

VIEWPOINT

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Rants & Raves

Got something to say?

Email the Hometown Rants & Raves at

brevnews@hometownnewsol.com
or call (321) 242-1276.

The Rants and Raves section provides a chance for readers to share their thoughts with other readers. The opinions included are not those of Hometown News or its employees

Please limit your submissions to 250 words, so that we can include more entries. Readers are asked to refrain from making libelous statements.

New tax bill is just the latest tax scam

A rant from last week suggested people watch all types of news to learn both sides of the GOP tax plan.

I suggest instead ask your accountant, ask people you do taxes for a living, ask people who are educated in this field, ask a tax professional.

I have asked and no one is for it.

In fact, many are against it and it will hit the poor and middle class the hardest.

It's really not tax reform and it is not better than what we have.

It will increase our debt and add one quarter-trillion dollars to our deficit.

Rubio's child tax credit helps higher incomes in the long run though he claims differently.

Claiming student loan interest is removed, mortgage interest removed, the negatives are endless.

Take a guess at which taxpayers are getting a huge tax cut gift and which taxpayers are getting a bad deal.

The only people I see that are excited about this are the ones who either don't understand it or are rich.

'Thank you' finds way to Good Samaritan

In response to "Rants & Raves" item "Be nice; good things go around, come around," I'm reasonably certain that I'm the one who recklessly left my purse in the cart at the Viera store parking lot.

Providing identification to store management resulted in getting my purse, with nothing missing, returned to me

within 45 minutes.

Many thanks for your honesty and prompt action. It's another example of my belief in miracles!

I'm sure you agree with the return of your driver's license.

Blessings!

Palm Bay water issues stressful, affecting health

A recent Rant addressed problems with Palm Bay Water.

I have paid my water bill every month online since the opportunity became available. I have the dates and confirmation number for each and every payment.

About a year ago, I stopped receiving e-bills. I continued to pay monthly by phone and on several calls requested a paper bill. I was told by a rep that a bill had been sent. It never happened.

On a Friday afternoon in December 2016, I discovered my water had been turned off. I was not given any notice whatsoever. I immediately called Palm Bay water and was told the water was stopped for "nonpayment" and I had to pay more than \$200 to have it turned back on.

Even though I knew this wasn't true, I had no other choice but to pay. Again in January and February an employee came to my door to announce he was turning the water off! I still had not received the promised bill.

I have contacted the mayor, who never returned my calls.

I spoke with the city manager who

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Prepare for warp-drive!



Alex Schierholtz/ staff photographer

A couple drives through the colorful, 200-foot 'Light Tunnel' at Space Coast Lightfest at Wickham Park in Melbourne. The family-oriented celebration, which features 3 million lights and animated displays, runs from 6:30 to 10 p.m. nightly through Jan. 1.

A tumultuous year

Dear Friends,
Reflecting back on 2017 causes me great concern regarding support for nonprofits that serve seniors and the frail elderly. Local media and letters to the editor evidence a basic misunderstanding of the role that government funding plays in the ability of nonprofits to help people. In the main, public dollars act as incentive money to encourage nonprofits to develop complementary funding and attract people who will use their services.

To clarify the above, let us look at ways to fund adult day care. The majority of those who need these services are not financially prepared when the need arises. However, government funding can act as seed money to encourage clients to pay part of the cost. I used this method as Director of the Alzheimer's Foundation for many years and it worked.

A recent writer to Florida Today commented that government needs to



HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD
JOE STECKLER

be out of the funding cycle, at which point churches, local donors, businesses, etc. would become funders. Having been involved in this work for 27 years, I can assure you this will not happen. Churches and many charities already have a purpose to which their funds are directed. Such letters mislead the uninformed and create false perceptions of how we need to prepare for an increased number of elders seeking assistance.

In a Utopian world this would not be a concern, but we live in a changing world, a world in which everyone can not save for the future and more people will need help. The recent act of the county commissioners to defund the Community Based Organization

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Seniors

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funding for nonprofits is an ill advised move. People will be hurt.

For 2018, my New Year's resolution is to continue to promote the needs of seniors in a way that will cause both private and government funding sources to financially support the work of

nonprofit organizations that assist seniors and the frail elderly. We forget that Brevard County has more seniors than children, but the majority of funding is directed to youth. For instance, the 2015 school tax has raised more money than expected, but have any of us seen the areas to which these monies are directed?

In 1965, President Johnson spearheaded the Older Americans Act, which provided federal funding to assist the

elderly. I saw the good this money could do if used as intended. Funding of nonprofit services must be better understood, managed, and utilized. We need a County Aging plan to develop both private and public resources to support our rapidly growing senior population. To think otherwise is to ignore a need that cannot be ignored.

We should be concerned. Read some of the history of the social service move-

ment in the United States, and you will see that religious efforts identified this problem many years ago. Perhaps we can move forward with better planning in 2018.

Joe Steckler is president of Helping Seniors of Brevard, a nonprofit organization designed to advocate and fundraise on behalf of Brevard's senior citizens. Contact the group at info@helpingseniorsofbrevard.org or call 321-473-7770

Rants

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assured me he would take care of the issue.

It is now more than one year and this problem still exists! All I hear is one lie after another. I have been told I am entitled to a refund and the bill is in the mail. Neither has happened.

I am 75 years old and the stress from this situation is affecting my health.

Palm Bay residents need to be more careful at elections.

Opiate problem getting worse; overcome addiction now

Narconon reminds families that the opiate problem is continuing to get worse and is now considered a "syndemic."

More than ever before, communities need to come together and educate parents and their children about the dangers of drug use.

To learn more about the Nation's drug

crisis, go to:

<http://www.narconon-suncoast.org/blog/opioid-crisis-now-considered-a-syndemic.html>

Narconon can help you take steps to overcome addiction in your family. For free screenings or referrals, call 877-841-5509

Miserable people need to draw shades and stay home

My rant is about miserable people. The number of miserable people or those wanting to make people around them miserable is rising at an alarming rate.

Why can't anyone have a good time anymore?

Why bother leaving the house to complain?

Stay home with th shades drawn, that way you won't have anything to complain about. Everyone will be happier for it.

See you in the Spring.

I've been a fan of Publix for years

Publix is a wonderful, friendly, clean store that stands behind everything it sells.

I have been going there for years and have not been dissatisfied in any way, shape or form.

The people are wonderful.

I love my Publix, where shopping is a pleasure. Thank you.

Adults to blame for addiction to social media devices

This is to let everyone out there know that while we're out here blaming all the teenagers for their selfishness and their social media addictions, I'm seeing lots of parents in their 20s, 30s, 40s and 50s, with the same devices in their hands with the same addictions.

Maybe we need to address the big problem of the big adults instead of the teenagers and the children.

Remember they're watching. The little people are watching the big people.

Elected officials must be jailed for delaying dispensaries

The people legally voted on marijuana being made legal for medicinal purposes,, so why are our elected officials and county commissioners getting away with blocking the people's decision to get these organizations starting it up and going?

These people that should follow the laws that are breaking the laws, and that are not allowing marijuana dispensaries after a year, should be rounded up and put in jail.

These people are breaking the law. This is a law people voted on. It's disgraceful. Someone should stop them. When are they going to wake up?

What do they think they can do? Anything they want to? They can't. It's the voters right to demand to put these dispensaries out before 2018. It was voted on in 2016.

Babcock Street is worst road

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Proudly Announce Your Life Events in the Hometown News

- Baby Birth
- Birthdays
- Achievements
- Prom/Homecoming
- Graduation
- Valentine
- Military
- Retirement
- Engagement
- Wedding
- Milestones

Call Catherine for more information (321) 242-1013

RUN AND FIGHT CHILDHOOD HUNGER

Health First
5K
FIGHT CHILD HUNGER
RUN / WALK

Saturday January 13, 2018

Viera High School
6103 Stadium Parkway, Melbourne
8:00 am race start
Adults \$25 day of race \$30
Youth 12 & under \$15 day of race \$20
For more information or to register visit
<http://www.fightchildhunger5k.org>

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