

The Island Reporter

The Premier Paper of South Pinellas County

Area Broadcaster puts Voice to Work for Charity

By Larry Lewis

That voice. Deeply resonant and articulate, the stuff of DJ dreams. On a recent weekday, it fills the air in Dick Crippen's fourth-floor office in Tropicana Field, home to the Rays. Down the hall, crisply attired millennials pour over player stats in rooms framed by expansive views of the ball field.

Surrounded by memorabilia and awards, Dick has a story to tell of five decades in broadcasting and countless hours devoted to charitable work throughout his beloved Tampa Bay.

Today, he is senior advisor to the Rays, a job he's held for 17 years. The title, he says, "is more for the grey hair than the advice." He conducts community outreach on behalf of the team, an understated job description. "I set my own schedule; whatever has to be done." He emcees events, speaks at clubs and puts groups together with the team for benevolent causes. "I'm a facilitator," with the blessing of team owner Stu Sternberg, whose support continues that of original owner Vince Naimoli. Dick says, "I worked to bring the team here, and I ended up working for them. It's unreal."

His people skills, creative mind and boundless energy were the bedrock of his career in radio and television, dating back to the later 1950s, when the teenaged Tenafly, New Jersey native worked as a page at NBC in New York while studying psychology and advertising at Johns Hopkins. "I worked the last 'Howdy Doody' episode," when the ever-silent Clarabell Clown uttered his only words, "Goodbye, kids." Dick also paged for "The Jack Parr Show," "The Price Is Right" and Perry Como. He once refused Bob Newhart admission into a studio, unaware that he was a guest.

Still, "I never envisioned broadcasting until relocating to St. Petersburg to study business at the



Dick Crippen talks on the phone in his office at Tropicana Field. He has been a senior advisor to the Tampa Bay Rays for 17 years, responsible primarily for community outreach. Inset photo is of his plaque for supporting Special Operations Warrior Foundation.

Photo by Larry Lewis.

University of Tampa, around 1960. I got off the plane, looked around and said, 'Where has this been all my life?'" He soon found radio work on WDAE, doing a split shift of early mornings and late shutdowns. Thus began an alphabet soup of station call letters.

When channel 8 (WFLA) needed a booth announcer, Dick signed on, eventually being trained as a weatherman. When JFK was shot, Dick told Tampa Bay while on-air at WINQ-AM. After that station closed, he landed at WILZ radio, atop Guy Lombardo's Port O' Call resort on Tierra Verde.

"The entertainers there had little to do during the daytime," he recalls. "This fellow wandered into the station to watch us. He asked if he might read

VOICE continued on page 8

Chamber Pushes for Flood Action

By Betsy Judge

The challenges facing Congress when they return to Washington in September are daunting. Try to pass a budget before the start of the fiscal year on Oct. 1. Do something about the debt ceiling by early fall. Get the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act through the Senate and worry about healthcare. All these issues have far reaching consequences with lots of concerned constituents.



A truck plows through standing water in Clearwater. As of last fall, almost 1.8 million Floridians had flood insurance and could be impacted by changes in the National Flood Insurance Program or by lack of action on the part of Congress in September.

Photo courtesy of Pinellas County

That hefty, post-recess agenda should worry the 5 million Americans who rely on flood insurance or live around areas that do because the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) must be reauthorized by Sept. 30 or new policies can't be written. That can impact the housing market and economy here, according to the Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce.

Recall the flood scare of 2013 when the Biggert-Waters Insurance Reform Act of 2012 was going to phase out flood insurance subsidies on hundreds of thousands of older homes, many in Pinellas County. That would have resulted in astronomical increases in flood insurance rates. The public and political outcry yielded the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2013 which reduced some of the reforms of the earlier bill.

Many policy holders breathed a sigh of relief, but with the fate of NFIP hanging again, Doug Izzo, who keeps an eye on government affairs for the chamber, is encouraging voters to get in touch with their legislative representatives and push them to act this month.

There is good news. Senators Rubio and Nelson are co-sponsors of a bi-partisan bill to overhaul NFIP, and Congressman Crist is calling for Congress to re-authorize the program and support accessible and affordable flood insurance. And the chamber is positive about the pending legislation in both the House and Senate related to flood insurance.

The House has a package of bills that include: H.R.2875, the NFIP Administrative Reform Act. H.R.1558, the Repeatedly Flooded Communities

FLOOD continued on page 10



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Photograph by: Dan Cleary, Madeira Beach
"Willetts in Flight"



Participants are allowed to submit one photo per month by the 10th of the month for the next contest. Submit to: info@theislandreporter.com



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Sunshine School: A Unique Learning Adventure

By Sally G. Yoder

The first sign of summer ending is the back to school scurry dreaded by students and welcomed by parents. But back in 1926 when the Sunshine School in Pass-a-Grille opened its doors, local children were eager to gather inside having outgrown a little brick house on 10th Avenue that had served as their school for several years.

Sunshine School was the first Pinellas County school on the islands and sat on Pass-a-Grille Way between 24th and 23rd streets. Located in what was considered a central location, it soon became a unique teaching facility. The original school had four classrooms, an auditorium, a small office and clinic, restrooms, kitchen and screened porch. The

early classes were small enough to have two grades in one room.

"I attended Sunshine School in 1952 and '53. I am still close to most of my classmates," says Carol Vogler Bonanno originally from Ohio. "I loved sitting on the patio after lunch while our

SCHOOL continued on page 13

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From the Publisher

By Betsy Judge

My dad's feet were excruciatingly ticklish. He was a gentle giant, but touch his bare foot and you could be propelled through the air, and he didn't mean to do it. You could do anything to my mom's feet and it didn't bother her a bit. That didn't come naturally; she spent years mastering it, and when I was young she taught me by gently tickling my feet while telling me, "Think of something else...relax...it's mind over matter. That's tough for a kid, but I learned mind over matter and managed not to squeal when being tickled on my feet-I managed to change.

A number of people I've gotten to know through the paper make livings motivating and teaching people to change; it is generally geared toward taking charge of your life and realizing your own self-worth.

Some came to it through adversity like Bobby Petrocelli, who was featured last month and vowed not to let the death of his young wife rule his life.

I don't know how Barry Foster, a personal and business coach, came by it, but I do know he lost it for a time in what he called a serious funk and managed to get it back. Mr. Positive became Mr. Negative then Mr. Positive again.

My most recent experience was meeting new TIR contributor Dennis Merritt Jones who is a spiritual mentor, author, columnist and motivational speaker. I am glad we got connected. I hope that you appreciate what he has to offer each month, and I hope that I can open my mind and learn a few things.

Happy September and Happy Labor Day.

Emails to the Editor

Monument (August '2017)

Betsy, I just read the article on the MOH memorial, thank it was very touching and sensitive. I really enjoyed it. If anyone contacts you about the article, just give them my cell, 727-642-5995 or e-mail address, hmetz@tampabay.rr.com.

Harry Metz

Veterans of S. Pinellas County, St. Pete Beach

Thanks for sending me the pdf on the August 2017 issue of The Island Reporter...Very nicely done and as always the articles and ads are most interesting, and we support our local businesses... But this time I was in the article...and again very nicely written and thanks again for the great exposure for me and my design company.

Tim Kelly

TNT Designs & Marketing, St. Pete Beach

Green Bench (August 2017)

Heather sent me the link. It was great. Only the former mayor didn't do Willi's bench we (Heather, Jimmy and I) & his family did. The mayor did all the others for the facility.

It was great to remind people about the perils that aging can bring. Well done! Thank you so much.

Jane Barr

Florida Long Term Care Ombudsman, St. Pete Beach

Glitter Queens (August 2017)

Hi Betsy, Thank you for the wonderful write up in your paper about SPGQ (St. Pete Glitter Queens) and Beth Dillinger Foundation. It was such a great article and is much appreciated. We are in a larger venue this year, so we are not sold out yet. It would be great if you put us in your paper again. Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you at the Royal Ball.

Joyce Shanahan

Glitter Queens, St. Petersburg

Pier (August 2017)

I read with interest your Aug. 2017 issue of "The Island Reporter." I especially liked the story and photos about the Pier and would love to see future articles about the development at that location in progress. My heart was touched by the articles on the Glitter Queens and Willy's green bench.

Ginger Goepfer

Treasure Islettes City Beautification Co-Chair, Treasure Island

We want to hear from you. If something you read inspires you, or you have a concern of a general nature e-mail info@theislandreporter.com. Letters may be edited for propriety and length.



Publisher Betsy Judge

Graphic Design Lorrie Bellinger

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- Carol Hollenbeck, Fitness
- Dennis Merritt Jones, Encouraging Words
- Larry Lewis, Columnist
- Jackie Minniti, Florida Author Series, Pride & Joy
- Bruce Norris, Cartoonist
- Sabrina O'Donnell, Columnist
- Wayne Shattuck, Columnist
- Dave Smith, The Old Professor
- Sally G. Yoder, Features

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The Island Reporter

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Editorial Deadline:

Press releases and community event announcements submitted on behalf of nonprofit organizations, as well as story ideas are welcome! Please submit story ideas by the fifth of the month and press releases by the 10th via email for inclusion in the following month's issue. Submissions of this nature run on a space available basis at the discretion of the newspaper.

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OLLI Announces Classes

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Eckerd College recently released the 2017 Fall Term catalog of more than 150 non-credit classes and activities for people age 50-plus and open to all adult learners across Pinellas County.

Among the many classes are "Will Rogers: America's Favorite Son," "Discovering the Splendors of Provence, France," "Walking the Camino de Santiago," "Charlie Chaplin: Early Short Film Masterpieces 1916-1917," "The Graduate: 50th Year Retrospective," "Building the Tamiami Trail Across the Everglades," "Mostly True Stories: Tales of Haunted Florida," "Emerging Technologies Transforming Home Healthcare," "The Turbulent Sixties," "More Than a Funny Lady: Barbra Streisand," "Crime Scene Investigation" and "Frank Lloyd Wright: The Masterworks."

They offer day trips too like "St. Pete: Inside and Out," "Boat Tour of Boca Ciega Bay," "Kenwood Arts Enclave," "Behind the Scenes at American Stage" and "Exploring Ybor City."

In addition, OLLI will be presenting five British National Theatre productions – recorded on HD video – at the Dan and Mary Miller Auditorium. The plays include "Angels in America" – Parts One and Two, "No Man's Land," "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead" and "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf."



A photo of OLLI members Marcelle Heerschap and Barry Haieken enjoying a class at the St. Petersburg Shuffleboard club is on the cover of the fall catalogue.

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Florida Orchestra and the Museum of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg, OLLI will have special classes and activities associated with both of these cultural institutions.

OLLI members can also visit live productions as a group to see "The Little Prince" at the freeFall Theater and an evening of improvisational comedy at the Spitfire Theater.

Most classes and activity fees vary from \$10 to \$45 for OLLI members. Many are single session classes. Annual OLLI membership is \$49 per person and provides class

discounts and other community benefits that will be locked in for the next year. In January, OLLI annual membership will be \$59 – the first increase in the last decade.

OLLI is a non-profit educational organization that provides more than 350 affordable and intellectually stimulating non-credit classes, interest groups, local and international trips and special events at multiple locations to expand and enrich the lives of its 1,600 members in Pinellas County.

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Pride & Joy Repurposing for a Purpose

By Jackie Minniti

Robby Groover has had an impressive military career. After nine years in the army, which included deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, he was wounded in combat and awarded a Purple Heart. And while this may have ended his service in the Army, it didn't stop his desire to continue serving others.



A combat injury ended Army veteran Robby Groover's military career but not his desire to serve others. He started the nonprofit Pinellas Veterans Commission and now works at HEAVENDROpt an organization that provides employment opportunities to disabled vets and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

After Robby left the military in 2014, he decided to start a non-profit to aid veterans. He established the Pinellas Veterans Commission to help reintegrate and rehabilitate vets. While serving on a mayor's task force on homeless veterans, Robby was introduced to an organization with a mission that

really resonated with him - HEAVENDROpt, a program that provides jobs for people with disabilities by repurposing used military parachutes.

HEAVENDROpt was launched on Sept. 11, 2013 as part of Evergreen Life Services, an organization that provides services and support to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. HEAVENDROpt purchases retired military parachutes from government liquidation and hires individuals with disabilities to repurpose them into handcrafted items such as jewelry, bookmarks, ornaments, purses, ties and even pet bandanas which are sold through their website or at local craft fairs. The products are made at the Louise Graham Regeneration Center in St. Petersburg, and all proceeds from sales go toward purchasing materials and paying workers a living wage. HEAVENDROpt also donates directly and indirectly to veteran groups like the Special Operation Warrior Foundation, Gary Simise Foundation, Paws for Patriots, and Remember • Honor • Support.

It was at an event sponsored by the Armed Forces History Museum in 2016 where

Robby first heard about HEAVENDROpt. "As a disabled vet, I look to focus my energy on organizations that provide exceptional opportunities for disabled persons and veterans with disabilities," he says. "I saw HEAVENDROpt as an opportunity to fulfill a purpose and continue to strengthen the support for the people we serve. I fell in love with their organization, their mission, and their products." He now serves as the organization's director of sales, development and innovation where he is working to place HEAVENDROpt's products in retail chains and bring them to the attention of local vendors.

Robby has witnessed firsthand the positive effect HEAVENDROpt has had on many lives. In one case, a young man with autism had to leave his job at a warehouse because he was frightened by people who yelled. When he first came to HEAVENDROpt, he kept his head down and hardly spoke. The manager asked him if he could sew, and he said no. But after only a half hour of instruction, he was able to sew even better than the manager. He has since progressed to product design. He is now friendly and outgoing, someone who has found his niche and is able to earn a salary and enjoy his work.

Robby believes that HEAVENDROpt offers something more than meaningful employment and unique products. "Each repurposed parachute holds someone's military story," he says. "The parachutes are then given to people with disabilities who put their stories and their passion into everything they make. So visit our website, check out our items, and make a purchase or a donation. It will go to a great cause."

For more information, go to www.heavendropt.org.



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The Ideal Bar/Church Ratio

By The Old Professor

Recently sages studying the frequency of binge drinking revealed the drunkest cities in the U.S. Wisconsin sports eight of the top 10. College towns predominate. High, not higher education? The best communities are often ranked on affordability, quality health care, education level and opportunity, employment, crime rate, etc. College towns also rate high on these. One list of the worst cities found the leaders within a 400 mile east-west span: Detroit, Flint, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Birmingham, Memphis, and Albany, GA. Longitude seems to matter.

Our new suburb has feeder highways and sub-divisions with no through streets. Churches abound. They're sprawling structures on large acreage with ample parking lots. But I see few nightclubs or road houses. Some bars, often sports bars, are wedged into strip shopping centers, but that's about it.

The ideal community should have a proper ratio of churches and bars. Too many churches and sanctimony chokes life. Recall Geneva under John Calvin and Massachusetts under the Puritans. The latter even hanged Quakers, the least violent people. The over reaching principle seemed to be that anything fun was sinful.

Sodom and Gomorrah were not nice places and old west towns like pre-Earp Dodge City found violence spreading from its saloons. One listing of the world's wickedest cities suggested we visit them, probably not on a pastor-led tour.

Compare churches and bars. Churches need bars to provide fresh sinners. Some, after church, really need a drink. Churches are larger, with hundreds of seats. Bars count their seats in dozens. Churches are open only a few hours per week. Bars are open daily. Churches close early; bars don't. So you can attend both. Church decor features stained glass and statuary; bars neon beer company signs. Most churches require an application and screening. Bars will serve almost anyone. Church officials dress up

while bar maids often reveal skin.

Clergy provide valuable counseling, but no one has heard more woe than a bartender. The proffered remedy is immediate and goes down easily. Both institutions offer music. Some churches have guitars, but I have yet to see bar with a pipe organ. Church congregations sing in unison. Drunks sing spontaneously. Perhaps one day a bartender will shout, "Turn to page 28 in your song books and join in singing, 'I Want A Beer Just Like The Beer That Pickled My Old Man.'" A subdued hotel cocktail lounge may be as a quiet as an Episcopal congregation during the sermon. Snoozing occurs in both places. A holy roller hymn shout, even sans snakes, can compete for noise with a sports bar on a college football Saturday.

Fights in bars are more overt and over quickly. The weapons are most often curses and fists though guns and knives have been seen. It's a few hundred years since Christians killed Christians of contrary persuasion as well as Jews. Remember the Cathars. Huguenots fled Catholics to St Augustine and Catholics fled Anglicans to Georgia. Sound like the the Shiites and Sunnis? Now, fights in churches are drawn out and feature backbiting and sniping. United Methodist is, after all, an oxymoron.

In the conservative evangelical temperance congregation in which I was raised, the preacher decided to move the pulpit to one side of the platform and put a table with a gold cross in the center. Acrimony ensued. "It's Papist!" some nearly shouted. Angry words followed. The conflict was drawn out. Friendships were destroyed. Feelings were hurt irreparably. People left the church. A few quick punches might have been better.

But the overarching question remains unanswered. Just how many bars per church? Join me in urging our think tanks to move from trivial issues like nuclear war and global starvation, to this vital question.

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VOICE continued from front page



A young Dick Crippen gives a weather forecast on WFLA-TV in the mid-'60s. Back then weathermen had to do their own annotations on the map.

Photo courtesy of Dick Crippen.

an ad spot. 'Sure,' I said. It mentioned people like Jimmy Stewart and Edward G. Robinson. And, this guy starts doing their voices, spot on. 'Who IS he?'" thought Dick. "It was impressionist Rich Little, in town from Canada for his first-ever American show."

In 1965, Dick joined then ABC's channel 10 (WLCY) as a weatherman at the upstart's first studio on Central Avenue. And his career ignited. When their sports director, Vince Malloy, ran for Tampa city council, Dick took over the job. "I co-owned a football team, the St. Pete Blazers, which played at Northeast High. Plus, I was doing the public address announcing at the Sunshine Speedway drags. So, they said we'll give five bucks more a week to be sports director. I'd met a girl at the station and asked her to marry me, so I could use the five bucks."

He also hosted "Space Station," a children's show there as Commander Astro. "We had a talking rock. I never knew who'd come on. It was all ad-lib, which was great training for later doing satellites (remote live work)." He did radio news, too. "WLCY-AM was THE station. It was a torch; it burned up this area." Dick imitates his radio voice, adding, "We sounded like we had adenoids."

Sports announcing mushroomed into stints on Q-105, "The Morning Zoo" and 17 years calling Bucs games. "At this point, I'm doing anything." The drag strip races led to calling hydroplane races all over Florida. "Lake Maggiore was the fastest closed hydroplane course in the U.S. Racers would come to St. Pete from all over."

He switched to NBC's channel 8 (WFLA) in 1981 as sports director and, when that stint ended

in 1999, Naimoli landed Dick as Rays' senior advisor, encouraging him to cultivate outreach to charities and non-profits he'd begun in his media years.

Today, his personal efforts focus on two interests close to his heart: education and veterans. Doing so calls on all 43 skill sets listed in his LinkedIn profile; he serves on 11 boards.

As a director for the Pinellas Education Foundation (PEF), he champions the value of vocational training. "Too many people today think that college is the answer, but a lot of kids aren't ready for it or at that level." He helped PEF create academies within county high schools that blend traditional classes with technical training and certification. "A master mechanic makes six figures. Try to get an electrician or plumber. There's no shame in those professions."

He also aided PEF in creating "Future Plans," an interactive, online program to identify interests and abilities matched to jobs. "It's hooked with Job



Dick meets Tarzan's Johnny Weissmuller dressed in his Commander Astro outfit; what he wore as the host of the children's show "Space Station" on WLCY.

Photo courtesy of Dick Crippen.



Dick Crippen (left) with the Channel 8 anchor team including Suzanne Bates, Bob Hite, Bill Ratliff and Jim Smith.

Photo courtesy of Dick Crippen.



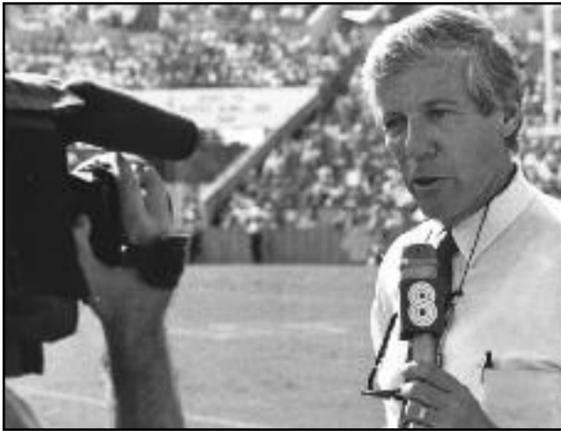
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Dick Crippen reports from the sidelines of Tampa Stadium during the 1969 Lion's American Bowl aka American Bowl College All-Star Game.

Photo courtesy of Dick Crippen.



Dick and NASCAR's Bobby Allison pose for a photo. Dick's move into sports took him all over the country covering drag strip and hydroplane races. His job took him to 10 Super Bowls and several world series.

Photo courtesy of Dick Crippen.

Corps and Career Source, so it gives you available jobs in your area and nationally, should you move." The program is being franchised to Hillsborough County, as well as Georgia and California.

Dick is passionate about PARC, the St. Petersburg non-profit helping children and adults with developmental disabilities. "I know a lot of the clients. At last year's PARC auction, a painting by a disabled child pulled in \$8,000."

His education efforts mesh well with his devotion to members of the armed services. "I just really got into enjoying the military. I work a lot with vets and their biggest problem is they can line up a computer target for a bomber in a war zone, but how do you translate that to civilian life?" His answer: adapt that Future Plans program for veterans, picking apart their skill sets. "This is what they do. What does it take to DO that?" Testing is now being assessed.

Dick is a director for Remember • Honor • Support, a St. Petersburg non-profit dedicated to preserving the memory of the events of 9/11 as well as helping veterans, first responders and their families in need. They host the annual Patriots Day Memorial Event each Sept. 11 at the Coliseum.

Some five years ago, Dick recommended a charity he assists to the golf committee at Isla del Sol Yacht and Country Club...the Tampa-based Special Operations Warrior Foundation (SOWF), a 4-star charity which guarantees post high school education to the surviving children of military special

operators who died in the line of duty, among other benefits. "Last year, my neighbors realized \$125,000 from a single tourney and here's the kick, they haven't opened it to the public—it's all Isla."

A plaque sits in Dick's office signed by 18 beneficiaries of SOWF's largesse. A sample from "Michelle" reads: "Thank you so much for the support for me and my family! Because of you, I am able to honor my dad and what he did for us, by getting a college degree." Dick's reaction, "I am blessed."

The Marina Bay resident who helped bring five Super Bowls to Tampa (one scheduled in 2021) knows how lucky he's been. He and Penny, that bookkeeper he met at WLCY, just celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary, and he'll turn a young 77 next month. He's not going anywhere soon, either.

"I just love this area. I've had job offers in 10 markets. CBS offered me an apartment in New York City and fantastic money, but it always came down to lifestyle. We can have a sunset latte in St. Pete Beach and then go downtown. I'm 12 minutes from work." Commuting to Tampa on the old two-lane Howard Frankland Bridge didn't faze Dick Crippen. "When there was a backup, I'd roll down the windows, put some jazz on the radio, tilt the seat and watch the dolphins play in the sunset. It's a lifestyle that has preserved me."

"I've always believed that, if I weren't working here, I'd be volunteering somewhere. The day I don't, that will be a bad day."



Dick emcees the 47th Annual Evening of Inspiration, a fundraising gala for PARC, a non-profit helping children and adults with developmental disabilities. He is on the boards of 11 nonprofits.

Photo courtesy of PARC.

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Beverage Beat Labor Day Necessities

By Ellen L. Capitosti

Labor Day marks the official end of summer and was first celebrated in 1882. It was created by the labor movement to honor the social and economic achievements of the American worker. It is an annual tribute to honor the basic tenets of what makes the U.S. the best country in the world – hard work, ingenuity and will power.

While everyone goes back to work and school after long lazy beach or lakeside days, there's no need to see it as the end to fun and beginning of cold and drudgery. At least here in Florida, we have many more long, warm days til the chill of winter settles in...for a few weeks!

There are still plenty of opportunities to quench a thirsty palate and rosé wines are a perfect chance to do just that. Rosé is also perfect before, or after, a meal, either still or sparkling. Because they are made from red grapes, rosé wines are categorized as "red" wines and offer a great range of varieties, from a typical dry, high acid rosé from Provence, France to California white zinfandel.

Rosé is also less expensive than many other types of wine. Domaine Carneros 2012 Brut Rosé is a sparkling rosé that is dry, but has red fruit flavors, along with bubbles. Rosé also pairs well with fall foods, like butternut squash, creamy potatoes, or heavy sauces. They also pair well with foods that are a bit heavier, as the acidity of the wine cuts through the fats.

While rosé is not traditionally considered a fall wine, do not let that be a deterrent. Be a trendsetter and add a delicious rosé to your year-round choice of wine. It is refreshing, with a crisp acidity and affordable to boot!

Remember to celebrate not just the fruits of the rosé, but of our labor and raise a toast to the country with the highest standard of living and greatest production the world has ever known. Pay tribute to America's workers with a refreshing glass of delicious rosé.

Ellen Capitosti is the owner of Tostis Spirits & Fine Wines.

Brother (Part II)

By Sabrina O'Donnell

"I can't believe I let you talk me into this," I whispered harshly. "You said you had a plan!"

"I have a plan-like set of ideas," Mike whispered back. His voice was steady and unwavering; however, it was not enough to calm me down.

There were many entrances to The Power Center; Mike had chosen one of the doors toward the back of the immense building, facing the forest. I glared out at just how much ground we would have to cover, unnoticed, to get from the bush we were currently crouching behind to the door.

Mike must have seen how nervous I had become.

"Relaaaax," he told me. "Everything is going to be fine."

With that, he stood and walked without hesitation towards the door, leaving me two choices: follow or get left behind.

Right foot, left foot, right foot, left foot, I chanted in my head and before I knew it, the door was right in front of me.

Mike turned the handle.

"Password required," the security system next to the door sang out.

"Fantastic," I could feel my heart picking up again. "You drag me all the way out here and never once think maybe..."

I was cut off by the sound of Mike entering a series of buttons into the security box.

"Password accepted," the system confirmed but Mike has already swung open the door.

"How did you..."

"I've done my research," he smirked. "No time for details."

I followed Mike down a long grey corridor. It reminded me of the hallway at home that scares me when its dark. It wasn't dark in this hallway,

but I was just as scared. We took a left turn and then a right. It was almost as if Mike knew where he was going—as if he had been here before.

We stopped at a room labeled 109. Mike opened the door and we scurried in.

"Are you ready for your part of the mission?" Mike asked me quietly.

"My part?" I snapped. "I have no idea what my part is. In fact, I have no idea what the mission even is. You've told me absolutely nothing since you invited me to come on this adventure with you. Do I even need to be here?"

"Trust me," Mike reassured me. "You are crucial to this operation. Here's what you're going to do. I am going to record a message on this computer. As soon as I start recording—and I mean that soon—you are going to run down this hall. Room 103 will be on your left. You need to go inside and login to the computer with the password 44762. You will see my recording loading up on the screen. As soon as it's done, all you need to do is hit "broadcast" and then get out of there. Run as fast as you can back to the door we came in through; don't look back, don't slow down, don't wait for me. No matter what you hear or what you see, just keep running. Got it?"

I stared into Mike's eyes, this was the first time I had seen him look scared. The color had drained from his face and his voice had begun to waver.

"Mike why can't you come with m..."

"This is a two-man job," he cut me off. "I know you can do this."

With that he walked over to the computer and activated the camera.

"44762," he repeated. He then looked into the camera and hit record.

(To be continued)

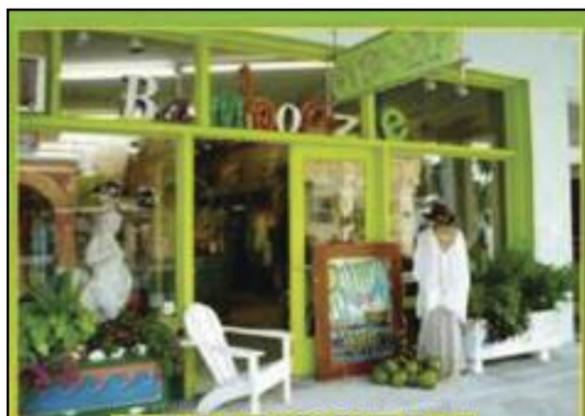
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Fitness Time for a Massage

By Carol Hollenbeck

If you haven't had a massage in a while or have never had one, it may be time. There is overwhelming evidence revealing the many benefits massage provides. It is no longer a luxury for a few people, but a regular treatment option being sought out by those who know these benefits and want an alternative treatment to what ails them.

It is estimated that 30 percent of the population receive massages regularly while 62 percent get chiropractic treatment, 33 percent acupuncture and 55 percent use herbal medicine. The main reasons people seek alternative treatments are to control pain and improve quality of life and overall health.

The practice of massage therapy is defined as applying a scientific system of activity to the muscular structure of the human body by means of stroking, kneading, tapping and vibrating with the hands or tools for the purpose of improving muscle tone and circulation.

There are many different types of massage: Swedish or European, Asian, Myofascial, Neuromuscular, Craniosacral, Lymphatic, and Trigger Point are just a few. The Swedish massage is the most common form and may include any of five strokes: gliding, kneading, rubbing, tapping or vibrating. The various forms of Asian massages focus on utilizing the acupressure points. Myofascial Release massage focuses on releasing the fascia (connective tissue) for the purpose of improving mobility and function. A Neuromuscular massage differs in that it aims to stimulate specific areas of the muscle known as trigger points and help balance the central nervous system with the musculoskeletal system. Trigger Point

massage aims at deactivating trigger points to help relieve pain referred elsewhere in the body—such as a headache or toothache.

All these different types of massage have many influences on the body that may include: improving circulation, relaxing muscles, increasing range of motion, stimulating flow of the lymph system, relieving pain, improving sleep, decreasing anxiety, relieving constipation and improving quality of life.

A recent study of patients with knee osteoarthritis who received a 30 to 60-minute Swedish massage weekly for 24 weeks were found to have significant reduction in pain with functional improvement compared to a control group with no treatment. There are several studies that have shown the effect massage has on reducing anxiety and agitation while improving sleep with those who have dementia residing in nursing homes. This not only helps the individual but also the medical staff and other residents. Positive results have been shown in patients with Parkinson's as well. Even people with various forms of cancer such as bone or breast cancer that have intractable pain have found relief including less pain and anxiety. Decreasing pain medicine with reduction of side effects is another added benefit for many of these patients.

Even if you don't have a serious illness you can reap the benefits from a massage. It will help you get a good night's sleep and prepare you for your next day with mental sharpness you may have been lacking!

Carol Hollenbeck is a physical therapist in St. Pete Beach and owns Fit For Life Fitness Center. (727) 367-0075 or www.iamfitforlife.com.

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Encouraging Words Take Back Your Power!

By Dennis Merritt Jones

Publisher's Note: I am pleased to introduce our newest contributor Dennis Merritt Jones. Dennis has devoted his life to inspiring and lifting people to find their purpose and create an enriching life for themselves and others. We will be running some of his previously published essays as well as original material.

It's never too late to take back your power—to reclaim the power you have given to other people or outer conditions; it begins by thinking a new thought!

Last year I had just finished re-landscaping my backyard when, within 24 hours, a new direction regarding the path of Hurricane Hermine became evident. In that moment I had an awareness of how absolutely powerless I felt in the immensity of the pending storm; my thoughts were busy painting a grim 3-D picture of my newly planted palm trees floating out to sea. As it turned out, we missed the brunt of Hermine's wrath and were spared any major damage. It was, nonetheless, an interesting opportunity to witness how easily external circumstances can trigger and manipulate our internal thought process, especially when fear is running the show. In hindsight, I saw the storm as an "invitation" from Mother Nature to mindfully call back the power I tend to give away when I allow things outside of myself to drive my thoughts.

The entire incident was a less than gentle reminder that, while the illusion (fantasy) is that we have control over much, in reality we have control over little more than our next thought, which dictates how we will choose to experience the moment at hand. While we can't always control events, we can absolutely choose to change our thoughts and perspective about those events. In a very powerful way, this puts us proactively in charge of our experience even while in the midst of life's greatest "storms." It's never too late to take back your power. No one (or no thing—regardless of how big and scary it appears) can rob you of the freedom to choose what your next thought will be; make it a good one!

Peace, Dennis

Dennis Merritt Jones lives locally and is an award winning author, spiritual mentor, and keynote speaker. Contact him at www.DennisMerrittJones.com. Copyright © 2017 - DMJ Presentations LLC.



Florida Author Aiming for the Middle

By Jackie Minniti

When Dunedin writer Karleen Tauszik was a child, reading was her passion. She set a lofty goal for herself – to read every single book in the children's section of her local library. While she never reached that goal, her aim as an adult is to instill that same love of books in 8 to 12 year olds by writing middle grade fiction that will keep them turning pages and wanting more.

Tauszik and her husband spent 12 years in England doing mission work before moving to Florida in 1999. They lived in Oldsmar until their three children were grown, then downsized to Dunedin.

"When I was raising my children and reading to them, I would sometimes think I could write something better." Her first attempt was an early reader chapter book. "It had structural problems, grammar errors and plot holes," Tauszik admits. "I never published it, but it was a start."

One of the things Tauszik likes best about living in Florida is its strong network of writers. She decided to take advantage of this by joining the Florida Writers Association (FWA) in 2004. "The FWA was an immense help," she says. "It was a means of learning more and helping me become a better writer."

In 2011, Tauszik published "The Save Our School Summer," the first in what was to become her three-book Maximum Magic series where a local magician conjures up adventures for a group of 5th-graders. "The Save Our School Summer" was followed by "Mayhem at the New Museum" (2013) and "The Infatuation Infection" (2014). Tauszik describes the Maximum Magic books as "contemporary adventures written in under 20,000 words, with fast-moving chapters and best of all, magic!"

Next, Tauszik introduced "Tangled Tales," a series of e-books that retell traditional fairy tales in unexpected ways. "Itchy" is the story of Rapunzel with



In "Room For Rent," Karleen Tauszik's stand alone middle grade novel, sixth-grade Justin questions why his mother left and if it was his fault as he deals with issues of separation and divorce.



Writer Karleen Tauszik hopes to instill a love of reading in middle grade students while helping them grow and cope through her stories.

head lice; "Wheezing" has the Big Bad Wolf suffering from asthma; and "Awake" tells what happens when Sleeping Beauty drinks espresso. Tauszik also published two stand-alone middle grade novels – "Lost," the story of a boy who loses his hamster, and "My Room for Rent" where a sixth-grade boy's life is turned upside-down when his mother leaves and his father has to rent his room to pay the bills. "All my stories are contemporary, and hopefully kids will be able to relate," she says. "I keep them really clean. It's not my job to expose kids to things they aren't ready for. I believe in letting kids be kids."

Tauszik has also penned two non-fiction books. "Be a Gift Detective" is a guide that helps kids pick out the perfect gifts for family and friends. Her latest release, "When I Grow Up I Want to Be..." is a book she describes as "an annual career possibility journal for kids." The idea came from a career workshop she'd designed during her 15-year career in human resources. "Many people were working at jobs that weren't their passion," she says. "I thought if people could record their strengths, talents and achievements throughout their childhood, they could use that to make wiser decisions about their career paths."

Tauszik is currently working on a middle grade novel tentatively titled "Happily Ever Normal," the story of an adult Cinderella transported to Normal, Illinois after she wishes to

be normal. Tauszik hopes this, like her other books, will help kids to cope and grow. "I want kids to think about what they'd do in different situations," she says. "My stories promote strong family values like respecting others and trying hard to do your best. But most of all, I hope they'll get kids to love reading as much as I do."

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SCHOOL continued from page 3

teacher (and principal) Mrs. McLeod read “20,000 Leagues Under the Sea.” My family loved the fish broil, but my worst memory is having to eat okra and tomatoes for lunch. But I love them now, and I loved our white graduation dresses and being escorted by a first grader...so memorable.”

The school was defined by its outside tables under a thatched roof where classes were held and its swimming and phys-ed classes on the beach. Even though the school prided itself on its causal vibes, it was dresses for the girls and long pants for the boys with few exceptions.

The school assumed the name, “State of Happiness” with its classrooms known as “Healthville,” “Workville,” “Contentment Town,” and “Clear Conscience City.” On the walls of the auditorium hand-painted murals depicted the classrooms, all helping to create a family and neighborhood atmosphere. The school staff was creative and because everyone knew each other it was easy to feel like one big family.

Barbara Baker Smith (1948-49) “so enjoyed sitting outside Sunshine School under a palm roofed hut listening to my teacher and principal Helen McLeod read the classic books like Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn.” Barb’s mom was very active in the PTA and always got others together to help the school.

Over the years a library and more classrooms were added and the Parents Club had 41 presidents in the life of Sunshine. An annual fall fish-broil was started to raise funds for supplies and books for the struggling school. Capt. Ken Merry

oversaw his crew as they grilled fresh mullet on bedsprings over hot button wood coals. When asked where he got the springs, he calmly replied “from a house of ill repute in St. Petersburg—not Pass-a-Grille!” The menu stayed the same: homemade coleslaw, scallop potatoes, corn bread and pies from the community cooks! It soon became an island tradition and is still carried on by different local schools.

Area growth prompted the county in 1975 to deem the property too costly to maintain and closed the school. That launched a 9-year effort to preserve the property by community leaders, many of whom were alumni, but to no avail. It went down by the wrecking ball in 1984.

Alumni of Sunshine School hold reunions every few years which are always attended by several hundred former students. A special corner in the Gulf Beaches Historical Museum has artifacts along with an original blackboard signed by former students visiting the museum. A photo is taken when the board is full, and then erased for new names. There are two large scrape books filled with class photos and memorabilia spanning its 49 years of educating island children. Many students live and work in the community and visit the museum often, sign the blackboard another time, prowl through the scrapbooks and laugh at old times.

The sweet smell of hot buttonwood coals filling the air, lessons under thatched roofs, plays in a pretty auditorium, life long friends who shared those school days are a few experiences remembered forever. A learning center like no other with special teachers who taught well and made learning fun. That was Sunshine School!



Photos from news coverage about the Sunshine School show the outdoor “classrooms,” and proclaim “No rickets threaten the kiddies who attend the famous Sunshine school at Pass-a-Grille.”

Courtesy of GBHM



This image, circa 1932, shows Sunshine School supporters promoting the Fish Broil, the school’s annual fundraiser. From left are: Harold Austin (kneeling), Marge Austin, Blanch Merry, Mac Granger, Capt. Ken Merry, Rose Hanskat and John Hanskat.

Courtesy of GBHM



This postcard boasts “Reading, Riting and Rhithmetic” on the Beach, capturing the well-deserved outdoor image of the Sunshine school.

Courtesy of GBHM



The Sunshine school in 1942. The schools logo is inset noting its tenure educating kids from 1926 to 1975.

Courtesy of former student Karen Johnson Spangler 41-46

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Pinellas Plans for the Future

By Betsy Judge

Publisher's Note: The Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce and the City of S. Pasadena hosted a community advocacy meeting about the environmental future of Pinellas County as it relates to development, sewer and water infrastructure and renewable energy. This article is the first in a series of articles based on that meeting.

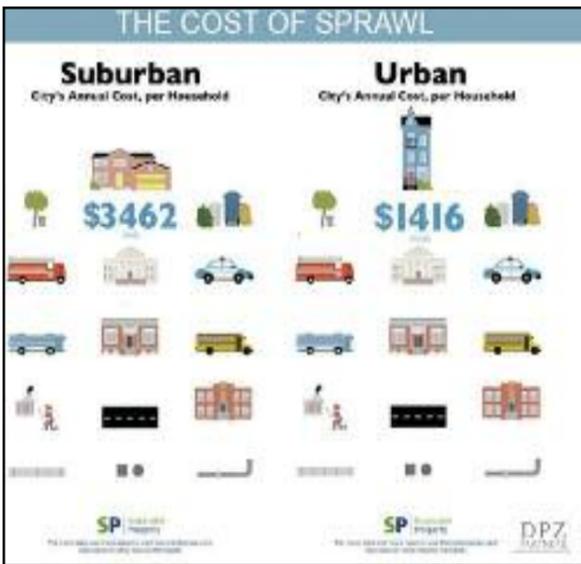
Members of the Pinellas County staff have to worry about keeping things running smoothly on a daily basis for almost a million residents while simultaneously planning for the future. For Blake Lyon, Pinellas County's Development Review Services director, that means planning for a lot more people in what is already—by far—the most densely populated county in the state.

"The population of the U.S. is projected to grow by 125 million by 2050," he says. That's 34 million more people than in the previous 30-plus years.

And only 50 percent of what will be needed (built environment) to support that population, is actually in place today. "That is a national average," stresses Lyon after asking participants to consider what they experience in the county today and needing to double that.

In addition to just housing people, studies show that the VMT (vehicle miles travelled) increases by 3 - 5 times faster than population growth. How the land is developed or redeveloped will have a tremendous influence over how much energy we consume, the cost of maintaining services, and even safety.

From an economic standpoint, it costs more



This chart by architectural firm DPZ Partners shows the difference in costs associated with running a community in a suburban setting vs. an urban area.

Image from Pinellas County.



Subject matter experts briefed the community on the future of Pinellas County at an August advocacy meeting. Pictured from top left are: County Development Review Director, Blake Lyon; Utilities Director, Randi Kim; Duke Energy Renewables Manager, Thomas Lawery and State Representative Kathleen Peters. Doug Izzo, Government Affairs for Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber is in the middle. TIR staff photo.

than twice as much to maintain a suburban community (\$3462 per household annually) vs. an urban community (\$1416 per household.) That accounts for costs like police and fire services, governance, development and maintenance of roadways, sidewalks, sewers, prisons and libraries.

And then there's the land. "When we look at Pinellas County...we don't have a lot of available land left to do what's referred to as green field development. There are no open, raw tracts of land," says Lyon. "We have a saying in our office that if it's undeveloped, there's a reason why..."

He gives good marks for the development of the waterfront and downtown areas along with preserves and parkland, but has identified "critical areas of concern."

Those include aging buildings, industrial or manufacturing areas that are underserving and underutilized, and, showing a nice manufactured home park, he notes, "A lot of the area's affordable housing is tied up in a system that cannot be rebuilt or sustained over a long period of time."

"We have a lot of inefficient land use where we continue to spread things out, and the amount of infrastructure costs that goes into the roadways, the sidewalks, the pipes, and the energy consumption that goes into that type of development is one that is going to challenge us in years to come."

He shows a photo of a woman pushing a baby carriage on the shoulder of a busy street. "We've got unsafe situations where people aren't able to easily walk around. Relying on an auto-dependent culture forces us to make choices we might not

otherwise make. We are chasing infrastructure dollars to keep those roadway services. It is not just creating fiscal irresponsible approaches, but safety concerns."

People need to consider the benefits of compact, walkable environments, but understanding sensitivity when it comes to over development, he cautions against going to extremes and thinking of places like New York and Tokyo.

"There are cities that have done it very responsibly like Paris, Barcelona, San Francisco and Amsterdam where you can get scale and urbanity at a much lower density...we're talking 3 to 5 stories, not 30 or 50 or 100 stories."

With land an issue here, he shows how much space it would take to house the world's almost 7 billion people in communities built more compactly like Paris vs. sprawling suburban areas like Houston. A Paris comparison requires the space of Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi; a Houston comparison spans from Arizona to Alabama in the south and Colorado to Ohio in the north.

He says Pinellas County is missing the middle and needs to fill in the gap between single family detached homes and skyscrapers. "That gap allows us to be flexible and adaptable, and look at the range of housing options that better respond to the change in our demographics."



These maps show the amount of space it would take to hold the world's population if it were based on the density of various cities.

Image from Pinellas County.

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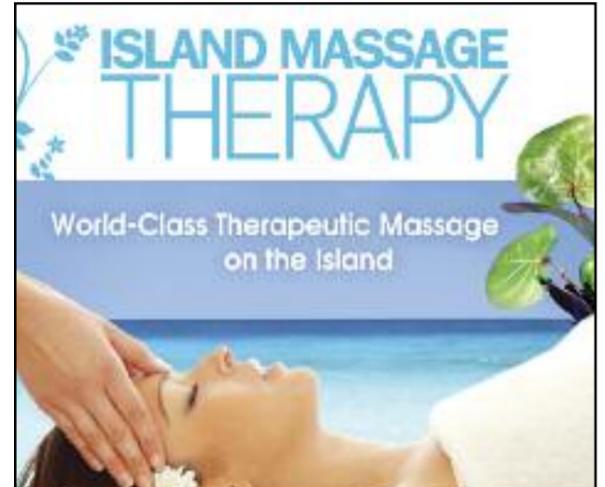
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Casting About to Help Veterans

By Betsy Judge

Most 68-year-old people are either retired, or looking forward to it; but not Charles Barocas. He has been running all over St. Pete getting his new nonprofit Veteran's Orthopedic Training Center (VOTC) up and running.

Charlie actually is retired and that's what started the whole thing.

"I don't play golf; I'm retired and my wife said, 'I want you out, you're not staying around here,' he says laughing.

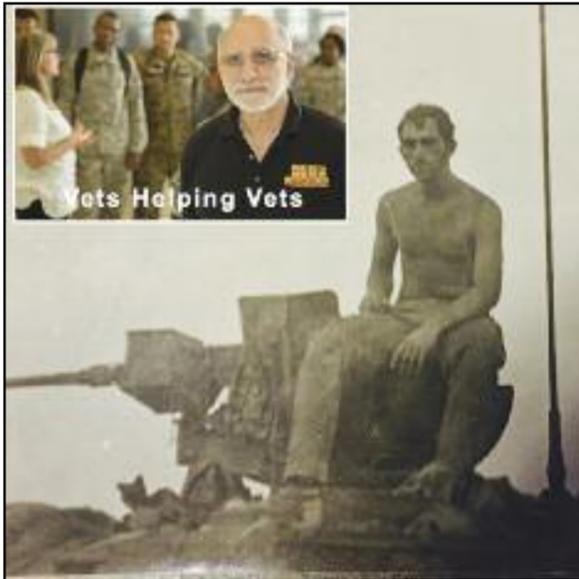
So the Vietnam-era Army medic who has been training people to be orthopedic technologists full-time since 1996 decided to use his skills to help other veterans.

"When I got out, we knew how to cast; I had done thousands," he says about his experience in the war. "We were like the original ortho techs."

He graduated from the Hospital for Joint Diseases in New York City and has been doing or teaching clinical orthopedics for 47 years including stints on the staff at Bronx Lebanon Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Special Surgery Hospital and on the medical team for the Winter Olympics at Lake Placid.

He started the American Society of Orthopedic Professionals (ASOP) and has trained more than 9,500 ortho techs as the director and lead instructor.

"We train people all over the U.S. This week-



Main photo is Charlie Barocas in May 1969, 100 miles south of Danang in then, South Vietnam. Inset is a screen capture from the Veteran's Orthopedic Training Center website noting Veterans Helping Veterans.

Images courtesy of VOTC.

end we were in Jacksonville training at the Mayo Clinic." He also trains medical residents preparing to be doctors.

With the help of the St. Petersburg Chamber and the city, he found the ideal location adjacent

to Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital in what is now being promoted as the Innovation District. And yes, he does pediatric orthopedics as well.

Veterans and spouses with medical backgrounds are the primary candidates for VOTC which is free thanks to funding from ASOP.

"This organization," he says pointing to the ASOP logo on his shirt, "is why I can do this. We made a \$375,000 investment in signing the lease and the buildout was \$97,000 (some covered by the lease). It was a substantial investment," adds Barocas.

The center is one-of-a-kind, and while he plans to work with VA hospitals to reach prospective students, it has nothing to do with the VA.

"I tell kids, 'Keep your college benefits; use them for something else.' Here we will take care of it. And by taking the money aspect out of it, there's no worry about whether you can go or not go. 'Go,' says Barocas noting ortho techs are in demand, 'this will change your life.'"

They can train 300 students annually in casting and bracing for patients from pediatrics to geriatrics. Students are required to take a 50-hour distance learning course then attend 40 hours of in-residence hands on training at VOTC to become Level One orthopedic technologists.

VETS continued on page 18

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Wayne's World

Restricted Rights... Sensing Trouble... Healthy Beer?... and More...

By Wayne Shattuck

Restricted Rights... Hundreds of Turkish women marched in the country's biggest city Istanbul this summer to protest against the violence and animosity they face from men demanding they dress more conservatively. The march, dubbed "Don't Mess With My Outfit," started in the Kadikoy district on the Asian side of the city. Women chanted slogans and carried denim shorts on hangers as examples of the type of clothing some men say they find unacceptable. "We will not obey, be silenced, be afraid. We will win through resistance," the crowds chanted, holding up posters and LGBT rainbow flags. Istanbul has long been seen as a relatively liberal and westernized city for everyone, including women and gays. But things are changing now. Critics say President Tayyip Erdogan and his Islamist-rooted Justice and Development Party (AKP) party have shown little interest in expanding rights for minorities, gays and women, and are intolerant of dissent. Protesters say there has been an increasing number of verbal and physical attacks against women for their choice of clothing. In one incident in June, a young woman, Asena Melisa Saglam, was attacked by a man on a bus in Istanbul for wearing shorts during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Video of the incident showed the man hitting her while the bus driver watched. In another incident, Canan Kaymakci, was harassed on the street in Istanbul when a man accused her of wearing provocative clothing, saying she should be careful because she was "turning people on." Another woman, Aysegul Terzi, was called a devil and kicked by a man on a public buss, also for wearing shorts. Footage showed the man telling her that those who wear shorts "should die." My three days in Istanbul five years

ago was a pleasure, the people were friendly and I felt welcomed. I wouldn't go back today but if you do... tell your wife, girlfriend or daughter to leave the shorts packed in the suitcase for the rest of Europe.

Sensing Trouble... Could wearable sensors tell when you're sick? One day it may be possible to spot illness the same way many of us already track our exercise habits and sleep patterns: with wearable sensors, researchers say. In a new study, 60 people wore devices that collected more than 250,000 measurements a day on things like heart rate, oxygen in the blood, activity levels, calories expended, sleep patterns and skin temperature. After researchers got a baseline idea of normal readings for each person in the study, they looked for deviations from these typical patterns to see whether changes might be tied to new environmental conditions, illness, or other factors that can impact health. The goal is to develop a health dashboard that does for people what dashboards already do for cars, said senior study author Dr. Michael Snyder, director of the Center for Genomics and Personalized Medicine at Stanford University in California. "Your car has 400 sensors, and dashboard lights go on when a problem occurs like the engine starts overheating or you are nearly running out of gas," said Snyder. "In the future, you will have multiple sensors relaying information to your smartphone, which will become your health dashboard," Snyder added. "Alerts will go off with elevated heart rate over your normal level and heart beat abnormalities will be detected and these will enable early detection of disease, perhaps even before you can detect it yourself."

Healthy Beer?... Now this may be worth raising a glass to. Researchers in Singapore have brewed up a beer containing probiotic bacteria that can improve gut health and boost the immune system. Food researcher Alcine Chan, 23, experimented for almost a year with a recipe of malt, alcohol, hops & a strain of probiotic bacteria, until she got the formula just right. "The hops are the main ingredient that kills probiotics, so we had to find a way for the probiotics to overcome the hops," Chan said, demonstrating the pre-fermentation process in a laboratory at the National University of Singapore. The pale, bubble drink tastes slightly sweet and has 3.5 percent alcohol content, just under the 4 to 6 percent of regular beers. Every 3.4 ounces of the drink, or roughly just over a mouthful, contains 1 billion probiotic organisms. While probiotics have been shown to improve digestive function and boost the immune system, among other health benefits, project researchers stop short of making nutrition claims. "The beer is simply a new vehicle for delivering probiotics and the associated health benefits," said Chan's project supervisor, Liu Shao Quan, adding that it had not yet been given a name. It going to take some time before your local bar offers the new beer. First the researchers are waiting for their drink to be patented. The pair are also in talks with beer companies on international marketing plans.

But That's Not All ... "Over a Barrel" In the days before CPR a drowning victim would be placed face down over a barrel and the barrel would be rolled back and forth in an effort to empty the lungs of water. It was rarely effective. If you were "over a barrel" you were in deep trouble.

VETS continued from page 17

The new Hyatt downtown is giving him what he calls a "patriotic" rate for his students, and a number of retired orthopedic surgeons have volunteered to help. "Can you imagine getting trained by an orthopedic surgeon with 40-some years of experience or 50 years of experience? It's amazing." He also hopes to have ASOP money earmarked for student transportation.

As with any nonprofit sponsors and donations are a must. "There are no salaries, but we have to worry about rent and consumables." He plans to work his chamber connections and with benevolent groups for small donations, and 3M just became a sponsor sending \$5,000 worth of casting materials—pink fiberglass.

The grand opening is Sept. 27 at 5:30 p.m., and he is planning a two-day open house for area hospitals and schools.

For more information go to www.veteransorthotraining.org.



Charlie Barocas (in red) supervises Army medics practicing their casting skills during the proof of concept for his training program with veterans at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio.

Image courtesy of VOTC.

ISLAND By Bruce W. Norris



Business News

Local Artist Opens Studio

Tierra Verde artist Rick Yearick opened a new studio in the heart of the Warehouse Arts District in August. Rick went to college for art and design on a scholarship and lead corporate creative teams and ran an art licensing firm before turning his focus solely on painting. His studio is in the Brick Street Clay Studio, 400 23rd St. S.



A Grand Re-Opening

Vino Simpatico in S. Pasadena celebrated their newly refurbished boutique wine shop with the help of the Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber, members and guest. New owners Shawn Rae, Randy Buddemeyer and Dean Karikas have also added micro brew beers. Vino Simpatico offers single vineyard, small production, and boutique wines by the glass and bottle with wine tastings every Thursday. 722 Pasadena Ave.

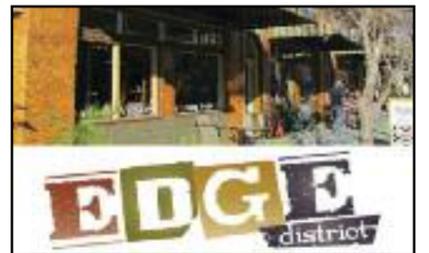


Hahn Gets Appointment

Missy Hahn, president of the Treasure Island & Madeira Beach Chamber of Commerce, has been appointed to the (Tourism) Industry Relations committee of Visit Florida. The committee is Visit Florida's primary source of feedback on matters related to the tourism industry. Hahn said she is honored to serve and proud the chamber was recognized for its dedication to Florida's tourism industry.

EDGE District Recognized

For the third year in a row, St. Petersburg's EDGE District, operated by the EDGE Business District Association, has been recognized with Secretary of State Outstanding Main Street of the Year Awards: Outstanding Private-Public Partnership of the Year, Outstanding Business of the Year (ARTicles Custom Framing and Art Gallery) and Outstanding New Construction Project (Hawkers Asian Street Fare).



Notable Achievements

TI Resident Honored

Treasure Island Historical Society past President Donna White received an Honorary Proclamation from Mayor Bob Minning. Donna devoted more than a decade to preserving T.I.'s unique heritage through countless hours of archiving and creating visual displays about T.I. history throughout the city. Photo by Bob Dowling.



Sal Gives Back

Sons of the American Legion Post 158 in Treasure Island donated \$3,000 to Suncoast Hospice Foundation (SHF). They raised the money through various fundraisers at the post. The SHF supports the patients, clients, participants and family members of Empath Health and its nonprofit network of integrated care. Photo courtesy of Greg Tong.



Rotary Helps Kids

Members of the Gulf Beaches Rotary sort through 1,000 new clothing items to be distributed to children in foster care, thru the Guardian at Litem Foundation and Raising Hope. A huge thank you to the M. Hidary & Company Inc. for their generosity. Photo courtesy of Mitchell Shenkman.



TradeWinds to Host Sunset Lounge Experience

By TIR Staff

TradeWinds Island Resort on St. Pete Beach has teamed with the producers of Chillounge Night to produce the Sunset Lounge Experience; the ultimate outdoor lounge party, Oct. 14.

Organizers say the unique social gathering feels like a private club. Guest relax in stylish lounge furnishings while models showcase exquisite fashions. Fire dancers move to the beat as colorful ladies of Samba provide an extra magical touch. The evening includes fine dining with a banquet of unique culinary delights and an open bar.

Tickets start at \$185 per person and also include valet parking, reserved seat and entertainment.

Special package deals are also available through the TradeWinds.

For more information or to purchase tickets, go to www.sunsetloungeexperience.com.



The Island Reporter Puzzle Page

The Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Off the mark
- 6 Down in the dumps
- 10 "Now hear ____!"
- 14 Hand-dyed fabric
- 16 Went off, in a way
- 16 Budget item
- 17 Fluid accumulation
- 18 2009 Grisham thriller, with "The"
- 20 After-dinner drink
- 22 Green-light
- 23 What dieters eat
- 24 Bushy do
- 26 Flat-topped hill
- 29 Must, in legalese
- 31 Messy mass
- 35 Jump across
- 37 "Volunteers?"
- 39 Gavel action
- 40 Admirer of beauty
- 42 No-win situation
- 43 Contemptible
- 45 Parrot, e.g.
- 47 Within reach
- 48 Harmony
- 50 Rabbit fur
- 51 Empty
- 53 Teased mercilessly
- 55 Rationale
- 58 Drawing power
- 63 Abhorrent
- 65 Winter warmer
- 66 Cough (up)
- 67 Not odd

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20					21				22			
			23				24	25				
26	27	28			29		30		31	32	33	34
35				36			37	38				
39				40				41			42	
43			44			45				46		
47				48	49				50			
			51	52			53	54				
55	56	57			58	59				60	61	62
63					64				65			
66					67				68			
69					70				71			

Copyright 2017 by The Puzzle Syndicate

- 68 Concerning, old-style
- 69 Draft, maybe
- 70 Mobile home?
- 71 Pigeon's perch
- DOWN**
- 1 Lying, maybe
- 2 Earned
- 3 Big-ticket ____
- 4 Like
- 5 Piece of hockey gear
- 6 Military bigwig
- 7 Glasgow gal
- 8 Open
- 9 Freudian topic
- 10 "The Hunger Games", e.g.
- 11 Get better
- 12 Quite fond of
- 13 Dish cooked in a pot
- 19 Vacation rental
- 21 Taxing job?
- 25 Hairstyling tool
- 26 Lamebrain
- 27 Skirt
- 28 Brownish tint
- 30 Ladybug's prey
- 32 Kind of ticket
- 33 Burger topper
- 34 Smelling of suds
- 36 Romanian money
- 38 Court divider
- 41 Up-and-coming
- 44 It goes around the world
- 46 Organic solvent
- 49 Eliminate
- 52 Shade of blonde
- 54 Stick-on
- 55 Yak
- 56 Crackerjack
- 57 Fill beyond full
- 59 Grace period?
- 60 Clinched
- 61 "Hello" or "Goodbye"
- 62 Chess ending
- 64 Congeal

Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

				9	6			
	8	4		3				
	4			2	5		3	
	3					8	7	
			3		1	4	2	
			6	7				
			7					
5				1			7	9
3	4			5				

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Trivia

Four Leaf Clovers

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1. What do the leaves on the four leaf clover stand for?
 - (a) Luck, fortune, health and heart
 - (b) Hope, faith, love and luck
 - (c) Fame, luck, purity and fortune
2. What are the odds of finding a four leaf clover? (a) 10,000 to 1 (b) 1,000 to 1 (c) 3,000 to 1
3. What is the plant type of a four leaf clover? (a) Oxalis Deppei (b) Marsilea Quadrifolia (c) Trifolium Repens
4. What biblical person carried a four leaf clover with them as they left their homeland? (a) Eve (b) Moses (c) Noah
5. What happens if you give another person the four leaf clover you found?
 - (a) Finder will have bad luck
 - (b) Finder's luck will double
 - (c) Finder will lose a friend
6. What scientific cause leads to the growth of four leaf clovers?
 - (a) Gamma Rays (b) Exposure to ozone (c) Genetics and environmental factors
7. What is believed to have been seen by children in the Middle Ages when carrying four leaf clovers? (a) Spirits (b) The future (c) Fairies
8. Who said "A best friend is like a four leaf clover: hard to find and lucky to have?" (a) Sarah Jessica Parker (b) Barbara Bush (c) Ellen Degeneres
9. What man forgot to carry his lucky four leaf clover on the day of his assassination? (a) John F. Kennedy (b) Abraham Lincoln (c) Martin Luther King
10. A genuine four leaf clover has what? (a) 1 leaf larger than the other 3 (b) White markings on all the leaves (c) 1 leaf smaller than the other 3

Puzzlers can find the answers to all these brain teasers at www.TheIslandReporter.com under "Puzzles"

Word Search

Starting with "V"

- VACATION
- VACCINE
- VACUUM
- VAGABOND
- VAGUE
- VALANCE
- VALET
- VAPOR
- VEGETABLE
- VEHICLE
- VEIL
- VELOCITY
- VELVET
- VENDETTA
- VENTURE
- VERANDA
- VERBOSE
- VERSE
- VIBRANT
- VICIOUS
- VICTORY
- VIGIL
- VILLAIN
- VINE
- VOICE
- VOID
- VOLCANO
- VORTEX
- VOYAGE
- VULTURE

F O Y O N V V O N V E R A N D A D
 L T O I A O E V A E S A G F I E M
 G V X V R C O L C U C E N I V R H
 V B A T V L D M O T C I W H V U N
 E X E C C I V I T C N J O E Y T A
 R X Z A C K C A D X I A N V V L T
 B K N P C I Z T G I L T D R I U T
 O O G N V M N H O U U Q Y D B V E
 S C J L O V G E V R E J V S R K D
 E H I D A I T I E L Y E V M A D N
 L E W L C Z T E B V H I U E N N E
 V F E I D K G A V I L U R S T O V
 H T C C J A T Z C L C D O R H B B
 D I O V Y E Y L A A E Y P E D A M
 K M O O G P E I V T V V A V I G Y
 C R V E S S N V I G I L V S W A Z
 F O V A L A N C E U H X J M O V X

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ANSWERS ON PAGE 10

Local Events, Activities & Announcements

Gulfport

Sept. 1 & 16: Gulfport Art-Walk, 6 - 10 p.m. Beach Blvd. S., Waterfront District.

Sept. 2: Geckofest, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. A full day of free, family-friendly fun with live music on two stages, food, art and craft vendors, kids' activities, and up close and personal street performances by acrobats, magicians, daredevils, dancers, aerialists, escape artists, fire eaters, balloon artists and costumed characters. Beach and Shore Boulevards. Info at www.geckofest.com.

Sept. 17: Gulfport Peace, Love & Music Festival, 4 p.m. till. A showcase of critically acclaimed women performers playing everything from rebellious original rock-and-roll sounds to R & B. Includes five of Tampa Bay's favorite women performers and women-fronted bands. Gulfport Casino, 5500 Shore Blvd. S. Info and tickets at www.GulfportWomensMusic.com.

Gulfport Public Library: Go to events at www.mygulfport.us/gpl for library events or visit at 5501 28th Ave. S.

Each Week

Gulfport Fresh Market: Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. 3007 Beach Blvd. Info at 727-278-4285. Sept. 12 is Clothing Swap to Benefit CASA.

Gulfport Toastmasters: Wednesdays, 6:15 - 7:30 p.m. Community Room, Gulfport Public Library. 5501 28th Ave. S. Info at 727-537-9098, info@gulfporttoastmasters.com or www.gulfport-toastmasters.com.

Throughout the Month

Gulfport Casino: Dance Lessons. \$5 for members, \$8 for non-members. Gulfport Casino: 5500 Shore Blvd. S. Info at www.mygulfport.us.

Senior Center Events: Calendar available at www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org or 727-893-1231.

Madeira Beach

Sept. 1: Movie on the Beach, 8 p.m. Watch "Top Gun" on the beach. Archibald Beach. Info at www.madbeachevents.com.

Sept. 23: Mad Beach Open, 4 p.m. Shot gun start with pairs scoring. Lowest team total gets 1st place trophy. Registration 21 & up and is \$30 per pair (Mad Beach residents) or \$40 a pair for non-residents. Smugglers Cove Adventure Golf, 15395 Gulf Blvd. Info at www.madbeachevents.com.

Oct. 26-29: Mark Your Calendars: John's Pass Seafood Festival, Hours Vary. Non-stop musical performances, hundreds of craft, local business and food vendors. Free. Info at www.johnspasseafoodfest.com.

S. Pasadena

Each Week

Sundays: Griefshare, 4 - 6 p.m. Support group for help and encouragement after the death of a loved one or friend. Tradewinds Presbyterian Church, 6740 Park St. S. Info at www.griefshare.org or 727-344-1501.

St. Pete Beach

Sept. 8 & 9: Academy Snook Class: 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Join Captain CA Richardson and master the art of Snook fishing. Includes a complimentary cocktail party, pro tips by instructors, raffle prizes, and more! \$69 per person. Info at www.guy-harveyoutpost.com

Oct. 14: Mark Your Calendar: Sunset Lounge Experience, 6 - 10 p.m. Casual chic comes to life among stylish lounge furnishings for up to only 280 guests. Enjoy rare international chill-out compilations throughout the night and fine dining. Tradewinds Island Resorts. Tickets and info at www.sunsetloungeexperience.com under adventures.

Each Week

PAG Thrift Shop, 9 a.m. - noon, Tuesday - Thursday and Saturday. Shop quality new and used items including clothing, jewelry, kitchen goods, small appliances, linens, knick-knacks, glassware, paintings, books, and games and toys. Sales support local charities. 17th Ave. and Pass-a-Grille Way. Info at 727-360-5508.

All month:

New 4-Way Stop. The traffic signals on Corey Avenue and Blind Pass Road and Boca Ciega Drive have been turned to a 4-way stops using red-flashing signals. The city will study traffic movement patterns for the next 6 months to determine the most efficient way to manage traffic through these intersections.

60th Anniversary T-Shirts On Sale. The city is selling commemorative shirts. Wear it the second Friday of each month all year for special promotion/discount by sponsors. Short sleeve, \$20; long sleeve \$25. St Pete Beach Community Center, 7701 Boca Ciega Dr. Call 727-363-9245.

St. Pete Beach Public Library. Check www.spblibrary.com for the latest events.

St. Petersburg

Sept. 8: Two-Headed Calf Fest, 6 - 10 p.m. Live music, live mermaids and live alligators, carnival side-show oddities, name the calf contest, costume contest, food trucks and craft beer sampling from Flying Boat, 3 Daughters, Cigar City and St. Pete Brewing. Tickets and Info at www.spmoh.com

Sept. 9: AARP Service Day at VACTB, noon - 4 p.m. Three musical performances, food and veteran art on display. Veterans Art Center Tampa Bay, 6798 Crosswinds Rd. N. Info at www.vactb.org.

Sept. 9: Second Saturday Art Walk, 5 - 9 p.m. Take in the St. Pete arts scene after hours. Info at www.stpeteartsalliance.org.

Sept. 9: Island Night & Luau, 7 p.m. Echo of the South Pacific presents a Polynesian show with fire dancers. Authentic luau buffet, followed by dancing. Benefits St. Petersburg International Folk Fair Society. Tropical attire with costume prizes. St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club, 559 Mirror Lake Dr. N. Info at www.spiffis.org.

Sept. 11: Patriot Day Memorial Breakfast, 7 - 9 a.m. Meet & mingle with local heroes, honor those who perished on 9/11 or fighting against terrorism since then, followed by breakfast and guest speaker Vice Admiral Sean A. Pybus, retired deputy commander of U.S. Special Operations Command. Hosted by Remember • Honor • Support. Historic Coliseum, 535 4th Ave N. Tickets and info at www.rememberhonorsupport.org.

Sept. 12: Welcome Back Block Party: 11:30 a.m. Learn about the Garden Club of St. Petersburg and future events. 500 Sunset Dr. S. Info at 727-381-8920.

Sept. 15: Military Officers Association of St. Pete, 11 a.m. Social hour, lunch and speaker from U.S. Central Command. Retired, active duty and former military, NOAA and Public Health Service officers and spouses invited. RSVP required. Call 727-360-2936. Pasadena Yacht & Country Club, 6300 Pasadena.

Sept. 16: Glitter Queens' 6th Annual Royal Ball, 7 - 11 p.m. An evening of dinner, dancing, silent auction, entertainment, live music and cash bar. Benefits the Beth Dillinger Foundation. Theme: "Mod" about the 60's. Peace, love & music, requested attire: cocktail or 60's Mod. \$75. St. Petersburg Marriott Clearwater, 12600 Roosevelt Blvd. N. Info at www.stpeteglitterqueens.org.

Sept. 23: Free Museum Day, 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Pinellas County residents visit the Dali Museum for free. Non-residents get a free voucher for a future visit with admission price. Info at www.thedali.org.

Sept. 24: Rays Watch Party, 1:30 p.m. Sink your toes into the soft white sand and watch the Rays take on the Baltimore Orioles on a big screen. Beverages and all your cookout favorites available for purchase. Guy Harvey Outpost, 5500 Gulf Blvd.

Oct. 26: Mark Your Calendar: Community Associations Day & Trade Show: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Displays of products and services for community association living, giveaways and drawings for great prizes. Free coffee and doughnuts in the morning. Hosted by Community Associations Institute (CAI) Suncoast Chapter. Info at www.suncoastcai.com.

Each Week

Mondays: Toastmasters, 6:15 p.m. PARC, 3190 Tyrone Blvd. N. Info at: 727-422-8856.

Tierra Verde

Oct. 14: Mark Your Calendar: Corvette Invitational, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Corvette owners, drivers and enthusiasts share their love and history of their cars. The Island Grille, 210 Madonna Blvd. Breakfast available. Info at fhsjr67@gmail.com.

Oct. 21: Mark Your Calendar: Octoberfest, 4 a.m. - 9 p.m. Bier garten, food, contemporary and German music and art, 50/50 raffles and silent auction. Supports Children with Cancer Holiday Party. Sponsorships available. Info at www.tier-averdebusinesspartnership.com.

Treasure Island

Sept 7 & 9: Old Salt Ladies Fishing Tourney, 200+ lady anglers compete for \$9,500+ in prize money. Includes a captain's party, silent & live auctions, arts and craft vendors and more. Benefits Celma Mastry Ovarian Cancer Foundation. Fisherwomen, supporters and spectators welcome. The Club at Treasure Island, 400 T.I. Causeway. Info at www.oldsaltfishing.org.

Each Week

Thursday Bingo, 6:45 p.m. Early bird, 7:45 p.m. Regular. Cash prizes. Snack bar & free coffee. Hosted by the Treasure Islettes. Treasure Island Community Center 1 Park Place and 106th Avenue.

Seminars, Classes and Announcements

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 78 Safe Boating Classes, 7 p.m., each Tuesday. A 13 week continuous cycle of classes; start at your convenience; includes 400 pages of materials. Arrive the first time at 6:30 p.m. to register. \$40 for 13 weeks (\$55 for couples sharing a manual). Call Jim at 727-360-4846, Warren at 727-321-7801, or Phil at 865-2226. 1500 Pass-a-Grille Way, St. Pete Beach.

Sept. 5: Equipment for Your Boat, Sept. 12: Waterway Watch/Trailer Your Boat, Sept. 19: Handling Your Boat, Sept. 26: Your "Highway" Signs.

St. Pete Beach Recreation Center Classes, Classes in art, dance, self defense for women and a variety of other topics throughout the month. Classes for kids too. Go to www.spbrec.com for a complete listing or call 727-363-9245.

Treasure Island Art Guild Workshops, Info at treasureislandartguild.org.

Each Month

Suncoast Hospice Caregiver Education and Support, Gain new skills, self-confidence and emotional support with Suncoast Hospice's caregiver programs. Info at www.suncoasthospice.org/caregivers.

Golf Tournaments

Inaugural TIMB Chamber Golf Tournament, Sept. 18, 11:30 a.m. Registration; 1 p.m. Shotgun Start with four member teams. Raffle, mulligan and super tickets available. \$125/person, \$500/team includes cart, green fees, lunch and dinner. Various prizes. Bayou Club, 7979 Bayou Club Blvd. Info at 727-698-6014.

Florida Statewide Network Ads

For information on placing a network ad that will run throughout many of Florida's community newspapers, contact the classified department at 727-631-4730, or via email at info@theislandreporter.com.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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PATRIOT DAY MEMORIAL BREAKFAST

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

7:00 am to 9:00 am at The St. Petersburg Coliseum

Doors open at 6:45 am - Meet & Mingle With Our Heroes and Guest Speaker
Vice Admiral Sean A. Pybus, Deputy Commander, USSOCOM (ret.)

Program promptly begins at 7:30 am

Register Online - RememberHonorSupport.org

★ 9/11 Guest Speaker ★

VICE ADMIRAL SEAN A. PYBUS, Deputy Commander, USSOCOM (ret.)

Vice Admiral Sean A. Pybus is a career Navy Special Warfare (SEAL) officer with multiple Joint Special Operations duty assignments. He graduated from the University of Rochester in 1978 with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and earned a regular Navy commission through NROTC. He graduated Basic Underwater Demolition/Sea (BUDS) training in December 1979 with Class 105.

Vice Admiral Pybus has served in SEAL Underwater Demolition, Special Boat and SEAL Delivery Vehicle tours within NSG and has held positions at Joint Special Operations Command and United States Special Operations Command. Command tours include units in Panama, Germany and Bahrain, as well as duty as commander, NSW Group One, San Diego. He has served as J3 USSOCOM, 2007-2008; Commander, Special Operations Command Pacific, Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii, 2009-2011; Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command in Coronado, California, 2011-2013, and Commander, NATO SOF Headquarters, Mons, Belgium, 2013-2014. His last position was as Deputy Commander, USSOCOM, MacDill AFB, Florida 2014-2016.

He has participated in special operations in Latin America, Europe, Africa and Asia.

Decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal (one award), Distinguished Service Medal (one award), Defense Superior Service Medal (three awards), Legion of Merit (two awards), Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), and various other awards. He is also a 1998 Distinguished Graduate of the Naval War College with a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies.

"THANK YOU"
Tampa Bay for Supporting Our Local Heroes!
In 5 years, RHS has donated nearly \$500,000 in proceeds to our regional beneficiaries.

★ You won't want to miss hearing Vice Admiral Pybus' powerful story of 9/11 and the effects thereafter - PTSA ★

The Island Reporter Picture Page

Putting Safety First

Members of St. Pete Beach Fire and Rescue were out in force on the first day of school for a Back to School Safety Campaign. They parked their vehicles near high visibility roadways and intersections and held signs reminding people to drive safe. Photos courtesy of Fire Marshall Kelly Intzes.



Strikes, Spares and Gutter Balls

Members and guests of the Tierra Verde Business Partnership enjoyed a night of bowling at Ten Pin Lanes in S. Pasadena. There were some great scores and some not-so-great scores, but everyone had a good time. TIR staff photos.



Gambling on a Good Time

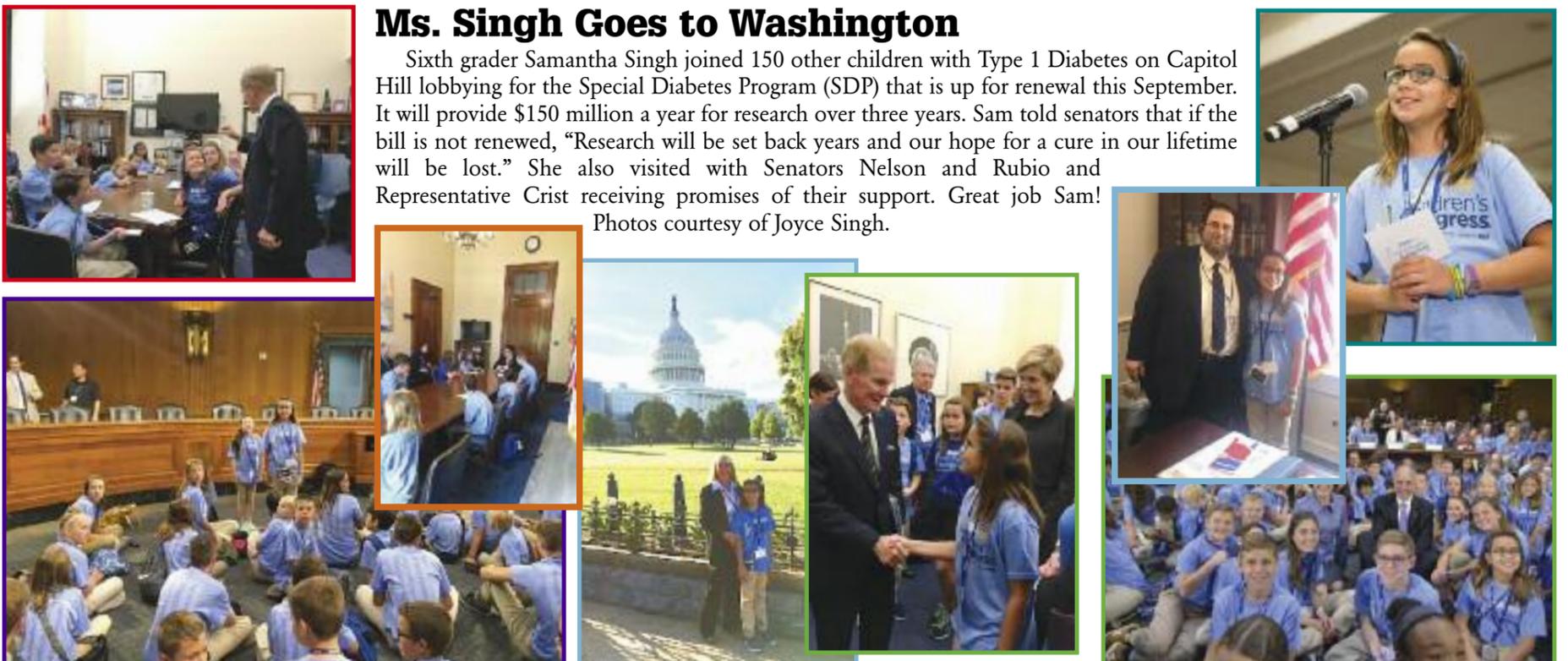
Members and guests of the Treasure Island & Madeira Beach Chamber of Commerce gambled to support three causes: American Legion Post 158, R.O.C. Park and the chamber itself. Elected officials posed with party-goers at the entrance to the "Casino" in the Madeira Beach Community Center and winners showed their delight. Photos by Patty Sebok.



Ms. Singh Goes to Washington

Sixth grader Samantha Singh joined 150 other children with Type 1 Diabetes on Capitol Hill lobbying for the Special Diabetes Program (SDP) that is up for renewal this September. It will provide \$150 million a year for research over three years. Sam told senators that if the bill is not renewed, "Research will be set back years and our hope for a cure in our lifetime will be lost." She also visited with Senators Nelson and Rubio and Representative Crist receiving promises of their support. Great job Sam!

Photos courtesy of Joyce Singh.





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3) Lakefront Lot, Oceanview Dr. \$650,000.
4) Fabulous Greenland Preserve, 1.3 Acre lot w/ covered boatslip, \$1,250,000.
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SOLD!

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BEST BUY ON THE ISLAND ON TIERRA VERDE!!
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PRICE REDUCED

470 3RD STREET S., ST. PETERSBURG
AT THE BEACON is where you will find this charming studio apartment in the heart of downtown St. Petersburg. This condo has a full size kitchen and bath. Relax on the large balcony and enjoy the night lights and the partial water view. Fully furnished with Murphy Bed. Pet friendly community. Rentals allowed - perfect for investors or your weekend hideaway. \$149,000
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PENDING

CIEGA VERDE - 2BR/2BA - \$249,000
557 Pinellas Bayway S #222
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Large 2 bd/2Bath Overlooking Intrcoastl. Watch boats go by your balcony. Easy access to everything on Tierra Verde. Short drive to beaches or downtown! Kitchen has new countertops and cabinets. Make it yours before someone else does! Ready to sell? Call me! Sold, it's what we do!
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8:00 am & 10:00 am
Children's Nursery Provided
Age 3 1/2 and under
Adult Sunday Bible Study
9:00 am
Children's Sunday School
10:00 am



"Members and non-members alike are welcome at our non-denominational worship services."

Dr. Mike Wetzel, Pastor

Wednesday Evening Services
Bible Study and Prayer Meeting
7:00 PM

Dr. Mike Wetzel, Pastor
Joshua Wolfenden
Director of Christian Education

Angela Wolfenden
Worship Music Director

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