

VIEWPOINT

FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2018 • MELBOURNE • 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.

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

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

By following Commandment, no one will be killed

The Constitution says: "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

So to all the folks concerned about regulating guns, the better thing would be just to obey the Commandment not to kill or murder.

It's in Exodus 20.

Parents, police should keep people off street during parade

Who doesn't like a parade? Every year Melbourne has a wonderful St. Patrick's Day Parade. We tell our friends and family how great it is and look forward to it every year. Well, with the exception of this year.

We arrived very early, acquired a good location and set back for a fun parade. Directly across the street were 14 children, with various parents. These children were on the street.

When one group in the parade came by you could not tell who was in the parade because the children were everywhere.

An antique car had a radiator hose bust. The driver did an excellent job of getting it off the road. The hot fluid went down instead of flying out to the side. These children could have been seriously injured. Still no one told them to step back.

An older gentleman on a scooter pulled in front of us and stopped. He was so close to the vehicles in the parade that he actually shook hands (while seated on his scooter) with two different drivers in the parade. Before anyone says, well he may have been a veteran, my husband is a 39-year Army veteran and the other gentlemen with us is a

20-year veteran.

Safety should be everyone's concern. Parents, keep your children out of the street. Folks on scooters or in wheelchairs stay out of the roadway. Police, you do a great job but you are the authority. You are the ones who will have to come to the aid of someone who gets hurt.

Please ask folks to get back once the parade has started. Parade organizers, invest in a bullhorn and announce for everyone to stay back as the parade passes by.

Let's enjoy a great parade with safety first.

Beachgoers, please follow some simple rules

Most people go to the beach for it's peace, tranquility and a beautiful view. Please consider these simple rules while choosing your location to sit.

1) Allow at least 10-15 feet in any direction between you and the closest person next to you. Spread out.

2) If you have children, try to move to a more secluded spot or nearer to the water. Not everyone loves your children screaming or wants sand kicked up.

3) If you have a tent or umbrella, be mindful of other peoples' view. They were there first. Don't block their view of the ocean.

4) Don't sit directly in front of another party. Try to find an angle so they still have a view of the ocean.

If you arrive later, walk a little farther down to the water so others can enjoy it also.

Brevard has more than 70 miles of beach. Give everyone a little room, so we can all enjoy it.

Tons of fun



Alex Schierholtz/Staff photographer

Robert and Mia Arencibia, 7, both of Melbourne, check out an armored truck of West Melbourne Police Department during West Melbourne Spring Festival on April 7 at Veterans Memorial Complex.

All have a right to live

Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Where have we heard those words?

We hear a lot about children: lunch programs, a tax to fund schools, the need to pay teachers more. But how many of us really know the cost of aging? Try some research on the internet or listen to neighbors or family members who are not as well off as you might be. Think about the many that live on Social Security; a spouse dies and the widow or widower tried to eke it out on one check. And, if you think I am exaggerating, I assure you I am not.

Before 1935 we had never heard the words social security except in a dictionary and not linked together as we do today. Many thought this program would sustain them in their old age, but today we know better. Still, some people want to rely on Social Security as a primary source of income. While we do not have to fund or even help such people, not everyone who falls into this category gets there intentionally; rather it happens as a result of many factors. Let's just say it is an inevitable circumstance and plan for it.

The words life and happiness hit at



HELPING SENIORS
OF BREVARD
JOE STECKLER

the heart of today's article. Recently I answered our helpline for three days. One caller was trying to find affordable housing for a friend whose income would be halved by a death – the new income of \$1,100 would not even cover the cost of the mobile home and electricity. In another situation, the caller could no longer afford his home when the rent was raised. The third call too was for affordable housing. No one had a retirement fund, qualified for veteran's benefits, or had any other source readily available.

It is difficult to live or be happy if one cannot afford the cost of existence, and that is exactly what I am referring to in today's article. Affordable housing is a topic that needs more than just discussion. Our local planning boards, commissioners, and county and city government. See SENIORS, page 7

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Seniors

From page 6

ments should be seeking solutions and funding to solve this issue. It is way beyond the talking stage and well into the action stage, but little is being done to truly fix the problem.

The Advocacy Council of Helping Seniors will make affordable housing an important action item in 2018.

In response to last week's column, a new volunteer signed up. She told me that she was unaware of so many needs in our community and wanted to be involved.

I thanked her for her willingness to help, as I will any citizen who wants to become a member of our proactive citizen action group.

The problem of affordable housing will continue to grow until it is resolved through leadership from citizens who truly care for and believe in the words life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Call Kay, our information specialist, at (321) 473-7770 to join the Helping Seniors Advocacy Council.

We need you.

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

Steward accepting nominations for top EMS provider awards

For Hometown News
newsml@hometownnewsol.com

BREVARD COUNTY – In celebration of National Emergency Medical Service (EMS) week, Steward Health Care System will host its First National EMS Stewards of the Community Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, May 23, at the Hilton Melbourne Rialto Place, 200 Rialto Place, Melbourne.

Steward, which operates three local hospitals, including Melbourne Regional Medical Center, Rockledge Regional Medical Center and Sebastian River Medical Center, will recognize several

Emergency Medical Services providers for going "above and beyond" in their interactions with patients at each of Steward's community hospitals.

To nominate an EMS provider in your community for an EMS Stewards of the Community award, visit info.steward.org/emsaward2018-FL. Nominations must be received by Friday, April 27.

"EMS providers are on the front lines of health care delivery, often helping patients when every second counts," said Brenden Hayden, director of EMS at Steward Health Care. "We encourage all members of the Steward family to nominate outstanding EMS providers in their

community to thank them for their life-saving work."

The awards show appreciation for emergency medical responders and dispatchers, emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians and paramedics who not only carry out the work of caring for others, but do so with a high degree of expertise, professionalism and compassion. An internal committee of physicians, nurses and EMS Managers will review nominations and select recipients for each of the Steward hospitals.

Calendar

From page 5

Duck race: The 20th annual Great Brevard Duck Race starts at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, April 15, at Sand Point Park in Titusville.

During the free, family-friendly event, Rubber ducks will race for great prizes, including the grand prize of a free, two-year lease on a 2018 Honda Fit.

Duck adoptions help support Crosswinds Youth Services, which provides shelter, food, emergency

services, counseling and other support to vulnerable children.

For more information, go to www.greatbrevardduckrace.com.

Health fair: The Space Coast Family Health Fair is from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 15, at the Melbourne Auditorium, 625 E. Hibiscus Blvd., Melbourne.

The free event focuses on health education and features vendors, health screenings, fitness classes, chair massages, CPR, First Aid training, safety workshops, kids activities including

bounce houses, photo booth, face painting and balloon animals.

For more information, go to facebook.com/events/465107290554548.

Beginning Hebrew class: Learn to speak Hebrew at 12:15 p.m. Sundays at Temple Israel, 7350 Lake Andrew Drive, Viera.

The class is taught by Peter Czutrin, from Israel.

You do not need to be Jewish to learn Hebrew and can begin the course anytime.

It is open to all teens and older and the See CALENDAR, page 8

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