

# 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.

Contributors are asked to refrain from making libelous statements.

### Just 'Melbourne Airport,' not 'Orlando Melbourne Airport'

I really hate it that they are naming the airport the "Orlando Melbourne" airport.

We should have just have "Melbourne," just "Melbourne Airport." No "Orlando" on there. Orlando has its own airport.

I am wondering if there is anyone else out there who really hates that they are trying to name it "Orlando Melbourne Airport."

Let me hear from you. Thank you very much.

### This is pertaining to street signs'

You stated that all street signs should be in front of you where you can see them, not on the side of the roads.

Ha, ha, ha, ha. You made my day.

You want them in the middle of the street. You're funny.

### Response to 'Celebration Square' rant

Amazing. I sent something in, and you didn't print it and it was the absolute truth.

I read this about Celebration Square that you printed. When he drives by Celebration Square, it infuriates him because it is a sun-baked, seedy parking lot.

Well, you know, us less fortunate people enjoy Celebration Square the first of every month.

And you guys don't print the truth, because whatever I sent in was the truth, and you guys didn't print it.

You're a joke.

### Another FP&L ripoff?

In answer to your FP&L rant, don't you realize that you can buy a surge protector at any electronic store, (hardware store, grocery store or drug store)?

### Stop messing around with healthcare

Thank you to the registered nurse about how terrible government-run healthcare is.

Why not Medicare for everybody? I have been on Medicare for 20 years, and it is terrific, thanks to former President Lyndon B. Johnson.

The United States is the richest country on the planet. Let's do it and stop screwing around with something as important as healthcare.

### Friendly beach reminder

While chasing after our 3-year-old granddaughter, my 67-year old husband stumbled in a large hole that was dug in the sand. It was on a slanted part of the beach and he did not see it. He tried to brace his fall with his hands and jarred his shoulder. It turned out to be torn rotator cuff tendons. He had surgery to reattach them with seven anchors in his bone, and is now in a painful recovery period.

I would just like to remind beachgoers to cover up the holes they dig before they leave the beach. There are a lot of unsuspecting joggers, kids and grandparents not looking down.

Thank you.

### Questions about medical marijuana

See RANTS page 7

## Selfie fun at Bingo night



Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer

Danielle S. of Palm Bay takes a selfie with Azhia Li of Cocoa during Drag Queen Bingo on Sept. 15 at Eau Gallie Civic Center in Melbourne. Drag queens called out Bingo numbers for players.

## Planning paramount before emergencies

Dear Friends,

Many of us just went through another traumatic life experience. Now is a good time to reflect on what we did right and what we did wrong while the event is still fresh in our minds

Regardless of what we did or did not do, proper prior planning is still the key ingredient for surviving an emergency such as a hurricane.

Since I spent 32 years in the Navy, many of them at sea, I am well aware of the power of water and the damage it can do. What happened in hurricanes Harvey and Irma reinforce my comments about planning and readiness.

We had adequate warning for both storms, but I believe many of us fail to recognize our mortality. Consider this one fact: If we knew that the disaster we faced would destroy us, would it make sense to remain in harm's way? That is what I consider when deciding whether to leave for an area I believe might be



HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD  
JOE STECKLER

safer.

Harvey and Irma were both huge storms. We had warning, but many still refused to evacuate. Before we left Brevard, I talked to numerous people who reasoned they would be safe because they had storm shutters and other forms of protection. While this may safeguard your possessions, it most likely will not prevent loss of life due to water intrusion. By staying too long we also endanger first responders by causing them to take unnecessary risks to save lives – if they can continue to respond.

I fully understand that many do not  
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PALM BAY

# Rants

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If we think we have a drug problem now in the state of Florida, wait until this medical marijuana program goes into full swing.

I have some questions about legalized marijuana.

With thousands of prescriptions being issued, do you think there might be the possibility of some people getting “legalized pot” under false pretenses?

Secondly, with thousands of prescriptions being issued, is there the possibility of “legalized marijuana” getting into the hands of criminals who will take and sell it on the street?

Third, with thousands of people getting “legalized marijuana,” are we going to see an increase in DUIs across the state? (or are they all non-drivers?).

Finally, it’s a known fact, that marijuana is the “entry” drug to most hard drugs. Might there be the possibility that we see

an increase in people on “pot” turning to other “hard drugs” to support their addiction? Something to think about.

## Fix the fuse

There is a fuse problem obvious to the naked eye at the top of the pole at the corner of Lakemont Road and Mustang, which power trucks have driven by several times, but done nothing about.

As a result, the neighboring streets in all directions have power, but on Lakemont Road, we do not.

This always happens after every power outage. We are always one of the last streets to have power restored.

Got an FPL phone recording today, requiring me to re-report out total outage to (800) 467-7243, which I did; and received information that, “We have found a problem, but don’t know when it will be fixed.”

Is this referring to that fuse that is so obvious to everybody except repair personnel?

This is absolutely unacceptable.

## Some of us understand false advertising, and others don’t

First, Orlando hates that the local airport is referring to themselves as Orlando-Melbourne International Airport. They are very mad, because they have nothing to do with it at all.

As far as I know, it is still legally called Melbourne International Airport. Since they think that would make us save the trip to Orlando, they should offer the same flights as O’town.

I never want to go to Orlando, if I can avoid it, but until they get more carriers here in town, it’s not going to change. With the increased land leasing to the aircraft manufacturer and the private carrier, I guess they don’t feel the need as much.

We still need the carriers - at least four to be competitive.

## I received free, top-quality

## healthcare in my youth

Personally, I testify that there has always been free, extensive, quality healthcare in the USA in my lifetime and I was born in 1937.

In 1945, when I was 7, I came down with a severe case of rheumatic fever. My heart was so badly inflamed I could not walk. I was hospitalized for six months in The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, one of the best in the country. Then I was sent to the Atlantic City Seashore Home for an additional three months of convalescence - all at no cost to my poverty-stricken, unskilled-labor parents.

In 1951, I came down with a second attack, only worse, and had to have complete bed rest for 18 months. I had complete medical attention (top-rated cardiologists and nurses) treat me. Again, my parents paid nothing.

In 1948, I came down with a ruptured appendix and peritonitis (three months of

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# Seniors

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have the resources to leave a danger area and must rely on local shelters. This will work for a few days, but the heat takes a tremendous toll on those in shelters and homes without power.

FPL did a great job getting power restored.

What compounds the problem in

Florida is the tremendous number of frail elderly and disabled who live in homes, both licensed and unlicensed. Most facilities caring for the elderly and disabled have adequate escape plans in place, but when it becomes necessary to evacuate so many at the last minute, or escape preparations are in fact inadequate, the difficulties can become overpowering. And, we saw evidence of this in the recent hurricanes.

In order to prevent needless suffering and loss of life, every county in Florida

should have an aging plan in place. We have plans to shelter and assist people in emergencies, but do we have plans to care for the disabled and frail elderly?

For years I have commented on the lack of senior leadership and planning in Brevard County. Many seniors simply can not manage on their own, some are not willing to make a call for help, while others do not know who to call.

Helping Seniors will continue to advocate for a Brevard County Aging Plan that is funded at a local level, one

that can help provide the leadership necessary to develop information, planning, and action to assist the disabled and frail elderly when necessary.

*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. Contact us at info@helping-seniorsofbrevard.org or by calling (321) 473-7770.*

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