

# VIEWPOINT

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2015 • MELBOURNE • WWW.HOMETOWNNEWSOL.COM • PAGE 6

## Some issues seniors face as they get older

Dear Friends,

I recently read an article about the ethics and morality of Medicaid planning. Those of you who follow me on radio and television know I am no stranger to discussing Medicaid planning, just as I am not afraid to discuss the inadequacies of elder advocacy or the misuse of public or privately donated funds. So, today let's address using money wisely to help more people.

### Medicaid

Medicaid was initiated in 1965 to assist poor or medically disabled people in the United States. Depending on who is affected by its use, the ethics and morality of Medicaid planning can take on different meanings. Nonetheless, we can all agree that there are good and bad or unintended uses to which government monies are used. I do not think Medicaid was meant to be used as a financial tool to preserve assets for children or grandchildren.

Another new use of Medicaid is facilitating placement of clients in various elements of care. This is a questionable tactic that benefits some but can make it more difficult for those who are poor to maintain their priority in the placement system.



**JOE STECKLER**  
PRESIDENT,  
HELPING SENIORS OF  
BREVARD

For this and many other reasons, I recommend use of a qualified elder law attorney to assist in Medicaid planning.

### Elder Care

Most of us understand the need to plan for retirement: we save as best we can, purchase long-term and other insurance, do financial planning and live within our means. Realizing that the best-laid plans might be disrupted, Medicaid was developed to assist those who needed help in later years or who were medically disabled. It was not intended as a way to circumvent individual responsibility to take charge of our own lives.

Having said the foregoing, I would like to comment on the role of local leadership in ensuring that elder care is available for seniors.

Currently, in our county there is no plan in place to help seniors age with dignity. It is well-intended to say Brevard is an elder-friendly community, but what does that mean? What does it buy us? Because there is no aging plan, Helping Seniors of Brevard has developed an advocacy group to take the lead in building such a plan to present to the Brevard County commissioners.

Ideally, this plan will include local, as well as government, resources as a building block. If you look at your tax bill you will notice that about 44 percent of your taxes are intended for the education of children, but there is a zero commitment to elders.

### Use of private and government financial assistance

We would like to think that our monies are used as we intend them to be used when we donated to a charity, but research shows this may not always be so.

Since nonprofits are required by law to report their use of funds, you can look up their 990 IRS tax documents

See **SENIORS**, page 10

## A grand finish



Felix Hottenstein of Melbourne was the third runner to finish in the To Write Love On Her Arms 'Run For It' 5K, Saturday, April 18. He was one of 600 runners who took part in the race locally. An additional 1,300 participants around the world completed the 5K in their hometowns and donated to the cause. The event raised nearly \$30,000 for TWLOHA.



Emily Capley of Melbourne crosses the finish in the To Write Love On Her Arms 'Run For It' 5K, Saturday, April 18. TWLOHA is a nonprofit movement that presents hope and finds help for people.

Photos by  
Paul Lepinski

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## Hometown News

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

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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



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# College's chamber orchestra to host concert

By Amanda Hatfield Anderson  
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BREVARD COUNTY — Music will fill the Bernard W. Simpkins Fine Arts Auditorium on Friday, April 24, as the Eastern Florida State College Chamber Orchestra presents "Airs and Dances."

General admission for the concert, which begins at 7:30 p.m., is \$6, and tickets will be available at the door.

Conductor James Bishop said the

EFSC Chamber Orchestra, which is made up of 10 string students, presents two formal concerts each school year.

"The inspiration for the concert involved several aspects," Mr. Bishop said. "The most important is to present the students in the orchestra with music that challenges them and helps them to grow musically as young artists and instrumentalists."

Mr. Bishop said the orchestra strives to present music that will engage the

listener by offering a wide variety of musical styles that will appeal to the audience.

Attendees of Friday's concert will enjoy a range of pieces, including "Airs for Strings" by Dello Joio, "Pie Jesu" by Faure, "O Mio Babbino Caro" by Puccini, "A Fille Aux Cheveux De Lin" by Debussy Divertimento, "No. 6" by Haydn and "Songs Without Words" by Mendelssohn.

"The audience will hear a concert of music that spans more than 200 years

of the Western music tradition," Mr. Bishop said. "From the 'divertimento' of Austrian composer Franz Josef 'Papa' Haydn to the 'Air for Strings' of American composer Norman Dello Joio, the concert will bring a diverse musical palette to the ears of the audience."

The Bernard W. Simpkins Fine Arts Auditorium is located in building 4 on the Cocoa campus of EFSC.

For more information, call (321) 433-5200.

## Seniors

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online to determine if your donation is being used cost effectively or going mainly for salaries and overhead.

This is an area fraught with the perils of Pauline, so, let me say that

organizations that do not have a 990 posted on the Internet or refuse to make such a document available to you should raise a red flag. I take great interest in how my donated monies are used and so should you.

Helping Seniors of Brevard has a survey posted on its website at [www.helpingseniorsofbrevard.org](http://www.helpingseniorsofbrevard.org) or available by calling our office at (321)

473-7770.

I encourage you to take the survey so that current needs can be identified and made part of local plans to help us all age with dignity.

We have wonderful resources in Brevard County, but we all need to be aware of what is available. Become part of advocating for seniors and realize that our ability to meet future

senior needs requires a united effort.

Feel free to contact us at [info@helpingseniorsofbrevard.org](mailto:info@helpingseniorsofbrevard.org) or call (321) 473-7770.

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

## Calendar

From page 1

Melbourne took the event over last August and rapidly expanded it to a larger venue, expecting upwards of 2,000 or more "tasters," along with 40-60 cooks.

The event will be held on Friday and Saturday, April 24-25 at The Radisson

Resort at the Port in Cape Canaveral, and will be open to the public at 9 a.m. Saturday.

In addition to the great opportunity to taste all of the great food being cooked on the Big Green Eggs, there will be entertainment, food, raffles, giveaways and other exciting surprises to make the weekend a success.

The Sunshine State Eggfest is a one-of-

a-kind event that presents a fun way for your organization to receive extensive visibility and publicity during this two and a half month campaign.

Based on the sponsorship level, promotional opportunities include press releases, organization's logo on various promotional materials, websites and inclusion in any television and/or radio announcements.

For additional sponsorship information, contact Janice Wassi at (321) 243-1100, or email [flajan@bellsouth.net](mailto:flajan@bellsouth.net).

• **Challenge your favorite salsa chef to compete for Brevard's Best Salsa:** International Palms Resort & Conference Center and the Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of Commerce will host Fiesta

See **CALENDAR**, page 11

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