

VIEWPOINT

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Rants & Raves

Got something to say?

Email the Hometown Rants & Raves at

brevnews@hometownnewsol.com
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Contributors are asked to refrain from making slanderous or libelous statements.

Floridians 'Awake The State' in Cocoa

Three dozen enthusiastic advocates gathered at the intersection of U.S. 1 and S.R. 520 to "Awake The State" on the opening day of the 2017 legislative session.

Local leaders joined advocates for access to health care, quality public schools, reproductive and immigration rights and more to provide a counterpoint to Florida Gov. Rick Scott and his legislative allies' agenda that rewards their corporate backers while ignoring the needs of everyday Floridians.

The event in Cocoa was part of a series of statewide actions and events promoting a different agenda: "a Florida that works for all Floridians."

For years Gov. Scott and the legislature have wasted billions of tax dollars in corporate handouts at the direct expense of hardworking Floridians who can least afford it. Instead of more unnecessary tax giveaways to corporations that serve to boost the bottom line of the very wealthy, Florida must create opportunities for all Floridians to get ahead.

Instead of more corporate tax giveaways, "Awake The State" advocates are calling on Gov. Scott and lawmakers to invest in Florida's future and fully fund public education, increase access to health care coverage, protect our land and water, and upgrade our infrastructure.

Awake The State started as a Facebook page that quickly grew to thousands strong, resulting events in cities across the state in March of 2011. Every year since, Floridians have organized "Awake The State" events in their communities at the beginning of the legislative session to engage their neighbors on important issues affecting our state. The Awake The State" movement provides a platform for

everyday Floridians to make their voices heard and fight for a Florida that works for all Floridians while pushing back against Rick Scott and the legislature's wrongheaded priorities that reward the wealthy and well-connected.

For more information, visit www.AwakeTheState.com.

In Downtown Historic Melbourne

Downtown Historic Melbourne is indeed a special place. There are so many neat stores and great restaurants and bars. The civic theatre is pure fun with its up-front and personal actors (i.e. the very popular recent "Calendar Girls").

But my favorite and very unique store is Glitter Alley, located at 821 E. New Haven Ave., operated by Morris McQuay and Bonnie Hernandez. Bonnie is an extraordinary artist who gets many of her ideas through dreams, even waking up at 3 a.m. when she gets an idea for her crafts. It's a store that appeals to young and old, alike, with incredible items all at very reasonable prices.

If you prod Morris, he will tell you some strange stories about what happened during our recent hurricane scare, and he has videos to prove it based on in-stores cameras.

After, we lunch at The Burger Place where the squirrels love my french fries.

Short and to the point

Dear Trump supporters:
You, lost too. It just hasn't hit you yet.

Response to 'Muscle Car Museum'

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Berry sweet!



Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer

Ruth Corder of Melbourne takes a bite of a juicy strawberry during the 'Daily Bread Strawberry Festival' Sunday, March 26 at Eastern Florida State College in Palm Bay. Daily Bread, Inc., partnered with the city of Palm Bay to bring the beloved event back to Brevard County.

Friendship, health go hand in hand

Years ago, I wrote about the importance of a smile to the spirit relationship of good health. While Webster did not include "friendship" in the ingredients that contribute to a state of good health, who would deny the importance of those who exhibit kindness, goodwill and general cheerfulness? These are all very important contributors to a state of good health, in my opinion, especially as we get older.

Fifty-four years ago, I reported to my first submarine as a junior officer. In those days, we generally had one yeoman who managed the ship's correspondence and personnel work. My first yeoman was a quiet, competent and friendly guy. He possessed all the "friendship" qualities described above. Years later, a letter from that first yeoman started to get me thinking about the subject material for today's column.

My first yeoman caused me to think



HELPING SENIORS
OF BREVARD
JOE STECKLER

of the many shipmates who helped contribute to my excellent state of mental health through their encouragement, goodwill and friendliness, especially in times of stress, hardship and worry; and there were many such occasions.

The yeoman's letter reminded me that there are untold numbers of friends, whom we never meet or know, who help us as we age. No one accomplishes the milestones of one's life without friends.

For every accomplishment, whether

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Seniors

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it be as a military person or civilian, think of those who have helped you achieve your personal goals, meeting the many objectives necessitated by those achievements. What amazed me was that John told me he had followed my career since detachment from that first submarine. He went on to tell me about others - men I had known - who also followed my career. Even more important was that these people were in my corner for assignments and new challenges. What a wonderful thing.

Once I thought about this, I thought back to an operation that I had since retirement and the numbers of professional work partners who came to the hospital to check on my condition, and it was a long drive. One was a former shipmate of 45 years past. I was later told that I was not very nice to him, but that might be attributed to my state of post operation unawareness. I hope so. Others knew me professionally as a civilian. As I reflect on these "thoughts," I realize that having friends, people who

exhibit goodwill, interest, concern and especially a loving friendship, have been most valuable contributors to my state of good health.

I have heard it said that to have one friend in our life is a wonderful accomplishment. Consider what a bunch of friends could accomplish. And, not all friends are physical. In a radio show, I was describing my bout with a dissecting ascending and descending aorta, and the doctor said to me, "You have an angel looking over you." I agree. How fortunate all of us could be if we had an army of physical and ethereal beings watching over us - all our friends. To do that cultivation of two-way relationships is most important, remembering that we take from a relationship which we put into it. Helping Seniors has now assisted more than 1,800 who needed help of some type, many of whom are multiple callers.

Joe Steckler is the president of Helping Seniors of Brevard, a nonprofit organization designed to advocate, educate and fundraise on behalf of Brevard County's senior citizens. Feel free to contact us at info@helpingseniorsofbrevard.org or calling (321) 473-7770.

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We all can have our opinions, but a fact check helps. The Muscle Car Museum in Melbourne is not open to the public and, from listening to the owner on Sunday, I don't think that is his inten-

tion.

The owner has staff on site who works with local charities that want to hold fundraisers there, and that is his sole purpose, so far. We were fortunate enough to go there on Sunday, March 5, for the Brevard Youth Orchestra fundraiser and had an absolutely superb

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Adoptable Pet of the Week

PENNY
is an 8 year old Chihuahua mix

To meet Penny, visit the
Brevard County Sheriff's Office
South Animal Care Center
5100 West Eau Gallie Blvd.
321-253-6608

www.BrevardSheriff.com

Hurry! Last chance for tournament sign ups.

THE MAJORS GOLF CLUB

The Greater Palm Bay OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP
Friday, April 21 • 8 am • Shotgun start

Proceeds to benefit
The Greater Palm Bay Senior Center and Palm Bay Police Department's Benevolent Fund

Call the Pro Shop for questions and booking information

Advanced tickets only \$65
(Includes tournament green fee and cart, lunch and prizes.)

Trophies and Prizes!

4 Flights for Men's and Ladies Divisions

3425 Bayside Lakes Blvd SE, Palm Bay, FL 32909
(321) 952-8617

TO WRITE LOVE ON HER ARMS.

RUN FOR IT 5K

WHAT WILL YOU RUN FOR?

Saturday, April 15, 2017

David R. Schechter Center / Satellite Beach, FL

RunForIt5k.com