



Finding Solutions to Sewage Woes

By Betsy Judge

Publisher's Note: This is the second article in our series about Pinellas County as it relates to development, sewer and water infrastructure and renewable energy.

Three days after WTSP reported the city of St. Petersburg was working to prevent sewage issues during Hurricane Irma, the city announced a spill of more than 400,000 gallons of partially treated sewage on the property of the Northeast Water Reclamation Facility in Southwest St. Pete.

The spill was the result of a faulty tank float sensor, not the post-Irma intermittent power interruptions the plant had experienced or a capacity issue; but a spill is a spill, and it illustrates the ongoing challenges facing municipalities and Pinellas County when it comes to managing the area's aging water and sewer infrastructure serving an ever-growing county population.

Before the latest spill Randi Kim, the county's utilities director acknowledged the challenges the area faces during an update on water and sewer infrastructure at a community advocacy meeting hosted by the City of S. Pasadena and the Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce.

"Water and sewer has been in the news in our community the last few years and there are a lot of concerns about whether or not our aging infrastructure can continue to meet the development challenges," said Kim. "We continue to have an influx of new people in our community and they all drink water and take showers and water their lawns, so the question is can our existing infrastructure meet those increasing water needs?"

The county provides about 1 million customers with water and sewage via 3,600-plus miles of pipes, and treats 155 million gallons of wastewater per day at 14 wastewater treatment plants. They also work with area municipalities like Clearwater, St. Pete and Tarpon Springs along with beach communities



There is enough capacity at county wastewater treatment facilities to handle twice the regular amount of wastewater, but ground water seeps into sewer pipes in cracks due to age from a variety of sources. Heavy rain events compound the problem and often result in spillage.

Pinellas County image.

who are responsible for their own utilities.

Area water comes from Tampa Bay Water (TBW), a nonprofit, state special district which manages a combination of supplies from well fields, surface water and desalinization plants. "We take it from the county line at the top end and deliver throughout the county to customers as far south as Fort De Soto."

Kim says their treatment facilities are able and designed to treat twice the average flow or about 310 million gallons a day. It is huge rain events where groundwater seeps into aging, cracked pipes in the sewer system that can increase capacity beyond what the county and municipalities can handle.

Fixing the problem is a juggling act between increased capacity and minimizing infiltration.

SEWAGE continued on page 7

Navigating Medicare Coverage Options

By TIR Staff

Roughly 10 million baby boomers become Medicare eligible each year and begin the process of assessing the various options available for their health care coverage. It can be daunting says Candace Reistrom, a local agent for United Healthcare Medicare.



Candace Reistrom with United Healthcare Medicare is dedicating her insurance career to helping people find the right Medicare coverage. She holds meetings and visit opportunities throughout open enrollment, this year between Oct. 15 and Dec. 7 as well as during the spring.

TIR Photo.

The former Willis North American agent is the daughter of an insurance broker and began her career doing employee benefits for large hospitals.

"When my mom went on Medicare, I said 'Oh mom, don't worry I know everything about insurance. I'll find you a Medicare plan.' She went to a meeting similar to the ones she holds and said her head was spinning when she left. "I thought, 'Oh my gosh, how can people go through this?'" That is when she decided to focus solely on helping people with Medicare.

In addition to the complexity of Medicare, eligible people get bombarded with advertising, direct mail, even knocks on their doors; some tactics which are against strict Medicare rules established by the CMS (Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.) "You're turning 65, so you become a celebrity."

Original Medicare is provided by the government and includes Part A which covers hospital stays (deductibles apply) and generally has no premium, and Part B which covers doctor and outpatient visits (deductibles apply). The latter has a monthly premium that for new enrollees in 2017 was \$134 per month. Drugs are not covered.

Beyond basic Medicare are two options for additional coverage. Medicare Supplements (Medigap policies) are offered by private companies and cover some of the costs not paid by Original Medicare. All supplemental plans must offer the same benefits per CMS; the only difference is their cost. For drug coverage supplement participants must buy a separate Medicare Part D plan; also

COVERAGE continued on page 4

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Stronger and Sharper Kids... Man Pods... and More...

By Wayne Shattuck

Stronger and Sharper Kids... Making sure kids have good muscle fitness might also benefit their school performance, according to a recent U.S. study. Aerobic fitness has already been linked to better

thinking abilities in pre-teen children, but the current study found an independent link between muscle fitness and kids' performance on memory tests as well as their math and reading skills. For the study, fund-

ed by Nike, 75 kids ages 9 to 11 completed an aerobic exercise test at steady speed on a treadmill with gradually increasing incline until they were too out of

WAYNE continued on page 7

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From the Publisher

By Betsy Judge

I am very excited to say hello to October. September was little rough around here. We fared better than millions of people when Hurricane Irma landed in Marco Island and headed north. For that I am extremely grateful.

Unfortunately the week before the storm, I slipped and broke my ankle in three places. Ten days later I had surgery and now sport two screws, a plate and seven pins in my right leg. It has made everything we've had to do including crashing with wonderful friends when we had to evacuate followed by eight days without power and putting this issue together, a tad more challenging.

Power for me was a medical necessity. Thank goodness for Gary Renfrow who, at the last minute,

found a suite for us at the Alden. My husband Joe has been a real champ. He has always loved to cook and is excellent. He also does laundry, scoops kitty litter, does my around-the-house chores and waits on me hand and foot when needed. And friends have come out of the woodwork offering to help.

Situations like this often bring out the best in people. I was humbled to read that Karen Cassels, with the help of friends, loaded up a U-Haul truck and drove supplies to Islamorada in the keys. That's putting your money where your mouth is. And area businesses and nonprofits are pitching in to help too. It is awesome.

So hello October, happy Halloween, and we wish everyone a speedy recovery.

COVERAGE continued from front page

offered by private companies. Supplements are not network plans so plan-holders may go to any doctor or specialist that accepts Original Medicare.

The second option is to choose a Medicare Advantage plan. Advantage plans are provided by private companies approved by CMS and include Medicare Part C which combines Original Medicare Parts A and B and most offer Part D drug coverage under one plan. Medicare Advantage Plans can be HMOs (Health Maintenance Organizations) or PPOs (Preferred Provider Organizations).

People turning 65 have seven months to enroll (apply) beginning with the third month before their birth month and the following three months

Once in Medicare, recipients have the opportunity to review and change their coverage during open enrollment, Oct. 15 through Dec. 7 this year.

"And you have to keep in mind that the plans change," adds Reistrom. "If you're in an HMO or PPO type plan you need to make sure your doctors are included. You need to look at your drug coverage. What worked with you last year may not work for you this year."

Calculating what your drug plan will cost over the year is more important than selecting a plan just because it has a low premium which could mean higher co-pays.

She recommends only using www.medicare.gov for research. "Go directly to the source," she adds.

She also advocates working with an agent. "An agent is not necessary or required, but I think that an agent should be your advocate, help you through and hopefully tell you what the best decision is for you. This is an important decision, and you want to



This screenshot from www.medicare.gov shows the various ways you can search for Medicare plans. Searches can be filtered by ratings, premiums, plan name, lowest estimated health and drug cost and lowest deductibles among other filters.

be sure you're being guided in the right direction."

Tom Torgersen, President of AIA Insurance Services concurs, "There are many Medicare options and most folks need advice from a professional to help them make the best decisions regarding coverage. The choices made when originally eligible for Medicare can have a lasting impact and limit future options. Those impacts should be explained to the clients so that they can make the best decisions for their health moving forward." He offers AARP and Humana plans.

There is no charge to use an agent.

For additional information go to www.medicare.com; Candace Reistrom, United Healthcare, 727-434-1803; Tom Torgersen, AIA Insurance Services, 727-577-7222.



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Signs of Our Times

By The Old Professor

"Lord give us a sign" the wandering pilgrim shouts. But not us. We have so many that it's easy to miss one. "Why didn't I stop at the intersection Your Honor? Because there were so many other signs that I didn't see the small one that said 'stop'."

Several years ago the city fathers and mothers were debating the wisdom of electronic billboards. In search of enlightenment I observed the one already flashing multiple messages. Then I noticed the jungle of signs in front of various businesses further along. The electronic one didn't really cause much more distraction.

I suggested to a journalist that electronic billboards be taxed. He told me that no billboards were taxed. Seemed like a good idea to me till I remembered how the media screamed "Free speech!" at Gov. Martinez when he proposed taxing advertising. Big defeat, but even he couldn't fight the assembled media. Ads are the largest untaxed product, and there are sure lot's of them.

Some signs amuse: "This Sign Is Not In Use," "If It's In Stock, We Have It," "Graves Cemetery," and "Surprise Birthday Party for Donna Marie, 10/13." When I first saw "Dominican Hairstyle" signs, I imagined nuns giving perms while proclaiming the gospel. I really liked the former chiropractor sign at 22nd and Tyrone, "20 Years And Still Cracking."

Several years ago along an Interstate I observed a single pole with two billboards, "Dick's Sporting Goods," and "Victoria's Secret." Combined? Just imagine. A later one announced, "The Southern Gentlemen's Club." A couple of miles later, "Lust Drags You Down To Hell." When we passed the club, it was already pretty run down. An insurance agent proclaimed, "Mayhem Is Everywhere."

Entropy rides again. Upon exiting the Small Talk Winery's tasting room recently we encountered a large sign that said "Good Riddance. We Thought You'd Never Leave." I laughed.

Lighted signs can present problems after dark. On one reading of "Shell Station" the "S" had gone out. I recently passed a "DOLLAR TREE" sign where the "T" was black and the angled leg on the "R" was dark. "DOLLAR PEE" it proclaimed. Too expensive, thought I. Back when we had pay toilets they were only a nickel, and in the UK you just have to spend a penny. Then there was the "Carousel Cafe" that at night had lost its initial "C." Promise unfulfilled I suspect, except for male teens for whom everything triggers arousal.

Speed bumps are sought by those who drive fast on my street, but want to slow me down on theirs. In St. Pete signs proclaim "Hump Ahead." The city not only approves of close personal relationships, but encourages them. Some street name signs are interesting: "Supreme Court," "Havature Way," and, for old Fibber Magee fans, "Wistful Vista," in Clearwater.

On Route 19 Between 49th and Drew Streets there are 13 billboards for personal injury lawyers. "Harvard Grad," "Local," "US News Best," "Years of Experience," "We Sue," and, obviously, "For The People," they shout. Are there too many attorneys? Are there lots of accidents on Route 19? There are two billboards for emergency rooms. We could "Ask Gary." He's up there twice.

Ogden Nash told us: "I think that I will never see, a billboard lovely as a tree. Perhaps unless the billboards fall, I'll never see tree at all."

Signed by David H. Smith, Ph.D. retired professor

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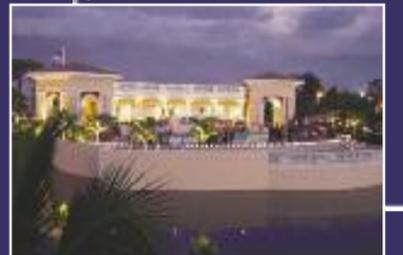
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Pride & Joy Preserving the Past For the Future

By Jackie Minniti

When Donna White retired after more than four decades of teaching, she never imagined she would wind up spending her retirement as a historian. But that's exactly what happened to this Treasure Island resident who spent 11 years as president of the Treasure Island Historical Society. Even though she retired her position this year, she is still actively working on categorizing many treasures from Treasure Island's past.



Donna White dedicated 11 years of her life archiving historical items from Treasure Island. The retired teacher who really had little interest in history was elevated to president of the Treasure Island Historical Society at the first meeting she attended.

Donna, a Pennsylvania native, moved to Florida in 1972 where she got a job teaching in Tampa and later moved to Madeira Beach and taught drama at Gibbs High School in St. Petersburg. In 1980, she relocated to Treasure Island. After her retirement in 2005, a friend took her to a meeting of the Treasure Island Historical Society. Unbeknownst to Donna, they were looking for a president, and she was elected. "I was never very interested in history," she admits, "but Sally Yoder gave me lessons on how to archive." So Donna set about categorizing and cross-referencing tubs of material spanning from the 1930s to the present. To date, Donna has registered over 6,500 items including articles, photographs, maps and artifacts that document Treasure Island's rich history. This July, Donna's efforts were recognized with an Honorary Proclamation from Treasure Island Mayor Bob Minning.

The Treasure Island Historical Society (TIHS) is a 501 (c)3 non-profit corporation dedicated to capturing and preserving Treasure Island's past and present to share with its residents and others interested in the history of the island. Their goal is to collect as much historic memorabilia as possible to add to their archive base, and they encourage any resident or visitor to donate any

historical items to them for preservation. The society has also interviewed residents who were born and raised in Treasure Island to create "Tales of Treasure Island," a series of DVDs with stories about the history of the area. (DVDs can be ordered through the TIHS Facebook page.) The group is seeking to get the word out about the TIHS at community events in order to encourage residents to become members.

The entire second floor of Donna's house has become a workplace where she devotes her spare time to registering, archiving and cross-referencing items that are still stored there. "There's some really unique material that goes through our hands," she says. This includes countless old photographs, aerial maps of the island before the dredging that created the "fingers" of land where houses were built, a book of Green Stamps from WWII, tokens from the old causeway bridge, an original oil painting of the Penguin Restaurant from the 1940s, menus from the old Kingfish Restaurant and a 40-pound brass plaque dated 1939 from the old John's Pass bridge.

Donna hopes all these treasures will someday find a permanent home. "Treasure Island needs its own museum," she says. "We've been looking for someone to donate space. We have plenty of stuff to put in it." Donna believes in the importance of preserving the past. "Some people today don't have a feeling for history," she says. "But if you have something that belonged to your granddad, don't throw it away. Give it to the Treasure Island Historical Society. These are pieces of history, and preserving history is a heavy responsibility."

For more information, go to www.facebook.com/treasureislandFLhistoricalsociety.

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SEWAGE continued from front page

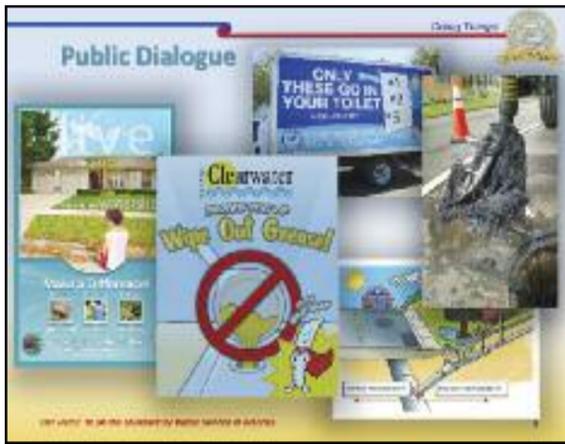
“Do you build bigger and bigger wastewater treatment plants or do you address the problem of leaky sewers?” asks Kim. “We are doing a combination of both, realizing if we build this huge infrastructure and reduce infiltration, we will build up more than we need, so we’re tackling the capacity issue, but also expediting the infiltration problem.”

They work with TBW every five years to review the master plan and project needs for the next 20 years. The county also formed the Wastewater/Stormwater Task Force in 2016 in partnership with the University Partnership Center of St. Petersburg College, – Digitorium, Pinellas County municipalities, and other agencies to identify wastewater and stormwater solutions for the county.

And there is good news; the demand for water in Pinellas County has actually gone down from an average of 153 gallons per person, per day in 1989/90 to 69 in 2015/16. Less water, less wastewater.

“That’s really a testament to the regional water system.” She also credits the use of reclaimed water, water efficient appliances, low flow toilets and shower-heads and education.

The latter is an on-going effort because some of the issues are with pipes on private property. “We are trying to reach out to our customers, our residents and our commercial businesses to teach them how to maintain those pipes. Also, just not flush-



The county has mounted a public education campaign to teach children and adults about judicious water use. In the last 17 years water usage per person, per day has declined by more than 80 gallons. Challenges remain as the system ages and people continue to flock to the area.

Pinellas County image.

ing what you shouldn’t flush down the drain; it can clog up the sewer system and cause overflow.” They also promote Florida friendly landscaping and responsible irrigation.

“This is a priority for Pinellas County; we realize that it affects the economy the environment and we are working closely with other cities to address this,” she concluded.

For more information go to www.pinellascounty.org/utilities.

WAYNE continued from page 3

breath to continue, then completed a similar test of muscular fitness with a battery of upper body, lower body and core exercises using body weight or a medicine ball, including lunges, push-ups and shoulder presses. The kids did as many repetitions of each exercise as possible within 30 seconds while maintaining proper form. They also completed computerized tests of working memory, algebra, geometry, reading and writing. After accounting for age, sex, grade, IQ and family education levels, researchers found that kids with better aerobic fitness on the treadmill test also had more accurate responses in the memory test and better performance at algebraic functions. Kids with more muscular fitness on the body weight and medicine ball tests had similar positive results. For now, children should get more than 60 minutes a day of moderate to vigorous physical activity and regular weight bearing exercise, according to current guidelines.

Man Pods... Now here is an idea, I think, that’s ready for the U.S. At a Shanghai mall, rows of “man pods” equipped with video games are proving a big hit, providing a refuge for hundreds of weary husbands and boyfriends as their other

halves shop their day away. The first pods were launched at the Global Harbor shopping mall in Shanghai this past June, and since then over 4,000 men have used the facilities, according to Ruwo Smart Technology, the company behind the scheme. “Man pod” users can recline in a chair with a large screen and play video games while enclosed behind clear glass walls that shut out the bustle of other shoppers. With retail spending increasing, there could be huge demand for such facilities and the firm said it plans to expand the service to other shopping malls in the future. “We found in most malls men and women go shopping together, but men cannot accept spending a long time shopping,” said Zhao Wei, an operator of one of the pods. “Sometimes they’ll even start having arguments. So we think in this situation, we can have a product that gives a man something to do and the girls can go shopping at ease.”

But That’s Not All... When the first oil wells were drilled they had made no provision for storing the liquid so they used water barrels. That is why, to this day, we speak of barrels of oil rather than gallons.

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Encouraging Words Be The Dog

By Dennis Merritt Jones

"Be alert as you watch a dog at play or at rest. Let the animal teach you to feel at home in the now, to celebrate life by being completely present. You just watch the tail...with some dogs you just look at them -- just a little look is enough -- and their tail goes... 'Life is good! Life is good!' And they are not telling themselves a story of why life is good. It's a direct realization."

~ Eckhart Tolle

The philosophy of Zen comes to mind when I witness dogs "being" themselves. My understanding of Zen (in part) is that it is the practice of "be-ing" 100 percent present and one with what is in the field of my awareness, or whatever I am doing. Given that meaning, it's safe to say I have a Zen master in my life. His name is Mac Doodle, aka, "Master Mac." He is a seven year-old, 80-pound, Goldendoodle. I receive new teachings from him daily. Today he taught me the importance of spontaneously taking a time-out from my usual busyness to play a little, which I did because he wouldn't leave me alone until I did. This was a win/win for both of us. I was a bit tired and losing my focus anyway. Now I feel twice as alive, energized and connected to what needs to be done...and he is taking a snooze so I can get my work done.

It's interesting how the universe knows how to balance the energy for all living things when they are willing to "be" in the moment. Mac naturally knows when to play and when to take a time-out to rest his mind and his body. We, on the other hand, are not always that in touch with our true nature. Being present in the moment seems to take much work for us because we exist on a linear pathway of doing. Regardless of whether it's work related or walking through the supermarket, while our bodies are always present moment, quite often our minds are either out in front of us or behind us doing something else. Would you like to know how to rectify that problem? Just "be" the dog!

As an example, see if you can relate with this: Master Mac is so much in the present moment that he will walk from one room into another, then stand there with a curious look on his face. My human interpretation of his look is, "Humm, now...why did I walk in here?" Have you ever done that? I have. When that happens it's because I am usually on a mission for some-

thing my mind has instructed my body to fetch, and my mind has decided to do something else while waiting for my body to return. The only difference between Mac and you and me is, when we do that, it's because we failed to consciously keep our mind and body in sync and, as a result, we think we are experiencing a senior moment. When Mac does it he has no agenda; his thinking mind hasn't gotten in the way--he is simply experiencing the moment and where it takes him, period. It doesn't matter what mission he may appear to be on, whether it's fetching the ball or just running wildly through the yard, his mind and body are so much in sync in the present moment he will often stop on a dime, turn, and begin intensely sniffing the scent of some "mysterious" creature, or chase an errant wind blown leaf, or follow the sound of something into the bushes. Mac's ability to be open to the present comes naturally, and, as a result, the "direct realization" that life is good is always at hand. Is it possible that we too could have that direct realization more often? Perhaps so.

Granted, dogs may find it easier to be in the moment because they don't have to go to work, pay taxes, or change the baby's diaper, but then again, that is not why they were sent here. Tolle refers to dogs as the "Guardians of Being" -- I like that a lot. If we are open to it, having a dog in one's life can be a sacred experience, always reflecting back to us our own spiritual nature. (We all know what we get when we spell DOG backwards.) Master Mac's "soul" puppy-purpose is to help me remember that every moment of my life is good, if for no other reason than I am alive; it's up to me to "be" in the present moment long enough to realize that it's good. Mac faithfully reminds me of this every day.

So, the next time you are around a pooch, invite him or her to teach you about the art of being a dog. If you pay attention you'll discover that life isn't nearly as "ruff" as you might think. Be the dog, indeed.

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.



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Brother (Part III)

By Sabrina O'Donnell

I heard his voice, but didn't register his words; I was already running. I slammed the door behind me and watched the room numbers drop ... 108, 107, 106, I know you can do this, Mike's voice echoed through my head...105, 104, 103. I flung open the door, letting it slam behind me.

I had never seen a real-life computer before. I walked over to it, catching my breath, and pushed in the numbers. 44762. The screen lit up, I could see the video of Mike but couldn't hear it. LOADING, the screen told me. LOADING.

It seemed like a hundred years before the BROADCAST button popped up, just as Mike said it would. I clicked it without thinking and prepared to run again.

Pushing the door open, I checked to make sure no one was passing by. I took off but despite what Mike had told me, I slowed down at room 109. The door was open but I was sure I'd closed it. Peeking in I had to throw my hands over my mouth to keep from screaming. Mike was lying unconscious on the floor, two Power Center guards were standing over him. One was holding a little rubber bat, the other was slamming on the computer.

"There has to be someone helping him," one barked. "This room doesn't broadcast."

It all started to make sense. "Don't look back," he had said. "Don't slow down, don't wait for me."

He knew. "No matter what you hear..." Mike knew this was going to happen. "Or what you see..." he knew this entire time. "Just keep running."

I fought tears and took off again; I knew I had to get out of here. I could see the ground disappearing under my feet. There was a ringing in my ears. I tried to think about what this meant for Mike, or what

this meant for me, but I couldn't focus my thoughts. The only thing I could think about for more than a second was the Kit Kat bar Sister had given me. I thought about the crunch of the candy between my teeth and the way the chocolate felt on my tongue. As I ran back down the grey corridor, it almost felt like I was running down the grey hallway at home; like I was running into Sister's room to see what other surprises were waiting in her dark red shoe box.

The door appeared in front of me out of nowhere. I stopped sharply reentering reality. An alarm was sounding. As I swung the door open the sun blinded me but I didn't stop running.

I was out. I had made it.

The next day the learning center was silent. Teacher was the first one to bring up what had happened.

"I'm sure you've all heard," she began. "Who's seen the video?"

The room stayed silent.

"I'm going to show you. Interpret it however you please."

Teacher dimmed the lights as Mike popped up on her screen. There was a faint smirk on Teacher's face.

"Hello... well... everyone. I'm Mike and if you're watching this, I am most likely in the Power Center Prison. I may even be dead."

Goosebumps covered my arms.

"You may think I'm stupid for risking what I have, but I'm not. My words are going to stick in your mind forever. Me. Standing up here telling you all that the 'no good revolutionaries' - yes Jonathon I'm talking to you - we are real, we are here, and we are not going to lose. Tomorrow doesn't have to look like today does. Stop being afraid!"

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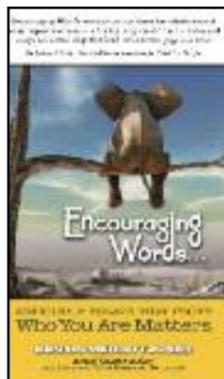
C21 Welcomes Realtors

Century 21 Coast to Coast in Tierra Verde recently welcomed realtors Kim Shuey, Sam Bennett, Tom Williamson, Sophia Dottin, Melissa Pegues, and Irina Roth. "These Realtors are all trained and eager to list and sell real estate in our target markets of Tierra Verde, South St. Petersburg, Downtown and the Gulf Beaches." said Randall Ierna, managing broker and realtor-emeritus. "Our new realtors bring to us even more enthusiasm than our company already has and I expect that they will be our next generation of super stars." They are pictured in their ad on page 20.



Encouraging Words

Local author and TIR contributor Dennis Merritt Jones' new book, "Encouraging Words," will be released in early October. He says he was not planning to write a book this year, but, "It sort of fell in my lap." His next book, "The Art of Abundance" is with the publisher, and in production for release in July.



Massage Therapist Helps Pets

Mary French, a certified pet massage and Reiki level I therapist has relocated her business, Furry Friends Pet Massage, from Illinois to the St. Pete area. Pet massage can reduce pain and stiffness, improve muscle tone and circulation, and reduce anxiety and stress among other benefits. She is dedicated to helping animal's live happier lives. Learn more at www.furryfriendspetmassage.com



Notable Achievements

Vets Help Vets

Veterans Chris Star (black shirt) and Jon Boggs (far right) each received a scholarship from the Veterans of South Pinellas County for the fall semester at the University of South Florida, St. Pete campus. TIR staff photo.



Collecting for a Cause

Dr. Joubert Desulme and the staff of Welcome Home Family Chiropractic held a Back to School Drive to collect newly purchased school supplies in exchange for chiropractic services prior to the start of the school year. They put the donated supplies in backpacks to distribute to a local school. Dr. J also matched the amount that was collected.

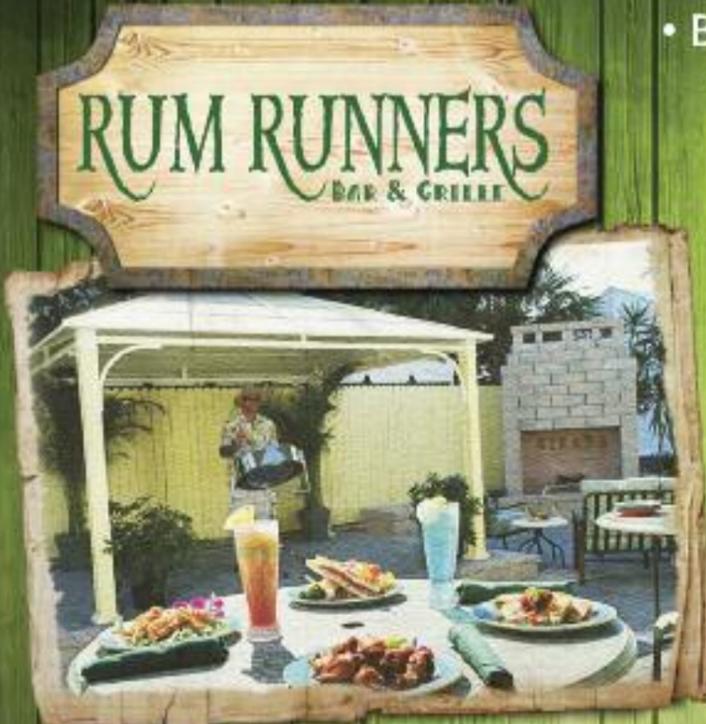


Irma Relief

Area residents pitched in to help victims and first responders in the wake of Hurricane Irma. Read more about their efforts on the Picture Page (page 19.) NOAA image.



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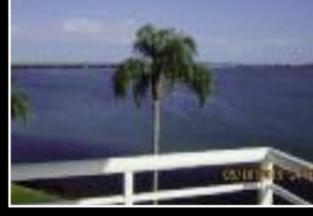
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Fun Things to Help Forget Irma

By Sally Yoder



October Concert Series at Horan Park.



Octoberfest in Downtown Tierra Verde.



Chowder Challenge at Horan Park.

What better way to unwind from Irma stress than enjoy events in our own safe community? Attend these activities, help the sponsoring groups and relax and enjoy.

St. Pete Beach starts the month off with a packed concert series at Horan Park every Friday from 7 - 9 p.m. It kicks off with music by the Horny Toads on Oct. 6, followed by Alter Eagles on Oct. 13, 2 Dog Night on Oct. 20 and finishing with Gloria West & the Gents on Oct. 27. All con-

certs are free admission with food, beer and wine available for sale, a fun zone and more. Be sure to bring your own chair or blanket to Horan Park by Corey Causeway.

Octoberfest on Tierra Verde is Sat., Oct. 21 from 4 to 9 p.m. with something for everyone. In the parking lot in downtown Tierra Verde there will be a special "Bier Garden" with beverages from local brewers, food trucks, contemporary and German music by DeLeon Entertainment, kids

activities, local crafters and art by local artists. Kids With Cancer Holiday Party will be the benefactors of the 2017 Octoberfest.

A peek into November's calendar brings the 4th Annual Chowder Challenge at Horan Park, on Sun., Nov. 12 from 1 to 5 p.m. Come and sample chowders from many local chefs and vote for your choice. The Pass-a-Grille Woman's Club is sponsoring the Challenge in 2017 to help benefit other local organizations. Tickets available online Nov 1.

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QUIET, PRIVATE, SECURE GREENLAND PRESERVE

This lot is 1.3 Acres in the GATED PRESERVE near Ft. De Soto Park. Amenities include an electronic gate, a COVERED BOATSLIP with Electric and water available and with deep water access, a Long LIGHTED BOARDWALK with access to the PRIVATE MARINA and a COVERED GAZEBO with swing built over the water. All utilities are in and the zoning allows a House, a Coach House and a large multi-car Garage. This building site contains Specimen Oak Trees, and the preserve hosts Red and White Mangroves and an incredible grove of Specimen Black Mangroves. This is a nature lovers delight with sightings of all of the area's Flora and Fauna. You will enjoy privacy and security in this location. Builder/developers Key Lot, Will Build to suit, Finance or exchange price \$1,250,000. See video at <http://tinyurl/zntzaub>.







TIERRA VERDE SHORES LAKEFRONT LOT



Build your Dream Home on this large Fabulous lakefront lot on Westshore Drive in Tierra Verde Shores. Features include underground utilities, front view to the west, beautiful Lake Front View to the East. You can see all the birds of the area including Roseatte Spoonbills, White Pelicans, Man-O-War birds, Skimmers, Red Headed ducks and Scaup in the winter. This location is Private and Quiet and sits among some of the most beautiful large Multi-Million dollar homes in the area. Lot size is 8/10th of an Acre and measures 159 x 230. You can walk or bike to the Tierra Verde Community Park with Tennis and Pickleball courts, The Little League Field and a Play Area for the kids. It is also a nice bike ride or jog to incredible Fort Desoto Park. This lot is level and ready to build, or you can land bank this lot for the future. \$650,000.00 with terms available.



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**Community Associations
Day & Trade Show**

*Open to
the Public*

*Free
Admission*

ST. PETERSBURG COLISEUM
535 4th Avenue North, St. Petersburg

*Free
Parking*

October 26, 2017

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in association services**

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For further details contact the Suncoast Chapter of Community Associations Institute

Phone: 727-345-0165 E-mail: lhagan@suncoastcai.com Website: www.suncoastcai.com



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Thur: Bingo, 7 p.m.

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Tierra Verde, FL 33715**



Florida Author Murder Goes To School

By Jackie Minniti

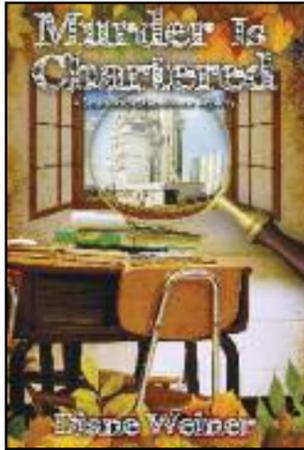
Most people wouldn't associate a classroom with murder and mystery, but that's because they've never read a book by Diane Weiner. This Coral Springs writer has used her 30-plus years in education as the inspiration for The Susan Wiles Schoolhouse Mysteries, a delightful series of cozy thriller novels featuring a plucky retired schoolteacher with a penchant for sleuthing.

Weiner has loved reading and writing since she was a child in New York. After graduating from the University of North Carolina with a degree in music, she married and moved to Oklahoma with her husband, Robert. She decided to become certified in teaching and earned a Masters degree in educational leadership and a Ph.D in teacher leadership. She taught grades 1 through 3 and elementary school music. After teaching for five years at an American school in Mexico City, she relocated to Florida where she now teaches earth science at Millennium 6-12 Collegiate Academy in Broward County.

It was while working on her doctoral dissertation that she decided to try her hand at writing a book.

"I kept thinking about how much fun it would be to write without having to worry about bibliographies and citations," she says. "I also started writing so I'd have something to do after I retired." She chose the mystery genre because she enjoyed Nancy Drew mysteries and Mary Higgins Clark's novels, but her tendency to scare easily and have nightmares made her decide to write cozies - mystery stories without gore, graphic language or violence. She submitted her first novel, "Murder is Elementary," to Cozy Cat Press because she liked their name and was thrilled when they offered her a contract.

"Murder is Elementary" introduces Weiner's signature character, Susan Wiles, a retired teacher who finds the body of the school's principal when she returns to her old school for the



"Murder is Chartered," is mystery author Diane Weiner's eighth novel. Her latest release is "Murder is Homework" and, like all novels in the series takes place in a school setting. The author is a career teacher.

holiday concert. Susan decides to help the local police, one of which is her daughter, Lynette, while they investigate the crime. Weiner admits Susan is like her in some ways. "Susan looked forward to being retired and being a grandma, and she likes to solve puzzles," she says. "But she's bolder and braver than I am. I enjoy being able to get inside Susan's head when I'm writing because it's like living the life I'd like to live."

"Murder is Elementary" was followed by eight more mysteries featuring Susan Wiles - "Murder is Secondary," "Murder in the Middle," "Murder is Private," "Murder is Developmental," "Murder is Legal," "Murder is Collegiate," and "Murder is Chartered." The seventh book in the series, "Murder is Collegiate,"

is set in the town of Sugarberry Falls, Vermont. It inspired a spin-off novel titled "A Deadly Course" which won an Eric Hoffer Book Award and is the first book in a new series, The Sugarberry Falls Mysteries. Weiner is currently working on the next book in the series which centers around the murder of a young lawyer and a custody battle over an inheritance.

Weiner's latest release, "Murder is Homework," is the ninth of the Susan Wiles Schoolhouse Mysteries. When Susan learns that her birth mother has been arrested for killing her husband, she goes on a hunt for the real killer to prove her mother's innocence. According to Weiner, "There's a twist at the end, but I can't tell you about it because it's a surprise."

Since her stories involve schools and teachers, it shouldn't be surprising that Weiner hopes her books will teach readers a valuable lesson. "I hope Susan shows readers that you can be productive at any age," Weiner says. "There's life after retirement, and it's never too late to reinvent yourself."

For more information, visit the author's website at www.dianewainerauthor.com.

FREE PARKING AT 36TH ANNUAL JOHN'S PASS SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

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But it's for motorcycles and scooters only. For the second year in a row, Marsalisi Law is providing free parking to two-wheeled riders just steps from the main entrance to the John's Pass Seafood Festival. A special lot has been set aside for motorcycles and scooters only, and will be available beginning October 27th and running through October 29th.

Attorney Frank P. Marsalisi is a St. Petersburg native trial lawyer who focuses on representing victims of motorcycle and automobile collisions. Unlike many law firms in the area, your case will never be managed by a paralegal or case manager. Frank believes that every client deserves his personal attention. This is why Marsalisi Law is Where Law Gets Personal.

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PROGRAM PROMPTLY BEGINS AT 7:30 AM

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The Island Reporter Puzzle Page

The Crossword by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Hearty dish
- 5 Ill will
- 10 Sit (down)
- 14 Uber alternative
- 15 Knight's protection
- 16 Latest thing
- 17 Gulf leader
- 18 Sot
- 19 Archipelago part
- 20 Coin collector?
- 22 One of Alcott's "Little Men"
- 23 Orangish yellow
- 24 Alluring
- 27 Hang loosely
- 30 Made helpless
- 31 Nasty biter
- 34 With intensity
- 36 Type of flow
- 38 Browser action
- 39 Faze
- 40 Type of bypass surgery
- 42 Long letter
- 43 Bono's nonprofit
- 44 Leak stopper
- 46 Arroz ___ pollo
- 47 Forerunner
- 49 Thread holder
- 52 Word of disgust
- 53 Inflexible
- 57 Homecoming guest
- 58 Food on a stick
- 60 Piece of cake
- 61 ___ mortals
- 62 Dome dwelling
- 63 A whole bunch
- 64 "Duck soup!"
- 65 Impoverished

DOWN

- 1 Flower holder
- 2 Break, in a way
- 3 Way out
- 4 Tech magazine
- 5 Parked oneself
- 6 One with a gift
- 7 Bestow
- 8 Hammer slantingly
- 9 Blow it
- 10 1953's "House of Wax" actor
- 11 Secure, in a way
- 12 Look like a creep
- 13 Kind of review
- 21 Warm-up at the Belasco
- 23 Raphael or Rembrandt
- 25 Platoon member
- 26 Demeanor
- 27 Key ____, FL
- 28 Singer of the 80's hit "Loverboy"
- 29 Throb
- 31 Bit of mischief
- 32 Sudden burst
- 33 Primp
- 35 Young one
- 37 "___ show time!"
- 41 Coleslaw vegetable
- 42 Adult life, for some
- 45 At risk
- 47 Comfortable
- 48 Dentist's order
- 49 Bar order, with "the"
- 50 Nolo contendere, e.g.
- 51 Couple's pronoun
- 54 Embellish richly
- 55 Frigid
- 56 ___-eyed
- 58 Reunion folks
- 59 Little guy

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Sudoku

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

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Trivia

American Revolution

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- When did the American Revolution begin?
(a) July 1774 (b) February 1773 (c) April 1775
- "The shot heard 'round the world" refers to what two places?
(a) Boston and Lexington (b) Lexington and Concord (c) Concord and Boston
- Who was the British King during the war? (a) George III (b) William IV (c) George II
- What system was used by colonists to send messages to each other?
(a) Committees of Correspondence (b) Deliverance Group (c) Writs of Assistance
- What French military officer served with George Washington?
(a) Henri Jules Bataille (b) Gaspard de Coligny (c) Marquis de Lafayette
- What was the location of a series of battles that became the turning point for the war? (a) Saratoga (b) Long Island (c) Trenton
- America received foreign aid from what country? (a) Spain (b) France (c) Portugal
- What were German mercenaries who fought for the British called?
(a) Bavarians (b) Hessians (c) Silesians
- What was the last major battle of the American Revolution?
(a) Ticonderoga (b) Bunker Hill (c) Yorktown
- The American Revolution ended on what date?
(a) September 3, 1783 (b) July 4, 1779 (c) January 10, 1781

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

Word Search

Godesses

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APHRODITE ASTARTE AURORA CERES CYBELE DEVI FLORA HEBE ISIS MINERVA NEMESIS PELE POMONA THALIA VENUS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ARTEMIS ATHENA CALLIOPE CLIO DEMETER DIANA HARMONIA HESTIA JUNO MOIRA NIOBE PHOEBE SELENE URANIA VESTA
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X O V G M D C W X K N Y Z H C P Z
 T R A D C E M V Y H I C L L B R A
 R U D R R G A P H R O D I T E R I
 T E B E O H P T P S B O H T Y T N
 M B S F C L A L I O E H E S T I A
 V J U N O I F S Y Y M M N Y D K R
 I S I S L Q E E O R E O W U Y N U
 C A F A A M A L E D U E N O G I D
 W R H T E R Z E R T B S Y A V Z N
 C T S N I A T N H A R M O N I A S
 U E S O A N Q E Q S U A T U E U Z
 V M M I N E R V A T C H T L P A M
 C I U L K H V C Y B E L E S R O I
 B S N I P T E O E X G P Y O A I G
 M Z M V G A N A I D H Q R H E B E
 K S R E C L U Z C Z B U D O C A Q
 G Q C D V V S N V C A L L I O P E

ANSWERS ON PAGE 10

Local Events, Activities & Announcements

Gulfport

Oct. 6 & 21: Gulfport Art-Walk, 6 - 10 p.m. Beach Blvd. S., Waterfront District.

Oct 5: 49th Street Clean-up & Meet the Chiefs, 8:15 a.m. Registration and a light breakfast; 9 a.m. Mayors' Welcome; 9:15 a.m. Cleanup; 10:30 a.m. Chiefs Chat and post event picnic. Join Mayor Sam Henderson of Gulfport and Mayor Rick Kriseman of St. Petersburg along with Police Chief Rob Vincent and Police Chief Tony Holloway and celebrate community. Tangerine Greenway on 49th Street South at Tangerine Avenue. Info at www.mygulfport.us under events.

Nov. 11: Mark Your Calendars: VetsSports Volleyball Open, 11 a.m. Whether you served in the military or serve on the volleyball court, join the City of Gulfport for VETSports Heroes Weekend. Enter the parade, enter your team in the VETSports Beach Volleyball Gulfport Open or volunteer with our group. Parade starts on Beach Blvd. S. Info at www.mygulfport.us/heroesweekend.

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

Oct. 20: Movie on the Beach, 8 p.m. Watch "Hocus Pocus" on the beach. Archibald Beach. Info at www.madbeachevents.com.

Oct. 26-29: 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

Oct. 6: October Concerts in The Park, 7 p.m. Horney Toads kick off the annual concert series celebrating the 60th anniversary of the city. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets to relax outdoors under the stars. Free and open to the public. Food, beer, and wine available for purchase. Other concerts: Oct. 13: Alter Eagles, Oct. 20: 2 Dog Night, Oct. 27: Gloria West & The Gents. St. Pete Beach Community Center, 7701 Boca Ciega Dr. Info at www.spbrec.com.

Oct. 14: Fire Rescue-Open House, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Celebrate Fire Prevention Week and meet your firefighters. Tours, Sparky the Fire Dog, equipment displays, child ID/fingerprinting, fire safety info, exhibits, face painting, games, food and drinks. 7301 Gulf Blvd. Info at 727-363-9206.

Oct. 14: Party Under the Lights, 4 - 10 p.m. Enjoy steel drums followed by the tunes of Billy Agans. Food, beer, wine, and arts and crafts available for purchase. 8th Avenue, Pass-a-Grille.

Oct. 14: 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. 5500 Gulf Blvd. Info at www.sunsetloungeexperience.com under adventures.

Oct. 26: Trunk or Treat, 5:30 - 7 p.m. Bring the kids and trick or treat in the parking lot from the trunks of cars to get in the Halloween spirit. St. Pete Beach Community Center, 7701 Boca Ciega Dr. Info at www.spbrec.com.

Each Week

Corey Avenue Sunday Market, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Up to 75 vendors with locally produced and home-made items including produce, plants, take home foods, ready to eat lunch bites, hand crafts, eco-friendly and fair trade products. Live music. Info at www.TampaBayMarkets.com.

PAG Thrift Shop, 9 a.m. - noon, Tuesday - Thursday and Saturday. Shop quality new and used items. Sales support local charities. 17th Ave. and Pass-a-Grille Way. Info at 727-360-5508.

All month

St. Pete Beach Public Library. Check www.spbli-brary.com for the latest events.

St. Petersburg

Oct. 12: CASA Peace Breakfast, 7 - 8:30 a.m. Annual fundraiser to help CASA help victims of domestic abuse. Sponsorships available. St. Petersburg Coliseum, Info at www.casa-street.org.

Oct. 20: Patriot Day Memorial Breakfast, 7 - 9 a.m. Meet & mingle with local heroes, honor those who perished on 9/11 or fighting against terrorism, followed by breakfast and guest speaker. Hosted by Remember • Honor • Support. Historic Coliseum, 535 4th Ave N. Tickets and info at www.rememberhonorsupport.org.

Oct. 20: Military Officers Association of St. Pete, 11 a.m. Social hour, lunch and speaker Carol Barkalow from Heaven on Earth for Veterans. 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

Oct. 21: Party for the Paws, 6 - 9 p.m. A dog and kid friendly event with live music by Screamin' Donkey, Doggie Biscuit Bar, 50/50 raffle, raffle baskets, Tye Die Creation Station (shirts provided or bring your own), Doggie Costume Contest and more. Supports Pet Pal Animal Rescue. Ferg's, 1320 Central Ave. Info at www.petpal.com.

Oct. 26: 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: 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: Oktoberfest, 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.tierraverdebusinesspartnership.com.

Oct. 28: Fall Festival, 4 - 6 p.m. Games, prizes, crafts, hay rides, treats, apple bobbing, hotdogs, drinks. The Island Chapel, 1271 Pinellas Bayway S. Info at www.theislandchapel.org.

Treasure Island

Oct. 21: Public Safety Day, 10 a. - 2 p.m. Get to know the members of the TI Police and Fire Departments. Free event with bike rodeo (ages 5 - 11) demos, food, door prizes and entertainment. Info at www.islandneighborschamber.org under events.

Oct. 22: Wag-O-Ween, 10 a.m. Celebrate Halloween with your dog. Every pooch entered gets a gift bag. Four categories: tiny, small, medium and large dogs. Prizes, trophies, ribbons and BBQ. Grand Prize - Best in Show. Info at www.islandneighborschamber.org under events.

Nov. 11 - 12: Mark Your Calendar: Discover the Island, Fundraiser for historic Egmont Key. Civil War re-enactors, self-guided tours., children's games, silent auction, music and lighthouse viewing. Ferry fees apply. Info at www.egmontkey.info.

Nov. 15 - 19: Mark Your Calendar: Sanding Ovations, Times vary. Ten master sculptors compete for more than \$12,000 in cash prizes. Beach food court, an arts and crafts marketplace and three days of live music make this a must-see event. Info at www.mytreasureisland.com.

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.

Oct.5: Rules of the Nautical Road, Oct. 10: Boating Safety, Oct. 17: Introduction to Navigation, Oct. 24: Powering Your Boat, Oct. 31: Lines and Knots

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

Eckerd College, Enjoy a variety of activities and programs as a service to the community. All events are held on the Eckerd College campus and are free and open to the public, unless otherwise stated. 4200 54th Ave. S. Info at www.eckerd.edu/events.

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

Oct. 23: Inaugural TIMB Chamber Golf Tournament, 11:30 a.m. Registration; 1 p.m. Shotgun Start with four member teams. Raffle, muligan 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

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Beverage Beat Shiraz v. Syrah

By Ellen L. Capitosti

When is a Shiraz, not a Shiraz? Well, when it's a Syrah! The grape has its roots in Persia (present day, Iran), where the capital of the Fars province is... Shiraz. Evidence shows this ancient corner of the earth is also home to one of the oldest wine-making areas of the world. It was also once believed that France's Syrah had its roots in Persia. Unfortunately, DNA testing has taken the romance out of this myth; the original Syrah cuttings are indeed indigenous to France, but Shiraz and Syrah are made of the same grape; it's all in the name.

Syrah made its way out of the mystical Middle Eastern shadows during the 1700s and into the Rhône Valley of France. The winemakers of Rhône set about to create a wine all their own,

and it is from the city of Hermitage that Syrah was born. It is made with the dark-skinned grape that produces some of the darkest red wines on the market - darker than Cabernet Sauvignon and difficult to see through, even when held up to the light. It is a full-bodied wine that can give it a "heavy" mouth feel and it also contains a large amount of mouth-drying tannins. It is the perfect accompaniment to many meat dishes and while it also contains some of the largest levels of antioxidants. So don't just drink it for the health benefits; enjoy it any time.

It was when James Busby, arguably the Father of Australian winemaking, visited France in 1832 that he became enchanted with the Syrah. He surreptitiously collected some cuttings, brought

them home to Australia and, voila - or was it blimey? Once there local winemakers decided to make it their own by re-naming it and adding an Aussie twist to the new name - Shiraz (Shi-RAZ, rhymes with "jazz"). Shiraz sprung to life on the far away shores of a former penal colony!

Many Syrah and Shiraz can be expensive in the U.S. However, in Australia which devotes large amounts of land to the raising Shiraz, they are able to be produced much more affordably. So regardless of where your Syrah or Shiraz hails, and whether it is a sip with friends or enjoyed with a steak - enjoy a glass, from a vine with a past, from a land far away and long ago.

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

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The Island Reporter Picture Page – Irma Relief

Area Business, Nonprofits Pitch In

Treasure Island and Madeira Beach Chamber of Commerce and the American Legion Family, Post 158 hosted a First Responders luncheon at the Treasure Island Community Center. They also fed city workers and power company employees. Food was donated by Feola's Italian Ristorante, BRGR Kitchen and Bar of the Treasure Island Beach Resort, VIP Mexican Restaurant, and Da Sesto Italiano Ristorante. Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber opened their offices for people to use their power and wi-fi.



TBW Lends a Hand

Tampa Bay Watch teamed with the Everyday Hero Project and OperationFloat to help fellow Floridians who were affected by Hurricane Irma and are still struggling to recover. The partnership coordinated relief efforts in Naples and the Everglades, and will continue providing relief where there is a need. Monetary donations may be made at www.gofundme.com/OperationFloat.



Making a Difference

Karen Cassels, with The Island Grille, and friends collected supplies to help the victims of Hurricane Irma in the Keys. They filled a big U-Haul truck and drove to Islamorada to distribute what they had. Cassels said it was a very emotional day talking to people who had lost everything and thanks her friends who helped.



ISLAND TOONS

By Bruce W. Norris





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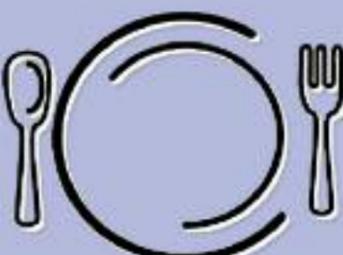
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