

# **My Two Cent's Worth**

By: Joseph Andalina

## **Back to the Future**

Having spent the winter in Paradise, I am now back to reality in good old Illinois. While in the Land of Sunshine, I walked a lot, visited zoos, aquariums, many nature parks and islands taking photos of all sorts of critters on the beach.

As most of you will agree, the ocean is calming, reflective, and mesmerizing. Walking the soft sand, you see a lot of creatures, both alive and washed ashore. I got pictures of a Great Blue Heron catching a two-foot Bonnet head shark. It took 30 minutes before he could get it swallowed. I will never see that again.

All kinds of shorebirds, crabs, and fish, too. Any my favorite, sea turtles. Chased a 6-foot black racer snake, but it got away. Probably good because I didn't have my gear and was barefoot. I would have gotten bit a few times and I'm sure it would have let loose a lot of foul smelling you know what, too. Defense mechanism. But I got a picture!

Collected many shells, and the carapaces of various sized horseshoe crabs. Saw moray eels, stingrays, and of course, dolphins. Simply wonderful.

I did not watch much national news, preferring to view hockey, or read, or walk my dog. It's all just noise anyway. Disruptive and irritating.

Trump makes America great  
Trump and Stormy  
Blah, blah, blah

But piercing my balloon was the local news and the never-ending reporting of murder and mayhem that goes on away from the fun in the sand and sun. Sadly, people like I wrote earlier, are the "same all over." They like to kill each other here, too. Robberies, assaulting and crashing into each other is quite normal, if not excessive.

But we can outmaneuver the noise if we try. I tried, and for the most part, was successful. I strongly recommend that you spend some time on a beach near an ocean—anywhere. It is life affirming and the waves can be very, very calming.

Now I'm home, and all I hear is Rahm and Rauner and the 2018 elections, something I did not read or hear about in the land of Disney.

But you know what?

Vita é bella — sensa!