

# VIEWPOINT

FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2018 • THE BEACHES • WWW.HOMETOWNNEWSBREVARD.COM • PAGE 6

## 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 & Raves section provides readers a chance to share their thoughts. The opinions included here are not those of Hometown News or its employees.

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

### Imagine what life would be like if everything was perfect

Did I hear correctly that we just added one trillion to our debt?

Who loaned us this money? Who holds the deeds to the USA?

Imagine a world without walls, open borders, all beings treated equally, health care for all, focus on children, elderly education and homelessness. an end to hunger and clean water for all.

Jobs in infrastructure, not war mongering and more protection for our natural resources.

Did I hear open drilling allowed in the Alaskan wilderness included in the tax bill?

As John Lennon sang "you may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one."

### Educators must support youth who speak up

There are historical accounts and lessons regarding an "armed populace" and its ability to thwart tyranny.

Tyranny impacts a group which is governed and requires a group response to mitigate it or overthrow it.

A disarmed populace would indeed be stripped of one of its instruments (options) to respond.

A disarmed citizen — either by choice or government regulation — is equally stripped of their ability to respond to oppression of a different sort — crime.

Those who will not or cannot — by choice or directive of law — defend themselves from oppression, must rely on a municipal, county, state, or federal "protector" to protect their basic rights to fam-

ily, home, and property.

Representatives from these helping agencies will be the first to say that a citizen's ability to provide for their own personal defense is a greater foe against oppression than 10 truckloads more police officers.

I am sickened even more that the Florida shooting tragedy happened when evidence points to a helping agency not following its own procedures to investigate.

My heart goes out to these victims who could not protect themselves. My ire goes out to the agencies who could have interceded and did not.

My hope is that the educators of our country will tell our youth that it is OK to speak up — to point to the person whose every action points to their misalignment — and put a cinder block in the middle of the domino chain called Parkland.

### Someone is going to die at dangerous crossroads

I'm writing to *Hometown News* regarding my concerns, and many others, regarding the road at State Road 520 and Tucker Lane in Cocoa.

It has been for many years, and still is, a nightmare.

When pulling out of Tucker Lane, heading west, you need to cross a two-lane divided highway. It's nearly impossible and someday someone is going to get killed.

The Department of Transportation might wake up but not until someone dies.

The traffic has tripled during the past

See RANTS, page 7

## Apple peel appeal



Alex Schierholtz/Staff photographer

Alejandro Platter, 5, of Indialantic, learns a fun way to peel an apple from Karen Hofer of The Pampered Chef during the Junior League's Kids in the Kitchen on March 2 at the Eau Gallie Civic Center in Melbourne.

## Need help for information

In 1994, while I was director of the Alzheimer's Association East Central Florida Chapter, we developed an information package on senior care and assistance programs available in Brevard County. To my knowledge this was the only type such resource available, and it was widely requested by people needing help. Over the years this information package grew, helping many seniors live safely and within their means.

Today this type of resource has become even more necessary. In 2011, we founded Helping Seniors of Brevard to inform, educate, and connect seniors and others to the wonderful care programs available in our county. If we have resources to help people, then it logically follows that we tell people about them. Our media outreach, including radio, television, print, and online programs, help publicize these vital, and sometimes free, resources to those who need them. Helping Seniors does not charge for its services.

Now we are working with *Senior Scene*, an excellent monthly magazine available for free throughout Brevard County, to develop a new information program: a directory of services most often used by seniors and their caregivers. Consider the times you have needed a service but could



HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD  
JOE STECKLER

not find it or, more importantly, could not afford it once you found it. Phone books appear to be a resource of the past, while computer and electronic gadgets often make the search for information more convoluted. Our desire is to simplify the search.

We have a start on the directory, since the majority of our sponsors are senior oriented. To that list we will add plumbers, electricians, handymen, and other services most often needed by seniors and provided at an honest and affordable price. The listing will be published in *Senior Scene* and on our website at [www.helpingseniorsofbrevard.org](http://www.helpingseniorsofbrevard.org) to make it easier for you to find what you need.

Recently I had a plumber come to my home, repair a leak in my shower head, replace two valve stems in faucets, and fix a toilet leak at a cost of \$135. He will certainly  
See SENIORS, page 7

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BEACHES



# Seniors

From page 6

ly be in our listing. My first job in the professional circuit while in high school was as a plumber assistant at 50 cents per hour. My second summer I hired out to the other plumber in town at 75 cents per hour and thought I was well paid. How times change.

One of the main reasons why I think this type service is necessary is that I, like many others, do not want to lose my freedom as I age because I can no longer do everything for myself. Seniors often do not ask for help because they are afraid of losing their independence if others think they cannot care for their own needs. So I think it makes good sense to develop an assistance and information network throughout the county that we can access at an affordable price with an expectation that the service called will meet our needs.

Back to the title of my article. What I need from you is recommendations of service providers to include in our directory. You can see that the better information we receive, the better the end product will be. Call me with the name, address, and phone number of your favorite service provider or send it to me via email. It will be appreciated by me and those who might need it.

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

# Rants

From page 6

few years, and getting worse each and every day.

Now we have a new car dealership going in the same area.

There needs to be traffic light(s) installed. We've been told because of the traffic light for Interstate 95 heading south from SR 520 east, they can't put another one because it would be too close in proximity. It's a very, very congested area and needs to be looked at before a tragedy occurs.

Another thing - why is the light at 520 and I-95 North short cycling? If you're lucky three cars can get thru the light before it changes to red again. What's up with that?

If you're behind a tractor trailer, you can't get through or if the cars ahead of you are sleeping at the wheel you won't get through either.

At the light at SR 520 and I-95 heading South, about 10 cars can get through the light.

Vehicles need to go north on I-95 just as well as south on I-95.

## Just a friendly reminder: Kids are not small adults

The author of "Legalize marijuana already: opiates are the real enemy" failed to adequately define the word "kids."

To me a "kid" could be a child age 2

years all the way up to 18 or even more.

The latest scientific studies are concerned with the use of (non medical) marijuana on the development of a child's brain.

For example the two hemispheres of the child's brain are not fully connected until about 11 years old.

Remember kids are not small adults.

## Brevard shows support for fallen deputy

I am a law enforcement officer in Brevard County, and would like to express my gratitude for the overwhelming support the community displayed after the tragic loss of Deputy Kevin Stanton.

During the funeral procession, thousands of residents lined the side of U.S.1 and Garden Street, displaying handmade signs, American flags and showing support for our community, the Stanton family, and law enforcement.

The outpouring of love reinforced the reasons so many of us have chosen this profession.

We truly are blessed to live in a community that cares and supports our efforts. Thank you, Brevard County.

## Dog lovers should follow the rules like everyone else

I almost never take my beloved beach walk these days without encountering dogs on the beach — some on leashes,

most not.

As I am not a dog lover it seems they dearly love me!

I have been jumped on, scratched, once nearly pushed over when a pony sized mongrel surprised me from behind.

Last Wednesday a person was walking four (on leashes) at the same time.

I do not like dogs even a little bit. I do respect the fact that a lot of people do. Nonetheless the rule stating "No Dogs on the Beach" should be obeyed by all.

## Please return flags back to Melbourne Beach History Center

I would like the rapscaIIion who stole the small, temporarily placed Confederate flags in front of the Melbourne Beach History Center last Wednesday to return them. These flags were directional, for out-of-town Confederate Daughters attending their monthly meeting.

These United Daughters of the Confederacy meetings usually are held at a member's home, but my wife and I wanted to show off our charming, unique Town History Center that a small group of local volunteers put so much into.

Please return the flags — no questions asked. You simply may leave them on the porch. Or you make drop by some Saturday to see our artifacts and displays.

Additionally, we usually have local folk music musicians holding forth on the porch.

Thank you to our very generous sponsors!

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