

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 & 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.

Rules of the road should not affect courteousness

With response to "Friendly Reminder," true, effective, to the point, polite, and may save some lives from the effects of road rage.

Here's my "Friendly Reminder"...
"Move over, road hog!"
Thank you, Mr. Magoo.

Lack of solar panel rebate may prove more important to some

To the engineer from Chicago who is upset that the state of Florida does not offer rebates for adding solar panels.

I'll make this short and sweet: Move back to Chicago.

Design hot dog roll baking pan so hot dogs can fit in bun

The hot dog roll that is out to lunch.

Why is it that we have been able to launch men into space, walk on the moon, launch a car into outer space, and found cures for a great number of once incurable diseases, invented the telegraph, telephone, television, cell phones and computers... but why-oh-why haven't we figured out how to make a hot dog bun that actually fits a hot dog?

Now this is important. Almost everyone likes a hot dog and have had their mishaps with a wayward dog.

Let's figure this thing out.

I would like to challenge our young students to design a hot dog roll baking pan that produces a hot dog roll that actually works well with a hot dog.

I am sure that if we can launch rockets

into space, we can produce just such pan. Maybe our local NASA engineers could evaluate the students solutions to this problem and help them produce just such a baking pan.

'Coexist' and 'Pray For Peace' stickers share same message

A bumper sticker's intention is to show support for a place, candidate, or concept, etc.

It doesn't promise a favorable result. It merely shows support.

A "Coexist" sticker shows support for that concept. Would you consider it an embarrassment to post a "Pray For Peace" sticker and ask that it be covered, because it is unlikely to happen?

"Coexist" and "Pray For Peace" are both of the same concept! They both support peace!

Trained dogs might be answer to school shootings

These articles about school shootings and police who are hiding from the shootings are annoying.

I am surprised that someone has not raised the possibilities of trained canines.

Dogs are loyal and trustworthy and fearless when teamed up with a leader.

The Army has used trained dogs. The police use trained dogs. Wealthy people have trained dogs to protect property and life and limb.

Trained dogs are not known to run away from trouble. They can be lovable, loyal and dedicated.

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First Cuba cruise sets sail



Alex Schierholtz/Staff photographer

Jeff, Nina and Dean Lloyd of Melbourne wave from Jetty Park on May 7 as the 1,936-passenger Norwegian Sun departs on its inaugural voyage from Port Canaveral to Havana, Cuba, with a stop at Key West. The Norwegian Sun is the first cruise ship ever to travel to Cuba from the port. Norwegian Cruise Line will offer four- and five-day trips from the port to the Cuban capital.

Become a senior advocate

Readers of my column are well aware of my efforts to inform our community about the needs of seniors. Today's topic concerns seniors who have not been able to adequately prepare for unknown needs; they may have tried but been unsuccessful due to any number of reasons. Nevertheless we must still consider our overall capability to assist those who will at some point need our help to live with dignity.

Brevard County has a huge number of senior citizens, including many who need help finding affordable housing and transportation, medical and dental care, nutritious food, assisted living and nursing home care that does not increase already excessive levels of stress, and other services necessary to live and not be a burden on our community.

If you are not aware, the needs I have just spelled out are things that most of us take for granted.

We have programs, many of which are provided by nonprofit organizations, that do their very best to meet these needs. But finding information on such programs can be a challenge, particularly since local radio stations and newspapers are on the decline, Spectrum TV will not provide air time for local charities (as Brighthouse used to do), and FLORIDA TODAY caters to younger people who rely more on their



HELPING SENIORS
OF BREVARD
JOE STECKLER

iPhones to acquire news. This makes *Hometown News* and other senior friendly publications even more important.

With time we can reduce dependence on almost anything, but in some cases we do not have that time. While seniors are inclined to read a newspaper, if we eliminate news important to seniors, why would they want to buy a paper?

Somehow we have managed to get our priorities turned upside down, stunting our ability to accurately portray senior needs and develop a capability to meet those needs. It does not bode well for seniors when they are kept in the dark about decisions that directly affect them.

For instance, why doesn't a community of 550,000, half of them seniors, know that five county commissioners have voted to eliminate funding for local nonprofits that provide senior daycare, transportation, and information? How do we hope to ever fund a county aging plan

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PALM BAY

Seniors

From page 6

that will assist a rapidly growing number of seniors if we continue to defund necessary and affordable programs?

Right now there are 65,000 seniors on waiting lists for Medicaid managed care in Florida, and these numbers will only increase unless we take positive action.

Eliminating county-based funding for

nonprofits is a poor way to develop cost-effective services for seniors. The same can be said about United Way closing its doors to new nonprofit organizations that provide information about senior services and needs.

At the same time, we are increasing tax revenues for children's education and endorsing a campaign to add new Children Services dollars to an already over taxed general revenue fund. This does not make sense to this writer. Nor does the planting of new trees, pouring of new

concrete medians, and a plethora of new road projects, none of which serve to fix the holes. These actions try one's patience as well as common sense.

If you believe that seniors are just as important as children and roads, then contact Kay at Helping Seniors at (321) 473-7770 and join the Helping Seniors Advocacy Council. We will meet the first Tuesday of every month and welcome you at our next meeting at 10:30 a.m. June 5 at the Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of Commerce, 400 Fortenberry Road in

Merritt Island, as we advocate for seniors and nonprofit funding. Be part of the solution, not the problem.

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.

Rants

From page 6

Animal abusers need to be found and stopped

Did you see that man beating that dog? Didn't that picture bring tears to your eyes or make you sick to your stomach?

What could this little dog have done that was so bad he deserved a beating?

He's probably been beaten before, but he can't tell us.

Was this drunken rage or, more likely drug related? Or was it just a mean, evil man?

I hope the little dog recovers and gets a second chance in a kind, loving home.

As for the man, they should lock him up and throw away the key. But, no, he'll probably be let loose with a "warning" (ha, ha) so he can get another little animal to beat up on.

Really? This has to stop. Am I the only

person who sees such cruelty here?

Some rants you really just don't understand

Thank you Neville Chamberlain fan clubs for your learned and ethical insights as to our country's friends and enemies . . . (read your history) . . .

I will not dignify any of your responses any longer.

Continue sleeping with your pet boa constrictors because they are cute and friendly.

I probably lost you with that metaphor. God help you!

Some general contractors are very good at big and small jobs

I was so happy to see positive comments in your column that I had to send one.

I moved out to the area two years ago

and purchased a condo that needed major updating and had the greatest luck on finding a general contractor to do some of the work.

I have just bought a larger one and this also needed work and I called him to get my estimates. He is there working right now.

New windows, all new doors interior, bathroom update, paint for everything including the ceilings and new closet organizers. Many other items on my list. He advertises no job too big or too small and his rates are the best I have seen in Florida.

So if you are looking for a great contractor call Bill Yehnert Jr., GC, I highly recommend him.

Space Coast Symphony Orchestra worth the listen

Once again Space Coast Symphony Orchestra has wowed us with another incredible concert under the capable and

passionate baton of artistic director and conductor, Aaron Collins.

Beginning with "Transcending," written by a world-famous composer, Christopher Marshall, for talented trumpeter, Luis Miguel Araya and the SCSO, the audience was treated to unique and mesmerizing rhythms and tones. The sweet and pure ring of Mr. Araya's trumpet contrasted the string section beautifully.

As always, on this very full and satisfying program, the full orchestra heightened our senses with performances of Romeo and Juliet followed by an equally incredible rendition of Rimsky-Korsakov's classical show-stopper, Scheherazade, featuring amazing soloists and especially the tender violin interludes by concert master Carey Moorman.

Don't hesitate to attend future concerts and please donate to "The Symphony For Everyone" The Space Coast Symphony Orchestra, celebrating its 10th season. Experience the magic.

Imagine yourself waking up to this panoramic view...




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