

# VIEWPOINT

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2017 • THE SUNTREE • 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 libelous statements.

#### In answer to "You know, you know what I mean"

You bet. I agree with you. People who can't talk without using every other sentence using "you know" or "you know what I mean" also really irritate me.

I wonder if they even realize that they are even doing it.

Maybe now, if they see this in print, they will, and will try to stop it.

Good day.

#### Buying online is not easier

A lot of department stores are closing their doors and going out of business. The main reason is that a lot of people are doing their buying online.

There are a number of reasons for buying online, most of them valid.

However, when a person is retired and in good health and says that they do not have time to go shopping, this blows my mind.

When you buy an article of clothing, don't you want to feel the material and see how it fits?

I realize that when you buy something online, you can always return it. You might have to do this numerous times to get it perfect.

If that is supposed to be easier than going to a store and trying on different outfits and buying on the spot? It is not.

#### So, you just moved here

I have been here since 1969, and it way used to be nice here. I keep seeing rants from people who just moved here 3 to 5 years ago and complaining on how it "used to be nice here." Well, it used to be up until the late 1980s. Then the Northerners started a mass Massachusetts, New York, invasion of the South. The growth was welcomed. In a short

10 years, the problems the Northerners left from there started showing up here. Who would have known?

Trash everywhere. Demands for programs, parks and tax paid for recreational activities that raised their property taxes up north, that many of them moved here to escape from the outrageously high property taxes they were paying.

Now we have people complaining about the growth that have only been here 3 to 5 years. Complaints like the poor critters whose land we have taken. Well, you had no problem kicking the critters off your land for your house to be built.

Move, if you don't like it here. Or better yet, demolish your home and revert it back to green critter-friendly space and then move.

#### Repair business - true and honest

I know I am not alone, but I find it hard to understand why it is so hard to find a business needed for repairs that you can trust and rely on them to do the job right and honest.

I have spoken to others who are feeling the same way that work is done but either partially or incorrectly requiring the work to be needed again. I remember years ago never having problems, and businesses were like family - trustworthy.

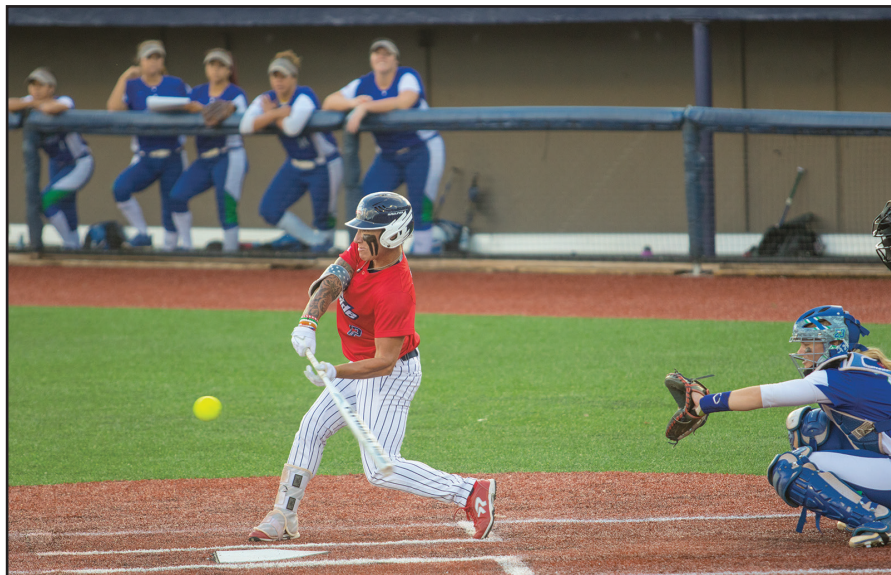
What happened?

#### Response to 'litterers should be jailed'

Article on "litterers should be jailed" is a little over the top. Who wants to feed these uncaring people? Perhaps these "bugs" to all races, if caught, should be turned over to the

See RANTS, page 7

## Pride of the Pride



Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer

Kelly Kretschman of Indian Harbour Beach gets a hit for a single while playing for the 35-8 USSSA Pride vs. the Texas Charge on Aug. 1 at Space Coast Stadium in Viera. She is a Satellite High graduate and former four-time collegiate All-American at the University of Alabama. Kretschman also was a member of Team USA, which won a gold medal at the 2004 Athens Olympics and a silver medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. For more about the Pride, visit [ussapride.com](http://ussapride.com).

## Why make donation to nonprofit group?

As we experience a reduction of government resources to fund nonprofit organizations, you will see this question asked more often. It is no secret that the Brevard County commissioners have already set in motion a plan to phase out extremely meager public grants to nonprofits under the guise that these funds are needed to pay for the paving of roads.

Everyone has a right to his own opinion as to how roads and other public works should be underwritten, but to completely eliminate funding for needed community services, especially those serving the elderly and frail, should be questioned by all who pay taxes. Seniors comprise almost 50 percent of Brevard taxpayers, and to eliminate the ridiculously low funding now in place should signal a huge "Maggie's drawers" to them and to the



HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD  
JOE STECKLER

75,000 veterans in Brevard.

A "Maggie's drawers" is a red flag used to indicate a complete miss on the firing range.

Maybe we are not asking the right questions when trying to find money to pay bills. I would question why Palm Bay needs a separate Veterans Center when there is a wonderful Veterans Office in Viera. Or why two assistant county managers were recently hired and new funding developed for these positions. Why not reallocate some of See DONATE, 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  
Terence Hart ..... Sales Manager  
Catherine Cawthon ..... Office Manager  
Heather Donaldson ..... Inside Sales Manager  
Mercedes Lee-Paquette ..... Production Manager

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



Rick Keelan ..... Senior Account Manager  
Shawn Alexander ..... 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



SUNTREE



## Rants

From page 6

county sheriff's office and made to pick up trash for a two-week period under the direction of the sheriff's department. I'm sure that the courts and any judge would be happy to help in this matter.

I am currently riding Space Coast Transit, and some of the bus stops in Cocoa could use a little "refining" and have some of the trash cans emptied. This may not be a final cure, but it sure could help. We could use some help on some of our side streets as well.

Please, give this some thought. It may just work and save taxpayers a little change in the long run.

### Veterans are veterans

I went into the service when I was 17 years old. I am what they call a Cold War vet. I gave five years of my life for my country, but most

other vets and especially the VA consider us lower than you-know-what.

It's not my fault we weren't at war at the time, even though we trained for it. I don't even get veterans preference for jobs or anything. Sad, actually.

Would I do it all over again? Of course.

FYI - I wasn't a soldier, just a Seabee.

### Try this repair shop

After moving to Palm Bay about 13 years ago, I was using a repair shop, one of three under the same ownership and had the exact experiences as I would like to give two raves in this letter."

I went in for an oil change, and they always found two or three other things wrong.

I had experienced no problems, but they always convince me I needed this work done, and I left with bills amounting to hundreds of dollars.

My son recommended his mechanic at Melbourne Radiator on Highway 192 in West

Melbourne. No more taking advantage of an older woman. They are keeping me and my 28-year-old vehicle on the road for my necessary trips.

### What are you supposed to do?

In answer to the rant titled "no receipts," I could rant and rant and rant about things like this that are similar that I have been confronted with in my life.

It is unbelievable what is going on out there in the retail industry: people who cover up for their employers, lie over the phone when you are dealing with a personal issue, such as this woman who wanted to exchange her blouse.

I have hundreds of stories, and I am very frustrated myself. I am an elderly lady. How can people get away with all of this. I don't know. I am fighting issues myself, and it is really taking too much out of me. It is tire-some to fight.

If people cannot do the right thing when

you are telling the truth, and you are an honest person, and you are trying to achieve something for yourself that has been wronged to you, what are you supposed to do?

### Safety lights might be defective

From my observations on Florida's streets and highways, I have come to a conclusion that the vast majority of cars and some trucks, both new and old, seem to have a common defect which appears almost immediately after delivery.

I'm sure the vehicles are OK when purchased. Florida statutes (laws), I believe, require all safety-related items must be in working order. But after delivery, for whatever reason, the directional lights stop working.

I think the probable cause might be somewhere in the area of the steering wheel, or more specifically the nut holding it. Maybe a recall of this nut would be in order.

## Donate

From page 6

the approximately 230 county positions that are funded but not filled? Better still, why not eliminate some of these positions altogether and use those funds to pay for road repairs?

I planned to write this article on charitable giving. However, once I started typing, I quickly thought about the recent actions to defund wonderful nonprofits that assist many in need.

For 20 years I have watched organizations compete against each other for United Way and county funding. Generally speaking it is the same few organizations who manage to receive this funding, much of it going to children's causes. Yet when I asked the staff at Brevard Public Schools what happened to the money raised by the recent sales tax, the answer came back to me in code. I doubt we will ever know the exact expenditure of those funds.

Why am I concerned? Because if someone does not ask this question early

on, the current plan to eliminate nonprofit funds will be a fait accompli. With each election I have heard candidates for county commissioner express their thoughts on how we can save money.

The reality is that we just shift it around and, as some say, "kick the can down the road."

When will those kicking toes get tired and real action be taken to hold county staff accountable for the expenditure of our tax dollars?

My hope here is not to offend those allocating taxpayers' money but to ask

them to start thinking about our ability to provide services for those seniors and frail elderly who will require care in the years ahead. And, maybe we do need to increase taxes to adequately fund needed service.

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

# Fit

## 2017 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
SEPT. 2	VIRGINIA LYNCHBURG	7 PM
SEPT. 9	MCNEESE STATE	7 PM
SEPT. 16	SHORTER	7 PM
SEPT. 23	MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE	8 PM
SEPT. 30	WEST FLORIDA	7 PM
OCT. 7	NORTH ALABAMA	7 PM
OCT. 14	NORTH GREENVILLE	2:30 PM
OCT. 21	WEST ALABAMA	2 PM
OCT. 28	VALDOSTA STATE	7 PM
NOV. 4	WEST GEORGIA	1 PM
NOV. 11	DELTA STATE	7 PM

HOME AWAY ALL TIMES EASTERN  
DATES AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

FOR TICKETS VISIT:  
**FLORIDATECHSPORTS.COM**

FLORIDA TECH FOOTBALL  
@FLORTECHFOOTBALL FLORIDATECHFOOTBALL

## ATTENTION PLAYERS AND TEAMS

# FALL BASEBALL LEAGUE

9U-12U 13U-18U

**FALL BASEBALL SKILLS EVALUATION/TRYOUTS**  
SATURDAY AUGUST 12, 2017  
SATURDAY AUGUST 19, 2017  
CLICK HERE TO REGISTER OR CALL: 321-639-EXPO (3976)

**DETAILS:**

- 8 Week Season (August 29 – October 31)
- 1-3 practices each week
- 18-30+ game season
- Professional Instruction
- Field Practice on the highest quality fields
- Practice in the \$5MM major league training center
- Weight Training in the \$1MM Hammer Strength weight room
- See your skills improve
- Reps, Reps and more Reps
- All games and practices played at the All New Cocoa Expo Sports Center
- Includes Uniform (jersey and hat)
- Players can enjoy Cocoa Expo's 2 arcades in the Cocoa Expo Rec Hall

**9U-12U - \$465**  
**13U-18U - \$565**

**COCOA EXPO**