The Renaissance Promises “Old World Charm” in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce

See Story on page 5 …
An Emergency Department years ahead of its time.

Now Open Your Eyes...

The first phase of our new $12 million state-of-the-art emergency department is now complete. It rivals all others and is designed to create the best environment in the healthcare industry for safe, efficient and technologically advanced emergency room care.

Special Features Include:

- Reception desk with triage nurse ensures immediate medical attention
- Larger waiting room for better comfort and privacy
- Private exam rooms with bedside computers for patient data entry
- Five specially designed critical care rooms for cardiac & stroke patients
- A trauma room designed for Level II Trauma care
- Centralized nurse station with state-of-the-art patient tracking system

These are just a few of the unique features of the ER, all in a beautifully designed hotel-like atmosphere. When renovation of the old ER is complete, Lawnwood will have nearly tripled the space dedicated to emergency care. This expansion is just one example of how we’re planning for your future and working to be the best hospital possible.
City Engineer Retires from Distinguished Career

After 22 years of service with the City of Fort Pierce, City Engineer Hector J. de Paula Arias is retiring from the City. Hector's efforts with the City have been numerous over the years and, in the grand scheme of things, they have been very important to our community. While roads, drainage and engineering activities aren't the sexiest type of work, they are extremely important in making the City of Fort Pierce what it is today. The City's Engineering Department has had a hand in all of the revitalization efforts and new, public projects and infrastructure.

Hector has one of the most talented, efficient and well-respected municipal Engineering Departments in Central Florida and the State for that matter. Over the years, he managed $50 million of completed projects, $30 million in projects under design and $34 million in grants obtained from the Florida Department of Transportation, St. Lucie County, South Florida Water Management District and the Florida Inland Navigation District over the past 22 years. In addition to projects, his department has prepared and enforced all City engineering permit ordinances, policies, regulations, professional services and construction contracts.

Working with five City Managers, five Mayors, twenty-five City Commissioners and several department heads during his 22 years of service, Hector has overseen 48 miles of street paving, the Moore's Creek Project, the Avenue D project, Marina Square, and all of the street improvements over the last 10 years that have beautified our downtown area.

A native of Cuba, Hector came to the United States in the late 50s to attend Auburn University. Once he was here, he never left and he and his wife, Maelia, have raised two children and now enjoy two grandchildren. If you know Hector, he loves to travel and that will definitely be on his list to do. In the coming months, he and Maelia will begin building a home in the Asheville, North Carolina area. Hector, we wish you all the best in your well deserved retirement. You will be missed.

First United Methodist Church
Presents
Murder on the Petulant Express
a Mystery/Dinner Theatre
on January 13th and 14th at 6 p.m.

It all took place in Ohio in 1937. Find out who murdered technology titan Peter Petulant in his private car on the Petulant Express.

Price $10 per ticket/$30 for a family of 5. All proceeds will go to our summer mission's ministry. Call the church office at 772-464-0440 or stop by at 616 Orange Avenue for tickets.
Shop, Dine and Play in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce!

Friday Fest – Friday, January 5, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880.

2nd Wednesday Walkabout – Wednesday, January 10, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.; Downtown Business Association, 465-7080.

Coffee with the Mayor @ Historic City Hall – Friday, January 19, 8:00 a.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880.

**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 2:00 p.m.; north of downtown Fort Pierce Library.

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 COMMUNITY CENTER ACTIVITIES**

For more information on the FPCC activities, please call 462-7071.

**RESTAURANT ENTERTAINMENT**

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

Governor’s Grill – 466-6900; “Open Mike Night,” Tuesdays, 9:00 p.m. to closing; “Blues Night at the Grill,” Wednesdays, 8:00 p.m.; “Ladies Night,” Thursdays, 10:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.; Friday Evenings – Live Music; Saturday Evenings – Live Jazz with Matrix.

**DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE LIBRARY ACTIVITIES**

For information, please call 462-2787.

**MANATEE OBSERVATION AND EDUCATION CENTER**

For information, please call 466-1600, ex. 3333.

**ST. LUCIE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

For information, please call 462-1795.

**BACKUS GALLERY SEASON’S PREMIERE EXHIBITIONS**

Sponsored by Riverside National Bank

Ansel Adams: The Man Who Captured the Earth’s Beauty – January 9 to February 17. Ansel Adams created iconic images of the American West, particularly Yosemite National Park, which he photographed every year starting in 1916 when his family first visited. His technical innovations and brilliant vision transformed landscape photography and furthered the cause of conservation. The show features twenty-five works, among them some of Adams’ most famous images: Clearing Winter Storm, Yosemite National Park, California; Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico; Sand Dune, Sunrise; Tenaya Creek, Dogwood, Rain; and Moon and Half Dome, Yosemite National Park, California. Organized by the Mint Museum of Art.

Clyde Butcher: Parallels of Black and White – January 9 to February 17. In July of 2000, Popular Photography asked the question, “Who is the Next Ansel Adams?” Clyde Butcher was honored as being one of four large format photographers from across the nation who was chosen to be featured in this article. Butcher believes the essence of good photography is two-fold: seeing the image with the heart and knowing enough about the mechanics of photography to get a good shot.

For more information and January schedule, please call 465-0630.

Members’ Reception – January 12, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Clyde Butcher Slideshow & Lecture – January 13. Clyde Butcher, honored as being one of four photographers whose work was compared to Ansel Adams by Popular Photography, will present a lecture and slideshow about his work.

Online Art Auction – January 20 to 27. The Backus Museum will host an online art auction in conjunction with its annual Live Art Auction. This means everyone can participate in the fun. The auction site will feature hundreds of works, priced to fit into everyone’s budget.

Art Auction and Party – January 27. “Americart Graffiti – Back to Simpler Times.” While the museum goes high-tech with its online art auction, the live auction travels back in time to “Bean’s Diner” where the waitresses are in roller-skates, the juke box never stops and malts are the drink of the day. The museum’s annual art auction gets a new twist with this early 1960s tribute to a simpler time.
Renaissance on the River

By Heather Bell

It’s always exciting for those in the real estate development business to embark on a new project. New and innovative designs, cutting edge technical equipment, taking something from an just an idea to fruition and most importantly meeting and getting to know all the future owners, it’s all what keeps everyone motivated and smiling. Renaissance on the River has been all of that and more.

The development company, Boca Ven Land, Inc. has been in St. Lucie County since 1989 and proudly claims the Atlantic View Beach Club and its three towers and most recently, Altamira, all fixtures on North Hutchinson Island, as completed projects. Now Renaissance takes them from the sleepy seaside to the hustle and bustle of the Historic Downtown and a community on the rise.

When Leo Henriquez, president of Boca Ven Land, began looking at the downtown as a possible site for his next project, it was the proverbial “no-brainer.” The wide stretch of the Indian River Lagoon, the beautiful Marina and Inlet, the Sunrise Theatre, and the richly preserved history were all selling factors for Mr. Henriquez. But, making a great community takes more than the tangibles.

It takes a strong sense of values and collective vision for the future. After seeing the dedication to redeveloping this waterfront downtown, Mr. Henriquez wanted to be a part of it. And, as fate would have it, the opportunity came about to acquire the land and building from Melody Lane to 2nd Street belonging to SunTrust Bank. Mr. Henriquez and his team developed a site plan for the waterfront parcel and began working to bring a luxury, residential environment to the downtown area.

Renaissance, aptly named, brings a new and increasingly popular design concept in development as it is a mixed-use building. The design calls for boutique style retail space, professional offices and luxury residential homes all within one building. The complexity of such a project was no easy task and a few bumps in the road were not avoided! When architect George Powell of Powell Design Group, Inc. in Orlando stepped in, the design really took shape.

The renovation progress of Historic Downtown Fort Pierce has been going in the right direction for a number of years now and the results are proof positive of the town’s

Continued on page 6 …
leadership and goals. The one thing that remained was bringing in a strong residential presence. That’s where Boca Ven Lane came in. Renaissance offers 38 exclusive homes that range in size from an efficient 2 Bedroom 2 Bath unit just under 1,500 total square feet to the largest penthouse unit of 3 Bedrooms, 3.5 Bathrooms plus a Media Room coming in at 3,300 total square feet! With 12 different floor plans available there is something for everyone’s individual needs.

Renaissance offers world-class amenities for its residents. Thanks to Mr. Powell’s insightful design, the Third Floor begins an atrium with gardens, swimming pool and spa. It is also home to the Residents’ Club complete with expanded fitness center and billiards room and additional storage for residential owners. The pool atrium is a focal feature in the building. Units on the 3rd, 4th and 5th floors all open to it. The design allows ample sunlight and warmth and yet remains a relaxing and private retreat.

As any of us who have spent time in a downtown or urban setting, we all know the challenges that parking can bring. Renaissance takes that challenge head on and provides 2 floors of internal parking for all owners. This creates convenience, privacy and security for residents and business owners while avoiding any further impact on the downtown.

Part of Boca Ven Land’s relationship with SunTrust Bank includes SunTrust becoming residents at Renaissance. Their new facilities will be on the northwest corner on Indian River Drive and Orange Avenue. With the completion of Renaissance, Mr. Henriquez will redevelop the current bank building into “Phase II.” Keeping the same Old World charm of Renaissance and similar architectural style, this will be an entirely commercial building offering space for offices, retail, restaurants and parking.

Boca Ven Land is thrilled to be a part of the “rebirth” of our coastal community and hopes to set the bar high for the future of the Historic Downtown. The Renaissance Sales Office welcomes inquiries at 110 South 2nd Street, by phone at 800-842-1755 or on the web at www.bocavenland.com.
Let’s Expand Our Shopping Downtown

by Mayor Bob Benton

Let’s bring shoppers to beautiful downtown Fort Pierce! Several years ago, Mayor Enns and I, as a commissioner, worked to bring retail shops to downtown by implementing City legislation to require the first floor space to be retail. At that time we could not get the support it needed to pass. As your Mayor, I applaud our progress of our downtown and am energized by the many visitors coming to our area. I believe retail shopping is a very essential issue for us to consider as our expectations progress.

In order to have a viable active shopping downtown, will it take the City to legislate retail space on the first floor in this area? This is the question I will be bringing to the city commission early this year for consideration. The Commission will be looking for input from the local business owners, landlords, Main Street, The Downtown Business Association and the St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce. I ask for your involvement with this key decision. A decision such as this will set the direction for our future.

Malls are successful for many reasons, including:
1. There are many retail stores with a wide variety to choose from.
2. Stores within a mall are required to stay open with convenient hours.
3. Malls create the ability for window shopping!

My vision of Downtown Fort Pierce includes retail shops and restaurants extending from Atlantic Avenue north along 2nd Street to Edgartown; Avenue A and Orange Avenue; from Indian River Drive west to 7th Street.

The Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency currently has incentives to help new business owners & landlords thru the transition of office space to retail space. I would like to ask for your input on this subject and as we begin a new year with a bright future for Fort Pierce, let’s work together to make a full selection of downtown shopping happen in our beautiful city.

IN CONCERT—KEN MEDEMA
First United Methodist Church

616 Orange Avenue, Fort Pierce
www.fumc-online.com

Saturday, February 3 at 7 p.m.
Tickets are $20. Call the church office to purchase tickets. 772-464-0440. Limited seating available.

Ken has been singing for 32 years inspiring generations to move their feet and their souls. Born blind, he is a performer, composer, publisher, story teller, and teacher.

To read more about Ken visit his Web site at www.kenmedema.com.

Quotes: “He made us cry; he made us think and laugh and just feel good.” Mary Erickson, Los Angeles, CA.

Ken performs at over 200 events per year, including colleges and universities, secondary and elementary schools, corporate conferences and conventions, churches, parachurch groups, and public service benefits.
Meet the Band: Hurricane Hawk

By Pam Gillette

Hurricane Season is still months away but Fort Pierce Main Street is bringing a Hurricane to the February Friday Fest. Hurricane Hawk and the Invaders features many originals reminiscent of the jump and swing era of the 30s and 40s, while keeping a truly Blues feel. They have been performing since 1995, bringing catchy lyrics that appeal to audiences of all ages. The band consists of: Steve “Hawk” Levy, originator of the band, vocals; harmonica player, Roy Powers, piano; Larry “O” Mayo, bass; Jeff LoForte, drums; and Mark Otis, guitar.

At a young age Hawk Levy loved the sounds of the big bands and discovered the blues at a Nighthawk show. After the show he picked up the harmonic and the rest is history. During the next 15 years, Hawk became known as Hurricane Hawk during an incarnation of a band called Hurricane Hawk and the Invaders. From 1997 to 1999 the Invaders played regionally around Florida at numerous festivals, including the prestigious Riverwalk Blues Festival. Hawk has shared the stage with many great blues performers and has produced 3 recordings. In 2003, Hawk was given the opportunity to host a blues show on NPR Radio. His show ran for 62 weeks as the Hurricane Hawk Blues Hour. Hawk has performed and sang as featured artist in MJM Productions of Tommy and Jesus Christ Superstar.

Roy “The Maestro” Powers has been playing the piano professionally for 35 years. His career began when he signed a contract with Roulette Records at 16 with high school rock and roll band “Dynamic 5.” In 1967 and through 1969, he toured the southeast learning from many soul, blues, and R&B artists. Roy served in the army and then returned to Atlanta to play with Barry Richmond at St. Lucie Blues. Later he joined with Country Rock Legend Ron Kimball and moved to Florida. In 1986, he moved to Fort Pierce to become the house band “Fire Creek” at Frank and Johnnies.

Raised in Ohio, Larry “O” Mayo loved Rhythm and Blues at an early age, which prompted him to become a bass guitarist and songwriter. He moved to Florida and has played with several local bands. Larry has a style all his own and is a major asset to the preservation of Blues in the area.

Jeff LoForte started playing the drums at the age of 7 at the Drums Workshop in New York. His passion is Jazz and has tour the Northeast with The Busters, who were recently inducted into the New England Jazz Hall of Fame. In 1982,
GaGa Girls Salon Show to Benefit Main Street

By Sue Dannahower

Saturday, February 10, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
2017 S. Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce

The “GaGa Girls,” Ginny Piech-Street and Anita Prentice, will be hosting a Salon Show to benefit Main Street Fort Pierce. “The Salon show is retro, very retro. Early on in Europe and the United States artists would be hosted in the homes of patrons to sell their art,” Ginny explains.

Anita and Ginny are bringing salon shows back in vogue here on the Treasure Coast. Hosted at the home of patrons Dan & Sue Dannahower the show promises to be a stellar event. The gals will be offering a large selection of colorful and unique works. Ginny is an artist, painter & sculpture. Anita is a mosaic painter. They have been working together for over seven years. Anita says, “We want to make people laugh, want to find humor in art and uplift people”.

The GaGa Girls are devoted to giving back to their community. Some of the causes they support include: John Carroll High School, St. Lucie County Education Foundation, Sunrise Theatre, A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery, Hibiscus

Continued on page 11 ...
**Citrus Avenue Professional Building**

**Location:** Citrus Avenue, in downtown Fort Pierce bounded on the east by 6th St. and on the west by 7th St.

**Space Available:** Entire 6,860 square foot ground floor is available for up to two occupants.

**Occupancy:** July 2007

For additional information, please contact: DOUGLAS DAVIS
Saint Lucie (772) 461-8335 • Martin (772) 463-0300 • Indian River (772) 778-9188
Email: ddavis@rkdavis.com

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  - 231-0181
- Causeway
- Indian River Mall
  - (772) 567-7200
- Sebastian
  - (772) 589-4363
- West Sebastian
  - (772) 589-9080
- Oslo Road
  - (772) 770-6249

**St. Lucie**
- Downtown
  - Fort Pierce
    - (772) 461-3414
  - Virginia Avenue
    - (772) 461-2447
- Lakewood Park
  - (772) 469-3352
- Okeechobee Road
  - (772) 461-3600

**Martin**
- Prima Vista
  - (772) 876-2414
- Midport Road
  - (772) 335-7800
- Darwin Square
  - (772) 206-9200
- St. Lucie West
  - (772) 340-6552
- St. James
  - (772) 678-2900

**Okeechobee**
- (863) 763-1924

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**Se Habla Español**

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**Harbor Federal**

**harborfederal.com**

*Source: Weiss Ratings, Inc.  
“A” (Excellent Financial Strength)*
House, Alzheimer’s, and Breast Cancer research.

They are for supporting the arts, especially local artists, and host their “Got Art” initiative, which is an artist’s swap: artists bring their unused materials and swap with other artists without having to put out cash. The next swap is scheduled for February 24th at Casa Caprona, 2605 St. Lucie Boulevard in Fort Pierce.

“We also do something called GAGA Contraposto. It’s just a hand out that comes out sporadically. It’s sort of a ‘GAGA philosophy/attitude adjuster/thought provoker’ hand out,” states Piech-Street.

For more information on the Salon Show or for directions please call Sue Dannahower at 772-618-0155.

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GAGA CONTRAPPPOSTO #1
L.I.U.B.

Attitude
The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company...a church, a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have and that is our attitude...I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our attitudes.
Anonymous

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JIM GORNTO
HAUPT ROBERTS Nursery, Inc.
11201 West Midway Road. Ft. Pierce, FL 34945-2314
Office: (772) 466-4834 • Fax: (772) 466-7876
E-mail: HRNtsy@aol.com
January marks a milestone for the Lafferandre Gallery. They will celebrate the beginning of their seventh year in historic downtown Fort Pierce with an exhibit that brings them full circle. Seven years ago, Amy Adams had an art gallery in Fort Pierce that Laff used to exhibit his etchings in. While dropping off work one day, Amy mentioned that she was engaged and moving on, so the Gallery was up for sale. Laff and his wife Leslie had been looking to open a gallery in Stuart, but when this opportunity came up, they realized what a great place Fort Pierce was becoming and decided to take over Amy’s gallery.

This January, Amy Adams Cooper, who now lives in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, is coming back for a visit and bringing some of her artwork with her. Her exhibit will open Saturday, January 6th at the Lafferandre Gallery and will run for the month along with some work by her son Samuel, an up and coming artist in his own right.

Fort Pierce Coffee With The Mayor

Mayor Bob Benton Invites You To Join Him For
Coffee, Community News, Special Announcements, and More.

Friday, January 19, 2007, 8:00AM
Historic City Hall
315 Avenue A
Downtown Fort Pierce

Complementary Coffee, Orchid Island Juice, & Breakfast Treats

Sponsor: EH Building Group II
Donna Wootten will be there to speak about all the exciting things EH Building Group II is bringing to the Treasure Coast

Hosts: Main Street Fort Pierce & Orchid Island Juice Company

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Port St. Lucie
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34984
The New Year in Fort Pierce

by Patty Reynolds

The New Year arrives on wistful wings, reflections of the past dancing with hopes for the future. Recently a dose of both curiosity and nostalgia led me to spend a day in the reference room of our library. Bright and pleasant, the room holds cabinets filled with the lives of past residents and visitors.

There’s something about a microfilm machine I’ve always liked. The older ones have hand cranks that allow you to move as slowly as you like. The newer ones load themselves and make a soft whirr as they glide through the pages of history. From her beginning in 1905 our News Tribune has been reporting on the doings of our community and the world. These issues are preserved on film waiting patiently for an interested soul to venture into their world.

What was life like then 70, 80, 90 or even 100 years ago? As 2006 winds to a close let’s see what our counterparts were up to December 28th 1906. From the Ft. Pierce News Tribune:

**Holiday Festivities in Ft. Pierce Were Greatly Enjoyed**

The Christmas festivities in Fort Pierce were many and varied and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Christmas morning dawned clear, the air was cool and crisp with a slight northwest breeze, and suggested the true holiday weather. All nature seemed to join in making it an ideal Christmas day although unusually cold for our mild climate.

Continued on page 14 …
Most of the festivities recorded were held in local churches. The Baptist church, Episcopal Sunday school and the Methodist church were all mentioned. But one celebration uniquely our own was reported this way:

Another feature of the Christmas festivities was the target shooting on the wharf, which held the attention of many of the crack shots of town nearly all day. Much interest was taken and good scores resulted.

Another sign of a more family centered and relaxed time was this notice posted on the front page by The News herself:

The News, like so many of the State papers and like everybody else, took a holiday this week and greets its readers in a smaller form for one week. Our only apology is the fact that everybody, including newspaper people is entitled to a holiday on the greatest of days – Christmas. However, next week and each week thereafter, until next Christmas, The News will be the old size and it will be our aim to give the people of St. Lucie County a better paper each week than the week preceding. We beg your leniency this week with a four page post holiday edition.

My, how times have changed. In 1906 you could subscribe to the paper for just $1.00 per year and the local section kept you abreast of City news along with friend’s and neighbor’s events. Of interest that day we find:

Dr. G.H. Holmes of Sharpes, made a professional visit to Ft. Pierce the first of the week.

Mrs. John Miller and daughter Miss Jessie of Eden were Christmas shopping in Ft. Pierce Saturday.

Mr. & Mrs. A.P. Edge of Lemon City were Christmas visitors in Fort Pierce spending the week with Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Edge.

Misses Genie Harris and Elma Geiger, two popular teachers in the Fort Pierce High School left Saturday to...
spend the Christmas holidays at their homes Osteen and Lotus, respectively.

Mr. Dobson of the team of Wagener & Dobson, jail builders of Atlanta spent a couple of days in Ft. Pierce the latter part of last week on business connected with the new county jail here. It is understood everything is practically settled and the work of putting in the cells will go forward at once.

All trains both north and south bound were several hours late Tuesday night and Wednesday on account of an accident at Rockledge in which the engine and one car of Tuesday's north bound passenger train were derailed. Nobody was hurt and trains are again running on schedule time.

These are just a few of the 24 notices printed that day. Jumping forward ten years we find these items of interest on January 5, 1917:

Traveling Get-Rich Quick Artist Pinched While in the Act of Making Haul No. 2
A whiskerless youth of approximately eighteen years and giving his name as being Henry Smith fell headlong into the arms of Nightwatchman Arthur Ford shortly after midnight Wednesday as he came out of the back of DuBose jewelry store with his pockets bulging with jewelry to the value of between $75 – $100. Smith was placed in the county jail and will answer to the charge of burglary.

Smith, according to good confessions states that he blew into Fort Pierce on Christmas Eve day and that night gained entrance to the Cobb dry goods store, by way of the rear and helped himself to a pair of shorts, overalls, pants, watches, stick pins and the like making good his get-away leaving on the early morning train for Melbourne where he remained until returning to Fort Pierce Wednesday…

Seems the “good old days” had her share of “good old crooks.” Politics and agriculture were widely covered. Sidney J. Catts became the Governor of Florida, Judge Whitney resigned and Tax Commissioner J. W. Edwards replaced him.

Continued on page 16 …
Indian River Farms billed themselves as the place to "come and raise crops for the high priced northern markets." Boasting that W. A. McRae, the Commissioner of Agriculture said, "You have every kind of land found in Florida right here in your section, and can grow anything that can be produced in the state and Florida can produce more crops than any state in the union".

And sadly:

**A. C. Dittmar, one of Ft. Pierce's Oldest and Foremost Citizens, Has Passed Away**

Few deaths have occurred in Fort Pierce that have produced as much universal sorrow and regret as has that of A.C. Dittmar who passed away at his home on Magnolia street in this city last Wednesday night at 9 O'clock, the immediate cause of his death being a stroke of apoplexy. … Mr. Dittmar was a most worthy citizen and his death is deplored by all who knew him. During his long residence here he had proven his worth to the community by splendid deeds and valuable service. He was the first mayor of Fort Pierce and served for two and one-half terms. Besides this he served in many other positions of trust and honor, and with distinction to himself and those whom he served…

Traveling forward another decade January 3, 1927's rag boasts:

**Bell System will Expend $29,000,000. for Florida alone. Telephone Company predicts great future for the Sunshine State.**

And:

**You are Invited – Free moving pictures of Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County tonight at 8:30pm sharp at the office of J.P. Newell, Florida Enterprises Inc. 4th Street entrance, Heim-Martin Arcade. See in an hour a picture that was a...**
A year in the making covering sports, industries, civic, harbor, agricultural and horticultural developments that it would require weeks to see otherwise. No obligation.

Walker Chevrolet Co. (Formerly Fort Pierce Overland Garage) Dixie Highway and Avenue D was advertising: “The Chevrolet Coach – Improved in Quality, yet reduced to $595 FOB, Flint, Mich. Former price $645.”

On January 12th and 13th the Sunrise Theatre was showing The Raymonds – High Class Vaudeville. Comedy, Contortionist, Ventriloquist, Singing, Talking.

Headlines for Friday January 1st, 1937 promise: “World Greets the New Year most Lavishly,” “Emergence from the Depression Celebrated,” and “Crowds Throng New York and Various Other Cities!”

The Sunrise invited you to “Enjoy Warm Comfort.” You could phone 294 for more information. The line up was College Holiday with Jack Benny, George Burns and Gracie Allen on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, or you could head in that day for the last showing of Pennies from Heaven with Bing Crosby, Madge Evans and Edith Fellows.

We’ll leave our old friends there, hope on the horizon, heading out of the depression, and not yet embroiled in the turmoil of the second world war. Greeting the New Year with eternal hope and optimism.

Happy New Year, Fort Pierce! May this one bring us all health, wisdom and happiness.

---

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Main Street Fort Pierce

1101 So. U.S. 1, Fort Pierce, 461-7000
Jeff came to the Treasure Coast and hooked up with Ozzie Wright. He has played with many artists and many venues, but Jeff says that his greatest accomplishment is when he volunteered to teach the drums at Vero Beach High School.

One time owner of a guitar shop in Mallory Square, Key West, Mark Otis brings his guitar playing talent from Connecticut to Florida by way of Austin, Texas. His Austin, Texas band, Ain’t Misbehavin, opened for Blues legend Muddy Waters, among others. Mark has emerged as one of the most respected and revered guitarists among his peers.

Hurricane Hawk and the Invaders is now one of the premium show bands in Southeast Florida. They recently opened for Little Richard at the Sunrise Theatre and the band Alabama. The band also reached the semi-finals at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, Tennessee. Levy feels that all performances, large and small, require presence, professionalism and energy and he strives to give his all in all of his performances. Hurricane Hawk and the Invaders will be at Friday Fest, Friday, February 2, 2007. For information on Hurricane Hawk and the Invaders, go to www.hawksblues.com.

Friday Fest is held the first Friday of every month. Friday Fest can be postponed to the following week due to weather. Friday Fest is held at Veteran’s Memorial Park, 600 N. Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce, FL 34950. Friday Fest is put on by Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. For more information please call the Main Street office at 772-466-3880.
The Sandhurst Hotel & Suites offer waterfront accommodations in a tranquil tropical atmosphere. Located on South Hutchinson Island, the hotel sits directly on the Fort Pierce Inlet just steps from the water and nearby beaches.

Vice Presidents and General Managers, Deidre Clayton and Jerry Couch opened their establishment in January 2006. What sets them above the competition is “a clean place to sleep, a friendly smile at the door, and a good hot breakfast.” “We attract a different kind of traveler,” Clayton states. The Sandhurst Hotel & Suites cater to weddings, bikers, fishing tournaments, the Sunrise Theatre, bankers, lawyers and the Fort Pierce Jet Service Center.

They have the B&B feel of a much smaller establishment. “We pride ourselves with getting to know our guests,” says Couch. The Sandhurst hosts pool parties, cocktail parties and BBQ’s to entertain their guests.

The Sandhurst boasts 70 rooms, which includes 16 suites. Deluxe rooms are available with 2 double beds or 1 king size bed. All of their rooms offer exquisite water views and include separate balconies with chairs that are perfect for relaxing. Rooms rates start at $99 a night.

Suites are available with 2 double beds or 1 king size bed and are equipped with a refrigerator and microwave as well as a separate seating area. All of the suites directly overlook the inlet as well as the pool and hot tub area.

Their long list of amenities include: seven boat slips, complimentary hot breakfast, free high-speed internet access, front desk manned around the clock, great fishing from the dock, heated swimming pool, beer & wine, triple sheeting, hot tub, private balconies with chairs, gift shop and laundry facilities.

Continued on page 22 …
19th Annual Sights and Sounds on Second
FESTIVAL & PARADE

by Pam Gillette

A record crowd waited with anticipation as the Fort Pierce City Police and Honor Guard led the way for the 19th Annual Sights and Sounds Parade. Children of all ages, parents and friends lined the streets to watch Fort Pierce come alive with a “Storybook Christmas.” With the passing of each entry and float the excitement built, while everyone was waiting for the grand finale, Santa Claus.

The festival was alive with crafts, food, and games for the children. The parade was awesome, followed by the lighting of the roundabout Christmas tree and the beginning of the season “The Holiday Light Spectacular.” It was truly a day to kick off the Holiday Season.

Main Street would like to thank all of the volunteers, Common Ground Ministries, First United Methodist Church and the City of Fort Pierce for all they have done to make this festival and parade such a success. But our thanks are not complete without giving a special “Thank You!” to Tom Knott, Patty Reynolds and the Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis for their part in organizing and overseeing the parade.

Great job Sunrise Kiwanis!
And now for what everyone has been waiting for ... THE Winners

1st Place Float — Treasure Coast Youth Sailing
2nd Place Float — News Tribune
3rd Place Float — Fully Involved Farms

1st Place Equestrian Group — Time Chasers 4-H Club
2nd Place Equestrian Group — Freedom Riders
3rd Place Equestrian Group — Rocking Horse 4-H Club

1st Place Most Creative Entry — Cub Scout Pack 405
2nd Place Most Creative Entry — Time Chasers 4-H Club
3rd Place Most Creative Entry — Treasure Coast Youth Sailing

1st Place Best Holiday Spirit — St Anastasia Girl Scouts
2nd Place Best Holiday Spirit — Southside Baptist Church
3rd Place Best Holiday Spirit — St. Andrew's Episcopal School

1st Place Best Decorated Vehicle (Non-float) — Common Grounds
2nd Place Best Decorated Vehicle (Non-float) — Treasure Coast Youth Sailing
3rd Place Best Decorated Vehicle (Non-float) — Amara Shrine Center

1st Place Best Music Performance/Marching Band — St Anastasia Band
2nd Place Best Music Performance/Marching Band — Cub Scout Pack 475
3rd Place Best Music Performance/Marching Band — St Lucie Miss-ettes Dance/Drill

1st Place Scout Group — Cub Scout Pack 450
2nd Place Scout Group — Cub Scout Pack 405
3rd Place Scout Group — Cub Scout Pack 475

WINNERS OF THE 2006 HOLIDAY WINDOW DECORATING CONTEST
1st Place — Chaney’s House of Flowers
2nd Place — Brenda’s Fine Jeweler’s
3rd Place — Trew and Son’s Fine Jeweler’s
Mornings start with their complimentary breakfast bar, which includes biscuits & gravy, egg sandwiches, casseroles, fresh fruit, cereal, Danish and more.

After a long day of working, training or vacationing guest can enjoy watching a beautiful sunset on the fishing dock or lounging by the pool.

There are many local restaurants and lounges within walking distance. The Fort Pierce airport is only a short 10-minute ride. Fort Pierce Beaches and the Jetty are located only 4 blocks away. Fishing and charter boats are available at the countless local marinas.

“Why would you stay on the interstate when you can stay on the beach for the same price?” asks Couch. He continues, “Enjoy a weekend here – just hang out with us.”

Holiday Showcase
Featuring Oil Paintings by Jackie Schindehette
Exhibit on View
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Picture Perfect Gallery
124 North 2nd Street
in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce
For more information please call 772-461-0410
Downtown Hero: Camille S. Yates

By Pam Gillette

Ever since she was a young girl, Camille S. Yates has immersed herself in nature. Following her love of the outdoors, she received a Master of Science in Ecology in 1997 from the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Florida. During her career as a biologist, she has published many manuscripts on birds and habitat management. She helped write the Indian River Lagoon Comprehensive Conservation Management plan while employed by the St. Johns River Water Management District.

Camille literally got her feet wet in many Florida wetlands. She worked in the Everglades for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. While in the glades, she assisted with the legal battle to save the precious River of Grass. She also spent many hours in the field fighting exotic plant invasion and documenting wildlife and plant species on the refuge.

During her employment with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Camille became extremely involved with wading birds including Herons, Egrets, and Ibis among a few. She studies their habitat and documents important rookeries in the Indian River Lagoon and other wetlands throughout the east coast of Florida including the Florida Keys. She has also studied the wading bird’s use of the various marshes throughout the Upper St. Johns River Basin.

Her passion for nature is felt through her words on paper. She is currently writing the book, Treasure Waters – Indian River Lagoon, which will be released in November 2007. She also is writing a column called Wild Side for the Indian River Magazine.

Over the last two decades, Camille has studied the animals and habitats in the Indian River Lagoon having worked for the Smithsonian Marine Station, the Environmental Protection Agency and the St. Lucie County and Volusia County Mosquito Control Districts. In August

Continued on page 24 …
1999, Camille became curator of the Manatee Observation and Education Center, where she was also introduce to Main Street Fort Pierce. Main Street was instrumental in the building and completion of the Center, before turning the building over to Fort Pierce Utilities Authority. Camille was the perfect choice for the Manatee Center and assisted Main Street with the Sea Cows on the Parade project.

Camille became the Community and Corporate Relations Manager for Fort Pierce Utilities Authority in October 2005. She is also the owner and operator Sunray Ecological Research and Management, a small business which performs biological research on issues that affect land management decisions for government agencies. Camille is president of Earth’s Millennium, Inc, a non-profit corporation with a primary mission of promoting a healthy and diverse earth. She is also involved with many St. Lucie County organizations, as a member or on their Board of Directors.

Last May, Bud Boudreaux, Director of Utilities for Fort Pierce Utilities Authority, was retiring. He volunteered to be roasted at a dinner to raise money to restore to Platt’s/Backus House. Camille played an important role in helping Main Street raise approximately $10,000 towards the restoration of the house through contacts and her love of cooking. She donated a wild game dinner in the live auction.

If you attended the Ghost of Fort Pierce Past walking tour in October chances are you probably saw Camille in her role as Annie Hogg volunteering once again to help Main Street.

With all that she does for Main Street you can see why Camille S. Yates was chosen a Main Street’s Downtown Hero. When Camille was told that she was the downtown hero, she said, “I am honored to be selected as Downtown Hero. It is with great pride that I have seen downtown Fort Pierce prosper under the guidance of Main Street. I opened up an office in the Historic Fort Pierce Hotel in 1997 and have always been a fan of downtown. As Curator of the Manatee Center, I was astounded to realize that Fort Pierce really is a popular place for people to visit. Before 911, we had almost 75,000 people who visited the Center who came from all over the world. What I love most about Fort Pierce is that you can always see friends wherever you go. The town has such a warm feeling because of the friendly people. Thank you, Main Street, for making Fort Pierce what it is today.” Thank you Camille S. Yates for all you do for Main Street and our community!

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**Storm-proof Your FPUA Electric Service**

Did you experience power outages after hurricanes Frances and Jeanne in 2004 or Wilma in 2005? One by one, FPUA’s restoration teams repaired and energized the damaged power lines. However, occasionally homeowners were disappointed to find their power was not restored at the same time the rest of their neighborhood was energized. In most cases, the reason for the delay was that these homes required repairs to their overhead service connections (left). You can prevent this type of damage from happening in the future by moving your overhead service connection underground.

**Advantages of Converting Overhead Electric Service Connections to Underground:**

- Better resistance to windstorm damage
- Improved appearance of your home
- May shield against damaging surges caused by lightning
- May shorten overall storm restoration time
- Discount of 25% off FPUA’s wholesale cost
- Installation will be done by FPUA

For more information on converting your electric service to underground, call 466-1600, ext. 6250.

Don’t wait - this policy is subject to change and FPUA budget availability!

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Coke's Stationery Once Again Carries Unique Gift Items

By Sue Dannahower

Christine Coke, President of Coke's Stationers, recently announced the return of gift items to Coke's Stationers. Coke's Stationers opened their doors in 1975. Christine's mother, Bee, took pride in her selection of gifts in the front of the store. In December, 1997, a tragic fire ruined Bee's wonderful gifts and Christmas items, and destroyed their store. When they reopened, Coke's no longer had the space for gift items and decided to specialize in office products and furniture only. "Throughout the years, customers have encouraged us to carry gifts and cards," says Christine.

Fast forward to today. Coke's is not only an office supply store. They have returned to carrying unique gifts. They are now boast a multitude of items including: gifts, greeting cards, candles, diffusers, gourmet oil gift sets, colorful wine trays and some pretty neat painted glasses. "Glasses with personality," a grinning Ms. Coke says. She takes pride in her new line of gifts and picks each gift herself at the Atlanta Mart. Proud of her array of gifts, she is trilled to show off the special features of a few of her new items. One example of such a feature is displayed when a hand painted martini glass is turned upside down. It contains a special recipe on the bottom of the stem.

When you are in search of that perfect gift, like a beautiful diffuser with lilac oil or a hand painted Mojito Set, remember to stop by Coke's Stationers located at 129 N. 2nd Street in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce. Keep them in mind for your next birthday, anniversary, Valentine's Day, or any other special occasion that may warrant that unique gift. You can also shop on line at www.Cokesstationers.com.
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Sunrise Theatre’s Intimate Theatre

On January 5th the Sunrise Theatre is going to try something new and if it works it will greatly expand the programming options of the Sunrise.

There are countless acts out there that we know would give great pleasure to our audiences, but who we also know will sell 300-400 seats in this market at best. Great folk and blues acts, great string quartets, truly exceptional jazz acts, even some small theatre companies just to name a few. New acts that are on the verge of breaking nationally, and acts that have been around for a long time but have always had a small and select audience.

The challenge in bringing these smaller shows, these little jewels, is that the Sunrise has 1,200 seats. Four hundred people in a 1,200 seat theatre looks like a complete disaster. The act thinks it failed. The audience feels awkward and loses out on the enthusiasm and energy of a packed house. Even if the theatre makes money, the show just doesn’t look right and it doesn’t feel right.

So we’re going to conduct an experiment. We’re going to temporarily create a more intimate 430 seat environment within the auditorium by hanging decorative materials from the lip of the balcony to create a false back wall.

Our first such event is the Karla Bonoff/Lorna Bracewell show on January 5th. We ask that you consider coming that night to show your support not just for the Sunrise but for all those acts who haven’t been plugged into the mass media yet, or who chose long ago to remove themselves from the rat race of the commercial music industry. We thank you in advance.

Sunrise Theatre January Schedule

**In Beautiful Downtown Fort Pierce**

Karla Bonoff
Friday, January 5th

Pam Tillis & Marty Stuart and the Fabulous Superlatives
Sunday, January 21st

Sunrise Theatre, 461-4775
www.sunrisetheatre.com

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Membership

Main Street Fort Pierce

As Fort Pierce Main Street begins its 18th 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.

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 18 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 18 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 twelve 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 down-town 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.

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.

Name:______________________________
Company/Organization:_________________
Street Address:______________________
City / State / Zip:____________________
Phone:______________________________
Email:______________________________
Walk along the streets of Main Street Fort Pierce and you notice fun shops, enticing eateries, and attractive landmarks. But you might miss one of our most valuable resources — our professionals.

Tucked away in second-floor offices and on side streets are expert practitioners of law, medicine, marketing, accounting, real estate and more, all willing to share their expertise with you!

Send your questions to Main Street Focus “Ask A Professional.” We’ll ask one of our Main Street professionals to reply, and we’ll publish the answers right here in the Focus, where we can all learn from them.

This month, Doris Blair of Blair Advertising has answers to start your marketing off right in 2007.

**QUESTION:** What is the difference between an advertising plan and a marketing strategy?

**ANSWER:** Advertising is just one part of marketing. To effectively promote your company you need to look at how everything you do contributes to building your unique brand. Yes, advertising is one way of communicating with your customers, but we recommend you think beyond advertising as well.

A comprehensive marketing strategy identifies whom you want to reach, what you want to tell them, and how you want to get your message across. Taking the time to plan (or reevaluate) your marketing strategy every year focuses your marketing efforts, establishes a budget, and helps prevent waste from indecision or inappropriate efforts.

**QUESTION:** How do I go about developing my company’s “brand”?

**ANSWER:** You’ve probably heard a lot of talk about “branding.” Really all it means is developing a distinctive identity for your business.

Start by figuring out what makes you unique. Then promote that uniqueness in everything you do.

Your name, your logo, your tag or slogan, the words you use in your ads, even your company t-shirts and the way you answer the phone should all work together to support your message.

The key is to be consistent. Find your unique message and stick with it. You might get tired of hearing it, but your customers won’t.

To learn more about marketing your business, contact Doris Blair at Blair Advertising in Fort Pierce at 772-465-4654.

Have a question you’d like to “Ask A Professional?” E-mail MainStreetFocus@aol.com with “Ask A Professional” in the subject line, or mail them to us at: Ask A Professional, Main Street Focus, 122 A. E. Backus Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL 34950. We look forward to hearing from you.
Directors Choice Concert Series at the Sunrise Theatre

By Sue Dannahower

The Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society in conjunction with the Sunrise Theatre will bring rising stars in the world of jazz to this area in the Directors Choice Concert Series.

The first concert to be held at 8 p.m. on Thursday, January 11th, features the Christian Scott Quartet and the Hillary Kole Trio. Both Christian and Hillary began their exciting music careers at early ages. Christian Scott completed Berklee School of Music in half the normal time and at age 23 has already released a self-titled, self produced debut CD. This young New Orleans trumpeter may be one of this generation’s Jazz Greats! Hilary Kole began singing and playing the piano at age five. Her professional career began as the youngest singer to ever perform at the legendary Rainbow Room. A recent New York Times review describes her performance as “swinging … sultry … sexy with a sharp-edge hint of brass in her voice … Kole locates the desperation an impatience lurking in Cole Porter’s besotted lyrics.”

The second concert of the Series, to be held at 8 p.m. on Thursday, February 8th, features the Dominick Farinacci Quartet and the Judy Wexler Trio. At age twenty, rising star Dominick Farinacci already has a long list of awards and has performed with many of the current Jazz Greats including Wynton Marsalis and Warren Vache. Judy Wexler is described by the L.A. Jazz Scene: “No phony bells and whistles. Judy Wexler’s singing is soft, sassy and swinging. She is the perfect mix of talent and taste.”

Jazz lovers are sure to enjoy the “up and coming” talent featured in the Director’s Choice Concert Series which will be

Continued on page 33 …
Main Street Board Member Britt Reynolds and his new wife Patty are Downtown Heroes. Both are heavily involved in volunteer work supporting Main Street and various other downtown projects and events. They are the kind of folks that continually give their time and effort to our community and never ask for a thing in return. Patty: “Our shared belief is that community starts at home. We try to make community service a family affair. We want our kids to grow up learning that the more you give back to the community the more you gain, not just in fun and fellowship but in quality of life for everyone.” Wow! Thanks Britt and Patty, Fort Pierce is blessed to have people like you setting an example for the rest of us.

The really fun part of Britt and Patty’s story revolves around how they got together in the first place and ended up being a volunteer “duo.” Wind the clock back about two years. Britt, a Main Street board member, is giving his usual help at Friday Fest. Patty, a newcomer to Friday Fest, is standing on a street corner near the library waiting to meet friends. Their eyes meet. Patty sees this amazing guy give her that “cat that just ate the canary grin” of his. Britt sees a girl with a smile that so captivated him he stopped in mid-stride and couldn’t approach her. Neither approaches the other, Patty’s friends arrive and she wanders off with them to reminisce and enjoy the evening.

Continued on page 33 …
AMY IS COMING FOR A VISIT
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But that little cherub with wings and a bow had just begun to weave his magic. As the Fest winds down Patty and friends decide to head to Governor’s Grill. Their path takes them right past Britt, and to Patty’s amazement her friend stops to chat with her new mystery man! She quickly learns two more bits of amazing info this evening: she and Britt have had this mutual friend for 20 years without ever knowing it, and yes, Britt is just as charming as that famous grin of his promised he would be! An invite to join them at Governor’s Grill quickly ensues. Mutual interest quickly develops. It takes them a few weeks to get together again while juggling busy schedules, but when they do Patty “accidentally left my sunglasses behind” and when Britt called to return them “the rest is history!” Well done Cupid!

Two years later Britt and Patty were married in an intimate ceremony at Old Battersea House Wedding Chapel in Stuart, Florida. They have four children: James-16, Kalie-12, Ashlynn-10, and Kristy-7. All of them enjoy helping out at Friday Fest and other Main Street events and seem to be following right along in the footsteps of the “duo.”

Patty is involved with Sunrise Kiwanis which helps Main Street produce the downtown Christmas Parade “Sights and Sounds.” The whole family has also become very committed to their favorite charity, “Fully Involved Farms” and Cindy Economou, Coach of the Equestrian Special Olympics Team. When Cindy lost her facility last year Britt and Patty invited them to move the operation to their home. Patty’s employer, LBFH Inc. has provided fundraising and the operation today supports 14 equine, one pig, two sheep, various waterfowl and a chicken or two! All of this on top of their work with Main Street and downtown Fort Pierce!

Thanks again to this month’s downtown heroes, Britt and Patty Reynolds for a job well done and above and beyond the call of duty!

— “Directors Choice” continued from page 30

held at the Sunrise Theatre, 210 Second Avenue in Fort Pierce. Early-Bird tickets are available at the theatre now through 12/8 for $22.50. On 12/11 concert ticket price will increase to $25.00. Proceeds from these events support the Society’s music education and scholarship programs.

For more information please contact Darryl Bey, 772-460-JAZZ(5299), email info@jazzandbluessociety.org.
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Cobb’s Landing offers upscale dining in a casual atmosphere. Relax on the patio overlooking the Marina or have a refreshing drink at their famous Mojito Bar. Cobb’s Landing features fresh local seafood, certified Angus Beef and so much more.

Start out with one of their fabulous appetizers — Crab Toasts — lump crabmeat, creamy butter atop toasted bread, tender Calamari served with Lemon aioli and Grilled Bamboo Sticks marinated in soy, ginger and garlic. Try their succulent Shrimp and Crab Gumbo. You can make a meal by noshing-up on appetizers alone.

However, if you’re in the mood for some lip-smacking seafood, try the Shrimp Scampi — sauced with wine, lemon, tomato, basil and creamy butter. Served with crusty bread to ensure you get every last drop of the sumptuous sauce. Equally as enticing are their pan seared Lump Crab Cakes; moist, crispy loaded with crab.

If beef is what you are in quest of the certified Angus Beef New York Steak, Filet Mignon and Sirloin are melt in your mouth tender. All steaks, chicken and pork chops are wood grilled over an open flame.

It was here that my friend Colleen first introduced me to Pineapple Mojitos. They are now a staple at my parties. I have my own mud- dler (wooden dowel used to beat the mint to death) and I grow mint in my herb garden.

Ask your server about daily lunch, dinner & drink specials. Whatever your fancy is you will find it here: full bar, great food, great view and great fun!
Fish Tales
by Dan Dannahower

As reported last month the Southern Kingfish Association’s National Finals were held in Fort Pierce from November 15-19. The extremely successful event saw over 300 boats compete in several classes for over 60 prizes totaling approximately $400,000 in value! Competing in the open class, Tony Vercillo and Tim Kellagher of Port Saint Lucie, on the “Offshore Warrior” took first place and a 23 foot boat, Mercury outboards and trailer valued at over $80,000! Captain Jeremy Bonnell and family, fishing from the “Bandit” took the “Class of 23” (boats 24 feet or less) title and drove home in a brand new 2007 Dodge Mega Cab truck worth over $52,000! Many other winners are too numerous to list here. You can get a full rundown on the tournament results, prizes and lots of pictures at SKA’s website: www.fishska.com. The upcoming 2007 tournament schedule is also available.

In other tournament news the Stuart Sailfish Club’s Light Tackle Sailfish Tournament has just wrapped up. Although not a Fort Pierce tournament this area event constitutes one of a conglomerate of tournaments that combine to determine the winner of the Treasure Coast Sailfish Championship. Wrapping up with the Pelican Yacht Club Invitation-al Billfish Tournament beginning January 9th, the Championship is highly coveted and followed by anglers up and down the Treasure Coast. For more information go to www.pelicanyachtclub.com. One other tournament, the Fort Pierce Billfish Derby will take place on January 4-6. With the highest cash payout of any billfish event on the Treasure Coast this popular tournament is also widely followed. Go to www.fortpiercebillfish.com for information.

It should be obvious from the above that offshore fishing season is upon us. This is the time of year when the diehard offshore fishermen prove their metal. It’s also the time of winds, rough seas and constantly changing conditions offshore. Frontal systems drive down from up north almost weekly and result in ever changing temperatures, winds and sea state. If you hanker to venture out in search of a big one be sure to check weather and sea conditions with your local marina, tackle shops, or online. The new Weather
Worx system at the Fort Pierce Marina is a great source for checking real time wave heights with either a quick phone call or visit to the Marina store in downtown Fort Pierce.

Closer to home, fishing in the river has been hit and miss. The weather recently has been a mostly constant windy mess, not much fun for the average weekend boater hoping for a nice day on the water. But the wind never blows forever and there are always nicer days between the blustery ones. There are some reports of sand perch and snapper being caught. Snook fishing continues to be hot and cold. As an example, Kadri Benton of Fort Pierce reports hooking a number of snook recently near the south bridge in the turning basin. He invited his Dad, Mayor Bob Benton to go out the next night with a guarantee of good snook fishing and of course no one had even a hit! To quote the Mayor, “that’s fishing.”

There’s always something going on in our diverse fishing scene. Check your tackle and bait shops and local marinas for the best up to the minute advice on where to look for a lunker. Good luck and good fishing!

The Benton’s son, Kadri, with a nice snook.
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