

VIEWPOINT

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Rants & Raves

Got something to say?

Email the Hometown Rants & Raves at

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.

Florida should use nature for pleasure and pocketbook

I moved from Chicago to sunny Florida to enjoy the Sunshine State.

I am a professional engineer.

After I moved here, I started buying solar lights to illuminate my yard. However, my electric bill was atrocious.

Suddenly it occurred to me to get solar panels to circumvent the high cost of electricity.

I contacted a solar company and I was amazed to find out that Florida is not giving any kind of rebates to homeowners to install solar energy panels.

The Internal Revenue Service gives 30 percent rebates, however, the state of Florida does not.

I wrote to Gov. Rick Scott with no response.

I found out many other states offer incentives for homeowners to install solar panels.

I wonder why the Sunshine State is not offering good incentives for homeowners.

Energy is a precious commodity and if our state would incentivize then we'd have surplus energy that could easily be sold to other states.

I cannot comprehend why Florida is not doing anything to use nature for our pleasure and pocketbook.

Sign charter correction petition if you distrust City Council

A number of concerned Palm Bay voters have banded together and started a petition to correct a serious flaw in the recently

changed city charter, dealing with the council's ability (by a simple majority) to levy long term special assessments on property owners.

If you don't trust the current Palm Bay City Council members then I suggest you make an attempt to sign the petition and get the Charter correction on the upcoming November 2018 ballot.

Good contractors exist in Brevard County

Finding an excellent contractor in Brevard was difficult, but due to word of mouth by a friend, my wife and I contacted an outstanding contractor to repaint our kitchen cabinets doors, frame, side panels, kick plates and replace drawers with four pull-outs for pots and pans.

Lee Brown is the sales representative from N-Hance Brevard in Melbourne.

He came to our house, reviewed our needs and we signed a contract.

The work was completed ahead of schedule, the workers were very clean and always on time.

It is good to know we have some great contractors in our area.

I highly recommend N-Hance Brevard.

'Coexist' author should get prize for most-embarrassing rant

You win a prize!

I am writing this in response to the person who wrote in about the concept of "coexisting" last week.

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Planet hunter on its way



Alex Schierholtz/Staff photographer

Hundreds of people gather at Playalinda Beach to watch the launch of a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket on April 18. The Falcon carried NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, or TESS, into orbit. During a two-year survey, the satellite will monitor more than 200,000 stars for signs of orbiting exoplanets ranging in size from Earth-sized to gas giants.

Pitch in, feel good about helping those in need

The need to develop local funds to assist nonprofits is becoming more of a reality than we may think.

Raising money to help others comes at a cost, a cost seldom publicized to those who are asked to donate.

I have long thought this system needed changing, which is why I write articles on the subject. But it is because forward thinking management like the leadership of *Hometown News* is willing to publish these articles that we have the opportunity to change the mindset of philanthropic givers.

Most people believe private foundations provide the majority of funding for charitable causes, but that is far from the truth. Only 7 percent of financial aid is derived from foundation support. Most funding comes from local businesses, individuals, or innovative fund raising activities.

Having a cause understood by all, such as Alzheimer's, cancer, diabetes, or heart research, makes fundraising a lot easier. Having a cause not so well known or one that people want to ignore, like aging, makes it more difficult.

In this short article it is my privilege to



HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD
JOE STECKLER

talk about a car dealer who does his best to promote charitable giving in Brevard. I know firsthand what he has done for the community ever since that day 25 years ago when I walked into the Boniface Heirs office and asked A.J. Hiers if he would donate a car to the Alzheimer's Association for us to raffle. He must have thought I was some kind of a nut, but he did furnish a car, transport it to events at his cost, and advertise in a local daily newspaper for us. He also provided three Dodge vans for us to take clients to and from our adult day cares, covering repairs and insurance. All we did was put in the gas.

Over the years we have softened him up a bit to where he has and continues to help a number of charities, the ones I know about being St. Jude, the Brevard County

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PALM BAY

Rants

From page 6

I usually read *Hometown News*' Rants & Raves for a chuckle but I realized last week that this person deserves a prize.

This person wrote, and I quote, "cover those 'co-exist' bumper stickers and stop embarrassing yourselves."

In what universe would the concept of getting along and striving for peace be embarrassing?? Talk about embarrassing yourself.

CONGRATS and BRAVO for that statement, I am bestowing the prize for the most ignorant statement I have ever read in this section!

"Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity." — Martin Luther King, Jr.

Hopefully Cocoa Beach continues to say no to high-rises

By now we have all seen the high-rise

condos towering over Satellite Beach across from the Publix shopping plaza.

Thank goodness I live in Cocoa Beach, where residents voted three times to keep development under control, limiting both density and height. Buildings here can be no higher than 45 feet.

But guess what: A developer-driven referendum is planned for the ballot next November asking residents to allow high-rises back into Cocoa Beach.

Just say no. We don't need the condos or the hotels or the extra traffic on our roads. Let the developers go elsewhere with their ugly boxes.

Save Cocoa Beach!

Rants need to be about common sense in these times

This is in response to my learned friend who responded to my "rant" spouting the First Amendment . . . too bad.

You completely missed the point. You stated that I am an "embarrassment" and that the reason why countries don't get

along is because they "think like I do" . . . really?

Well, to put it mildly, I do NOT want to co-exist with Iran, North Korea, Syrian murderers, ISIS, Al-Qaida or any other terrorist regime for obvious reasons.

Check current events and see the reasons why.

It has absolutely nothing to do with "legal immigrants" of the past such as Poles, Irish, Italians, Jews, etc. of whom I happen to be one of.

My rant was not about whether to agree or disagree . . . it is about common sense in these times.

Thank you 'guardian angel,' first responders who helped me

I want to thank my "guardian angel."

On Friday, April 13, I was going east on U.S. 192 driving home and was the second car in the lane stopped for a red light at Babcock Street. I blacked out and the next thing I knew there were EMT's and first responders

around my vehicle trying to "wake me up."

I must have missed a few changes in the lights turning green and my "guardian angel" in a truck called 911.

He then pulled in front of me, so if my foot slipped off the brake I would not go into the intersection and possibly get hit by numerous vehicles, I would hit his truck and stop.

Once the police redirected the backed-up traffic around the emergency vehicles and through the Babcock and 192 intersection, they told him he could go.

Unfortunately no one got the name of this very caring person. I want all of you who came to my aid that day to know I am going through testing to find out what caused this, and I am not driving until I do.

To my "guardian angel" who called 911 and stayed with me until help arrived and all the caring first responders who came to help me, "THANK YOU" from the bottom of my heart and God bless all of you.

Thanks to *Hometown News* for giving me a place to let these special people know they are appreciated.

Seniors

From page 6

Sheriff's Office Charity, the Brevard Alzheimer's Foundation, and now Helping Seniors. This past year A.J. gave us a 1951 Ford Victoria hot rod to raffle, and we raised more than \$56,000, which will help us provide a lifeline to many seniors.

A.J.'s latest contribution is a 1969 Plym-

outh Road Runner for the Brevard County Sheriff's Office that will be raffled off on July 7. Last year's raffle made them \$62,000, but we want to exceed that this year. We have about 250,000 seniors in Brevard County. If 1,000 of them donated \$25 for one ticket, consider the boost to sales. Then again, what if 1,000 seniors bought six tickets for a \$100 donation, and the Sheriff put that money in an endowment to help families of deputies or first responders who needed financial assis-

tance. This is a small but effective way to say thank you to these men and women who risk their lives to serve us.

You can participate in this raffle to support our Sheriff and other first responders by going to www.HemisforHeroes.com, visiting any Boniface Hiers dealership, or by calling (321) 725-1100. This is a chance for all of us to do a little that could add up to a lot. And if we did not need your help I would not have written this article.

Go to catchtheroadrunner.com and

check out A.J. outrunning Sheriff Wayne Ivey, or Sheriff Ivey trying to blow up the Road Runner. You will enjoy it, just as you can feel good about helping.

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 or call (321) 473-7770.

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