

FOR DAILY UPDATES ON COVID-19 PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGES

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CONGRATS GRADS

U.S. Coast Guard graduates receive their postings

HOMETOWN HEROES

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NICE CATCH

Jonathan Spinning caught a Tilapia while fishing in Bayside Lakes of Palm Bay



CATCH OF THE WEEK

14



The Donato's toured Coco Cay. Send us your Townie photo to brevnews@hometown-newsmediagroup.com

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ADOPT ME

Sprinkles is a 7-year-old looking for her forever home



ADOPTABLE PET

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In-home long term care



HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD JOE STECKLER

In all my years of writing articles for publication, this one is especially difficult. I do not want to step on any toes, as our nonprofit organization, Helping Seniors, partners with many professional care giving businesses. While dependent for support, I also am bound by personal ethics to inform my readers of the types of care elements they might need. Although I cannot talk to all elements of care, I can make you aware of many that will help you develop a care plan. Since all care elements are not equal in quality, it is your responsibility to research whatever care you require.

To keep things simple, I will refer to care in home or care in a facility. Care at home is likely to be less of a financial burden, so I will address that first. Suppose

See STECKLER, page 10

NEXT LAUNCH

June TBD: A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket is expected to launch an eighth batch of satellites for SpaceX's Starlink broadband network

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SpaceX Dragon successfully docks ISS

By Brittany Mulligan

bmulligan@hometownnewsmediagroup.com

MERRITT ISLAND — On May 30, Astronauts Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley successfully launched from Launch Complex 39A while aboard the SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft at NASA's Kennedy Space Center.

This historic moment brought people from all over the world together to witness these two NASA astronauts launch from American soil while aboard a commercially built and operated American crew spacecraft.

The last time American astronauts launched from America was in 2011 during the last Space Shuttle Program.

While many citizens around the world watched from livestreams, Brevard residents had an incredible opportunity to step outside of their houses to see the launch firsthand.

"America's return to launching astronauts from American soil brings a sense of pride reminiscent of when we all came together to watch the moon landing in 1969," said Tom Horn. "I can stand in front my yard in Satellite Beach and watch the launch."

Ivonne Najarro, a former Rockledge resident said, "I'm proud to have been born and raised in Brevard; a little girl to a teenager watching shuttle missions to now as an adult

See DRAGON, page 4



Alex Schierholtz/Staff photographer

SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket and Crew Dragon capsule with Astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley head to the International Space Station on May 30.

Beachgoers leaving too much trash

By Brittany Mulligan

bmulligan@hometownnewsmediagroup.com

BREVARD COUNTY — Lately, residents and visitors have been enjoying the re-opened beaches just a little too much because Keep Brevard Beautiful staff reported an increase in trash left behind.

Over the Memorial Day weekend, despite rain, beachgoers still flocked to the beach and left 23,560 pounds worth of trash in Cocoa Beach, according to Bryan Bobbitt, executive director of KBB.

"Since the beaches have re-opened, we've seen a massive increase in litter on the beach and trash cans on the beach," Mr. Bobbitt said. "It's more than just a blight, it's

an environmental issue."

Trash that ends up in the water can kill sea life, birds and marine mammals, Mr. Bobbitt noted. Plastic bags that end up in the ocean may resemble jellyfish, a favorite food to sea turtles.

Each morning, the Sea Turtle Preservation Society sends staff to walk along the beach and marks nests, which beachgoers have so far respected.

"Anything that anyone can do to take ownership of that trash, pack it up, take it home with them, properly dispose of it, recycle it if they can," Mr. Bobbitt said, "it's not only better for the environment but it makes things easier on our crews."

Keep Brevard Beautiful has a contract to

clean up the county's beaches daily. Normally, volunteers are invited to join on cleanups but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the nonprofit has been unable to host any public events.

During the first weekend of publically re-opening beaches on May 1, Mr. Bobbitt said the KBB crew picked up 297-trash bags worth of litter, approximately 11,880 pounds of trash in Cocoa Beach.

It was a major increase from the 78 bags, approximately 3,120 pounds of litter - that was picked up the weekend prior.

The city of Cocoa Beach has since increased its police presence and the Brevard County Sheriff's Office has sent out a

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- Isolation
- Suicidal ideation



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Separation

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needs.

"It was a hard decision for him to make, but the one regret in life he says he has is that he didn't go into the military and he felt that going to New York, helping when the healthcare industry, which was struggling so much, was a way to give back and fill some of that regret," Mrs. Benson said.

Regardless of motive, Mr. Benson's journey to the Empire State was his call to serving the greater good. The couple, along with their three children, have spent nearly two months apart during a heightened time of fear and anxiety.

"It's scary to know that the person you love is right in the middle of the worst of this virus," Mrs. Benson said. "You hear horror stories of people contracting the virus and dying all alone in a hospital with no family around, so of course that's what played out in my head."

Mrs. Benson, a nurse for Hospice St. Francis, has dealt with her own concerns during the pandemic as well as continuing her work with her patients.

Their respective professions, in the healthcare industry led, to their meeting.

"I remember the day he started at the hospital I was working at, he walked by the nurses station and immediately caught my eye. I had a patient that needed suctioned so I begged Matt to suction the patient for me, he told me it was really my job but he'd do it for me. From then on it's history," Mrs. Benson said.

"I think she knew early on after that day she pretty much had me at her beck and call when she needed help with a patient," Mr. Benson said. "Really, I was happy when she 'needed help' because I wanted to be around her."

Although COVID-19 placed an especially large hurdle in their lives, both personally and professionally, the Benson's supportive relationship provided the bedrock during their first year.

The couple will celebrate their first year anniversary on June 22.

"We've coped pretty well, I think. We both had career changes within our first year of marriage. I am continuing my education to obtain my Bachelor of



Mark and Codee Benson

Science in Nursing, then him leaving for 8 weeks," Mrs. Benson said. "It's a lot but we get through it because we always have each other's back, are very supportive of each other."

The Bensons have kept in touch, like others during social distancing, through apps like Facetime, allowing the distance to seem, somewhat, bearable.

"Matt is a genuinely goodhearted person, he would support me in whatever I wanted to do in life so I will always support him in his endeavors," Mrs. Benson said.

"It has been quite a year for us. Definitely some tough times in between the good times, but that's what a marriage is, working through things together and making do," Mr. Benson said. "I know this has been very tough on my wife and family, but it was something I felt I needed to do and I am very grateful for all the support I've received from the ones I care about."

"It takes a special person to put others' needs in front of their own, but that is exactly what all the front line workers have been doing," Mr. Benson said. "I'd like to say a big thank you to all of them and to let them know we are working diligently to try to fix the awful state of our world at the current time."

Seniors

From page 1

that the person at home needs hands on care. While a family member can do these services, it is likely that some professional care will be required so the cost of services is increased. However, it might be possible in early or even advanced care situations to mix and match family and professional services. For example, a family member could help with showering, and professionals could clean the house and prepare meals.

There are a zillion scenarios that would enable the person to stay at home safely and where they might want to be. And, in most cases, the sooner the need for services is addressed, the longer they may stay at home. In home care includes many elements: skilled care, wound care, hands

on care, etc. A professional care manager can help you develop a care plan. You can also call our Education Specialist to seek advice. There are many services available that you should know about.

While serving as Executive Director of the Brevard Alzheimer's Foundation, I envisioned the need for an organization that would educate, inform, and connect families to the services they would need. In that way Helping Seniors was founded in 2011. Putting together a care plan that changes as the senior ages is a real challenge and can become overwhelming, both mentally and financially. If you have questions about my article or want to talk to me or the Education Specialist at Helping Seniors, please call 321-473-7770. Help is available.

Contact Helping Seniors at 321-473-7770, at info@helpingseniorsofbrevard.com, or at P.O. Box 372936, Satellite Beach, FL 32937.