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August, 2021

FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce

Always looking for a new adventure and enterprise, Edwin Binney and his wife, Alice, purchased property and built a bungalow just north of downtown Fort Pierce. From there, the family's love of Fort Pierce grew as did their contributions to the local community.

See story p 15



Cherished by generations of child artists, Crayola crayons were invented in 1903 by the Binney & Smith Company. Using paraffin wax and nontoxic pigments, the company produced a coloring stick that was safe, sturdy, and affordable. The name "Crayola," coined by Alice Stead Binney, comes from "craie," French for "chalk," and "oleaginous," or "oily."

Photo by AmericanHistory.SI.edu.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Beat the Heat in Downtown Fort Pierce

by Britt Reynolds




Well, it is August and it is hot! To those not familiar with south Florida summers, it does not usually start cooling off until October. So, this is a great time to be shopping and dining in the shade and/or air conditioning.

Downtown Fort Pierce has had a very exciting summer so far with a variety of new businesses opening throughout the district. We are excited for this trend to continue and encourage entrepreneurs with business ideas to contact the local branch of the Florida Small Business Development Center at the Indian River State College (www.irsbiz.com or 772-462-7630) to see what opportunities and assistance is available.

The *Main Street Focus* offers new businesses in the immediate downtown Fort Pierce area (within the *Main Street Fort Pierce* district) an opportunity to showcase their business in the *Main Street Focus* after completion of a brief questionnaire. Please call the *Main Street* office at (772) 466-3880 for more information about this or for information about opening a business in downtown Fort Pierce.

To our locals and visitors that shop and dine in downtown — thank you! When we support our local small businesses, we support our local economy.

See you downtown! ♦



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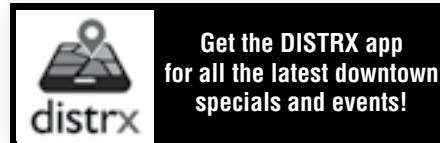
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Calendar

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



Get the DISTRX app for all the latest downtown specials and events!

MONTHLY EVENTS

August 6, Friday: FRIDAY FEST AT MARINA SQUARE — 5 to 8:30 p.m.; with music by **E Z Rider**, 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.

August 20, Friday: ARTWALK — 5 to 8:00 p.m.; Various studios and shops open throughout the downtown area; artstlucie.org.

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.

LIVE MUSIC DOWNTOWN

Sailfish Brewing Company
Facebook/Sailfish Brewing Company

Pierced Cider
Facebook @piercedcider

Cobbs Landing
cobbs-landing.com

Bottom's Up Public House
facebook.com/bottomsuppublichouse

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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

SUNDAY DOWNTOWN CHURCH SERVICES

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

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 • fortpiercepall.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

AUGUST 1: AMERICAN FAMILY DAY

AUGUST 3: NATIONAL WATERMELON DAY

AUGUST 4: COAST GUARD BIRTHDAY



AUGUST 4: NATIONAL CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE DAY

AUGUST 8: INTERNATIONAL CAT DAY

AUGUST 10: LAZY DAY

AUGUST 10: NATIONAL S'MORES DAY

AUGUST 12: INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

AUGUST 13: LEFT-HANDERS DAY

AUGUST 14: NATIONAL CREAMSICLE DAY

AUGUST 16: NATIONAL AIRBORNE DAY

AUGUST 16: TELL A JOKE DAY

AUGUST 18: NATIONAL FAJITA DAY

AUGUST 20: NATIONAL LEMONADE DAY

AUGUST 21: NATIONAL SENIOR CITIZENS DAY

AUGUST 25: NATIONAL BANANA SPLIT DAY

AUGUST 30: NATIONAL BEACH DAY

Smart Outdoor Kiosks Coming to Fort Pierce

The *Downtown Business Alliance* participants were recently introduced during their monthly meeting to a new *Smart City Initiative* approved and deploying in Fort Pierce this fall. The collaborative efforts of the **Fort Pierce Utility Authority (FPUA)** and **Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency (FPRA)** will introduce smart infotainment outdoor kiosks into the downtown and marina area.

These “*Smartphones on a Corner*™” will provide Fort Pierce residents and visitors a host of content and entertainment, including directional mapping to nearby locations, a directory of businesses in the area, information about Fort Pierce, a calendar of events and information about attractions, dining, shopping and retail. In addition, the kiosks will offer entertainment in the form of selfies, webcam views, event competitions and event broadcasts. Businesses in the area will have the opportunity to participate in advertising, as well as special events designed to help drive additional traffic to their locations.

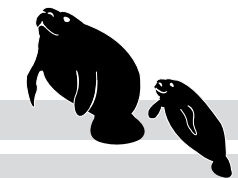
The efforts of FPUA and FPRA have identified four locations for the initial installation of kiosks in the area: the **City Marina** on the corner of Melody Lane and Avenue A; the **Historic Cobb Center** located at Avenue A and N. Indian River Drive; downtown on the corner of Orange Avenue and 2nd Street; and the Art District near the **Seven Gables House Visitor's Center** (left of the **Manatee Observation and Education Center**).

The kiosks are being provided by Argent Edges, a division of Argent Associates, a Texas-based company specializing in providing new concepts and engagement opportunities for smart cities deployments around the country. Fort Pierce

will be the first location to boast Argent's newly created three-sided kiosks.

“We're excited to become a part of the Fort Pierce community and its efforts to become a smarter city,” said Ray Moya, CEO of Argent Edges. “We have already felt welcomed by the FPUA, FPRA and the *Downtown Business Alliance*. We look forward to working in the community to help build student technology and entrepreneurial skills, as well as support and grow small businesses in the area. Together, this can be an exciting time for Fort Pierce!”

The “smartphone on a corner” kiosks are planned for installation in mid to late September. ❖



The Manatee Center August Events

*** SUMMER HOURS IN EFFECT ***
MOEC IS OPEN THURSDAY TO SATURDAY
10 A.M.–5 P.M.

Friday, August 13th at 12:00 p.m.

Mangroves: Connecting Land and Sea

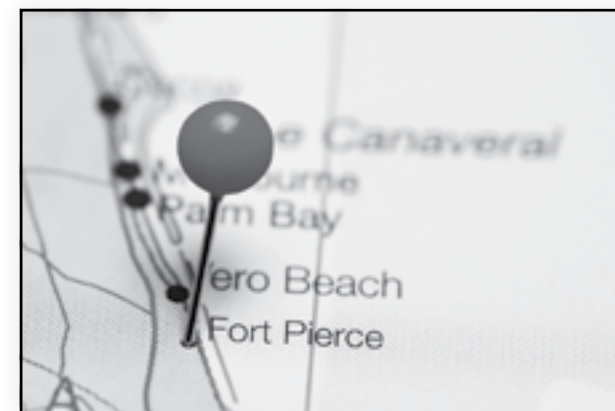
Lunch & Learn — Presented by Kathryn Brown, Outreach Specialist from The Nature Conservancy Blowing Rocks Preserve. Bring your lunch and bring a friend. *Free Event.*

Wednesdays, August 4, 11, 18 and 25 at 9 a.m.

Saturdays, August 7, 14, 21, and 28 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 beginners and anyone who wants to learn more about the Lagoon. The fee for this program is \$30 per person and includes kayak, paddle and safety gear. *Registration is required.* Call 772-429-6266 option #4 or e-mail Education@ManateeEducationCenter.org for more information or to register.



Mayor's Message **Fort Pierce Welcomes Sunrise Humane Society**

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



Looking to adopt a pet, or volunteer at an animal shelter? Look no further than 100 Savannah Road in Fort Pierce, where, beginning March 1, 2021, the **Sunrise Humane Society** (SHS) became the operator of the Savannah Road Animal Shelter at the City of Fort Pierce Public Works

Compound. This new operator, along with the rehabilitated 1964 structure, is a joint project of the City of Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County.

Because the SHS was founded by Operation SOS, a valued city service provider of spay and neuter services for several years, they are very familiar with the city's Animal Registration program.

Sunrise Humane Society has set-up its own veterinary clinic, which, eventually could be self-supporting. Veterinarian Dr. Julie Kittams volunteers her time, along with other volunteers. The Fort Pierce animal control staff have a satellite office for animal control officers, which makes these valuable partners more available to meet with the public and to assist SHS staff with problem animals.

The Savannah Road shelter structure had suffered serious neglect and upkeep. Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County spent a



quarter of a million dollars in a complete rehabilitation. SHS provided additional improvements, including new painting, signage, and an improved laundry room with donated new washers and dryers. The **Fort Pierce Art Society** constructed and painted noise-reduction panels for the dog kennels. Volunteers have decorated the shelter throughout with welcoming, artistic and whimsical signage that evinces a loving, caring attitude to the dogs and cats sheltered there, as well as humans who drop by. Those who wish to adopt are interviewed to help find the most suitable pet.

If you would like to volunteer at, or donate to, **Sunrise Humane Society**, contact them at 772-448-4791 or info@sunrisehs.org. Visit their website at: <https://www.sunrisehs.org/home>. For more information about the City of Fort Pierce Animal Control visit: <https://www.cityoffortpierce.com/332/Animal-Control-Division>. ❖



A Month of Remembrance and Celebration

Memorial Day is for the nation, and for the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, as a day of remembrance of those who sacrificed for us in war; and for those recently departed from our **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** family. It is a solemn meaningful time for each of us. This year we held our annual outdoor ceremony, casting wreaths and flowers into the waters in front of the club, as symbols for our departed. We honor each of the branches of service and we recall those members who have passed. This day is one of the traditional events that the Club holds dearly.

Summer solstice is not only the longest day of the year and celebrated with mysticism around the world but has also become a worldwide day dedicated to being out on the water. **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** celebrated the evening by drum beating to the full moon, led by Kevin Beatkeeper. The following day we hosted a community wide sailboat race offshore and then Sunday, June 20, we invited the community to our annual *Summer Solstice/Father's Day Raft-Up* off Bear Point. Getting you all out on the water is the aim of the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** — don't forget to join us next year!

July 4th, Independence Day, is such a special event — for the value of freedom that it symbolizes for all of us. And Independence Day offers great music, great color, and great



family gatherings! For the last 10 years, the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** has organized a community-wide *Patriotic Boat Parade* starting at 12 noon from the Turning Basin. We have 10–15 boats in attendance — not huge but a respectable number of boats showing their patriotic colors along our waterways. The parade has always had its patriotic trumpeter and this year he was joined by a boat with speakers blasting our favorite patriotic tunes. It is one of the “feel good” events of the year, bringing a smile to the faces of

those participating and those who turn out to watch.

Parade registrants and **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** members are invited to the Club for an evening of camaraderie, food, and beverages. It is a wonderful event and a special time allocated to for a community meet and greet amongst the area's boaters. And then the finale of the celebratory day are the fireworks offered by *Main Street Fort Pierce* and the City of Fort Pierce. We missed them last year and were so glad to have them back this year. And they were the best!

Thank you all for joining us in these wonderful celebrations. If you missed them, follow us on Facebook for announcement of future community offerings hosted by the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**.

“Fort Pierce Yacht Club promotes the growth and enjoyment of boating activities for Club members and for the community....” ❖

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Manatee Center Summer Camp 2021

by Candy Wickham, Manatee Observation & Education Center Education Coordinator

This summer at the **Manatee Center**, we were so excited to move forward from the last year of COVID closures and back into our normal routines better than ever. Though still cautious, we proudly hosted 109 campers for safe summer camp fun in Downtown Fort Pierce. We offered four week-long camps in a choice of either morning or afternoon sessions. Sessions were limited to just twelve campers each (plus counselors-in-training) and all activities were designed to take place outdoors.

We enjoyed a variety of hands-on games and activities designed to develop an appreciation of the world around us. And new this year, we brought our fun in the sun to Museum Pointe Park and Jaycee Park with special camp days based right out of two of our favorite Fort Pierce waterfront parks.

During week one, *Ocean Creatures*, campers learned all about sharks, dolphins, whales, and manatees. During week two, *Super Science* week, campers learned all about physics, geology, and chemistry through hands-on labs and experiments. Campers enjoyed creating their own marshmallow catapults and making their own oobleck while learning about chemistry. In weeks three, *Wild About Art*, and four, *Amazing Animal Adaptations*, we brought even more hands-on art and science fun to our campers. Campers also learned how to fish responsibly with *Anglers for Conservation!*

Campers enjoyed participating in the *Main Street Fort Pierce* Fish Fence again this year. They were excited not only to have their manatee artwork displayed for all to see, but they were ready to take part in the continued beautification of Downtown Fort Pierce.

We were so happy to provide this opportunity for children again this year! We enjoyed getting together with our campers, outdoors and socializing while learning important lessons and having fun. We'd also like to say a special thanks to **TRM Construction Management** for sponsoring four Boys and Girls Club children to attend our summer camps this year.

Seagrass Restoration Comes to Moore's Creek at the Manatee Center

The *Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation* and **Manatee Center** are raising \$10,000 to bring seagrass restoration to the mouth of Moore's Creek at the **Manatee Center**. Funds raised will pay for restoration experts at Sea and Shoreline to install five seagrass restoration cages in the Creek immediately outside the **Manatee Center**, as well as additional seagrass plantings outside of the cages. We expect to launch the restoration project in Spring 2022, and to know the final results of our restoration efforts within three years.



Funds will also be used to send **Manatee Center** educators to St. Lucie County Schools and camp programs, free of charge to the schools and camps, with a hands-on education program all about the value and importance of seagrasses. Seagrasses are important as habitat as well as food sources for our beloved manatees.

The fundraiser and grant competition is through the *Gannett Foundation A Community Thrives*. If we raise \$3,000, we will be eligible for grant funds in addition to the funds raised. Visit the **Manatee Center** website for more information or the link to donate at www.ManateeEducationCenter.org. ❖



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4th of July Celebration



4TH OF JULY PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARYANN KETCHAM





Downtown Poker Stroll Friday, June 18th



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Remembering the Contributions of One of Fort Pierce's Most Philanthropic Families

by Joanne Blandford

The arrival of Flagler's railroad to south Florida around 1894 had awakened tourism and development in the lower half of the state. Fort Pierce was incorporated in 1901 and with its proximity to a natural inlet, its downtown business district was easily accessible by both boat and train. The major industries around the turn of the century were fishing and pineapples; however, after a major freeze in north Florida in the late 1800s, citrus groves had started to blanket acres of land west of downtown Fort Pierce. It was during this period that an avid outdoorsman traveled down the east coast by boat to experience the fishing off the south Florida shores. During his trip he ventured into the Indian River near Fort Pierce and developed an interest in the potential that the area held. He possessed a keen sense of foresight that had served him well in his pursuits as an inventor and businessman. Always looking for a new adventure and enterprise, Edwin Binney and his wife, Alice, purchased property and built a bungalow just north of downtown Fort Pierce. From there, the family's love of Fort Pierce grew as did their contributions to the local community.

Edwin was born and raised in New York. Joseph Binney, his father, founded a company that produced industrial products called Peekskill Chemical Co. Edwin was an industrious youth and by the time he was a teenager he decided the solitary routine of bookkeeping was not the career path for him. At 17, he struck out as a traveling paint salesman and a year later, he opened a branch office paint store in New York. When he was 19 his father retired, and Edwin took over the leadership of the elder Binney's company. Always one to seek improvements in processes and procedures, he expanded the



Edwin and Alice with grandson, David Binney Putnam in Bend, Oregon 1913

business and partnered with his cousin, C. Harold Smith. They changed the corporate name to Binney & Smith and looked to add needed products to the market through invention and manufacturing. Their dustless white chalk invention won a gold medal at the 1902 St. Louis World's Fair and they would soon invent the product that propelled the company into worldwide fame — **Crayola Crayons**.

In 1887, Edwin married an English-born, college-educated school-teacher named Alice Stead. Together they had four children — three daughters and a son. Alice would join Edwin as his lifelong companion and confidant. It appears she was also an active participant in business deci-

sions. The name **Crayola** was one of her contributions — by combining a French word for chalk “craie” and an abbreviation of the word oleaginous whose definition is “containing oil.” Their home base was a beautiful estate named Rocklyn in Old Greenwich, Connecticut; however, Fort Pierce became a frequent destination for Edwin and Alice as well as the future permanent home for their adventure-loving daughter, Dorothy.

Edwin and Alice decided to invest further in the area and built a larger winter residence off what is now Indrio Road. Alice actually came up with the name Indrio by combining the word Indian with the Spanish word for river (rio). Along with their residence, they also planted hundreds of acres of citrus groves. As the *Florida Land Boom* era began in the early 1920s, the Binneys along with investment partners, drew up plans for a large community that would also bear the Indrio name. Copies of the plans show parks and promenades with retail shops near the Indian River, and Mediterranean-style

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SALLY CHAPMAN

homes in the neighborhoods that expanded west from the Indian River. Sadly, this planned development with its beautiful architecture was never culminated due to the environmental and financial struggles that occurred in Florida during the late 1920s.

Prior to the Indrio development, Edwin was keen to the knowledge that Fort Pierce's location was in close proximity to the ocean for shipping purposes. “His studies showed Fort Pierce's natural harbor was only three miles to “deep water,” sealanes navigable to big shipping. Jacksonville's port is 21 miles inside the limits, and Miami is 11 miles.” (*Latham, Sally (1976, January 11) Crayola King Binney Was Port's 'Angel' The News Tribune Showcase, pp 2, 3, 4, 5.*) After his initial arrival to Fort Pierce, the natural inlet (once located in the vicinity of Pepper Park) began to fill in from time to time. Money was raised to construct a wider, deeper and more permanent inlet which was completed in May 1921.

Now that the new inlet was established, Edwin Binney went to work developing and financing plans to construct a large port that would be able to handle the shipping needs of the surrounding citrus growers, produce farmers and fisheries that depended on their products getting out quickly. This was accomplished through the Fort Pierce Finance and Construction Company, of which Binney was president. The port of Fort Pierce took years to develop. It included deepening the inlet, dredging the turning basin, applying for a port of entry designation, and the construction of the docks and refrigerated facilities that would house the perishable exports before shipment. Though the port was operational beginning in 1929, Edwin Binney was never able to inspect the completion of the massive, refrigerated terminal that was to be the final installation of the project. While traveling with Alice on their way back down to their beloved Fort Pierce, he died suddenly of a heart attack in December, 1934.

Many significant historic events took place in Florida throughout the time Edwin, Alice and Dorothy resided in Fort Pierce. In Florida, two devastating hurricanes in 1926 and 1928 were contributors to the economic downfall that halted the extensive development of the *Florida Land Boom* era. This was followed by the stock market crash in 1929 and the Great

Continued on page 16 ...



Edwin with daughters, Helen Kitchel and Dorothy Putnam at “Rocklyn” in Old Greenwich, CT, 1912 or 1913



Edwin with daughter, Dorothy; grandson, George Putnam II and friend, Ferris after a successful day of fishing, 1922



Binneys farmhouse “Florindia” in Fort Pierce, 1924

BINNEY ... continued from page 15



The thirteen retired Crayola crayon colors: Lemon Yellow, Violet Blue, Blue Gray, Orange Red, Maize, Raw Umber, Orange Yellow, Green Blue, Blizzard Blue, Magic Mint, Mulberry, Teal Blue, and Thistle.

Photo by Crayonsman, CC BY-SA 3.0

Depression. It was during these lean times that the Binney's generosity and genuine compassion for the communities in which they lived helped lift others. Edwin Binney kept the St. Lucie County Bank in operation during the depression. He created new jobs for those without employment and fed others with fresh produce. He and Alice were humble, enthusiastic members of the local community for many years, and they started a legacy of philanthropic acts that future generations of their family continue to build upon. It is a testament to the character of Edwin Binney that the local newspaper published this moving tribute upon his death:

EDWIN BINNEY Fort Pierce News-Tribune: In the passing of Edwin Binney, developer, promoter, man of vision and perspective, friend of all with whom he has come in contact, this community mourns the loss of one who has ever been a steadfast helpmate in time of need, and one to whom we owe many of our most prominent developments. We do homage to him today for his untiring efforts, his perseverance and initiative in overcoming all obstacles, no matter how great, in forwarding the best interests of Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County.

He died as he lived, still active and on the move to the very end. His connections in a business way were many. And yet he found time for recreation as evidenced in the many social clubs with which he was affiliated. He was a philanthropist in that he was always public spirited, recently transforming a stretch of swamp land into a park and presenting it to his hometown of Greenwich, and doing extensive beautification in St. Lucie County. In Fort Pierce he was connected with

every worthwhile project which was pushed to a conclusion. He was actively associated with many organizations which have as their objectives the uplift, benefit and furtherance of the ideals of humanity.

It is such men as Edwin Binney who make it possible for men to live together in harmony and accord, to keep up their faith in the motives and purposes of each other, to realize that there is more in life than personal gain.

In the loss of Mr. Binney, we have lost a true friend who has proven himself worthy of our devotion during the past 20 odd years. His memory will live on forever in the minds and hearts of the people of this entire community, for here truly was a man whose life was devoted to the serving of his fellow man.

(The Palm Beach Post, Saturday Morning, December 22, 1933, Page Four)

Next month the *Main Street Focus* will feature an article on Edwin and Alice's daughter, Dorothy Palmer, and her contributions to Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County. ❖

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St. Lucie Cultural Alliance Member Spotlight: Doretha Hair Truesdell

by Dorothy Kamm

It was a tragedy and a bus ride that brought Doretha Hair Truesdell from West Virginia to Fort Pierce. Doretha, who was 16 years old, had recently graduated high school when her father killed her mother in June 1959. She and her siblings came to Fort Pierce to join an older sister and an aunt, who took in the family.

Doretha met Alfred Hair shortly after her arrival and they started hanging out together. That August, Doretha got a job working at a

bus station located one block from artist Beanie Backus's studio. Alfred was a student of Beanie's. Doretha would walk there when on break to visit. "I fell in love with painting, watching Alfred and Beanie create idyllic landscapes," says Doretha. "I was in awe of the process and the beauty of the artwork. It was all so magical," she adds.

Doretha and Alfred became inseparable. Eventually, Doretha went to college at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in Tallahassee, majoring in business. Alfred went to Tallahassee, too, finding a house for them in which to live. After graduation, they came back to Fort Pierce and started a family.

As Alfred's art career was blossoming, Doretha taught full-time in local elementary schools. After work, she assisted him by painting frames he made from discarded crown molding and prepping the Upson boards he used as a canvas. They moved into a house on Dunbar Street, off Avenue D, in October, 1965. A year later they extended and enclosed the patio to make a studio. Here, Alfred could create more pictures utilizing an assembly line style of painting. To speed the process of creating a finished piece, Alfred then taught Doretha how to paint, beginning with backgrounds.

In 1969 Doretha resigned from teaching to work with Alfred full-time. While Doretha painted backgrounds that Alfred would enhance, she also created between 75 and 100 finished



paintings under her own name. These paintings were sold alongside Alfred's. "Alfred had four salespeople who traveled south to Fort Lauderdale to sell his paintings and mine, too," says Doretha.

The Hairs had a very successful business when everything came to a sudden standstill. Alfred was 29 years old when he was tragically killed. Doretha became a widow at 27 years old, left to care for four children. She became a teacher again.

Doretha stayed in Fort Pierce until 1978. "Alfred and I had planned to move to the Fort Lauderdale area because that's where the sales were," says Doretha. By this time, Doretha needed a change, so she finally relocated in Fort Lauderdale.

She met her second husband there, whom she married in 1980. They moved to New Jersey because of his job. Doretha left teaching to work for Federal Express. When she retired as a customer service manager in 2010 she thought she would travel. However, her nephew called to tell her that the house she owned with Alfred was in poor condition. She needed to come back to fix it up.

"Coming back into the house, stepping foot inside, brought back many painful memories," says Doretha. But beyond that pain, she could hear Alfred telling her she could paint again. So, she picked up a brush and began to create colorful canvases of Florida landscapes and ocean scenes.

Doretha dresses in outfits as colorful as her paintings. "I love color," she says. The colors of her paintings and her clothing are fully saturated hues that exude energy. "I look to the sky for inspiration," says Doretha. "There are so many colors, so many

purples, blues and greens. The colors may be fleeting, but I try to capture when I paint," she adds.

Doretha's oil paintings are created from memory. The sky sets the tone for a painting. Her landscapes capture the beauty and feel of old Florida before development cut down so many Royal Poinciana, Jacaranda and other types of trees. She also paints ocean scenes; the movement of the water is entrancing to her. There is so much energy in her paintings, "because they are created with love," says Doretha. Much emotion emanates from her brilliantly colored artworks — art too beautiful to stay hidden. "I found peace in painting again," says Doretha. Her life came full circle.

Doretha joined the *St. Lucie Cultural Alliance* after reading about its activities and the artists featured in its online newsletter. She wanted to associate with the artists and learn about their viewpoints. "I wanted to be part of the community," she says.

To learn more about the *St. Lucie Cultural Alliance* and the benefits of membership, please visit ArtStLucie.org, e-mail: info@artstlucie.org or call 772-462-2783.

To contact Doretha Hair Truesdell, e-mail her at dhair@aol.com; 609-529-4990.

St. Lucie Cultural Alliance is the county's local arts agency. The organization is committed to supporting and empowering local artists and cultural organizations. To learn more or become a member, visit: www.artstlucie.org ❖

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Love, JAZZ Community: You Don't Even Have to Own a Yacht

by Don Bestor

One of the most wonderful things about living on the east coast of Florida is, well...the east coast of Florida. How amazing is it that we are always minutes, even seconds away from the cool, briny breezes of either the Indian River or the mighty Atlantic herself? And if we're being honest with ourselves, who among us has never entertained the fantasy of owning a boat, cruising along our breathtaking waterways with a breeze blowing in our hair, a song in our hearts, and nary a care in the world? But the reality is that owning a boat is expensive and time-consuming, and it just isn't for everyone. That means those dreams of hanging out at the yacht club and hobnobbing with all of our friends who regularly choose to weigh anchor and head for the open seas or cruise off for a weekend in the Bahamas are nothing more than dreams — or are they?

Every other Tuesday during the summer and all the way through November, the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** and the **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** team up to provide an evening of fabulous music and a chance to view exquisite sunsets from the prime location of the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, just at the base of the Seaway Bridge at 700 Indian River Drive. The downbeat is at 7 p.m. for an evening that includes professional musicians and singers playing tunes you've loved always and new ones that will make memories for the rest of your life. Adult refreshments are available, and you can enjoy the evening from inside the intimate setting of the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** or outside on the club's private terrace, where you can feel the healing touch of the semi-salty air. And all of this awesomeness won't cost you a bundle or require you to know your bow from your stern or your port from your starboard. That's right, you don't have to become a member of the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** or even the **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society**, although it will cost you a bit less at the door if you are. For a \$10 cover (\$8 for members), you're welcome to come and enjoy an evening of music and merriment. Sure, you can bring friends and family and even act like it's your personal yacht club if you'd like, and we promise we'll keep your secret as long as you enjoy the music, the setting, the sunset, and the two terrific nonprofit organizations which collaborated to help make it happen.

August 10th and 24th are the August **Pro-Jazz Jams** at **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, and you can find the rest of the dates, plus all of **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society's** other offerings and lots of other cool info at www.jazzsociety.org. If you'd like to learn more or support the **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** by becoming a member or providing a gift membership for someone else, you can reach us by phone at 772.460. JAZZ (5299) or via email at info@jazzsociety.org. ❖



TREASURES OF THE PAST

100 years ago this month as reported in the Sunday, August 14, 1921 edition of the Palm Beach Post

Dollar Day is a Success

Dollar Day was very successful in Fort Pierce. From early in the morning to late at night the town was full of shoppers from far and near, and according to the merchants, they did bigger business that day than at any time since Christmas eve. Many of the dollar day stocks were depleted within a few hours, making it necessary to restock the counters. The shoppers by no means confined their buying to dollar day specials, but bought freely of many other goods at their regular prices. The bulk of the business, of course, fell upon the clothing stores, but the grocers and other places of business got their share from the many people in town.

75 years ago this month as reported in the Sunday, August 18, 1946 edition of the Miami News

Memorial Window to Honor War Dead

A memorial window is to be placed in St. Andrew's Episcopal church here in memory of the five young men of the parish who gave their lives in World War II – Eugene V. Lish, Charles Letts, Clifford Pitts, Otto Scharfschwerdt and Henry Holmes. The window is being purchased by the men's club of the church and installed by the vestry. Its theme will be "The Sermon on the Mount" and it will bear the names of those it honors. The window is being made in St. Louis.

50 years ago this month as reported in the Thursday, August 5, 1971 edition of the Orlando Evening Star

Nude Surf Swimmers Claim Bathing Rights

Three persons caught skinny dipping at North Beach refused to put their clothes back on when the law ordered them out of the surf, police said. "So, they were put in the back of the patrol car completely nude and brought downtown," said a sheriff's deputy Wednesday.

"When you have three subjects who refuse to get dressed, how in the world are you going to go about dressing them – especially when one of them was a female?" the deputy asked.

Donald Vallese, 21, Providence, R.I.; Joseph Lamparsky, 20, Orange, N.J., and Barbara Schriber, 19, Hollywood, Fla., were all charged with indecent exposure, the officer said. They were being held in the county jail (at time of article was located in downtown Fort Pierce) under \$500 bond apiece Wednesday.

"One of the males said, 'You don't take a bath with your clothes on, do you?' and I said, 'True, but you don't take a bath in the Fort Pierce Inlet,'" the deputy reported.



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25 years ago this month as reported by Jim Reeder in the Friday, August 30, 1996 edition of the Palm Beach Post

Site Chosen for Federal Courthouse

The U.S.1 and Orange Avenue location in Fort Pierce will replace quarters in the old post office

A 2-acre site at U.S.1 and Orange Avenue has been chosen for construction of a new federal courthouse to replace cramped quarters just down the street in the old post office, officials said Thursday.

The site selection came nearly two years after former Mayor William Dannahower and federal officials announced plans for a new building with federal courtrooms and offices for law enforcement agencies such as the FBI and Drug Enforcement Administration.

Neither Mayor Edward Enns, City Manager Dennis Beach nor a spokesman for the federal General Services Administration could be reached for comment, but in a written statement city officials said they're pleased with the choice.

"This will have a dramatic effect on Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County," the statement said. "Former Mayor Dannahower's

tireless effort to secure the courthouse played a huge role in bringing this project to this point," the statement said.

Dannahower announced the federal site search in September 1994 and said the new courthouse will boost downtown redevelopment.

Plans call for a 53,000-square-foot building with two courtrooms, judges' chambers and related offices occupying more than half the space. Federal prosecutors and investigative agencies will occupy the remainder.

The site occupies a full city block bounded by U.S.1 on the east, Orange Avenue on the north, Atlantic Avenue on the south and Fifth Street on the west. "That's the site favored by participants in the charette (strategic planning session) a year ago and is favored by City Planner Ramon Trias," Dannahower said.

"It will certainly be a boost for the area," Dannahower said.

Purchase of the land from six separate owners should be complete by the end of this year, officials said. Federal officials will then seek bids from someone willing to build the courthouse then lease it to the federal government.

A single-courtroom in the old post office at Orange Avenue and Fifth Street has been used by visiting judges for the past 20 years.

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Members of the Military: Let SBA Serve You on Your Entrepreneurship Mission

Published on www.sba.gov by Larry Stubblefield



Service members make great contributions and sacrifices on our nation's behalf. When it's time for your next mission, the **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)** provides customized tools and training to support and empower you through every stage of business ownership. In honor of *Military Appreciation Month*, we're highlighting a few SBA programs for transitioning service members, veterans, and military spouses.

ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING

A key first step for transitioning service members, veterans, or military spouses interested in business ownership is Boots to Business (B2B). Available on military installations worldwide for service members and their spouses, this course covers the fundamentals of business ownership. Boots to Business: Reboot (B2BR) brings the B2B course off installations and into communities for veterans who may not have access to a military base, along with National Guard and Reserve members, and spouses.

B2B has been a launchpad for many aspiring military and veteran entrepreneurs. For example, after taking the B2B course, U.S. Army veteran Jeremy Boucher and his wife Dr. Kristen Boucher were able to turn their brewing hobby into a small business. They now own Split Fin Brewing in Midway, Georgia. To get started learning the essentials of business ownership, you can find the class schedule for B2B and B2BR [here](#).

LOCAL SUPPORT

SBA resource partners, including Veterans Business Outreach Centers (VBOC), offer expert counseling and training to business owners, with help available remotely. VBOCs are highly familiar with the military business community's values, strengths, and needs, and can connect you with key resources.

One military spouse who worked with her local VBOC to grow her business is Terra Smith, owner of DocTerra Mobile

Veterinary Services in Vale, North Carolina. Terra reached out to her local VBOC at Fayetteville State University for help gaining access to capital as she launched her mobile veterinary clinic. The VBOC walked Terra, whose husband is a Marine veteran, through the steps of applying for an SBA-guaranteed loan through a community lender.

Find a VBOC or other resource partner near you.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

The SBA is also here for business owners in the military community when the unexpected happens. Like many small businesses, veteran owned businesses have been hit hard by the economic impacts of the pandemic, and we're continuing to offer disaster relief options to help.

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), for instance, is an SBA-backed loan that helps small businesses keep their employees on payroll during the pandemic. Borrowers may be eligible for forgiveness. Air Force veteran Tom McMahon – owner of Washington, D.C. gift shop Urban Dwell – is just one of the veteran business owners who have kept their businesses afloat with help from the PPP. The SBA is currently offering PPP loans originated only by participating community financial institutions including Certified Development Companies, microlenders, Community Development Financial Institution, and Minority Depository Institutions until May 31 or until remaining funds are exhausted.

The SBA is also offering Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) to provide economic relief to small businesses and nonprofit organizations that are experiencing a temporary loss of revenue. EIDL is available through December 31.

Beyond pandemic relief, the SBA offers several other disaster relief programs, including the Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan (MREIDL). If one of your essential employees is a military reservist and that person gets called to active duty, you can apply for MREIDL to help with eligible expenses.

As a member of the military, you've served our country. As you transition to entrepreneurship, let us serve you. ❖



Changes

by Lisa Jill Allison, Lisa Jill Allison Art Gallery



It seems to me, that in everyone's life, there are pivotal changes. Something takes us so by surprise, it just whirls into our life and there is a forever shift. This happens in the most intimate recesses of our personal lives and it happens within families, communities, nations and even globally.

Yes, there are pivotal times that bring great joy and progress, and yes, there are times that bring deep sorrow and the feeling of regression. Some have a tendency to most easily bring to mind what feels like tragedies and some are more readily inclined to remember what seems like triumphs. Perhaps this has something to do with a person's tragedy/triumph ration in life and perhaps it can have something to do with purposeful focus and desire.

Whether the events and pivotal shifts occurs in intimacy or globally, the basic plan of action in the aftermath is pretty much the same. Each of us gets to choose our reactions to the swirling around us. Writing this is a bit sobering since, as an artist, I tend to have a vivid movie playing inside my brain pretty much 24/7. Past events are abundantly queued into my brain's playlist, just waiting to be viewed once again, sometimes feeling as if it is the first time. I find this to be both a blessing and a curse, by the way.

Having said all of that, what do I really want to share on this multi-faceted topic? I want to share my personal experience along this line with the desire that it helps someone to feel more secure, less alone and more thoroughly heard amidst the sometimes-deafening din of this world. Don't get me wrong, I see profound beauty in all aspects of the world. I am star-struck by the sheer majesty of nature. I am in awe at the workings of the human mind, and I am stunned by the strength and resilience of our spirit. I revel in day-to-day life, as I am beyond delighted by the antics of my grandson and my furry companion Rosy, many of you know both :)

Yet, I am aware of the other side of the coin. Despite having the privilege of a comfy home, ample food, wonderful family and friends, a job I love, and on and on, I have been amply exposed

to the raw side of life. Most of us have stories along these lines. The details may differ but the aftermath is the same. So, what do we do with it? Is there a way to turn some shifts of a profoundly negative nature to something positive? Do we possess the tools and the fortitude to do so? I do believe the answer is yes. We have an unending well of intuition, power and might within. Look deep in the mirror and you will see it shining back at you. It is the unquenchable fire within. A mere flicker may be all you see at the moment. Be assured, there is more waiting to spring to life. Surround yourself with people that fan that flame!

Much of this I have learned from my 91-year-old mother. I have watched her, throughout the years, when faced with great adversity, dig deep within and find the right course and the courage and strength to follow through. She has shown me that what may look like a shift to tragedy can be a catalyst for personal triumph. One course can dim an already challenged flame, another course can fuel the flame to grow brighter, stronger and more illuminating. When we can find the way to become brighter as opposed to darker, we change ourselves and we change the world around us. The more often we are able to choose triumph instead of tragedy, despite the circumstances, the more readily we are able to find this path or attitude in the future. The saying, "As a twig is bent, so grows the tree," comes to mind.

To me, now feels like the perfect time to be as open, authentic and truthful with each other in the most personal of encounters right up to the global arena. We are a bit rawer and more insecure as a worldwide family than we have been in a while. It is a marvelous opportunity to use some events that feel like tragedy to experience triumph that is generated at an inner level; the triumph that comes from navigating a difficult situation consciously, choosing the high road in actions and reactions. In our novel little town I have, on a personal level as well as a professional level, had the privilege of being in the company of many old friends and new friends that have looked in the mirror, dug deep and played out the events around them as triumphs, giving fuel to the flame and helping to reignite the flame in others. We are a marvelous little bunch with much to be proud of! ❖

Scales and Tails

by Bo Samuel, Captain of Pullin Drag Charters



August is typically a busy month on the water and this year is no exception. You can expect more boats in the area as divers come from across the state to enjoy the opening of spiny lobster season on August 6th. We generally see a significant number of divers trying to catch their limit of these tasty Florida “bugs” in our bountiful waters.

While divers are catching lobster, anglers are still going strong catching mahi, kingfish, sailfish, cobia, and snapper. Mahi and kingfish action is found on the offshore reefs in 80-100 feet of water. Try slow trolling live bait around weed lines for your best results. I like to use fresh ballyhoo, naked or skirted, for dolphin. Snapper can be found on the reefs at about 50–100 feet. Using a chum bag or throwing some cut bait is ideal for these aggressive feeders to increase your chances of a nice hit. Be sure you keep your live bait on the bottom with enough weight. There is no closed season on mangroves, lanes, and muttons.

The photo shows Frank Orio, aka MuttonButFun, with a monster gag grouper, a nice mangrove snapper, and, yes, a mutton. Looking good, Frank!

Many anglers are divers too but if you’re not a diver, trade some scales for tails and let the seafood fest begin. Take it from me, fresh lobster and fresh fish are both great on the grill. Visit **Little Jim Bait & Tackle** for all your tackle needs plus fishing rules and regulations and great food. You know where to find me ... on the water *Pullin Drag!* ❖



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Recipes from My Roots

Swamp Cabbage Stew

Tayla Johnson’s recipe of Swamp Cabbage rings close to home in Fort Pierce. Many of the events that are using a southern theme dinner like to throw it in the mix. Swamp Cabbage is the heart of a young sable palmetto or Cabbage

Palm. Tayla identifies with her roots when she goes up to Live Oak to visit with her great grandparents and grandparents. She gets involved with making the family dinners and especially loves helping her great grandma.



Recipe for Swamp Cabbage Stew

- 3 slices of bacon
- 2 heads of freshly cut swamp cabbage chopped
- ½ cup of sugar
- 1 tablespoons of salt
- ½ tablespoon of freshly ground black pepper
- Optional golden raisins and slivered almonds

In a medium saucepan, fry the bacon over medium heat. Set aside, reserving drippings. Put swamp cabbage and remaining ingredients, including fried bacon and bacon drippings in a 6-quart pot. Fill the pot ½ full with water and bring to a boil. Boil for about 10–15 minutes, until the cabbage is tender. Adjust salt and pepper to taste. Serve hot as a side dish. If reheating leftovers, you must bring to a full boil again. ❖

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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