



Good Morning!

This past week I had the opportunity to meet with organizations from District 17 that traveled to our state Capitol. It was a pleasure to visit with representatives from L3Harris, LKQ Corporation in Melbourne, and the Utility Contractors Association of Central Florida about their legislative priorities. I also had the pleasure of hosting MacKenzie Cooley, from Vero Beach High School, who served as a Page in the Florida Senate.

The Senate Health Policy Committee received an important update on the new coronavirus from Florida's Surgeon General Scott Rivkees this past week as well. The coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, originated in the Chinese Hubei Province and has reportedly spread to tens of thousands in the country.

While no cases have been reported in Florida to date, Dr. Rivkees said that the Florida Department of Health (DOH) is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to closely monitor the current outbreak of the new coronavirus, and is actively working to ensure that the most up-to-date CDC guidance is quickly disseminated to local partners and healthcare providers. He also emphasized that the public would be swiftly notified should there be any confirmed cases.



"You can only contract this virus from an individual who is infected with it," said Dr. Scott Rivkees. "It has respiratory transmission like the flu, but it appears to be more infectious than influenza."

Most of those with the illness have been associated with travel from Wuhan, China. The United States reported the first confirmed instance of person-to-person spread of this virus on January 30, 2020. There have been 19 total cases confirmed in the US, with patients in Washington, California, Arizona, Texas, Illinois, Michigan and Massachusetts. The CDC recommends that travelers avoid nonessential travel to China. Officials also said that the best way to protect yourself is to get the flu shot and frequently wash hands. For the most up to date information on this virus, visit [FloridaHealth.gov](https://www.floridahealth.gov) or [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

I consider it a great honor to represent District 17. Please share [this link](#) with your friends and family so that they too can sign up for the [Mayfield Minute](#).

If you or someone you know needs my assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office. My staff and I are here to serve you!

Legislation Update

This past week I **presented** the following legislation:

[SB 712: Environmental Resource Management](#) was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee this week. Following the recommendations from the Blue-Green Algae Task Force, this comprehensive legislation will expedite improvements and restoration of Florida's water bodies that are being adversely affected by blue-green algae blooms. The Clean Waterways Act addresses significant sources of nutrient pollution that are contributing to these blooms including onsite sewage treatment and disposal (septic) systems, overflows and discharges from Waste Water Treatment facilities, and stormwater runoff. It also establishes a matching grant program for local wastewater improvements. The bill will now go to the Senate Floor for consideration.

[SB 646: Student Athlete Achievement Act](#) allows student athletes the right to benefit from their own name, image or likeness, just like every other student on their college campus. This legislation was unanimously approved by the Senate Innovation, Industry and Technology Committee this past week, and will now go to the Senate Rules Committee for their consideration. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this bill in support of Florida's 11,000 student athletes in their efforts to participate in the free market.

[SB 716: County Boundaries](#) had its 2nd Reading on the Senate Floor. This bill provides for a boundary line change to property that is located partially in Indian River County and partially in St. Lucie County. This legislation alters the boundary lines, which has the support of the property owners and both Counties involved. Next, this bill will have its third reading on the Senate Floor followed by a vote from the full Senate.

[SB 826: Marina Evacuations](#) prohibits boats under 500 gross tons from remaining in a marina, that is located inside a deep water port, when a hurricane watch or warning is issued. This will prevent damage that may be caused to other vessels or port infrastructure during a hurricane. This legislation was approved by the Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee, and will now go to the Senate Rules Committee for consideration.

The following legislation **passed on the Senate Floor**:

[SB 226: Athletic Trainers](#) requires an athletic trainer to work within his or her scope of practice as defined by the Board of Athletic Trainers and revises the educational and internship requirements for licensure.

[SB 580: Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act](#) allows the heirs of a property a chance to purchase the entire property before one party can partition and sell it. The bill requires a court to determine the fair market value of the property, either through court ordered appraisal or based on the agreement of the parties before the court proceeds to partition.

Please follow me on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for live updates from the Capitol.

FL Transportation Commission Workshop on Rail Safety

The Florida Transportation Commission has announced that they will be hosting a workshop to discuss rail safety this week.

[Florida Transportation Commission Workshop](#)
Monday, February 24th from 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM
IRC Intergenerational Recreation Center
1590 9th Street SW, Vero Beach

The workshop will include a presentation from the Florida Department of Transportation on the Florida Rail system and its 3,800 miles of track. This will include a discussion on Florida's passenger rail services.

Florida has a fatality rate that is 3.5 times the national average. This is unacceptable and must be addressed if we are going to continue to encourage additional high-speed passenger trains. To address this serious issue, I have filed The Florida High-Speed Passenger Rail Safety Act, which incorporates recommendations identified in a study commissioned by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA), published on October 31, 2018. The study, titled the Florida Passenger Rail System Study, examined all existing and planned passenger rail systems in the state of Florida and identified key safety deficiencies within Florida's passenger rail system.

This important legislation would enhance the safe operation of high-speed passenger rail systems in Florida by ensuring that rail corridors and railway operating equipment are safe and well maintained, pedestrian and road crossings are properly gated, high-risk corridors are fenced, and local emergency service providers are properly trained for increased risks resulting from high speed train accidents.

For those that are not able to attend, a teleconference line is available at (888) 585-9008, conference pin #421-319-736.

District 17 Highlights

Veterans Council Indian River County Stars & Stripes Gala

The Veterans Council of Indian River County is hosting their 2nd Annual Stars & Stripes Spectacular Gala featuring Master Chief Rick Kaiser (retired United States Navy Seal) as the special guest speaker.

[Stars and Stripes Spectacular Gala](#)
Saturday, February 29th from 5:30PM - 10:00PM
Grand Harbor Country Club
4985 Club Terrace, Vero Beach

The Veterans Council supports local veterans and their families through the collective efforts of county-wide veteran organizations and assistance from private citizens, business sponsors, community advocates and local government. For more information about the Veterans Council of Indian River County, or to secure your tickets, visit www.helpIRCvets.org or call (772) 410-5820.

Scholarships Available from Brevard Republican Women

Do you have a high school senior or college student looking for tuition support?

The Brevard Federated Republican Women is offering two \$1,000 Scholarships:

- [Barbara Davis Memorial Leadership Scholarship](#) is available to both female or male high school seniors and college freshmen.
- [Lillian Banks Memorial Scholarship](#) is available to any female or male high school student who is a registered Republican.

To apply, please visit BrevardFederatedRepublicanWomen.org or contact Diane Norwood-Steven (321) 507-4609 grandkids80@gmail.com for more information. Applications are due no later than 5:00 PM on May 15th.

Indian River Victims Rights Coalition Honors Advocates

This past week the Indian River County Victims Rights Coalition honored Law Enforcement, Good Samaritans and Victim Advocates that have provided outstanding service to victims of crime in Indian River County.

At the organization's Annual Awards Luncheon at the Oak Harbor Club in Vero Beach, the following advocates were recognized for their outstanding service to victims of crime:

- Althea Powell-Chandler
- Angela Grimm
- Sue Bonnet Quilters Guild
- Indian River County Deputy Edward Gast
- Sebastian Officer Brandon McKenzie
- Fellsmere Officer David Dozer
- Vero Beach Lt. John Petersen
- Vero Beach Detective Dan Brumley

Funds raised at the event went toward assisting victims of crime. For more information call (772) 226-3304 or email indianrivercountyvrc@gmail.com.

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