

# 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.*

#### Our evacuation shelter - Heritage High School

We experienced a great welcome when we had Heritage High as our hurricane shelter during Hurricane Irma.

From the time we signed in until the day that we departed, everyone treated us like family, and I hope everyone else who had been in the shelter feel the same way.

Everyone was served three meals a day, plus sometimes snacks at night. During the night there was always someone who came into the room to check.

While everyone was so concerned regarding the storm and watching the results of the storm on TV in the lobby outside of the gym, coffee was served continuously, and sometimes snacks were also provided. But let me tell you, the coffee really helped everyone.

During meal times, handicapped or others were offered rides in a golf cart to the cafeteria, as it was a little distance. Others chose to walk. We had the opportunity to meet Mr. Karl McMillon, who had taken us with the golf cart on one occasion. He showed great compassion and kindness to us and I'm sure to many more.

I hope the school was left in decent condition, in case we have to evacuate again.

A sincere thank you to administration, cafeteria workers, custodians, police security and the principal. You all performed an exceptional job in a time of need. Bless each and every one of you.

#### FOUND: One black and white, male kitten

This is just a note to the person who

dropped off a black and white male tuxedo kitten in the early morning hours in a church parking lot off Port Malabar Drive on Monday, Sept. 18

I don't know what your motives were or what your situation was and won't judge you.

His little cries were heard, and we took him in. He is a sweet, beautiful little boy that has been welcomed into our home; we hope to give him a long life, full of love.

If your situation was desperate after the storm, and maybe you are wondering what happened to him; he's OK. All I ask in return is that you never do this again. Please.

#### More information about medical marijuana

A quick note to the writer who raises questions about medical marijuana:

Your questions about medical marijuana in Florida appear to be based upon speculative hysteria and not scientific research.

Medical marijuana in Florida is an exceptionally controlled method of providing care to individuals who must show significant proof that a need exists to receive this type of treatment.

While thousands of people, as you suggest, may apply for medical marijuana, unless an individual meets strict criteria, they will not be approved to receive treatment controlled by the state.

Doctors can write as many prescriptions as they want - and they must be specially state-trained doctors who can legally write these prescriptions - however, until the specially trained state employees review every single case, the chance of illegitimate persons receiving

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## Ready for the big game



Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer

Matt Erdman of Merritt Island and Raul Gutierrez of Palm Bay, both members of the Class of 2012, reminisce during the annual Melbourne Central Catholic Homecoming Bar-B-Que on Sept. 29.

## Emergency Fund

Dear Friends,  
One of the many good things about writing for seniors and senior issues is that it is a topic of concern to about half of us who live in Brevard who are senior citizens. And one thing that truly burns me up is when I read something that is associated with seniors that does not address the pertinent issues.

We are all concerned about the cost of government and the wasteful use of tax dollars. I have written several columns on the topic, researched the expenditure of local tax dollars, and am always interested in uncovering new ways we are misled about use of these dollars.

Recent articles in Florida Today informed us about two new emergency funds, one by the county and the other by United Way. While both need discussing, let's stay with the county fund for this article since it uses tax dollars while the United Way fund uses private dollars.

For several months, we have been treated to various discussions on the county budget and its ability, or lack thereof, to pay for road repairs. This



HELPING SENIORS  
OF BREVARD  
JOE STECKLER

past April, \$184,942 was cut from the county budget to use for road repairs, along with money gained by eliminating the Community Based Organizations (CBO) fund for nonprofits.

Now the county wants to use the same amount of money from its reserves (tax dollars) to fill the new emergency fund.

While discussing the subject, remember that the county has about 2,300 funded positions, of which about 10 percent remain unfilled at any time (another money source).

According to Ian Golden, Housing and Human Services (HHS) Director, we need this special fund for the people who fall through the cracks in emergencies, such as Hurricane Irma. Most of the money will be used to help resi-

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NBREVARD



## Rants

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this care is minimal when one analyzes the big picture behind the legislation.

Medical marijuana consists primarily of a substance known as cannabinoids which do not make people “high.” THC is the psychoactive ingredient that gets people “high.”

Scientists have developed means of extracting many different types of cannabinoids that are capable of treating nausea, anxiety, pain and inflammation, to name but a few.

Medical marijuana is used in lieu of extremely harmful pharmaceutical drugs. It is not right to subject people to using these proven harmful substances when safe alternatives are available and have been known to be for well over 30 years. “Big Pharma” and the United States government have conspired to

keep these alternative substances from the public for obvious fiscal reasons.

Finally, medical marijuana is not “legalized marijuana,” as you stated.

Additionally, it is not a fact that individuals who use marijuana use it as an “entry drug” to other drugs. People make a choice, like they do about the smallest of things in their lives; and if they choose to do otherwise, they do.

I, as well as many people, chose not to and did not climb the drug ladder you insist that happens.

Please research something before you make a generalized statement that follows the hysteria pattern of how our social media operates today.

### Store parking for beach access

A business in Indialantic absolutely does not care if a person uses its parking lot illegally to walk across the street to the beach.

When notified of a recent scofflaw, the store person had to call her manager, who has to call the district manager to get permission to call a tow company. Sometimes the district manager has to call the landlord of the building to make the call to the towing company.

As a result of these cumbersome layers of bureaucracy, the manager decided to do nothing when the store person phoned.

It is unfortunate that this Indialantic business cares so little about customer service.

### Compassionate Use of the 2016 Low-THC Cannabis and Marijuana Bill

The writer of the rant, “Questions about medical marijuana,” displays the fears and lack of information that has

kept marijuana in the shadows for decades.

Florida voters decided that the compassionate use of low-THC cannabis was more beneficial than the potential for harm.

The writer makes a statement ... “It’s a known fact that marijuana is the entry drug to most hard drugs.”

This is not a fact. It may be known from asserted falsehoods, including those purported by U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions, but what most people don’t realize is that the government has made research into marijuana practically impossible in this country. As a result, there are very few things that can be asserted as “known fact.”

What is known is that the greatest incidence of drug abuse in the United States is with the use of legally available opioid drugs. It is becoming a severe epidemic in many parts of the country.

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## Seniors

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dents, but since this is a very labor intensive task, some of the money will be used to pay for a temporary staff person to administer the program. I would add here that since the county is eliminating the CBO and other possible tasks assigned to HHS, why is it necessary to hire temporary staff in an emergency situation? Can’t HHS staff tighten their belts a little and do the work required by

this short term assignment?

One commissioner believed it should not be the task of government to step to the front in emergency situations, that there will never be enough tax money, and that private citizens should help underwrite the cost.

I agree and have worked some 25 years to build local nonprofit organizations that were independent of government funding.

What concerns me about the emergency plan is that we now have a \$184,942 fund from which a yet-to-be-determined

staff position will be paid and that will require HHS staff to complete a six-month progress report to the County Commission – all new costs when there are already reserves set up to do what this emergency fund seeks to accomplish.

I could add more but it would only add under fill to the already heavy topping.

This is yet another example of how we, the taxpayers, see only a small piece of the puzzle. We all know that the roads need fixing because we ride on them and feel the holes and bumps.

Instead of going through all this, why

not restore the \$184,942 to the reserve fund from which it was taken, modify the fund objectives and get on with helping people. Why create a mountain when a molehill was already there to do the job? Does the word efficiency strike a bell?

*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 the group at info@helpingseniorsofbrevard.org or call (321) 473-7770.*



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# FIT

## 2017 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
SEPT. 2	VIRGINIA LYNCHBURG	7 PM
SEPT. 9	MCNEESE STATE	7 PM
SEPT. 16	SHORTER	7 PM
SEPT. 23	MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE	8 PM
SEPT. 30	WEST FLORIDA	7 PM
OCT. 7	NORTH ALABAMA	7 PM
OCT. 14	NORTH GREENVILLE	2:30 PM
OCT. 21	WEST ALABAMA	2 PM
OCT. 28	VALDOSTA STATE	7 PM
NOV. 4	WEST GEORGIA	1 PM
NOV. 11	DELTA STATE	7 PM

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