

St. Lucie News Tribune

TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

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Referee remains on field 20 years after attack, but says abuse continues



STICKING WITH THE STRIPES



Laurence Reisman
Community Editor
Treasure Coast Newspapers
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLA.

Stephen Farinacci did something the other night for the first time in almost three years: He officiated a soccer game. • It was almost 20 years to the day since he was forced to take a break from his passion to be a referee.

On Nov. 21, 1999, I wrote about what happened to Farinacci, a corporate executive, after he officiated a game involving 13-year-olds. He'd spent that fall officiating youth games in Indian River and St. Lucie counties.

But that Nov. 14, at age 35, the Fort Pierce resident's referee career could have ended. After a game, Farinacci was head-butted by an angry coach in Port St. Lucie. A cut received in the attack took eight stitches to close. Farinacci's nose and orbital ring were broken. He had blurred vision.



Stephen Farinacci after being attacked in 1999. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO FROM ST. LUCIE COUNTY COURT

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TOP: Farinacci, center, shares a laugh with fellow referees on Nov. 13 before officiating a girls soccer match at John Carroll Catholic High School in Fort Pierce. Twenty years prior, Farinacci suffered major head trauma when he was head-butted by a coach at a U14 youth soccer match resulting in a broken nose, fractured cheekbone and eight stitches. PATRICK DOVE/TCPALM



Gil Smart
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Will Rep. Mast back new railway bridge?

Will he or won't he?

That's a pretty intriguing question when it comes to Congressman Brian Mast and Virgin Trains' quest for millions in federal grant money — funding that could help construct a modern railroad bridge in Stuart.

So far, the Stuart City Commission and the Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast have passed resolutions supporting Virgin Trains' vision of a \$100 million, double-tracked "lift" bridge over the St. Lucie River. Martin County could do the same, though County Commissioner Doug Smith told TCPalm last week he'd rather wait for Mast to ask the county for its support.

So: Will Mast do that? Will Mast — who is scheduled to meet with Virgin

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Will Port St. Lucie finally land a restaurant for Riverwalk?

Keona Gardner
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USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

PORT ST. LUCIE — A third Manatee Island Bar & Grill restaurant could open in the Riverwalk area here.

Owners of Manatee Island Bar & Grill, with locations in Fort Pierce and Port Salerno, have told the city they want to spend \$1.8 million to build a 5,000- to 6,000-square-foot restaurant, with upstairs dining, in the city-owned Westmoreland Park, according to a business plan filed with the city.

City staff Monday gave the City Council, in its role as the Community Redevelopment Agency, an update on negotiations that started in late August or early September.

"The Manatee Island Bar & Grill

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