Tom and Mary Kindred

“. . . he came back to Ft. Pierce to marry his sweetheart on September 5th, 1959, at the First United Methodist Church on 7th Street and Avenue A . . .”

See story on page 20 . . .

Main Street Focus
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Fort Pierce, FL 34950
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Fax: 772.468.2226
We often take for granted the love we have for our community and what has been accomplished over the last decade, but I challenge you to stop and think about how and why we do what we do. As a business owner, resident, or worker in Downtown Fort Pierce, you have added greatly to the overall success of the rebirth of Fort Pierce. Supporting public improvement projects, streetscapes, private reinvestment and retail, helps Downtown Fort Pierce continue to develop as a unique, historic waterfront that attracts individuals from all areas. Renaissance on the River will be a great addition for individuals that want to live in downtown Fort Pierce and be able to walk and shop while enjoying the beautiful view of the Indian River from their doorstep. I venture to say that this new addition in downtown, along with the new Clerk of Courts building and Fort Pierce City Hall parking garage, account for the largest ‘new’ construction projects in Fort Pierce in over 50 years.

Love of our community was evident when the master plan for downtown was initiated by Main Street Fort Pierce in 1995 whereby it has blossomed and transformed the city into what we have today. The devoted effort to make a significant change in Fort Pierce’s direction at that time was made by concerned individuals that loved their city and wanted to see it flourish once again and it has. We are truly fortunate to have a thriving waterfront community that embraces historic beauty that makes Fort Pierce a great place to live. Love abounds in many shapes and forms that often we do not take the time to notice. Stop, slow down, and look around the city. You will find many things to love.

Love of our community was evident when the master plan for downtown was initiated by Main Street Fort Pierce in 1995 whereby it has blossomed and transformed the city into what we have today.
As Fort Pierce Main Street begins its 19th successful year, it is undertaking an aggressive Membership Drive. “The Next Big Thing” campaign took off in May, 2006. Please consider becoming a Main Street Member.

Membership in Main Street Fort Pierce is open to anyone interested in helping preserve our unique heritage. Our goal is to encourage and assist in keeping Downtown Fort Pierce a vibrant shopping and business district for future generations.

We invite you to share your expertise and contribute toward making Fort Pierce Main Street a success in historic preservation and revitalization. Donations to Fort Pierce Main Street, a 501(c)3 corporation, are tax deductible.

Membership Benefits:
• Subscriptions to Main Street Focus and Website Links to Focus On-Line
• Advance Notice and Invitation to Special Events
• Membership to St. Lucie County Preservation Association
• Listed on our On-Line Membership Page (Corporate & Private)
• Networking & Volunteer Opportunities

When residents support and appreciate the business district, the businesses flourish. When the businesses flourish, the residents in the neighborhood prosper as well. We are all neighbors investing in each other’s success.

Complete the form below and join our growing group of committed members. By joining Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc., you are supporting the economic well being of the entire community.

Main Street Membership Levels

Private:
- Student .......................................................... $15.00
- Friend ........................................................... $25.00
- Family ........................................................... $50.00

Corporate:
- Small Business (less than 10 employees) ........ $100.00
- Medium Business (11 - 50 employees) .......... $250.00
- Large Business (51 or more employees) ......... $500.00
- Patron (all others) .......................... $500.00
- Sponsor ......................................................... $1,000.00

☐ I would like to become a Main Street volunteer.

Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. • 122 AE Backus Ave., Fort Pierce, FL 34950
For information call 772-466-3880 • www.mainstreetfortpierce.org

Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc., a 501©3 not-for-profit corporation, has encouraged and participated in the revitalization efforts of downtown Fort Pierce for the past 19 years. The efforts of many have paid off. Downtown Fort Pierce is now recognized as one of the most desirable locations to live and work on the Treasure Coast, as well as, in the state of Florida.

The Main Street program was created by the National Trust of Historic Preservation in the early 1980s. The program was designed to revitalize the historic commercial districts that were threatened to extinction by urban sprawl. The four-step Main Street approach is used by over 1,600 communities across the United States and its model has been studied internationally.

The success of Main Street Fort Pierce over the past 19 years is due to the faithful commitment of current and past members of the Main Street board of directors, the City of Fort Pierce, local community organizations, local businesses, and general public support. Currently, the program consists of fourteen volunteer board members and two full-time employees. During its existence, Main Street Fort Pierce has held approximately twenty-six downtown promotional events each year, educated public school children about the history of the area, won numerous local, state, and national awards, restored historic buildings including the Sunrise Theatre, recruited businesses to the downtown area, held downtown charrettes to encourage the public participation in revitalization efforts, created outdoor art programs, and helped fund an award winning image campaign along with the Downtown Business Association, the Community Redevelopment Agency, and the City of Fort Pierce.
MAIN STREET AND DOWNTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Dine, Shop and Enjoy Beautiful, Historic, Downtown Fort Pierce!

Friday, February 1: Friday Fest — 5:30 until 8:30 p.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

Saturday, February 2: Traditional Mardi Gras Parade — 2:00 p.m.; Fort Pierce Jazz Society, 460-5299.

Saturday, February 2 – Saturday, February 9: Jazz Week 2008; Visit www.jazzsociety.com for complete list of events or call the Fort Pierce Jazz Society, 460-5299.

Wednesday, February 13: DBA Artwalk — 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Downtown Business Association, 465-7080. Brush Strokes Gallery located on 106 S Depot Drive will present the following during January's Artwalk event: Acrylic paintings of Kay Curtis, “Relationship of Human & Animal.”

Friday, February 15: Coffee with the Mayor — 8:00 a.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

Friday, February 29: Classic Car Cruise-In — 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.; Downtown Business Association, 465-7080. Brush Strokes Gallery located on 106 S Depot Drive will present the following during January's Artwalk event: Acrylic paintings of Kay Curtis, “Relationship of Human & Animal.”

Weekly Events

Ft. Pierce Farmer’s Market – Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to Noon; Marina Square on Melody Lane; Market Manager, 940-1145.

Arts and Crafts Show & Sale – Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; north of downtown Fort Pierce Library, 460-5124.

Fort Pierce Bike Night – Thursdays, 6:00 to 9:30 p.m.; 2nd Street, Downtown Fort Pierce; Yellowfin Grill & Raw Bar, 468-7071.

Fort Pierce Jazz Jams – 7:00 p.m.; Fort Pierce Community Center; $2 Admission; Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society, 460-5124.

For information, please call 465-0630 or visit www.backusgallery.com.

January 29 to February 16: Texture • Technique • Tradition; Whether relying on texture (a tactile quality) or technique (the method of accomplishment), all of the artists in this exhibition are creating their own unique traditions and style of work.

February 20 to March 15: Unassuming Genius: A.E. Backus — A Great Twentieth-Century American Painter: For more than 17 years the Backus Museum has presented a tribute A.E. Backus the “Dean of Florida Landscape Painter.” No other 20th century artist captured the Florida light quite like he could. Backus came into prominence as a national artist in the 1960s when his work was hung in President Lyndon B. Johnson’s library in Texas and in the Senate offices in Washington, D.C. In 1993, he was inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame.

This show will feature some of the best works by Backus and, when it closes in March, will travel to ten other venues across the United States. Many of the paintings are part of the museum’s collection others are from private collections from around the country.

RESTAURANT ENTERTAINMENT

The Original Tiki Bar – 461-0880; Music by “Barely Broken,” Sundays, 3 to 7:00 p.m.


DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE LIBRARY

For information, please call 462-2787 or visit www.st-lucie.lib.fl.us.

SUNRISE THEATRE

For information, please call 461-4775 or visit www.sunrisetheatre.com.

MANATEE OBSERVATION AND EDUCATION CENTER

For information, please call 466-1600, ext. 3333 or visit www.manateecenter.com.

ST. LUCIE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

For information, please call 462-1795 or visit www.st-lucie.lib.fl.us/museum.

FORT PIERCE COMMUNITY CENTER

For information, please call 462-1792.

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In Honor of Captain Adam Snyder

by Fort Pierce Mayor Bob Benton

I begin 2008 with thankful
ness and excitement for Fort
Pierce. I thank you, Fort Pierce,
for providing me the opportuni-
ty to serve as your Mayor for
the next four years. Our com-
munity has so much to offer.
This year should prove to be one
of the best. The skateboard park
is under way, the parking garage is days away from open-
ing, the Human Resource Center has opened and Fort
Pierce is looking more inviting to business and tourist
everyday. Our winter visitors are returning to enjoy our
piece of paradise. With this excitement for a new year, I
have to reflect on the end of 2007.

On Friday, December 14th, I had to do one of the
toughest jobs I’ve ever had as mayor of Fort Pierce. I
attended the funeral and delivered a proclamation, on
behalf of the City of Fort Pierce, to honor a fallen hero,
Captain Adam Snyder, a Fort Pierce native and gradu-
ate of Lincoln Park Academy. I know his parents and I
had the opportunity to cross paths with Adam a few
times. He graduated at the top of the 2000 class, and
then went on to attend West Point, graduating with top
honors from the academy. “The best of the best,” that
was Adam. Adam was on his second tour in Iraq when
his Humvee was struck by a roadside IED. He and two
of his fellow soldiers were fatally injured on December
4th. This young man was an inspiration and role model
to his church, school, community and country. Ameri-
ca, Fort Pierce gave it’s finest. We as a community morn
our loss; I ask you to take a moment to thank our serv-
ice men and women, veterans, as well as their families
who give the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. These
service men and women allow you to enjoy the freedom
of living in this great country and community without
fear or apprehension. To those service men and women
and families, you are in our prayers.

May the life that Adam lived be an inspiration for us
to make 2008 a year of compassion, kindness and to
make your life an example with a willing heart to work
together to better not only our community but ourselves.

“Souvenirs of Downtown”

En Plein Air - Paint Out

Sponsored by: Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc.

An Art and Outdoor Event April 24
through April 26, 2008

Plein Air Artist: Ellen E. Fischer

Painting: Sunrise Theatre
Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. Receives $50,000 Donation from National City

Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. received a $50,000 donation from the National City–Harbor Foundation. The donation will help fund the restoration of the historic Platts/Backus House which was the home of the 1st and 2nd doctors of Fort Pierce and of the Florida landscape artist A. E. Backus.

“The donation from National City will enable Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. to be closer to their goal of completing the restoration of the Platts/Backus House,” said Doris Tillman, Manager of Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. “Ultimately, this will allow us to complete the project without phasing it.”

The Platts/Backus House was built in 1895 and was of vernacular construction. Throughout the years, not much maintenance had occurred and had caused tremendous damage to the house. It was important to Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. to save the house because of its important history, but also because it is a critical piece of the neighborhood known as Edgar Town. The funds donated by National City will go for most of the finished carpentry, which will bring the house back to its original state. The wainscoting and tongue and groove finishing will bring back the historic luster and homey feeling the house projects making people once again fill welcome through its doors.

Continued on page 8 …
Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. is part of a concept developed by the National Trust to rebuild downtowns. The board’s mission is to preserve, promote and build on the historic and natural treasures of our downtown waterfront community. Their vision statement is Downtown Fort Pierce, the heart of St. Lucie County, will have an inviting atmosphere, highlighted by historic architecture, unique natural assets and will enhance the civic, cultural and economic viability of the entire community — retail, service, academic, government and industry.

“Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. has been instrumental in the revitalization of our Downtown. National City’s donation will help them continue their work in making Downtown Fort Pierce a thriving area of our community.” stated Mike Brown, Sr. area chairman for National City in the Central/Northeast Florida Region.

The donation is part of National City’s ongoing effort to be a contributing member of the community. National City has designated a charitable fund of $2 million to be used and administered exclusively in Central and Northeast Florida.

About National City: National City Corporation (NYSE: NCC), headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, is one of the nation’s largest financial holding companies. The company operates through an extensive banking network primarily in Ohio, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, and also serves customers in selected markets nationally. Its core businesses include commercial and retail banking, mortgage financing and servicing, consumer finance and asset management. For more information about National City, visit the company’s website at www.nationalcity.com.
Bob Swisher, President of the Fort Pierce Downtown Business Association (DBA), has a secret. However, it is not his intention for this secret to stay under wraps. In fact, he wants it so well known that it can’t be called a secret any longer! His secret is the unique and diverse group of businesses known as “Downtown Fort Pierce.” And, it is his goal and the goal of the Downtown Business Association, to make locals and visitors alike aware of this rare gem sitting right under their noses. According to Bob, many people don’t know that there is anything east of US 1, between City hall and the Indian River Lagoon. So, he wants to get the word out about the variety of restaurants and businesses that are located downtown.

Bob, who has been President of the DBA since October 2007, is using his time in office to help other DBA members to promote their vision of a thriving and vibrant Fort Pierce, starting with the downtown area. In order for this to happen, Bob says that the approximately 60 DBA members will all need to continue their hard work, because it takes the hands of many to accomplish much. He expressed his understanding that everyone is busy, but with each one continuing to do what they can, the job is not nearly as hard.

Bob does accounting and computer work at Chaney’s House O’ Flowers, so their location on the corner of Avenue A and 2nd Street allows him a good view of what’s going on downtown. He has been in retail sales his whole life, and has acquired an eye for what will attract business. He sees great strength in the downtown business community. And, with its diversity of people, there is a wealth of knowledge to share.

One way that the DBA is bringing attention to the downtown area is with its Cruise In. If you haven’t been downtown in a while, or if you have, but just during regular business hours, you don’t know what you’re missing! On the last Friday of each month, classic car lovers converge in droves for this highly popular event. In fact, it is so popular that at the December 2007 gathering, several

Continued on page 12 …
**Main Street Focus February 2008**

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**Citrus Avenue Professional Building**

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**Occupancy Fall 2007**
Photographer James Gary Richmond is the featured artist at the Lafferandre Gallery in February. Mr. Richmond has traveled extensively in the Caribbean and brought his photographs back to exhibit in shows and galleries throughout the country, making a name for himself with his oversized, vibrant images. The past few years, he has taken these images one step further. While he still shoots his images on film, he now takes them one step further. Working with a computer, he digitally enhances, colors, and manipulates his images into creative and colorful representations of his original photographs.

Gary was born in Miami and raised in Florida. He attended the University of South Florida in Tampa and studied business. Photographically self-taught, he has taken the photographic medium beyond the usual.

The Lafferandre Gallery will feature his work in February, beginning with an opening reception from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on February 13. Gary will be there to talk about his exciting images and to present his work. This is also Art-walk night in historic downtown Fort Pierce with music in the streets and many stores and galleries open till 8 p.m. as well. For further information on either call 772 489-4255.
... continued from page 9

cars had to be turned away because there were over 200 participants! From new Corvettes to old t-buckets, a wide variety of vehicles were brought in for car lovers to ogle at and enjoy. As you stroll through the line up of diverse body styles, colors and gleaming chrome, you can catch snatches of conversation as auto aficionados share their stories and restoration tips with fellow car lovers. While there you can visit the shoppes located downtown, because they remain open during the event. Cruise In was first started in May 2007 by Bob and the late Charlie Brinkman of Java Charlie’s, along with the DBA. Bob said that he is grateful for assistance that the Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency has given the Downtown Business Association, in support of the Cruise In events. Thanks to them, free admission is possible.

Art Walk, which is also sponsored by the DBA, is held the second Wednesday of each month. During both of these events, downtown businesses are very good about staying open and making themselves available, so Bob wanted to express his gratitude for that, as well.

We can rest assured that if Bob keeps going the way he is now, Downtown Fort Pierce won’t be a secret any longer. And, if he has his way, locals and visitors alike will soon be passing the word that east of US 1, between City Hall and the Indian River Lagoon, you can find the best food and entertainment around — both day and night.
February is the time for romance and love, but it can also be the time to prepare for, well — something not so loveable. Even though the start of hurricane season is four months away, now can be a great time to get ready for the potential stormy weather. The bustle of the holidays is over and it’s not quite time for “spring cleaning,” so what better opportunity to get yourself and your property prepared for hurricanes.

During the busy storm season of 2004 and 2005, many people lost electricity to their homes because tree limbs fell on the electric service line that comes from the power pole to the house. Once this line is down, there is a good chance that the weatherhead, which connects the line to the building, is damaged. If that is the case, then power cannot be restored to the building until a certified electrician repairs the weatherhead, and the city inspects and approves the repairs. Unfortunately, this process could take weeks.

To prepare for the hurricane season, it might be a good idea to hire a professional tree service to trim any limbs that might hit the electric line that services the house. Or, better yet, you may consider taking advantage of Fort Pierce Utilities’ (FPUA) price discount to place that service line underground. FPUA will design and install the underground utilities for a current residential customer with a 25% discount on the actual cost. Once your line is underground, you will have more peace of mind; and when power is restored to your neighborhood, your power will most likely come on, too.

One other task that you may consider when preparing your house for a storm, or any power outage, is installing a standby generator, particularly one that uses natural gas. Can you imagine coming into a cool home with lights, ice, and working appliances after a hurricane? Standby generators using natural gas are economical and can be set up to automatically switch to generator power whenever the utility power is interrupted.

Continued on page 14 …
FPUA services most of Fort Pierce with natural gas. Natural gas is very reliable, and the chances of a gas outage are minimal. FPUA does not sell generators, but they will pipe the gas to your residence or business and connect your generator if natural gas is available in your neighborhood. Home Depot sells standby generators that use natural gas starting at $1,900.

One final note, if you have a medical condition and use life-support medical equipment that requires electricity, then it is imperative that you acquire some sort of standby power. FPUA does have a program that you can enroll in called Medical Seal, which may help get power restored in a more timely fashion to your home. They maintain a record of customers who depend on the life-saving equipment, and during outages, every effort is made to return power to these customers quickly. Since service interruptions cannot be eliminated, and power cannot be guaranteed, it is essential that customers with this equipment have backup power supplies.

To be placed on the Medical Seal List, have your physician send a letter to the FPUA Customer Service Department advising of the life-support equipment in use. FPUA will then notify you of your acceptance into the Medical Seal Program. To remain on the list, have your physician send in a new letter each year.

I’ve mentioned just a few things to help you get prepared for storm season. If you want more tips on how to gear up for hurricanes, then visit FPUA’s website at www.fpua.com.
From Fort Pierce to New York – Meagan Gordon Shines

by Camille S. Yates

Since the age of 10, Fort Pierce native, Meagan Gordon, knew that she would one day become an actress. “I was so sure about it, that I used to sign my school yearbooks with remarks like, ‘You had better hang on to this, because I’ll be famous!’” she says. Gordon’s confidence and self-assurance have paid off. For the last five years she has been acting in New York City.

While growing up in Fort Pierce, her parents, Earl and Marcia Gordon, encouraged her desire to act. At age 10, Gordon began acting at the Pineapple Playhouse, formerly the St. Lucie Community Theater, and at age 14, she landed the lead role playing Ernestine in Cheaper By the Dozen. Then, while attending Lincoln Park Academy, she acted at a dinner theater in Vero Beach and traveled Florida pursuing theater.

Gordon’s love, though, is television and film. In 1999, she attended a Millie Lewis Acting Convention and competed in roles for television commercials and sitcoms. She placed in the top ten out of 500 participants and this caught the eye of several casting directors. Although she was offered acting jobs in New York, Gordon wanted to complete her education and enrolled in the University of Florida where she majored in English.

While away in college, she maintained contact with Barry Shapiro, a commercial casting director who saw her in 1999. “It’s all about connections,” she says. Five days after graduating from college, she moved to New York City. Shapiro lined her up for a Bob Evans television commercial and she was offered the job. “My first audition and I got it!” she exclaims. “I made the right choice.”

Gordon has acted in dozens of television commercials, including a Pringles commercial that aired in both the U.S.

Continued on page 16 …
and Britain, and most recently she played a supporting role in the movie What Happens in Vegas starring Cameron Diaz.

It has been nine years since Gordon left Fort Pierce. Last spring, she and Dan Scheuerman were married in Jensen Beach but returned to their home in New York, which is close to the theater district. While visiting Fort Pierce this past Christmas, Gordon remarked about how much the city has changed. “Fort Pierce has really grown since I left. It’s beautiful,” she says. “I am proud to call it my hometown. It’s the perfect place to come back to.”

Gordon is about to make another move which will boost her chances at achieving her ultimate goal. “I’d really like to be involved in a successful, long-running television series and then do a few films here and there,” she says. But, she explains that New York is a theater town where television is not as prominent. Right after the writer’s strike last November, she visited Los Angeles, where her chances of getting more roles in television are better. She found an agent and her husband, who is an accountant, was able to transfer from New York to LA in the same accounting firm. “Everything has just fallen into place, so we are going to give it a chance,” she says. Be assured that this hometown beauty with a passion for acting will have a blossoming career no matter where she lives.
February – A Spectacular Month to View Manatees

February is always an exciting month for the Manatee Center. With manatee migration fully underway, the Manatee Center will be overflowing with eager students anticipating the chance to glimpse a manatee in Moore’s Creek. They fill the exhibit hall with excited chatter as they enjoy lessons, informative exhibits and view the variety of sea life contained in our aquariums. We treasure these opportunities to educate our children about the nature and habitats of the Treasure Coast.

The volunteers and staff at the Manatee Center are busily preparing for upcoming events in 2008. In addition to our exciting monthly activities, we are putting the final touches on several new exhibits providing important information and new educational experiences for visitors. Indian River Lagoon Boat Tours continue to fill with visitors wanting a first hand look at the animals and plants that inhabit the Indian River Lagoon, one of the most diverse estuaries in the United States. If you are interested in volunteering at the Manatee Center, this is a wonderful opportunity to meet other volunteers and find out what the Center is all about.

The Manatee Center’s 12th season continues with abundant activities and events. We invite you to visit to see our new displays, browse the Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop to find unique nature-related gifts and attend one of our educational programs or events. Manatee Center hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10-5 and Sunday, 12-4. Indian River Lagoon Boat Tours depart daily Tuesday through Saturday at 1 pm. Reservations are highly suggested, please call 772-460-6445. For additional information, you can call the Center at 772-466-1600, ext. 3333, or visit our website at manateecenter.com. The online gift shop can be found at manateegiftsgalore.com. See you at the Center!

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Before choosing a lawyer, ask for written information about the lawyer’s legal qualifications and experience.
Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Chocolate

by Leslie Lafferandre

Why do so many people have a love affair with chocolate? Chocolate contains alkaloids that trigger a physiological effect in the brain. According to a study reported by the BBC, when you put chocolate in your mouth and let it melt on your tongue, it triggers an increase in your brain activity and heart rate. These sensations last four times longer and are more intense than those associated with passionate kissing. Let’s not forget the simple fact that it tastes so good, too.

Native to South America, the earliest know use of chocolate was around 1100 BC. These days, 2/3 of the world’s “chocolate” crop is grown in Africa. Over 50 million people worldwide depend upon chocolate for their livelihood. There are three basic types of chocolate. Dark chocolate is preferred by 68% of the people, milk chocolate by 22% and white chocolate by 10%.

The cacao seed is very bitter until it is processed. With coddling, it is possible to grow a Cacao tree here in South Florida, however the harvesting and processing is a delicate process. Once harvested, the beans are separated from their pods and then fermented for up to a week. The beans are then dried and roasted. How long and at what temperature along with the amount of cocoa butter determines the type of chocolate it will ultimately become. All chocolate contains cocoa butter, sugar, and vanilla. Dark and milk chocolate both have cocoa liquor added to them, and milk chocolate and white chocolate both have milk or milk solids added to them.

They say the way to a man’s heart is through his stomach. The way to a woman’s heart is through her stomach, too — with chocolate — making it one of the most popular Valentine’s gifts. Think of that and bring your loved one downtown to Fort Pierce for a Valentine dinner and a decadent chocolate dessert at one of our many fine restaurants.
Valentine’s Day — often besmirched as a “Hallmark Holiday” actually predates the popular card shop by centuries. No one knows for sure who the original St. Valentine was. Legends surrounding the holiday suggest it may have been a clergyman who was executed for secretly marrying couples in ancient Rome.

We do know that in 496 A.D. Pope Gelasius set aside February 14th to honor St. Valentine. As this Christian holiday evolved into a reason for sweethearts to exchange messages of affection, St. Valentine became the patron saint of those in love. By the Middle Ages, St. Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France.
The oldest surviving valentine was written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, and sent to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London. In 1848 Ester Howland introduced the commercial valentine. Ester’s father owned a stationary shop and Ester began cutting paper into lacy shapes and pasting decorative scraps onto handmade cards for their sentimental customers.

Who hasn’t received a valentine and felt that familiar flutter wondering if perhaps this was “the one?” Yet in these somewhat cynical times we don’t always believe in fairy tale endings. I’ve heard the comment made that all the truly great romances ended during Hollywood’s golden age with couples like Bogart and Bacall, Hepburn and Tracy or Robert Wagner and Natalie Wood. However, I believe that Ft. Pierce, just like small towns all across the country, continues to quietly produce her own share of golden couples.

Last Saturday I attended the wedding of Justin Case and Christina Muskett, a young couple just starting out. She was radiant and he couldn’t have been happier. Watching them together it was easy to believe in happily ever after.

We were seated with Tom and Mary Kindred and Tom’s parents Tom and Caroline Kindred, both couples married here in Ft. Pierce. I asked the Tom Sr. how they met and so here unfolds one of the countless Ft. Pierce romances standing the test of time.

In 1958 Caroline was a newly graduated nurse working at the old Ft. Pierce Memorial Hospital on North 7th Street. She lived with her grandmother Alice Kicliter, owner of the Sunrise Hotel standing at that time just across the street from the Backus House on 2nd and Ave. C.

Caroline was dedicated to her work and when Tom’s Aunt, Betty Sloan asked her to join the family for Thanksgiving dinner, Caroline first said she couldn’t leave her patients, but Aunt Betty found nursing coverage for her and Caroline came along.

That Thanksgiving night Tom and Caroline were introduced and found that they had grown up just a few streets apart and yet had never met. Her childhood home was on 23rd Street and his was at 27th and Orange. A coincidence made even more amazing given how small Ft. Pierce was.

Tom holds a degree in Recreation and was home interning at the Ft. Pierce Community Center located

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then at Orange Avenue and Indian River Drive where the Renaissance Center is today. And so the two young professionals began to see one another.

One night during their courtship Tom didn't have Caroline home as early as her grandmother thought he should, so she called Tom's dad to check on them. Mr. Kindred said, “Now you know you don't have to worry if she's out with my Tom!”

Just six months into their relationship Tom moved to Mississippi to open the first recreation center in Moss Point. Not willing to give up the girl, he came back to Ft. Pierce to marry his sweetheart on September 5th 1959 at the First United Methodist Church on 7th Street and Avenue A.

Following the wedding the newlyweds moved to Mississippi where Tom continued to run the recreation center while Caroline found employment as a pediatric nurse.

Seven years later they moved home to Ft. Pierce where they've remained a vital part of our community. Caroline rejoined Ft. Pierce Memorial Hospital and stayed there until moving to the new Lawnwood Hospital.

Tom served as Superintendent of Recreation and oversaw the department grow as our community did. After leaving the recreation arena he continued to serve our area, first as Assistant County Administrator then as County Administrator.

Next year Tom and Caroline will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary and are an inspiration to sweethearts everywhere. Today the church they were married in is over 115 years old and theirs is just one of the limitless stories that have and continue to begin there with the words “I do.”

Having both retired now, he in 1996 and she in 1999, the Kindred’s enjoy spending time with their family. At the reception that night Mary told me how wonderful it was to have the support of her in-laws and to see grandparents so involved in their grandchildren’s lives.

Perhaps that is the lesson of great love stories, not just for Valentine's Day but for always. Although a romance begins between two people, the strength that comes from sharing your heart extends to everyone you touch whether it is the family that surrounds you or the community you serve.

Today we lead crazy lives and don’t always tell those closest to us how important they are. Put a little Valentine’s into your daily life and watch how it brightens your world!
Alumni’s International Grill
by Pam Gillette

Sports fans … are you ready for this? Alumni’s International Grill is the newest sports bar in Fort Pierce. From the NFL Sports Package, to ESPN College March Madness, to Pool Leagues and Dart Tournaments, Alumni’s International Grill is the place for all sports enthusiast.

Alumni’s was conceived approximately 10 years ago by two cousins, Dr. Michael Kelly and Jason Cowell from Connecticut. After relocating to south Florida, they decided they wanted to open a sports bar that served great food at reasonable prices, so they set the ground work for Alumni’s International Grill. After years of scouting possible locations they stumbled upon a historic building in downtown Fort Pierce. The site that had been the previous location for the old Governor’s Grill, a.k.a. Max’s & Meg’s, a.k.a. P.J. Clarks was the perfect place with just the ambiance of what they were looking for.

Having grown up in small towns themselves and knowing the importance of having an impeccable reputation, the cousins decided to focus on a great food selection of the highest quality. They decided to enroll Scott Mayer as a partner/operational manager and the three came up with a menu that was simple yet amazing. Their menu displays the highest quality food at a reasonable price.

Alumni’s International Grill has the best hamburgers in South Florida! Some people will even testify that the large wings are by far the best in the state. This is the type of restaurant where you can enjoy your lunch either during the week or on the weekends watching your favorite sporting event for under $10.00. They also provide Wi-Fi service for the workaholics, who cannot live without the internet, and local delivery for orders of $10.00 and up for the business district of downtown Fort Pierce.

Alumni’s International Grill is opened Monday – Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. and on Sundays from 12:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. Happy Hour is from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. every day and the kitchen is open until 10:00 p.m. every night with a limited menu until 12:00 a.m.

Thursday night is Ladies Night and a DJ is on site every Thursday and Friday Fest nights for entertainment. Soon to Alumni’s will be karaoke. Stop by on Bike Night, Thursday night, and register to win a Low Jack to be raffled off the last Saturday of every month. Also don’t forget to ask about the In the Biz Program. Catering and private parties are available.

So, if sports are your passion or if you are just interested in great food at a good price, Alumni’s International Grill is the place to be. The cousin’s invite you to stop in and try what will soon be an institution in Fort Pierce. From its casual ambiance, to the tantalizing menu, to the full liquor bar, (largest single bar on the treasure coast), you will certainly say this is a place worth coming back to. One thing is for certain, you can always count on a friendly welcome from the bar to the waitresses. If it is your first visit to the establishment, ask to talk with the owner’s, one of which is on the premises daily. If they are not immediately available ask for the general manager Susan Gautano, who will be happy to assist you, to make your visit memorable.

Alumni’s International Grill is located at 122 North 2nd Street in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce; phone 466-6944.
February Events in Downtown Fort Pierce

St. Lucie County Library

Registration is underway for one of the most popular programs offered by the St. Lucie County Library System. A new session of “Waggin’ Tales” returns in February.

“We have 17 dog teams working with two schools and roughly 20 children at the county libraries,” said Dorothy Blair, program manager. “The children come and read with one of the dogs for about 15 minutes. The handler, who is the owner of the dog, helps with learning new words and reading comprehension.”

The concept of the program is to build children’s self-esteem by taking the focus off their inability to read by making it the dog’s problem. For instance, the trainer might say: “Chance (the dog) doesn’t understand how the frog got lost in the swamp. Can you tell her how that happened?” Now the dog has the problem, not the child. Now, the child is in the unique place of becoming the teacher, instead of being the student.

However, in a classroom, it is just the opposite, the child has a problem that all of his classmates are usually aware of and sometimes they make fun of him. The child shuts down to avoid criticism. Reading stops being fun and no learning takes place. The “Waggin’ Tales” dogs will never laugh at the child, which allows him or her to relax and makes learning easier.

Statistics have proven that many children’s reading abilities have gone up by as much as two grade levels due to the “Waggin’ Tales” program. Children involved in these programs have less absenteeism from school and show a willingness to get involved in other activities.

“Last year in a Martin County, school children involved in our program had reading grades improve by 31 percent,” added Blair. “The reading is done in a relaxed atmosphere. It’s motivational, educational and provides opportunities to build respect for library books, premises and other people.”

Additionally, Blair points out that the program encourages positive social behaviors, by providing opportunities to teach animal safety. Children who are afraid of animals have learned to trust these dogs and eventually they become more comfortable and lose their fears.

Overall the program brings additional attention to the St. Lucie County libraries.

Some parents who don’t have library cards obtain a card so they can read while their child is reading. This helps us reach out to parents as well as children,” said Blair.

New “Waggin’ Tales” reading sessions are beginning in February on various days and times at the Morningside, Fort Pierce and Lakewood Park Branch Libraries. The program is free and available to children in first grade and older. Spots go very quickly, so parents need to call early to sign up their children.

Additionally, the program continues to look for dog teams to help with tutoring. The animals involved in the program must go through therapy dog classes and be certified through a recognized therapy agency.

For more information or to register a child call Dot Blair, coordinator of the program, at 462-2199.

Author R.K. Ready presents a book talk and book signing at the Fort Pierce Library on February 2: R.K. Ready will present a book talk and signing for his novel,
“Condemned To Be Free,” at the Fort Pierce Library on Saturday, February 2 at 1:00 p.m.

Ready’s book is the fictionalized account of 20 years in the life of a French sailor and the women who charted his course. It is a provocative story that follows a rebel sailor’s quest that takes him from the open seas to the bistros and parks of Paris, all in the name of love and freedom.

International sailor and French merchant marine, Laurent Picard, an acquaintance of Ready for 16 years at the time that the story took hold, spent three weeks with the author in France with Ready tape-recording 26 hours of interviews with him. Picard’s “sense of adventure and passion for life,” fascinated Ready. Picard came from a long line of decorated French admirals and generals, whose lives dictated the path that he was born to take with excursions to Egypt, Greece, Oman, Calcutta and Kathmandu.

R.K. Ready is a member of a worldwide brotherhood of sailors and lives with his wife, Pat, in Sarasota, Florida. After an international career in management consulting, research and teaching, he now writes fiction full-time.

The book talk is free and registration is not required.

The Fort Pierce Library is located at 101 Melody Lane. For more information, please call Vicki at 462-2787.

Treasure Coast Hearing Loss Association of America to hold program at the Fort Pierce Library on February 5: The Treasure Coast Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) will present a program at the Fort Pierce Library on Tuesday, February 5 at 6:30 p.m.

Learn what is new regarding hearing loss, what is available and how you can help or be helped. Find out about communications systems, phones, training and group help for hearing loss.

HLAA is the nation’s foremost membership and advocacy organization for people with hearing loss with 250 chapters throughout the country. Advantages of membership in HLAA include education, information, support and advocacy.

There are more than 31 million Americans with a hearing loss. More than one-third of these cases were caused by noise. It is the No. 1 disability in the world. At least 12 million Americans have tinnitus. The number of ninth graders with a hearing loss has doubled in the last 10 years.

The program is free and registration is not required.

Program with Captain Chop Legé: The St. Lucie County Library System announces several programs with Captain and Audubon Warden Chop Legé as part of its Interactive Nature Series for the month of February with topics ranging from local wildlife to estuaries.

The series takes place each Thursday at 3:00 p.m. with a presentation at the Fort Pierce Branch Library followed by a "Walk & Talk" on Friday at 1:30 p.m. on a county mosquito impoundment on South Hutchinson Island. These programs are free and open to everyone.

• Thursday, February 7: Mammal Signs and Tracks — Capt. Legé will discuss mammal “signs” that are evidence that a particular animal is or has been in a certain area.
• Friday, February 8: "Walk and Talk Tour" with Capt. Legé at Vitolo Family Park on A1A, South Hutchinson Island.
• Thursday, February 14: Florida Natural Wildlife — The captain will talk about the birds, animals, trees, wildflowers and insects of Florida.

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- Friday, February 15: "Walk and Talk Tour" with Capt. Legé at Bear Point Sanctuary on A1A, South Hutchinson Island.
- Thursday, February 21: Florida Outdoors — Capt. Legé will present an overview of Florida’s natural history.
- Friday, February 22: "Walk and Talk Tour" with Capt. Legé at Vitolo Family Park on A1A, South Hutchinson Island.
- Thursday, February 28: Bayous and the Lagoon — Capt. Legé will explain how nature interacts with us in ways we cannot imagine.
- Friday, February 29: "Walk and Talk Tour" with Capt. Legé at Bear Point Park on A1A, South Hutchinson Island.

"Who is the Leader of Your Home?" by local dog expert: Jeff Douglas will be offering positive ways to maintain pack leadership with your dog at the Fort Pierce Library on Saturday, Feb. 2 at 10 a.m. Jeff, along with his wife, Becky, own and operate Follow the Leader Dog Training & Behavior, offering training and behavior consulting services throughout the Treasure Coast.

Douglas has been involved in training dogs all his life. For more than 15 years, his work has grown from a hobby to a way of life. In 1992, Douglas was the charter president of the South Florida Working Dog Association, a group that works with clients and members on behavior problems, including aggression. He is a full member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT). He is an evaluator for Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs, Inc. and is also a Canine Good Citizen evaluator for the American Kennel Club.

Douglas has been involved in the sport of Schutzhund and other competitive areas of dog training. His latest passion is tracking. As the tracking director with the Obedience Training Club of Palm Beach County, he works with a group of people on training their dogs to track on regular bases as he loves training the dog to use its nose. Several of his personal dogs have tracking titles.

Douglas will be at the Fort Pierce Library to answer questions and give ideas as to how a dog thinks. The program is free and registration is not required. For more information, call Jeff Douglas at 519-0908.

These programs are free and open to the public. Reservations may be required, as space is limited. The Fort Pierce Branch Library is located at 101 Melody Lane, Fort Pierce. For more information, call Vicki at 462-2787.

Fort Pierce Community Center
Tai Chi Classes: The St. Lucie County Department of Parks and Recreation is sponsoring classes in Tai Chi each Tuesday from 3 – 4 p.m. at the Fort Pierce Community Center. The cost is $8 per class, or $55 for eight classes.

Tai Chi is a series of gentle movements that can bring about stress reduction, improved balance and many other health benefits. Tai Chi is available to all levels of physical fitness.
Exercise Classes: To help residents with that New Year’s resolution to get in shape after the holidays, St. Lucie County’s Parks and Recreation Department is offering two exercise classes for people to meet their fitness goals. Both classes meet at the Fort Pierce Community Center.

“Slimnastics” is a low-impact, low-stress program that involves stretching, toning and movement to achieve overall fitness. The class meets each Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. The cost is $8 per month.

For those who enjoy a good workout to music, “Jazzercise” is a great way to get in shape and stay in shape. Taught by Sandi Hellstrom, “Jazzercise” provides a good aerobic exercise in a fun, friendly environment. The class meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. The cost is $10 per class, with multi class plans available.

Kozy Krafters: Have you ever thought about taking up a craft? In fact, arts and crafts are prescriptions for good health. The Kozy Krafters meet each Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Fort Pierce Community Center.

Bring your own craft supplies and projects. Create fun and useful crafts, learn valuable tips and get project ideas for cross-stitch and embroidery. Sponsored by the St. Lucie County Parks and Recreation Department, the cost to participate is $5 per month.

The Fort Pierce Community Center is located at 600 N. Indian River Drive. For more information, call the Center at 462-1792.

If you want to work out at home, St. Lucie County residents who subscribe to Comcast cable can enjoy back-to-back episodes of “Jazz Cardio Strength Stretch” (JCSS) Monday through Friday at 6:00 and 6:30 a.m. on SLCTV (Channel 21), St. Lucie County’s government access channel.

St. Lucie Parks and Recreation Department Space Class in February: St. Lucie County’s Parks and Recreation Department will be offering two sessions of the Space Discovery Class, starting in February.

The Space Discovery Class is for any child, ages 9 – 12, who is interested in space exploration. The six-week class teaches about the wonders of space and how space is explored through a number of hands-on activities, while preparing for a simulated shuttle mission. The class is scheduled to take a field trip to Kennedy Space Center.

Two sessions are available. The evening session starts on Tuesday, February 5, and meets from 7:00 –
8:30 p.m. A Wednesday morning session is offered starting Wednesday, February 6, and will meet from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Classes will meet at the Civil Air Patrol Headquarters, St. Lucie County International Airport, 2856 Curtis King Blvd, Fort Pierce.

Registration is underway now. The cost of the class is $90, which includes class materials and field trip. A three-ring binder is needed to hold class materials. Pre-registration and payment is required. For more information, please call 462-1792.

Fort Pierce Jazz Society

2008 Jazz Week Program: The 2008 Jazz Week officially begins Saturday, February 2nd with a lively and colorful Mardi Gras parade in downtown Fort Pierce and is followed by a jazz concert and brown bag lunch each day of the week beginning Monday, February 4th, directly in front of the Library.

A “kick off” for Jazz Week took place on Saturday, January 26th with a New Orleans tradition. The Fort Pierce Jazz Society presented a King Cake Party. In Louisiana, Mardi Gras season and King Cakes go hand in hand with literally hundreds of thousands of King Cakes consumed at parties and office lunchrooms every year. The King Cake tradition is believed to have begun with French settlers around 1870. Originally, the cakes were round and contained hidden coins, beans, pecans or peas to celebrate the coming of the Magi, 12 days after Christmas, bearing gifts for the Christ Child. Today, the cakes are baked in many shapes and usually have a tiny, plastic baby, symbolic of the baby Jesus, placed inside.

Several Fort Pierce Gras Krew members were dressed in full colorful regalia with beads, headdress and makeup, feather masks and other adornments. Traditional Mardi Gras music was be played and will continue to be played throughout Jazz Week at various locations.

For more information, call Vicki at 462-2787. The Fort Pierce Library is located at 101 Melody Lane.

Heathcote Botanical Gardens

Build a Birdhouse: Saturday, February 16. Registration deadline is Friday, February 8. Build a beauty of a birdhouse at Heathcote Botanical Gardens with Kasey Libuha and Ginny Piech Street on Saturday, February 16 from 9:00 a.m. – noon. Includes all materials to build and paint a take-home birdhouse. Register prior to February 9 by calling 464-4672. $30 for Heathcote members, $35 for non-members.

Heathcote Botanical Gardens Au Naturel: An evening of fine dining and fine art, Saturday, February 9 at PGA Education Center in St. Lucie West. Live auction, silent auction, raffle, fabulous art and fun, to benefit the Gardens! Call for more information, 464-4672.

Fort Pierce Yacht Club

St. Lucie County Offers Duplicate Bridge Play: Join the Fort Pierce Bridge Club on Tuesdays at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club and on Fridays at the Fort Pierce Community Center for an afternoon of sanctioned duplicate bridge from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The cost is $4 per person, and partners are required. For more information, please call Jo Kayes at 340-0700 or the Fort Pierce Community Center at 462-1782.
Volunteer Opportunities at the Sunrise Theatre

The Sunrise Theatre is looking for volunteer bartenders to work with us during the 2007-08 season. You must be at least 18 years of age to and be available to assist at least four times a month.

Bartenders set up and serve beverages to patrons prior to and during performances as well as during intermission. Beverages served are beer, wine, mixed drinks, soft drinks and water. No experience is necessary. On the job training and TIPS training is provided.

If you would like more information on becoming a volunteer bartender, please contact Laura O’Brien (772) 286-7827, or by e-mail at lyriclaura@yahoo.com.

Ushers are still needed for the 2007-08 season. For more information please contact Sue Dannahower (772) 618-0155, or by e-mail at Sue_Dannahower@Bellsouth.net.

As a volunteer, you will be personally contributing to Sunrise Theatre’s reputation for professionalism and quality. Volunteering is a fun and easy way to get more involved with arts and culture in the Treasure Coast area and to see theatre shows for free!

Sunrise Theatre Performances

February 2008

Journey Unauthorized, Friday, February 1
New Shanghai Circus, Saturday, February 2
Dave Brubeck, Sunday, February 3
The Pink Floyd Experience, Friday, February 8
The Pink Floyd Experience, Saturday, February 9
Jay & The Americans and The Buckinghams, Thursday, February 14
The Producers, Friday, February 15
James & the Giant Peach, Saturday, February 16
Peru Negro, Wednesday, February 20
Gordon Lightfoot, Tuesday, February 26

March 2008

The Magic of Ireland, Sunday, March 2
The Smothers Brothers, Wednesday, March 5
The Best of MOMIX, Sunday, March 9
African Footprint, Wednesday, March 12
Natalie MacMaster, Friday, March 14
Cirque Odyssey, Sunday, March 16
The Four Tops, Wednesday, March 19
John Pizzarelli Quartet, Wednesday, March 26

April 2008

Ballet Hispanico, Wednesday, April 2
One Night of Queen, Sunday, April 20

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“Three Friends” Gather at the Lafferandre Gallery

“Three Friends” is the new exhibit at the Lafferandre Gallery. The artwork in the exhibit is done by three friends who live on Hutchinson Island. Joan Delozier’s Watercolors, Betsy Moser’s Oil Paintings and Mary Williams’ Sculpture are as different as the friends and yet, like friends, comes together to form a beautiful statement.

Betsy’s semi-impressionistic landscapes are painted primarily on location here in Florida and up in New England. Joan’s watercolors cover a broad range from portraits of children and animals to outdoor landscapes painted on location with Betsy. Mary’s sculptures are studies of the human form in various poses.

This exhibit opens on Wednesday, January 9, with a reception open to the public from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and runs through January. This opening also marks the anniversary and the start of the eighth year for the

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Lafferandre Gallery.
Leslie and Laff Lafferandre chose these three local women for their anniversary exhibit because they represent the Lafferandre’s focus of showing art by Florida artists at the gallery. Located at 205 North Second Street in historic downtown Fort Pierce, the Lafferandre Gallery is open from 10 – 5 Monday through Friday and 10 to 3 on Saturday. For more information call 772 489-4255. Photos were taken by Leslie Lafferandre.

An oil by Betsy Moser.

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Breakfast with the Diva

When my kids were growing up I made these wonderful pancakes and muffins for Sunday breakfast. They are quick, easy, and delicious.

**German Pancakes**

My son, Danny, made these in his 7th grade Home Economics class. They quickly became a family favorite.

- 3 Tablespoons butter
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 teaspoons salt

Preheat oven to 450°. Put butter in 8-inch pie plate. Place in oven to melt. Don’t let the butter burn.

In a large bowl beat eggs until fluffy. Add milk, flour, and salt and beat until smooth. Pour immediately into hot pie plate.

Bake for 18 minutes. Don’t open the oven while they are cooking.

Top with butter & powdered sugar, syrup or a fruit compote. Serves: 2

**Hungarian Blueberry Muffins**

A friend brought these on a family camping trip. They are truly the best muffins I have ever tasted.

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup butter-flavored Crisco
- 1 Tablespoon vanilla
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 3 eggs
- 2 cups flour
- 2-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- Dash of Salt
- Milk

Topping:
- 1 4-ounce package chopped pecans
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 package frozen blueberries, drained & thawed

Preheat oven to 350°. Cream together with an electric mixer the sugar, butter, Crisco, vanilla, and almond extract. Add one egg at a time to the mixture and beat well. Add flour, baking powder, and salt and mix well. Add enough milk to make the batter the consistency of a thick cake batter.

In a small bowl, mix together brown sugar, cinnamon and nuts.

Fill paper cupcake liners half full. Sprinkle each muffin with brown sugar mixture, Top with blueberries.

Bake at 350° for 35 minutes. Makes: 24 muffins.

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QUESTION: What is considered Vintage Jewelry?

ANSWER: The general rule is that a piece of jewelry must be at least 50 years old to qualify as authentic vintage (newer pieces of a certain period get by with the qualifier “Retro”). Whether one fancies Granny Brooches, Art-Deco Arm Candy or Edwardian Diamonds, pieces rooted in the past offer a window to a world where individuality and craftsmanship took precedence over trends — a romantic notion that strikes a refreshing chord in today’s mass-market world.

QUESTION: What is Vintage Jewelry made of?

ANSWER: An item doesn’t have to be of great monetary value to be precious and vintage jewels speak of past revelries, emanating the mellow glow unique to precious metals. The best of the authentic, older pieces are one-of-a-kind and carry secrets of a unique past. Many pieces are made of 14K gold, 18K gold, and platinum, especially in today’s market.

At Sweet’s Jewelers one of our most popular vintage pieces is the antique-reproduction slide bracelet. You can start with one slide or as many as you like!

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Fishing Update

by Dan Dannahower

The sailfish have arrived on the Treasure Coast. Good news for the “just wrapped up” annual Fort Pierce Billfish Derby. The popular tournament was held January 4th through the 7th and resulted in the catch and release of 120 sailfish in the Atlantic waters off our coast. Captain Glen Cameron and his team on “Floridian” came out on top in the three day main event with 23 releases. The one day “Pink Ladies” tournament was fished on the fourth day. Captain Patrick Price and his team on “Hotty Toddy” took the honors with seven releases. The ladies tournament is sponsored by the Pink Tie Friends, Inc., a local organization formed to benefit victims of breast cancer. This very popular tournament is closely watched all along the Treasure Coast and helps determine an annual “Billfish Champion.” Along with bragging rights come some pretty nice cash prizes that can exceed $40,000! For more information, photos and statistics go to www.fortpiercebillfish.com.

As predicted the cold fronts are rolling down from up north. We’ve just experienced one that came with near record-breaking lows — 34 degrees on my weather station one morning! With the changing weather we get this time of year come changing sea conditions and ups and downs in the bite of various local species. A quick visit to our local bait and tackle shops can get you a plethora of information on who’s catching what, where, and keep you from wasting time chasing fish that haven’t been biting for a week! Ocean conditions are in a constantly changing state this time of year. Be sure you know the weather and sea-state and don’t exceed your boat’s or your own personal capabilities.
Main Street Fort Pierce and Main Street Focus wish to extend our Heartfelt Sympathies to Java Charlie’s family and friends for the loss of Charles Brinkman. We will miss him dearly!

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