Independence Day will be a “Family Affair” in Fort Pierce this month as The Original Family Stone headlines the annual Stars Over St. Lucie Independence Day Celebration. The band, featuring three of the original members of Sly and the Family Stone, will reprise the hits that put the original band in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and landed them a spot at number 43 on Rolling Stone Magazine’s 100 Greatest Artists of All Time.
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1902 1902 2007 2007
It is official: construction has begun on the historic 1896, Platts-Backus house, a.k.a. Fort Pierce Main Street’s office. It seems that everywhere you go now in downtown Fort Pierce you encounter construction. Many changes are happening for the betterment of our community.

With the Conkling-Lewis construction crew in tow, ‘boss man Rick’ directed the team of building professionals to began tackling the 111-year-old house just over a month ago. Now, you are probably wondering how Main Street Manager, Doris Tillman, and Marketing Manager, Pam Gillette, are functioning beneath the termite invested rafters. Well, they are now located directly in front of the historic house in a new construction trailer/office that the staff and volunteers have named ‘Camp Main Street.’ Similar to a Quonset hut without the rounded edges, the new 3 office space serves as a temporary outpost from the construction zone.

The renovation efforts on the house are anticipated to be completed by October 2008, so the Camp Main Street team will be in close quarters during the restoration but are managing fine while coordinating over 26 events a year. The Main Street Board meetings have temporarily relocated to City Hall and the Main Street Focus writers are meeting at the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority office. Fundraising efforts for the historic house are ongoing and even more important now that a recent grant was cut this year that Main Street had an opportunity of receiving.

When the renovation is completed, the first floor area can be used for meetings by smaller organizations for art exhibits, wine tastings, etc. The upstairs will be used by the former Camp Main Street employees on a daily basis. Main Street’s wise and timely purchase of this significant structure will ensure that the Platts-Backus House will continue to serve as a visual reminder of contributions of one of Fort Pierce’s most favorite sons — Beanie Backus.
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.

Name:______________________________________
Company/Organization:________________________
Street Address:_______________________________
City / State / Zip:______________________________
Phone:______________________________________
Email:______________________________________

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 downtown charrettes to encourage the public participation in revitalization efforts, created outdoor art programs, and helped fund an award winning image campaign along with the Downtown Business Association, the Community Redevelopment Agency, and the City of Fort Pierce.
Wednesday, July 4th: Stars Over St. Lucie Independence Day Celebration — 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880.

Friday, July 6th: Friday Fest — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880.

Wednesday, July 11th: 2nd Wednesday Walkabout — 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.; Downtown Business Association, 465-7080.

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, 460-5124.

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

FORT PIERCE COMMUNITY CENTER ACTIVITIES

For information, please call 462-1792.

RENSERANT 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” on Tuesdays, 9 p.m. to closing; “Blues Night at the Grill” on Wednesdays, 8 p.m.; “Ladies Night” on Thursdays, 10 p.m. to 12 a.m.; Live Music on Friday evenings; Live Jazz with Matrix on Saturday evenings.

DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

For information, please call 462-2787.

SUNRISE THEATRE

For information, please call 461-4775.

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 & MUSEUM

For information, please call 465-0630.

BACKUS GALLERY SEASON’S PREMIERE EXHIBITIONS

Indian River School of Painters: May 29 – July 14. Whether formally instructed or merely mentored by Backus, the legions of artists gained in skill and wisdom from the influence of Bean Backus. Exhibiting artists may include Don Brown, James Hutchinson, Jackie Brice, Jackie Schindehette, Sherrie Johnson, Therese Knowles, Tom Fresh, Julie Enders, Rick Kelly, Dan Holt, Delores Hutcheson and more.
4th of July: National Anthem, by Tiffany

Tiffany Bramblett is 9 years old and a 3rd grader at the Arts Based Elementary School in Winston Salem, NC. Tiffany loves to share her gift of song and since her first public solo performance at the tender age of 6, her singing voice has wowed audiences at various events and churches throughout the Southeast.

She was the youngest semi-finalist in the 2006 Triad Idol, a North Carolina singing competition, and sang the “National Anthem” to open the minor league Greenboro Grasshoppers’ baseball season in April to a sold out crowd of 7500. In June she also sang the “National Anthem” for minor league baseball’s Winston Salem Warthogs.

…continued from front page

Tenor sax player Jerry Martini and trumpeter Cynthia Robinson will be joined by lead vocalist and keyboard player Rose Stone for hits like “Everyday People,” “Thank You (Falettinme Be Mice Elf Agin),” “Family Affair,” and “Hot Fun in the Summertime.” The Hall of Fame artists also performed at the 2006 Grammy Awards and are credited with keeping the legacy of Sly and the Family Stone alive. The show starts at 5:00, July 4th at the Indian River Memorial Amphitheater. The Original Family Stone takes the stage at 6:30.

Her heartwarming rendition of “Somewhere Over the Rainbow”, has been a crowd favorite at many area fundraising events and garnered her an invitation to sing the song at the famed Children’s Art Museum in Atlanta. After receiving a recent special request, she sang “What a Wonderful World” at an outdoor wedding as the bride walked down the aisle.

Tiffany is frequently a featured soloist with the Central Carolina Children’s Choir and has been a member of the Children’s Choir for the last three years. With only a year of guitar under her belt the young artist has begun to write her own music and lyrics. She aspires to not only share her angelic voice but her songwriting as well.
Summer Vacation Starts Here & Now

by Fort Pierce Mayor Bob Benton

Enjoy the Dog Days of Summer along the beautiful Treasure Coast town of Fort Pierce! Summer is a great time to make the best of our local treasures, especially with gas prices as high as they are. Luckily, we have our own paradise right in our backyard. I encourage you to take a vacation this summer right here at home! The days are longer and there are many adventures to partake in, on any given day of the week. You can begin by taking the family to breakfast at one of our many delicious local restaurants. There are virtually no lines and Fort Pierce offers the best hospitality in South Florida. Then, enjoy our pristine beaches, fish the blue waters of the ocean or the beautiful Indian River Lagoon, or go water skiing or diving. Early risers may enjoy watching the many boats traveling our inlet. Don’t forget to bring a picnic! If water sports are not for you, take the family golfing to Indian Hills or one of many St. Lucie County first class golf courses. Many courses have summer specials and no waiting at every tee. A good time can be enjoyed by all! After a fun filled morning, you and the family can have a tasty lunch at any of our fine restaurants and then take a relaxing stroll through Heathcote Botanical Gardens, the Backus Gallery, the Manatee Center, the Historical Museum, the Smithsonian Marine Station, and the Frog Museum. When you have completed that journey, shop the quaint and inviting shoppes and galleries of downtown Fort Pierce. There are always treasures to be found! As the evening arrives and it’s time for dinner, remember our local restaurants are some of the Treasure Coast’s best, with many cuisines to choose from and many atmospheres to explore, you can’t go wrong. You may even catch a show at the Sunrise or movie at the local theater. Life is good right here at home on the Treasure Coast and Fort Pierce invites you to spend your vacation right here in paradise!
“Tourist Season” 14th Annual Reverse Raffle & Silent Auction

by Pam Gillette

Grab you cameras, sunglasses, and hats. Put on your Hawaiian shirts, shorts and sandals. It’s “Tourist Season” at the Pelican Yacht Club on Saturday, August 18, 2007. Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. presents the 14th Annual Reverse Raffle & Silent Auction. Come join us as we watch and wait for your number NOT to be called.

Wait! That’s right: I said you want your number NOT to be called. Main Street’s Reverse Raffle begins with 300 numbers. The first number and every 50th number called up to 250 wins $100.00. The last 10 numbers is when you want your number to be drawn, because the last 10 numbers range from $250 to the grand prize of $2000. So last is best at this raffle.

Main Street Fort Pierce will transform the Pelican Yacht Club at 1120 Seaway Drive, Fort Pierce into a vacation resort. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. with registration and the silent auction. The raffle begins at 7 p.m. as the excitement begins counting down the numbers to the grand prize winner. The band will provide music to help dance the night away. So, come enjoy the evening with us at the 14th Annual Reverse Raffle and Silent Auction.
Only 300 tickets will be sold for the raffle. Each ticket is $80 and entitles the bearer to one number, admission for two people, light hors devours, 2 free drinks, live music, dancing, and a fabulous silent auction. Tickets are limited, advanced ticket purchase only, and no tickets will be available at the door.

The Reverse Raffle is a fundraiser for projects and goals of Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. Revenues from the raffle will benefit the restoration of the Backus House and the continual revitalization of Historic Downtown Fort Pierce. For more information or to purchase a ticket, please call Main Street at (772) 466-3880.
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The **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** (FPYC) has been an integral part of the Fort Pierce community for over twenty years. It currently has an active membership of about 220 people and supports many programs in the City of Fort Pierce.

While it is a private club, anyone with an interest in sail or power boating may apply for membership. The community uses the Club facilities over a hundred days a year at no cost for City and County programs. It is used as a training site for the canine unit of the Fort Pierce Sheriff’s Department and from time to time, the Club has been made available to the St. Lucie School Board at no cost. “In many years, community use of our facilities actually exceeds the usage by Club members”, said Commodore George Lange. The Club has also sponsored Olympic sailboard try-outs and after the 2004 hurricanes, its facilities were made available to the **Church by the Sea** at minimal cost, while its buildings were being reconstructed. A very special example of what the Club is currently doing for the community’s youth is sponsorship of the **Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Foundation** (TCYSF) where members have already donated more than $26,000 to fund the establishment of the foundation. “We take our responsibilities to the community seriously and we hope to make a positive contribution in order to help make Fort Pierce a better place to live and work,” Lange said.

The **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** clubhouse was completed in 1986 with the building and the dock being substantially rebuilt and renovated after the storms over the past couple of years at a cost of about $117,000. The facility now provides a popular venue available for rent at reasonable rates to private citizens for weddings and other special occasions.
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Darryl T. Bey
P.P. Cobb General Store & Deli

by Pam Gillette

As you open the door the first thing that hits you is the aroma of fresh baked bread and the feeling of a Key West general store. Now let your eyes adjust and look around, for as with any general store there is much more to see.

A native of Japan, Yuko Weisser moved to Florida in 1989. She attended Miami Dade and then FIU, majoring in culinary arts. All Yuko really wanted to do was cook and bake. In 2004, she and her husband moved to Fort Pierce and after being welcome by 2 hurricanes, Yuko decided to pursue her dream of owning her own business.

One day as they were driving down Avenue A they noticed that the P.P. Cobb Building had a vacancy and she knew this was where she wanted to be. On May 11, 2007 the P.P. Cobb General Store & Deli opened for business.

Yuko wanted to target the healthy side of lunches and focus on the wants of women; but in saying that, she also wanted to let me know that she had sinfully delicious cookies, that are definitely not on the healthy side.

The General Store is opened for breakfast and lunch. Breakfast includes muffins, croissants, birds nest, and breakfast sandwiches. Lunches include sandwiches, wraps, a large selection of salads and 2 homemade soups daily. All muffins, croissants, and cookies are baked on premise, as well as fresh bread. Most of the business is done by take-out, but there are a few tables available inside and out for you to enjoy your meal.

Along with breakfast and lunch, Yuko is extremely proud of the 117 different types of beer they carry. Do you like to try different tastes? At the P.P. Cobb General Store you can mix and match whatever variety you want in a 6-pack, so that you can sample from her wide selection. Along with the beer, the General Store has a variety of wines, gourmet sauces and dressings, locally produced soaps, gifts and grocery items.

The P.P. Cobb General Store is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. They are open on Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. for Bike Night and on Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The are located in the P.P. Cobb Building at 100 Avenue A in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce. Parking is available in the rear of the building.

So drop by the General Store, try a new beer, have a sandwich or wrap, and don’t forget to stop by their bakery for those sinful cookies!
Management Changes at Sunrise Theatre

After overseeing final construction and guiding the successful inaugural season of the Sunrise Theatre, Executive Director David Jenkins has submitted his letter of resignation to Fort Pierce City Manager Dennis W. Beach. “Mr. Jenkins is to be thanked for providing world class entertainment on the Sunrise stage and bringing renewed spirit and vitality to our community”, states Beach.

Mr. Jenkins will be replaced by John Wilkes, who will be programming the theatre as the city seeks a permanent Executive Director which is expected to take 6-9 months. Wilkes is the Chief Operating Officer for the Lyric Theatre in Stuart and will be providing assistance in the overall management services of the Sunrise which include programming, operations and fundraising efforts. Wilkes was the former consulting Executive Director of the Sunrise Theatre and was instrumental in developing a business plan and fundraising efforts for the Sunrise Theatre while under renovation in 1999. Wilkes’ history of the community and the Sunrise Theatre is an opportunity to expand the Sunrise’s offerings to a wider audience.

Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency Director, Jon Ward will add another job to his FPRA Director Responsibilities as Interim Executive Director of the theatre handling the administrative day to day operations of the city owned theatre. Ward has a strong arts background as the former Director of Cultural Affairs for St. Lucie County and has been with the City of Fort Pierce for two years, overseeing a number of major redevelopment projects.

The renovation and reopening of the 1923 historic theatre in January 2006 was a $13 million dollar project with over $2 million dollars coming from private individuals initiated by Main Street Fort Pierce, St. Lucie Preservation, Inc. and the former Sunrise Theatre Board. Since 2006, the City of Fort Pierce assumed the ownership of the theatre and continues to operate the theatre as an enterprise fund of the city.

Red, White and Blue Goose Bumps

By Leslie Lafferandre

If you haven’t been to the marina at night to see the latest patriotic light show, you are missing something special. It brings out the American in us all. We were there the other night and there were people dancing in the plaza to the music. We saw one gentleman take off his hat and cover his heart when “God Bless America” played. It is a great gathering place for family and friends and a wonderful addition to historic downtown Fort Pierce. The show runs through the fourth, so hurry down.

From the Friday Fest and Saturday Farmer’s Market to the Second Wednesday Walkabout and numerous special events such as the light show, Fort Pierce has so much to offer everyone and a lot of it is free. Like everything in life, you get out of it what you put into it. You can attend the events and enjoy them. You can volunteer (these things don’t just happen – there is a lot of work to make them happen but the committees can be a lot of fun) and be a bigger part of them. If you are new in town, becoming a volunteer is a great way to meet people. If you haven’t been taking advantage of all the fun there is downtown, then it’s time to start!
Summer Electrical Safety Tips

Fort Pierce Utilities wants to remind you of the dangers that are present when water comes in contact with electricity. Summer is the season for swimming and boating, and awareness of electrical hazards around water can prevent deaths and injuries. To reduce the chance of injury, follow this safety advice:

- Sailboats with tall masts are dangerous when they come into contact with overhead power lines. Staying at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines can help prevent lethal accidents.
- When using a wet-dry vacuum cleaner or a pressure washer, be sure to follow the manufacturer’s instructions to avoid electric shock.
- Never handle electrical items when you are wet.
- Use outlet covers on outdoor receptacles near swimming pools.
- Keep cords and electrical devices away from pools.
- Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) in wall outlets to help prevent electrical shock. Portable GFCIs require no tools to install and are available for around $15 to $30.
- Electrical devices such as circuit breakers, fuses, GFCIs, receptacles, plugs, and switches can malfunction when water and silt get inside; replace if they have been submerged.

www.fpua.com 466-1600
Downtown Hero: Dennis W. Beach, Our City Manager

by John Culverhouse

The tangible results of the awe-inspiring revitalization of Downtown Fort Pierce can be attributed to many policy makers, non-profit organizations, and individual citizens. Dennis W. Beach, Fort Pierce’s City Manager, has been at the helm for the better part of Fort Pierce’s great turnaround. His steadfast determination to make Fort Pierce a more prosperous and enjoyable destination for residents, visitors, and investors makes Dennis Beach this month’s Downtown Hero.

Beach was born in Arizona and lived in Oklahoma where his parents were both natives. For the better part of his life, Beach has been in city management, serving as assistant city manager and city manager in cities in Oklahoma and Texas prior to coming to Saint Lucie County.

Beach came to Fort Pierce for the first time in 1986 on a business trip when he was working in private business. He recalls meeting with locals over utility issues at the present-day Guadalajara restaurant on Delaware Avenue. During our conversation, Beach fondly recalled how taken he was with Fort Pierce and its beautiful weather and how delicious the seafood lunch tasted at the restaurant.

Beach returned to sunny South Florida in 1991 when he became the Assistant City Manager of Port Saint Lucie. In 1995, the Fort Pierce City Commission hired him to become Fort Pierce’s City Manager, succeeding James A. “Bo” Powell.

Beach saw great opportunities in downtown’s potential even before he held the City’s top executive position. He attended charettes regarding strategies for downtown revitalization. These public meetings were started as a result of a group of concerned citizens, including Mayor Bill Danahower, city commissioners and business leaders coming together in the late 1980’s to jump-start public interest in downtown revitalization. Beach advocated — and later implemented the approach that he refers to as a “tremendous public investment in public infrastructure”.

Anne Satterlee, President of Main Street Fort Pierce, said that at the time Beach became city manager, Mayor Eddie Enns and City Commissioners saw that Fort Pierce’s image and vitality could be preserved for future generations by embracing the historic and architectural elements of the downtown waterfront.

“Beach’s hiring in Fort Pierce in the mid-90s was instrumental to the City’s revitalization effort as well as hiring of key city staff that saw the potential and vision of what the city could become,” she said. “It was a dedicated, positive team effort by the Fort Pierce City Commission, City Staff and the residents that participated in the numerous planning activities that brought about the plans and projects we have today, and Beach was focused and creative to guide this effort to fruition and he still does today.”

Among the city staff Dennis hired was Ramon Trias, who developed a master redevelopment plan for the city. The plan encompassed everything from road designs, including roundabouts, to public buildings in prominent locations, including the downtown library and the Fort Pierce Police Department’s Willie B. Ellis Substation on Avenue D at Means Court. Trias’ architectural expertise made his tenure as Planning Director valuable and effective.

Beach holds the record of Fort Pierce’s longest serving City Manager, serving for twelve years. During his tenure, he has always kept the big picture in mind. Cities normally go through ten to fifteen year cycles before topping out. Public interest tends to change over time and needs and desires change as well. He stresses the importance of making public investments in the city, as they improve the quality of the community, thereby leading to major private investments.

Beach cites the Renaissance On The River project downtown as a good example of a significant private investment.

Continued on page 18 …
investment made possible by the City’s investments in public infrastructure. Harbour Isle, a recent South Beach development, is another good example of a major private investment. Beach describes the Port of Fort Pierce as being one of the most significant potential private investments Fort Pierce has ever seen. The privately owned port property, if developed, could significantly improve Fort Pierce’s economy.

The current atmosphere in Tallahassee regarding property taxes has many people on edge—property owners and municipalities alike. Beach emphasized the importance of available money for local governments to use for emergency services, community services, and community improvements. Beach notes that money the City of Fort Pierce spends is collected right here in Fort Pierce, and that city residents have absolute access to those policy makers who make decisions on how to spend their money.

The City of Fort Pierce will continue its citywide improvement trend. The Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency (FPRA) now owns the old Saint Anastasia building on Orange Avenue, and restoration plans are in progress. The FPRA is partnering with the St. Lucie Historical Society to restore the Betts Building on Avenue D at Means Court, and with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Committee to restore the Lincoln Theatre on Avenue D at Douglas Court.

When Beach isn’t working or attending city functions with his wife Debbie, you might find him out on the high seas boating and diving. Dennis has two children and two stepchildren. He also has two grandchildren who live in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Beach enjoys many aspects of being City Manager, but what he likes best is watching the evolution of the community and the positive impact of the changes put through.

“Fort Pierce’s accomplishments have far exceeded what I ever could have imagined, and now it’s a matter of maintaining the focus,” Beach said. “These accomplishments are a direct result of the community’s determination.”

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Meet the Band: NAZZ R BLUE

by Pam Gillette

You may ask yourself, “What is NAZZ R BLUE?” The answer is: a band. Ah, but there’s more to NAZZ R BLUE than just a band. Sociologists at the Rudolfo Institute for the Slightly Nervous have been debating this very question since the moment NAZZ R BLUE came into existence. No one is sure just how NAZZ R BLUE came to be, but there are theories involving botched physics experiments, or that the guys all met in line at the DMV, or a rumor of an international plot by a shoe manufacturer to make people dance so their shoes will all wear out faster. No one is really sure.

But one thing is for sure; these are the guys are good!

NAZZ R BLUE consist of the following band members; Frank Falconieri, their bionic drummer, the lovely and talented Greg Kennedy is their guitar slinger and vocalist, Mike Hollers (real name honest) shares the guitar and vocals and disguised as the mild mannered Peter Ferro, is Uncle Pete, ruler over all bass frequencies and singer of songs. On occasion, when they are able to entice him away with promises of fun and adventures, our heroes are joined by George Remer, whose super powers include playing the sax, flute and trumpet. Collectively NAZZ R BLUE explores such music styles as rock, R&B, blues, and country, with the occasional foray into such strange etudes as Mr. Sandman, or Harlem Nocturne.

So be sure to catch NAZZ R BLUE when they come play Friday Fest on July 6, 2007, and wear your boogie shoes, you will need them!

To contact NAZZ R BLUE to play at your event, please call Frank Falconieri @ 772-359-4459 or email: bluzdrummer2@aol.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 Melody Lane and Marina Square. Friday Fest is sponsored by Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. For more information please call the Main Street office at 772-466-3880.
Main Street Nationwide
Quotes from Around the Country

“For the longest time, we all waited for a white knight to ride into town and fix the problem. But the Main Street people made us realize that the only way to get it done right was to do it ourselves.”
—Russell Thomas, mayor, Americus, Georgia

“Since Barracks Row Main Street opened five years ago, 27 new businesses have opened, 32 facades have been restored, and two new buildings have been constructed. This has truly been a transforming effort, and I am so proud to work with a great board of directors and volunteers to revitalize Washington’s oldest commercial corridor. We are now seeing exponential success after five years of persistence!”
—Bill McLeod, Executive Director, Barracks Row Main Street, Washington, D.C.

“Gone are the days when we would sit back and react to bad news. Now we go out and make good things happen. That is what Okmulgee Main Street has done for Okmulgee.”
—Linda S. Milligan, Board Chairperson, Okmulgee Main Street, Oklahoma

“The business and corporate community stopped asking ‘how come you’re always asking me,’ and starting asking ‘how come you never let me.’ “
—Daniel Timm, Executive Director, MainStreet Libertyville, Illinois

“Before 1986, we had lost pride in our downtown. Now we have it back again. Now we have clean-up days.”
—Nolan Crowley, Okmulgee, Oklahoma

“The four-point approach works because it gives every person a chance to be listened to, giving each a platform to do what they think is vital and important for the downtown.”
—Julie Irish, Program Manager, Peabody Main Street, Kansas

“Main Street opened up resources and gave direction to the people interested in making a difference.”
—Amy Yarcich, Program Manager, Dodgeville Revitalization, Wisconsin

Continued on page 23 …
Are you a member of Main Street?
A look at why Main Streets are important

Can malls and discount centers take the place of traditional commercial districts? The answer is a resounding “no.” It may no longer be the sole option in the community, but the commercial district is much more than a shopping center. Here are some reasons why Main Street is still important:

- Commercial districts are prominent employment centers. Even the smallest commercial district employs hundreds of people, and often the district is collectively the community’s largest employer.
- The commercial district is a reflection of community image, pride, prosperity, and level of investment — critical factors in business retention and recruitment efforts.

Main Street represents a significant portion of the community’s tax base. If the district declines, property values drop, placing more of a tax burden on other parts of town.

The traditional commercial district is an ideal location for independent businesses, which in turn:
- Keep profits in town — chain businesses send profits out of town;
- Support other local businesses and services;
- Support local community projects, like teams and schools;
- Provide an extremely stable economic foundation, as opposed to a few large businesses and chains with no ties to stay in the community.

Main Street is the historic core of the community. Its buildings embody the community’s past and its visual identity.

A historic commercial district is often a major tourist attraction. When people travel or shop, they want to see unique places — especially ones that offer a unique shopping “experience.”

A vital Main Street area reduces sprawl by concentrating retail in one area and uses community resources wisely, such as infrastructure, tax dollars and land.

A healthy Main Street core protects property values in surrounding residential neighborhoods.

The commercial district offers convenience. Main Streets are often within walking distance of residential areas, providing easy accessibility for the community and reducing the reliance on auto-dependent shopping.

The district is usually a government center where city hall, municipal buildings, the courthouse, and/or post office are located. It often is an important service center as well for finding attorneys, physicians, insurance offices, and financial institutions.

Main Street provides an important civic forum, where members of the community can congregate. Parades, special events, and celebrations held there reinforce intangible sense of community. Private developments like malls and strip centers can and do restrict free speech and access.

The commercial district represents a huge public and private investment. Imagine how much it would cost to recreate all of the buildings and public infrastructure in your commercial district.

Information above is from the National Main Street website www.mainstreet.org
2006 National Main Street Reinvestment Statistics

The cumulative success of the Main Street Approach™ and Main Street programs on the local level has earned a reputation as one of the most powerful economic development tools in the nation. The National Trust Main Street Center annually collects statistical information on economic activity in local Main Street programs nationwide. These statistics are tracked from 1980 to December 2006 and reflect activity in more than 2,050 communities.

Dollars Reinvested: Total amount of reinvestment in physical improvements from public and private sources.
$41.6 billion Average investment per community
$11,083,273 Net gain in businesses: 77,799 Net gain in jobs: 349,148 Number of building rehabilitations: 186,820 Reinvestment ratio: $25.76 to 1

Notes: (i) The Average Reinvestment per Community reflects investment in communities that have recently begun commercial district revitalization programs as well as those that have been actively involved in Main Street for more than a decade. In addition, it includes investment of communities of a wide variety of sizes and in all parts of the country. For these reasons, communities should be cautious about using this figure as a benchmark for local performance.

(ii) The Reinvestment Ratio measures the amount of new investment that occurs, on average, for every dollar a participating community spends to support the operation of its Main Street program, based on medial annual program costs reported to the National Trust Main Street Center by its coordinating programs.
“Even though there were those who were suspicious of our motives, we have shown them that we mean it when we say we’re all in this together.”
—Larry Pierce, board member, Eureka Main Street, California

“In today’s business climate, a building may need to look good, but it is equally important for that business to be managed well.”
—Jenny Harmon, director, Main Street Rogers, Arkansas

“We saw other downtowns disintegrating and we said, we don’t want to be like that.”
—John Caywood, Main Street merchant, Danville, Kentucky

“This project is happening only because of the impact that MainStreet has had on the village. These investors would have never considered this project before.”
—Daniel Timm, executive director, MainStreet Libertyville, Illinois

“Downtown was in bad shape. It didn’t get that way overnight and it wasn’t going to get better overnight.”
—John Mabrey, founding chairperson, Okmulgee Main Street, Oklahoma

“Without all the assistance we received from the Sheboygan Falls Main Street program, our dreams might still be on paper.”
—Dorothy Schueffner, business owner, Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin

“We took a negative and turned it into a positive—that’s the story of Main Street in Peabody.”
—Steve Hamous, building owner, Peabody, Kansas

“As events unfolded, the people of the community embraced the downtown in a new way. Gradually embarrassment was replaced with great pride and satisfaction.”
—Mendi Smith, executive director, Tifton-Tift County Main Street Program, Georgia

“Parkville, Missouri suffered from a devastating flood (Missouri River) in 1993. Many businesses on Main Street were flooded out and never returned. Now in 1999 we have ‘no vacancy’ on Main Street and a list of ‘want to be’s’ waiting for a vacancy so they can bring their business to Parkville. This is a tribute to the Main Street Program which began in 1996, and allowed the incentive to rebuild, move in, historically valuable buildings that just needed a tenant to clear them up and call them home.”
—Linda Colt Graham, manager, Main Street Parkville, Missouri

“There’s a continual assault of all types from various interests who want to move the center of town to somewhere else.”
—Winfrey Houston, business owner, Stillwater, Oklahoma

“After … settling on the Main Street program as the way we should go to rekindle our downtown area, I am extremely gratified to see how well it is working. So many storefronts renovated! Almost all buildings occupied! Merchants planning cooperative ventures! Great activities going on year round downtown! Our faith in the program and the people of downtown has been rewarded!”
—Priscilla Thompson, downtown property owner and merchant, Conway, South Carolina

“Support for a revitalized Conway was more than an economic issue, it was about saving the heart of a town and preserving its character.”
—Edwin ‘Chip’ Brown, city councilman, Conway, South Carolina

“The only good business is one that’s always improving, because if you stop improving, you might as well go out of business; it’s the same with Main Street.”
—Jerry Trower, banker, Hannibal, Missouri

“It’s been too easy. Merchants are now coming to us to locate downtown.”
—Karen Grimm, PROUD manager, Pontiac, Illinois

“I saw other merchants making commitments, both personal and financial, and saw the positive results. I decided I wanted to be involved, too.”
—Joe Brown, business owner, Okmulgee Main Street, Oklahoma
Wendall Butler Award Given to Local Nurseryman, Gary Roberts

Local Nurseryman and Landscaper, Gary Roberts, has been awarded the Wendall Butler Award for 2007 by the Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA).

The Wendall Butler Award is the most prestigious award given by the FNGLA and is a lifetime achievement award given to the person who has best served the nursery and landscape industry over the course of many years.

Gary has served the FNGLA in many levels through the years from Treasure Coast Chapter President to State President (1995-1996). Other award and honor highlights include: Eagle Scout, Florida Jaycees Outstanding Young Farmer, Florida Farm Bureau Outstanding Young Farmer, FNGLA Young Nurseryman of the Year, St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year, two time Tribune’s Reader’s Choice Landscaper of the Year winner, and St. Lucie County Conservationist of the Year.

Gary will received the award during the FNGLA’s annual convention, this year at the Marriott Resort in Marco Island, June 14-17. Gary and his wife, Susan own and operate Gary Roberts Nursery & Landscape, Inc. in Fort Pierce.

Become a Member of Main Street Fort Pierce Today! Call 772-466-3880. See page 4.

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Yacht Club Adopts Island

The Fort Pierce Yacht Club, in conjunction with the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection, Spoil Island Project, has adopted island “SL7” in the Indian River Lagoon in Northern Saint Lucie County. Spoil Island SL7 is located just south of the channel leading into Queen’s Cove on the East side of the Intracoastal Waterway. Lou Tomasovic, Vice-Commodore of Fleet for the Yacht Club, is coordinating this new effort.

The Fort Pierce Yacht Club gathered 22 of it’s members on the island on Saturday, June 16, 2007 for the initial clean up under the Spoil Island Adoption Program. They gathered 8 bags of trash including bottles, cans, paper, broken glass, plastic, styrofoam and other items. They gathered up and removed large pieces of metal that had to be cut into smaller pieces so they would fit into the boats available to haul it away. There are numerous downed trees on the island and members were cutting and clearing the dead trees, providing firewood for island visitors to use.

In the coming weeks the Yacht Club members will be building fire and barbeque pits, building and installing picnic benches and the continued cutting and stacking of fallen, dead trees.

This island, and all of the ‘recreational’ islands in the Indian River Lagoon, is open to all boaters. The public is encouraged to use the islands for family outings, picnics and cookouts, taking advantage of the beauty and solitude in our own back yard.

There are also conservation islands in the Lagoon. These are islands which typically have the highest percentage of native resources both on and around the island. These fragile islands are not to be used for public recreation according to Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection.

The Fort Pierce Yacht Club has long been active in community projects since it was founded in 1980. The most recent examples include their involvement in and sponsorship of the Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Foundation as well as the Spoil Island Adoption Project.

For more information about the Fort Pierce Yacht Club call 772-461-9152. For more information about the Spoil Island Project contact Dana Moller at 772-429-2995.
Explore Your Own Little Corner of the World

by Patty Reynolds

Wondering what to read as the summer winds down? Ever consider your next adventure might take you just around the corner or back in time?

At the Sandy Shoes Festival this year I was pleased to meet Mrs. Ada Coats Williams. I'd heard of her of course, teacher, author, playwright and noted local historian. I was so happy to have an opportunity to say hello and see for myself what a charming lady she is.

As chance would have it, before I ever met Mrs. Williams she gave me a magic carpet. With it I traveled ten miles from home and five hundred years back in time, all while cozily ensconced in my well worn recliner bathed in the glow of a warm reading light.

I am the lucky steward of a little book written in 1963 by Mrs. Ada Coats Williams. Given to me by my mom, I'll pass it along someday to my children. Just 35 pages long, it's packed with stories of our early pioneers, their struggles and triumphs and the strength of character that helped them carve a home out of an often inhospitable land.

If you like your history more up close and personal, swing by the St. Lucie County Historical Museum. Inside you'll find information and exhibits detailing the:

- 1715 wreck of the Spanish treasure fleet;
- 1838 Seminole War, uniforms and material from Old Fort Pierce;
- Seminole Indian encampment;
- Turn-of-the-century industries: fishing, pineapple, cattle and citrus;
- 1907 restored typical Florida house;
- 1919 operational American La France fire engine pumper;
- Harry Hill photographic collection (1880s-1920s St. Lucie County);
- Memorial garden with Spanish canons and anchors (1715).

Small research library open by appointment. Search the holdings using the St. Lucie County Library System’s iBistro (select Library “Historical Museum” using the Power Search option.

After touring the museum visit the Pineapple Patch gift shop, the Source for “Florida” Books. Just a few of the titles you'll find there are:

- Different Battles, by Johnson;
- East Coast Florida Memories, by Ranson;
- Fort Pierce A Town In Florida, by Trías, et. al.;
- Fort Pierce The Sunrise City, by McIver
- Florida’s Ashley Gang, by Williams
- 50th Anniversary U.S. Naval Amphibious, by Adams
- Martin County, Our Heritage, by Ziemb
- Memories of Eden, by Brown
- Our Worthy Commander, by Burbey

Memorial garden with Spanish canons and anchors (1715).

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- Memories of Eden, by Brown
- Our Worthy Commander, by Burbey
St. Lucie County Almanac, by Byrn, et. al.
Sewalls Point, by Thurlow
Stuart — A Portrait of the St. Lucie River Region, by Scripps Howard
The Early Years of Port St. Lucie, Florida, by Schreiber
Treasure Coast Black Heritage A Pictorial History, by Jackson, et. al.
World War II in Fort Pierce, by Taylor

To whet your appetite take a brief trip through time and consider how far we’ve come both here in St. Lucie County and in Fort Pierce herself:

1512 — Ponce De Leon discovers Florida. The area we now know as St. Lucie County is populated by Ays Indians

1565 — The Spanish explores Menendez traveled down the Indian River establishing blockhouses along the coast for shipwrecked sailors.

Shortly there after Jauan Valez Medrano established a settlement here and named it Santa Lucia after an early Catholic martyr.

The Ays Indians weren’t too keen on outsiders moving into their area. Adding their hostility to the problems of dysentery and lack of food sent the new settlement of soldiers back to Saint Augustine and left the Ays Indians in peace for a time.

1807 — James Hutchinson obtains a grant from the Spanish Governor for two thousand acres between the Saint Lucie Inlet and the Indian River Inlet. Although James only lived for one year after receiving the grant, Hutchinson’s Island is a jewel in our treasure coast.

1837 — Colonel Benjamin K. Pierce ordered the construction of the fort that would soon bear his name and provide the name for our own town.

1842 — Congress passed the Armed Occupation Act granting one hundred and sixty acres to anyone who could hold it against the Indians for seven years.

1850 — This area leaves Mosquito County and becomes part of Brevard County.

1870 and 1875 — The Paines, the Hendreys, the Bells, the Carltons and the Hogs settled in this area.

1878 — Billy Anderson, who had once been a member to the Jesse James gang bought property in the ten Mile area west of Fort Pierce and set up camp. Despite his disreputable past, he was an entertaining fellow and got on well with his neighbors.

1894 — Henry Flagler extended his railroad through our area bringing an influx on travelers and settlers alike.

1905 — Saint Lucie County incorporates standing proudly on her own. The dawn of a new chapter in local history spreading across the horizon.

Take some time this summer and explore your own backyard!
Epicurious.com

Looking for a good recipe — go to www.Epicurious.com. Here you will find a collection of recipes from Bon Appetit, Gourmet, and SELF magazines. Recipes are tested and rated by people like you and me.

Once in Epicurious click on Advanced Search link. Advanced search lets you look for dishes that fit a specific set of needs. You can enter a term in the keyword search box and/or choose any of the other categories. You can even exclude ingredients. For example, you could search for a kid-friendly main course that features chicken but contains no nuts. Enter “chicken” in the search box, check off “kid-friendly” under recipe categories, select “main course” from the course pulldown, and check the exclude “nuts” box.
Manatee Center Brown Bag Lunch Lecturer: Tommy Gore

by Jann Widmayer

Have you been to one of the Manatee Center's Brown Bag Lunch Lectures lately? If not, you are missing out on a world of information and entertainment! Last month we had the pleasure of introducing Mr. Tommy Gore as our speaker. He captivated the attention of over 45 visitors with his lecture ‘Treasure Tales to Gator Tails.’

Tommy Gore is a colorful character. Growing up in Fort Pierce, he was around 17 years old when he had his first treasure hunting experience. In 1955, Tommy was diving off the Fort Pierce Inlet when he was approached by a landing craft skippered by Art McKee. He was asked if he knew of any sunken cannons in the area and Tommy showed him the spot where he and a friend often dived for lobsters. For the next three days, he worked as part of McKee’s crew, bringing up the cannons. Art even found some silver wedges in the sand. After that experience Tommy was hooked. He planned on gaining fame and fortune as a treasure hunter but as fate would have it, things worked out a bit differently than he planned. In 1965, Tommy took a job with Florida’s State Board of History and Archive, now the Bureau of Archaeological Research. For the next 36 years, he became Florida’s most widely recognized field authority known to treasure salvers in the state. He did not work from an office but worked in the field; diving, examining, tagging and cataloguing items recovered by those treasure salvers. It was a truly hands-on job. He recounts his years of fascinating adventures in his new book titled The Rainbow Chasers. There is no shortage of intriguing stories and photographs.

As if this was not enough excitement in Tommy’s life, he was also a State licensed nuisance alligator hunter. He had many tales to tell about the excitement of trapping gators. He brought the head of the largest alligator he ever trapped to show at the lecture. It was enormous! He also performed all of the taxidermy work himself. His talents are amazing. His yearning for excitement must have rubbed off on his wife because she has trapped many gators herself. As Tommy tells it, she holds the family record for trapping the largest gator.

Be sure to come to the Manatee Center’s Brown Bag Lunch Lectures held on the second Friday of every month at 12:00 PM. You’ll be amazed with lecturers like Tommy Gore. While visiting the Center, be sure to pick up your autographed copy of The Rainbow Chasers in the Manatee Center’s Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop. See you on July 13th!
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Backus Museum Features Work from the Indian River School of Artists in the Final Show of the Season

by Robin Dannahower


The Indian River School of Artists has earned its name because the members of the group paint Florida’s beautiful landscape as their main subject. More importantly though, this group of artists studied with or were greatly influenced by A.E. Backus.

Historically, the term “school of artists” refers to a group of artists whose inspiration or style demonstrates a common thread, rather than a learning institution.

One of the best examples and certainly one of the best-known “schools of artists” in America’s past is the Hudson River School. A mid-19th century art movement, the Hudson River School included a group of landscape painters whose style was influenced by European romanticism.

Continued on page 32 …
Their paintings depicted idyllic scenes of the Hudson River Valley and the surrounding area, as well as the Catskill and Adirondack Mountains.

In strong contrast, the Ashcan School of Artists shocked audiences as they documented everyday life in turn-of-the-century New York City. The group painted realistic portraits of the city crowded with immigrants and the struggling poor. An art critic bestowed upon them the pejorative label Ashcan School because they choose to focus on unfashionable subjects.

Understanding that the label “school of artists” describes a group linked together by a common element such as a geographical region, style or even a political or social movement provides a unique perspective on the Indian River School of Artists.

It’s clear that whether formally instructed or merely mentored by Backus, these artists gained skill and wisdom from his influence. The Indian River School of Artists, many of whom are award-winning, accomplished artists in their own right are highly regarded for the quality of their work. Their artwork, primarily paintings of Florida’s beautiful, unspoiled landscapes clearly reflect the subject and style of Backus.

The influence of Fort Pierce’s most celebrated artist, A.E. “Bean” Backus, is multifaceted and far-reaching. As the Founder of the Indian River School, Backus is commonly called The Dean of Florida Landscape Painters. Now nationally recognized, many are aware of Backus’ important contributions to Florida’s art. Apart from a few occasional visiting artists like Winslow Homer and acclaimed Hudson River School artist Herman Herzog, Backus practically invented painting Florida.

A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery is located at 500 N. Indian River Drive in Fort Pierce; phone 465-0630; www.backusmuseum.com.

Regular seasonal hours through June 16, 2007: Tuesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Sunday, Noon – 4 p.m.; Monday, closed. Summer hours, June 17 to July 15, 2007: Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Sunday, Noon – 4 p.m. Closed to the public/hours by appointment: July 16 to mid September, 2007.
Diva Recipes!

by Sue Dannahower

Over the next few months I will be sharing some of the most loved recipes in my collection. These creations derive from childhood culinary experiences, my travels and the Gourmet Dinner Club I organized in Denver. I have been published in Light & Tasty, Cooking Light and Reunions Magazines. Bon Appetite!

Creamy Seafood Pasta

1 box bow tie pasta, cooked as directed

Cheese Sauce:
2 cups white wine
1 teaspoon rosemary
1 teaspoon thyme
1 teaspoon oregano
1-2 tablespoon minced garlic
8 ounces shredded mozzarella
16 ounces whipping cream
8 ounces Parmesan cheese
2 cups Ricotta cheese
2 onions, chopped
1 red pepper, chopped
1 yellow pepper, chopped
4 ounces pine nuts
Peanut oil
1 pound scallops
2 pounds shrimp, shelled and cleaned
8 ounces crabmeat
1 bunch spinach
Parmesan cheese
1 cup mozzarella cheese

In a saucepan heat wine, then add rosemary, thyme, oregano, garlic salt & pepper. Take saucepan off the heat and stir mozzarella. Lower heat to warm and in small quantities add whipping cream. Stir in Parmesan cheese. Add Ricotta cheese and set aside.

In a large skillet cook onion, peppers and pine nuts in peanut oil. Sauté until tender. Add to the cheese sauce.

Cook spinach in hot skillet. Sauté until tender. Drain and add to cheese sauce.

Mix cheese sauce with cooked bow tie pasta. Place in large casserole dish. Top with mozzarella and Parmesan cheese. Bake 30 minutes at 300 degrees.

Add a Green Salad and Garlic Bread and you have a meal! Serves: 8-10.
Ask a Professional: St. Lucie Restaurant Supply

Nick and Lynne Giovannetti have owned and operated St. Lucie Restaurant Supply in downtown Fort Pierce for roughly 6 years. The late Nick Giovannetti passed the business down to his son, also named Nick. Lynne and her son both have extensive restaurant backgrounds. Lynne owned and operated an International House of Pancakes restaurant for 10 years alongside her husband as well as many other restaurants. Lynne was also Assistant General Manager for Bob Evans restaurant in Vero Beach for several years. Her son Nick also worked in kitchens for several years before coming to the business. He worked in the restaurants Café Caribe and John’s Island, both in Vero Beach. With experience in the kitchen, as well as, in the front-of-the-house and management, Nick and Lynne use their past experience to help make good and helpful decisions that benefit the customer.

**QUESTION:** Is commercial equipment really better than residential?

**ANSWER:** Most people will tell you that you get what you pay for. In most cases, that’s true; and this is one of them. Commercial equipment is not only made to last, but if you look in the right places the price isn’t much more. Some people will tell you that the pots and pans they bought from the dollar store have been with them for 20 years. That may be true but the difference is quality. For example, commercial stainless steel pots and pans have a thick plate on the bottom. On plain stainless steel pots the heat becomes centralized in one point and tends to burn whatever is touching the metal. This is where thick plate comes in. The plate heats much better than thin stainless. The heat spreads more evenly and creates less of a drastic change in temperature. The plate disperses the heat giving you the heating results of an aluminum pot with the durability of a stainless steel pot. While many name brand stores are selling what they call

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“commercial” cooking supplies, nothing really beats true commercial equipment that you would find in a restaurant.

**QUESTION:** What’s the best brand of knives?

**ANSWER:** Once again, you get what you pay for. If you were to come into our store looking for knives, you would find many different brands and styles. We sell Larry Greban, Mundial, F. Dick, Forschner, Henkel, Wüsthof, and our new line of ceramic knives from Boker. Unfortunately the only true answer to this question is, ‘It depends on the person.’ I personally like the Forschner Victorinox series with the Fibrox handles. They’re good quality knives at a decent price. In the lower end of the scale are the Greban and Mundial knives with Henkel and Wüsthof are considered high end knives. With something like Wusthof you are going to pay more for the name than anything else, you still get a great knife, but it’s still too pricey for most people. We also just got in Boker ceramic knives. While not being “new” to the market, ceramic knives are still rare to see in the kitchen or the home. The knives are ceramic so on occasion they’ll chip if you’re rough with them, but the material is a blend of ceramic and zirconium. The only thing harder than the blade is diamond; therefore ceramic knives are known to almost never dull. I have seen ceramic knives used for 5+ years and it will sharper than a brand new knife on my shelf. Not to worry, if ceramic knife ever does dull they make diamond blocks and diamond steels to sharpen the blade. So in short, if you’re looking for the “best” knife, try a few different types and get a feel for the knife, but if you’re looking for a good, cheap knife, then good luck.

**QUESTION:** What does it take to open a restaurant?

**ANSWER:** Sanity and lots of it. Nearly all people who open up a restaurant will tell you the same thing: “opening a restaurant is hard work”. You have permits to be passed, hoods, equipment, seating, not to mention any repairs to the actual building. I find that the one thing you need for opening any restaurant is a passion. You can’t run a good restaurant if you don’t like the food, the atmosphere, or just the style of work. Anyone who has worked in a kitchen, myself included, will tell you that the restaurant business is stressful. Some people will even say it’s just too stressful for the money. Opening a restaurant may be difficult but that’s why we’re here. We don’t just sell the equipment and send you on your way; we sit down with the customer and plan out every step. We make sure that the customer is happy with their buying decision whether it is one piece or an entire restaurant. We’re not happy until the customer is happy.
Wind, Waves and Fishing

by Dan Dannahower

Last month I wrote about upcoming fishing tournaments and the nice weather we always have in May and June. I must have done something to make Mother Nature mad! Steady winds, high seas and a very choppy Indian River Lagoon have been more the norm than the exception lately. Several tournaments have been cancelled and re-scheduled due to the inclement weather. There remains a full summer schedule of tournaments. Check with the City Marina for dates: www.fortpiercecitymarina.com. Hopefully my browning lawn will be enough of a sacrifice to appease Mother Nature for whatever I did and we'll get our nice summer weather back for the rest of the season.

Please don't misunderstand, despite all the windy days and rough seas we've also had some nice ones and fish are being caught. Even on the windy days there's always somewhere you can get out of the wind and enjoy a day on the water. As always your local tackle shops and marinas are in the know and can help you decide whether and where to go. For those who wish to venture out on the ocean it's particularly important to get a good weather briefing before you go.
Catch reports in the river indicate trout, redfish and bottom fish are still being caught on a regular basis. Snook season closed May 31st for the summer, so Snook will be catch and release only for the next several months. Offshore fishermen are taking dolphin, some wahoo and kings, and grouper and snapper. Local tackle shops can help with when and where to go, what to fish with and how to rig it. You might also consider one of the many locally available charters for either offshore or lagoon fishing. These professional guides know our local waters and work hard to ensure a fun day for all.

Hope you have a great summer enjoying our world-class boating and fishing environs with many days of beautiful weather! Good luck and good fishing.
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