

VIEWPOINT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2017 • THE BEACHES • WWW.HOMETOWNNEWSBREVARD.COM • PAGE 6

Rants & Raves

Got something to say?

Email the Hometown Rants & Raves at

brevnews@hometownnewsol.com

or call (321) 242-1276.

Contributors are asked to refrain from making libelous statements.

“Calvary” v. “Cavalry”

I was watching the news recently and here's another entry into the butchering of the English language. This one is by a spokesperson from California about the wildfires.

This person said, “Don't worry about it, the calvary is on its way.” It should have been pronounced as “CAVALRY.” I've heard that many, many times all over the place.

Thank you

I want to tell Sheriff Wayne Ivey thank you for the fundraisers he has organized and done for domestic violence. I also want to tell all police officers, advocates and people who help domestic violence victims thank you, as well.

It's a true problem in this county, it's a true problem in this state, and it's a true problem in this country.

It's not as easy to get out of the problem as people think. Some of the biggest homicides and mass shootings stem from domestic violence abusers.

I just wish there was more fundraising done in October for the cause. There's a lot of fundraising done for Breast Cancer because it's also in October, and if these two organizations can get together, maybe there'd be some more powerful help coming to the domestic violence cause.

Driver's license rip-off

The State of Florida of Motor Vehicles just ripped me off.

It was time for me to renew my driver's license. Nowadays, they require a lot of proof of who you are, and rightfully so. You need to bring in your old driver's license, birth certificate, two letters that are addressed to you at your current address, and you have to take an eye test.

I couldn't find my birth certificate, but since I was born in the state of Florida, all they have to do is look it up on the computer and they can see that I was born here.

In order for them to look it up on the computer, I have to give them my old driver's license. Dig it, my old driver's license isn't good enough to get me my new driver's license, but it is good enough to get me my birth certificate, which they can print out right in front of me, and charge me \$18.

Now, they take my new copy of my birth certificate and it's good to get me my new driver's license. This is a spin and a rip-off.

It doesn't make sense to me how they can get away with this when the proof is in the computer and in two seconds they can see I was born in the state of Florida. Then they charge me \$18 for my birth certificate and another \$54 to renew my driver's license.

They're ripping me off and they're ripping you off, too.

Calendar

From page 5

“Pet-Watch” calendar release White Pawty, hosted by Mrs. Elite Florida, Laura Kutryb and other calendar models, will be from 7 to 11:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 20,

at Fishlips Waterfront Bar & Grill in Port Canaveral.

The calendar was produced in the spirit of a “Baywatch” theme, with pets and models appearing in beach scenes. Models will be on hand to autograph complimentary

See CALENDAR, page 7

Getting in super-shape



Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer

Michael Conrad of Satellite Beach keeps a steady pace during the 10th annual Witch Way 5K on Oct. 14 in Indialantic.

Do we want nonprofits?

In light of all that is happening in Brevard County regarding nonprofit funding, now might be a good time to step back and review the entire process.

To the title of today's column I could add, “Do we need nonprofits?” Based on the way funding is derived from private and government sources, I believe that is a most pertinent question.

Generally speaking, most nonprofits are funded through federal, state, and local government, private donors, program fees, United Way, and foundations, which make up about 7 percent of the total raised. So you see that nonprofits are quite dependent on varying sources for their livelihood. Since most funds are developed at the local level, it is important that all donors understand where their dollars are going.

Answering the “want/need” question is difficult. If this were a perfect world, I might opt out of wanting nonprofits. However, in a not-so-perfect world, it



HELPING SENIORS
OF BREVARD
JOE STECKLER

would be difficult for government to fill the void left by nonprofits. Look at the way nonprofits stepped up to assist those damaged by Hurricane Irma. That is why I became concerned when county commissioners voted to eliminate \$510,000 in nonprofit funding from the county budget. Considering that 150,000 citizens in Brevard are elderly, does this diversion of funding from senior programs to road repair reflect true needs? Just as the use of taxpayer money by local government is decided by our commissioners, the use of donated monies to a nonprofit is dictated by its governing board of directors, not by the people who need assistance. For See SENIORS, page 7

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CIRCULATION AUDIT BY



BEACHES

Seniors

From page 6

instance, if you donate to the United Way and its board of directors believes that children are the No. 1 priority, then your contribution will probably go to children's programs, unless you specify otherwise.

Helping Seniors has approached United Way for four years and been told repeatedly that seniors are not a priority. If that is true, then I would recommend all senior donors become designated

donors. By stipulating where your dollars are spent, you will help those who are most likely to help you.

I think most donors would be quite surprised if they did a search of the IRS 990 statements that all funding sources are required to post. Having said the above, I cannot fathom why any board of directors that collects money from the public would not entertain giving some of that back to seniors and the frail elderly.

The other part of the giving and collecting equation regards overhead expenses of nonprofits that serve the

public. If I review an organization's 990 and see that about 40 percent of its revenue is directed to salaries, benefits, and operational costs, I would be most cautious about donating. This is not unusual and is a practice in which major charities engage. They just will not have me engaged with them.

As we approach the giving season, do some research on where you want your dollars spent. If you are a United Way donor, you can designate where your dollars go. I am quite certain many nonprofits who serve seniors could use your support.

So to answer my own questions, "Yes, we do need nonprofits." Moreover, we want organizations like United Way to review its giving priorities and consider doing more to support seniors and the frail elderly.

Joe Steckler is 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@helpingseniorsofbrevard.org or calling: 321-473-7770

Calendar

From page 6

calendars for attendees.

The fundraiser will feature live entertainment and dancing, appetizers, non-alcoholic beverages, and a cash bar. Participants should wear white attire. All guests will receive a complimentary calendar.

Proceeds will benefit the Brevard Humane Society for the cause of helping homeless animals. Tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite.com for \$40 or at <http://bit.ly/2z2nmvz>

For more information, call (321) 636-3343 x209 or email media@brevardhumanesociety.com

Dance, dance, dance: A dance on most third Fridays of each month will be Oct. 20 at the Tropical Haven Ballroom, 1205 Eddie Allen Road, Melbourne.

Lessons are at 7:30 p.m., with the dance from 8 to 11 p.m.

Admission is \$10, with 25 and younger \$5. Special dances may be more. The event is non-smoking, alcohol-free.

For more information, call (321) 427-3587 or email catiegeist@att.net.

SATURDAY, OCT. 21

Archaeologists for Autism: The Annual Archaeologists for Autism event will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, at Sams House at Pine Island, Pine Island Conservation Area, Merritt Island.

The event is open to children on the autism spectrum ages 5 to 17 years and young adults on the spectrum ages 18 to 22 who are enrolled in public school.

The cost is free.

For more information, call (321) 576-3334, (321) 576-3225, visit archaeologistsforautism.org or email arch4autism@gmail.com.

Antiques and Sidewalk Market: A Vintage Revival Antiques & Sidewalk Market will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, on Highland Avenue in Melbourne.

For more information, call (321) 574-2737 or email hq@eaugallieartsdistrict.com.

Fundraiser for children and veterans: The Exchange Club of South Brevard County Cornhole fundraiser benefiting Brevard Children & Veterans Services will be at noon, Saturday, Oct. 21, at Space Coast Harley-Davidson at Palm Bay Road and I-95 (Exit 176), rain or shine.

There will be live music, cash prizes, a silent auction and raffles.

Visit brevardcornhole.com for more information.

Second Annual Harvest Festival: Celebrate autumn at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary during the second annual Harvest Festival from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, at 444 Columbia Blvd., Titusville.

During this free event, guests can enjoy guided hikes, hay rides, special presentations, meet Florida wildlife, explore environmental exhibitors and educational activities and much more.

The festival will feature many children's activities, including face painting, hands-on activities exploring forest animals and autumn, nature crafts, log dissection and more.

Local vendors include The Organic Elephant: Organic Produce, Set Adrift: Handcrafted Home Goods, and Coastal Kitchen Food Truck.

For more events or information about the sanctuary and the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program, visit www.eelbrevard.com or call (321) 264-5185.

Pritchard House: Pritchard House Pritchard Day and Homespun October, a monthlong exhibit with special collections.

Pritchard Day on Saturday, Oct. 21, commemorates the Pritchard family moving into the house in October 1891. It also celebrates the birthday of Capt. James Pritchard and his granddaughter, Mary Pritchard Schuster, who was born in the house. Special tours will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Tours will include the Homespun Exhibit and

special collections. Reservations are suggested.

Homespun October features antique quilts, linens, pine needle baskets, wood work, vintage aprons, rag rugs and many other handmade items. Collections include vintage kitchenware, depression glass, moustache cups, antique washing machines, wash boards, sewing machines and more. Tours are by appointment.

For reservations or additional information, call (321) 607-0203 or email thepritchardhouse@yahoo.com.

For more information, visit www.pritchardhouse.com.

Florida Tech football: Florida Tech football hosts West Alabama at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, at Florida Tech Panther Stadium, 101 Pirate Lane, Melbourne.

See **CALENDAR**, page 9



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