

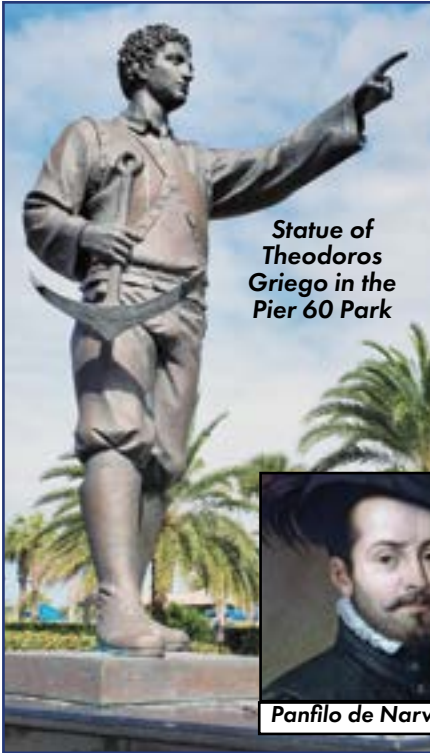
NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Magazine

THEODOROS GRIEGO Pinellas County & America's First Greek Explorer

By Bob Griffin, Publisher



Statue of Theodoros Griego in the Pier 60 Park



Panfilo de Narvaez

If alive today, Theodoros Griego would be over 500 years old. Thanks to the efforts of Belleair Beach resident Michael Servos, Griego's memory is still alive and "resides" near Pier 60 in Clearwater Beach.

Theodoros Griego was an explorer and carpenter by trade. He relocated from the Aegean area of Greece to Spain, where the translation of his name was "Theodore Greek." In 1527, he joined a group of 400 Spanish explorers heading to the New World to look for gold with the permission of King Charles V of Spain.

In April of 1528, the group came onshore on a piece of marsh land due east of today's John's Pass. Led by their captain, Panfilo de Narvaez, a Spanish conquistador and explorer with a reputation for being unpleasant and quite mean, the group had 80 horses and numerous pit bull dogs.

After infuriating the native Indians by cutting off Chief Hirrihigua's nose and killing his wife, they demanded to know "Where is the gold?" The Indians who spoke no Spanish, pointed north and said: "Apalachen." Navarez told the men still waiting on their five sailing ships to head north and meet them on the coast. The rest, mostly soldiers, saddled up and headed north through what they called "La Florida" in search of gold they believed was here. Among the foot soldiers was the ship's scribe Cabeza de Vaca and Theodore the Greek.

- Continued on page 6

Also in this Issue:

Community Dental Clinic

They have provided over \$5 million in FREE dental care to low income, uninsured Pinellas County residents. - page 24

Local Artist Dies

A man of many talents, Larry Gerwig was an accomplished artist and active Board Member of the Beach Art Center. - page 19



Recycling Challenging Items

Do you know what can and cannot be recycled? - page 31

Meet Cory Fields

He coordinates the team of three full-time staff divers and about 80 volunteers that maintain the Clearwater Aquarium's tanks. - page 30

CREDITS



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INDIAN ROCKS BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

Inside, you will find articles and local information about the nearby area. We call it Neighborhood News because it is primarily about our 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 magazine. We want your input. Did you like this issue? What suggestions do you have for future articles? Call or email us 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 SEPTEMBER!



CHANGES AT THE CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

Rich in history and tradition, the Clearwater Yacht Club (CYC) is one of the oldest yacht clubs in the United States. Chartered February 14, 1911, at 110 years old, CYC is also one of the oldest organizations in Clearwater. During that time, there have been over 100 Commodores, each leading the organization in their own way.

Obviously, with that many years behind them, CYC has had some ups and downs, but 2020 was especially difficult due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Like so many other businesses and restaurants, CYC had to temporarily close its dining room, and only provided take-out. Individual groups within the Club did not meet; activities ended. Some remodeling projects were put on hold. While no one was laid off, some employees left as a personal decision. It was unlike anything CYC had experienced in its long history and no one knew what to expect.



But as restrictions were lifted this year, the club started a comeback. The first step was hiring new General Manager Michael Ciaccio. He comes from Hope Valley Country Club near Durham, North Carolina and is a Certified Club Manager. He started in late April.

GM Michael Ciaccio To improve the food service during the pandemic, Michael Irwin, already a Club employee, was promoted from bartender to Food and Beverage Manager. He previously worked at Disney World in food management and is an experienced chef. He recently filled in as the temporary chef while a search was underway for a permanent one. As

Food and Beverage Manager, he keeps an eye on the kitchen, while overseeing the service in the dining room.

“My goal is to make this a fun and friendly place to go,” says Irwin.



Chef Jermaine Bass and Michael Irwin

The final step in CYC’s full reopening was the hiring of Chef Jermaine Bass in May. Bass comes to Clearwater Yacht Club from the Tampa Club. He is in the process of developing a new menu. In addition, the Club has been busy hiring and training many new staff members—both in the bar area and wait staff for the dining rooms, so expect to see some new faces. The postponed remodel of various parts of the building, including the restrooms and the docks, has resumed.

Mary Kay Delk became the Commodore in December of 2020 and has been leading the reopening efforts.

“We made it through the year of Covid and now Clearwater Yacht Club has returned to its fun, full-service club, says Commodore Delk. “Our members are operating races and cruises; our party schedule is full and we’re taking advantage of this great weather to hang out on the tiki deck. We have a new General Manager and Chef and are better than ever.”

Currently the Clearwater Yacht Club has about 450 members. They remind you that you do not need to own a boat to be a member, many members don’t. There is never a monthly minimum for food or drink. Once again, they are offering a limited summer membership. Call for details 727-447-6000.

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Did You Know



HELP NESTING SEA TURTLES

Our beaches are nesting sites to loggerheads, green sea turtles, as well as the critically endangered Kemp's ridley. It is estimated only 1 in 1,000 hatchlings will survive into adulthood. Clearwater Marine Aquarium monitors about 21 miles of beach daily during the nesting season, to help ensure our beaches are as safe as possible for the nesting turtles and their hatchlings.

They need your help! You can help protect a nest by purchasing a \$200 plaque to mark a nest and help protect sea turtles. All proceeds go toward supporting CMA's Sea Turtle Nesting & Conservation program.

The plaque with your personalized message will be placed at an area nest for the season. The nesting team will send you information about your nest, and at the end of the nesting season can keep the plaque. This is a limited program as they discover nests on our beaches.

HOLIDAY FIREWORKS Once again, no fireworks will be allowed on Indian Rock's beach or in our neighborhoods, but local municipal displays are making a comeback after a Covid hiatus. Clearwater will not have their annual display on the waterfront, but will have a display inside BayCare Field (previously Spectrum Field). The event kicks off at 7 pm and includes a concert by The Black Honkeys Band and fun activities and giveaways for kids of all ages. It concludes with a dazzling, music-choreographed fireworks show at 9:15 pm. Concessions, such as hamburgers, hot dogs and popcorn, will be available on-site for purchase, as well as adult beverages. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased by calling (727) 712-7300 or <http://bit.ly/ClearwaterCelebratesAmerica>. Largo will also have fireworks in Central Park

STINGRAY SEASON IS UNDERWAY

Stingrays are in area waters, so do the "stingray shuffle" when entering beach waters. By shuffling your feet in the sand, you will scare off any stingrays that might be around.



If you manage to surprise a stingray and get stung, you are likely to have a very painful reaction. It is going to hurt, but don't panic. Control the bleeding and clean the wound with soap and fresh, clean water. If that's not available, at least rinse the wound with sea water. Get medical attention either at an urgent care facility or the nearest fire station. Remove small parts or barbs of the stinger with tweezers or pliers only if emergency medical care will be significantly delayed.

Stingray season is expected to last through October.

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ANOTHER ARTIST IN THE FAMILY

Plein Air Cottage Artist Mary Rose Holmes's grandson is following in her footsteps. 18 year old Mitch Holmes, who just graduated from high school has been painting with her for about five years. Since his senior year in high school, he has been coming over to her art studio and painting at least two or three times a week. He has been very influenced by the Highwaymen Paintings and loves that genre.



Channel 13 recently filmed Mitch and Mary Rose painting together out on the beach and featured it in a segment, "What's Right with Tampa Bay."

LARGO'S GOLF COURSE Rumors are swirling around the closing or sale of the Largo Golf Course. The par-62 "executive course" has been open since 1969 and while the City of Largo admits that the city's only public golf course is not making a profit, they plan to keep it open. City managers say the golf course loses approximately \$100,000 per year. Although it is a burden on the city's finances, the City Council has no plans to sell or develop it into houses or businesses.

VACATION RENTAL MAGNETS During a recent Commissioners meeting, Commissioner Houseberg suggested the idea of creating an informational magnet to be displayed in vacation rental properties informing visitors of our City's basic rules and regulations – no dogs on the beach, turtle nesting season, fireworks, parking, speed limits, golf carts, etc.

Commissioner Houseberg created a concept and worked with the City on the final language. The design is complete, and the magnets are being printed. The plan is to mail one to each vacation rental located in our residential areas and distribute additional magnets to all rental properties later in the year.

A big THANK YOU to Commissioner Houseberg for her talents in designing this informational tool.

CLEAN & DRY RECYCLABLES ONLY

The Solid Waste & Recycling Department asks that your recyclables be clean and dry. When a recycling program uses single-stream processing - all recyclable materials are mixed together. Plastic containers or bottles with leftover food or drink, can turn good recycling into garbage. A few drops of water here and there won't ruin the quality, but food and other liquids can contaminate everything it touches not only in your container, but on the recycling truck that picked it up.



Materials soiled with contamination – especially paper and cardboard – can not be turned into something new due to loss of quality. It may also grow mold, have bad odors and attract pests. To make sure your recycling is able to be turned into something new - only put clean, dry items in your blue container.

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

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MICHAEL SERVOS & THE THEODOROS GRIEGO STATUE, continued



**Jungle Prada De Narvaez Park
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first Greek to visit Florida—and for that matter—America. Other Greek explorers followed, but it would be centuries before large numbers arrived. Today a statue memorializes him in the Pier 60 Park.

So how did that statue end up in at Clearwater Beach's Pier 60? Michael Servos. He paid for it and in conjunction with City of Clearwater, arranged for the installation of the 900-pound work of art.

Servos (73) originally from Greece and the owner of the Freightz Transportation Company, is a 30-year resident of Belleair Beach. He immigrated to the United States with his family at the age of 14 and grew up in New York. He has promoted Greek culture and "Hellenism" in America for almost 50 years.

"Griego was the first Greek in America," says Servos with pride. "I thought we needed to remember him, so I planned and paid for this statue. It was built in Italy and cost \$100,000, which is \$140,000 in today's dollars. The statue was \$70,000; The base was another \$30,000. It was shipped to directly to Clearwater."

Along the way, Narvaez and his men encountered more Indians who had already been warned of evil men coming their way. They were attacked many times, losing soldiers in every battle while the Indians tried to protect their land and families.

Narvaez's troop dwindled as they traveled north along the west coast crossing the Suwanee River and then the St. Marks Rivers, after they turned west into the Panhandle. They ended up on the banks of the Mississippi River. At this point, they were down to 100 men and no horses. And of course, still no gold.

Narvaez decided to build some boats and paddle away from the land – hoping to find their waiting ships. Unfortunately, his ships were long gone. The ships' new captain assumed Narvaez and his men were long since dead.

Theodoros Griego was the only survivor with any carpentry skills. He supervised the weary soldiers as they cut down southern pines and lashed them together with deer leather and pine tar into four or five 30-foot seaworthy rafts.

They launched the rafts into the Mississippi where they were attacked again. Their bad luck continued with a major storm in the Gulf of Mexico that drowned most of the remaining men including Captain Narvaez.

Upon landing on a beach (probably near Louisiana), Griego went in search of water and was killed by waiting Indians. Only eight of the original 300 men made it to Mexico City. Just four made it back to Spain in 1537 almost ten years later.

Cabeza de Vaca, the ship's scribe, documented the entire trip and wrote a book in 1542 leaving us all the details.

Theodoros Griego is thought to be the



Painting of Panfilo de Narvaez and his crew on the beach

Servos points out the base is shaped like a ship's bow. "Theodoros is standing on the bow of a ship, looking for America," says Servos proudly. At the base of the statue is a plaque reading, "The history of Greeks (Hellenes) in America starts from here."

The City held a big ribbon-cutting in 2005 when it was installed and gave Michael Servos the Key to the City.

"Mike Servos has passionately represented the Greek community in Clearwater and Pinellas for decades. Many don't know it, but Clearwater has the largest Greek population in Pinellas County. I supported the statue of Theodoros Griego because it honored our Greek heritage and the beginning of a strong Greek tradition in the U.S. and Florida. The statue also represented Clearwater's commitment to public art. It perks the interest of tourists and

residents to seek a little more history," says Mayor Frank Hibbard who was also the Mayor when the statue was installed. In addition to the statue of Theodoros Griego in Clearwater Beach, Servos has inspired (and in many cases, paid for) many other statues in the U.S. and in several Greek cities. The list of locations



Michael Servos

is too long to include here.

Locally, he started the Plato Academy Charter School. It operates nine campuses in Florida that teach the Greek language and culture. He is also the co-founder of the Athenian Academy Charter School in Clearwater and in Ft. Myers, in partnership with the Greek Embassy Department of Education.

He is a member and in some cases board member of several social groups devoted to the preservation of Greek heritage. He was founder and first President of the "Foundation of Hellenism of America."

"Mr. Servos has a special appreciation of the culture, traditions, and history of Greece - he epitomizes "Zorba the Greek" whose love of life is a testament to the spirit that is shared by those of Greek descent," says past Mayor George Cretokos.

He has already planned his final resting place—in Greece. He has a tomb waiting for him near the Central Square of his village of Sopik with his name "Plateia Michael Servos" inscribed in addition his personal saying: "Hellenism is the perfect method of thinking that was adopted by humanity."

He hopes to be remembered as an anxious revolutionary who refused to get down from the scaffolding of life by building projects to foster Hellenism. Get more information on Hellenism of America, online at www.Hellenes.com. You can reach Michael Servos by email at Dodonaios@AOL.com.

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RETIREMENT PLANNING ISN'T FOR THE TIMID

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

The process of actually planning to retire is not easy, but going into retirement with no formal written plan, or quasi-plan, makes the golden years a lot more complicated and unpredictable. It can all be a bit overwhelming both financially and emotionally.

For 40-50 years you have worked, earning a paycheck, a bonus (hopefully) each year, saved, invested, etc. and then one day the paycheck and the bonus stop. It is a pretty uncomfortable feeling. Maybe you are lucky enough to have a traditional pension, but then you have to decide what is the best way to take the pension. You probably have a Social Security benefit, but do you take it at age 62 (the earliest), Full Retirement Age (FRA) which is between 66 and 67, or do you wait until age 70 (maximum)? What about health care – use COBRA or Obama Care if under age 65, or switch to Medicare at age 65?

How much income do you need to cover expenses? Most people severely underestimate how much they spend. Break it down into fixed (must have) expenses and variable (like to have) expenses. Once you subtract out your fixed (pension, Social Security, annuities -if any) income, how much more income do you need? How much do you have in savings and investments? What return are you projecting? If the amount you need to withdraw is greater than 4-5% of your investments, you will likely have a problem down the road.

How could you have a problem if the amount you are projecting to earn is greater than the amount you will withdraw? First, what if the market is down in bear territory and your portfolio declines 20% or more in a given year, or perhaps over several years? How will you recover the lost value? Secondly, you will need to make adjustments for inflation over the 20-30 years in retirement. Either one let alone both will have a dramatic affect over that time period. So, let's begin with the end in mind – a happy stressless retirement both financially and emotionally. The best way to do that is with a written plan. Take advantage of our one-hour complimentary consultation to learn more about creating a retirement plan. You are retiring for the first time; we have helped thousands achieve the retirement they always wanted.

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In her book, "If My Ass Were Smaller Life Would be Perfect and Other Lies the Mean Girl in Your Head Tells You," Intuitive Eating Counselor and Anti-Diet Coach Julie Glynn, from Clearwater Beach teaches you how to neutralize that Mean Girl voice in your head.

With two master's degrees, one in education and one in health and wellness coaching, and years working in both fields, combined with her own life experience, Glynn has seen how the inner voice negatively impacts your thoughts.

Your Mean Girl might discourage you from taking risks, judge the foods you eat, cause you to doubt your intelligence or ability to succeed, or inflict excessive guilt, self-doubt, and critical judgment. You do not have to believe what she is telling you - not anymore. Each chapter of this book addresses a different lie Mean Girl tells us, some of which pertain to food choices, appearance, comparing ourselves to others, and doubting our skills and abilities.

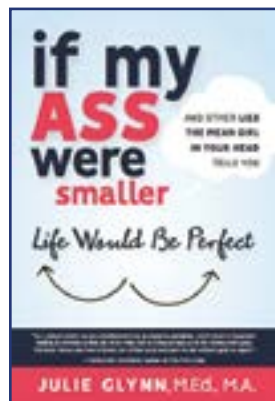
Identifying, listening, and understanding the purpose of our Mean Girl, then creating an alliance with her and using her to our advantage can be life changing. Many people may not know this was even an option. Glynn wrote this book to enlighten readers of the possibility of not only quieting their Mean Girl but also helping them convert her into a voice of encouragement and support. Imagine a life where your worst enemy no longer lives inside your head and your best friend lives there instead.

But what about the conflict most of us feel about the size and shape of our body? Glynn shares her knowledge as an Intuitive Eating Counselor and simplifies what it means to eat intuitively, coming to terms with emotional eating and how to make peace with the one amazing body you have been gifted.

Glynn uses her sense of humor, and love of analogies along with a writing style that draws you in and makes you want to keep reading as she teaches the tools that can quite literally change how you think about yourself, view the world, and finally learn to be nice to yourself. Be sure to have a pen handy as you will likely want to mark it up and take notes.

As we were going to press, the book was awarded the National Indie Excellence Award in the Women's Health category.

Julie Glynn's self-published books are available on Amazon. You can also find her book as well as additional information about her on her website www.GlynnGlynn.com.



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Real Estate News

AIRBNB EFFECT ON IRB REAL ESTATE Friend or Foe?

By Gordon Obarski, Real Estate Broker Gordon Realty House



Unlike many other beach communities, Indian Rocks Beach has a strong sense of "neighborhood." About 65% of IRB households are owner-occupied, which is slightly above the national average of 64% and not at all what one would expect in a resort area. That's why 15 pages of Airbnbs with 20 vacation rentals per page (300+ listings) has raised so many IRB eyebrows.

Referring to the short-term rental impact on our real estate market as "The Airbnb Effect" is a bit of a misnomer. "Airbnb" has become the catch-all term for short-term rentals in general, just as Kleenex is synonymous with a tissue used to blow your nose.

By whatever name, the growth of short-term rentals has moved beyond its roots of renting out space in homes for extra money. Now that investors discovered that Airbnb-like properties offer a better bang for their buck than long-term leases, it's a whole new ballgame. Currently, 196 properties are registered with the City of IRB as short-term rentals, 87% of which are single-family homes and represent 5% of our total available housing. Short-term rentals, previously relegated to the west side of Gulf Blvd., have crept eastward, thanks to legislative changes. There are now 20 single-family short-term rentals in the Harbor Drive neighborhood at the north end of town.

One U.S. study estimates that a 1% increase in Airbnbs boosts rents by .018% and hikes sale prices by .026%. Those percentages seem fairly miniscule but when you consider the Airbnb taxes Florida collected doubled from \$45 million in 2017 to \$90 million in 2018, you can see the longer-term "potential."

Investors converting previously homesteaded properties to short-term rentals is putting even more pressure on single-family inventory. A bidding war between a buyer planning to make IRB their home and a short-term rental investor rarely ends with the "resident" getting the deal. The "Airbner" is willing to pay more since the anticipated rents support the higher price. The non-Airbnb buyer seeking financing runs the risk of the appraisal falling short if they increase their offer to meet or exceed that of the investor. Currently, 1 in 4 appraisals is falling short of the agreed-on price as valuations aren't keeping pace with rapidly escalating values.

Short-term rentals are responsible for about 20% of the increase in U.S. rents. They have noticeably shrunk IRB's long-term lease market, making it more economically challenging for those working in our restaurants, etc. to live close to where they work.

Short-term rentals are your friends if you're selling a property in IRB or want to revel in your increased equity. But, for long-term renters or those desperately trying to buy a house or condo in IRB, short-term rentals are definitely your foes. They have contributed to the creation of a mini-affordable housing crisis, as even some of us who already own homes in IRB could not afford to buy our properties at today's prices.

Source: U.S. Census 5-year Estimates/American Community Survey-2019

WITH NEWLY ADOPTED MAPS
Do you know your current flood zone?

By Karen Williams Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner

Many Pinellas County residents are still rebuilding after the damage from Tropical Storm Eta, which caused significant flooding in several areas around the county last November. That's why it's important for you to know what your current flood zone is, understand your flood risk and be prepared not only for flooding, but to get back on your feet after a flood.



Getting a flood insurance policy will help protect you from the financial devastation of flooding. We all live in a flood zone, which may be high, moderate or low risk. Most lenders require flood insurance if you have a mortgage on a home or business in a high-risk flood zone; however, almost a quarter of the claims submitted are for properties in low and moderate risk flood zones. Even if you don't live in a high-risk flood zone, flood insurance is recommended and is usually available at a highly discounted rate.

It is important to understand what is covered by your flood insurance policy. Many residents that were displaced from their flooded homes after Tropical Storm Eta did not realize that they did not have Loss of Use Coverage for the cost of other living arrangements while their repairs were made. There are also separate flood coverages for contents and building. Make sure you have enough coverage for both.

The Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) recently updated the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for the coastal areas of Pinellas County. The new map is effective on Aug. 24, 2021. The map is used for three main things: to determine flood insurance requirements, flood insurance rates and building requirements. The new map is based on revised coastal flood modeling and may affect owners of properties susceptible to flooding from the Gulf, Tampa Bay, and inland areas near waterways connected to the Gulf or Bay.

If the risk level for a property changes on the FIRM, so may the flood insurance rate and the requirement to carry a flood policy. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is also changing the way they rate flood insurance policies starting Oct. 1, 2021, with a new program called Risk Rating 2.0. Talk to your insurance agent about getting a flood insurance policy in place before these changes take place.

View the new FIRM on the online Flood Map Information Service at floodmaps.pinellascounty.org. While you are on the map service also be sure to look up your hurricane storm surge risk and evacuation zone.

To be clear, flood zones are different from evacuation zones. I encourage you to learn more about your flood risk, know your evacuation zone in the event of a tropical storm or hurricane and purchase flood insurance to protect your home and business. It's the best way to ensure your family and future is financially protected.

If you live in unincorporated Pinellas County and have questions, you can call the Flood Information Services hotline at (727) 464-7700. Property owners within municipal boundaries should call their city.

As always, please send me any of your comments or concerns. You can email me at kseel@pinellascounty.org.

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BAYCARE RECRUITING ALZHEIMER'S STUDY PARTICIPANTS

BayCare Health System's Morton Plant and St. Anthony's hospitals are actively recruiting participants for a clinical trial using a non-invasive retinal screening process that potentially could help detect Alzheimer's disease possibly decades before symptoms appear.

Funded primarily by the Morton Plant Mease Health Care Foundation and St. Anthony's Hospital Foundation, the five-year, \$5 million Atlas of Retinal Imaging in Alzheimer's Study (ARIAS) plans to enroll 330 individuals at three sites – Morton Plant Hospital in Clearwater, St. Anthony's Hospital in St. Petersburg, and The Memory and Aging Program at Butler Hospital in Providence, R.I.

Candidates for this study should be between 55 and 80 years old. Potential participants range from cognitively normal (no memory concerns) to mild (early) Alzheimer's disease. First degree relatives of people with Alzheimer's disease are a key study group in ARIAS because they are naturally at higher risk of developing the disease.

Participants will be examined five times over three years. Each visit will include an eye exam, APOE genetic swab, cognitive assessments and retinal imaging, which is much like what is done during a visit to the eye doctor.

The goal of the study is to develop an inexpensive way to screen people for Alzheimer's, making it possible to identify who will get the disease long before symptoms emerge. Those individuals become candidates to receive potentially effective medications to stop or alter disease development.

Currently, Alzheimer's disease is not clinically diagnosed until clinical symptoms become obvious. By this time, too much damage is done to the brain and patients are experiencing loss to their quality of life. ARIAS will try to find ways to detect Alzheimer's early, before symptoms emerge and there is a decline in the ability to function. If proven effective, the retinal imaging used in the study can be done inexpensively on a visit to the eye doctor.

This study officially launched more than a year ago, but as was the case with many things in 2020, COVID-19 delayed enrollment. "We had hoped to have this study well underway by now, but the pandemic shifted everyone's priorities," said Stuart Sinoff, MD, co-principal investigator and retired medical director of Neurosciences for BayCare's West Region.

If you live near Tampa, Clearwater or St. Petersburg in Florida, and may be interested in participating, please call Catrina Montgomery at 727-298-6077 or email ARIAS@baycare.org.

NEW DOCUMENTARY

The Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) announced the new documentary, "Stranded: A Whale Rescue Story," is being released this Summer. It covers the rescue, rehabilitation, release, and tracking of the five pilot whales that stranded on Redington Beach.

In Summer 2019, CMA received a rescue call like none they had ever received before; five pilot whales had stranded on a beach just 14 miles south of its marine life hospital. Every decision from then on was made to ensure the health and safety of the whales, the staff working on them, and the community who came together to support their efforts.

This documentary includes original footage from the beach and the series of events that followed. Watch as a community of scientists, biologists and bystanders work to save the animals and gain information on why they stranded.

Visit WhaleRescueTale.com to see the trailer.

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NEW HABITAT HOMEOWNER

Michelle, a Certified Medical Assistant, has worked for Baycare for the past three years, and has been in the medical field for over 20 years. She is currently on her journey towards homeownership to give a forever home to her three sons. She has been accepted by the Habitat for Humanity program to buy one of their houses in Danville, an area of Largo.



Her oldest son, Erick, is now in college and is studying crime and forensics. Her son, Josiah, loves to play basketball, loves music, dancing, and playing video games. Her youngest, Sincere, loves to hang out with his brother, ride his bike, play hide-and-seek, and watch his favorite show Paw Patrol. Michelle says, "I am a hard-working mother who is always trying to do what's best for my boys. We love to spend time together with movie nights and more."

The family has been in their current apartment for three years and have experienced ongoing issues the entire time. "There are leaks in the living room ceiling when it rains, bad electrical wiring causes breakers to malfunction if multiple things are on, we have termites, and our outdated windows cause a very high electrical bill." While the boys love to play outside, they currently do not have a proper or safe yard to play in. "All of these things cause me to have concerns for my children's safety and health."

Habitat homes are sold to participants at no profit and are financed with a 30 to 40-year, 0% interest mortgage. Normally they are built with a team of volunteers; but due to covid, Michelle's home was built by subcontractors in the community. She helped with the landscaping.

All applicants go through the same process from application to acceptance. It takes about a year, but they set their own pace. They attend twenty homeownership classes on topics like budgeting, home safety and maintenance, plus normally volunteer 350-450 hours of "sweat equity". Each new homeowner contributes \$1000 towards their closing costs. Candidates must demonstrate need for adequate shelter, the ability to pay back a zero-interest loan and a willingness to invest sweat equity hours.

"When I was accepted into the Habitat program, I was excited and in disbelief," Michelle said. "I just imagine coming home every day to our beautiful, safe, and stable home that is built by the love, sweat and dedication of a great community. My home will be our sanctuary where great memories will be made. I will finally be able to feel complete."

"Don't wait to do tomorrow, what you can do today. Tomorrow is never promised," she explained. "These words of self-motivation helped me on this journey."

Since 1985, Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pasco Counties has served over 850 families and individuals through its new home buyer and exterior repair programs using locally raised funds. This fiscal year alone, they will have built 60 homes throughout Pinellas & Pasco counties and are the second largest Habitat affiliate based on home builds! For more information about Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pasco Counties, call (727) 536-4755 or visit www.habitatpwp.org.

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Community News

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100 WOMEN WHO CARE OF PINELLAS COUNTY

Brenda George and Julie Webster started "100 Women Who Care of Pinellas County" in February 2013 to raise money for local charities. The group has collectively given away \$307,200 in the last eight years. "It has been enlightening to learn about so many charitable groups," says Julie.

100 Women Who Care provides an avenue for women to make a significant impact on local charities. Members commit to attending only 4 meetings per year, and pledge to donate \$100 directly to an elected charity at each meeting. The charities are nominated and voted on by the members. The goal is to have 100 or more members, resulting in \$10,000 for the organization selected at each meeting. The founder of Best Buy, Richard M. Schulze's foundation can match up to \$5,000 of the group's donation. The concept is modeled after the original 100 Women Who Care, started in 2006 by Karen Dunigan, in Jackson, Michigan. Because it is so simple and effective, it has been implemented worldwide. "The most exciting part is that we make a bigger impact when we all come together," says Brenda.

For more information, please contact Brenda George at (727) 515-1868 or Julie Webster at (813) 760-4749 or email them at 100WWCPinellasCounty@gmail.com. Find them on Facebook at 100+ Women Who Care- Pinellas County.

FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS

Looking for a low-stress environment, in a beautiful place, with wonderful people? Volunteer in the Botanical Bounty Gift Shop at the Florida Botanical Gardens!

As a gift shop volunteer, you will conduct sales transactions, help customers, and interact as a "goodwill ambassador" for the Florida Botanical Gardens and the Foundation. Year-round residents are preferred, for consistency. All sales proceeds benefit the Gardens.

No previous sales experience needed, but reliability is important. Shifts are 9 am-1 pm, Monday-Friday.

The Gift Shop is located in the lobby of the Visitor Center at 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774.

To volunteer, contact Communications Coordinator Emily Bloxam at emilyflbgfoundation@gmail.com.

GREENTOWN KIDS

Submitted by Allie DeVore

Happy summer, Greenies!

In honor of June's World Oceans Day, GreenTown Kids chartered two Sea Life Safari Eco Tours with the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. Families enjoyed a day cruise while learning about local marine life with a net pull and island excursion.

We invite everyone to participate in the global Plastic Free July movement. Learn more at: plasticfreejuly.org

In August we will host a back to school donation drive and offer sustainable tips for the school year.

To become a Greenie or support our 501c3 nonprofit, please visit www.greentownkids.org.

THE WELCOME NEWCOMER CLUB

The Welcome Newcomer Club is a social organization that meets the first Tuesday of each month at different venues. The July lunch will be on Tuesday, July 6 at Countryside Country Club at 11:30 am. The program begins at noon with lunch at 12:30 pm. Lunch is \$34.50. RSVP to Carol Stephenson 734-558-9543 or carolynneparas@gmail.com.

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Community News

BEACH ART CENTER

Submitted by Patricia Thomas

Do you want to create but don't consider yourself an "artist"? Check out "Art on the Rocks" at the Beach Art Center. All materials are included, our artist/instructors will give you step by step instructions and you will leave with a finished creation. It is even more fun if you bring a friend or two.

Summer Art on the Rocks include;

- Friday, July 2 Seahorse Pointillist Painting*
- Friday, July 16 Jellyfish Pointillist Painting*

* Learn about Pointillism and use everything BUT paintbrushes to make these fun painted creations. These Pointillism sessions are open to all ages 9 and above. Check out our website for details, www.beachartcenter.org/artontherocks.

- Friday, August 20 Palette Knife Ocean Wave on Canvas
- Friday, August 27 Seashell & Seaglass Wave Mosaic

Did you know the Beach Art Center is open to the public? We are open Monday – Friday, 9-4. Please come see us. We have two galleries full of art and a beautiful gift shop. We are located at 1515 Bay Palm Blvd, IRB (across from Kolb Park). You are always welcome here.

Looking for a special gift? Check out our shop, our unique items are all made by local artists.

Our our next Gallery Show is titled "Just My Imagination" and opens on July 12 and runs through the end of August.

INDIAN ROCKS HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Submitted by Linda Dalina

Indian Rocks Historical Museum is open, Wednesday through Saturday 10am until 2pm. If you have a large group and/or would like to visit at a time outside of normal hours, please call the Museum at 727-593-3861 or email info@irbmuseum.com. The Museum is excited about a new exhibit, Shifting Sands, coming in Fall 2022. If you have an interest in local history, museums, or just like meeting new people, come be a volunteer! Or, just come visit. We would love to meet you and share our small town cottage Museum. Visit our website at www.Irbmuseum.com and our Facebook page, Indian Rocks Beach Historical Museum.

CLEARWATER YACHT CLUB

They are pleased to offer a Summer 2021 Membership program, effective from May 1 – Sept. 30, 2021.

There is no initiation fee and dues are \$200 a month with no monthly food & beverage minimum. This membership is for use at CYC exclusively and includes daytime dockage at CYC when available.

At the close of the summer membership, the Summer Member in good standing may be offered membership in a class of their choice (Full, Social, or Junior) at the currently offered rates for dues and initiation. Prospective members can only take advantage of one Summer membership program.

Call or email the office for more details 727 -447-6000 or office@clearwateryachtclub.org.

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. As a private club, they offer monthly parties, waterfront dining, a heated and chilled pool and safe Covid dining.

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Restaurant & Bar News



18 ON THE ROCKS CLOSSES Owners Nancy Adani and Doug Thompson have decided five years is enough and decided not to renew their lease on the Indian Rocks property.

"Nancy (who is much younger than I) was undecided at first as to whether or not to continue, but she quickly climbed on board," says Thompson. "I, on the other hand have been in the business for 42 years and decided it was time to spend more quality time with my wife, adult children and (soon to be) 8 grandkids as well as my other business interests."

"We are simply leaving 18 On The Rocks and Indian Rocks Beach a better place than we found it! We had fun, met lots of lifelong friends, prepared the best food and drinks possible for ALL of our awesome guests and provided our employees a safe, fun and financially beneficial place to call home," Thompson concludes.

18 On The Rocks closed May 23.

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NEW GREEK RESTAURANT Alati, whose Greek name translates to "salt" is Clearwater Beach's newest restaurant. The restaurant features authentic Greek food with a full bar and is open 2pm-11pm daily (except for Sunday).

Reservations are available through "Open Table" or delivery through GrubHub. Get more information on their Facebook page. Find them at 486 Poinsettia Avenue or call 230-3999

HUNGRY CRAB OPEN IN LARGO MALL

In the home of the old "Sweet Tomatoes," this restaurant specializes in seafood, lots of it. Join them for happy hour Monday through Thursday and their blue crab specials. Find them at 13101 Seminole Blvd. in Largo Mall, 727-755-8888



SUSHI IN THE PLAZA Construction on the new sushi restaurant opening in The Plaza is moving quickly. Owner Frank Manella, a Belleair resident, tells us it is going well and he hopes to be open sometime this month. Manella says, "the new restaurant is called 'Sekushi Sushi' and will have a full liquor bar with plenty of outside dining. We will also have a dedicated area for curbside pick-up."

The restaurant will be at the north end of The Plaza, where AAA Travel was.

Restaurant & Bar News

TEN YEARS LATER Slyce Pizza has been dishing out great pizza for ten years in Indian Rocks. They opened that location in 2011. A few years later, they opened Slyce #2 in Madeira Beach and now have #3 in St Pete Beach.

Now they are working on a new wine store close to their Indian Rocks location where "It's a New Day Cafe" was located.

Pictured here are owner Jack Bennett, and area manager Suzanne Brown.

Visit www.SlycePizza.com and call 408-5272 for pizza (take-out and delivery).



NEW CLEARSKY COMING SOON You probably know the ClearSky restaurants in Clearwater Beach, Downtown Clearwater on Cleveland Street or in Dunedin. Each of the popular restaurants has a different menu. Now, there will be another Clearsky Restaurant opening in Seminole. It will be opening in the old "Three Olives" storefront at 131st Street and Park Blvd, just south of Seminole High School.

For now, they are remodeling the inside of the restaurant, but are already interviewing for new employees. If you are interested, e-mail GloreClearsky@Gmail.com.

GROUPERS ON THE GULF They finally got their new fry equipment celebrated they are having a Summer Celebration Party.

Join them July 10-11 (Saturday and Sunday) for a party. They plan to have live music, raffles, giveaways, and will introduce their new enhanced menu that includes items prepared with their new fry equipment.

They are located at 1404 Gulf Blvd, Indian Rocks Beach, GroupersOnTheGulf.com.

COCO'S OPENING IN INDIAN ROCKS Coco's Crush Bar & Grill, on Coronado Drive, is adding a second location in Indian Rocks Beach when they reopen the recently closed 18 On The Rocks. It will be similar to their Clearwater location five miles away. Look for it to open later this summer at 2405 Gulf Blvd., Indian Rocks.

VIP FULLY OPEN After an extended slow opening, the Indian Rocks Beach location of The VIP is now open seven days a week with a full, operating staff. They offer inside and outside dining, with a full bar known for specialty margaritas and authentic Mexican cuisine. They are located at 213 Gulf Blvd in Indian Rocks Beach. See their menu online at www.VIPLOUNG-FLA.com.

RED LION UPDATE When we last talked to owner Tom George (June 7th) he was still going back-and-forth with the County on his plan approval. Ever the optimist he says, "we should be approved any day now."

RESTAURANT NEWS WANTED If your restaurant has news or an upcoming event we can use in this News Magazine, please e-mail it to Bob@GriffinDirectories.com or call 727-430-8300.

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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 over 48 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. After

We are a "One Stop Construction Company" providing all the steps needed: architectural services, permitting, design, and home construction.

seeing one of the many homes GHD have constructed, customers realize that the Key West theme resonates 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.

As a family owned business, we are very proud of what we have achieved serving these thousands of Florida families.

Realize the enjoyment of your new Florida home with all of today's bells & whistles.

GHD Construction Services, Inc. has constructed over 6,500 homes since 1971. If you have any questions pertaining to new home construction, feel free to come by the GHD showroom, call us at (727) 954-8345, or email: Info@GHDCsi.com. Meanwhile, look us up on our web site at www.GHDcoastalhomes.com.

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LARRY GERWIG: WORK HARD. PLAY HARDER. 1945-2021

By Becky Griffin

Larry Gerwig accomplished many things in his life. He served in the military during Vietnam, stationed in France. He worked for major construction companies building many big things. He was a long time Board Member and Past-President of the Clearwater Jazz Holiday. He was an artist. He loved to travel. He was a husband, married for 32 years to wife Linda. He was a father to two sons, David and Paul, and two step-sons, Mark and Michael. He was a grandfather to eleven grandchildren.

So often people are remembered for their jobs. Larry joined Creative Contractors in 1985. He moved up and eventually become their Executive Vice President. His 50 years of construction experience allowed him to work on projects throughout the state. On most days, if you traveled anywhere in the area with Larry, he would say with his famous grin, "I built that. And I built that over there, too."

"Larry was a trusted resource for clients and architects, and a mentor to many employees who followed in his footsteps. Larry possessed the unique talent 'to build a building in his head'. We will always remember him fondly," says Alan Bomstein, CEO, Creative Contractors.

Larry's last project was the new lobby for Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater. Decades early, he had supervised the building of the original REH as the project manager. His fondness for REH was so great that even while semi-retired, he remained involved on this recent project to make sure the expansion was on time and on budget.

"Larry was instrumental in every construction project at Ruth Eckerd Hall including the initial building. He knew our building literally from the inside out," explains Susan Crockett, the President and CEO of REH. "He approached his profession with an interesting mix of humor, preparation, detail and caution – the perfect recipe for someone charged with making sure every aspect of an extremely complex project is considered and accounted for. Knowing that left brain side of him, I was taken back with the first personal gift I received from Larry. It was a beautiful set of note cards featuring a cigar-rolling senora circa 1950

Cuba, an oil painting signed L. Gerwig."

Larry had many passions, and one was jazz music. He was a member of the Clearwater Jazz Foundation Board for 25 years and President from 2004-2005. He always looked forward to October in Coachman Park where he would volunteer and listen to his beloved jazz for four days.

"Larry was a dear friend and committed, long-time Clearwater Jazz Holiday Foundation Board Member. He has been with us at every step as we have grown and evolved," explains Steve Weinberger the CEO of the Clearwater Jazz Holiday Foundation. "We loved Larry - the experience and enthusiasm he brought to the organization and his passion for our mission of Music, Education & Outreach. Larry's legacy will inspire us as we carry on the CJH tradition; we are planning several meaningful ways to honor him."

Always ready for an adventure, for his 50th birthday, Larry decided to learn to sail and bought a sailboat named "Sea Venture." He took many trips on his boat including races to Key West. In 2008, he and Linda moved from Belleair Bluffs to Indian Rocks Beach and kept the boat behind their house.

Linda and Larry instantly fit into the Indian Rocks Beach community. He was a founding member of the Senior Softball League that formed ten years ago. One of his closest friends, Guy Coreno invited him to play.

"I asked Larry if he would like to join," Guy remembers. "He said he had never played organized sports before, but he would be willing to play. I was the pitcher, and he was the catcher. He learned to hit, run and catch. The problem was Larry had trouble throwing the ball back to me. We had no idea where his 95 MPH fast ball was going to end up," Guy chuckled. "Larry would laugh and smile the whole game. Everyone loved his enthusiasm and the respect he had for all his teammates."

Being semi-retired, Larry had some extra time and decided to learn to paint, first watercolor, then oils and perfected his portraits. He joined the Beach Art Center (BAC) for its classes and quickly joined the Board of Directors, volunteering wherever needed. His paintings won multiple ribbons

in various juried shows, all depicting subjects of his various travels.

"It was clear how committed Larry was to the Beach Art Center. He was prepared to do whatever he could to keep her going. He did more than most realized and did it with humility," explained Patricia Thomas, fellow BAC Board Member. "Larry made people feel 'seen.' When he thanked others for helping, it was with a level of sincerity I've rarely experienced. Larry recruited several volunteers and members to the Board and that changed the trajectory of our little art center."

"In March, Larry was re-elected to his fourth term on our Board," said Barb Parker, BAC Board Member. "His professional background was an invaluable asset to the art center. He was instrumental in our success with the recent capital improvements projects. Larry loved the art center and made it a mission to do everything he could to make it a great place for artists and visitors alike. We will miss him greatly," Barb concludes.

Larry loved people and parties, especially his famous Friday parties, though any occasion was a reason for a party! His drink of choice was a dirty martini with extra olives, unless of course it was Sunday. Those were reserved for Bloody Marys. In the last few years, Larry discovered Pickle Ball and loved it and the people he played with.

A few months before the Pandemic, Linda and Larry sold their home in Indian Rocks Beach and moved to Randolph Farms off Indian Rocks Road. During that socially distant time, he bought a "Green Egg" and explored recipes to perfect that talent, too. And he continued to play Pickle Ball with his new "Farm" friends.

Larry Gerwig touched many lives along his journey. He passed away April 21, 2021. A celebration of life was held at his beloved Ruth Eckerd Hall.

We do not remember how we first met Larry. It could have been through the IRB Boat Club, or the Red Lion, or Clearwater Jazz Holiday, or a Homeowners event. All we know is we were soon drawn into his orbit of friends and parties and travel. We too will miss our good friend Larry. Godspeed. Becky & Bob Griffin

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**PROPOSED DEATH TAX CHANGES
Gifting, The New Estate Planning Strategy?**

By Edward Castagna Jr. Esquire

The purpose of this article is to share a possible impact on your estate planning, should the estate tax law be changed. This is also a great opportunity to revisit your existing estate plans and look at your assets, growth of assets, and change of family members. You should also even look at the suitability of those named as trustees or alternates.



Death taxes are often a concern as this is a tax on your estate. Currently, there is a unified credit of \$11.7 million, with the effective tax rate at 40%. At first blush, your reaction might be "well my estate isn't that much so I'll be alright." But in reality, that unified credit may be under attack as the new administration may reduce the credit to as low as \$1 million and increase the effective tax rate to as much as 50%.

Would this impact your estate planning strategy? Given the fact that the current unified credit is \$11.7 million, this presents a gifting opportunity. Normally, should you wish to gift your children \$6 million, there would be a gift tax on anything above \$15,000 per child. Thus, the amounts above the \$15,000 would be a "taxable gift." But, you can use a portion of the current estate tax credit, up to \$11.7 million, to make such a gift non-taxable now before the credit is reduced.

Contact us to set a complimentary consultation and discuss how these proposed changes may affect your estate planning.

Find Castagna Law Firm, P.A., at 611 Druid Road E, Suite 717 Clearwater, FL 33756 | 727-446-6699 or online at castagnalegalteam.com.

CLOTHES TO KIDS NEEDS CLOTHES

Families are again shopping at Clothes To Kids and our clothing and shoe inventory is low. CTK needs new and gently used clothing and shoes including boys' and girls' pants and shorts (it is hot out there), tops, uniform pants and shirts, dresses and shoes. Each year CTK clothes more than 11,000 low-income and in crisis school children, PreK-4 to 12th grade for FREE. That means we need small clothing and shoes and youth clothing all the way up to high school. Please help the children in Hillsborough and Pinellas by donating today!

Children who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch or in crisis are eligible to shop with us. Each shopping bag includes five pairs of new underwear, five pairs of new socks, five tops, four bottoms (pants or shorts), one dress (optional) and a pair of shoes, totally free! If the child attends a uniform school, they may receive three uniform tops and two bottoms.

Please go through your closets and donate any gently used school clothing and shoes for children PreK-4 to 12th grade. Kids come in all shapes and sizes, so their clothes have to as well. Monetary donations can be sent to Clothes To Kids, 1059 N. Hercules Avenue, Clearwater, FL 33765. A \$50 donation provides one child a week's worth of school clothing. Donations may be dropped off from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at either of their three stores: Tampa - 5011-H West Hillsborough Avenue, Clearwater - 1059 N. Hercules Avenue and St. Pete - 2168 34th Street South. For information or to schedule an appointment to shop, please call 441-5050 or visit www.clothestokids.org.

FROM THE DESK OF SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI

A team is only as strong as its playbook. The more thorough the playbook, the more successful the team. It's no different for you and your family this hurricane season, as you put together a hurricane preparedness playbook of your own.

To keep you and your family safe, your hurricane preparedness playbook should focus on how to prepare before, during, and after the storm. Now is the time to sign up for local alerts, prepare evacuation plans and emergency kits, protect your property, and safeguard important documents and records.

- Local alerts: Sign up to receive emergency notifications to your phone through Alert Pinellas (pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas/), download Ready Pinellas, and follow the Pinellas County Government and Sheriff's Office on major social media platforms for real time updates.
- Know your zone: If you're unsure if your home is in an evacuation zone visit kyz.pinellascounty.org/ to locate shelters near you. For those residents who live on barrier islands, the quickest way to reenter is by having an emergency access permit. To register for a permit visit: pcsoweb.com/barrierislandpassapplication.
- Emergency Kits: Having enough supplies to make it through the hurricane isn't enough. Your supplies should be able to sustain you and your family during the recovery period as well. Your kits should have enough food and water for each person for at least three days, batteries, radios, phone chargers, and cash. To see additional must-have supplies for your kit, visit page 10 of the 2021-2022 Pinellas County All- Hazard Guide (pinellascounty.org/emergency/pdf/all_hazard_guide.pdf).
- Protect your property and important documents: Whether you are evacuating or sheltering in your home, one of the

most important steps is to make sure your windows, roofs, and garage doors are protected and secured. Other precautions that should be taken are clear your yard of debris and check the seals around your doors and windows.

Time spent preparing pays off during the storm. If you are evacuating, take your necessities and follow evacuation routes. If you are sheltering at home, stay indoors away from windows and glass doors, and keep generators or other gasoline-powered equipment at least 20 feet away from doors, windows, or vents. Lastly, whether you decide to evacuate or shelter at home, keep your emergency kits and equipment accessible for use during and after the storm.

After the storm, damage is inevitable and the dangers don't go away. Keep these tips in mind after the storm:

- Clean out and clean up: Cleaning and disinfecting will help keep your family safe and healthy since floodwater can contain sewage, bacteria, and chemicals. Be sure to throw away any food that wasn't maintained at the proper temperature. Avoid drinking tap water until it's safe to do so.
- Avoid floodwater and electrical equipment: When cleaning up or commuting back to your home, be sure to avoid floodwaters since they can contain underground or downed electrical lines. Any wet electrical equipment should be avoided, and if it is safe to do so, turn off electricity at the main breaker or fuse box of your home to prevent electrocution.
- Document any property damage: If you notice significant damage, be sure to properly document it with photos and a list of all damaged or lost items for your insurance company.

This hurricane season make sure your hurricane preparedness playbook is setting up your team for success as you keep your eyes on the eye of the storm.

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Business Briefs



PINKY'S IS NOW IRB CREAMERY

Pinky's longtime owner Wendy sold her business to Jade and Will. You may recognize Jade because she worked at Pinky's for over ten years—she started when she was 17. Jade and Will also are residents of Indian Rocks Beach. One of

the first changes was the name, it is now IRB Creamery.

"Pinky's officially became ours May 7th," says Jade. "We have already made a few changes and plan a couple more," she says. "We expanded the ice cream selection to 28 flavors, plus added 5 Italian ices. We offer sugar-free and vegan ice cream. Our ice cream is locally made by Lickity Splits, a Madeira Beach company. On weekends, we are open earlier and later — well past midnight."

Drop by the IRB Creamery for a taste. It is located at 1401 Gulf Blvd in the 14th Avenue Shopping Center.

THE SHOP AT RADIANCE OPENS Radiance Med Spa has expanded into the space next door creating The Shop at Radiance. Featuring products from brands like SkinMedica, iS Clinical, SkinBetter Science, ZO Skin Health, PCA Skin, LightStim, Skinchies, Bourbon & Boweties, now all your beauty essentials are in one place. The Shop is open Monday – Friday 10am to 7pm and Saturdays 10am to 5pm. Whether you have problem areas you want to correct or just want to prevent future problems, they have it covered.



BELLEAIR COFFEE FIVE YEARS LATER

Chris Whealan and wife Kammie opened their not-so-small coffee shop in The Plaza in 2016—five years ago this month. Their place has grown into more than just a place to buy a cup of coffee; it is a neighborhood gathering place as well as a meeting place for many area organizations.

TOP HEALTH SYSTEM FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR

BayCare Health System has once again been recognized by a leading, independent survey for excellence in clinical outcomes, operational efficiency, patient experience, financial health, and contributions to community health.

The news comes from Fortune/IBM Watson Health®, which lists BayCare in the top 20 percent of large health systems in the country. This is the third year in a row BayCare has been recognized with this honor.

In addition to being recognized as a health system, Morton Plant Hospital made the 100 Top Hospitals list as a top teaching hospital.

Business Briefs

NEKTON TURNS 15 The family run Nekton Surf Shop opened during the summer of 2006. Owner Pete Lopez and all his kids have worked there, and they surf, too! Their philosophy is "Keep It Local" and they do. They carry all kinds of apparel, rentals, and beach goods. You can buy a board or just rent one. Find them at 1311 Gulf Blvd. Visit NektonSurf.com.



LIVING HOPE CHURCH EVENTS This Summer Living Hope has several different ways for people to connect and would love for you to join them.

They are planning various summer groups meeting throughout the summer, including: outdoor activity group, a crochet group, a restaurant group, and a board game group. They will also have kids groups.

Upcoming events include their 4th of July Picnic following the service that day. In addition, a community celebration called "Summer One" will be July 24th with food, live music, games, and tons of fun.

For more information, visit livinghopetampa.org or email questions to livinghopelargo.com. Living Hope Church is located at 11633 137th St. N., Largo.



SURFSIDE PRODUCE MARKET Located in Indian Rocks Beach, they sell a lot more than you image. As you can see in this photo, owner Morgan Myers is holding lychee, passion fruit, dragon fruit, coconut candy bars, coconut candy patties, Korean melon, coconut water in the shell and Suntan bell peppers.

They offer seafood, which varies with the season, meats, and standard produce of course. All their meats are vacuum sealed and ready to eat and delivered to the store on a regular basis including beef, pork, chicken, turkey, ground beef, filet mignon and T-Bone steaks.

Their pricing is very competitive and will accept personal request if you want something special. Open

seven days a week, 8:30am to 6:30pm, Surfside Produce Market is located at 1401 Gulf Blvd. Call 219-7079 for information.

BUSINESS NEWS WANTED If you have news for this News Magazine, e-mail Bob@GriffinDirectories.com or call 727-430-8300.

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The Community Dental Clinic

The calls never stop at the Community Dental Clinic in Clearwater where they provide free urgent dental care for Pinellas disadvantaged adults. Since they opened their doors in 2013, they have relieved the pain and suffering of low income uninsured adults by providing 13,060 appointments and 41,610 procedures equal to \$5.5 million in services – 65% of that in the last 3 years.

To qualify for services, patients must live in Pinellas County with household incomes less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Line and without dental insurance. According to 2018 census data, that describes more than 100,000 people in Pinellas – and that was before the pandemic. Anyone who qualifies can simply call 727-216-6155 for an appointment.

“More and more people are finding themselves with a reduced income and no dental insurance. When they suffer from the pain and stress of a broken tooth, inflamed gums or an infection, they can’t afford to go to the dentist and pay hundreds of dollars or more for treatment,” explained Clinical Director, Sarah Valentine. “If they meet our criteria for enrollment, we try to see them and relieve their pain in 48 hours or less.”



The CDC enrolls 30 to 50 new patients each month and works to fit them into the schedule in one of their three dental chairs and one hygiene station. They provide the necessary exams, x-rays, fillings, extractions and limited root canals to resolve the immediate pain, then they correct any other issues that could result in future problems. When a patient needs care beyond the clinic’s scope of services, the clinic staff provides contact information for places that can help.

This summer the clinic will pilot an expansion of their services to include dentures. They also hope to cover oral surgery costs where critically necessary.

If all goes well, they will be able to help hundreds of people escape dental and financial devastation – for free.

The CDC is on a mission to improve the oral health and overall health of their patients. Numerous studies link dental decay to serious health conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and arthritis.

“Tooth pain can be so debilitating that people can’t eat or sleep or care for their families. When that pain drives them to our clinic, we often find they need assistance with medical care, housing or food as well. We help with their dental needs, then recommend local programs and services that can provide a safety net of care,” said Executive Director, Pamela Lusi. “We are truly a community clinic provided by the community for the community. We are grateful for the dedicated dentists and other professionals who volunteer their time to help our patients, and for the gracious donations of caring individuals in our community who realize that dental care affects the entire person.”

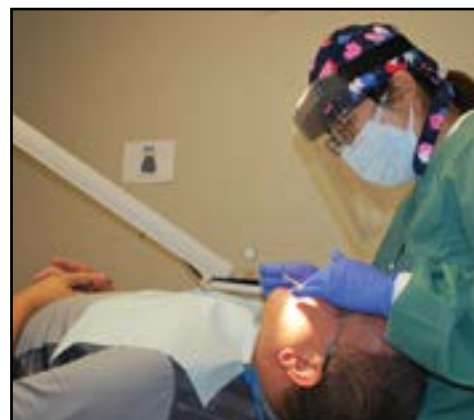
In addition to general donations, more than 300 generous friends participate in the clinic’s annual fundraiser, Reds, Whites & Bites, which provides about one third of the clinic budget each year.

Community partnerships and foundation grants also play a key role in the clinic’s ability to serve. Local hospitals help staff the clinic to provide services for those who turn to the ER for help when a dental clinic can better meet their needs. The Pinellas County Commission supports a Health Department dentist one day a week and a hygienist three days a week.

Grants from thoughtful foundations have funded dental assistants, critical equipment and needed supplies. Caring private foundations and local businesses provide critical financial and in-kind support so the clinic can provide critical community support.

The clinic works to ensure equitable services for their patients. They make the clinic experience very similar to that of a regular dentist. Patients are seen by appointment only, are treated in private rooms with up-to-date equipment, receive a comprehensive treatment plan, and are cared for with the utmost compassion and skill. Dental Director, Dr. Bao-Tran Dao (Dr. Tran), makes sure of it.

“Many of our patients experience great anxiety about visiting the dentist, and that has kept them from seeking regular dental care. We build their trust through compassionate service, and give them the knowledge they need to make good



Dr. Tran examines a patients mouth to determine the source of pain.

oral health decisions.” Dr. Tran said.

The clinic’s patients echo this commitment to care. Shannon, 48, says she harbored a lifelong fear of dentistry. Now she insists Dr. Tran has taken away her pain as well as her fear of dental care. “She made me laugh! She’s like a therapist and a dentist.”

Patients like Candace, 69, come to the clinic seeking urgent care, but what they receive—in their own words—goes far beyond that. Candace said the way she is treated when she visits the clinic helps her feel better as a patient who can’t afford dental services. “They don’t indicate in any way you are anything but a valued patient. They’re very kind and caring. They know your name, they know what you’re about. I’m just grateful 100 times.”

Compassion, care & community are the guiding lights of the CDC which was founded with heartfelt concern for the disadvantaged in our area.

“In 2009, The Salvation Army commissioned an independent survey to identify the community’s unmet social service needs. We were all surprised to find access to dental care was far and away the most critical,” says Paul Umberg, CDC Chairman of the Board. Through the shared vision of The Salvation Army, the Clearwater Free Clinic, and Arc of Tampa Bay, the clinic was founded in 2011 and, with the help of the City of Clearwater, opened in 2013.

In less than 8 years, the CDC is running at full capacity. They hope to provide more appointments for those who desperately need help by expanding their space to double their impact. If you would like more information or to donate to this important mission, visit www.communitydentalclinic.net or call the clinic at 727-216-6155.

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BUDDY USCG STATION DOG

By Pete Magnani

About three years ago, the crew at the United States Coast Guard Station Sand Key approached their Commanding Officer CWO Tracy Randall with a request. They wanted to adopt a dog that would live at the station. She put out some feelers and friend told her about Buddy, a seven year-old Rhodesian Ridgeback mix who had been living with an elderly woman that had gone to a nursing home. CO Randall brought the dog to the station for a trial run and by the end of the first day the team agreed he was going to stay.



Buddy and BM2 Jamyson Trancoso

Buddy's first few years of life were not pleasant. He and another pup named Bocephus were found in Georgia by animal rescue volunteers. Both were emaciated; Bocephus at about 6 months old, weighed a mere 13 pounds. A veterinarian nursed them back to health. Buddy was adopted and brought to Florida, where he eventually found his place at Station Sand Key.

Buddy's first few days at Station Sand Key brought some excitement. He found a way around the station's fence at the seawall and escaped. He was eventually picked up by an Uber driver and brought to the pound. "Buddy spent one of his first nights as our station dog in jail," CO Randall jokingly recalls. After that, Buddy was there to stay. He quickly became a vital member of the team, going on patrol on the various response boats. He even had his own life jacket and tactical vest. His main job, however, is keeping up the morale of those assigned to Station Sand Key. Buddy was officially certified through the City of Clearwater as a service dog.

As he has gotten older, Buddy has developed a schedule. He eats breakfast with the crew, then tours the grounds. He makes his way to the Coast Guard Exchange (the station's general store) where he greets both active and retired Coast Guardsman who visit the station to shop. Eventually, he makes his way to CO Randall's office for his afternoon nap on the office couch.

CO Randall is retiring this month after 33 years of dedicated service. With her departure, and Buddy's advancing age, BM2 Jamyson Trancoso has volunteered to adopt Buddy and care for him in his later years. He still spends his days at the station, but now jumps in BM2 Trancoso's truck at the end of the day and goes home to sleep. She has two years left in her assignment at Station Sand Key and Buddy will move with her to her next duty station.

IRB CROSSFIT IS DIFFERENT

By Melanie LeBlanc

Indian Rocks Beach is a special place. We are a small, friendly beach community where locals are known. If we mention "the bridge", it doesn't matter which one, we are referencing the coming or leaving of our community. On weekends, locals rarely leave. It is our vibe, our culture, that makes our community uniquely special.

IRB CrossFit is also a special place; uniquely different from any CrossFit, or global gym that you may have walked into. We are a small, friendly community gym. We smile and welcome you by name. We are fun-loving, relaxed, and "beachy" and whether you are local or visiting, you feel at home.

Our program is simple. We teach everyday movements such as: sitting/standing, pushing/pulling, holding/moving. These movements improve our general physical

skills: respiratory endurance, stamina, strength, flexibility, power, coordination, agility, balance, and accuracy. Our programming ALSO improves your mindset, which in my opinion is the most important thing.

Every day at IRB CrossFit is different. One day may be focused on a strength piece, like squats or on a skill, such as pullups. Another day may have both squats and pullups in sets and reps that blur the distinction between "cardio" and strength training. Regardless, every day is focused on you!

Our community gym has a unique and special culture and whether you live on this side of "the bridge" or not; whether you have visited once, or if IRB CrossFit is your home gym; we are a community, we are a family, and we love our gym!

For more information about our classes, open gym times, or personal training visit www.irbcrossfit.com.

Business Briefs

CHEERS TO 42 YEARS

688 Fine Wine and Spirits has been serving the community since 1979. Owners, Tony and Vicki Niewiarowski, immigrated from Poland to Chicago in 1964, then moved to Belleair Beach in 1979 with their then 10-year-old daughter Dorotka.



The 688 Fine Wine and Spirits family-Tony, Vicki, Dorotka and her three children Sevy, Lola and Tessa would like to take this opportunity to thank their loyal customers for allowing them to serve you, they could not have done it without you.

Come browse their selection of wine, beer, bourbon, vodka, tequila, other spirits, accessories and the cigar humidor. Cheers!... or as they say in Poland "Na Zdrowie!"

BLUFFS TACKLE AND MARINE OPENS Owners Frankie and Ryan opened their new fishing supply store in mid-May. Whether you prefer fresh or saltwater fishing, this store carries everything including a large selection of rods and reels, artificial and frozen bait, clothing, sunglasses, and tackle; absolutely everything that you need for a great day on the water. Open 7am to 9pm, they are on West Bay Drive, across from Publix.



WOMAN BUSINESS OWNER HONORED

Local business owner, Brooke Anderson, was selected by Tampa Magazine as one of the "2021 Women to Watch". Four years ago, no one heard of Big Man's Moving Company. Today, it is the fastest-growing moving company in Tampa Bay completing 3600 local, statewide, and out-of-state moves and,

employing 23 movers. "When the publication came out, we received (and are still receiving) tons of calls from women who want to support women!" Anderson says. "Honestly, the support has been incredible; we are so thankful!"

Big Man's Moving was voted "Best Kept Secret" in the 2021 Suncoast News Readers' Choice Awards and 2020 #1 Mover in Tampa Bay by readers of the Tampa Bay Times. Being a woman owner in a traditionally male-dominated industry brings a unique perspective. One of Anderson's focuses is screening and hiring the movers. "I look for people who are upbeat with positive attitudes," she explains. "Moving is a skill and can be taught. However, having an innate demeanor that fits our company's culture cannot be taught. Our movers are the faces of Big Man's Moving Company and represent us. If I wouldn't send someone to my 93-year-old grandmother's home, I wouldn't send them to your home."

According to Brooke, in moving, the difference between being "good" and being "great" is in the details. "That's one of my strong suits," Anderson says. "We train our movers to focus on the details, from making sure the legs of a kitchen chair are blanketed to ensuring that mattresses are protected."

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Community News

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DALI MUSEUM

Van Gogh Alive Special Exhibit Ended June 13, 2021. The new special exhibit, *The Woman Who Broke Boundaries*: Photographer Lee Miller, is launching July 3, 2021-January 2, 2022. You can learn more at www.thedali.org.

Children 6-11 can virtually discover the creative world of Salvador Dalí through live arts & crafts activities inspired by the Museum's permanent collection and special exhibits. Each week is a new activity; materials are generally flexible and include standard household items. Participants explore artistic processes and learn about the exceptional art of Salvador Dalí. They use the professional level of Zoom, with added security for safe learning environment and can be accessed from phones, tablets or computers. It is Free, but you must register: www.thedali.org/dillydally-with-dali-virtual-registration.

BLUFFS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

The BBA is excited to announce that they will be hosting the Bluffs Wine Walk on October 23, 2021! They expect to have at least 800 people attend and are optimistic that they will have many new businesses join in as vendors as their membership is growing at a rapid pace. Call Bonnie Trembulak at 686-8797 or Larry Bell at 644-9197, visit www.BBASTrong.com or email info@BBASTrong.com

ACTION 2000

Submitted by Diane Flagg

The board members held the first "In Person" meeting in June to vote for a new president, and vice president for the organization. Diane Flagg assumes the new president position, and Pete Dalina, 2nd vice president to join the existing executive board.

Flagg commented that she and Pete will do their best to keep the traditions of A2K, nurture the great volunteerism that has been cultivated, and jump start the organization after Covid enjoying the activities, members, keeping IRB beautiful and having fun along the way.

In the month of May, A2K hosted Music in the Park with music, food vendors, and families and friends gathered in Kolb Park. It was a local community event and relaxing fun for all that attended. Thanks to the community for joining us along with the great A2K volunteers that orchestrated the event.

Action 2000 Board members have voted to resume their signature event "Oktoberfest" this year! Save the date - October 23rd at Kolb Park. It will be a more condensed, community focused event with music, festivities, food and of course beverages!

More details to follow, so please follow us on facebook, and check our website for details at irbaction2000.com.

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH HOMEOWNERS ASSN

Submitted by Mary Beth Dunn

The Indian Rocks Beach Homeowners Association recently launched a new, updated website. Local marketing company ConvUrge, revamped the website to make it more visually appealing, informative and user friendly. You'll find information on upcoming events and family friendly things to do. You can also learn more about the mission of the IRBHOA; the events we sponsor and the organizations we support. If you like what you see, there is a link to join the organization. Did you know that you don't have to be a homeowner to join, all are welcome. Check us out at www.irbhome.com

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Community News

ROTARY CLUB OF INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

Submitted by David Kline

The Beatles song, "The Long and Winding Road" and the Grateful Dead lyric, "what a long, strange trip it has been", so aptly describe the journey we have all taken over the last 16 months. Safe to say that most of us have never had such unique challenges. All aspects of life were affected. I am sure that we are all quite ready to get back to the life we led before the early part of 2020.

We have started planning for our 19th annual "Big Game Raffle", which will kick off in July and culminate with the Grand Prize Drawing in December. As we move into Fall, we will start planning for our 2022 Pancake Breakfast and Rotary Runs the Beach fundraisers.

Our Rotary year goes from July 1 to June 30, so as you read this article, we will have a new president and new members of the board. David Kline, a 22-year member of IRB Rotary, will be installed as the 2021-2022 club president. David also served as IRB Rotary president in 2004-2005. Our new club officers will be Rick Walker, President-elect; Paul Burns, Secretary, and Lynn Johler, Treasurer. Our new Board of Directors will include: Marykay Csege, Claire English, Cliff Koch, Cheryl Schulz, Karen Schmutz, Chris Smaridge. Thank you all for volunteering to guide our club.

Rotary International is an international service organization whose stated purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders to provide humanitarian service and to advance goodwill and peace around the world. It is a non-political and non-religious organization open to all.

We wish to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to learn more about our club, our members and what we do to 'make a difference in the world'. We meet every Wednesday morning, starting at 7:15 am, at Jimmy Guana's in the Holiday Inn Harborside, IRB. Your first breakfast is on us! For more information, please contact David Kline at 727-418-1673 or kline22@tampabay.rr.com.

CLEARWATER CG AUXILIARY BOATING SAFETY CLASSES

Boat America is a boating certificate class that offers an in-depth and interesting boating safety course, and provides the knowledge needed to obtain a boating certificate. Some insurance companies will also offer discounts on boating insurance to boaters who successfully complete this course. Course topics include: Intro to Boating, Boating Law, Safety Equipment, Boating Emergencies, Trailing, and Sports and Boating.

These classes are not your standard webinar sessions where the students sit at their computers and are lectured at. And they're not animated cartoon sessions where you have to keep pressing enter to get to the next topic.

The classes being offered by the Clearwater Coast Guard Auxiliary are conducted on Zoom with the same instructors the student would have had in the classroom and allowing lots of questions and answers. In addition, because the classes are on the Internet, there's no commuting to a classroom – the students can be anywhere in Florida.

Upcoming courses are 9am to 2pm: July 24 and 25, August 28 and 29, and September 18 and 19. Each course is \$40. For information, visit clwboatingsafety.com, call 727-469-8895, or email clwtr.auxboating@gmail.com.

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People In Our Area

MEET CORY FIELDS



By Pete Magnani
The average fish tank holds about 30 gallons of water, and it takes about an hour of maintenance every 2 weeks or so to keep the water clean and clear. Now imagine the effort required to keep up with the approximately 2 million gallons of seawater in the habitats that house all the marine life at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA)! Meet Cory Fields, CMA's new

Dive Coordinator. It is his job to coordinate the team of three full-time staff divers and about 80 volunteers that tackle the gargantuan task of maintaining the marine environments at the aquarium using SCUBA gear, scrub brushes, and power-driven spinning brushes similar to a floor buffer.

Fields started at CMA about two years ago as Dive Lead, cleaning environments using SCUBA gear, scrub brushes, and power-driven spinning brushes similar to a floor buffer. He has performed in underwater presentations as a SCUBA diver and previously worked as a Divemaster, guiding SCUBA divers on tours.

Recently Fields was promoted to Dive Coordinator where he helps manage the upkeep of the various environments. Most need to be cleaned about once a week, with the exception of the dolphin exhibits which need cleaning two or three times each week to prevent growth of algae. The three other staff divers are supplemented by a team of about 80 volunteers who donate their time to do a dirty, but rewarding, job making sure the resident animals have a clean and inviting environment to call home.

CMA's recent expansion added 103,000 square feet of guest space, which means there's a whole lot more for guests to see and experience. It also added 1.5 million gallons of water for Cory and the team to keep clean and fresh. The new addition, which opened in October 2020, includes five separate but connecting habitats that are the home for CMA's five resident bottlenose dolphins, as well as their stage. Winter, Hope, Nicholas, PJ, and Hemingway entertain about 750,000 visitors each year. The aquarium also features two rough-toothed dolphins, Rex and Rudolph, as well as a cast of stingrays, sea turtles, otters, sharks, and pelicans. CMA's main mission is to rehabilitate, and release rescued animals, but those who's injuries or ailments prevent them from surviving in the wild are given a permanent home at the Aquarium.

The Clearwater Marine Aquarium is open daily from 10 am to 6 pm with extended hours during the summer months. In addition to the exhibits and educational programs, the Aquarium offers snorkel trips and "Sea Life Safaris" aboard their fleet of pontoon boats. They have Summer Camps for kids from K through 12th grade and many other programs both on and off site. For more information, visit www.seewinter.com.

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RECYCLE DO'S AND DON'TS

Have you ever wondered what things you should and should not throw in our big blue recycle bins? I have. Every time I toss in a plastic grocery bag or Styrofoam container from a restaurant, I wonder, is that supposed to be in there?

After some research, I have put together a list of some of the things you should not recycle at the curb. The first rule of thumb - look on the bottom of a bottle or food container. It will have a printed number that ranges from 1-7 if it is recyclable. If it doesn't, throw it in the garbage.

PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS - This is the #1 NO-NO. They do not want the plastic bags you get at grocery, hardware or other stores in the bins. They clog up the machines.

Take them back to the grocery stores where they have green bins at their front door, or put them in the dog bag stands around the city. Better yet, take your own re-useable bags to the store and say NO to plastic.

STYROFOAM - Styrofoam cannot be recycled. Many stores are recognizing this and are changing to paper/cardboard. In the meantime, throw it in your regular trash—not your recycling bins. Publix will accept Styrofoam egg containers and the trays used in the vegetable department. Styrofoam peanuts used for packing can be donated back to the closest UPS or packing store.

BATTERIES -

Per Florida law, it is illegal to dispose of nickel-cadmium or small sealed lead acid rechargeable batteries in your trash.

It is OK to place normal alkaline batteries in the garbage, but never in the blue bins as it causes contamination. 20% of the recycled waste collected at the curb is contaminated and has to go through a separate, expensive, time-consuming process. Nickel cadmium and small sealed lead acid rechargeable batteries need to be taken to a Chemical Recycling event or the Pinellas County's HEC-3 facility. Car & Boat batteries are normally recycled where you buy new ones and you pay a recycling fee. The following normally have a recycling bin: Best Buy, Home Depot, Lowe's, Office Depot, Target, Batteries-Plus, and some but not all Staples.



PAPER TOWELS AND NAPKINS - Even though they may be paper, they probably are not recyclable. Paper towels are made differently than newspaper or computer paper and do not breakdown. Instead, they tear in the machines. Many are contaminated by food products anyway. Do not recycle wax paper, either.

BUBBLE WRAP - Plastic bubble wrap and pillows used for packing should not be recycled at the curb. It is just like plastic bags, they clog the machine. Donate them to the closest packaging / shipping store.

FOOD AND LIQUIDS - Do not use your recycle bin as a trash can. Do not throw half-filled recyclable water/juice bottles in it. Empty and rinse them out first. Same with pizza boxes with partial food remains - that is garbage and can't be recycled.

PLASTIC - Just because it is plastic does not mean it goes in the blue bins. Plastic bottles and food containers with a 1 - 7 on the bottom are good, but not bigger items and hard plastics, like toys, tools and PVC. Some can be recycled, but not curbside.

GLASS - Not all glass belongs in your blue bin. If it came with food or drink inside, it is good to recycle. Other glass like mirrors, windows, drinking glasses, vases, etc. is unfortunately, just trash.

METALS - Here again, the only metal you can recycle curbside is metal that contained food or drink - aluminum or tin cans. No other metal, including pipes, faucets, nails and parts should go in the blue bins. They are normally recovered at the County's Waste-To-Energy Facility using magnets and other methods.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS - When your home fire extinguisher reads empty do not put it in the recycle bin. Do not take it to the fire station either. Instead, if you are sure it is totally empty, you may throw it in the garbage. To know for sure that it is empty, pull the trigger, outside.

PINELLAS FACILITY - The Pinellas County HEC-3 facility is located at 2855 109th Avenue North (just off 28th Street N, one mile south of Roosevelt Blvd.) in St Petersburg. They are open Monday - Saturdays. Call 464-7500 with questions.

For more information on what to recycle and what not to recycle, visit: PinellasCounty.org/Recycle, PinellasCounty.org/SolidWaste/SwapShop, PinellasCounty.org/SolidWaste/GetRidofit and Publix.com/Recycle.



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