

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

including Sand Key and Island Estates

Magazine

Florida's First President was a Whig

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

As most know, we are in the middle of a Presidential election. Since becoming the 27th state, Florida voters have participated in forty-two such elections; as part of the Confederacy, Florida did not vote during the Civil War. State voters have collectively chosen the winning candidate thirty-one times.

In Presidential elections, Florida voters have chosen sixteen Republicans, twenty-five Democrats, and one Whig. The first national election Floridians participated in was between Whig candidate Zachary Taylor, who was elected, and incumbent Democratic candidate James Polk who was defeated.

The Whig Party emerged in the 1830s as opposition to President Andrew Jackson and his newly formed Democrats. It was led by Kentucky's Henry Clay. The name "Whig" was derived from the name of an English party that was against absolute monarchy. The new party attempted to portray Jackson as "King Andrew."

The party pulled together members of the old National Republican Party and disgruntled Democrats. Whigs also had links to the defunct Federalist Party – the country's first political party. *- Continued on page 7*



President Zachary Taylor's official presidential portrait by Joseph H. Bush

Also in this Issue:



Mary Ellen Owens, 100 and Still Going Strong

In May, long time Belleair Bluffs resident and Morton Plant volunteer celebrated her socially distanced 100th birthday with two parades. - page 30

William Dean in a Pandemic

How do they keep making those beautiful chocolates during unusual times? Same as always, by hand, one at a time. However, there have been a few changes. - page 18



Are Your Hands Suffering From Using So Much Hand Sanitizer?

Dr. Kathy Anderson has some solutions. - page 26

Meet Dallas Saupe

Also known as the "human volcano" Dallas is a street performer appearing nightly at Sunsets Pier 60. - page 22

CREDITS



This newsletter is published by GRIFFIN PRODUCTIONS, Inc. and is mailed to every occupied residence in Clearwater Beach's zip code 33767. We are not associated with the City of Clearwater.

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CLEARWATER BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Inside, you will find articles and local information about the nearby area inside. We call it Neighborhood News because it is about your neighborhood, Clearwater Beach. It is mailed to the entire 33767 zip code including Island Estates and Sand Key - about 5,000 households, six times a year.

You can pick up additional copies of this magazine at the Beach Chamber Office, The Beach Rec Center, Shorty's Gourmet Deli, Sand Key Realty or the Island Estates UPS.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter and 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.

Keep up to date with your local news; follow us on Facebook at Neighborhood News Magazine.

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

SEE YOU AGAIN IN OCTOBER!

CITY NUMBERS

CITY HALL	562-4250
600 Cleveland St, Ste 600, clearwater-fl.com	
MAYOR OFFICE	562-4050
MAYOR - Frank Hibbard - Seat 1	
CITY COUNCIL	562-4050
Mark Bunker - Seat 2	
Kathleen Beckman - Seat 3	
David Albritton - Seat 4	
Hoyt Hamilton - Seat 5	
CITY MANAGER	562-4040
William Horne	
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER	562-4040
BUILDING PERMITS	562-4567
HUMAN RESOURCES	562-4870
PLANNING & ZONING	562-4567
PUBLIC SERVICES	562-4950
PUBLIC UTILITIES	562-4600
PUBLIC UTILITIES EMERGENCY	462-6633
CLEARWATER GAS	562-4980
SOLID WASTE	562-4920
PIER 60	462-6466
MARINA	462-6954
BEACH REC CENTER	462-6138
BEACH LIBRARY	462-6138
VISITOR INFO CENTER	442-3604
BEACH AQUATIC FACILITY	462-6020
POLICE NON-EMERGENCY	562-4242
FIRE DEPARTMENT	562-4334
POLICE HOTLINE	562-4080
NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISON	562-4554

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	447-7600
429 Poinsettia Avenue, Clearwater Beach	
SAND KEY PARK	588-4852
Shelter Reservations, PinellasCounty.org/park	
CLEARWATER AQUARIUM	441-1790
249 Windward Passage, Island Estates	
JOLLY TROLLEY	445-1200

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB	447-6000
830 Bayway Blvd S.	
CLEARWATER SAILING CTR	517-7776
CARLOUEL HOMEOWNERS ASSN	
Sue Williams, President 446-4471	
ROTARY, CLEARWATER BEACH	
Sharon Skinner 515-1532	
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ISLAND ESTATES CIVIC ASSOCIATION	
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ISLAND ESTATES WOMEN'S CLUB	
Karen Stevens, President 642-4711	
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CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY	
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Rick Scott 202-224-5274	
www.RickScott.Senate.gov	
AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:	
Charlie Crist 202-225-5961	
696 1st Ave N., Suite #203, St. Pete	
www.Crist.House.Gov	

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.

AUGUST		
Lemon Meringue Pie Day	15	Cheese on Toast Day 15
Rum Day	16	Double Cheeseburger Day 15
Fajita Day	17	Guacamole Day 16
Soft Ice Cream Day	19	Cinnamon Raisin Bread Day 16
Chocolate Pecan Pie Day	20	National Apple Dumpling Day 17
Sponge Cake Day	23	Cheeseburger Day 18
Peach Pie Day	24	Butterscotch Pudding Day 19
Waffle Day	24	Pepperoni Pizza Day 20
Banana Split Day	25	Punch Day 20
Cherry Turnover's Day	28	Fried Rice Day 20
Chop Suey Day	29	Pecan Cookie Day 21
Trail Mix Day	31	White Chocolate Day 22
		Ice Cream Cone Day 22
SEPTEMBER		American Pot Pie Day 23
Cheese Pizza Day	5	Dumpling Day 26
Acorn Squash Day	7	Pancake Day 26
Beer Lover's Day	7	Chocolate Milk Day 27
National Salami Day	7	Corn Beef Hash Day 27
Chocolate Milk Shake Day	12	Drink Beer Day 28
P-Nut Day	13	Strawberry Cream Pie Day 28
Chocolate Day	13	Coffee Day 29
Cream Filled Donut Day	14	National Chewing Gum Day 30
		Hot Mulled Cider Day 30



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Did You Know



BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACKS The Clearwater Libraries provided FREE backpacks to area children to help them get ready for the new school year. The packs were full of books and supplies for students, K-12. More than 1,000 backpacks were distributed during the giveaway at the five branches, including 50 at the Clearwater Beach Branch. It was done in partnership with the Clearwater Library Foundation. For more information on the library, visit MyClearwaterLibrary.com.

CANVAS WITH A CAUSE The Indian Rocks Beach Plein Air Cottage Artists' passion and dedication came to the attention of Roxanne Mannello, a final year film producing graduate of St. Petersburg College and WEDU. Mannello previously lived in Indian Rocks Beach and still returns frequently. After seeing artists Mary Rose Holmes and Helen Tilston painting throughout the area and recording Indian Rocks Beach on canvas, she had a vision of a documentary that led to *Canvas With a Cause*. Their dedication, vision and involvement with the community and residents will be told on WEDU through that documentary filmed in February and March. The documentary *Canvas with a Cause* will air on WEDU this Fall.

MOSQUITO CONTROL Mosquitoes only need a quarter to one-half inch of standing water for larvae to survive. Keep containers dry: flower pots, garbage cans, recycling containers, wheelbarrows, aluminum cans, boat tarps, old tires and buckets. Clean roof gutters, which can become clogged and hold water. Flush ornamental bromeliads or treat with BTI, a biological larvicide available at home stores. Cover rain barrels with screening. Flush birdbaths and wading pools weekly. These easy steps will help minimize your exposure to these bloodsucking insects.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION CONTINUES The Salvation Army in Clearwater and Upper Pinellas County will continue USDA food box drive-through distribution at Ruth Eckerd Hall. Food distribution



was previously held in the morning, but will now be moving to 1 pm and last each day until all boxes have been given away. During June and July, more than 3,500 boxes of food have been given to families in need. "On average, this equates to feeding more than 10,000 people," says Morris. "This includes a foster family of 14 teenage boys who remind us how much growing boys can eat." Boxes contain a protein (typically precooked chicken), milk, butter, cheese, fresh produce, and fruit. For more information call 727-446-4177 or visit www.SalvationArmyClearwater.org.

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STILL TIME TO BE COUNTED!

The Clearwater Beach community is currently under counted in the 2020 Census. To ensure an accurate count, part-time residents who own a second home need to take the census questionnaire for each location, but count their second home as having 0 occupants. Taking the census is quick and easy and ensures our communities get the funding they need for everything from roads to health care to education. For more information about taking the census as a second-home owner, please visit 2020census.gov



GRANDPARENTS DAY September 13 is Grandparents' Day, celebrated in the United States since 1978 and recognized in many other countries. The holiday is always the first Sunday in September following Labor Day.

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE Because of the pandemic, the Ronald McDonald House had to suspend meal volunteer groups to maintain the healthiest environment possible. "We serve the most critical of kids in an already immune compromised environment," says Lisa Suprenand, RMHC Executive Director. An emergency fund has been created for meals and they are asking for donations. For more information or to make a donation, visit www.RMHCTampaBay.org/CoronaVirus.

BOATING SAFETY CLASS Due to COVID-19, the Coast Guard Auxiliary has discontinued in-person classes and replaced them with online Zoom classes conducted with the same instructors you would have had in the classroom. The next daytime classes will be August 22, August 23, August 29, and August 30 from 9am to about 11am. September classes are 21, 22, 23 and 24 from 7pm to about 9pm. Contact the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Clearwater Flotilla, for the future class schedule at: www.clwboatingsafety.com, email clwtr.auxboating@gmail.com, or call 727-469-8895.

PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS

It's our rainy season, and sometimes the swimming pool gets too full and needs to be drained. Remember discharging chlorinated or salt water into the street or a body of water is illegal. Drain pool water through 12 feet of vegetated area such as lawns or gardens and ensure the chlorine level is below 0.01mg/L (simple test strip). These steps will protect our waters. Visit pinellascounty.org/environment/watershed/stormwater.htm.



OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN OCTOBER Read this issue, and others, online at BeachNewsletters.com and follow us on Facebook at Neighborhood News Magazine - for ongoing local news.

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Zachary Taylor-Florida's Most Forgettable President, cont.

The Whigs were an active political party from about 1833 until 1856 particularly thriving after 1840. They favored what was called the "American System" - protective tariffs, federal subsidies for infrastructure improvements, and creating a national bank. The party advocated modernization, rule of law, and protections against tyranny. The Whig's base of support was centered among entrepreneurs, reformers, Protestants, and the emerging middle class—but it had little backing from farmers and unskilled workers.

For those days, The Whigs were considered to be right of center. Democratic opponents often stereotyped them as the "party of the rich", but in reality, the Whigs were supported by an economically diverse group of voters, winning State and Presidential elections with mass support.

Whig candidate Zachary Taylor won Florida's first presidential election. The twelfth President of the United States, he was the second President elected from the Whig Party, and would become the second president to die in office. William Henry Harrison, the first Whig President had previously died in office.

Taylor was a military man. He served in the U.S. Army rising to the rank of Major General. He was a Captain in the War of 1812, fought under Andrew Jackson in the Black Hawk War (an Indian conflict), led troops into Florida during the second Seminole War, and led troops in the Mexican American War (during the annexation of Texas).

The Whig Party had to convince a reluctant Taylor to run for President on their 1848 ticket. The Whig National Convention picked Millard Fillmore as his running mate. While a well-known war hero, Taylor's political tenets were vague and not common knowledge. No other president had ever been elected without having held prior office. As it would turn out though, President Taylor would have a very short tenure.

Taylor took office on March 4, 1849. The country was only 73 years old and there were many controversies to deal with, but from the beginning, he kept his distance from Congress and even his cabinet.

There was much debate over slavery. The "Mexican Cession" was still an issue. Mexico had ceded land to the U.S. in 1848 after the Mexican-American War. Acquiring the land re-kindled the debate in Congress over slavery. Southerners hoped to enlarge the territory that would enter the union as slave states.

Anti-slavery northerners feared that very outcome. Despite being a southerner and slaveholder himself, Taylor did not push for the expansion of slavery.

Taylor urged settlers in New Mexico and California to draft constitutions of statehood, before new laws on slavery could be passed. When the "Compromise of 1850" (also called the Missouri Compromise) was introduced, the new law acted as a temporary truce on the issue of slavery, primarily addressing the status of the newly acquired territory.

On July 9, 1850, Zachary Taylor died, suddenly. It was reported after attending a Fourth of July event, he walked along the Potomac River eating large quantities of cherries and other fruits, while drinking iced water. A few days later he succumbed to what they called "stomach disease."

It was also reported he had ingested prescribed doses of opium, quinine, and calomel (a mercury compound). Some historians have concluded he was poisoned. No one knows the truth.

Due in part to his short sixteen-month term in office, historians ranked Taylor near the bottom of memorable Presidents, even referring to him to as the "Most Forgettable President in History."

Taylor was succeeded by his Vice President, Millard Fillmore who helped pass the "Compromise of 1850." That led to his defeat in the following election.

Already anemic, The Whig Party suffered a decisive defeat in 1852 due to divisions within the party. Tensions were mounting over the issue of slavery—as the country continued expanding to the west. For the Whig Party, the final straw was the signing of the "Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854" which overturned the Missouri Compromise and allowed each state or territory to decide for itself whether it would be a slave state or free state. The Whig Party collapsed.

Many alarmed Whigs formed the anti-slavery Republican Party in 1854. That newly formed party nominated Abraham Lincoln, who won the Presidential election of 1860.

Note: Key West is home to a Fort named for Zachary Taylor. The 54 acre Park and National Historic Landmark is located on the western tip of Key West. Construction began in 1845 and the fort was used during the Spanish-American War, World Wars I & II and during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Today, it is known for its amazing snorkeling, fishing, and trails. ■



WHO IS GHD CONSTRUCTION SERVICES?

Sometimes companies tend to take things for granted, and aren't really empathic enough to realize that people are wondering about family owned businesses like GHD Construction Services. Maybe it's not that important when buying clothes or food from a local store, but after numerous customers kept inquiring about our company history, I thought I'd take this time to shed some light on our company. After all, when trusting a contractor with the large dollars needed for a new home to be constructed, it is very important to feel safe with that investment.

GHD Construction Services, Inc., begun as an "American Dream" of Tom Smith nearly 50 years ago, has constructed over 6,500 quality homes for families in Florida since 1971. After receiving an economics degree from the University of Florida in 1970, Tom began his homebuilding career in Pasco County, and now GHD is being continued under the leadership of the second generation, with son Brian at the helm. Brian also attended and graduated from UF with a finance degree, and has steadily and conservatively grown GHD over the past few years. Aside from the GHD homes along the Pinellas Beaches, under Brian's leadership GHD has become one of the largest producers of quality affordable apartments in the state of Florida, serving veterans and lesser income Americans. Providing safe and sanitary housing for families in need is an integral part of GHD's business plan to give back to those that served our great nation.

GHD Construction Services, Inc. is now branded as "GHD Coastal Homes" for our new waterfront home designs. In visiting the GHD model home, customers realize the Key West theme that resonates so well for our beach communities. Due to the volume of construction that GHD produces annually, and all the lessons learned from providing affordable housing, it became evident that quality affordable housing can be achieved for all price points of residential homes. With that in mind, GHD has developed

home designs for the Pinellas beaches that do not break the budget of those wanting a new home, either on the water or an interior lot in the Pinellas beach communities. GHD customers range from snowbirds now deciding to own a new home in Florida as a second home, to the many that already own homes here, but want a replacement upgrade on their existing home. For those families, GHD provides all the services necessary to demo their existing home, and work with designing a new home that fits their budget, then permitting and constructing their new home. GHD prides itself in being a "One Stop Construction Company", providing architectural services, permitting, design, and home construction, from start to finish, for customers to realize the enjoyment of a new Florida home with all of today's bells & whistles.

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MIKE TWITTY

Pinellas County Property Appraiser

Mike Twitty is the Pinellas County Property Appraiser, but do you know what he actually does?

Under Twitty's leadership, the Property Appraiser department evaluates, estimates, and officially certifies the value of all the properties in Pinellas County. Various taxing authorities and the Department of Revenue use that information each year.

Twitty, who was born and raised in Pinellas County and graduated from Largo High School and the University of Florida, supervises 130 staff members among ten departments. His team estimates the value of over 435,000 parcels of real estate plus 15,000 taxable tangible personal property accounts. In addition, his office is also responsible for administering all exemptions (such as homestead), the tax parcel maps, and maintaining ownership records countywide.

The Office of Property Appraiser is an elected position. Twitty, elected in 2016, is completing in his first term and will be on the ballot again in November. For 27 years prior to his election, Twitty was a professional property appraiser, appraising a wide array of commercial and residential projects in Pinellas County and across the state.

Many home buyers do not realize the "assessed value" of a home resets to its market value on the January 1 following its purchase. Out of state and first-time home buyers are surprised when it happens. You can estimate your taxes after purchase by using the "Tax Estimator" tool on the Property Appraiser's web site, www.PCPAO.org. The tool also takes into consideration homestead exemption and portability.

The deadline to late file for a 2020 Homestead Exemption is September 18. When making a 2020 application you need to also complete an extenuating circumstances form. Our COVID-19 disruption is a valid circumstance.

"Pinellas is Florida's sixth largest county, based on population, and the second to smallest in land area," says Twitty. "as a result, we are #1 in density. We have more people per square mile than any other county - more than twice the #2 county, Broward. For example, we have 3,500 people per square mile compared to 1,700 people per square mile in Broward (Ft. Lauderdale). As an effectively built-out county we must focus on responsible redevelopment."

"We are dedicated to producing fair and equitable Property Value Assessments within the county," adds Twitty. "I worked extremely hard during my first term to create efficiencies to improve internal operations and elevate our service to the public. I'm also actively engaged in the flood insurance arena as I understand the kind of impact it can have on our property owners and the equity in their homes," says Twitty.

Twitty was the catalyst for Constitutional Amendment #5 that will appear on the ballot in November. The amendment adds an additional year to the eligible portability time frame, guaranteeing a minimum of "two years" to transfer your "Save Our Homes" benefit and a maximum of up to 3 years, depending on date of sale. The current law allows two tax years, which effectively can be as short as one year and a day if a property is sold at year end.

For questions or more information, call 464-3207. The main office is located at 315 Court Street in Clearwater. There are three other offices located in Pinellas County. See their web site, www.PCPAO.org, for more information.



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SOCIAL SECURITY... GETTING ALL THAT YOU DESERVE

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

Unfortunately, too many people just sign up for Social Security without realizing how many different alternatives exist. Even worse the Social Security Administration often gives faulty advice which can cost tens of thousands dollar or more over a recipient's lifetime.

You can start as early as age 62, but if you do then your benefit is reduced by 5/9ths for each of the first 36 months and 5/12ths for every month over that if you take it prior to Full Retirement Age (FRA).

The FRA is age 66 and 8 months currently. A \$1000 benefit at FRA is only \$717 at age 62. Additionally, if you are working and take the benefit before FRA and your earned income exceeds \$18,240, then your benefit is reduced dollar for dollar above this amount. There is no penalty once you reach FRA.

Then why would you even think about taking it early? You need the income, or you are in poor health and have a shortened life expectancy are two very good reasons.

On the other side of FRA, you might consider delaying until age 70. For each month after FRA you wait, your benefit increases by 0.66%. Thus, a \$1000 benefit at FRA could become \$1,266. If you do not need the income at FRA either because you are still working or have adequate cash flow, and especially if you anticipated a long life expectancy, then delaying might make sense.

If you are married for 10 years or more, you can take either 100% of your benefit, or 50% of your spouse's benefit whichever is higher. This option still applies, even if you are no longer married. Should the spouse with the higher benefit die, then the surviving spouse will get the higher benefit but lose their own benefit.

There is not enough room to delineate all of the alternatives and permutations. While the combinations are not endless, it can lead to over 500 ways to take Social Security according to www.bankrate.com. It is not something you want to do on your own. Without good software to guide you, you can be costing yourself a lot of money in retirement. Would you like to know your best alternative? For the first 25 people who call our office (ask for Beatrice or Oscar), we will provide you with a complimentary report.

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AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION FOR HURRICANE SEASON 2020

By Karen Williams Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner

Benjamin Franklin was quite the wise man. In 1736, he famously penned “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” as an advisory to Philadelphians to prevent the many house fires of the era. Those few words neatly sum up the notion that it is far easier and better to stop a problem from happening than to stop or correct it after it has started.

Although we can’t avoid natural disasters like hurricanes, we can reduce their negative impacts by preparing as much as possible, especially in the era of COVID-19. Knowing what you can do today, before the danger is near, is the key.

As always, having a personal preparedness plan in place is essential, but since things have changed over the last few months, you may now need to revise your plan.

The best place to start a plan or make sure your plan is up-to-date is to download Pinellas County’s Hurricane Preparedness Guide - www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/allhazardguide.htm. The guide has everything you need to customize your family’s preparedness plan, including tips to deal with the still-present danger of COVID-19.

One of the first things you will need to know is your evacuation level and if you will need to evacuate. During a storm, it is essential that people shelter in structures that are built to withstand the winds and are outside of the risk of storm surge. If you do have to evacuate, this year more than ever, consider staying with family or friends, in a hotel or motel, or, as a last resort, at a public shelter. If you don’t have to evacuate and know someone who does, consider asking them to stay with your family during the storm. By doing that, you are helping create as much space as possible in our public shelters to maintain social distancing for those

with no other option.

Staying informed this year is very critical, as well. COVID-19 has presented many challenges that Pinellas County has had to adjust plans for, and new information emerges all the time. To help maintain social distancing, the Emergency Management team is currently updating the Pinellas hurricane shelter list to increase the amount of space allowed for each person or family. There may also be additional locations made available, known as non-congregant sites, and they are working through the details of this planning in conjunction with the State of Florida Division of Emergency Management. Please continue to check Emergency Management’s website at www.pinellascounty.org/emergency for updates.

Whether you evacuate or shelter in place you will need a hurricane kit. This year, we encourage everyone to add masks, hand sanitizer and wipes to their kit, especially if you will be sheltering with people from outside of your normal household.

Make sure you, and all of your family members, are signed up to receive emergency notifications from Alert Pinellas, that the settings to receive text notifications are activated, and that you keep your phones charged, on and nearby. Visit www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas to sign up.

In addition, the Ready Pinellas mobile app can help you complete your preparations with a personalized plan, checklist and helpful links. Ready Pinellas is available on Google Play or at the Apple App Store.

As you can see, putting in place an “ounce of prevention” this hurricane season will, no doubt, help you avoid that “pound of cure” Franklin warned about so long ago. Be safe and well.

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Bar & Restaurant News

BACKWATERS IS TWENTY

Backwaters of Sand Key will mark its 20th anniversary on August 17th. Each year, they normally have a three-day party to celebrate, but this year nothing is normal. The event may be downsized or even canceled depending on our "social distancing" guidelines in mid-August. If there is a party, it will be August 21-23. For updates, watch BackwatersofSandKey.com.



CHANGES AT THE MARINA The new Roundabout Pizza, located at the northeast corner of the Clearwater Beach Marina, and Poke Havana have been combined into one storefront. Both, owned by Baystar Restaurant Group are open. The spot previously occupied by Poke Havana will be reopening as an ice cream store. To order a pizza, call 441-3020.

BEVERLY'S ICE CREAM

This new ice cream shop opened on the ground level along Bay Walk between Surf Style and the Hyatt Regency. Next time you are out for a walk or bike ride, stop in and give it a try.



HOGAN'S HANGOUT Construction on this new restaurant is basically done, but due to the pandemic, the owners do not plan to open until they are allowed to open at 100%. Hogan's will be located at 499 Mandalay Avenue on the corner of Baymont Blvd.



TASTE THE TOWN Sponsored by AMPLIFY Clearwater, this new restaurant event is being held August 10th through September 7th. The 4-week long culinary celebration offers 'foodies' an opportunity to experience top-notch dining and casual cuisine, at all of your favorite hot spots across Clearwater. Weekly menu specials will be shared on social media to help diners plan their dining strategy. There will be drawings and prizes for guests who dine at multiple locations.

Each week will be themed: Week 1: Drink outside the box! Week 2: Appe-TEASE the tastebuds! Week 3: Show us the beef! Week 4: SEA-food, eat food! For more information, visit amplifyclearwater.com/tastethetown

Bar & Restaurant News

A SLICE OF ROME NOW OPEN

It is hard to open a new restaurant during a pandemic. Enzo Chiavatti and his brother opened their new pizza restaurant, A Slice of Rome, on February 29—Leap Year Day. Two weeks later all restaurants closed, except for take-out or delivery. They barely survived, but now that restaurants are back open, A Slice of Rome is open for business again. They specialize in “Pizza al Taglio,” which is pizza cooked in large rectangular trays and quite often sold by the slice or pan. This type of pizza was invented in Rome and is common throughout Italy.



A Slice of Rome is located at 53 Baymont Blvd. and delivers to the entire 33767 zip code. Call 281-3001.

BEST OF THE BAY The following Clearwater Beach restaurants were recognized as “Best of the Bay” in 2020 by Tampa Bay Magazine.

- Best Beachside Gathering Spot - Palm Pavilion
- Best Casual Dining - Bobby’s Bistro
- Best Classic American Cuisine - Bob Heilman’s
- Best Crab Legs - Cooter’s Restaurant & Bar
- Best Dining Any Time of The Day - Clearsky Beachside
- Best Grouper Sandwich - Frenchy’s
- Best Spanish Restaurant - The Columbia Sand Key
- Best Sunday Brunch - Island Way Grill
- Best Tex Mex - Marina Cantina



BOXER ARCADE OPENS IN THE PELICAN PLAZA

Jay Thomas, owner of the two Brown Boxers in Clearwater Beach, moved his “Tap-an-Token” concept from the south end of the beach to the second floor of the Pelican Plaza over the Mandalay Avenue Brown Boxer. Now called the Brown Boxer Arcade, the Brown Boxer sports bar downstairs and the Arcade upstairs are connected by an indoor stairway. The old location at 735 South Gulfview Blvd., next to Brown Boxer South has reopened as Smoke and Barrel, specializing in premium steaks, great American barbecue, and whiskey.

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THE SHOW MUST GO ON!
The State of the Francis Wilson Playhouse

By Pat Vassar

When will "it" end? The answer is anyone's guess, but the creative and talented performers of the Francis Wilson Playhouse (FWP) are determined to brighten our days and nights with virtual concerts and entertainment as long as they must.

Starting in May, and select Friday nights since, members of the FWP Musical All Stars have safely prepared and presented original, themed musical revues with Broadway connections to distract us from the events of the day. Did you miss them? The good news is that anyone, anywhere with access to the Internet (share with your friends the world over!!) can enjoy these performances FOR FREE at franciswilsonplayhouse.org/virtualconcerts/#rewatch. Select a show and enjoying yourselves for a little more than an hour. Get to know your SmartTV and access its internet option to enjoy the concerts from the comfort of your favorite chair or recliner. Add popcorn – perfection!

Several of the final performances of FWP's 90th Season had to be postponed to the summer of 2021 due to social distancing concerns. The same decision has been made with the beginning of the 91st season. All scheduled performances through the end of the year have been rescheduled for the beginning of the 92nd season.

New virtual concerts will fill in some of the slack. The performers miss their audiences and were delighted with the response to their inaugural live streaming event on May 8, The Best of Broadway – Stay at Home Cabaret, which featured songs from a wide variety of Broadway shows. Additional shows include:

Comedy Tonight!: a little bit of Laugh In meets FWP! This musical treat includes humorous Broadway songs, some on stage, some filmed remotely, interspersed with jokes and comedy bits and video snippets of classic movie comedy as well!

Summer Holiday: A musical revue featuring the best songs of summer with a razzle dazzle patriotic finale.

Radio Days: Re-creation of a live on-stage old time radio show, complete with comedic characters, wacky sound effects, and swinging singers performing the Big Band hits of the 20's, 30's and 40's.

Disney on Broadway: Creative highlights from our favorite Disney shows adapted for Broadway.

Sign up for email updates as the fall concert schedule expands. The Playhouse welcomes you and appreciates any donations you can make as they work to weather the COVID uncertainties. Your support means the world!!

WIN \$100 GIFT CARD FROM THE PALM PAVILION

The Palm Pavilion, located at 10 Bay Esplanade right on Clearwater Beach is famous for their seafood menu. Answer the one question below for a chance to win a \$100 Palm Pavilion Beachside Grill & Bar Gift Card.

Question: What three seafoods are featured in the Palm Pavilion Beachside Grill & Bar's menu item The Gulf Grill Combo?

E-mail your answer with your name and contact information to this News Magazine by Monday, August 31st. One winner will be randomly selected from the correct entries and the winner will be contacted after September 1 by e-mail. All results are final. The winner's name will be listed in the October Clearwater Beach News Magazine.

The answers can be found on the Palm Pavilion's web site, www.PalmPavilion.com. Send your responses to Bob@GriffinDirectories.com, deadline August 31st.



Bar & Restaurant News

E & E STAKEOUT - 35 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

In September, E&E will celebrate their 35th Anniversary. Originally, the restaurant was "Eugen's." When head chef Erwin Scheuringer, joined owner Eugen Fuhrman, also the owner of Guppy's, the name was changed to E&E, for its two owners - Eugen and Erwin.



"We had planned to open the first weekend in September of 1985," says Erwin, "but that was the weekend Hurricane Elena decided to visit the Pinellas coast. That Friday night, all of Pinellas County was instructed to evacuate. We had to put off our Grand Opening plans to the following week. But here we are—35 years later."

E&E Stakeout is located in The Plaza Shopping Center at 100 N. Indian Rocks Road. For reservations, call 585-6399. See their menu online at www.3BestChefs.com.

\$15 DINNERS AT SEAWEED Seaweed Grill in Belleair Bluffs is offering early bird dinner specials with 3-courses for \$15. The limited menu is available Sundays from 3pm to close, Mondays 4pm to close, and Tuesday-Saturday 4-6pm. Check it out at www.SeaWeedGrill.com.

HOLY CREPE This is the perfect place for breakfast or lunch. They specialize in crepes - all kinds of them. Get specialty crepes, their Clearwater Breakfast crepe, or design your own. The menu has too many options to try to list here. Holy Crepe is located at 505 South Gulfview Blvd. next to Taco Bus and The Edge Hotel. Call 281-3131 for more information.



PIZZA AND SWEETS Two new restaurants are opening soon on the west side of the Hyatt Regency, facing BeachWalk - We Pizza and Good Stuff Bakery. Both are under construction.

CHIHUAS TACOS More Tacos! This new, small restaurant featuring tacos is opening soon at 688 South Gulfview Blvd. next to Gondolier Pizza.

JEWEL CAFE SOLD Jewel Café has had several owners and several names including The Black Cat and Pelelopes. Now, Chris Scott and Julie Champion owners of the Belleair Market, have bought the small cafe located directly behind their store and have continued to run it as a small cafe. It is still open for breakfast and lunch. "We hope to offer it as a place for small meetings and receptions, as well", says Chris. The Cafe is located at 2601 Jewel Road, in Belleair Bluffs, behind Belleair Market.

RESTAURANT NEWS WANTED If you have news or suggestions for this newsletter, let us know. Our email is Bob@GriffinDirectories.com or call us at 430-8300.

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Business Briefs

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BEST OF THE BAY The following businesses in or near Clearwater Beach, were recognized as "Best of the Bay" in 2020 by Tampa Bay Magazine:

- Best Boat Ride - Caladesi Island Ferry
- Best Community Theater - Francis Wilson Playhouse
- Best New Development - Belleview Place
- Best Interior Designer - Decker Ross Design
- Best Music Festival - Suncoast Jazz Classic
- Best Small Concert Venue - The Bilhelmer Capitol Theatre

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NEW MANAGER Meet Phil Hewett, the new general manager at the Island Village Publix on Island Estates. Originally from Rockford, Illinois, Phil came to work at Publix as a stock clerk when he was 18. He got his start in the grocery business at Piggly Wiggly.

A Clearwater resident, Phil comes to the Island Estates store from the much larger location on Belcher and Sunset Point. He told us he looks forward to the opportunity to interact more with customers in the smaller and more isolated Island Estates store.

These are challenging times to manage a grocery store. Besides the usual business demands, Phil balances sales with CDC recommendations during the pandemic. However, Phil advises that for the most part, his customers have been overwhelmingly supportive and are adhering to the new rules regarding face coverings, maintaining social distance, and limits of items in high-demand.

The Island Village Publix is located at 200 Island Way on Island Estates. The store is back to its regular hours: 7 am to 9 pm, seven days a week.

LEMON TREE LEAVES ALLEY Amy McDermott sold the Lemon Tree Vintage Market storefront located in the Antique Alley to Vanessa Wooding. Wooding plans to reopen the small store with a new name around September 1st. McDermott is considering opening a Lemon Tree Market in a new location.



Business Briefs

NEW MERRILL LYNCH MANAGER

Heather Weber, CPWA®, CRPS® is the new Resident Director of the downtown Merrill Lynch Clearwater office on Cleveland Street. She recently moved to Island Estates and serves in a dual role as she is also a Managing Director-Wealth Management Advisor with a practice area that focuses on business owners and executives of public companies, both active and retired.



Weber has been a Financial Advisor since 1997 and has been named by Barron's to their list of America's top Financial Advisors. She also earned one of the highest designations in the industry - the Certified Private Wealth Advisor® designation.

When not working, she enjoys jet-skiing, paddle boarding and kayaking around her beautiful Island Estates neighborhood. She is also a sustaining member of the Junior League of Clearwater- Dunedin.

32 YEARS OF WOMENS FASHIONS Cassi's and Company has been in Belleair Bluffs 32 years. They originally opened in 1988. Marsha Uhler, manager at the time, bought the ladies wear store eight years ago, September. They are celebrating with lots of items on sale. Drop by and say Happy Anniversary.

Find Cassi's in the Plaza 100 Shopping Center. 585-2011.

WINTER THE DOLPHIN'S BEACH CLUB Clearwater Beach's newest family and eco-friendly hotel is open, named in honor of CMA's famous dolphin, Winter. An existing Choice hotel underwent an extensive renovation and re-haul with a focus on sustainability and conservation including sea turtle safe lighting, elimination of single-use plastics, and special window treatments to reduce energy use. Funds from each room night will go towards the care, education, research and conservation of marine mammals. The 91-room beachfront hotel is located at 655 S. Gulfview Blvd., Clearwater Beach.

KILWINS - SIX YEARS AND GOING STRONG

Owners Kate and Todd LaBonte opened Kilwins Chocolates on Mandalay Avenue in 2014. They are still serving their sweet delights, even during the Corona shut down. Drop by for taste or take home one of a their wonderful cakes or ice cream pies. Find them at 391 Mandalay Avenue, near Hooter's, or call 400-6802.



CLOSED

Kahwa Coffee, Belleair Bluffs.

Coast Dental, at 2715 West Bay, across from Publix

BUSINESS NEWS WANTED If you have news for this newsletter, please contact us. E-mail news to Bob@GriffinDirectories.com or call 727-430-8300.



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WILLIAM DEAN CHOCOLATES

How do they do that during a pandemic?

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Unless you are new to the area, you have probably seen William Dean Chocolates. If you have not bought them yourself, chances are you have received a box, containing a wide array of artistic chocolates, as a gift.

William Dean Chocolates is owned by Bill Brown. It is named for two special men in his life: William his father and Dean was his grandfather. The chocolate company has been operating in Pinellas County for thirteen years - eight of those in Belleair Bluffs on the east end of the Bluffs Shopping Center.

Brown maintains the artisan's tradition of creating chocolates in small batches, without preservatives. "We only use the finest ingredients and make all our chocolates by hand in our shop here in Belleair Bluffs," explains Brown. The result is an edible work of art.

"Like most businesses, this year has been a challenge for us," says Brown. "2019 was our best year ever and then COVID-19 hit. We shut our store for two full months. We were still making and selling some of our specialties, but those sales came to us over the internet."

William Dean's sales fall into four main categories. Retail, his largest portion of sales, are the customers buying products in his store from the display areas. Corporate sales, 20% of his total, are businesses that buy products for employees and clients. During the Christmas season corporate orders come from all over the United States. Online sales are daily, but again peak a few weeks prior to Christmas. Wholesale sales involve places like restaurants who resell chocolates to their customers.

"During any year, our best months are November and December, naturally," Brown says. "Our slowest time is the summer—June through August. One-third of my sales come in during Christmas and one-third of those sales are from corporations," Brown adds.

"Chocolate, when frozen, can keep up to 6 months. Chocolate bars can easily last 6-8 months," Brown explains. "However, we do not keep product for more than two or three months. To prepare for the Christmas season, we start prepping in September and October. We do a lot of planning."

Remember all of William Dean's creations are done by hand, one-by-one.

For each season, they look at what and how much was ordered a year ago — Valentine's Day, Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas— each is different. "But with the pandemic all the past numbers are worthless. This year, Valentine's Day was okay because it was before the shut-down, but Easter was a wash. Unfortunately, no one knows what will happen by November and December of this year, but we need to start ordering for it soon."

Brown produces three different products in his Belleair Bluffs factory:

1. Colorful Chocolates – The kind you see on display. They come in the special WD blue boxes and are 70% of his retail sales.
2. Gelato – According to Brown, "You may not know it, but we sell a lot of gelato. It usually sells for \$5, however, due to pandemic restrictions we are not selling it now."
3. Confectioneries – These are miscellaneous products such as candy bars and flavored popcorn.

Brown is constantly tweaking things. "We recently changed the packaging on some of gift boxes to see-through plastic," he says proudly. "In some cases, it increased the sales of those products by 500 percent! Those products have a long shelf life."

"We added a special new coffee espresso machine—just in time for the shut down," Brown says. "But for now, we can't have any lobby business to speak of, so we are not using it."

With the coffee machine, Brown had planned to offer a café-style breakfast with pastries, but that too, has temporarily been put on hold waiting for better days.

"Our Afternoon Tea was a big thing a few months ago," Brown says. "Most days, twenty or thirty people each paying \$15 or \$20 would enjoy our afternoon treats. That added \$600 a day to our bottom line. It too is on hold."

At the beginning of the year, William Dean employed between fifteen and twenty people. For the first few months after the shut-down started, Brown paid his staff, but he knew that could not go on forever. Today, Brown runs the entire store with two or three people including himself. "We do a lot of our production at night," says Brown. "During those days, we only have one person selling retail."

"We love being in Belleair Bluffs," Brown adds. "We have embraced the entire Belleair community and they seem to have embraced us."

William Dean Chocolates is located at 2810 West Bay Drive, Belleair Bluffs in the Bluffs Shopping Center. Call them at 727-593-0656 or visit www.WilliamDeanChocolates.com. ■



WHEN TREATING A HEART ATTACK OR STROKE, TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. EVEN DURING THESE TIMES.

Don't hesitate when it comes to getting emergency treatment.

Even during a pandemic, you still need to be treated immediately if you have an emergency. Debating whether or not to risk going to an emergency room during a heart attack, stroke or other health emergency—waiting even a few extra minutes—could be harmful. That's why in all BayCare hospital emergency rooms, patients who have symptoms of COVID-19 are isolated from other patients. This helps keep emergency room patients and our team members safe. So if it's an emergency, don't wait. For more information: [BayCareEmergencyCare.org](https://www.baycare.org/emergency)



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Community News...

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

Chartered in 1911, Clearwater Yacht Club is one of the oldest Yacht Clubs in the country. You don't need a boat to join in their fun, most of their social activities center around parties in their restaurant or at their Tiki-Bar.

They are a private Club and for those members that prefer eating outdoors, they added a large outdoor tent on the Tiki Deck providing additional sun protection. In addition, they have now added Friday evening live music for our membership on the Tiki Deck and on Sunday afternoon. Their Sunday breakfast is back. Following guidelines, they will bring it to you instead of serving yourself at the brunch table. Come out for a scheduled tour or call for more information 447-6000. Learn more at ClearwaterYachtClub.org, or e-mail Office@ClearwaterYachtClub.org.

SAND KEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The Sand Key Civic Association is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life on Sand Key. Founded in 1991, current membership includes eighteen condo associations and nine businesses researching issues, distributing information and representing the views of residents at city, county and state levels. The association participates in The Barrier Island Government Council and The Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association and also holds a corporate membership with the Clearwater Community Sailing Center.

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for 7pm Wednesdays, September 2 and October 7, at the Clearwater Community Sailing Center on Gulf Blvd. As always, the public is cordially invited to attend. Because of uncertainties caused by the pandemic, it is currently unknown whether those meetings will be held in person or via video conferencing. For the latest, visit: www.sandkeycivicassociation.org or e-mail the secretary at skcainc@aol.com.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF CLEARWATER

In July, they awarded their Annual Community Charity Grant Awards. Twenty-one grants were awarded to local charitable organizations totaling almost \$50,000. Most of these funds were generated by earnings from their local endowment, supplemented by members charitable contributions. All recipients are 501(c)(3) charities who applied were reviewed by the Charities Selection Committee, chaired by Cliff Wyatt. Recipients were:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay
- Center for Cyber Safety and Education
- Children's Dream Fund
- Clearwater Free Clinic
- Clothes to Kids
- Community Dental Clinic
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
- Eckerd Connects/Raising Hope
- Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches
- Girls on the Run
- Habitat for Humanity
- Homeless Empowerment Project
- Honor Flight of West Central Florida
- LIFT Academy for Autistic Children
- RCS Pinellas
- Rotary's Camp Florida
- Salvation Army Clearwater
- Somebody Cares Tampa Bay
- Voices of Hope for Aphasia
- Willa Carson Health Center
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Community News...

ST. BRENDAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

All of their parish organizations have canceled their events and meetings until further notice. They are practicing social distancing and mandating parishioners and visitors wear masks to church and the office.

BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB

They are making tentative plans to begin their 2020-21 year with limited activities due to COVID-19. Please visit belleairgardenclub.com for up-to-date information on activity cancellations. The tentative fall schedule includes the following:
 October 7- Field Trip to Florida Botanical Gardens in Largo
 November 4- Outdoor meeting (weather permitting) Planned topic is Butterfly Safari
 December 16- Outdoor meeting (weather permitting) Create Your Own Holiday Centerpiece (includes a fee)

December 16- Outdoor meeting (weather permitting) Create Your Own Holiday Centerpiece (includes a fee)

For more information about these events, or for information on how to become a Garden Club member, email belleairgardenclub1@gmail.com.

BELLEAIR WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB

The September meeting will be held on the 11th, one week later than usual due to Labor Day. The theme will focus on recognition of and honoring First Responders both from 9/11 as well as the pandemic. Speakers will be announced soon. The location for this program is at the Belleair Country Club, One Country Club Lane, Belleair. Social time will tentatively start at 11 am, with lunch at noon.

There is a mandatory pre-payment of \$25 for lunch, either check or cash, received by September 7. Payment should be sent to: BWRC c/o Linda Wade; 729 Creekside Lane; Palm Harbor, FL 34684. No credit cards will be accepted and no walk-ins will be allowed. Those attending are encouraged to wear masks and to practice social distancing by staying six feet from others who are attending, as well as observing other CDC safe practices so that there is a safe environment for all attending and serving.

CLEARWATER BEACH RECREATION CENTER & POOL

They have new hours: Monday – Friday, 8am-2pm and 3pm-6pm (2-3pm closed to clean and sanitize) and Saturday 8am-12pm. No cash is accepted. Visa, Mastercard and checks only. 5 person max in Fitness Center.

Pool Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat & Sun: 12-5 pm. No cash. Visa, Mastercard and checks are accepted. There is a 32 person maximum allowed. The big slide is closed and tables and chairs are not available. You may bring your own chair.

CLEARWATER GARDEN CLUB

They are taking a summer break as a result of the pandemic and will begin the new season October 17th with a special Garden Party Mingle.

BELLEAIR BEACH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

The Belleair Beach Ladies Luncheon Club meetings are on hold until the virus threat is over. If allowed, they hope to start meeting again in the Fall, but it may be next year before large luncheon meetings like theirs will be able to meet. They will keep you posted.

GFWC CLEARWATER COMMUNITY WOMAN'S CLUB

GFWC Clearwater Community Woman's Club is in the process of planning the Daisy Grants and 50th Anniversary Celebration for May 20, 2021. It will be a luncheon at the Sheraton Sand Key. For information: ClearwaterCommunityWomensClub.org, or Facebook: GFWC Clearwater Community Woman's Club.

DALLAS SAUPE - THE BUSKER OF PIER 60



By Bob Griffin

"I've been an entertainer all my life," says Dallas Saupe. "It started in the 5th grade and just got bigger year by year. I learned to juggle when I was ten. I come from a family of entertainers and was always the class clown."

Dallas is the guy at Pier 60 Sunset Festival who juggles, escapes, and balances things on his head as he entertains the crowds most evenings at sunset. In the classical sense, he is a street performer, but he likes to be called a "busker" - a person who practices the art of "doing things (entertainment) in public to collect money."

Dallas was born into a military family in Delaware and was raised in Illinois. He lived in Clearwater Beach for 19 years and moved to Dunedin 6 years ago.

Growing up in a small Illinois town, everyone knew everyone. His yard was the neighborhood's playground. His brother, who was four years older, juggled and performed physical tricks and Dallas tried to keep up.

"The tricks and the juggling started as a hobby, something to do with friends," says Dallas.

Each winter, his high school had a Middle Ages/Renaissance themed "Madrigal Dinner." The kids put on a show while the parents ate an eight-course meal. The event featured all kinds of tricks and entertainment and Dallas and his brother's style were a perfect fit.

One year, his brother played the Court Jester. Following in his footsteps, Dallas played the Court Jester four years later.

"In junior and senior high schools, we performed at half time between basketball games," recalls Dallas. As a high school freshman, Dallas and his buddies won the school's talent show.

After high school, Dallas joined the Air Force Reserves and was stationed in Biloxi, Mississippi, a short hop from

New Orleans. "I was surprised how many street performers there were," says Dallas. "That is when I first realized you could make money at this".

In 1993, Dallas moved to Sarasota and got a real job. Nearby Bradenton, also known as "Circus Town," was where several circus performers spent the winter. One day, he saw an ad looking for jugglers with the "Roberts Circus." He was curious and went to watch. After watching the other guys try out, he borrowed some pins and showed them what he could do. The owner liked him, and Dallas literally ran away with the Circus.

The Roberts Circus was what they call a "Mud Show"—meaning they played a different city virtually every day. A year later after that got old, he moved to Clearwater. The City was in the process of creating its Sunsets at Pier 60. "Once again, I just went there just to see what it was all about," Dallas remembers.

"We had the pleasure of meeting Dallas, -also known at the human volcano, street performer extraordinariness, back in 1995. He was part of the opening team for our Pier 60 Concessions. Dallas was new to the area and worked part-time for our operation. During the evenings he would balance a lawn mower on his chin, with the grand finale of his 'human volcano' fire breathing as part of the Sunsets at Pier 60 Festival. Dallas has played a huge role in the success of the nightly sunset celebration. He is not only a seasoned entertainer, but more importantly a friend and someone who is passionate about Clearwater Beach," Lisa Chandler, Coordinator of Pier 60 Events explains.

The Pier 60 area was under construction and it was not anything like it is today. "The talent consisted of a juggler, named Dextre, and Wade Henry, a guy who juggled while riding a unicycle. Eventually, I was given the job of Busker Coordinator," says Dallas. "It was my job to find and review other entertainers."

"I have worked closely with Dallas, since 2000. He is an great asset to Sunsets Daily Festival. He always has the festival as his top priory. I look forward to working with him for many years to come," says Sunsets Pier 60 Manager Jean Hagen.

Today, Dallas and his oldest son Nick (28) work together at Pier 60. Even his youngest, The Great Carter (5) has a few tricks of his own.

"Traveling entertainers have a name for the venues where they perform - 'The Pitch.' My pitch is Pier 60," says Dallas. "The people here are honest, nice, and so

appreciative—and I never have to worry about someone stealing my stuff."

"The best day I ever had was in 2015—the day after Christmas. Even though it was threatening to rain and the crowds were small, the watchers were in the Christmas spirit. The people were very generous with their tips."

"America has become more of a cashless society. In general, this has hurt the tipping industry. People rarely carry cash and rely on credit cards and APPS. So, I have to have an APP on my cell phone to receive their tips."

"Those who come to the pier to watch sunsets are a mixed crowd. It has changed over the years and is probably 75% tourists and 25% locals. With the construction of new and more expensive hotels, the clientele has gone way up."

"I regularly perform at private events; businesses hire me for major corporate events. I do not do kids birthday parties—that is just not my thing. Sunsets at Pier 60 is my best event."

"On March 12th, the world as we know it changed due to Covid 19. Our festival shut down for three months and the entertainment still hasn't recovered. Many people have been forced to reinvent themselves. Nick and I don't get any satisfaction from doing Zoom or social media shows. We totally feed off the energy of a live audience. The Sunset Festival was allowed to reopen June 5th, but everyone must follow festival, city and CDC guidelines."

"For 30 years the goal was to get as many people as we could, as close together as possible. Not anymore. Now to do shows, we practice social distancing and cannot use audience participants in the show. Normally, in a street show, the audience is as big as a part of the show as the performer. But we are grateful we can perform, the three months without hearing laughter felt like a lifetime."

Learn more about Dallas' act at www.DallasAndNick.com. ■



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CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM NEWS

The Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) unveiled their new Dolphin Habitat, the Ruth and J.O. Stone Dolphin Complex, where Winter and the other dolphins will live. The Ribbon Cutting took place at the end of July on the first floor of the complex. The complex, part of an \$80 million expansion project is the culmination of a fourteen-year dream of a state-of-the-art dolphin facility to house those dolphins who cannot be released back into the wild. Now, they have a forever home where they can enjoy a good and wholesome life in an enriched environment. The five pools in the complex, totaling 1.5 million gallons with nine viewing windows, were designed with the input and collaboration from some of the world's leading marine mammal veterinarians and scientists who provided their expertise. The Complex triples CMA's dolphin pool space, allowing for the care of additional rescued animals.

The nine viewing windows offer sweeping underwater views of all five residents Winter, Hope, PJ, Nicholas and Hemingway, including the 40-foot wide by 14-foot tall Kate Tiedemann and Ellen Cotton Main Dolphin Pool and Observation Window. It is also known as "The Window of Wonder." Weighing 52,000 pounds, it is one of the biggest acrylic windows in Florida!

Nicholas and Hemingway were the first dolphins to be relocated into the new pools. A few days later, Winter, Hope and PJ joined them in their pools. While these moves may seem like a non-event, they are not. It takes a great deal of pre-planning to orchestrate such relocations and the moves were made without incident through the coordination of their animal care team, dive team, veterinary team, facilities team, and volunteers.

"We are so excited to unveil this beautiful new space after fourteen years of planning and discussions," said CEO Frank Dame. "Each guest that comes through our doors allows us the ability to rescue, rehab, release, and care for our non-releasable resident marine animals." Dame continued, "With the additional capacity this beautiful and custom-made habitat affords us, we will be able to care for twice as many rescued animals and give them the best care available."

The opening of Winter's new home is the first in a two-phased opening for the Stone Dolphin Complex. It provides them with triple the space for the dolphins, five times more space for guests and almost 400 parking spaces for guest vehicles.

This fall, CMA will open the third-floor access to the Stone Complex with views of Clearwater Beach and the top of the dolphin habitats. Additionally, Phase II of the expansion project will also include a new entrance experience, new dining areas with locally-sourced food options and beer and wine, a new retail area, private event space with a

ballroom and full prep kitchen, a high tech theatre, double the education space, four private meeting rooms, and five-times the guest space.

Due to the pandemic, all tickets, boat trip sales, and parking must be pre-purchased online or through a hotel front desk or concierge. Face coverings are required on site for all guests ages 5 and up. No exceptions permitted. Limited capacity is in effect to promote social distancing

Regular admission prices are:

- Adults: \$26.95
- Seniors: \$24.95
- Children (3-12): \$21.95
- Under 3: Free

Prices are even lower for Florida Residents, through September 30:

- Adults: \$19.99
- Seniors: \$19.99
- Children (3-12): \$15.99
- Under 3: FREE.

NOTE: There are even lower prices for attending between 4 until 8pm, starting at \$15.99 for adults.

NEW MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM - Clearwater Marine Aquarium has a new membership program for individuals and families who would like to purchase a yearly pass. Members receive many other benefit including discounts on special programs, food and beverage—plus free or discounted admission to reciprocal attractions. Details, are available at www.SeeWinter.com.

Clearwater Marine Aquarium is located at 249 Windward Passage, Clearwater.



CLEARWATER COUPLE MAKING FACE MASKS DURING THE PANDEMIC

By Pete Magnani

In late February, as the Covid-19 pandemic began spiraling, Eva and Waldemar Kubiak watched the news with trepidation. Italy went on lock down, and our Surgeon General was telling people not to buy masks - we needed to save them for the front-line healthcare workers. The Kubiaks did some research and discovered a gaping hole in the U.S. market for medical face coverings.

In their early 20s, the Kubiaks had emigrated from Poland to Chicago. There, they developed several successful businesses, including a riverboat tour, a granite company, and several indoor soccer facilities. (In Poland, Waldemar was a professional soccer player.) Two years ago, they moved to the Sunshine State, settling in Clearwater Beach and opened The Clearwater Fun Boat and Summertime Boat Rentals at the Clearwater Beach Marina. The pandemic lockdown temporarily closed both businesses.

In researching mask production, the Kubiaks found over 80% of the medical face coverings sold in the U.S. are manufactured in China. With trade shut down by the pandemic, Eva, whose mother was a nurse, felt an obligation to try and produce an alternative. "My grandparents survived World War II and my parents lived through communism in Poland. I felt like this (the pandemic) is MY war," she said. The couple decided to manufacture

masks and began to acquire the necessary machines and materials.

Eva reached out to Clearwater Mayor Frank Hibbard, who connected the Kubiaks with the City of Clearwater Economic Development Team, and the Pinellas County Emergency Management Team. After several delays and roadblocks, the Kubiaks purchased the necessary machines and found a suitable manufacturing space at 2310 Tall Pines Drive in Largo. The next hurdle was locating the filtration materials for the three mask layers.

Outside China, the fabrics are only made in a handful of countries, with only two U.S. producers. It was important to the Kubiaks to source material domestically, and they were able to secure supply from both American companies. After receiving orders from Pinellas County and several private companies, production began and AmerMed was formed. It quickly grown to nine employees. They currently produce about 50,000 masks per day and can manufacture over 150,000 per day should demand increase. Their masks have completed two of three tests necessary for FDA approval and anticipate passing the third requirement shortly.

With the lock down over and tourism returning to Clearwater, the Kubiaks' boat businesses have reopened. Still, Eva and Waldemar hope to continue making a difference in the pandemic fight producing a quality product here in the United States.



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HAVE HAND SANITIZER DERMATITIS?

By Dr. Kathy L. Anderson, DO, FAOCD

Our world has changed since the beginning of the New Year! We are now wearing masks, using cleaning products constantly and using lots of hand sanitizer!! Our skin takes a beating with all the alcohol based products that are designed to sanitize and kill bacteria and viruses on surfaces and on ourselves. Our hands are saying "Ouch!" to all the washing and wiping!



According to the CDC, a hand sanitizer must have at least 60% alcohol to be effective against the Corona virus. Some products have more than 60%. That is a very high alcohol content to be bathing our hands in, over and over again.

Many people are finding their hands becoming dry, cracking and even bleeding, if it gets bad enough. And, those patients with Eczema will especially suffer as their hands will get very irritated and inflamed. What to do?

Well, first, we must keep up with the sanitizing and washing but, at the same time, let's think of ways to keep your hands comfortable while we work and take care of ourselves.

Keep your hands gloved while cleaning surfaces with cleansers or wipes. This will protect against some of the products. Change disposable gloves often.

Moisturize your hands after washing. Hyaluronic acid based moisturizers are great for keeping water content in the skin, but will not make your hands greasy. Neutrogena makes a good one called "Hydroboost." At night, you may want to try a heavier moisturizer like Aquaphor which will act as a protectant and barrier cream overnight. Aveeno also makes heavy duty moisturizers for people with Eczema, which are thicker and heavier for overnight healing.

Cortisone creams will help the itching and pain that can occur if your hands get really bad.

Over the counter cortisone might work, or you may need a stronger one from your dermatologist. Always put the cortisone cream on before your moisturizer. It will work best this way.

If you have eczema and your hands get REALLY bad with cracking and bleeding, you may need oral antibiotics from your doctor for a short period of time. This will help speed up the healing.

Remember, keep moisturizing and protect your hands! If hand dermatitis gets severe, it can be a difficult task to get hands back to a comfortable level, so prevention is the key! Keep moisturizers handy so you will not forget. Your hands will thank you!

To everyone: Stay safe, be aware, be kind and smile.

Dr. Anderson is a Board Certified Dermatologist who has been practicing dermatology since 1995 and has been in the Clearwater area since 1999. Find Dr. Anderson at 510 E. Druid Road, Suite A, Clearwater, or call her at (727) 462-5242.

**"SORRY YOU MISSED IT..."
FRED HOSLEY'S NEW BOOK**

Longtime Clearwater resident Fred Hosley recently published his first book, *Sorry You Missed It...* As Hosley explains:

"I wrote this book not for literary applause, but as a story to read; a trip down memory lane for readers of my generation and for younger generations, a peek at how we lived. The main characters are getting ready to start seventh grade at Clearwater Junior High in the mid-fifties.

In my young adult years, I loved to tell my children stories of my adventures growing up in Clearwater, a small beach town tucked between rivers, orange groves and wild country.

During my last five years of practicing dentistry, I studied writing—pushing journals aside on my library bookshelf to make room for new books on how to write fiction.

This book is the first fruit of my dedication to becoming a novelist."

The story takes place in a small beach town in Florida, where twelve-year-old Matt Parker enters the mid-1950s full of life and confidence. Ready to enjoy the growing freedoms of a teenager as he and his buddies enter junior high, trouble appears—a surly ninth-grader named Wayne.

Matt receives a phone call that turns the opening weeks of school into an exploit he never anticipated. The boys set out to protect Billy, who is being threatened by Wayne. Along the way, they encounter an unexpected visitor as they search for buried treasure on Hog Island, try to catch a black snake named Lucille, and go to their first teenage dance party.

Sorry You Missed It... is a coming of age story of fun and laughter, sadness and tears—a dangerous adventure spiced with early rock n' roll and the innocence of a blossoming teenage romance.

Writer Hosley was born in 1945 in Melbourne, Australia and grew up in Clearwater, Florida. His father was an Army Air Corps soldier stationed in Townsville, Australia and his mother, was an Australian "war-bride" who brought him to America on an ocean liner dedicated to bringing the brides and children of American soldiers to the United States after World War II ended and the soldiers returned home.

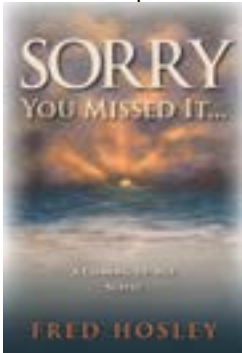
Fred's dad was a young building contractor while his mom was a housewife. He attended South Ward Elementary School from Kindergarten through 6th grade, and Clearwater Junior High School where he was Student Council President in the 9th grade. During his three years at Clearwater High School he was Junior Class President, Senior Class President, captain of the CHS swimming team, and punter and defensive halfback on the CHS football team.

He attended University of Florida in 1963, but his education was interrupted when he was drafted and sent to Ft. Benning.

He served his two-year commitment at Valley Forge General Army Hospital in Pennsylvania. He returned to college and in 1976 graduated from the Emory School of Dentistry in Atlanta, Georgia.

Fred practiced dentistry in Clearwater for 35 years and he now lives on the backwaters of the Withlacoochee River with his wife, Camille, and their golden retriever, Sunday.

Sorry You Missed It... is available on Amazon.



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WOMEN'S DIVE DAY 2020

By Pete Magnani

Women's Dive Day was conceived in 2014 by members of the Professional Association of Dive Instructors, one of several internationally recognized SCUBA (Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus) training and certification agencies. Six years and over 4000 international events later, Women's Dive Day was celebrated locally in an event that united several local dive charters, clubs, and associations, bringing almost 90 women (and a few guys) out to enjoy the underwater sites off the coast of Clearwater Beach.

Always one of the most popular dive days, the pandemic was an additional obstacle for event planners. Brian Mahardy of B. Mahardy Adventures, Mica Neal of Next Level Dive Club, and T.J Shea from 2Shea Charters organized and coordinated the day's events. Divers were split into morning and afternoon trips on local dive boats to maintain social distancing and ensure a safe experience. "We were a little worried about the logistics of an event of this size during these strange times," said organizer Mahardy, "But it's a testament to the strength and versatility of today's participants that we were able to recognize our local women's diving community safely, in accordance with CDC guidelines."



Divers met at Wet Lines Bait and Tackle at the KSK Marina in Clearwater and were divided among boats from 2Shea, Tanks-A-Lot, Off the Wall Adventures, Gulf Cat, and Gulfport Charters. Once everyone was geared up, the boats departed and headed for different dive locations such as the Veteran's Reef, Circle of Heroes, and

the Rube Allyn. The sites are all part of Pinellas County's Artificial Reef Program, begun by the Pinellas County Division of Solid Waste in 1975. It now consists of 42 artificial reefs made from inert debris including: concrete pipes, steel beams, barges, and sunken ships. The morning divers returned to the dock around noon and met with the afternoon group for a barbecue lunch. The second group then loaded up and headed out to get their dives in before the afternoon storms rolled through. The weather held out just long enough and everyone had a great time. Brenda Letts and Erin Langenburg, two of the proprietors of Letts Dive!, a majority women-owned dive shop in St. Petersburg, brought a group of divers on the morning trip. "Women's Dive Day is a wonderful celebration of women in a sport that was, in the past, male dominated," said Langenburg. "At Letts Dive!, we celebrate women in diving every day with our Sisters of Sedna dive group - and I feel honored to be able to dive and connect with such a great group of women." (Sedna is the goddess of the sea and marine animals in Inuit mythology.) Despite its challenges, the day was an overwhelming success and planning is underway for next year's event. Organizers look forward to an even bigger and better celebration of the Bay-area women's dive community in 2021. Visit www.2sheacharters.com or call (727) 798-1269 for information.



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CENSUS IS WRAPPING UP

Beginning in August, census takers will begin visiting homes to collect responses from those whom have not already responded to the 2020 census. Census takers will wear masks, follow local public health guidelines and take a virtual COVID-19 training before beginning to work in your neighborhood.

Census takers are hired from your area, and their goal is to help you and everyone in your home be counted in the 2020 Census. If the census taker who visits your home does not speak your language, you may request a return visit from a census taker who does speak your language. If no one is home when the census taker visits, the census taker will leave a notice of their visit with information about how to respond online, by phone or by mail. If someone visits your home to collect information for the 2020 Census, check to make sure they have a valid ID badge with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date. A census taker will never ask for your social security information. Census workers may also carry Census Bureau bags and other equipment with the Census Bureau logo.

If you respond online or by phone today, a census taker is less likely to have to visit your home to collect your response

CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM WELCOMES RESCUED DOLPHIN

Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) is excited to announce it has been selected by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to be the forever home to a new rescued male dolphin. The new dolphin will provide a companion for CMA rescued resident Nicholas, another male Atlantic bottlenose dolphin.

In July 2019, the Atlantic bottlenose dolphin stranded in shallow waters off Fiesta Key, Fla. When he was rescued, the dolphin was weak and was found to have severe pneumonia. After several weeks of treatment, the dolphin's health improved but further testing indicated he had hearing loss. Due to his ongoing health issues and hearing loss, NMFS ultimately determined the dolphin was not a candidate for release

Estimated to be approximately 26-years old, the dolphin weighs 700-pounds and has been named Hemingway. He joined Nicholas in CMA's new Dolphin Terrace.

MARINEMAX DEDICATES NEW HABITAT HOME

For the third time, MarineMax partnered with Habitat for Humanity to present a deserving family the keys to their new home in Clearwater, Florida. "A Habitat for Humanity house dedication ceremony is life-changing," states Brett McGill, MarineMax Chief Executive Officer and President. "The pandemic presented challenges, but our leadership team came out to celebrate and honor the Taylor family."

On the morning of June 23, 2020, a single mother with twin 13-year-olds, an 11-year-old, and a 3-year-old received keys to their new home. MarineMax chooses to partner with Habitat for Humanity because their core values and mission are closely aligned. They wanted something that helps local communities and involves teamwork.

McGill continues, "when you take time to volunteer, you hear the history of Habitat, it's a moment that sets you back and makes you say – WOW! Their mission is very powerful. MarineMax has dedicated three houses, but we've been a part of two or three more builds. I started with them seven years ago because community service is significant to my family and to me. And it never gets old. Every year you see smiling faces from volunteers and you get to meet a new, deserving family."



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MORTON PLANT VOLUNTEER MARY ELLEN OWEN CELEBRATES 100

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

When Mary Ellen Owen was born - May 31, 1920 - Woodrow Wilson was President. That was 100 years ago. She does not remember much about Wilson, but she does remember parts of the 1920s—and a lot more. She packed a lot of living over her 100 years.

She was born right at the end of WWI. Wilson had just established the League of Nations. J. Edgar Hoover was starting the FBI. Women gained the right to vote the same year. Radio, known as the “talking box,” was gaining in popularity and had been used during the 1920 Presidential Election.

Mary Ellen was born in St. Louis. But because her father was a “traveling” minister for the Methodist church, she lived in many different cities, most of them in North Carolina.

As a 10-year-old, she remembers the Great Depression and the sacrifices everyone had to make. During the 1930s, she remembers people begging for food at her parents’ back door. She remembers her dad’s first car—a Model T. Later he owned a “Jewett”, a larger, five-passenger car.

While growing up, she studied history and practiced drama. A talent scout once offered her a part in a film directed by David O. Selznick – turns out it was “Gone with the Wind.” She passed on that opportunity.

In 1940, she attended Duke University. Then, the campus was divided into separate Men and Women’s Colleges. While at Duke, she met, and at the age of 18, married Richard Owen. Dick, as he was known, later worked for the American Tobacco Company in North Carolina and Richmond, Virginia. He bought and sold tobacco.



Mary Ellen and husband Dick

After they were married, Dick joined the Navy to fight in WWII. Mary Ellen continued her studies at Duke.

After WWII, Mary Ellen did some print modeling in New York and runway modeling in Richmond, VA. She was a docent at the Virginia Museum. Through the years, she traveled to England, France, and Russia many times.

After Dick retired, he developed some health issues, leading the couple to decide to move to Florida. After sampling many cities, they settled on Belleair Bluffs in 1970. This also put them close to their son Richard, who lives in Dunedin.

They were the very first to buy a condominium in the Harbour Club’s Building A overlooking the Intracoastal. Mary Ellen has lived in that same unit now for 50 years.

Not one to just sit around, Mary Ellen got involved in her local community. She joined The National Society of Arts and Letters, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), and the Pinellas Republican Women’s Club. She is a Tri-Delta alumna, member of the First United Methodist Church and a longtime member of the Belleair County Club and its Book Club.

“Mary Ellen has been a member of this club for 43 years and I have known her for 23,” says Ed Shaughnessy, Belleair Country Club’s General Manager. “I knew her husband - a true gentleman before he passed away. She was very devoted to him and brought him to the club in his wheelchair many times for years before he passed. Her positive attitude, congenial personality and beautiful smile make her pleasant to be around. She is strong-minded, soft-hearted, and pleasantly old fashioned. Mary Ellen is deeply religious, and the world is blessed to have her influence for over a century.”

Mary Ellen takes credit for naming the small park to the west of Harbour Club condos - Pelican Park - the first park Belleair Bluffs ever developed.

“When Dick got sick, he spent a lot of time at Morton Plant Hospital,” says Mary Ellen. “I was so pleased with the way they treated him, I wanted to give them something back.”

Twenty years ago, she started volunteering at Morton Plant. “I have done everything from working in the gift shop to working in the surgical waiting room and hosting the front desk.”

“When you are around Mary Ellen, there is a certain aura,” says Vicki Pikal, her Morton Plant Hospital Guest Services boss. “When she goes home, she leaves



Mary Ellen - 100 and counting!

some of that aura with us. She has the patience of a saint.”

“In the beginning, I was there three days a week, then two and recently only one. I gave up my car a few years ago, and another volunteer would pick me up for my weekly shift,” explains Mary Ellen.

Mary Ellen volunteered right up until March when the COVID-19 shutdown started, and Morton Plant Hospital temporarily furloughed all their outside volunteers. She is anxious to be called back to work.

Her 100th Birthday Celebration

Her birthday in May was full of surprises. Still practicing “Safer at Home,” that morning her neighbors did a “walk-by parade” leaving cards and a cake at her front door. They all gathered at the pool so she could see them waving to her with signs and balloons.

In the afternoon, she went to Dunedin to spend time with her son, Richard (79) and his wife, Eby. To honor her, friends from DAR, Morton Plant and her church coordinated a birthday parade down his street, which also included fire trucks and Sheriff cars.

In addition to her son, she has two grandchildren, six great grandchildren, and two great great grandchildren.

Her son, Richard, sums her up best. “I am blessed to have had a mother like her. She has certainly led a very happy and diverse life.” ■

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