



St. Petersburg's Piers Throughout the Years



Photo by Cyrus Harn

It appears St Pete's Pier, will be coming down soon. It is scheduled to close May 31st but, this is not the only pier St Petersburg has known. It is just the latest of many.

Years ago, piers were not built with taxpayers' money, they were built by businessmen. Our early piers were built for trade; piers built after 1920 were built for tourism.

Our first documented pier was built in April of 1854, when Lt C.H. Berryman, a US Navy surveyor, was scouting for an appropriate site for a railroad depot in the area. He constructed a small hamlet with temporary barracks, a smoke house and a short pier east of today's Fifth Avenue N., near the Renaissance Vinoy Hotel. This first pier was abandoned after four months.

In 1868, John Bethel, one of the area's first permanent settlers, built a home on Big Bayou, a few miles south of downtown. He constructed a wharf five feet deep which attracted traders from Key West and Cuba. Bethel traded pickled mullet, plus vegetables and fruit grown by his family and neighbors.

John Williams, a major area landholder, traveled to Tarpon Springs in 1887 to meet with Peter Demens who was looking for a terminus for his railroad where deep-water boats could meet his train. Williams wanted it in today's downtown area. Demens had read Lt Berryman's 1855 report and had doubts, but Williams assured him the water was deep enough for large ships.

It turns out, it the water was not deep enough, but Demens brought the railroad here anyway and built a pier far enough into Tampa Bay to reach water twelve feet deep. Completed in 1888, it is where Demens Landing Park is

today, at the east end of First Avenue S.

Demens lost money on his railroad from the beginning. He competed with the other railroad magnate Henry Plant, who eventually bought out Demens and his Pier. Plant immediately raised shipping rates. In response, others decided to build piers and compete with him.

D.F.S. Brantley built a long pier off Second Avenue N. (the site of today's pier), in 1896. The Brantley Pier, with wooden rails and a horse-drawn flat car had a bathing pavilion and a toboggan slide. It was a popular swimming area.

This prompted Edwin H. Tomlinson to construct a pier in 1901, south of the Demens Pier, known as The Tomlinson Pier, near today's Dali Museum. It was 2,000 feet long with a cottage at the end. After five years, Tomlinson drilled and constructed "The Fountain of Youth" artesian well at the waterfront, west of his pier. It became St Petersburg's must see tourist attraction. In 1966, the Fountain of Youth was moved to a lot at First Street and Fourth Avenue S.

The same year, Frank Davis bought the Brantley Pier and replaced it with the 3,000 foot Electric Pier, lit with power from his power plant and serviced by his trolley primarily to have a port for his newly acquired 150-passenger steamer, the Favorite. Steamer service started in October, 1906.

With the development of these piers, the city started to take a serious look at its waterfront. They found the whole area unsanitary and unattractive with decomposing seaweed, grass and fish all producing disgusting odors. They found neglected docks, boats and rotting piers with undesirable occupants. It was not the image that St. Petersburg wanted to project. So in 1909, the city of St Petersburg signed the first deed to waterfront land that started today's parks. By Christmas they had acquired all the waterfront land between Fifth Avenues North and South. Seawalls were built and dredging quickly began.

On December 15th, 1913, the city opened the recreational Municipal Pier. The tourist attraction was an extension of 2nd Avenue N, about 10 feet north of the Electric Pier which was torn down the next year.

Story by Bob Griffin, Publisher.

continued on page 8

CREDITS



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StPeteDowntownNewsletter.com

We would like to hear from you. Is there something you would like to see included in this newsletter?

Tell us what you think at

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ST. PETERSBURG DOWNTOWN NEWSLETTER

We are trying to include even more of your news. People who live downtown, plus the Snell Isle and Old Northeast areas want to know what is happening in their area. That is why, if you have news or events, please contact us.

This newsletter survives on local advertising. Please tell your home suppliers such as pool companies, lawn care, electricians, etc about us. If you are a resident of our mailing area and advertise, you will receive a discount.

We produce similar newsletters in four other areas: Indian Rocks Beach, Clearwater Beach and Belleair. You can read this newsletter and others online at StPeteDowntownNewsletter.com.

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FI INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM 341-7904

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2013 CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

MAY

Stone Crab Season Ends 15

GI JIVE, USO The Coliseum 17

Island Nights at the Sunshine Center . 18

Safe Boating Week 18-24

Heritage Village Viva Florida Celebration 19

Seniors Hall of Fame Sunshine Center 22

Saturday Morning Market Ends 25

Theater in the Park ends 26

Memorial Day 27

Pier Closes 31

FSU Coach Jimbo Fisher The Coliseum 31

JUNE

Hurricane Season Begins 1

Williams Park Summer Market Begins 1

Public School ends for the summer . . 5

Here Comes the Bride Heritage Village 5

Summer Book Sale Mirror Lake Library 8

Flag Day 14

Heritage Village Antique Appraisal Fair 15

Father's Day 16

Summer Begins 21

Afternoon in Havana The Coliseum . 23

JULY

Independence Day Fireworks Downtown 4

First Friday Get Downtown 5

Miss Florida Pageant The Mahaffey . 13

Miss Florida Gala The Coliseum . . . 13

Downtown Side Walk Sale 18

TASCO Teen Mud Wars, Spa Beach . 15

Cool Art Show The Coliseum 20-21

Van's Warped Tour Concert Vinoy Park 28

Thanks For The 7th Birthday Gift 2013 Business Of the Year

Thanks to you Tampa Bay, we're celebrating our 7th year in business. And quite a year it has been. Among other honors, we were chosen the 2013 Business of the Year by the Clearwater Chamber. As our way of saying thanks, we're offering these very special prices on some of our most popular procedures.

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Did You Know...



FLORIDA STUDIES To mark the end of the spring semester, students in the Rivers of Florida course, part of the Florida Studies Program, gathered at Ft. De Soto Park to discuss what they had learned and to cook some classic Cracker cuisine. They built a fire and feasted on gator gumbo, jumbo shrimp, fried mullet gizzards, hush puppies and other delicacies. The course, taught by Florida Studies graduate and Tampa Bay Times outdoors writer Terry Tomalin, examined the history, environment and popular culture of a dozen waterways, combining classwork with field trips along the Hillsborough, Wekiva, Chassahowitzka and Little Manatee Rivers. The 18 students, who also gathered information for a new Waterways Website, said the chance to experience Florida in the wild made the class special - one of the hallmarks of USF St. Petersburg's unique Florida Studies Program. Tomalin will teach a Florida fishing class this summer, called Fishing Capital of the World, and an Outdoor Leadership course in the fall.

NEW FITNESS CLASS Hot Hula Fitness is now offered at the Sunshine Center on Wednesdays from 1 to 2pm. This fun, new and exciting dance workout provides a total body workout in just 60 minutes by isolating your larger muscle groups. Hot Hula Fitness helps increase strength and definition to your core with an emphasis on the abs, glutes, quads and arms. The class is \$16 per month or \$5 per class. Call 893-7918 to hula. See StPeteParksRec.org.

BEST COMMUNITY St Petersburg was named one the Top 100 Communities for Young People by America's Promise Alliance and the ING Foundation. The national award recognizes the city's outstanding and innovative work in addressing the high school drop out crisis and for its programs and services that make it an outstanding place for youth to live, learn and grow. This is the sixth time St Petersburg has been in the Top 100.

NEED ANOTHER NEWSLETTER? The UPS Store at 200 2nd Avenue S. and Mikey's Market in Old Northeast at 1535 4th Street N. have extra copies.



FIX DRIPPY FAUCETS A one-drip-per-second leak can waste up to seven gallons of water in one day, so take time this month to fix your leaky faucets. Also, when possible, take a shower instead of a bath. A typical five minute shower uses about 28 gallons less water than a bath.

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and More...

NEW STAMPS The post office is livening things up with their Forever stamps. For Spring, they have this grouping of spring flowers. What you are seeing is actually 4 stamps making up the clump of flowers. This forever stamp costs 46¢ and it can be used forever, even when the price of postage increases..



WILLIAMS PARK SUMMER MARKET The regular season of the Saturday Morning Market ends on May 25. Saturday, June 1 the Williams Park Summer Market begins its third summer season. The market features 40+ vendors providing produce, food, crafts and plants. It is held in the shade of a park setting on 1st Ave N. between 3rd and 4th Streets. The summer market continues through August 24th. Saturday Morning Market returns Oct 5th.

LIKE TO RUN Fit 2 Run, a new downtown business at 256 2nd Street N. is offering weekly training runs. They meet at 6:30 pm every Wednesday. Get more information at www.Fit2Run.com or call 822-2RUN.

RED CROSS The Red Cross, who recently celebrated their 130th year birthday, responds to nearly 70,000 disasters a year in the US alone. On Florida's West Coast, the Red Cross has responded to over 250 local emergencies serving over 1,800 people, assisted over 800 military families and trained over 7,600 people in lifesaving skills. They have an office in the downtown St Petersburg area, on 4th Street N. To volunteer your time and get involved in the local chapter, call 813-868-7642. See their web site at www.RedCross.org.

WET GARBAGE The rainy season is right around the corner and Pinellas County Utilities is asking everyone to keep your garbage dry when it is outside. Pinellas County operates one of the largest Waste-to-Energy facilities in the country where garbage is burned and converted to electricity. For it to burn efficiently, garbage needs to be free of moisture from rainfall. Increased moisture causes operational problems and increased air emissions. In addition, water increases the weight of the load resulting in increased disposal fees. The solution is simple - keeping the lid closed on garbage containers that are stored outside

USF STATUE A new bronze mascot has been installed on the campus of USF St Pete. The 850 pound bronze bull statue cost about \$10,000 and is installed in front of the Student Center in the main courtyard. The cost was paid by the USFSP Student Government. "It's about building a campus tradition and culture," says Mark Lombardi, Student Government President. "It is probably the first thing you take your photo with when you visit USF. We are the Bulls!"



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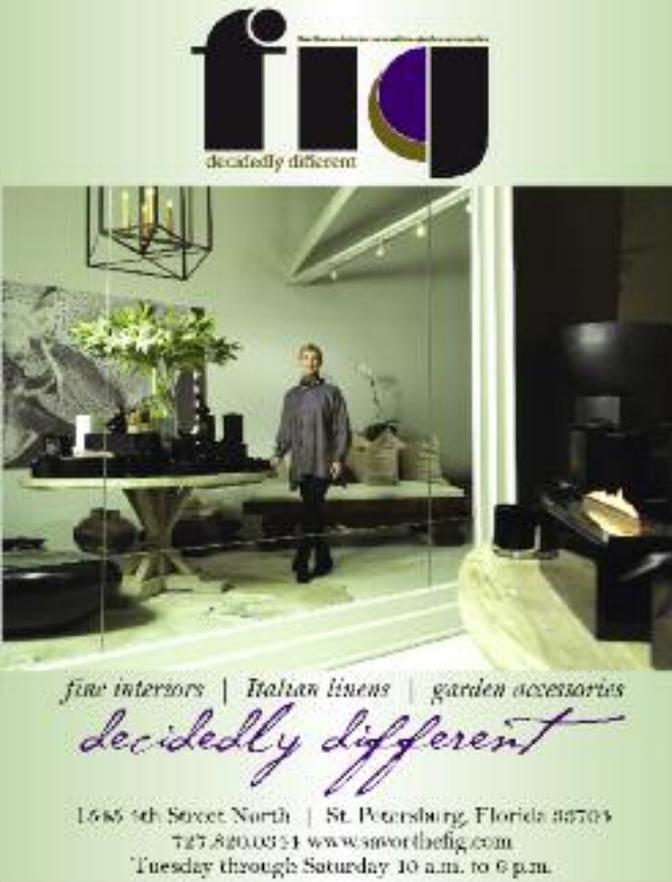
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Business Briefs...

UNDER CONSTRUCTION BIRCHWOOD INN

The Birchwood Inn, next door to the Moon Under Water restaurant, is still very much under construction. Owners Chuck and Kathie Prather say they are finishing the rooms and adding furniture. The Prathers hopes to be open by the end of May and have their Grand Opening around June 1st.



BLINDS BY DESIGN A

new home interior store, called Blinds By Design, is opening at 465 Central Ave., next to the Kress Building. There will also be space for two residences above it. It is under construction and may open in October.

HERMAN HOME CLOSES

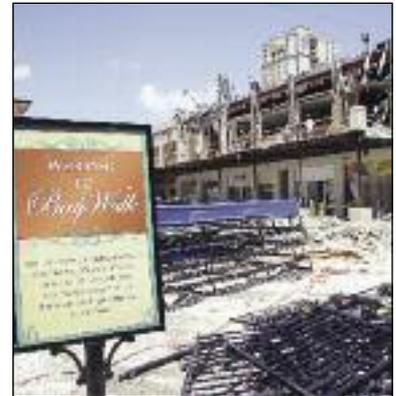
Herman Home Interiors at 646 Second Avenue S. is closing. They will continue providing interior design services, but will not have a retail store. In preparing for closing, they are holding a clearance sale. Most things in their showroom are now half price and are going quick, before they close. Call 898-7400 for more information.



TAMPA BAY TITLE COMPANY has opened in the storefront previously occupied by the Suncoast Electric Car company at 2401 4th Street North. Get details on them at www.TampaBayTitle.com

BAYWALK CLOSER TO SHOPPING

Bill Edwards and company are moving quickly to get the newly named Shops of St Petersburg open. They are talking to many big name restaurants and working with New York leasing agent Faith Hope Consolo, to find new tenants. The tenants list has not been announced.



Architect firm Harvard-Jolly, who designed the inverted pyramid Pier is designing The Shops with a new look and feel containing natural stonewalls, columns, dining terraces, outdoor lounges, valet parking, shade canopies, koi ponds and jumbo-trons. Edwards entered into a 20-year parking agreement with the City to help with employee parking and security. Customers who spend \$20 or more at The Shops will receive four free hours of parking during their first year. This will cost the city up to \$204,000 in revenue. The grand opening is planned for February of 2014. Get more information on www.TheShopsatStPete.com.



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More Business Briefs...

KILVINS ON BEACH

There is a new place to get your chocolate fix is downtown. Kilvins Chocolate store at 222 Beach Drive opened April 8th. The owner is Rolondo Moya.

They specialize in everything chocolate and everything is homemade. "We make 50% of these products in this store," says Juliana, the manager. "The other half is sent to us from our corporate office, made in their facility." They have many dipped items, such as candies and caramel apples. They also have cookies, ice cream, coffee, and milkshakes. They are open Monday through Thursday 11am to 10pm, and on Friday and Saturday's open until midnight. Get more details at www.Kilvins.com. Find them also on FaceBook or call the store at 803-6821.



BAYWAY APARTMENTS 309 new apartments are under construction near The Shops of St Pete on 3rd Avenue N. between 2nd and 3rd Street. Bayway Apartments will be an eight story, modern apartment complex with lots of amenities including a clubhouse, fitness center, parking garage, swimming pool and multi-layer parking garage in the center of the complex. It will open in stages with the first stage opening late this year. It should be completely finished in late 2014.

HEAVENLY HEELS GIVES BACK

This new shop offers the latest in women's designer shoes from conservative ballet flats for daytime or at the office to sexy stilettos for a night out on the town. They also give a percentage of each purchase to benefit Heels to Heal Inc, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization for Women Healing Women and Children. Their wide selection of Brazilian designer shoes infuse fashion and function. Local downtown resident and owner Melissa Mihok has put together a team that enjoys helping customers find the perfect pair of shoes and accessories to match! Choose from many styles of sandals, ballet flats, platforms, wedges, pumps, boots, and more.



KRESS BUILDING TENANT A new gym, Cross Fit 727 opened May 1st in the basement of the Kress building, at Central Ave. and 5th Street. Soul, a new restaurant, is opening in two-thirds of the ground level by September. It is the first of several restaurants in the building. Developer Sam Boutros is talking to several national companies about the other third of the ground floor in the southwest corner. The Kress Building which has been empty for awhile, isn't empty now! Reach the developer at 895-1249.

CHASE ON 4TH STREET Chase Bank at 785 4th Street north has moved one block north on 4th Street. The manager is Jenn Cox. Call her at 551-2246.

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ST PETERSBURG'S PIERS continued



The Electric Pier in the early 1913

October 25, 1921 the most destructive hurricane to hit the area since 1848 hit Pinellas County. Wind gusts exceeded 100 mph. Water was blown into Tampa Bay with a six foot tide surge. It blew down power lines and bridges and damaged or destroyed all three downtown St Pete piers.

Florida and the Tampa Bay area had been in a major real estate boom with the City's pier their marketing focal point. Quickly, area businessmen led by Evening Independent newspaper publisher Lew B. Brown, devised a plan to loan the city \$18,000 to repair the Municipal Pier. It was fixed by January.

"Lew Brown electrified the city with a bold idea to build a new and better pier, out of concrete, this time. It might cost a million dollars. That was a lot of money for a little town, but the citizens of St Petersburg pledged \$300,000, says Walter Fuller, local historian. They also lobbied the city to build the project, which they did. The city even returned the citizen's donations.

New York's Raymond Concrete Pile Company won the contract to build the new pier and work started on September 8, 1925. On Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 1926, the city reopened the newly constructed 1400 foot long Million Dollar Pier, which actually cost \$998,729 dollars. Over 10,000 people attended the ribbon cutting.

The new pier included a swimming area called Spa Beach, and a bathhouse with a streetcar line down the middle. The two-story Mediterranean-Revival Casino at the end of the pier had an atrium, an open-air ballroom and an observation deck. It was used for meetings, dancing and other entertainment, but no gambling. There was a drive-in restaurant on the south side.

"While the street cars ran, the big two-story building at the end of the pier bustled with tourist card parties, luncheons, dances, and public meetings of all kinds," say Walter Fuller in his book, *St Petersburg...And It's People* (1972). "Often



The Municipal Pier 1920

hundreds of cane poles were held by eager fishermen lining the rails, particularly when the mackerel ran. The pier extended to 28 feet of water. Boats occasionally docked next to it. The Bay Steamers had disappeared by this time." Within the next couple of years, the city added The Municipal Solarium on the south side of the causeway resembling an Egyptian temple. It was for year-round sunbathing attracting northern tourists until it closed in 1961.

In 1963, the wooden complex surrounding the Spa Pool burned to the ground, and was never rebuilt. Times were not good throughout the 1960s. The Pier Casino was losing money and didn't really have any purpose. In August of 1967, the city demolished the Casino.



The "Million Dollar Pier"

The pier, without the Casino, was renamed Pier Park and reopened with picnic shelters, tables, benches, drinking fountains, planters and palm trees on the east end.

In the early 1970s, City leaders decided to revive their once popular city pier, but with a radical new design, today's inverted pyramid, proposed by Architect William Harvard, Sr. It was originally budgeted at \$2 million, but costs had doubled by the time it was completed.

When the new pier reopened in January 20, 1973, there was a parade, tours and fireworks. The pier contained three restaurants including the Columbia Restaurant, snack bars and many shops.



The Inverted Pyramid Pier

But fifteen years later, the excitement had faded. Many management companies, restaurants and gift shops had come and gone. Various ideas were proposed, including adding a roller coaster, waterpark and unusual events. But, nothing really brought back the magic.

By 2004, City leaders and public works officials started discussing the inevitable demolition of The Pier. The cost of maintaining it had run into the tens of millions. Today's pier replaced the Casino Pier 40 years ago, but on the same concrete pilings. They have been standing in saltwater now for 80+ years. Engineers concluded a complete replacement was needed. Ten years later they are ready to do it.

Today's City leaders have voted to demolish the existing pier and build a new one, on new pilings. The Pier closes Friday, May 31st and demolition begins later this year.

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ST. ANTHONY'S HOSPITAL FUNDRAISER GOES 'OVER THE EDGE'

Explore the "heights" and sounds of downtown St. Petersburg during the St. Anthony's Hospital Foundation's inaugural rappelling event "Over the Edge," on August 16 and 17 at One Progress Plaza.

The adrenaline will kick in as participants start near the top of the 386-foot tower. They will rappel down the side of the landmark building with the help of certified ropes technicians, all the while enjoying a different view of the waterfront and downtown St. Petersburg. Local celebrities, athletes and politicians are slated to take part in the two-day event.

St. Anthony's Hospital Foundation has teamed with advertising agency, The Clear Agency, to establish a successful Over the Edge event. Known for their extreme approach to branding, The Clear Agency is planning a high-profile event, attracting powerful brands to the community and gaining exposure for the St. Anthony's Hospital Foundation.

Participants are asked to raise a minimum of \$1,000 to benefit St. Anthony's Hospital Foundation. All participants must weigh 100 pounds to 300 pounds at the time of event. On August 16, media is invited to get a sneak peek of the activity. Participants will rappel on August 17.

Over the Edge's team is primarily made up of event planning professionals and industrial rope access experts with extensive experience and training in the industrial rope access and adventure industries. The ropes technicians have received training through the Society of Professional Rope Access Technicians, a group formed in the 1990s to develop industry standards for rope access techniques in North America.

The Over the Edge team of industrial rope access experts

sets up the equipment on the building and is in control of the ropes and harnesses as participants rappel down the building.

Over the Edge is a special events company that provides signature events for non-profit organizations throughout the United States. The company's goal is to help non-profit organizations. Over the Edge has helped organize unique fundraisers for such groups as the Boy Scouts of America, Special Olympics and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

To learn more about this once-in-a-lifetime experience, for sponsorship details or for more information, please call Taylor Montgomery, St. Anthony's Hospital Foundation, at (727) 825-1461 / Taylor.Montgomery@baycare.org or visit the Foundation's website at www.StAnthonysFoundation.org.



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AMERICAN STAGE IN THE PARK 2013

by Roman Black, Marketing Director

The weather is perfect this time of year in St. Petersburg and everyone enjoys being outside in the sunny Tampa Bay area. That is exactly what American Stage had in mind. For twenty-eight years, American Stage in the Park has outdoor productions for the masses to enjoy. This year's play, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee presented by Bank of American continues this tradition. The Tony Award-winning musical comedy is sure to get the crowds laughing while bringing our community together.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is about six young people in the throes of puberty, overseen by grown-ups who barely managed to escape childhood themselves, learn that winning isn't everything and that losing doesn't necessarily make you a loser. The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a hilarious story of overachievers' angst chronicling the experience of adolescent outsiders rivaling for the spelling championship of a lifetime. The show's Tony Award winning creative team has created the unlikelyness of hit musicals about the unlikelyness of heroes: a quirky yet charming cast of outcasts for whom a spelling bee is the one place where they can stand out and fit in at the same time. What makes this production so unique and engaging is that random audience members can take part in the onstage fun during each performance! So you never know just how the performance will turn out and every night will be slightly different but just as fun.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is running now through May 26 at Demens Landing Park, located at Bayshore Drive and 2nd Ave S. Gates open at 6 pm and performance is at 8 pm What started out as Shakespeare in the Park has grown over the years into bringing residents

the hottest musical productions to St. Petersburg under the stars at a price that everyone can afford. Tickets in advance are as low as \$13 for Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday and only \$18 for Saturday and Sunday performance. For a little more, you can even upgrade to reserved chairs and blankets for the ultimate night out in the park.

Now outdoor events wouldn't be right unless you had delicious food to enjoy with your friends and family. While many bring picnics out to the park, don't forget that American Stage has partnered with Parkshore Grill Catering where they will be cooking up a special menu exclusively for the Park. When you order a Parkshore picnic, you get to relax and enjoy the show while supporting live theatre since a portion of the proceeds benefit American Stage. Want to have a keepsake of your experience? Then be sure to stop by their concession area and purchase your favorite item ranging from t-shirts to bee boppers.

American Stage wanted to do more for its community so for the second year in a row, they have teamed up with other organization to offer special theme nights to help bring awareness with other groups and bring our community closer together. Theme nights range from Pets in the Park nights to Pride night. "We are thrilled to be working with American Stage," said Ester Venouziou, LocalShops founder. "We're looking forward to bringing together the community for an exciting night that celebrates the local arts, local culture and local businesses." For full listings and remaining dates, be sure to check their website.

So whether you are a musical lover or just love being outdoors, then American Stage is the place to be during this time of the year. Visit americanstage.org

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SUSAN ROBERTSON - MARKETING THE PIER

Over the past 11 years, Susan Robertson has attracted over ten million people to the Upside Down Pyramid. She has worked with the owners of dozens of shops and restaurants, inside and out including The Pier Aquarium, the Bait House, the Dolphin Queen tour boat and bicycle rentals. She has managed a whole assortment of entertainers over the

years too - musicians, jugglers, face-painters, storytellers.

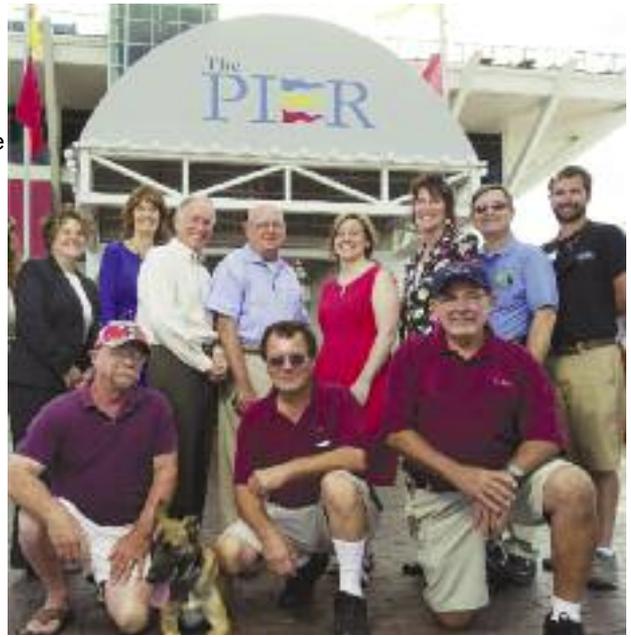
In addition to managing the Pier's events, she has promoted them. She purchased advertising and sent thousands of e-mails and press releases in addition to maintaining the Pier's Web site, plus FaceBook and Twitter accounts. She also oversaw the main floor Concierge's Desk.

Her final promotion will be on Monday, May 27th with back-to-back bands in the Courtyard, a Drum Circle, other entertainment, confetti cannons and fireworks at 9:45pm. Her last day will be Friday, May 31st.

After the Pier closes, merchants have 45 days to remove all their equipment and fixtures.

Susan, a mother of two, and grandmother of three, is not going far. Chuck and Kathie Prather, who bought Grayl's Hotel on Beach Drive, hired Susan to be their Sales and Marketing Director for the Grand Ball Room at the new Birchwood Inn. Most people would take a break after promoting The Pier for 11 years, but not Susan. She ends her role as Marketing Director for the St Pete Pier on May 31st and starts her new role at the Birchwood Inn on June 1st.

We wish her the best of luck. St Petersburg is lucky to keep her downtown.



THOSE RUNNING THE PIER

FRONT ROW: Joe Piacenza, Bait House owner and dog Belle; Vinny and Manny, Maintenance Team. **BACK ROW:** Carol Everson, General Manager; Susan Robertson, Marketing Manager; Don Paul, Project Manager; Jim Dees, Director of Transportation; Stacey McKee, Property Accountant, City of St. Petersburg; Linda Green, Administrative Assistant; Brian Hill, Operations Manager; Burch Ringlespaugh, The Pier Aquarium. All of The Pier folks work for Urban Retail Properties, Co. Others are noted.

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For more information on these incentives and more, visit: www.pinellasforeclosureoptions.com

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ART & MUSEUM NEWS

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS 896-2667

255 Beach Dr NE www.fine-arts.org

The Museum of Fine Arts is opening its doors—wide—this summer. Admission is now \$10 for everyone through September 30, 2013. Groups of 10 or more adults pay only \$8 each and groups of 10 or more students, \$4 per person. On Thursday nights, when the Museum presents "UnchARTed: Random Acts of Culture," college students with current I.D. pay \$5 or can buy one admission, get one free.

MINDY SOLOMON GALLERY 502-0852

124 2nd Ave. NE mindysolomon.com

British ceramic phenomenon Gareth Mason will be exhibiting May 25-June 29, with an Opening Night Reception Saturday, May 25th from 6-9pm and Artist's Talk at 6:30pm. Bringing his wildly inventive sculptural forms to MSG, this is Mason's first solo exhibition in the Southeast United States. Combining material elements of a seemingly incongruent nature, Mason creates three-dimensional masterworks with a nod to Abstract Expressionism

GRANTS AVAILABLE

The city of St. Petersburg is offering grants to eligible nonprofit arts and cultural organizations for the next budget year. Applications and guidelines to receive funds are now available online at www.stpete.org/grants/internal_grants_program.asp; grants are due on or before Friday, June 14. Organizations interested in applying for these grant funds are encouraged to attend an informational

workshop, which will be held Wednesday, May 22 at 10 a.m. at St. Petersburg City Hall, 175 Fifth Street N., Room 100.

STUDIO@620 895-6620
620 1st Avenue S., www.Studio620.org
May 1 - June 5, 2013

The Studio@620 is partnering with Empouria to present the "Artist Spotlight Series" featuring artwork by local artists on the walls of Empouria, located at 29 Third Street North in downtown St. Petersburg. Each spotlight exhibition will feature work from one artist who will be on hand during an artist reception to meet with people and talk casually about their work. Each solo spotlight show will be on display approximately one month.

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THE PIER – AS WE REMEMBER IT

Former Mayor Rick Baker - My favorite memories of the Pier occurred regularly in the late 1990s when my children were young. On Saturday mornings my toddlers would come to me jumping up and down chanting "trolley . . . trolley." We would drive to the Pier and ride the trolley back and forth between the inverted pyramid and parking lot with Julann and Jacob still chanting "trolley" all the way – for them the joy was in the journey. Eventually we would go to the Pier Aquarium, Great Explorations and ice cream shop – then carry our exhausted toddlers on the trolley ride back to our car.

As mayor, I remember when city staff told me that the bridge leading to and around the Pier – built in the 1920s – would have to be replaced. I took a boat ride under the structure to see the exposed rebar and crumbling concrete – and set in place the \$50 million city/county joint funding to replace the deteriorated structures. It was an expensive project but my view was then – and is now – that it was worth the cost. The Pier, like our beautiful waterfront parks, is part of the character, history and charm of St. Petersburg. The shape, function and locations of our piers have changed many times since the railroad pier opened in 1889, some times with great controversy. At the end of the day, each new pier became an icon and symbol of the era it served.

Bill Dudley, City Councilman - "When I moved to St Petersburg in the late 1950s, one of my favorite places to visit was The Million Dollar Pier. It was a place enjoyed by young and old. If you were lucky, you could get a parking space out on the pier and it was free.

Back then, it was very user friendly. You could park on all sides of the pier's roadway. If you were really lucky, you could get a parking spot at the drive-in restaurant on the southwest corner. We now have the opportunity to go back to the good ole days, if we could only agree on the design."

Tom Hurley, owner Bi Plane Rides at Albert Whitted Airport - "My two favorite pastimes are tennis and hockey. Many years ago, when the Lightning was in the playoffs (against the Philadelphia) all the Flyers were having dinner at the Columbia Restaurant. A couple of them wandered into my hat shop. I told them I wouldn't sell hats to anyone from Philly. They laughed and said that was OK because one of

them was from Sweden, and other said he was from Canada. They bought a couple of hats. When St Pete hosted the Davis Cup, I met tennis player Andre Agassi when he came to The Pier."

Roy Adams, All Children's Hospital - "As a kid, I remember going to the Million Dollar Pier and getting an ice cream and trying to eat it before it melted. There was not a lot of AC back then. We mostly just hung out, fished, and swam at Spa Beach or in the Spa pool.

My fondest memory, however, was being on the Captain Mac's TV show in 1967. My team won the Flag Football Championship. We went to the pier because WSUN TV studio was there and so was Captain Mac. The team was thrilled. Each of them stared at the camera as they were introduced; we were all petrified. Even today, when I run into one of those guys, they still talk about that moment."

On Saturday, January 27, 1973, as a drummer in the Lealman Jr. High Hornet Band, I joined hundreds of students in area school marching bands to celebrate and dedicate the new St. Petersburg Pier. The theme for the event was "Let Your Light Glow." Everyone was given a penlight to shine during the early evening ceremony.

My band was about half way down the pier approach. The American flag in front of the new building was at half-mast in memory of former President Lyndon Johnson who passed away less than one week earlier. As the ceremony took place, my mind flashed back to the former Million Dollar Pier and being part of kids programming on WSUN.

Hopefully, I will have the unique experience in my lifetime to say that I have been to all three facilities.

Bob Goodman, owner Just Hats - "My favorite memories at the Pier are the people I met. There was Gene Simmons from Kiss, The Naked Cowboy, Ashley Judd and quite a few governors and first ladies.

But my very favorite Pier memory is a Honda Grand Prix VIP event in 2005. I suggested to the American Honda Company that they hold their event on the 5th floor of the Pier. They said, "I don't think you can pull off an upscale event for 1,000 on the roof of the Pier." I told them I could if they gave me a good budget. They were so impressed, we were awarded the contract for 2006, 2007, and 2008.

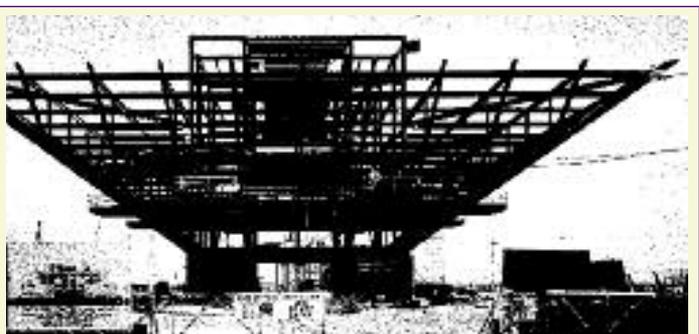
WE BUILT THE PIER, 40 YEARS AGO

Batson-Cook, a construction company since 1915, built the inverted pyramid in 1973. Headquartered in West Point, Georgia, they are recognized as one of the premier construction organizations in the southeast. They focus on large commercial jobs in the \$25 to \$50 million range.

"Our records show that we won the bid at \$2,555,000," says David Marshall, Vice President of the Tampa office of Batson-Cook. "The pier cost \$4 million dollars to build. The rest of the cost must be the architect's fee, engineering, and other related costs to the city."

"I was not working for Batson-Cook in the 1970s, but I worked in the area," says Marshall. "The first time I saw the pier, I thought how different it was. It was so modern and chic. The design grew on us; it is a combination of art and architecture. I know it was controversial then, but controversy is exciting. It makes people think," Marshall says.

Batson-Cook built other notable buildings in the Tampa Bay area after the Pier. In the 1970s they built the AllState Insurance building on 34th Street South (now part of St Pete College). They constructed many schools and office



buildings in the area. They also built:

- The modern expansion at MOSI (Tampa)
- The Ashley Tower now Wells Fargo Building (Tampa)
- The two Towers at Channelside (condos Tampa)
- Cruise Terminal #3 in the Port of Tampa
- The Pepin Heart Hospital (Tampa)

Batson-Cook bid on the new pier The Lens, and was one of two finalists. However, Skanska USA, was awarded the bid. Get more information on Batson-Cook on their web site at www.Batson-Cook.com.

PEOPLE AND SIGHTS OF THE

Sandy Sibounlith
employee at Café Morrows



Nick Weathersbee
co-owner Global Candle Gallery



The Columbia



Patricia Cosgrove
Concierge's Desk



Bob Goodman
Owner Just Hats



Carol
Crys



Howard Rutherford, Executive Director
The Pier Aquarium



Manager Charlie
Cha Cha Co

THE ST. PETERSBURG PIER



Lu Tyler employee
Crystal Mirage
Gallery



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Pier Dolphin Cruise



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HCG has been in use for weight loss since the mid 1950s. It is used in males to help facilitate their bodies' own production of testosterone and in females to treat infertility. The controversy stems from the drastic 500-calorie diet that typically accompanied its use. Most physicians feel that this type of caloric intake is too low and unsafe, and the reason people achieve such drastic weight loss is due to the diet and not the HCG. This is true, as we have seen many patients who obtained nonprescription HCG from the Internet or stores before it was outlawed as unsafe, and they did lose weight; but quickly re-gained all back and more.

My practice is a comprehensive weight loss center and HCG is an option among many other alternatives, with our main goal going beyond pounds lost to long-term maintenance of a healthy weight through education, support and guidance into a healthier lifestyle transformation.

Recent studies have concluded that when HCG is used appropriately, the pounds lost will be composed of a greater percentage of fat mass and less muscle as compared to someone on an identical plan without HCG. The reason why inches are more visibly lost is that fat carries more volume than muscle. We often use HCG to achieve a robust start, when someone in their journey hits a plateau or when someone has stubborn areas of their body that are still holding on to the weight despite the rest of their body being at goal.

While it is not the panacea, it is a credible option in the treatment of obesity when integrated with a comprehensive medical management program. Adequate follow ups and monitoring are essential elements in securing a safe medical use as the patient is integrated in a lifestyle modification plan.

ANNUAL ABILITIES WINE TASTING & AUCTION

The 24th annual Abilities Wine Tasting is Saturday, May 25 at the Armed Forces History Museum, 2050 34th Way N., Largo. The event features premium wines, restaurants, and auction items. Abilities' is Florida's longest-running, most prosperous one-night tasting, netting \$3.54 million to date.

The tasting begins with a VIP Officer's Club Reception from 6-9 p.m., followed by the Grand Tasting from 7-9 p.m. Restaurants scheduled to attend are Salt Rock Grill, Island Way Grill, Parkshore Grill, 400 Beach Drive, O'Bistro, Ricky P's New Orleans Bistro and Vincenzo's Grill.

Grand Tasting tickets are \$75 in advance after May 13; and \$85 at the door. VIP Reception tickets include entry to the Grand Tasting and are \$150 in advance after May 13; and \$175 at the door. Buy online, abilitiesfoundation.com or call 727-600-8911. Designated driver tickets cost \$40 and can only be purchased by calling 727-600-8911.

Proceeds benefit the Abilities Foundation, the 501c3 support organization for the Service Source Regional Office, helping thousands of Floridians and military veterans with disabilities obtain jobs and affordable housing. For information visit www.abilitiesfoundation.com.

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Tampa Bay Client References Provided.

THE STATE OF PINELLAS COUNTY IS STRONG

By Pinellas County Commission Vice Chairman Ken Welch



The last few years have been challenging for many, including your county government. However, I'm pleased to report that despite the challenges we face, our opportunities for progress are even greater, and the state of Pinellas County is strong. Moving our community forward will require vision, collaboration and a strategic, holistic approach to building a stronger community. Effective and strategic planning is key, not just to address our current challenges, but to ensure a vibrant and sustainable community for the long term. Your County Commission, staff and constitutional officers have been engaged in extensive strategic visioning over the last four years, building a framework of priorities and policies to enable the county to provide important services, in an era of reduced government resources, sustainably.

The current commission has already made significant policy decisions regarding public health, transportation and human rights and laying the groundwork for an initiative to address both the causes and impacts of poverty in our community. We will continue to implement our strategic planning process, working with county stakeholders.

The 2014 fiscal year begins Oct. 1 and the development of the county's budget is underway. I encourage you to share your thoughts on the budget and the services that are most important to you. In July, the administrator will present his proposed budget, and the commission will adopt the budget at two subsequent public hearings in September.

Our county staff has worked hard and with much fewer

resources. Over the last six years, we've cut more than 1,700 jobs in county government and reduced the General Fund, which supports a variety of services from law enforcement to parks and human services, by 30 percent. In fact, the number of county employees under the county administrator has been reduced by 35 percent and represents the same staffing level as it was 28 years ago in 1985. So rest assured, we are working smarter, we've narrowed our services and we are doing more with less.

Although we significantly reduced services, expenses and personnel the past six years, we still face a projected \$12 million budget shortfall next year. The good news is your commission, working with the administrator's financial forecast, built a Budget Stabilization Fund. This fund acts as a savings account and will allow the county to absorb most of next year's projected budget deficit without major additional cuts in service. But like a savings account, we can only use those dollars one time. We must continue to plan, to innovate, to maximize efficiencies and make responsible budget decisions to compensate for the inflationary costs of fuel, electricity, healthcare costs and other factors which increase the cost of delivering county services.

In addition to the budget, the county leadership team and our partners continue to work on updating our service model, changing and improving the way we deliver services, including emergency medical services, social services, and stormwater management. We will also continue our strategic planning, including a public safety workshop with the sheriff and other public safety stakeholders and a joint session with the School Board and the Juvenile Welfare Board focused on partnership, education and children's services.

Your county leadership team is fully engaged in a range of important issues, and we are making progress every day.

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HAFA PROGRAM EXTENDED

Another Year of Help for Homeowners

Sabine Niehaus, Heart & Home Realty The Department of Treasury recently approved, in supplemental directive 12-07, that the Home Affordable Foreclosure Alternatives program, or HAFA, has been extended for another year through the end of 2013. The program provides options for homeowners who owe more on their home than the property is worth and are in danger of foreclosure, primarily through short sales and deed-in-lieu.

Originally created in 2009, the HAFA program provides incentives for eligible homeowners including \$3,000 in relocation assistance to help homeowners move on from a difficult financial situation with some money in their pocket.

"For distressed homeowners, the HAFA program provides options that homeowners did not have early in the foreclosure crises," says Sabine Niehaus, a CDPE with Heart & Home Realty. "It also helps protect these homeowners and make sure that the short sale process is as easy as possible."

A short sale occurs when the bank agrees to buy the home for less than is owed on the mortgage. In many cases, this is the best option for the bank and the homeowners. HAFA creates guidelines which banks and servicers must adhere to in order to execute a short sale.

Sabine Niehaus, Heart & Home Realty, St Petersburg is a Certified Distressed Property Expert (CDPE). Ms. Niehaus is specially trained to help homeowners who find themselves facing foreclosure. "It is important to me that homeowners know that they have options" Ms. Niehaus said. "Many times, people threatened with foreclosure believe there is nothing they can do. Nothing could be further from the truth."

Ms. Niehaus has developed a free report with more information on the HAFA program and the options available to homeowners facing foreclosure. The report, entitled, "Struggling to Make Your Mortgage? Uncle Sam May Pay You to Sell Your House!," is accessible from her website, www.PinellasForeclosureOptions.com.

For more information about the CDPE Designation, visit www.CDPE.com. www.HeartHomeRealty.com.

WATER CLUB CONDOMINIUMS

A new waterfront condominium development called The Water Club is coming to Snell Isle at 1325 Snell Isle Boulevard NE.



It is the first condo development of significance on Snell Isle in more than 40 years. The Kolter Group has already begun construction on this luxury community and it will be completed in the Summer of 2014.

There will be 84 residences located in two nine-story towers. The units range from 1800 to 2100 square feet. There will also be 11 townhomes with private garages. An on-site marina, as shown in the above rendering, is adjacent to the St Petersburg Yacht Club North Annex will have slips available for purchase.

The project will be marketed by Smith & Associates Real Estate. Visit www.WaterClubLiving.com or call 478-2060.

WHAT ARE PROBIOTICS AND WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

by Dr. Stacey Robinson

What are probiotics?

Probiotics simply refer to the good bacteria that live inside the human body. Approximately 100 trillion good bacteria live inside a healthy human being. The number of good bacteria in our GI tract normally outnumber our own cells by a ratio of 10 to 1. These good bacteria serve a variety of functions to keep us healthy.

What do probiotics do for us? These bacteria actually support our health, serving a variety of functions including:

- Digestion of food and absorption of nutrients – poor digestion can be caused by imbalance of gut bacteria, leading to bloating, abdominal pain, constipation or diarrhea
- Production of vitamins – certain vitamins are actually produced by the bacteria that live in our gut.
- Immunity - 70% of our immune system resides in our gastrointestinal tract, in part because these good bacteria provide a barrier to keep the bad guys out, bad guys being infectious agents and also environmental triggers that can cause an immune reaction leading to inflammation and autoimmune disease.
- Inflammation – good bacteria help reduce inflammation which is the common denominator in all of the diseases highlighted below.

Why do we need to take probiotics?

- Good health starts in the gastrointestinal tract where these bacteria live. Because of all the important functions these tiny organisms provide, good bacteria plays a key

role in our health.

- Imbalance of gut bacteria has been linked to cancer, asthma, allergies, obesity, diabetes, autoimmune diseases and even brain, behavioral and emotional problems like ADHD, autism, Alzheimer's disease and depression. All of these diseases are on the rise.

- The Standard American Diet (S.A.D) of processed sterile food with few fresh vegetables and fruit does not support growth of these good bacteria that protect us from disease.

- I recommend that everyone take a probiotic supplement for health promotion and disease prevention. For those with the above medical conditions, it is even more important.

What do you need to know before you buy probiotics?

I recommend taking a probiotic with at least 15 billion CFU (colony forming units) but I usually recommend more for patients with health problems or those who have taken repeated courses of antibiotics in the past. And contrary to popular belief, most yogurts do not supply enough bacteria and most of these yogurt brands contain added sugar, additives, and preservatives. Other foods that contain probiotics are sauerkraut, kimchi, miso, and tempeh. Here are some tips to choosing quality probiotic supplements:

- Look on the ingredient list and make sure that the bacteria has a code (made up of letters and numbers) after the name. This means that the bacteria comes from a source that has proven beneficial in human studies.
- To ensure the probiotics are effective, they should be either refrigerated or in a blister pack or a sachet (pouch) so that they have minimal exposure to air, heat and light.
- They should be from a company that produces high quality products. See our blog at RobinsonMed.com to read more about how to choose quality supplements.

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Organizational News...

DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Network with neighbors at their monthly meeting Porch Parties, \$10 for members or \$15 for non-members. It includes 2 glasses of beer or wine, plus appetizers. The next meetings are: **June 12th, and July 11th.**

The DNA represents residents and homeowners in the area between MLK Blvd. to the waterfront. Membership is \$15 a year and includes a quarterly newsletter. Call new President, Gary Grooms at 404-667-3970 or visit www.StPeteDNA.org.



GFWC ST PETERSBURG WOMAN'S CLUB

"Hands on " Projects at Woman's Club - Holding a quilt headed for Sun Coast Hospice are members of the Community Outreach Dept of the St Petersburg Woman's Club located at 40 Snell Isle Blvd.N.E. Happy stitchers include from left, Joanne Flum, Dawn Reid, Sue Deveney, Marjorie Joiner, Rosemarie Valeriano and Mary Walton. In 2012,1071 items which included pillows, lap robes, quilts & adult bibs were made & donated to Sun Coast Hospice;100 welcome bags were also made & donated to children at Sallie House. Each bag containing toiletries. Special items were added during the holidays- Teddy Bears at Christmas & Bunnies at Easter. These ongoing projects take place every Wednesday at 1pm at the Clubhouse.

The St Petersburg Woman's Club which just celebrated 100 years of service to the community in February, is affiliated with the General Federation Of Woman's Clubs. It is a not-for-profit volunteer organization committed to serving the community through hands-on projects and fund raising as well as leadership development. Find out more information about our membership, monthly meetings, Saturday Group, weekly sewing group, card games or information on booking our Historical Clubhouse by calling (727) 822-4982 or visiting www.StPetersburgWomansClub.org

ALBERT WHITTED AIRPORT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

The Young eagles will meet on June 9th from 10am to 2pm. This is an ongoing program to introduce young people to aviation. Since the program was launched in 1993, more than 1.5 million young people have taken a free airplane flight. Locally, pilots at Albert Whitted Airport have flown over 4,000 kids. Get more information on Young Eagles at www.YoungEagles.org. For more information on AWAPS, go to www.Awaps.org or call Terri Griner at 822-1532.

SECOND TIME AROUNDERS

If you played an instrument in your high school or college band, The Second Time Arounders are looking for you. Besides local area parades, they perform in distant cities. Visit www.SecondTimeArounders.com.

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St. Anthony's Hospital Foundation **overEDGE**

Did you go over the edge in fundraising event for St. Anthony's Hospital Foundation benefiting the specialty care services among other programs. For citizens who raise a minimum of \$1,000 will have the opportunity to rappel twenty stories down the vertical tower, the tallest building in St. Petersburg. Also will be awarded on **AUGUST 11, 2013** by a live STANTHONYFOUNDATION.ORGOTE.

More News...

ST PETERSBURG PRESERVATION SOCIETY

May Music & Movies in the Park - each Thursday evening in May, live music at 7 pm, movies at dark FREE, North Straub Park.

Jennie Hall Pool Landmark Celebration - Saturday, May 25 at noon. The pool complex, 1025 26th Street S., retains excellent historic and architectural integrity with only minimal alterations since its construction. It is an important part of St. Petersburg's heritage as it represents a tangible reminder of the omnipresent racial discrimination faced by the African-American community in the city prior to the Civil Rights Movement. Mayor Foster will unveil the bronze plaque SPP created that will be placed at the pool to recognize the contribution of Ms. Jennie Hall to the pool's construction in 1954 and the role the pool played in the City's civil rights history. The pool complex was designated as a local landmark last year. There will be a free swim afternoon at the pool with refreshments.

"Not In My Backyard" Program Series - Wednesday evening, May 29 - "Do We Really Support Historic Preservation". A reception at 6 pm with light food & cash bar will precede the 7 pm program. The program will feature a panel with former Mayor Rick Baker and Chamber of Commerce President Chris Steinocher addressing what must be preserved to maintain our city's sense of place. Additionally, Daniel Carey, executive director of Historic Savannah, will address Savannah's success in using its past to market it's future. The lively panel discussion and reception will be at the recently renovated Birchwood Inn at 340 Beach Drive.

For information, contact Peter Belmont, Chairman, St Petersburg Preservation at 463-4612 or visit www.StPetePreservation.org.

HISTORIC OLD NORTHEAST HOMEOWNERS ASSN.

Meetings are quarterly on the third Monday of the month (except for holidays). Remaining 2013 meetings are June 17 and September 16. The topic of the June meeting is Disaster Preparedness. They will be hosting Porch Parties in July and August, too. See their web site for location and other information. Get more information at www.HONNA.org or call 269-5521 for events and voice mail. Jay Marshall, President, can be reached at 248-9288 or email Jay@MarshallSite.net

ST. PETERSBURG ROTARY CLUB

Their 74th Annual Youth Awards were recently presented to St. Petersburg area high school students. These awards recognize the accomplishments of outstanding seniors from nine St. Petersburg area high schools. The awards program was established in 1938 to honor high school seniors on the basis of scholarship, character, and service



FRIENDS OF THE MIRROR LAKE LIBRARY

Their annual Summer Book Sale is Saturday, June 8th from 9am to 3pm in the Mirror Lake Library Community Room. This is a great time to pick up some real good books, real cheap. The Mirror Lake Library is located at 280 5th Street N. Wayne Finley is their President. To get involved, call him at 813-767-5503 or Email Wayne.Finley@StPete.org.



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Bar & Restaurant News...

YWCA ADDS RESTAURANT AND BAR

Two venues are opening on the ground floor of the old YWCA at 655 2nd Avenue S. Construction is underway and the restaurants both plan to open in the fall. They are:



CEVICHE STEAKHOUSE This is the second downtown location for the Ceviche group. The other is at Central Ave. and Beach Drive. But, this will not be just another Ceviche, it is an upscale steakhouse which is a new venture for them. It will also showcase local art and artists.

THE BRASS TAP - This special tap house bar will have over 80 craft beer on tap and more than 250 beers by the bottle. They will have no food, but will share the dining area with the Ceviche Steakhouse. Diners may purchase their brews in the dining area or in their Brass Tap bar. The new owners are Steve Slowey and Jeff Martin. They own Brass Taps in Lakeland, Brandon, Wiregrass, Trinity and Orlando. "We absolutely love the look and feel of downtown St Pete," says Slowey. "It is so historic and very pedestrian friendly. People actually live here and walk to nearby shops and restaurants."

CHANGES AT JOJOS JoJo's in Citta Italian Restaurant in the Progress Plaza, 200 Central Ave., was purchased in 2011 by Michael D'Angelo from Antonio Condello who started the business with his wife 22 years ago. D'Angelo has had some financial difficulties, so Condello has taken the business back and expanded the hours to include lunch and dinner again. It is not known if Condello's attempt to save the restaurant will work, there may be a new restaurant there soon.

MEXICAN TO BBQ El Metate Mexican Grill in the Plaza Tower courtyard closed earlier this year. Now, Brett Andress owner of The Ale and The Witch has leased the space and opened a BBQ place called The Witches BBQ Den. It is now open, with a promoted grand opening on Memorial Day.

SOUL OPENS IN KRESS A new restaurant simply called Soul will be opening in the ground level of the old Kress Building at Central Ave and 5th Street. It will be the first of several Soul restaurants. Expect them to open in September.

BIRCH & VINE This restaurant is opening inside the newly remodeled Birchwood Inn (formerly Grayl's) at 340 Beach Drive NE. Initially they will serve lunch and dinner. But, plans are to offer breakfast shortly thereafter. They will have a full bar. Look for this open around June 1st.

KRISPY KRUNCHY Something new is coming to Gilberts Jewelry's corner at 364 First Avenue North. It will be a Krispy Krunchy serving cajun chicken.

ST PETE BREW A new brewery is under construction at 544 First Avenue N., next to Angelo's. The microbrewery will serve many craft beers. They hope to open January, 2014. Their web site is www.StPeteBrew.com

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Bar & Restaurant News...

MIKE'S TAP AND TAVERN OPENS

Mike Dodaro opened his third Pinellas restaurant in March. The newest tavern is located at 169 1st Avenue N. in BayWalk Parking Garage next to Starbucks. In addition to pizza and a complete Italian menu, Mike's offers a wall of 40 beers on tap, and another 20 in bottles. They also have full liquor. They have 20 TVs showing all the sports. They have DJ music on weekend nights. They deliver their complete Italian menu to the downtown area. Call 592-4949.



BICI TRATTORIA This new casual Italian restaurant is owned by Allan Galeano, who is also an owner in The Avenue on 1st Avenue S. It is located at 437 Central Avenue, in the storefront formerly occupied by Pipo's Cuban Restaurant. Their opening plans were delayed, but they hope to be open any day. Get more information at www.BiciStPete.com. Their phone number is 828-9900.

WESTPHAL WINS TOP AWARD

Steve Westphal, owner of several downtown St Petersburg restaurants, was recognized by the Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce as the Top Tourism Professional of the Year at their Annual Tourism Luncheon held at the Sheraton Sand Key. Steve was recognized as a homegrown product of the industry, starting as a dishwasher at Redington Beach's now closed Wine Cellar Restaurant and advanced through the ranks to become the owner of some of the area's best restaurants - The Pub Waterfront Restaurant in Indian Shores, downtown's 400 Beach Seafood & Tapa House and Parkshore Grill, The Hangar at Albert Whitted Airport and the Café Gala at the Dali Museum. Steve recently announced plans to partner in a new Madeira Beach Gulf front restaurant called the Gulf Grill. The primary reason Westphal was chosen was his willingness to help many local charities with their fundraising needs.

Photo Credit: Bob Schlesinger / Tropical Focus.com



SAFFRON'S OPENS ON 4TH STREET If you are having a party and want something different, check out Catering by Saffron's at 1040 4th Street N. They cater any size event or party. Owners Jackie and Edith are from Jamaica and can really put a tropical spin on it. They serve lunch for the walk-in crowd, too. On the takeout menu is Jerk Chicken, Mango Bourbon pulled pork, Three Bean Vegetarian Chili, Curry Chicken and Stir Fry. The lunch dishes range from \$7 to \$8.50. They also offer free delivery within a five mile radius, for orders of 10 or more. Call them at 822-1717 or see their web site at www.SaffronsCatering.com.

CLOSED Bowled Restaurant at 3451 4th Street N. closed the first of April. Call 692-3771 to lease this space.

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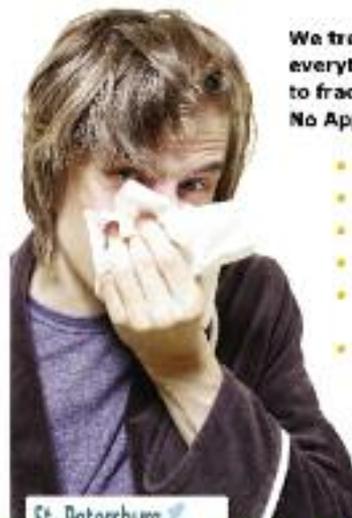
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FROM DEBATE TEAM TO RAYS ANNOUNCER

by Bob Griffin, Publisher

Dewayne Staats, television play-by-play commentator for the Tampa Bay Rays since they began in 1998, learned to love baseball as a child while listening to the St Louis Cardinals games on TV and the radio. By the time he was 8, he was playing little league. As a teenager, he was a pitcher. But, then an 8th grade teacher introduced him to the debate team. That is when he knew he'd rather talk than play ball and his desire to be a broadcaster was born.

Staats is the first and only TV announcer the Rays have ever had. This season begins his 37th year in professional sports broadcasting, and his 16th year with the Rays.

While a student, Dewayne had a reporting and broadcasting job Southern Illinois University's radio station. He also covered high school games for several nearby small town stations, before interning at KMOX in St Louis.

In 1973, while still a student at SIUE, Dewayne began his professional broadcasting career with the minor league baseball team Oklahoma City 89ers. He moved to Major League Baseball, when he joined the Houston Astros in 1976, moved to the Chicago Cubs in 1985, then the NY Yankees in 1990.

By then, Staats had moved to West Palm Beach to be closer to his family. He commuted to the Yankees' games. Only two players have hit a home run for their 3,000th hit, and Staats was lucky enough to have been in the booth for both - Derrick Jeter and Wade Boggs.

From 1995 to 1997 he worked for ESPN. Then, when the Rays got their franchise in 1998, they hired Staats. He moved to Pinellas County.

Dewayne has been married to Carla, his second wife, for 6 years. They met while he was working for the Astros in Houston. They live in Sand Key in "The Grand" condominiums.

"We love this area of Florida," Staats says, "We really wanted to live on the water. The Grand was under construction when we were looking for a place, and we were impressed with that JMC project."

Dewayne's daughter, Stephanie Wheeler is married to former Ray's pitcher Dan Wheeler. They live nearby in Belleair Beach and have 3 children, two of which play little league in Indian Rocks Beach.

Stephanie and Carla co-own the new IN2 Nutrition store in Belleair Bluffs. They opened the store in October with a little help from Dewayne and Dan. They enjoy working together while also meeting people in the area. Carla has a background in addiction counseling and that training helps her understand people and health. Dewayne says he is really the stock boy.



The Rays play 162 games per year, although occasionally when there is a national broadcast, Staats doesn't work. He has been known to broadcast a spring season game or two and once in awhile will broadcast a college basketball or football game, just for the fun of it. Dewayne reached a major milestone by broadcasting his 5,000th MLB game in June of 2010.

Staats has been nominated for many awards in Sports Broadcasting. Recently, he was in the Final Ten for the Ford C. Frick Award. "Tom Cheek won, but I was honored to be part of the group that was nominated." This is the beginning of his path to Baseball's Broadcasters Hall of Fame. In 2006, the Rays gave away Staats bobblehead dolls at the Seattle Mariners game.

"I do not go to all the games," Carla says. "But I do watch most of them on TV. I have so many other personal interests it is hard to do it all. I do go on a few road trips, though."

Carla is very involved in two local organizations. One is Quantum Leap Farm, in Odessa where they practice Equine Therapy which involves using horses to work with disabled people. They received a military grant to work with military veterans and their families including Wounded Warriors and their children. Get more information on this group at www.QuantumLeapFarm.org. The other organization Carla works with is PACE, a Pinellas Park center for girls having trouble in school.

What Staats has to say about -

Joe Maddon "I first met Joe when I worked for the Yankees and he coached for the Angels. I think he was the first coach I knew to use a computer to help him coach. He is very creative and analytical."

Andy Freedman "He must know what he is doing. He brought Maddon here. There are only 3 teams with 5 consecutive winning seasons in a row and the Rays are one of them."

A New Stadium "That decision is way beyond my pay grade. I will go wherever they play."

They enjoy their baseball off-season, October through March. They take in some Spring Training in Port Charlotte. But mainly they enjoy their time off in Sand Key. Their favorite restaurant? "We love Salt Rock, Island Way Grill, Palm Pavilion and Bonefish," says Carla. "It's hard to pick just one."

You can see Dewayne calling the Rays games play-by-play almost nightly during baseball season on the Sunshine Network, available through your cable provider.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS BEGINS NOW

by Thomas Iovino

So, you are all ready for hurricane season 2013, right? You know that you have to pay attention during late August, September and – at worst – the first week of October. That's it, right?

Oh, and the only storms you really have to be concerned about are those that reach Category 3 or higher on the Saffir-Simpson scale of hurricane intensity. After all, those are considered major storms ... all others must be minor and insignificant.

Well, if hurricane season 2012 taught us anything, it's that being ready for hurricanes and other tropical systems has to begin today. Who could forget the three storms that made major headlines?

First, in June, there was Tropical Storm Debby. Tropical storm. No big deal, right? Not so fast. Debby was a persistent June tropical storm that was initially forecast to move west toward the Texas/Louisiana border. But the steering currents for the storm kept pushing it closer to Florida's west coast. While the storm never brought hurricane force winds, the persistent onshore winds drove waves well onto the beaches, overwashing dunes and taking a great deal of sand out to sea. Roadways in low-lying areas were flooded. A tornado formed and ripped into Pass-A-Grille, doing damage to homes in the area. Most inconveniently, the winds from the storm closed down the Sunshine Skyway Bridge for three days, and necessitated additional bridge closures as waves crashed over the roadways. The damage was significant enough to warrant a presidential state of disaster to be declared in the county.

Isaac was another storm that affected the area, requiring cancellation of the first day of the Republican National Convention in Tampa. While Isaac didn't do much damage in the Tampa Bay area, it brought extensive flooding to areas of Louisiana that hadn't seen flooding during 2005's Hurricane Katrina, taking emergency managers by surprise.

Finally, late in the season, Hurricane Sandy formed in the Caribbean, tracked through the western Atlantic and eventually thundered ashore in New Jersey just days before Halloween. Sandy brought with it a tremendous storm surge, flooding large areas of New Jersey, New York, and other Mid-Atlantic and New England states. The damage was enough to catapult Sandy past 2008's Hurricane Ike as the second most destructive hurricane in American history, behind only Hurricane Katrina.

To add insult to injury, snow fell on the affected areas shortly after the storm passed, making a difficult recovery operation much more urgent and miserable.

While many Florida residents believe that hurricane season lasts but a few months, remember that hurricanes can form any time during the six-month season, and can even happen before or after. If you add the possibility of tornadoes, other winter storms, hazardous materials and other threats, having a year-round preparedness plan is a must regardless of where you call home.

To help you prepare for any possible disaster, please visit Pinellas County's Emergency Management page at www.pinellascounty.org/emergency for the basics you will need to create your plan.

Remember, there is no pause button on a disaster. The time to prepare is now.



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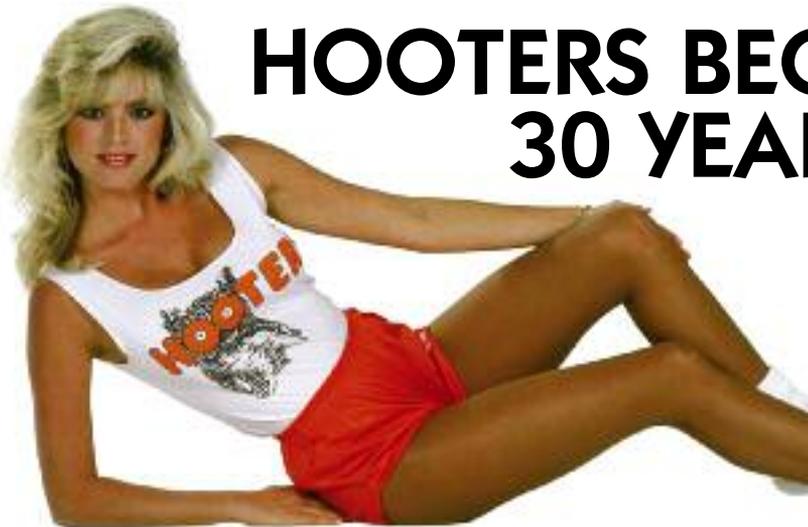
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HOOTERS BEGAN HERE... 30 YEARS AGO



An Interview by
Bob Griffin,
Publisher

Hooters Restaurants got its start right here in Pinellas County. You will find three relatively new stores in the area, in Madeira Beach (Johns Pass Village), 4125 4th Street N. (the closest to downtown St. Pete and their newest one in Clearwater Beach. but, their first ever store is located at 2800 Gulf-to-Bay Blvd, just east of US 19 in Clearwater.

It all started with six guys known the "Hooters Six." They all loved to eat and watch girls. Most of them were from the mid-West and were contractors. None of them had anything to do with the restaurant business.

They each had a certain type of food they liked. One liked shrimp, one liked oysters and they all loved wings. "Why don't we open a place with all that here," said one of the guys, "and give it that Florida beachy atmosphere."

They searched for a location - any location. They found an old dilapidated building on Gulf to Bay. Many other restaurants had started and failed in there but they wanted to give it a go, so on April 1st, 1983, the six incorporated the concept called Hooters.

Yes, "Hooters" is related to the "owl" they use in their logo. And yes, it is also a term lovingly used when referring to a certain part of a female's body.

"Actually the name came from a popular sketch in the '80s by comedian, Steve Martin," says Ed Droste, one of the original six and resident of Island Estates in Clearwater Beach. "What else brings a gleam to a man's eye besides beer, chicken wings and an occasional winning football season? Hence the name, Hooters."



Ed Droste, one of the present owners.

"The Hooters idea started in Clearwater Beach. While we were under construction on Gulf-To-Bay, I had the idea that we needed a goodlooking girl to represent us and use in our advertising," Droste went on. "In the summer of 1983, we heard that there was a major volleyball tournament being held on Clearwater Beach, behind the Holiday Inn (now the Hilton) and

Hawaiian Tropic was holding a bikini contest with it. I told the other guys that I was going to go to that event and hire whomever wins the contest."

"Lynne Austin, won the contest. I approached her with my business card. She told me she already had a job with GTE as a customer service person. The next day, she quit that job and called me. Lynne was our very first Hooters employee."

"We put Lynn on billboards, in our ads and later our Hooters calendar. Playboy Magazine saw the calendar and called to get in touch with her. She became a playmate of the month and later playmate of the year. Every time anyone talked about Lynne, they talked about Hooters."



"Hooters Six" in 1983 in front of the first Hooters Restaurant located on Gulf-to-Bay.

In 1986, they produced their first edition of the now annual Hooters Calendar. Hundreds of girls have used their job at Hooters as a springboard to successful modeling and acting careers.

In 2003, Hooters celebrated their 20th Anniversary with a free concert on the beach, behind the Hilton in Clearwater Beach. They hired Three Dog Night to play. Thousands attended.

"Its amazing that our roots are in Clearwater Beach, and now we finally have a store in Clearwater Beach, which opened just last

year. When you stand on the roof of that store, called 'The Lookout,' it's hard to imagine that it all started here."

Today, there are over 450 Hooters in 44 states and in 24 other countries. Out of the original "Hooters Six," four are still owners of the franchise that owns and operates all the stores in the Tampa Bay area. There are now 12 in the Tampa Bay region.

Tampa Bay Hooters sponsors many events and local charities, such as Moffit Cancer Center, the Morton Plant Mease Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, the V Foundation for Cancer Research, Operation Homefront, and the Kelly Jo Dowd Breast Cancer Research.

For more information on Hooters Restaurants, visit their official web site www.OriginalHooters.com. Or simply visit their closest store.

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OFFICE IN DISGUISE

by Paula Clair Smith CCM



The lines blur between office, living room, retail and game room. Look at the environments created by color, functionality and purpose and you will find a concentration on people. Who is occupying the space and what are they hoping to do? These questions drive the creation of the ideal scene, and what we are willing to pay for it.

Office space has been reduced from 225 sf/person to 125sf meaning more people in smaller space. Circulation space has increased, however, giving the individual the freedom to roam and collaborate with those around them. The confines of cubicles and private offices is morphing into the philosophy of encouraging personal engagement. Office chairs are replaced with couches. Are you at a furniture store and/or a place where contracts happens? The old Herman Home location at 646 2nd Ave S. would be perfect for such a business.

True, the traditional law firms, perimeter offices and support staff desks are not obsolete, but the influx of creative minds is delivering a casual and innovative product that thrives in social space. The dominance of social media is reflected in more than just the Internet. Tenants, landlords and owners can capitalize on it. The Suntrust Building at 1st Ave S and 3rd St in Downtown is ready to go for any business that uses a lot of technology.

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WE DESIGNED THE PIER - 40 YEARS AGO

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Harvard-Jolly Architects has been a major player in St Petersburg's design world since the 1950s. One of their first large projects was Williams Park's band shell, built in 1957. They also designed the Pasadena Community Church and St Joseph's Hospital in Tampa.

"My father William Harvard, and his partner Blanchard Jolly, came up with the idea of the inverted pyramid in a contest," says Bill Harvard Jr.

Bill Harvard Jr., CEO and Chairman of the Board, was in architect school at the University of Florida in 1970 when the pier was designed. "I worked summers at my father's firm during college. I was amazed with what they came up with," says Harvard Jr. "Back then, bidding was not a complicated process. There was no competition from international firms. The city simply called us on the phone and said we need a new pier."

Harvard Sr. asked Blanchard and his young staff to come up with some ideas for something different. There was sort of an inter-office competition. They sketched out ideas, they built a model and then they presented it to the city.

"We wanted to maximize the need for a lot of deep pilings to support a large rectangular building. We wanted to create a lot of open space. We wanted to take advantage of the spectacular views. We wanted a large space at the top, with perhaps a restaurant. During the process, we discovered a pyramid design was better than a rectangular box. A triangle required less pilings. The roof could have a

larger observation deck."

"The pier was definitely a controversial design. Some loved it; many hated it. It took 15 to 20 years for people to get over hating it and start to love it. Now, you cannot see a photo of St Petersburg, where the Pier is not the focal point. That Pier means St Petersburg. The pyramid part of the pier is a sound building, even today. It was designed to last 100 years, with a little maintenance and updating."

There was a major remodel of the building in the 1980s. The external elevator on the west side was added. Tourist shops on the first floor were added and there were improvements made to the docks near the pier.

"We are sad to see it go," says Bill Jr. "It is a very unique design. The design is definitely standing the test of time in the 21st Century."

The Harvard-Jolly is busy with other major projects throughout the area. They designed or are currently designing a new St. Petersburg Police Station, a USF/SP College of Business building, the new Albert Whitted Airport terminal, the Public Safety Building next to the Pinellas County Sheriff's office, the Shops of St Pete and the Clearwater Main Library.



Architect William Harvard Sr. with his pier

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