

 YOUR VIEW

## PHARMACIES

Theresa Tolle, *Sebastian*

## Discount cards may compromise privacy

As the owner of an independent pharmacy that has cared for patients in our community for over 30 years, I am writing in response to Dr. Tim Ioannides' letter to clarify some points that he raised. Regarding discount cards, while we do occasionally accept these cards, I want to let readers know that they are "free," and anything that is "free" has a cost! The companies producing these cards become the owners of your private information as soon as you use the card. Although you sometimes get a discount on your prescription with a discount card, they are able to sell your private information.

We care for our patients and regard them as family, and as such, offer very competitive pricing and always protect the privacy of our patients. Dr. Ioannides referenced a product that cost \$25 and sold for \$345; he did not mention if he checked to see if it could indeed be purchased for \$25. Our industry has experienced unprecedented price increases in generic products. Pharmacists unfortunately do not control the prices charged by manufacturers. This has affected many products, dermatological products included. I work every day with my patients and their physicians to find the medications and therapies that best meet their medical and economic needs. I assure Dr. Ioannides and the reader there are many pharmacies and pharmacists in our community who do an outstanding job taking care of patients. I encourage you to have a conversation with your pharmacist, or visit our locally owned, hometown pharmacy to see how we might be able to meet your needs. We all have the same priority — providing access to affordable, quality health care services that keep our patients healthy.

Theresa Tolle is a pharmacist and owner of Bay Street Pharmacy in Sebastian.

## ALL ABOARD FLORIDA

Duane Lang, *Port St. Lucie*

## 'Boat parade' would get attention

Sometimes when a bully (All Aboard Florida) is threatening you, it becomes necessary to take an action to get the bully's undivided attention to show that bullying isn't acceptable.

In this case, how about "No Trains for a Day" and periodically over a year.

The Roosevelt railroad bridge has a safety photoelectric cell that prevents the bridge from coming down on a boat in the channel under the bridge. What is needed is a rotating "boat parade" for a day that passes under the railroad bridge.

This will bring all trains to a screeching halt.

Done once, it would be a stern warning. If AAF officials don't listen, do it several times in 12-hour increments over a year. Stop all trains including the long freight trains and let them back up for several miles.

This would cost Florida East Coast a bundle and get the message across.

Boaters, rev up your engines, and

let's have a parade. AAF may own the land right of way, but they don't own the navigable waterways.

Gene Gillis, *Hobe Sound*

## Don't spend tax money to fight trains

I believe Martin County is extremely well-managed. However, if they approve funding to stop All Aboard Florida, I believe commissioners will be thinking politics and not managing the county resources. I strongly urge the board to reject the effort.

First and foremost, I believe AAF is good for Martin County. It is well-funded, well-managed, is environmentally favorable, and meets all applicable laws.

The probability of the county being successful in blocking AAF is, to me, so low it would make this a huge gamble with taxpayer money.

Where will this money come from? What won't get done? Is it all being spent on attorneys and lobbyists? Please tell commissioners to block this funding.

Eric Harrison, *Stuart*

## Train horn noise too much at night

My wife and I attended the CARE (Citizens Against Rail Expansion) meeting at the Lyric Theatre recently. The Washington based attorney who represents the group asked, "Has anyone noticed that the train horn noise has increased at night?" Everyone in the audience agreed. I paraphrase a quotation: "That's the FEC way of saying, we don't care about you."

Being a very light sleeper, I am wakened two times a night by the whistle that seems overly loud for an overly long period of time. I know that other communities have curbed the railroad horns by noise regulations. Why can't our local lawmakers enact similar legislation to halt the noise? It is hard enough trying to stop All Aboard Florida without having to deal with the noise as well.

We were very impressed with the CARE message. Their attorney, without over-promising, thinks we can defeat them. Our yacht club (Circle Bay) sent them a \$2,000 donation. We mailed them a personal donation as well. I urge all who are against All Aboard Florida to donate as well.

## MICHELLE MALKIN

Ed Gomez, *Jensen Beach*

## Snide propaganda harms nation

Walter Fulton (Feb. 18 letter) writes, "The last thing politicians want is a sophisticated critical-thinking public." I agree.

A critical-thinking public is capable of gathering information from a number of news sources and eventually forming an opinion. Part of that process is understanding propaganda.

Merriam-Webster defines propaganda as "ideas or statements that are often false or exaggerated and that are spread in order to help a cause, a political leader, a government,

etc." Propaganda relies on the use of strong inflammatory language, such as that used by Michelle Malkin.

Malkin's writing is effective in stirring emotions. Her recent column criticizing Michelle Obama is rife with words and phrases that incite. She uses phrases and monikers like "Food Nanny," "spins a slickly crafted tale," "snob Obama pontificated" "tax-subsidized cooking staff," "four-course feasts," "Her Royal Highness," "sycophantic foodie," "dictate school lunches," "castigate junk-meal makers," "fan-girling mainstream journalists" and "phony concerned-mom costumery."

Malkin has one purpose with these word choices: to create a negative image of her subject that will shape and perpetuate the opinions of her audience.

The inflammatory language like that, employed extensively throughout our political spectrum, contributes to a polarized America.

With sarcasm, name-calling and emotionally laden words, pundits succeed in dividing America into distinct stereotypical groups: "socialists," "hard conservatives," "liberals," "tea party wackos," "commies," etc. These labels have influenced the intransigency that exists in Congress.

The palpable dislike and hatred of opposing viewpoints leaves us paralyzed as a nation. We seem incapable of compromising and getting anything done.

## GROWING OLD

Rich Scholer, *Vero Beach*

## If I look so great, why do I need an urn?

Now that I'm old, I can't remember ever having the problems that I face today. I should tell you that I also can't remember what I had for breakfast.

First, I wish that I didn't look so good. It seems that everybody I meet says, "You look wonderful," or, "You really look great."

Like all people, I'm a player in the poker game of life. Everybody I know in this game is holding a different hand. Because of the cards I've been dealt I have died three times from cardiac arrest (one time alone on my boat). Each time I was brought back to life by my implanted defibrillator (I call it Mickey), so, I'm still in the game.

Unfortunately this hand I have been dealt includes a stage-four heart failure card. I can't seem to discard that card. I'm unable to walk over 100 feet, and I feel like the remains of a road kill that happened a week ago.

However, I look great, and I'm well enough to go to tag sales.

Recently at a sale I found an oval-shaped cookie jar that looked like an urn. The jar was only \$5 and only my bride of 49 years knew that I wanted it to put my remains in it. My primary concern was whether my glasses and hearing aids would fit in with the ashes.

The love of my life would not let me buy it. She said I was going in a Ming Dynasty urn. Someday I'm going on the mantle, and I know I would be more comfortable in a cookie jar.

How do I explain to my family that I'm a Chevy guy and not the Rolls-Royce type? Should I write to Dear Abby?