



Volume 17, No. 7 February, 2022

FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce

HAVANA *Nights*




SCAN ME

27th Annual Reverse Raffle, Saturday, February 19

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mark Your Calendars!

by Britt Reynolds



There is so much happening this month in and around downtown. Here is a brief list, but check out this edition for more information:

27th Annual Reverse Raffle — *Main Street Fort Pierce* is excited to bring the **Reverse Raffle** back to downtown Fort Pierce. It will be held in the newly renovated **500 Orange**


Building (the former downtown Fort Pierce Post Office) on Saturday, February 19th from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. If you have not been in this beautiful building yet, this is your chance. This year's theme is *Havana Nights* so pull out your favorite Guayabera shirt or tropical dress and get ready for a night of great refreshments, excitement and merriment. Each ticket is a chance to win the \$2,000 grand prize. To reserve your ticket today visit mainstreetfortpierce.org or call 772-466-3880.

Naturefest at the **Manatee Center** — Bring the whole family downtown on Saturday, February 19th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be live animals, demonstrations, craft activities and more during this annual event. Check out the **Manatee Center** article for more information.

Landscape Art Show at the **Platts/Backus House** and *Main Street* office (122 A.E. Backus Avenue) with Anita Prentice, Doretha Hair Trusdall and guest artist — master wood turner Jack Shelton. This is an amazing collaborative show and sale. Join us from 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, February 10th during the show and reception or stop by on Friday, February 11th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. to own your own piece of Florida themed art.

The great **Highwaymen Artists** are celebrated each February through special exhibits and the **Highwaymen Festival**. Due to health concerns, this year's **Highwaymen Festival** has been cancelled; however, the **Backus Museum** presents *The Highwaymen: Art/History* exhibit from January 8th through March 6th. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the art and history of these legendary artists. Check out the article in this month's edition for more information.

2022 Florida Lineman Competition — Join the FPUA as they host the **FMEA Florida Lineman Competition** on Saturday, February 26 starting at 8:30 a.m. (See story on page 5.) Admission is free! Competition will be held on the grounds surrounding the Fenn Center with parking at the Fenn Center, 2000 Virginia Avenue, in beautiful Fort Pierce. ❖



MAIN STREET FOCUS FORT PIERCE

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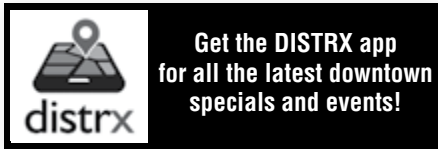
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Phone: 772.466.3880 • mainstreetfortpierce.org

Calendar

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



MONTHLY EVENTS

February 4, Friday: *FRIDAY FEST AT MARINA SQUARE* — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; live music by *Dave and the Wave*; FPUA displays; sponsored by Cobbs Landing and Little Jims restaurants; **Please remove all vehicles from the permitted Friday Fest road closure area (Marina Way & Melody Lane) by 2:00 p.m.;** Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

February 10, Thursday: *LANDSCAPE ART SHOW featuring Anita Prentice, Doretha Hair Trusdall and Jack Shelton* — 5 to 8:00 p.m.; Art reception and sale Thursday, February 10th from 5 to 8 p.m. or last chance sale on Friday, February 11th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

February 18, Friday: *COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR* — 8:00 a.m. at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, 700 N. Indian River Dr.; *Sponsor – Seacoast Bank*; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

February 19, Saturday: *NATUREFEST AT THE MANATEE CENTER* — Manatee Observation & Education Center 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

February 19, Saturday: *27TH ANNUAL REVERSE RAFFLE "HAVANA NIGHTS"* — 500 Orange Building (former Fort Pierce Post Office) 6 to 10 p.m. For tickets, visit www.mainstreetfortpierce.org or call 772-466-3880.

February 26, Saturday: *2022 FLORIDA LINEMAN COMPETITION* — Hosted by FPUA at the Fenn Center, 2000 Virginia Avenue; Activities start at 8:30 a.m.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Wednesdays: *Wednesday Green Market & Food Co-Op* — rain or shine 12:00 to 6:00 p.m., Downtown Marina Square; 971-8480.

Saturdays: *The Jazz Market* — 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; north side of the Downtown Fort Pierce Library; Jazz & Blues Society, 460-5299; jazzsociety.org.

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

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Tuesdays: *Jazz Jam at the Sunrise Black Box Theatre* — 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.; 460-5299; jazzsociety.org.

MANATEE OBSERVATION & EDUCATION CENTER

429-6266 • ManateeEducationCenter.org

DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE LIBRARY

462-2787 • www.st-lucie.lib.fl.us/
Page to Screen Book & Film Discussion Group for adults; e-mail johnsonjen@stlucieco.org for more information.

SUNDAY DOWNTOWN CHURCH SERVICES

Current service times may be effective by Covid-19 please call or lookup online for current information.

Common Ground Vineyard Church; 460-5414, commongroundvineyard.com.

First Church; 464-0440, firstchurchfp.org.

Fort Pierce Haitian United Methodist Church; 940-6728, haitianmethodist.org.

Notre-Dame Mission Catholic Church; 466-9617, notredamecc.com.

St. Andrews Episcopal Church (founded 1893); 461-5009 mystandrews.org.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Opening days/hours may be altered due to Covid-19 restrictions. Please call or check online for current information.

A.E. Backus Museum
772-465-0630 • backusmuseum.com

Bud Adams Gallery of Historical Photographs
772-462-1795
2nd Floor of P.P. Cobb Building

Downtown Fort Pierce Library
772-462-2787 • st-lucie.lib.fl.us

Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society
772-460-5299 • jazzsociety.org

Fort Pierce Police Athletic League
772-370-6162 • fortpiercepal.com
Volunteers needed: 772-466-0606

Fort Pierce RiverWalk Center
600 North Indian River Drive
772-489-6473 • cityoffortpierce.com

Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society
772-460-5299 • jazzsociety.org

Heathcote Botanical Gardens
772-464-4672
heathcotebotanicalgardens.org

Manatee Observation & Education Center
772-429-6266 • ManateeEducationCenter.org

National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum
772-595-5845 • navysealmuseum.org

St. Lucie County Marine Center
772-462-3474
stlucieco.gov/marine_center

St. Lucie County Regional History Center
772-462-1795 • stlucieco.gov/history

FEBRUARY: AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

FEBRUARY 1: NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY

FEBRUARY 2: GROUNDHOG DAY

FEBRUARY 3: THE DAY THE MUSIC DIED

FEBRUARY 7: NATIONAL FETTUCCINE ALFREDO DAY

FEBRUARY 9: NATIONAL PIZZA DAY

FEBRUARY 13: SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 24: NATIONAL CHILI DAY

FEBRUARY 28: NATIONAL CHOCOLATE SOUFFLE DAY

Celebrating February at The Fort Steakhouse

by Dale van der Lugt

Searching a place to celebrate your love on Valentine’s Day? The Fort Steakhouse has been in operation for three years; a locally family-owned restaurant nestled in the heart of Historic Downtown Fort Pierce. Dining at The Fort Steakhouse is a unique experience. It’s a place where our beloved community comes together to celebrate and share a trademark combination of classic cocktails, mouthwatering, succulent seafood, and the best prime beef from only the finest ranches. Our natural grass-fed beef is focused on open pastures with no added hormones or antibiotics, a meat lovers haven for both locals and visitors alike.

You’ll always find some sort of celebration going on in The Fort Steakhouse. And with the many special events that February invites, it’s the signature place to join in on the fun and toast with new friends you will surely meet at this warm and



inviting place. The ambiance is elegant yet comfortable, a sparkling atmosphere with a seductive lure. The perfect place for celebrating friends, loved ones and that special someone in your life.

Ah! So welcome February, the shortest month of the year, yet packed with a heartfelt punch of celebrations. With the Super Bowl, American Heart Month, African American History Month, and hail-

ing as the most romantic holiday of the year, Valentine’s Day, February hosts a reason to celebrate every single day.

Whichever way you choose to celebrate your February, we invite you to join us at The Fort Steakhouse for a chance to share community, love, and an incredible meal!

The Fort Steakhouse, located at 108 South 2nd Street. A tribute to the heritage of our beautiful historic downtown with a big city experience. Call 772-882-9131 to make your reservations tonight! ❖

Lineman “Olympics” in Fort Pierce

The Olympics for *Florida Electric Lineworkers* will be in your back yard on Saturday, February 26, 2022! Located on the grounds outside of the Fenn Center, teams from across the state will be in Fort Pierce showing off their skills! Watch exciting and challenging competitions throughout the day including events such as the *Hurtman Rescue*, *4KV Crossarm Change Out*, *Transformer Change Out* and one *Mystery Event!* A special kids area will have a bounce house, games, activities,

photo opportunities and more. Best of all, this event is *free* to the public! The Opening Ceremony starts at 7:30 a.m. and Competition begins at 8:00 a.m. Parking is located at the Fenn Center, 2000 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce. Event info and exhibitor details can be found at www.flpublicpower.com. ❖



Mayor's Message **City Commission Celebrates One Fort Pierce**

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



Since being elected in 2012, one of my main goals is to unite our city. We have two election districts which “divide” Fort Pierce, mostly between North and South Fort Pierce. That divide also results in District 1 being overwhelmingly African American and District 2 made up of a mixture of a number

of groups, but mostly white, Hispanic and increasingly African Americans. The 2020 census numbers show that of the 47,000 people who reside in Fort Pierce, 41.4 % are African Americans, 53.1% are white, which includes Hispanics, who make up 33.5%.

Fort Pierce is one city, as District 1 Commissioner Curtis Johnson, Jr., has said: “We are *One Fort Pierce*.” Commissioner C. Johnson was elected in 2020 and he has brought to our commission intelligence, dedication, civility and levity. Newly-elected District 1 Commissioner Arnold Gaines promises to be a positive reinforcement of the vision of *One Fort Pierce*. Our entire Commission has signed on to that vision and we wear the lapel pins to prove it.

Fort Pierce has made important commitments to District 1 neighborhoods. *Incubate Neighborhood Center* has been chosen as the operator for **Means Court**, an important Lincoln Park community resource center. The **Means Court Center** will include an incubator for business and a commercial kitchen.



Newly-elected Commissioner Arnold Gaines, Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioners Curtis Johnson, Jr., and Thomas K. Perona.

Located between 13th Street and Means Court on Avenue E, Means Court Elementary was an historic school property that once was the site of Lincoln Park Academy, a school of excellence for African Americans during the days of segregation.

The **Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency** continues to support the designation of the **Jackie Caynon Building** at 1234 Avenue D as a **Highwayman Museum**, and the restoration of the **Lincoln Theater** as a multiuse event center. Further, the city has embarked on a **Lincoln Park Overlay District Development** project along Avenue D to revitalize this once thriving commercial corridor. ❖



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Huge Win for Preservation in Florida

The Florida Senate Committee on Commerce and Tourism met and unanimously passed Senate Bill 1310: the *Main Street Tourism and Historic Revitalization Act*. The bill provides a 20% tax credit for eligible historic properties being restored and preserved and 30% for those in a *Florida Main Street* designated area.

Speaking at the meeting Committee Vice Chair Senator Tom Wright said, “This is a great bill, and the timing is perfect. It will be a great thing for Florida.”

Nearly two dozen *Main Street* representatives and preservationists from around the state were in attendance at the Florida Capitol to support the bill. The nonprofit *1000 Friends of Florida* also spoke in favor of the *Main Street Tourism and Historic Revitalization Act* with Policy and Planning Director Jane West sharing the organization’s support for the bill as an important tool to help promote infill development, which is sorely needed in Florida.

“This legislation will kickstart projects and increase economic development in communities throughout Florida,” said Melissa Wylie, CEO and president of the Florida Trust

for Historic Preservation. “This tool will help protect many of Florida’s irreplaceable historic resources and ultimately provide jobs and strengthen communities throughout the state.”

The next stop for the legislation is the Senate Committee on Finance and Tax, which is chaired by bill sponsor Representative Ana Maria Rodriguez.

The legislation’s House companion bill HB 247 is waiting to be added to the agenda in the House Tourism, Energy, and Infrastructure Committee.

Want to be a part of moving this important preservation legislation forward? Please contact the members of that committee and its Chairman Brad Drake to get it heard in committee. You can also reach out to your representative and ask them to cosponsor either the House or Senate Bill. ❖



Florida Trust CEO Melissa Wylie speaks in support of SB 1310 at the Senate Committee on Commerce and Tourism.



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HAVANA *Nights*

Get your Vibe on at the 27th Annual Reverse Raffle

Main Street Fort Pierce cordially invites you to attend the **27th Annual Reverse Raffle Live & Silent Auction**, to be held on Saturday, February 19, 2022. The theme this year for dress and attitude is — **Havana Nights**.

Main Street Fort Pierce knows how to throw a great party. There will be an array of silent auction items donated by local, statewide, and national businesses on display as partygoers mingle with friends. This year our food will be prepared by **Costa Azul**.

At 6:30 p.m., crowd favorite and always a highlight of the evening, the **Reverse Raffle** kicks off. The **Reverse Raffle** starts with 250 numbers on the board. Depending on when a number is pulled determines if it wins money or not. There is a chance to win money 10 times up until the last 10 numbers. Each of the last 10 numbers drawn will win funds starting at \$100 and ending with the grand prize of \$2,000. And don't forget to get tickets for a chance to win big with the lottery tree drawing! All prizes are based on the total number of tickets sold. If 100% of tickets are not sold prior to the event date, prizes will be based on a sliding scale in proportion to the total number of tickets sold.

Starting at 8:30 p.m. another highlight begins — the live auction. There are some exciting new items that will be on the live auction this year including a **Hydro Flight** lessons provided by Britt Reynolds; a private in-home wine sampling experience for 12 people provided by **PRP Wine International** and a Drink Babe cooler filled with 3 packs of Babe canned wine.

Tickets for this annual fundraiser are \$100 per person and offers the bearer a chance to win the grand prize of \$2,000 along with all the food and entertainment mentioned above. This event sells out every year due to the limited amount of tickets sold. They must be purchased in advance and will not be available at the door. Tickets are available on our website www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

The **Reverse Raffle** has been a major fundraiser for the projects and mission of **Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc.** since

1994. **Main Street** is extremely grateful to the local business sponsors that contribute to this event. When the need arises, please consider supporting these local businesses that support our local community:

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 Britt Reynolds
 Brooke Harris Realtor®
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 St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce
 Hoyt Murphy Team- Coldwell Banker Paradise
 Law Firm of Hoskins, Turco, Lloyd & Lloyd
 Loudon Bonded Pools
 2nd Street Bistro



All proceeds benefit the projects of *Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc.*, a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. The *Main Street Program* was created by the *National Trust for Historic Preservation* in the late 1970s to revive downtown commerce and save historic properties nationwide. *Main Street Fort Pierce* restored the **Historic City Hall** building, the **Sunrise Theatre**, and managed the grant to build the **Manatee Observation & Education Center**. *Main Street Fort Pierce's* most recent and current restoration project is the **Platts/Backus House**. Along with major restoration projects, *Main Street Fort Pierce* organizes over 30 community events each year to draw people to eat, shop and play in the beautiful, historic downtown Fort Pierce.

Auto Labe. *Auto Labe* has been providing quality and cost effective labeling equipment since 1967. The company was acquired by Bernard Egan in the 80s and then moved to Fort Pierce. *Auto Labe* was later sold to the Birchall Family and outside investors in 1998. *Auto Labe* designs, manufactures, and sells high quality pressure-sensitive label application equipment, that is proudly made in the USA. They specialize in both standard and customized equipment to meet the unique labeling requirements for their customers.

With the help of the company's highly skilled sales professionals and talented mechanical and electrical engineers, they carefully analyze their customers' needs and recommend the proper system to meet their label application requirements. *Auto Labe's* cost-effective labelers are reliable, easy to use, and built to last for many years. They have customer still using equipment that was purchased over 20 years ago.

Over the years *Auto Labe* has helped 1,000s of different companies both small and large with their label application needs. They work with large companies like; Amgen, Snyder's, Shutterfly and DHL while also supporting locally based

businesses such as Freshco, United Juice, Lambeth Groves, Sailfish Brewery, and Islamorada Brewery. They also build labeling equipment for companies all over the world.

In recent years **Auto Labe** has made significant investment in capital equipment providing the company with the ability to manufacture, most, if not all, the parts used to assemble their equipment. The acquisition of (2) CNC Mills, (1) CNC Lathe and recently a Laser Cutter allows the company to be independent and provide a faster turnaround receiving finished parts.

Auto Labe's mission is to exceed the customers' expectations in label application knowledge. The friendly staff is more than happy to educate and guide customers to the correct labeling system. They pledge to provide quality labeling equipment, built to last, at a competitive price and with timely delivery.

Britt Reynolds. St. Lucie Sheriff's Deputy Britt Reynolds also a third generation Fort Pierce local has been part of the *Main Street Fort Pierce* board for over 25 years. He is currently serving as the Board President. Mr. Reynolds believes highly of the potential of Fort Pierce and can't wait to see the next chapter. Proud to be part of an organization that has done so much for Fort Pierce that strives on bringing more people to the area. A loving father of two daughters who have volunteered with *Main Street Fort Pierce* for many years. He is now working in the Marine unit of the St. Lucie County protecting our waters.

Brooke Harris Realtor. Brooke Harris is a licensed realtor at **Keller Williams Realty Port Saint Lucie**. She is the Top Producer & Honor Society Award winner of 2019. As your Real Estate Advisor, Brooke believes it is her duty to provide her intense work ethic and knowledge of the marketplace to benefit all of her clients. She takes a highly comprehensive business

Continued on page 12 ...

HAVANA NIGHTS ... continued from page 11

approach when representing properties, providing homeowners with a strategic pricing analysis and a personalized marketing plan designed to maximize their home's attractiveness and exposure to buyers. Brooke will provide white glove service through professional photography and top-quality marketing materials coupled with an unending energy to perform the marketing events that drive attention to her listings. "You belong with the best in real estate."

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Don't Miss the 26th Annual NatureFest at the Manatee Center

by *Candy Wickham, Manatee Center Education Coordinator*

Nature lovers are in luck this month, when the 26th annual *Naturefest* will be held at the **Manatee Observation and Education Center**. The event will be on Saturday, February 19th from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. *Naturefest* boasts more than 30 booths hosted by Treasure Coast environmentally focused groups. This *free* event is an excellent way for families to spend time together and experience nature up close with hands-on activities and animals on display. Festivities will be held both inside the building and outside on the surrounding grounds of the **Manatee Observation and Education Center** located in downtown Fort Pierce.

Naturefest is a fun way to meet people from environmental agencies and see what they are doing in the ecological field right here on the Treasure Coast. It also gives people the opportunity to explore all that the **Manatee Observation and Education Center** has to offer. Our indoor exhibit hall offers free admission for the day and is home to seven aquariums displaying many different habitats found on the Treasure Coast. The newest display was just installed in December and is all about "Lagoon Babies" found right here in the Indian River Lagoon. Our animals are very fun to spot—especially the porcupine puffer fish "Potato" and our moray eel "Noodle."

Naturefest offers a host of different activities for kids of all ages! The wildlife exhibits, touch tank demonstrations, crafts, and conservation games are some of the favorite *Naturefest* activities that can be enjoyed during the event. The *Passport*

to Discovery is your ticket to unlock all of the fun to be had at Naturefest — and earn a prize! This free scavenger hunt is fun for all ages. The **Manatee Observation and Education Center's** mascot, *Moe the Manatee*, is a crowd favorite and is also scheduled to make appearances throughout the day.

End your *Naturefest* experience with a trip to the **Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop**. There you can find hundreds of nature related items including books for all ages, jewelry, tee shirts, toys, accessories, home décor, and so much more. All proceeds support the **Manatee Observation and Education Center**. We hope that you and your family are able to join us at *Naturefest* in the **Manatee Observation and Education Center's** effort to promote understanding and responsible actions for the protection of the Treasure Coast's fragile ecosystem and its inhabitants. ❖



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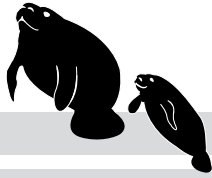
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The Manatee Center February Events

MOEC is open Tuesday–Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m.–4 p.m.

Saturdays, January 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 9 a.m. *Guided Kayak Trip*

Look for wildlife, get up close and personal with mangroves, learn about the Indian River Lagoon on an easy ninety-minute paddle led by a MOEC naturalist. Great for intermediate kayakers who want to learn more about the Indian River Lagoon. The fee for this program is \$30 per person and includes kayak, paddle & safety gear. *Registration is required.* Call 772-429-6266 option #3 or e-mail Education@ManateeEducationCenter.org for more information or to register.

Thursday, February 3, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. *Homeschool Workshop: Sea Turtles*

Students will dive deep into the life cycle of Florida’s sea turtles, explore the difference between the species, learn nesting behaviors and much more! Homeschool days are an opportunity for individual homeschoolers to experience hands-on learning. All classes are geared for students ages 6 to 12. Cost is \$4 per student. Registration is required. Please call 772-429-6266, option 3, to register.

Wednesday, February 9 at 11 a.m. *ManaTales Storytimes: Blue Beauties*

Explore the world of the great blue heron, learn how they hunt and creep through the marshes. Nurture your child’s natural curiosity about nature through this Mommy and Me style story time program. *Fun* for preschoolers!

Friday, February 11 at 12 p.m. *Peters’s Rock Agama*

Lunch & Learn — Those large red-headed lizards spotted in our neighborhoods aren’t Godzilla’s little brother. They are Peters’s Rock Agamas. Learn all about this exotic reptile and how it is being managed with Ken Gioeli, St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension Agent. Admission is free, so bring your lunch and bring a friend. *Free Event.*

Saturday, February 19 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. *NatureFest*

Looking for a free, outdoor, family activity to do this month? We hope you will join us for Naturefest, an environmental festival at the Manatee Center that brings together over 30 local environmental nonprofits, parks, eco-centers, and businesses for a day of family fun and local nature and community information. Join us to see live animals, demonstrations, and hands-on educational crafts and activities. *Free Event.*

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4th Annual *Celebrating Florida Landscapes Show*

by *Holly Theuns*

Artists Anita Prentice and Doretha Hair Trusdell are excited to be showing together again at their *Fourth Annual “Celebrating Florida Landscapes”* show and sale at *Main Street Fort Pierce* on Thursday, February 10th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. If you can’t make the show on Thursday night there will be a second chance on Friday, February, 11th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Prentice and Hair Trusdell are pleased to have guest artist master wood turner Jack Shelton exhibiting with them this year. Shelton has been turning and carving wood for over 30 years. He began making utilitarian pieces and then fell deeply in love with the grain, color and feel of wood. In Jack’s hands wood is not an inanimate object — it comes alive. His one-of-a-kind works of art have been shown all over the United States and are coveted by collectors worldwide.

You have probably seen and maybe even sat on Prentice’s work. She is the mosaic artist responsible for the over 200 mosaic benches placed throughout St. Lucie County including at the Fort Pierce Jetty and Veterans Park. She created a mosaic panda and two mosaic lions in *Heathcote Botanical Gardens’ Children’s Garden*, soon to be joined by a mosaic gorilla! Prentice also works on a smaller scale and her mosaic landscapes, hibiscus and palm trees can be found hanging in many area homes. A couple of her lady bugs reside in France. Prentice was commissioned to create mosaic grave tributes to a number of the late *Florida Highwaymen*. In fact, that is how she first met Doretha Hair Trusdell, when she added a mosaic of his artwork to the grave marker for Hair Trusdell’s first husband, Highwayman Alfred Hair.

Doretha Hair Trusdell was married to a *Highwayman* and is the mother of a second-generation *Highwayman* artist and most importantly, a Florida landscape painter in her own right. Hair Trusdell paints the Florida many of us have seen kayaking, on a hike or driving the back roads; the native landscape before it has been paved or gated. She is an articulate speaker and a driving force behind the effort to have the grassroots legends — the *Florida Highwaymen* — honored with a Florida specialty license plate. Proceeds from plate sales will go towards creating and funding a *Florida Highwaymen Museum* in Fort Pierce.

Hair Trusdell’s landscape paintings are sought after and held in many local collections. Her nocturnes, or paintings of nighttime scenes, are especially magical. If you don’t have a Doretha Hair Trusdell in your Florida art collection, here is your opportunity to start or add to your collection.

“Celebrating Florida Landscapes” is an excellent opportunity to see and purchase original artwork by three very talented Florida artists. Their work will be on exhibit and available for sale Thursday, February 10th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the *Main Street Fort Pierce* office, 122 AE Backus Ave. in Fort Pierce. Meet all three artists and enjoy light refreshments. There will be a second opportunity to catch the show and sale on Friday, February 11th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you have any questions about the show and sale contact *Main Street* at 772-466-3880. ❖



Backus Museum Presents "The Highwaymen: Art/History"

A closer look at the paintings of the renowned Florida Artists, January 8 through March 6, 2022

The A.E. Backus Museum presents *The Highwaymen: Art / History*, the latest exhibition in its annual series recognizing the accomplishments of the original artists who made their names selling their paintings on Florida's open roads. Drawn from private collections with notable paintings never presented to the public, the exhibition is on view January 8 through March 6, at 500 North Indian River Drive in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce.

Today, the famed Florida landscape painters, first known in the 1950s as the artists who sold their work from the trunks of their cars, deserve a closer look. Over the years, that humble beginning became the story, often overshadowing their artistic achievements that instinctively echo the same techniques long revered in the art world's most recognized movements and masterpieces. This new survey, including paintings never exhibited, brings to light these outsider artists' innate visions, revealing the inventive style, confident strokes, collaborative spirit, and effective methods that would captivate countless patrons, define their movement, and demand their place in the history of art.



Artists Harold Newton (1934–1994), Alfred Hair (1941–1970), Mary Ann Carroll (1940–2019), James Gibson (1938–2017), R.A. "Roy" McLendon (b.1932), Willie Daniels (1950–2021) and at least 20 others in Fort Pierce and surrounding communities are often described as "untrained" or "self-taught" painters, though it is

well documented that several were students of Lincoln Park Academy's revered art teacher Zanobia Jefferson (1919–2017); many were inspired, encouraged, and learned from Fort Pierce's A.E. "Bean" Backus (1906–1990); and a few went further to take academic art classes and even become art educators as adults. Yet they also learned collectively by experience, sharing and competing with one another to hone their skills and vision.

Paintings by the artists who would become known as The Highwaymen demonstrate special knowledge and techniques that challenge the ideas of their unassuming habits. These artists would optimize their chosen medium of oil painting with "wet-on-wet" techniques allowing them to complete works "all at once," in one sitting, in ways that echo painters



James Gibson, *Poinciana by the River*

Willie Daniel, *A Day at the Boathouse*

from centuries ago. They utilized a practiced familiarity with color theory and the interrelations of analogous and complementary colors for artistic effects. The Highwaymen artists visually understood the qualities of light and color that can be captured in ways to convey the illusion of depth and distance. And they took a page from old master artists by dabbing and scraping paint from the surface to reveal contrasting paint layers beneath, creating a varied and engaging visual texture at key points in a composition.

“There’s kind of a myth about the artists we now call The Highwaymen,” says J. Marshall Adams, Executive Director, “that they were naïve and because they didn’t go to art school, they didn’t know what they were doing. But the paintings tell a different story. They knew things, they learned things, they figured things out that are strikingly similar to the artists we’re accustomed to seeing in the textbooks and throughout history. Making those connections can give us a new appreciation for the accomplishments of this unique art movement that began right here.”

The Highwaymen: Art / History’s closing reception is scheduled for Friday, February 18 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., with brief remarks at 6:30 p.m. Members are admitted to receptions free; \$20 for not-yet members.

The Museum is planning to present its annual favorite *Highwaymen Celebration Weekend* on February 18 to 20, featuring free admission during regular hours. Visitors to the Museum can enjoy a range of special offerings outside and inside. The highlight of the weekend takes place on the Museum’s Outdoor Mural Plaza, where people seeking to start or build their personal collections of Highwaymen paintings will be able to browse an impressive selection offered for purchase by professional dealers, specializing in the vintage works of these artists. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about the current state of the art market and to explore owning an original work of art for your home or office.

The Highwaymen: Art / History features more than 50 paintings by original *Florida Highwaymen* artists Harold Newton, Alfred Hair, Mary Ann Carroll, R.A. McLendon, Willie Daniels, James Gibson, Sam Newton, Livingston Roberts, George Buckner, and Robert Butler. *The Highwaymen: Art / History* is on view January 8 through March 6, 2022. For more information, please visit www.BackusMuseum.org.

All dates and programming subject to change; please check the website for any updates or cancellations. We appreciate your understanding, your patience, and your support as we navigate the continuing pandemic challenges this season. ❖



R.A. McLendon, *Cows*



Harold Newton, *After the Storm*

Love, JAZZ Community: It's All About Love

by Don Bestor

It's February on the Treasure Coast, and everyone knows that February is the month of love! It may have the fewest days of any other month – even when it gets an extra one every few years, but the passion of February makes it a pretty mighty little month, indeed! For those of us who are involved with Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society, February is a chance for us to share a whole bunch of love with others, and though we may not be delivering chocolate hearts or roses to your door, we do our best to provide the soundtrack of your lives with professional, live musical events and opportunities for you to dance, remember, and enjoy the magic of music. It's kind of our thing.

But what if you can't play an instrument (or won't), sing, or set foot anywhere near a stage and spotlight? Can you still be a part of that passion and help enrich the lives of others through music? You bet you can, and it's a whole lot easier than you think. All you have to do is volunteer. I know; you're sitting there reading this and thinking, "But Don, I don't have time," or "I don't know what I could do to help because I'm not a musician." I'm here to tell you that you sure can help make a big, positive impact on the community with just a little bit of your time and talent. And guess what? When you volunteer, you're really the one who wins. After all, Ghandi once said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

Maybe you can't roll off a horn solo the way Mark Green does or bang on the drums like Claudio – who cares? Can you make coffee? Seriously, can you make a pot of coffee? One of the volunteer positions we have at Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society is someone to help by making a pot of coffee at our Jazz Jams and help set out goodies for the audience in case they get a case of the munchies. If you can make a pot of coffee or put a plate on a table – you're the skilled volunteer we are looking for, so why not call us today?

But wait, there's more! Do you have a decent personality? Has anyone ever told you that you're kind of pleasant to be around? Of course they have, and guess what? That's a volunteer position we need to fill. When people walk in the door to buy a ticket to one of our shows, they love to be greeted by a friendly volunteer who sells them a ticket, maybe helps them find a good place to sit, and might even introduce them to someone else to make sure they don't feel like a stranger in a strange land. If you're a relatively pleasant soul, consider what Audrey Hepburn once said, "As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands — one for helping yourself, the other for helping others." Why not discover how helpful your two hands can be by volunteering today?

I think you get the idea. You don't have to be a rock star or a professional bass player to join our group; in fact, we'd like it even better if you join because you have other talents to share. Muhammad Ali once said, "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth." If you're looking for a way to help pay that rent, we'd love to meet you. Give us a call today at 772.460.JAZZ, or stop by one of our live events and introduce yourself. We've been waiting for you, and we're hoping that if music is one of your passions, we can be your Valentine. If you want to learn more about us, visit www.jazzsociety.org. ❖

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TREASURES OF THE PAST

100 years ago this month as reported by R.H. Glenn in the Saturday, February 4, 1922 edition of the Tampa Times

Fort Pierce Band Storms Tampa's Fair

Citizens of Tampa and visitors to the South Florida Fair, park your cars and your horses, for the Fort Pierce band, one of the very best on the Florida East Coast, is going to light on Tampa Monday morning, and punish musical instruments mornings, afternoons and nights in an effort to entertain the mighty throng at the Big Annual Show.

The Fort Pierce band comprises 25 pieces and gives year-round open air concerts in this city to large bodies of people. It has gone away from home on several occasions, upon invitation, and always brings down a fine bunch of applause. It will play at the St. Lucie county exhibit booth at the fairgrounds, in the business districts and the leading hotels of Tampa.

En route to Tampa the band will stop at the larger towns and give 15 to 20-minute concerts

100 years ago this month as reported by the Wednesday, February 8, 1922 edition of the Tampa Tribune

Women Leaguers Active

The League of Women Voters of this city plans a house to house canvass to urge the women of Fort Pierce to join the league, pay poll tax and register in March.

75 years ago this month as reported by the Saturday, February 15, 1947 edition of the Miami Herald

Unkempt Condition Deplored Merchants of Fort Pierce to be Polled on Palm Trees

What to do about the palm trees along downtown Fort Pierce streets was being pondered Friday by merchants following a

discussion at their monthly meeting, when a committee was named to poll the merchants and ascertain whether they want the trees to remain or the city to remove them.

The committee, appointed by President E.C. Register, is made up of Merrill Haskell, L.O. Stephens and J.B. Harrison.

Action on the proposal came during an extended interrogation of City Manager C.E. Swank with reference to the unkempt condition of Fort Pierce streets.

Some spokesmen pointed out that the trees in their unkempt condition present a fire hazard, interfere with sign displays and are unsightly. Swank said the city doesn't have the personnel to keep them trimmed. Someone suggested that merchants could do their own trimming if they wanted to, except in some cases where the trees have grown tall.

The palms (Washingtonias) were planted years ago in a then citywide beautification program. Some of them have grown tall, others are still but a few feet high, and in some instances their fronds reach halfway across the sidewalk, without having been trimmed back for many months.

The prediction was made at the merchants' meeting that plenty of opposition will be found to removing the trees and the warning sounded that garden clubs had better be consulted before such a move is made.

75 years ago this month as reported by the Tuesday, February 18, 1947 edition of the Miami Herald

Fort Pierce Younger Set Has Party

Weekend social functions included a dance for high school seniors at Indian Hills Golf and Country club, when the Valentine theme was emphasized. For the heart game, Patricia Bounds was given the prize, and for the heart dance, Lynell Teague and Allan Walker were winners.



Vendor Profile: Dennis Windowmaker

by Henry Szmyt

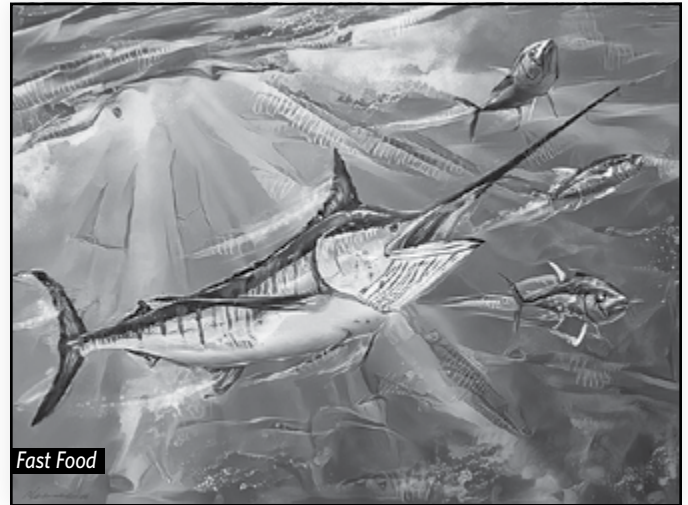
I recently had a chance to spend some time with Dennis Windowmaker (yes that is his name), who exhibits his paintings at the northwest corner of the *Saturday Morning Jazz Market*. Dennis is a talented artist with an amazing background. He showed me his latest original which he calls the *Rising Star*, an appropriate name for art exhibited at the *Jazz Market*. Stop by his tent on any Saturday and check it out.

Dennis appreciates what the *Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society* is doing for artists and vendors like him and is donating the original to the *Jazz Society* to be auctioned off on the Society's 25th anniversary in March. So, what is amazing about Dennis's art? Check out his website <https://windowmaker.art-station.com/> and the fascinating various forms of art he creates.

Dennis is one of the new wave of artists who is not only good with pencil and brush but also good with stylus and computer tablet. Electronic art has been with us for a while, from Mickey Mouse, The Flintstones, to Star Trek and James Cameron's blockbuster *Avatar*. It's becoming difficult to tell what is real and what is computer generated. Windowmaker's mastery of programs like Zbrush and Lightwave can produce 3D visuals.

You can purchase his work in a digital form, download it to your computer and rotate it with your mouse in all axis. On his website, you will see works in photo realism, surreal, 3D and others but, when you step into Dennis's tent you will see mostly what he created on canvas with a brush, acrylic paint and occasional air brush.

The *Rising Star* he is donating is an original painting, an important distinction in the art world. I suppose you could be uncouth, snap a picture of any painting with an iPhone, print it on your Epson, frame it and hang it. There is also a recognized side of the art



world making museum quality reproductions and Dennis participates in it reproducing limited quantities of his art. The process is known as giclée and a large format Epson printer capable of doing this on canvas will cost several thousand dollars. Dennis owns one of those. These printers utilize upwards of twelve colors of ink and the ink is pigment-based, not dye-based like the one used in your office printer.

The concept of limited reproductions is to allow for more people to enjoy fine art. Obviously, there is only one original

Daniel D. Fuller, MAI, SRA

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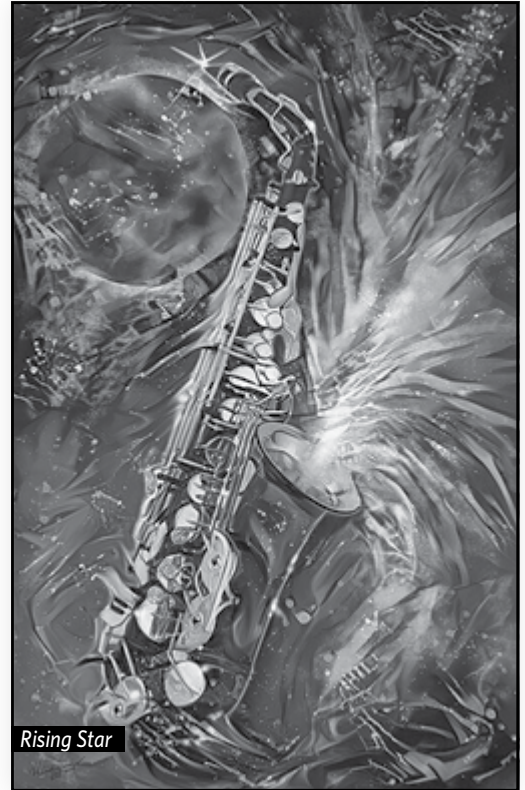
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Mona Lisa and it hangs, under guard, only in one museum or gallery at a time. Museum quality reproductions allow for wider exposure to art. Since the giclée process produces extremely good copies of the original, the copying runs are strictly controlled. Each copy must show the size of the run and the sequence of the painting in the run (ex. 16/500, 52/500, 250/500). It is not reproduced again. Should the artist or his work become sought after, the original would be the most valuable and the lowest numbered copies after that.

The printer Dennis owns utilizes canvas rolls 44 inches wide and 75 feet long. The canvas and archival inks used produce painting with a lifespan from 100 to 200 years, hence the description as “museum quality.”

Dennis also works for corporate clients, creating logos, commercial advertising product design. His latest venture is 3D and jewelry sculpting. ❖



Rising Star




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Ring in 2022 with Business Tips from the SBA

by U.S. Small Business Administration

Whether your business has been around for a few days or a few decades, the SBA is ready to support you heading into 2022. It starts with these tips.

If 2020 was about the resolve and adaptability of the American small business owner, 2021 has been about the grit and determination to build back stronger than ever before. The economic recovery is well underway, and the SBA remains ready to help prospective, new, and experienced business owners alike in the year ahead. 2022 is poised to be an exciting year, but it won't be without its challenges.

Consider these tips when you are making your New Year's business resolutions:

Write out your business plan. As a soon-to-be or emerging small business owner, the proper business plan can help you conceptualize your vision. It can also prove to lenders and investors that you have a solid foundation for your ideas. Need help structuring your business plan? Take our free online How to Write a Business Plan course.

Explore your funding options. Figuring out how you are going to fund your business is often just as important as the concept behind the business itself. But such a significant deci-



sion doesn't have to be stressful. There are a variety of funding options, from SBA microloans to 7(a) and 504 loans. The SBA works closely with lenders, reducing risk and streamlining access to capital. That, in turn, makes it easier for small business owners to get the loans they need. Get started securing

an SBA-backed loan by using Lender Match, SBA's free online referral program that connects small businesses with more than 800 participating SBA-approved lenders.

Create a marketing strategy. An effective marketing strategy will help get customers talking about your products or services. The SBA's online Marketing 101 training course is a great place to start. Topics covered include identifying target market, conducting market research, establishing a marketing plan, and the basics of social media marketing.

Get a second opinion from an expert. Navigating the startup process in the recovering economy can be tricky. That is why a business mentor is so valuable. SBA resource partners offer free business mentoring, counseling, and training — both remote and in-person. Connect with a local SBA resource partner today.

Originally published By U.S. Small Business Administration on January 07, 2022 on www.sba.gov ❖

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MOEC Garden Recognized as Florida Friendly Landscape

Manatee Center pollinator garden is an example of Florida-Friendly Landscaping

The **Manatee Observation and Education Center (MOEC)** was recognized by the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF IFAS) Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) Program. The pollinator garden is an accessible garden open to the public year-round at 480 N Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce, FL.

The *MOEC Pollinator Garden* is designed and maintained by dedicated **MOEC** volunteers. The garden evolved from grassy lawn to full pollinator garden in less than five years. Today, it holds 56 native and Florida-friendly plant species, and 16 butterfly species spotted, including the nearly-extinct *Atala* butterfly (*Eumaeus atala*). Pollenators are the key to our food production system, and pollinator gardens help to sustain their important populations. Visitors can experience the quiet beauty of this garden at any time.

The FFL Program recognizes landscapes that use sustainable landscaping practices. Florida-Friendly landscapes minimize the use of potable water for irrigation, avoid runoff of excess fertilizers and pesticides from the landscape, and provide important habitats for wildlife. They can take any form, from more traditional to more natural. It's how the landscape is designed and maintained that ultimately determines if it's Florida-Friendly.

MOEC is a not-for-profit environmental learning center, located in downtown Fort Pierce, at the basin of Moore's Creek and the Indian River Lagoon. Now in its 26th year, the mission of **MOEC** is to promote understanding and responsible actions for the protection of the Treasure Coast's fragile ecosystem and its inhabitants. Innovative exhibits and displays allow for an up-close look at some of the unique and amazing creatures found along the Treasure Coast, as well as an opportunity to see the threatened Florida manatee in its native habitat. To volunteer or support the Center's continued work, please visit the **Manatee Center** at 480 North Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce, or call 772-429-6266 to learn more. ❖



Sheepshead Heaven

by Captain Bo Samuel, Pullin Drag Charters

If you want to catch fish all you have to do is get out on the water! This time of year, anglers are catching snapper, sheepshead, pompano, snook, trout, redfish, Spanish mackerel, and kingfish. Although sheepshead season is open year-round, now is the time they are abundant on the shallow reefs near shore. These tasty fish are known for their distinctive vertical black bars and sharp dorsal spines. Nothing is more fun than catching a sheep with every drop of bait.

Fishing for sheeps first thing in the morning as the sun comes up is a great time to catch the bite and put fish on deck. Try the shallow reefs along the beach in about 15-30 feet of water with light tackle, 30-pound fluorocarbon leader, a quarter-ounce jig, and live shrimp. If the ocean is a little too rough, look for these fish inside around structures like bridges, docks, seawalls, and jetties. Minimum size for a keeper sheepshead is 12 inches total length.

If you like smoked fish dip, get your fishing on for kingfish and mahi-mahi. Remember to look for weed lines and floating debris when targeting mahi. If weather permits, you can find the big mangroves and muttoms in about 60-90 feet. This is the Treasure Coast and our treasure is the bounty of the sea! The photo is Miss Judy with her awesome haul of sheepshead.

Any questions about rules and regulations or bait and tackle, talk to the great staff at Little Jim Bait & Tackle. Our paradise is so nice, don't think twice ... just get out and have fun *Pullin Drag!* ❖



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Roots and Recipes IV

Bistec

Home is my place where I am safe from the outside world and a place to live freely. Visiting places like the Statue of Liberty remind us of the country we live in, a place where people are free and have rights. Seeing white and blue reminds me of my parent's birthplace, the Honduras, and remembering how they made their way here to the USA to have a chance at life and to live in the free world.

I felt most connected to my roots on December 24th, 2019. I visited New York City with family and we made amazing dishes like tamales, arroz con pollo and salsa verde. We were celebrating Christmas and it was an amazing experience.

The dish that I identify the most with is Bistec; in other words beef and onions. It may sound simple, but its flavor is one of a kind to me. The first time I made this dish was two years ago when my mother taught me how to make it.



Recipe



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1½ lbs. beef sirloin thinly sliced | 3 pieces yellow onion sliced into rings |
| 5 tbs. soy sauce | 4 tbs. cooking oil |
| 4 pieces calamansi or 1 piece of lemon | 1 cup water |
| ½ tsp. ground black pepper | |
| 3 cloves garlic minced | |

Stew beef and onions in soy sauce and calamansi with other ingredients until tender. This is good over rice.

Recipe from My Roots is a collaboration with the St. Lucie County Public School's Career and Technical Education Program. Each month, Recipe from My Roots will feature a recipe from a student in the program and will highlight the significance of the recipe to that student.

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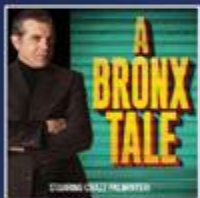
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