

VETERAN VOICE

The Voice of Experience

35 cents

Vol. 1 / Issue 3

Friday, November 23, 2012

Toy time



Above, Pete Sayles, first vice president of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1038, and Jr. Vice Commandant Marine Corps League Detachment 058, both of Indian River County, stands with an Air Force vet who wished to remain anonymous, (he donated the remote-controlled motorcycle on the table), and Senior Chief Mike Bodnar, corpsman at Earl's Hideaway on Veterans Day, where the group raised more than \$1,000 for Toys for Tots. At right, Pete Sayles and his fiancée, Gail Rohrer, at the Sebastian Clambake, where more than \$700 was raised for the Vietnam Veterans of America and Toys for Tots.

Photos courtesy of Pete Sayles



IRSC named 'Military Friendly' school

For Veteran Voice

Indian River State College has been designated a Military Friendly School by Victory Media, which honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America's military service members, veterans, and spouses and to ensure their success as students.

Inclusion on the 2013 list of Military Friendly Schools shows "the commitment of Indian River State College to providing a supportive environment for military students," said Sean Collins, director for *G.I. Jobs* and vice president of Victory Media.

IRSC provides a wide range of services for veterans, including assistance obtaining financial aid and certifying enrollment for the Montgomery GI Bill, VRAP and Vocational and Rehabilitation Employment Program. The college holds orientation sessions to explain veterans education benefits and college processes, provides referrals to state and federal agencies and offers free career planning, advisement and tutoring services. IRSC student veterans benefit from joining the Student Veterans Organization.

The Veterans Business Institute offers students the opportunity to earn a business certificate in a co-

See IRSC page 6

Hearing Aid Ads Confusing You?

A Clients True Story of Superior, Compassionate Service and Care

St. Lucie County

It was a hot night in July, 1995 when the world went completely dark for Rachel Guild. A passenger in a vehicle involved in a rollover crash on I-95, Rachel's mom was told her daughter would likely only survive for hours, and Rachel was still in a coma when her best friend (another passenger in the car that fateful evening) was buried. Seventeen years later, Rachel Guild is a testament to persistence, miracles, and caring professionals. Though completely blind as a result of the accident, Rachel lets absolutely nothing stand in her way, and she finds beauty in the way the world can be experienced through her remaining senses. As a matter of fact, that's how Rachel became acquainted with Joe Mutter of Mutter's Hearing in St. Lucie West.

You Too Can Experience the Mutter Difference

One of the lesser injuries Rachel suffered as a result of the crash which claimed her best friend, Sarah, and her eyesight was some hearing loss due to scar tissue in her left ear. When some close friends told her about Joe and Mutter's Hearing, Rachel and her mom set up a free clinical hearing evaluation with Joe, a Florida Licensed Hearing Aid Specialist and retired law enforcement officer with the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office. Joe was ranked Top Cop in the State of Florida by the Florida Fraternal Order of Police and highly honored for his accomplishments and Commitment to the community through volunteerism. Mutter performed several tests on Rachel to determine the level of her hearing loss and then broke the news. "He didn't think I needed hearing aids," Rachel said. "He said I had a mild hearing loss and it may not be great enough to warrant the considerable expense that I would incur with hearing aids. Even though he could have easily made a big profit, that's

not the way he is. I explain to Joe that if I am ever going to regain total independence, I need to be able to hear everything with great clarity." For Rachel, the way that Mutter compassionately listened to her concerns, asked her questions about her needs, lifestyle, and was hesitant to make a sale simply for the sake of making a sale were the deciding factors in doing business with him. "I had consulted with other hearing aid dealers and I was very disappointed that their only concern was how I would be making payment," Rachel says. "Joe was the opposite; he wasn't just trying to make a sale he actually cared about me and my special needs!"

evaluations and he utilizes state-of-the-art technology. He even includes a hearing loss simulator to replicate for family members what their voices sound like to someone with a hearing loss because, of course, a hearing loss is invisible and affects every member of the family. "What I deal with is a very precious commodity – "my clients' trust and their hearing," says Mutter. "I care about my clients, not their pocketbook."

Stop Chasing Deals That Don't Exist

Mutter's Hearing Center is conveniently located at 1420 SW St. Lucie West Boulevard, just west of the Wells Fargo bank, in St. Lucie West. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with evening and weekend appointments available, as well as home visits can be arranged by appointment. Mutter's Hearing Center will guide you through your insurance options and assist you with financing your hearing aids if necessary. The initial consultations and clinical evaluations are absolutely free. Call Mutter's Hearing Center today at (772) 871-1222 to arrange a your free hearing consultation. Mutter's Hearing Center has been voted the Readers Choice #1 Hearing Center in St. Lucie West since 2004 and is the ONLY full time hearing center in St. Lucie West.

Deal With the Owner- He Can Make it Right

Being blind is difficult, but for Rachel Guild, losing her hearing would be so much worse. "I think it would be a very lonely world," she says. "Being deaf makes you feel so isolated; everyone has a conversation going, but when they try to talk to you, you cannot understand them. It's hard for people who haven't been there to realize, but being able to participate in the conversation when your loved ones and friends are talking is a way to keep from being isolated and alone. I am so grateful to Joe and Mutter's Hearing Center for helping me rejoin the conversation and regain my independence".



Joe Mutter, H.A.S. and Client Rachel Guild
Share a Moment at His St. Lucie West Office

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Palm City businesses honor veteran

After 13 years in service, Jensen Beach veteran is awarded a minivan at the Stuart Air Show

**By Patrick Bernadeau
Staff writer**

STUART – Todd Harris has been servicing local residents at his shop for years, but his best work may have come with what he gave a Martin County veteran during Veterans Day weekend.

Harris, owner of Crown Car Care auto shops in Palm City and Stuart, help award Douglas Winterhalter, a former jet engine mechanic in the Air Force, with a 2004 Ford Windstar minivan, valued at \$9,000, during a beautiful, sunny Saturday at the Stuart Air Show.

“They are selfless,” Harris said of veterans that have served this country. “The people that go into the military are looking to help their country. They aren’t looking to make a lot of money.”

“These people deserved the upmost respect and honor so if they are in need, this is the least



Staff photo by Patrick Bernadeau

Being interviewed by Olga Hamilton of Martin County Lifestyle Magazine, Air Force veteran Douglas Winterhalter discusses his joy minutes after being presented with a special military-painted 2004 Ford Windstar.

I can do.”

The car was awarded as part of a contest run by Crown Car Care and fellow Palm City businesses, Dangerous Curves and Crown Collision Center, to give away the vehicle to a Martin County resident who has served his country

after 9/11.

Winterhalter, father of three and a Jensen Beach resident, served his country over a decade, spanning 10 tours in between Iraq and Afghanistan.

During his time in service, Winterhalter developed back and

knee issues. Returning from service in 2010, it’s been a struggle to receive disability and find employment.

Upon learning he had won, Winterhalter, accompanied by his family, was speechless. After a moment to gather his thoughts, he was ready to share his excitement.

“I’m feeling overwhelmed,” Winterhalter said after landing the keys to his new vehicle.

“Being awarded something like this is an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

The vehicle was outfitted with four new tires, a complete mechanical check and repair. In addition, the minivan was given a complete exterior paint job with special military artwork done on the hood.

Crown Car Care will cover the first year of auto-insurance of the vehicle.

This giveaway is the first of what Harris intends to be many car giveaways to veterans in future Stuart Air Shows.

“My goal is when they open that car door up, get the keys to this car and drive away, they’ll say ‘people still care,’” Harris said.

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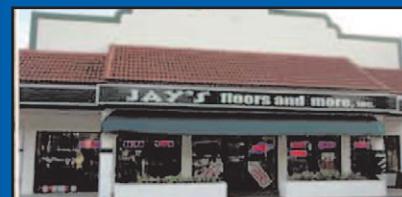
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Retired U.S. Marine Senior Chief Mike Bodnar and wife, Pat



Photo courtesy of Col. Terry Yon

Visitors toured the Vietnam Memorial Hangar during a sneak preview over Memorial Day weekend 2011. The hangar was officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony the following month.

Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum's Vietnam Memorial Hangar

The Valiant Air Command's memorial honors those who served and sacrificed in the Vietnam War

For Veteran Voice

Step back into history and visit the Valiant Air Command's Vietnam Display Hangar. This hangar is dedicated to those that served

and sacrificed in the Vietnam War. Additionally, the new hangar enables us to stage all our aircraft in historical order by era. You can walk through our WWI, WWII, Korea and now Vietnam era vintage warbird collection and

listen to our tour guides tell you about these legendary aircraft and the pilots that flew them, as a result of actual combat experiences, historical research and anecdotal stories.

The Vietnam hangar has its own memorabilia room with artifacts, uniforms, prints, medals and a variety of other exhibits

and displays. After spending time in the memorabilia room, you exit into a spacious 28,000 sf hangar with Vietnam era aircraft from the Navy, Air Force, Army and Marine Corps. Aircraft from the famous F-8 Crusader (first military aircraft to exceed

See HANGAR page 8

VETERAN VOICE

The Voice of Experience

Veteran Voice is a weekly newspaper for veterans, active military, their families and their friends.

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Stars & Stripes Café now open at VFW Post 10066, Jensen Beach

For Veteran Voice

Stars & Stripes Café is now open for lunch weekdays 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. and breakfast on Sundays 8 a.m. - noon. Please welcome Leighan to our VFW family.

She opened our VFW restaurant on Oct. 29. She is serving burgers, salads, sandwiches, soups and more for lunch and a complete

breakfast menu on Sundays. The café opened, in part, due to the positive response we received from you in the recent VFW House Committee Survey.

So ask Leighan or a bartender for a copy of the Stars & Stripes Café menu. Leighan hopes to expand her menu to include dinners in December. Please support her and the Stars & Stripes Café.

IRSC from page 1

hort group with other veterans, and to continue their education with an associate degree and bachelor's degree in a supportive environment.

Now in its fourth year, the 2013 list of Military Friendly Schools was compiled through extensive research and a data driven survey of more than 12,000 VA-approved schools nationwide. More information can be found at www.militaryfriendlyschools.com. For more information about IRSC programs for veterans, call 1(866) 792-4772.

Indian River State College is a public, comprehensive college serving Florida's Research Coast with campuses in Fort Pierce, Okeechobee, Port St. Lucie, Stuart and Vero Beach. IRSC has earned a statewide and national reputa-

tion for quality, innovation and responsiveness to community needs, inspiring more than 32,000 people to enroll in courses each year. Every aspects of IRSC is focused on enhancing student success with small classes, one-stop student services, convenient campuses and online courses, resulting in the College's ranking as the 10th top public regional college in the South by *US News & World Report*. Tuition is affordable, and IRSC students benefit from many opportunities for scholarships and financial aid. IRSC was designated as the fifth-most affordable college in the country by the U.S. Department of Education. IRSC offers bachelor's degree programs, associate in arts degree programs for university transfer, associate in science degrees for in-demand career training and Quick Job Training.

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Friendly Knowledgeable Staff

Quality, service guide vet's life

By Shelley Koppel
Staff writer

ST. LUCIE WEST – Sal Mancuso was first elected to the St. Lucie West Service District in 2002. He served until 2010, when he was defeated. This November, Mr. Mancuso was elected again to a four-year term on the five-member board. At 90, Mr. Mancuso fully expects to complete his term.

The district, created in 1989, provides potable water treatment and distribution wastewater collection and treatment and other services to approximately 20,000 customers. For Mr. Mancuso, the emphasis is on providing quality service, a mission he has championed all his life.

Born in Brooklyn, Mr. Mancuso enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1942. He served as an aircraft mechanic in the Europe until his discharge in 1946.

After a short stint working for Eastern Airlines in Miami, he returned to New York and worked for Sperry Gyroscope in the flight research department. He began working for the Department of Defense at Grumman as a quality assurance specialist.

"I had to make sure that Grumman built, manufactured and assembled the aircraft to contract specifications," he said.

Mr. Mancuso and his wife, Jo, to whom he has been married for 67 years, moved to Florida in 1966. He worked in Stuart, at Witham Field, and ended up as chief of the quality assurance division at Grumman. He



Sal Mancuso today



Sal Mancuso in younger days

Born in Brooklyn, Mr. Mancuso enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1942. He served as an aircraft mechanic in the Europe until his discharge in 1946.

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also worked for Sikorsky Aircraft, concentrating on Black Hawk helicopters.

"It was always my ambition to be a quality manager at an aircraft facility," Mr. Mancuso said.

"There were problems with maintenance at Sikorsky's Troy, Ala., facility. I went down there to try to get them back to the Army's specifications. It took six to seven weeks, working 14-16 hours a day, seven days a

week.

"When I thought the program met the requirements, I made a phone call to headquarters. They reopened it based on my word. I knew the people and my reputation preceded me."

The Mancusos moved to St. Lucie West in 1989. Mr. Mancuso found retirement boring and decided to get involved in the Water District.

"I became so involved, I decided to run for district supervisor," he said. "I lost by 35 voted. The second time, I won, and the third time, I was unopposed. Then I got beat."

Mr. Mancuso remained involved in the water district and this year, at 90, he decided to run again. He has several ideas he hopes will be adopted.

"The people are not assigned to any one supervisor," he said.

"I'd like to see it operate like the city, so that if a person has a problem, they can contact a particular supervisor."

Mr. Mancuso noted that the main mission of the water district is surface water management and the avoidance of flooding in St. Lucie West. That has remained his focus. He doesn't give much thought to retirement.

"I should be retired, but I don't want to retire," he said. "My hobby is what I'm doing and I love it. God willing, I'll be around in 2016. I'm going to make it. I work hard and I put my heart and soul into everything I do. For a high school grad, I'm really proud of what I've accomplished."

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The VAC Warbird Museum is also the home of the C-47 'Tico Belle,' pictured here at right. From the Normandy invasion to Cherbourg, to Arnhem, to Bastogne, to the Berlin Airlift and much more, this aircraft was there -- over 65 years ago. Below, a view of the Warbird Museum's three hangars (the Vietnam Memorial Hangar is on the right). The museum is located at 6600 Tico Road in Titusville; open seven days a week from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, call (321) 268-1941.

Photos courtesy
of Terry Yon



HANGAR from page 5

1000mph), to the A-6, to the A-10 Bronco to the most emblematic example of the war -- the famous UH-1 Huey Helicopter. There are many excellent examples of aircraft from that era including a MiG-21 and an F-4 Phantom; currently in our restoration facility.

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CenterState Bank gives to local veterans groups

The Fort Pierce and Vero Beach branches of CenterState Bank has dedicated November and December to recognizing heroes in the community.

Based on a specially designed Community Hero's Program offering special benefits to local "community heroes" who open accounts at the bank, they have also taken steps in the community to offer financial donations for the good work that is being done.

One instance of that was a special visit branch officials made on Saturday, Nov. 10 to the Military Moms Prayer Group.

The interdenominational, not-for-profit circle of faith organization, supports troops through weekly prayer and annual outreach drives throughout the year.

The group participated in the A Navy-UDT Seal Museum's Annual Muster with a booth offering organization information. They also distributed their "box-in-a-bag" mailing kit for visitors to send to the troops filled with special treats and gifts for their son or daughter in the service.

CenterState Bank manager Lori Wuchte and assistant manager Cheryl Howe met with the Military Moms and presented a check for \$250 from the Bank to enable the organization to continue their services to families of troops. The



Photo courtesy of Paris Productions

From left, Lynn Marie Saint-Vincent, Carol England, Ellen Bedford-Ross, Cheryl Howe, Pam Proctor, Lori Wuchte and Dr. Joyce Desrosiers. Their children in the services include Austin Saint-Vincent (Navy) and Bryce Saint-Vincent (Air Force), Travis England (Air Force), Joshua Ross and Luke Ross (Airforce) and Captain Michael Proctor (Marines). Dr. Desrosiers son is in the Protective Services for Secretary of Defense.

bank is presently preparing a visit to another local Community Hero during December.

For more information on Military Moms, contact President Pam Proctor at (772) 231-2221 or visit Riverside Park in Vero Beach on Saturday, Dec. 1 when the orga-

nization will be participating at the Family Holiday Fest.

For more information on the Community Heroes Program at CenterState Bank, contact Wuchte or Howe at 4150

See BANK page 13

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Veteran Voice mission statement

Veteran Voice is a weekly publication designed to provide information to and about veterans to veterans and to the broader community. Veterans are an integral part of their Florida communities, which currently have individual organizations of their own, such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Vietnam Veterans of America and many other groups with a narrow focus, but no convenient way to connect to a wider population of veterans and to the community in general within a limited geographic area, their community.

The mission of *Veteran Voice* is to publish a weekly source of information that will provide, in one place, a listing of resources available to veterans, articles about changes in policies or organizations affecting veterans and events of interest to veterans as well as articles about veterans of interest to the general public.

Veteran Voice LLC is organized as a partnership of experienced newspaper executives with an interest in veterans and in the communities of Florida veterans and friends. VV is a start-up intended to address a perceived lack of information readily available to veterans on programs and policies affecting them and objective reporting of veteran affairs to the public. To our knowledge, and based on comments from leaders of local veteran organizations, there was no media or website currently meeting this need until the launch of *Veteran Voice*.

We hope you agree, and will support this publication with your subscription. Without subscriptions there will be a limited number of people we can help, without which this mission will not be realized. As part of our commitment to supporting local veteran communities, we will donate 10 percent of our profits each quarter to qualified veteran charities recommended by you, our readers and subscribers. Please let us know what you think by emailing editor@veteranvoiceweekly.com or mailing your comments to us at 1919 S.W. South Macedo Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34984.

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Photo courtesy of Paris Productions

Marty Zickert, president of the Indian River County Veterans County and Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1038, accepts a \$250 check from CenterState Bank 's Vero Beach branch manager, Diana Walker, who is wearing her mother's Navy uniform.

BANK from page 9

Okeechobee Road, Suite C in Fort Pierce or call (772) 460-2242.

Vero Beach branch manager Diana Walker visited with Marty Zickert, president of the Indian River County Veterans Council and Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1038, at Memorial Island to present the Veterans Council with a check of \$250.

"We use donations for veterans in need," Zickert said. "It's simply a matter of putting all our donations to good use and taking the stress out of paying bills or other special needs that may plague our veterans on a daily basis. We will put this donation from CenterState Bank to good use."

Ms. Walker helped commemorate the occasion by arriving dressed in her own mother's Navy jacket and hat, which she believes is 65 years old.

For more information on the Indian River County Veterans Council or Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1038, contact Marty Zickert at (772) 569-9533 or visit www.indianriverveterans.org or www.wva1038.org. For more information on the Community Heroes Program at CenterState Bank, contact Walker at (772) 229-6860 or visit her at 855 20th St. in Vero Beach.

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Beerfest benefits

Craig Waskow, Gail Rohrer, Pete Sayles and Marty Zickert pose for a photo at the 2012 Treasure Coast Beer Fest, held in Fort Pierce in October. Zickert estimated \$2,500-\$3,500 for Vietnam Veterans of America as one of the selected beneficiaries.

Photo courtesy of Pete Sayles

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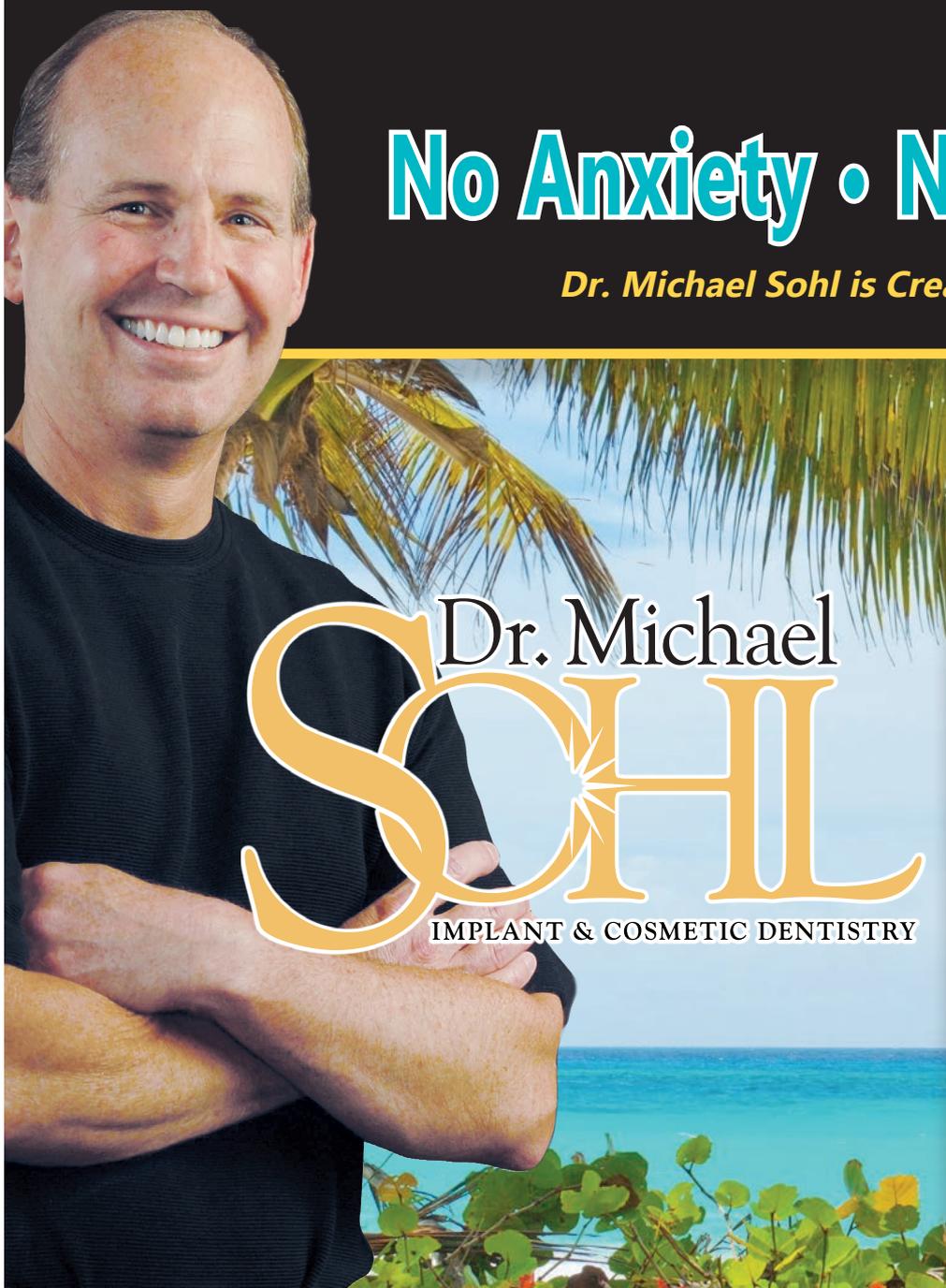
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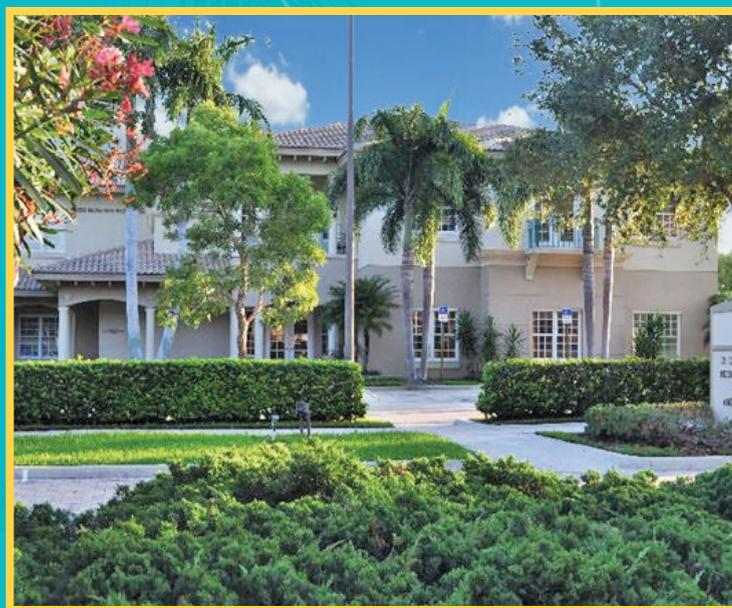
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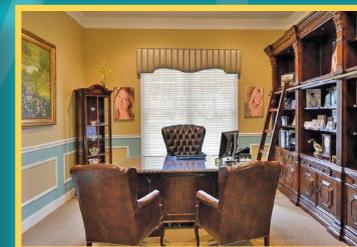
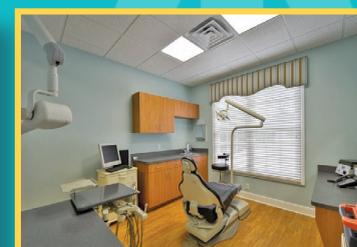


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