

FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce



Matthew Riley, left, and Jim O'Dell were among the many re-enactors from the Civil and the Second Seminole wars who set up camp at the festival in January, 2019.

ANTHONY INSWASTY PHOTOS



Roy Summerlin fries up a fresh batch of hush puppies to go with the mahi-mahi, coleslaw and baked beans that make up his family's famous fish fry.



Festival-goers stop by the Navy SEAL Museum exhibit during the 2019 Treasure Coast History Festival on Fort Pierce's Second Street.

THE 4TH ANNUAL TREASURE COAST HISTORY FESTIVAL

SATURDAY ✦ JANUARY 11

SEE PAGE 5

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122 AE Backus Ave.
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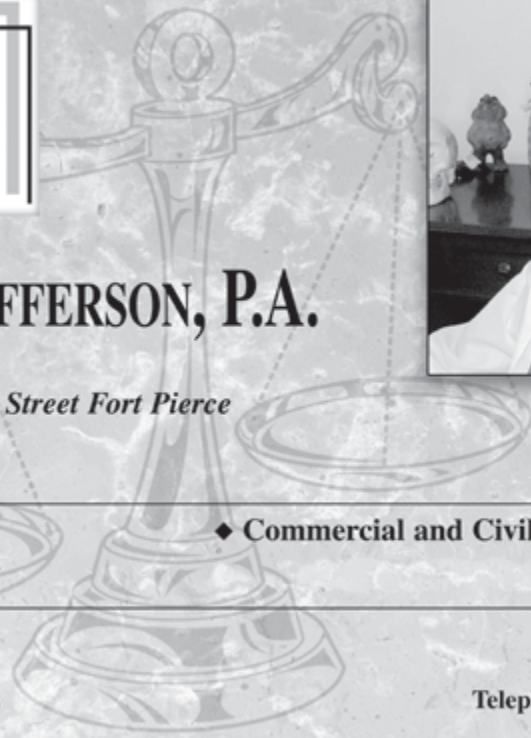
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

by Sue Dannahower




Happy New Year to all our volunteers, members, supporters and loyal *Focus* readers. We look forward to our 31st year working in and for historic downtown Fort Pierce.

We love our volunteers! We are currently working on the “Sandy Shoes Seafood & Brew” to be held on Saturday, March 21, 2020. We will need lots of volunteers — volunteer for the *Citrus Squeeze Off*, the *Chowder Competition*, cooking demonstrations, pouring beer and much more. Call the *Main Street* office (772) 466-3880. Share your passion; ask a friend to volunteer! *Main Street* has 30+ events each year

that are designed to bring people to downtown Fort Pierce. We couldn't accomplish all these events without volunteers.

Our loyal members are an important part of the organization. If you are not a member I urge you to join today. 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* accomplish goals, set new ones, and support downtown's economic wellbeing, revitalization and cultural vibrancy in the very heart and soul of our downtown community.

The *Main Street Fort Pierce* Board of Directors and office staff wish you a healthy and prosperous 2020! ❖



MAIN STREET FOCUS FORT PIERCE

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Calendar

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MONTHLY EVENTS

January 3, Friday: FRIDAY FEST — 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Marina Square & Melody Lane; Live music with **Anderson Council**; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

January 11, Saturday: TREASURE COAST HISTORY FESTIVAL — 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; *Indian River Magazine*; 772-940-9005 or enns@indianrivermag.com; [see page 5 for details].

January 11, Saturday: HISTORIC TROLLEY TOURS — 1:00 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.; in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce; Reservations required, \$10 per person; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

January 15, Wednesday: HISTORIC TROLLEY TOURS — 10:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.; in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce; Reservations required, \$10 per person; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

January 17, Friday: COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR — 8:00 a.m. at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**; Sponsor — **Voices for Children**; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

January 17, Friday: ARTWALK — 5 to 8:00 p.m.; Various studios and shops open throughout the downtown area; seriouslymixedmedia.com, artconnectionfp.com.

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, www.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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Wednesdays @ 2:00 p.m.: Tide Pool Touch Tank — touch and hold the urchins, conchs, and more.
Thursdays @ 2:00 p.m.: Meet the MOEC Reptiles — touch and hold Diego the corn snake and turtles
Fridays @ 2:00 p.m.: Seahorse Snack Time — watch the MOEC seahorses eat and play.
Saturdays @ 2:00 p.m.: Fin-Tastic Fish Feeding — come meet the fishes in the Center.

SUNDAY DOWNTOWN CHURCH SERVICES

Common Ground Vineyard Church — 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.; 460-5414, www.commongroundvineyard.com.

First United Methodist Church — 9:30 a.m.; 464-0440, www.umatter2Godandus.com.

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

Notre-Dame Mission Catholic Church — 8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.; 466-9617, www.notredamecc.com.

St. Andrews Episcopal Church (founded 1893) — 8 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.; Sunday School for all ages 9:00 a.m.; adult Bible study 9:15 a.m., nursery provided; 461-5009 www.mystandrews.org.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

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

**Bud Adams Gallery
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Downtown Fort Pierce Library
772-462-2787 • www.st-lucie.lib.fl.us
*Page to Screen Book & Film Discussion Group
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more information.*

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

Fort Pierce Police Athletic League
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Volunteers needed: 772-466-0606

Fort Pierce RiverWalk Center
600 North Indian River Drive

772-489-6473 • www.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 • www.ManateeEducationCenter.org

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

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

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



Happy New Year

THE 4TH ANNUAL TREASURE COAST HISTORY FESTIVAL

Returns to Downtown Fort Pierce January 11

The *Treasure Coast History Festival* returns to downtown Fort Pierce on Saturday, January 11, with an all-day event featuring historical re-enactors, ghost tours, historical trolley rides, sessions on historical topics and an old-Florida fish fry.

This is the fourth year of the festival, which highlights the history of the Treasure Coast. Free and open to the public, the festival is produced by *Indian River Magazine Inc.* in association with *Main Street Fort Pierce*, **Sunrise Ford**, **Sunrise Volkswagen**, the **St. Lucie County Historical Society**, the **A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery**, and the **Sunrise Theatre**.

"This is our way of celebrating the rich past of the Treasure Coast," said Gregory Enns, publisher of *Indian River Magazine* and chairman of the *History Festival*. "We hope newcomers will attend to learn more about the history of the region while old-timers can reconnect with their friends."

Beginning at 9 a.m., downtown will come alive with historical re-enactors ranging from Seminole War soldiers from the 1800s to early settlers in the 1900s who will depict life on the Treasure Coast.

The *Main Street Fort Pierce* historic trolley tour season kicks off with two trolley tours at 1:00 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.; \$10 per person. This year's tours will focus on books about Florida and how they relate to the local area. A guide will narrate while the trolley takes participants to sites in downtown Fort Pierce. Reservations are required due to limited seating. Call 772-466-3880 for reservations.

Free historical ghost tours led by paranormal investigator Larry Lawson will also be held throughout the day. Registration for those tours are taken on the day of the festival.

Authors of books on the history of the Treasure Coast will also be featured in the festival's *Authors Alley*. The alley will give visitors a chance to purchase locally written books and to talk to the authors.

The festival also features a fish fry hosted by the Summerlin Family, the first family of fishing on the Treasure Coast. The fish fry, which begins at 11 a.m., is \$12 per plate and includes fish, cole slaw, baked beans and hush puppies.

Three sessions on historical topics will be held in the **Black Box** in the **Sunrise Theatre**. All the sessions are free and no reservations are required, though seating is on a first-come basis.

The first session, *Billy Johnson's Fort Pierce*, starts at 9:30 a.m. and features social media personality Billy Johnson. Johnson's posts about growing up in Fort Pierce have become widely followed on the Facebook page "The Fort Pierce Connection." A nurseryman and landscaper and former commercial fisherman, Johnson vividly recalls his free-wheeling childhood growing up in Fort Pierce in the late 1960s and early 1970s.



The second session, *The Ais Natives of the Treasure Coast*, begins at 11 a.m. and features historian and archaeologist Alan Brech, who has discovered the location of nine Ais towns along the coast, including the paramount town near Sebastian. Long before Europeans and even the Seminoles, an ancient people known as the Ais roamed the Treasure Coast.

The third session, *We Remember Backus*, begins at 1 p.m. as relatives, friends and students recall the life of Florida's pre-eminent landscape artist, A.E. "Bean" Backus of Fort Pierce, and how his art and life's work influenced generations of artists, and continues to inspire today.



This year's festival will cover a period of two weekends, with *Waldo Sexton Homestead Days* taking place at the 1917 home place of Vero Beach pioneer Waldo Sexton at 5000 12th St., Vero Beach. That event will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday January 4 and Sunday, January 5. ❖

Trolley Tours to Feature Florida Literature and How it Relates to Fort Pierce

The 2020 *Main Street Fort Pierce Trolley Tours* will focus on several books written about Florida. The tours are guided and narrated. The hour-long tour will meander through downtown Fort Pierce while reviewing books that have links or similarities to the surrounding area.

One of the first books written and published in North America was about a shipwreck on Florida's East Coast and the struggles the party aboard worked through to work their way to the settlement at St. Augustine. From this period forward, many novels and nonfiction accounts provide a clear glimpse of what Florida was and the people who roamed its boundaries.

Reservations are required and can be made by calling (772) 466-3880. The dates/times for the 2020 trolley tours are as follows:



Saturday, January 11 — 1:00 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.
[In conjunction with the Treasure Coast History Festival]

Wednesday, January 15 — 10:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, February 6 — 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, February 8 — 1:00 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 5 — 10:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, March 7 — 1:00 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.

Tours are sponsored by *Main Street Fort Pierce* and the City of Fort Pierce. Tours are \$10 per person and reservations are required. The tours begin in the parking lot of the **Manatee Observation & Education Center** and the **Seven Gables House Visitor Center** located at 482 N. Indian River Drive. For more information or to reserve a seat on the trolley, please call (772) 466-3880.

Around Town

Recently-Opened and Coming-Soon Downtown Businesses

Sunrise Beauty Bar | 209 Orange Avenue

Studio 207 Pink Door Salon | Corner of 227 Ave. A

Intuitive Art Studio | 229 Avenue A

Dunkin' Donuts | 101 N. Second Street

Thirsty Turtle | 106 N. Second St.

Hard Axe Lounge | Corner of Ave. A and 201 N. Second St

Meraki Hair Artistry Salon | 210B N. Second

Scented Dragon | 223 Avenue A

The Shoppes Down Under | 111 Orange Avenue



Christine's Coastal Treasures Inspires Creativity

by Joanne Blandford

The art scene in downtown Fort Pierce is vibrant and exciting. There is an abundance of artists, each with different gifts which are showcased through a variety of mediums. In the generous spirit of one of Fort Pierce's most famous artists, Bean Backus, the artists of downtown are extremely supportive of their fellow downtown contemporaries. They band together during joint art events and support one another for gallery shows, etc. It was this environment that attractive Christine Fitzgerald of **Christine's Coastal Treasures** to open her business in downtown Fort Pierce.

Christine was originally from Staten Island, NY but moved to Fort Lauderdale when she was 16. It was after she married her husband, Kevin, and started raising her daughters, Erin & Ashley, that her passion for creating art and teaching others started to develop. Her desire to teach led her to get her degree in Montessori education. She began teaching adults art

techniques and hosting a popular craft fair in her Loxahatchee home for 10 years. For 20 years she has taught watercolor painting and other art techniques to people from all over the world on cruise ships.

After their children grew up and started lives of their own, Christine and her husband moved to the Treasure Coast area in 2009. She had always wanted a shop of her own, so she started selling coastal & vintage reclaimed furniture and decor in a vendor space at **Pineapple Patties** in Fort Pierce. This then led to a larger vendor space in Jensen Beach and eventually she was able to open her own store there in 2016 where she started teaching Resin classes. She continued teaching resin classes when she came to downtown Fort Pierce in 2018, using a space in the rear of **Pelican Central Mosaic Studio** on Orange Avenue. After outgrowing that space, she opened her own studio when a shop became available in the Historic **Raulerson** building.

On most days when you walk into the brightly lit studio at **Christine's Coastal Treasures** you will first be greeted by Stitch, a long-haired, friendly dachshund rescue. The vibrancy of colorful creations that adorn the walls then calls the eye. A long workstation occupies most of the studio

Continued on page 8 ...



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CHRISTINE'S ... continued from page 7



where there is plenty of room for a party of 10 to comfortably design their works of art. Two additional rooms adjoin the studio space — the first a student supply room filled with treasures such as shells, shattered glass, recycled costume jewelry, glass beads, and more, all to be used to create

your resin art masterpiece. The other room is a collection of coastal and vintage treasures for sale, that Christine has found or created.

Christine’s class schedule can be found online at www.christinescoastaltreasures.com. There are a variety of

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projects and classes available to choose from. Some classes include all materials and others allow for the artist to bring a foundation piece to decorate. There are also visiting artists that teach classes using other types of materials and mediums. You can book a private class, and if you have 6 guests, your spot is free!

For over 25 years, Christine has been teaching techniques to other aspiring artists. She has volunteered to teach adults with special needs and those going through cancer treatments because she knows the power art has to soothe, heal and inspire confidence. Her studio is a place of no judgement where her greatest joy is hearing a student say, "I can't believe I just created that." It is a special place where the love of art flourishes under Christine's supportive guidance.

Christine's Coastal Treasures is located at 133 N. 2nd Street. For information about her classes, visit her website or [Facebook.com/ChristinesCoastalTreasures](https://www.facebook.com/ChristinesCoastalTreasures). ❖



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In Search of Oysters

by *Britt Anderson*

For some reason, the oysters in and around the waters of Fort Pierce have become sort of a fascination to me. I have tried to find information concerning those delicious critters but with little success. So, I'm asking for your help. I've scoured the internet, the *St. Lucie County Historic Museum* and the library so far. I need to look up property records and old newspapers, etc.; but, I really need your memories or those of your relatives or friends who lived during the height of the "oyster industry" in Fort Pierce. While I wait for more information on this subject, this is what I've found so far:

Oysters like brackish water and have thrived in the Indian River Lagoon for centuries. There are mounds of oyster shells all along the Lagoon on Hutchinson Island and on the mainland. The Indians, Seminoles and Ais, obviously made them a staple of their diet. One of the earliest accounts of the abundance of oysters comes from Louis H. Burbey's book, *Our Worthy Commander*. He recites that Lt. Col. Pierce and his troops celebrated New Year's Day 1838 at the new fort with an extra ration of liquor and "regaled themselves on the 'quantity and quality of the fish in those waters ... of the finest flavor and large dimensions ... for the oysters six are a comfortable meal for one person; without exaggeration, the greatest abundance may be easily obtained.'"(p. 6)

Some years later, C. Vickerstaff Hine in his book *On the Indian River* wrote "Its [the Indian River] fishes are salt water fishes and a very considerable portion of its bottom is covered with oysters which though small, cannot be surpassed in flavor by any oysters in the world". (p. 158) He also refers to the Indian River and it's coast as the "Riviera of America." Sounds a lot like our friend Mr. Flagler and what he had hoped to develop with his railroad.

In 1886, several men from Connecticut set up an oyster cannery, later named The Florida Canning Company, located on what is now Avenue A in Fort Pierce. The Company set up a dock and "oyster house" on the site of what is now the Fort Pierce Marina. It's first president was Julius Tyler who employed T.J. O'Brien and Peter P. Cobb who had been employed by Capt. Benjamin Hogg at his trading post and later at his store which was adjacent to what would later called "Cantown." The Company was sold to Cobb in 1896. That ends the official record that I have found to date of Fort Pierce's oyster industry.

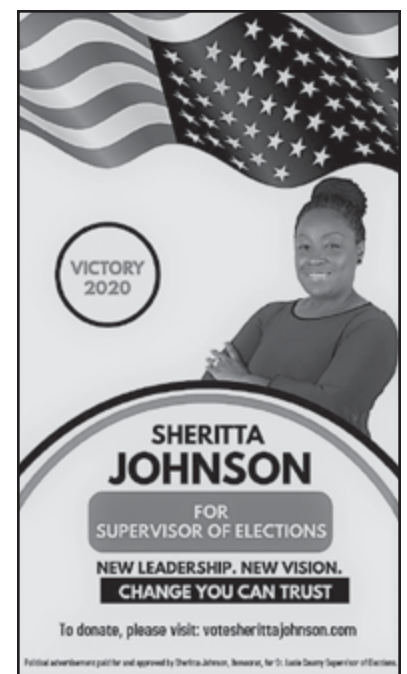


According to the *American Guide Series* produced by the Federal Writers Project (1939) investments in shrimp, fish and oysters increased from 1 million dollars in 1900 to 10 million dollars in 1938. The Florida oysters were small but "tender and delicate" in flavor. At that time and to date, "all oyster beds are owned by the state and leased to oyster farmers. In former years, when beds were privately owned, men built watch towers and protected their holdings with powder and ball." (p. 89) No mention is made of oyster beds in Fort Pierce nor is any mention made to previously built watch towers or any armaments to protect the Fort Pierce oyster beds. Why, can only be speculation at this point. Obviously, the large oysters of earlier days had been replaced but not the flavor.

Why this change? Maybe from storms, raids from unknown peoples, pollution from the booming agricultural and citrus industries, pollutants to eliminate annoying insects or increased usage of the waterway. We do know that oysters are natural water filters as they filter free-floating microscopic algae for food, thus cleaning the water. Oysters, mangroves and sea grasses along the shore act as a break line preventing erosion and filtering out pollutants. Everyone wins. There are many organizations that are actively promoting and restoring the oyster beds in the Indian River Lagoon.

If you have any information, family stories, pictures, post cards, memorabilia, etc. contact the *Main Street Fort Pierce* office and I will get in touch with you. Help me out on my search! Another question to ponder is why there are restaurants on Long Island Sound, N.Y., touting Indian River Oysters?

With oysters on my mind wishing you *fair winds and following seas.* ❖



Mayor's Message **Everyone Counts in 2020 Census**

by *Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce*



Being counted on April 1, 2020, Census Day, in the United States census could be as important as casting your vote on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, Election Day. Why is it important that you be counted in the 2020 U.S. Census? Because, the more

accurate the count, the greater the reward to Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County and the State of Florida.

Because the census data is used as the basis for distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to states, counties, and communities, rewards could mean things like new roads, schools, health care, public safety, transportation, housing, and education choices. When you respond to the cen-

sus, you give your government and your community a better chance to obtain necessary funding for programs and services. Businesses also use census data to determine where to expand or locate, thereby adding new job opportunities. The census affects your representation in government and provides data for future funding decisions by government.

By law, your census responses are confidential and can only be used to produce statistics; they cannot be used against you by any government agency, court or law enforcement. You will not be asked for your Social Security number, bank or credit information, money, or political support.

The U.S. has conducted a census every 10 years since 1790. The government does not allow your identifiable information to be released until 72 years after the census year; responding in 2020 means no personal information will be released until 2092, information primarily useful to genealogical researchers.

Beginning in mid-March, you will receive a notice in the mail to complete the 2020 census by April 1st. You will be given the choice to respond online via any device, by phone, or regular mail. Online and phone responses can be completed in 13 languages. It's vitally important to count every person living in your household, including your children, even infants born on April 1, 2020. You will receive four follow-up reminders to respond throughout April. If you don't respond, the Census Bureau will send staff out to follow-up in person.

We get one chance to shape our future every 10 years. The choice is yours, but please choose to be counted, and remember everyone counts.

For more information, visit www.2020census.gov. Lastly, the Census Bureau is hiring. If you need a job, or would like to supplement your income, temporary and part-time jobs are available. Details and an online application are available at www.2020census.gov/jobs. ❖

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Live Music

Fort Pierce Yacht Club Spreads Christmas Cheer

Christmas is a time for giving and sharing the joys of the holiday season — and every December, the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** celebrates the holiday season by sharing with the community. Since the 1980s, **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** has held a *Trim-a-Tree* event at the club in early December. Its 200-plus members gather to “trim the tree” and share holiday cheer among its family of members. But it is also one of the many times during the year that the Club selects a community recipient with which to share holiday joy.

This year the Club is again spreading Christmas cheer to **PATCHES**. **PATCHES** offers day care to more than 60 children with complex medical needs. **PATCHES** gives parents the peace of mind brought about by a program staffed

by health care professionals who are expertly trained in the care of children with both sub-acute and chronic conditions. The center is fully equipped and staffed to accommodate children who require the support of ventilators, tracheotomies, oxygen therapy, and feeding tubes, or who have other special medical needs. Supportive therapies, respiratory care, educational programming, and door-to-door transportation are also available. Fully licensed by the State of Florida, the well-rounded, expertly managed program benefits both children and families with the highest standards of pediatric specialized care.

Fort Pierce Yacht Club first came to the aid of **PATCHES** in 2017. As result of Hurricane Irma, their facility at Orange Blossom Business Center suffered water damage causing the loss of cribs, dressers, and toys as well as temporarily closing the facility. The **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** raffled off gifts, donated by local businesses and members, to its members during their Christmas *Trim-a-Tree* event and the proceeds from the raffle were donated to **PATCHES** to help support reconstruction and operation of the center. This past spring, the Club included **PATCHES** in a mid-year gifting event. And on December 6th, **PATCHES** was again the recipient of donations generated at our *Trim-a-Tree* event.

As part of *Trim-a-Tree*, **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** has in past years gifted servicemen stationed overseas, *Avenue D Boys and*

Girls Choir with performance shirts, *Police Athletic League* with fishing poles, the *Food Bank and Family Meals, Inc.* with canned goods and monetary donations, *Oak Hammock School* with computers for the blind, and *Mustard Seed Missionaries* with children’s toys — to name but the most recent. In addition to their annual Christmas donation, **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** selects a worthy cause each quarter to which to donate, including *Sara’s Kitchen*, *Boys and Girls Club*, *Rivers Coalition*, *Adam’s Place*, *Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Foundation*, *Main Street 4th of July* fireworks, and many others.



Fort Pierce Yacht Club was founded in 1980 to promote safe boating activities, promote boating education, support an ecologically sound waterway, and to participate in community activities. This year, **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** founded the *Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation* to focus and better manage its gifting work in the community. Look for its *Third Thursday Educational Seminars* which are open to the public and it’s *On the Water Poker Run* to be held March 22, 2020 with funds used to support a summer internship at *FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute*. ❖

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The Popular S&S Takeout Café has Reopened with a New Name and New Dining Concept

The soft opening for **S & S Café Gourmet and Wine Bar** was a pleasant surprise. Walking in the door you sense a whole new atmosphere that immediately makes you feel relaxed and cozy. So different from the days of being a casual take-out that was always buzzing with people coming and going.

The soft opening, held in December, allowed guests to sample a variety of the delectable specialties that will be available on the menu now that the long-awaited opening has arrived. The appetizer list was amazing and were all delicious. This is a must-go place for couples, girls' nights and friendly get-togethers. It is unique, intimate and a great place to impress a date or celebrate an occasion.

As of December 3rd, the restaurant is officially open for business. They are open nightly serving dinner starting at 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. from Tuesday to Thursday; Fridays and Saturdays from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. The intimate setting boasts a lovely wine bar. Their menu includes delicious appetizers and the entrees that all include a soup and salad. Everything is made in house and is expertly prepared. Reservations are not required but can be made by calling 772-461-8354. **S & S Café Gourmet and Wine Bar** is located at 148 N. Depot Drive. ❖

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We Want *You* on the ManaTeam at MOEC

by Patricia Parker, MOEC Volunteer Program Coordinator

The volunteers at The **Manatee Observation and Education Center** do just that. They are passionate about the work they do at the **Manatee Center** and it shows by the way they interact with our guests. They share their knowledge of manatees, information about the Indian River Lagoon and the species that inhabit it, and interpret the exhibits for our guests. In our **Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop**, we sell many products that are made from sustainable resources and are eco-friendly. Even in the gift shop, the volunteers are quick to share how these products are beneficial to the environment and why consumers need to be aware of what they purchase. We truly appreciate all of our volunteers and look forward to this winter with much excitement as we participate in special events and work toward exhibit upgrades and enhancements.

The mission of the **Manatee Observation and Education Center** is: "To promote understanding and responsible actions for the protection of the Treasure Coast's fragile ecosystems and their Inhabitants". We count on volunteers to pass our mission on to our many guests. So, let me tell you about some of the specific positions that are available:

Roving Naturalist (RV) Volunteers play a big role in the guest experience at the **Manatee Center**. They have the job of walking our observation deck and spotting manatees and other wildlife in Moore's Creek. You never see the center empty as quickly as when an RV comes in and says they spotted a manatee.

Discovery Guide (DG) Volunteers are the people that walk you through our exhibits. Our DGs have knowledge of our *Tide Pool Touch Tank*, seahorses, the predator and community tanks, our *Living Coral Reef Tank*, *Diego* the red rat snake and our Striped Mud Turtle exhibit. We give you the

training you need to learn all about the exhibits, previous knowledge not required.

Gift Shop Associate (GS) Volunteers are sales assistants, cashiers and stock assistants in the **Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop**, where all proceeds go to support the **Manatee Center**.

Gift Shop Stock Assistant (SA) is a special job in the office as a direct assistant to our buyer. You will be receiving inventory, ticketing merchandise, maintaining the stock room and pulling merchandise for the gift shop.

Education Assistants (EA) play an important role as they are responsible for the education of the many groups of children and adults who visit our center on special field trips and also go out to schools to present our programs off site. EAs work closely with the *Education Coordinator* and may help plan the activities and even write curriculum.

Office Assistants (OA) are integral to the running of the **Manatee Center**. With only four full time paid staff, OAs work behind the scenes in the office to help keep things running smoothly. There is data entry, filing, organizing, research, and exhibit development.

As you can see, we have many, many varied opportunities at **MOEC**. There are never too many volunteers! For teens age 14 and older this is an excellent opportunity to earn your needed community service hours for graduation and learn valuable job skills. If you have a younger child or grandchild who loves marine sciences, they can volunteer here with you at their side. Our adult volunteers range in age from 18 to 98 and come from all walks of life. If interested in volunteering, please contact us at 772-466-1600 x3334 or go to our website and click the link to send in an interest form; www.ManateeEducationCenter.org. ❖

The Manatee Center January Events

*Season hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.;
Sunday, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.*

Friday, January 20th at 12 p.m.

Queen Conch Aquaculture

Lunch & Learn — Join us for a free presentation at the Manatee Center hosted by Dr. Megan Davis of FAU's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute. Davis worked on the first queen conch aquaculture project in the Caribbean, an economically important activity in the islands, producing food and environmental restocking efforts through aquaculture. Bring your lunch and bring a friend. *Free event.*

Thursday, January 16th, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

HABs in the IRL: Harmful Algae Blooms

Eco-evening at the *Fort Pierce Yacht Club* — Join us for a special presentation by Dr. James Sullivan of FAU's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute. Beer and Wine reception hosted by the *Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation* begins at 6:30 p.m.

Presentation begins at 7:00 p.m.

Free event at the *Fort Pierce Yacht Club*

Recurring Programs

Tuesdays, 2:00 p.m. — *Fin-Tastic Fish Feeding* — come meet the fishes in the Center.

Wednesdays, 2:00 p.m. — *Tide Pool Touch Tank* — a special hands-on touch tank presentation!

Thursdays, 2:00 p.m. — *Meet the MOEC Reptiles* — and witness Diego the corn snake eating.

Fridays, 2:00 p.m. — *Seahorse Snack Time* — watch the MOEC seahorses eat and play.

Saturdays, 2:00 p.m. — *Fin-Tastic Fish Feeding* — come meet the fishes in the Center.



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New Year! New Artists! New Art!



Seriously Mixed Media, the eclectic little gallery on Orange Avenue in downtown Fort Pierce, is bursting with amazing new art created by a wonderful array of artists that are, by definition, pushing the envelope.

Allie Comer, Sherry Horton, Janet Bird Fuller and Gretchen Green have created a 'safe space' for artists that don't necessarily follow the rules. When you walk through the door you can expect the unexpected.

New on the scene are the Art Chix and Friends: Lulu Badgley, Cathy Heeter, Deena Wynne, Judith Auburn, Judy Coffman, Julie Lounibos, Kathy Macht, Marjorie McCabe, Pamela Peterson, and Marsea Purdy. You'll find their work in the back-gallery space. True to form, this group of mixed-media artists find it almost impossible to stick with two or three tried-and-true media or techniques exclusively. They're always finding a new technique or idea to explore.

Also found in the back gallery is the work of the **Peacock**

Clay artists, Martha Cross, Eileen DiTullio and Vicky Beck, and their talented group of students. These individuals could be described as contemporary ceramic artists, who are taking a fresh look at an age-old craft. Their extraordinary work runs the gamut from functional to sculptural.

Make a New Year's resolution to stop by **Seriously Mixed Media** at 207 Orange Avenue and plan enough time to immerse yourself in interesting and unusual art. Gallery hours are Tuesday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Plan to make this gallery a 'must do' stop during *Art Walk* on Friday, January 20th when the gallery will be open until 8 p.m. *Art Walk* happens in downtown Fort Pierce on the third Friday of every month. ❖



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Seriously Mixed Media's January featured Artist will be Fort Pierce Native Julie Lounibos

The gallery, located at 207 Orange Avenue, downtown Fort Pierce, is proud to showcase Julie's exceptional work. Her remarkable art is inspired daily by her surroundings. She is a third generation Floridian who grew up along the Indian River. She still lives by the river and paints subjects ranging from the colorful birds at her feeders to the rooty mangroves across the street.

She is mostly self-taught and paints in oil or acrylic. Her art can be described as representational, impressionistic or just downright funky.

Don't miss an opportunity to enjoy this stunning show, *From Mangroves to Mangos*. The opening reception at the **Seriously Mixed Media Gallery** will be during *Art Walk* on January 17th from 5 to 8 p.m. The show runs until February 13th.

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. ❖



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Love, JAZZ Community: Resolution Solution

by Don Bestor

According to *US News and World Report*, we fail at a full 80 percent of New Year's Resolutions made by the middle of February in the New Year. That means only two in ten of us is going to achieve the perfection we all aspire to, and eight of us are going to keep wishing we could follow through with our commitment to eat better, exercise more, be more charitable and take better care of ourselves. At **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**, we know how disappointing just thinking about these statistics can be, so we wanted to do something to help.

It's a pretty safe bet that, if you're the resolution-making type, one of your resolutions is to be more present in the moment and take better care of yourself. That's where we come in. At **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**, we're all about providing plenty of opportunities for you to hear live, professional music at a price that doesn't cause you anxiety. Every Tuesday evening, our pro-

fessionals perform in a weekly jazz jam at the **Sunrise Theatre's Black Box**, and three hours of music will set you back only a few bucks — less if you're a **Jazz Society** member.

You'll hear classic tunes, new versions of old favorites, and you'll enjoy specialty nights where you can dance to *FDO*, the 17-piece big swingin' band. Some Tuesdays, we change it up with 'class reunion' nights, where we'll feature a set of music from a different decade from the last sixty years, so you can take a trip down memory lane or dance the jerk, if that's what you're inclined to do.

Every other week, we do a jazz jam at the *Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens*, and at that jazz jam, we open up the mic for

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friends and audience members to sit in and play or sing with the band after the first set of the pros' performance. It's a chance for you to get in touch with your inner jazz singer and cross off a bucket list item, too. And just like the Tuesday evening *Jazz Jams*, it's only a few bucks for a full evening of fun, friends and fabulous live music.

Besides helping you succeed beyond your wildest dreams at being one of the two in ten who actually achieves their New Year's Resolutions, *Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society* works all year long to raise funds to provide scholarships for talented young students who want to pursue a career in music. That means just going to a *Jazz Jam* is going to help you achieve that resolution of being a more giving and charitable person, too, so here you are, winning again just by enjoying an evening of great live music. Now isn't this year already starting to look better?

It is the mission of *Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society* to share live, professional music at venues throughout the Treasure Coast. In addition to providing live, affordable, professional music, the members also facilitate master classes, give lessons, mentor, and work with talented young musicians who want to learn more about their craft and how to become professional master musicians, too. As a result, we all enjoy great musical entertainment from seasoned pros who love what they do and want to give a gift back to the community that supports their efforts all year long. And it also means you get to brag to your friends and family that you nailed your resolution like a boss. So go ahead and make those resolutions, but this year, let *Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society* help you to make them successful. If you'd like to know more, visit us at www.jazzsociety.org, or call (772) 460-JAZZ today.

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Stronger Together – *CrossFit Fort Pierce* Lives Up to its Motto

by Joanne Blandford



CrossFit Fort Pierce is a local small business that offers a series of classes designed to transform the health, mobility, and confidence of all who participate. Clients range from elementary-age children to retired seniors, and all ages in between. With a combination of positive coaching, nutritional guidance and a workout program that can be modified to any fitness level, **CrossFit Fort**

Pierce offers a supportive environment in which to achieve and maintain peak fitness at any age.

CrossFit Fort Pierce (CFFP) is a local affiliate of the International CrossFit program which was developed in the 1990s by a former gymnast who found that combining different types of workout regimes was an effective way to increase overall fitness. The first CrossFit gym opened in the early 2000s and its success predicated the growth of thousands of national and international affiliates. The CrossFit program has become a standard in training for members of the armed forces and first responders. It offers a balance for optimum performance in 10

elements of physical training instead of a concentration in one element or another. The 10 elements include: cardiovascular & respiratory endurance, flexibility, power, strength, stamina, speed, balance, agility, coordination, and accuracy. The preformatted “Workouts of the Day” or WODs can be modified to not only serve the fitness levels of a young serviceman or woman but also the general population as a whole.

Walking into a CrossFit gym, or “box” as it is affectionately called by members, for the first time can be intimidating; however, this feeling quickly subsides after being greeted by one of the trained coaches. They are there to make sure all the movements and exercises are modified to fit your fitness level from the first time you walk in and every day afterward. As your abilities and momentum increase, the coaches are there to gently transition you into the next level of your fitness journey. This supportive approach is shadowed by the CFFP members. You become part of a group that wants to see you succeed and visa versa. Milestones are shared and celebrated while lasting bonds are formed with fellow members. This community atmosphere is the biggest source of pride for Tony DeGirolamo, owner of **CrossFit Fort Pierce**.

Tony’s interest in fitness began while he was in middle school. It was then that he cultivated the idea of one day owning a gym. After graduating from Port St. Lucie high school, he earned an A.S. Degree in Fire Science from IRSC. He was attending CrossFit classes during this period and shortly after receiving his degree, at the age of 21, he and a couple partners opened



CFFP. “I wanted to be the best part of the best part of someone’s day,” says Tony. Now, almost 10 years later, he is the sole owner of **CrossFit Fort Pierce**. In addition to owning his own business, he manages the St. Lucie County Sheriff’s



past middle age. One L.I.F.E. member stated the reason she joined was so she could head into her golden years using less assistance. The objective of the L.I.F.E. program is to maximize mobility and maintain strength.

CrossFit program, runs a supportive fitness program for drug and alcohol recoverees and heads the physical education program for Sungrove Montessori school. A strong supporter of the community he lives and works in, Tony frequently partners with CFFP members such as Jose Ruiz, owner of **LeGit Cuts Barber Shop**, for community supply drives and hosts charity fundraising events — the most recent being a yoga class taught by CFFP member, Briana Nielsen (her mother, Linda Knowles, owns **Galleria Paradise** in downtown), which benefited the *Treasure Coast Food Bank*.

CFFP is constantly expanding its efforts to be a positive influence in the community. One focus is on the senior population. The *Longevity In Functional Efficiency* (L.I.F.E.) class was introduced this fall to individuals who are 55 or older. The motivation for the L.I.F.E. program came from assessing the needs and comfort levels of individuals who have progressed

Members are taught CrossFit movements that are scaled to their level as they form a supportive network to navigate issues unique to their age group.

The *CrossFit Kids* classes introduce children, ages six and up, to movements that increase mobility, flexibility and strength. These movements are designed for growing bodies. *Crossfit Kids* provides a strong beginning platform and lessons geared toward lifelong fitness, but the program can also enhance the athleticism of kids participating in youth sports programs currently.

Those interested in joining CFFP or learning more about the CrossFit program can call Tony at (772) 252-4355. New members are treated to two personal foundation sessions which teach proper technique on the major movements used in the classes. For more information, visit www.crossfitfortpierce.com, follow them on Instagram and/or on their Facebook page. ❖



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Celebrating Sesame Street

by Lisa Jill Allison, owner of Lisa Jill Allison Art Gallery



It's an odd time for me. *Sesame Street* just turned 50. Well, let's do the math. That means 50, yes 50 years of my life has been consumed since I first laid eyes on Big Bird. I personally find this quite sobering. Yes, milestones have been met. I've had the privilege of a life that has included being a

teacher, mother grandmother and artist. I've found love, lost love, gained weight, lost weight, earned and spent, and been ill and had good health. My life has been a cascade of trials and triumphs.

Now what does *Sesame Street* and my personal life have to do with Fort Pierce you may be asking. Well, details may vary, but we all seem to experience these or similar gambits of human experiences and emotions and sometimes when contemplating the rapid passage of life, the blues creep in. You know, that nagging, can't-quite-put-your-finger-on-it but can't-shake-it unsettled feeling. I'm happy to say, Fort Pierce has some pure and simple remedies.

My favorite antidote is the peacocks. Just a quick jaunt across U.S. 1 and the intersection of U.S. 1 and Orange Avenue and then one block west will bring you to a truly magical place. What can feed the soul quicker than Nature's display in the form of a stunningly beautiful, yet awkward short-flighted bird? Throw in a bevy of peachicks adoringly

huddled around mom, and the sun peaks into your heart.

Actually, you will probably not be the only one there enjoying the majesty of the peacocks. On my last visit I met a family from out of state that had been told of the peacocks by the locals. I had a double dose of sunshine as I watched not only the peacock parade but also saw the sunshine in the faces of the little ones as they marveled at the delightful show the peacocks put on, in their minds, just for them. Just to add to the joy, as a lover of unique buildings, there is the added treat of the stunning old home that serves as a backdrop for this iridescent display.

Sometimes my heart tugs for a bit more soothing. A walk back across U.S. 1 and down Second Street usually does the trick. Here I'll find business owners bustling about side by side with their staff making their own kind of magic happen — whether it be art in the form of food and services or art in the form of art, I'll find plenty to capture my attention. Quick friendly waves or warm chats will shine out any residual blues.

So, within an hour, with no time in traffic and a minimal hit to the wallet, (yes, I did stop for a coffee and a treat) I for now, can feel pure happiness that *Sesame Street* turned 50 today. Moment by moment, simple pleasure by simple pleasure, my life is rich. ❖

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New Year Brings Farmers to Market

Ask any farmer when to grow in Florida. The answer is always the same — October through May. So here we are — winter at the ***Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers' Market!*** Farmers have had a tough late summer with temperatures higher than normal and hurricanes threatening newly planted crops. All farmers have the same advice: Mother Nature will always have her way.



Gibbons Organics, the only USDA Certified Organic farm at the ***Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers' Market*** and the only year-round farmer, is in full production with beans, lettuce, tomatoes, herbs, kales, mustards are expected to be in harvest by then. As the season progresses, lots of other nutritious vegetables will be on the table.

Aunt Zorada, a Vero Beach based farm, runs through the season with squash, tomatoes, peppers, kales, and potatoes. They also will increase production and selection as the months go by.

Pure Produce, from Melbourne, is a totally hydroponic farm, growing tomatoes, cucumbers, leafy greens, and peppers. They often have fresh herbs and all their products are still living.

G and C Produce is another hydroponic farm located in Okeechobee. They grow several varieties of lettuce along with herbs and a few other vegetables.

Ace High Farms uses only their own citrus for their delicious fresh-squeezed orange and grapefruit juice. Locally grown produce is available, along with honey from their hives in their groves.

Al's Family Farm has been a regular at the Market with fresh-squeezed orange and grapefruit juice from Florida citrus.

It's important to remember how these local farms impact our lives. With sustainable farm practices they help maintain balance in the environment. They provide jobs for local labor. They work tirelessly to provide the most nutritious and delicious fresh produce and fruit to our local community. The ***Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers' Market*** is a showcase of these local farms. The farmers are eager to share their knowledge of growing practices, so just ask. They usually know exactly how to prepare what they grow, so if a customer is not familiar with a new vegetable, most farmers have just the recipe for it.

We look forward to the winter season at the ***Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market***. Seasonal vendors with their own fabulous products are back, featuring anything needed for kitchen and home.

Shop the ***Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers' Market*** every Saturday from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. Rain or shine, it's a Saturday morning tradition! Find us on the web at www.ftpiercefarmersmarket.com, or follow us on facebook and twitter. ❖

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Small Business Solutions: 5 Ways to Start Selling Online

by Anita Campbell, SBA Blog Contributor



Today's sellers have a ton of options to sell online. Take a look at the five most popular options.

The U.S. ecommerce market brought in more than \$504 billion in revenue last year. And it's expected to grow to more than \$735 billion by 2023.

With so much potential in the market, it's the perfect time for entrepreneurs to get started selling products online. Today's sellers have a ton of options to make this happen. Here are five of the most popular.

YOUR OWN ECOMMERCE STORE

Building an ecommerce store from scratch is the most traditional option. It takes some work to get all of the pieces together. But it also gives you the most control.

With this option, you need to find your own website hosting and domain. Then you need to actually design the layout, add products and fill it with content. Of course, you can hire a designer or developer to do some of this for you.

When you're done, you'll have your very own site that you can control every aspect of. You have the freedom to add new products, change content and fiddle with the back end functionality.

HOSTED ECOMMERCE PLATFORMS

Hosted ecommerce platforms differ from dedicated ecommerce sites because the majority of the work that goes into creating the site is already done for you. Basically, this SaaS offering gives you all the functionality of your own ecommerce site. But you don't have as much control over the details.

Shopify, BigCommerce and Big Cartel are all examples of this. Each one allows you to quickly set up a storefront from a select set of options. Often, you can choose from themes and templates. And some even offer further customization options. They also give you instructions for adding products, photos and other content to the site.

To your customers, this type of site might appear very similar to an ecommerce site that you set up on your own. But if you have very specific design or back-end preferences, they might not be available. Additionally, this type of site is often easier or less expensive to get up and running. But they usually charge monthly fees that may exceed basic hosting fees over time.

MARKETPLACE SITES

Marketplace sites include things like Etsy, eBay and Amazon, where small businesses can sell their products alongside other sellers. On the back end, these work fairly similar to hosted ecommerce platforms. But there are usually fewer options for customization. Most of these sites also charge a listing fee or take a percentage of each sale.

However, these sites have one very clear benefit over other options -- a built-in audience. Amazon gets nearly 59 million monthly unique visitors. eBay gets nearly 27 million. And Etsy gets nearly 16 million who are specifically looking for vintage or handmade products.

These sites are less personalized to your own products. In searches, your products will most likely show up alongside others from competing sellers. But the chances that you'd get all of those visitors to your own website are slim. So if you're able to create attractive listings that set your products apart, this could be the option for you. Additionally, some sellers make their products available on these platforms, while still keeping their own dedicated sites for loyal shoppers.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Today, about 72 percent of U.S. adults use at least one social media platform. So for businesses, it makes sense to meet customers where they already spend time. The options for selling products on social media vary by platform. Facebook, for example, allows page owners to set up storefronts right on their business page. Instagram also has a feature that lets users create shoppable posts. Basically, users just click on a post to see the

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products pictured, then they can follow the links to complete a purchase right within the app.

The built-in audience is definitely the key benefit of this option. However, many of the people spending time on social media aren't in the mindset of making purchases. So you may have to do more work to convert buyers than you would on a dedicated ecommerce site where people are already looking for products.

ECOMMERCE ADD-ONS

Ecommerce add-ons give you an option that sits somewhere between building your own site and using a hosted platform. You create your own site and then use plug-ins or pre-made options to facilitate things like payments or buy buttons.

This makes the process of getting up and running easier and can save you money in the long run. However, there are a lot of moving parts to organize if you go this route. So it can get a bit complicated. And you may have to worry about certain components of your site experiencing glitches at differing times. ❖

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by Sue Dannahower

Chill a Bottle of Champagne (or Wine) Quickly

Most people think if you want to chill white wine or Champagne, you do it in a bucket of ice. But the right way to do it is in a bucket of ice water. Here's how to do it: simply fill a Champagne bucket halfway with ice, and then top it off with water until the bucket is about three-quarters of the way full (don't fill it all the way, or your water will overflow once you stick the wine in the bucket.)

Then take the bottle of Champagne and plunge it up right to its neck. That way, it gets chilled fast. A bottle of room-temperature white takes an hour to get cold enough in the freezer, it only takes 20 minutes in an ice-water bath.



January Resolution: More Fishing!

by Captain Bo Samuel, Pullin Drag Charters

Wintertime fishing on the Treasure Coast doesn't get any better than now. The cooler waters are attractive to many fish, and anglers can catch 10–15 different species on any given day. This is definitely the time to resolve to get out on the water and do more fishing.

The inshore bite is great for snook, trout, and redfish. Although snook are always fun to catch, remember that snook season is closed until February 1 so return them to the water as quick as possible. Near-coast reefs in the ocean have an abundance of sheepshead and the adventure begins with catching a fish with each drop of bait! If you are targeting sheepshead, use live shrimp or fiddler crabs with a quarter-ounce weight and a size 1 or 2 j-hook. Catching these sheeps will guarantee one of the best fish dinners you will ever put on the table. The minimum length for sheepshead is 12 inches but they can get double that size.

Offshore trolling for sailfish will be productive. At 15 to 25 miles out, trolling with naked ballyhoo will give you the best opportunity to hook a sail. Keep an eye out for cobia this time of year, too. Cobia are migratory, pelagic fish that are highly attracted to buoys, floating objects and debris. Known to be aggressive feeders, they will take almost any bait including mullet, blue crab, shrimp, and even artificials.



Check your local bait and tackle shops for complete fishing rules and license information. You can find me now at Little Jim Bait & Tackle where the food and music are first rate. Happy 2020! Hope everyone makes a New Year's resolution to keep *Pullin Drag!* ❖



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Recipe Corner

by Sue Dannahower

Layered Dips for Holiday Gatherings

Fran Larsson brought this to a Main Street event.

It is so good and yummy.

Greek Garden Appetizer

- 1 carton (8 ounces) spreadable garden vegetable cream cheese
- 2 cups (8 ounces) crumbled tomato basil feta cheese
- ¼ cup plain Greek yogurt
- ½ teaspoon minced garlic
- ¼ teaspoon dried oregano
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 1½ cups chopped seedless cucumber
- 1 cup chopped seeded tomatoes
- 1/2 cup chopped green onions
- ½ can sliced ripe olives
- Pita Chips or Pita Pocket quarters

In a large bowl, combine the cream cheese, feta, yogurt, garlic, oregano and pepper. Spread into a 9-in. pie plate. Sprinkle the cucumber, tomatoes, onions and olives over the cream cheese mixture. Serve with pita chips. Refrigerate leftovers.

Layered Green Dip

- 1 8-ounce package cream cheese, softened
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon dried Italian seasoning
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1½ cups prepared hummus
- 1 cup chopped cucumber
- 1 cup chopped tomato
- 1/2 cup chopped pitted Kalamata olives
- 1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1/3 cup sliced green onions
- Pita chips or Tortilla Chips

Add cream cheese, lemon juice, Italian seasoning and garlic in a medium mixing bowl. Beat with an electric mixer until combined. Spread cream cheese mixture into a serving dish. Spread the hummus on top of the cream cheese mixture then top with the remaining ingredients.

Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours and up to 12 hours. Serve with pita chips.



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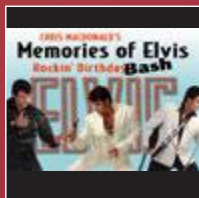
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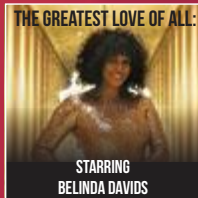
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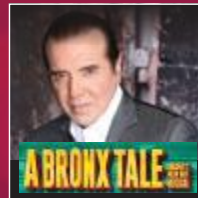
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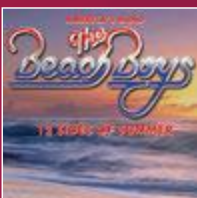
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