# official newsletter of tampa international airport



SEPTEMBER 2017 ISSUE 15

## TPA spared the worst of Hurricane Irma



Dozens of Aviation Authority employees, including staff from Operations, Guest Services, Maintenance, Planning & Development, Police, ARFF and others remained at TPA through the duration of Hurricane Irma.

ampa International Airport spent days preparing for all that Hurricane Irma might bring to the Tampa Bay region.

Fortunately, the worst never came.

While winds gusted upwards of 60 miles per hour, TPA was largely spared from the worst of the massive storm. The Airport saw downed trees and signage, water intrusion and widespread debris across the airfield. The Airport reopened Tuesday morning – less than a day after the storm passed thanks to a massive team effort.

"I am in awe of the incredible hard work that everyone put into preparing the Airport for the storm and am grateful beyond words for the stormriders who left their families and were at the airport throughout," said CEO Joe Lopano.

Full coverage on pages 2-4



Icelandair celebrated its inaugural departure from TPA on Sept. 7, launching twice-weekly nonstop service to Reykjavík. Icelandair is the third new European flight since 2011 at Tampa International Airport.

### IN THIS ISSUE



Hurricane Irma Learn more about TPA's team of dedicated stormriders.



Bringing the Irish Meet Fran Downes, the popular Four Green Fields bartender.



**Nonstop to the Big Easy** Spirit announces new nonstop flights to New Orleans beginning in November.





### 52 mph

TPA saw sustained winds of 52 miles per hour and peak gusts of 66 mph during Hurricane Irma.

# Stormriders put life on hold to fight Irma

Hundreds of Airport employees and partners remained at TPA to prepare the Airport for Hurricane Irma and to lead the recovery effort once the storm passed.

### HCAA Stormriders: Here for the duration

Chris Altizer; Dale Amberger; Harvey Argote; Brian Barnott; Tom Benjamin; Marc Benson; Synovia Blakely; Shannon Boos; Adam Bouchard; Alyssa Caisse; Michael Canaday; Eddie Caraballo; Merry Jo Carper; Miguet Carter Haynes; David Coleman; Darrell Colestock; Mike Cooper; John Corey; Frank Correa; Yamil Dastas; Chris DeCola; Charles Deveto; EJ Diaz; Bryan Diemer; Bradley Dilley; Nick D'Jimas; Kevin Durkin; Sam Ensell; Matt Ewing; Brett Fay; Ray Fanti; Valeri Finley; Jeff Fultz; Robert Furman; Ken Garcia-Vargas; Kirsner Garcon; Daniel Glennon; Lane Gove; Lloyd Hersey; Ray Hurley; Mike Hushek; Al Illustrato; Greg Isennock; Megan Jaufmann; Senioreen Johnny; William Johnson; Daniel Jones; Oliver Jones; Tyrone Jones; Patrick Koehl; Steven Lee; Joe Lopano; Todd Mangon; Tony Marshall; Mike Marston; Joey Martinez; Davie Martino; Gail McCluskey; Taylor Merk; Barry Moretz; Rich O'Connor; Thomas Olsen; Dwinell Oulette; Katy Pace; James Parker; Michael Patty; Hallie Pell; Jason Peterson; Kyle Pinsonneault; Cheryl Porter; Robert Porter; Angela Potenziano; John Preyer; Luis Ramos; Roberto Ramos; Betty Relano; Kelly Renza; Luis Renza; Kim Richbourg; Paul Ridgeway; Bob Rinehart; Mike Robinson; Michael Rodriguez; Gaston Ruiz; Darryl

Samrah; Simon Sanchez; Shawn Sandlin; Bruce Sather; Jack Schafer; Walter Scoville; Scott Seifer; Glenn Self; Tammi Severin; Wendy Shughart; Gilbert Solla; Warren Stone; Christine; Swizdor; Tony Tew; Jason Thomas; John Tiliacos; Vince Torres-Roa; Duy Tran; Teri Uno; Danny Valentine; Charlie Vazquez; Britti Verret; Ann Walters; Brian Washburn; Davie White; Ricky White; Charlie Williams; Larry Williams; Jesse Wilson; David Wright

### Additional HCAA storm workers

Chuck Allen; Lisa Assetta; Cameron Beall; Jordan Biegler; Jeff Browning; George Christensen; Jeff Clay; Alec Clendenin; Jonathan Cooley; Frank

Correa; Carol Cowan; Jim Croft; Michael Davis; Wayne DeFrietas; Kerry Duris; Scott Ericson; Ricardo Feliciano; Donald Fizel; Amy Flack; Carlos Garcia; Michael Garcia; Marilyn Gauthier; Christopher Giokas; James Glaros; Mickey Godinez; Lane Gove; Matt Griffin; Cheryl Hawkins; Beau Hebert; Darren Jimenez; Steven Krantz; Jeff Lee; Travis Leemreis; Scott Loper; Max Marble; Karl Martin; Sid McDonald; Steven McDonald; Teresa McMahon; Alberto Medina; Michael Morton; Connie Mundzak; Dave Nicewinter; Katy Pace; Fred Palmer; Robert Parrish; Christina Penella; Aimee Pidgeon; Rob Porter; Cheri Rempert; Ray Rivero; Mike Robinson; Nancy Rubin; Gaston Ruiz; Rick Sanz; Dan Seeley; Tim Shoby; Chuck Shye; Stacey Skeet; Adam Smith; Nevada Smith; Mack Sneed; Andrew Sorrow; Joe Tuero; Matthew Ward; Billie Washburn; Ryan Weirich; Doyle Wiggins; Chris Wilson; Mark Witt

### Flagship/Bombardier/FFM

Odalys Baluja Amor; Ysabel Ruiz; Angela Villavicencio; Ernesto Luque; Joe Frazier; Kathie Grooms; Travis Pearce; Bill Penman; Eric Wicks; Brian Kerns; John Lalim

#### **HCAA** Concessions

Henry Sanz; Maria Gonzalez; Leonardo Fossi; Roger Castro; Osdany Toledano; Marva Francis; Christine Pena; Juan Barcia; Kai Barnes; Alex Elliot; Lisa John; Nichole Bolt; Ben Robinson; Chris Gonzales; Jamal Black; Tasha Norvelous; Daniel Acousta; Daniel Finalet; Yanet Combo; Chaenne Moreno; Imani Bell; Donquay Throw; Mary Lou Benincasa; Renzo Verdi; Chris Metoyer; Dixa Teters; Anna Cuellar; Sharon Morris; Dasha Serecka; Anthony Summers; Carol Murphy; Loren Malave; Tommy Mallard; Mike Rodriguez; Perry Kranias; Jodi Stanly; Mathew Johnson; John Beaver; Dennis Freeman; Jimmy Peralta; Dashon Wilkins; Tim Juul; Maria Prince; Jenson Mendiola; Kalor Yancey; Diamond Young; Jordan Peterson; Monique Shields; David Janecek; Eric Clark; Emilyann Alfieri; Jesus Pabon; Joe DeBaun; Steve Larrimore; Lloyd William; Miguel Cepeda; Bob Kehlenbeck; Carmelo Diaz; Terry White; Justin Thayer; Nelson Gonzalez

#### Marriott Hotel

Debbie Boehning; Joe Hediger; Elisa Hoefen; Henry Kimball; Jessica Phillips; Brian Malcolm; Amy Welch; Jackie McCauley; Luisanna Vasquez; Robby Powell; Sandy Viers; Scott Axford; Pamela Carlson; Luz Stock; Dominga Marte; Maria Hernandez; Sonny Chatman; Fabiola Bernal; Benny Colon; Tom Zenick; Elvin Toro; Alex Roa; Nyzetta Dallas; Marta Alonso; Van Do; Amid Choueiri; Robert Green; Lisa Garbett; Richard Venson; Maritza Sanders; Angela Minner; Kittikorn Massie; Rafael Alvaro; Julio Aristud; Hamilton Damon; Kim Jacobs; Jessica Sevilla; Mike

> Williams; Rob Placeras; Martha Restrapo; Junior Restrapo; Maureen Manconi

#### **CBP/TSA/FAA**

Chief John Choinski; Supervisory Denis McMahon; Officer Michael Staples; Officer James Wills; Officer John Inman; Lee Kair; Greg Mertz; Don Kerr; Don Cosner; Jim Flaherty; Jorge Contreras; Mike Selavka; Dave McKee; Rodrigo Aviles; Sandra Porter; Elvira Rivera; Gipseidy Santiago; Edwin Victoria; Daniel Carey; Ryan Smith; Sam Patel; Anna Williams; Mark Clarke; John DeJesus; Jewel McNaughton; Wayne Yindra; Dan Orraca; Mike Simpson; Joe LaBelle; Eric Cameron; Emilie Trimpey; John Krawczyk; Nikitee

Carter-DeJesus; Jeff Roux; Felix Dominguez; Arnaldo Santiago; Tyler Wiest; Sean Callahan; Michael Posey; Rafiq Shaheen; Triston Leach; CJ Morales-Davis; Robert McClelland; Kevin Mohammed; Chantelle Rivera; Joslin Stafford; Steven Goy

### Airlines/Rental Cars/PEMCO/Prospect/G2

Ainsworth Pothemont; Wendell Marlin; Jeffston Hendrickson; Theodore Wood; Jose Crea; Rudy Cervantes; Esteban Alvarez; Bill Huntley; Janice Boykins; Joseph Salazar; Jeremy Still; Jim Friley; Sonia Colon; Milagros Rosario; Helda Durham; Dave Vesper; Stan Lambert; Anthony Stewart; Fashola Hafiz; Krystal Selke; Ronald Gemsheim; Brenda Salton; Dawn Zanghi; Debra Hayes; Deva Simmons; Juan Sanchez; Michael Sisson; Rai White; Wilza Perez; Luis Galan; Brian Fairbanks; Myra Hitchens; Brian Williams; Aaron Shafer; Peter Todorovich; Kim Tillman; Kelly Berkeridge; Tim Wald; Shawn Wynn; Jose Alcantara; Johanna Stancato; Nancy Peeling; Thomas Keesling; Frankie Jamison; Scott Clifford ; Edward Garduno

If you worked the storm and don't see your name here, THANK YOU! We're glad you are part of the team!

thank you!





Newslink employee Henry Sanz, pictured above, remained at the Airport for the storm. Sanz, in a true sign of devotion, even worked on his birthday - Sunday, Sept. 10. He and his coworkers made the most of it, celebrating with a cake.

Host employees, pictured here in front of P.F. Chang's, were among numerous concessions workers who remained at TPA during the storm. Employees from Newslink, SSP, Bradford, HBF, Hudson/WDFG and the Marriott Hotel also remained at the Airport during the storm.



The Bombardier team remained on site to ensure that the Airside shuttles were promptly inspected and reopened.



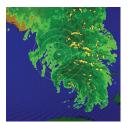
John Lalim of Fuel Facility management secured the fueling system after the rental car companies ceased operations. He then returned after Irma to restore service.



With clean-up from Hurricane Irma underway on Sept. 11, members of the Tampa International Airport Police department paused to remember those who lost their lives in the 9/11 attacks.



The Aviation Authority and partners, including airlines, concessionaires and Master Plan contractors, met at least once a day to coordinate hurricane plans.



### **HURRICANE IRMA:** Through TPA's eye





On Saturday, just hours before the last flight out, the line at the Southwest ticket counter snaked out to the curbside. Factoring in commercial and general aviation operations, the Airport saw 672 departures and landings on the Friday before the storm hit - well above the usual average.

Passengers, like little Clair and her family, filled every seat out of Tampa International Airport.



Tampa International Airport closed for operations at 8 p.m. on Saturday. No aircraft - commercial or general aviation - were on the airfield. All of the gates were pulled towards the Airsides and strapped down for safety. The beautiful sunset belied what was in store for Tampa Bay. TPA experienced sustained winds of 52 miles per hour with a peak gust of 66 mph.



Southwest Airlines flew the final two flights out of TPA on Saturday shortly before 8 p.m. Southwest's last flight ferried staff and crew members to Dallas.



With Irma bearing down, Sr. Manager of Airfield Operations Brian Washburn and Director of Operations Lloyd Tillmann patrol the airfield on Saturday evening.

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Atlanta	▲ D E L Southwe					Columbus	Southwest			10:55A Ca			A DELTA					Southwest 335		ncelled
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Atlanta	ADEL			2:50P		Dallas-Ft. Worth				3:35P C			Southwest			2:35P Cancelled	Boston		8 11:09A F84 C	ancelled
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Baltimore	Southwes			11:05A		Detroit	American Airlines		E00	2:05P C			UNITED			1:30P Cancelled 3:50P Cancelled	Chicago-Midwa	DELTA 38		Cancelled
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Charlotte	American Airlines			1:48P C		Indianapolis	Southwest			3:05P Ca		Providence	Southwest			12:55P Cancelled	Nashville		3696 9:55A	
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Charlotte					A CONTRACTOR OF	Key West	O Silver		AI	12:50P Ca		Raleigh/Durham				4:50P Cancelled	New York-JF		2598 11:15A E	
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FIDS at TPA showed every single flight cancelled. No commercial aircraft operated at TPA from 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9 through 9 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12.





The AOC, pictured here, was a flurry of activity as tropical stormforce winds pummeled TPA.

Stormriders gathered Sunday morning to discuss hurricane preparations in the Incident Command Center. Airport operations partially activated the ICC at 8 a.m. on Thursday Sept. 7, launched full activation on Saturday morning and deactivated at 6 pm. Tuesday, Sept. 12 The Aviation Authority team and partners met 10 times in the ICC.



Plastic protected the curbside check-in stations from Hurricane Irma - one of many measures taken to limit storm damage. Airline employees also covered ticket counters and TSA workers covered the security checkpoint areas with blue tarp. The Airport experienced minimal damage inside the terminal and airsides.



A Delta Air Lines flight from Atlanta at 8:55 a.m. on Sept. 12 marked the restart of commercial operations post Hurricane Irma. Commercial operations returned to 100 percent less than a week after the storm.

### Employee Spotlight: Fran Downes

As a child of bar owners in Ireland, Four Green Fields bartender Fran Downes likes to say the business is in her blood. She also likes to live by her favorite Irish quote by William Butler Yeats: "There are no strangers here; Only friends you haven't yet met."

So it's no wonder she's become one of Airside E's most popular friendly faces and even has several regulars who visit her every time they fly on Delta, Air Canada and WestJet. Some take the time to send letters raving about Fran.

"Fran. I should not need mention more," wrote one recent customer. "She is a special person that pulls you in. An absolute pleasure getting to know her and the food was amazing on top of things. Do not let a gem like Fran go."

Another customer who experienced a four-hour delay wrote: "There was a wonderful lady named Fran with the most wonderful Irish accent. Not only did Fran keep me entertained, she

was spot on with every customer."

"I spent four years on a TV show in Dublin and it was as if Fran transported me back there," wrote another. "A wonderful experience all around. Next time I'm in Tampa, I'll make sure to visit."

Fran loves working in an airport, where she meets a variety of travelers, some who are weary and need a good laugh or cry.

"Some of them hear my Irish accent and think I'm putting them on," she said. "I love working in an airport bar. It's so funny the



Fran Downes, a popular bartender at Four Green Fields, is an Irish native.

number of regulars I get here, some of whom I see once a week."

The youngest of five girls, Fran grew up in the small town of Kenmare in Co. Kerry, Ireland, where her parents owned a neighborhood pub. When she was 17, she and a friend visited New York City, and after returning to Ireland Fran vowed to go back to the

I need to get my Irish fix. The culture, the food, the sense of humor ... It's a different way of life and I always miss it." States to live one day. She worked briefly at a hospital in Dublin with plans to eventually become a nurse, but she longed to move back to New York so her boss told her to go.

"She said, 'Go and sow your oats for a year and come back,'" Fran said. "Well, I wound up sowing my oats for 33 years."

Fran's easygoing, fun nature was a great fit for bartending as she lived in Brooklyn in the 1980s and 1990s. She wound up marrying an Irish American man who passed away in 2006. After that, a friend whom she had visited several times in Tampa convinced her to move to Florida.

She settled in the Carrollwood area where she worked in Irish bars for several years until she heard about a concessions job fair at Tampa International Airport. Craving a change, she went to the job fair, and after submitting her application and speaking with TPA Hospitality reps, she was hired on the spot to work at Airside E's Four Green Fields, inspired by the popular restaurant pub in south Tampa and designed with an authentic thatched roof.

She began training and was at the grand opening of the bar, where she met Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn. Since then, she has met thousands of passengers passing through, some of whom return often to see Fran.

While Fran loves the energy and fun that comes from the hustle of bartending, she prefers a more quiet life at home. She loves reading and going for walks, and she dotes on her little dog named McCready. She likes to have coffee and visit with her large community of friends in the Tampa area, though she also enjoys returning to Ireland at least once a year to see family and friends.

This upcoming holiday season, she's looking forward flying back for a reunion with her sisters. Despite her decision to move to America so long ago, she still feels at home in Ireland.

"I need to get my Irish fix," Fran said. "The culture, the food, the sense of humor ... It's a different way of life and I always miss it."





TPA and its economic and tourism partners travelled to Iceland in conjunction with the launch of nonstop flights between Tampa and Reykjavík. From left to right: Tim Ramsberger, Chief Operating Officer of Visit St. Pete/Clearwater; Chris Minner, Executive Vice President of Marketing at TPA; Santiago Corrada, President & CEO of Visit Tampa Bay, Shanna Corrada (wife of Santiago); Janet Long, Chair of Pinellas County Commission and Pinellas Tourist Development Council; Bob Rohrlack, President & CEO of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce; J.P. Dubuque, President of the St. Petersburg Economic Development Council; Kenneth Strickland, Director of Air Service Development at TPA. Not pictured but on the trip: Craig Richard, President & CEO of the Tampa Hillsborough Economic Development Corporation.



Airport CEO Joe Lopano on Aug. 21 talked all things airport on The News Hour with Dick Greco and Dan Maduri, which was broadcast from Datz restaurant on AM820.



Director of Government Relations Gina Evans moderated a discussion about engaging young professionals in politics for Emerging Leaders of Tampa Bay on Aug. 30.



Procurement Agent Amy Flack (left) accepted an award for Manager of the Year from the NIGP at a conference in late August.

### 亘 In the News



HCAA maintained its strong bond ratings even with large capital projects.

### From the Tampa Bay Business Journal, Sept. 6

With upgraded elevators, the ongoing testing of its automated people mover and new concessions, TPA is moving closer to completion of the first phase of its \$2.6 billion master plan. All that building, designed to accommodate the growth in airlines and destinations at the airport, comes with a significant cost. However, a recent report from ratings agency Moody's Investors Service affirmed strong ratings on the airport's revenue bonds issued by the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority.



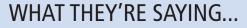
### From the Tampa Bay Business Journal, Aug. 25

Tampa travelers are getting another option to get to The Big Easy and in plenty of time for next year's Mardi Gras. Spirit Airlines (NASDAQ: SAVE) is starting daily, nonstop flights between Tampa International Airport and Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport on Nov. 9.

### **E-NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP**

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Go to TampaAirport.com and click on "Airport Newsletter" located in the popular links section. The electronic version is published twice monthly.



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### ON TWITTER —

@FlyTPA is head and shoulders above @iflymia. Customer service, speed of security, organization, and f&b options. Kudos TPA.

- J. Pesch @JNPesch, Aug. 28

@FlyTPA is killing it this AM. Drop-off to gate in under 10 minutes.
Drunkasaurus Wrecks @LemmythePirate, Aug. 28

Great experience today @FlyTPA - every @TSA agent said hello and were very courteous and great service from Gino @ columbiacafe

- GO Educational Tours @GOEduTours, Aug. 24 Charlene @fueledbychar, July 24

### ON FACEBOOK \_\_\_\_\_ f

There's a reason the world looks to TIA as a superb model for (international) airports... its not just the ease of moving quickly from terminal to terminal, but the customer service is top notch (and always has been)! Well done; way to represent Tampa!

- Amy LeBlanc Ramirez, Sept. 13

Best/easiest airport in the US by far! Cleanest, most organized and super easy to navigate in/out of!!! Well done Tampa!

- Bruce McDaniel, Aug. 29

### VIA EMAIL -

 $\bowtie$ 

We had not used your airport for several years and want to let you know how impressed we were yesterday. Great places to eat, lots of room to wait for your flight, my wife says lots of bathroom stalls for ladies with decent 2 ply TP. And the information signs were very helpful. Thank you for a great airport. We will come again!

- Bill Swan, Aug. 16



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