Making the save

The Jensen Beach Soccer Club’s Competitive Team U13 held a speed and agility training practice on Tuesday, Aug. 15 at Pineapple Park in Jensen Beach in preparation for their upcoming season which begins on Sept. 9. Here, Taylor Osborn, 11, gets in front of a low shot. See more photos, page 6 and 18.

County struggling with Fire-Rescue fee

STUART -- The Martin County Commission got embroiled in an unscheduled discussion Aug. 14 on the Fire-Rescue Department’s tentative plans to begin charging county residents and businesses a fire assessment fee after a public speaker adamantly expressed his opposition to the idea.

Tom Pine of Jensen Beach alleged the county was doing things “behind closed doors or in the dark.”—you just need to send in the info by Sept. 2. Learn how!

STUART -- Middle school science teacher Susan Russo called her mom earlier this summer to tell her she finally made it to the astronaut training facility she’d dreamed of attending as a child. “Remember that Space Camp you couldn’t send me to?” she said over the phone. “I’m getting there all by myself.”

Honeywell Educators at Space Academy selected Ms. Russo as one of 224 teachers from around the planet to attend the five-day programs held in June at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Honeywell judges winnowed down the 2,000 applications from educators for this year’s space camp by closely examining the essay responses as to why they wanted to attend. Ms. Russo, who teaches a three-year science academy called SciQuest at Independence Middle School in Jupiter, said in her essay she viewed the Space Academy as a form of professional development and lifelong learning.

"HESA is professional development on steroids," she wrote. "This year I have been assigned to teach my eighth graders the high school Earth and Space honors course. To make sure I do the course and my students justice, HESA can provide me with new ways to engage..." See SPACE, page 8

ELECTION REMINDER

Early voting runs through Aug. 25; the primary election is Aug. 28. For early voting site or where to go on Aug. 28, visit www.martinvotes.com. Due to deadlines, we will have results in the Sept. 7 paper.
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Three vie for Republican nomination for U.S. Rep, District 18

Hometown News is asking all primary race candidates to answer the same questions in order to give readers the information needed to make their best informed choices for the upcoming Martin County and St. Lucie County primary elections.

There are three candidates in the Republican primary race for the U.S. Representative District 18 seat: Dave Cummings, Mark Freeman and sitting Congressman Brian Mast.

Dave Cummings

What is your full name and age? Dave Cummings, 45

Where do you reside? I reside in St. Lucie County, Fla.

Do you have family ties locally? Yes. I am a Florida native who grew up on the Treasure Coast, and our district is my home to this day. My family goes back several generations as pioneers of Old Florida. My grandfather was stationed at Camp Blanding where he met my grandmother in St. Augustine. All of my great uncles also served in World War II from Florida. My uncle Julian Pfaff retired as a colonel with the Florida National Guard.

My mother served as a postulant nun and then a novitiate as a Sister of Saint Joseph at the Saint Joseph College of Florida (where the Tuckahoe Mansion now sits). She left the novitiate before making final vows. My Aunt Marie Nader is a Florida fashion icon and was a legendary designer during Florida’s glamour age and continued all the way through her retirement when she sold her exclusive dress shop, the Amavon on King Street in St. Augustine, now the site of the Casa Monica Hotel. She just celebrated her 103rd birthday.

What are your professional qualifications? I served in the U.S. military as an infantryman for four years and in the U.S. Special Forces for two years. I put myself through college with the GI Bill and worked as a police officer and later a special investigator at the federal level.

After college I worked as a phone rep in the financial industry, leaving eight years later as an assistant vice-president and banking officer for Fortune 500 banks to start my current businesses in insurance and real estate investing.

I am licensed as an “all-lines” insurance adjuster in 15 states and can also operate under an “umbrella license” of various insurance companies and firms. I perform insurance and damage assessments for everything ranging from residential and commercial buildings, to vehicles, crops, boats, aircraft, and catastrophe and ecological disasters.

What is the biggest issue concerning your community right now and if elected, how do you plan on solving that issue?

I am very concerned about the problems that have continued in the area for decades, despite “fly by night” politicians who move to the area to run for office and then leave after being replaced. Neither Democrats nor Republicans have sufficiently addressed the toxic algae dumps which have turned the waterways black, killing fish, birds, dozens of manatees and damaging fragile ecosystems in our estuaries. I am also concerned with the toll illegal immigration has had on the state, See REPUBLICAN, page 11
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Sebastian – 13517 US 1, #2F, Sebastian, FL 32958 – (772) 340-6442
St. Lucie West – 1680 SW Saint Lucie West Blvd, Ste 105, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986 – (772) 324-9004
Stuart – 2418 S E Federal Hwy, Stuart, FL 34994 – (772) 324-9654
Titusville – 3055 Columbia Blvd, Ste B106, Titusville, FL 32780 – (321) 222-7032
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Arrests listed were made Aug. 9-16.

Stuart Police Department

Dekevious Lydaris Rogers, 20, of Fort Pierce, was charged with possession of firearm or concealed weapon by convicted felon, with operation of motor vehicle without valid license, with resisting arrest without violence, and with theft.

Jose Antonio Valentin, 41, of Fort Pierce, was charged with three counts of in-state electronic transmission of material harmful to minors and with unlawful use of two-way communication device to facilitate a felony.

Shawn Brayton Bass, 24, of Hobe Sound, was charged with battery on person age 65 or older, with possession of controlled substance, with possession of marijuana - more than 20 grams, with possession of cannabis - under 20 grams, and with possession or use of drug paraphernalia.

Christi Michelle Dickman, 24, of Asheville, N.C., was charged with possession of controlled substance.

Joshua Demetrius Patterson, 16, of Stuart, was charged with possession of controlled substance.

Euvard James Rouse, 28, of Stuart, was charged with attempt to flee or elude a police officer and with resisting arrest without violence.

Christopher Demond Williams, 26, of Stuart, was charged with three counts of aggravated assault with deadly weapon without intent to kill and with two counts of child abuse without great harm.

Amanda Katherine Breese, 42, of Stuart, was charged with three counts of possession of controlled substance, with introduction of contraband into county detention facility, and with possession or use of drug paraphernalia.

Ronald Emmett Davis, 57, of Melbourne, was charged with driving under the influence - third violation.

Timothy Wayne Favors, 59, of Stuart, was charged with sale of controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a school, with possession of controlled substance, and with two counts of violation of probation.

Thomas Frederick Hayes, 74, of Jensen Beach, was charged with sexual battery on victim under age 12 by offender over 18.

Tiffany Ann Moore, 47, of Jensen Beach, was charged with grand theft, with two counts of possession of anti-shoplifting device countermeasure, and with petit theft.

Thomas Jenkins Carriere, 41, of Stuart, was charged with possession of controlled substance and with possession or use of drug paraphernalia.

James Eric Findley, 35, of Hobe Sound, was charged with possession of marijuana - more than 20 grams.

Russell Austin Hall, 33, of Boynton Beach, was charged with three counts of battery on medical staff.

Chancheska Turner, 19, no street address listed, was charged with two counts of battery on detention staff.

Cody Preston Deal, 22, of Stuart, was charged with grand theft of motor vehicle, with unarmed burglary of occupied structure, with fleeing with disregard of safety of persons or property, and with resisting arrest without violence.

Zackary Kuhn, 24, of Jensen Beach, was charged with failure to remain at scene of a crash involving property damage, with resisting arrest without violence, and with fleeing with disregard of safety of persons or property.

Peggy Marie Larsen, 40, of Port St. Lucie, was charged with uttering false or forged bill, check or note, and with possession of forged bills or notes.

Thomas Ray Lee, 28, of Jensen Beach, was charged with six counts of possession of controlled substance, with possession or use of drug paraphernalia, and with resisting arrest without violence.

Austin Bryan Nabeack, 22, of Stuart, was charged with battery on a detainee.

Cynthia Theresa Yatcysn, 57, of Hobe Sound, was charged with possession of controlled substance.

Florida Highway Patrol

Pamela Jo Gougelman, 58, of Port Lauderdale, was charged with possession of controlled substance, driving under the influence.

Christian Avery Jones, 24, of Cincinnati, Ohio, was charged with possession of marijuana - more than 20 grams, and with possession or use of drug paraphernalia.

Wells, Trusts, Estates & Elder Law

Shaun W. Wiedrick, Esq.
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Royal Palm Financial Center
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WellMed welcomes Monica Brown, DO, to the South Stuart office. Dr. Brown is board certified in internal medicine. She joined the WellMed South Stuart practice in August 2018.

Monica Brown, DO
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This is an advertisement.
Rants & Raves

Got something to say?
Email the Hometown Rants & Raves at newsfp@hometownnewsol.com

The Rants and Raves section provides a chance for readers to share their thoughts with other readers. The opinions included are not those of Hometown News or its employees.

Please limit your submissions to 250 words, so that we can include more entries. Readers are asked to refrain from making slanderous or libelous statements.

Re: slow drivers

After reading this article I felt that I needed to add my two cents. First I’ll help you teach many of our drivers to either slow down, obey the speed limit and refrain from tying your bows with the backs of your pickup trucks. Two, they should keep the windows rolled up and the doors locked. Not to mention, how many times do we see people driving in the wrong lane? I’m sure you might think, “Hey, it’s just me driving.” Let me tell you, it’s not. Everyone is looking at the background of the candidate. Usually, unfortunately, there is a wake up call. Wake up folks, you’re at risk as well.

A couple of years ago I had a near fatal accident because the driver felt that she was running late. She thought that she could make it. Guess what - she was late now. For those that like to earn discounts and save your life and life of others - there’s a refresher course you can take online. It’s worth it and trust me you will learn a few things and be glad that you did. After all - safety first.

Voting

With all the television advertisements and mailers, its hard to know who to believe. With all the TV commercials and mailers, its hard to know who to believe. Sometimes it is easy to understand WHY a person would want to go through the process of an election where their personal life becomes a part of public record. Public servants who choose to run are few and far between. Usually, unfortunately, there is a motive behind their desire to serve the public. But there are those willing to put forth the effort to represent you.

You can follow the money and sometimes that will help you understand who is behind a candidate and whether that is a factor for your vote. Street signs also catch your eye but are not a good idea to choose a candidate. Whatever your passion is, whether it be to clean up our waterways, better schools, limiting taxes or the future of social security, educate yourself before you go to vote, fill in your sample ballot and check on those you are not sure of by asking questions. Your vote determines everyone’s future!

Savings bonds

I just redeemed a $100 savings bond I bought in 1989. I earned $298 “interest” on the $100. The problem is that $100 in 1989 is equivalent to $203 in 2018 but they don’t adjust the original price for inflation. If they did, they would adjust the original price to $203, reducing the “interest” to $195. Considering the government has a history of promoting inflation, i.e. reducing the value of your money, should they also tax the interest you earn just to keep up?

Throw-away animals

That is what our cats and kittens have become. So often when someone moves away they leave their cat behind, in the house or outside, to fend for themselves. We find them under dumpsters, in empty lots, and often wandering around neighborhoods looking for someone to feed them. Here is a news flash...cats are not self-sufficient. They rely on their humans to feed them and give them love and attention. They are much safer inside than out, and if abandoned outside will survive as best they can by eating garbage, rats, mice, and geckos, all of which can make them very sick. Abandoned cats who wander neighborhoods looking for someone to take care of them often face people who chase them away or worse. Add to that the possibility that they are not fixed, and we wind up with kittens born outside and even more unwanted cats.

Yes, we have gotten a little better with spay and rescue programs, as well as trap/fix/release programs, BUT, shelters need our help. They need volunteers. Shelters rely heavily on volunteers and donations to stay up and running. Donations such as food and litter are always needed, but volunteers to help scoop out litter boxes, and nurture and spend time with the animals are also crucial.

Foster families are also needed. Fostering an animal to get them out of the shelters and into home environments, ready for adoption, is a great alternative to permanent adoption if you are not quite ready for the commitment of adoption. You might think, “How can I take an adorable cat or kitten into my house and then give them up?” I do it by thinking of myself as their grandmother. I love them and take care of them and then hand them over to their forever home, knowing I helped prepare them to be there.

Have you considered making volunteering at Dogs and Cats Forever or another no-kill shelter such as Domino’s House in Palm City a family activity for you and your kids? Are you retired? If so, perhaps you have a few hours a week to dedicate to volunteering? How about church or school community service projects for teenagers over 15? Animal therapy is good for the soul, and the animals will benefit from the attention more than you know. It is a win-win situation. Please consider calling the shelter of your choice and asking how you can help.

Did you know the Humane Society cannot turn you away if you bring them a stray animal? They are state-funded and they must take the animals brought to them. If you are turned away, please call your county commissioner and let them know.

Wouldn’t it be nice if more people took an active role in reducing the population of stray and unwanted animals?

Incorporation

Why is there no information in the Hometown News about the Hobe Sound Incorporation initiative? This issue is extremely important to the future of not only Hobe Sound but the entire area. Most of the current discussion on both sides of this subject is filled with name calling, accusations, and confusing representations of what may or can happen if voters elect incorporation. The only thing people on both sides agree on is that there will be more development. We need the true unbiased facts about what incorporation will mean. What will the impact be on municipal services and taxes? Why don’t we have five and ten year financial projections? Who will be the elected representatives and what qualifications do they need?

It appears certain that developers will make money if this goes through, but at what impact and cost to the residents? We don’t have the factual information we need to make an informed decision.
Two Democrat candidates in U.S. Rep, district 18

Hometown News is asking all primary race candidates to answer the same questions in order to give readers the information needed to make their best informed choices for the upcoming Martin/ St. Lucie County primary elections.

There are two candidates in the Democratic primary race for the U.S. Representative District 18 seat: Lauren Baer and Pam Keith.

Lauren Baer

What is your full name and age? Lauren Baer, 37.
Where do you reside? Palm Beach Gardens, FL.
Do you have family ties locally? I am proud to be the only Democratic candidate in this race who was raised in Florida’s 18th Congressional District and has long-standing ties to this community.

My family has owned and operated Baer’s Furniture in south Florida for more than 50 years, and I owe my success in life to my Palm Beach County public school education. Growing up here, and now raising my own family in this District, I understand first-hand the potential of our community to nurture young people, provide a good life for working families and care for our seniors – and I’ll fight every day to make sure we provide that for the people of Florida 18.

What are your professional qualifications? I am an attorney and foreign policy expert, with deep experience in governing. I started my career as a lawyer, working with a team to take the fight to get money out of politics all the way to the Supreme Court. I then had the honor to serve for six years in the Obama Administration as a senior advisor to two different secretaries of state and the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. I currently work as a consultant for Albright Stonebridge Group, the global strategy firm founded by former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. I know how to do the hard, bipartisan work of making our government work for the American people, because that’s how I built my career. Through years of working to make our country safe and protect American values, I earned a reputation as a bridge-builder, a consensus-maker -- and above all -- a doer.

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See DEMOCRAT, page 11

Looking for a home

Dixie is a demure lady with a playful streak. She is about 6 years old and looking for a home where she can be the princess. She has lived with other dogs in the past; while everyone got along okay Dixie did not like to share her food, treats, or toys with the other dogs. She is house trained and knows several basic commands. Her previous owners described her as extremely loving and HSTC staff and volunteers have found her to be incredibly sweet. Dixie is one of HSTC’s newest Dolly’s Dream Dogs! This means her volunteers have found her to be incredibly sweet.

Dixie is one of HSTC’s newest Dolly’s Dream Dogs! This means her adoption fee has been sponsored AND she comes with a bunch of extra goodies to help her adjust to her new home. Some of these bonus goodies include a crate and a FREE 6 week training class! To learn more about Dolly’s Dream, please visit www.hstc1.org/dollys-dream.
my students both scientifically and mathematically. This will ensure they are exercising all parts of their brains.”

The simulators at the Huntsville program helped Ms. Russo relive her 12-year-old desire to attend Space Camp.

“Training as an astronaut was amazing,” she said. “The multi-axis trainer spun you around, the zipline drop was exhilarating and the helicopter submersion in the water put your survival skills to the test. We were all like little children living out our astronaut fantasies.”

Apart from the simulator experiences, HESA incorporates 45 hours of classroom and laboratory instruction focused on science, space exploration and developing leadership skills. Ms. Russo said the most challenging aspect of the program was the simulation missions, which actually put her leadership capabilities to the test.

“We did one mission to Mars where I was the mission commander on the capsule and we were the first to colonize Mars,” the Scotland native explained. “The other simulated mission was a shuttle mission to the International Space Station. I was Cap Com on this mission, and I was required to facilitate communication between the shuttle and Mission Control. There were so many buttons and directions -- it was extremely complicated. We followed a script, but it was made even more complicated with the addition of several international team members who’s first language was not English. In the end it was great fun, but a little stressful.”

Honeywell Hometown Solutions and USSRC created the HESA program in 2004 to encourage middle school science and math teachers to continue their own scientific education, as well as promoting science, technology, engineering and mathematic lessons in the classroom. More than 3,000 teachers have attended the Space Academy since that time.

Mike Bennett, president of HHS, said one of HESA’s objectives is to help educators build a global network in order to better develop goals in teaching the sciences.

“Teachers dedicate their lives to educating students and preparing them for a world they will one day lead,” he said. “Today STEM education is no longer about reading from textbooks or memorizing facts and formulas: STEM is about doing. We’re proud to invest in teachers, help them improve their teaching techniques and their curriculum, and ultimately motivate their students to reach their fullest potential.”

Ms. Russo, who graduated from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and received her secondary science education degree from the University of Florida, hopes to stimulate the interest of her students in colonizing the Red Planet one day.

“These are the kids that are going to see people go to Mars -- see their peers go to Mars -- and that’s extremely exciting,” she said. “The program shared all the power points and information with us via a Google drive so basically I can take my students to Space Camp. They can participate in the Mars Lander and Rover challenges and share in all the amazing stories I heard about.”

Dr. Deborah Barnhart, the CEO and executive director of USSRC, said the organization is thrilled to continue the teacher program at the facility.

“The opportunity to help these teachers ignite their students’ passion in space, science and technology is one we at USSRC look forward to each year,” she said.
dark” because he failed to find information on the county’s website about the Fire District’s town hall meetings on the subject.

“I oppose the fire assessment fee as a backdoor way of raising taxes,” he said. “The taxpayers of Martin County have spoken twice loud and clear: We don’t want our taxes raised.”

The Commission had previously voted 4-1 July 10 with Commissioner Sarah Heard dissenting to accept the Fire-Rescue plan of a 2.61 millage rate that would include a hardship exemption for county residents struggling financially. According to staff projections that evening, a typical single family home valued at $326,980 would pay about $519 annually after factoring in a $50,000 homestead exemption. Commercial properties would pay about $519 annually after factoring in a hardship exemption for county residents explaining the new fee and how it would affect their tax bills going out in the fall. She reacted even stronger whenMs. Kryzda said they were scheduled to go out Aug. 21 at the consultant’s advice.

“I don’t think that hiding that information from the public until a week before you take final action is public outreach,” she fumed. “That’s been a month that we’ve had to inform residents, and we haven’t.”

Commissioner Ed Fielding began this last year, and it’s step-by-step we began this process, “ he emphasized. “We actually have meetings that we don’t necessarily have a large turnout. That doesn’t mean that the meeting was a secret or that it wasn’t properly noticed. I know that commissioner... our team has town hall meetings, and sometimes they’re crowded, sometimes they’re not.”

Chairman Ciampi then asked staff to invite Fire Chief Bill Schobel to the meeting so he could personally respond to Commissioner Heard’s allegations. Chief Schobel said the first thing his staff did as part of the outreach effort was to launch a social media blitz but agreed that turnout had been weak at some town hall meetings.

“There have been thousands of views of the video that was put out on our website, and also the FAQ sheet,” he said. “A lot of folks are reading through that and understanding the concept of what we’re doing. As for last week, I was personally involved in four presentations, and I agree with you commissioner, the one that we were at together, nobody showed up in Jensen. But we did have six people show up in Salerno. We met just last week with the Taxpayers Association and business leaders around Martin County, and it was very good discussion.”

As far as the letters going out in August, Chief Schobel said they had been delayed to ensure accuracy with the property appraiser’s office due to the high cost of mailings. Ms. Kryzda confirmed the $88,000 price tag to send each county resident a notice.

“We had to have Board direction to even proceed with the letter, and this is an arduous process,” he emphasized. “We actually began this last year, and it’s step-by-step we have to move through this, because our statutory guidelines pretty much dictate the process. There are upwards of 70,000 improved properties across the county, and we have to make sure, check, double-check and so forth because there is a large financial responsibility with sending these letters out, and we don’t want them to be incorrect.”

Although Commissioner Ed Fielding voted with the Board majority in July due to the inclusion of the hardship exemption, he has consistently expressed doubt that the new system would be completely fair to all taxpayers.

“My underlying concern is it’s a lack of equity,” he said. “So we’re going from one system to another system and the system that we’re going to -- in my view -- could be refined quite a bit in order for that to be a much more equitable system all the way around. My concern is that we were not taking the steps that we could to maintain a stable source of income.”

In spite of the negative comments expressed during the meeting, Chief Schobel maintained a defensive line on the new methodology his team was putting in place.

“Simply put, it’s a better way to fund your fire-rescue department,” he explained. “It’s a more stable and equitable way of doing so; that’s why many, many counties and municipalities across the state have embraced this.”

The county still had two town hall meetings on the proposed Fire District assessment fee scheduled as of press time, including one beginning at 6 p.m. Aug. 23 at the Peter & Julie Cummings Library and another beginning at 5 p.m. Aug. 29 in the Hobe Sound Public Library. The County Commission will make its final determination on the assessment beginning at 9 a.m. Sept. 11 in the Commission Chambers at 2401 S.E. Monterey Road in Stuart.
I was backing up some data a while back to an external USB drive, when I noticed a behavior that is not uncommon at all.

As I began backing up the contents of a rather bloated documents folder (several hundred gigabytes worth of data), during the copy process I noticed the "estimated time remaining" figure was jumping all over the place. It started out saying something like 48 minutes remaining, and then jumped down to 30, 18 and then 11 minutes. As I watched the file copy process progress, I noticed the estimated time remaining figure stayed at 11 minutes for more than an hour. The progress bar was moving slowly to the right, and just as I thought the file transfer was just about over, the progress bar jumped back about a third of the way across.

The time remaining figure jumped to a whopping 25,464,387 minutes. Consulting my trusty calculator watch, I figured that 25,464,387 minutes was the equivalent of 17,683 days or 48 years. No, that couldn't be right.

As I watched, the number bounced around some, dropping from the incredibly high 25 million mark and dropping to more manageable numbers, such as 45 minutes, 28 and once again 11 minutes and there it stayed for another 45 minutes. I finally got fed up with watching (it's like watching paint dry) and shut off the monitor, so I don't know when it actually finished. But when I came back to it in the morning, the file copy was complete. And it didn't take 48 years. But it got me thinking; what is this estimated time remaining business all about, and can that figure ever be trusted?

I've certainly seen that behavior before with other file copy operations, downloads from the internet, CD burning and other similar procedures, and I've always taken that number with a grain of salt, but that 25 million figure caught my attention. What is going on with this picture?

Well, in order to understand why that number fluctuates so wildly, it's necessary to keep in mind that, on any given computer, what's happening at any given moment is not necessarily the way things are going to happen in the next moment. So the "estimated" part of "estimated time remaining" is just that an estimate based on the conditions taken at that particular time slice. And what happens, from second-to-second is those conditions are changing. Rapidly.

Sometimes, time means nothing.
Democrat
From page 7

What is the biggest issue concerning your community right now and if elected, how do you plan on solving that issue?

Healthcare is a human right. In America, every individual should have high-quality, affordable healthcare, and no one should have to choose between making ends meet and getting the treatment they need. With 72,000 uninsured persons in St. Lucie County alone, and Republicans attempting to sabotage the Affordable Care Act, healthcare is in crisis in our community. In Congress, I’ll fight to shore up and enforce the ACA, expand Medicare and Medicaid access to all Americans, and ensure that the deficit caused by the Republican tax plan isn’t used as a pretext to cut Medicare or Social Security.

Mark Freeman

What is your full name and age?
Mark Freeman, 69 years old.

Where do you reside?
Stuart, Fla.

Do you have family ties locally?
Yes, my daughter and her family.

What are your professional qualifications?
Experienced doctor and businessman.

Brian Mast

What is your full name and age?
Brian Mast, 38

Where do you reside?
Palm City

Do you have family ties locally?
Yes, my daughter and her family.

What are your professional qualifications?
I currently represent the 18th District of Florida in Congress. Prior to my time in Congress, I served in the Army for more than 12 years, including working under the elite Joint Special Operations Command as a bomb disposal expert. After I was injured in combat, I remained on active duty and provided expertise to the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Following my retirement from the Army, I continued working on counter-terrorism and national defense as an explosive specialist with the Department of Homeland Security.

Pam Keith

No candidate response to questions from Hometown News.

Republican
From page 3

in particular working wages and deaths on our roadways caused by illegal immigrants.

What is your full name and age?
Mark Freeman, 69 years old.

Where do you reside?
Stuart, Fla.

Do you have family ties locally?
Yes, my daughter and her family.

What are your professional qualifications?
Experienced doctor and businessman.

What is the biggest issue concerning your community right now and if elected, how do you plan on solving that issue?

Blue green algae is the most pressing issue. We should watch closely what they are doing in Lee county, and perhaps replicate their strategy, including vacuuming the top layer of algae.

Brian Mast

What is your full name and age?
Brian Mast, 38

Where do you reside?
Palm City

Do you have family ties locally?
Yes, my daughter and her family.

What are your professional qualifications?
I currently represent the 18th District of Florida in Congress. Prior to my time in Congress, I served in the Army for more than 12 years, including working under the elite Joint Special Operations Command as a bomb disposal expert. After I was injured in combat, I remained on active duty and provided expertise to the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Following my retirement from the Army, I continued working on counter-terrorism and national defense as an explosive specialist with the Department of Homeland Security.

What is the biggest issue concerning your community right now and if elected, how do you plan on solving that issue?

The most important issue is the devastation of our water. This impacts everyone: businesses forced to close, people getting sick, animals killed and our environment destroyed. Health and safety needs to be made a top priority to prevent these discharges. Working together, we’ve secured a commitment to authorize the Southern Storage Reservoir, full funding to expedite completion of the Herbert Hoover Dike and hundreds of millions of dollars to combat toxic algal blooms, prevent harmful agricultural runoff and restore the Everglades. Our campaign is not about one individual, but about defending our community by putting people first.

My wife Brianna and children Magnum, Maverick and Madalyn

No candidate response to questions from Hometown News.

Pam Keith
‘In Season’ is coming!

Attention, Treasure Coast nonprofits, studios, galleries, museums, playhouses, historical sites, symphonies, tourist sites, community clubs, support groups and more:

The calendar in Hometown News’ In Season publications this year will cover the end of September through April 2019.

For this year, each county’s calendar will focus on local events and also include as many area events of general interest as space permits. This means even more exposure for your events, as well as for your organization, so please send in your info early enough — we’d love to make sure you’re included!

The deadline for submission of events to be considered for this will be Saturday, Sept. 1.

As a general guide for style, format and length, please look at the weekly calendar and Out & About listings we run each week.

Send your calendar items and event schedules by email to news@hometownnews.com. (Please write ‘In Season’ in the subject line of your email.)


For more information, call (772) 465-5656, email us through the address above, or message us through Facebook.

Compute

From page 10

What that means is when the computer starts a file transfer, it grabs hold of a chunk of data and looks to see how much bandwidth is available. Then it bases its estimate of how long it will take on that.

But that estimate does not take into account the overhead activity between the device and the computer and how much of the buffer is still available, etc., you know, lots of other technical things that are happening at the same time as the data transfer.

Let me rephrase it like this: As soon as the file transfer starts, all the figures the computer based its’ estimate on change, because of the dynamic way computers do things.

What that boils down to is the estimated time for transfer is rarely accurate, because the conditions are constantly changing and can’t be relied on, especially when it predicts that it will take 48 years.

One question that is bound to come up is: “Is this strictly a Windows issue?” and to that I would have to say no. I’ve observed the same behavior on my Macs as well as other operating systems.

So that, in a nutshell, is an explanation for the never-accurate estimated time remaining issue that I’m sure we all experienced at one time or another.

I would personally like to see them do away with the estimated time figure and just stick with a graphical progress meter. That would make a whole lot more sense than the arbitrary numbers we get now, and they are easier to read at a glance.

Sean McCarthy fixes computers. He can be reached at 888-752-9049 or helpdesk@ComputThisOnline.com (no hyphens).

If your hair is not becoming to you, you should be coming to us!!!

Community calendar

FRIDAY, AUG. 24

• Introductory SEAFAN BleachWatch training: 8-6 p.m., Environmental Studies Center, Jensen Beach. Introductory classes run approximately 2-3 hours and are open and free to the public. The introductory class gives visual examples of various levels of coral bleaching and disease. Many may observe and report back to SEAFAN after their own rec dives — dedicated materials will be provided. Those who have taken the class before are welcome to return for a refresher and updates and answers about the growing threat of coral bleaching and coral diseases in southeast Florida. (Classroom participants will receive a free book and some certified participants will have the opportunity to join an in-water field training dive in late summer, led by certified BleachWatch instructors.) Advance registration suggested, but walk-ins are welcome if space is available. To register, email Kristi.Kerrigan@FloridaDEP.gov

SUNDAY, AUG. 26

• Eck Light and Sound service: “How to Overcome the Fear of Death,” 11 a.m. to noon, Eckankar Center of the Treasure Coast, 541 S.E. Central Parkway, Stuart. The public is invited. For more information, call (772) 223-1188 or visit www.Eckflorida.org.

TUESDAY, AUG. 28

• Society of American Magicians, Local Assembly 172, meeting: Fourth Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m., St. Lucie Lanes, 6759 US 1, Port St. Lucie. Members include hobbyists, amateurs, part time and professional magicians who all love and enjoy the art of magic. Public is welcome to learn and enjoy the age-old art of magic. Free. For more information, call Dean Devitt at (772) 332-8412 or Matt Musgrave at (772) 519-6048.

• Celebrate Recovery: Each Tuesday at The Grace Place, 1550 S.E. Salerno Road, Stuart. Meant for help in dealing with any type of hurts, hang-ups or habits. Dinner at 6 p.m., large group meeting at 7 p.m., open share groups at 8 p.m., Cross Talk Cafe at 9 p.m. For more information, call (772) 288-3593.

• Overeaters Anonymous meeting: Tuesdays, 6 p.m., St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, 623 S.E. Ocean Blvd., Stuart, in Smith Hall next to the Cracker Barrel Restaurant. No dues, fees or weigh-in. For more information, call (772) 263-2109 or visit oa.org.

• Tuesday Night Car Show: 6:30-8:30 p.m., each Tuesday, weather permitting, in the Lowe’s parking lot, 3620 S.E. Federal Highway, Stuart. Antique, classic cars, plus raffles and 50/50 drawing, and music from the ‘50s and ‘60s. Food and drinks also available. Free, public is welcome. For more information, visit www.tcucc.org.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 29

• Faith and Book Discussion Group: 10 a.m. every Wednesday. Universitarians of the Treasure Coast, 21 S.E. Central Parkway, Stuart, Non-denominational group. Books are available at a discount through the group. Free, public is welcome. For more information, visit www.tcucc.org.

• Town Hall Meeting: Martin County District 3 commissioner Harold Jenkins will host a town hall meeting at 6 p.m. at the Hobe Sound Community Center, 8980 S.E. Olympia Street, Hobe Sound. The Commissioner invites residents and business owners to have an open discussion and address any issues they feel he should know about. Please understand this town hall meeting will be regarding County Business and this will not be an incorporation discussion. For more information, call (772) 221-2357 or email Coleen Pachowicz at cpachowicz@martin.fl.us.

THURSDAY, AUG. 30

• Jammin’ Jensen: 6-9:30 p.m., every Thursday night in downtown Jensen Beach except for Thanksgiving. For more information, visit www.jensenbeach.biz.

FRIDAYS, THROUGH AUG. 31

• ‘Tai Chi: A Meditation in Motion’: 2-3 p.m. Fridays, through Aug. 31, at the Blake Library, 2351 S.E. Monterey Road, Stuart. Are you looking to reduce stress? Join a meditation in motion for adults, as a gentle exercise led by Floridians Fighting Falls. Sponsored by the Friends of the Martin County Library System, Inc. Tai chi is an internal Chinese martial art practiced for both its defense training and its health benefits. From roughly the mid-1990s onward, Tai chi has gained a popularity in some countries to the point of it becoming nearly as known as a health-oriented practice as Yoga. In fact, in modern times it is even more known for such benefits and methods of practice than it is known for its original purpose. Free, public is welcome, but registration is required for each session. For more information, call (772) 288-5702 or visit www.library.martinfl.us

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R. E. D. R.
H. E. A. D.
R. E. I. C.
Out & about
FRIDAY, AUG. 24
• Movie Night with the Sheriff: 6-9 p.m., The Grace Place, 1550 S.E. Salerno Road, Stuart. Enjoy free hamburgers, hotdogs and popcorn from 6-7 p.m., then watch Peter Rabbit from 7:30-9:45 p.m. See OUT, page 14
• Splash & Movie Night: 5:45-9:45 p.m., Sailfish Splash Water Park, 331 S.E. Ruahnie Street, Stuart. For all ages. With every admission ticket, participants enjoy exclusive waterpark access followed by a movie in high-definition while floating on an inner tube. See OUT, page 14

Horoscopes
ARIES - March 21/April 20
Aries, things that may have confounded you in the past will be much clearer this week. Someone comes into your life and will explain what you need to know.

TAURUS - April 21/May 21
Conversations with friends the next few days prove to be a great mood-lifter, Taurus. Things in your life will continue in a positive direction for some time afterwards.

GEMINI - May 22/June 21
Gemini, even though work life and home life are separate, there are some instances when they might overlap. Use this time wisely to build deep relationships.

CANCER - June 22/July 22
You have a trustworthy circle of friends, Cancer. If the going gets a little tricky this week, call upon the people who just can’t wait to support you.

LEO - July 23/Aug. 22
Let supervisors know just how much you have been contributing at work and how it has been beneficial to their bottom line. This can be the doorway to a pay increase, Leo.

VIRGO - Aug. 23/Sept. 22
Virgo, do not feel like you have to change much about yourself to fit the mold others have created. It is okay to be unique and be proud of your differences.

LIBRA - Sept. 23/Oct. 22
You are naturally trusting of others, Libra. But keep a small amount of skepticism going so you don’t get taken advantage of. Once you build deep relationships, you have a trustworthy circle of friends, Cancer.

Gemini, even though work life and home life are separate, there are some instances when they might overlap. Use this time wisely to make the most of your strengths.

You have a trustworthy circle of friends, Cancer. If the going gets a little tricky this week, call upon the people who just can’t wait to support you.

Let supervisors know just how much you have been contributing at work and how it has been beneficial to their bottom line. This can be the doorway to a pay increase, Leo.

Virgo, do not feel like you have to change much about yourself to fit the mold others have created. It is okay to be unique and be proud of your differences.

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Virgo, do not feel like you have to change much about yourself to fit the mold others have created. It is okay to be unique and be proud of your differences.
Cultural Center Gallery, 80 E. Ocean Blvd., Stuart. An art-themed story time geared toward families of preschool children. On the last Thursday of every month, families are invited into the galleries of the Court House Cultural Center to listen to stories that celebrate the arts! Free and open to the public, no reservations required. For more information, visit martinarts.org.

Jammin' Jensen: 6-9:30 p.m., every Thursday night in downtown Jensen Beach except for Thanksgiving. For more information, visit www.jensenbeach.biz.

SCORPIO - Oct. 24/Nov. 22
Spending too much time worrying about what others are doing or what they think of you is not productive, Scorpio. Focus on what makes you happy and don't worry about others.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov. 23/Dec. 21
You may have taken on too much, Sagittarius, and now you think you can't get it all accomplished. It may take a few long nights, but your initial goal is still attainable.

CAPRICORN - Dec. 22/Jan. 20
It is okay to seek perfection, Capricorn, but not when others are helping out. Be grateful of all they have to offer, even if you may need to fix something along the way.

AQUARIUS - Jan. 21/Feb. 18
Aquarius, you must follow through when you say you are going to do something this week. If not, others may associate you with empty promises, and that reputation is not easily remedied.

PISCES - Feb. 19/March 20
This is a good weekend for kicking back and relaxing, Pisces. If you feel like hosting, open your home to some guests for even more fun.
Belinda Keiser continues to bring her conservative values to the Treasure Coast

Fresh off the 2017-18 Constitutional Revision Commission (CRC), Belinda Keiser, of Hutchinson Island, declared her candidacy for Florida’s Senate District 25. Appointed to the CRC by Governor Rick Scott, Belinda stood strong while liberals tried to reduce your Second Amendment Rights. Her steadfast commitment has earned an endorsement and an “A” rating from the National Rifle Association.

As a member of the CRC, she introduced and championed an amendment to establish the Office of Domestic Security and Counterterrorism within the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The amendment recognizes the importance of permanent coordination, intelligence sharing and collaboration among local, regional and federal partners, in protecting our State against homegrown and international threats. You will see Belinda’s counterterrorism proposal on your ballot this November along with other proposals she co-sponsored advancing crime victims’ rights, environmental protections, and elimination of the mistreatment of greyhounds.

Now she is taking on the issues that matter most to our fellow neighbors.

“I am committed to help in cleaning up the toxic algae that I view from my home on Hutchinson Island with a series of practical and workable solutions,” said Keiser. “With conversations already taking place, I will begin acting on our water quality issues the first day of elected service as your State Senator.”

Keiser is also Vice Chancellor of Keiser University, which has grown in Port St. Lucie over the last 20 years, employing hundreds of our neighbors and graduating thousands of students in nursing, information technology, public safety and business management careers. Keiser University has a statewide annual economic impact of $3 billion dollars and values a free market system to operate without harmful regulations and be an engine of job creation.

Under her leadership, KU has grown into Florida’s second largest, not-for-profit university, serving 20,000 students pursuing 100 doctoral through associate degrees in many of Florida’s targeted industries. Nearly 25 percent of the student body are active duty service members, veterans, or military family members.

She is a political outsider and a results-proven professional. Belinda has been a gubernatorial appointee to Enterprise Florida, Inc., Space Florida, Inc., Government Efficiency Taskforce, Judicial Nominating Commission and Workforce Florida, Inc. (now known as Career Source).

Lastly, Belinda enjoys the support and endorsements of the NRA, the Statewide Police Benevolent Association, Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of Martin County, Florida Chamber of Commerce, Congressman Matt Gaetz and Karen Giorno, former Senior Florida Advisor to the Donald Trump Campaign.

“I was raised to believe in faith, family and service to country first and I look forward to applying my conservative values to our local issues, creating solutions here at home and in Tallahassee,” Keiser said.

Paid by Belinda Keiser, Republican for Florida Senate.
**Beach Ballroom, 881 N.E. Jensen Beach Blvd., Jensen Beach, from 7-10 p.m., on the first Friday evening every month. Open to the public. Admission is $11. For more information and updates, visit www.usadancemartin-stlucie.org, search on Facebook for “USA Dance #6047-Martin-St. Lucie,” or email usad6047info@gmail.com**

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 7 — SATURDAY, SEPT. 8**

- **Dancing in the Dark:** Two nights of tribute bands benefiting the Kiwanis Club of Martin County will be held in Memorial Park, 300 S.E. Ocean Blvd., Stuart. Featuring tributes to Donna Summer, Billy Joel, KISS, Aerosmith, and Bruce Springsteen. Gates open at 6 p.m. both nights. Two day general admission is $15; two-day VIP tickets (includes food and drink) are $50. Single day general admission tickets are $10 at the gate.

  For more information or tickets, visit holdmyticket.com

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 8 — SUNDAY, SEPT. 23**

- **‘The Sunshine Boys’** Comedy by Neil Simon will be presented by A.C.T. Studio Theatre, Cedar Pointe Plaza, 2399 S.E. Ocean Blvd., Stuart, from Sept. 8-23. Al and Willie as “Lewis and Clark” were top-billed vaudevillians for over forty years. Now they aren’t even speaking. When CBS requests them for a “History of Comedy” retrospective, a grudging reunion brings the two back together, along with a flood of memories, miseries, and laughs. The play has echoes of Simon’s greatest hit, “The Odd Couple,” with enduring chemistry, crotchety remarks and laughs. Performances are on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are $25. For tickets and information, call (772) 932-8880 or visit actstudiotheatre.com

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 14**

- **Meet the New Director/Extension Open House:** 3-6 p.m., UF IFAS Extension Martin County, 2614 S.E. Dixie Highway, Stuart. For more information, call (772) 288-5654, email martin@ifas.ufl.edu, or visit http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/martin/

- **Cult Classic Film Series:** Showing ‘Clerks’ at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. at The Lyric Theatre, 59 S.W. Flagler Ave., Stuart. Tickets are $10; tickets for the seven-film series, which runs Aug. 17 through Nov. 9, are $50. For more information, call (772) 286-7827 or visit www.lyrictheatre.com

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 15 — SUNDAY, NOV. 4**

- **‘Sweet!’ juried art exhibition:** The Elliott Museum, 825 N.E. Ocean Blvd., Stuart, will host this exhibition of traditional and culinary Florida artists, exploring food and drink. For more information, call (772) 225-1961 or visit https://elliottmuseum.org/events/

**OUT**

**Help us celebrate one of the Treasure Coast’s most popular pastimes by submitting a photo of your most recent catch – straight from local waters.**

Email a photo of you with your fish that is at least 1 MB or 300 dpi in size to news@hometownnewsofl.com. Write “CATCH OF THE WEEK” in the subject line, and in the body of the email, please include the following information:

- Your name
- City you live in
- Age (if 18 or younger)
- Type of fish
- Approximate size of fish
- Area you caught the fish
- Phone number in case we have questions (will not be printed)

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Drawing on August 31, 2018
Plenty of laughs and compassionate friendship kick off The Barn’s 48th season with the critically acclaimed comedy, “THE DIXIE SWIM CLUB.” Five Southern women, whose friendships began many years ago on their college swim team, set aside a long weekend every August to recharge those relationships. Each year, they meet at the same beach cottage on North Carolina’s Outer Banks to catch up, laugh and meddle in each other’s lives. THE DIXIE SWIM CLUB focuses on four of those weekends and spans a period of thirty-three years. Lexi, struggling through yet another divorce, Sheree, the spunky team captain, Dinah, the wisecracking overachieving lawyer, the self-deprecating and acerbic Vernadette, and the sweet, eager-to-please nun, Jeri Neal. These women increasingly rely on one another to get through the challenges (men, sex, marriage, parenting, divorce, aging) that life flings at them. And when fate throws a wrench into one of their lives, they rally together and take this comedy in a poignant and surprising direction.

Critics loved it. “You’ll laugh to keep from crying with ‘Dixie Swim Club,’” - S. Wong, Times-News and “For those of us who relish a nice and nicely done little play, we can do no better than ‘The Dixie Swim Club,’” - R. McKinney, Herald Courier.

So, join us for the story of five unforgettable women—a hilarious and touching comedy about friendships that last forever.

The cast includes Colette Schweizer, Ruth Johnson, Kristal Eckhardt, Barbara Sykes, and Adrienne Waters. The director is veteran actor/director Francine Beckstead. It is produced by Chris Mazzella & the stage manager is Pat Tobin.

The Barn Theatre is located at 2400 S.E. Ocean Blvd., Stuart. For tickets, call 287-4884 or visit The Barn’s website at www.barn-theatre.com. Call the box office for group and student discounts.

The Barn is a non-profit community theater. Your donations may be tax deductible.

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Touring with the Townies

Chris and Darlene Humphreys, owners of Dino’s Family Restaurant in Fort Pierce, took along their copy of Hometown News while they celebrated their 33rd wedding anniversary in Maui, Hawaii. Congratulations and thanks for taking us along!

Are you a fan of the Hometown News? Well, we are inviting you to take us along on your next adventure. Each week, we will feature a different reader-submitted photo that showcases one (or more) of our Treasure Coast residents reading the Hometown News in a unique or exotic place. Whether you take a trip to the Grand Canyon or a cruise to the Bahamas, bring your Hometown News with you and have someone snap a picture.

Email your photo (at least 1 MB in size) to news@hometownnewsol.com and include your first and last name, the city you live in and the location/date of where the photo was taken. Type ‘TOURING WITH THE TOWNIES’ in the subject line.

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WARNING!

DEALER FEES DETECTED IN YOUR AREA

The following counties are affected:

- Palm Beach County
- Martin County
- St. Lucie County
- Broward County
- Miami-Dade County

These bogus fees are being charged by car dealers in our community! Expect to pay $700 to over $1,000!

When your car dealer tries to charge these... LEAVE!

SAFE CAR DEALER WITH NO DEALER FEES:

Earl Stewart Toyota

1215 US1 North Palm Beach/Lake Park
561-844-3461 EarlStewartToyota.com
The Jensen Beach Soccer Club’s Competitive Team U13 held a speed and agility training practice on Tuesday, Aug. 15 at Pineapple Park in Jensen Beach in preparation for their upcoming season, which begins on September 9.

Above: Ten-year-old Alexis Busch takes some shots at the net.

Left: Thirteen-year-old Alysa Busch blocks a shot during a speed and agility drill.

Above: Ten-year-old Olivia Giesing pushes a sled during a speed drill.

Photos by Sevin Bullwinkle
staff photographer

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Dealing with the Dealer Fee

Earl Stewart is the owner and general manager of Earl Stewart Toyota in North Palm Beach. The dealership is located at 1215 N. Federal Highway in Lake Park. Contact him at www.earlstewarttoyota.com, call 561-358-1474, fax 561-658-0746 or email earl@estoyota.com.

Hopefully by now, all but my newest readers know about the infamous “Dealer Fee.” If you don’t know, it’s a hidden price increase on the car you purchase disguised to look like a federal, state, or local tax or fee. It’s 100% profit to the dealer. “Dealer Fee” is the generic name for this disguised profit, but it goes by many names such as doc fee, dealer prep fee, services fee, administrative fee, electronic filing fee, e-filing fee, tag agency fee, pre-delivery fee, etc. The names are only limited by car dealers’ imaginations. Almost all car dealers in Florida charge a Dealer Fee. The dealer fees range from around $600 to as high as $2,000.

This is the Florida law that is supposed to regulate the Dealer Fee: “The advertised price must include all fees or charges that the customer must pay excluding state and local taxes. “The law also requires that the price must include all fees or charges that the customer must pay excluding state and local tax or fee. It’s 100% profit to the dealer for items such as inspecting, cleaning, and adjusting vehicles and preparing documents related to the sale.”

The Florida Senate has ruled that the law requires that the fee be “included” rather than “specifically delineated.” But the Attorney General allows car dealers to advertise car prices without including their dealer fee in the price if they mention their dealer fee in the fine print. They also allow car dealers to simply state in the fine print that they have a Dealer Fee but not even mention the amount. To me they are simply trying to slip in something they call the “electronic filing fee” or “e filing fee” and try to slip in something they call the “cost of a product is pure profit. A dealer often tell their customers that all dealers charge it and that it’s required by law.

The Attorney General also “accommodates” the dealers by not interpreting the law the way it was intended. For example, the law says that the dealer fee must be included in the advertised price. The Florida Senate has ruled that the law requires that the fee be “included” rather than “specifically delineated.” But the Attorney General allows car dealers to advertise car prices without including their dealer fee in the price if they mention their dealer fee in the fine print. They also allow car dealers to simply state in the fine print that they have a Dealer Fee but not even mention the amount. To me they are simply trying to slip in something they call the “electronic filing fee” or “e filing fee” and try to slip in something they call the “cost of a product is pure profit.”

In South Florida sell lot more than 1,000 cars annually and many charge more than $1,000 dealer fee. I believe that the reason more complaints aren’t filed on the dealer fee is because most car buyers don’t know that they are being duped. They either don’t notice the fee or assume it’s an official federal or state fee. Dealer often tell their customers that all dealers charge it and that it’s required by law.

The Florida Auto Dealers Association (FADA) is the powerful lobbying arm for Florida car dealers. It’s almost impossible for a Florida Attorney General to be elected if he wants to try to slip in something they call the “electronic filing fee” or “e filing fee” and try to slip in something they call the “cost of a product is pure profit.” A dealer can pass along his utility bills, sales commissions and advertising if he wants to and call it a “dealer fee”. It should not say “inspecting, cleaning, and adjusting vehicles” because all car dealers are reimbursed by the manufacturer for “inspecting, cleaning, and adjusting vehicles.”

So, what should you do when you are confronted by a car dealer with the “Dealer Fee”? Besides “LEAVE”, here are some suggestions that may help you:

1) (Make it clear from the very beginning that all prices you discuss must be “out-the-door” prices. This way you don’t care if the dealer fee added up front because you will shop and compare their bottom line price with at least 3 competing car dealers. Ideally you should require that they include tax and tag in that price. If you don’t they might try to slip in something they call the “electron filing fee” or “e filing fee” and trick you into believing it’s part of the license tag and registration.

2) (The dealer will often tell you that all car dealers charge Dealer Fees and that they except the requested disclosure of the Dealer Fee on the vehicle buyer’s order or invoice is confusing, misleading, and incorrect: “This charge represents costs and profits to the dealer for items such as inspecting, cleaning, and adjusting vehicles and preparing documents related to the sale.” It should not say “costs” because any cost that you pass along to the customer in the price of a product is pure profit.

A dealer can pass along his utility bills, sales commissions and advertising if he wants to and call it a “dealer fee”. It should not say “inspecting, cleaning, and adjusting vehicles” because all car dealers are reimbursed by the manufacturer for “inspecting, cleaning, and adjusting vehicles.”
are required by law to add the dealer fee on every car they sell. Simply tell them that you know this is not true and you can cite me and other car dealers like CarMax who do not charge a dealer fee. Print out a copy of this article, show it to them, and tell them that you know that there is no law that says he must charge you a dealer fee.

(3) As long as you and the dealer understand that the out-the-door price is the price you will shop and compare with his competition, you don't need to be concerned whether there is a dealer fee showing on the vehicle buyer's order. To be competitive, the dealer can simply reduce the price by the amount of his Dealer Fee and the bottom line is what you are comparing.

(4) Be aware that dealers usually do not pay their sales people a commission on the amount of their dealer fee. In fact, dealers often misinform their sales people just like they do their customers. The salesman who tells you that all dealers charge Dealer Fees and that the law requires everyone pay a dealer fee may believe it. Sale people who understand that the Dealer Fee is simply profit to the dealer will be resentful of not being paid their 25% commission on it. A $1,000 dealer fee costs the salesman $250 in commission.

(5) When you respond to an advertisement or price-specific for a model car, object when the dealer adds the dealer fee. Unfortunately, the law allows him the loophole of claiming that the ad car is a different stock number, but you might be able to shame him into taking off the dealer fee. If you raise a “big enough stink,” the dealer would be smart to take off the dealer fee than claim that technicality, especially if you were to advise the local TV station or newspaper.

(6) Go to TrueCar.com is the one third party buying source which requires its certified dealers to give you a final price excluding only GOVERNMENT fees only…sales tax and license plate registration. This prohibits the dealer from adding dealer fees and dealer installed accessories. Consumer Reports, American Express, USAA, GEICO, and other blue-chip companies use TrueCar.

I hope that these suggestions help you and I hope that you will file a complaint with the Florida Attorney General, Pam Bondi. If enough consumers (who are also voters) let our elected officials know how they feel about the Dealer Fee, it will bring about the change that you desire. The nation’s largest newspaper chain, USA Today, is asking its readers to file a complaint. Call 855-741-7459 unique needs at no cost.
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that on August 24, 2018, at 11:00 a.m., the Personal Representative, Abrahamson, 759 S. Federal Hwy., Suite 302, Stuart, FL 34994, Florida Self Storage, 220 West Palm Beach Blvd., Suite #201, West Palm Beach, FL 33401, has scheduled a public sale, for monies owed on storage units to satisfy the lien of the owner.

This public sale will result in the goods being sold to the highest bidder of record and terms and conditions apply. A copy of the Notice of Sale may be obtained at Florida Self Storage, 220 West Palm Beach Blvd., Suite #201, West Palm Beach, FL 33401.

If you are the owner and have any accommodation to the proceeding, you are instructed to give such notice as you would have given to the provision of certain judgment, and to contact the Florida Self Storage, 220 West Palm Beach Blvd., Suite #201, West Palm Beach, FL 33401.

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