

The Island Reporter

The Premier Paper of South Pinellas County

Tampa Bay Watch

A Man ■ A Mission ■ A Cleaner Bay

By Betsy Judge

Images Courtesy of TBW

In the late '70s Peter Clark came to the bay area to visit his brother and sunk to his knees in muck as they walked in the shallow water of Tampa Bay.

Untreated wastewater, stormwater and industrial waste was pouring into the bay prompting rampant algae blooms. Seagrass beds, vital to the health of the estuary were buried under yards of sea lettuce or torn up with widespread dredge and fill projects.

"That was when they were dredging and expanding the ship channel into downtown Tampa, a major construction project with very little control. That's probably considered the low point for Tampa Bay," says Clark, founder and president of Tampa Bay Watch (TBW).

The nonprofit is celebrating 25 years of restoring and protecting the Tampa Bay estuary habitat through stewardship and community awareness. He gives credit for their organizational success to the energized community, young and old, who take a leading role in the recovery of the bay.

"Community volunteers are the fabric of our organization. We provide the science and facilitate the projects, but we depend on our youth and community volunteers to do the actual construction in Tampa Bay."



Peter Clark saw a need to organize and educate bay area residents about stewardship and restoration of Tampa Bay. He left his job to start Tampa Bay Watch in a room of his house in 1993. In 2000 TBW began to raise money for a Marine & Education Center on Tierra Verde (inset photo) and this year they are celebrating their 25th anniversary.

clubs doing hands-on restoration projects. "It was readily apparent that there was a real need to organize these community volunteers, because they loved doing it (bay projects), but they didn't know, necessarily, what to do."

He was inspired, took a leap of faith, left his government job as his wife was expecting their first son, filed paperwork for the 501(c)(3) status, and started TBW in a room of their St. Petersburg house.

That was 1993 and they have been growing every since. "What you see," he says about TBW, "that certainly didn't happen overnight. But I think part of the success of the organization is the very, very slow growth."

TBW continued on page 8

Tiny Solutions for a Not-So-Tiny Problem

By Betsy Judge

Tiny houses are in the news. Tiny houses have their own TV shows like: "Tiny House, Big Living," "Tiny House Builders," "Tiny House Hunters," "Tiny Luxury" and "Tiny House Nation."

Here in Pinellas County, Celebrate Outreach, wants to build tiny homes to house otherwise homeless veterans.

The group is a partnership of Saint Petersburg-area faith-based congregations and individuals dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness through direct service, advocacy, community education and social justice.



This screen capture of the Celebrate Outreach home page promotes the tiny homes project and allows visitors to donate to the effort. The nonprofit also feeds homeless people each Friday night and Saturday morning and provided 14,000 meals last year.

Image courtesy of Celebrate Outreach.

At a recent Veterans of South Pinellas County meeting, Sabine von Aulock, the secretary of their board of directors, and Courtney Allen, a Celebrate Outreach volunteer who developed their tiny house business plan, briefed the group on the project.

Allen points to a poster board with 329 written on it. It is the number of homeless veterans counted during the 2017 national Point in Time Count mandated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). People familiar with veteran homelessness believe it is much more than that and Celebrate Outreach wants to make a dent in it, whatever the number.

They purchased plans for the houses, that are about 470 square feet, designed by students at the University of South Florida. They are currently in fund raising mode and the timeline calls for purchasing land in April, procuring materials in May and breaking ground in June for a home dedication around Veterans Day.

Tiny homes come with a relatively tiny price. They are figuring \$47,000 per house, but raising money is only a small part of the challenge.

TINY continued on page 14



Photograph by: David Gruskin, St. Petersburg

Partial eclipse of super blue moon setting at Ft. DeSoto fishing pier.



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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Beverage Beat St. Pete's Own Horse Soldiers

By Ellen L. Capitosti

Horse Soldier conjures images of an ancient, ragtag army racing across the steppes of Russia on tiny, yet sturdy, sure-footed, horses at lightning speed to engage their foes. Fast forward to post 9/11, and the U.S. responded, in part, to the brutal attack on American soil by inserting small groups of Army Green Berets into the rugged terrain of Northern Afghanistan as part of Task Force Dagger.

Despite having advance technological capability, the Green Berets needed to fit in with their Afghan counterparts. To accomplish this, they too would ride small and tough local horses – many never having ridden before.

Fast forward another decade plus, and many of the Green Berets of Task Force Dagger are now out

of the service. They have come home to work, friends, and family life; the movie, "12 Strong," details their role in Afghanistan.

Their story is continuing to evolve. To remember the friendships made and hardships endured in Afghanistan they created the American Freedom Distillery in St. Petersburg, where their memories come alive in the form of fine spirits.

Horse Soldier Bourbon is a wheated, bourbon whiskey, uniquely complex, with a wheat forward expression and has been aged a minimum of eight years in new American Oak. The soft subtlety of red winter wheat further complemented by extra years of maturation, provides this bold American spirit a robust and powerful flavor with a long, crisp finish of dark stone fruits, vanilla and oak.

American Freedom also offers Rekker, a line of rum. Rekker is a modern spin on an old Nordic word for warrior. It is a fitting tribute to warriors, both ancient and modern – a nod to the creators of this rum, as well as to those who influenced them. Rekker is a line of super premium organic rums made from the first passes of sugar cane juice, not molasses. They are intriguing, smooth, and elegant in finish and meant to be enjoyed on the rocks, or in a favorite libation.

These are a few of the latest offerings from a new neighbor that recognizes and embraces the finest America has to offer. Learn more at www.americanfreedomdistillery.com.

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

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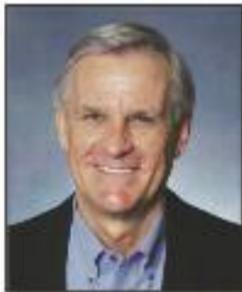
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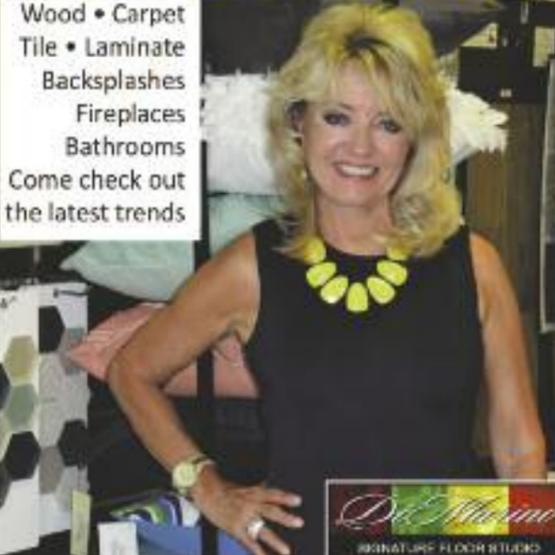

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From the Publisher

By Betsy Judge

A week before the tragic, mass shooting at the high school in Parkland, Joe and I went to see “12 Strong,” about Green Berets in Afghanistan in the opening days of the war, post 9/11. There were the obligatory previews, and as I watched each one, I was so taken aback by the violence, it prompted me to note the titles in my phone for a column.

I’m sure they were selected to run with “12 Strong” because it is a war movie, but it seems crazy the amount of violence that is available to consumers. I think it’s a little overboard to boycott Peter Rabbit because he bombards Mr. McGregor with blackberries invoking an allergic reaction; it could be a teaching point, but the violence all around, including on TV each night, is striking. I shudder to think what is available in the video gaming world. The last one I played was something like Pong.

If someone harbors feelings of inadequacy,

anger, resentment, etc., there seem to be plenty of virtual places to share those feelings with like-minded people. Even before it was known how many victims there were in the Parkland tragedy, media outlets were reporting that the suspect had been visiting chat rooms where participants learned about making bombs or shared their fondness for firearms.

I had one college roommate who was very fond of the f-word. At first the frequency was a little shocking, then it got funny, but after awhile it lost all meaning. How much violence does anyone have to consume before it becomes second nature? Scary thought.

On a happy note, Tampa Bay Watch staff and dedicated volunteers have spent 25 years, helping to clean the bay. Wish them happy anniversary by volunteering to help.

Happy March and Happy St. Paddy’s Day.

Emails to the Editor & Corrections

Emails

Bring Out Your Dogs (February)

Thank you so much, Betsy! What a great write-up. Whenever you have an opportunity to come down to Palmetto, please let me know. I’d love to give you a tour and some “puppy time”!

Ruth Lando, Southeastern Guide Dogs

Love, love, love the article! Thank you, Betsy!

Tyler Denchen, Southeastern Guide Dogs

Numbers That Could Save Your Life (February)

Hello Betsy!

Thank you for sharing a copy of the paper today! We were thrilled to see the American Heart Association’s article! We hope your readers find it helpful!

With appreciation,

Heather Grzelka, Madeira Public Relations

Hidden Gem (February)

Thank you! It’s a lovely article. We really appreciate it.

Amy Durand, Pathfinder Outdoor Education

General Comments

Hi Betsy,

Thanks for the great articles on the Bayway and the revitalized Skyway Marina Mall. I had heard that the former flea market/dept store was being reconfigured. Your article encouraged me to visit after reading it.

I discovered that the Goodwill “bin” at the rear of the Marina Village Shopping Center behind the Dollar Store

fronting South 34th Street is attended. I always drive my donations to the store on Central Avenue, soon to be closed. I dislike dumping well-loved, but no longer needed contributions in a leaky bin. I thought beach residents may not be aware that the Goodwill container drop-off is attended. I enjoyed speaking to Alicen there.

Also, it would be nice to have an article or two promoting thrift stores on the beach and surrounding areas. I love supporting the Attic Shop on Corey, CASA in downtown St. Pete and Pass-a-Grille Community Church.

Marilyn Hett, St. Petersburg

Hey Betsy,

I am just sitting down to read The Island Reporter and the front page photo of the month is an amazing photo. I love it and I always enjoy reading the Reporter—it’s awesome.

Cathy Lincoln, S. Pasadena

Corrections

Local Entrepreneurs (February)

There were some errors in the article about transportation alternatives for the Tampa Bay area. LevCar should have been LevCraft™; The reference to \$1 million per mile for building the guideway trail lines should have been \$10 million per mile, and the reference to Atlanta should have been Sarasota. We apologize for any confusion.

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

Regular Contributors

- Ellen Capitosti, Beverage Beat
- Carol Hollenbeck, Fitness
- Dennis Merritt Jones, Encouraging Words
- Jackie Minniti, Florida Author Series
- Bruce Norris, Cartoonist
- Sabrina O’Donnell, Columnist
- Wayne Shattuck, Columnist
- Dave Smith, The Old Professor
- Sally G. Yoder, Features

Advertising Sales

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Act Now; Eat Later

By The Old Professor

Amid toil and tragedy we worry: an errant meteor, the growing insect population, an alien invasion, evil computer viruses, the return of adolescent acne, unzipped flies, and landfills coming to life and swallowing cities. It isn't easy to ignore a potential economic crash or the chance of nuclear war. But a major threat looms that will change our lives forever: a chocolate shortage.

Recent reports predict a shortage by 2020 and the disappearance of chocolate entirely by 2050. Imagine the consequences: no hot cocoa on a frosty morn; no declaration of love in a heart shaped box; no mid-afternoon morsel; empty Whitman Samplers; no smooth, sweet comfort for broken hearts; no bars from Lindt, Cadbury, or Godiva; no Hershey's kisses, no Bosco, no Milk Duds; no chocolate covered cherries, strawberries, raisins, or macadamia nuts; no bunny ears to snap off at Easter; no chocolate ice cream, dip cones, tootsie rolls, or creme de cacao; no Oreos; no brownies, or chocolate donuts, or chocolate chip cookies; no chocolate mouse, no coating on Mounds, Snickers, or mint patties; no chocolate center in M&M's. The list goes on. The frontier of innocent pleasure will be sacrificed. Chocolate is not a treat; it's a necessity.

But beyond the crippling losses above will be an overarching tragedy—No Hot Fudge Sundaes! Yes, ice cream is good. Whipped cream is lovely. The cherry on top adds an aesthetic touch, and the nuts sprinkled about a tactile variety. But it is the thick, rich, sweet, dark brown fudge oozing down the sides that makes the confection nearly divine. Eat too quickly, it's gone too soon; too

slow, it will melt and begin to drip down the sides of the dish.

In my soda jerky youth behind the counter at Frank Wells Rexall Drug Store we offered cold fudge sundaes as well. Cold fudge was lighter, thicker, and slower to slide down the ice cream. I recall it being sweeter and a tad more bitter than hot fudge. But comparison was silly; we didn't have to choose. Both delighted. Cold fudge may be a thing of the past. There is no reference to it on Google. That is a loss for humankind.

But what of this shortage? While Snopes argues that we not panic so far in advance, the fundamental facts are clear. In Central America fruity pod rot, a fungus, had decreased the cocoa crop by 96 percent 30-plus years ago. Recovery has not come. Heroic efforts to hybridize resistant varieties have been underway, but as yet offer insufficient hope.

The overwhelming majority of cocoa beans come from Ghana and the Ivory Coast. Temperatures there have risen and rainfall has diminished. Half the beans are too small for quality standards. They contain too little cocoa butter and too much acid. Growers can't prosper and are dropping out. The result is an 180,000-ton shortage.

Yet demand for chocolate is rising. Demand now exceeds supply and prices are up. The new affluence in India and China will increase demand as consumers with money discover the joys of chocolate. Unwilling just to rely on market

PROFESSOR continued on page 11

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Pride & Joy Girls Night with a Purpose

By Jackie Minniti

There are few things most women enjoy more than a fun night out with a group of girlfriends. It gives them a chance to relax, chat, and catch up on each other's lives. But Broadwater resident Megan Fetter has found a unique approach to the typical girl's night out that adds a more meaningful dimension. She calls it Girls Night to Give, (GNTG) and her efforts have helped more than 25 local charities.

Megan came up with the idea of GNTG 11 years ago.

"I read an article about a group of women in California who were hosting in-home events where friends were asked to bring a check for charity," she says. "I thought I could do that with my group of friends. And so it began." Megan hosted the first event in her home with the proceeds going to the American Cancer Society. Since then, GNTG has grown through word-of-mouth and has hosted more than 70 events raising close to \$100,000.

Their mission is to host casual, accessible and affordable fundraisers for local charities whose main focus is on women and children.

Events are held every other month at different locations, and 100 percent of the funds raised go directly to the charity. "We select local charities that are smaller and not as well known," Megan explains. "The locations we select are locally owned businesses so we can support the local economy." Some of the businesses that have co-hosted events include Canvas Boutique, Swahrey, The Rolling Cabana, and Florida Craft Art.

A GNTG event typically includes 25 to 30 women who pay \$35 each to enjoy an evening of food, wine and friendship. "It's mostly a social

event," Megan explains. "It's casual, and there's no membership. Some women come in groups and some come by themselves. GNTG handles the food and wine, and guests are pulled from GNTG contacts, the venue and the charity. Sometimes the event includes shopping and giveaways."

Even though the events don't bring in a huge dollar amount, they raise awareness and help women make connections. "We believe our contributions go beyond their monetary value," Megan says. Some of the charities GNTG has helped are Hoola for Happiness, Answered Prayers Project, The Heart Gallery, and This Little Light of Mine.

Some of Megan's favorite events are those where the money goes to a very specific cause, like the Children's Dream Fund, an organization that fulfills dreams for children who have been diagnosed with life-threatening illnesses. "We select a specific dream to fulfill, and the ladies who attend the event love to know who the child is and what dream we

are working to fulfill," she says. "In the past, we have sent kids to a special gymnastic camp, on a cruise, on a shopping spree and to Disney World."

According to Megan, GNTG is looking for charities that are not on the radar. They also need venues that are willing to host events and partners to help provide food and wine. "Women make connections and friendships while giving back to the community," she says. "Everyone wins."

For more information go to www.girlsnightto-give.com.



Broadwater resident Megan Fetter was inspired by an article about a group of California women who host in-home events to raise money for charity. That was 11 years ago, and she started Girls Night to Give which has raised almost \$100,000 for local charities..

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ABC Lands New Internet Deal For Isla Associations

By Bill Blazowski

The Association of Bayway Communities (ABC) working with Converged Services Inc. (CSI) and Spectrum have negotiated a new option for associations in the Isla Del Sol area for internet service. The new deal was briefed at town hall meetings held earlier this year.

Historically, area communication companies have provided video services to associations through “bulk” agreements, where an association pays a single bill for service that all residents receive at lower cost than would be available to individual residents.

As time passed, they also started offering high definition video, internet and telephone services and associated equipment. These services were only available “a la carte” purchased by the individual resident, while bulk agreements continued to provide analog video service.

In 2014, Isla Del Sol area associations hired CSI, a full-service telecommunications consulting firm that negotiates TV, internet, voice, security agreements, and wireless solutions for their clients, to negotiate a new agreement with Bright House. It lowered the monthly charge for bulk analog service and associations could purchase bulk digital high definition video. Most of the more than 30 associations that currently participate in the 2014 agreement opted to provide digital video service to all their residents.

The 2014 agreement also offered associations an option to purchase bulk internet. While full-time residents could have realized substantial savings, the bulk internet option would have increased net cost for part-time residents. As a result, none of the participating associations exercised this option.

In early 2017, the ABC began an effort to determine whether any provider would offer bulk internet terms that would still provide significant savings for full-time residents, while not increasing net cost for part-time residents. It brought in CSI for their expertise.

Discussions were held with Spectrum and six other providers interested in growing their business in this area. Spectrum’s bulk internet terms were substantially better than the others, and addressed the goal of no net cost increase for part-time residents. In fact, residents present for as little as three months per year will not see a cost increase with the new offer; full-time residents can see annual savings up to \$500.

Accepting the bulk internet offer is an individual association decision and those in the Isla Del Sol area are now considering the terms of the offer. Any association leaders that were not able to attend can obtain this information from a CSI representative at 954-767-0185.

Bill Blazowski is an ABC Principal.

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TBW continued from front page

He moved into a one-room office in downtown St. Pete, then to a three-room office on Snell Isle, but he coveted the property on Tierra Verde that was home to Rita's Bait Shop.

"I would come out here on a Saturday morning and buy a couple dozen shrimp from Rita and think, 'Oh my gosh what a paradise she has here.'"

The property went up for sale in 1997, but it took until 2000 to work a deal for the land which was purchased by the state of Florida and Pinellas County. Over the next 15 years they raised the capital to build the TBW Marine & Education Center and support buildings. In 2014 they put the frosting on the cake—a rooftop solar array with more than 200 panels which will reduce their carbon footprint by 3.1 million pounds over its lifetime.

But long before there was a Marine Center, TBW was working hard to educate people about the importance of a healthy bay and getting them involved in the restoration process.

They reached out to schools in 1994 and started Bay Grasses in Classes. Students at 20 schools plant, maintain, and harvest salt marsh grasses in school-based wetland nurseries to be replanted into targeted coastal areas. The grasses filter storm water runoff, stabilize shorelines, buffer uplands from storms, and serve as sanctuaries for



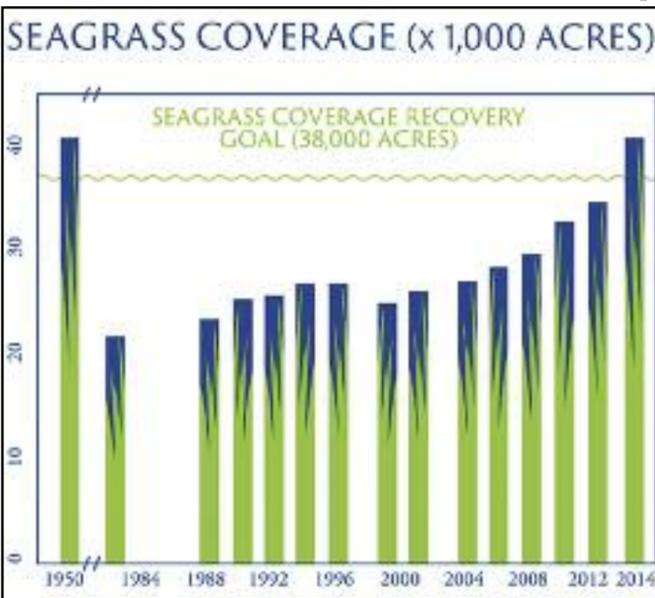
fish and wildlife.

In 1998 they did their first oyster shell project. Volunteers with staff assistance now regularly build oyster bars and oyster domes at TBW to be placed along man-made and altered shorelines to improve water quality, support oyster larvae growth, feed birds and wildlife, and mitigate wave action.

In 2004 they added derelict crab trap removal to their list of volunteers activities. They also hold regular coastal cleanups and monofilament fishing line removal to protect wildlife and eliminate safety hazards to boaters. Each August they coordinate the Great Bay Scallop Search to document the population which dwindles with poor water quality.

In 2006 they started Estuary EDventures field trips and summer camps to engage bay-area students in hands-on marine science labs, lessons and service learning projects.

Educating kids has always been a priority for Clark, but he sees more of a need now than ever. "In so many areas we see a decline in kids getting outdoors. They're not fishing as much, they're not camping as much, scouting has gone way down and all that really adds up to a loss of experience and quality of life.



This chart shows the growth in acreage of seagrass coverage since its low point in the '80's. Their goal was to get the amount of acres back to the 1950 level which has been surpassed. Tampa Bay had lost more than 80 percent of its seagrass beds due mostly to waste water discharges and dredging for port and residential waterfront development.



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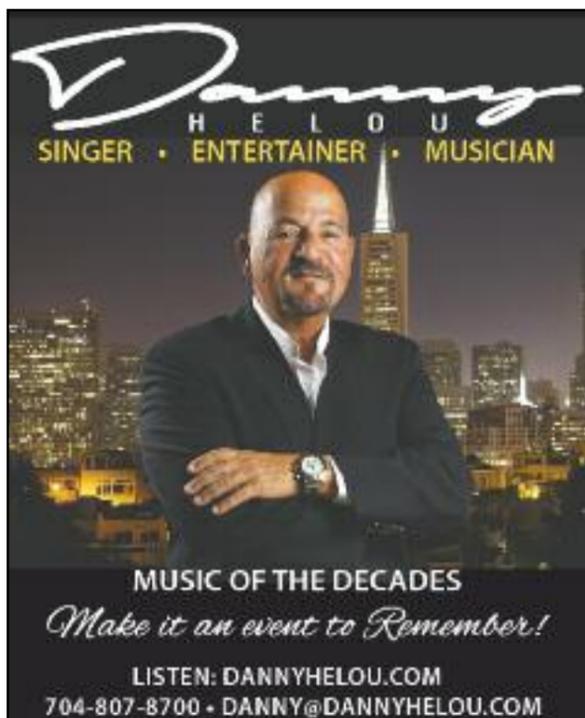
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Encouraging Words Do You Have the Time?

By Dennis Merritt Jones

*"Time is the reef upon which all
our frail mystic ships are wrecked."*
~ Sir Noel Coward

With the time change in Daylight Savings on Mar. 11, I have been thinking about how much of our lives are spent trying to manage and often manipulate something that doesn't really exist. We invented time by putting numbers on a calendar and then placing them on the face of a human-made device called a clock which then aids us in linearly maintaining our lives based on the three "tenses": past, present and future. The universe knows nothing about time—it is we who create and live our lives around time, which, no pun intended, makes us "tense" much of the time.

The past and the future don't exist because it is always now. Think about it! Take a moment and consider where you "think" you were on a specific day in time 10 or 20 years ago. Notice that as you conjure that memory, it is happening in your mind now. Even back then, it was now. The same goes for what you may consider being your future—when you arrive there it will also be now. Perhaps Albert Einstein was totally onto something when he said, "The only reason for time is so that everything doesn't happen at once." The reality is, it IS all happening now! It's only our perception that is attached to the past and future.

While Daylight Savings time may allow us to maximize the daylight hours, be it for work or play, regardless of the position of the sun and earth, it doesn't add anything to now. It is a classic example of how we allow the clock to cast us instantly, 60 human made-minutes, into the future or the past, magically adding or deducting something to or from our lives that doesn't actually exist—time. In short, the moment we look to the clock or calendar it pulls us out of the present moment, which is always waiting for us to be available for that mystical experience we all came here to have; to know our oneness with life, which can only be experienced one breath at a time. Thus the saying, "Be here now."

Time indeed is the reef upon which our mystic sailing ship gets caught. So, before you adjust the clocks in your home, car, office, or your watch on Mar. 11, to "spring" forward, pause and take a deep breath. Try to become the silent witness of how, no matter how you may be able to manipulate the settings on a clock, it doesn't change time—it only changes your perception of a changeless reality. Enjoy this present moment because, irrespective of what the numbers on your clock may say, now is all you will ever have, so make every sacred instant of it count.

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Veterans Group, SPB Salute Military, 1st Responders

By TIR Staff

The Veterans of South Pinellas County (VSPC) and the City of St. Pete Beach are again partnering for the 8th Annual Salute to the Military on Apr. 14 at Horan Park.

Activities kick off at 10 a.m. with a military enlistment ceremony, artists, vendors, military displays, a silent auction and opportunities to win 50/50 throughout the day. The fun ends at 4 p.m.

Opening ceremonies will include a special presentation of colors, and an induction ceremony where local young men and women will be sworn into the armed forces.

There will be a kids fishing rodeo from 12 - 2 p.m. with rod, reel, bait and tackle provided.

Music will be provided by The Boat of Us and Raizin' Jane.

There will be a variety of food available for purchase including Ipswich Clam Bake Co. serving

famous New England Clam Chowder, a new vendor, "Home Maid Ice Cream," will be churning up ice cream treats on the spot, and the St. Pete Beach Fire Department will be cooking burgers and hot-dogs. Plus there will be adult beverages and a restored, antique 1934 Plymouth sedan that doubles as a photo booth.

The VSPC is a 501(C)(3) charity and has given more than \$159,000 in cash and in-kind donations to a variety of nonprofit groups that support veterans. Members of VSPC also provide assistance to veterans in immediate need.

Sponsorships are available and all donations from sponsors, vendors and advertisers are tax deductible and support Pinellas County veterans.

For general information or to become a supporter, please call 727-244-1117 or visit VSPC on Facebook at Veterans-of-South-Pinellas-County-Inc.



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Legislature Addressing Short-Term Rentals

By Walter Donnelly

St. Petersburg's Alliance for Bayway Communities (ABC) has been closely following a proposed new "Florida Vacation Rental Act," as it winds its way through the legislature as Senate Bill 1400. If passed, the bill will significantly modify rules for short-term rental of homes.

For almost a decade, lawmakers have been pushing to eliminate significant constraints on the use of private property. It first led to a 2011 statute prohibiting local governments from adopting ordinances or regulations that would restrict short term rentals of individual dwellings. However, existing ordinances and regulations were "grandfathered," unless subsequently modified.

The result has been a flowering of an "Airbnb" climate in area neighborhoods, where many individuals and commercial entities rent unlicensed properties as short-term "vacation" rentals. It has been a boon for some homeowners – frequently absentees – and real estate businesses. It has been vociferously opposed by some negatively-affected homeowners and the hotel industry. This is particularly true in beach-front communities, which are often replete with vacation-party horror stories of abuses in the midst of million-dollar homes.

"Vacation rentals in the City of St. Pete Beach have become a significant problem, particularly since the advent of internet marketing," says Mayor Al Johnson. "Thankfully we have a grandfathered ordinance restricting rentals to a minimum of 30 days. Our challenge is enforcement. I have heard numerous accounts of disruptive, threatening activities that result from weekend rentals in normally quiet, residential neighborhoods. Residents are afraid to leave their homes and many times rely on our law enforcement officers to take control of these situations.

"It is my responsibility to maintain the quality of life in St. Pete Beach and I will oppose any effort to

limit my ability to do so. This bill does that. Through this bill, the elected officials in Tallahassee are demonstrating that they think they know best what is good for our communities, our citizens. I find that arrogance truly appalling. The control of vacation rentals must stay with the local municipalities. We know best what our cities need and our residents expect of their government."

Recognizing there are important rights on both sides of the argument, the ABC has endeavored to ensure that the legal covenants and regulations of deed-restricted communities (condos and some homeowner associations (HOAs)) are not preempted by any legislation. Homeowners in deed-restricted communities must agree to the covenants – including rental restrictions – as part of a home purchase. Post-purchase, owners must not be permitted to avoid adhering to the agreed conditions.

Forces have been at play in Tallahassee to circumvent these deed protections, but Sen. Jeff Brandes (R-St. Petersburg) has publicly offered assurances that an "end-around" of community covenants would not be permitted. He has apparently succeeded. As of press time, the Senate committee report on the latest version of the bill states that it: "Provides a statement of legislative intent that the application of vacation rental provisions created by the bill do not supersede any current or future declaration or declaration of condominium, cooperative documents, or declaration of covenants or declaration in a homeowners' association."

Still there is much at stake in both the areas of homeowner's rights and quality of life rights. Readers are encouraged to follow the legislature's actions at www.flsenate.gov as this matter plays out during the current session. Search for SB1400 – and don't be bashful about expressing your views to your Legislators.

Walter Donnelly is an ABC Principal

PROFESSOR continued from page 3

adjustments Mars, the candy company, has pledged \$1 billion for research at UC Berkeley, using new CRISPR technology to modify cacao tree's DNA in the hope of creating hardier varieties.

Some authorities predict other shortages including wine and even bacon. Weather in France, and fires in California have diminished grape harvests. But past surpluses have created reserves. Pork belly demand is up. A temporary December shortage in the UK kept MacDonalds from offering Egg McMuffins. But experts say that enough pigs are being bred.

Chocolate producers can offer no such assurance. Chocolate lovers, we must stockpile. Park the car outside. Thousands of chocolate bars can rest in a garage. What's a man cave compared to a chocolate collection? You don't really need that second bathroom. Take turns. Fill the tub with kisses. Grab all the chocolate at the drug store and super market.

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Written while sucking on a tootsie pop by David H. Smith, Ph.D., retired professor.

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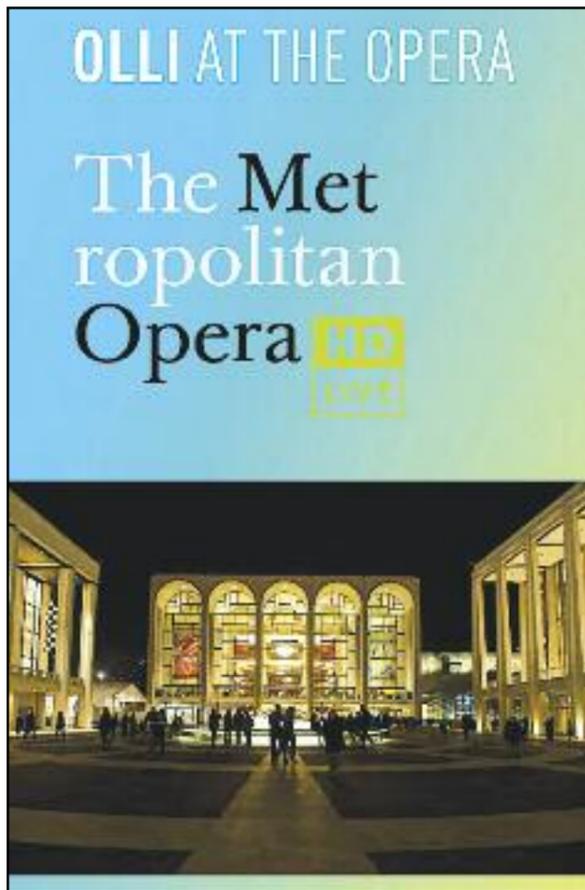
OLLI March Offerings

New classes and activities are being offered in March at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Eckerd College.

Designed for people age 50-plus and open to all adult learners across Pinellas County, these non-credit classes include topics in biography, culture and travel, film and television, Florida studies, history, theatre, science and visual arts.

The classes, offered at the Eckerd College Continuing Education Center (CEC) campus, include "The Last of the Romanovs," "Astronomical Telescopes and Observatories," "Jamaica: Beyond the Tourists," "The Legend of Cole Porter," "The Harlem Renaissance," "Screwball Film Comedies in the 1930s," "Spain's Contribution to Literature, Music and Culture" and "Broadway's First Ladies of the Stage."

They will also have live satellite performances of the Metropolitan Opera of "Semiramide" on Mar. 10 at 12:55 p.m.; British National Theatre's "Young Marx" on Mar. 16 at 1:30; and an HD video presentation of "The Flames of Paris" from the Bolshoi Ballet will be shown on Mar. 28 at 1:30 pm. Reservations and separate admission fees are required for these performances.



The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Eckerd College offers more than 350 classes and activities including live satellite performances of the Metropolitan Opera. Membership is \$59 per year and members get discounts over the normal \$10 to \$45 fees.

Most classes and activity fees vary from \$10 to \$45 for OLLI members. The annual OLLI membership is \$59 per person and provides class discounts and other community benefits. Non-OLLI members are welcomed to participate in all classes and activities.

OLLI, a non-profit educational organization, is based at Eckerd College with a supporting location in Palm Harbor. Each year OLLI provides more than 350 affordable and intellectually stimulating 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.

For more information, go to www.eckerd.edu/olli/courses or call 727-864-7600 to request a catalog by mail.



Florida Author Healing Through Self-Nurturing

By Jackie Minniti

When Joanna Romer's husband of 25 years died after a long illness, she was devastated.

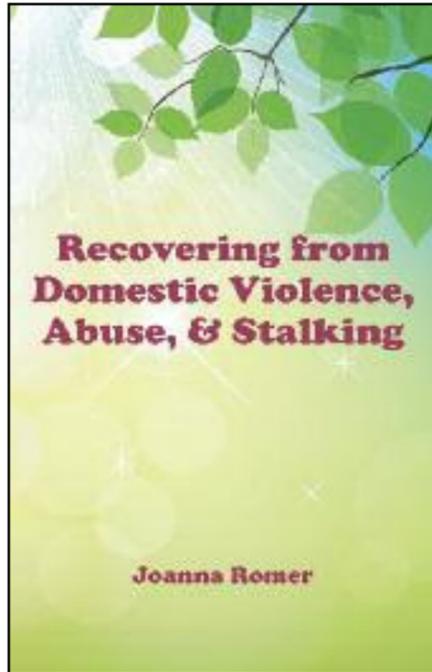
"Even though he'd been sick for a long time, it was a shock like nothing else," she recalls. To work through her grief, she began recording her thoughts and feelings in a journal. After a friend suggested she use the journal as the basis for a book, Romer decided it might be a way to channel her personal tragedy into something that could benefit others. Little did she know that it would become the first of a series of self-help books aimed at teaching readers the art of self-nurturing.

Romer's interest in writing began at an early age. "When I was a girl, I used to make up stories for my paper dolls," she says. While majoring in art at Florida State University, a professor suggested she enter a contest sponsored by Mademoiselle Magazine where she had to write and illustrate articles. When she became one of the contest winners, she was offered a job at Mademoiselle as a junior editor, so she moved from Miami to New York City where she lived for the next 27 years. It was there that she met Jack Milton, the man she married.

After leaving Mademoiselle, Romer spent some time writing for Cosmopolitan Magazine. She also freelanced for the New York Times, earned a Master's degree in journalism and taught communications at Hunter College. She even did a brief



Author Joanna Romer went from studying art in college to working as a junior editor at Mademoiselle followed by a stint with Cosmopolitan Magazine. She started a self-help series with "Widow: A Survival Guide for the First Year," after losing her husband to a long illness.



Romer's seventh self-help book, "Widow: How to Survive (and Thrive) in Your 2nd, 3rd and 4th Years," will be released in May. She tries to help people overcome difficulties by being kind to themselves.

stint as a screenwriter when she and Jack wrote and produced "Please Stand By," what she describes as "a radical political comedy." The film played at the Bleeker Street Cinema in 1972. "John Lenon and Yoko Ono helped with the soundtrack," Romer says. "It was a very rewarding experience."

In 1990, Romer moved back to Florida, settling in Daytona Beach where she taught at Daytona Beach Community College and Bethune-Cookman University. In 2010, she left teaching to devote her time to caring for Jack. "He was very ill, but this was a special time for us," she says. "We became very close." Two years later, the book based on her experience was published. "Widow: A Survival Guide for the First Year," guides women through each phase of widowhood. The book was praised by Midwest Book Reviews as "powerful...enthusiastically recommended."

Since then, Romer has penned seven books aimed at helping readers get through difficult times. Her latest tackles a subject that can have deadly consequences. "Recovering from Domestic Violence, Abuse, and Stalking" was a subject that hit close to home. In the book, Romer shares the true stories of women who overcame trauma to begin new lives, and one of the women she interviewed was a friend. Romer

AUTHOR continued on page 13



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Fitness

The Value of a Good Night's Sleep

By Carol Hollenbeck

Getting adequate sleep is now considered one of the three main pillars of good health along with adequate exercise and proper nutrition. Adults need 7 to 9 hours of sleep per the Center for Disease Control, but more importantly is the amount of quality sleep or deep (REM) sleep you get per night.

Yet Americans get too little sleep according to a recent study published in the Mayo Clinic Proceedings. It found less than 3 percent of Americans meet the minimal standards of sleep for a healthy lifestyle. That's astounding to think virtually no one is getting enough sleep! Lack of sleep has been shown to increase the risk for chronic diseases and auto accidents, while decreasing mental and physical levels, leading to more time off work or lost wages.

As we age there are many factors that can influence sleep patterns making it harder to get the deep sleep required to rejuvenate the body making us feel rested in the morning.

Much like exercise, a routine can help you get more sleep and reach your goal of feeling rested. Try going to bed and getting up at the same time every day (even on weekends), avoid caffeine later in the day and too much alcohol at night, create a peaceful room and try to read or meditate quietly before bedtime avoiding electronic devices or TV which emit a blue light that stimulates the brain. That means no last minute texting or emailing and put the phone face down if it must be in the bedroom. Also use the "Do

Not Disturb" mode to eliminate text messages or notifications during the night. Most smart phones have a feature where you can choose the contacts who get through at night.

In addition to getting into a nighttime routine, try to limit naps in the day. They can lead to a vicious cycle where less sleep at night leads to longer or more frequent naps in the day. Naps should be 30 minute or less and not too late in the day. Exercise daily - even a short walk can promote better sleep. And finally manage your stress and try to relax more with meditation, yoga or quiet time. Ask for help if you need it and become more organized to help reduce stress and anxiety which leads to more restful sleep.

Putting more value on sleep, like most of us do for exercise and nutrition, would go a long way toward a healthier lifestyle. Exercise, diet and sleep are all interlinked and determine how we function on a daily basis. Without adequate sleep the other two pillars will be compromised. This is why many fitness watches also track your amount of sleep not just your activity level over 24 hours. Most medical professionals and personal trainers include sleep in their lifestyle screen while addressing nutrition and stress. Sleep really needs to be thought of as a main pillar for success, happiness and well-being.

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

www.TheIslandReporter.com

AUTHOR continued from page 12

admits that interviewing the women was difficult. "I could see it wasn't easy for them," she says. "I tend to be empathetic, and I can't help putting myself in their shoes. When they cry, tears come into my eyes too." What she likes best about "Recovering from Domestic Violence, Abuse, and Stalking" are what she refers to as "the healing chapters" that focus on recovering self-esteem. "This is a big issue for the victims," she says. "Many wrongly feel that they deserved the abuse. I attempt to instill self-esteem and forgiveness."

Romer's next book, "Widow: How to Survive (and Thrive) in Your 2nd, 3rd and 4th Years" will be

released in May. She is also working with co-author Pat Young on "Life After Losing a Child." Even though her books deal with painful and difficult subjects, Romer hopes they will help readers learn to nurture themselves. "When I'm writing, I'm consciously trying to get the reader to focus on self. Many people tend to be nicer to others than to themselves. Healing is not just about doing things or achieving goals. I try to impart a sense of self-nurturing by showing how important it is to love and be kind to yourself."

For more information, go to www.amazon.com/Joanna-Romer/e/B009CGCFLK

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Chasing Fire

By Sabrina O'Donnell

It was always the quiet days, the ones where no one really had much to do, and it seemed like the whole world was in a state of relaxation. It was on the days where you would swear that if you dropped a pin, someone across the world could hear it.

The sirens would cut the silence like a sharpened knife slicing through steak. My brothers and I would leap up, throwing down our toys, and race outside.

"Tell Mom we're going!" we would command each other.

"Why don't you do it?" each of us would argue.

Once we were out of the house, we would race down the street as fast as we could. Sometimes Grandpa would already be out there waiting for us. Other times, when he hadn't come outside yet, we would all pound on the door as hard as we could until he would swing it open, yelling that we were going to bust in his front door someday.

As soon as Grandpa unlocked the car the battle for who got to ride shotgun would begin. One of my two eldest brothers would always overpower us and end up in the front seat; I suppose it was really more of a battle between the two of them.

Once everyone was buckled up we would fly down the street. Perhaps at a younger age the car seemed to be moving faster than it truly was, however, Grandpa always did refer to his car as the "Speed Demon."

We'd pull up to the fire station within minutes, jump out of the car, and run up to the giant chalkboard. Grandpa would take a look at the address written on the board, think for a minute, and then know exactly where he was going. As a young boy, I found such a skill to be amazing.

Another four-way (OK, two-way) battle for shotgun would commence. Once the three losers had found their places in the backseat, Grandpa would speed off in the direction of the fire.

I took a deep breath and opened my eyes. Reality's cold bony hands dragged me back about 45 years into the future, landing me in this hideous grey metallic room with these, to say the very least, unpleasant detectives.

"Could I have another glass of water?" I asked slowly.

"Oh of course," the tall one, who I was calling Good Cop because it was painfully obvious he had been assigned to play the role, cooed, "Take your time, man. There's no rush."

As soon as he left the room to get my water, Bad Cop leered at me with frustration and a hint of disgrace. I suppose when they called me in to pick apart the most traumatic day of my life, they assumed I would be able to reflect on it with ease.

They probably thought, "It's been over four decades, he'll be fine and we'll be out of here by lunch." As much as I hate to spoil another man's lunch plans, I warned them when I got there, that I may not be able to converse as eloquently as they were asking me to. It was a conversation all three of my brothers had refused to have when they were asked.

Good Cop came back in and set another smudgy glass of room temperature sink water down in front of me. They really show you what luxury is during interrogations.

"Okay now," Good Cop's tone was way too soothing to be real. "Are you ready to tell us exactly what happened that day?"

I took another deep breath, closed my eyes, and allowed my mind to wander back in time once more.

"It was always the quiet days," I began again slowly. "But that day screams louder in my memory than any siren I've ever heard."

To be continued...

TINY continued from front page

"The other important component that we're looking at is space," says Allen. "As most of you know, it's increasingly more expensive to buy property in Pinellas County." They have reached out to the city (St. Petersburg) to look at what are considered sub-standard lots they can get cheaply or for free. The substandard references lots with odd shapes where traditional homes can't be built, but they could be perfect for tiny houses.



Celebrate Outreach volunteer Courtney Allen points to the number 329 when briefing members of the Veterans of South Pinellas County. That is the number of veterans in Pinellas County who were counted as homeless during the 2017 national Point in Time Count. Veteran supporters say the need is much greater than that.

TIR staff photo.

But it isn't just about being able to build either. "What's also important is it has to have access to transportation, it's got to have access to food, and then obviously, most important are services," says Allen. "If we're going to bring someone off the streets, they need wrap around services, they need services today and they need services tomorrow, and you've got to have access to that. So the placement of this property is absolutely critical." They are also considering private sales as well as city property.

Then you have to find the right veterans. "We are partnering with organizations to vet our veterans to make sure that they have the means to get into a home and they have support long-term," adds Allen. "It is really easy to put someone in house but it's not real easy to make sure that someone can stay in the house and that's critical to our work."

Veterans must be homeless or at risk, interested in being a homeowner, be receiving a monthly

HUD VA housing subsidy, under the care of a service provider, and willing to complete homebuyer counseling and commit to an individual care management plan.

"As excited as I am about seeing the first house built, it's really the second, the third, the fourth and the fifth house that really gets exciting. But the first house is a tipping point; it gives us credibility, it gives us a track record. I want to keep a laser focus on the first house, but I'm pushing the organization to be thinking in large terms because there are tiny home communities popping up all over the country to solve access to housing. We can do that here."

They have had a lot of individual contributions as well as support from organizations. "I would ask you to give thought to how you support an organization like ours," he says to the vets.

It didn't take long for veteran Carol Barkalow to suggest they team up with her organization, Heaven on Earth for Veterans.

"We have nine houses and rent bedrooms to veterans in need. What I have found in the last six years is sometimes it's not necessarily good to have them living by themselves," says Barkalow. "Maybe we could create a program where they live in a community environment, then when they are stable enough, they move into one of those tiny houses by themselves. It would be an amazing way to use the resources within the community to help that veteran become self-sufficient."

For more information or to donate go to www.celebrateoutreach.org.



This is a rendition of a tiny house designed by the students from the University of South Florida. The houses are around 470 square feet and are projected to cost about \$47,000 each. Image courtesy of Celebrate Outreach.

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A Fight For Life and Livelihood

By Betsy Judge

“Three months ago, had you asked me what SEPSIS was, I really wouldn’t have been able to give you much of an answer other than it sounded very unclean and seemed exactly like what Lysol® was created to combat.”

This introduction to sepsis and a gut-wrenching photo of a gaping wound greets visitors to a GoFundMe page for St. Pete Beach resident Kai Moser.

It is a bizarre story that began in October for this otherwise healthy, career IT professional who is a commercial diver between computer gigs.

He was supposed to fly to Trinidad for what he calls his “dream job” as an IT consultant for a Caribbean financial firm when he woke with an extremely swollen face. He thought it was from a pimple he had tried to excise from his chin earlier.

“I was dizzy, the edge of my vision was weird, fuzzy, sort of tunnel vision, I couldn’t concentrate, and I felt like all I wanted to do was lay down; I was very fatigued. That was my body basically starting to shut things down,” he says.

He ended up in the ER at Northside Hospital. The staff called a sepsis alert and they did emergency surgery. He was there five days.

Shortly after his release, he noticed pain and swelling in his cheek. Thankfully a sulfate-based antibiotic his surgeon prescribed seemed to work.

When the back of his neck started feeling funny after a haircut nick, he called his surgeon’s office for an antibiotic refill, but by the time they called he was back in Northside with sepsis again. The result was two emergency surgeries (the second one to save his life) and the gaping wounds in his neck pictured on his fundraising page.

Back home, he did his own wound care (with the help of a friend) and pushed IV antibiotics, saline, and heparin into a PICC line in his bicep. His wound has to heal from the inside helped by a custom made topical antibiotic that his pharmacist calls liquid gold.

And if almost dying didn’t kill him, the trouble he is having paying his bills might.

When he got the consultant job, he was offered three types of insurance. He read the material and opted for the most expensive one thinking it would have the best coverage. Think again.

He says his daily hospital bill was about \$12,000 and his insurance is only covering about \$200 a day; that doesn’t take into account the surgeries. He is appealing, but all he gets are more denials. His services for the Caribbean financial concern never re-appeared so he has no income, and his landlord wants to raise his rent. He has gotten help through a gentleman who generously



Kai injects medicine through his PICC line that ran directly into a big vein, right above his heart, via the bicep.



One of the less disturbing photos from Kai Moser’s gofundme page shows his post-op wound packed with gauze. It has to heal from the inside out.



Kai Moser pictured shortly after surgery for sepsis (left) and four months later sporting a goatee to cover the scar. Parts of his face are numb from nerve damage.

offered to team with a 501(c)(3) to cover the rent, but he says he probably owes about \$300,000 now.

“It freaked me out when he told me I was dying...Dying, from a lousy staph infection due to bacteria that is apparently always all around us...all the time, ready to get in via any skin opening. The fact that it could still kill me, has made me do a lot of soul searching.”

“As embarrassing as it is, I’m struggling to beat this illness physically, to pay for the medication to combat it, and afford anything else while I heal and get back on my feet.”

“I have no savings left, none. That’s what’s got me feeling more vulnerable...and I thought the insurance was supposed to cover it.”

So far he has raised \$4,705 toward a goal of \$250,000.

To read more or donate go to www.gofundme.com/STAPHisNOjoke.

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Museum, Library Share Beach Experiences

By Sally G. Yoder

TIR Staff Photo

Take 18 University of South Florida honor students, combine them with the staff of the Gulf Beaches Historical Museum and the St. Pete Beach Library in a semester long project, and you have a winning combination.

This unique class taught by Professor Catherine Wilkins, is an Honors Capstone college course based at Tampa's USF campus. Students get hands-on experience recording oral histories, producing documentary photography, digitizing visual and print artifacts, cataloging and creating a historical archive, and doing group research and community engagement.

There are 17 seniors and one junior. Only two are from Pinellas County and a third are from out of state. Their majors are as diverse as computer science, sociology, communication, biomedical sciences and history. Classes are divided between the museum, the library and the campus and go through May.

At the museum the class is helping digitize items they selected from the collection. They are also identifying and exploring social, political and environmental issues that affect the beach cities to help develop histories on things like climate change, hotel workers or immigration.

They have also interviewed volunteers, listened to stories of island history, plus put together their own exhibit created from the museum's collection.



Honor students from the University of Florida, Tampa campus attend class at the Gulf Beaches Historical Museum. They make the trek to St. Pete Beach to learn about historical archiving and other related skills in a real-life setting at the museum and the St. Pete Beach Library.

The museum volunteers look forward to continued work with the honor classes. It is an excellent way to educate coming generations about preserving local history while helping to digitalize parts of the collection.

"We are privileged to be a part of the USF Honor program and welcome the opportunity to help these students in digitizing some of our extensive historic collection," says Spencer Lucas, president of the Friends of the Museum. "Our volunteers tell me how exciting these young folks are to be around,

and we thank Professor Wilkins and Library Administrator Betsy Kettells for including the museum in this wonderful project."

At the library the students are learning to place selected digitized items on the Pinellas Memory historic website.

"As information is increasingly accessed through digital means it is very exciting for the St. Pete Beach Library to partner with the Gulf Beaches Historical Museum and the University of South Florida to undertake a collaboration to digitize materials in the Museum's collection," says Kettells. "Pinellas Memory connects people to the county's unique historical documents and this collaboration makes available for the first time materials that represent south county. Additionally, challenges to the current lifestyle from environmental changes and aggressive community development will be easier to track

as the project digitizes more documents, maps, photos, and oral histories. Businesses, tourists, genealogists and more will benefit from the ease of access to our local history."

"This project is a great opportunity for the students to gain experience working with partners outside of campus," says Wilkins. "They are learning to listen and respond to others, as well as share their own expertise and opinion in a helpful way."



Wayne's World

Nuclear Space Power... Get Out... Camel Beauties... and More...

By Wayne Shattuck

Nuclear Space Power... Initial tests in Nevada on a compact nuclear power system designed to sustain a long-duration, NASA human mission on the inhospitable surface of Mars have been successful and a full-power run is scheduled for late March. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and U.S. Department of Energy officials, at a Las Vegas news conference, recently detailed the development of the nuclear fission system under NASA's Kilopower project. What will become months-long testing began last November at the energy department's Nevada National Security Site, with an eye toward providing energy for future astronaut and robotic missions in space and on the surface of Mars, the Moon or other solar system destinations. A key hurdle for any long-term colony on the surface of a planet or moon, as opposed to NASA's six short lunar surface visits from 1969 to 1972, is possessing a power source strong enough to sustain a base, but small and light enough to allow for transport through space. And Mars, the most likely planet, has a very difficult environment for power systems, with less sunlight than the Earth, very cold nighttime temperatures and dust storms that can last weeks or months and even engulf the entire planet. So Kilopower's compact size and robustness allows NASA to deliver multiple units on a single lander to the surface that can provide tens of kilowatts of power. In the not too distant future, the technol-

ogy could power habitats and life-support systems, enable astronauts to mine resources, recharge rovers and run processing equipment to transform resources such as ice on the planet into oxygen, water and fuel. It could also potentially augment electrically powered spacecraft propulsion systems on missions to the outer planets.

Get Out... For older people, getting out of the house regularly may contribute to a longer life, and the effect is independent of medical problems or mobility issues, according to new research from Israel. For study participants in their 70s, 80s and 90s, the frequency with which they left the house predicted how likely they were to make it to the next age milestone, researchers report in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society. "The simple act of getting out of the house every day propel people into engagement with the world," said lead author Dr. Jeremy Jacobs of Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center in Jerusalem. It appears that being social is important in the process of aging.

Camel Beauties... The month long national "Camel Festival" in Saudi Arabia ended last month, mostly on a positive note, but there were some problems. At least a dozen camels were disqualified from this year's "camel beauty contest" because their handlers used Botox to make them more handsome. We are being told that much is changing in Saudi Arabia: the country is getting its

first movie theaters and soon women will be permitted to drive. The authorities eventually hope to diversify the economy away from the oil that has been its lifeblood for decades. But as they seek to transform the conservative kingdom, the Saudi authorities are trying to smooth the path for reform by emphasizing traditional aspects of their culture. And for the tribesmen of Arabia, nothing is more essential than the camel, used for centuries for food, transport, and as a war machine and companion. So, the authorities have ramped up the country's annual month-long camel festival, which was relocated last year from the remote desert to the outskirts of the capital. On a rocky desert plateau, the government has erected a permanent venue to host the headline events that include races and show competitions with combined purses of \$57 million dollars. There were food stalls and souvenir shops, a petting zoo featuring the world's tallest and shortest camels, a museum with life-size, sand sculptures of camels, a tent for tasting camel's milk and viewing camel-hair textiles.

But That's Not All... The word "curfew" comes from the French phrase "couvre-feu," which means to "cover the fire." It was used, in the olden days, to describe the time of blowing out all lamps and candles. It was later adopted into Middle English as "curfeu," which later became the modern "curfew," with today's meaning of staying home and off the streets.

Notable Achievements

Sam's Efforts Pay Off

Last July Treasure Island resident Samantha Singh (second from left) joined other kids with Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) to lobby Congress to renew the Special Diabetes Program which funds research for a cure. The bill was passed over in September, but was extended through 2017. It lapsed again and the T1D community went into full force to get it included, but it was passed over again January. Finally in February it passed. Sam's tireless efforts paid off according to her mom Joyce Singh. Now they are gearing up for the annual JDRF One Walk, Apr. 14. You can donate at www2.jdrf.org/goto/sam.



Local Artists Help Keep Beaches Clean

Treasure Island held a celebration in February to commemorate the installation of seven signs designed by area residents to prompt beach-goers to help keep the area beaches clean. The winning artists are: Barbara Grilli, Mari Kittle, Sarah Weidner, Ross Lenehan, Lelitia Diggs, and Sydney Jenkins. Sponsors include: Treasure Island Madeira Beach Chamber, Treasure Islettes, Caddy's on the Beach, Bilmar's Beach Café, Ross Lenehan and Sloppy Joe's. See more photos on page 23. Photo courtesy of Treasure Island.



Free Clinic Recognized

St. Petersburg Free Clinic's Virginia and David Baldwin Women's Residence received its Recovery Residence Certification from the Florida Association of Recovery Residences (FARR), the statewide chapter of the National Association of Recovery Residences (NARR). FARR evaluates and monitors organizations providing recovery support in community-based, residential settings throughout Florida. They are the first organization of its kind in Pinellas County to receive this certification.



First Soup-er Bowl Donations Arrive

Supporters of CASA (Community Action Stops Abuse) drop off donations for the annual Soup-er Bowl fundraiser in early February. As the official domestic violence center in the county, they run a 133 bed shelter. Last year the annual event held in February collected enough food to feed their residents for five months.



Local Musician Honored

Singer, songwriter and music arranger Bobby Smith was honored with The Akademia Music Award for Best Pop Rock Song for 'My Trustworthy Love.' It is his 11th Akademia award. He also recently signed with a major film library in Los Angeles making his music eligible for use in the future for film companies, TV shows, video arcades, and more purposes internationally. Congratulation. Learn more at www.bobbysmithentertainment.com.



Business News

C21 Realtor of the Year

Gabrielle Bettig was named Realtor of the Year for the Tierra Verde Office of Century 21 Coast to Coast. She has been with the firm for more than eight years and has been our Realtor of the Year for five of the last six years. "Gabrielle is a dynamic, knowledgeable and hard working Realtor and we are very proud of her," said Randall K. Ierna, Managing Broker. "She embodies our slogans 'Smarter, Bolder, Faster' and 'Think Globally and act Locally.'"



Eckerd Unveils Center for Visual Arts

Eckerd College held a grand opening for the The Helmar and Enole Nielsen Center for Visual Arts in February. It is a 33,000-square-foot space, blended seamlessly into the campus's natural beauty courtesy of large glass walls overlooking Fox Pond. Its special features include two galleries, a ceramics wing, digital arts and audio studios, a printmaking workshop, and seven semi-private student studios. It was largely funded by gifts from more than 350 Arts Fellows (\$5,000 or more)—including Helmar E. Nielsen of St. Petersburg.



Cars, Trucks and Tastes Come to Tierra Verde

By TIR Staff

The 7th Annual Classic Car & Truck Show and Taste of Tierra Verde will fill the downtown plaza Mar. 31 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Stroll among more than 125 classic vehicles to music by DJ Tom's Traveling Tunes. There's local fare, fun activities for children and free popcorn.

The popular event is presented by the Tierra Verde Business Partnership (TVBP) and Premium Productions. The Tierra Verde Fire Department (TVFD) is also instrumental in supporting the show.

Proceeds from this year will be shared with The Pinellas Sheriff's Police Athletic League (PAL). Operating out of the Lealman Sports Complex, Pinellas PAL offers after school tutoring and a host of other activities for 6th to 12th grade kids.

The TVPB supports and promotes existing and new businesses on the island and businesses off Tierra Verde owned or managed by residents. Their goal is to promote Tierra Verde as an island known for its business appreciation and community spirit

where people work and live together for a mutually positive result both economically and socially.

Sponsorships are available. Go to www.tierraverdebusinesspartnership.com



The annual Classic Car & Truck Show and Taste of Tierra Verde is a hit each spring and supports local nonprofits.

Tierra Verde Business Partnership
www.tierraverdebusinesspartnership.com
PROUDLY PRESENTS

7th Annual CLASSIC CAR & TRUCK SHOW and Taste of Tierra Verde



MARCH 31, 2018

Activities for kids, local vendors, music and more!

Proceeds benefit the Pinellas Sheriff's Police Athletic League!



Saturday, March 31, 2018
11:00 am to 3:00 pm
Registration/Set-Up at 9:00 am
1110 Pinellas Bayway South
Downtown Tierra Verde

To register a vehicle in the show go to www.premiumcarshows.com

The Island Reporter Puzzle Page

The Crossword by Margie E. Burke

- ACROSS**
- 1 Peter I, for one
 - 5 Border plant
 - 10 Call to a mate
 - 14 Altar locale
 - 15 Gibson garnish
 - 16 Ice cream treat
 - 17 Quarterback's option
 - 18 Girder material
 - 19 Comedienne Imogene
 - 20 "Halt!"
 - 21 Verse of four measures
 - 23 Show fear
 - 25 Dead letters?
 - 26 Kind of cord
 - 28 Chill out
 - 33 Unrefined
 - 34 Energize (with "up")
 - 35 Block
 - 36 Hourly charge
 - 37 Stake
 - 38 Look after
 - 39 Chowd down
 - 40 Neglected boy
 - 41 Abstain
 - 42 From the age of chivalry
 - 44 Plow's trail
 - 45 "Gosh!"
 - 46 Heart line
 - 47 Smelly pranks
 - 52 Desire
 - 55 Designer Chanel
 - 56 Circa
 - 57 Showy flower
 - 58 Unpleasant emanation
 - 59 Hangman's knot

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			

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- 60 Air show stunt
 - 61 Strengthen, with "up"
 - 62 Dissuade
 - 63 Kitty starter
- DOWN**
- 1 Last call?
 - 2 Cross words
 - 3 Kind of press
 - 4 Answer
 - 5 Cheap lodging
 - 6 Script direction
 - 7 South Beach, for one
 - 8 Suffix with theater
 - 9 Darkroom apparatus
 - 10 Click the OK button
 - 11 Knee-slapper
 - 12 Enough, for some
 - 13 Academic period
 - 22 Personal air
 - 24 Is no longer
 - 26 "Beat it!"
 - 27 Go on and on
 - 28 Watch
 - 29 Square
 - 30 Mental lapse
 - 31 Ballroom dance
 - 32 Fund
 - 34 Buddhist leader
 - 37 Range of frequencies
 - 38 Tex-Mex staple
 - 40 Nerdy one
 - 41 PETA peeve
 - 43 Slight, in a way
 - 44 Encourage
 - 46 Bullying, e.g.
 - 47 Kilt wearer
 - 48 Type of list
 - 49 Desktop feature
 - 50 Double-reed instrument
 - 51 Kind of court
 - 53 Congeal
 - 54 Hoopla

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

Sudoku

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

Trivia

Quirky Presidential Trivia

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1. What president regularly took an early morning skinny dip in the Potomac river? (a) James Madison (b) James Monroe (c) John Quincy Adams
2. What president funded his first congressional campaign with money won from playing poker? (a) John Tyler (b) Richard Nixon (c) Andrew Jackson
3. Who had a mechanical horse installed in the White House so he could practice horseback riding skills? (a) Calvin Coolidge (b) Theodore Roosevelt (c) Woodrow Wilson
4. Before becoming president, who did a bit of modeling and appeared on the cover of Cosmopolitan magazine? (a) John Kennedy (b) Gerald Ford (c) Ronald Reagan
5. What president was ambidextrous and could write a sentence in Latin with one hand and Greek with the other? (a) Grover Cleveland (b) William McKinley (c) James Garfield
6. What president received a \$20 speeding ticket for riding his horse too fast down Washington avenue? (a) Ulysses S. Grant (b) Zachary Taylor (c) Abraham Lincoln
7. What president invented a rotating book holder and also invented/improved on the inventions of the pedometer, swivel chair, pasta maker and dumb-waiter? (a) James Polk (b) Millard Fillmore (c) Thomas Jefferson
8. Who popularized the phrase "OK"? (a) Franklin Pierce (b) Martin Van Buren (c) Chester Arthur
9. Before becoming president what man and his wife lived in China and learned to speak Mandarin fluently? (a) Hebert Hoover (b) William Taft (c) Harry Truman
10. What president lost the White House china collection in a game of poker? (a) Warren Harding (b) Rutherford Hayes (c) Benjamin Harrison

ANSWERS ON PAGE 11

Word Search

"All" Words

- ALLAH
- ALLANITE
- ALLAY
- ALLEGATION
- ALLEGE
- ALLEGHENY
- ALLEGIANCE
- ALLEGORY
- ALLEN
- ALLERGIC
- ALLERGY
- ALLEVIATE
- ALLEY
- ALLHEAL
- ALLIANCE
- ALLIGATOR
- ALLIUM
- ALLOCATE
- ALLOTMENT
- ALLOW
- ALLOY
- ALLUDE
- ALLURE
- ALLUSION
- ALLUSIVE
- ALLUVIAL
- ALLY

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

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Local Events, Activities & Announcements

Gulfport

Mar. 2 & 17: Gulfport Art-Walk, 6 - 10 p.m. Shop, eat and enjoy more than 35 unique businesses, boutiques, galleries, bars, and restaurants along with arts and craft vendors. Beach Blvd. S., Waterfront District.

Mar. 3: Pink Flamingo Home Tour, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tour 10 homes from the very small to a historic, Spanish-style home, plus the Stetson campus. Walk or bike 2.25-mile level route. Trolley/van available for those who need it. Begins at Most Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, 5800 15th Ave. S. Tickets \$20 and \$25 day of. Info and tickets at www.pink-flamingohometour.com.

Mar. 12: Free Concert, 7 p.m. Enjoy the New Horizons Band of Gulfport. Songs include "A Tribute to George Gershwin," Highlights from "Jersey Boys," "Wizard of Oz," and "Chicago" among other popular tunes. Casino Ballroom, 5500 Shore Blvd S. Info at www.NewHorizonsBandGulfport.org.

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. - 3 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.

South Pasadena

Mar. 23-25: 32nd Annual Artspring Exhibition, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Exhibit with artwork in clay, fiber, wood, metals, glass, photography, paper or paint. Volunteers needed for various shifts from Mar. 19 - 26. Artists needed as well. City Hall, 7047 Sunset Dr. S. Info at www.mysouthpasadena.com.

Mar. 24, Community Garage Sale, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tons of sales throughout the Pasadena Golf Club Estates. Follow the signs from Gulfport Blvd onto Robin Road or Royal Palm. Rain Day 3/25.

St. Pete Beach

Mar. 1 - 19: Honor Walk Brick Campaign. The 2018 Brick Campaign is on through March 19. Installation of the bricks will occur early summer. Call 727-363-9232 to order.

Mar. 3: Senior Excursion, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. A trip to the Florida Strawberry Festival. Let someone else do the driving and relax with friends or meet new ones. \$15 covers transportation only. Any admission fees and lunch are extra. Info at www.spbrec.com. Other trips:

Mar. 10: Ellenton Outlets

Mar. 24: Bok Tower Gardens

Mar. 31: Tampa Cuban Sandwich Festival

Mar. 17: Beach Clean Up, 9 - 11 a.m. Semi-Annual clean-up of Upham Beach. Upham Beach Concession Stand, 6850 Beach Plaza. Info at 727-363-9245.

Mar. 17: Underwater Egg Hunt & Spring Festival, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Dip and dive for Easter eggs in the pool and stay and play at the Spring Festival next door! \$5 (includes re-entry to pool after the event). Aquatic Center, 7701 Boca Ciega Dr. Info at www.spbrec.com.

Apr. 14: Mark Your Calendars: Salute to Military and First Responders, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. A fun day full of food, music, vendors including artists, crafts, collectables and more. Informational exhibits, VA reps and DAV Mobile Service Office, plus kid's fishing tournament with rod, reel, bait & tackle provided. Horan Park, 7701 Boca Ciega Dr. See story on page 10. Info at Veterans Of South Pinellas County Inc. on Facebook.

Each Week

Corey Avenue Sunday Market, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Up to 75 vendors with locally produced and home-made items, ready to eat foods and hand crafts. Live music. Info at www.TampaBayMarkets.com.

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

All month:

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

St. Petersburg

Mar. 3 & 4: St. Petersburg Seafood & Music Festival, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. A weekend of delicious food and live music. General admission is \$7. VIP Tent is \$130 with raw seafood bar, open bar and a private lounge. Vinoy Park, 701 Bay Shore Dr. NE. Info at www.seafoodfestivals.com.

Mar. 10: Second Saturday Art Walk, 5 - 9 p.m. Take in the St. Pete arts scene after hours. Info at www.stpeteartsalliance.org.

Mar. 17: Marine Yard Sale, 9 a.m. - noon. Good prices on used sailboats, powerboats, electronic equipment and motors to benefit Eckerd College Search and Rescue (EC-SAR). Eckerd College Waterfront Complex, 4200 54th Ave S. Info at www.eckerd.edu/waterfront.

Each Week

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

Tierra Verde

Mar. 17: Great American Cleanup, 9 am - Noon. Tampa Bay Watch, in partnership with Keep Pinellas Beautiful, is recruiting volunteers to cleanup of the Skyway fishing piers, Fort De Soto Park, Coffee Pot Bayou, and Cunningham Key. Info and registration at www.tampabaywatch.org.

Mar. 31: Tierra Verde Car Show and Taste of Tierra Verde, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Up to 125 classic vehicles plus music, food from local restaurants and activities for kids. Benefits Pinellas Sheriff's Police Athletic League. See story on page 19. Info at www.tierraverdebusinesspartnership.com

Treasure Island

Mar. 7: March Madness Concert, 7:30 p.m. Free concert with selections from John Philip Sousa's March King by the South Pasadena Community Band. Community Center, 1 Park Place & 106th Ave. Info at www.southpasadena-band.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. Community Center 1 Park Place and 106th Avenue.

Friday Morning Market, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Open air market featuring local art & crafts, produce, plants/flowers, independent distributors, fair trade, and interesting flea items. Free. Community Center Park, 154 106th Ave

Seminars and Classes

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 78 Safe Boating Classes, 7 p.m., each Tuesday. A 12-week continuous cycle of classes; start anytime; includes 400 pages of materials. Initial registration is 6:30 p.m. \$45 for 12 weeks (\$60 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.

Mar. 6: Which Boat is for You?, Mar. 13: Equipment for Your Boat, Mar. 20: Waterway Watch/Trailer Your Boat, Mar. 27: Handling Your Boat

St. Pete Sail and Power Squadron Seminars, Students must be 12 or older and pre-registration is required. Maximum of 20 students per class. Classes are held at the St Petersburg Sailing Center, 250 2nd Ave. SE, Demens Landing. Class details and registration at www.boating-st.pete.org under Seminars.

Mar. 19: America's Boating Course, 7 - 9 p.m. Seven week course. Graduates qualify for a Florida Boating Safety Education ID Card and may qualify for insurance discounts. Materials \$45 per family.

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.

Announcements

Scholarship Opportunity. The St Pete Road Runners is accepting applications through March 19 for SPRR Ben Fudge Scholarships. The scholarships are awarded annually to high school seniors who excel academically, are members of their varsity track or cross country team and meet the criteria. This year \$2,000 will be awarded each to a worthy student from a Pinellas County private and public high school. Information and applications are at www.sprr.org.

Bay Sailors, a sailing club for singles celebrating 25 years of fun and sailing is looking for a few good skippers with sailboats. Info at www.baysailors.org.

Fundraisers

Apr. 14: Mark Your Calendars: Gulf Fundraiser, 7:30 a.m. registration. Support Clearwater High School Football program for kids at this gulf tourney. \$10,000 hole in one, two-night stay at Shephards Resort, jewelry, gift certificates, rounds of golf from elite, private courses and more. Golfers receive, goodie bags, free breakfast and lunch, awards banquet, trophies and prizes. Bardmoor Golf and Tennis Club, 8001 Cumberland Rd., Largo. Info at www.tornadostrong.org.



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(Rain Day Sunday 3/25)

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The Island Reporter Picture Page

Tampa Bay Goes Red for Women

Buildings around Tampa Bay turned red in support of Go Red for Women Day. The American Heart Association came up with the event in 2004 to dispel myths that cardiovascular disease is an old man's issue. Nearly a half million women die of it each year. In St. Pete the Museum of Fine Arts, The Dali and Freedom Bank participated. Photos by Krayradventures.



Signs Designed to Save Mother Nature

The City of Treasure Island held a sign contest last spring with the goal of creating awareness about the importance of keeping area beaches clean. These are the winners and their names along with the business sponsors are listed on page 19. Photos courtesy of Treasure Island.



Tampa Bay Watch in Pictures

These photos capture many of the activities of Tampa Bay Watch staff and volunteers as they work to restore the Tampa Bay Estuary, educate people on the importance of a healthy bay and raise money to keep the organization going. Photos by TIR staff and TBW.



ISLAND TOONS

By Bruce W. Norris





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PRICE REDUCED



THIS IS A MUST SEE. Beautiful restored home in the much desired Crescent Lake area. You will fall in love with its character and charm. You will have your own private oasis in the backyard with privacy fence, beautiful mature royal palms and landscaping complete with landscape lights with dimmers and timer controls as well as additional storage shed. The back has the ability to park up to 6 vehicles as well and an out of site area large enough for an RV or boat with trailer. Everything has been restored to its original state. Kitchen has high in stainless steel appliances, granite counter tops with gas range. Amazing large Master bedroom with huge custom walk-in closet with air and ceiling fan. There are so many extras you have to see it to believe it. Call Kim Shuey, REALTOR™ 727-488-7627

PRICE REDUCED



ST. PETERSBURG-TROPICAL PARADISE!
Many upgrades to this elegant and spacious 3600+ sq. ft. custom built BR/3.5BTH. Two Levels. Well equipped kitchen with granite counters, Jenn Air stainless appliances, solid wood cabinets and walk in pantry. Master suite with two walk in closets. Screened patio with custom designed pool and spa in a private setting. Convenient to everything! \$540,000. Contact Sam Bennett, REALTOR 727-710-1334

NEW LISTING



TIERRA ISLE MARINA RESIDENCES CONDO. Executive 3BR/3.5Bath with flowing floor plan that brings the outdoors in and captures the peacefulness of a nightly sunset over the Pass-A-Grill Channel. Gourmet kitchen, granite counters, cherry cabinets, designer range hood and six burner gas range. Walk in pantry and wine reserve cooler. All BR's have private baths. Jetted tub & walk in shower in master bath. Great room features and elaborate fireplace of carved cherry wood. PRIVATE DOCK two covered parking garage spaces. Come make this your own tranquil retreat. Contact Charlotte Wright, REALTOR 502-599-6974

NEW LISTING



PRIZED WATERFRONT TOWNHOUSE AT THE VILLAGE
Spacious 2/2 1/2 town home with open floor plan, garage & bonus room, and direct water views surrounded with all the resort style amenities the Village has to offer. Heated pools, spas, saunas, clubhouse with fitness center, party room, and kitchen, Har Tru tennis courts, fishing pier, nature walk, and gated 24/7. Enjoy the benefit of lots of room with the perks of condo living. Recently listed at \$399,000 and ready to be your primary or second home. Call Judy Bader 727-698-3831 to see this great property.

REDUCED \$25,000



TIERRA VERDE! ST PETE BEACH! Boaters, waterfront townhome with DEEDED BOAT SLIP 8,000 lb. LIFT on sailboat (deep) water. This spacious 2BR/2.5BA/2 car tandem garage townhome has an open floor plan with living/dining rm & separate eat-in kitchen with laminate floors. Living room has wood-burning fplc, balcony overlooking the canal and docks. Master bath has dual sinks, separate shower with jacuzzi tub while the Master bdrm has a balcony with one of the best views in the complex. Asking \$310,000. Contact Gabrielle Bettig, REALTOR 727-385-9017

LOTS OF LOTS!

- 1) Historic Roser Park \$100,000.
- 2) Large Park St Lot. \$350,000.
- 3) Lakefront Lot, Oceanview Dr. \$650,000.
- 4) Fabulous Greenland Preserve, 1.3 Acre lot w/ covered boatslip, \$1,250,000.

Call Randall Ierna, Broker/REALTOR™ 727-647-0813

REDUCED \$25,000



PALMA DEL MAR \$25,000 PRICE REDUCTION - VERY MOTIVATED SELLER (RELOCATING)! - Enjoy the Florida lifestyle from this "move in ready" 2 Bedroom/2Bath CORNER UNIT, large balcony with views of the Isla Del Sol golf course, and partial views of the Bay. \$215,000. MLS# U7843981. To preview call Gabrielle Bettig, Realtor 727-385-9017 or Tasha England, Realtor 727-773-7805



CONGRATULATIONS TO GABRIELLE (GABY) BETTIG, for achieving our top realtor status for 2017. This makes five times in the last six years that she has been our #1 realtor call her at 727-385-9017.



Are you looking to sell your home...find a new home? Let me do a free no obligation Market analysis of your home and area. I can do the job, and do it right! Call or email Kim Shuey, REALTOR™ 727-488-7627 shueyk19@gmail.com Century 21 Coast to Coast

We need more inventory, and would love to add your property to our rental inventory to be featured on our web sites. Our team of professionals have been serving your community for over 25 years. CALL US TODAY!



Sunday Service Times
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

1271 Pinellas Bayway
Tierra Verde, FL 33715
(behind the TD Bank Building)
www.theislandchapel.org
(727) 866-7362