

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Magazine

CAMPALONG FIELD 68 YEARS LATER



By Troy Sanders

Indian Rocks Beach's Little League field, in Kolb Park, is named Joe Campalong Field. Do you know who Joe Campalong was? In the early 1950s, Joe lived in town with his wife Minnie, and son Joe Jr. Joe owned Campalong's Sundries, a small store on 15th Avenue. It was on the north end of the building where Hurricane Eddie's is today, on the road that leads to Kolb Park. The baseball field was not there then, it was just a big field where kids played their own pickup ball games.

When Joe Jr. was about 9 years old, Joe Sr. began teaching him the fundamentals of throwing, catching, and hitting a baseball. Soon, other kids joined in, and Joe began coaching the neighborhood kids. Their parents helped by keeping the grass cut, and the first home field for the kids was created.

-Continued on page 6

Also in this Issue:



Winter's Legacy

Winter became an inspiration for people with disabilities, particularly among amputees. Her legacy will continue.

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Paddling for a Purpose

Meet Nan Provost, RN. She's taking a unique and innovative approach to suicide prevention and awareness.

-page 21



Meet the New Chief

Chief Jeffrey Davidson brings 33 years of Fire Service experience to PSFRD - page 14

Sheriff's 10th Anniversary

Bob Gualtieri has been at the helm of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office for a decade and has been in law enforcement for almost forty years.

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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, and 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..

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

Thank you for reading,

Lora & Pete Magnani 813-239-6862
pete@magriffproductions.com

SEE YOU AGAIN IN MARCH!

CALENDAR OF HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

As always, this is subject to change.

JANUARY

- New Year's Day 1
- Outback Bowl 1
- Public School Reopens 4
- Epiphany 6
- Island Cove Beads Trunk Show 6-8
- Tampa Bay Home Show 7-9
- Roc Day at Heritage Village 8
- Dunedin Art Show 8-9
- St Pete Beach Craft Festival 8-9
- Peace Memorial Concert 9
- Harvest Fest Art Show Dunedin 6-7
- Ready Set...Kindergarten! 11-13
- City Commission Meeting 11
- Bellaire Fitness and Health Fair 12
- 18th Avenue Beach Cleanup 14
- World of Musicals Ruth Eckerd 16
- Martin Luther King Jr Day 17
- John's Pass Seafood Festival 20-23
- Florida's Arbor Day 21
- Children's Gasparilla 22
- Tiny Bubbles Fundraiser 28
- Gasparilla 29

FEBRUARY

- Chinese New Year 1
- Ground Hog Day 2
- New Shanghai Circus Largo 5
- Backwater's Chili Cook-Off 6
- Westward Road at IRB Baptist 7
- City Commission Meeting 8
- Florida State Fair Opens 10
- Tampa Bay Rays Fan Fest 12
- Gasparilla Night Parade 12
- Super Bowl 13
- Valentine's Day 14
- Susan B. Anthony Day 15
- Bellaire Community Garage Sale 19
- Winterfest on the Rocks 19
- Presidents' Day 21
- Florida State Fair Closes 21
- Gasparilla Music Festival 25
- Tampa Bay Home Show 26
- African American Heritage Festival 26
- Boots and Brushes at Beach Arts 26
- Spring Training Begins 26

CHANGING OF THE GUARD (SORT OF...)

By Lora Griffin Magnani

As you may have heard, after 25 years in the publishing business and 16 years producing the Indian Rocks Beach Neighborhood News Magazine, Bob and Becky have decided to cut back their workload as they move towards retirement. My husband Pete and I will be continuing the Magazine in the same tradition they established so long ago.

I was born and raised in Tampa and have lived in the Bay Area my whole life. I studied Mass Communications at USF and worked part time for Griffin Productions whenever Bob (my dad) had projects for me to do. Pete grew up in New York and moved to Tampa in 2000, where he worked as a police officer until an on-the-job injury forced an early retirement. Three years ago, we moved to Pinellas County to be closer to the beaches in anticipation of beginning this endeavor.

Since settling into our home in Dunedin, we have both worked alongside Bob and Becky behind the scenes to learn the ropes of their business.



We look forward to providing you with the same entertaining, informative, and useful resource you have come to expect from the News Magazine.

We will continue the magazine in the same format you are used to. We will continue the cycle of printing every other month, beginning with this issue. And, of course, we will continue this for free for our readers. You may notice a few changes as we add our own personal touch, but basically it will be the same interesting Neighborhood News Magazine the Griffins have brought to you for the past 16 years. Bob and Becky have not gone away, in fact you will see stories written by them in our future issues, including this one.

Pete and I are so grateful for this opportunity Bob and Becky have given us, and we are excited to carry on producing this quality news magazine. We have big shoes to fill, and we are thankful to our advertisers, contributors, and our readers for your continued support.

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Did You Know

PSFRD TO WELCOME NEW FIRE ENGINE



Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue District is awaiting delivery of a new Rescue Pumper which will replace the aging Squad 26 engine stationed in Indian Shores.

Chief Jeff Davidson is planning to

invite the community to the "Washdown," a longstanding tradition where firefighters welcome a new vehicle by hand-washing and then pushing it as a team into the apparatus bay. The ceremony will be held at Fire Station #27 at 304 First Street in Indian Rocks Beach. Refreshments will be provided, and this will also be a great opportunity to meet the new Fire Chief.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger works hard to ensure our neighbors have the food they need to survive. Whether you can volunteer once a week, once a month, or once a year; individually or with a group, every hour of assistance helps us ensure our neighbors have access to food. Visit networktoendhunger.org/volunteer or call 813-344-5837 for more information.

REDUCE YOUR USE Reducing your use of single-use products is as easy as making a few simple swaps!

Plastic bags: next time you are at the grocery store, opt out of using those plastic bags and instead bring your reusable bags! Plastic bags are not accepted in residential recycling programs within Pinellas County so make sure you keep any plastic bags that you have out of your recycling bin. Using reusables can help stop these bags from ending up at the recycling sorting facilities where they can damage equipment and harm workers!

Plastic bottles: instead of buying single-use plastic bottles, get yourself a cool reusable bottle that you can refill anytime, anywhere.

Disposable take-out containers: forget taking those delicious leftovers from your favorite restaurant home in a disposable container. Instead, think outside the take-out box and bring your own! Take the Reduce Your Use pledge by visiting reduceyourusetampabay.org

BOAT SHOW RETURNS

The big St. Pete Power and Sailboat Show returns to downtown St. Petersburg January 20-23. Most of the boats for sale are in the water next to the Dali Museum. Get more details at StPeteBoatShow.com.



INDIAN SHORES SUNDAY MARKET The Indian Shores Sunday Market is open for its eighth season. The market features fine arts and crafts from local artists, fresh produce, and gourmet foods. It is located at 19035 Gulf Blvd. next to Salt Rock Grill. The market is open Sundays from 9am-1pm through April 24th.

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PSTA COMPLETES FIRST SUNRUNNER STATION

PSTA unveiled the first completed station on its highly-anticipated SunRunner line. The route, scheduled to open in Summer of 2022, will feature 16 stops connecting St. Pete Beach to downtown St. Petersburg. SunRunner buses will be hybrid-electric and offer onboard WiFi as well as other amenities. The newly completed station is at the corner of 5th Street and 1st Avenue North. PSTA estimates that each bus could take as many as 50 cars off the road.



MOVE OVER FLORIDA HB 127 filed by Rep. Emily Slosberg, D-Boca Raton, aims to expand the existing "Move Over" law to include a ban on the use of wireless devices while operating a motor vehicle where first responders are actively working. "the side of the road is one of the most dangerous places for first responders because of distracted drivers," Slosberg says. Traffic safety has been a priority of Slosberg, who was severely injured in a crash that killed her twin sister 25 years ago. The "Move Over" law was passed in 2002 and requires drivers to move a lane over when passing emergency, sanitation, or tow vehicles on the side of the road

CONGRATULATIONS MPCO ABRAMS Timothy Abrams, Commanding Officer of the United States Coast Guard Station Sand Key, was recently promoted to Master Chief Petty Officer (MCPO). The rank of MCPO is the ninth and highest enlisted rank. They are considered experts in their field specialty.

RULES OF THE ROAD

A bicycle is considered a vehicle. Therefore, a bicyclist has the same rights and responsibilities as motorized vehicles and can also receive traffic tickets. That means cyclists must slow down at yellow lights and stop at ALL red lights and stop signs. Cyclists are allowed on sidewalks, except in designated areas where they may pose a risk to pedestrians, such as in a busy downtown area.



PINELLAS TACOFEST TacoFest comes to Largo January 29-30 from 10 am to 5 pm. The event will feature food trucks, a pepper-eating contest, taco competition, amateur salsa and hot sauce compwtition, live music and vendors. It will held at the Largo Event Center 6340 126th Avenue N. For info visit intensityacademy.com

OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN MARCH 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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CAMPALONG FIELD continued

Joe began contacting nearby cities and started a little league for the beach towns.

By 1954, they formed the first team with 13 neighborhood boys and a bat boy. They played other city teams including Belleair, Seminole, Madeira Beach, St Pete Beach and Pass-A-Grill.

After a game in IRB, they would head to Joe's store for refreshments. His fountain sodas were made the old-fashioned way, with an added squirt of cherry syrup or chocolate to any Coca-Cola. He had the usual hot dogs and hamburgers, and of course ice cream.

By 1957, the program had grown to four teams and with the help of our newly incorporated city, Kolb Park was redesigned.

As it remains today, home plate was situated in the southwest corner, a concrete block concession stand was built, two dugouts were created, and the fence was installed near home plate. In 1980, 26 years after Joe started coaching the neighborhood kids, IRB's families and city officials showed their appreciation by naming the ball field Joe Campalong field. Joe died ten years later in February 1990.

Today, 60 years later, West Pinellas Little League continues to proudly call Campalong Field 'home'.

As the league prepares for the upcoming Spring 2022 season, we catch up with Michael Wright, Board President, Head Coach, and proud Dad, as he shares retrospect on youth baseball and the benefits of children carrying on



Indian Rocks Beach's first team - the Indian Rocks Indians and Coach Joe Campalong, Sr., 1954

America's Greatest Pastime.

"West Pinellas is as special a Little League or baseball program as you will find anywhere in the Tampa Bay Area. At West Pinellas, given its smaller size, everyone knows everyone and not just because of baseball but also because of our small beach community.

While we continue to encourage Little League International to expand our boundary to make it easier to grow our league and our registration numbers, we will never grow to be too big.

As an 18-season coach I can

promise you that getting involved and volunteering will create some of the greatest memories you and your children will ever have together.

The 'teachable moments' and being able to apply real-life lessons to baseball and baseball lessons to real-life continue to prove to be a powerful parallel for my boys and I.

Nothing has been more special than them leaping into my arms after a walk off hit or game ending strike out or defensive play. I will miss these days immensely now that I can see the sun set on their time being players on my teams as they move on to their high school careers.

If you have children between 4 and 14 years old, I can't encourage you enough to get them registered to play ball. Statistics clearly show that children involved in youth athletics tend to steer clear of all the things we as parents want to them to avoid.

I have seen these statistics firsthand through my 20-year relationship with the Pinellas Education Foundation, www.pinellaseducation.org. Trust me when I say, GET your kids involved in youth athletics and KEEP them involved as long as you can."

Spring 2022 registration is open until January 10, 2022. Games start mid-February.

Sign up at westpinellaslittleleague.org!
Go West Pinellas!!!



The 2021 WPLL Majors



**AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE
PILOT PROGRAM COMES TO
CLEARWATER**

The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA), in partnership with Beep and funded by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), launched the first of its kind Autonomous Vehicle. The free all-electric shuttle, named AVA, short for Autonomous Vehicle Advantage, is the state's first autonomous vehicle fleet launched by a transit agency in mixed traffic.

The functionality of the shuttle is enabled by a safe, predetermined planned route. The shuttle uses eight sensors on the outside of the vehicle providing a 360-degree view of the environment. An on-board shuttle attendant, or copilot, serves as an ambassador for the riders to learn more about the technology and oversee the high-quality passenger experience.

The vehicles are 100 percent electric, cost less than \$30 per month to charge, and react 10 times faster than a human can, while never getting distracted from the roadway. The autonomous shuttle will operate at a maximum speed of 15 mph as part of a 3-month pilot. Riders will be required to wear a seatbelt.

After a successful stint along the St. Petersburg Bayshore Drive which will continue through February, the autonomous shuttle, AVA, started another test run in Dunedin that will operate through the summer. There will be two Dunedin, routes that align with the remaining Toronto Blue Jays spring training games at TD Ballpark and the summer months for Downtown Dunedin.

Now, starting this month, AVA will begin running in Clearwater Beach. The vehicles will operate from 10am to 10pm Wednesday through Sunday.

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RETIREMENT INCOME... SURE, BUT HOW?

by Ray Ferrara, ProVise Management Group

You worked your entire life and that paycheck kept coming every two weeks. You retire and POW, no more money is deposited into the bank account. How do you ensure that you will have sufficient cash? For most retirees, the first source is Social Security. You can take it as early as age 62 with a reduced benefit, at Full Retirement Age (gradually increasing to age 67), or at age 70 where the benefit reaches its maximum. The maximum monthly benefit in 2021 is \$3,895. The average benefit is \$1,543. The good news is that Social Security is adjusted for inflation.



Some retirees are still fortunate enough to have a traditional pension, especially those that work for the government or larger corporations. However, this benefit happens much less frequently than it once did.

But for most retirees, these benefits are not enough regardless of lifestyle. They turn to investments and savings. The more conservative retiree may turn an annuity that provides additional monthly income. To create \$500 of monthly income a female age 65 needs about \$107,000 and a male age 65 only needs about \$101,000. Men do not live as long. Don't get one of those expensive annuities from the TV shows or dinner seminars.

Now what about the investment portfolio? Most financial advisors talk about a 4% withdrawal rate being a "safe" rate and an appropriate one. Frankly, there are a few variables to consider. The younger the retiree, the lower the percentage should be and the older retiree may be able to withdraw more. Next, is health. Those blessed with a longer life expectancy should start at a lower rate than one with poor health. The next is sequence of returns.

What if you start with a nice nest egg and the market goes the wrong way during your early retirement? You could see your benefit drop 20% or more. The average bear market lasts 9.6 months and the recovery takes longer. One strategy to consider is keeping 18 months' worth of living expenses in cash instruments. This money along with dividends and interest can help avoid selling in a down market for almost two years. Even if it lasts longer, you can start selling bonds instead of stocks.

To learn more about retirement income strategies, take advantage of our one-hour complimentary consultation with NO obligation.

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CYBERSECURITY: AN ANTIVIRUS UPDATE

by Dena and John Perkins, Threat Angler

Historically, we were all repeatedly advised to purchase and install antivirus software to protect our computers from cyber attacks. As technology has advanced and threats have evolved over time, so has the advice from experts. If you are still paying for antivirus software, you are likely able to stop and redirect that funding to a more valuable use.

Antivirus is a computer program that assists with scanning, detecting, preventing, and removing malware, which includes viruses, spyware, and trojan horses. It was originally created to remove computer viruses, which is how it got its name.

Recent versions of Microsoft Windows now come with built-in software that includes antivirus, a firewall, and other data protection features. The primary component is called Microsoft Defender. Many of the cybersecurity professionals who perform white hat hacking tell us Microsoft Defender is the solution they are most often stopped by in their engagements. White hat hacking is when cybersecurity professionals get permission from a company to test whether they can hack their systems so they know their vulnerabilities.

Another operating system gaining popularity is Mac OS X. Macs are by design a more secure operating system. Historically and still today, many cybersecurity professionals say antivirus is not a requirement for most users of the Mac system as long as they keep their systems regularly updated.



An additional reason traditional, paid-for antivirus is becoming obsolete is because most data is now stored in "the cloud". The cloud refers to servers located in data centers all over the world and accessible via a web browser. This allows individuals to access their data on multiple devices from any location, not just on their own physical systems. If you are using a well known and reputable cloud provider, such as Google Workspace, the service likely comes with built-in protections for your data.

There are some cases in personal computing where added protection is recommended:

- If you or a family member often use social media sites, such as Facebook and Twitter
- If you are managing finances or an estate for a family member or friend
- If you are conducting business on your personal computer
- If you are using applications installed on your personal computer, rather than cloud solutions, to store or process sensitive data

If you need added protection, we suggest investing in what is called an endpoint protection agent. Endpoint protection agents detect and prevent cyber attacks using modern, advanced techniques capable of detecting and preventing cyber attacks not yet well known enough to be included in antivirus software.

If you are using the common Microsoft Windows operating system, the recommended endpoint protection agent is Microsoft Defender for Endpoint since it is merely an upgrade to the Microsoft Defender for Endpoint solution already on your system. Microsoft Defender for Endpoint also works on Mac. There are several other options available. Inquire about our services for businesses of all sizes and budgets at threatangler.com/contact.

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2022: RESOLVE, COMMITMENT, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

By Karen Williams Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner

Welcome to 2022! I love a new year. For me, it always signals a new, fresh start. I look forward to the fun times with family and friends but also the work that lies ahead. This time of year also nudges us to look back at the previous year to see what we have accomplished.

As a Pinellas County Commissioner, I am always proud of the work our Board and staff do to serve our community, but this past year has been exceptional. The unprecedented challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic continued in 2021 and Pinellas County met those challenges with resolve and a vigorous commitment to our community. .

Last January our fight to control COVID-19 took a turn. Through the emergency use authorization and eventual approval of COVID-19 vaccines, plus the arrival of monoclonal antibody treatments, Pinellas County was able to push back against the virus. In the days following the FDA's green light for vaccines, Pinellas County protected our most vulnerable through a pilot program for residents and staff of long-term care facilities. As eligibility expanded, we helped more than 644,000 residents – that's nearly three out of every four people in the county – receive at least one dose of protection.

Businesses and workers who fell on tough times during the pandemic are getting back on their feet as the county hit an all-time high in total jobs and recorded the lowest unemployment rate among Florida's large urban counties by the end of the fiscal year. We invested more than \$17 million in our small businesses through County contracts and helped others receive another \$20 million through our consulting work.

As housing instability shook many across the nation, our County stepped up to distribute nearly \$11 million in emergency rental assistance to nearly 1,500 families, keeping residents and workers here where we need them.

We renewed our commitment to the future of our county by launching the Pinellas County's first comprehensive Sustainability and Resiliency Action Plan. The County completed its Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge Vulnerability Assessment and entered Duke Energy Florida's Clean Energy Connection Program to offset County energy use with solar power. All of this and more to build toward our goal of 100% renewable, zero-emission, clean energy consumption by 2050.

Another accomplishment by our County staff ensured residents could still access the services and information they need to continue to have their voices heard. Staff outfitted Board of County Commissioners meetings with technology to allow residents to give their public comment virtually and launched a new online sign-up form, increasing access and participation. Thousands of residents helped inform County decision-making by sharing viewpoints about important programs, including key transportation and stormwater projects, trails, community master plans, sustainability and more through online surveys, in-person events and virtual meetings.

These kinds of innovative strategies make for great accomplishments and there are more to come. I encourage you to be a part of our accomplishments by participating in your county government. Together we can do so much more. Visit www.pinellascounty.org/agenda for a complete listing of the Board's upcoming meetings schedule. I look forward to seeing you there, in person or virtually.

As always, I welcome your feedback and concerns. Please email me at kseel@pinellascounty.org. I look forward to hearing from you. Happy 2022!

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BOB GUALTIERI'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY AS SHERIFF

By Bob Griffin

Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri just completed his 10th year as our Sheriff, though his work in law enforcement spans almost 40 years. While Gualtieri can trace his family's roots back to Italy, he was born in Syracuse, New York 60 years ago. He moved to Pinellas County in 1981, when he was 20.

Gualtieri began his law enforcement career the next year as a detention deputy at the Pinellas County jail. He wanted more public involvement and applied to the Dunedin Police Department as a patrol officer. "They had a program that would pay for me to attend the Police Academy here in Pinellas," Gualtieri says.

In 1984, he was hired as a Pinellas County Sheriff's (PCSO) Deputy. By 1990, he was part of the DEA. "I was working in narcotics and international drug trafficking investigations. That is where I first met Jim Coats, who became the Sheriff, before me," Gualtieri says.

In 1998, he left the PCSO and to attend Law School at Stetson University. He entered private practice in Tampa specializing in labor and employment defense until 2006, when he was hired as PCSO's General Counsel and Chief Deputy - the second in command.

Then Sheriff Jim Coats, left office in 2010, mid-term, to be with his wife who had been diagnosed with cancer. Coats recommended

Gualtieri finish his term. Then Governor Rick Scott appointed him as the temporary Sheriff. Gualtieri was officially elected to the position in 2012 -- and again in 2016 and 2020.

"Bob had the knack of explaining complex budget and financial strategies by using drawings or sketches," recalls Jim Coats, retired Pinellas County Sheriff. "I selected Bob to succeed me because of his law enforcement background, his work ethic, his legal skills and his compassion for the office of the Sheriff."

Gualtieri was appointed by the Governor in 2018 to serve



as the Chair of the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas School shooting investigation and Public Service Commission. After two years, they produced a 500-page report recommending and advocating new measures in school safety. Many have been implemented in Pinellas County Schools.

"I am probably most proud of the work I have done and the changes that have been made to make schools safer," says Sheriff Gualtieri. "It has been the most challenging as well as the most rewarding."

In 2019, Gualtieri received the Leadership Award from Homeland Security and was given the distinguished Alumni Award from Stetson University. He also was selected National "Sheriff of the Year" by the National Associations of Sheriffs, a group of 3,100 nationwide sheriffs whose purpose is to raise the level of professionalism among U.S. sheriffs, their deputies, and others in the fields of criminal justice and public safety.

In 2000, Gualtieri was appointed to the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administrative Justice.

On a personal note, Gualtieri lives in Palm Harbor and is married to Circuit Court Judge Lauralee Westine. He has three children, ages 16, 31 and 32.

He enjoys going to the gym and watching sports both in person and on TV. He especially loves basketball and the Tampa Bay Lightning. His favorite restaurant is Vettore's Italian Restaurant in Palm Harbor. "It is close to home - we probably go there two or three times a week."

Asked what his favorite crime related TV show is he says, "I never watch them. They are not very realistic. When I do watch TV, it is HGTV or the Food Network."

At the start of 2022, Sheriff Gualtieri is beginning his fifth decade of public service and the second decade as your Pinellas County Sheriff.

A BIRD OF PARADISE

Lisa moved into the Marriott Sand Key nine years ago and never left. Lisa, age 32, is the greeter in the hotel's lobby. She is also a Blue Macaw Parrot.

"The hotel's owners, who are from Ohio, have other hotels and there are parrots in many of them," says Michael Miraglia, manager of the Marriot Sand Key since 2015. "It contributes to the tropical atmosphere people experience in Clearwater Beach - it's our piece of paradise. And our guests really enjoy it."

Kids especially like Lisa. The hotel even supplies visiting children with a drawing of Lisa, which they can color and take home with them.

While many parrots do well with children, and can be excellent

family pets, they generally are not recommended as a children's pet due to their lengthy lifespan and required care. Parrots can live from 40 to 80 years, depending on the type - Macaws average lifespan is 50 years. Parrots also require consistent daily care and attention.

Next time you are in the mood for a tropical drink, drop by the Marriott Sand Key and say hello to Lisa.



THE TALENTED CHEF BEHIND THE NEW FAVORITES AT THE ORIGINAL CRABBY BILL'S

By Veronica Ayala

At the young age of 16, Isaias started working in restaurant kitchens. He had an instant passion for creating a variety of cuisines. His experience with cooking came from home. His father was a farmer in Mexico, and his mother would cook delicious meals for the employees. Since he was little, Isaias started to help his mom prepare food with fresh products from the farm. Once in the restaurant industry, Isaias had the desire to learn every aspect of how to run a kitchen. He quickly moved up to head chef and then kitchen manager by working every station. Now, he has over 30 years of fine dining experience including American, Italian, Greek, Serbian, and Mexican cuisine, to name a few.

At the beginning of 2021, Isaias was looking for an exciting new opportunity. The chef visited Indian Rocks Beach, saw the job opening for Head Chef at Crabby Bill's, and applied for it. It has been 5 months since he got the job, and he loves it! He also mentioned his admiration for the Loder family: "I am amazed how united, kind, and hard-working they are as a family."

His adventure at Crabby Bill's kitchen inspired him to come up with new recipes that are now part of the menu for 2022. Last year, his most unique inventions were the conch fritters and the alligator chowder. He is eager to learn more about what customers would like to see or try on the menu.

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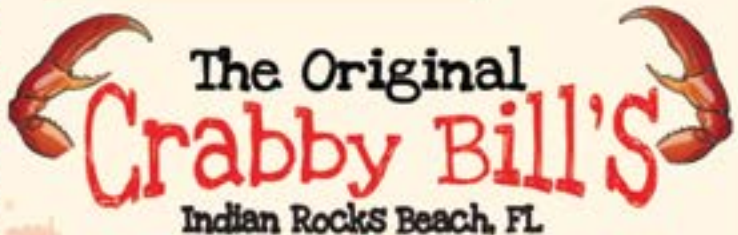
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MEET THE NEW FIRE CHIEF

by Pete Magnani



Chief Davidson and FF Tomilonus

Chief Jeffrey Davidson was sworn in as the new Chief of the Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue District on November 15, 2021, to replace retiring Chief Mike Burton. Chief Davidson is a 33-year veteran of the fire service, and also served in the United States Army Reserve. Born in Miami and raised in Hollywood, FL, Davidson started his career at age 18 with Hollywood Fire Rescue. He rose through the ranks,

eventually becoming Training Chief for the Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue and later, at Boynton Beach Fire Rescue.

“One of the most rewarding aspects of my career has been teaching and developing others. To see someone who comes into the fire service who has the minimum training and watching them grow and develop into the future leaders is extremely rewarding.”

Mental health training and awareness among first responders is another one of Chief Davidson’s priorities. In 2018, after being appointed Chief of the Haines City Fire Department, Davidson was tasked with leading the defusing team for the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, FL. His team provided Critical Incident Stress Management for 108 firefighters, police officers, paramedics, and dispatchers involved in the tragic event.

While serving in Haines City, Davidson began spending his weekends at Pinellas Gulf beaches, When the position opened at PSFRD, he jumped at the opportunity to continue his career in Indian Rocks Beach. Chief Davidson is looking forward to tackling the challenges of being Fire Chief of a department that serves not one, but several distinct municipalities. He recognizes the need to maintain different program development for different cities to address the individual needs of each community.

In his brief time at PSFRD, he has noticed the close-knit aspect of IRB and is excited to interact with the community. “I’m a customer service guy, I look forward to getting out and interacting with residents and planning events where neighbors can get to know their firefighters in a pleasant setting, not just when they meet in the unfortunate circumstances we respond to.”

Another of Chief Davidson’s priorities is raising awareness of the “Baby Sleep Safe” initiative, which provides education to parents, grandparents, and caregivers about proper positioning and safe bedding arrangements to prevent sleep-related deaths among infants. He is also enthusiastic about programs involving fall prevention for the elderly.

Chief Davidson currently resides in Dunedin and has twin 24-year-old daughters who live in Georgia. He exercises daily and is certified as a Level I Crossfit Trainer. “Being an effective leader requires that I take time to invest in my personal health. I believe in leading by example.”

PSFRD is planning a “Washdown Ceremony” to celebrate the delivery of a new Rescue Pumper at the end of the month. This public event will be a great opportunity to meet the new chief, the date is to be announced.

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THIS YEAR, I'M GOING TO...

by Pete Magnani

Did you get a new gym membership? Did you put a lock on the liquor cabinet? Did you throw out all those leftover holiday chocolates and stock up on granola and quinoa? It's a new year and that, for many people, means new resolutions. The question is how long will we keep them?

Getting in shape is historically the most common goal.

According to a survey by Statista, 50% of respondents that made resolutions for 2021 vowed to get in shape or lose weight. 44% resolved to save more money, while 18% intended



to spend more time with family. These have generally been the most common resolutions for decades, but with the surging popularity of social media, more and more people are pledging to spend less time on Facebook and Instagram.

While many begin the new year with the best intentions, most fall short of their goals. U.S. News & World Report advises that 80% of Americans give up on their resolutions, most by mid-February. Most commonly, this is attributed to setting too lofty expectations or not budgeting enough time to the commitments we have made. According to Ohio State University psychologist Dr. Sophie Lazarus, these high aspirations might do more harm than good. "When setting resolutions, it's important to look at your actual resources for making those changes, and you want those resolutions to be commensurate with that capability," says Dr. Lazarus. But the main problem may lie in the idea of a resolution itself, especially when made after a period of stress and uncertainty.



According to Dr. Lazarus, perhaps the best resolution to make for 2022 is not to make any resolutions. "It's probably more useful to look at what's going on in our lives, and especially

given everything that has been asked of us and all of the adaptation we've been going through, if it's really a good time to make a change," says Dr. Lazarus. "What we don't want to do is set a really large sweeping kind of goal, not meet it, and feel more stressed and discouraged.

Dr. Lazarus recommends starting small. Take more walks, get outside your head, be less critical of yourself. "The big changes that require us to make a huge difference in our daily routine tend not to be successful anyway, and especially this year, we don't want one more reason to beat ourselves up."

Whatever your resolution for 2022, Lora and I wish all of you a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

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Restaurant & Bar News

ISLAND GRILLE HAS FAMILIAR NEW OWNERS Steve Wesphal, former owner of "The Pub" in Indian Shores, has bought another restaurant on the water.

Steve, and his wife Nancy, sold his Indian Shores waterfront restaurant about 5 years ago. He opened four restaurants in Downtown St Pete, including Parkshore Grill and 400 Beach Seafood. He recently sold his interest in 400 Beach. Just when he thought he was cutting back and retiring...he did it again. He bought Island Grille & Raw Bar in Tierra Verde. It is connected to the new Residence Inn at 210 Madonna Blvd. Check out the menu at IslandRawBar.com



SCULLEY'S WATERFRONT REOPENS John's Pass staple Sculley's Waterfront Restaurant was recently purchased and renovated by Sun Pubs, owners of the Caddy's line of waterfront restaurants. Sun Pubs consulted a wildlife specialist to ensure all renovations were eco-friendly to the area's diverse wildlife population. Phase Two of the project will be to renovate The Hut. The iconic open air restaurant next door to Sculley's will reopen as Caddy's Waterfront in the coming months..

NEW MANAGER AT JIMMY GUANA'S Jimmy Guana's didn't have to look far to find a successor to retiring Food and Beverage Manager Ken Peterson. Lisa Mirochna was promoted from General Manager to fill the position. She has been with Jimmy's for over 7 years, after spending 10 years as a manager at Crabby's in Clearwater Beach.

HURRICANE EDDIE'S OPEN The latest in the Eddie's Bar and Restaurant franchise should be open by the time you read this. Some kitchen equipment is on backorder, but General Manager Mchelle Cognetti says they will be open for beverage service only at first. Once the kitchen is complete, the restaurant will offer breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

TINY BUBBLES & BIG REDS Bella Vino. Wine and Cheese Market will celebrate their "Sweet 16" at their Annual Grand Tasting January 28 from 6-8:30pm at Belleair Country Club. The event will feature over 100 premium wines, artisan cheese display, food stations, live music, and a champagne bar. Tickets are on sale now at Bella Vino. Call 727-584-5552 for details.

SEKUSHI OPEN By the time you read this, Sekushi's highly anticipated new Belleair location should be open. Owner Frank Manella plans a January 1st opening after serving several private parties over the holidays. The new restaurant, in the Plaza at Belleair Bluffs, is the second Sekushi location. For more information visit www.sekushionthebeach.com.

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES AT CADDY'S Crews continue work at Caddy's Indian Shores, replacing the entire outdoor area, including the bar, deck and covered patio seating, as well as renovating the interior restaurant.



RESTAURANT NEWS WANTED If your restaurant has news or an upcoming event, we want to include it in this Magazine. E-mail details to Lora@MagriffProductions.com or call 813-361-7376.



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CRIMESTOPPERS: SOLVING CRIME, ONE TIP AT A TIME

From the Desk of Sheriff Bob Gualtieri

When DNA evidence is contaminated or additional evidence is limited, how do detectives solve the case? It was a question that Detective Greg MacAleese from the Albuquerque Police Department had in the summer of 1976 when he was assigned the case of Michael Carmen, a local college student who was robbed and shot to death while working at a gas station.

Months after the murder of Carmen, MacAleese and his colleagues still had no leads. With limited evidence, MacAleese grew frustrated. He knew that someone had information that would lead to an arrest, but he needed to figure out how he could get that information.

In the hopes that it would establish a lead, MacAleese produced a video re-enactment of the homicide and had the clip air on a local television station. In the re-enactment, he also guaranteed anonymity and a cash reward to anyone who could provide information leading to an arrest. Following the airing of the video, MacAleese received a tip that led to the arrest of two suspects within 72 hours. Both suspects were charged with the murder of Michael Carmen and a string of armed robberies.

Due to MacAleese's determination to solve Carmen's murder and his innovative thinking, Crime Stoppers was established on September 8th, 1976. Today, Crime Stoppers is an international program with coordinators all over the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe, Australia, and the South/Western Pacific. Crime Stoppers of Pinellas County was formed in January of 2001. Currently, Jamie Smith serves as the Crime Stoppers Coordinator for Pinellas County and she is assigned within the Public Relations Bureau of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office.

"The fact that the community can submit tips, remain anonymous, and be rewarded if the tip leads to an arrest is pretty significant in helping law enforcement with their investigations," Smith said.

Every day, in addition to reviewing tips, Smith also works on determining if submitted tips led to an arrest or were determined to be unfounded. Tips that lead to an arrest are eligible for a monetary reward. Once approved, the tipster is able to claim their reward at a local bank by providing their unique tip number and password given to them at the initial submission of the tip.

While Smith reviews hundreds of tips each year, one she received in February of last year stands out. The St. Petersburg Police Department had published a news release asking for the community's help in identifying a suspect in a double homicide. Soon after, Crime Stoppers received a tip that detailed the clothes that the suspect had on. Using this info, detectives managed to find the suspect's clothes in a dumpster just 30 minutes before Waste Management was scheduled to empty the dumpster. "Knowing that a bad guy is taken off the street based on an anonymous tip is the most rewarding part of my job," Smith said. To date, tips through Crime Stoppers of Pinellas County have led to over 1,100 arrests and more than \$300,000 in rewards.

If you have information pertaining to a crime, you can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-873-TIPS or submit a tip online by visiting <http://www.crimestoppersofpinellas.org/>.

If you don't have a tip to submit, but are interested in being a part of the Board of Directors you can call Crime Stoppers of Pinellas County at 727-582-5806.

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CMA HAS A NEW RESIDENT

Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) is excited to announce it has been selected by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to be the forever home to a new rescued male dolphin.

"We are overjoyed to welcome a new family member to CMA," said Kelly Martin, VP of Zoological Care. "Coming off the heels of Winter's rescue anniversary on December 11th and her death in November, this new dolphin is a burst of new life and energy that our team is so excited to embrace. December truly is our magical month at CMA." Resident bottlenose dolphins Hope, Nicholas, and rough-toothed dolphin Rudolph were all rescued during the month of December.



Named "Apollo" after his place of rescue on Florida's Space Coast, the 2-year-old dolphin will reside at CMA's Ruth & J.O. Stone Dolphin Complex where Winter the Dolphin once lived with resident dolphins Hope, PJ, Nicholas, and Hemingway.

On May 15, 2021, Apollo stranded on Playalinda Beach, Fla., approximately 20 miles from where Winter the Dolphin was rescued in 2005. Unlike Winter, who was found entangled in a crab trap swimming in Mosquito Lagoon, Apollo was discovered on the beach. Rescuers observed that Apollo was thin and had visible parasites on his dorsal fin, pectoral fins, and fluke. "After nearly seven months of intensive treatment and rehabilitation, Apollo's health improved and we had every hope that he would make a complete recovery and be able to return to his natural environment," said Jon Peterson, VP of Zoological Operations at SeaWorld Orlando, and Head of the SeaWorld Orlando Rescue Team. "Unfortunately, a hearing test performed by the National Marine Mammal Foundation (NMMF) revealed that Apollo has atypical hearing loss compromising his ability to echolocate. Due to his hearing loss, NMFS determined Apollo was not a candidate for release."

"Due to their history for providing excellent care for rescued marine life and especially dolphins who exhibit hearing loss, Clearwater Marine Aquarium was selected as Apollo's permanent home," said Dr. Erin Fougères, NOAA Fisheries Marine Mammal Stranding Program Administrator.

"It is because of the wonderful teamwork, respect, and professionalism executed by each organization that took part in Apollo's rescue that he is able to take advantage of this second chance at life," said Dr. James "Buddy" Powell, Executive Director. "As a working marine life hospital, we are committed to providing the best care possible to each and every animal that needs our help, and we are honored that National Marine Fisheries chose us as the best home possible for Apollo. Please join us in welcoming him to our family!"

Apollo is a little over 6-feet long and weighs approximately 200 lbs. Guests can visit him in his new home at Clearwater Marine Aquarium's Ruth & J.O. Stone Dolphin Complex. Tickets are available at cmaquarium.org.

PADDLEBOARDING FOR A PURPOSE

by Nan Prevost, RN

In 2013, I was loving life with Shane, my husband of 16 years, and raising my two young boys when my life changed in an instant.

My husband had been living with bipolar disorder even before our marriage, and he started to spiral out of control.

I lost my husband to suicide eight years ago. My babies lost their dad to a death I couldn't explain. Nurses like answers. We're problem solvers. But I had no answers.



The hardest part of my journey was staying strong for my children through all the unknowns. My friends — nurses I work with — kept me strong. We take care of each other.

During the rough times after my husband's death, I started paddle boarding with a friend and colleague to help with my anxiety. I became very good at it and won several races in Florida.

In 2015, I was approached by a company called Watersports West that offered to sponsor me in paddle board races. Our collaboration grew from there, and Watersports West began providing boards I could use to take other nurses who were working on the front lines out on the water as a form of stress relief.

I had experienced what "water therapy" could do, and I wanted to share that positivity with others. Interest in paddle boarding grew, and before I knew it I was getting calls from healthcare workers who were interested in heading out on the water with me. The response led to my decision to



start my own non-profit organization — not only to help my colleagues but anyone struggling with mental health issues. My non-profit is an interventional program called "Remember Me NP" and the goal is for suicide prevention. It was created in loving memory of Shane and all the healthcare workers we've lost to COVID-19 during this dreadful pandemic.

Most of my volunteers are first responders trained to recognize if a participant may need additional support and resources. Watersports West supplies me with boards and gear for my program, while another sponsor, Island Surf Shop, donated office space. And I'm just getting started.

Remember Me NP is a nonprofit 501(c)3 that offers programs with mentorships throughout the community that helps to educate, decrease the stigma, and raise awareness for suicide prevention. Interested donors and volunteers can learn more at www.programsforsuicideprevention.com.

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CLYDE BUTCHER PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITS IN CLEARWATER

by Jason Aquilar

Bay area residents and visitors currently have a unique opportunity to see the work of one of Florida's "Top 100 Most Influential Floridians" for free inside the Clearwater Main Library. Photographer Clyde Butcher was on hand for the opening of his America's Everglades Exhibit on November 6th along with his wife Niki and daughter Jackie. Visitors to the exhibit were lined up outside the front door waiting to get in when the library opened at 11am. They were there to see Clyde's photography and have an opportunity to meet Clyde himself. Clyde was autographing books and calendars that were available for purchase. Seated amidst the gallery, he took time to interact and pose for photographs with attendees.

Born in Kansas City, Missouri in 1942, Clyde graduated with a degree in architecture from California Polytechnic State University. After visiting an Ansel Adams exhibit in Yosemite National Park, he was inspired to photograph landscapes, and left the architecture field in 1970. Clyde began his photography career in color, but later vowed to photograph images only in black and white after the loss of his 17-year-old son Ted who was killed by a drunk driver in 1986. Clyde met a Florida native who introduced him to the interior of the Big Cypress National Preserve and the Everglades and took him on his first swamp walk. The mystery and natural beauty of the area helped to soothe and restore his soul, inspiring him to take black and white photos of the swamp.

Clyde often waits patiently for hours until the light, clouds and composition all come together to create the perfect image that he wants to share. Besides the subject matter and the vivid monochrome feel of Clyde's work, what distinguishes him from other landscape photographers is his huge mural sized

prints, some with dimensions of up to five by nine feet. Their enormous size allows you to view the image in the immersive way Clyde saw it when he created it, standing amidst nature.

Clyde also is recognized as

a conservationist for showcasing the delicate nature of the environment and in particular the Florida Everglades and its importance in our ecosystem. "It is my hope that the vision I give to you of the Everglades will inspire you to love and protect it for generations to come," Clyde Butcher said of the Clearwater exhibit. Clyde hopes his images transcend politics and his philosophy is "The World is Round" which essentially means that what we do in our region also affects the entire planet and all its inhabitants.

"The Everglades exhibit is an opportunity for us to not only showcase a nationally acclaimed artist but also the importance of our environment," said Amanda Thompson, Community Redevelopment Agency Director. "We welcome residents and visitors to experience this new gallery overlooking the waterfront and all the opportunities for arts and entertainment that Downtown Clearwater has to offer." This exhibit is on display until May 31, 2022, during regular library hours at 100 N Osceola Ave, Clearwater.



Clyde Butcher with author Jason Aquilar

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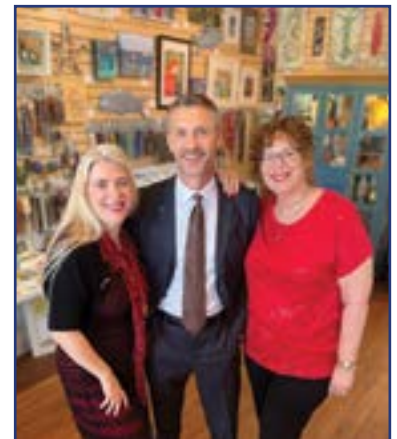
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ISLAND COVE CELEBRATES TEN YEARS Colleen Ewart, Roger Ewart, and Sue Lennon opened Island Cove in 2012 with a vision of a creative space for local artists. Ten years later, that idea has grown into a full retail gallery offering fine art, gifts, beads, pottery, jewelry and more.

"Our Seaside studio is a community haven for local artists and students of all ages to indulge their imaginations," says Colleen. "Everyone is a part of our Island Cove family, and we come together to do what we love."



The shop features pieces from over 50 artists. Island Cove's eight instructors offer a growing inventory of classes including jewelry making, ornament crafting, and painting in their newly expanded teaching studio. Island Cove has several "Trunk Shows" planned for 2022. The first features Phil from Voyager Beads and will take place at the studio January 6-8. An anniversary celebration will be held February 19th. Visit island-cove.com for more information.

SURGE STUDIOS Dan Burke and Get Fitness will be holding a ribbon cutting for the new Surge Studio concept on January 20 at 5:30 pm. The studio opened next door to Get Fitness in October and offers a new take on fitness, combining high intensity group training and technology driven spin classes. The combination of Surge Studio and Get Fitness offers members a unique all-in-one fitness experience with a fully equipped gym and variety of classes, including, HIIT, Spin, Yoga, and Pilates. The studio also participates in the Silver Sneakers program. Visit getfitnessclubs.com for more information or stop by the studio for a tour.



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Business Briefs

SEVERAL NEW AIRLINE ROUTES FROM PIE St. Pete-Clearwater International announced the addition of several new routes by different carriers. Swoop Airlines began nonstop service from PIE to Ontario in November. The ultra-low cost carrier offers two flights weekly to Hamilton and three to Toronto. Sun Country also added routes from St Pete-Clearwater in November, offering four flights weekly from PIE to Minneapolis-St. Paul.

NEED A HANDYMAN!

Having lived in several states, local resident George Lyle now calls Clearwater home. Still healthy and vibrant, he finds retirement not an option. Now, Lyle is putting his over 40 years experience as a home builder and renovator to good use by doing home repair handyman style. While focusing mainly on electrical and plumbing work, he will most likely consider whatever work it is you need done. With his many years of experience he quickly gets the job done.



One favorable point is when you hire him, he is the one that does the work. He does not pass it off to someone else. Many customers take comfort knowing that. His in-home estimates are free and there's no pressure - George Lyle prides himself on honesty and quality work. You can reach him at 970-946-5200 or e-mail georgelyle72@

REDS, WHITES & BITES The Community Dental Clinic will host its 6th Annual Red, Whites & Bites Wine Event and Fundraiser on March 12, 2022, featuring Honorary Chairs Michael & Kristina Piazza. Guests will enjoy delightful wine from Bella Vino, delicious bites from favorite local restaurants, and an opportunity to win fine wines graciously donated by local connoisseurs - all under the stars at the beautiful Achieva Credit Union Headquarters in Dunedin. The event funds one third of the clinic's budget each year, providing crucial support for their mission to bring relief and hope to low-income uninsured adults in dental distress! Over the past year, the clinic performed more than 10,000 dental procedures in 3,000 encounters which totaled more than \$1.6 million in free dental care! For more information, visit the Reds Whites & Bites tab at www.communitydentalclinic.net.

UNITED HAS A NEW LOOK

United Taxi has served the Clearwater Beach area for many years, and so have their cars. They are in the process of changing out their older taxis to a new and improved Ford Taurus. Call 777-7777 or book a ride online at go777taxi.com.



BUSINESS NEWS WANTED If your business has news you would like to share with the readers of this Magazine, e-mail Lora@MagriffProductions.com or call 813-361-7376.

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8am - 2pm

1401 Gulf Blvd. IRB

WINTER'S LEGACY

By Pete Magnani

When marine mammal rescuers arrived at Mosquito Lagoon, part of the Canaveral National Seashore about thirty miles south of Daytona Beach, they found a two-month-old Atlantic bottlenose dolphin tangled in the ropes of a crab trap. Her chances at survival were minimal, but not only did Winter beat the odds for 16 years, she and her caretakers created a legacy that benefitted the lives of marine animals and humans alike.

Rescued on December 10, 2005, Winter was brought to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium on Island Estates. CMA opened in 1981 as the Clearwater Marine Science Center. The marine biology learning center began in a sparse, yet functional facility that was a previously abandoned water treatment plant. It had two 65,000-gallon pools intended for use in the rehabilitation of dolphins and sea turtles. Renovations in the 1990s led to increased public awareness of the facility, and it was rebranded as the Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

After Winter's arrival, the damage caused by the rope made it necessary to amputate her tail. Due to this severe limitation on her swimming ability, her team decided to explore the possibility of fitting her with a prosthetic tail. In 2006, her story reached Kevin Carroll, Vice President of Lower Extremity Prosthetics at Hangar Clinic, and he offered to help. Over 18 months, Carroll and Hangar Clinic Manager Dan Strzempka overcame a multitude of obstacles and developed a functional tail for Winter, allowing her the opportunity to swim normally and survive.

Winter quickly became a fan favorite at the aquarium, and a 2009 book



"Winter's Tail: How One Little Dolphin Learned to Swim Again" increased interest in her story. In 2011, "Dolphin Tale" premiered on the big screen, starring Harry Connick Jr., Morgan Freeman, and Ashely Judd. The film and its sequel drew worldwide attention to Winter and her success against overwhelming odds. The resulting flurry of coverage brought a tide of new visitors and gave the aquarium an opportunity for expansion that allowed for a much more attractive experience for guests, but more importantly, a dramatically improved facility to conduct CMA's mission of "Rescue, Rehab, Release."

CMA's 2020 expansion increased the guest space by 103,000 square feet and added 1.5 million gallons of water environment for the seven resident dolphins, as well as a cast of sea turtles, stingrays, otters, sharks, and pelicans. A new educational theater opened recently with 350 seats, along with a virtual reality learning exhibit. Renovations are also underway to convert the two

pools into a rehab and recovery environment for injured manatees.

In addition to being the momentum behind a greatly improved resource for the care of sick and injured animals, Winter also quickly became an inspiration for humans with disabilities, particularly amputees. As well as being a symbol of motivation and encouragement for those struggling through rehabilitation, discoveries made during development of her tail were adapted to the benefit of human prosthetics. "Winter's Gel," a sleeve developed to ease irritation of her skin from the prosthesis, is now used to ease the pain of human prosthetics.

In early November, Winter developed a gastrointestinal infection. Though she had overcome these before, her condition worsened, and Winter passed away on November 11, 2021, at the age of 16. Although her life was short by standards of her species, her impact on the availability of care for injured sea creatures will continue. The impression she made on approximately 750,000 annual CMA visitors and millions that watched her movies is immeasurable. But the comfort and inspiration that her story will continue to provide to countless people with disabilities is Winter's true legacy.

Learn more about Winter and CMA at www.cmaaquarium.com.



Winter wearing her prosthetic tail



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Enbrel when injected this way stops the inflammatory cascade in the central nervous system within hours, and appears to stop it permanently. So that is why it is now being used for spinal stenosis, strokes (of any age), Down's syndrome, cerebral palsy, PTSD and any neurological injury or genetic defect that causes an inflammatory response.

This unique use of Enbrel is now becoming the treatment of choice by neurologist in Australia and now we are seeing it used here in the US.

To learn more please call Young Foundational Health Center at 727-545-4600.



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Community News

GREENTOWN KIDS CELEBRATES 5TH ANNIVERSARY

Submitted by Alli DeVore

Happy New Year to all our Greenies & IRB Community! We're thrilled to be celebrating our 5th anniversary this year in IRB! We look forward to continue to make a positive impact on our earth and community by creating a green town through our 2 main initiatives: Gardening & Growing; and Clean Beach and Ocean. Mark your calendars for 2022, and volunteer with us for quarterly beach cleanups, community garden events, and more outdoor fun! Contact us to become a local business beach cleanup partner.



2022 Clean Beach &

Ocean Events - IRB

Jan 23 - "Clean Beach, Clean Slate Cleanup"

Apr 3 - "Earth Month - Great American Cleanup"

Jul 5 - "Red White & Blue Beach Cleanup"

Nov 6 - "Give Thanks for a Clean Beach Cleanup"

April (all month) - Take-a-Toy Leave-a-Toy Beach Toy Donation Drive

September (all month) - Take-a-Toy Leave-a-Toy Beach Toy Donation Drive

2022 Gardening & Growing Events - Community Garden

Feb 27 - Spring garden prep & work day

Mar 1-6 - Plant spring garden

May 7 - Garden Party & U-Pick

Sep 25 - Fall Garden prep & work day

Oct 5-9 - Plant fall garden

Dec 3 - Holiday Harvest & Donation Drive (gently used kids clothing, toys, books, car seats, strollers, etc.)

Visit: www.greentownkids.org to become a member, get more info, and receive monthly newsletters.



ACTION 2000

Submitted by Diane Flagg

Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year filled with new opportunities. Action 2000 offers opportunities for you to volunteer and become part of an organization that promotes beautification and preservation in IRB. Along with this you will get to meet friends and neighbors and enjoy the benefits of volunteerism and be proud of the accomplishments achieved when we work together.

We are a committed, spirited group of volunteers who care about our town and have fun along the way.

Our goals include landscape improvement projects, maintenance of existing projects, and other new projects we coordinate with the city. We annually give preservation awards to both business and residences that preserve our small-town charm. We also along with our Plein Aire Cottage artists help distribute the famous IRB Cottage Calendars.

A grateful thank you to Mary Rose Holmes and her son Scott Holmes for all the work they put into the calendars this year. If you didn't get one it's not too late, you can visit our website and still purchase.

We have a May mixer that brings our community together, a great time to be with friends and family.

Our annual fundraiser is Oktoberfest which takes planning during the year and needs many volunteers. This event, a tradition in IRB is our major fundraiser and all the monies received are reinvested in our city.

This past year we were able to renovate the Gazebo in Kolb Park, making it the centerpiece for not only Oktoberfest but other events as well.

We also donated monies for our City's Christmas decorating which we enjoy seeing on Gulf Blvd.

Our monthly meetings are the 2nd Monday of each month, 6:30PM at the IRB City Auditorium., and all are welcome. Please come as a guest and check us out!

You can visit our website www.irbaction2000.com to get more information about our organization, to join, or to donate. Your donations are tax deductible and go to work in our community supporting beneficial projects throughout the year. Together we can make a difference!
info@irb2000.com

ROTARY AWARDS BIG GAME RAFFLE PRIZES

The 19th annual Big Game Raffle, presented by the Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach, ended on December 12 with the drawing of one Grand Prize winner and four cash winners. Grand Prize (2 tickets to the Super Bowl 56, 4 nights lodging in LA and \$1000): Keith Widmer, St Petersburg.

Second Prize (\$1000): Deborah Rogowski, Redington Shores.

Third Prize (\$500): Ricki Spencer, Largo, FL

Fourth Prize (\$300): Robin Macak, Tampa, FL

Fifth Prize (\$200): Joe Fishman, Pinellas County, FL

The drawing event was hosted by our friends at Slyce Pizza. Thank you Slyce, for your hospitality and great service!

We appreciate the support of the community with this and all our fundraisers throughout the year. The funds raised by these events allow us to support the humanitarian projects that 'do good in the world'. Our next fundraisers will be taking place in March 2022, as we will present our annual Pancake Breakfast and 'Rotary Runs the Beach'.

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VOTED #1 IN TAMPA BAY



Community News

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH
NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS
www.beachnewstimes.com Magazine

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



We wish you a happy
and healthy 2022!
Lora and Pete Magnani

INDIAN ROCKS SENIOR SOFTBALL Indian Rocks Beach Senior Softball just concluded their 11th year and are starting their 12th on January 18th. The league consists of a group of men and women that enjoy the game. Five teams competed for the Fall Championship and Kenny Washburn, team manager, led the Orange Crush to the win. Games are played at Campalong Field at the corner of 1st street and 15th Ave starting 5pm every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Come out an



watch!

BELLEAIR GARDEN CLUB The Huge Junk & Jewels Sale will be held at 903 Ponce de Leon Blvd, Belleair on February 18-19 from 8am to 1pm. The Presale (with a \$5 entry fee) will be February 17 from 4:30-7pm. Net proceeds support club scholarships & historic preservation programs

For further information about the Belleair Garden Club and the "Junk & Jewels" fundraiser, or attending the event, please contact Jan (727) 412-2344 or visit belleairgardenclub.com. Eclectic junk, jewelry, housewares, artwork, books, handbags, scarves, hats, belts, shoes and table top decor will be accepted. Other items may be accepted on a case-by-case basis. Items that will not be accepted are: furniture, electronics and appliances.

The Belleair Garden Club, a non-profit organization in its 71st year, raises funds to support historic preservation programs and education scholarships for horticulture and botany studies for post high school students.

For further information about donating to the Belleair Garden Club and the "Junk & Jewels" fundraiser, contact Jan (727) 412-2344 and/or www.belleairgardenclub.com.

IRB MUNICIPAL ELECTION CANCELLED There will be no municipal election this year in Indian Rocks Beach. The three candidates on the ballot are running unopposed and will be sworn in on March 29th at 6 pm.

Congratulations to Mayor-Commissioner-elect Joanne "Cookie" Moston Kennedy, Commissioner-elect Jude Bond, and Commissioner -elect Joseph D. McCall.

There will be a state and federal election on November 8th, with a primary election August 23rd, so make sure you're registered to vote!

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Community News

18TH AVE BEACH CLEANUP

Join Epic Diving Florida in a beach cleanup at Indian rocks beach January 14, 2022. We will be meeting at Pinellas County Beach Access Park between 17th Ave and 18th Ave at 4pm. After the cleanup we will enjoy the sunset. Let's get out there and prevent more of our trash from entering the ocean and getting into the bellies of fish, sharks, and turtles. Bring gloves, a bucket, hand sanitizer, and a friend!



We will also have a beach cleanup at Sail Honeymoon on the Dunedin Causeway on February 18th at 4 pm. Find Epicdivingfl on Facebook and Instagram for event updates or to RSVP.

BOOTS AND BRUSHES-FEBRUARY 26 Pull on your boots and mosey on over! You'll enjoy Country Music and dancing to the Logan Brothers Band, a delicious BBQ Spread, a Cash bar with beer, wine and whiskey, and of course Art. A more casual theme than past Fundraising Galas held at the Beach Art Center, less a "date night" and more a time for friends to celebrate our community with music, food and fun. This will be an indoor/outdoor event, allowing plenty of space and fresh air for all. Wear what you like but expect to see lots of jeans, cowboy hats, and boots on the dance floor! This year we have a special ticket price for Members Only. Although this year's theme is more casual than the past, the purpose is just as important. Without these opportunities and our generous sponsors and donors, the Beach Art Center would not be able to continue to serve the community. This year's event is presented by The Original Crabby Bill's. For details, visit www.beachartscenter.com

BEACH COMMUNITY THRIFT STORE Church of the Isles and the Beach Community Thrift Store are pleased to announce that starting in January we will be adding Wednesdays back onto our store schedule. Now you can get your favorite IRB bargains on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10am-2:00p,. We always have new merchandise, so it's worth visiting us once or twice a week! We are location on 25th Ave. across from the church. Also, we are gearing up for the 14th Annual Greenfest, on March 26th, from 10am-5pm, after a two-year COVID break. Save the date and spread the word.

FREEFALL THEATRE COMPANY Before Julia Child and long before today's proliferation of cooking shows, there was James Beard, the first TV chef. He brought a love for fine cooking (and a sense of humor) to the small screen in 1946 and helped establish an American cuisine based on fresh ingredients. Beard's interactive performance *I Love to Eat (a love story with food)* invites you to meet the man described as "the face and belly of American gastronomy. The solo play will be performed at freeFall Theatre January 28 -February 27.

Visit freefallthatre.com for tickets or info.

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Community News

FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS

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January 15, 22, & 29 9:30-10:30 am

F4 5 Training Largo East hosts a series of outdoor workouts led by nationally certified personal trainers designed for all fitness levels. These one-hour workouts use a person's own body weight for aerobic and plyometric exercise to improve strength, flexibility, and cardiovascular health.



Pinellas African American Heritage Celebration

February 26 10am-4pm



A one day event at the Florida Botanical Gardens and Heritage Village in Largo, Florida. Showcasing Black history and culture, the goal of this one-day festival is to exhibit the diversity within Pinellas County. We will be highlighting

the many talents of the students within Pinellas County Schools, talented local artists, entrepreneurs, and restaurateurs. This festival will include gospel, jazz, and hip-hop performances from many gifted entertainers in the Tampa Bay area. The history and unique culture of the African American community in Pinellas will be on full display. Interested in becoming a vendor? Visit pinellasafrikanamericanheritagecelebration.org.

WEST PINELLAS LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

Registration for West Pinellas Little League is now open. The Spring Season runs from late February to early May, 2022. Players aged 4-14 are welcome to join the fun! To play, volunteer or donate, visit westpinellaslittleleague.org. Sign up now!

WINTERFEST ON THE ROCKS

Calvary Episcopal Church presents Winterfest on the Rocks February 19th from 10am-4pm. The event will feature items from vendors and local small businesses. A silent auction and "Southern Hospitality" meal (pre-ordered and prepaid) will take place between 3pm and 6pm. There will be musical entertainment during this family-friendly event, and there will be activities for children. For further info call 727-595-2374 or visit calvaryirb.org.

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- Shredded Paper (too small)
- Wrapping Paper or Cards with glitter or foil
- Photo Paper, Receipt Paper
- Wax Paper, Foil
- Styrofoam, Foam Containers, Foam Packaging
- Hard Plastic (i.e. Buckets; Food Trays, Reusable Food Containers, Toys, Hangers)
- Curtains, Blinds
- Peanut Butter & Salad Dressing Jars (too greasy)
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