

The Island Reporter

The Premier Paper of South Pinellas County

Rivals and Friends on the Same Track

By Betsy Judge

They skate hard, hit hard and fall hard, and if you think the full contact sport of roller derby is a relic, think again.

Not only is roller derby alive and well in St. Pete; but because doing it on a flat track is too tame for the members of the Deadly Rival Roller Derby Team, they do it on the only banked track in Florida and one of only ten in the U.S.

With team names like Princess Slaya, Suzie B. Catastrophe, Ice Box and Murder Ride, the women who play at the Slayground in St. Pete, have extremely varied backgrounds.

Loren Yancey is the director of operations for Tampa Bay Food Trucks. The Treasure Island resident was a semi-professional dancer in New York before moving here.

"I started researching them a year before I started," says Slaya, their designated PR person. She was worried about injuries, "but I missed being part of a team; I missed the camaraderie."

A little over a year ago, she participated in one of their monthly recruitment nights where potential players use loaner gear to see if the sport is for them. She liked it, took the name Princess Slaya and became fresh meat—a rookie.

It took her about six weeks to get through fresh meat training and into advanced fresh meat, another six months to get to the league, and another few months before she was ready to bout—play a game.



A Jammer (red helmet) races around the track to score after making it through the opposing team's blockers. Jammers wear a "panty" with a star over their helmets designating them as the teams' scoring player.

she is Suzie B. Catastrophe. She says her best friend sent her "Whip It," the 2009 movie about roller derby, and she was hooked.

"I started in Tampa with a flat track team 10 years ago then I moved to Deadly Rival when it was still a flat track team."

The banked track is courtesy of what she calls the "wizardry of Murder," Tricia Carney-Wells aka Murder Ride and owner of the league. "She worked hard to find the banked track for us." Murder purchased it from Reno Nevada and paid to have it moved. Today they call it the BLT, the biggest little track that came from the biggest little city in the world.

Despite her name, Murder Ride has a contagious giggle. She started on a flat track about 13 years ago in Tampa. When it became too difficult to make practices there, the litigation paralegal from St. Pete started Deadly Rival here.

DERBY continued on page 8

Rick's Reef Stellar Reviews Drive Performance

By TIR Staff

Five star reviews is what motivates Tyler Hipsley and the staff at Rick's Reef in St. Pete Beach, "Where old world Florida meets new world taste!"

"I push my staff, and I make sure they are given a little incentive to give perfect service, I make sure my kitchen staff is giving 100 percent and food comes out perfect every time," says Tyler, the general manager.



Photos like this from Rick's Reef's Facebook page captures the fun atmosphere at the local eatery.

It seems to be working. While there are some critical reviews particularly when they first took over in 2016, as of press time they were rated 4.5 stars on TripAdvisor, 4 stars on Yelp and 4.6 stars on Facebook.

And he engages with reviewers. "I always I try to respond, as best as I can, to every comment, whether it's positive or negative."

Why Rick's Reef? "For something different; we wanted something more local ... more laid-back, more casual," he responds.

"FRESH FOOD NOT FAST FOOD" jumps off a sign on the wall. "Everything is made fresh here—we don't have microwaves; we don't have heat lamps," he says. What he does promise is "phenomenal burgers," "fish tacos which are amazing" and "great lobster mac & cheese."

They have redecorated, upgraded some recipes and added other menu items for more variety. "We get a lot of great feedback."

Getting locals in initially was a challenge and they are often surprised by the food. "One guy told me, 'I lived here 10 years and walked by every day. I thought it was a bar and never realized they had food.' We have breakfast, lunch and dinner," Tyler says, "and they are amazed at our breakfast."

That menu includes 11 types of "Eggs Ben-Addiction" and 8 different omelettes. On the weekends patrons may wash it down with endless mimosas or Sangria, or something from the Bloody

RICK'S continued on page 5



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Photograph by: Peter Clark, Tierra Verde, FL

"Eye on the prize!" Magnificent osprey taken while kayaking the Northern Shell Key Preserve area.



Participants are allowed to submit one photo per month by the 10th of the month for the next contest. Submit to: info@theislandreporter.com



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Beverage Beat A Rosé by Any Other Name...

By Ellen L. Capitosti

As we gently slip-slide our way toward the heat-wave we lovingly refer to as “summer,” let us not allow these delicate spring days to pass by without partaking of the beautifully hued levels of dryness and styles that make up rosé wine.

Rosé is the French word for pink; however, if the wine hails from Portugal or Spain, it is called rosado. If it began life in Italy, it is known as rosato. All the same word in any language which sum up the beautiful springtime essence that is rosé wine.

The color, although basically pink, can range from a pale straw pink, to true pink, to a more orangey-pink. This is due to the types of grapes from which the rosé is derived. Since grapes with red skin have a white flesh, it is the process of allowing the lightly crushed grapes to macerate in their skins which produces the color. The color is also dependent on the amount of time the skins

spend in contact with the wine. The longer the maceration, the darker the wine. This time in the tannins also allows the rosé to take on the more distinctively tannic characteristics found in red wines made from that type of grape. For example, a rosé made from the grape of the Malbec, will not only be a darker color, but a little spicy, as well.

Rosé also lends itself well to pairing with lighter, springtime fare because it can range from fruity and floral when made in Provence or from a pinot, to semi sweet when made from vin gris or garnacha rosado, to dry from cabernet franc or Loire rosé. When pairing a dry rosé with food, think of foods that pair well with crisp dry white wines such as grilled fish, shellfish, and light pastas or goat cheese. A fruity rosé is not above a good old-fashioned barbecue and pairs well with other spicy foods, even curry.

Rosé is not only available as a still wine, but

sparkling and Champagne. The sparkling variety is paired similarly to other sparklings and Champagnes. The weightier vintage rosé Champagne is even able to hold its own when paired with grilled or roasted game birds.

Two lovely rosés to try are the King Estate’s Acrobat Rosé 2014 and Hacienda de Arinzano Rosé 2014. The Acrobat Rosé 2014 has supple fruit flavors at the entrance, fresh acid which brings out the citrus, and spice and floral notes are carried throughout. The Hacienda de Arinzano 2014 is made from the tempranillo grape and its most notable characteristics are velvety and harmonious, refined, elegant, and expressive.

So, don’t be afraid of a pink wine and let that deter you from adding it to your springtime buffet. There is a rosé out there for every palate!

Ellen Capitosti is the owner of Tostis Spirits & Fine Wines.

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From the Publisher

By Betsy Judge

With this issue of The Island Reporter we are expanding our distribution area to reach east of I-275 adjacent to the Skyway Marina District including portions of Lakewood Estates and Pinellas Point. This will include about 3,000 residences and businesses that many of our southeastern advertisers have expressed an interest in reaching for quite some time. We have been impressed with the energy and excitement we see among the business owners in the area and the level of support and encouragement that is being offered by the City of St. Petersburg and the Skyway Marina District Association (SMDA). We are proud to be a new member of the SMDA and look forward to participating and promoting their meetings and events.

This issue is also the debut of our front page business feature which is sponsored content often referred to as native advertising. Our staff writes the story based on interviews like any other article in the paper; the exception is that the sponsor is given an opportunity to review it before publication and pays

for the space. We pride ourselves on our stories and have avoided sponsored content; but it makes marketing sense and it will always be identified as such.

I really enjoyed talking to the ladies of Deadly Rival. I didn't know roller derby still existed until I saw it promoted at The Wheelhouse restaurant. I was amazed at the diverse backgrounds of the women on the team and the support they get from family, friends and volunteers. It is truly something to experience. Check them out on Apr. 28.

There are a number of great events coming up this month including the 8th Annual Salute to the Military and First Responders at Horan Park in St. Pete Beach on Apr. 14. This event began as a pancake breakfast at the Hurricane Restaurant in Pass-a-Grille hosted by the Veterans of South Pinellas County. Over the years it has morphed to the current one-day festival and car show. Proceeds go directly to help local veterans. Hope to see you there.

Happy April and don't forget those taxes.



Publisher Betsy Judge

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Editorial Deadline:

Press releases and community event announcements submitted on behalf of nonprofit organizations, as well as story ideas are welcome! Please submit story ideas by the fifth of the month and press releases by the 10th via email for inclusion in the following month's issue. Submissions of this nature run on a space available basis at the discretion of the newspaper.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pride & Joy	6
The Old Professor	7
Encouraging Words	10
Florida Author	13
Wayne's World	14
Notable Achievements	18
Business News	18
Island Toons	18
TIR Puzzle Page	20
Local Events	21
Business Card Directory	22
TIR Picture Page	23



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RICK's continued from front page

Mary Bar with more than 20 different mixes, 20 toppings and a pick of any vodka including their own infused vodkas.

He credits Hurricane Irma for some of their local following. "We were one of the only spots open on the beach, so everybody came here... And they've been coming back ever since. It's nice."



General Manager Tyler Hipsley promised that their fish tacos are "amazing." They are made with fresh Mahi and served with a side.



Rick's Reef breakfast patrons may choose from 11 types of Benedict, 8 omelettes along with a variety of other breakfast items. They also have endless mimosas or Sangria, and an extensive Bloody Mary Bar on weekends.

They want to be considered family friendly too. They've added a number of games including Wallhooky®, giant jenga and corn toss. "I want this to be for families. We've got games out there and would love to have kids; it's definitely enjoyable for everybody." Pets are also welcome on their covered outdoor deck.

He is effervescent in his praise for the staff and says they do a great job of handling parties as large as 40 people while taking equally good care of everyone else.

"Our food is outstanding, our reviews are great, our service is great, and we've got some great folks back there," he says nodding toward the kitchen. "We have a clean restaurant, and we also have a very fun staff."

For more information go to www.ricksreefstpete-beach.com or stop by at 6712 Gulf Blvd.

This is sponsored content.

"Rick's was the first place we had lunch at the beach right after moving here. For that reason, it will always have a special place in our hearts."

What we have come to find is that sentiment aside, it really is one of the best places to grab a delicious bite and affordable drinks on St Pete Beach.

They even serve breakfast 7 days a week now. Definitely a place we keep coming back to."

Bethany Scott, St. Petersburg on Yelp, 11/24/2017

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Pride & Joy Brick By Brick

By Jackie Minniti

Most Floridians are familiar with the iconic St. Augustine Lighthouse, but St. Petersburg residents might be surprised to learn they have their own historic lighthouse much closer to home. And if it's up to Richard Sanchez, the lighthouse on Egmont Key will someday be as well-known as its northeastern neighbor. Richard, president of the Egmont Key Alliance (EKA), has come up with a way to raise part of the \$1.2 million needed to restore this local treasure to its former glory by offering everyone an opportunity to become a part of history.



Richard Sanchez, president of the Egmont Key Alliance, holds a commemorative brick that fans of the lighthouse on Egmont Key may purchase to remember a person or event whatever the circumstances. The money raised will go toward a \$1.2 million restoration project.

"There's something fascinating and romantic about lighthouses," Richard says. "They're a throwback to a bygone time when they were navigation aids and were important to the development of an area. We were looking for a way to connect our community and the lighthouse. We'd seen commemorative brick programs in so many places, so we decided to do what these other organizations have done." Richard uses "commemorative" rather than "memorial" to describe the bricks so that someone could remember a person or event whatever the circumstances.

The bricks sell for \$50 (4"x8") or \$100 (8"x8") and are laser-engraved, fade resistant and guaranteed for life. They will be placed in the patio area north of the Coast Guard flagpole. "We've gotten a good response from organizations like the Tierra Verde Business Partnership and individuals from all over the country," Richard says. "Some are poignant, honoring the loss of a family member, some have been funny, like the one from a volunteer who liked gopher tortoises that reads 'Old Gophers Rule.' Each brick tells its own story."

The 76-foot lighthouse was first built on Egmont Key in 1847-48, only 27 years after

Florida was granted statehood, to handle the increased commerce in the Gulf of Mexico. Constructed of brick, concrete and iron, the original structure had to be dismantled ten years later because of storm damage. A second tower was constructed that stood 87-feet tall and had three-foot thick brick walls. While this lighthouse withstood over 150 years of assaults by Mother Nature, the lamp house was eventually removed and replaced with an automated beacon light. This has since been updated to an LED strobe that flashes every 15 seconds. In November 2008, the lighthouse was given a new coat of paint to celebrate its 150th birthday. In 2013, restoration began on the lens pedestal.

One of the biggest expenses involved in restoration is replacing the original building materials. "Since steel didn't exist in 1888, the lighthouse was made with cast iron," Richard explains. "All the pieces will need to be recast. There's a man in St. Pete who does this, but it's expensive. And eventually we want to put the original top back on." This will restore the lighthouse to its original appearance.

Despite the cost and complexity of the project, Richard believes it is worth the investment. "The Egmont Key Lighthouse is something unique to the area," he says. "Of Florida's 29 lighthouses, ours is one of only 20 accessible to the public. It could become a symbol of Tampa Bay. It's seen so much of Florida's history, and it's still there, after all these years, doing pretty much what it's been doing all along."

For more information or to purchase a commemorative brick, go to www.egmontkey.info. Scroll down to DONATE and click "Commemorative Bricks."

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For Fun, Try Something Minor

By The Old Professor

As I write spring training for the boys of summer is under way. The talk is about the major leaguers. Who can throw fast? Who will make the team? Who may have a good year? Who will be traded? Or, maybe who won't?

But I like minor league games. The guys trying to make it to "The Show" try a little harder. They're not yet prima donnas. With an average salary of nearly \$4 million plus \$100 per day for meals, big leaguers expect to be pampered, and they are. They become celebrities. Minor leaguers fare less well. A Triple-A player may make \$2,500 per month with \$25 for meals, and he may not be paid during the off season. A salary jump to \$4 million is a powerful incentive.

When the old St. Petersburg Pelicans played, from my window I could see the scoreboard and the field except for the pitcher's mound and home plate. What happened there I could only guess. If it looked like an interesting score I would slip into the stands for the last few innings. When the Ybor City Rays play ball, maybe the Pelicans will return.

Minor league teams really work to make the games fun. I attended one game in a northern city where local haircutters were offering 50¢ cuts. At another hot dogs were almost free. At one I saw early teens racing by running inside giant clear plastic balls. It's no surprise that baseball cards, kid's back packs, and bobble heads are given out, but one team gave away toilet seat cushions. It was a follow up to the plungers they had given away the year before. What do you suppose they'll have this year? On "Prostate Cancer Awareness Night," one team gave 1,000 men big foam fingers.

Thanks a lot! Another had a motorcycle rider jump through a ring of fire. A squirrel rode a zip line at one game.

On "Redneck Night" one club gave away mason jars along with prizes for the best mullet and the dirtiest truck. Redneck sushi, rice and spam, was served at the concession stand. For "Field of Dreams Night" the Portland Red Sox had their team wearing throwback jerseys and enter through a makeshift cornfield. Between innings fans were permitted to rest their heads on the bases—to dream I guess.

Our local minor league teams will have promotions. The Dunedin Blue Jays will give away hockey pucks on Canada Day, and a dual bobble honoring a father and son who both played for the team. Suppose it will have two heads a bobbing? Beer, bacon, and fireworks night has appeal. The Clearwater Threshers will be big on dogs: \$2 hot dogs one night, \$6 dog tickets another to kick off the dog days of summer. Is Fido a fan? Tom Jones of the Tampa Bay Times says Spectrum Stadium has the best Philly Cheesesteak sandwich! On opening night with the Threshers the Blue Jays will give away magnets. What an attraction!

Rays tickets start at \$20 and go up to \$250. Imagine what that means for a dad who wants to take his wife and two kids to a ball game. With eats and parking he can easily drop \$125.

But minor league tickets cost less. Clearwater Threshers tix start at \$6. Dad can take the family and get by for lots less. If you're a senior you'll get all 10 Wednesday night games for \$25, plus free

PROFESSOR continued on page 10

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DERBY continued from front page

“When I did it, I said I intended to bring a banked track here because nobody had one. Four years later I found the track...and then the space.”

She won't say what the track cost her, “But it was expensive, and...it was expensive getting it here.”

The desire to play on the only banked track in the region prompts players to drive from as far away as Daytona, Orlando and Ocala.

For a bout, each team has five players skating simultaneously on the track counterclockwise. One skater is the designated scorer called the jammer. She wears a “panty,” a helmet cover with a star. The other four are blockers; one blocker may be designated the pivot identified by a stripped panty. Pivots are blockers allowed to become a jammer in the course of play.

A whistle commences the jam which is 60 seconds or less. When a jammer makes it past the opposing team once, each additional pass is a point. Blockers use body contact, changing positions, and other tactics to assist their jammer while hindering the opposing team's jammer. The bouts consists of four, 15 minute quarters with a 15 minute halftime break. After the game the team heads to The Wheelhouse bar and restaurant on Central Avenue for an after party.

Players have to practice a certain amount time between bouts in order to play. There are designated practice nights Monday through Thursday and Saturday mornings based on the level of the player. Players are encouraged to practice beyond their designated period. Murder says their injury rate is fairly low and attributes that to getting enough practice.

They have a travel team that plays away games against other banked track leagues.

On a cool night in late February, Deadly Rival players qualified and available to bout are divided into two teams of 11 players each. Shortly after the doors open at 5:30 p.m. there is a party atmosphere as players, volunteers, families and fans file into the facility. Some of the massive rolling side doors are open and a band plays in the corner. Beer and wine is complementary (tips appreciated) thanks to sponsors like Florida Orange Groves Winery. Herring's Catch food truck has a variety of fried shrimp and chicken, and “DRRD-Y Girl merchandise is for sale.

Tickets for the bouts are \$15 for adults, \$8 for kids, and fans may opt to put out \$40 for one of four “VIP” seats.

Ticket sales helps with expenses like track maintenance and members pay dues. “We're not a nonprofit,” explains Slaya, “but we raise money to keep us afloat because we're a bootstrap operation.”

The players begin to warm-up at 6:30 and, after singing the National Anthem, the bout begins at 7 p.m.



Players, coaches and fans stand for the singing of the national anthem before the bout.



The player in the striped panty is the pivot, a blocker who can become a jammer and score if she is passed the star panty by the jammer.



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Cheryl Mitchell (Kitten's Got Claws) is the oldest on the team at 56. They have three more players in their 50s and the youngest is 19. Mr. Kitten, the travel team coach and a trainer, is one of the referees for the bout.

During practice players warm up individually then work on communicating on the track. They yell, "high" or "low" as the last skater passes by letting skaters ahead know if she is coming by above or below them. Loren Yancey, aka Princess Slaya (bottom left) uses the floor of the Skaters Choice Skate Shop at the Slaygrounds to illustrate a play.

"It's an amazing experience," says Mr. Kitten, "it's a lot of fun to play, to watch, to coach and to ref."

They are not the only family at the track. RoJo (aka Revolver) is a skater and a ref, her daughter, Sirena Sprocket, skates; her brother, who goes by Charleston Chew and teaches free swing dance at Sundial, often entertains at half time, and her husband is a volunteer for every bout. Ro Jo says, "It's a family affair."

When the team is not practicing, playing a bout, or holding down their day jobs, they support a number of local charities including CASA, Clothes To Kids and several animal rescue organizations.

They play to win on the track, but there is fellowship everywhere. "That's another great thing about our league," says Slaya, "is the camaraderie, not only being involved in the community, but the friendships that we have, and how amazing these women are off the track."

Their next bout is Apr. 28 against South Side Roller Derby from Houston. For more information go to www.deadlyrivalrollerderby.com.



The jammer in the star panty prepares to force her way through the opponents' blockers to score. Each jammer must pass through both teams after the jam begins before a pass is counted as a score. Jams last up to one minute.

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Encouraging Words The Art of Being Kind

By Dennis Merritt Jones

*So many gods, so many creeds,
So many paths that wind and wind,
While just the art of being kind
Is all the sad world needs.*

~ Ella Wheeler Wilcox

I have recently been witnessing in my own life how powerful and fun an act of kindness can be. I take my garbage cans to the curb on Sunday night because the trash collectors come early on Monday. For the past few months when I go out on Monday to put the cans back alongside my house, they are not there. Someone has mysteriously and very stealthily moved them back. Now, I have heard about people in the drive-through paying for someone else's coffee, or another's fare at a toll booth, but never have I heard of acts of "trash can kindness!" I suspect it is one of my neighbors and it's really got my attention. What his or her motivation is I don't know, but I am interpreting it as a generous and selfless act of kindness. There is something very empowering about extending kindness to others, especially when done anonymously.

This simple act of kindness has me thinking a lot about how human beings coexist, not just as neighbors, but as passengers on this ever-shrinking "spaceship called planet earth" as referred to by Buckminster Fuller. Our differences are so vast in so many ways. Between cultural values and traditions, nationalities, religions, politics, etc., we can feel very isolated at times. Kindness can be the bridge that connects us because it is something to which every human being can relate. An act of kindness is easily understood and can supersede any language, religious or cultural gap. Kindness can be thought of as a universal language we all can speak—with actions.

The ancient philosopher Philo of Alexandria (20 AD - 50 AD) said, "Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle." It seems some things in the human realm never change. Times have never been tougher than they are right now for the majority of people, and the "normal" ten-

dency in tough times may be to withdraw from others because we are so consumed by our own fears, concerns and problems. However, when we withdraw, that's when a sense of isolation comes flooding in. And, yet, if we think about it, a simple act of kindness to another can instantly reconnect them to life in ways we may never know. Just think about that. Your act of kindness could be the bridge that another needs at that moment to get them through the day. And, irrespective of the simplicity of the act you may think you are extending to others, universally speaking, there's no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act of kindness creates a ripple effect which reaches out far beyond the act. That's the empowering thing about kindness—when we receive kindness we are naturally inspired to extend it to others.

Perhaps Ella Wheeler Wilcox was right. The world needs more kindness, but with whom and where does it begin? Perhaps by practicing the art of being kind you might just be the one to change the world. It could be while standing in line at the grocery store by inviting the person behind you to go ahead of you. It might be by holding a door open for someone. It could be as simple as a welcoming smile...or, if you really want to see your neighbor go a bit batty, try the stealth "trash can kindness" maneuver.

Any way you slice it, a deeper experience of kindness is what we all inherently desire. We are hardwired for kindness because it is in our spiritual DNA to treat one another with reverence and loving kindness. We just have to be mindful of the spiritual beings we really are and the acts of kindness will follow naturally with grace and ease, not because we should be kind, but because we can. To this end I close with one of my favorite quotes by the Dalai Lama: "This is my simple religion. There is no need for temples; no need for complicated philosophy. Our own brain, our own heart is our temple; the philosophy is kindness."

I rather like that philosophy. How about you?

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PROFESSOR continued from page 7

parking, a sun shade, and a seat cushion.

So don't forget the big league stars, but for an inexpensive evening where having fun is the order of the night, try a minor league game. Our two Pinellas County teams, The Blue Jays and the

Threshers, open their seasons on Apr. 5. Who knows? If a magnet isn't enough maybe they'll surprise you with a toilet seat cushion.

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Chateau Tower Goes Green

By TIR Staff

The residents of Chateau Tower in S. Pasadena are green; or they can be green if they care to participate in their condo association's new recycling program.

It took a committee of three dedicated residents, Diana Schwartz, Jennie Cheeks and Ken Eidel, more than six months to research and make recommendations after a resident was inspired by a May article in the Gabber about Golfview Condominiums going greens thanks to a law student at Stetson.

"It was a grassroots effort," says Mike Reskey, a member of the association's board of directors. "People in the building were interested, and the board just supported their efforts. They pretty much brought it together, came up with the thoughts on what we could do, and it worked out pretty darn well. Of course anything in a condo association takes a little while, and it was a little slower than we would've liked."

"The committee brought it up at a board meeting," says Schwarz, "and Dan Walker (board president) said, 'Okay you, the committee, check it out.' We worked for the rest of the year researching all the companies who would service this area. We found that about half of them didn't service South Pasadena." It boiled down to two companies that provided bins and they went with Waste Management (WM).

"We took another month and did some pre-rollout activities and an email blast and we were ready to roll out Mar. 3," adds Schwartz.



A representative from Waste Management talks with residents of Chateau Tower about what his company accepts and doesn't accept for recycling. Their condo association recently opted to offer recycling to their residents.

TIR staff photo.

They were surprised that WM doesn't take glass and are also concerned that some people may not rinse their containers, but those involved say they are happy about the progress. In keeping with their green theme, they also have the Haz-to-Go on the grounds from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on May 5 for residents to dispose of any hazardous material such as paint and florescent light bulbs.

Recycle companies and facilities have different requirements in terms of what they accept. Acceptable recycle items for WM, Progressive and the City of St. Petersburg are available at www.theislandreporter.com under this story.

Bayway Residents Briefed on Sewer System Plans

By Bill Blazowski

In early March, St. Petersburg city officials briefed members of the Alliance for Bayway Communities (ABC) and the Academy of Senior Professionals at Eckerd College on their plans to improve and maintain the wastewater system in the wake of spills on the Pinellas Bayway in 2015 and subsequent larger spills in other parts of the city.

Public Works Administrator Claude Tankersley and Leisha Pica of Jacobs Engineering, program manager for development of a long-range master plan, conducted the town hall-style meeting to educate residents on the system which includes 950 miles of city-owned pipe (1,800 miles when

resident-owned pipes are included) and three treatment plants.

During periods of very heavy rain, leakage through cracks in underground pipes and above-ground water permeating manholes and other openings substantially increases flow into the plants—up to six or more times the amount of actual sewage according to recent measurements.

There is ongoing maintenance to repair known leaks, but the primary effort has been expanding the total capacity of the plants to handle the increased flow during major weather events. In

PLANS continued on page 14

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1.b 2.a 3.c 4.c 5.a 6.b 7.a 8.c 9.a 10.b

Music Fills the Air at Beach Goes Pop

By Sally G. Yoder

On Apr. 21 a traditional sound of music will fill the air in Pass-a-Grille as Beach Goes Pop celebrates its 28th year of bringing live music, food and a wonderful evening to the beach.

The tradition began in 1991 when the St. Pete Beach Chamber of Commerce was looking for a fundraiser and Beach Goes Pop literally “popped up” to their rescue. The concert event was held on the pavilion area between 9th and 10th Avenues and featured the Florida Orchestra and a formal catered dinner with the tables selling out at \$100 per person. The streets were blocked off, people brought chairs, blankets and food sitting anywhere including the beach to enjoy the music as did the many boaters anchoring off shore.

Over the years local names like Millard Gamble, Gregg Nicklaus, Mark Robichaux, Jay Anderson and Steve Guarcello along with the City of St. Pete Beach have come forth as organizers. As the concerts grew through years, the Pass-a-Grille Community Association joined with the Vina Del Mar Association to take over the event. They added Friday night jazz and 10 food vendors. Saturday night continued to be the formal dinner

while the food vendors and beer trucks worked both nights.

Local organizations like the Pinellas Marine Institute, the Gulf Beaches Historical Museum, Paul Newmans Over the Hill Gang and All Children’s Hospital were some of the recipients of funds raised by the event.

With the recession and road construction, the event has been narrowed to Saturday from noon to 10:30 pm. Vendors will be selling beer and wine, there is dinner in the “Chillin Lounge” area as well as table seating at sponsored tables, and Taco Ladies and Surf and Turf food trucks will be on hand.

Pieces of Woodstock will start the entertainment at 3 p.m. at the beachside pavilion. The 18-piece jazz band the TomKats take the stage from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. followed by Alter Eagles from 8 - 10:30 pm.

Streets will be blocked off as always for Pops. Bring a blanket, or chairs to sit on the beach or on grass in the park. Dance if you like or just sit and enjoy the causal setting, friends and the sunset. An earlier starting time allows for a casual time at the beach, grab a snack and end the day listening to good music. Proceeds benefit All Children’s Hospital.

Beach Goes Pop is a total community effort which has been supported for 27 years by hundreds of volunteers, sponsors and supporters



This year’s Beach Goes Pops is Apr. 21 from noon - 10:30 in Pass-a-Grille. Three bands will entertain event-goers including “Alter Eagles.” There will also be food and beer vendors and a Chillounge Dinner.



Residents and visitors fill the streets of Pass-a-Grille between 9th and 10th Avenues for an earlier Beach Goes Pops.

which confirms how deeply the community remains committed.

More information, tickets or to become a sponsor go to beachgoespop.com.



Florida Author A Gift From Beyond

By Jackie Minniti

It's been said that truth is stranger than fiction, and "The Given Hand: A Messenger's Journey," a fascinating memoir by Gulfport writer Otto Throw, is a perfect example.

What makes Throw's life story so intriguing is the unusual gift he inherited from his maternal grandmother – a gift that sometimes seemed like a curse. Throw has the ability to see beyond the boundaries of this life into a parallel world. His gift enables him to communicate with – and for – dead people.

Born and raised in Chicago, Throw moved to Florida in 1978.

"I was visiting friends from Chicago," he says. "I came for a 3-week vacation and never left." After he retired from the Marine Corps, Throw spent time working as a carpenter, a waiter, and finally, a hairstylist. Becoming a writer was never on his radar, but a chance encounter with one of his clients, Sunny Fader, changed all that.

Fader was a screenwriter who was working on her first book, "Land Here? You Bet!," a memoir about Ted Huntley, a retired pilot who became Fader's friend and muse. Fader loved listening to Ted's flying stories as much as he loved telling them, so they decided to collaborate on a book. Unfortunately, Ted died of a heart attack before the project was completed, and a devastated Fader put the book on hold. But after Ted's

memorial service, she was seized by an overwhelming desire to hear his voice. As she listened to Ted's final tapes, his account of a long-ago summer when he realized his boyhood dream of becoming a bush pilot, Fader knew she had to finish his story.

"When Sunny came into the shop, there was a mutual attraction the moment we saw each other," Throw recalls. "We started talking about our lives, and Ted appeared to me and told me to tell Sunny he was sorry he wasn't there to finish the book." Since Sunny hadn't shared this information with Throw, she realized he had a



Gulfport author Otto Throw has the ability to see beyond the boundaries of this life into a parallel world. It has made his life challenging at times.



Throw chronicled how this talent which was often a curse shaped his life in "The Given Hand." He is planning second book to help readers become more aware of their own spiritual surroundings.

gift and asked if he'd ever considered writing about it. She offered to work with him, and their friendship blossomed. Unfortunately, Sunny passed away shortly before she finished the book, but she arranged with a friend to help Throw complete the project.

"The Given Hand: A Messenger's Journey" is the story of how Throw's special, often problematic, gift shaped his life. It begins when Throw, as a 5-year-old, first realizes he is "different;" continues through his childhood as his grandmother helps him develop and harness his gift; and follows him onto battlefields of Vietnam where he begins to question whether his gift is more of a curse. The story reads like a paranormal thriller, and watching Throw work through the challenges his gift posed makes for a fascinating story.

For Throw, the most difficult thing about writing the book was returning to an often painful past. "I had to pull up memories I tried to forget," he says. "Sunny helped me speak of these, which helped me tremendously." Writing about his experiences was also cathartic. "My gift always made

me feel different from others," he explains. "It alienated me in many ways because of the things I see and feel. I now feel freer to speak of it."

Throw is currently planning a second book that will help people become aware of their spiritual surroundings. He hopes that sharing his story will help readers realize there's more than just life as we know it. "It's paying it forward," he says. "I want readers to come away with a stronger belief that this life is a stepping stone into a new venture."

For more information, find "The Given Hand" on Amazon.

Chasing Fire (Part 2)

By Sabrina O'Donnell

"We arrived when the fire was at its peak," I told the detectives. "We practically shoved each other out of the car, just like we always did. We would get as close to the scene as we could before Grandpa yelled at us to take a step back. I remember the house so clearly, the big blue one on the end of Theo Street. I had ridden my bike past that house a thousand times, never once stopping to think what it would come to symbolize for the rest of my life."

I opened my eyes to be greeted by two of the coldest stares I had ever received. I thought about how much time these detectives must spend sitting in this very room, listening to strangers recount dreary recollections that the two of them could find no personal connection with whatsoever. "No wonder they're looking at me like that," I thought, "they're probably bored."

"We're listening," Good Cop reassured me after I had been silent for a while.

"Yes," Bad Cop added. "Please, continue."

"I remember I kept asking my Grandpa what was taking the fire trucks so long. I felt like I had been standing there for eternity watching this building smolder.

"I'm so sorry," Bad Cop cut in, "I hate to interrupt, but I just need to clarify this detail to make sure we have it right. In your memory, the firefighters were taking an unusually long time to arrive to the scene?"

"Well, as a kid you think everything lasts way longer than it does. Every Sunday my mom would drag us to church and even though services are only an hour, when I was younger I would swear I'd be sitting in that pew the entire day."

Everyone was silent for a moment. I allowed my train of thought to continue unfolding.

"But I got to say, I probably watched a hundred fires get put out all those years ago and never once do I remember the firefighters taking that long."

Good Cop looked at Bad Cop who never broke eye contact with me. "Thank you," he said slowly. "That may be all we need."

"Why don't we have him finish the story," Good Cop cut in. "It can't hurt."

I was thrown by their indecision; in the couple of hours that I had now spent with these detectives, they hadn't been tripped up by anything I told them—even once.

"I'm sorry," I began to inquire, "is there something in particular that you're looking for me to tell you?"

"We just want to hear your story," Good Cop answered too quickly.

"Well, like I said the fire trucks took their time to get there and the house was becoming more and more of a lost cause by the second. I remember the moment..."

I took another deep breath; this process was turning out to be a lot more wearisome than I had anticipated.

"I remember the moment that changed the rest of the d... the rest of my life. We had been standing there a while, watching these peoples' home deteriorate. Grandpa told us if they didn't get there soon we would have to leave."

"So why didn't you leave?" Good Cop asked.

"Because," I answered. "Then we heard the scream."

To be continued...

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PLANS continued from page 11

2015 the system could handle 112 mgd (million gallons per day) and now it can handle 160 mgd, giving it the capacity to avoid a spill during a wet weather event comparable to Hurricane Hermine in 2016.

Residents near the Southwest Water Reclamation Facility by Eckerd College expressed concern about odor. Tankersley explained that ongoing construction work at times requires parts of the plant to be open which allows odorous gas to escape. When construction is complete, additional odor control equipment will be installed. He is working closely with the construction contractor to minimize any near-term odor impact and says he is personally committed achieve zero odor operations in the future.

The improvements that have been made and those planned for the next few years are part of the \$326 million consent order the city has with Florida DEP. But the system, with components up to 70 years old, will continue to deteriorate and the consent order efforts will not achieve sustainable safe operation and increasing plant capacity is not sufficient; leakage into the system needs to be substantially reduced.

The path to achieving this goal will be defined by the city's master plan now under development. Pica noted that the master plan will integrate sanitary and storm sewer planning, as well as future potable water issues. It will define necessary improvements that need to be made for these systems to work 50 years into the future. The plan must consider the effects of potential sea level rise, increasing storm intensity, and higher storm surge, as well as contingency planning for more severe emergencies and disasters.

Tankersley and Pica emphasized that no wastewater system will be able to handle all severe weather possibilities, therefore, the master plan must define the trade-off between level of service (which defines the most severe wet weather event that would not overwhelm the system) and the level of investment needed to achieve that risk reduction. Once that trade-off is defined, the mayor and council will take resident input into account and define the affordable level of service which becomes the basis for the city's long-term investment plans.

Pica emphasized that this trade-off is a fundamental issue for all residents and encouraged community participation in the debate. She and Tankersley committed to return to this group frequently to discuss their work and seek community input.

For more information go to www.stpete.org/publicworks.

Bill Blazowski is an ABC Principal.



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Wayne's World Brighter Not Better... Hammer Time... Measurements... and More...

By Wayne Shattuck

Brighter Not Better... Over the past two years, the independent Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (institute), a nonprofit U.S. research group, which represents major insurers in working to reduce losses from vehicle damage and injuries, has released four studies concluding that most headlights on new vehicles it has tested are not good enough. The criticism comes at an interesting time for the auto industry. Recent car shows reveal that automakers and suppliers are enjoying a golden era of vehicle lighting. Headlamps have become works of art. Thanks to a switch from halogen to brighter LEDs, as well as new capabilities in manufacturing, designers have the freedom to infuse greater detail into their fixtures, incorporating outlines that flow into quarter panels and hood lines. But, the institute isn't happy. It says headlights often come off the factory line poorly aimed, which can cause glare and render the move to brighter LEDs null. Last summer, in its testing of headlights on 37 midsize SUVs, 23 ranked marginal or poor. During the testing, institute engineers measured how far light is projected from low beams and high beams as a vehicle drives straight and around curves. They also measured whether the lights create excessive glare for oncoming vehicles. Matthew Brumbelow, a senior research engineer at the institute, said the group's headlight studies are still fairly new to consumers. And he said the organization is testing headlights "more dynamically" than most automakers have previously experienced. "We've already seen some manufacturers go back and change their design; or more commonly, tighten up their aiming process at the factory," Brumbelow said. "There's still a long way to go, but we're glad we've seen some improvements."

Hammer Time... The next time a hazardous asteroid lines Earth up in its crosshairs, we may be ready for the threat. Scientists and engineers with the U.S. government have drawn up plans for a

spacecraft that could knock big, incoming space rocks off course via blunt-force impact or blow them to bits with a nuclear warhead. The researchers announced the concept vehicle, known as the Hypervelocity Asteroid Mitigation Mission for Emergency Response (HAMMER), in a study in the February issue of the journal "Acta Astronautica." Each HAMMER spacecraft would weigh about 8.8 tons and if an asteroid threat is detected early enough, a fleet of the vehicles could be dispatched to collide, nuke-free, with the space rock, changing its trajectory enough to spare Earth from an impact. That's the best case scenario. But this strategy wouldn't work for big asteroids that appear out of the cosmic gloom with little warning; there wouldn't be enough time for the nudge to take effect. To neutralize, or at least lessen such threats, a HAMMER would have to be outfitted with a nuke.

Measurements... Have you ever wondered how common measurements originated? Well, here are three common examples. In its earliest form, the inch was the width of a grown man's thumb. In the 14th century, King Edward II of England decreed that "the length of an inch shall be equal to three grains of barley, dry and round, placed end to end lengthwise." This evolved into today's standard measurement. Originally the length of a person's foot, the foot was later standardized in English-speaking countries to be 12 inches long. In other parts of the world it could be anywhere from 11 to 14 inches in length. Originally the standard length of the belt that Anglo-Saxons wore was considered a yard. In the early 1100s, King Henry I of England decreed that a yard would be the distance from his nose to the thumb of his outstretched arm, which came to about 36 inches.

But That's Not All... What was the lowest priced mass produced American car? It was the 1925 Ford Model T Runabout at \$250-\$5 less than 1924.

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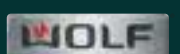
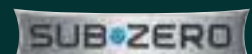
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Loving Puppies and Other Animals Year-Round

By Betsy Judge

Stayin' Alive is more than a 1970s disco song to Scott Daly, it's his mission as the executive director of the Pet Pal Animal Shelter (PPAS) to keep animals alive.

With a small, but dedicated staff and a gang of exuberant volunteers, they manage to save approximately 95 percent of the animals they rescue from shelters that may otherwise be euthanized.

Daly is quick to point out that shelters that euthanize, do so out of necessity. Luckily the percentage of animals acquired from shelters and rescue groups is growing, sadly about 2 million are still killed each year according to the The No Kill Advocacy Center.

Stayin' Alive is also the theme of this year's Puppy Love Benefit where Pet Pal staff, supporters and friends will celebrate their success and raise funds vital for future rescue operations.

Formerly known as Pet Pal Rescue, PPAS was founded in the early 1980s by two women in Orlando who rescued animals from shelters and found them permanent homes. In 2002 the non-profit was moved to St. Petersburg, and in 2008 they added a low-cost spay/neuter clinic which is now a veterinary clinic for exams and procedures at

affordable rates. They also have a thrift store.

Daly became the director 12 years ago and says little has changed except they take in more animals.

"And we have a lot more adoptions because more people know we are here."

Their requirements to adopt can be stringent. "We want to make sure that the animals get permanent homes and they're not flipped around," says Daly. "So if you don't own your own home and you rent and the landlord says, 'No,' then you can't have an animal. But some people don't want to hear that, they want to sneak them in," he says.

Presents are another problem. While it might be a nice thought, often the person getting the "gift" is not allowed to have an animal.

"Generally when we find a home for an animal, we have a very high success rate, because we are particular and make sure that is what they want."

It is all about the animals at Pet Pal; so much so that Daly swapped his spacious office for the older cramped cat room. Now there is plenty of room for the felines.

A volunteer leaves with a dog for a walk. Walking dogs requires that volunteers know the animal and the proper procedures. "Safety is our number one concern," says Daly.

Gracie Grieshop, the marketing guru, greets other volunteers by name throughout the shelter. They have specific areas for sick cats and dogs which must be healthy before they are adoptable.

There is a treatment room for more minor ailments; major issues are treated at the veterinary clinic.



This year's fundraiser is May 12 at the Historic Coliseum with the theme "Stayin' Alive - A Disco Party."



Gracie Grieshop does marketing for Pet Pal Animal Shelter. She also doubles as a playmate for Kringle and stops to chat with all the animals and volunteers she passes while walking around the facility. TIR staff photo.



A Pet Pal supporter at last year's Puppy Love Fundraiser gives some lovin' to a puppy. Last year's theme was "Whiskers in Wonderland."

She points through a cage to a big, fat pig outside; his name is Kevin and someone has playfully scrawled "Bacon" below the name. He's available for adoption as are some finches they rescued.

Each dog kennel has access to an outdoor area for exercise. She greets Otto and other dogs as she walks past the kennels as if they were her own. Kringle is outside and the three-year-old cattle dog/shepherd mix is bursting with energy which Grieshop tries to quell by playing ball with him.

"He is just super frisky. But he's playing with his mouth and he can't do that, so we'll have to work on it." Their dog trainer Pat McCarthy works with their rescue dogs and she also holds public training sessions.

In the new cat room, the felines are free to roam. "Typically they get along very well and we try to keep it open and healthy," says Grieshop. They also have adoptable cats at Pandora's Playhouse in the Pet Food Warehouse on 18th St. N.

PET PAL continued on page 22



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Notable Achievements

VFW Honors Achievers

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 4256 in Madeira Beach, honored local students, teachers and public servants during their an award ceremony in March. Honorees included: middle school students: Ashley Percifield, Alexis Browett and Anna Lense; high School students Joseph Ambrefe, Lauryn-Maggie Smith and Josie Davis-Brown; teachers Stephen Ross and Richard Kennedy; and public servants Shannon Roxby, Jamie McGaughey and John Sleppy. Congratulations.



Pickleball Group Gives

St. Pete Beach Community Center pickleball group conducted a successful charity food drive. The 2nd annual event collected cash and canned goods for Operation Attack, a local mission of the Lakeview Presbyterian Church in St. Petersburg. Thanks to all contributors to this great cause!



Successful Gala for FHM

More than 700 supporters of The Florida Holocaust Museum attended To Life: Honoring the Past - Empowering the Future gala. The gala raised over \$650,000 to support the museum's educational and outreach programs and to help the museum. See more photos on page 23. Photo by Joy Hmielewski.



Business News

Island Massage Welcomes New Staff

Island Massage Therapy of Tierra Verde recently welcomed new staff members Jeremiah Collins and Susan Burke. Jeremiah has more than 11 years experience in the massage, bodywork and energy work field. Susan has four years experience and chose massage because of her belief in the power of human touch.



Area Hotels in the News

Ribbon Cuttings

The Alden Suites on St. Pete Beach (left) and the Bilmar Beach Resort on Treasure Island held ribbon cuttings in March to unveil recently completed renovation work. Photos by Bob Schlesinger.



Century 21 Gets New Home Specialist

Century 21 Coast to Coast welcomes Realtor Breanne Scott as their New Home Specialist. Breanne comes from a national builder and will be concentrating on new homes and condominiums in Pinellas, Pasco, Hillsborough, Sarasota and Manatee counties.



TradeWinds Selected for New Program

The TradeWinds Island Resorts was recently named one of 10 hotel companies in a pilot program to offer streamlined degree programs to hotel industry employees by the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Foundation. Through this groundbreaking program, offered in partnership with Pearson's AcceleratED Pathways program, TradeWinds employees can pursue higher education pathways at no cost to the employee.



ISLAND TOONS

By Bruce W. Norris



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The Island Reporter Puzzle Page

The Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Little terror
- 5 Wet bar?
- 9 Knife wound
- 13 ____ of thumb
- 14 Church V.I.P.
- 16 Bounce back
- 17 Soon, to a bard
- 18 Throw for a loop
- 19 Garbage hauler
- 20 Complex unit
- 22 Deadly mushroom
- 24 Schongauer work
- 26 Toni Morrison's "____ Baby"
- 27 Tabloid twosome
- 28 Noble position
- 32 Retro phone feature
- 35 Established
- 37 Indigenous
- 38 Not quite right
- 39 Full of bounce
- 41 Fishing equipment
- 42 Like cows and sows
- 44 Campaign pro
- 45 Shrek, for one
- 46 Bomb
- 48 Certain tide
- 50 Computer capacity
- 51 Emphatic
- 56 New Year's Eve staple
- 59 X, in math
- 60 Tim Conway film, "The Billion Dollar ____"
- 61 Factory

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13				14				15		16	
17				18				19			
20				21	22			23			
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60				61			62		63		
64				65					66		
67					68				69		

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- 63 Quitter's word
- 64 Word sung on 12/31
- 65 Concise
- 66 Flu symptom
- 67 Arborist's concern
- 68 Numerical suffix
- 69 Give the eye
- 8 Animal fur
- 9 Type of psychology
- 10 Word in a 1978 John Irving book title
- 11 "Get lost!"
- 12 Kennel cry
- 15 Primary color
- 21 Cereal grass
- 23 Dogcatcher's catch
- 25 Evening bell
- 29 "Brokeback Mountain" director
- 30 CBer's term
- 31 Dole (out)
- 32 Tip, as a hat
- 33 Brainchild
- 34 Deserving of respect
- 36 Word of advice
- 39 Dry spell
- 40 Mumbo-jumbo
- 43 Pie preference
- 45 Type of illusion
- 47 Young raptor
- 49 It may be framed
- 52 Capture
- 53 Likeness
- 54 Locale
- 55 Aromatic compound
- 56 Chew the fat
- 57 Rush follower
- 58 Envelope abbr.
- 62 Half a score

DOWN

- 1 Hold steady
- 2 Talk at length
- 3 Follow follower
- 4 Plant stem extension
- 5 Mermaid's milieu
- 6 Veteran
- 7 Annex

Puzzlers can find the answers to all these brain teasers at www.TheIslandReporter.com under "Puzzles"

Sudoku

	8					5		7
9			3					8
6	1			4				
				7		9		
			4		5			
	7	5	8	6				4
				3			4	
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				8				9

Trivia

Television's Urban Legends

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1. What Leave it to Beaver actor was incorrectly reported to have been killed in Viet Nam?
(a) Tony Dow (Wally) (b) Jerry Mathers (Beaver) (c) Ken Osmond (Eddie Haskell)
2. When George Reeve, the actor who played Superman, died in 1959, his death was shrouded in rumor. How did he actually die?
(a) Shot himself (b) Jumped off a building (c) Heart attack
3. According to legend, what Muppet on Sesame Street was supposed to be killed off in the early 1990s? (a) Grover (b) Cookie Monster (c) Ernie
4. Rumor has it that Gilligan's first name on Gilligan's Island was only mentioned once in the pilot episode. What was it?
(a) Benny (b) Gregory (c) Willy
5. According to legend what animal actor suffered a cruel demise when the show ended?
(a) Arnold the pig (Green Acres) (b) Flipper the dolphin (Flipper) (c) Eddie the dog (Frasier)
6. This Urban Legend stated the theme song from what TV show contained satanic messages when played backwards?
(a) The Ballad of Jed Clampett (The Beverly Hillbillies) (b) A Horse is a Horse (Mister Ed) (c) Suicide is Painless (M*A*S*H)
7. Which of the following Urban Legends is actually TRUE?
(a) Dr. Ruth Westheimer served as a sniper in Israel (b) Don Knotts was the most feared drill instructor on Paris Island (c) Bob (Captain Kangaroo) Keeshan was the first soldier to go ashore on Iwo Jima
8. The shock rocker Marilyn Manson once starred in what sitcom? (a) Mr Belvedere (b) Different Strokes (c) The Wonder Years
9. What well-known actor bought the rights to The Little Rascals saying it portrayed a negative stereotype of African Americans?
(a) Bill Cosby (b) Denzel Washington (c) Eddie Murphy
10. What TV star-turned-politician reportedly had a page fired for making a joke about his acting career?
(a) Sonny Bono (The Sonny and Cher Show) (b) Fred Grandy (The Love Boat) (c) Fred Thompson (Law and Order)

ANSWERS ON PAGE 11

Word Search

Minnesota Cities & Towns

- ADA
- BLAINE
- BRAINERD
- DULUTH
- EDINA
- FAIRMONT
- HOPKINS
- MINNEAPOLIS
- NIMROD
- PLYMOUTH
- ROCHESTER
- SHELLY
- ST PAUL
- VIKING
- WINONA
- ANOKA
- BLOOMINGTON
- CARVER
- EAGAN
- ELY
- FRIDLEY
- JASPER
- MINNETONKA
- OLIVIA
- RICE
- ROSCOE
- ST CLOUD
- SWANVILLE
- WADENA
- WOODBURY

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 K A L E Z T S V R I C D W D F K W
 S L L O T S I P I N O I S U L L A
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 J R H R N A H U L L L A R C L C Z
 I Y N E H G E L L A C L B H O A S
 W F R U R L T P A C B V A M N O N

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Local Events, Activities & Announcements

Gulfport

Apr. 6 & 21: Gulfport Art-Walk, 6 - 10 p.m. Shop, eat and enjoy more than 35 unique businesses, boutiques, galleries, bars, and restaurants along with arts and craft vendors. Beach Blvd. S., Waterfront District.

Apr. 6: Springfest Garden Art & Faerie Festival, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Interactive roaming performers, faerie encampments, maypole dances, themed vendors, live music, a costume contest. Pet and family friendly. Clymer Park, 5501 27th Ave. Info at Gulfport Springfest on Facebook.

Apr. 6: Casino Royale: 6 - 10 p.m. Enjoy Blackjack, Roulette, Craps, 5 and 7 Card Texas Hold Em plus a silent and a live auction, for beach vacations and an African safari vacation. \$75 includes dinner, 2 drinks, and \$200 in poker chips. Supports St. Pete Rotary West charities. Pasadena Yacht & Country Club, 6300 Pasadena Pt. Blvd. Info at www.stpeterotarywest.org.

Gulfport Public Library: Go to events at www.mygulfport.us/gpl for library events or visit at 5501 28th Ave. S.

Each Week

Gulfport Fresh Market: Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. 3007 Beach Blvd. Info at 727-278-4285. Sept. 12 is Clothing Swap to Benefit CASA.

Gulfport Toastmasters: Wednesdays, 6:15 - 7:30 p.m. Community Room, Gulfport Public Library. 5501 28th Ave. S. Info at 727-537-9098, info@gulfporttoastmasters.com or www.gulfporttoastmasters.com.

Throughout the Month

Gulfport Casino: Dance Lessons. \$5 for members, \$8 for non-members. Gulfport Casino: 5500 Shore Blvd. S. Info at www.mygulfport.us.

Senior Center Events: Calendar available at www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org or 727-893-1231.

South Pasadena

Apr. 11: "Music Of Our Time", 7:30 p.m. Free concert by the South Pasadena Community Band with selections by composers who are currently writing original compositions for the bands of today. City Hall, 7047 Sunset Dr. S. Info at www.southpasadenaband.com.

St. Pete Beach

Apr. 14: Salute to Military and First Responders, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. A fun day full of food, music, vendors including artists, crafts, collectables and more. Informational exhibits, VA reps and DAV Mobile Service Office, plus kid's fishing tournament with rod, reel, bait & tackle provided. Horan Park, 7701 Boca Ciega Dr. Info at Veterans Of South Pinellas County Inc. on Facebook.

Apr. 21: Beach Goes Pops, noon - 10 p.m. Music, food and fun. Pass-a-Grille. See article on page 12.

May 4 - 5: Mark Your Calendars: Mountainfilm festival, Times Vary. Enjoy a selection of culturally rich, adventure-packed documentary films connected to Mountainfilm's mission: using the power of film, art and ideas to inspire audiences to create a better world. May 4, 7 p.m. - Welcome reception; May 4, 7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. - "Life on Earth," an environmental film series; May 5, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. - "Bring a Map," an adventure film series; May 5, 7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. - "Best of the Fest," a selection of favorites series. The Don CeSar, 3400 Gulf Blvd. Tickets and info at www.doncesar.com/filmfest.

Each Week

Corey Avenue Sunday Market, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Up to 75 vendors with locally produced and home-made items, ready to eat foods and hand crafts. Live music. Info at www.TampaBayMarkets.com.

PAG Thrift Shop, 9 a.m. - noon, Tuesday - Thursday and Saturday. Shop quality new and used items. Supports local charities. 17th Ave. and Pass-a-Grille Way. Info at 727-360-5508.

All month:

St. Pete Beach Public Library. Check www.spblibrary.com for the latest events.

St. Petersburg

Apr. 7 & 8: St Pete Tiny Home Festival, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. More than 20 tiny homes, skoolies and converted vans! Meet leading tiny home experts and enjoy food trucks, mobile boutiques, artists and home-related businesses, plus kid's activities. SPC Allstate Campus, 3200 34th St. S. Info at www.skywaymarinadistrict.org.

Apr. 14: Touch a Truck, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Family-friendly, fun and free event to see impressive vehicles up close, learn about their functions, and exciting careers and job opportunities. SPC Allstate Campus, 3200 34th St. S. Info at www.skywaymarinadistrict.org.

Apr. 14: Second Saturday Art Walk, 5 - 9 p.m. Take in the St. Pete arts scene after hours. Info at www.stpeteartsalliance.org.

May 5: Mark Your Calendar, May Day Race, 9 a.m. 5k and 10k races through beautiful Clam Bayou, a Kids Dash for Cash and a post-race party with food, fun and vendors. Ceridian, 3201 34th St. S. Info at www.skywaymarinadistrict.org.

May 12: Mark Your Calendar, Puppy Love, 6 - 10 p.m. "Stayin' Alive - a disco party," is the theme of Pet Pal's Puppy Love fundraiser. Silent & live auction, 50/50 Raffle, puppy pimping, dinner buffet, photo booth, entertainment, music, and more. See story on page 17. The Historic Coliseum, 535 4th Ave. N. Info at www.petpalanimalshelter.com.

Each Week

Mondays: Toastmasters, 6:15 p.m. PARC, 3190 Tyrone Blvd. N. Info at: 727-422-8856.

Tierra Verde

Apr. 3, 10 and 24: Build Oyster Domes at TBW, 9 am - Noon. Tampa Bay Watch needs 10-20 hard-working volunteers to help build oyster domes. Volunteers pour marine-friendly concrete into fiberglass molds to create oyster domes and un-mold other domes. Minimum age is 16. Marine Center, 3000 Pinellas Bayway South.

Treasure Island

Apr. 12: "Music Of Our Time", 7:30 p.m. Free concert with selections by composers who are currently writing original compositions for the bands of today by the South Pasadena Community Band. Community Center, 1 Park Place & 106th Ave. Info at www.southpasadenaband.com.

Apr. 21: Community Health Fair and Trade Show, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Free event with 40+ vendors offering free health screenings and info on home and health improvement. Door prizes of \$25 or more throughout the day. Community Center, 1 Park Place & 106th Ave. Info at www.islandneighborschamber.org.

Apr. 21: 6th Annual Spring Salute Car & Truck Show, All day. Cars, silent auction, 50/50 raffles, live music, food & beer. Free and benefits charity. Community Center Park, 154 106th Ave

May. 5: Mark Your Calendar, Sunshine City Kiwanis Casino Night, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Annual Casino Night Fundraising event. Fun, food, and fundraiser to support our charitable projects. Community Center, 1 Park Place & 106th Ave. Visit then on Facebook.

Each Week

Thursday Bingo, 6:45 p.m. Early bird, 7:45 p.m. Regular. Cash prizes. Snack bar & free coffee. Hosted by the Treasure Islettes. Community Center 1 Park Place and 106th Avenue.

Friday Morning Market, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Open air market featuring local art & crafts, produce, plants/flowers, independent distributors, fair trade, and interesting flea items. Free. Community Center Park, 154 106th Ave

Seminars and Classes

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 78 Safe Boating Classes, 7 p.m., each Tuesday. A 12-week continuous cycle of classes; start anytime; includes 400 pages of materials. Initial registration is 6:30 p.m. \$45 for 12 weeks (\$60 for couples sharing a manual). Call Jim at 727-360-4846, Warren at 727-321-7801, or Phil at 865-2226. 1500 Pass-a-Grille Way, St. Pete Beach.

Apr. 3: Which Boat is for You?, Apr. 10: Rules of the Nautical Road, Apr. 17: Boating Safety, Apr. 24: Introduction to Navigation, May 1: Powering Your Boat

St. Pete Sail and Power Squadron Seminars, Students must be 12 or older and pre-registration is required. Maximum of 20 students per class. Classes are held at the St Petersburg Sailing Center, 250 2nd Ave SE, Demens Landing. Class details and registration at www.boating-st.pete.org under Seminars.

Apr. 18: Hurricanes and Boats, 7 - 9 p.m. Learn how to select a location and prepare your boat to survive a hurricane. Includes student notes and copies of the presentation. Cost is \$30 per family.

St. Pete Beach Recreation Center Classes, Classes in art, dance, self defense for women and a variety of other topics throughout the month. Classes for kids too. Go to www.spbrec.com for a complete listing or call 727-363-9245.

Treasure Island Art Guild Workshops, Info at treasureislandartguild.org.

Each Month

Suncoast Hospice Caregiver Education and Support, Gain new skills, self-confidence and emotional support with Suncoast Hospice's caregiver programs. Info at www.suncoasthospice.org/caregivers.

Summer Camps

Tampa Bay Watch: Register today to have your children (ages 6-15) explore the Tampa Bay estuary through week-long day camp sessions. Includes exploring marine science topics through species collection, boating and snorkeling trips, and science labs. New this year is Ocean Expedition Camp for ages 13 to 15 which offers a complex look at Tampa Bay through marine science labs and activities. Info and registration at www.tampabaywatch.org.

Treasure Island Children's' Summer Programs: Registration begins Apr. 9.

Recreational Camp. An 11 week program for ages 5 to 13, May 29 through Aug. 10, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Activities include games, sports, arts and crafts, parties, guest speakers and entertainment, movies, field trips and more. Before and after care is provided for an additional fee. Family discounts are available. Register at City Hall.

Junior Tennis Camps. For juniors ages 8 years old through high school at Treasure Bay Golf and Tennis, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Info and registration at pgirardi@mytreasureisland.org or 727-360-6062.

Other Fundraisers

Apr. 6: Piper Fire Footgolf Tournament, 5 p.m. Check-in. Fourth annual event to raise funds for the Children's Burn Foundation of Florida. Prices are \$20 to \$30 and include: play, dinner, live entertainment, signature beverages w/ Piper Fire souvenir cup, awards for top teams, longest drive and closest to the pin, a 50/50 Raffle, and costume contest—dress in your finest argyle socks and cap. No cleats allowed and please bring your own soccer ball. Largo Municipal Golf Course, 12500 Vonn Road. Info at www.piperfire.com/footgolf.

Apr. 14: Gulf Fundraiser, 7:30 a.m. registration. Support Clearwater High School Football program for kids at this gulf tourney. \$10,000 hole in one, two-night stay at Shephards Resort, jewelry, gift certificates, rounds of golf from elite, private courses and more. Golfers receive, goodie bags, free breakfast and lunch, awards banquet, trophies and prizes. Bardmoor Golf and Tennis Club, 8001 Cumberland Rd., Largo. Info at www.tornadostrong.org.

May 4 & 5: Mark Your Calendars: PARC's 44th Annual Golf Tournament Weekend, Friday Night Party at the Station House, 260 1st Ave S, St. Petersburg at 7 p.m. A night of 'Games and Gambling' with rooftop LED golf, buffet, open-bar drinks, and entertainment. Golf on Saturday at the Bayou Club, 7979 Bayou Club Blvd, Largo. 11:30 a.m. lunch and registration, 1 p.m. shotgun start, dinner and awards. Sponsorships available. Info at www.parc-fl.org.

PET PAL continued from page 17

There are monthly Yappy Hours at Pinellas Ale Works (PAW). The dog friendly bar hosts the event and donates a dollar from every beer they sell to PPAS. Treasure Island volunteers Mike and Cathy Commons are there showing off Otto, the dog Grieshop greeted earlier. They volunteer at Pet Pal three days a week.

They are also showing their support by attending Puppy Love at The Historic Coliseum. The annual fundraiser will include a silent and live auction, 50/50 raffle, puppy pimping, dinner buffet, photo booth, entertainment by Moving Arts of Tampa Bay, music, and more.

For more information about Pet Pal and Puppy Love go to www.petpalanimalshelter.com.

Cathy and Mike Commons from Treasure Island show off Otto, a Pet Pal Pit Bull at Yappy Hour. The couple, snowbirds from New Jersey, volunteer there three days a week.

TIR staff photo.



Scott Daly, executive director of Pet Pal Animal Shelter talks with a supporter who regularly attends the monthly Yappy Hours hosted by Pinellas Ale Works (PAL). The craft brewery donates \$1 of every beer sold during Yappy Hour to Pet Pal

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The Island Reporter Picture Page

FHM Holds Grand Gala

The Florida Holocaust Museum (FHM) held its annual To Life gala at the Grand Hyatt Tampa. The annual fundraiser supports FHM's educational and outreach programs are a vital part of its mission. Community advocates Gayle Sierens and Jane Castor shared their personal stories and expressed their gratitude for the museum's dedication to making positive changes in the world. Photos by Joy Hmielewski.



People, Pups Get Yappy

Tosti's Spirits and Fine Wines hosted a Yappy Hour wine tasting in March with participation by Bay Moorings Animal Hospital and Orvees Pet Center and Dog Grooming to celebrate the end of the work week. Wine aficionados were encouraged to attend with their four-legged friends and Bay Moorings and Orvees had goodies for the crowd. TIR staff photos.



HOEV Dedicates Home

Heaven on Earth for Veterans dedicated one of their homes for vets in memory of Sgt. Maj. August "Augie" D'Alessio, USMC (Ret.). Augie was an institution in St. Pete Beach for more than two decades after relocating here in 1994. He served on many boards and advisory committees, supported various veteran nonprofit groups and had a ravenous appetite for life. TIR staff photos.



BayLife Art Show Shines

Hundreds of art lovers flocked to the annual BayLife Art Show at Tampa Bay Watch (TBW) which included a meet and greet with the artists and live presentation by U.S. astronaut and artist Nicole Stott based on her experiences preparing for and traveling to the International Space Station. Guests enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres by Amici's Catered Cuisine. The event raised almost \$22,000 for TBW. Photos courtesy of TBW.





TIERRA VERDE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR 2016

Century 21 Coast to Coast
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2BR/2Bath condo on Isla Del Sol. Sweeping views of the Tampa Bay from every window. The unit provides a split bedroom plan with tasteful updating in both baths, covered parking and all the Florida lifestyle provides. Call Jacqi Dockery Realtor for any further info 727-424-3700



Dolphin Cay is an award-winning gated waterfront community of one hundred acres. Homes and condominium buildings blend with the protected wetland area where a bird sanctuary and natural habitat are preserved. This freshly painted Mediterranean styled 2 story home entry is highlighted by a Travertine marble tiled driveway/walkway and opens into a 12' ceiling atrium greeting area. A new tile roof was recently installed. The first level of the home, with 12' ceilings throughout, has spacious water views of the deep-water Maximo channel and Boca Ciega Bay. The great room features hardwood flooring and marble French pattern laid throughout the kitchen and guest room suite. Newly installed hurricane impact 8' sliders open to a marble paver pool area and T&G wood ceiling lanai. On the water is a Duradek dock containing a 10,000 lb. boat-lift. The side area of home features an artisan mosaic outdoor shower and 2 brand new A/C units well concealed in a recess. Upstairs features 10' ceilings with a large master suite with hardwood flooring and master bath area with marble flooring contained throughout. A second guest room suite is also upstairs along with a recently completed art/office studio. An attached 2 1/2 car garage features a 3 part epoxy flooring and a custom 15'x 8' above garage storage area. To Preview call: Gabrielle Bettig, Realtor, 727-385-9017 or Chris Boyll, Realtor 727-612-9777



~ SOLD ~

TIERRA ISLE MARINA RESIDENCES CONDO. Executive 3BR/3.5Bath with flowing floor plan that brings the outdoors in and captures the peacefulness of a nightly sunset over the Pass-A-Grill Channel. Gourmet kitchen, granite counters, cherry cabinets, designer range hood and six burner gas range. Walk in pantry and wine reserve cooler. All BR's have private baths. Jetted tub & walk in shower in master bath. Great room features and elaborate fireplace of carved cherry wood. PRIVATE DOCK two covered parking garage spaces. Come make this your own tranquil retreat. Contact Charlotte Wright, REALTOR 502-599-6974



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TIERRA VERDE! ST PETE BEACH! Boaters, waterfront townhome with DEEDED BOAT SLIP 8,000 lb. LIFT on sailboat (deep) water. This spacious 2BR/2.5BA/2 car tandem garage townhome has an open floor plan with living/dining rm & separate eat-in kitchen with laminate floors. Living room has wood-burning flpc, balcony overlooking the canal and docks. Master bath has dual sinks, separate shower with jacuzzi tub while the Master bdrm has a balcony with one of the best views in the complex. Asking \$310,000. Contact Gabrielle Bettig, REALTOR 727-385-9017



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2) Large Park St Lot. \$350,000.
3) Lakefront Lot, Oceanview Dr. \$650,000.
4) Fabulous Greenland Preserve, 1.3 Acre lot w/ covered boatslip, \$1,250,000.
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