

# VIEWPOINT

FRIDAY, JAN. 26, 2018 • THE BEACHES • WWW.HOMETOWNNEWSBREVARD.COM • PAGE 6

## Rants & Raves

### Got something to say?

Email the Hometown Rants & Raves at

[brevnews@hometownnewsol.com](mailto: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.

### Have a little faith; miracles come in all sizes

I have an answer for the person who wrote: Returned purse not a miracle, it was an act of kindness.

Miracles come in all sizes. Although this was a small one, the gesture meant everything to this woman and restored her faith in humanity.

To politicize this gesture is petty and mean, and just shows your callousness toward humanity.

As you stated it was the decent and moral thing to do and in our society we have lost this and replace it with cynicism.

Another miracle will be you thinking beyond your politics and embracing the notion that people wake up everyday and strive to do their best this includes all the people, even our leader.

Have a little faith. Miracles do happen.

### Republicans, 'we the people' will NOT forget your silence

I'm a retired New York Deputy Fire Chief. I am just an average, but literate and educated guy.

Why is it no surprise to me what is being reported in the Michael Wolff book? How did I know or why was I not shocked by most of this stuff coming out about Trump?

If Wolff's information about Trump is a surprise to anyone, then you have had your head in the sand for a very long time or you might want to look up the term cognitive dissonance. From the first day of Trump running for president, I have had a bumper sticker on my truck that

shows a photo of Trump with the words "I am such an idiot!"

But what I would like to ask is, what is wrong with the sycophant Republicans in Washington who have chosen partisanship over protecting our democracy?

What more has this POTUS of a child have to do before they say enough is enough? A war?

Republicans, "we the people" will NOT forget your silence and lack of courage come election time.

I'll end it with this . . . I had a firefighter in my department who never would go inside to fight a fire.

He later became the chief of the department, which was the end of morale in that department.

### County should be responsible for removing Irma debris

I live on Viera Golf Course subdivision. All streets in the subdivision are dedicated to the public meaning Brevard County will maintain the street including the Right-Of-Way area which will be 25 feet from either side of the center line of the street.

During the Hurricane Irma fiasco, many owners lost lots of trees and I was not an exception.

We hired a landscaping company to cut broken trees, limbs, stumps etc and they dumped on the devil strip the sodded area between street and sidewalk.

I called Waste Management garbage disposal company and they pointed the finger to the county.

I called county and they passed on to FEMA. I called FEMA and nobody picked

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## On the causeway for a cause



Alex Schierholtz/Staff photographer

Hundreds of men and women walk across the Eau Gallie Causeway on Jan. 21 in solidarity with the Women's March on Washington, D.C. The event was sponsored by the Brevard National Organization for Women.

## Brevard belongs to all

My last column about a senior couple who could not pay their utility bill sparked outrage and disbelief from our readers, but I assure you that this is a major problem among low-income people.

I was not surprised at your concern, for I have long been aware of the many caring people in Brevard who want to help those less fortunate than themselves. My task now is to make more people aware of this need in our community where we can develop \$100,000 for toys and gifts for children and seniors at Christmas, but leave such major concerns unfunded.

Almost two years ago the Advocacy Council of Helping Seniors of Brevard, a group of concerned citizen volunteers, researched local senior needs and developed an outline for a County Aging Plan. The paper was submitted to the County Commission, but not one replied. It is hard to explain the commissioners' unilateral disinterest in addressing the stated concerns of their constituents, especially when those age 50 and older make up half of Brevard's population.

We have major nonprofits in Brevard County that receive millions of federal, state, county, and local dollars to help seniors, but if seniors do not know about these programs, how do they serve ALL people?

When Meals on Wheels was recently denied funding through the competitive CBO grant process, public uproar caused the county to fund it as a \$64,000 recurring



HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD  
JOE STECKLER

line item in the county budget. If the nonprofit that runs Meals on Wheels should lose all federal funding, would the county create a \$1 million line item for it also?

While all this was happening, where was County Housing and Human Services, which has as a primary responsibility overseeing these programs?

In this instance, as in many other documented cases, said oversight was sadly lacking. Many of my callers express dismay that the problems I describe in my articles exist in Brevard County. I assure you that they do, and many are caused by the way we fund nonprofits, distribute grant funds, and manage funds collected by local agencies who operate out of the public line of sight.

Hot rod raffle: Mark Pieloch, owner of the American Muscle Car Museum, has invited Helping Seniors to his museum on Feb. 10 to raffle a 1951 Ford Victoria hot rod given to us by A.J. Hiers. Tickets are a \$25 donation for one, or \$100 for five. Your ticket will help a local charity which helps seniors, gives you a chance to win the car, admits you to the event, which features refreshments and an art auction, and

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CIRCULATION AUDIT BY



BEACHES

# Rants

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up the phone per federal regulations section 420!

Amazing.

The debris did not get picked up for nearly two months and with such a lethargic delay, the devil sod was ruined.

I got a citation from our association and so are many residents and we all ended up hiring a landscape company to replace the sod costing me \$200.

The irony is I got a bill from our association for \$115 for cleanup of debris owing to the destruction of IRMA.

Technically our association should reimburse all the homeowners who replaced the sod at the devil strip.

As an engineer, I believe the county should foot the bill and association sending a bill was uncalled for.

## Lesson learned: No good deed goes unpunished

A couple of years ago, my wife and I found a purse on Palm Bay Road.

We determined that since it was found inside Melbourne city limits, we took the purse to the Melbourne Police Department on North Apollo Boulevard.

Once we arrived, we were treated like crooks or purse snatchers.

We were detained at the police station for at least two hours while they determined the status of the purse.

We attempted to leave a couple of times and were told that we were not to leave the building.

Finally, when we were told we could leave, we did not even receive a thank you for turning in the purse or driving miles out of our way.

Will we ever do it again, I doubt it very seriously. Once burned, once learned.

## Trains do not leave rails to hunt drivers or pedestrians

Brightline is to blame because people are stupid?

Any train is hard not to see. Any train is really hard not to hear. What excuse has anyone for being struck by a train?

All three recent deaths involved adults, not children. If the train were really to blame, would we not expect children to be

the likely victims? If children can obey safety rules and respect railway right-of-ways, should we not reasonably expect adults to do so? None of those adults were blind and deaf that I've heard.

We all see drivers who likewise brazenly endanger themselves and others, every day, to get to the next red light one car length sooner. Some even ignore the red light. We don't blame the road, the signs, the traffic lights, etc. We know perfectly well that it is the stupid driver, who could care less about anyone else, that is the offender. Those same stupid drivers go around protective gates at rail crossings. Many of us have watched them. How is that idiocy any rail line's responsibility?

Sadly, there are stupid pedestrians and cyclists, too. They ignore all the safety features installed for their protection. Just like those stupid drivers, they are intent on beating the train. It rarely works, but they insist. Why is that stupidity any rail line's fault?

Sadly too, politicians reward that stupidity by clamoring for the train's shutdown. They know full well that there is no valid reason for such action, but they chirp anyway. Stupid people are periodically killed by freight trains for the same excuses. Speed of the train makes little difference. Not one politician quoted has been honest enough to call stupidity for what it is.

Trains do not leave their rails to hunt and run down unsuspecting drivers or pedestrians. It is time to face facts. Honestly.

## County must complete roads before permitting new homes

Why does Brevard County permit new construction for homes and apartments before improving or completing the roads around the new homes?

How is it that Brevard ran out of money and couldn't finish St. Andrew's Drive near the Avenues, but found the money to start a new interchange on Interstate 95 by Viera Avenue?

We already have congestion on Judge Fran because of the government offices, school board offices and the Avenues shops.

Then they allow more apartments to be built on Judge Fran without thinking of how all the extra people are going to impact the flow of traffic.

Brevard needs to finish St. Andrew's

Drive to allow people to get around the congestion on Judge Fran Drive.

Traffic is only going to get worse once the hotel is finished and occupied.

## Young must stop buying into lies, signing up to be cannon fodder

In response to the retired Army sergeant, with all due respect sir, how can anyone claim that the US and NATO forces have brought stability to the world?

They illegally have invaded country after country, their objectives based on lies and propaganda on behalf of the international banking cabal who wants only to destabilize these countries and rob them of their resources and sovereignty.

Tell us how Libya, Syria and Iraq are doing after these illegal invasions, their countries left in chaos for the rich to move in like vultures and steal their gold, their oil, their minerals and their drugs.

How about that ongoing "war" in Afghanistan with it's booming heroin exports, courtesy of the USA and the CIA? Just last year they set a record for poppy production while the heroin epidemic here at home rages on with no signs of slowing down. Imagine that. What a connection, huh?

While the beleaguered taxpayers (what's left of them) continue to fund these wars based on lies and propaganda, have you noticed the crumbling infrastructure? The run-down neighborhoods, the potholed, garbage strewn roads? Have you taken the long drive down U.S. 1 from Palm Bay to Titusville to see the vacant, storm-torn buildings, the empty storefronts and dilapidated shopping plazas?

And the concluding paragraph of your letter screams "doublespeak" from George Orwell's classic book "1984" by stating "conflict is good", or "conflict in a peaceful way."

There can be no such thing in a peaceful world.

It's time for the young people of this country to stop buying into the lies and stop signing up to be cannon fodder for the rich families who fund both sides of these illegal wars.

It's time for them to stay here at home and be a "force for good" here in their own country, in their own communities.

# Calendar

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on Sunday, Jan. 28, at Camping World Stadium. The game begins at 3 p.m. The "NFL Experience" begins at 1 p.m. The cost is \$105 per person and includes transportation to and from the stadium.

Transportation will leave the Tony Rosa Community Center, at 1502 Port Malabar Blvd. NE, at 11 a.m. and depart Camping World Stadium 30 minutes after the conclusion of the game. You do not have to be an Adventurers Club member to attend the trip.

To download registration forms, visit [www.pbfl.org/AdventurersClub](http://www.pbfl.org/AdventurersClub).

For more information, email [adventurersclub@pbfl.org](mailto:adventurersclub@pbfl.org) or call the Tony Rosa Community Center at 321-952-3443, the Ted Whitlock Community Center at 321-952-3231, or Mike Cosumano at 321-952-3444.

## MONDAY, JAN. 29

**Grief support group:** The Hospice of St. Francis will host a Grief Support Group at 10 a.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Palm Bay Library, 1520 Port Malabar Blvd., NE.

For more information, call Christy Taylor at 321-269-4240 or email [bereavementservices@hospiceofstfrancis.com](mailto:bereavementservices@hospiceofstfrancis.com).

**Grief support group:** Hospice of St. Francis will host a Grief Support Group at 1 p.m. Mondays and 10 a.m. Thursdays, at 4875 N. Wickham Road, Suite 108,

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# Brevard

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enables you to see a collection of 252 muscle cars not usually open to the public. Be part of the community effort to support a local nonprofit. For tickets, call Kay at 321-473-7770 or go to [www.helpingseniorsofbrevard.org](http://www.helpingseniorsofbrevard.org). Join us for an evening of fun.

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](mailto:info@helpingseniorsofbrevard.org) or call 321-473-7770

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