

# VIEWPOINT

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## Rants & Raves

### Got something to say?

Email the Hometown Rants & Raves at

[brevnews@hometownnewsol.com](mailto:brevnews@hometownnewsol.com)  
or call (321) 242-1276.

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 libelous statements.

### Get rid of federal law that makes marijuana illegal

I'm still wondering when are the feds going to get out of the 19th century and join the 21st century. Get over this reefer madness and get rid of the federal law that makes marijuana illegal. Half of the states in the country have put it on the ballot and it's passed.

Let the states take care of it and the feds could just do away with that law and they'd be off the hook.

Let the states with their own constituents. It makes absolutely no sense.

### Kevlar backpack protectors won't protect students

I was just watching the news and they did a segment on someone selling or marketing backpack protectors that are Kevlar for \$120.

It's supposed to protect against a school shooting, which is hogwash.

### Isn't gas price increase an example of price fixing?

Within the last week the price of gas has gone up about 20 cents per gallon. Why is it that between Malabar Road and all the way up to 192 you have every single gas station charging the same price?

Years ago, they used to call that price fixing. Isn't this price fixing now?

I was wondering what's going to be done considering everybody does charge the same price consistently. To me that is price fixing.

### Read the traffic signs

This is about to two fools who can't read the No U-Turn sign at the corner of Malabar and San Filippo. They almost caused an accident.

This was two in a row. It's not the first time people have done it. They can't read signs. There needs to be something done about them before they kill somebody.

available for a small fee and discounts are available for groups.

The author will have print and audiobook copies of "Only God Knows Why" available, as well as the Reader's Guide, during the STARS Holiday Book Signing from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, at DeGroot Library, 6475

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## Calendar

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audiobook version, which was released recently at Amazon, Audible and iTunes, as well as the Reader's Guide, which is available as a free download on Lyon's website at [www.amylyon.com](http://www.amylyon.com). Print editions of the Reader's Guide are

## Pickleball pastime



Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer

Phil Smith of Indian Harbour Beach makes a return while playing pickleball with teammate Brian Odaffer of Palm Bay during The Battle of the Paddles presented by Lamplighter Village on Nov. 11 in Melbourne.

## It's never too late to call

How often have you heard someone say, "I wish I had called them" or "I wish I had visited them, but now it is too late."

If we are being honest, it is something most of us have heard often. As a senior advocate, I encounter this all the time. It is a problem that can be addressed, and many times solved, through a better understanding of interpersonal relationships.

Perhaps the most typical time these words are used is at the passing of a spouse, dear friend, or parent. In my work with seniors, I have found the younger generation's neglect of parents to be one of the most frequent forms of elder abuse in families. It is easy to become self-centered and place our own needs before those of other family members.

Why do we do this? Mostly, I think we forget that others like and need our attention.

Truly this opens a Pandora's box, for



HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD  
JOE STECKLER

anyone can die and cause a family member regret for many years, some never recovering from the lack of attention they could have devoted to another family member before they passed.

While this topic could be the source of many articles, most of us know what we can do to eliminate the hurt so often experienced by elders. Simply be more attentive, more aware of others and more aware of what our inattention to loved ones can cause them.

Phone calls on a regular basis are wonderful, but if it is hurried or does not seem germane to what the call should be about, we can cause more hurt than

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Phone (321) 242-1013 Fax (321) 242-1281

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Rants & Raves (321) 242-1276

Circulation Inquiries 1-866-913-6397

[circulation@hometownnewsol.com](mailto:circulation@hometownnewsol.com)



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BEACHES

# Calendar

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Minton Road, Palm Bay.

More than 15 authors are expected to sign books at the event, which also includes raffles and other giveaways.

**Gator club gathers:** Space Coast Gator Club football watch parties for UF vs UAB at Old School Pizza. Midtown, Melbourne, Time Out Sports Bar Plus, Cocoa Village, Dixie Crossroads, Titusville

**Ayn Rand Book Club:** The club discusses Ayn Rand's "Objectivism" at 6 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 18, at Yogurt Mountain inside Books A Million at Merritt Square Mall, followed by dinner at Ruby Tuesday.

For more information, call (321) 544-7435.

## SUNDAY, NOV. 19

**20th Annual Critter Run:** This fun motorcycle poker run benefits Brevard Humane Society. Starting registration at the shelter on 1020 Cox Road in Cocoa at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 19, riders will proceed to various stops and a final destination of Jenna's Breezeway in Cocoa Beach. Each poker hand is \$7 or \$10 for 2.

For more information, call (321) 636-3343, Ext. 218.

**Art on the River in Rockledge:** Beginning/Intermediate Adult Acrylic Painting class is offered Nov. 19 at Old Rockledge City Hall, 11 Orange Ave, Rockledge. Classes are on the 3rd Sunday of every month from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

All supplies are provided. Cost is \$35 per person or \$60 for two.

Email [mitch@mitchartdesign](mailto:mitch@mitchartdesign.com) for registration information.

**Pizza and a movie:** Temple Israel of

Brevard is hosting a pizza and a movie event at 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19, at 7350 Lake Andrew Drive, Melbourne.

The movie is "Hidde3n Figures." Admission is \$7 per person, \$12 per couple and \$18 per family. Reservations are required. Call 321-631-9494.

## MONDAY, NOV. 20

**A United Thanksgiving:** Advent Lutheran Church is hosting a Thanksgiving celebration at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 20, at 7550 N. Wickham Road, Suntree. Leaders and membership of Christian, Jewish and Islamic faiths will gather.

## WEDNESDAY, NOV. 22

**Children's day camp:** A day camp for kids ages 6-12 is from 7:30 a.m.

to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 22, at Wickham Park Community Center; 2815 Leisure Way, Melbourne. The camp features games, sports, arts and crafts and more.

Cost is \$20. Register early as space is limited. For more information, call (321) 608-7490.

## THURSDAY, NOV. 23

**Turkey Trot:** The Space Coast Turkey Trot 5K & 10K starts at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 23, at Front Street Civic Center, 2205 Front St., Melbourne.

For more information, go to [www.runningzone.com](http://www.runningzone.com).

**5K run:** The Cocoa Beach Turkey Trot 5K starts at 8 a.m. at Balliwick Mall, 22 N. Brevard Ave., Cocoa Beach.

For more information, [www.runningzone.com](http://www.runningzone.com).

# Seniors

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comfort.

Establishment of good interpersonal relationships or expressions of love must be carefully developed. We listen to what is being said but do we really understand?

In our age of iPhones and other electronic devices, it is easy to be in

another world while sitting across from someone. We all have our opinion of the importance of phone calls, text messages, etc., but rudeness or inattention in any form is still hurtful.

As the world changes, everything in it changes. Some change is good, some not so good. Existing in a technological world is difficult for many elders. Some adapt to change, but not all, so it is

imperative that we respect the many personalities, lifestyles and customs that make up our world.

A kind word, a well-intended comment, a thoughtful expression all can improve someone's day. Taking time out from our own agenda involves little effort, but could mean a lot to a forgotten or ignored loved one.

Undivided personal attention will be

long remembered. What can you do to make someone else have a better day? Try understanding what is said.

*Joe Steckler is president of Helping Seniors of Brevard, a nonprofit organization designed to advocate, educate, and fundraise on behalf of Brevard's senior citizens. Contact the group at: [info@helpingseniorsofbrevard.org](mailto:info@helpingseniorsofbrevard.org) or call 321-473-7770.*

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