Jingles & Joy

Laughter & Love

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN CULVERHOUSE
Happy Holidays in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce

by Sue Dannahower

Happy Holidays! December is always a busy month in beautiful historic downtown Fort Pierce. The fantastic shops and restaurants are bustling with holiday shoppers who are looking for unique gifts for family and friends. We always want to encourage our readers to ‘step away from the computer keyboard’ and do your shopping locally. When you spend money downtown you are supporting our economy and helping to strengthen jobs and our community as a whole.

We have our 26th Annual Sights and Sounds on Second Street Festival and Parade on December 8th. The theme is “Sounds of Christmas.” This is a wildly popular event and brings out thousands of people to line the parade route and cheer on the many unique floats and entries. The fun starts at 1:00 p.m. with entertainment, food, arts and crafts, and a visit by Santa at 1:30 p.m. The parade kicks off at 4:30 p.m. We hope you’ll come downtown and make a day of it!

Members are an important part of our organization. If you are not a member I urge you to join today. For as little as $25 per year you can be a part of this exciting organization. There’s much to be done planning, designing and implementing projects and we can’t do it without you! Your personal involvement and membership commitment will help Main Street Fort Pierce.

We love our Volunteers. If you are looking for a way to get involved with your community please come find out what we are all about. We have a variety of volunteer opportunities for all ages. Do you enjoy writing? We need writers to highlight the people, businesses, and attractions of downtown Fort Pierce for our monthly newspaper, the Main Street Focus.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I want to wish you and your loved ones a very joyous holiday season!

Sue Dannahower
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Manager

Pam Gillette
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Mimi Ewan
Finance

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

Calendar

Downtown Fort Pierce!

December 5, Friday: Friday Fest — 5:30 to 9:00 p.m., Music & Entertainment by Humdingers, Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

Sunday, December 7, 26th Annual Sights & Sounds Holiday Festival & Parade — Festival begins at 1:00 p.m.; Parade begins at 4:30 p.m.; Downtown Fort Pierce; 466-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

December 10, Wednesday: Art Walk at Art Bank — ArtBank Open Studio, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., The ArtBank at 111 Orange Avenue; Artmundo.org@gmail.com, 766-0021, www.artmundo.org.

Friday, December 12: Coffee With the Mayor — 8:00 a.m. at Fort Pierce Yacht Club, 700 Indian River Dr. Sponsored by Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society; 466-3880, www.jazzsociety.org.

HEALTHCOTE BOTANICAL GARDENS

Tuesday, December 9: Tai Chi Classes: Every Tuesday 9 a.m. with Tai Chi instructor, Charlie Ottesen; $10 per person.

Saturday, December 13: Art Walk at Art Bank — Art Bank Open Studio, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., The ArtBank at 111 Orange Avenue; Artmundo.org@gmail.com, 766-0021, www.artmundo.org.

Sunrise Theatre Open Studio, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Downtown Fort Pierce; 466-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

ST. LUCIE COUNTY REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER

For information, please call 462-1975 or visit www.slucieco.gov/history.

ST. LUCIE COUNTY AQUARIUM

Please call 462-3474 for more info or visit www.slucieco.gov/marine_center.

A.E. BACKUS MUSEUM

For information, please call 465-0380 or visit www.backusmuseum.com.

MANATEE OBSERVATION AND EDUCATION CENTER

For information, please call 460-1600, ext. 3333 or visit www.manateecenter.com.

DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE LIBRARY

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

Sunshine Theatre’s BLACK BOX PERFORMANCES

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

Friday, December 12: @ 8 p.m. Little Jake & the Soul Searchers — Presented by Bluebird Educational Foundation; Tickets: $35. Saturday, December 13: @ 8:30 p.m. Comedy Corner Presents: Tom Rhodes. Tickets: $15.

FORT PIERCE JAZZ & BLUES SOCIETY

For more information, please call 480-5299 or visit www.jazzsociety.org.

Every Tuesday — Jazz Jam at the Sunrise Black Box Theatre: 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Every Saturday — Jazz Market in Downtown Fort Pierce (Arts & Crafts), 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

FORT PIERCE POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE


Volunteers needed for FT. Pierce Police Athletic League. Persons interested in teaching the fundamentals of sports, mentoring and tutoring should contact Paul Pease or Gabe Gonzales 772-486-0606.

ART MUNDO

For more information, please call 766-0021 or visit www.artmundo.org.

Friday, December 12: @ 7 p.m. National Tour of Lerner & Loewe’s Camelot — Tickets: $69/59.

Saturday, December 13: @ 7 p.m. American Big Band — Home for the Holidays Tickets: $45/35.

Sunday, December 14: @ 8 p.m. Lerner & Loewe’s Camelot – Tickets: $69/59.

Fort Pierce Holiday Lights — 6:00 to 9:30 p.m.; Downtown Fort Pierce; 466-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

Monday, December 15: Morning Flight: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Downtown Fort Pierce; 466-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

Monday, December 15: More Morning Flight: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Downtown Fort Pierce; 466-3880, www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

Holiday Windows Draw Attention to Local Business

Every year the award-winning holiday window at Chaney’s Florist draws people to the downtown area to view its creative displays, which range from the whimsical to the sophisticated. Preliminary planning for the holiday windows begins right after the end of the previous holiday season. During the first seven months of the year, various ideas are discussed and evaluated. By the end of July, designs have been finalized, and during the next three the necessary materials and display props are assembled. By November 1st, everything is in place waiting for the fall window displays to be removed.

This year’s windows feature a six-foot Santa reviewing the names of good puppies, as Harley and Portia, the shop’s real puppies, wait hopefully next to a fireplace where their stockings hang in anticipation. A train named the “Santaland Express” flies over a miniature village, and a giant wreath surrounding a clock counting down to Christmas Eve fill two other windows. The final window depicts the warmth of home at the holidays.

So we invite you to come by and see our displays and stop in to visit our Christmas Wonderland that is sure to bring out the child in each of us. Chaney’s House O’ Flowers is located at 139 N. 2nd Street in Downtown Fort Pierce.

Jill Flowers

For more information, please call 480-5299 or visit www.jazzsociety.org.

Friday, December 12: @ 8 p.m. American Big Band – Home for the Holidays Tickets: $45/35.

Saturday, December 13: @ 8 p.m. Lerner & Loewe’s Camelot – Tickets: $69/59.

Sunday, December 14: @ 8 p.m. Lerner & Loewe’s Camelot – Tickets: $69/59.

Wednesday, December 17: A Christmas Carol – Presented by South Florida Dance Company – @ 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 17: Lerner & Loewe’s Camelot – Tickets: $69/59.


Friday, December 12: @ 7 p.m. National Tour of Lerner & Loewe’s Camelot — Tickets: $69/59.

Saturday, December 13: @ 7 p.m. American Big Band — Home for the Holidays Tickets: $45/35.

Sunday, December 14: @ 7 p.m. Lerner & Loewe’s Camelot – Tickets: $69/59.


Friday, December 19: American Big Band – Home for the Holidays Tickets: $45/35.

Saturday, December 20: Christmas Show 2014 Tour Tickets: $75/69.


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Celebrating the Feast Day of Santa Lucia

by T. A. Wyner

In September of 1565, Pedro Menendez de Aviles returned to Florida and began the settlement we know as St. Augustine. Florida historians believe that was also the time of the “real” first Thanksgiving in the Americas.

Months later, Menendez traveled south to our area to look for his son who was lost in a hurricane along the coast somewhere from Sebastian to Jupiter. On December 13, 1565, the Feast Day of Santa Lucia, he arrived in the local area and named it for the saint.

On December 13, 2014, almost 450 years later, at the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmer’s Market, Slow Food will host the celebration of the anniversary and history of being named St. Lucie. From the ship’s manifest Florida historians have documented what foods were brought from Spain and possibly served to the natives at that first Thanksgiving. One of the traditional dishes is “Cocido” a Spanish stew of chicken, chorizo, chick peas and vegetables.

Slow Food has prepared the recipe taught by Belen many times. This year Slow Food is challenging local cooks and chefs to make the traditional cocido or use the ingredients known from the manifest to personalize the dish in new ways. Call 561-756-3600 or e-mail tawyer@aceweb.com for information.
26th Annual Sights and Sounds Festival & Parade — “Sounds of Christmas”  
Sponsored by the City of Fort Pierce, Applebee’s of Fort Pierce, Ocean Chiropractic & Health Center, and Waste Management

by Pam Gillette

The bells will be ringing and music will be all around on Sunday, December 7, as Main Street Fort Pierce and the Sunrise Kiwanis kick off the 26th Annual Sights & Sounds on Second Festival and Parade in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce. This year’s theme is “Sounds of Christmas.”

Main Street Fort Pierce is so happy to be celebrating our 26th parade and to announce this year’s Grand Marshal – The Fort Pierce Sunrise Kiwanis. The City of Fort Pierce, Main Street Fort Pierce and our citizens have worked very hard to create a beautiful downtown and the Sights & Sounds on Second Festival and Parade is the perfect time to showcase our community to our visitors and friends.

Main Street Fort Pierce has a day full of activities that will appeal to all ages and we hope that you will find the time to join us for this exceptional day. Begin your day with Common Ground Vineyard Church. The church will hold an outdoor Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m. and the public is welcome to join them at the intersection of Orange Avenue and Second Street.

The festival, sponsored by Applebee’s of Fort Pierce, Ocean Chiropractic & Health Center, & Waste Management, begins at 1:00 p.m. with entertainment by The Treble Girls, a vocal group of girls ages 7–14. The girls will perform a variety of holiday songs and sing a welcome to Santa at 1:30 p.m. After the arrival of Santa, the crowd will be entertained by local community groups: Star City Dance at 2:00 p.m., True Crew

Immediately following the Parade will be the lighting of the Holiday Christmas Tree. The tree is located in the roundabout at Avenue A & Indian River Drive. The Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society will be at the roundabout playing holiday jazz music before and after the tree lighting.

After the tree lighting, stay around for the “The Holiday Lights Spectacular” in Marina Square on Melody Lane. “The Holiday Lights Spectacular” is presented by the City of Fort Pierce. The light show consists of over 100,000 lights synchronized to holiday music and is a must-see for both locals and out-of-town guests. The lights and music will run from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. daily until January 4, 2015. “Sounds of Christmas” is special time and we hope you and your family will join us for the festival and parade. For more information call Main Street Fort Pierce at 772-466-3880 or www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

Free Parking: City Parking Garage (Orange Avenue & Depot Drive); County Parking Garage (2nd Street & Boston Avenue); Parking Lot (South Indian River Drive between AE Backus Avenue & Avenue D),
Sunrise Theatre Announces Local Boy To Play In The National Touring Company of Camelot

by Anne Satterlee

The Sunrise Theatre, in conjunction with Phoenix Entertainment, is pleased to announce Conor Pollack, a fourth grade student at River’s Edge Elementary School, Port St. Lucie, FL will portray the role of “Tom of Warwick” in the National Touring Company of Camelot at the Sunrise Theatre on December 3 at 7 p.m.

Local auditions were held at the Sunrise Theatre Black Box on October 16 with video submissions to Phoenix Entertainment Casting Director to select the candidate. Pollack performed in King Arthur’s Quest and Treasure Island productions as part of the 2014 Missoula Summer Theatre Camp at the Sunrise Theatre. Pollack has performed in several school plays and enjoys sports, especially basketball and video games.

The 2014/15 National Tour of Lerner & Loewe’s Camelot re-imagines the classic tale of King Arthur, Guinevere and Lancelot. The character, Tom of Warwick, is a young boy destined to be a Knight who fights for what is right and gives Arthur hope for the future. Broadway’s sweeping tale of passion, pageantry and betrayal, Camelot is the winner of four Tony Awards®, three Academy Awards® and has never been more enthralling than in this new production.

The Sunrise Theatre is an intimate venue, offering the best entertainment on the Treasure Coast. The Sunrise Theatre presents a diverse schedule of national touring Broadway shows, musical and comedy acts, ballet and opera companies with full orchestras, country stars and classic rock icons. For a comprehensive listing and description of all events booked to date, go to www.SunriseTheatre.com.

Ten years ago Joanne Davis with Main Street Fort Pierce started the “Ghosts of Fort Pierce Past Historic Walking Tour” with one tour and nine stops. This year Main Street Fort Pierce had three tours with over 40 actors, 30 tour guides, 20 support people and we were able to accommodate over 650 attendees — 100 more than last year. This is an event that the community looks forward to attending and a great way to showcase the history of our beautiful city.

Main Street Fort Pierce would like to thank Sue Dannahower (the event coordinator) and all of the volunteers, actors, and guides who contributed to the success of the event.

Here are some comments from people who attended the walking tours:

“Just wanted to let you know how much we enjoyed the walking tour last night. Kudos to you and your team and many thanks for the work you all put into it. Very well done!” — Don and Anne Wingo

“Yeah! It was better than ever. Enjoyed the NORTH tour very much.” — Debra Magrann

“Excellent tour … had fun … look forward to next year!” — Felicia Bruce

“My husband and I went on the Edgartown Ghost Tour on Wednesday. We were visitors and thought the tour was a fun way to learn about the area. Thanks for providing an entertaining walk through old Ft. Pierce.” — Susan Bonnell, Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, New Mexico

A special thank you to the photography class at St. Andrews Academy for taking photos of the events.

Continued on page 12 …
Harbor Branch Downtown Historic Trolley Tour & Lion Fish Meal
by Cindy Willson

Main Street Fort Pierce helped FAU-Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute kick off a season celebrating Fort Pierce’s important maritime history on October 23rd. The Friends of Harbor (FoHB), a group of Harbor Branch supporters, sponsored a Historic Trolley Tour of Fort Pierce and Lionfish Supper that featured Mayor Linda Hudson, Main Street President Sue Dannahower, and Andy Brady – US Navy SEAL Museum’s community engagement officer, as tour guides. Other activities about the area’s history and culture are planned for this winter. FoHB has been around for over 25 years, providing a slate of trips, tours and lectures for its card-carrying members. Programming is tailored to those who wish to learn about the marine environment and the important science research and technological innovation at Harbor Branch. When space allows, nonmembers are invited to come along on FoHB activities.

Our tour began on a sunny afternoon as the group boarded the city’s historic trolley near Cobb’s Landing, and Sue Dannahower, Main Street Fort Pierce President, launched into the colorful history of the south end of the city. Interesting architecture, old and new, and public art abound in downtown Fort Pierce. Who knew the place had so many ghostly presences; we all felt the need to attend the next annual Ghost Tour. As the trolley moved on, guests saw the Sunrise Theater and heard stories about railway magnate Henry Flagler as we passed the “Night Train” mural and learned about African-American folklorist/anthropologist/author Zora Neale Hurston. We traveled over Tickle Tummy Hill to the district called Edgartown that is enjoying a revival of single-family residences and new establishments. The group was surprised to hear that the inland neighborhoods now several blocks from the water were once shoreline properties before the Indian River Lagoon was dredged, and in the 1880s, Edgartown was a fishing village with direct access to the river.

Supper was waiting at Bottom’s Up Raw Bar and Grill, and tour goers were ready to dine on fresh lionfish tacos prepared by Jimmy Fristas, Owner/Proprietor of Bottom’s Up, and sample Lionfish Pale Ale provided by Sailfish Brewing Co.

Next year’s event will be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2015. Mark your calendars now! For those that cannot wait that long, call the office 772-466-3880 and reserve a spot on a historic trolley tour in December or January.

Historic Trolley Schedule 2014-15
December 13, 2014: Historic Downtown Fort Pierce; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m., 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. January 17, 2015: Martin Luther King Historic Lincoln Park District & Limited Historic Downtown Fort Pierce; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m., 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Private tours are available. Please call Sue Dannahower (772) 618-0155 for more details. We plan to run tours through April 2015. Reservations are required. Cost is $10 per person. Call Main Street Fort Pierce at (772) 466-3880 to sign up for a tour. We are looking for sponsors for the 2014-15 tours. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor please call Sue Dannahower (772) 618-0155 or e-mail her at Sue_Dannahower@Bellsouth.net.

During the meal, guests learned more about the dreaded but delicious lionfish from experts Bob and Maria Hickerson and Harbor Branch scientist and director of HBOI’s Ocean Discovery Center, Jim Masterson. Jim explained the difference between poisonous and venomous sea life and assured us that science supports that lionfish is safe to include in our diet, a good thing since by this time, we were devouring the lionfish tacos with a creamy dill sauce and slaw.

Bob and Maria Hickerson, divers who call themselves “Team Frapper” after the Frapper gun they invented to spear the fish and limit its invasion, spoke about how lionfish are threatening Florida’s saltwater fish, wildlife and habitat. Adding the tasty fish to restaurant menus is one way to raise awareness about the invasive species and create a market for the food that might just put a dent in the population. Another way to help control the invasion is through the lionfish derbies that are now held up and down the Florida coast, making lionfish hunting a sport “safari” and educating the public at fishing clinics and shoreline festivals.

The Hickersons are developing a device that will integrate photo identification software with underwater photography and effective design to lure larger numbers of lionfish into a holding cage, or trap. Artist Maria, also creates unique jewelry from the fins of the beautiful fish. Lionfish earrings are available for purchase at Harbor Branch’s Ocean Discovery Center gift shop, along with a cookbook entitled The Lionfish Cookbook – The Caribbean New Delicacy.

As the trolley tour continued after dinner, Mayor Hudson talked about plans for the marina and then turning the microphone over to Andy Brady of the National Navy SEAL Museum, we were off for Jetty Beach Park. We were huddled into the past with wartime history, weapons invented and tested, and tales of the challenges (no see ‘ums and mosquitoes) that faced troops stationed at the amphibious training base for Naval Special Warfare. More than 110,000 sailors and soldiers were trained at the site beginning in 1943 including the Higgins attack boat crews that brought soldiers to the beaches during an invasion of enemy-held territory. The Naval Combat Demolition Unit program was established at the base, training Underwater Demolition Teams in what is now known as the Navy SEAL Teams. Andy’s favorite phrase is “you can’t make this stuff up,” and he surely is correct. The history of Fort Pierce is colorful and crazy, patriotic and meaningful, curious and checkered, but as we rolled back over the bridge to Cobb’s Landing, we all agreed that on this day with our Main Street guide, the town’s mayor, and a Navy SEAL, Fort Pierce was just pure fun!

The Friends of Harbor Branch sponsors trips, tours and lectures throughout the year. Winter months are especially busy with tours to the Adams Ranch and boat trips on the Kissimmee River to learn about the Kissimmee River Restoration Project from FAU environmental scientists. There will be a holiday trip to Palm Beach’s Flagler Museum and Whitehall Mansion to view the Panama Canal exhibit called The Rios of the Oceans: The Meeting of the Atlantic and the Pacific. In January, FoHB will host Patrick Smith Jr. when he presents a dramatic narrative of his father’s beloved book A Land Remembered. Jim will drive on sustainable seafood paella cooked outdoors along the Link Port Channel at Harbor Branch.

To learn more about FAU-Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute and the Friends of Harbor Branch, please contact Cindy Willson at cwilleo1@fau.edu or go to fau.edu/hboi for a complete list of upcoming events.
**MAYOR’S MESSAGE**

**Fort Pierce honors the Art, Lives and Times of the Florida Highwaymen**

by Linda Hudson, City of Fort Pierce Mayor

The City of Fort Pierce and the Florida Humanities Council are launching a new self-guided cultural trail that honors and features the Highwaymen artists. This unique art genre of high-speed landscape painting includes mostly male African Americans, who created affordable Florida scenic art in oils. Their marketing consisted of selling from their vehicles, either on the side of the road, or cold calling on small businesses in South Florida.

The project includes a website and ten kiosks that commemorate the important places associated with the group. While there are differences about just who qualifies as a Highwayman, the website is based on the 26 Original Highwaymen who were inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame in 2000. The trail locations include: Seven Gables House, which serves as the city’s visitor’s center; Platt’s Backus House, because A.E. “Beanie” Backus was a mentor to the Highwaymen; Pine Grove Cemetery, historic African American cemetery; Lincoln Park Academy, where Zanobia Jefferson taught art; Dunbar House, where early Highwayman artist, Alfred Hair, lived with his wife, Doretha, and their children; Eddie’s Place, where Alfred Hair was shot in 1970; Obelisk at 15th and D, a tribute to the Highwaymen; two markers at Moore’s Creek Linear Park, tributes to In 1970; Obelisk at 15th and D, a tribute to the Highwaymen, where Alfred Hair was shot; and Charles Wheeler. Eight of the original 26 are deceased.

Painting on Upson board, framing with crown molding, these mostly self-taught artists symbolized a unique path to commercial success, recognition and fame. Mostly from Fort Pierce, the Highwaymen story is as much about Fort Pierce as it is about art. Watch for the trail’s official launch in the first quarter of 2015.

For more information, please visit the website at http://fortpiercejubilee.com. The Highwaymen Trail Project is sponsored by the Zora Neale Hurston Society and the Intermodal Station, where the Highwaymen Trail Project joins the Zora Neale Hurston Society.

Local Author’s Mystery-Thrillers Set in Fort Pierce

Interview with Malcolm Mahr

**Q:** What inspired you to set your novels in Fort Pierce?

**A:** I’m a late bloomer, starting my writing career at age seventy. To date I have ten published books, including three non-fiction and seven fiction. I was a spy’s past casts a long shadow. Former CIA operative code-named, Scorpion lives in Fort Pierce. Against his will, the Scorpion is summoned back to the Agency and dispatched on an urgent mission he cannot refuse, to a place called Armageddon. In a book of adventure, suspense and great, great fun, five geriatric mobsters retire to Fort Pierce and volunteer their special talents to aid police in lowering the crime rate. An American researcher is murdered at the Einstein Archives in Jerusalem. A short time later in the Arabian Sea an eerie lightning fireball strikes an Israeli warship. An Islamic terrorist group claims they have discovered how to harness the power of lightning. Fort Pierce investigator Frank Fernandez is charged with resolving this techno-mystery. The body of CIA operative, code-named the Venetian, is discovered floating in the Fort Pierce Inlet. Five thousand miles away in Venice, the body of a museum curator is found floating in the Grand Canal. The two murders are inextricably linked to the past.

**Q:** Who do you think would benefit from buying your books?

**A:** For those who enjoy mystery-thrillers, or for thoughtful folk who give books as gifts.

**Q:** Where are people able to buy your books?

**A:** BuyMacsBooks.com, Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, or contact me. TCP27@aol.com.

**Q:** What are you currently working on?

**A:** My next book is titled The Golden Madonna. At age 86, I feel fortunate to be able to pursue my writing. I also consider it a privilege to be part of the Treasure Coast Writers Guild and to be able to personally offer my books to the public at the Saturday Fort Pierce Downtown Farmer’s Market.

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*Gold accent hair $10

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**The Hostage**

A tense and twisty plot. The President’s mother disappears from a Fort Pierce nursing facility, victim of a scheme designed to destabilize the American Presidency. A spy’s past casts a long shadow. Former CIA operative code-named, Scorpion lives in Fort Pierce. Against his will, the Scorpion is summoned back to the Agency and dispatched on an urgent mission he cannot refuse, to a place called Armageddon. In a book of adventure, suspense and great, great fun, five geriatric mobsters retire to Fort Pierce and volunteer their special talents to aid police in lowering the crime rate. An American researcher is murdered at the Einstein Archives in Jerusalem. A short time later in the Arabian Sea an eerie lightning fireball strikes an Israeli warship. An Islamic terrorist group claims they have discovered how to harness the power of lightning. Fort Pierce investigator Frank Fernandez is charged with resolving this techno-mystery. The body of CIA operative, code-named the Venetian, is discovered floating in the Fort Pierce Inlet. Five thousand miles away in Venice, the body of a museum curator is found floating in the Grand Canal. The two murders are inextricably linked to the past.

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**A:** I’m a late bloomer, starting my writing career at age seventy. To date I have ten published books, including three non-fiction and seven fiction.

**Q:** How many books are set in Fort Pierce?

**A:** Five. My latest is The Hostage.

**Q:** What are you currently working on?

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Cathy Heeter Creates Outside the Box

by Holly Theuns, Executive Director, Art Mundo

Cathy Heeter’s art quilt and jewelry work will be on exhibit in Art Mundo’s Underground Hallway space in December in a show titled “Running with Scissors and Fiddling with Fabric.” Allie Comer, one of Art Mundo’s founders and a working studio artist, is curating the show of Heeter’s work in Art Mundo’s Underground Hallway space to introduce the community to the wonderfully colorful and imaginative art quilt and jewelry work that Heeter produces. To quote Heeter, “In this show I ignored the rules and assumed limitations of traditional quilting and jewelry design and instead embraced the whimsy and abstract ideas that emerged.” Sounds to me like she had a blast creating her work and that energy and joy are going to be contagious to all who visit her exhibit. It is also the season to select that special gift for family, friends and coworkers, and I don’t know a woman alive who doesn’t love a gift of jewelry.

Pre-retirement, found Heeter primarily employed as an educator — first as an elementary school teacher, and later as a corporate trainer — but always, always involved creatively with fabric. Heeter has dabbled in many art forms but considers herself first and foremost to be a creative seamstress and loves the challenge of manipulating fabric using traditional and nontraditional techniques for surface design.

Heeter loves to share her lifetime’s accumulated knowledge creating art with textiles, so watch Art Mundo’s website.

Continued on page 18...
Much Ado About Art
by Kathleen Fredrick

Hardly a day goes by that someone does not call the Backus Museum to ask how much their painting is worth. Note that I did not say that they asked how much their A.E. Backus or Florida Highwaymen painting is worth. Nope, they call about every kind of painting, print or drawing you can imagine. Most often, callers have no idea who the artist is or whether it is actually a painting or a reproduction. While I always want to be helpful to random callers, of late, my powers of clairvoyance have been somewhat lacking. It occurs to me that a primer in valuation, conservation and reproductions might be of help to Focus readers.

Let us start with value. With the advent of the internet, a vast resource of information is available to the layperson. Two websites are particularly helpful. I refer people to askart.com and artnet.com. If you are interested in finding out the value of a piece of artwork or information about an artist, these two sites are the place to start. There are literally tens of thousands of artists listed on these sites. Additional information includes artist’s bios, auction prices, galleries that represent the artist and much more.

Having a piece of artwork appraised is an entirely different matter. You do not need to have an appraisal done if you want to sell a piece of artwork. Appraisals are primarily for either evaluation for an estate or for insurance purposes. For a nominal fee, the Backus Museum appraises only paintings by A.E. Backus. We provide fair market estimates on paintings by Indian River School artists. An appraisal costs money so, if you need it get one but if you are just curious, do some Internet research before paying for an appraisal. Quite frankly, eBay is a great place to start.

Fine art appraisers can also be found on the internet using a little known search engine called Google. Beware of local appraisal events modeled on PBS’s “Antiques Roadshow.” A single appraiser is unlikely to have the breadth of accurate knowledge to appraise artwork, china, glass, silver, jewelry, antique furniture, sports memorabilia, etc. Most appraisers specialize in one area of concentration. The Backus Museum recently sold a painting for $30,000 whose owner was told that the painting had little or no value at a local appraisal event in her North Carolina town.

Please do not be offended if I tell you that your painting is dirty. Yes, you heard it here first. Artwork gets dirty. If you had not washed your curtains in over fifty years, would you think they were clean? Many Backus paintings date back over seventy years and works by other artists may date back hundreds of years. These older paintings often show the signs of age; cigarette smoke, yellow varnish, cracking paint or even little brown speckles on works on paper. They need some TLC. Fine art conservation is a delicate specialty. Do not attempt to clean your own paintings and please do not ask your friend who is an artist to do it. Knowing how to paint a painting is not the same thing as knowing how to clean and preserve a painting. It is akin to having your podiatrist perform heart surgery. It is simply not a good idea.

Contact the Museum if you are interested in restoration services. We are happy to assist you with a referral.

I have received three calls this week from people who want to reproduce a painting they own. The Museum does a brisk business in reproductions of A.E. Backus original paintings—which, by the way make wonderful Christmas gifts! A.E. Backus and his family gave the Museum control of the copyright on all Backus paintings. Without that gift, we would not be able to sell giclees or any other items with images by A.E. Backus.

Reproduction of an original work of art by anyone other than the artist is most likely illegal. Yes, you read that right. Just as when you buy a CD or DVD, you may listen to the music or watch the movie but you are not allowed to copy it. Even if you do not plan to sell the copy, it is still illegal to reproduce it. Copyright law is quite complicated. After fifteen years as the Museum’s Executive Director, I know more about copyright law than I ever wanted to. So you may own it, you may display it, you may even destroy it but do not copy it. Copyright infringement is a federal crime. While I know that we all want the new Federal Courthouse to be a hub of activity, be careful and make certain it is not your copyright infringement case they are hearing.

The Museum’s exhibition will be in full swing once this edition of the Focus gets to you. Featured in the Holiday Art Extravaganza are: Florida landscapes and hand-painted glass ornaments by Jackie Schindehette of Ocala; creative gourds by Marie Morrow of Vero Beach; botanically-inspired ceramics by Mia Lindberg of Jensen Beach; hand-crafted jewelry as wearable art by Suzanne Ritter of Port St. Lucie; photography of wildlife on the award-winning Adams Ranch by Alto “Bud” Adams and Rob Adams of Fort Pierce; pastel landscapes and portraits by Rebecca Eagan of Winter Park; Steampunk assemblage by Janet Fuller of Fort Pierce; magnificent patina paintings by Nathan Bennett of Utah; vibrant photographs of Florida’s vistas by Paul Marcellini of Miami; and so much more. Stop in to peruse the fabulous wreaths created for this special season and take one home to adorn your door.

The A.E. Backus Museum of Art is located at 500 N. Indian River Drive in historic downtown Fort Pierce. For more information call us at 772-465-0630, email info@backusmuseum.com or visit our website, www.backusmuseum.com. Regular hours are Wednesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.; closed on Monday and Tuesday. Admission is $5 per person. Museum members, active duty military, children 12 and under, students with a valid school I.D. are free. The Museum offers a $2 discount for admission on senior citizens, AARP, AAA and veterans with proper I.D. The first Sunday of each month is family day and admission is free to all.
Main Street Golf Tournament Winners

Main Street Fort Pierce would like to thank Ocean Chiropractic & Health Center, Waste Management, CenterState Bank, the Law Firm of Hoskins, Turco Lloyd and Lloyd, and all of our participants and volunteers who participated in this year’s golf tournament held at Gator Trace Country Club. Here are the results of the tournament:

1st Place
Team South Florida Aluminum
Russ Herron, Don Yates, Scott Attey, & Brad Yates

2nd Place
Team Hack O’ Lanterns
Val & Frank Schulte, James Carnes & Chris Grim

3rd Place
Team Wile
Erik Wile, Michael Brooks, Robert Cash, & Kori Benton

Longest Drive Woman
Cindi O’Connell

Longest Drive Men
Michael Brooks

Closest to the Pin
Michael Brooks

Putting Contest Winner
Patrick Hilburn

Love, JAZZ Community: Ring in the holidays with music from the Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society

’Tis the season of glowing lights, cheerful greetings, family gatherings, and lots of music. Everywhere you go between now and the end of the year, you’ll be serenaded with the sounds of the season and wishes of good cheer. I’ve been thinking about this lately — about how the holiday season simply wouldn’t be the same without our old favorites. Lines like, “Cheestnuts roasting on an open fire,” immediately take us to a place in our memory that is filled with warm and happy memories, and who can stay grumpy when the sounds of sleigh bells and Silver Bells fill the air? Music is an integral part of the fabric of our lives all year long, but during the holidays, we count on music to transport us to a simpler, happier time, and we need music to help us sustain our holiday spirit and good cheer — even when someone cuts us off in traffic!

And while the members of the Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society do not claim to be Santa’s only elves (as opposed to that other one) by helping to provide terrific musical opportunities and celebrations all year long. For your enjoyment, we offer a weekly Jazz Jam at the Sunrise Theatre Black Box where, for less than $10, you can enjoy a full evening of jazz, blues, swing, big band, or specialty music performed by consummate pros, up-and-coming artists of extraordinary talent, and local legends who stop by for a cameo and grace the crowd with their brilliance and a tune or two. Talk about the perfect stocking stuffer? For less than $10, you can give the gift of music all year long.

As you can see, it’s not just the holiday season that makes us cheerful at Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society. It’s the music that keeps us going all year long, the Waterside Blues Concerts we offer at no charge, the fabulous week of jazz and blues we bring to the community every March, and the Jazz Market Arts and Crafts, right by the water’s edge in historic downtown Fort Pierce, just close enough to feel the Indian River breeze along Melody Lane. The funds we raise from this weekly labor of love help fund scholarships for talented, young musicians from St. Lucie, Indian River, and Martin Counties who want to continue their musical education. It’s part of our dedication to keeping the music alive for generations to come.

So, as the season of giving draws nigh, “we’re offering this simple phrase for kids from one to ninety-two. Although it’s been said many times, many ways,” we wish music for you.

To learn more about Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society, please visit www.jazzsociety.org, or call 772-460-JAZZ.
Tech ByteS: Fake Support Calls
by Michael Lewis

There has been an increase in customers that have been receiving support calls regarding viruses and or malware on their computers. Microsoft and other computer companies are far too busy to cold call customers and offer support. Be very careful, as these support calls usually want to connect to your computer to “troubleshoot the problem”. This opens your computer up to whatever the person on the other end wants to install onto your computer. Support technicians normally have to enter passcodes to gain access, these support technicians can install software to gain access to your computer anytime whether you are there or not. Once they have access they can literally copy all of your data, browsing history, etc. from your computer. It is very important that if you have ever allowed one of these phone call support specialist into your computer that you unplug the computer from the Internet immediately and have it checked out for spyware/malware. Please make note of the phone number if available and Google the number to look for prior complaints about the caller. Good luck and safe computing.

Mike’s Downtown Computer Repair is located at 207 Orange Ave., Suite E in Fort Pierce, Desk: (772) 448-8153, Cell: (772) 480-3427

Holiday Shopping at the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmer’s Market

Holiday season is approaching and I’m sure many of you are thinking about holiday entertaining! Whether you’re planning a dinner for two or making food for a full house, the Fort Pierce Farmers’ Market is the perfect place to shop for creative and delicious menu ideas and put together a festive atmosphere too!

For this holiday season, skip the big box stores and crowded supermarkets and get all-natural gifts at the Fort Pierce Farmers’ Market! Arrive early, relax, and stroll the market to see what is available. There are so many things you can buy at the market to make your holiday gatherings unique! Recently, we shopped the Fort Pierce Farmers’ Market and we came up with the following suggestions:

- Organic and locally raised produce for special holiday recipes
- Farm-raised beef, chicken, and lamb
- Fresh and frozen seafood
- All natural pasta and gluten-free pasta
- Raw honey for recipes and for serving hot tea
- Whole grain breads and decadent desserts from the bakery booths
- Seasonal plants to decorate your house
- Natural soaps for the guest bath
- All-natural dog treats to keep the dogs quiet and happy
- Fresh-squeezed juices for mixed drinks
- Teas to serve hot or cold
- Olives, tapenade, and hummus for snacking and side dishes
- All-natural dip mixes to serve as appetizers
- Jams, jellies, and sauces to offer as hostess gifts

For every $10 spent on local food, as much as $7.80 is redistributed in our local community, supporting local jobs and businesses. Also, growers at our market will take home almost $8 instead of the $1.58 that farmers and ranchers receive when food is purchased through a retail market. Shopping at our farmer’s market is truly an investment in our local economy.

Join us this Saturday at the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmer’s Market; a Saturday morning tradition. For more information, please visit www.fortpiercefarmersmarket.com or find us on Facebook.
While all the media has us believing everything is perfect in the world, you might not agree. It is unfortunate that many of us have unexpected bouts of anxiety, depression, insomnia and fear during the holidays. Some of these feelings catch us off guard while others come each year, most commonly from the feeling of financial pressure and loss. 

There are prescription drugs that can be used but they can take up to twelve weeks to work.

The first step to not just get through the holidays but to actually enjoy them is to plan for the worst and expect the best! I have often been called an optimist but I am also realist about the "Holiday Blues". We need to know that many of us are suffering, mostly in the privacy of our own homes.

Try to do each of these, but even just doing one will help.

$ Reach out to someone in need. Even if you feel you don’t have the time or money. Helping another will give you a lift like no other. I love giving to the food bank but there is probably a neighbor or friend that could use a fresh basket of fruit.

$ Go outdoors and do deep nasal breathing. Not only will it keep a cold away but it will keep you calm and centered.

$ Do not watch TV or social media. Unfortunately the social media during the holidays shows everyone looking perfect drinking fancy drinks and laughing. Not reality! Call your friends, the intimate connection of a voice can help.

$ Don't focus on dieting during the holiday. Just add healthy choices into each day like drinking water, eating a fresh veggie and fruit.

Rent a comedy movie. Laughter is the best medicine.

Nutrition World is located at 200 N 2nd Street in Fort Pierce.

Fort Pierce receives FIND grants for public fishing pier on Melody Lane

People who like to fish along Melody Lane will be getting a public pier extending into the Indian River Lagoon in about a year.

The Florida Inland Navigation District recently awarded the second of two multi-year grant awards to the City of Fort Pierce to design and construct the more than $600,000 public fishing pier and fish-cleaning station. The District awarded $100,000 to the city for the project in September 2013 and most recently, an additional $212,500 in September 2014. Costs for the project will be shared 50/50 between the City and the District.

City officials estimate more than 9,000 people will use the pier and cleaning station each year. Other annual benefits include 11 regional fishing tournaments, a viewing area for Fourth of July fireworks, Christmas Boat Parades and a viewing area for birds that gather amongst the city's storm protection island system.

The fishing pier will be 10 feet wide and 220 feet long with a 20-by-20-foot landing. The ADA accessible pier will include bicycle racks, lighting, benches, tackle disposal units and environmentally friendly thru-flow interlocking deck-covering panels to encourage sea grass growth. The fish cleaning station will include running water and lighting.

Libby Woodruff, grants administrator, said the city’s engineering department is currently preparing to release a Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit bids for the construction phase of the project and expects the pier to be constructed within the next year.
Fishing Fort Pierce in Cooler Weather

by Larry Benning

**Inshore —** Cooler weather is on the horizon and the fish know it. Soon it will be time to pull out the red tail hawks. As the weather changes so do the feeding patterns of the fish. Inshore fish will move to deeper water where the ambient temperatures do not have as much effect.

The snapper bite in the river is slowing down but that may be due to dredging. Hopefully, now that the dredging is over, the snapper bite will pick up again. It may be quite some time for the effects of the dredging to subside.

Spanish mackerel have returned to the river. One can literally see them jumping everywhere. You would think that with all of those fish they'd be easy to catch but that isn't always the case. My favorite lure is actually a large quill, florescent green, about an inch long. These are not available at a store so you'll have to tie your own. Make sure to use wire to tie your fiber.

Couple this with a twelve-inch #6 or #4 wire leader with as small as you can find swivel. Mackerel love to hit the swivel and cut you off. Put a noisemaker ahead of your quill such as an oblong bobber. Give yourself about two feet between your quill and the popper. This will get their attention and it does work believe it or not.

You may have to chase the schools around a little but you'll have fun.

**Offshore —** Dolphin, dolphin everywhere! It seems as though if you get bait in the water you stand a very good chance of catching schoolly size dolphin. I haven't observed too many gaffers and when talking to the Florida Wildlife Commission technician at the Stan Blum boat ramp she hadn't either, but there are a few being caught.

The bait of choice is the old reliable rigged bally. It didn't seem to matter if they were skirted and naked. The weeds started in 60 feet of water and fish were being caught out to 120. With the skirted bally you can troll at a slightly higher rate of speed, 5 and 6 knots.

The winter snapper bite is cranking up. The boys on the Sunseeker had a nice catch of mangroves mixed with muttons. You range from two to six pounds. The bait of choice is frozen sardines with short leaders, three to four feet, and keep it off the bottom. Only use as much lead as you need to hold a vertical line.

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**Marie’s Blueberry Cake**

Marie Adamick, mother of my friend Holly Theuns, of Art Murdo, gave this wonderful dessert to our family. My kids loved the cake — so moist and chalked full of fresh blueberries.

1 cup butter, softened
2 cups sugar
3 eggs
3 cups all-purpose flour
1½ teaspoons baking powder
1/8 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon mace
1/2 cup milk
2 cups blueberries
2 teaspoons sugar
2 teaspoons flour

Butter and flour a 10-inch tube pan or Bundt pan. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Cream butter and 2 cups of sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Combine next four ingredients; add to creamed mixture, alternating with milk, beating well after each addition. Mix blueberries with remaining sugar and flour. Fold into batter and pour batter into the baking pan. Bake for 70 to 80 minutes. Cool on a rack, then remove from pan.
Sunrise Theatre
For the Performing Arts

GIVE THE GIFT OF ENTERTAINMENT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

The National Touring Co. of Camelot
Wed., Dec. 3

The Colors of Christmas
Sun., Dec. 7
Pendell Thomas, Jennifer Holliday, Robin Stidham & Taylor Dayne

Wynonna & The Big Noise
Thurs., Dec. 11
A Simpler Christmas

American Big Band
Fri., Dec. 19
Home for the Holidays

Trace Adkins
Sat., Dec. 20
The Christmas Show

State Ballet Theatre of Russia’s Nutcracker
Fri., Dec. 26
Howie Mandel
Sat., Jan. 3
A Night of Comedy

SISTER ACT
The National Touring Co. of Sister Act
Tues., Jan. 6
An Evening with Don Williams
Thurs., Jan. 8
The Beach Boys
Fri., Jan. 9

The National Touring Co. of Smokey Joe’s Cafe
Tues., Jan. 13
National Symphony Orchestra of Mexico
Sat., Jan. 24
An Unforgettable Evening

Michael Bolton
Sun., Jan. 25
An Evening with Engelbert Humperdinck
Wed., Jan. 28

Four Bitchin’ Babes
Thurs., Feb. 5
Best of the Babes

Olivia Newton-John
Fri., Feb. 6

Buddy, The Buddy Holly Story
Thurs., Feb. 12
The National Touring Co. of STYX
Thurs., Feb. 19

Dennis DeYoung
Fri., Feb. 20
The Music of Styx

Dancing Pros Live!
Sat., Feb. 21
Hosted by Alan Thicke

Masters of Illusion
Sun., Feb. 22
Believe the Impossible!

Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes

The Midtown Men
Thurs., Feb. 26
4 Original Stars from Broadway’s Jersey Boys

Scotty McCreery
Sat., Feb. 28
See You Tonight Tour

Russian National Ballet Theatre’s Sleeping Beauty
Sun., Mar. 1

PFX
Wed., Mar. 4
The Pink Floyd Experience

An Evening with Paul Anka
Thurs., Mar. 5

Night Fever
Fri., Mar. 6
An Evening of the Bee Gees

The National Touring Co. of Jekyll & Hyde
Fri., Mar. 13

The Best Entertainment on the Treasure Coast
For a List of all Shows Visit SunriseTheatre.com or Call 772.461.4775
117 South 2nd Street in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce
(These are just some of the shows confirmed to date. Additional Shows and Attractions will be added throughout the season. Programs are subject to change)