

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Magazine

FIGHTER PLANE DOWN ON BEACH

A pilot and a sunbather's worlds collide

By Nancy Obarski

It was a sizzling September afternoon on Indian Rocks Beach. The year: 1943. The location: behind the old Haven Beach Hotel near today's 7th Avenue Beach Access.

While the country was at war, a female sunbather stretched herself out on a blanket in the sand enjoying the lack of tourists and wading in and out of the bathwater-like Gulf of Mexico surf, attempting to cool off.

Continued on page 3



Also in this Issue:

Being A Coffee Barista

Have you ever wondered what it is like to be a coffee barista? Belleair Bluffs resident Sydney Barnes shares her experiences after working a year as a barista at Kahwa Coffee.

While it is a fun job, making those drinks isn't quite as easy as you might think. - page 15



An Interview with Dewayne Staats

After forty one years, what does a baseball announcer do in the spring when there is no baseball?

- page 10



Community News

People and organizations are stepping up to help their neighbors.

- page 14

Healthcare Options in a Pandemic

If you are have a minor illness or injury, Peggy Cordle will come to you, keeping you safe from ER or urgent care waiting rooms. With social distancing and quarantines, it's even more important people have access to individual, safe, at-home urgent care. - page 12

CREDITS



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PUBLISHER

Bob & Becky Griffin

ART DIRECTION

Becky Griffin

SALES

727-430-8300

CONTACT INFO

P.O. Box 1314

Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785

727-430-8300

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Brandes.Jeff.web@flsenate.gov

Representative Nick DiCeglie 727-588-7090

Republican, District 66

1940 West Bay Drive, Ste 4, Largo

nick.diceglie@myfloridahouse.gov

Governor Ron DeSantis

Ron.DeSantis@myflorida.com

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING FOOD HOLIDAYS

With all the uncertainties and cancellations, we are unable to have a true event calendar. Instead, we thought we would give you something fun - a list of National Food Days.

MAY		Cheese Day	4
May Day	1	Gingerbread Day	5
Cinco De Mayo	5	Veggie Burger Day	5
Hoagie Day	5	Donut Day	5
Have A Coke Day	8	Applesauce Cake Day	6
Moscato Wine Day	9	Chocolate Ice Cream Day	7
Shrimp Day	10	Strawberry Rhubarb Pie Day	9
Mother's Day	10	Egg Roll Day	10
Hummus Day	13	Iced Tea Day	10
Apple Pie Day	13	Herb and Spices Day	10
Fruit Cocktail Day	13	Corn on The Cob Day	11
Buttermilk Biscuit Day	14	German Chocolate Cake Day	11
Chocolate Chip Day	15	Butter Cookie Day	12
Pizza Party Day	17	Strawberry Shortcake Day	14
Walnut Day May	17	National Fudge Day	16
Devi's Food Cake Day	19	Turkey Lover's Day	21
Taffy Day	23	Eat Your Vegetables Day	17
Wine Day	25	Apple Strudel Day	17
Memorial Day	25	Cherry Tart Day	17
Brisket Day	28	Vanilla Milkshake Day	20
Hamburger Day	28	Father's Day	21
Macaroon Day	31	Peaches 'N' Cream Day	21
JUNE		Chocolate Éclair Day	22
Olive Day	1	Onion Rings Day	22
Hazelnut Cake Day	1	Pecan Sandies Day	22
Rotisserie Chicken Day	2	Pralines Day	24
Egg Day	3	Coconut Day	26
Chocolate Macarons Day	3	Chocolate Pudding Day	26

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

Inside, you will find articles and local information about the nearby area. We call it a Neighborhood Newsletter because it is primarily about your neighborhood, Indian Rocks Beach. This newsletter is printed every other month and mailed to every occupied house in the city.

Do you need another copy? Ask for them at USA Grocers, CVS Drug Store, Beach Welcome Center, City Hall, Indian Rocks Beach Library.

We hope you enjoyed our newsletter. We want your input. Did you like this issue? What suggestions do you have for future articles? Call or email us with your comments, or take our online survey at beachnewsletters.com.

Thank you for reading,
Bob & Becky Griffin, 727-430-8300
bob@griffindirectories.com

SEE YOU AGAIN IN JULY!

FIGHTER PLANE Continued

Second Lt. Robert A. Thornburg had a different sort of day on tap. His plan, as a member of the U.S. Army Air Corps 400 Fighter Squadron based at the Pinellas Army Air Field in St. Pete, was a training flight over the Gulf. What he didn't count on was the engine of the P-40 fighter he was piloting failing in full flight, forcing an emergency landing in the same general vicinity as the sunbather.

Two brothers, Billy Bie (9) and his older brother Cappy (12) looked on as the plane came down—wheels up—in 3 ft. of water near the shore—sandblasting the unsuspecting sunbather in the process, before coming to a complete rest.

Cappy and Billy, recognizing the significance of the incident, immortalized it with a photo of Cappy leaning proudly against the wreckage. Some 35 years later, Cappy and Billy, with the help of their friend and former IRB Mayor Jim Driscoll, all three former Air Force pilots, obtained the Army's record of the accident. The report attributed the crash

to the pilot switching to the wrong fuel tank due to his relative inexperience with the equipment. In 2010, local artist Bill Brandon captured the scene in watercolor. Today, a print of his art hangs in the foyer of Gordon & Nancy Obarski's Beach Trail home, very near where the crash took place.



Even though the plane was a total loss, Thornburg suffered no injuries...a testament to his keen emergency skills as a pilot. He went on to complete a distinguished 27-year career in the Air Corps, retiring in 1971. The San Francisco Chronicle sadly reported Lt. Col. Thornburg's passing in 2002 at age 80.

Billy Bie, who witnessed the crash with his brother, grew up in IRB and remains today a cornerstone of our community. Billy's brother, Cappy, Major USAF Retired Otto Norman Bie, also a longtime IRB resident, passed away at age 83 in 2015.

Lest we forget our area's contribution to the war effort. Pinellas County tourism took a major hit, providing empty rooms for soldiers to occupy at area hotels like the Belleview Biltmore. St. Pete's climate was perfect for the Army Air Corps' basic training center. They also leased the St. Pete-Clearwater Airport, then called the Pinellas Army Air Base, for a fighter pilot training facility and Sand Key was used for training their air crews. Acreage north of the Belleair Causeway became a gunnery range for close air support using the P-40s six 50-caliber machine guns to drop practice bombs on the beach. At the end of the war, a different sort of explosion began in Pinellas County--the post-war boom in housing and tourism. And...as they say...the rest is history.

Special thanks to Billy & Shera Bie for providing the black & white photo and for their invaluable factual input.

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Did You Know



CONTINUING OUR NEWS MAGAZINE IN THE TIME OF CORONA As we go to press the last week of April, news of the pandemic's closures are constantly changing. We struggled with this issues - what should we print? Can we print? As you can clearly see, what was a 32 page magazine is now 16 pages. We finally decided to make this as normal of an issue as possible. No sad news or virus updates; there is plenty of that elsewhere.

Now in our 15th year, we intend to continue printing our magazine. However, if more businesses close, including our printer, mail-house or remaining advertisers, we may be forced to take a break. If we do have interruptions, rest assured we will be back in your home as soon as we can. In the meantime, stay safe and be healthy.

TOURNAMENT MOVES TO NOVEMBER The LPGA Golf Tournament scheduled for this month at Pelican Golf Club in Belleair has been moved to November 9-15. It is one of five rescheduled LPGA tournaments. Promoters say they will be contacting corporate partners, sponsors, ticket holders and volunteers with additional information. Visit PelicanLPGA.com or www.LPGA.com/tournaments.

65 YEARS OLD The City of Indian Rocks Beach will be 65 years old in June. The city originally incorporated in 1925 but undid it a year later. In 1953 Indian Rocks South incorporated as the City of Indian Shores. Two years later, the City of Indian Rocks incorporated again on June 25, 1955. William T. Jones was the city's first mayor - 1956-58.

CITY WANTS YOUR INPUT Indian Rocks Beach's City Manager would like your input in the city budget. The 2020-2021 budget process has begun and the preliminary version will be submitted to the City Commission in July. If you have any spending priorities or suggestions e-mail them to gmins@IRBcity.com, by May 15.



DEBROAH CLARK RETIRES Clark (71) has been the Supervisor of Elections in Pinellas County for twenty years, but worked in the office for a total of forty-two years. In February she announced she was retiring after the Florida Primary on March 31st. The Supervisor's position is an elected position and she has been elected five times.

"It has been a tremendous honor to serve the citizens of Pinellas County for the past 42 years," Clark says. "During those four decades I have seen many changes including the move from paper ballots to electronic voting. I am a real fan of mail-in ballots and voting from home."

Clark has recommended her chief deputy assistant for her position.

and More...

A NEW CHILDREN'S GARDEN

A Children's Discovery Garden is in the works for the Florida Botanical Gardens. Its focus will be hands-on and experiential education in an outdoor setting.

The two and a half acre area will include areas for unstructured play, engaging nature activities, seating, and amenities for parents and supervisors. A fun and engaging access to this area will be by a rope bridge through a stand of bamboo.

Roots and Shoots is an area where children will be able to get their hands dirty by potting plants, sowing seeds and playing with garden tools. A hand water pump in this area will be a source for play and watering plants.

Support from the community is essential for making this a success. Individuals and organizations can donate by visiting www.fbgfoundation.org/CDGdonate or by mailing donations to the FBGF Offices, at 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774. All contributions are tax deductible within the limits allowed by the law.



POSTAL FOOD COLLECTION POSTPONED The 28th annual Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive, scheduled for May 9, 2020, has been postponed. They are fully committed to rescheduling the food drive later in 2020, but the new date has not yet been scheduled.

HURRICANE TAX FREE HOLIDAY For seven days each year, the State of Florida allows you to stock up on hurricane supplies tax free. This year it will be May 29 through June 4. Examples of tax-free items include: flashlights, lanterns, radios, tarps, coolers, batteries and even generators that cost \$750 or less. As always be ready and have a plan.

ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN Stormdrains flow directly into our creeks, lakes, Tampa Bay, the Intracoastal, and the Gulf of Mexico without any treatment. Don't blow debris into the street or gutter. Instead recycle those grass clippings and leaves into your yard and landscape beds. Don't pour chemicals down the stormdrains. Dispose of swimming pool water properly. Turn off the chlorinator and allow levels to drop to zero before discharging into the landscape.




DALÍ OFFERS VIRTUAL VISITS

While The Dalí Museum is temporarily closed, there are still ways to enjoy it. The Museum offers virtual experiences to entertain, educate and enlighten all

ages. Visit TheDali.org/Virtual to learn about various ways to experience the Museum. There is a 360-degree tour, a Special Online Exhibition: *Midnight in Paris, 1929*, numerous educational videos and lesson plans, special online only exhibits, and content on the The Dalí App available from the Apple Store or Google Play.

OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN JULY Read this issue, as well as others, Online at BeachNewsletters.com.


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MARITAL BLISS...DEMENTIA (PART II)

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group



This three-part series deals with death, dementia and divorce and the devastating impact these three "Ds" can have on a marriage. In our last article, we covered dealing with the death of a spouse. Now we are covering when a spouse develops dementia, which primarily happens later in life, but can happen before age 60 as well. There are over 45 different diagnosis for dementia with Alzheimer's being the most well known. 5 million people in the US have this dreaded disease and in 30 years, this will swell to 16 million.

The disease starts in the brain 15-20 years before the symptoms begin to manifest. Besides repeating themselves and obvious signs of short-term memory loss, one of the first signs of a potential issue is dealing with finances. It could include not paying bills, making bad investment decisions, and family members, people, or scammers taking advantage of the situation, etc. Usually, the spouse notices first.

When noticed, do not ignore it. Schedule an appointment with a neurologist to determine if there is an issue and if so, how advanced and what treatment, if any is appropriate.

Next, you and your spouse need to talk about the disease and the affects it will have on life while the two of you can do so. Not talking should not be an option. Update your living trust, will, living will, power of attorney, and healthcare surrogate. Be sure to name a back-up for these latter two documents. With your financial adviser, you want to discuss beneficiary designations, trusted contact information, account registration, etc. Look to simplify legal and financial matters. An excellent brochure to help with these matters is available Atalz.org/national/documents/brochure_moneymatters.pdf.

The same is true with your insurance agent for life insurance and annuities. Check with your health insurance agent about what is covered, or not, if you have commercial coverage. Learn about the benefits provided for doctors, hospitals, testing, drugs, etc. from Medicare, Medicaid, veteran's benefits and long-term care policy if you have one. Be sure to ask about a Special Need Plan (SNP) under Medicare Advantage as these plans are specific for those with dementia.

On a community level, explore services that are available such as adult day care and caregiver classes for the healthy spouse. It is important that the caregiver protect him/herself by staying healthy.

If you have a loved one suffering from dementia, please call to schedule a one-hour complimentary meeting to learn more.

V. Raymond Ferrara, CFP®, Chair and CEO
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The information herein is general and educational in nature and should not be considered legal or tax advice. Tax laws and regulations are complex and are subject to change. Investment Advisory Services may be offered through ProVise Management Group, LLC.

Restaurant News



FRESH MARKET AT SALT ROCK Several Baystar Restaurants, including Salt Rock Grill and Seaweed, have opened a small Fresh Market inside the lobby of their restaurants. In addition to being able to pick up take-out, you can purchase steaks, fresh seafood, produce, fruits, and household items including bleach and toilet paper. Fresh Market items can either be shopped for inside the restaurant or you

can call ahead and an employee will put the order together for you to pick up.

Order your food items to go by call the restaurant and it will be delivered curbside or even dockside at Salt Rock if you prefer.

FREE COFFEE FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS As of the end of March, healthcare providers including doctors and nurses, along with all first responders can get a cup of coffee free at any of the Kahwa Coffee location in the area. You must show your employee id.

The nearest Kahwa Coffee is in Belleair Bluffs, but visit kahwacoffee.com for other locations.

RED LION RE-IMAGINED

The Red Lion Pub got a new owner last year and this year it is getting a total remodel. New owner Tom George took advantage of the shutdown to gut and totally remodel the Red Lion Pub in Indian Rock Beach. "This is no small facelift, says Tom. "We gutted the place and are starting over—inside and out. We hope to be open when the shutdown ends."



The project includes new bathrooms for both men and women, garage style doors on the front where the window were and moving of bar. Of course, new flooring, ceiling, paint, etc. will all be included in the project.



KING SIZE MESSAGE

Café de Paris was recently recognized by the Tampa Bay Times as offering the Best King Cake in all of Tampa Bay. So, owner Xavier decided to tell everyone with a billboard on Walsingham Road

that shows wife Valarie with a King Cake she made.

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Real Estate News

REAL ESTATE AFTER CORONAVIRUS IRB real estate flying off the shelves

By Gordon Obarski, Real Estate Broker Gordon Realty House



In March, the only pressure on our local real estate market was the lack of "stuff to buy." Two short months later, the housing market nationally is on virtual lockdown. But, since real estate in Florida is considered an "essential service," that is not quite the case in Indian Rocks Beach.

But, it's certainly not business as usual either. Agents following CDC guidelines continue to show properties, although with less frequency, due to an understandable reluctance by sellers to allow prospective buyers, appraisers, inspectors, etc. into their homes. Fewer showings, if allowed to continue for a prolonged stretch, may translate to fewer sales down the road...but let's not fret about that just yet.

What is encouraging is that our real estate market came into the pandemic healthy. The total number of sales in IRB in January/February this year (2020) was up 25% from the same two months last year (2019). Admittedly, there were 15 listings canceled, temporarily off-market or withdrawn from March 1 through mid-April; however, there were also 18 NEW listings and 26 properties tagged as "pending" or "sold."

Let's get one thing straight right up front: The effects of the pandemic crisis on real estate is, in no way, similar to what happened in the "2008 Great Real Estate Crash." You could see that one coming as homeowners cashed more equity out of their homes than their properties were worth. Today, nearly 40% of U.S. homes are mortgage-free and one-quarter of those carrying a mortgage have more than 50% equity. So relax.

COVID-19 hit from out of nowhere. Much like 911, it was unexpected and scared the bejesus out of us. After 911, home values not only recovered fairly quickly; they grew. While there won't be many record-setting stats to brag about from the "quarantine months," the real estate market should normalize by year-end...and possibly sooner.

Please don't think, for one moment, the pandemic has caused a shift away from a "seller's market" to one that favors buyers. The pent-up demand, the deluge of folks relocating to Florida and the robustness of our market pre-Corona will keep the seller's engine running on at least five of its six cylinders for some time to come.

Ironically, properties listed now have a unique advantage. Prospective home/condo buyers have had a ton of idle "stay at home" time to "shop" listings online and will bust out to a showing six minutes after restrictions are lifted. What the pandemic has done is shift traditional real estate timetables somewhat, delaying our spring season.

Headlines aside, buyers/sellers need to make decisions about whether now is a good time to buy/sell based on their own personal situations. One good thing to come of this unprecedented situation: It has reminded everyone just how important our homes are to us. If you must stay safe at home, what better place to do so than in IRB!

Source: Stellar MLS

SAFE AT HOME IN IRB



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and the community
in which we live, work and play.*

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Restaurant News



CELEBRATING 35 YEARS P.J.'s Oyster Bar opened June 28, 1985 - 35 years ago, although that was at its old location across the street. P.J.'s is owned and operated by Bama and Steve Palmer, with the help of their three sons, Mark, Jon and Daniel, and of course PJ the parrot.

However, the Palmers were not the first owners. Judy Vermont and close friend Ed

Rosicky created the popular restaurant when it was on 1st Street. The location was first a convenience store, then later a bar called Bruno's, before becoming P. J.'s. Coming from the south side of Chicago the menu included some of their old area specialties - Chicago Oysters is one.

Today's location was once a bank (the vault is still inside), before being used as offices for Muncie Marketing. The Palmers bought the property and completely remodeled it before moving their restaurant across the street.

PJ, a yellow nape amazon parrot, is older than the restaurant and has been a fixture there since shortly after it opened. He is expected to live about 90 years.

During the shutdown, P.J.'s is offering lunch and dinner takeout from 11am to 8pm.

Call them at 596-5898.

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Now you can get unlimited coffee at Panera Bread for only \$8.99 a month - the cost of three cups. Sign up with the free Panera card and they automatically charge your credit card once a month. Register at the store or visit MyPanera.com/MyPaneraCoffee for more information.



HUNGRY HOWIE'S PIZZA

They have gotten exceptionally busy during our Safer at Home time with the closing of so many restaurants. But, they want you to know they are being extremely proactive with their cleaning. They sanitize every production table every 30 minutes. Drivers sanitize before they leave and again when they return to the store.

Hungry Howie's delivers lunch, dinner and late night. Call 727-596-1400 to order.

STONE CRAB SEASON CLOSING Most fishermen report that this was a good year for catching stone crabs. However, the season is over May 15th. If you want some, get them now, you need to go to a fish market. One suggestion is Wards Seafood (Clearwater) and Nachman's (Redington). Publix supermarkets also carry them (normally). Salt Rock Grill and Seaweed offer them as a takeout item.



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AT HOME...IN SAND KEY

By Bob Griffin, Publisher
It's April and Dewayne Staats expected to be somewhere between Port Charlotte and Tropicana Field in St Petersburg broadcasting a Tampa Bay Rays game like he has done every April for the last twenty-two years. A resident of Sand Key, Staats has been in sports broadcasting for forty-one years announcing Rays games since the team's inception.



Staats has a contract with Fox Sports to broadcast eleven spring games and drove to Port Charlotte for the beginning of the 2020 season. "I did five spring games. On Monday, March 16, we covered the Rays vs Boston game. After the game, the owners had a meeting with the Major League Baseball executives and decided to "shut it down," said Staats during a recent phone interview. "In all my years, I never imagined something like this happening."

"The first major sports league to react was the NBA. We knew it was only a matter of time until it reached baseball," Staats added.

Staats feels that once they let everyone go back to work, they will need a two to three-week training season. "Hitters can get up to speed in one or two weeks, but the pitchers need two to three weeks to get back into high gear."

As of now, there is speculation MLB may play an abbreviated season of maybe 100 games with a lot of doubleheaders to cram it all in. There has also been talk of extending the 2020 season. Until people are back to work, it is all guess work right now.

In the meantime, Dewayne and his wife Carla are spending their time social distancing in their Sand Key condo doing what we all are: reading, social media, staying in touch with friends and binge-watching TV shows and movies. Their condo faces the Gulf and they have a designated time every afternoon to go outside and "catch some Rays"—so to speak.

"Carla is a great cook," Staats adds. "We have been eating well." They've made many trips to the nearby Publix and have enjoyed patronizing take-out at some of their favorite area restaurants. "We're taking long walks on the beach. We have avoided the gym in the building, but we do some stretching and exercise in our condo."

"The other day a dove landed on the patio handrail of our condo—16 stories off the ground," Carla said. "She came back two more days in a row. We were wondering was it a some kind of message," she said with a smile.

"How long will the shutdown last? No one knows. It could be two weeks, a month, maybe more," Staats goes on with uncertainty. "We are just like everyone else—we have to wait and see."

Meanwhile, Staats waits for the call telling him they are ready to play. "I look forward to going back to work and hearing the ump holler 'Play Ball'".

He's not alone.

Business Briefs



EM & MAC CHILDREN'S BOUTIQUE This new children's clothing shop opened in the Bluffs at 596 Indian Rocks Road next to Petal and Vine. They are sharing space with a women's clothing store as well. They plan to be open most days beginning at 10am (Closed Mondays) but that may change due to

the Corana Virus. Call them before you drop by to say hello to new owner Kayla - 637-7757. www.EMandMAC.com.

SIGN OF THE DOLPHIN BRIGHTENS EASTER What does a store do with Easter merchandise when as a "non-essential business" they are forced to close three weeks before Easter during the Covid-19 shutdown? It could have been packed up for Easter 2021, but Sign of the Dolphin decided to put a smile on the faces of children and their moms. In the course of a casual conversation, owner Linda Wolbert mentioned her store was closed and she had a lot of wonderful children and adults Easter items just sitting there and she would love to donate them to a worthy cause. Linda was immediately put in touch with Shepherd's Village a place for single mothers and their children to find a second chance.

Unfortunately, with the COVID19 Virus, most of their single mothers are unemployed. Without Linda's Easter donations they would have had very little to celebrate. Linda says, "The origination is full of such delightful people doing a wonderful job helping single moms.

For information about Shepherds Village, call 727.216.1402 x 508 or email info@shepherdsvillage.com. To make a donation to Shepherd's Village, visit www.shepherdsvillage.com

MOVES CONTINUE SAFELY Big Man's Moving Company has been unaffected by COVID-19, and continues to perform local, statewide, and out-of-state moves daily. "Thankfully, we are still operating 7 days/week, and actually were able to hire a few additional movers," said Josh Anderson, owner of Big Man's along with his wife, Brooke. "With news of the pandemic, we immediately made our cleaning schedules more frequent (daily), and put disinfectant on the trucks, so the movers could use it as often as they need to. We strive to create a safe and clean work environment for everyone." For estimates, complete the form on Bigmansmoving.com or call (727) 772-3458.



RADIANCE CELEBRATES 14 YEARS Owner Stephanie Schlageter started her Belleair Bluffs Med Spa business in 2006. Today Radiance Medspa, ranked among the top 1% of Med Spas in the United States, has performed more than 40,000 wrinkle erasing treatments (think BOTOX and Juvederm) and more than 10,000 body contouring treatments (think Coolsculpting, CoolTone, and Laser Lipo). Radiance Med Spa's medical team of 14, led by Dr Erika Francis, has been busy safely keeping our community beautiful! Find Radiance at 2894 West Bay Drive in the Bluffs Shopping Center. Go to www.RadianceMedSpa.com for more information.

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A MOBILE NURSE PRACTITIONER DURING A PANDEMIC

By Peggy Cordle

When I first thought of opening a mobile, urgent care house calls practice I knew it was a great idea. I wanted to treat people with minor illnesses and injuries, treat anything a walk-in urgent care could, but in the comfort and safety of the patient's own home or vacation rental. I knew this would fill an unmet need in my community. Having a visit at home ensures that the patient gets one-on-one time with the provider, they're not risking getting sicker or infected in a waiting room, and they can get complete care from diagnosis to treatment without ever leaving their home or vacation rental.

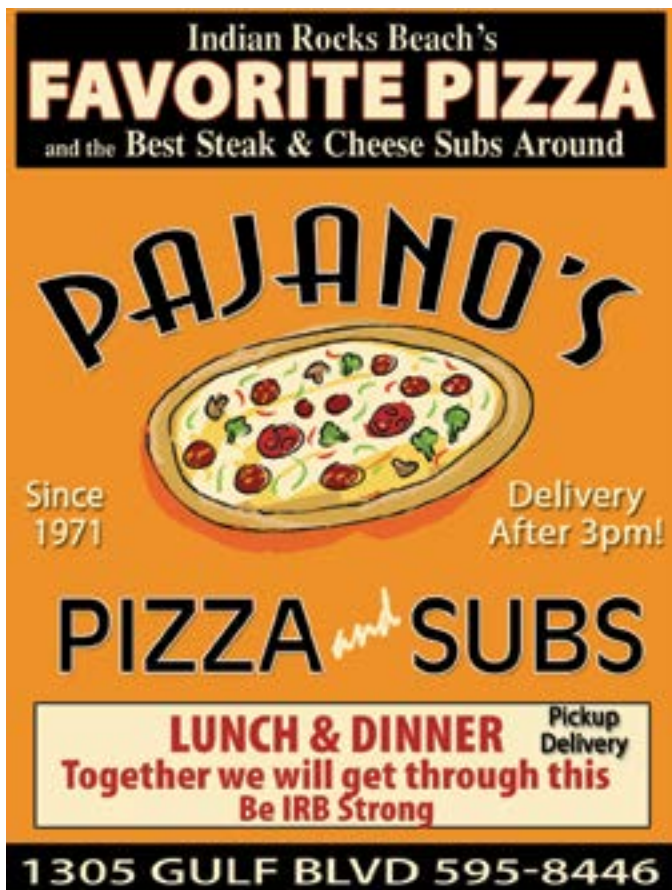


As I had hoped, several months into my practice, with the close-knit community embracing and championing my skills and care, I've been able to establish myself and have been able to become the mobile urgent care provider many have come to use and trust. What I didn't expect was that I would find myself a Nurse Practitioner with full practice authority and her own mobile urgent care practice making housecalls during a global pandemic. Now, as most people are being asked to stay in their own homes to stop the spread of an illness the danger and severity of which none of us has ever seen in our lifetimes, the idea seems even more prescient. With social distancing, self-imposed isolation, and quarantines, it's even more important that people have access to individual, safe, at-home urgent care.

Unfortunately coronavirus has put a spotlight on the current inadequacies our healthcare delivery system experiences while being overwhelmed in crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Having a house call to alleviate some of that burden helps keep primary care providers, walk in urgent care clinics, and emergency rooms from being completely overwhelmed with non-essential visits, saving them workforce and other resources for those most in need. As a seasoned Nurse Practitioner with extensive emergency room and outpatient clinic experience, I cannot only give better individual, patient-centered care but practices such as mine can save our society unnecessary costs by not forcing patients to go to expensive urgent cares or emergency departments for illnesses or injuries that can easily be handled in their own home by a licensed, qualified professional.

In these uncertain times, I continue to be grateful that my practice grows and that I have become a trusted healthcare provider for my neighbors and our community. None of us can be sure what even the near future will hold, but what is certain is that I will be continuing to go on housecalls, taking care of my neighbors and our community like they are my family. We must be able to lean on each other, now more than ever. My biggest hope when starting Urgent Care Housecalls was patients could get trusted, convenient, and affordable care from someone who knew them, someone who cared. This is the time to reach out to our friends and neighbors, to be a calming force in a fearful time. With a quick phone call or easily scheduled appointment on the website, Urgent care Housecalls will care for you.

If you have medical concerns, call 727-403-5380 or schedule a visit at www.urgentcarehousecalls.net.



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NEW CONSTRUCTION "FLIPPERS"... CAN YOU DO THAT?*

By Tom Smith Owner of GHD Construction Services

With the higher price points and inflationary increases of a new Florida home on the Intracoastal, some of our customers are purchasing a new home from GHD Construction Services, only to "Flip" the home at a nice profit by the time the home is complete in 10-12 months. This is especially profitable to existing homeowners that own on outdated waterfront home, and have the opportunity to not only get the highest profit possible for their existing lot, but also make additional profit by selling a "Package" with the new home and lot included on their existing site. This has proven to be very profitable for these clients. There simply are almost no newly constructed homes for sale, raised to FEMA standards, on the market for buyers today. Almost all buyers today want newly constructed homes, with exciting Florida designs, energy efficient, built to FEMA standards. This housing product is almost non-existent today along the Pinellas beaches.

While doing my homework studying proposed home sales prices in MLS, I've noticed a quite large disparity in home pricing, from what a lot will sell for in a neighborhood, and what GHD charges for a beautiful new home. GHD has a furnished model of 5400sf under roof (30421a) that sells for only \$661,000, and by the time you place a value of the waterfront property at \$525,000 - \$700,000, add a pool, dock, new seawall, etc., the entire new package would cost about \$1,300,000. However, I'm seeing listings for new homes of this size at about \$1,675,000 asking price. Will they get that? I don't know, but I do know that there is a nice potential profit for an investor to "Flip" a new home package at possibly a very nice profit. Also, some homeowners on interior lots opt to construct a much smaller home priced from the mid to high \$200s to increase their overall property value. That is

a definite opportunity for homeowners that own older homes on interior lots.

So many of our customers are searching for a way to invest funds from their lifetime savings, in what has historically been a very safe and profitable venture, Florida real estate. One of our customers remarked that even if the replacement home that they purchased on their lot doesn't sell for his anticipated \$250,000 increased value, at least they have a beautiful new home to enjoy until Florida's inflationary spiral continues to increase in future years.

As another alternative to purchasing a new home for a potential nice profit, some homeowners allow us to advertise their lot in MLS, with a picture and price of a newly constructed home on that lot. They list their lot as a "Coming Soon" package, complete with site sign and color rendering. GHD places the sign and markets the package with customers that come through our model daily, looking at various neighborhoods along the Pinellas beaches. We place the MLS listing which also gets published in Zillow and other social media, along with every real estate office looking for new housing product for their clients. It actually works quite well, and doesn't involve the cash investment of purchasing the new home yourself. Of course, that homeowner does not have the opportunity for the "Up-Side Potential" of selling both the lot and home, but that is an alternative option available today for existing homeowners.

GHD Construction Services, Inc. has constructed 7,000 homes since 1971. If you have any questions pertaining to new home construction, feel free to call Todd at (813) 956-8633, or email to: tnegoshian@ghdcsi.com. NOW, OFFERING VIRTUAL HOME TOURS: Visit our web site at www.GHDcoastalHomes.com and see "The Key West" & "Bahama Winds" homes.



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Community News

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH ACTION 2000

Submitted by John Ashby

When Indian Rocks Beach Mayor-Commissioner Cookie Kennedy saw a need for residents, she knew who to call. Kennedy assembled leaders from 3 local nonprofits – IRB Action 2000, Inc. (A2K), IRB Homeowners Association (HOA) and the Rotary. She asked for volunteers to create a community support initiative.

The first step was to create a one-page list of resources. This included local, state and national resources for the latest information on COVID-19. The list also included local hotline numbers, grocery and pharmaceutical information and local restaurant take-out hours.

The second step was focused on IRB's most vulnerable residents - those over 60 with no family support. An initiative called "Shop and Drop for IRB Seniors" was quickly created. A postcard was mailed to all IRB residents explaining the program.

The Shop and Drop for IRB Seniors program, staffed by HOA and A2K volunteers, went live on March 31st. In the first week, they received 16 inquiries and 3 volunteers picked up selected items and delivered them to the seniors.

"I don't know what we have done without this volunteer service," said one couple. Many high-risk residents have requested this as a weekly service until the Stay at Home order is lifted. "It's so rewarding to be a part of this neighbor helping neighbor effort," shared John Ashby, A2K President, "and we are excited, too, that Indian Shores has asked for our assistance setting up a similar program for their community."

"The nonprofits in IRB have done incredible work in our community, offering family events, beautification and preservation programs over the past 20 years," said mayor Kennedy. "They have really stepped up to help the community during this time of crisis, with volunteers dedicating their skills, time and efforts to support our community. IRB is a special place with special people. Together we are stronger."

For information on the Shop and Drop for IRB Seniors, call 727-293-1664 or visit irbaction2000.com. You can reach me, John Ashby, IRB Action 2000, Inc. President at johnashby@irbaction2000.com or by call 727-240-5286.

BEACH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Submitted by David Kline

HELP FEED THE HUNGRY

Each month, the Beach Community Food Pantry provides food to over 350 families - approximately 800 people. We keep our shelves filled with careful buying through bulk purchasing partnerships and the annual USPS "Stamp Out Hunger" curbside pickup. With the Covid-19 pandemic, bulk programs have ceased, and the postal service campaign is canceled. Our shelves are running low!

To help fill BCFP's shelves, a second food drive is being planned for Saturday, May 9th from 10am-4pm. Please consider donating non-perishable items at five easy IRB drop locations - Guppy's, TJ's, Slyce, PJ's, and 18 on the Rocks. Contactless drop off will be available right from your car – just drive up and drop your bag into the bin. Monetary donations are always welcome at www.bcfoodpantry.org/donate.

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH HOMEOWNERS ASSN

Submitted by Marybeth Dunn

We hope you are all staying safe and healthy during this difficult time. We've had a few changes this year, our President, Joe McCall, stepped down to take a position as a City Commissioner. We will miss his leadership and his sense of humor but we know the City has gained a conscientious new Commissioner. No matter what he does, Joe always finds a way to support the city he loves. Our vice president, Marybeth Dunn, has taken over as President for the remaining term of the position. Tammie McCall was voted in as vice president and after by law change to include a second vice president, Bill Dotson was appointed to that position. We also welcomed Joannie Marinopoulos and Jerry Hotho as new board members.

As you know we had to cancel BeachFest, which is our largest fundraiser of the year. However, we are still doing what we can to support our community. We recently donated \$2500 to Church of the Isles to help feed the homeless at Pinellas Hope, and we donated \$1215 to the Beach Community Food Pantry so they can buy a back up a camera for their van and donation containers that you will soon see around town. We are also helping the Pantry with a community wide food drive. Stay tuned for more details to come. During this coronavirus crisis, we partnered with A2K to bring much needed information and resources to our community and we launched the Shop and Drop program where our volunteers shop for IRB seniors so they can stay safe at home. We remain committed to supporting our little beach community. Please stay safe, be kind to each other, check on your neighbors and remain hopeful. We will get through this together. IRB Strong.

A LETTER FROM MAYOR COOKIE KENNEDY

Our community is our strength. We are all here to support one another, lend a helping hand, and follow the guidelines to keep us safe and healthy.

IRB is upfront and present as we navigate along the road of the Coronavirus. Action 2000 and the IRHomeowners Association volunteered to implement a three phase action plan consisting of a document with reliable information, the latest news, and the availability of takeout for restaurants in IRB. Phase 2 is a SHOP & DROP program for residents with health restrictions unable to leave their homes during COVID 19. Volunteers from both organizations are donating their time to assist.

The last few weeks have been challenging. We're all trying to figure out this new way of living. Practicing social distancing for many citizens is not fun. And, there is plenty of worry to feel about older residents, parents, loved ones, and financial situations. My mom said it best in Phase 3 our IRB video. "We're all in this together." For me, being connected to our community helps me stay strong. Perhaps, walking, riding a bike, or just sitting outside is good for you.

Some of our businesses stepped up to provide discounts for our first responders and our health care workers. Send a card, donate, and acknowledge our medical personnel living in IRB and around Pinellas County. Their extraordinary service is saving lives and keeping us safe.

Our IRB Staff continues to work as a team with Pinellas County gathering expert information for our community. We are changing the curve of the virus growth through social distancing. We're fighting.



WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A KAHWA COFFEE BARISTA

By Sydney Barnes, Belleair Bluffs

So, it has been a little over a year working as a barista at Kahwa Coffee, and what has the ride been like? Not coming from any sort of background in the food industry let alone slinging coffee, I've somehow managed to become a self-proclaimed "pro barista." I started my journey at Kahwa in January of 2019 and have since outlasted all my former coworkers that I started with and that trained me.

Because I've been at Kahwa for what seems like forever now, I have been able to form a lot of nice relationships with the customers that come into the store. Kahwa's coffee is so addictive that people come in day after day, sometimes even twice in one day, so there are bound to be regular customers. Of course, people being creatures of habit, most of the time get the same thing every time they come in. So although I might have known people by their drink orders when I was first starting out, I have now built friendly relationships with my regular customers and know them by name.

A longtime customer of mine Russell, who seems like he has been there since day one always gets a French vanilla latte every morning. There is James, who sticks to a cafe au lait and savory scone most nights, and Lynne, who gets her large extra hot non-fat latte, after afternoons of tutoring students. As a barista, it is nice to catch up with people on what they're doing in their everyday lives, even if it's just while making their coffee.

By now I have the routine of making coffee down to a science and could probably do it with my eyes closed. Not to say I won't fall behind a little in a long line of people (especially in the early mornings), but I try to stay on top of my game. If I see one of my regulars walking up from the parking lot, I'll try to start their drink or even have it finished before they walk through the door. Most of the time this pays off, unless when someone is feeling a little adventurous that day and gets something different, leading to a thrown away cup.

Although I am not a huge coffee lover myself, which I know is sacrilegious in this job, I do love working at Kahwa and with coffee. There is something interesting about making coffee and learning about the process of how to actually put the drink together. It seems like an easy enough job, but I bet you couldn't put the average person on the espresso machine and have them make a decent drink.



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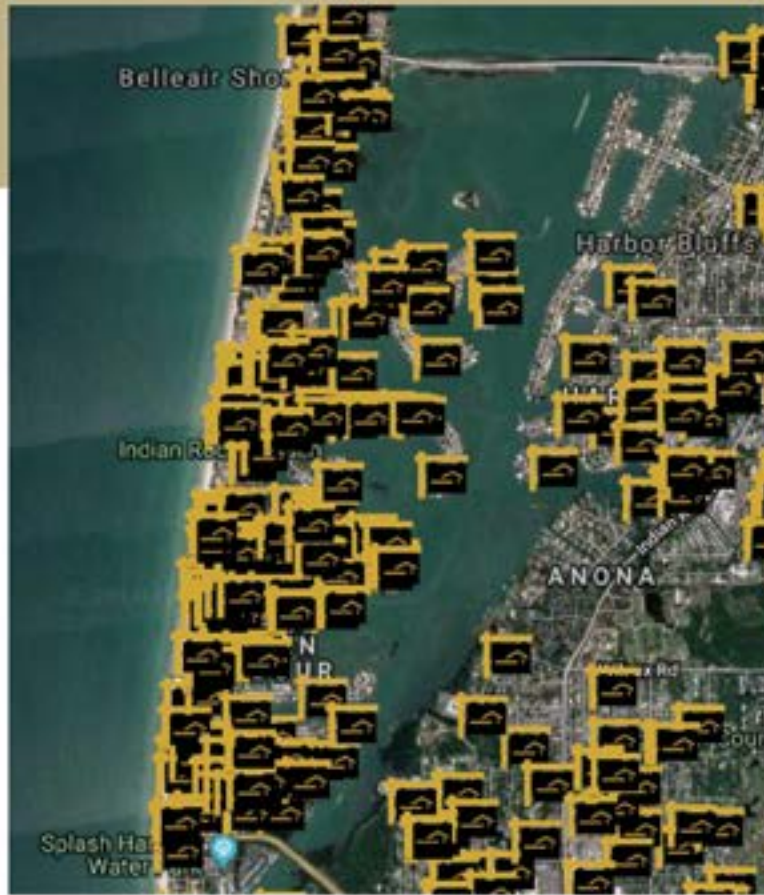
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