</li> <li>20 - 4 oz. Ground Chuck Patties</li> <li>20 - 4 oz. Boneless Pork Chops</li> <li>1 - 5 lb. Pkg. Country Style Ribs</li> <li>4 - 1 lb. Pkg. Bacon</li> </ul> <p><b>\$159<sup>99</sup></b></p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Monday-Saturday Open 9-5**  
**FOOD STAMPS ACCEPTED**  
**www.QualityMeatsandProduce.com**