

Community Connection

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Page, Eichenblatt, Bernbaum & Bennett, P.A.

Trial Lawyers Committed to Excellence...



Summer 2011 Volume 2

Our Staff is Here to Help

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Speaker for the house?



No politics here—just a campaign for a great cause. Our firm is proud of the work **Nick Shannin** has done for West Orange Habitat for Humanity, where he has spoken for the group about many houses, serving as MC for both their groundbreaking ceremonies when the work is commenced for a worthy candidate, and for the dedication ceremonies when the new homeowner is provided with the key to the house that they themselves have worked alongside of Habitat for Humanity to build.

This summer, Nick had the honor of participating again as MC for a truly remarkable Habitat build. West Orange Habitat completed its third “Home At Last” project, building a beautiful home in Oakland, Florida, for Sgt. Major Patrick Cochran. Sgt. Major Cochran was on his fifth tour of duty in Afghanistan when an IED exploded, leaving him permanently paralyzed. The Home At Last project, with support from the community and several construction businesses, was able to build him a beautiful ADA-compliant house, complete with a room for his future physical therapy requirements and a handicapped-accessible swimming pool to aid in his further treatment.

The dedication welcomed Sgt. Major Cochran, his wife Becky, and two boys to West Orange County. Nick Shannin introduced Oakland Major Cathy Stark, Orange County Vice-Mayor Scott Boyd, and numerous dignitaries, including Lt. Gen. Jay Garner and Sgt. Major Cochran’s Commanding Officer, Col. Kimo Gallahue, as speakers at the dedication. A wonderful event for an even more wonderful cause.

PEB&B is proud of the work of its partner to speak for these houses and their new homeowners. For more information about how you can donate or participate with either Habitat’s work or the next “Home At Last” project, please contact Nick or visit the West Orange Habitat for Humanity Web site at www.woh4h.org.


Introducing Simon Tyrrell

This summer, PEB&B has had the pleasure of having **Simon Tyrrell** work as an intern! Simon graduated from Hagerty High School in 2010 and currently attends the University of Florida.

He is a history major at UF who plans to graduate within the next year. Simon says that he has “always possessed a passion for history, which has followed me throughout my educational career. Law is one of the popular destinations for history majors and is a field which I find myself drawn towards.” Simon is still exploring his enthusiasm for history by volunteering at the Orlando Historical Center.

Simon’s other hobbies include sports, fishing, and politics. In 2008, his family adopted a neglected horse named Ruby from the Michelle Akers horse rescue. Although this commitment entailed waking up in the early morning to clean up after a 2,000-pound animal, Simon says that it has been a rewarding experience.

When asked about his experience at PEB&B, Simon said that “there is no shortage of work at the law firm, and there’s a wide variety of jobs that need to be done. I am enjoying the diverse nature of the duties of a legal intern. Ultimately I hope to gain a better perspective on working in the field of law in order to guide me in my career decision.”



A rivalry in our midst

Two of PEB&B's employees, **Erica Hopkins** and **John Parrell**, have developed a friendly rivalry over the past few years based on their sports allegiances. Erica, originally from Sarasota, has followed the Tampa Bay Lightning since their inaugural season in 1992. John, having spent all but the past five years of his life in Boston, is a fervent Bruins fan. These two teams clashed in this year's Eastern Conference Finals, which marked the first playoff series between the clubs. Below, Erica and John reflect on this fantastic series and the love they have for their respective teams.

The better half

By Erica Hopkins

Since the Tampa Bay Lightning's inception was only in 1992, I can't look back at decades and decades of hockey like someone I know and reminisce about the good ol' days and the legends who played. However, I can remember missing prom of my senior year in high school because the Lightning were facing off against the Philadelphia Flyers in the playoffs. To me, going to a playoff game was much more exciting than prom. At the time, I was told I would regret missing my senior prom. To this day, I do not regret that choice. My best memory of the Lightning is winning the 2004 Stanley Cup Championship. As the National Hockey League suffered a lockout the next season, my dad and I would joke that if the NHL never played another game, the Lightning would be the champs forever!

The highlight of this year was attending game 4 of the playoff series against the Boston Bruins. It was looking grim, with the Lightning down 3-0, but then everything changed. The Lightning scored five unanswered goals. I was so excited when the tying goal was scored that I jumped out of my flip-flops! Although the Bruins went on to win the series in seven games, the Lightning certainly had a fun playoff run that capped a good season. I was trying to enjoy the following day after the Lightning's game seven loss to the Bruins, only to be reminded of the loss by a text from John that read, "I just bought a new doorknob; it has a dead bolt." Ouch!

Champs again!

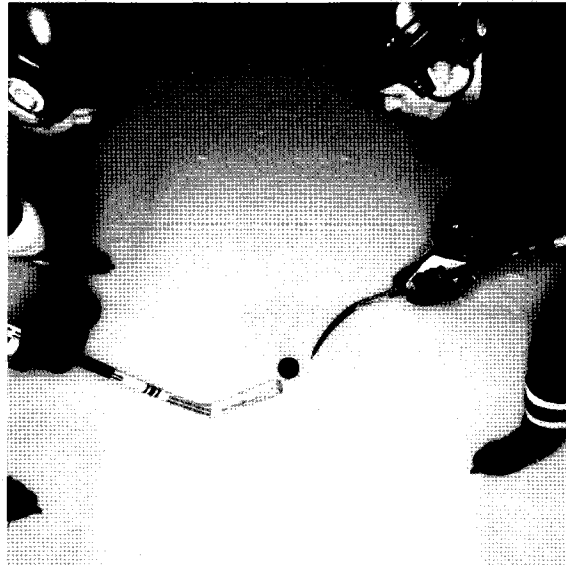
By John Parrell

I really like the Tampa Bay Lightning; they have a good organization with a lot of talent. But I grew up a fan of the big, bad Boston Bruins of Bobby Orr and Phil Esposito, who would have probably been held to only seven or eight goals apiece against Tampa. Of course, the Lightning wouldn't have scored against Gerry "Cheesy" Cheevers. How would have Tampa ever penetrated a defense consisting of Orr, Don "Bugsy" Awrey, and Dallas Smith? Lightning forwards would never have gotten that far into the offensive zone because they would have been body checked by Wayne Cashman, hip checked by Johnny "Chief" Bucyk, and poke checked by Derek "Turk" Sanderson. Though Tampa has a good team, they would have still lost to the Boston Bruins

of old, featuring Don "Grapes" Cherry, Terry "Taz" O'Reilly, Cam Neely, and Ray Bourque. This year, the Lightning, however, were able to extend the current "system oriented" Bruins to seven games in the playoffs before losing. Amazingly enough, the two teams even ended up with the same goal totals for the series. If there was a Game 8, I believe that the Lightning would have won. But Game 9 would have been all Boston!

The Bruins went on to win the Cup, and, having lived in Boston all my life (until 2006) and seen the Cup wins in '70 and '72, I truly appreciated it.

The good news now is that NHL hockey is coming to Orlando with a Lightning preseason game, and for that one day, I will be a Lightning fan (unless, of course, they play the B's!).



Welcome back, Bret!

This summer, PEB&B welcomes back **Bret Yaw!** Bret, currently working as a Summer Associate, last worked here as a legal assistant after he graduated from the University of Florida in 2008 with his B.A. in history. Since then, Bret has attended the University of Florida Levin College of Law, where he is entering his third and final year.

When not reading for class, Bret remains very involved on campus. Currently, he is the president of the Music Law Society, the Graduate Issues Chair for the Graduate Student Council, a general board member of the John Marshall Bar Association and the Law College Council, and the Law College Council's student representative to the Faculty Appointment Committee. When asked how he balances his involvement with his studies, Bret said, "I try not to over-extend myself. Time management helps to keep my priorities in line, and I know that school always comes first."

When he has free time, Bret enjoys playing guitar, golfing, and hanging out with friends. Asked what he likes best about working at PEB&B, Bret responded, "I love the office environment. Everyone is always very positive and upbeat, which really keeps morale high. I also love the experience that I am receiving. It's very rewarding to apply what I've learned at school to real-world scenarios."

Introducing Christina Natale

This summer, PEB&B is happy to welcome **Christina Natale** as the firm's newest intern! Christina grew up in Winter Park, Florida, where she attended St. Margaret Mary Catholic School for elementary and middle school. She is still a current member of the St. Margaret Mary Church. After St. Margaret Mary, Christina attended Winter Park High School, where she maintained a GPA of 3.9, took part in varsity soccer and several clubs such as Best Buddies and FCA, and was a member of both the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. Upon graduation from Winter Park High School, Christina decided to attend Florida State University, where she will be starting her sophomore year this upcoming fall. Christina is majoring in English, has a 3.4 GPA, and hopes to one day attend Florida State University Law School. While working as an intern at Page, Eichenblatt, Bernbaum & Bennett, P.A., Christina says:

"I absolutely love working at the firm! This is my first job ever, and I couldn't have asked for a better environment and coworkers. Being around such intelligent, caring, and funny people is also a great plus. Every attorney at this firm has been so welcoming, kindhearted, and willing to answer any question I have regarding law and/or law school that I am inspired by each and every one of them to keep working hard."

Energy-saving tips

This summer has been a hot and humid one for Central Florida. Here are a few simple energy-saving tips to help you save money and beat the heat!

The right temperature

Air conditioning costs account for over 50 percent of your bill. In order to keep cool and save money, try keeping your thermostat at 78 degrees. When you leave the house, set your thermostat a few degrees higher because, after all, it's no use air conditioning an empty home. Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and, therefore, unnecessary expense.

The perfect place

Avoid placing lamps or TV sets near your air conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

Sitting in the shade

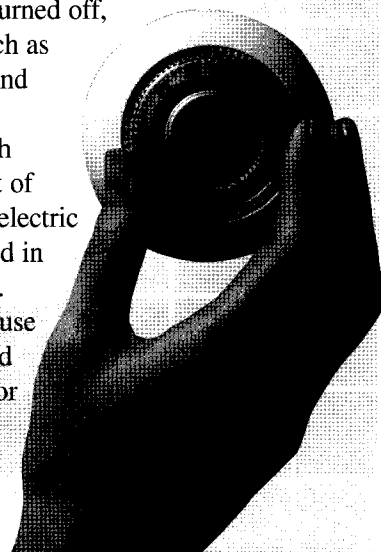
During the day, keep your blinds, curtains, or drapes closed. By keeping your windows covered during the day, you prevent unwanted solar gain from accumulating in your home, which keeps your home cooler.

Feel the breeze

Installing ceiling fans in your home is a great way to keep your home at a comfortable temperature without having to lower your thermostat. With ceiling fans, you could actually raise your thermostat a couple of degrees without noticing a difference. Remember to turn fans off in unoccupied rooms!

Fight off vampires

Did you know that even when turned off, most of your home electronics, such as your TV, DVD player, computer, and even your cell phone charger, use vampire or standby power? Though these devices draw a small amount of power, it quickly adds up on your electric bill since they are probably plugged in 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Unplug these devices when not in use to effectively combat this unwanted energy drain. Utilize power strips or surge protectors, which allow you to turn off several devices at once, to start seeing savings.





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Commercial Corner...

Orange County Business Court continues to thrive

Many practitioners outside of Orange County are unaware of a special court in Orange County where complicated commercial and construction cases are often separated from the normal civil litigation division and, instead, are handled by two divisions devoted solely to the administration of these complex cases.

The Business Court has its own specific set of rules that are considerably different from the routine practice in circuit or county courts elsewhere in the state, and it is essential for businesses or individuals who are being represented before the Business Court to have attorneys who are knowledgeable regarding the specific differences between Business Court procedure and routine civil cases. By way of example, memoranda of law

are required for motions filed with the Business Court, and the issues are normally decided upon those briefs, since hearings are not permitted except by permission of the court.

Of interest to our attorney readers is the fact that the leadership at the Business Court is going to change very soon, Judge Tom Smith has been appointed to a magistrate position with the federal court. Accordingly, his departure will mean that there will be a period of time during which there will be only one active division in Business Court. As additional changes occur that may impact either the Business Court or the type of cases that are being heard in that venue, we will keep you updated in the Commercial Corner!

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