

NEIGHBORHOOD



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Newsletter



Photo by BelleairImages.com

THE CLEARWATER COMMUNITY SAILING CENTER

The genesis of the Clearwater Community Sailing Center on Sand Key began back in the 1950s when the Clearwater Optimist Club was given permission to store a fast growing fleet of Optimist Prams in an old fish processing plant on the east end of Bay Esplanade, on Clearwater Beach.

The Pram, a newly created sailboat designed especially for children, was so popular that the Optimist fleet soon numbered over thirty boats with scores of children eagerly joining the Optimist Club's program and learning to sail and race the little craft.

When a few years later, the old wooden building burned, along with all of the little boats in it, the people of the community rapidly donated sufficient funds to build a new, cement block "Pram Shed" on the site, with adequate space for the boats and additional room for a future recreation center. This building is now the Clearwater Beach Recreation Center and Library.

For years the Optimist Club members conducted pram classes and races in Clearwater Bay, behind the Center. As the area developed however, more large boats were using the area and high rise buildings were blocking the wind, making sailing in the area more challenging and less safe for the young skippers.

Meantime, a bridge to Sand Key island had been built and the development of that island began. The Optimist Pram Fleet, which had flourished under the direction of the Optimist Club, was left in the hands of the City of Clearwater when the Clearwater Optimist Club ceased to

exist. A group of young sailor's parents supervised the races and other activities.

Clearwater, the birth place of the now internationally popular Opti Pram, was in danger of not having its own fleet. Fortunately, in 1964, a sailing organization composed of local sailors, formed calling themselves Windjammers. This group sponsored a variety of area sailing activities including classes for young sailors. In 1986, the Windjammers petitioned the Clearwater City Commission for the use of some acreage, immediately south of the Sand Key Bridge, as a sailing center. They had raised \$3,600 for the Center by holding an auction and the City agreed to allow them to use the property. Windjammer sailing activities were conducted on the site from then on, providing an impetus for expansion of the organization.

In 1987, fund raising began in earnest for the Clearwater Community Sailing Center. A fundraiser, generously supported by Carlisle Motors in Clearwater and called the Carlisle Classic, was responsible for providing the Windjammers with a beginning sum of \$30,000 to be used as seed money for the building of the Center. Future Carlisle Classics and other programs helped the Windjammers to continue to financially support the Center.

With the evidence of real interest on the part of the Clearwater sailing community urging them on, the Clearwater City Commission, in 1990, voted to spend \$300,000 to build a two-story building on the Center property on Sand Key. The funds for the new center building came from development impact fees, donations from the local sailing community, and recreation facility impact fees. Documents from 1990 indicate that the City officials expected an operating budget of approximately \$65,000 with about \$15,000 income from launching fees and other charges.

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Please send comments to
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Call for the next issue. For more information, or to read our other issues online, visit BeachNewsletters.com

Bob & Becky Griffin
www.beachnewsletters.com

**SEE YOU AGAIN
IN FEBRUARY!**



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SHERIFF: 582-6200
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Taylour Shimkus

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www.cityofbelleairbeach.com
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FIRE DEPT: 595-1117
POLICE: 595-4646
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COMMISSIONERS —
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Schwerer • Jeril Cohen • Mitchell Krach
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www.belleairshore.com
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POLICE DEPT: 595-4646
MAYOR: Robert E. Schmidt, Jr.
COMMISSIONERS — Jennifer Lyndsay
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VICE MAYOR - Woody Brown
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Roz White, President 462-2674
CLEARWATER SAILING 517-7776

COUNTY INFORMATION 464-3000

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larry.ahern@myfloridahouse.gov
Governor Rick Scott
Rick.Scott@myflorida.com

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AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

David Jolly 727-386-9204
9210 113th St, Seminole, FL 33772
www.house.gov/jolley

CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

DECEMBER

Post Office Toys for Tots 6
Holiday Home Tour Heritage Village 6
Holiday Stroll Largo's Central Park 6
Christmas Stroll. Antique Alley 9
Bluff's Business Assn Mixer 10
Belleair Resident Gift Delivery 10-12
Belleair Bluffs Holiday Event 12
Belleair Market Grand Opening 13
Belleair Holiday Concert 13
Island Estates Lighted Boat Parade 13
Winter Wonderland McGough Park 13
Santa's Review Largo Cultural Ctr 13
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Gift & Plant Sale Botanical Gardens 14
Holiday Parade Belleair 14
Holiday Tree Lighting Belleair 14
Hanukkah Begins 16
IRB Lighted Boat Parade 20
Winter Begins 21
Santa and Suds 5K Run 21
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Belleair Rec Holiday Camp Opens 22
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Kwanzaa Begins 26
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City Dog Park Permits Expire 31
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JANUARY

Public School Reopen 6
Bluff's Business Assn Mixer 8
Piano Concert at Belleair Town Hall 9
Junk and Jewels 9
Belleair Community Garage Sale 10
Gulf Beaches Road Race 18
Martin Luther King Day 19
Belleair Sunset Run 24
Heritage Village Folk Festival 31

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Did You Know...

TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE

Since 1947, Marines have been making Christmas wishes come true for needy children. 100% of the Toys collected by Pinellas County Toys for Tots stay here. Last year they distributed toys to over 18,000 children in our county. This year the need is greater and they are asking for your help. Volunteers are needed December 15th -19th from 9am-3pm for collecting and sorting, then on December 19th 8:30am-3pm for distribution. Email Anita, Anita.t4t@gmail.com to help.



5K HOLIDAY RUN The Santa & Suds 5K Fun Run (or walk) celebrates and promotes awareness of American Sign Language (ASL) with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community on Sunday, December 21, at 3pm. The race starts at the Capitol Beer House in Clearwater, runs to Island Way Grill, and back.

SUNSET MARKET Fridays there is a Sunset Market in Largo's Central Park from 3-7pm. It features fresh produce, eggs, honey, seafood, spices, salads, pickles organic body products, jewelry, arts and crafts. For more information, to become a vendor, or to be a part of the market please contact Jennifer McCafferty of Jen's Markets, managing partner at jens-market.com.

LIFETIME SPORTS LICENSE Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission is offering Lifetime Sportsman's Licenses through December 31, 2014, at the reduced rate of \$500 to residents 21-years-old and younger. The license normally costs around \$1,000, and covers salt and freshwater recreational fishing, hunting and most associated permits for the rest of the license holder's life, even if that person is no longer a state resident. Purchase at License.MyFWC.com, any Florida Tax Collector office or by calling toll-free 888-FISH-FLORIDA



HERITAGE VILLAGE HOLIDAY DISPLAY The Florida Botanical Gardens' Holiday Lights in the Gardens offers visitors a perfect way to experience the magic of the holiday season. The gardens will be open through December 31, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Also, share the holiday season next door at Pinellas County's Heritage Village, a 21-acre living history museum. Historical homes are decorated true to their time period, locality and lifestyle, from an elaborately decorated Victorian home to a simply adorned 1852 log cabin. Heritage Village is at 11909 125th St. N., Largo. (727) 582-2123.

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NEW BELLEAIR CAUSEWAY BATHHOUSE

Pinellas County has approved funding to rebuild a bait house in the parking area on the causeway, but there will be more than just a bait. It will also sell food and snacks and fishing supplies. The building will feature a Florida, coastal style architecture with a peaked roof. The second level deck will have seating for about 20, facing the north to watch sunsets. The first floor will be open-air with space for live bait wells and an ice machine. The cost of the total project is \$675,000 and will be paid by the Penny for Pinellas sales tax. An outside company will run the concessions. It should be open by June of 2015.



TIME TO DONATE? With the end of the year approaching, it might be the right time to consider a Boat or Car donation to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. The easy, tax deductible process, provides funds for the CMA's animal care and youth education programs. Benefits include:

- No boat or car related costs
 - They do all the paperwork
 - Tax deductible donation as allowed by the IRS
 - No sales commission
 - Support the CMA's mission of rescue, rehab and release
- Call 727-441-1790 ext. 264 for more information.

100 YEARS OF MAIL Wednesday, Dec 10th, there will be a celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Indian Rocks Post office, which services parts of the Belleair area. There will be a ribbon cutting and refreshments starting at 8:15am. The post office is at 2nd Street and 4th Avenue in Indian Rocks Beach.

CLAY CLASS The Belleair Rec Center offers hands-on art classes that teach you the skills to create, finish and glaze clay pieces. Take some time out of your busy schedule and let your creativity shine in this all skill level adult art class. The cost is \$100 per class. Call 518-3728 for more information.

FREE FEDERAL TAX FORMS PREPARATION

Again this year, AARP volunteers will be preparing tax forms (1040) free for area residents. They are looking for volunteers to be greeters and tax preparers Experience not necessary and training is provided. You must be willing to donate one four hour shift a week between Feb. 1 and April 15. Call Dan Trembulak, (727) 242-5603.



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SAILING CENTER continued

The bay front location was ideal. It was close to Gulf of Mexico access through the Clearwater Pass, but located in a relatively unused part of the bay. The building, designed by Clearwater Architect Steve Fowler, had boat storage space on the ground floor and a top story meeting room with offices. Over a period of time, two docks were built and the space between provided an ideal, protected launching area for the small boats.

The Clearwater Optimist Pram Fleet was moved to the Center and three new Prams were added to the fleet, named the Cliff McKay in honor of Major McKay, who created the idea and promoted it, the Clarkie Mills who designed it, and the Ernie Green, the Optimist member who directed the original fleet. Today, one of the original, all wood Opti's is displayed at the Sailing Center, along with the history.

With the City of Clearwater in charge of the Center, sailing programs began, but things did not go well and sailing enthusiasts were concerned. Among the concerned was Sand Key resident Joe Calio, who negotiated with the City to form a non-profit organization to operate the Center more fully, using a membership program and pulled together a group to do so. Under the new leadership, the Center diversified, adding a handicapped sailing program, summer camp programs, boat storage, kayaks, championship youth sailing teams, surfboard teams, regattas that attract sailors from all over and, in the midst of it all, ways for ordinary sailors to gather for simple fun races in the Florida sun. Until his death in 2010, Mr. Calio was very active at the Center, enjoying the camaraderie of the sailors who frequent it.

Today, the Clearwater Community Sailing Center provides waterborne activities for everyone at all levels. Three types of memberships are available: Youth: \$190, Adult \$375, or Family \$495. The phone number is 727-517-7776.

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THE SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY

By Stephanie Schlageter, Radiance Medspa

For nearly nine years, Radiance Medspa has been fortunate to call Belleair Bluffs home, and we are proud to be part of a strong community dedicated to service. Our medspa offers treatments that enhance outer beauty, but we know everyone looks best when inner beauty radiates. That is why we support local organizations and nonprofits through sponsorship and participation. While there are too many to name, we would love to share with you a handful of the events that combine fun and the spirit of giving to keep us joyful all year long.

We can always find great music for a great cause in our own backyard like the Sundays in Belleair concert series at the Belleair Recreation Center. How about Billy Joel and Elton John tribute shows or a set of Beatlemania? Clearwater Jazz Holiday, which marked its 35th anniversary this year, draws tens of thousands of visitors to enjoy live jazz and gorgeous sunsets. During its history, the international jazz festival has welcomed the likes of Tony Bennett, Branford Marsalis, Stanley Clarke and Dave Brubeck. In addition to outdoor music, performing arts lovers can have it all at the Largo Cultural Center. Whether you enjoy a circus set to electronic music or something more traditional like the music of Hank Williams and Patsy Cline, you'll love spending the year taking in everything this spectacular venue has to offer.

When it comes to visual arts, Indian Rocks Beach is home to the Beach Art Center where adults and children find creative educational experiences in the visual arts. The Center offers exhibitions, lectures, studio classes and workshops. Two annual local favorite events, the Beach Art Center Bluegrass Festival and the Beauty and the Beach Fine Arts & Crafts Show, take place each spring.

Our Radiance team enjoys staying fit and supporting the

great causes funded by events like the Belleair Sunset 5K & Fun Run, which is hosted by the Town of Belleair Parks & Recreation and the Guppy's Gulfside Gallop 5K Sunset Run benefitting the Indian Rocks Homeowners Association. For active neighbors who don't enjoy running, we recommend the Belleair Rec Family Golf Tournament where golfers enjoy a four-person scramble or adult/junior alternate shot rounds at the Belleair Country Club in support of Belleair Rec.

Each year, Gracie's Big Splash welcomes hundreds of locals to the Dimmitt Community Center to enjoy water slides, games and events while raising funds for the Wonders Foundation. From providing gas money to holiday assistance, the Wonders Foundation directly impacts and assists families with children dealing with catastrophic or terminal illnesses. From splashes to bashes, we never miss the Biggest Beach Party Ever. Held on the last Saturday in April at Indian Rocks Beach, this event also raises funds for the Homeowners Association, the organization responsible for maintaining the beach's beautiful neighborhood. A community event where bikinis are welcome (we can help with that too), locals mark their calendars for this each year.

There are many other incredible nonprofit organizations shining a light in our community, and when they need administrative assistance, Charity Works is there to help those who help others. This organization provides assists charities in making donated dollars go farther.

This holiday season, please join Radiance Medspa in celebrating all of the amazing things we accomplish together as a community. While we focus on helping people look their best, we strive to support efforts that allow people to live better too. Please join us at some of these and other important community events. Keep shining!

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10-YEAR-OLD CHANGING THE WORLD WITH KINDNESS

Lily Uline is 10 years old and already making an impact on her Safety Harbor community. She wants to not only make a difference in her own community, but in the world by doing random acts of kindness. She started "Make Kindness Count" after her mom gave her \$250 for Christmas and told her to give it away. "After seeing the impact I was making on people's lives and the happiness that my small act of kindness had on them, it showed me how important it is," said Uline.

On her 10th birthday, Uline decided to make "Make Kindness Count" cards and do random acts of kindness for people and hand them a card for them to do a random act of kindness to someone else. "I am a happiness ambassador and I want to change the world and would like to encourage others no matter what your age is to participate."

Uline says acts of kindness can be anything from a thank you letter, spending time with someone or helping someone with chores. Uline gives examples of random act of kindness on her Facebook page Make Kindness Count. She is also helping nonprofits in the community by promoting their organizations in raising awareness for their needs. Uline promoted the Mattie Williams Neighborhood Family Center in Safety Harbor in a Facebook video encouraging people to bring in donations to their organization.

Uline also recently spoke to her local Rotary group and was on the Pete O'Shea Radio Show on WTIS AM 1110.

"My passion is to encourage others to do one small act of kindness every day. Imagine how much happiness you would spread in a lifetime," says Uline.

For more information contact Lily's mom, Jodi Avery at 727.238.9660 or go to Lily's Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/MakeKindnessCount

NEW FIRE CHIEF

Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue recently hired, Salvatore A. D'Angelo III, to succeed former Fire Chief Robert Polk. D'Angelo began October 3 and reports to the five-member Board of Fire Commissioners.

Pinellas Suncoast is a two-station department serving Indian Rocks Beach, Indian Shores, Belleair Beach, Belleair Shore and a portion of the unincorporated area east of the intracoastal known as the Oakhurst area.

Chief D'Angelo comes from the North Naples Fire Control and Rescue District where he was a Deputy Chief of Fire Operations and Fleet leading three battalions of 112 uniformed personnel at seven stations. With over 18 years of fire service experience, he possesses skills in areas from firefighting, fire prevention and support services, to finance and budget, experience. D'Angelo has a master's degree in public administration from Florida Gulf Coast University, and a bachelor's in business administration from the Florida International University. He is currently an adjunct professor at the Florida Atlantic University where he is a Ph.D. student in public administration. D'Angelo is a successful grant writer and grant project coordinator with a vision that will be an asset for the District.



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PINELLAS COUNTY GETS INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

By Pinellas County Commissioner Chair
Karen Seel



How can it be that we in the holiday season already? Wasn't it just New Year's Day a few weeks ago? It certainly seems that way.

While 2014 is quickly approaching its end, Pinellas County is pulling out all the stops to make this holiday season a memorable one. Whether you are welcoming visitors from up north or just staying local with friends and family, there are plenty of options available to you to celebrate. Be sure to mark your calendars for these great events:

Now through Dec. 31: Holiday Lights in the Gardens The Florida Botanical Gardens are magically transformed into a star-studded venue of over 750,000 twinkly LED lights, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. nightly. A \$4 donation is suggested for visitors 13 and over. Children 12 and under are free. 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo.

Info: www.flbg.org or call (727) 582-2100

Now through Jan. 4: Holidays at the Village

Visitors can enjoy the historical houses at Heritage Village decorated for the holidays true to their time period. Visit during normal operating hours. 11909 125th St. N., Largo.

Info: www.pinellascounty.org/heritage or (727) 582-2123

Dec. 14: Gift and Plant Sale

Shop a variety of items perfect for holiday gift-giving including tropical plants such as orchids, herbs, bromeliads and fruit trees as well as unique clothing, jewelry, ceramics and garden art. A \$2 donation is requested for entry. Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Florida Botanical Gardens. 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo.

Dec. 28: Holiday Light Dog Parade

Dogs are invited to show off in the holiday light dog parade. Canine competitors will be judged in the following categories: Best costume, best adult, best puppy, best senior, most glamorous, and best vocal performance. Registration is \$10 and is open to the first 100 dogs. Begins at 1 p.m. at the Florida Botanical Gardens, 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo

While this is a season for giving and celebration, unfortunately, it's also the season in which some people want to play the Grinch. Unscrupulous merchants, shady characters and other Scrooge wannabes are out there, trying to turn your holiday experience into a bad one. That's why Pinellas County's Consumer Services department is hard at work, providing advice and tracking down these charlatans to help ensure your holiday season is memorable – for all the right reasons. If you would like some advice on how to stay safe, be sure to visit www.pinellascounty.org/consumer, or call (727) 464-6200.

As the year draws to a close, I want to thank each of you for doing what you do to make Pinellas County a great place to call home. It has been my honor to serve you as the Chair of your Board of County Commissioners this year, and I would like you know just how humbled I am to be living in this great county. The passion and commitment each of you shares to make our county a great place to live, work and play is evident, and it makes me proud to serve you.

My wish for you this holiday season is health, happiness and prosperity.

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While the official shop local day has past, here are some suggestions from area Belleair Merchants to continue the trend while you complete your Christmas shopping.

BELLA VINO - Champagne and Caviar

The Plaza Shopping Center

Choose from imported or domestic Caviar including top quality Kaluga, Royal Osetra, Siberian Baerii, American Hackelback or consider hand-made Truffle Pearls. Pair it with a fine bottle of champagne.

BELLEAIR MARKET

A Cigar Caddy Humidor

510 Indian Rocks Rd, Belleair Bluffs

This Cigar Caddy waterproof humidor ranges from \$20 to \$25 and makes a nice stocking stuffer for your cigar smoker. Add his favorite Cigars for the perfect Christmas Gift.



HAIR BIZ - A New Hairdo

inside Jewel Hair Salon, N. Indian Rocks Rd., 831-5134.

Give someone a gift certificate from Valerie Bruno, an experienced hair artist

CARLSON FLORISTS - Christmas greenery

1488 Clearwater-Largo Road just north of West Bay

They carry a full spectrum of Christmas Greens, including fresh garland, fragrant wreaths and swags each made to order to match your décor.

CASSI & COMPANY - A cozy cashmere sweater

The Plaza Shopping Center

FLUFFY PUPPIES - Soft pet ornament toys

1447 So. Ft Harrison at Belleair Road

These look like your real tree ornaments. Instead of your dogs taking ornaments off the family tree, give them one that is safe to chew on. www.APlaceForDogs.com.

LARGO FEED & PET SUPPLY - A gift certificate

210 West Bay in Largo

With each gift certificate they will increase the value 20%. Buy \$20 and get \$24. A great idea for that pet lover.

PURELIFE MED-SPA - PRP Vampire Facial gift certificate

12442 Indian Rocks Rd, Largo

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LIVING PRETTY BOUTIQUE - Item by Barefoot Dreams

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SHABBY 2 CHIC - A set of 6 Christmas appetizer plates

596 Indian Rocks Road North, #G, Antique Alley

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PIANO LESSONS BY ELIZABETH

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Piano lessons make a great Christmas gift that keeps on giving long after the holiday season is over.

GALLERIA MISTRO - Custom art by Louise del Basso

The Plaza Shopping Center

These small beautifully painted oil paintings, by the owner of the gallery are collector items and range from \$50 to \$150. This new gallery replaced Art at the Plaza.

WILLIAM DEAN CHOCOLATES

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They have a wide variety of chocolates gifts boxed and ready to put under the tree. Each piece is handmade.



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RADIANCE MEDSPA - A gift certificate for any service

2894 West Bay Drive, Belleair Bluffs

When you spend \$100 products or services, you earn an additional \$20 Gift Certificate. (Offer expires 12/31/14).

THE COOK'S STORE - A large Italian Santa platter

The Plaza Shopping Center

The new store is full of other ideas, a train from Mariposa or a LeCreuset soup pot. This store was formerly Beans about Cooking

THE SILVER QUEEN

Christmas Tree ornament

1350 West Bay Drive, Largo

There 2014 Annual Sterling Silver Gorham Snowflake ornament features a metal tag with the year and hangs on a white satin ribbon.

Suggested price is \$250, but through Christmas it is \$110.



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Business Briefs...

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BELLEAIR MARKET GRAND OPENING The Belleair Market's new owner Chris Scott has finished the remodel resulting in a new look inside. He bought the neighborhood store, located in the heart of Belleair Bluffs, a few months ago and has been working hard to improve it. He expanded the available products and the wine list then added over 200 craft beers and a walk-in cigar humidior. The official grand opening event is Saturday, December 13th, from noon to 8pm. Stop by and see their holiday gift baskets, wine tools and stoppers along with other Christmas gifts suggestions. A drawing will be held each hour and there will be free ice cream for the kids. Come by and say hello to Chris and his staff. The Belleair Market is located at 510 Indian Rocks Road, 584-3697.



NEW ER OPENS Largo Medical Center has expanded access to emergency care in Clearwater and North Pinellas County by opening Clearwater ER, a freestanding, full-service emergency department. Located at 2339 Gulf to Bay Blvd., the 10,620-square-foot, one-story facility provides 24/7, comprehensive care. The ER features 12 exam rooms with triage, isolation and critical care rooms, a laboratory; a pharmacy, X-ray and CT scan equipment. The facility employs 41 full-time staff members and six full-time physicians.

SUZETTE'S ONE YEAR AT THE NEW LOCATION Suzette's...On The Rocks, relocated to Belleair Bluffs one year ago. But they are not one year old. Laura Bush opened Suzette's on Indian Rocks Road South 8 years ago. This is actually a family business, started by Bush's mother 30 years ago. Pictured here is Laura (right) with her employee, Denise.



SMITH & ASSOCIATES GIVES USFSP \$100,000 A \$100,000 contribution from Smith & Associates Real Estate will support objectives of USFSP'S student and faculty initiatives, including academic and research programs, student clubs, equipment, computers and student travel and training, among others. The Smith & Associates gift will be recognized by naming the café in the new Kate Tiedemann College of Business building. USFSP broke ground on the new 68,000 square-foot building earlier this month.

GALLERIA MISTO GRAND OPENING Louise and Luigi Del Basso purchased Art At The Plaza in October, and are holding their official Grand Opening on Friday, December 12. It is a Private Grand Opening so RSVP by calling 559-7767. The event is 6pm to 9pm. Galleria Misto is located in the Plaza 100 Shopping Center.

More Business Briefs...



HOLIDAY INN CONSTRUCTION The very tall water slide, just west of the Holiday Inn Harborside, is still under construction along with the hotel expansion which includes approximately 200 new rooms. The units near 2nd Street will be three

stories over parking, while the building along the Intracoastal will be seven stories over parking. The water park is on hold until the hotel construction is finished - sometime in late 2015.

GET YOUR HOME EXTERIOR READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Hammerhead Roof & Exterior Cleaning is offering the Soft Wash System™ that eliminates dirt, stains, mold, algae on your roof while disinfecting all of which can relieve allergy symptoms. Did you know those stains may be algae feeding on the filler between asphalt shingles and can destroy your roof? During cleaning, they use a mix of biodegradable mildew/algaeicides with soaps and a low-pressure pump that kills 100% of the algae without damage. It lasts six times longer than pressure washing with a 5-year warranty. In addition, they clean homes, pool decks & cages, pavers, sidewalks, driveways, fences, decks, mobile homes, docks and playground equipment. For a FREE in-home estimate, call 800-700-4140 or visit hammerheadsoftwash.com.

IRB BED AND BREAKFAST FOR SALE

If you have ever wanted to own a B&B, one is for sale right here in town - The Laughing Lizard. Owned by previous Indian Rocks Beach Mayor Bill Ockunzzi, it has 4



bedrooms with baths plus a 2 bedroom and a studio apartment and is at 2211 Gulf Blvd. "When it sells, Cindi and I will buy another place in IRB," says Ockunzzi. "Running a B&B has been a great retirement gig. You wake up each morning with something fun and rewarding to do. You meet new friends every day. We hope to use our free time to do more traveling." The Key West styled building, with a tin roof, was built in 2005 and is fully licensed as a 5 bedroom suite B&B with a 900SF owner's apartment. The selling price is \$1,200,000. If you are interested in this income property, call Tim Shears with the Belleair Bluffs' Sothebys Realty at 238-6864.

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Anna Hipp with over eight years of banking experience in Pinellas County, is their new Universal Banker. She will participate in the daily branch operations including financial services needs and providing timely and efficient completion of client transactions.



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PIANO LESSONS Makes A Great Christmas Gift!

Elizabeth Snedeker, NCTM has been teaching piano to all ages for over thirty years, with student from 7 to 70+. While living in Michigan she taught over sixty students at a time entering them in student day, Sonata Festivals, her own home recitals and play-a-thons. Today, she teaches in her Largo home.



Student Ely Johnson at Snedeker's grand piano

Snedeker, graduated from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan with a bachelor of arts in music and is a state and nationally certified teacher. Her teaching methods include all styles of music, ear training, sight reading and theory.

Her love of music extends to her family where three of her four sons are professional musicians and seven of her grandchildren are aspiring musicians.

No one is ever too old to start playing! If you or someone on your gift list has the desire to play the piano, piano lessons are a perfect Christmas gift idea. If you are interested in learning to play the piano, she would love to hear from you. She has room for a few students. Call Snedeker for information about her holiday gift specials at 727-596-7813.

FLAMINGO'S NEEDED AT SUNKEN GARDENS



Sunken Gardens opened in the 1920s and at one time, had hundreds of pink flamingos located around their property. Today the crèche (which is what a group of flamingos is called) is down to only two, named George and Lucy after George and Lucy Turner who first brought the birds to the gardens in the mid-1950s.

Leslie Larmon and Robin Reed, volunteers in the park, started a non-profit quest called Flamingos

Forever to replenish the crèche. They need \$30,000 to add about 20 flamingos. Anyone who donates \$3,000 or more can buy the naming rights to one of the birds.

Marion Mitchell, owner of nearby Marion's Gifts and Clothing, organized two fundraisers that brought in about \$14,000. "I grew up in New York, but my parents vacationed St Petersburg every year," says Mitchell. "We went to Sunken Gardens every visit. The flamingos are part of my youth and give me great memories."

George and Lucy, #55 and #56, have been lonely since #54 died. "They do better in groups," say Bill O'Grady, the park's manager. "We added mirrors to their cages so they think there other birds around."

To make a donation, just call Sunken Gardens, ask for Bill O'Grady and mention Flamingos Forever. There is also a donation box in the lobby of Sunken Gardens for where they get anything from pennies to large bills. They are about half way to their goal.

Change a Life
with the Changing Season

"HEP blessed my family with the support we needed to reach our long term goal of finding our own place. Now, my daughter finally has a stable place to call home."
- Mitchell L.

Change a Life this Holiday Season and help families, like Mitchell's, by making a gift to the Homeless Emergency Project.

 contact Jackie Dryden at jackied@ethep.org or at 727.442.9041 ext. 110, or visit us online at www.ethep.org/donate.



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HOLIDAY MEALS FOR NEEDY

For the past 10 years, 50 turkey dinners have been delivered to needy area families each Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The program was conceived by Carol Beauchamp, a Sheriff Department employee and Calvary Episcopal Church member, and is funded by the Indian Rocks Rotary. Calvary Episcopal Church's Food Pantry coordinates the program. The families are identified by the Community Policing officers of the Sheriff's Department.

Claire English, this year's Calvary Episcopal Holiday Meal's chairperson, worked closely with the manager of the Indian Rocks Road Publix to create and box the meals. The meals were provided by collections at Calvary, with the rest purchased by the Rotary.

Each meal includes a fully cooked turkey, stuffing, green bean casserole, bread, apple pie, cranberry-orange relish, mashed potatoes, gravy and some extras like juice and peanut butter. Reheating instructions are included.

On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, members of the Pinellas Fire and Rescue, the Sheriff's office and The Rotary met at Publix to pick up and deliver the meals.

Feeding families in need is not just a holiday project for the Rotary, Calvary Episcopal and the Beach Community Food Pantry. The Pantry is open all year providing food and Rotary makes regular donations through out the year. But, they are always in need of money and food, and accept all donations. If you would like to help with holiday meals, or the food pantry, call 595-2374.

CHANGES AT COTI SCHOOL

On Monday, October 20th, Principal Amber Phillips resigned from COTI Community Christian School to take another job. On Tuesday, the The Church of the Isles Board of Directors, who oversees the school, decided to close by Halloween, leaving parents scrambling.

By the end of the week it was announced Country Day School of Largo, a Montessori School, was stepping in to run COTI, and it would remain open.

"Yes, I announced on October 20th, I was leaving," says Amber Phillips. "I am taking a job in Palm Harbor".

"Our Board was surprised and terrified when hearing this," said Chris Plumlee, a member of the Church's Board of Directors. "The school has to have a licensed person running it and Amber had that license."

But there is a happy ending. After the owners of Country Day School met with the board, they decided to step in and run the school. "This is not just an end of the year deal," says Country Day School owner Bruce Daniels. "This is for the long term. We looked at the school, the teachers, the building, the families and we liked what we saw. We plan to keep all the teachers and hopefully students, along with the name, too." Only two families actually left.

"We were blessed and grateful that the people at Countryside Day School are stepping in to run our little IRB school," adds Plumlee.

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PINELLAS TRAIL

By Kenneth T. Welch, Pinellas County Commissioner

Whether biking or walking, safety on the Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail is an important issue to all of us in St. Petersburg. It is key that every individual using the Pinellas Trail feel safe and secure when doing so. In response to recommendations from the Pinellas Trail Security Task Force, Pinellas County is taking steps to make the trail a safer place to commute and exercise.

The Pinellas Trail Security Task Force is comprised of local law enforcement agencies, and coordinates with Pinellas County which oversees the Auxiliary Ranger program. Currently there are 110 Auxiliary Rangers who volunteer more than 7,000 hours annually to improve safety along the Pinellas Trail.

In the last couple of years, multiple crimes have occurred on the Pinellas Trail. As part of our county's ongoing efforts to ensure the safety of citizens using the trail, Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources, in coordination with the Pinellas Trail Security Task Force, has recently completed the process of placing nearly 700 9-1-1 markers along the trail. The markers start in downtown St. Petersburg and end in Tarpon Springs, they are placed at 200 to 300 foot intervals for the entire 47-mile trail.

These trail markers have easy to read identifying numbers on them which can be used by citizens in order to aid a 9-1-1 operator in locating them should an emergency occur. Placement of the new markers received the endorsement of the Pinellas Trail Security Task Force to improve safety along Pinellas County's award-winning trail.

These steps are just part of the collaborative efforts ongoing between Pinellas County, area municipalities, and citizens to keep the Pinellas Trail a safe place for all to visit. The Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail is just one of the many outdoor venues we can enjoy with our families this holiday season, for more information visit www.pinellascounty.org/trailgd or call (727) 582-2100.

HOLIDAY GIFT JOURNEYMARKERS Tells Your Life In A Whimsical Way!

Our lives are marked by special places: favorite cities we've visited and lived, cities our children were born in and where we fell in love. Mark those places with JourneyMarkers, personalized mile markers that visually tells the story of your life's journey.

Inspired by the mile markers of the Tropics and the hit show M.A.S.H, JourneyMarkers really are a one of a kind gift for friends and family. As a conversation piece, JourneyMarkers are certain to spark plenty of stories and lots of memories.

JourneyMarkers come in various sizes, colors and styles. Customers are encouraged to list those special places in their life: where you used to live, a pub or vacation spot, favorite ballparks or teams, and universities! The mileage is then calculated to your memorable locations. Assembled together, the mile markers represent your life's journey. It is a personalized gift that is sure to bring the look of surprise and, "Wow! What a clever gift!" to anyone receiving one.

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Personal readings can be scheduled for Sunday, January 25th and will be held at the Belleair Country Club. RSVP by November 19th



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The logo for Halo Aesthetics features the word "Halo" in a large, elegant, cursive script. Below it, "Aesthetics" is written in a smaller, clean, sans-serif font. At the bottom, "at St. Michael's" is written in a very small, italicized font. A thin, curved line arches over the word "Halo".

PLANES, TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES - AN AMERICAN VISIT TO ITALY

By Bob & Becky Griffin

You may notice this newsletter is coming to you a little late. That is because we took 18 days off in October and went to Italy. To get there, we flew nine hours across the Atlantic from Charlotte, NC to Rome. Just enough time to watch three movies.

In preparing for the trip, Becky ordered the Italian Rosetta Stone and she really tried. On the other hand, Bob assumed everyone would speak English. Was he disappointed! We did however conquer some key words such as, buongiorno (hello), grazie (thank you), prego (you are welcome), arrivederci (good bye), and ciao (a greeting that can mean hello or goodbye.) They do seem to say many words twice, such as, si si (yes), no no (no) and ciao ciao,.

We spent a lot of time trying to convert things to things we understood such as money (Euros to Dollars), distances (kilometers to miles) and speed limits (kilometers/hour to miles/hour). We never did figure out how to use common appliances which were similar but different, and only had Italian instructions.

The Euro Dollar exchange rate fell slightly during our travels, but we had to remember when looking at prices, each Euro was worth about \$1.30. We noticed prices rarely included cents. They were whole numbers, partly because they do not have a visible sales tax. Instead, they have a 22% Value Added Tax built into the price. Each Euro denomination is a different size and colored bill, the larger the value, the larger the bill. One and two Euros are coins, not bills, similar in size to our quarters. It surprises you when you expect three Euros back but just receive two coins. We never saw a penny.

Navigating around the cities was challenging. First, maps are obviously in Italian. In writing, street names are reversed, Walsingham Road becomes Road Walsingham so all the names look similar. They have no street signs, instead street names are carved on the side of some, but not all, buildings about 20 feet off the ground. You cannot see them until you are in the intersection. Street names also change at will, sometimes very few blocks, for no apparent reason.

Everyone recommends not driving in the big cities and now we know why. The cars are half the size of ours and fast. If you tried to drive, you would never find a parking spot. Never! Stops signs and lanes are just suggestions. When stopped at a light, scooters all move in front of the cars. 25% of the people drive cars, 25% are on scooters, 25% are on bicycles and the last 25% are walking to busses and subways.

The country really believes in mass transit. While in Rome, we bought a multi-day pass for the Metro (subway). We walked two blocks, got on it and with one transfer, we were at the Coliseum in 15 minutes. Getting home on the bus though was not as easy. We stood under what we thought was a bus stop sign until we discovered it was a no parking sign. Who knew? Once on a bus, we then had no idea where to get off.

When it came time to leave Rome and travel to Florence, we took a cab to their modern train depot, The Termini. We looked at the trains departing to Florence pronounced Firenze in Italian and there weren't any. After some angst, a U.S. travel agent on vacation, helped us when the train station employee didn't speak English. We arrived at the gate just in time to catch our bullet train. We eventually learned they list routes by the last stop of the day; Florence was the first

Florence, shown above, was amazing. Most of the buildings are three or four stories high and hundreds of years old. A law passed many years ago forbid any building to be taller



Florence, Italy

than the main church, called the Duomo. Most streets are mixed use with housing over businesses. Most restaurants have roll up garage doors with no signs. In the morning, they look like nothing; at 4pm or so they open, put chairs and tables in the street, and wa-la, there is a café or restaurant.

In the historic area, many of the streets are only 8 feet wide. You can almost reach out and touch both sides. If a car goes by, you have to get up on the 12" wide slanted sidewalk and sometimes turn sideways to avoid being hit.

Waiters make 12 to 14 Euro per hour and do not expect a tip. Instead you are charged a service fee for bread and use of the table. Usually it is \$2 per table. They are very friendly and if you do tip them, they are surprised and appreciative.

Italy is known for their wine, of course. Florence, in the Tuscany region, is similar to our Napa Valley. Italians drink wine with meals, but they would never order it at a bar like a cocktail; that is an American thing. You can drink wine at age 16 and beer at 18. Liquor (not just beer and wine) is sold every where, even in the grocery store. We enjoyed the Chianti very much, which is only grown in that region. The prices were very reasonable, by the glass or bottle.

At the end of our first week, we headed to a villa in Barberino Val d' Elsa, 30 miles south of Florence using a three Euro bus ticket. The villa was surrounded by hundreds of vineyards most offering wine tastings, but we only had time for three.

We took a day trip to Siena, 30 miles farther south, in a rental car. Driving there wasn't too hard; it was mostly interstate with clear but interesting signage. The speed limit was 90 km/hour, which we figured out later is only 55 miles/hour. In Siena, we spent an hour looking for a parking spot, but once parked, we saw how beautiful the city is. We plan to stay there a few nights on our next visit. Thank goodness our cell phone's GPS worked, and we found our way home before dark. Those country roads have no lights, and many sharp drop offs along the edge of the mountains.

After seven amazing days, it was back to Florence to catch a train to Venice, then our flight home. Venice, 160 miles from Florence, was just a 2 hour bullet train ride away.

Venice is just like you see in the movies. WOW and more WOW. They have no cars or scooters. Cabs are luxury boats all competing for the water and resembling a demolition derby, although we never saw them hit each other or bridges.

The boats are all inboard/outboards, with side thrusters and cost from \$150,000 to \$200,000. At high tide, you have to duck when going under bridges. We were told with over 150 canals, there are 140 bridges. Walking through Venice, is like walking through a county fair fun house. Even with a GPS in hand, we were lost, most of the time.

We could write pages about our experiences, but we really recommend you go to Italy and experience it for yourself. We plan to go back, soon.

CLEARWATER RESIDENT RAY GRAVES - ONE

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Growing up in Jacksonville, we loved the Florida Gators. After all, the University of Florida was just 90 miles away, and Jacksonville was the home of The Gator Bowl. Florida Gators Coach Ray Graves is the first Gators coach I remember. He coached from 1960 to 1969. Graves lives in a Clearwater retirement building on the same floor as my mother and on December 31st, he will be 96.

Samuel Ray Graves was born in Knoxville, Tennessee in 1918. He played on his high school team and received a scholarship to a small Tennessee college. After two years, he was awarded a scholarship to the University of Tennessee where he played center and was the team's captain. He graduated in 1942 and attempted to join the Navy, but was rejected due to a loss of hearing in one ear. Instead he played profession football after being drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles as their center and their kicker.

During WWII, with most men serving in the military, it was difficult to find players to make a complete teams. The Eagles temporarily merged with the Pittsburgh Steelers and were known as the "Steagles". Graves played in 28 NFL games over three seasons.

Graves volunteered to coach his UT Volunteers and following his NFL career, he was hired as the defensive coach for Georgia Tech. During his tenure there, they won the SEC championship, the Orange Bowl, the Sugar Bowl and the National Championship. Graves was credited with creating the "Monster Defense".



In 1960, Graves was hired by the University of Florida, where he coached for ten years. He led Florida to five bowl appearances and had an overall record of 70-31-4. He coached many now famous Hall of Fame Gators, including Tommy Shannon (1962-64) Larry Smith (1966-68), Jack Youngblood (1968-70), and others. But his most famous player was a quarterback named Steve Spurrier (1964-66). He recruited Spurrier from a small Johnson City, Tennessee school. Spurrier excelled in football, basketball

and baseball, and could have gotten a scholarship in any of those sports. He chose Florida because they promised him he could also play baseball. He also loved golf and Graves tempted Spurrier with the thought of being able to play golf 'year round" in Florida.

"Coach Graves is a great man!" says former quarterback Tommy Shannon, "He is a leader of men and a super athlete himself." Tommy Shannon was a 3-year starter under Graves and won the Gator Bowl in 1962. He still has the highest passing percentage of any Gator quarterback. Shannon now lives in Tampa, owns 63 Outback Steakhouses in California, and runs The Gold Shield Foundation.

In 1969, his final year as coach, Graves posted a 9-1-1 record, and upset his alma mater Tennessee Volunteers 14-13 in The Gator Bowl. After that season, Coach Graves voluntarily stepped down as head coach to become the Athletic Director which allowed former Gator quarterback Doug Dickey to take the head coaching job. Graves remained the winningest coach (70-31-4) in Gator history, until Steve Spurrier became Coach and surpassed him in 1996.

During Graves tenure, Dr. Robert Cade, a professor at the University of Florida's School of Medicine, and a real football fan conducted dehydration and rehydration analysis experiments using Gator team members. In 1965, this led to the formulation of a replacement for water they liked to call "gator-ade". Coach Graves liked what he saw when they used it during hot August scrimmages and asked Dr. Cade to make a batch for the next game, which was against LSU. The game was played in 102-degree heat and the Tigers wilted, but not the Gators. Eventually, Graves told friend, Hank Stram, coach of the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs, about the drink and it soon led to Gatorade® becoming the official drink of the NFL and many other sports.

Graves was involved in more than football. He graduated, with more than half of them earning degrees. As Athletic Director, he embraced Title IX, which required equal sports and allowed UF's women's sports programs in Division I sports. His players and programs remain a close-knit group. Graves re

Graves was inducted into the Florida Sports Hall of Fame in 1981, the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in 1990. The College Football Hall of Fame in 1990. The trophy is named the Ray Graves Trophy. The Athletic Director named Coach Graves in 2005.

Graves and wife Opal have three adult daughters. So after retiring they moved to the area, where they started Steinbrenner Enterprises in Tampa and he founded the Gold Shield Foundation for families of fallen officers.

His former quarterback Tommy Shannon is a member of the Gold Shield. "It is a very rewarding experience to see families in their time of need and duress, and to see the true citizen love of law enforcement and the military by the surviving family members of fallen officers. It was a pleasure starting the program."

Ray Graves completely retired in 1989 and has coached many players and the oldest living Gator's coach.

During my interview with Coach Graves w

How did you meet your wife?

During summers between college football and working for us get us jobs, usually involving heavy labor. I was working near Opal's house and knew her. She was in good and wondered if she would go out with me. I said, "and ask her, she'll go out with just about anyone."

Have you always had a hearing problem?

I was born with a hearing defect. It's been that way since birth. It also affected my jaw. That is what kept me out of the military. You can see it in most of my photos while I was coaching.

What did you do in your off time?

I loved to fish. I have probably fished every lake in Florida and Georgia. Actually, my wife Opal, caught that bass in the photo, but I had to help her get it in the boat.

Did you ever score a touchdown?

Yep in 1941. I was playing for Tennessee in the Gator Bowl. I intercepted a pass and ran it back 67 yards, for my first and only touchdown. Remember, I was a center.

Where else did you coach?

After the NFL, I volunteered at the University of Tennessee (my alma mater), then as a paid Coach at Georgia Tech from 1951 to 1960. That is where I created the "Monster Defense." Then I went to Florida.

Did you ever win a National Championship?

We won the National Championship when I was Georgia Tech Coach in 1952, we won the SEC Championship in 1953.

How much did you earn while playing in the NFL?

I was paid \$7,500 a season but, we did not have minimum salaries in the NFL today!

OF THE FLORIDA GATORS' BEST COACHES

ll. Ninety-three percent of his players earning a law or medical degree. As which increased opportunities for women in program to become one of the top 10 are known as the Silver Sixties Gators retired from University of Florida in 1980 Sports Hall of Fame in 1972, the UF Athletic Sports Hall of Fame in 1990, and the the Gator's Most Valuable Player Award Athletic Office at UF was named in honor of

ughters living in the Tampa Bay area, where he became the Vice President of helped run Florida Downs. He helped start area Law Enforcement's fallen officers. became the Executive Director of the eience to be able to help law enforcement ' says Shannon. "The Gold Shield shows the importance of education for the s. Coach Graves had a big part in

d is one of the oldest living NFL football h.

ve covered a variety of subjects.

seasons, our coach at Tennessee would I got a job paving roads and was brother. I told him she looked pretty on a date with me. He said, "Go ahead anybody. The rest is our history."



ent to Florida.

p?
n I played at Tennessee (1940). As a e SEC and the National Championship. he NFL?

not play all year. Compare that to the

How much were you paid to coach the Gators?

I made \$30,000 a year in the beginning. Nothing like what they pay the college coaches today. I was actually a state employee and get a state pension. Today, the coaches are paid by other methods and supplemented by the alumni. I had a special license plate issued by the Florida Highway Patrol. It helped whenever I got stopped speeding.

How did you convince Spurrier to come to Gainesville?

Steve was the most recruited football player in Tennessee. Over 30 teams offered him a scholarship, in more than one sport. I heard about Steve while playing golf with some other coaches. Steve was also a big golfer. I went to Johnson City and met with his mother and father. That's the way I always did it, I mainly got to know the mothers.

What was your greatest victory?

We beat Alabama and Bear Bryant in 1963. They were undefeated and ranked #1 in the SEC. Shannon was our quarterback; Spurrier was still a freshman and could not play. Joe Namath was their QB. That may be the only game that Bear Bryant lost in Tuscaloosa. Bear Bryant was a very interesting guy. He could really talk football. While I was at Florida, they won three National Championships.

Did you ever win the SEC Championship while with the Gators?

No, during my ten years, Alabama won four titles, Old Miss won three, Georgia and Tennessee each won two. My final year, Tennessee won the SEC, but we beat them in the Gator Bowl. It was a tough decade to be a Gator. We finished that season ranked 14th in the nation.

Tell me about Gatorade

Dr. Robert Cade taught in the Gainesville medical school. He came to me and wanted to test a new drink on my players. He said it was full of electrolytes, whatever that was. He said it would help replace the fluids lost through sweating and gives them back their lost energy. I was not sure about it, so I only gave it to our C Team. In a scrimmage they beat our B team; then I gave it to the B Team, and they beat our first string. So, when we went to Baton Rouge to play LSU, our whole team drank it and in the second half, LSU fell apart, and we rallied.

Gatorade was a powder we had to mix with water. In the beginning, the mixing was not well documented and it tasted terrible, like medicine. But over the next few months we changed the mixture.

When I told Hank Stram, NFL Coach of the Kansas City Chiefs about it, he tried it, liked it and introduced it to the NFL.

How did you meet George Steinbrenner?

I first moved area near the Carrollwood Country Club where I liked to play golf. That is where I met George and he asked me to work for his company. We had a lot in common. The Steinbrenners were big Gator supporters and had a suite at Florida Field. Steinbrenner actually coached in college for a short time.

I was basically in public relations. I helped create the Gold Shield Foundation, a special foundation to take care of families of officers who died in service.

Steinbrenner had just bought the horse track, Tampa Downs and was very busy, so I got involved with that, too.

What is your favorite cigar?

I like Antonio Y Cleopatra, but I haven't had one in a while. I am left handed but smoke with my right. I think better with a cigar in my hand.

What do you have planned for your 100th Birthday?

I hope I get a big cake.



TOP 5 WAYS TO CHALLENGE HOLIDAY DEPRESSION

by Bob Clark, Belleair Christian Science Practitioner

For many, the holiday season is a joyous time, but for some folks it can be a hard season to get through. If you Google "holiday depression", or better still "beating holiday depression" you'll find lots of top 10 lists. Most of the ideas on my list below appear on one or more of those lists. But they've also appeared in my life. They're tried and proven. They're real. They work.

1. Be grateful. Research at Harvard, and at major universities in Florida, Texas and California is beginning to prove the mental, emotional and even physical benefits of taking some time each day to be grateful. Keep a gratitude journal. Write a thank you note. Thank someone mentally. It's a great way to protect your natural joy. Roman philosopher, Cicero, tells us, "Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others."

2. Serve. Choose one of the many service opportunities all communities offer. Volunteer at your church. Ring a Salvation Army bell. Volunteer at a Veterans Hospital. Be a story reader at your local library or elementary school. Serving others is a sure fire way to forget yourself. That always feels good.

3. Be still. If you search online, you'll find that one of the chief causes of holiday depression is a lack of stillness. Silent nights are hard to find. So be purposeful about finding stillness. Find a quiet spot and make time (even just 5-10 minutes) each day to just be quiet. Pray, meditate, relax, take some deep breaths.

4. Simplify. As shopping, food preparation and travel intensify, things can get complicated. You can take

control here. Simplify your menus. A calm host/hostess is a better gift than a sumptuous meal. Set reasonable limits on gifts. Some families assign each family member one person to buy for: one gift, under \$20. Have fun; keep it simple.

5. Reach out. Although it may have many different causes, holiday depression has a common antidote. Look out instead of in. This can seem devilishly hard to do. But thinking outward, thinking of what other people need instead of what we lack is a joy creator, while thinking of ourselves can promote depression. Again, you can be purposeful here. Make a list of people you've been out of touch with and send them a holiday greeting. Think about who in your community is needier than you.

Our church discovered that 1 in 6 children from a local elementary school were from homeless families. We contacted the school and agreed to have our Sunday School kids work to provide backpacks with school supplies at the beginning of the year and snack packs during the rest of the year. It's hard to feel sad when you're packing bags for homeless kids.

So as the holidays approach, challenging rather than accepting holiday depression is a healthy choice. Find your own ways to keep the season joyful. Share them with friends. Look outward and upward. It works.

Read Bob Clark's blog at simplyhealthyflorida.com.



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NEED FOR FOOD SERVICES NEARS HEIGHT OF RECESSION

Household food insufficiency is growing in Pinellas County, again. At the height of the recession, RCS Food Bank met the needs of record numbers of individuals and families seeking assistance; 70,937 people. This fiscal year, we are



conservatively estimating that we will serve at least 69,000 individuals. While government programs were set into place to help people through the Great Recession, many of those programs have now ended or have had funding reductions. RCS Food Bank has seen a steady increase in food needs over the past three years.

RCS Food Bank recipients are 56% children, 17% senior citizens and less than 6% homeless individuals, with the majority of adults being employed or currently seeking employment.

Caitlin Higgins Joy, RCS President/CEO, states, "RCS Food Bank expects to see 15,000 people in need of food at the Clearwater distribution warehouse this November and December. Only with community support will they be able to serve them all this holiday season".

If you are shopping online this holiday season, support RCS in the process! Simply visit the RCS website at www.RCSpinellas.org and click the Amazon link near the upper right corner. It will take you to Amazon where you can shop as usual. When you check out, RCS will receive 4-8% of the purchase proceeds!

12TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY GALA

The Abilities Guild is holding its 12th Annual Holiday Gala on Sunday, December 14, 2014, Belleair Country Club, 1 Country Club Ln, Belleair. All proceeds benefit the Abilities Inc, dba Service Source FL. The Honorary Chairs of the Abilities Guild 12th Annual Holiday Gala are Bill and Gloria Hollingsworth.

The Abilities Guild Annual Holiday Gala is a fundraiser for Abilities Inc., dba Service Source FL. Founded in 1952, Abilities, Inc. successfully supports over 10,000 disabled individuals a year. The focus of the Guild is assisting recently homeless/wounded veterans by supporting the Veterans' Mall. The Veterans' Mall provides veterans with a household starter kit and stocks men and women's clothing appropriate for job interviews.

The evening will begin at 6:30 pm with a cash bar cocktail hour, butlered hors d'oeuvres, and silent auction. Dinner will be served at 7:30 and will include complimentary wine. The dinner menu is a hunter mix salad, prime rib, whipped potatoes and sugar snap peas, with chocolate silk pie for dessert. Dancing will be to the rhythm and beat of C & D. The event is black tie optional. Tickets are required for this splendid, elegant, memorable evening and they are only \$100 per person. Seating is limited. For more information or to make reservations, call D. Jordan at 770-329-8318.

Proceeds will directly benefit the Veterans' Mall.

Abilities, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit

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Restaurant News...

CRAFT BEER ON TOUR Pinellas County is at the center of Florida's booming craft beer industry. Have you ever wondered how many craft beer bars are located here? We have more than 20, with new ones constantly being added. Visit St. Pete/Clearwater has created a link on their web site to help tourists, and you, find them. Nearby, you will find Barley Mow Brewing Company, 518 West Bay in Largo, Dunedin Brewery, 937 Douglas Avenue and Seventh Sun Brewery, 1012 Broadway, both in Dunedin, Rapp Brewing, 10930 Endeavor Way in Seminole and Sea Dog Brewing, 26200 US 19 N. in Clearwater. Go to <http://bit.ly/CraftBeerTrail> or VisitStPeteClearwater.com and look for the link.



FOOD DELIVERY There is a new way to eat out at home. Called Otto's Beach Delivery, this new food delivery company is serving nearby areas. They are new and have a limited pick up and delivery area, but are expanding. Currently, they represent 25 restaurants in Clearwater Beach, Sand Key, Clearwater Mainland, Belleair Bluffs, Indian Rocks, Seminole and Largo. They will deliver from those restaurants to Belleair and Belleair Beach. They will even pick up from different restaurants for the same order. There is a \$5 delivery fee per restaurant visited. The minimum order is \$15. During December, use the code NOCHARGE for no delivery fee (valid only when ordering online.) They are currently working with the Brown Boxer, Union Burger, Greektown, The Original Crabby Bills IRB, Jake's Cantina, IRB Sushi, Seabreeze Island Grill and Raw Bar, Ready Set Yo, Lulu's Oyster Bar & Tap House, Havana Harry's Market, Jimmy Guana's, and Oya Sushi! They are adding new restaurants every day. Get more information or order at www.OttosDelivery.com or call 398-4444.

CHRISTMAS AT PANERA It looks a lot like Christmas at Panera Bread. Once again, they are offering Christmas Cookies for \$2.39 each and they also have their Holiday Giving Tree to support the Children's Cancer Center. For each present or donation you give, you will receive a free mitten cookie. Shown here is Marsha Tabbaa, the new Belleair Bluffs's assistant manager. This Panera Bread store will have been open 12 years in January.



NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS The Frenchy's restaurants are once again the main sponsor for the Third Annual Clearwater Beach New Year's Eve Fireworks. Frenchy's owns and operates 5 restaurants, a gift store, a motel and a fishing operation on Clearwater Beach. There are also three restaurants in Dunedin. You will be able to see the fireworks from Clearwater Beach and Sand Key.

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More Restaurant News...

LULU'S OYSTER BAR AND TAPHOUSE NOW OPEN!

This new restaurant recently opened in the building that was home to P.J.'s Oyster Bar, and is owned by the Crabby Bill's family. The theme is seafood, with oysters shucked right before your eyes. They feature fresh fish caught with their own boats. The menu offers local smoked fish spread, grouper, gator tail, wild pink gulf shrimp and a bar stocked with over 20 craft beers. They are located at 500 1st Street North.



CAFE DE PARIS Owners Xavier and Valerie have decided to close on Mondays to allow staff a full day off. In the past, they were open 7 days a week. But, so no one loses any hours, they are opening earlier, now at 7:30 am, Monday through Saturday to accommodate commuters on their way to work. They also extended their Sunday hours and will stay open until 4pm. They are located at 2300 Gulf Blvd.



FOURTH BROWN BOXER OPENING IN CLEARWATER

Jay Thomas, owner of The Brown Boxer Pub & Grill opened another location in

the south area of Clearwater Beach this month. It too is called The Brown Boxer, named in honor of Thomas's dog Hoot. Near Cesare's At the Beach at 741 Bayway, it is a great place to watch one of the final Buc's games. The other locations are in Madeira Beach, Countryside and North Clearwater Beach.

SUBWAY OPENS IRB has its own Subway Sandwich shop, inside the Sunoco Convenience store at the north end of the city. They are offering \$1 off any sandwich if you mention this newsletter. This offer lasts through the end of the year. They are located at 2601 Gulf Blvd.

WINGHOUSE CALENDARS Everyone needs new calendars right now, so why not make it the Winghouse one full of girls and coupons? This is the 20th Anniversary of Ker's Winghouse and its famous calendar. "It is hard to believe we're celebrating our 20th anniversary of both the restaurant and the calendar," says Crawford Ker, CEO and Founder. "But, it makes this year's calendar very special to me." Pick up the new calendar at any of the 24 Winghouse locations. Crawford Ker is a resident of the Belleair Bluffs area.

FREE BRUNCH AT ISLAND WAY GRILL Marlin Darlin's located in Belleair Bluffs at 2819 W Bay Drive is part of the Bay Start chain of restaurants which also includes Island Way Grill, Salt Rock Grill, Rumba Island Grill and Salt Rock Tavern. During the holidays, with every \$100 in Baystar gift certificates you buy, which are good at any of their locations, you will receive a free Sunday Brunch at Island Way Grill a \$24.95 value.



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CARMEN HARRA APPEARANCE

Carmen Harra will be at the Belleair Country Club on Saturday, January, 24, 2015 at 6pm. By combining her keen intuitive powers with her expertise of the human bond, Carmen unravels the karmic component to amazing relationships. Learn why your relationship karma is the reason behind the cycles you experience with the people in your life. Hear her predictions for 2015 and much more.

Since the start of her illustrious career, Carmen has been featured in numerous publications including: New York Times, New York Post, New York Daily News, New York Magazine, US Weekly, V Magazine, Vogue, and Elle Magazine. She has also been on countless TV programs.

Harra is the author of the international best-seller *"Everyday Karma"* and five more critically acclaimed books: *"Decoding Your Destiny"*, *"Signs, Symbols and Secrets"*, *"The Trinity of Health"*, *"The Eleven Eternal Principles"*, and *"Wholeness"*. Her seventh book, *"Karma Queens"*, will be released in the spring of 2015.

Over the last ten years, Harra has hosted her own radio shows on Sirius Satellite Harra Healthy Life Network, Contact Talk Radio, BlogTalk Radio, and Hay House Radio. Carmen has been fortunate to meet and coach the elite of Hollywood and eminent politicians, including Hillary Clinton, Bill Clinton, Vice President Joe Biden, Joy Behar, Gabourey Sidibe, Shirley Maclaine, Barbara Walters, Ann Curry, Elisabeth Hasselbeck, Nancy Pelosi, Candice Bergen, Jennifer Lopez, Whoopi Goldberg, Liza Minnelli, Ben Affleck, Kathy Najimi, Deepak Chopra, Caroline Rhea, Jerry Springer, Denise Rich, Courtney Cox, etc.

Personal readings can be scheduled for Sunday January 25th and will be held at the Belleair Country Club. RSVP by December 19th. Enjoy cocktails and tapas while supporting Florida's Sheriff Ranch. Contact Halo Aesthetics at St. Michael's to reserve your seating at 727-587-2153.

CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL

A Candlelight Vigil will be held on the second anniversary of the shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School, December 14, 2012 in Newtown, CT. The Vigil will honor the memory of those who died in Newtown and all the other victims of gun violence in the 87 school shootings since then. The vigil will be held at the 25th Ave. Beach Access, Indian Rocks Beach at 5 pm, Sunday December 14. For further information, please call, Elizabeth Snedeker at 727-596-7813.

WALKATHON

Southeastern Guide Dogs' Walkathon is February 28, 2015 in Vinoy Park. The 3K Walkathon appeals to the whole family, because you can bring your dog. Create a team and if it raises \$5,000, you can name a puppy. Visit guidedogswalkathon.org to sign up, raise funds, and set up or join a team. Call 941-729-5665, for information. This is their main fundraiser to help the school provide guide dogs at no cost to the visually impaired.

BELLEAIR GARAGE SALE

Search for treasures at this multi-family, community event, January 10, 8:00 am-3:00 pm. Find a list of garage sale addresses as well as the registration forms at www.belleairrec.com, after January 5. Residents can be a part of the community garage sale by filling out the registration form and turning it into the Parks & Rec Department. Non-residents can rent a space for \$25 in Belleair Town Hall parking lot. Call 727-518-3728.

BITCOIN BOWL, COMING SOON

The once Beef-O-Brady Bowl Game, now the BitCoin St Petersburg Bowl Game is being played December 26 at 8pm inside the Tropicana Dome. Last year it was played the day before Christmas. ESPN subsidiary ESPN Events, picks the sponsor (BitPay) and the date.



The Beef-O-Brady Bowl (2009-2013) joins a list of past college bowl football games played in St Petersburg including The Cigar Bowl (1946-54), the Refrigerator Bowl (1948-56), the Salad Bowl (1947-51), and the MajicJack Bowl (2008). A St Petersburg Bowl football game has been played at the Trop since 2008.

The term BitCoin is not well known. It is a type of digital currency operating independently of a central bank. The parent company is BitPay, a payment service provider promoting the use of bitcoin. They claim to be the leader in digital currency business solutions, with over 33,000 merchants participating, BitPay has led the bitcoin economy by allowing businesses to easily accept bitcoin.

By sponsoring the nationally televised game, BitPay hopes to promote interest in digital currency on a national scale. Fans at the game will be able to use bitcoin in a fun, collegiate sports environment. "We are excited to welcome BitPay to college football and our home bowl game in St Petersburg" says Brett Dulaney, Executive Director of the Bitcoin St Pete Bowl. BitCoin has agreed to a three-year deal with ESPN and the City of St Petersburg.

The game will air on ESPN. This is the first year of the bowl's new affiliation with the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) and the American Athletic Conference (unless one of those conferences does not have enough bowl eligible teams; in which case, the MID-Atlantic or Sun Belt Conference are then eligible)

Starting at \$40, tickets for the BitCoin Bowl will go on sale soon through Ticketmaster or by calling 1-800-745-3000 . Tickets and merchandise will also be available for purchase with bitcoin.

CHI CHI ACADEMY'S CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER

Tuesday, December 9, join co- host Bob & Debbie Basham and



Chi Chi & Tom James

Tom & Mary James at St. Petersburg's Mahaffey Theater for the inaugural Chi Chi's Christmas for Kids evening. The event features Pre-Show cocktails and dinner at 5:15-7:15 followed by Colors of Christmas song show in the main theater. Sponsor packages include VIP theater seating.

Colors of Christmas: Don't miss the Colors of Christmas featuring four superstar performers in one amazing Holiday show! Peabo Bryson ("A Whole New World"), Jennifer Holliday ("And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going"), Ruben Studdard (American Idol Winner) and Taylor Dayne ("Tell It To My Heart") share the spotlight for an unforgettable night! Performing their classic, chart-topping hits, as well as holiday favorites, these incredible talents bring the most magical show of the season center stage!

Chi's Chi Christmas for Kids special event is set to replace the seven year old Chi Chi Art ParTee that has taken place in June in the past. Like the Chi Chi Art ParTee, all proceeds will go to benefit the Chi Chi Rodriguez Academy, a 501©3 non-profit dropout prevention school serving at risk children to overcome adversity in a unique way: through the game of golf. The school is the only golf course in the world where course proceeds are used to benefit children's programs.

For information on how to support the Academy and this event, please contact, Jose Molina, Event Coordinator at 727-726-8829 x 207 or by e-mail at jose@chichi.org.

Chi Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation - 3030 N. McMullen Booth Road Clearwater, FL 33761 www.chichi.org



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OUR EAGLE SCOUT LIFE GUARD

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Caleb Hadak has already accomplished many things in his 18 years. A Seminole High School graduate, he is a member of the swim team, an Eagle Scout, a St Pete College student and the youngest Clearwater Beach Life Guard.

Hadak started team swimming at Largo's Southwest Pool. He was a member of the West Florida team for 10 years and later swam Varsity with Seminole High.

Swimming was not his first love though, Hadak has been in Scouting since first grade. Last December, he was awarded the rank of Eagle. "To get Eagle, you have to earn 21 required merit badges, plus a few others," says Hadak, "and you have to do a major project you dream up. You have to plan, fund, and execute that project."

"For my project, I made a memorial at Bauder Elementary to honor a student and a teacher from the school that had died," Hadak explains. "It was a walk of honor and was later expanded to allow for other names to be added."

"It is tough being in scouts and athletics and school, all at the same time," Hadak explains. "It is no fun getting up at 5am every morning to swim for several hours, sometimes twice a day."

About a year and a half ago, when barely 17, Hadak applied for a job as a Clearwater Beach lifeguard and was hired. "I only work on Saturdays and Sundays from 9am to 7pm," he says. "They pay me \$12 an hour."

"I've already been involved in several emergency rescues. One time a man swam out, began floundering in the water and called for help. I thought he was size normal, but found out he was 6'2", 350 pounds and having seizures.

We put him on a paddle board, dragging him back to shore, but unfortunately he died of a heart attack. You just never know what may happen."

"Our biggest beach problems are heat exhaustion and dehydration. Stingray stings are a problem too. They happen all year, but during certain times there may be 7-10 stings a day. Normally there are only 1 or 2 per day."

Hadak has been a great resource for the City. He was hired at 17, which is not common when you take into account the maturity needed for this profession," says his boss Patrick Brafford, Water Safety Supervisor. "I made a decision to give him a shot because I saw him as a moldable, eager young man that could really benefit from the years of expertise that the Beach Patrol has on staff."

"Hadak proved himself quickly. He showed discipline in training, respects his supervisors and has a work ethic rare amongst young men and women today," adds Brafford.

His worldly experiences have led Hadak to decide to become a paramedic with the fire department. His father was a fireman for over 20 years. He plans to study to be a medical technician at St Pete College's EMT school.

Next time you are swimming at Clearwater Beach on the weekends, keep an eye out for blond guy with blue eyes. He may not look like an Eagle, but he is. And while there are no merit badges for saving lives if there is a problem, he can help bring you back to shore safely.



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SHELTON QUARLES REVEALS UNIT RENOVATED AT SHEPHERD VILLAGE

Tampa Bay Buccaneers' former linebacker and current Director of Pro Scouting, Shelton Quarles revealed a newly renovated Shepherd's Village unit to the family who will now call it "home."

"The Bible tells us: 'To whom much is given, much will be required,'" said Quarles. "So, it is only fitting that we find different ways and avenues to give back to our community."

With a mission to provide opportunities and resources for at-risk, single-parent families throughout the Tampa Bay area, Shelton Quarles' IMPACT Foundation partnered with Shepherd's Village to execute a new version of its Home Blitz program – Home Blitz, Shepherd's Village Edition.

Led by Ossi Construction, Inc. contractor, Jerry Fortin, Shelton Quarles' IMPACT Foundation renovated a Shepherd's Village unit, including everything from tile flooring and granite kitchen countertops to impact-resistant windows and appliances.

"Having to share one bedroom with my girls for the last few months, we were so blessed to have been picked by Shepherd's Village to receive the renovated apartment," said April, the mother of three daughters who moved in to the new unit. "We are so excited for this new chapter."

Shepherd's Village provides affordable housing, services and resources to experience growth, stability and a path to self-sufficiency for single-parent families who face significant crisis and change.

"We are grateful for the IMPACT Foundation and Shelton Quarles, who has a compassionate heart for single-mother families who are struggling to overcome major life crisis and move forward in their lives," said Shepherd's Village Founder and Director Phyllis Alderman. "Shelton Quarles' IMPACT Foundation has made a lasting positive influence by believing and investing in their potential. It is a second-generation blessing as children see and believe."

For more information about Shelton Quarles' IMPACT Foundation, please visit sheltonquarles.org.

BELLEAIR SUNSET 5K & FUN RUN

The Belleair Parks & Recreation Department and Dex Imagining presents the 13th annual Belleair Sunset 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run on Saturday, January 24, 2015, at 5:30 pm. This certified 5K race offers a flat, fast course that runs through the heart of beautiful Belleair. After running along this beautiful race course, get ready for the best post party around! Enjoy more complimentary food, drinks and fun than one race can handle. Be sure to register before January 9, to get the discounted registration! Register online at: Racehawk.com. For more information visit www.belleairrec.com or call 727-518-3728.

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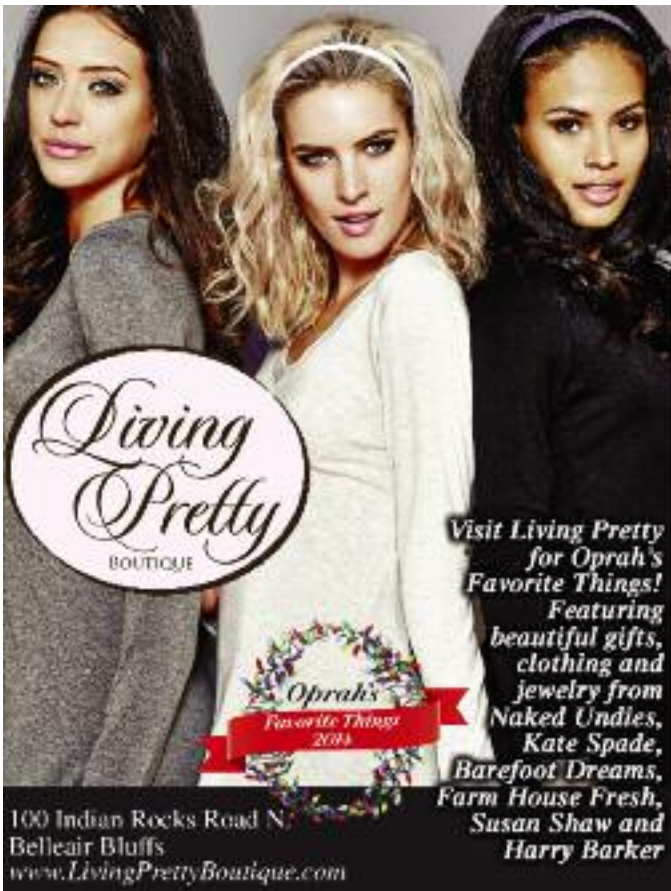
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HOLIDAY EVENTS

December 4 - Christmas At The Plaza, 6-8:00 pm; Free Musical Holiday Celebration featuring: The Bayside String Quartet (Principal Players of the Florida Orchestra) and Special Guest Dr. Scott Behler, Pianist Strolling Carolers, Indian Rocks Christian School at 100 Indian Rocks Road North, Belleair Bluffs.

December 6 - Largo Tree Lighting 5-9pm; Enjoy beautiful Largo Central Park's extravagant light display as you stroll through the park. A million LED lights (85% more energy efficient) brighten the path. The scenes they depict will surely dazzle you. Ooh and ahh when they light up the tree at 7pm. Visit with Santa, Delicious foods and desserts, Live entertainment throughout the park, Holiday crafts, Toboggan snow slide.

December 13, Sing Joy! Holiday Concert, 7:00 pm - The Town of Belleair Parks & Rec. invites you to this year's Holiday Concert, at Belleair's Town Hall, 901 Ponce de Leon Boulevard. This year they are honored to have Belleair residents and world renowned tenor, Giorgio Aristo, and soprano, Melody Aristo-Kielisch as the featured musical artists. Admission is free. Light appetizers and festive beverages available.

December 14 - City of Belleair Holiday Tree Lighting and Party, 5pm; Deck out your bike, car, or golf cart and join the parade, or watch and cheer on the Grand Marshall and the Holiday Prince & Princess. You also won't want to miss the most anticipated appearance of the season...the arrival of Santa Claus! Immediately following the parade, join the Parks & Rec staff at Hunter Park for food & beverages, holiday crafts, Santa visits, music, and more. For more information or to be in the parade visit belleairrec.com or call 518-3728.

December 10 - Island Estates Lighted Boat Parade, 6:30pm. The parade begins near Island Way Grill. The best viewing spot is Coachman Park; it passes by there at about 8pm.

December 12 - Town of Belleair Christmas Concert, 6:30pm at Town Hall; Performers are students of Aristo Vocal Performance Studio.

December 20 - Indian Rocks Lighted Boat Parade, 7pm Holiday Inn Harbourside. The parade moves north through the Indian Rocks neighborhoods.

Now through December 31 - Holiday Lights in the Garden Florida Botanical Gardens. As visitors stroll the gardens, they will enjoy musical entertainment, vendors with unique items and Holiday gifts. There is a \$2 per person entrance fee. Children under three may visit for free. The Florida Botanical Gardens are located on Ulmerton Road, across from the Indian Rocks First Baptist Church.

Now through January 4 - Heritage Village is Decorated for the Holidays; The historic old houses inside of Heritage Village, next door to the Botanical Gardens, are decorated in the style of their past.





SAND KEY TO THE OLYMPICS

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

When he was only 13, Jonathan Rudich, now 18, attended a Clearwater Community Sailing Center (CCSC) summer camp, and instantly knew that was what he wanted to do. Today, Rudich is on a path that may take him to the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil where he hopes to represent the United States and Clearwater Beach.

Rudich grew up in Clearwater. After that one-week camp in Sand Key, he told his parents he wanted to continue learning to sail, specifically windsurfing. He came by it naturally since his dad and his grandfather were also recreational sailors. He attended Palm Harbor University High School and now attends the University of Florida.

Since there is no water around Gainesville, Rudich regularly returns to the CCSC on Sand Key. But lately, he has also been globetrotting while he attends major sailboarding competitions in faraway places like Turkey, France, Holland and Rio de Janeiro.

In January, Rudich entered the International Sailing Federation World Cup in Miami and placed 2nd among the other competing Americans. That gives him a shot at one of the 2016 U.S. Olympic windsurfing spots, but it is no guaranteed. He has to keep competing and winning to make the final cut, and join the Olympic team.

Rudich is one of two members on the U.S. Sailing Team Sperry Top Sider windsurfing team in the RS:X Class which had an international competition in Clearwater Beach October 20-26. At the last minute, that event was moved from Israel due to unrest in that area.

"I have to give credit to my first coach, Britt Viehman for sticking with me and teaching me the ropes," says Rudich. "I was not as big and strong in the beginning, so he made me train and stick with it." Today, his coach is Justin Ahern. His six person CCSC team has 5 men and a woman.

Even when there is no water, Rudich is always training. He is at the gym every day and uses yoga to improve his balance. "Windsurfing is very physical and can be exhausting," Jonathan explains. "It is way more tiring than sailing boats. You may be on your board for 30 to 50 minutes, pumping and changing positions constantly."

Rudich's challenge now is to keep winning. He hopes to make the Top 10 in the next big Medal Race which is the first step to his 2016 Olympic dream.

When not training, Rudich is trying to raise money by seeking donations, grants and sponsors to continue to compete. The CCSC does not supply his sailboards; he pays for them himself. Traveling costs a lot too. To help save money, he tries to stay in people's homes.

You can contact Rudich at Rudich.Jonathan@Gmail.com or call the CCSC at 517-7776. Learn more about his progress on his blog at RudichWindsurf.blogspot.com.

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Organizational News...

BELLEAIR BEACH ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

They meet the third Wednesday of each month (October through April) at the Community Center, Belleair Beach. Membership is \$20 per year and guests are welcome.

December 17th, 11:30am at Belleair Country Club Master Gardener Marva Perry, from the County's Extension Service will speak. Lunch begins at noon.

January 21, at Petal and Vine, 10:30am Belleair Bluffs, Demonstration of Container Gardening. This a good meeting for those who live in apartment or condos. Lunch to follow at Jewel Café.

Call Brenda Licht to RSVP these events at 595-5427.

Contact Majorie Rose, President at 238-8691 for more information about the Club.

BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB

They meet on the first and second Wednesday of each month at the Belleair Garden Club at 903 Ponce de Leon Blvd., in the Town of Belleair (October to May.) Their next meetings are December 10, January 7 & 14.

Their Junk And Jewel fundraiser is January 9 & 10th from 7:30am to 3pm inside the Belleair Garden Club building on Ponce de Leon, next to City Hall. It is a mix of antiques, collectibles, jewelry, toys, and useful household goods. This year beautiful orchids and garden ornaments are included. They also have art, sporting goods, tools, and treasures for the guys. All proceeds support the Club's scholarship and historic preservation programs. You can still make donations to the event up to December 20th. Call Jan Bradish 412-2344 to donate. The Pre-Sale is January 8th (\$5 entry fee).

Club membership is \$50 per year, couples pay \$55 and seasonal members only \$25. Guests are welcome. The next meetings in October are 1 & 8, and November 5 & 12. For information, contact Claire Whitaker, President, at 724-4645 or Gbycwm@Yahoo.com for more information.

GREATER BELLEAIR YOUNG WOMEN'S SOCIETY

They are 180 members strong with membership consisting of women living and working in Belleair, Belleair Beach, Clearwater, Clearwater Beach, Sand Key, Largo and the surrounding areas. They normally meet once a month (not including June, July and August). The date and the location vary so check their web site.

They gathered recently at the Clearwater Yacht Club for Eckerd Raising Hope. This is a non-profit foundation helping children entering foster care with emergency supplies. Members stuffed a motor home full of teddy bears, clothing, school supplies, books, toiletries and more to help many kids in need.

For more info, see their web site at www.GBYWS.org.

Contact Bobbi Huntington, President at huntingtonBurke@Yahoo.com.

BELLEAIR CIVIC ASSOCIATION

They are sponsoring the Belleair Holiday Concert, Saturday, December 13. Appetizers and adult beverages will be served at intermission. They are also involved with most of the events held at the Belleair Center including the Lighting of the Holiday Tree and the Christmas Party at the Rec Center, Sunday, December 14.

The Association is open to all residents of the Town of Belleair. If you want to help or get involved, call Petey Henning, 584-4874 or e-mail Phenning4@TampaBay.RR.com.

Organizational News...

CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

The Clearwater Garden Club meets twice a month from October through May, at 405 Seminole Street, Clearwater.

For more information contact, Alice Jarvis, President, at 391-3066 or email at bjjala@aol.com.

BELLEAIR BEACH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

They meet the second Tuesday of each month, October through May at various area restaurants. You do not have to live in Belleair Beach to join and attend luncheons.

Members and guests are invited to their holiday luncheon at the Belleair Country Club, on Tuesday, December 9 at 11:30am. There will be a fashion show by La Boutique of Island Estates modeled by their members. Ann Wilson will deliver a Christmas poem. Tickets to this luncheon are \$25. Call Sherrie Morton 581-8313 to RSVP.

Membership is open to area residents at \$15 a year. To join, please call Lillian Nazario at 585-4843 or Sherri Morton at 581-8313.

BELLEAIR BRIDGE CLUB

If you would play bridge, they meet twice a week in the City Hall Auditorium, all year. This is coordinated by the Belleair Recreation Center. Call Betty Grandoff at 669-5283 or the Belleair Rec Center to join.

BELLEAIR WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB

This organization is open to anyone wanting to get involved in the community's political arena. They meet monthly, on the first Friday with issue appropriate speakers. All meetings are at 11:30am at the Belleair Country Club. Lunch is normally \$22 each. The next meeting is January 2. Get more information at www.BelleairWomensRepublicanClub.com. To RSVP for meetings. Call Caludia Thomas at 470-9849. E-mail SherrieMorton@TampaBay.RR.com for more details.

BELLEAIR ROTARY

Anna Maria Schweitzer, President of the Belleair Rotary, presented a check for \$1,000 to La Clinica Guadalupana and to the Sisters of the Immaculate. This donation helps people who cannot afford basic medical care.

The Rotary in the Town of Belleair meets every Thursday at 12:15pm at the Belleair Country Club. The third Thursday of the month is the general assembly and Board meeting. Call Joyce Baskin at 432-72178 or email at Joyce@Repkajennings.com to get involved.

BLUFFS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

They work to promote and improve businesses, stimulate a vibrant local economy and enhance the overall quality of life for area residents. They meet on the second Thursday of every month.

The next meetings are: December - The Holiday Party
January 8: Perrin Law Firm office
February 12: Suncoast Performing Arts Foundation Largo Cultural Center


Call President Bonnie Trembulak at 686-8797.

THE CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

The Island Estates Lighted Boat Parade ends at the Yacht Club on December 13, about 8:30pm where the judging takes place. Members will also help out with Toys For Tots by donating new toys for families in need.

There will be a Change of Watch in January. Vice Commodore Rowland Milam will take the helm for 2015.

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BEACH ART CENTER HOLIDAY SALE

The Holiday Exhibit and Sale: Checking It Twice includes award winning artists offering paintings, sculptures, photography, jewelry, pottery and more all priced under \$100. This mixed media show runs until December 22nd and creates a unique shopping experience for selective buyers, provides a venue for artists to sell their work, and raises funds for the Beach Art Center.

Founded in 1978, the Beach Art Center's mission is to offer creative educational experiences in the visual arts that stimulate awareness and appreciation of the arts through changing exhibitions, lectures, studio classes and workshops that can strengthen interpretive ability and interactive creativity for both children and adults.

The Beach Art Center is located at 1515 Bay Palm Blvd., Indian Rocks Beach, FL. Hours are Monday through Friday 8:30am. – 4:00 pm. Admission is free. For more information, phone 727.596.4331 or visit www.beachartcenter.org.

10TH ANNUAL WINTERFEST ON THE ROCKS ART & CRAFT SHOW

Calvary Episcopal Church in Indian Rocks Beach is holding its 10th Annual "Winterfest on the Rocks" Saturday, February 14th, 2015 from 10am - 4pm. The event will feature food & beer, games and a silent auction. As a 501(c)(3) organization, donated merchandise is tax deductible.

Secure your vendor spots now. Fees are \$75 for a single space or \$125 for a double space on grass or pavement. Participants provide their tables and displays. Set-up begins at 8am the day of event. Visit www.CalvaryIRB.org or call 727-595-2374 for an application. Proceeds will benefit local outreach ministries.

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The family is now importing their oil into the United States and it can be purchased in Pinellas County and sampled in some local restaurants including: Indian Rocks Beach's Guppy's on the Beach, Stefano's Italian and Aqua Prime, Largo's Ippolito's Italian Deli, Clearwater's Café Ponte, St. Pete Beach's Café Soleil and Palm Harbor's Mystic Fish.

In addition to olive oil, Vella Distributors also sells wine from Sonoma, California. The Vellardita family is proud of its commitment to provide only the finest all natural, organically grown chemical free products. To buy some olive oil for your home, call Vince direct at 595-8101 or email him at Vince@VellaSicilia.com. He will gladly supply you.

PICASSO/DALI OR DALI/PICASSO, TWO LEGENDS SIDE BY SIDE

Arguably the two most influential 20th century Spanish artists, Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dali, come together this fall in this landmark exhibition at The Dali Museum in downtown St. Petersburg. Organized by The Dali and the Museu Picasso, Barcelona with the collaboration of the Fundació Gala-Salvador Dali, "Picasso/Dali, Dali/Picasso" opened to the public at The Dali on November 8 and will run through February 16, 2015.

The exhibit features rarely loaned works from more than 20 museums and collectors worldwide. There are over 90 works in the exhibit including a large assortment of paintings, as well as drawings, prints and sculpture plus archival documents such as postcards from Dali to Picasso. After its premier at The Dali, the exhibit will be on display at the Museu Picasso, Barcelona from March 19-June 28, 2015.

"This Picasso exhibition offers the possibility of rereading the relationship between two key figures of twentieth-century art and exploring new interpretations of the period in which their lives and works intersected," explained Dali Museum Director Dr. Hank Hine. "We are honored to collaborate with Barcelona's Museu Picasso and our enduring partners at the Fundació Gala-Salvador Dali."

"This is a part of history that has not been told before," said Museu Picasso's Director Bernardo Laniado-Romero. "As this exhibition shows, their fertile rapport produced some outstanding and crucial artworks for modern times."

The exhibit sheds light on the more than 30-year relationship and interactions between these two Spanish-born artists, and highlights the similarities in their artistic evolution. In 1926, Dali took his first trip to Paris and visited Picasso in

his studio as he prepared for his summer exhibition at Paul Rosenberg. After returning to Spain, Dali set to work on an important group of paintings which reflected this encounter and marked a transition to artistic maturity. Throughout the following years and through the 1940s, the artists went through various phases, including delving into their well-known periods of Surrealism and Cubism; they also both created works portraying the human anguish and conflict in response to the Spanish civil war. Their art converged and was inspired by the great art of the past, in particular, their mutual admiration of the 17th century Spanish Golden Age painter Diego Velázquez. It was through this inspiration that they dealt with the history of art's grandest aspirations and their own yearning for artistic achievement.

This will be the second "blockbuster" exhibit in the new Dali Museum building following the Andy Warhol exhibit, with record visitation. Dali Museum Marketing Director Kathy Greif commented "Visitation during the Warhol show was up more than 40% versus the same period last year, and we anticipate the Picasso/Dali show will draw an even larger crowd. Record numbers aren't just a marketer's dream – it's key to our mission to serve as an active resource in the cultural life of our community; we couldn't be more proud to provide access to these rare and influential works."

In light of anticipated visitation, The Dali has introduced timed-tickets for the first time which are offered by the hour on weekends to better accommodate visitors and reduce potential waiting times. The Museum is also offering a day-pass ticket for weekdays. Advanced-purchase tickets provide priority admission and guaranteed entry to the Museum at the visitor's preferred day and time.



Grand Re-Opening

Saturday, December 13th

12:00 – 8:00PM

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HAIRSTYLES BY SUE

Sue Thibeault moved to Florida to escape the cold Northeast (Rhode Island) weather. She may be new to Belleair, but she is not new the hair care profession; she has 34 years experience as a stylist and for 25 of those years she owned her own salon.



Sue's passion for her profession achieves exactly what the clients are looking and asking for. She specializes in creative cutting, coloring and multiple chemical services, plus she is certified to do Keritin Relaxing treatments.

"I truly love working with people and enjoy creating the look and style that the client is looking for. I want to give them exactly what they want" says Sue.

Sue is currently employed at the New Approach Salon, next door to Bonefish Grill which was recently voted the "Gold Ribbon Award" as the #1 salon by the readers of the Clearwater Gazette.

Please call Sue at New Approach, to schedule an appointment or to book a free consultation 727-581-8664.

DOLPHINS HELP TO MAKE CHILD'S DREAMS COME TRUE

Maylea Estridge, 6 years old, suffers from DIPG (Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma), a form of brain cancer that occurs almost exclusively in children. Up to now, there is 0% survival rate for this form of cancer, serving as one of the most dismal pediatric cancers.



Diagnosed in March of this year, Maylea is in the "honeymoon" phase of her cancer, which occurs after receiving 6 weeks of radiation. Radiation prolongs a patient's life 3-6 months and the patient feels best during this honeymoon phase. Typically DIPG patients start to lose functions one by one, leaving them in a vegetative state, while still being aware of what's going on around them. Much work has been done to try and raise the awareness of this horrible cancer. It is estimated only about 10 percent survive for two years. This is the same form of cancer Lauren Hill suffers from, the Mount St Joseph basketball player who was recently given her own Wheaties box.

From Little Rock, Arkansas, Maylea's dream is to see the ocean and play in the sand. Her family is trying to make as many memories for her in the time she has left, so to help make her dreams a reality, Maylea met Winter and Hope, the rescued dolphins at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. After meeting Winter and Hope, Maylea's mom said she hadn't seen her daughter smile that big in years.

JC Resort Vacation Rentals offered the family a free 7 night stay at their Sand Dollar Condominiums in Indian Shores.

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AN ARMY OF BELL RINGERS

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Kenneth Baylor has been ringing bells for the Salvation Army for the last three years. He loves the job. Not only does he like getting paid, but he loves talking to people.

Baylor was ringing his bell at the Publix on Indian Rocks Road in Largo on Tuesday, November 25 when I caught up with him, but he may be somewhere else on Wednesday, Thursday or any day thereafter. Baylor is paid minimum wage and reports to whichever location he is assigned. He does not have a car, and has to take the bus to the Belcher Road Salvation Army outlet. Once there, he gets in a van that will take him to one of the dozen stations in county. Once there, he will work a 6-hour shift and then time someone else arrives to take his place. At the end of the day he earns about \$50.

The Bell Ringers can be found at major retail outlets, such as Publix, Wal-Mart, Sams Club, Winn-Dixie, Walgreens stores and even Westfield Countryside Mall, but not all of the Bell Ringers are being paid. The Salvation Army has an army of volunteers, too. Volunteers range from housewives to businessmen in suits and ties. Baylor says sometimes at the height of the shopping season, he can bring in as much as \$500 in a day, if it is a good location.

"We have over 45 outlets that have to be covered with usually two shifts a day," says Captain Zack Bell, commander of the North Pinellas Salvation Army center. "They are out there from 10am to 8pm, 7 days a week. We also have volunteer groups. Businesses, churches, schools and the Rotary clubs help a lot." Between volunteers and paid employees, they cover these locations from Thanksgiving through Christmas which totals about 2500 shifts to be filled during the holiday season.

"We have two types of Bell Ringers," Bell explains. "We have the paid people who are seasonal employees. We have about 40 of those. The rest of the shifts though are filled with our army of volunteers. The fact that we do not have to pay them, helps our money go further."

The Salvation Army started in London in 1865 by one-time Methodist minister William Booth. and was charged with a mission of education, relief of poverty, and other charitable objects beneficial to society and the community as a whole. The organization reports a worldwide membership of over 1.5 million soldiers, officers and members known as *Salvationists*. The current world leader is General Andre Cox.

"Our Bell Ringers brought in over \$300,000 in just North Pinellas County last year," says Capt. Bell. "That is our goal again for 2014. People do not know the thousands of local families that we help here just in Pinellas County." If you have time to ring the bell for Christmas, call the local Salvation Army at 725-9777 and ask for Gerry.



An advertisement for Vella Sicilia olive oil. The background is a scenic view of an olive grove in Sicily at sunset. The text reads: "VELLA SICILIA", "SINCE 1394, A ROYAL BLOOD LINE OF SICILIANS HAVE BEEN MAKING VELLA SICILIA OLIVE OIL IN THE RICH VOLCANIC SOIL OF MT ETNA, A PERFECT GROWING ENVIRONMENT FILLED WITH 300 DAYS A YEAR OF SUNSHINE AND COOL MEDITERRANEAN BREEZES.", "THE PRIDE OF SICILY FOR 600 YEARS!", "All natural, 100% organic, premium, extra virgin olive oil. Cold pressed and bottled in Sicily.", "www.VELLASICILIA.com", and "AVAILABLE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE U.S. EXCLUSIVELY BY VELLA DISTRIBUTORS". There is an image of a bottle of Vella Sicilia olive oil on the left and a bowl of olives on the right.

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WALKING TO CALIFORNIA

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Indian Rocks Beach resident Sam Leonard lives on East Gulf Blvd. If you live near him, you have probably seen him walking; he is the guy wearing the yellow hard hat.

For months, Leonard (age 72) and his buddy Al Blake (74), have trained for a 2,700-mile walk to Venice, California.

This is not just for exercise. It is a fundraiser to help bring awareness to rehabbing our vets.



How did this get started? Leonard and Blake, partners at a Tampa law firm, both liked to run. But Sam developed bad knees, and had two knees replacements, so he started walking for exercise instead of running. About the same time, a friend of Blake's, and a fellow lawyer, was in a car accident and lost the use of both legs. Through him, Leonard and Blake learned firsthand the difficulties handicapped people experience.

Leonard suggested to Blake that since they were both walkers, they could walk somewhere to raise money. From that idea, their decision to raise money to help rehab vets by walking to California was born.

Leonard already walked every day. If you live in Indian Rocks Beach you have probably have seen him. "I often start at 4am," he says. "I go about 3 miles per hour for about 5 hours. That is 13-15 miles a day."

"Awhile back, I found this hard hat floating behind my house on East Gulf Blvd," says Leonard. "I think I found it when they were building the Belleair Beach Causeway. I have been wearing it ever since. It is better than a ball cap. It keeps the sun off the sides of my face and neck. I bought one for Blake too, so we will both have one."

Blake (74), a resident of Sarasota, walked 8-10 miles a day to prepare for the journey. "I figure it will take up to five or six months," he says. "We plan to sleep in a fifth-wheel trailer and some motels, unless we get invited to stay at someone's home."

The walk is 2,699 miles. It is 900 miles to Texas, 900 miles across Texas, then a final 900 miles to Venice. They plan to cover 20 miles a day. With breaks for meals and bathrooms, they will probably average 2 miles per hour. Best case, it will take 140 to 150 days, about five months. When they reach Venice, they will drive home.

A second leg of the trip is planned, which includes walking south from Indian Rocks through Sarasota and Naples, around the tip of Florida, through Ft Lauderdale, and Daytona, and ending in Jacksonville - another 600 miles.

They left crossing the Belleair Causeway on September 30th and made it to Ft. Walton for Thanksgiving. The trip is documented with a GPS, website and Go-Pro cameras. You can donate to their cause at WalkForRehabbingVets.com, which also has more information about the trip.

As they go state to state, they hope to gain media attention raise awareness and money for America's Rehabbing Vets. We plan to follow their journey. You can E-mail Leonard and Blake at WalkCharity123@ComCast.net.

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WHAT IS THE EPIPHANY?

The Christian holiday Epiphany is celebrated around the world on January 6th. Local residents usually think of Tarpon Springs when someone mentions it because their large celebration has been held for over 100 years.

Christians have celebrated Epiphany since the end of the second century. It marks two Christian occasions when Jesus Christ's divinity was manifested, 1) when the three wise men or Magi, visited the infant Jesus in Bethlehem, and 2) when John the Baptist baptized him in the River Jordan. While a public holiday in many countries, it is not one in the U.S., Australia, Canada and the U.K.

Epiphany, on January 6th, is twelve days after Christmas and marks not only the end of the Christmas holidays, but the beginning of the season leading up to Lent, which varies in length because it is dependent on the date of Easter.

The Tarpon Springs celebration is steeped in history. Epiphany has been celebrated in Greece for hundreds of years and Greek settlers brought their traditions with them. The first small Tarpon Springs observance was held in 1903. Over the years it has grown into a three-day event.

St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, built in 1906 is home to today's event. It is celebrated very similarly to the way it is still celebrated in Greece. Greek tradition calls for the immersion of the cross in the spring bayou on Cross Day, as some call it.

The morning of the Epiphany, two large, six-foot candles, are lit in ceremony with a church service at sunrise. A colorful procession begins after the sanctification of the waters (called Agiasmo) at noon, led by a grand marshal and followed by military color guard, police, various Greek clubs and societies. A dove bearer, that since 1935 has traditionally been a young girl, wearing a black robe carries a white dove with a blue ribbon tied around its leg. Greek Orthodox Church dignitaries attend when available and dress in formal religious attire.

Once the procession reaches Spring Bayou, people line the water's edge while teenage boys, ranging in age from 16-18, stand ready in small boats anchored in a semi-circle in the center of the spring.

The Priest blesses the waters, the white dove is released, and then he throws the gold cross into the water. All the young men dive into the spring to retrieve it.

The diver who captures the cross returns it to the Priest who then blesses the young man. Whoever retrieves the cross is said to have good fortune and divine beneficence.

Everyone returns to the church where the public is allowed to kiss the cross, place flowers on a special silver tray and leave donations, a portion of which is given to the boy who retrieved the cross.

Bottles of blessed water are distributed, that parishioners use to bless their homes or their boats. They believe these blessings protect the city from hurricanes because St Nicholas, the patron saint and the protector of all seamen, will protect the city and its residents.

Following the close of religious events and ceremonies, the public gathers at the Glendi Festival area where they eat, drink and dance. Most of the people who attend this are actually tourist. That night there is an Epiphany Ball.

2015 will be the 109th Celebration of the Epiphany in Tarpon Springs. St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral is located at 36 North Pinellas Avenue in Tarpon Springs.

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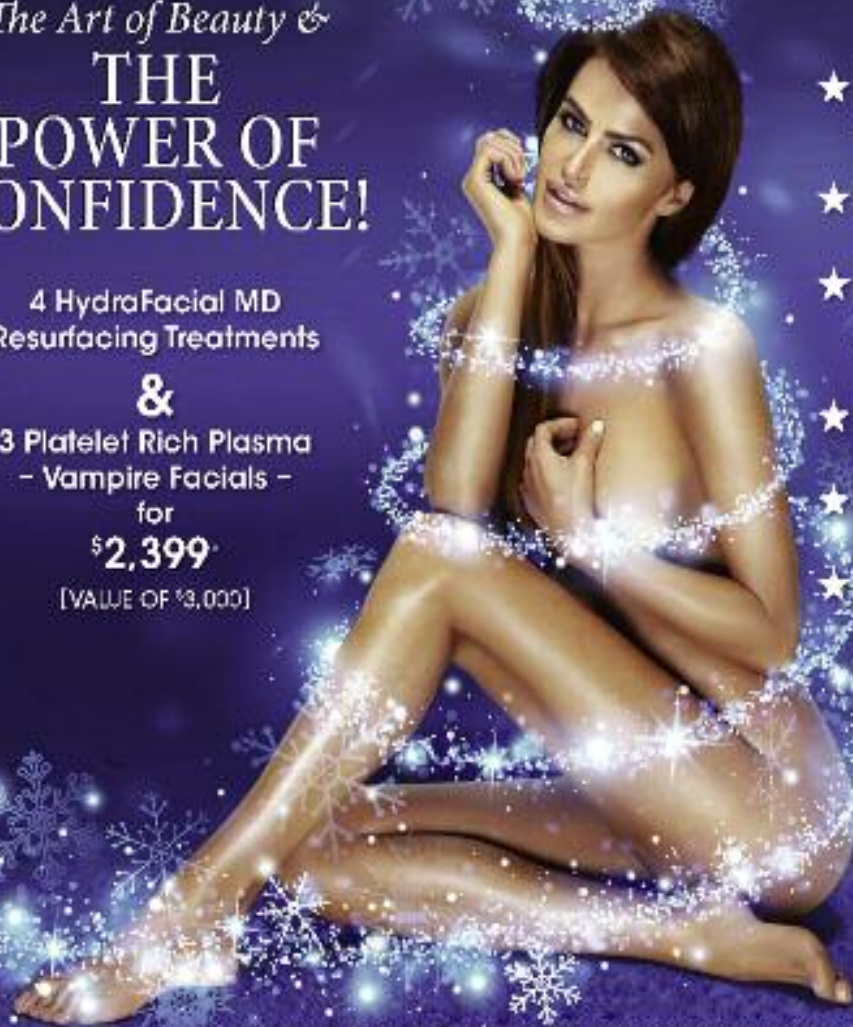
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