

VIEWPOINT

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2015 • NORTH BREVARD • WWW.HOMETOWNNEWSOL.COM • PAGE 6

An update on Helping Seniors of Brevard

Dear friends,

This is a general update on our progress to date and how you can join us in identifying and addressing items of interest to seniors and those who care for them.

For more information, you might want to refer to previous articles, postings on our website at www.helpingseniorsofbrevard.org and other available resources.

Helping Seniors has identified a major need in Brevard for a county aging plan.

In 2012, the Brevard Commission on Aging conducted a workshop that resulted in a 140-page compilation of pictures and statistics, but no plan. To make use of these valuable statistics, Helping Seniors has formed a task force of 43 people who will advocate for seniors and develop an aging plan for Brevard County.

We have held four meetings, selected a template for the plan and will eventually present our work to the Brevard County Commission.

If you want to help, contact Kay, our information specialist, at (321) 473-7770. We are now collecting information and would appreciate your completion of the survey online at

JOE STECKLER
PRESIDENT
HELPING SENIORS
OF BREVARD



www.helpingseniorsofbrevard.org.

One of our major tasks is to develop an endowment to help seniors meet needs they can't afford or resolve through other nonprofit agencies.

For example, we heard of a couple who was living on \$796 a month and \$350 in food stamps. The husband could not eat because his dentures did not fit nor did he have the money to replace them.

Our Board of Directors decided to use endowment funds to pay for his dentures. Now the man is able to eat. A small use of funds, but very necessary, as only one other resource would have possibly paid for the dentures.

At this point, our endowment is in its infant stages and only capable of meeting small needs on a limited basis, but we will grow and have already started receiving donations.

Why is this important? Well, current nonprofit and government organizations do not have the resources to remedy such situations in a timely manner.

The lack of a county aging plan with identified needs and the funding to pay for such needs is important.

Did you know the county builds its budget with no knowledge of the economic impact seniors have on Brevard? The Commission on Aging doesn't know its economic impact either, but 22 percent of Brevard's population is older than 65.

In 2002, Brevard County was identified as an elder-friendly county. When seniors receive no direct budget line item, yet children receive 44.6 percent of the tax dollar, it becomes difficult to say we are an elder-friendly community.

Yes, development of an aging plan will require new funding or some shifting of current assets so that

See **HELPING**, page 7

Adoptable pups



Photo by Paul Lepinskie

Volunteer Diane Bale of Suntree escorted 'Toby,' a 2-year-old Plott Hound-mix during the Grand Slam Adoption Event at Space Coast Stadium, Wednesday, March 11, hosted by supermodel Kate Upton and Brevard County Sheriff's Office Animal Services.

Rants & Raves

Got something to say?

Email the Hometown Rants & Raves at brevnews@hometownnewsol.com or call (321) 242-1276.

Callers are asked to refrain from making slanderous statements. Statements of fact will be checked for accuracy.

No reason for gas prices

They stopped production, but we are still producing the \$1.5 million barrels more than we use.

That's no reason to raise the gas back up again. They keep looking for reasons to take money from the little guy.

Will you stop it? Something's got to be done. I don't know if it's the dealers, the distributors or just plain Wall Street mongers, but something has to be

done.

The little guy is tired of getting it, and they are going to rebel.

Relativistic view of truth

I wanted to suggest that other views than those of Amy Lewis would be expressed. Her views often do not speak to many of your more Biblically

See **RANTS**, page 7

This Week's Prize **WIN \$100**
I Love My Hometown News
THIS WEEK'S LUCKY BUMPER STICKER VEHICLE
CONGRATULATIONS TO LAST WEEK'S WINNER OF \$100 - HOPE LEE NICHOLS OF ORMOND BEACH
MYFLORIDA.COM 05-15
YIXYB
-SUNSHINE STATE-
Is this your license plate number? Go to the nearest HTN Office to verify by noon Tuesday.
GET YOUR BUMPER STICKER TODAY! STOP BY ANY OFFICE OR CALL!!!
VOLUSIA CO. 386-322-5900 | BREVARD CO. 321-242-1013 | INDIAN RIVER/MARTIN/ST LUCIE CO. 772-465-5656

Hometown News

Published weekly by Hometown News, L.C.,
5059 Turnpike Feeder Road, Ft. Pierce, FL 34951

Copyright © 2015, Hometown News, L.C.

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

Classified (321) 242-0442 • 1-800-823-0466

Rants & Raves (321) 242-1276

Circulation Inquiries 1-866-913-6397

circulation@hometownnewsol.com



Voted # 1 Community Newspaper in America in 2005, 2006, 2007.
One of the top 3 in America every year since 2003.



Farris RobinsonPresident
Lee MootyGeneral Manager
Vernon D. SmithManaging Partner
Tammy FarmerManaging Editor
Robin BevilacquaHuman Resources
Kathy YoungMajor/Natl. Accounts Manager
Amanda TuckerMajor/Natl. Accounts Consultant
Terence HartSales Manager
Maura DawsonOffice Manager
Rick KeelanSenior Account Manager
Sherry Cox ScudderAdvertising Consultant
Lorraine JonesAdvertising Consultant
Mark BerardAdvertising Consultant

Mercedes Lee-PaquetteProduction Manager
Rita ZeblinClassified Paginator
Karen WoodGraphic Artist
Patricia SnyderDirector of Classified Advertising
Carol Deprey-ZelenakClassified Consultant
Lora Lee UberClassified Consultant
Heather DonaldsonClassified Consultant
Joe BrewiClassified Consultant
Dolan HoggattCirculation Manager
Tiffany RobertsonDistrict Circulation Manager
Amanda H. AndersonStaff Writer
Tony JudnichStaff Writer
Michael HibbardNews Clerk

NBREVARD

Rants

From page 6

conservative readers.

For those of us who believe in the uniqueness of the Christian gospel and in God's design of marriage, her views are made to make us look intolerant. Many, I'm sure do not embrace her relativistic view of truth.

Editor's Note: We welcome columnists of all backgrounds and religious beliefs in our paper, as long as he or she has writing experience and can meet our deadlines and columnist criteria. Email brevnews@hometownnewsol.com for more information.

Defending Amy Lewis

This is concerning a column published on the Viewpoint Page in the newspaper and the letters and rants that followed. The column was written by Amy Lewis and was called "View from the Pew."

People seemed upset about the content of the column.

If you read the recent Rants & Raves sections, you will find more than a few people quoting scriptures and giving their opinions about the Lewis column.

It also seems a number of local people have a very important need to read about who was accused of crimes each week on the Police Report page.

Do they not remember that more See **RANTS, page 11**



Hometown News PET OF THE WEEK

A 4-year-old Chihuahua, 'Chico' is the dapper pup of Sandy and John Mazzetta of Palm Bay. When he's not dressing for success, Chico enjoys playing with his sister, 'Sissy,' eating ice cream and swimming.

Helping

From page 6

seniors receive major financial support. And, I do not mean cash infusions to established nonprofits that already operate close to a 50 percent margin in revenue and expenses.

It is time for the county commissioners to require a new look at what we are getting for our buck!

Funding resources are changing, and it makes sense to start looking at nonprofits that are doing a cost-effective job. Failure to do so will only

result in new unmet needs, as Baby Boomers enter the picture in increasing numbers.

Already, Brevard is the 24th oldest county nationwide in terms of the number of those 65 and older.

It is time to rethink our modus operandi.

Joe Steckler is the president of Helping Seniors of Brevard, a non-profit organization designed to advocate, educate and fundraise on behalf of Brevard's senior citizens.

For more information, email info@helpingseniorsofbrevard.org or call (321) 473-7770.

Is your pet worthy of the spotlight?

Hometown News will be the judge of that.

We are asking our readers to submit photos of their beloved pets, as part of our "Pet of the Week" Contest. The winner for the week will have his or her pet displayed in our newspaper, while also being qualified to become the Hometown News "Pet of the Year!" Email a photo of your pet (one entry per owner) that is at least 1 MB in size to brevnews@hometownnewsol.com. Write "PET OF THE WEEK CONTEST" in the subject line, and in the body of the email, please include the following information:

- Name of pet
- Age
- Breed
- Three of your pet's favorite things to do
- Pet owner's full name and hometown
- Phone number (in case we have questions)

MELBOURNE AIR & SPACE SHOW

MARCH 21-22, 2015

MELBOURNE INT'L AIRPORT

ON GENERAL AVIATION DRIVE



Organized by:
NATIONAL AIR, SEA & SPACE FOUNDATION

Sponsored by:
NORTHROP GRUMMAN

793382