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## Harbor Bluffs

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## Harbor Bluffs Sends Off the Class of 2026

*This month, we celebrate the graduates who grew up on these streets, filled our neighborhood with memories, and are now heading off to colleges, careers, and exciting new adventures. Harbor Bluffs is proud to cheer them on as they take their next big step into the world.*

**JULY IS A SEASON FILLED WITH** celebration, excitement, and new beginnings, and this month we are especially proud to spotlight the incredible graduates of Harbor Bluffs. From high school seniors to college graduates, these young adults have worked hard, overcome challenges, and achieved remarkable milestones. In this issue, you'll read inspiring stories of leadership, academic success, service, and determination as our graduates prepare for exciting futures ahead. Whether they are continuing their education, beginning careers, serving others, or chasing lifelong dreams, we know they carry with them the support and values of this wonderful community. Congratulations to all of our graduates and the families who have encouraged them every step of the way!



## Stars, Stripes & Strong Communities

*"America's story is written not only in history books, but in neighborhoods where people still look out for one another."*

### HAPPY 250TH ANNIVERSARY, AMERICA!

As we celebrate these personal achievements, we also look ahead to a historic national milestone — America's 250th anniversary. This anniversary serves as a powerful reminder that the strength of our country comes from communities like Harbor Bluffs, where neighbors support one another, families create lasting traditions, and service and sacrifice are deeply valued. It is an opportunity to honor the generations of Americans who helped shape our nation and to reflect on the pride we share in our country and our community. As summer brings gatherings, celebrations, and time with loved ones, we hope this issue inspires you to celebrate both the future of our graduates and the enduring spirit of America.

With gratitude,

*Devin*

Publisher, *Stroll Harbor Bluffs*

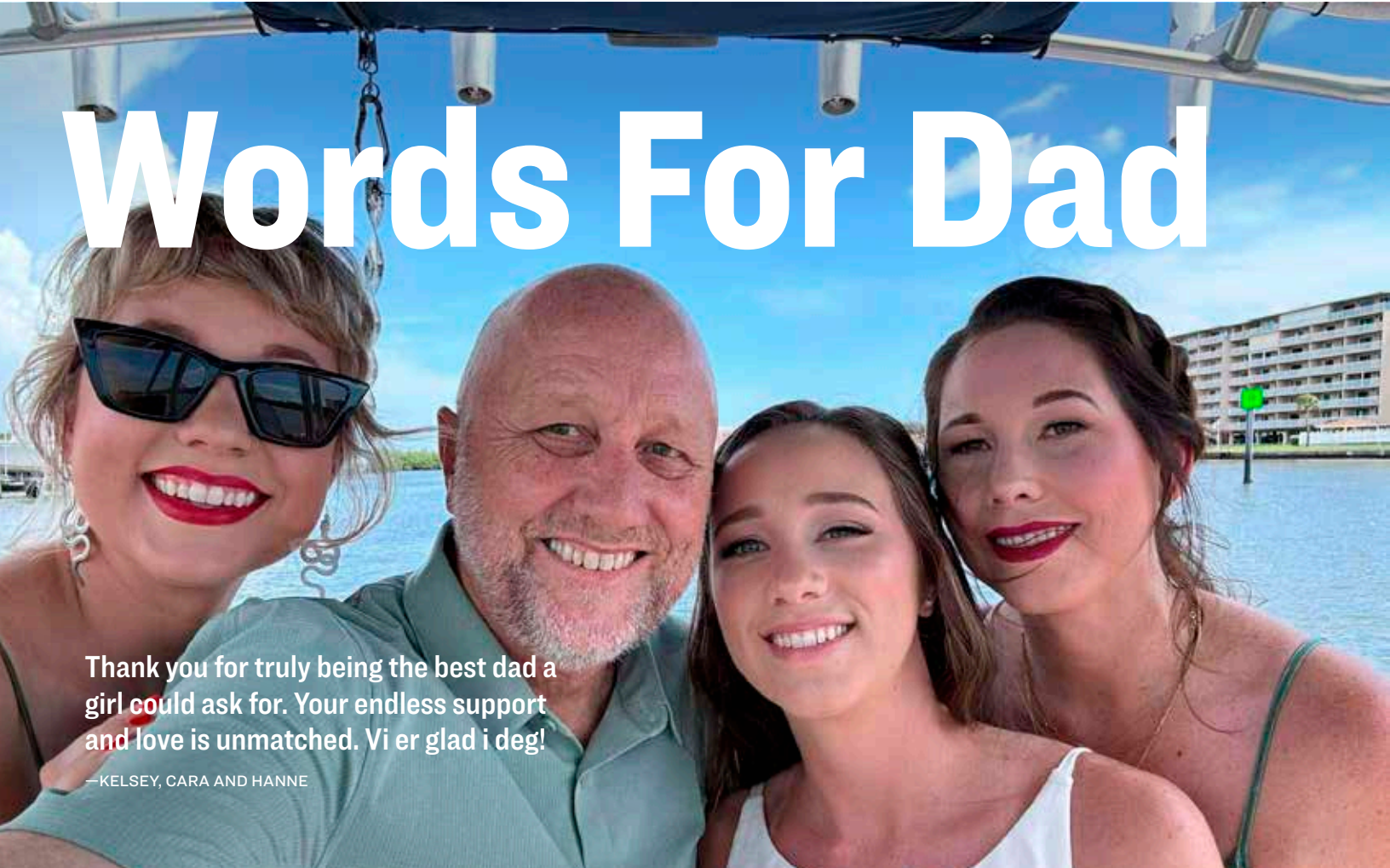


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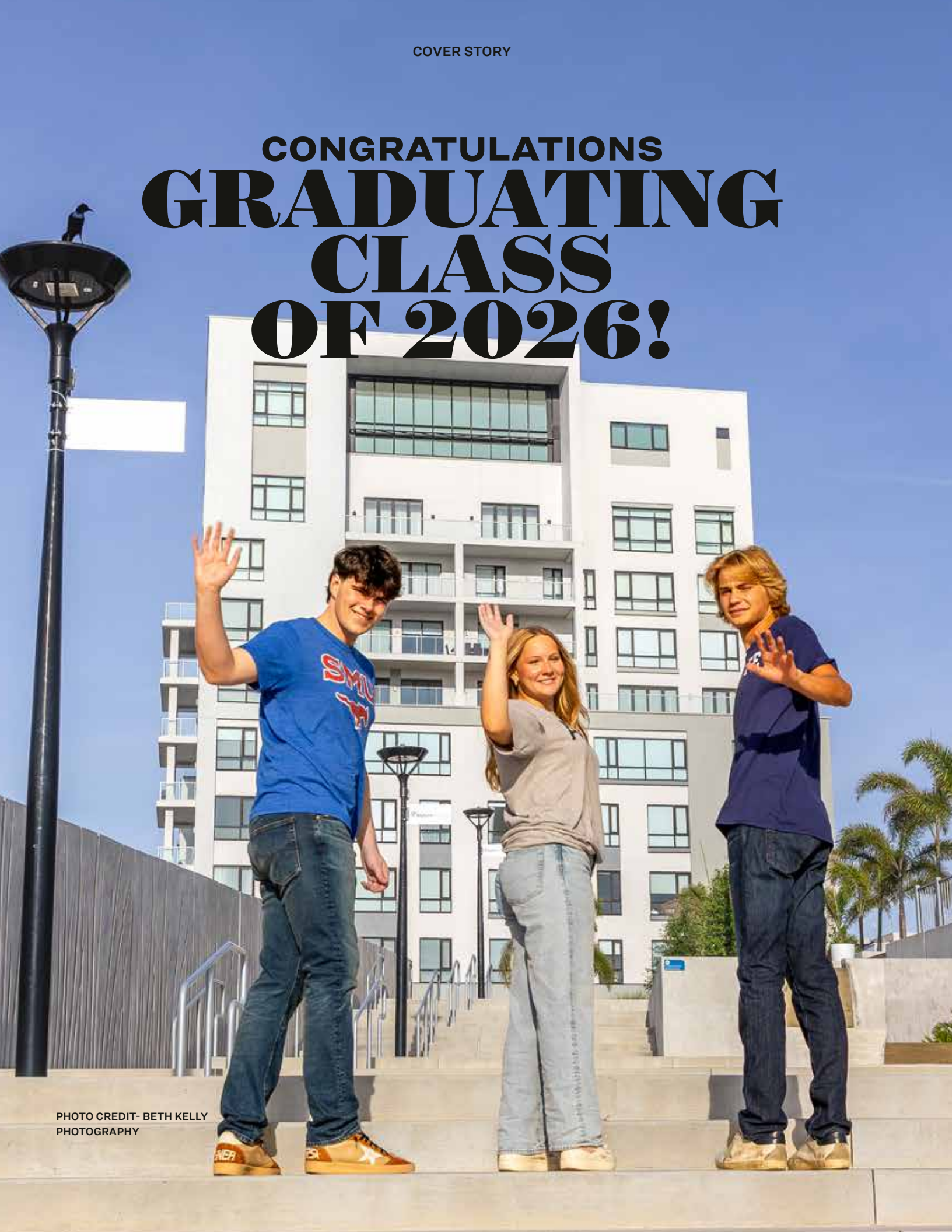


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PHOTOGRAPHY

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Photography



**THIS MONTH**, we celebrate the Class of 2026 and a milestone that reflects years of hard work, growth, and unforgettable memories. Whether moving up or moving on, each graduate carries a unique story shaped by challenges, friendships, perseverance, and achievement. Graduation is more than a diploma—it's a testament to resilience and the courage to keep going. Thank you to the families, teachers, and mentors whose support made this moment possible. As graduates step into what's next, may they stay curious, take chances, and embrace a future full of possibility.

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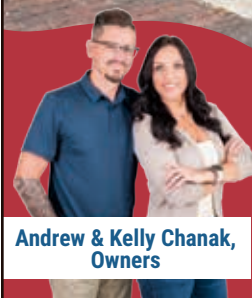
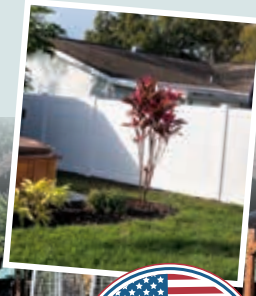


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## Gavin B. CAGLE

*Discipline, determination, and a passion for finance.*

The Citadel Military College

### GAVIN AND HIS FAMILY

have called Harbor Bluffs home for the past 5 years. During his time at The Citadel Military College, Gavin focused on leadership, academics, and preparing for a future in the financial world.

### Favorite Interests & Experiences

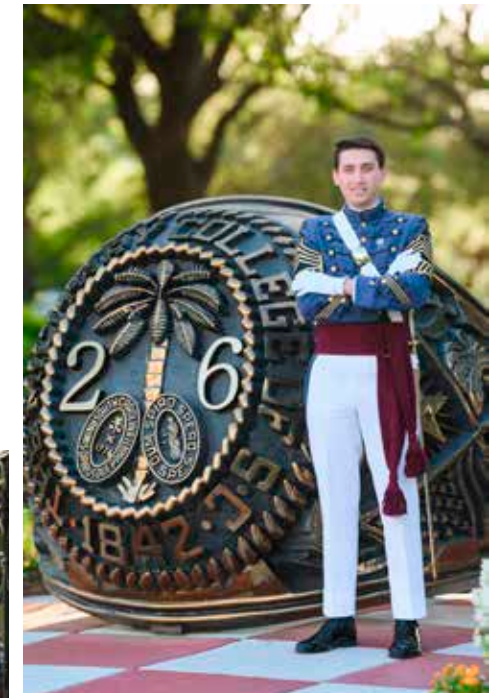
Gavin enjoyed being involved both on and off campus, especially through golf and his school's student-managed investment fund. These experiences helped strengthen his teamwork, discipline, and understanding of financial markets while creating lasting friendships and memories along the way.

### Future Plans

After graduation, Gavin plans to begin a career in wealth management, where he hopes to help individuals and families build successful financial futures.

### Biggest Influence

When asked who has had the greatest impact on his life, Gavin immediately points to his father.



"My dad's story is unrivaled in how he achieved success," Gavin shares. "No matter the amount of adversity someone faces, every person is inherently capable of rising from nothing and creating something."

That mindset of perseverance, resilience, and hard work has helped shape Gavin's own outlook as he steps into this exciting next chapter.



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## Avery MARTIN

*Leadership, service, and  
a heart for adventure.*

Clearwater Central Catholic High School

### **AVERY AND HER FAMILY**

moved to Harbor Bluffs from Michigan and have been here for 5 years.

#### **Favorite High School Memory**

While Avery made countless memories with friends, sports, and beach days, one moment stands out most: the very first day of freshman year — which also happened to be her older sister's first day of senior year. Since it was the first time the sisters attended school together, they celebrated the milestone with breakfast before class.

#### **Activities & Leadership**

Avery stayed busy throughout high school and embraced every opportunity to lead and serve.

#### **Sports & Activities Included:**

- Lacrosse (4 years + Senior Team Captain)
- Soccer
- Cheerleading
- National Honor Society
- Peer Ministry

#### **Community Involvement:**

- Played violin for residents at The Palms of Largo



Photo by  
Beth Kelly  
Photography



- Served on the Pinellas County Youth Advisory Committee
- Volunteered through the Ryan Nece Foundation Youth Service Leadership Summit

She also gained hands-on work experience as a vet tech at a local animal hospital before becoming a hostess at Maggie Mae's.

#### **What's Next?**

After graduation, Avery enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve and will report to Fort Sill in August for Basic Training. From there, she'll head to Texas for specialized training as a practical nursing specialist before eventually pursuing a college degree.

#### **Biggest Inspirations**

Avery says her biggest role models are her two older sisters, Mackenzie and Kate. Watching their dedication and success has inspired her to work hard, stay focused, and become the best version of herself every day.

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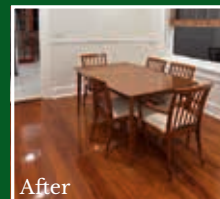
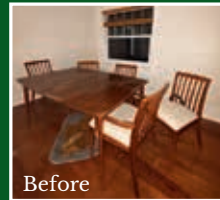
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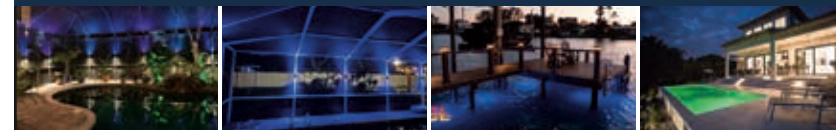
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## Nicholson Andrew NOWAK

*An outdoorsman with big goals and strong family inspiration.*

Clearwater Central Catholic High School

### **NICHOLSON HAS PROUDLY**

called Harbor Bluffs home his entire life.

#### **Favorite High School Memories**

For Nicholson, the best parts of high school were often the simplest moments — meeting new people, building friendships, and making memories along the way. Those everyday experiences and connections are what he'll remember most from his time at CCC.

#### **Life Outside the Classroom**

When he's not in school, Nicholson loves spending time outdoors. You'll most likely find him:

- Boating
- Fishing
- Enjoying time on the water
- Snow skiing in Colorado

Whether on the coast or in the mountains, Nicholson enjoys staying active and making the most of every adventure.

#### **What's Next?**

After graduation, Nicholson plans to attend Santa Fe College and pursue a degree in Construction Management, combining his ambition and strong work ethic as he prepares for an exciting future.

#### **Biggest Inspiration**

Nicholson says the person he admires most is his dad. Watching his father's dedication, work ethic, and success in real estate has motivated him to work hard, stay focused, and pursue his own goals with confidence.



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Clearwater Central Catholic High School

### MERCER HAS LIVED IN THE

Clearwater area his entire life and has called Harbor Bluffs home for three years.

#### **Favorite High School Memory**

One of Mercer's favorite traditions has been gathering friends during the holiday season to volunteer at Metropolitan Ministries. Combining his passion for helping others with time spent alongside friends created meaningful memories that perfectly reflect the spirit of his high school years.

#### **Leadership On & Off the Field**

Mercer balanced athletics, leadership, and community service throughout high school with an impressive list of accomplishments.

#### **Sports:**

- Football
- Lacrosse
- Basketball (Freshman Year)

#### **Leadership & Service Highlights:**

- Head of Finance for the Meals on Wheels High School Leadership Board
- Led a fundraising team for Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (now Blood Cancer United)
- Helped his team rank among the Top 4 teams nationally for the past two years



Met Min volunteer photo including Josh Lannon, Alden Sherman, Liam Moore, Zach, Nicholson Nowak, and Mercer Sherman

- Student ambassador for the North Florida region
- Speaker at a national leadership meeting on recruiting high school teams
- Peer Minister at CCC
- Intern and volunteer with Metropolitan Ministries
- Participant in Leadership Pinellas

Mercer was also recently honored as a Tampa Bay Lightning Community Hero, directing \$50,000 toward nonprofits close to his heart.

#### **What's Next?**

Mercer plans to attend college this fall and continue building on his passion for leadership and service. He is currently deciding between:

- Southern Methodist University
- University of South Florida Honors College
- Auburn University
- He is also waitlisted at Wake Forest University.

Wherever he lands, Mercer hopes to continue making a meaningful impact through service, leadership, and community involvement.

#### **A Lasting Inspiration**

Mercer says one of the people he admires most is his grandmother, a five-time cancer survivor who lives just three doors away. Her resilience, unwavering faith, and quiet strength through life's challenges have deeply shaped Mercer's own outlook and inspired him to lead with faith, grace, and compassion.

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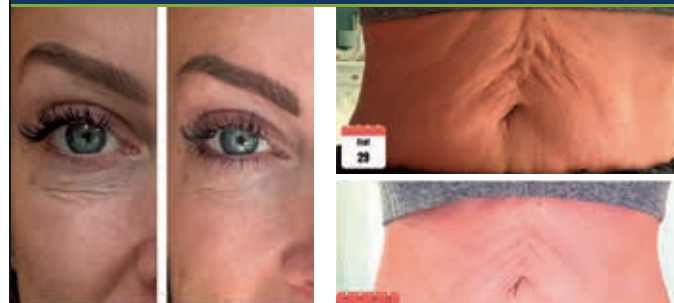
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## Emma Sage SLACK

*Curious, compassionate, and driven to make a difference in healthcare.*

St. Petersburg College  
Bachelor of Science specializing in Cell & Molecular Biology

**EMMA HAS PROUDLY** called Harbor Bluffs home for the past 10 years.

### **Favorite College Memories**

For Emma, the best part of college wasn't just one moment — it was the relationships she built along the way. She credits her professors for providing guidance, encouragement, and support throughout her academic journey, while the friendships she formed made the experience meaningful and memorable.

### **Academic Involvement & Leadership**

Emma is a member of Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society (Tri-Beta), a nationally recognized honor society for students dedicated to the study of biology.

Through Tri-Beta, she had opportunities to deepen her passion for science, connect with peers who share similar interests, and further explore research and healthcare outside the classroom. Her involvement strengthened both her academic discipline and her desire to pursue a future in the biological sciences.

### **What's Next?**

After graduation, Emma will begin a laboratory internship at Morton Plant Hospital, where she'll gain hands-on experience working in a clinical lab setting.

She looks forward to applying her background in cell and molecular biology while continuing to grow professionally in the healthcare field. Her long-term goal is to build a meaningful career where she can contribute to patient care and advancements in medicine.

### **Biggest Inspiration**

Emma says the person she admires most is her mom. Through every challenge, her mother has demonstrated strength, resilience, and unwavering support. Her example of hard work and perseverance has inspired Emma to stay focused on her goals, push through obstacles, and always give her best effort.





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## Tommy LOOPE

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### TOMMY HAS DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF

as both an exceptional student-athlete and a respected leader. Throughout high school, he earned varsity letters in both football and lacrosse, culminating in his senior year as captain of the varsity lacrosse team. His hard work and talent on the field earned him All-District honors in lacrosse.

Tommy's success extended well beyond athletics. Graduating summa cum laude with a GPA above 4.0, he demonstrated a commitment to academic excellence that matched his dedication to sports. He was also recognized with the Principal's prestigious "Spirit of the Warrior" Award, reflecting his character, leadership, and positive impact on the school community. An active and engaged student, Tommy participated in the National Honor Society, Rho Kappa, and Key Club, further showcasing his commitment to service and scholarship.

This fall, Tommy will attend Auburn University, where he plans to major in Journalism and Sports Production. He will also serve as a student sports manager for the Auburn football team, combining his passion for athletics with his future career aspirations.

Congratulations, Tommy! Your hard work, leadership, and determination have paved the way for an exciting future. The best is yet to come—War Eagle!



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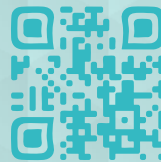


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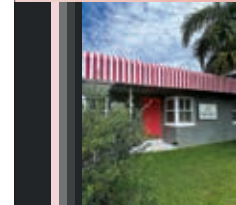


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*Carrie Temple, Owner of F45 Largo East, reflects on how serving as a U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps officer shaped her leadership, career, and lifelong pride in the Navy's 250-year legacy.*



I served as a US Navy Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) officer from 1996-2003 after graduating from the University of Florida. As a CEC officer, I managed construction and public works projects and oversaw government contractors and their contracts. I became a licensed Professional Engineer during my time in the Navy and have a bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering, so I was also involved in environmental remediation projects and base closure efforts. I loved my time in the US Navy! As a young officer, you are given a great deal of responsibility very quickly and need to stay on your toes and problem solve every day. Serving in the Navy opened many doors to my post-Navy career. I made lifelong friends that I still see every couple of years, plus I met my husband Nathan during our Navy time! He was a submarine officer, so we didn't serve together, but we understood and supported each other right away. The US Navy celebrated its 250th anniversary in October 2025 and I'm proud to be a Navy veteran!

## REAL ESTATE RESOURCE

This is your neighborhood Real Estate Resource page. This information can be useful when trying to compare property values or for just keeping a pulse on the real estate market in our area. For questions regarding the properties listed, or about real estate in general, consult a real estate professional.

The information contained herein has been obtained through sources deemed reliable by Neighborhood Networks Publishing, Inc., but cannot be guaranteed for its accuracy.

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1531 HILL DR	HARBOR HILLS	\$770,000	\$740,000	04/30/26	5	3	2	2,053	2	Private
210 LIVE OAK LN	HARBOR BLUFFS SEC 2	\$799,000	\$775,000	04/30/26	26	3	3	1,984	2	Private
411 HARBOR VIEW LN	HARBOR BLUFFS	\$890,000	\$870,000	04/06/26	274	3	3	2,806	2	Private
206 POINCIANA LN	HARBOR BLUFFS SEC 5	\$999,000	\$999,999	04/13/26	106	3	3	2,468	2	Private
3838 MCKAY CREEK DR	HARBOR HILLS 1ST ADD	\$1,095,000	\$1,015,000	03/27/26	42	4	3	1,808	2	Private
111 DRIFTWOOD LN	HARBOR BLUFFS SEC 5 PT REP	\$1,179,000	\$1,179,000	04/20/26	184	3	4	2,442	2	Private
405 BUTTONWOOD LN	HARBOR BLUFFS SEC 4	\$1,200,000	\$1,180,000	04/14/26	3	3	3	2,189	2	Private
215 DRIFTWOOD LN	HARBOR BLUFFS SEC 5	\$2,299,000	\$2,020,000	04/30/26	116	3	3	2,989	2	Private



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# Macy Moose: The Hobby Lobby Detour That Changed Everything

*What began as a quick shopping trip and a stop for “just a smile” turned into a life-changing moment when one fluffy little puppy chose her forever family. Six years later, Macy Moose is still bringing endless laughter, cuddles, and joy to everyone around her.*

BY JEWELS CHANDLER

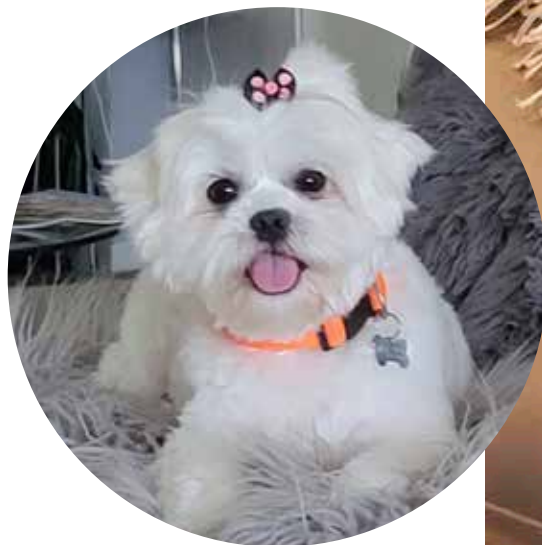


**FROM WHAT STARTED** as a simple trip to Hobby Lobby for a little inspiration, life had a completely different plan for us. One quick stop into a pet store for “just a smile” turned into one of the best surprises ever.

That’s when a tiny little teddy bear of a puppy locked eyes with me and basically said, “You’re my mommy.” And just like that, Macy came into our lives — yes, named after the store!

What started as this fluffy little cuddle bug quickly turned into a very big girl... a 22-pound bundle of personality we now lovingly call Moose. So these days, she proudly answers to Macy Moose.

For six wonderful years, she has filled our home with laughter, love, smiles, and nonstop joy. She truly is our little teddy bear, even if she’s not so little anymore. We adore her and hope these pictures make you smile as much as she makes us smile every single day.



CONTINUED ►

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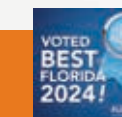
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# PETALS & PEOPLE: WHERE CONNECTIONS BLOSSOM

BY JEWELS CHANDLER

On Wednesday, April 15th, a wonderful group of residents, sponsors, and friends went to **Bloomtown Florist** on West Bay Drive in Largo for a Mix and Mingle. The food that the owner, Kim, had put out was very yummy and plentiful.

Let's not forget the raffles and the excitement of everyone who won something. Actually, every single person who attended won something... each person chose two roses and eight stems and made (with the help of Kim and employee Bonnie) gorgeous bouquets to take home — or give as a gift.

The bouquets were such a treat, and **Stroll** is thankful for Kim's generosity. It has been mentioned before that our sponsors are the best and most generous around.

It is heartwarming to be at these events, to see all the smiles, and to hear the laughter. I love seeing people connect with one another in a completely positive way.

**Bloomtown Florist** is a treasure right in downtown Largo. Grab some friends and make a night of it with food and drinks, then make your own bouquets.

Guys, how much more special would it be to make your own bouquet as a gift for Mother's Day, a birthday, an anniversary, or for no reason at all? Get some guy friends together and make it a night out for the guys.

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“ Grab some friends and make a night of it with food and drinks, then make your own bouquets. ”





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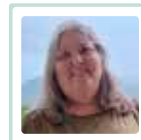
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# Preserve & Protect



Did you know that in the last 114 years Clearwater has had four different courthouses and the Historic downtown building was not the first?

That first courthouse built in 1911 in secret with armed guards on watch for people of St. Pete trying to spoil Clearwater's vie to be the county seat. The wooden building was built on the site of the current Peace Memorial Church, by volunteer men from Clearwater and surrounding areas. The building was only guaranteed for two years by the contractor overseeing construction. The county used that wooden building that was barely a façade when the group photo in front of the building was taken.

What makes the Historic Courthouse historic is not that it is the oldest or the first. What makes it historic is that it is one of the oldest standing buildings in

Clearwater open to the public. But what truly makes it historic are the things that happened within the walls and the people who made them happen.

In 1916 Pinellas County was ready to build a more permanent courthouse that opened in 1917. Between the years of 1917 and 1960 the historic building was "The Pinellas County Courthouse".

It was in 1950 that the first women were allowed to be jurors here in Pinellas County. In case you're wondering the Florida Legislature didn't allow it until 1949. The women who wanted to serve on a jury had to register with the county courthouse and had to have their husband's permission. Later that same year women served on the first grand jury and served on a murder trial as well. It was believed that the women were too sentimental to make an unbiased decision.

In the 1960s the Historic Courthouse started to be referred to as the old

BY JEANNE HOLMQUIST, SECRETARY, CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

courthouse when the new building was built next door facing Haven Street which is now Court Street.

In the Historic building's basement was the first Pinellas County History Museum run by Ralph Reed. Mr. Reed started out with the St. Pete Times in 1914 writing personal ads and he also wrote the first fishing column. After serving in World War II he covered the Clearwater city hall and the courthouse. When Reed retired from the Times he started a second career as the Pinellas Historian or officially the archives clerk for the County Historical Commission. By 1969 he was the director of the Pinellas County Historical Commission.

While still writing for the newspaper, Ralph Reed wrote in 1957 about the "Electric Brain" created by National Cash Register. It didn't say if it was a cash register or a calculator they acquired. But in the early years numbers were



The idea of preserving the courthouse is not to protect just the buildings but to be reminded of the people that made a difference in our community within the walls of the courthouse."

calculated in ledgers by hand by the accounting clerks.

Another person that contributed to the historic building is none other than Judge John U. Bird. Judge Bird born in Monticello, Florida in 1887 never went to college but was taught law in a law



office in Monticello. He passed the state bar in 1910. Moving to Clearwater in 1912 and started his practice. He even ran for mayor of Clearwater during his early years in Clearwater.

When Judge Bird retired in 1963 Ralph Reed said, that with Judge Bird's retirement will bring an end to the "pioneer era" in the county courthouse. Judge Bird retired after 37 years on the bench of the 6th

Circuit Court, prior to that he was prosecutor for Pinellas County and then judge. He was credited for being the force behind Florida's probation and parole system and the start of the Florida Parole Commission in 1941.

In 1964 as his portrait was hung on the wall celebrating his life's work for the county, in the courtroom that was simply called "Judge Bird's" Courtroom. Judge Bird reminisced that he wrote Clearwater's first traffic

ordinance and the following day was arrested for breaking it by turning the corner of Fort Harrison and Cleveland on two wheels. Only a few months later the Judge passed away. The idea of preserving the courthouse is not to protect just the buildings but to be reminded of the people that made a difference in our community within the walls of the courthouse.

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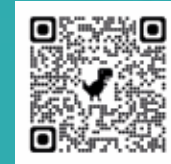
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