

GOOD NEWS SUNDAY FAIRFIELD

www.goodnewssundayfairfield.com

goodnewssundayfairfield@gmail.com

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41st edition – October 3, 2021



GOOD NEWS PAGE 1

RESEARCH PAGE 2

BRAIN POWER PAGE 3

ANNOUNCEMENTS PAGE 4

This is our 41st edition, bringing you good news, inspiring stories and useful information.

This is the inspirational story of Dennis Walters, a golf legend. We met Dennis Walters at the H. Smith Richardson Golf Course this summer. He is amazing not just because of how good he is at golfing but also how determined, strong, and happy he is.

In 1949 Dennis was born in Neptune, New Jersey. Dennis grew up fascinated with golf and after his third time sneaking into a golf course, he was offered a job at the course. His love for the sport grew and eventually he became a caddie. Dennis won three New Jersey tournaments in one year, something no one had ever done before. He got better and better in the sport becoming a prodigy. His dream was to play on a PGA tour, everyone thought he would make it.

However, at the age of 25, on July 21st 1974, Dennis was driving down a steep path on an old three-wheel golf cart and it flipped over. The cart crushed his lower spine and gave him permanent lower paralysis. They told him he would never walk again and never play golf again. He stayed in the hospital for 4 months and he got really sad and depressed.

But then he decided to push on. First, after a careful selection, he got his first dog Muffin. Dennis loved her and called her his guardian angel. When he got back home, he and his dad immediately started finding ways for him to play golf. At first, he hit the golf balls from a wheelchair but the angle wasn't right so his dad got some pillows and put it under him. But they realized that he couldn't push the wheelchair all the way around a golf course they had the idea to put a 90° swivel chair on a golf cart. His dad built it. Dennis had a swivel chair to play golf in which he still uses it.

After years of practice and tweaking his golf game Dennis reached his dream of playing golf but in a different way. He built "The Dennis Walters Golf Show", an incredible demonstration of his golf skills and persistence. Dennis is in the golf hall of fame, has been an Olympic torch bearer, has won many other awards, and he played in the PGA. You can learn more about Dennis at www.denniswalters.com, his book "In my dreams I walk with you" and his movie "Get a new dream"

Alex Vishno

The story of Dennis Walters was captured in the “Get a new dream” by our own Fairfield resident Alex Vishno. Alex produced and directed the film which is narrated by Sports Broadcasting Hall of Famer Jim Nantz, and features commentary by golf legends Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player, Tiger Woods, and many other golf industry professionals.

We met Alex this week to talk about his experience producing movies and working with Dennis Walter. Here are some insights we got from our interview:

Q: Tell us a little about yourself

A: I was first a musician before I became a producer, then I went to California Institute of The Arts and learned writing, music, production and instrumental performance.

Q: How did you start filmmaking?

A: After I worked on big concerts and was a musician, I went to school again to get my master in business. I was hired for concerts and business conferences after I finished school and I did that all over this country and other countries. Since I was the producer I would hire film crews to film the events and then they would edit the footage but they would take up to two months to finish. Then in 2009 I learned how to edit so I could get the footage and edit it much faster. Then somebody asked me to film something for them and I said yes. I thought how hard could it be and I was ready for an interesting challenge. So, I filmed and edited my first piece around 2010-2011.

Q: What have you learned over the years?

A: I am always learning and there is no end to learning and every project I do. I learn from it so I work on the next project differently. The biggest thing I have learned is that I don't know everything and always learning and always trying to get better.

Q: Why did you agree to work on Get A New Dream?

A: Somebody asked me to help with film. It seemed so hard and challenging and it would help me learn. I could explore a place in filmmaking that I have not already. The story is so inspiring and amazing how he did not give up. The first time we talked about it, it was in Fall of 2019. Then the first interview was in August 2020, for the last clips I flew down to Florida.

Q: How were you able to get so many famous golfers on camera?

A: It was easy to get people like Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer because everybody knew and respected him. They all wanted to be in the movie to help tell the Walter story.

To learn more about Alex Vishno's work go to www.a2vmedia.com

Quote of the week.

"If there is something you really want to do – no matter how impossible it may seem, with enough hard work and perseverance you can do it."

- Dennis Walters

Name: _____

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Dennis Walters word search

Find the words!

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DENNIS
DOG
CHAIR
GOLFSHOW
AWARDS
LIFE

WALTERS
GUSSIE
ACCEDENT
PGA
NEWJERSEY
LESSONS

GOLF
CART
CLINICS
OLYMPIC
PRODIGY

Announcements

This week the library is doing a after school program for 6th to 12th grade. They have snacks, crafts, activities and more. Register quick before seats run out. To register go to [downUNDER Afterschool Teen Program | Fairfield Public Library \(librarymarket.com\)](https://librarymarket.com).

On this day (October 3) ...

In 1922 the first facsimile photo sent over city telegraph lines.

In 1995 O.J. Simpson is found not guilty.

In 1941 Hitler says to the German people that Russia “is already broken and will never rise again.”

In 42 BC Mark Anthony and Octavian fight against Caesar’s assassins Brutus and Cassius.

In 1657 French troops occupy Mardyke.

In 1691 English and Dutch troops occupy Limerick Ireland.

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Have a great Sunday!