



November 24, 2009

Your views: Letters to the editor

Writer critical of board didn't reveal key detail

In a recent letter, myself and two other county commissioners were accused of irresponsible spending by Matt Nye.

He signed the letter as a candidate for County Commission District 4, but did not disclose that he had appeared before the board as a salesman for one of the vendors.

At two separate meetings, Nye had the opportunity to provide hard data supporting his sales pitch. He was unable to do so and may have been proposing a system that would have ultimately cost the taxpayers millions more.

After hearing from all vendors, the County Commission decided to take advantage of \$1.2 million in savings by utilizing the bid pricing received by the School Board. County staff was directed to work with an outside third party to develop a request for proposal, so that all vendors will have the opportunity to bid.

Mr. Nye also stated in his letter that the current system is obsolete, which is incorrect. This system is utilized by the Department of Defense and 93 percent of the top manufacturing companies.

Through our current vendor, we will continue to keep costs in line with our decreasing budget. The savings approved reflect our commitment to the prudent and responsible use of taxpayer resources.

Mary Bolin
Chairman, Brevard County Commission
District 4

Viera

Pay tribute to fallen troops at exhibit

While attending a local art show this weekend, a gentleman asked if I'd sign a Christmas card to send to our troops to thank them for protecting us.

Happily, I signed one, adding that I hoped they made it home safely. Yet I couldn't help but think of those soldiers who sadly will not be able to celebrate Christmas this year, as they have given the ultimate gift: their lives.

This Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., an opportunity to pay homage to Florida's fallen will take place when Eyes Wide Open Florida will be on display at Wells Park, next to the Melbourne Auditorium, 635 Hibiscus Blvd.

Last year, the traveling exhibit had 167 pairs of empty combat boots with the name and hometown of each Florida soldier who perished in these wars.

This year, 190 sets of boots for Iraq and over 55 pairs for Afghanistan will be displayed. A single pair of white combat boots will represent Florida's Iraq/Afghanistan war veteran suicides.

A reading of the Florida casualties begins at 4 p.m.

Please bring canned goods to donate to the food bank, which will help local residents, including those who have served, made it home safely and are unemployed.

Laura Fausone

Indialantic

Fear of change spurs oil-drilling opposition

The possibility of drilling for oil in the Gulf of Mexico seems to have generated a lot of angst among some Brevardians who seriously think an oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico might spoil our Atlantic Ocean facing seaside.

Really?

So why are they really against drilling for oil and gas at all? Perhaps they are afraid that low-cost gasoline will have more people driving? Or that too many people will now have a job that they previously didn't have?

There must be a rational reason for this position, I would hope. I get the impression that it's the same bunch that are afraid of the high-speed train project. Some people are seriously afraid of change.

You don't have to be afraid of change if you plan correctly. And you have to be humble; after all, we are humans.

Richard Wiack

Indialantic

Health care field could learn from local doctor

Dr. Silas Charles, the subject of Sunday's front-page FLORIDA TODAY article, "Cancer won't stop doctor — or his work," has my unreserved admiration and envy.

His sterling qualities and exertions, if emulated even modestly by the rest of the health care field, would render moot any debate of the health care issue.

Roland T. Martin

Melbourne

Zoo's jaguar death is very distressing

I was very distressed after reading in Sunday's FLORIDA TODAY of another jaguar death at the Brevard Zoo due to complications after "chemically immobilizing" him for what was called routine tests.

This is the second death in nine years of one of our beautiful "cats." Maybe next time, the zoo officials should be sure that someone with specialized skills with these animals is on hand for any routine exams.

This should never have happened and would not have if animals were not anesthetized unless absolutely necessary. Please don't let this happen again. It is very upsetting for all zoo patrons.

Paulette Watkinson

Melbourne

Home buyers facing too many delays

Will we be able to accomplish the American dream?

It is incredible that after almost six months waiting and wanting to close on the mortgage loan of the

home we want to purchase, we have not been able to do so.

The seller's mortgage company, and other companies involved in this short-sale process, have been terrible in obtaining the necessary approvals, lack basic customer service skills and have been insensitive to the needs of both sellers and purchasers. They do whatever they please.

It is very difficult, if not impossible, for America to see an improvement in our economy, when institutions that are using, directly or indirectly, our tax dollars to survive under this tough recession, do not do their part to help reactivate the economy by completing these pending home sales/purchases in a reasonable period of time.

The last six months have been very stressful for me and my family, and none of these companies seems to care.

Selecting another home for purchase does not solve the problem. Is there anything that our government can do to supervise these companies to ensure they help the public and our ill economy in a reasonable period of time?

Miguel Lopez

Cocoa
