

Treasures

MatthewNoyes.com

727-796-8282

June 2019

Jewel of Law Enforcement

I am proud to call this jewel in law enforcement my best friend! Doug Gettmann is a sergeant with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. He has dedicated his life to serving the public while in uniform, but what makes him even more of a treasure is the multiple times he uses his skills and talents while off duty.

Last month, Doug was celebrating his birthday in Cincinnati with his wife. An avid Reds fan (he is still my friend nonetheless), his wife planned a special day at the Reds ballpark. As they were walking over the bridge to get to the stadium, there was a man sitting on the wall of the bridge. Doug's wife turned to Doug to discuss the situation only to find that Doug had already gone forward and grabbed a hold of the man who planned on jumping to his death. Doug talked to the man as a friend by discussing how it was his birthday and no one wanted to ruin a birthday. Within minutes, Doug was walking the man towards Cincinnati law enforcement who were hopefully able to give him the added medical and mental health he needed. Typical Doug shook off his heroic act and enjoyed the ballgame with his wife. I even think the Reds won the game!

This was not the first time. I remember years ago Doug and I were driving home from a Tampa Bay Rays ballgame.

As we approached the area near St. Anthony's Hospital, we saw an obviously impaired man walking in the middle of the street. Without hesitation, Doug told me to pull over. He got out of the car and put his arm around the man and walked him into the emergency room. Who knows what would have happened to him if Doug didn't take time to help!

I treasure my friendship with Doug, but our community should treasure his dedication (and the dedication of many similar law enforcement personnel) to serving and protecting everyone.

The heroic acts won't make the paper when talking about law enforcement, but be assured law enforcement do these acts on a regular basis. They are treasures in our community.



Classroom Treasure

Although the school year has ended, a spotlight is deserving on one special teacher who has dedicated her life to helping kids at Clearwater's Ponce de Leon Elementary School.

Ms. Jody Barnum is a 3rd grade teacher at Ponce de Leon Elementary School where she has taught for 35 years. Next year, she will be an Intervention Teacher which entails her spending extra one-on-one time with students who are struggling with reading skills. After that, after teaching two generations of students, Ms. Barnum is retiring.

From an early age, Ms. Barnum knew she was going to be a teacher. She had a younger brother who she played school with and through high school and college, she worked as a camp counselor. Throughout her teaching career—all of it at Ponce de Leon -- Ms. Barnum taught third, fourth and fifth grade. Many of those classes consisted of struggling students. However, because of her dedication and dedication of other teachers, Ms. Barnum has seen her students become nurses, store managers, moms, dads, and influential members of their community. She loves it when her former students come to visit her. Her favorite part of teaching is when she sees the aha moment in her students and they feel so proud when they are successful and get it.

Her advice to new teachers is to hold onto their passion to teach and remember why they chose the profession. "Treat each child as an individual and help them to strive to reach their highest potential," Ms. Barnum says.

Ms. Barnum looks forward to spending time with family and friends when she retires, but most of all, she looks forward to not setting her alarm for the first time in 38 years.

Thank you, Ms. Barnum, for your dedication to teaching over three decades! You are truly a treasure in our community. As a token of our appreciation to her making a difference in so many kids' lives, we have presented her with a Chili's gift certificate. Enjoy your last year of teaching and enjoy retirement, Ms. Barnum!



Dixie Dee's Diamond Advice



Dixie Dee enjoyed the positive comments she received on her inaugural guest article in the last Treasures and is pleased to provide some more legal advice.

"You can't teach an old dog new tricks." Dixie Dee knows this and so does the Social Security Administration. The Social Security Administration (SSA) believes it is harder for an older person to learn a new job skill or to make the transition into a new work place. To account for the difficulty older claimants may have making vocational adjustments, the SSA has something called the "grid rules" it uses to decide some disability claims. One of the factors in the grid rules is the applicant's age (Dixie Dee is quick to point out this is human age and not dog years).

After listening to her owner, Lorrie, prepare for countless social security disability hearings, Dixie Dee now can advise that the Social Security Administration

divides applicants into the following age groups when deciding social security disability claims:

1. Younger Individuals (ages 18 through 49 years old)
2. Closely Approaching Advanced Age (ages 50 to 54 years old)
3. Advanced Age (ages 55 years old and over), and
4. Closely approaching retirement age (60 years old and over)

The older the applicant is, the easier it is to get approved for social security disability benefit using the grids. This is because the Social Security Administration (SSA) considers the fact that a successful transition to a new workplace or field for an older worker may be more difficult than for a younger worker. Thus, if you are 50 years old or over (approximately 8 dog years) and have a disability that prevents you from working, you should consider applying for social security disability.

Lorrie and I (and perhaps Dixie Dee too) are happy to help with your social security disability claim. Simply call us at 727-796-8282.



Jewel of a Joke

Father William, the old priest, made it a practice to visit the parish school one day a week. He walked into the 4th grade class, where the children were studying

about America's birthday and the states, and asked them how many states they could name. The students came up with about 40 names. Father William jokingly told them that back in his day students knew the names of all the states. Little Johnny raised his hand and said, "Yes sir, but in those days there were only 13 states."



PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEY
MATTHEW NOYES
PERENICH, CAULFIELD, AVRIL & NOYES, P.A.
A trusted name in Clearwater for nearly 40 years.

MatthewNoyes.com
USALAW.com

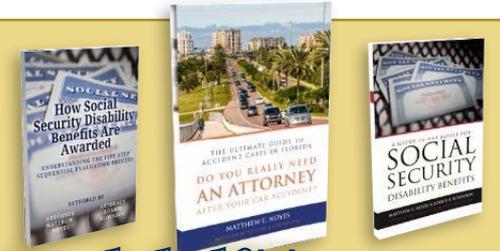
727-796-8282



PERENICH CAULFIELD
AVRIL NOYES
Injury Attorneys Since 1955

Bookshelf Treasures

Did you know that we have written a book on car accidents and two books on social security disability? If you would like a free copy of any of the books, avoid Amazon and send me an email at matt@usalaw.com.



Focus on Community Riches

Thank you for taking some of your time to read this edition of Treasures. Lorrie Robinson's dog, Dixie Dee, was a hit last edition so she has come back with more advice her owner has taught her. Also, read about two special treasures in our community – one from the classroom and another in law enforcement.

As we approach Independence Day, let us remember these words from Mark Twain: "Patriotism is supporting your country all the time and your government when it deserves it." If you and your family are anything like me and my family, there is a blend of political beliefs and strong feelings and interesting debates about today's political culture. That's what makes America! We can have differing opinions. We can peacefully gather and express our beliefs. However, we cannot forget that despite the difference of political opinions, we are all one family of

Americans. Let's stay positive and support America even when we disagree with its political parties or fellow Americans. Let's all support America and take action (not just complain) to change the things you believe need changing.

Enjoy these summer months! Friend me on Facebook to see how my family and I are enjoying our summer. Be safe and enjoy this Treasures and the treasures in your life and throughout the Tampa Bay community!

Matt

Recipe Riches

The Rocket

A COLD ADULT DRINK THAT LOOKS-- AND TASTES--LIKE A ROCKET ICE POP!

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup finely crushed ice (to slush consistency)
- 1/4 fluid ounce blue curacao liqueur
- 2 fluid ounces lemon-flavored vodka, divided
- 1/4 fluid ounce raspberry flavored liqueur (such as Raspberry Sour Puss)

DIRECTIONS

1. Place half the ice into a bowl; divide the other half of the ice between 2 bowls (1/4 cup of ice in each).
2. Place blue curacao liqueur and 1/2 fluid ounce of lemon vodka into a bowl containing 1/4 cup of ice. Mix well.
3. Place raspberry liqueur and 1/2 fluid ounce of lemon vodka into the other 1/4 cup of ice and mix well.
4. Mix the remaining 1 fluid ounce of lemon vodka into the bowl containing 1/2 cup of ice.
5. Layer the blue curacao-flavored ice into the bottom of a glass. Place the lemon vodka-flavored ice over the blue layer; top with the raspberry-flavored ice.

