Downtown Fort Pierce is for "Lovers"

See story on page 7 ...
Fall in Love with Downtown Fort Pierce

by Britt Reynolds

Read our feature story by Maria Starratt and you‘ll understand why Downtown Fort Pierce is for Lovers. But don’t let the idea of romantic love limit you. It’s time to fall in love with your own downtown. Downtown Fort Pierce is for all kinds of lovers. Lovers of education and the arts can enjoy art galleries, theatre, museums and more. Don’t forget cuisine lovers. With more than a dozen choices there is a restaurant for everyone. And for those traditional romantics, downtown offers beautiful gift stores, jewelry shops and a first-rate flower shop.

These are just some of the many reasons that I love Downtown Fort Pierce. February is the month to get out, fall in love with everything our wonderful downtown has to offer, and get involved!
Downtown Fort Pierce Library
For information, please call 462-2787 or visit www.st-lucie.fl.us.

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

Sunrise Theatre's Black Box Performances
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.manateeec.org.

St. Lucie County Regional History Center
For information, please call 462-1891 or visit www.stluciecounty.org.

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2:
Coffee With the Merchants — Presented by St. Lucie Chamber, DBA and Main Street Fort Pierce, 122 NE Backus House, Fort Pierce, FL 8:30 to 9:30 am; Guest Speaker Gerry Hoeffner.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5:
Friday First — 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

February 6-12: New Steel Art Show — 9 to 5 p.m.; Reception: Thursday, February 11, 5 to 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10:
Artwalk — 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Downtown Business Assoc., 466-7080, www.torpierce-fl.com.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19:
Coffee With the Mayor — Historic City Hall, 8:00 a.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

Sunday, February 21:
Music on the Plaza — 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Blue Bird Productions, 464-7080, www.bluebirdshows.com.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26:
Classic Car Cruise In — 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Downtown Business Association, 465-7080, www.torpierce-fl.com.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Fox Trot Dancing Lessons — Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Cobbl's Landing, Restaurant, upstairs; $25.

Art Mundo Open Studio — Wednesdays, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.; The ArtBank at 111 Orange Avenue, www.ginnypiechstreet.com.

St. Pierce Farmer's Market — Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to Noon; Marina Square on Melody Lane; 940-1145.

Arts and Crafts Show & Sale — Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; ½-mile north of downtown Fort Pierce Library, Jazz & Blues Society, 460-5299, www.jazzsociety.org.

Fort Pierce Bike Night — Thursdays, 6 to 9:30 p.m.; 2nd Street, Downtown Fort Pierce; Yellow Tail Grille & Raw Bar, 468-7071.

Weekly Events


Volunteers needed for Ft. Pierce Police Athletic League. Persons interested in teaching the fundamentals of sports, mentoring and tutoring should contact Paul Pearson or Gabe Gonzales 460-0630. The PAL Center is located at 1401 N. 2nd Street, Fort Pierce.

For more information, please call 460-5299 or visit www.fortpiercepal.com.

For more information, please call 589-0026.
**February 2010 MAIN STREET FOCUS**

**2010 Sandy Shoes Festival Presented by Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc.**

*by Pam Gillette*

Save the Date for the Sandy Shoes Festival, Saturday, March 27, 2010. A festival rich in history and traditions, the Sandy Shoes Festival is a great way to be part of our community and celebrate the ideas and values of Fort Pierce. The festival began in 1957, was discontinued and then was re-created in 2002, after the very successful Centennial Celebration. The Sandy Shoes Festival now continues to bring those traditions and values of yesteryears back to Fort Pierce while adding a little new along the way.

**Main Street Fort Pierce** is excited to announce the addition of 2 new features to this year’s festival: The Sandy Shoes Tuts 2K Race and an Antique Festival presented by Asset Auction Services (for more information go to Auctionzip.com enter ID# 15249 and search March 27). We will also bring back the local favorite, the Antique Festival, Saturday, March 27, 2010 at Veteran’s Memorial Park, 600 North Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce, from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Look for more details and event schedule in the March Main Street Focus.

Sponsors at the time of print are: All in Fun, Budweiser, Clear Channel Communications, Park’s Rental, Reliable Poly-Johns, Riverside National Bank, SeaCoast National Bank, St. Lucie News Tribune, Auto Data Direct, Inc. and the Long Branch Saloon. For more information, sponsorship or volunteer opportunities on the Sandy Shoes Festival call the Main Street Fort Pierce office at 466-3880 or e-mail at mainstreet@150.net.com.

**Zac Harmon, a Fort Pierce favorite, is returning to his roots after several decades expressing an unabashed love for music.**

Born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi, Harmon is a disciple of the Farish Street blues sound. During the 50’s and 60’s Harmon hung out at his father’s pharmacy on Farish, soaking up the aura and sounds of the musician customers while developing his skills as a guitarist, organist and vocalist. Like many he honed those skills while at church. March 26, 2010 John Lee Hooker Jr.

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**Downtown Fort Pierce is for “Lovers”**

*by Maria Starratt*

Whether it’s a first date, a friendly get-together, an exciting night out, an evening filled with romance, candlelight proposals, anniversaries or wedding bells — it can all be accommodated in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce.

As seen on the cover, two young lovebirds are enjoying a beautiful Saturday afternoon, sharing a coke in front of the PP Cobb Building before they make their way down to the City Marina and Marina Square. A walk along the Indian River is the perfect place to hold hands, and then a quick stop into Uncle Carlo’s Gelato for an Italian homemade ice cream or Java Charlie’s for a warm cup of coffee.

“This is one of our favorite areas to hang out,” says Tyler. “We just enjoy the laid back atmosphere and all the friendly faces.” Kayla, Tyler’s wife-to-be, interjects, “We also love it because no matter what kind of mood we’re in for lunch or even an early dinner … it’s all within walking distance — as well as shopping!” she whispers to me with a wink.

Kayla definitely hit the nail on the head with that statement.

Historic Downtown Fort Pierce has a vast array of restaurants to please just about any palate and enough quaint shops to keep our beloved snowbirds and the locals intrigued.

From Cobb’s Landing, with its’ daily happy hour, the two new Oriental favorites Bangkok and the Asian Bistro, to the pizza and pasta lovers of Lorenzo’s, there’s something for everyone. Furthermore, if a more demure atmosphere is in the plan, perhaps with a proposal or special occasion in mind, Café la Ronde is a favorite as is Yianni’s Greek Restaurant.

Now if all that sounds like a bit too much let me introduce you to another face of Historic Downtown Fort Pierce: the fun, zany side of things. After all, romance isn’t always serious it can also be a lot of heart-lightened fun. Dale’s BBQ opened on 2nd Street and Brewer’s Café is great for a quick lunch. If a friend’s get together is in the making try Jo-Jo’s for their .25 cent beer at happy hour. Yellow Tail is an easy gathering spot with its’ outdoor seating and the Tiki Bar & Restaurant has a great, lively atmosphere that of the Indian River you can admire while enjoying daily drinks specials and weekend live music.

But if your idea of romance includes a gift or two then the Brenda’s, Sweeet & Trew & Son’s for the jewelry lovers. Or a great gift and keepake of the day could be a sweet smelling candle from Florence’s, a cigar from the Tobacco Emporium or gifts of clothing and accessories from Aliaria’s, Roselon’s or the Manatee Zone. Who doesn’t love a plain t-shirt that turns bright colors in the sun or mix & match bathing suits? Perhaps you need a Guy Harvey shirt for that man in your life? Barbara Wilkins, the owner of the Manatee Zone even carries FLORIDA shirts that are so compact that they can be postmarked and mailed just as they are! Across the street from Manatee Zone is a pet lover’s haven … The Barkery. If your pet is the love of your life, drop in for a great doggy or kitty gift. Everything from organic dog & cat food to iced cookies or fanciful treats and to top it off, Kim’s prices are extremely competitive!

For entertainment, don’t forget to catch a show at the Sunset Theater. The theatre has shows for everyone and is the perfect night out for that special someone. Or if you want to plan a trip, call All about Travel for your special getaway.

No matter what else you do especially with Valentine’s Day just around the corner, don’t forget the flowers! For these, Chaney’s will take great care of. Whether it’s a bouquet sent to work or a bunch picked up on the way out, Chaney’s has it.

There’s yet another aspect of lovers and also another aspect of Valentine’s Day: the single person’s celebration! After all, gifts, flowers and great food isn’t reserved just for couples. Each of us should treat ourselves. Whether it’s a fist date, a friendly get-together, an exciting night out, or a bunch picked up on the way out, Chaney’s has it.

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There’s yet another aspect of lovers and also another aspect of Valentine’s Day: the single person’s celebration! After all, gifts, flowers and great food isn’t reserved just for couples. Each of us is entitled to a little pampering and Historic Downtown Fort Pierce is just the place. Choose from any of the several pampering places: Bangz, Creative Hair & Color, Dermatche, Studio 207 or Vision’s. They are all great places that will leave you feeling beautiful and cared for!

Yes, Historic Downtown Fort Pierce is for lovers in every aspect, from fun, flirty first dates to proposals and wedding bells!
Sunrise Theatre Foundation Enlightens the Lives of Treasure Coast School Children

Sunrise Theatre opened its doors on August 1, 1923 as the largest theatre on Florida’s East Coast. Soon after its establishment, it quickly became the center of all St. Lucie County’s cultural activities. The theatre closed its doors on September 8, 1983, primarily due to the decline of the downtown business area and the refusal by then management to convert the theatre into a multi-screen operation. In 1988, Main Street Fort Pierce was formed to establish and restore the downtown historic area. Part of the restoration effort was to re-establish the Sunrise Theatre as a center of world class performing arts. In 1997, the Sunrise Theatre was purchased by the St. Lucie Preservation Association, Inc.

Today the theatre is completely renovated and is being used once again as the cultural center of St. Lucie County and the Treasure Coast. Sunrise Theatre Foundation's mission is to enrich the lives of children through the performing arts. The Foundation is committed to being the preeminent force behind providing the necessary resources that showcase the importance of the performing arts to students of the Treasure Coast counties.

In addition, the Sunrise Theatre Foundation’s mission is to help promote a community:
- Where young students can experience the power of live entertainment.
- Where art and ideas can be brought directly into the classroom to educate and inspire children about the performing arts.
- Where artists and teachers can help shape an appreciation for the arts inside and outside of the classroom.
- Where children of all cultures, races and ethnic backgrounds can interact in meaningful ways through the performing arts.
- Where individuals, organizations and foundations can support their belief in the value, significance and vital worth of the performing arts in our local community by encouraging and providing arts-related education for all area students.

The Sunrise Theatre Foundation believes that performing arts is a crucial form of communication that inspires a meaningful connection between artists and audience. This connection helps deepen the understanding of cultural and societal differences for those students who are able to experience the arts on a first-hand basis. By offering students the opportunity to participate in the arts from a young age, they will pass this knowledge and appreciation on to the next generation, paving the way for future artists and audiences.

As one of the premier cultural institutions on the Treasure Coast, the Sunrise Foundation believes that it is their responsibility to play a leadership role in making these values a reality. Through the help of the individuals and businesses that support the Sunrise Theatre Foundation, they are able to offer a variety of programs that enrich the lives of our young people.

Currently, the Sunrise Foundation is featuring a Children and Families Series offering free shows to schools and home-schooled children. All of the performances and transportation are available at no cost on a first-come, first-serve basis; however, reservations must be made in advance.

In addition to school time performances, the Sunrise Theatre encourages schools to do tours of the Sunrise Theatre so that...

Continued on page 10…
the students (and adults) can really see the inner-workings of the theatre. On December 16th, first and second graders came from St. Andrews School and got the complete tour, with lunch and all, at the Sunrise. They brought their lunch bags, their imaginations and their questions (which were hysterical). And John Wilkes, the Executive Director, Marty Wilkes, the Technical Director, and Renee Page, Marketing and Development Director, made sure that they’re experience was memorable!

The kids, their teachers and chaperones, got to go back stage, learned about lighting and sound, and even went under the stage and sat in the Orchestra Pit!

In addition to the students (and adults) who got the full tour, should contact Sharon Engle at 772-461-4775, ext 306, or email her at sengle@sunrisetheatre.com

February 2010

Hometown Heroes: Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis

by Debra Magrann

Since 1915, Kiwanis International has been making a difference in the lives of children around the world. Locally, Sunrise Kiwanians have helped in countless ways to better the lives of students in Fort Pierce. Like any socially responsive organization, Kiwanis is built on the service and dedication of an all-volunteer membership that spans a spectrum of vocations. The Fort Pierce Sunrise Club is an exceptional segment of its global parent.

For years the club has built a reputation of leadership in the community. Many non-profit groups that focus on the needs of children benefit from the club’s generosity through annual project funding. Beyond the scope of the local area, each Kiwanis Club commits funds to the Kiwanis International Foundation and statewide to the respective Kiwanis Foundation.

Big Brothers Big Sisters, Florida Sheriff’s Youth Ranch, Avenue D Boys Choir and Kids for Hope were supported by Sunrise Kiwanis in 2009. Emphasizing the importance of sportsmanship and lessons of teamwork and cooperation, the club also sponsors Fort Pierce Little League and their own “Hook A Kid on Golf” program. Education is a primary component of the Kiwanis fundamentals of building future leaders and to that end Sunrise Kiwanis gifted $1,000 each to the St. Lucie County Education Foundation, the IRC Foundation and combined four schools that implement the Dr. Seuss Reading Program.

The St. Lucie County Fair receives a boost from the club through its Education Exhibit. “We are on our 5th year of providing an educational voting experience in cooperation with the St. Lucie County Supervisor of Elections, Gerritde Walker,” stated member Tom Knott.

Because the People’s Choice vote grew to be more than the club could physically handle in a timely manner, a unique process, watching as their children cast their votes during their visit to the fair.

Beef Builders 4-H Club also received assistance in 2009. Additionally at the fair, as a result of the club’s commitment to education, participating local schools receive cash awards totaling $3,500.

Among other grateful recipients are the Van Dazer Foundation and Mustard Seed Ministries, known for being angels of blessing to families living in St. Lucie county who find themselves in desperate need. Annually, the WPVL Christmas Kids Program and five area school bands that perform in the Sights and Sounds on Second Christmas Parade also receive contributions.

Which brings us to this month’s nomination for Hometown Heroes. Stepping up to organize the biggest and best-loved outdoor event of the year was an honor for the Kiwanians. They invest their collective hearts and souls in making Christmas merry and bright for everyone who attends the parade.

Our fond appreciation is extended to the Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis and all of the volunteers who help coordinate the Sights and Sounds on Second Parade, showing community spirit, cooperation and teamwork. Your efforts are invaluable!

About Kiwanis International: Founded in 1915, Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time. Kiwanis International and its service leadership programs for young people, including Circle K, Key Club, Key Leader, Builders Club, K-Kids, Kiwanis Jr. and Aktion Club dedicate more than 19 million volunteer hours and invest US $100 million to strengthen communities and serve children annually. The Kiwanis International family comprises 600,000 adult and youth members in 70 countries and geographic areas. For more information about Kiwanis International, please visit www.kiwanis.org.
Cracker Trail Riders Parade & Pioneer Fest in Downtown Ft. Pierce

Saturday, February 27, 2010
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Whips will be cracking and horses will be prancing as the Florida Cracker Trail Riders, nearly 170 strong not including horses, mules and wagons, will parade on horseback through downtown Ft. Pierce on Saturday, February 27th at approximately 10:00 a.m. The parade celebrates the end of the annual 120-mile trail ride commemorating Florida's settlers and their rugged cattle raising heritage. The parade begins on North 2nd Street and A.E. Backus Avenue and travels south to Orange Avenue, commencing at Cobb’s Landing at the traffic roundabout on North Indian River Drive. For more information, please call 772-971-0559.

Pioneer Fest, a celebration of local post Civil War heritage, will begin at 11:00 a.m. on the south east end of Veterans Memorial Park. Pioneer Fest is hosted by the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery, 500 N. Indian River Drive. Cracker Trail Riders and their horses will join in the festivities. Festival attendees can enjoy live music by the Heritage Blue Grass Band, tour an authentic Seminole encampment, listen to story tellers and local historians recount the trials and triumphs of life in early 20th Century Florida. There will be blacksmith demonstrations and horse shoeing, face painting, pony rides. Enjoy fabulous BBQ and authentic swamp cabbage. It promises to be a fun filled afternoon for history buffs and horse lovers alike. Admission to Pioneer Fest is free.

Following the Civil War, a rugged brand of individuals settled along Florida’s east coast and central flatlands. They scratched out a living raising cattle, pigs, vegetables and fishing. The early settlers became known as Florida Crackers. Florida’s cattle raising heritage and the Cracker Trail itself is immortalized in Patrick Smith’s must read novel, A Land Remembered. Opportunities for children to get their picture taken aboard a horse or mule will be available. Of course, carrots and apple slices are always appreciated.

Florida passageway. To the north of Ft. Pierce the Kissimmee River and its floodplains blocked the way and to the south lay the big lake and further south the Everglades made passage impossible. Ft. Pierce’s historic P.P. Cobb Store figure prominently in the cattle drive. Each day, as the cattle massed west of town, Cobb’s store ran 10 wagons, day and night, taking supplies out to the cattlemen and their herds as they prepared for the month long journey. As they crossed the state they were faced with untold hardship; thieves, snakes, swarms of mosquitoes, swamps and disease were just some of the challenges faced by the cowmen.

Once the cowmen survived the long and difficult journey to Punta Rosa, the cattle were sold to the Cubans who loaded them on ships and sailed south. The Cracker Cowmen, their pockets bulging with gold doubloons, took their bounty back to Ft. Pierce and the P.P. Cobb Store where they purchased supplies and provisions for the coming year before returning to their isolated homesteads and their eagerly waiting families.

Many people mistakenly view the term Cracker as pejorative. The cowmen before them and those who participate in the annual commemorative Cracker Trail Ride rekindle the moniker cracker as a symbol of individualism, integrity, and a heritage nearly forgotten in the rush to develop Florida’s pristine land.

Many visitors and residents have no idea that Florida is one of the Nation’s top cattle producing states. In fact, Florida boasts the oldest breed of cattle in North America. The cows, known as Cracker Cows, descend from the cattle brought to the New World by Spanish explorers in the 1500s. Left behind by the Spaniards to turn wild, these scrappy cows were domesticated by the Seminoles in the 1800s and in turn by the white settlers who later came to be known as Florida Crackers. Florida’s cattle raising heritage and the Cracker Trail itself is immortalized in Patrick Smith’s must read novel, A Land Remembered.

Following the Cracker Trail Parade, the public is invited to join the riders at Pioneer Fest to learn more about Florida history and this historic event by meeting the trail riders and learning about local history and the Florida Cracker Trail Association.
“I call myself a 30-year overnight success,” he quipped. “I always got dumped on, but I fought the right fight.”

Not one for basking in the limelight like many of the “super” lawyers, Jefferson possesses a confidence that hard work will have a reward, if you stay ahead of the opponent. His years of high school wrestling laid the groundwork for learning strategic maneuvers, earning him a top ranking in the state of Michigan.

“I’ve had a charmed life,” he commented as he explained the rigors of the courtroom where one must have the creative energy to think outside the box. He shuns self-promotion and frowns on the capricious segment of the profession. He is not opposed to harsh rulings by judges and admits we are fortunate in this area to have very good judges who follow the law.

His community involvement in preeminent organizations such as CASTLE and Hibiscus House speaks to the heart of a concern for children’s issues and quality care and treatment. He also is a sponsor of Bluebird Production’s Music on the Plaza, a free concert series coming to the waterfront this year in historic downtown Fort Pierce.

When asked where he’ll be in the next 10 years, Jefferson’s reply is instantaneous: “Right here.” Until then, he will be busy raising twins that he and his wife are expecting to arrive come August.
Plants for Renovation of Hill House are Picture Perfect
by Beth Williams

Phil Steel recalls the day he and wife Joan saw potential in the Hill House property located on North Second Street across from Main Street, home of the historic Platts/Backus House. “It was a sunny December day in 2008,” says Steel. “I was holding a one-man art show at the Backus House and we looked out the window at the buildings and I said, ‘I'd like to do something with them’.”

As an architect and artist, Steel saw the three dilapidated buildings as an interesting composition and could visualize a brick walkway between the two main buildings restored to their original character and a sculpture garden to the rear of the buildings. After visiting with city officials and learning of the rich history and significance of the property, he and partner Charlie Hayek began the process of purchasing it from the Canadian owner. Steel and Hayek were able to finalize the deal last summer and begin planning the reconstruction of the historical property.

The history of Hill House is well documented in the Fall 2009 edition of Indian River Magazine. The Historic Preservation Board has deemed it a property of historical significance to the Edgartown District, and the plans developed by Steel and Hayek promise to stay true to its unique turn of the century style while celebrating the cultural significance of this familiar landmark.

As the process of peeling away years of walls and reconstruction began, more history came spilling out of the house. Hidden behind planks were a pair of Hill’s glasses, bottles of all sorts including a Coca-Cola bottle dated 1910 with “bottled in Fort Pierce” stamped on it, a partial bottle of gin, and dozens of Hill’s glass plates used in his photography business featuring the images of past Fort Pierce residents. “It was strange and very interesting,” says Steel of the historical find.

Historian Steven Leader recently wrote about the city hall during the 1850’s in the Backus House. As a part of the process, the Historical Society of Indian River County will create a display of Hill’s work and place it in the Public Works Building. The City of Fort Pierce has offered to help create a display of Hill’s work in the Backus House for the Historic Preservation Board to consider.

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By the end of this summer, Steel and Hayek have hopes the project will be completed and they will be able to move their offices into the newly renovated buildings. The one-story building on the south of the property will house Hayek’s construction company, and Steel plans offices for his architectural firm on the second floor of the northern building. The first floor will become an art gallery featuring Steel’s own work with guest artists. Steel would like to see the tiny stucco building on the west side of the property become a museum honoring Harry Hill and his work. He also plans to work with the city to apply to the National Historic Registry for recognition of the historical site.

Phil Steel and Charlie Hayek have earned our thanks for rescuing a significant part of our downtown heritage and contributing to the continued renovation and restoration of historic Fort Pierce.

“Leap of Faith” for Public Art
by Jon Ward, written for the “Leap of Faith” Dedication Event

In November, 1999, the City of Fort Pierce passed an Ordinance in support of developing a civic collection of public art to enhance the community. At the time, I served as the volunteer chairman of the County’s Cultural Affairs Council. Our first piece of sculpture selected under the new program was the twin pair of tail-dancing bronze sailfish still on display at the southern end of the River Walk in Memorial Park, just east of the Manatee Center. In a move that was to foreshadow still more partnerships between St. Lucie County and the City of Fort Pierce in the future, the County furnished the sculpture and the City’s Public Works Department constructed the beautiful coral-stone base.

The Cultural Affairs Council knew how controversial public art could be, so we made sure that the first piece in the collection would be easily recognized. We didn’t want anyone walking away from that dedication wondering what the thing was or what it meant. It was a couple of fish, pure and simple.

In ten years, I have never received a phone call from a member of the public, asking, “What does that bronze thing mean?”

Ten years later, I am now coming to the close of my two-year term as a member of the Florida Council for Arts and Culture, a 15-member group that advises the Secretary of State and the Governor on grant funding and issues concerning the arts. There hasn’t been much money for the arts at the State level lately, so there hasn’t been too much advising, either.

It’s appropriate that, at the end of a decade of growing a program, that we have dedicated the most significant piece of public art in our collection. It is also interesting that this 10th anniversary is occurring in the depths of the most significant financially challenging period that this country has faced since the Great Depression, because the only time that America has ever shown significant support for arts and cultural issues was during the Great Depression. It is also interesting that we have a major example of that WPA-era artwork on display in the lobby of our own City Hall, the painting of “Osceola and His Chiefs” by Lucille Blanche, done in 1935 for the Orange Avenue Post Office.

Aside from “Leap of Faith’s” value as an art piece, it is also important that we reflect not just on the sculpture, but take time to value the sculptor. When listening to music, don’t think merely of the music, think of the musician. This piece of sculpture is, in every sense, our very own Fort Pierce artist, produced by a team of Fort Pierce artisans and cast in a Fort Pierce art foundry from bronze and stainless steel purchased from a Fort Pierce supplier, placed on its pedestal by a Fort Pierce Continued on page 18 …
crane operator, driving a crane owned by a Fort Pierce company. (The figure is also a Fort Pierce lawyer, but I don’t know how much value that brings to the piece.) This sculpture helped members of the Fort Pierce creative class pay their mortgages, put gas in their cars and spend money in our community. And, in many ways, aside from the public benefit of creating a significant public collection that raises the level of sophistication for this community, isn’t that what our program should be doing? Not only benefitting the image of the community, but also benefitting the community’s residents directly, in the pocketbook.

So, anytime some naysayer looks at this piece and says, “Well, you could have spent the money on giving citizens jobs instead of throwing money away on art,” every one of you can respond, “Sir, that’s precisely what we did. We gave good jobs to several local residents and spent money with local stores and suppliers as an element of creating this piece of work.” Even the local pizzeria delivered lunch to the job site while these folks were assembling this piece, over a period of several days, so all of the public money was directly reinvested right back into Fort Pierce.

That was the message of the WPA’s Art Programs and The Treasury Department’s Section on Fine Arts during the Depression. That’s what brought Zora Neale Hurston back to the South from New York — the WPA’s Florida’s Writer’s Project. Putting our brightest and most talented citizens to work, doing precisely what they should be doing, creating the images of America is a good thing and exactly what we did, in creating “Leap of Faith.”

One hundred years from now, eyes much brighter than mine will still be gazing on the figure representing Fort Pierce, poised to leap hopefully into a bright and rosy future and they will be reflecting on “What positive and hopeful people created this forward looking piece of art so long ago.”

As a side note, Anne Satterlee and I stopped by the Shadetree Studios foundry on Old Dixie Highway for the final pour of the diver figure. It was in the high 90s, a typical blazing August day in Florida. And there, in three or four layers of heavily padded clothing, heavy steel-toed work boots and welding helmets stood a sweaty small group of artisans, huddled around a crucible of orange molten bronze, glowing at over 2,000 degrees. I thought to myself, “Anybody that thinks that being a sculptor is living a relaxing ‘arty’ lifestyle needs to spend some time with our Guest of Honor at the dedication, and the creator of ‘Leap of Faith,’ artist Pat Cochran, and his crew.”

Philip S. Steel — One Man Show

On February 8, 2010, Main Street Fort Pierce will open the doors of the Platts/Backus House for a “One Man Show” featuring marine artist Philip S. Steel. Philip S. Steel is an award-winning artist, architect and watercolor teacher who makes his home in Maine and resides in Fort Pierce during the winter months. He brings his love of the sea and the people affected by the sea to canvas, while using his unique ability to capture the power and energy of the sea and showcasing the ever changing light of the water.

Phil’s passion of the sea and sailing will be on display with an assortment of original watercolor paintings and limited edition signed giclee prints in February at the Platts/Backus House. Phil has also illustrated the book Net Loss with author Evelyn Wilde Mayerson. This book documents the fascinating history of Florida’s commercial coastal fishermen and has been featured in the October 2006 issue of Southern Living. Pick up a copy Net Loss along with an original watercolor or giclee print during the “One Man Show.”

The Platts/Backus House will be open to view or purchase items from Philip Steel February 8 through February 12, 2010, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (closed for lunch from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.). The public is invited to a free open house reception that will be held on Thursday, February 11, 2010 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. For more information on Philip S. Steel — One Man Show call Main Street Fort Pierce at 772-466-3880 or for more information on Philip S. Steel go to his website at www.philissteel.com
I love Italian Food. Here are a few of my favorite recipes.

**Fettuccine Alfredo**

I’ve made this recipe for several wedding receptions. It’s very easy and always a hit.

- 2 cups whipping cream
- ½ cup butter
- ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- ¼ cup grated mozzarella cheese
- ½ cup grated Romano cheese
- ¼ cup thinly sliced Gorgonzola cheese
- 1 pound fettuccini, cooked

In a medium saucepan combine whipping cream, butter and all four cheeses. Cook over medium heat stirring until heated through and cheese is melted. About 5 minutes. Serve immediately. Sauce will thicken upon standing.

Serves 8 – 10.

**Penne with Shrimp, Scallops, Asparagus, & Sun-Dried Tomatoes**

- ½ cup drained oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes, sliced
- 2 tablespoons oil reserved
- ½ cup chopped fresh basil
- 2 large garlic cloves, chopped
- ½ teaspoon dried oregano
- ¾ teaspoon dried crushed red pepper
- 1¾ cups canned low-salt chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 12 ounces penne pasta
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Heat oil reserved from tomatoes in heavy large skillet over medium-high heat. Add asparagus and sauté until crisp-tender, about 5 minutes. Using slotted spoon, transfer asparagus to bowl. Add sun-dried tomatoes, shrimp, ¼ cup basil, garlic, oregano, and crushed red pepper to same skillet and sauté until shrimp are just opaque in center, about 3 minutes. Transfer shrimp mixture to bowl with asparagus. Add broth, wine, and tomato paste to same skillet. Boil until sauce thickens slightly, stirring occasionally, about 6 minutes. Stir in feta cheese until incorporated.

Cook pasta in large pot of boiling salted water until tender but still firm to bite. Drain; return pasta to same pot. Add shrimp mixture, sauce, remaining ¼ cup basil, and Parmesan cheese to pasta. Toss over medium heat until warmed through and sauce coats pasta. Season with salt and pepper and serve.

Makes 4 servings.
If, like the author of this article, you’ve never treated yourself to a visit to Uncle Carlo’s located at 141 Melody Lane in downtown Fort Pierce, you are in for a splendid experience when you walk into the cozy café situated at the south end of Marina Square in the Renaissance Building.

With the assignment of writing this month’s “Ask the Professional,” I bundled up on a very cold January afternoon and arrived with pen and paper in hand to ask Carlo and Stacey Sacco, owners of the unique shop, to share some advice on serving up sweets for lovebirds on February 14th. With customers being served I sauntered over to the counter to get a look at their fare before asking questions.

My first observation: I didn’t bring enough paper. Let’s start with the gourmet chocolates. If truffles are your weakness, you can choose from chocolate, raspberry, amaretto, rum, peanut butter, cappuccino, tiramisu or caramel. Then there’s a scrumptious selection of chocolate covered pretzels in mild chocolate, dark or white chocolate; chocolate dipped Oreos; almond butter crunch, cashew clusters and cordial cherries. And, if you or your sweetie are still trying to lose a few holiday pounds, never fear, there’s a delightful display of sugar-free treats like peanut butter cups, almond butter crunch, peppermint parties, and chocolate latte meltaways!

The selection of gelatos were mouth-watering. Made fresh daily, these Italian ice-creams come in 70 flavors with a different selection provided each day. “We use fresh fruit and milk — no heavy creams or eggs,” says Stacey Sacco. “They are fresher, healthier, and the flavor is very intense.” You can enjoy the gelato in a cup or a homemade waffle cone or bowl. You can even special order gelato cakes and pies to help celebrate Valentine’s Day.

While the specialty here is the delectable range of sweets reported above, you can choose from a selection of coffees, lattes, cappuccinos, and espressos to warm your insides. And no need to skip a hearty meal because their salads, Panini’s, soups and croissant sandwiches are available for lunch and dinner seven days a week.

So, if in doubt about how to spend February 14th — or any day of the year for that matter — enjoying a culinary delight, Uncle Carlo’s Gelato, Espresso & Coffee Club is the place to go in historic downtown Fort Pierce!
Anyone who is a student of local history knows that Captain Bob Bouchlas puts ‘treasure’ in the term “Treasure Coast.” Last November, the public packed the new location of the San Miguel Treasure Museum at 101 Seaway Drive in Fort Pierce to welcome their beloved treasure-hunting historian to town. Known the world over as an expert diver, “Captain Bob” moved his enterprise to the marina area and looks forward to spreading the good news especially to children that history is more than just stories of our past.

“I teach them that they can touch a piece of history,” said Bouchlas. And that they do, with an armed guard on watch. He loves to share what it is like to go from being a hunter of treasure to a finder, but his ultimate goal is yet to be attained.

Bouchlas has been on a quest for an enigmatic icon, the elusive Golden Madonna and Child, from the Nuestra Señora de las Maravillas, a Spanish galleon and virgin wreck, which sunk in 1656. This is where the story begins. It is as fascinating as any tale that captures the imagination, but this is no convoluted construct. This search is a monumental cliffhanger that involves intrigues, pathos and dedication that goes well beyond the norm. Among his most important and revealing finds to date are 20 dies that were used at Spanish colonial mints to strike coins. “The dies tell the story,” said Bouchlas, hinting at the remarkable events that lead to his finding the Maravillas site.

Captain Bob is among a league of divers that converged in the ‘70s on renowned wrecks like Mel Fischer’s Atocha find. He has paired up with John Brandon, one of Mel Fisher’s top salvors, who explains what the life of a treasure hunter is like to audiences young and old. In 2000, Bouchlas was given a distinguished honor by King Juan Carlos I when he returned a portion of the dies to their rightful owners, the people of Spain.

When asked, ‘…why Fort Pierce?’ Bouchlas replies, “This (area) is a Mecca for environmental and oceanographic studies which include treasure hunting and history,” he commented. “I’m doing this for the future of the children.”

His relocation to Fort Pierce evolved from the historic talks given at the local branch library on Melody Lane. He is expectant that the new location will be the site of many of his hands-on presentations, which are free to the public, and is garnering support among many groups including boaters and homeschooling families. A schedule of monthly talks take place in the 35-seat museum that has so far seen standing-room only crowds.

Although he has nearly outgrown the modest space that doubles as a deli and take-out, meant to create a revenue-generating outlet for the museum, Captain Bob is very happy with the move. A licensed Coast Guard captain and resident of North Hutchinson Island, it seems only natural that this locality should be his home base.

On the business side of the coin, Capt. Bob’s Place offers daily kayak tours and a dinner cruise aboard his 36-foot sport cabin cruiser, Sojourn, which is docked at Fort Pierce City Marina. The signature menu items are mouth-watering portions that are belt-busters. Monster burritos, bar-b-que sandwiches hot off the smoker, subs, salads, soup-of-the-day, and sides are staples here. Inside selections of beer and wine as well as soft drinks round out the offerings. Catering is also available.

Bouchlas has plans for even further expansion to include bringing his presentations to schools in St. Lucie county. To schedule a talk to your civic group or club, make dinner or kayak reservations or for the daily specials call Capt. Bob’s Place at 772-465-2009. Hours are Monday thru Saturday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Closed Sunday.
Café La Ronde Reopens After Extensive Remodeling

By Sue Dannahower

New Owner/Manager, Don Rinelli and partner, Dominick Collura operate the Yellow Tail Grille and Raw Bar. Don has lived in Port St. Lucie for over 25 years. It is his lifetime dream to own a restaurant. He loves the historic downtown area and feels it is a wonderful location for an upscale dining establishment. Under his guidance the Yellow Tail Grille and Raw Bar has extended their hours and wracked their menu to include a variety of local delights.

The Yellow Tail could be your new downtown breakfast destination. Served Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.; Saturday & Sunday from 8:30 a.m.; and the prices are extremely reasonable. Most are served with home fries and grits.

The expanded lunch menu contains a selection of local items. The new menu offerings are prix fixe and an alternating daily lunch menu includes soup of the day and sports the former Avenue A location, marks the restaurant’s transition to a custom-designed interior that features a refreshed ceiling, new wood plank flooring and a more spacious interior sports a “nouveau nautical” look.

Café La Ronde at 101 North 2nd Street, Fort Pierce; phone (772) 466-5474. From Air & Land — Chicken Marsala Scalopini, Crispy Duck, or Grilled Filet Mignon. Your final course, dessert, could be Apple Crisp, Créme Brûlee or Key Lime Pie, hand-made daily with fresh brewed coffee or an after dinner brandy. Bon Appetit!

Location: 101 North 2nd Street, Fort Pierce; phone (772) 466-5474. New Hours: Mon – Wed 4 pm – 9/11 pm; Thurs – Sat, 8 am – 12/1 pm; Happy Hour, Mon – Fri from 4 – 6 pm. Open before and after Sunrises Theatre Performances. Catering is Available.

From the Sea — Crispy Fried Yellow Tail Snapper (whole fish deep-fried served with a tropical salsa), Jumbo Stuffed Shrimp, Seared Sea Scallops, or Yellow Tail Seafood Sampler (crab cake, scallops, stuffed shrimp and fresh catch finished with a delicate garlic beurre blanc).

From Air & Land — Chicken Marsala Scalopini, Crispy Duck, or Grilled Filet Mignon. The dinner menu is robust yet elegant, offering a wide range of appetizers, among them are escargot, fried green tomatoes and scallops Caridnale — lightly breaded, fried scallops served over red onions, mushrooms and lobster sauce, topped with black caviar and beurre blanc sauce.

Regulator customers of Café La Ronde on Orange Avenue were in for a treat when they entered the eatery following extensive remodeling which had the restaurant closed for several weeks. In mid-November, chef Keith Crandall and manager Rebecca Wedebrook welcomed the public back to a custom-designed interior that features a refreshed ceiling, new wood plank flooring and a total redesign of the floor plan which expands the seating to about 90. The cozy new bar area seats seven and the well-stocked wine selections are tucked into neat diamond shaped racks.

“We mowed the bar area over to the back in order to open up the room,” explained Wedebrook. White wainscoting, chair rails and a clean, contemporary palette gives the décor a very comfortable and stylish appeal. The sculpted contours of barrel-back chairs complement the dark wood floors, giving the room a unified presence. Side-wall shelving enhanced with accents from the sea, glassware and artistic elements accentuate the dark wood floors, giving the room a unified presence. Crandall, who served for five years as chef at Sunrise Theatre.

Catering is Available.

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The combination of French cottage and nautical-inspired décor is well suited for the downtown dining crowd. Crandall, who served for five years as chef at the former Avenue A location, marks the restaurant’s seventh year at its present spot on Orange Avenue. The new menu offerings are pits fixe and an alternating daily lunch menu includes soup of the day and sports the signature gourmet salad: blackened Dolphin and jumbo lump crabmeat with Key Lime infused goat cheese, basilmice glaze and walnuts served over a bed of baby greens. Specials like a lightly breaded, sautéed chicken topped with grilled ham and cheese, served over a demiglace sauce and finished with Béarnaise and a side of mashed potatoes and vegetables is a mouth-watering构Dordon Bleu platter. An affordable half-a-ham-and-

Swiss sandwich served with either a cup of soup du jour or a house salad is only $5. Not to miss is the French onion soup or the sweet potato soup. Overall, there are 14 items under $10 that range from eggplant Parmesan with angel hair pasta to a fresh fish of the day sandwich which includes French fries or coleslaw.

The dinner menu is robust yet elegant, offering a wide range of appetizers, among them are escargot, fried green tomatoes and scallops Caridnale — lightly breaded, fried scallops served over red onions, mushrooms and lobster sauce, topped with black caviar and beurre blanc sauce.

If beef is your liking, it is all prime here and in healthy measure. Fish, fresh Mahi Mahi, grouper or salmon, are served up in three distinct flavors — Vidalia, Palm Beach style (with slices of grapefruit and oranges) or chargrilled. All dinners are served with soup or salad and a choice of two sides.

Café La Ronde is open Monday thru Friday for lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Wednesday thru Saturday for dinner from 5 to 9 p.m. Closed Sundays. Their dinner hours are extended on Sunrise Theatre evenings. Phone: 772-595-5501.
Tournament Action on the Treasure Coast

By Dan Dannahower

WOW! Ice on the docks in Fort Pierce! Sub zero temperatures and a sailfish bite to rival none other? Mother Nature put on a most unusual combination of weather and fishing action for the 30th annual Pelican Yacht Club Invitational Billfish Tournament.

Kicking off Wednesday, January 6th, this highly watched tournament is the last in a series of three tournaments that comprise the Treasure Coast Sailfish Championship. Captains and crews were greeted to temperatures in the high 20s, ice on the docks and a wind chill factor that’s rarely seen this far south. The sailfish bite however was as good as it ever gets and the cold quickly gave way to multiple catch and releases from all participants as new records were set nearly every day of the tournament.

The tournament is a four day event and requires each captain to select one “lay day” out of the four on which he will not fish. Releases are recorded for the other three days a boat fishes and the winner goes home with not only some nice prizes but the honor of holding the trophy until next year’s tournament.

The winners this year of the Pelican Invitational are first place: Lo Que Sea, Captain Kevin Paul; second place: Floridian, Captain Glenn Cameron; third place: Hotty Toddy, Captain James Ewing. The results of this tournament combined with two others, the Pirates Cove Sailfish Classic and the Stuart Sailfish Club Light Tackle Tournament combine to produce the winner of the Treasure Coast Sailfish Championship, a highly coveted ride won this year again by Captain Glenn Cameron on Floridian with a total of 57 releases. Boneshaker was second with 55 and Cowpoke third with 55.

The tournament wrapped up Saturday evening with a dinner at the Pelican Yacht Club, awards presentations, and lots of back slapping and congratulations.

Internationally recognized local artist Colleen Nash Becht is the featured artist for the 30th Annual Pelican Yacht Club Invitational Billfish Tournament and created a unique and captivating sailfish watercolor exclusively for the tournament. This sailfish was Colleen’s first attempt at capturing the intensity of the fight and fury when in the bite. Portraying in water color the powerful, streamlined beasts, their the vigorous fight, leaping and diving repeatedly, and the motion of the ocean was a fulfilling new challenge for Colleen and a second sailfish painting has just been released, “Fierce Pierce!” Colleen’s unique perspective and intensity of light and color have received quick recognition with a strong demand for its ownership, both locally and internationally. Limited Edition 12x18 prints are available of this painting for $20.00. Contact Colleen at 468-8403 or colleennbecht@comcast.net, please visit her website at www.colleennashbecht.com.
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