

# 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 & 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.*

#### Thank you, Good Samaritan, who returned lost wallet

On Friday May 11, 2018, I lost my wallet in a shopping center on Malabar Road. A friend of God found it and returned it to my house in NW Palm Bay intact. Thank you and bless you!

#### Climate change is bogus; Stop believing politicians

I find it disturbing that a parent would use their child to further their own political view point.

We should all know by now that there is no such thing as climate change. It was a social construct meant to manufacture an artificial problem that the creators of which could then furnish the solution — a carbon tax — which was to be the mechanism to fulfill the globalists' desire to 'redistribute wealth' from us Americans to corrupt third world countries who in turn would pay a kickback to dirty progressive politicians.

This corrupt political technique is known as the Hegelian dialectic.

Maybe you should do more research and stop feeding on the red meat your politicians feed you to get you to mindlessly follow them down the primrose path.

Hopefully your child will awaken to your evil ways before it is too late.

#### Contact your home builder to find a solution

This comment is addressed to the ex-Chicago professional, who complained about not getting a discount on his home insurance because he had unprotected

bathroom glass skylights.

He makes the point that it is impossible to protect such ceiling windows.

He should be aware that there are very few impossible things in life. One may be "cheating death," but certainly not protecting ceiling windows.

I recommend that he contact the builder of his house or a licensed contractor, (who specializes in hardening houses to meet current hurricane code requirements), for potential solutions.

#### Remember when lagoon and it's wildlife population was healthy?

As a long time frequent visitor to South Patrick Shores, I'm disappointed in the lack of respect for the wonderful beach resource and lack of concern for marine life displayed by some beach users, boaters, and government agencies.

Day users, please take your trash with you and bring an extra bag and help clean up the beach.

Ditto boaters; an amazing amount of debris comes ashore with each high tide.

Especially disappointing is the lack of government action.

There is a large, deteriorating buoy that washed up in South Patrick Shores in January that still sits on the beach by Publix in Satellite Beach five months later.

In 2016 a boat washed up and sat on the beach until it was broken up by wave action after Hurricane Mathew.

The people of Florida have a unique, wonderful resource and everyone should do their utmost to protect it or risk losing it.

Remember when the lagoon and it's wildlife population was healthy?

## Fishing up a good time



Photo courtesy of Sebastian Exchange Club

Sebastian Exchange Club Blue Water Open members and volunteers are excited about this year's tournament.

## Seniors get short shrift

This title foretells a bleak future for seniors in Brevard County. I cannot speak to the other 66 Florida counties, but I do not like what I see here.

On May 16, I appeared before the Brevard County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Advisory Board regarding funding for Helping Seniors. As has happened to every request we have made to the Advisory Board since our funding in 2011, we were again denied funding.

Agencies selected for funding were the Emma Jewel Charter School bus program, Central Brevard Sharing Center, Early Learning Coalition of Brevard, Boys & Girls Club, Family Promise of Brevard, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, and AMIkids



HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD  
JOE STECKLER

Space Coast.

Notice that Emma Jewel once again heads the list as it did in 2017 during the contentious Community Based Organization funding awards, despite the fact that as a public school it already receives funds for transportation plus funding through the new half-cent sales tax.

Of the seven organizations awarded grants, five of them serve children. The CDBG is a public fund that must

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Photo by Jamie Desena-McFarland

Merritt Island Presbyterian Church Preschool held a ribbon cutting to celebrate its newly refurbished classrooms for infants and toddlers, and another new area for mothers to nurse babies who are in the childcare program.

## Preschool

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excited that we have a private nursing room for our mothers right next to the classroom, so they can come in and nurse.”

The nursing space, which includes a loveseat with a divider for privacy, will

be available for mothers to nurse their children when they drop them off, pick them up or visit them on a lunch break.

Both classrooms were painted and professionally cleaned, and six new cribs, a new rug and new bouncy seats were added to the infant room.

For more information, call (321) 453-1640, email [MIPCPreschool@gmail.com](mailto:MIPCPreschool@gmail.com) or visit [www.merrittislandpc.org/child-care-center](http://www.merrittislandpc.org/child-care-center).

## Seniors

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conform to priorities approved by the County Commission. According to the CDBG application, the commission is interested in funding a wide range of services. Low-income elderly residents and veterans are listed as high-priority areas in the 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan, which is supposed to guide the selection process.

For your information, agencies not awarded funding included Aging Matters Meals on Wheels program (shades of 2017) and Helping Seniors. In fact NO seniors services organization was awarded any funding whatsoever. Although county staff insisted that seniors were funded through Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, I would point out that the stated mission of that organization is to improve the lives of abused, abandoned, and neglected children living in relative care families.

How long will the 245,000 seniors -- and taxpayers -- in Brevard County be content to let someone else award very scarce funds to the exclusion of seniors, especially in a community where seniors outnumber children? How long will you stand by while loose interpretations continue to be made of stipulated criteria for the funding of senior programs? Remember also that the County Commission has voted to defund county-based funding to all nonprofits. And, the selected programs serve a selected few while Aging Matters and Helping Seniors

serve the entire county!

If this column does not stir seniors then I do not know what will. We need to decide a course of action that will level the playing field for seniors. To that end, the Helping Seniors Advocacy Council had its first meeting of 2018 and will meet again on June 5. The council seeks to develop an aging plan that will set forth necessary county actions in the provision of senior services.

Continued acceptance of current conditions will only make it more difficult to assist seniors so that they may age safely and with dignity in Brevard County.

An election is coming up. If we do not require accountability of those who serve us, it will result in the further degradation of seniors, even though seniors pay a huge portion of the taxes that support the salaries of our elected representatives.

Phone calls to our representatives expressing concern over continued non selection of senior programs is an easy task to accomplish, will express our displeasure and signify unification of seniors and those who care for them. To be a part of the solution, call Kay at (321) 473-7770 and become a senior advocate.

Let's not be the ostriches that buried their heads in the sand.

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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