

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Greetings Fellow Knights,

Busy month is ahead for our chapter with Thunder By The Bay February 13th, 14th, 15th. We will have a work event on Thursday the 12th to move our trailer to the fairgrounds and set up our booth. Please save the dates and come out and help.

On January 10th, I made a public service announcement on our chapter Facebook page about motorcycle safety. Subsequently, I was involved in a motorcycle accident. Both my brother in-law and I were hit from behind while we were waiting for a light to change. The Snowbird senior woman's foot slipped off her brake and nailed the gas and she crashed into both of us. Both my sister and girlfriend went flying off the bikes. Both had on full face helmets, both hit the pavement with their heads. They were taken to the hospital in a lot of pain and could not move. My sister has broken ribs and Geri was bruised up and in a lot of pain. My brother in-law and I were fine just sore. My bike was a total loss, we are waiting to hear on his. The bikes were Goldwings. I am glad we had such a big heavy bike to cushion the blow.

I have been riding for over thirty five years accident free... Can't say that anymore! I was told when I started riding that its not IF you have a motorcycle accident but WHEN you have a motorcycle accident. I have always tried to be a safe rider but like all of us I have done some stupid moves over the years. I have had some very close calls but always came out being blessed. I came out being blessed because for the life of me I don't know how I made it out of the situation. I'm sure you all can relate. God is good!

Now on to the safety part.. PLEASE, not for me but for everyone else who loves you put on a helmet. Get a good one that fits (DOT) not a skid lid. We were stopped with a long line of cars behind us I was still ready to move out hand on clutch, in gear, hand on brake ready to go. Only problem I had no warning just a revving sound and crunch. I went up off my feet the rear of the bike off the ground. The car was not going fast at all! Yet both passengers went flying off and both had helmet impact with the pavement. This could have been worse BUT THE HELMETS WORKED!!

I always use full gloves, long pants, motorcycle boots/hightop motorcycle sneaker, I have a few jackets with armor that I try to use; however, I have been a real slacker with the Florida heat and sometimes its just my vest and UV sleeves. I will try to do better.

One reason I became a Blue Knight was the promotion of safety among members not only for the chapter but for the public to observe and learn. Anyone who has rode with us, passengers included usually say they feel safe riding in the pack. Our brothers and sister knights will remind you of safety, they will tell you when you need to do better and help you to become a better motorcyclist. Our Blue Knight family strives to provided safe rides using hand signals, communication units, and common sense. We have a safety team on many levels in this origination and over the years I have learned from them and the wisdom they share.

We can be the best motorcyclist / Moto Man in the world, you can have all the gear, flashing lights, High Vis items. You can follow every safety move and procedure but we have no control over others behind the wheel. Give yourself a fighting chance. Think back to the job and the armor and tools you had to help you each and every day. Hot, heavy and uncomfortable its not that different. If you are reading this the hot heavy equipment must have worked.

Patrick Gibbons
President, FLXVIII



February Ride and Event Schedule

**BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNERS WILL TAKE PLACE
RAIN OR SHINE RIDES ARE
SUBJECT TO MOTHER
NATURE'S APPROVAL**

Tuesday 2/3 5:30 PM

Dinner at the Shrine
Hot Sands Tiki Bar
600 N Beneva RD, Sarasota

Tuesday 2/3 7:00 PM

Monthly Chapter Meeting
2nd floor of the Shrine
600 N Beneva RD, Sarasota

Thursday 2/12 12:00 PM

WORK DETAIL
Shrine Parking Lot
Move trailer to fairgrounds and
set it up

Friday 2/13

Saturday 2/14

Sunday 2/15

President Gibbons will email
event log, volunteer sign-up
sheet and additional details

Friday 2/20 9:00 AM

Shootout with Bobby G
Knight Trail Park
3445 Rustic Rd Nokomis
If you are interested email
bgrotz2@yahoo.com
and please copy
President Gibbons at
PJGIBBY1969@comcast.net

Saturday 2/21 10:00 AM

Long ride to
Frostbite Ice Cream
801 N Scenic Highway
Frostproof 33842
Meet-up at WAWA SR 70
Lorraine Rd LWR 34202

We have a busy month with Thunder By The Bay. If anyone wants to head up a ride or event throughout the month on open days, please let President Gibbons know and he will put it out for you.



OUR PLEDGE

"AS A BLUE KNIGHT I PLEDGE TO ACT WITH HONOR AND PRIDE TO PROMOTE MOTORCYCLING AND MOTORCYCLE SAFETY BY BEING AN EXAMPLE OF THE SAFE USE, OPERATION AND ENJOYMENT OF MOTORCYCLES. I WILL WORK AT ALL TIMES TO IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT MOTORCYCLING COMMUNITY AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC. THE FRATERNAL SPIRIT WILL ALWAYS GUIDE ME IN RELATING TO OTHER BLUE KNIGHTS"

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CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT PATRICK GIBBONS
VICE PRESIDENT RALPH SMITH
TREASURER TRACY DUNN
SECRETARY DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO
SERGEANT AT ARMS JAMES RYAN

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JAMES KIRKPATRICK / CHAPLAIN
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BRIAN MACCONNELL / QUARTERMASTER
JIM KELLY / SAFETY OFFICER
DOMENIC CECCANECCHIO / NEWSLETTER

We need and want your input

Send your letters, suggestions, or any special event you would like to share to:

Patrick Gibbons
pjgibby1969@comcast.net

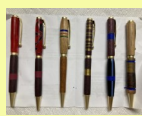
OR

Dom Ceccanecchio
dcc444@comcast.net



In the Chapter Market

Jim Ryan — Woodworking made to order.
Tell me what you want, size, and specific wood (if requested) and I will make it. Very reasonable prices.
941-313-1363 or jryanretired@aol.com



PRICE REDUCED

2016 Harley Davidson FLSTFBS "Fatboy" All Black, 25645 Miles. Price - \$12,000- **NOW \$11,000.**
Purchased from Rossiter's HD August 15, 2022 and has been garage kept everyday. Price includes a brand new windshield still in the box, never opened. Contact John Emrick at 410-991-8161 (okay to leave a message) or mddre3077@aol.com



2014 FLHTK Harley Davidson Ultra Limited
Color- Daytona Blue Mileage- 17500
Includes headsets for rider and passenger
Price- \$12,200 FIRM

John Emrick Mddre3077@aol.com

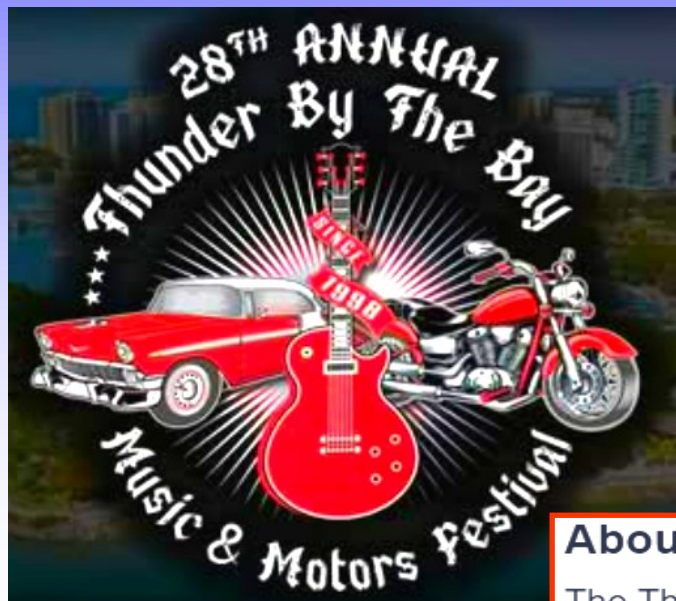


Michael Klein is selling a DeWalt Drill Driver 12V 3/8".

Cost new \$100 asking \$50.
Comes with two batteries, a charger and carrying bag.
Michael Klein 941-809-9986
mksk0217@gmail.com



SEND YOUR SALE ITEMS TO ADD TO OUR MARKET



Date: 02/13/2026

Time: 5:00 PM

Venue: Sarasota County Fairgrounds

City: Sarasota, FL

About the Event

The Thunder By The Bay Music & Motorcycle Festival is a vibrant celebration that takes place in Sarasota, Florida, on February 13th, 2026, starting at 5:00 PM. This exciting event combines the love for music and motorcycles, showcasing local and national acts while offering a full weekend of entertainment for motorcycle enthusiasts and music lovers alike.

Feb 13

Fri • 5:00 PM

Thunder By The Bay Music & Motorcycle Festival:

Night Ranger - Friday

Sarasota County Fairgrounds

Sarasota, FL

Feb 14

Sat • 11:00 AM

Thunder By The Bay Music & Motorcycle Festival: .38

Special - Saturday

Sarasota County Fairgrounds

Sarasota, FL

Feb 15

Sun • 12:00 PM

Thunder By The Bay Music & Motorcycle Festival:

Montgomery Gentry & Eddie Montgomery - Sunday

Sarasota County Fairgrounds

Sarasota, FL

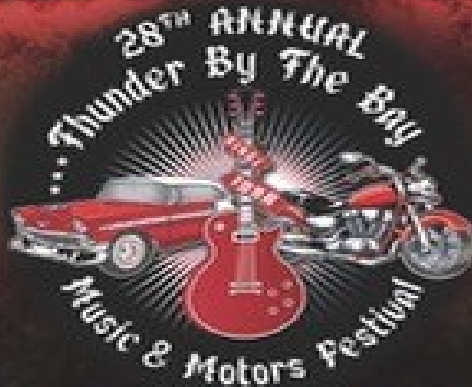


Thunder by the Bay

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

RIDE IN. ROCK OUT. GIVE BACK.



“Ride So Children Can Thrive”



DICE RUN



SATURDAY – FEBRUARY 14 | MOTORCYCLES & CARS ARE WELCOME

\$30 IN ADVANCE
\$35 DAY OF EVENT
COMPLIMENTARY COFFEE & MUFFINS
CASH BREAKFAST BUFFET AVAILABLE



REGISTRATION
SARASOTA SAHIB SHRINE
(600 N. BENEVA ROAD)
9:30 AM TIL 11:30 AM

**REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES ADMISSION INTO MYAKKA STATE PARK
AND THUNDER BY THE BAY MUSIC & MOTORS FESTIVAL**



SCAN TO
PRE-
REGISTER

PROCEEDS BENEFIT
Suncoast
Charities
FOR CHILDREN
suncoastcharitiesforchildren.org

CASH PRIZES TOP THREE HANDS
\$500 - \$250 - \$100



1ST ROLL – SARASOTA SAHIB SHRINE
2ND ROLL – ADRENALINE HARLEY-DAVIDSON
3RD ROLL – MYAKKA RIVER STATE PARK
4TH ROLL – THE HAVEN
5TH ROLL – FIRE & IRON TENT INSIDE THE FESTIVAL
(FESTIVAL GATES OPEN AT NOON - ALL HANDS MUST BE TURNED IN BY 2:00 PM)

FESTIVAL
FEATURED HEADLINER



SUPPORT ACTS
GIVEN TO FLY
BOBBY FRISS

THUNDERBYTHEBAY.ORG



A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-HELP-FLA OR ONLINE AT www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. REGISTRATION # CH4531

BLUE KNIGHTS FLORIDA XVIII

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - MINUTES

January 6th, 2025



7:00PM - 2nd floor Sahib Shriners, 600 N Beneva Rd, Sarasota FL

President: Patrick Gibbons - **Vice President:** Ralph Smith - **Treasurer:** Tracy Dunn - **Secretary/Webmaster:** Dom Ceccanecchio
Sergeant At Arms: James Ryan - **Past President:** Sid Jones - **Director:** Bob Grotz - **Director:** Mike Klein
Quartermaster: Brian MacConnell - **Chaplin:** James Kirkpatrick - **Safety Officer:** Jim Kelly

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Meeting Call to Order: by [President Gibbons](#) @ 7:05 PM

In attendance: Executive officers: 4 Officers: 1 Members: 16 Guests: 2

Pledge of Allegiance: led by President Gibbons

Invocation: by Ralph Smith

Welcoming Remarks: by President Gibbons.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: PATRICK GIBBONS

- Contact President Gibbons if you would like to sell or purchase raffle tickets for the Thunder by the Bay Glock gun raffle. You can also get tickets from Ralph Smith and Bob Grotz.
- Our trailer will be relocated in the fairgrounds (exact location has not been determined). For additional details about Thunder by the Bay see the flyers in the newsletter. We will be managing the Dice Roll at Myaka State Park. A call for volunteers at the Park and trailer (fairgrounds) will be sent to all members.
- As of this date, all but one person has renewed their membership.
- Our revised bylaws have been sent to all chapter members. Comments and suggestions should be sent to President Gibbons and Secretary Dom Ceccanecchio for consideration. After 2 monthly chapter meetings a final acceptance vote will be conducted before forwarding to International for acceptance.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT: RALPH SMITH

- Encouraged everyone to get involved and purchase or sell Thunder by the Bay gun raffle tickets.

TREASURERS REPORT: TRACY DUNN

- Motion to accept January financial report Brian MacConnell, 2nd, Jim Thomas, Unanimously Approval
- Financial position and status of accounts was presented. For any report details contact Treasurer Dunn.

SECRETARY / WEBMASTER'S REPORT: DOMENIC CECCANECCCHIO

- Motion to accept January minutes Mike Klein, 2nd by Lauro Perez, Unanimously Approval
- Highlighted provisions of the updated chapter bylaws that have been sent to the membership for discussion.
- Check updated website for Newsletter and other subject matter of interest.

SAFETY OFFICER: MIKE KLEIN FOR JIM KELLY

- Stressed importance of pre-ride safety briefings
- Stressed importance of communications (hand signals) and positioning.

CHAPLIN: JAMES KIRKPATRICK N/A

SRC / INTERNATIONAL REPORT AND CONFERENCE: See Newsletter for details.

NEW BUSINESS:

- If you intend to ride to the spring SRC conference contact Bob Grotz who is the road captain for details.
- Motorcycle sunshades are now available at \$30 each. Contact quartermaster Brian MacConnell to purchase.
- Bad Ass Coffee event (flag presentation) on Tuesday 1/13. Flag will bare chapter decal.

SICK AND DISTRESSED:

PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK AND DISTRESSED MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS.

Geri Buscemi

50-50 DRAWING: Amount: \$45 Winner: Lauro Perez \$28

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Time: 7:45pm Motion: Mike Klein, 2nd Charles Ratcliff, All approved

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd, 2026

Prepared and submitted by Patrick Gibbons, Chapter President and Domenic Ceccanecchio, Secretary BK XVIII



Chapter News

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

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“Shootout with Bobby G.” 9:00 AM , Friday, February 20th at the Knight Trail Park 3445 Rustic Rd Nokomis 34275. WE CAN GRAB LUNCH AFTERWARDS.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE EMAIL
BGROTZ2@YAHOO.COM AND IF YOU WOULD PLEASE COPY
PRESIDENT GIBBONS AT PJGIBBY1969@COMCAST.NET**



February Chapter Meeting



**THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING IS
7:00PM ON TUESDAY, February 3rd, 2026
2ND FLOOR OF THE SAHIB SHRINE
600N BENEVA RD SARASOTA**

COME OUT EARLY, HAVE DINNER AND CHAT WITH YOUR BROTHER KNIGHTS



1st Ride of 2026



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SMOKE UNDER THE OAKS

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026





Chaplains Message



BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026



As January ends and February begin, we began to think about Valentines Day and our loved ones. Especially remembering Blue Knight Brothorn that have entered "Haven One". Let our thoughts and prayers this month include those Blue Knight Brothers, that dwell with our lord above. Keeping the heavens safe and patiently waiting to greet us when it is our time to dwell with the Lord and begin our next tour.

So how does Valentines connect to our religious beliefs and Jesus.

How Valentine's Day Connects to Jesus

Even though Valentine's Day today is wrapped in romance, chocolate, and roses, its roots point back to Christian history.

1. St. Valentine was a Christian martyr

The holiday is named after one (or possibly several) early Christian figures named Valentine who were executed for their faith. Their commitment is often framed as an expression of Christ like love — sacrificial, steadfast, and countercultural.

2. Christian theology centers on love

Jesus' teachings revolve around love in a way that fits surprisingly well with the themes of Valentine's Day:

- ✦ "Love one another as I have loved you."
- ✦ "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."
- ✦ Those ideas go far beyond romance — they're about compassion, loyalty, and self giving.

3. Some people use Valentine's Day to reflect on divine love. For many Christians, the day becomes a reminder of:

- ✦ God's unconditional love
- ✦ The idea of loving others well
- ✦ Gratitude for relationships and community
- ✦ It's a softer, more reflective angle than the commercial version of the holiday.



Chaplain Jimmy Kirkpatrick



SICK AND DISTRESSED

PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK AND DISTRESSED MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS.

GERI BUSCEMI



Ride with Pride!

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Mike Shockley - Chairman
Randy Hoagland - Vice-Chairman
Bob Awtrey - International Rep
Justin Hartley - Secretary
Al Fryer - Treasurer

THE SRC REGION INCLUDES:

Alabama
Florida
Georgia
Louisiana
Mississippi
South Carolina
Bahamas
Bermuda
Puerto Rico
Virgin Islands

SRC WEBSITE— <https://srcknights.org/>
NEWSLETTER: <https://srcknights.org/>

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026



SPRING 2026

Blue knights® International Southern Regional Conference

*Tour Horse Farms
in Ocala*



Hosted by FLORIDA III

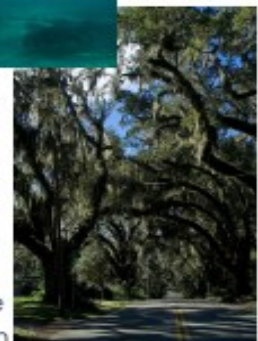
April 12th — 15th 2026

Ocala, Florida

Horse capital of the world

Come join us for the SPRING 2026 Southern Regional Conference in Beautiful Ocala, Florida

We are in the heart of Florida. We have scenic winding backroads, beautiful horse farms, coastline, theme parks, the best natural springs in the world and much, much more!



Host Hotel: Holiday Inn Conference Center, 3600 SW 38th Ave, Ocala, FL 34474 (352) 629-9500

Overflow Hotel: Holiday Inn Express, 3580 SW 38th Ave, Ocala, FL 34474 ((352) 390-6999

RV CAMPING: Near the Hotel

Registration: \$130 per person

Includes: **Goodie Bag** and **Banquet**

Pre-registration cutoff: March 1st 2026 to guarantee banquet attendance. **Registration Opening Soon**

AGENDA & ACTIVITIES

Sunday: 3pm—7pm Check in /Registration

Sunday -Tuesday: Hospitality room for Networking; 50/50 raffles every night

Monday: 7am—8am Presidents Meeting

2 x Guided rides; Self Guided options to local venues and adventures.

Tuesday: 2 x Guided rides; Self Guided Options

Tuesday night: Banquet; Silent Auction

Wednesday: Check out or think about extending your stay in Florida!



Vendor & Chapter Sales available:

Contact: **FL III VP/President TEL # EMAIL**



Ride with Pride!

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Mike Shockley - Chairman
Randy Hoagland - Vice-Chairman
Bob Awtrey - International Rep
Justin Hartley - Secretary
Al Fryer - Treasurer

THE SRC REGION INCLUDES:

Alabama	Bahamas
Florida	Bermuda
Georgia	Puerto Rico
Louisiana	Virgin Islands
Mississippi	
South Carolina	

SRC WEBSITE— <https://srcknights.org/>
NEWSLETTER: <https://srcknights.org/>

BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

Greetings:

I am happy to officially announce that the 2026 SRC Spring Conference will be hosted by Blue Knights Florida III in Ocala, Florida.

As you may know, there were no bids for a conference at the last business meeting.

The SRC Board worked with several Chapters after the fact to procure a meeting venue.

The outcome is that Florida III will host the Spring Conference in Ocala.

From the Host Chapter, below are some basic details and an initial Flyer for the conference.

Registration is not open yet, but you can make room reservations.

SRC 2026 Spring Conference

Hosted by: Blue Knights Florida III

Dates: April 12 - 15, 2026 (Sunday - Wednesday)

Location: Holiday Inn Conference Center

Address: 3600 SW 38th Ave, Ocala, FL

Registration: \$130 per person.

Reservation Information & Booking Links:

Host Hotel:

Holiday Inn & Suites Ocala Conference Center

352-629-9500

<https://www.ihg.com/redirect?path=rates&brandCode=HI...>

Overflow Hotel:

Holiday Inn Express & Suites

352-390-6999

<https://www.ihg.com/redirect?path=rates&brandCode=EX...>

All Standard Rooms are \$144 plus tax.

All Suites will be \$169 plus tax.

There is also a Campground about 250 yards from the host hotel called Ocala RV Camp Resort.

The location is 45 minutes from the Gulf Coast and 90 minutes from the Atlantic Coast.

More information and registration details will be coming soon.

Question specific to the event should be directed to Florida III President, **Joe Nazario** -

joenazario1959@gmail.com

Notice: You are one of many recipients of this group email because you are listed as a current SRC President, SRC State Rep, or Executive Board Member.

Ride with Pride!

Brotherhood before Politics!

Mike Shockley

Blue Knights International

SRC Chairman

706-338-1742

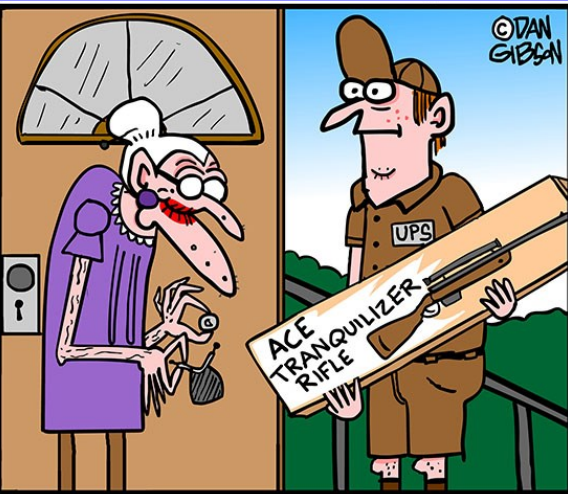
msshockley@gmail.com

On The Lighter Side



BLUE KNIGHTS® FLXVIII NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026



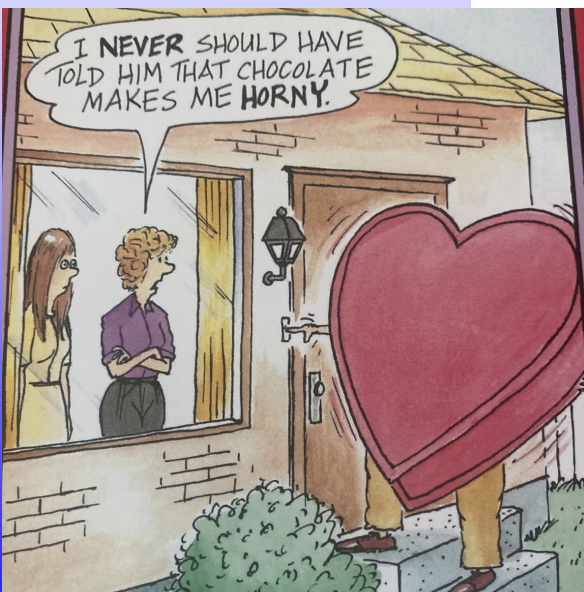
With Valentines day just around the corner Tillie starts gearing up for dating season early.



After a lovely Valentine's dinner she remembered to turn on the dishwasher.



LITTLE DO MOST PEOPLE KNOW, THE HEART WASN'T THE TINMAN'S FIRST ORGAN OF CHOICE.





Blue Knights FXVIII Marketplace

Support our Sponsors

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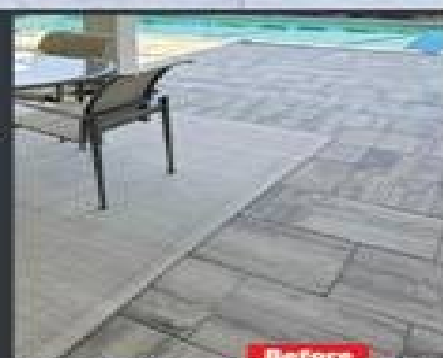
FEBRUARY 2026



Elevate your outdoor experience

Say goodbye to sun-damaged surfaces and endless maintenance. Choose from durable, beautiful hardscape options.

Trusted professionals, budget-friendly, and fully licensed.



concrete pavers | natural stones | pool decks | driveways | custom patios | clean & seal | repairs



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For tiny, small and medium sized dogs
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941-822-0888

CONCIERGE OVERNIGHT CARE AVAILABLE

<https://www.dogdog.org/pet-boarding-service/beverly-hills-dog-sarasota>

ARE YOU LIVING VOGUE

LIVING VOGUE

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CHARLES@LIVINGVOGUE.COM



RETIRED LEO & MEMBER OF BK FL XVIII

WHERE LIFE MEETS STYLE



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TRANSPARENCY MEANS TRUST.

**South West Florida's
Dealer of Choice!**

At **Adrenaline Harley-Davidson**,
our team offers honest pricing and genuine
service to help you find the perfect ride.

No gimmicks,
just real support for fellow riders like you.



**VISIT US AS
ADRENALINE H-D NOW!**

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330 Cattlemen Road Sarasota, FL 34232





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JANUARY 2026

Mission BBQ



118 Reviews

Hours: 11am - 9pm

5231 University Pkwy, Sarasota

(941) 841-9279



WEBSITE: <https://mission-bbq.com>



Gulf Sands Realty is your home for buying and selling in Sarasota and Manatee Counties

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OLIVER "OG" GIESSER

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