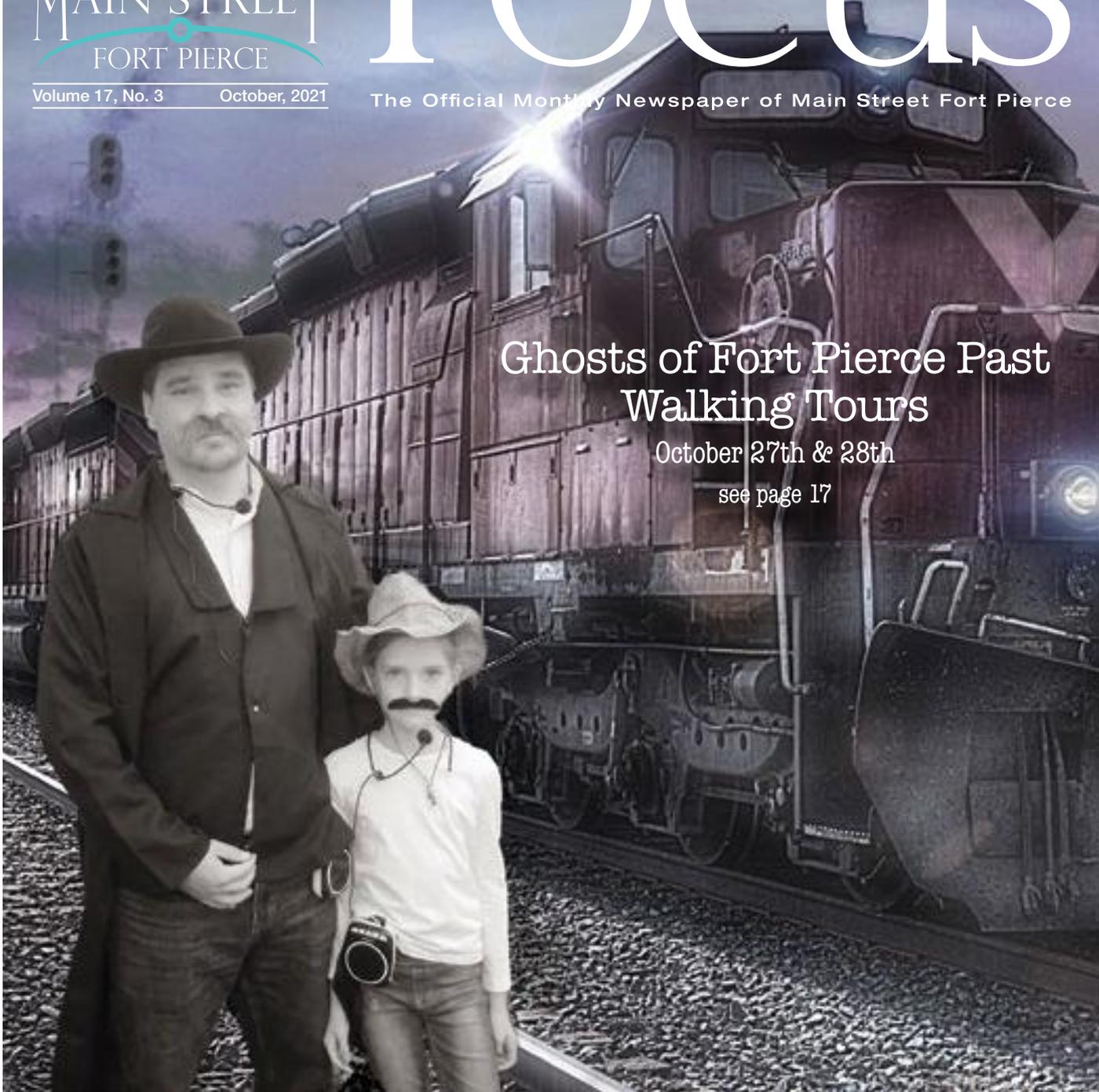




Volume 17, No. 3      October, 2021

# FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce



## Ghosts of Fort Pierce Past Walking Tours

October 27th & 28th

see page 17

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Main Street Focus  
122 AE Backus Ave.  
Fort Pierce, FL 34950



Mayor Linda Hudson invites you to join her for Community News, Special Announcements, Complimentary Coffee, Orchid Island Juice, Breakfast Treats, and more!

**Friday, October 15, at 8:00 a.m. at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club**  
700 N. Indian River Drive

**HOSTED BY**  
Fort Pierce Yacht Club, Main Street Fort Pierce, Orchid Island Juice Company, First Wave Coffee and The City of Fort Pierce. Call Main Street Fort Pierce for more information at 772-466-3880.

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**Food Family Friends Fun**

1st Friday of each month, Historic Downtown Fort Pierce  
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Join Us at *Friday Fest* on October 1st with Live Music by *Dave and the Wave*



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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

# Community Traditions

by *Britt Reynolds*



Recently I found receipts from **Rosslow's** for my mother's wedding dress and her bridesmaids' dresses. For decades downtown and specifically, **Rosslow's**, was the place to go to buy your special occasion wear as well as other clothing and household goods. **Rosslow's** had a strong following and even after the Orange Blossom Mall was built in the early 1980s, the tradition passed down from generation to generation of buying from this unique store kept **Rosslow's** going.

Traditions are important in every community and historic downtowns across the United States are where many of these celebrated events and/or customs begin.

In Fort Pierce, we have several events happening in the next several months that are special to our community. Some of these events have been going on for decades and some are newer but all of them create memories and strong community

ties for generations to come as they did for the generations that came before us.

Speaking of the generations that came before us, *Main Street's* annual *Ghosts of Fort Pierce Past Walking Tour* is one of many downtown events taking place this month. Check out the article in this month's *Focus* and reserve your tickets today as the event sells out every year.

There is a lot going on this month in downtown Fort Pierce. If you are new to the area, we welcome you to find out what makes our community special and start new traditions yourselves here in downtown Fort Pierce. Read up on the events happening this month and we hope to see you downtown! ❖



Volume 17, No. 3 October 2021

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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

**October 1, Friday: FRIDAY FEST AT MARINA SQUARE** — 5 to 8:30 p.m.; introducing a new food truck “Off the Hook,” a kid-friendly area complete with a Bounce House and live music from the band **Dave and the Wave**; FPUA displays; sponsored by Cobbs Landing and Little Jims restaurants; **Please remove all vehicles from the permitted Friday Fest road closure area (Marina Way & Melody Lane) by 2:00 p.m.**; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; [mainstreetfortpierce.org](http://mainstreetfortpierce.org).

**October 8, Friday: INAUGURAL WILD GAMETTE – BLING, BANG & BOOTS CHARITY EVENT**; adjacent to **Cobb’s Landing** along Marina Way; 7 – 11 p.m.; Line dancing, bull riding, raffle prizes, giveaways and a good celebration of women! Check Wild Gamette Facebook page for more details.

**October 9, Saturday: OKTOBERFEST ON SECOND STREET** — Hosted by **Sailfish Brewing Company** and **2nd Street Bistro**; family activities and live music starting at 12 noon; see story on page 5.

**October 15, Friday: COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR** — 8:00 a.m. at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, 700 N. Indian River Dr.; *Sponsor – Fort Pierce Utilities Authority*; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; [mainstreetfortpierce.org](http://mainstreetfortpierce.org).

**October 15, Friday: ARTWALK** — 5 to 8:00 p.m.; Various studios and shops open throughout the downtown area; [artstlucie.org](http://artstlucie.org).

**October 27, Wednesday & October 28, Thursday: ANNUAL GHOSTS OF FORT PIERCE PAST WALKING TOURS**; 4 Tours – See page 17 for details; reservations can be made at [www.mainstreetfortpierce.org](http://www.mainstreetfortpierce.org) or by calling 772-466-3880.

**October 29, Friday: REMEMBER FOR CHANGE CANDLELIGHT VIGIL** — 6:45 to 7:30 p.m. at Gazebo Park; see story on page 19.

**October 30, Saturday: NIGHT OF THE THIRSTY DEAD** Halloween Pub Crawl & Costume Contest; adult event; 7–10:30 p.m. check-in. Costume contest begins at 11:15 p.m.; Visit Sailfish Brewing Company Facebook page for details; see story on page 19.

**October 31, Sunday: 4TH ANNUAL TRICK-OR-TREAT ON SECOND STREET** — 4 to 6 p.m. at participating businesses in Downtown Fort Pierce; see story on page 5.

## 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](http://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*

## SUNRISE THEATRE & SUNRISE BLACK BOX

772-461-4775 • [sunrisetheatre.com](http://sunrisetheatre.com)

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

## MANATEE OBSERVATION & EDUCATION CENTER

429-6266 • [ManateeEducationCenter.org](http://ManateeEducationCenter.org)

## DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE LIBRARY

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

## SUNDAY DOWNTOWN CHURCH SERVICES

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

**Common Ground Vineyard Church**; 460-5414, [commongroundvineyard.com](http://commongroundvineyard.com).

**First Church**; 464-0440, [firstchurchfp.org](http://firstchurchfp.org).

**Fort Pierce Haitian United Methodist Church**; 940-6728, [haitianmethodist.org](http://haitianmethodist.org).

**Notre-Dame Mission Catholic Church**; 466-9617, [notredamecc.com](http://notredamecc.com).

**St. Andrews Episcopal Church** (*founded 1893*); 461-5009 [mystandrews.org](http://mystandrews.org).

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION

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

**A.E. Backus Museum**

772-465-0630 • [backusmuseum.com](http://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](http://st-lucie.lib.fl.us)

**Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society**

772-460-5299 • [jazzsociety.org](http://jazzsociety.org)

**Fort Pierce Police Athletic League**

772-370-6162 • [fortpiercepall.com](http://fortpiercepall.com)

Volunteers needed: 772-466-0606

**Fort Pierce RiverWalk Center**

600 North Indian River Drive

772-489-6473 • [cityoffortpierce.com](http://cityoffortpierce.com)

**Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society**

772-460-5299 • [jazzsociety.org](http://jazzsociety.org)

**Heathcote Botanical Gardens**

772-464-4672

[heathcotebotanicalgardens.org](http://heathcotebotanicalgardens.org)

**Manatee Observation & Education Center**

772-429-6266 • [ManateeEducationCenter.org](http://ManateeEducationCenter.org)

**National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum**

772-595-5845 • [navysealmuseum.org](http://navysealmuseum.org)

**St. Lucie County Marine Center**

772-462-3474

[stlucieco.gov/marine\\_center](http://stlucieco.gov/marine_center)

**St. Lucie County Regional History Center**

772-462-1795 • [stlucieco.gov/history](http://stlucieco.gov/history)

## Oktoberfest on 2nd Street Block Party – Saturday, October 9th

Bring on autumn and pull out the lederhosen! One of Downtown Fort Pierce’s most popular celebrations of fall and all things Bavarian — **Oktoberfest on 2nd Street** in Downtown Fort Pierce hosted by **Sailfish Brewing Company** and **2nd Street Bistro** — returns as a block party!

Among the festival excitement is the 2nd Street Stage featuring live music from popular local bands throughout the day, Oktoberfest games with Downtown prizes, “Kinderfest” with a bounce house, kids games and other activities for youngsters and families, and a Vendor Village featuring local artists and craftspeople.

Live Music on the 2nd Street Stage

12:00 to 2:00 p.m. | The Humdingers

3:00 to 5:00 p.m. | Jesse & the Thieves

6:00 to 8:00 p.m. | East Harbor

9:00 to 10:00 p.m. | Sandman Sleeps

Look out for special Oktoberfest beer releases from **Sailfish Brewing Company** and enjoy a liter in the Beer Hall on 2nd Street! **2nd Street Bistro** will feature German foods and a full bar on the street.

Enjoy plenty of kid-centric activities, show the kids how to chicken dance and treat the family to some authentic German food. It’s the perfect afternoon for everyone.

Free admission to the street party; free parking in Downtown City Parking Garage between Marina Way and Orange Ave., west of the railroad tracks. No outside drinks, food, or outside coolers.

## “Remember for Change” Candlelight Vigil

With the support of Fort Pierce Lions Club, the Candlelight Vigil: “Remember for Change,” is planned for 6:45–7:30 p.m. on Friday, October 29, 2021, at Gazebo Park and the south grounds near the **Fort Pierce City Marina**.

This event honors those who have been impacted by impaired and distracted drivers. We are encouraging St. Lucie County to come together and use this remembrance of our loved ones as a catalyst for change through our hope and actions. This Candlelight Vigil will not only raise awareness, but it will also educate, inspire, and empower our community to bring about the lasting changes which saves lives.

Special guest speakers will include Mayor Linda Hudson, a Victim’s Advocate from **Mothers Against Drunk Driving** (MADD), local law enforcement, and others. The goal is that everyone who attends will make a commitment to “be the change” in the life of a young person or adult, so that we can end impaired driving in St. Lucie County.

Please join us at 6:45 p.m. on Friday, October 29th. For more information, kindly contact Lion’s Zone Chair, Crystal Samuel, 772-940-9939 or Lion Melanie Trewyn at 772-333-1533. ❖

## 4th Annual Trick-or-Treat on 2nd Street – Sunday, October 31st

Bring the kids to downtown Fort Pierce on Halloween afternoon to hit the candy trail, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Pick up maps at any participating business. This social distancing event has

a one-way walking route that can be picked up and followed from any point on the map. For more information check the Downtown Fort Pierce Facebook page. ❖

## Mayor's Message Celebrate Local Voices Making Local Choices, October 18-24

by Linda Hudson, Mayor, City of Fort Pierce



Florida's 400 plus cities, towns and villages are as diverse in geography, population and culture as the residents who call them home.

More than 50 years ago, Floridians voted to include municipal Home Rule powers in the Constitution. Home Rule gives each city the flexibility to craft its laws specifically to its own unique needs. This is the embodiment of **Local Voices Making Local Choices**.

In recent years, the state legislature has encroached on the ability of cities to craft their own unique ordinances, in response to what their residents want. The Florida League of Cities (FLC) each year creates policy positions that guide the work of cities seeking protection from state legislative overreach.

In Fort Pierce and many Florida cities, we love our trees. But, in 2019, state legislators passed a law that local government may not prevent tree removal if the owner obtains documentation that the tree presents a "danger." Vague language in this law has created conflict and litigation. Local governments are powerless to police bad actors and trees are disappearing at the whim of property owners. The League says the language needs to have stronger standards, and require more stringent documentation for assessing tree risk before a tree is removed.



Another issue facing Florida cities, especially coastal ones like Fort Pierce, is the legislature's preemption of local government's ability to regulate short term rentals. Commercial activity in neighborhoods has been regulated for a good reason: to protect residents and their neighborhoods. The League's position is that short term rentals should be a local zoning issue. Under cur-

rent law, there are little available solutions for cities to solve the problems that communities are facing. Compounding this preemption was a 2020 law that requires local governments to allow home-based businesses in residential neighborhoods.

I am a member of the Treasure Coast Regional League of Cities Advocacy Team, and will be working with our legislators to help them understand the consequences of certain legislative proposals on local governments. It's our goal to build a better understanding between local government and the state legislature.

If you wish to help us advocate for local voices making local choices, you can find tools and ways to help at the FLC website <https://www.floridaleagueofcities.com/>, The legislature convenes soon for committee work and in January for regular session.

If you want to protect our trees and preserve our residential neighborhoods, contact me for ways to help us preserve our community's unique character. Celebrate Fort Pierce and Florida's 400 plus municipalities, October 18-24. ❖

## City of Fort Pierce Opens Free Beach Public Parking Lot

The City of Fort Pierce opened a 165-space free public parking lot on the beach to provide additional parking for access to their beautiful beaches and other waterfront amenities. The parking lot is located on seven vacant parcels on the north side of Seaway Drive (1710, 1720, 1730, 1750, 1770, 1802, and 1820 Seaway Drive). The parking lot, which

includes seven handicapped parking spaces, is unpaved with drive aisles created from coquina rock.

The lot will be opened at a minimum of a year. The lease agreement was approved on July 6, 2021. It has an option to extend the lease on a month-to-month basis after the 12 months is up. ❖

## Firefighter Challenge World Championship, November 2 to 6

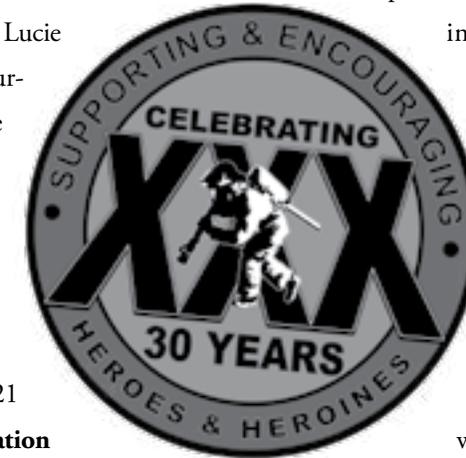
at the Manatee Observation and Education Center, 480 North Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce

Firefighters from around the world will converge on downtown Fort Pierce, in St. Lucie County, to compete in the **Firefighter Challenge World Championship**. Spanning over five days, this event will generate an estimated \$500,000 of economic impact in St. Lucie County. Play Treasure Coast Sports Tourism, in partnership with the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners, St. Lucie County Office of Tourism, the St. Lucie County Fire District, and the City of Fort Pierce worked with On Target to secure the 2021 World Championship scheduled for November 2-6, 2021 at the **Manatee Observation and Education**

**Center** (480 N. Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce).

An estimated 200 women and men have earned the right to compete in the **Firefighter Challenge World Championship** by qualifying from different Regional Sites across the country.

The **Firefighter Challenge**, as seen on ESPN, encourages firefighter fitness plus demonstrates the profession's



rigors to the public. Wearing full gear, firefighters race head-to-head, individual, and tandem competitions, simulating the physical demands of real-life firefighting by performing a linked series of five tasks includ-

ing climbing the five-story tower, hoisting, chopping, dragging hoses, and rescuing a life-sized, 175-pound "victim" as they race against themselves, their opponents and the clock.

The public is encouraged to attend this family-friendly event to witness the physical talents of these public safety professionals. Admission is free, the event will offer food trucks, vendor displays plus a miniature course built for kids!

To view promotional video, visit <https://vimeo.com/605998702>. For event information, visit [www.FirefighterChallenge.com](http://www.FirefighterChallenge.com) or contact Ryan Strickland from Play Treasure Coast Sports Tourism, at 772-871-5458 or email [rstrickland@playtreasurecoastflorida.com](mailto:rstrickland@playtreasurecoastflorida.com). ❖

## The City of Fort Public Works Department Hosts Community Cleanup

The City of Fort Pierce Public Works Department is excited to announce a **Community Cleanup** on Saturday, October 9. This is a citywide event and individuals, families, and organizations are encouraged to join! Participants get to choose the times and the locations they wish to clean up in Fort Pierce and are encouraged to share their city pride by posting photos on social media.

To take part in the **Community Cleanup**, please register with Kaitlyn Ballard at 772.467.3795 or [kballard@cityoffortpierces.com](mailto:kballard@cityoffortpierces.com). Once registered, you may sign up to pick up supplies from the Public Works Compound located at 52 Savannah

Rdoad in Fort Pierce. Supply pickup days will be Wednesday, October 6, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday, October 8, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Supplies include bags, buckets, and trash pickers. There will be no designated meet-up area as you and/or your group choose the location you wish to clean up in the City of Fort Pierce.

All participants are encouraged to share their **Community Cleanup** fun by taking photos and posting them on social media using the hashtags #lovethefort and #cleanthefort!

The City of Fort Pierce is the hidden gem among the Treasure Coast, so let's get out there and make our City shine! ❖

# Willie Daniels Leaves a Lasting Legacy Through His Landscape Paintings

by Crystal Samuel



Highwaymen Artist Willie Daniels has certainly left a lasting legacy in the art world and beyond with his colorful Florida landscape paintings. His passing on September 19th has left all of us feeling the loss of his undeniable talent. As one of the original twenty-six *Highwaymen* artists,

Willie's impressionistic style with vivid colors captured the hearts of many admirers, collectors, galleries and museums. The *Highwaymen Artists*, mostly from Fort Pierce, are a group of self-mentored African American artists from the 1950s that sold their paintings from their cars along Florida highways since art galleries at the time did not welcome their work. They are a treasured part of our local history!

Willie Daniels was born in Georgia and moved to Fort Pierce with his parents when he was nine years old. He remembered being impressed with some artists who lived near him and painted outside in the mornings, especially Mary Ann Carroll, Al

Black, Roy McLendon, Harold Newton, and Livingston Roberts. He told me that his very first painting, while in elementary school, was of pine trees on the top of a "Have-a-Tampa" cigar box. He was also greatly influenced by the encouragement of his home room teacher, Mrs. Zanobia Jefferson, and the highly admired, A.E. "Bean" Backus, who gave Willie some paint and boards when he had none of his own. These true kindnesses were never forgotten.

Although for quite a few years, Willie only painted for supplemental income, he eventually became more serious about his art. As the *Highwaymen* became recognized, his landscapes brought more interested buyers and better prices and he was able to devote all his time to painting. His younger brother,

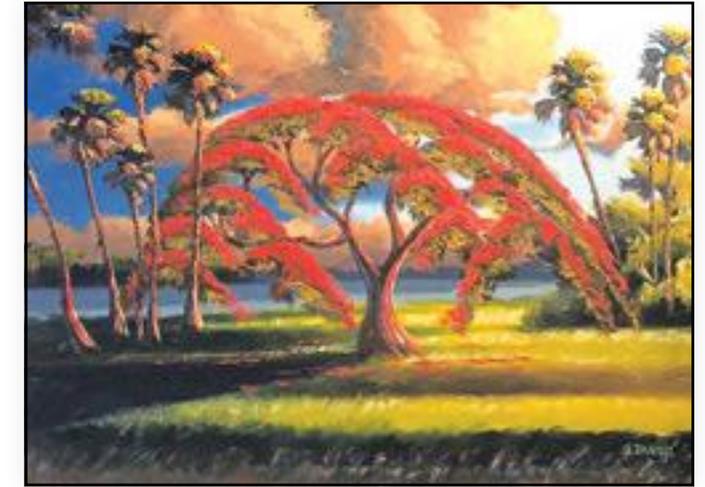


Willie Daniels and Matthew Samuel



*Highwaymen Artist* Johnny "Hook" Daniels (1954-2009), learned by watching Willie and for a short time they shared a studio. In 2004 the *Florida Highwaymen* artists were inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame. In 2016, Willie was inducted into the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC.

Willie's art has been described in many ways, but the most common comment is that he truly captured the beauty and



charm of old Florida. He was intuitive about mixing colors and creating a mood which made his landscapes come alive. His paintings with reflections in the water are among the most beautiful. His renowned scenes include the ocean, backcountry, royal poinciana, the St. Lucie River, and his very distinctive and very popular fire sky.

Willie Daniels will certainly be remembered for his great art but to those who knew him well, he left a personal legacy just as strong. He was a man who felt his art was a gift and truly enjoyed painting. He was content with the simple things in life, never complaining about things he didn't have but always grateful for what he did have. He shared his knowledge with those who asked. He listened more than he spoke. He was generous to family and friends. He was humble when praised.

He will be missed. ❖

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[SouthStateBank.com](http://SouthStateBank.com)

 **SouthState**

## The Horribly Delightful *Backus Boo Ball* Returns October 23 the Halloween-Themed Benefit for the Backus Museum

The A.E. Backus Museum's favorite Halloween-themed benefit event returns on Saturday, October 23 from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. on the Museum's Outdoor Mural Plaza. *Backus Boo Ball* tickets are \$100 per couple or \$60 per individual and are available online at [www.BackusMuseum.org](http://www.BackusMuseum.org), or at the Museum at 500 North



Indian River Drive in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce during regular hours.

It's the perfect time to mask up at the Museum for a howling good time! All attending ghosts and ghouls will be considered for the Costume Contest in one of eight categories including: Scariest ("Ultimate Nightmare"), Prettiest ("Wicked Beauty"), Funniest ("Frightfully Funny"), Most Original ("Unique Freak"), Best Couple ("Double Jeopardy"), Best Classic Halloween ("Creature Feature"), and of course the Best of Show with the additional People's Choice Award rounding out a bone-chilling night. There are some extraordinary prizes for the most creative and committed winners, so come dressed in your spooktacular best.

Those haunting the Outdoor Mural Plaza as the moon begins to rise can plot to participate in the Silent (as the Grave) Auction with some frighteningly impressive and unique items; they can create special memories and capture their souls on film in Dorian Gray's Photo Booth; and they can watch wicked pumpkin carving demonstrations with an artistic flair (and available to benefit the Museum). Complimentary heavy munchies can be washed down by the fine selection of potions and poisons available at the cash bar, and also by the special de-mented-fermented tastings from favored neighborhood haunts **Pierced Ciderworks** and **Sailfish Brewing Company**. Scare

away your troubles and enjoy the music by DJ *Jaime the Hitplayer* to electrify your monster within and dance the night away ... it will be a bloodcurdlingly beautiful bash for artsy-funky grown-up fun.

The *Backus Boo Ball* is inspired by the artist A.E. "Bean" Backus's fondly remembered Halloween parties. In those days,

the (possibly feral) neighborhood children who proudly took the name "Backus Brats" staged highly-anticipated annual gatherings that terrified and delighted hundreds of guests over the many years. The *Backus Boo Ball* is inspired by that long ago tradition, and is today a classy return to a fun Halloween-themed party at the Museum for grown-ups.

It's time to eat, drink, and be scary all to benefit the **Backus Museum**! Tickets are \$100 per couple or \$60 per witch or warlock. Get your tricked-out disguise ready, but tickets are limited so get them before they're gone! Check online at [www.BackusMuseum.org/boo-ball](http://www.BackusMuseum.org/boo-ball) or call the Museum at 772-465-0630.

The 2021 *Backus Boo Ball's* Presenting Sponsor is **Boyd Law / J. Curtis Boyd, PA**; Costume Contest Sponsor is **John Jacobs Construction, Inc.**; Monster Mash Bar Sponsor is **Roy's Liquors and Fine Wine**; Zombie Sponsors are **Abernethy Law Group, South State Bank**, and **Indian River Magazine**; *Frankenstein* Sponsors are **Paul Jacquin & Sons, Inc.**, **Sea Coast Curb Adapters and Curbs**, and the **Putnam Family**; *Ghost* Sponsors are **Maverick Boat Group, The Paint House, Haisley Funeral and Cremation Service, Sea Coast Air Conditioning, Picaboo Yearbooks, Cad-Con Design, Presutti's Italian Subs, Wallflower Custom Framing, Treasure Coast Laser & Aesthetics, Allen & Gail Baldree, Dr. Ron & Kip**

**Lyman**, and **Chuck Reller**; *Igor Supporters* include **Pierced Ciderworks, Sailfish Brewing, Nelson Family Farms, Pelican Seafood** and **The Cake Lady**. The special \$100 "Buy a Boo Bat" sponsorships are still available until October 17 – buy a bat with a Boo Blurb or if you dare, leave it bare. Contact the Museum to join the creepy colony of support for this bewitching evening.

The *Backus Boo Ball* is a rain or shine event benefiting the **A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery**. Please check the Museum's website at [www.BackusMuseum.org](http://www.BackusMuseum.org) for updates and any public health policies that may modify these plans.

The mission of the **A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery** is to promote the arts in the community and to perpetuate the artistic and humanitarian legacy of A.E. Backus. The Museum is a community-based, 501(c)3 not-for-profit arts institution that relies on your support. Contributions during this challenging period will lessen the financial impact on the Museum, and can be made securely online at [www.BackusMuseum.org/donate](http://www.BackusMuseum.org/donate). Gifts can also be made as an ongoing monthly donation, as a way to extend contributions and provide steady support in this uncertain time.

All dates and programming subject to change; please check the website

for any updates or cancellations. We appreciate your understanding, your patience, and your support as we navigate the continuing pandemic challenges this season.

About the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery: Since its founding in 1960 and the first day the doors opened in 1961, the **A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery** has been a center and catalyst for creativity and culture in our region. The Museum houses the nation's largest public presentation of artwork by Florida's preeminent painter, A.E. "Bean" Backus (1906-1990), and is home to the state's only permanent multimedia exhibition on the *Florida Highwaymen*. In addition to preserving and perpetuating the artistic and humanitarian legacy of Backus, the Museum organizes and hosts changing exhibitions from artists of regional, national and international acclaim. The Backus Museum was recognized as the 2021 Best Tourist Attraction / Best of the Treasure Coast by the readers of *Indian River Magazine*.

Pre-Season Hours through October 1 are: Wednesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, 12 Noon to 4 p.m. (closed Monday-Tuesday). Admission is \$5 per person; AARP, AAA, and Veterans with appropriate ID receive a \$2 discount. Students with school ID, children under 18, active duty military, and current members are always free. The Museum will be closed October 2 – 15 in preparation for the 2021-22 Season beginning October 16. Visitors are asked to follow the latest public health guidance for the safety and comfort of guests, staff, and volunteers. ❖

## Post Your Pets With A Purpose

**Paws and Claws Foundation** will be hosting their 2nd Virtual *Sandi Paws Pet Parade Pet Photo Contest* beginning on September 11 to November 20. The top three winners will be awarded \$200, \$100, and \$50 respectively for generating the most likes on their registered submitted photo.

To participate in this year's completion visit @ <https://www.pawsnclawsfoundation.org/2021-pet-photo-contest/>.

[pawsnclawsfoundation.org/2021-pet-photo-contest/](https://www.pawsnclawsfoundation.org/2021-pet-photo-contest/).

The **Paws-N-Claws Foundation** is a non-profit organization. Their mission is to promote pet adoption and reduce pet euthanasia. To date, their fundraising efforts have saved many beautiful puppies and adult dogs, all of whom now have new families. ❖



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VERO BEACH - FORT PIERCE

## Ciderworks for Manatees! Coming to Downtown Fort Pierce

by Rachel Tennant, Manatee Observation & Education Center Manager

To kick off *Manatee Awareness Month*, the *Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation*, **Pierced Ciderworks**, and **Manatee Observation & Education Center** are joining forces with a new and exciting event in Downtown Fort Pierce on Saturday, November 6th. Best of all, 100% of the fundraising proceeds will be directed at restoring seagrass in the Indian River Lagoon.



This seagrass restoration project comes at a year when manatees have experienced one of the most devastating mortality rates in history. 942 manatees died in Florida between January 1 and September 10 of this year, surpassing the previous highest annual statewide number of 830 manatee mortalities in all of 2013. With an estimated population of only 6,800, a loss of 942 manatees represents 14% of the entire population.

Florida's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission recognized that this year's manatee "Unusual Mortality Event" was highest during the early part of the year, when migrating manatees were in the Indian River Lagoon without enough food to eat: "As temperatures warmed up and manatees on the Atlantic Coast dispersed to other habitat for foraging, the numbers of malnourished carcasses and manatees in need of rescue decreased."

The Southern Indian River Lagoon lost 2,688 acres (26%) of seagrass coverage between the years of 2015 and 2017, and the decline continues. Researchers suspect that the 2011 algae super bloom was the tipping point of seagrass die-off in the Indian River Lagoon. Algae blooms block sunlight from getting through to seagrasses beneath the water's surface, which prevents the seagrasses from photosynthesizing and surviving. The ongoing seagrass decline is especially concerning because seagrasses are important not only as a food source for manatees, but also as a food source, habitat and nursery for many critical species in the Indian River Lagoon, including turtles, seahorses, crabs, birds and more.

The Indian River Lagoon is home to nearly one-third of America's manatees. It is also one of the most biodiverse estuaries in the Northern Hemisphere, home to 35 species that are endangered or threatened.

In response to the alarming decline in seagrass populations, and the manatees' Unusual Mortality Event this year, the *Treasure Coast Manatee Foundation* and

**Manatee Center** are partnering to bring seagrass restoration to Moore's Creek in Spring of 2022. As many as 400 manatees are counted visiting Moore's Creek at the **Manatee Center** every year, in part due to warmer temperatures in the shallow creek, as well as being a freshwater source for manatees to drink.

The seagrass restoration will be led by experts at **Sea & Shoreline** and will be situated not only as a restoration project, but also an educational exhibit where visitors can learn about the method and value of seagrass restoration in the Indian River Lagoon. The project will span from an existing restoration project at 7th Street in Moore's Creek, led by FWC, St. Lucie County, and **Sea & Shoreline**, for a half-mile east to the **Manatee Center**, bringing just under one acre of submerged aquatic vegetation to the Indian River Lagoon. The selected seagrasses will be tolerant to varying salinities, and the connectivity of the project will strengthen the likelihood of the project's successful restoration.

You can support this cause too. Sponsor the event or join us to show your support. On November 6th, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., visit **Pierced Ciderworks** for live swing-style music from local band *Z-Tones*, games, silent auction, bake sale, and a limited-edition *Manatee Awareness Month* cider. You can also explore the many ways that the **Manatee Center** and *Foundation* are bringing environmental care and restoration to Downtown Fort Pierce at tables dedicated to our *Living Docks* program, upcoming seagrass restoration program, and adopt-a-road monthly clean-ups. ❖



## The Manatee Center October Events

\*\*\* SEASON HOURS IN EFFECT \*\*\*  
MOEC is open Tuesday–Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.  
and Sunday 12 p.m.–4 p.m.

The **Manatee Observation and Education Center's** calendar is packed with outrageous October fun! Dreaming of something fun to do with your family this fall? Why wait? Join us at the **Manatee Center** for some educational fun! Check out these awesome upcoming events!

**Tuesday, October 5 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**  
**Homeschool Workshop: Ocean Predators**

The ocean's predators are highly specialized. Learn about predatory fish and witness the feeding frenzy in our large aquarium. Then, learn about sharks, the top ocean predator, and build your own specialized shark to take home. Homeschool days are an opportunity for individual homeschoolers to experience hands-on learning at the **Manatee Center**. All classes are geared for students ages 6 to 12. Cost is \$4 per student. Minimum of 8 students. Call 772-429-6266 option 3 to sign up!

**Friday, October 8, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.**  
**Florida Eagle Watch**

*Lunch & Learn* — Did you know that Florida has the largest population of bald eagles in the lower forty-eight states? Join Shawnlei Breeding, Program Coordinator of Audubon Eagle Watch, to learn more about these majestic birds and how the Eagle Watch program helps protect them. *Free Event.*

**Wednesday, October 13 at 11 a.m.**  
**ManaTales: Sea Turtle Survival**

Explore the exciting life of a sea turtle from hatching to returning to the beach to lay its eggs. You won't want to miss this animal encounter! Nurture your child's natural curiosity about nature through this Mommy and Me style program. Fun for preschoolers! Free with admission. Starts at 11 a.m. Questions? Please call 772-429-6266, option 3.

**Thursday, October 28 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**  
**Manatee Center Annual Halloween Bash**

Bring the whole family in their scariest, cutest, most creative Halloween costumes and join us at the **Manatee Center** for a Pre-Halloween party. There will be candy, crafts, games, live creepy creatures, a scavenger hunt, and tons of outdoor fun. *Admission is free.*

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## Get to Know the Fort Pierce Yacht Club

by Diane Korbey, Commodore

Do you know that the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**... Hosts two offshore inter-club sailboat regattas each year? The **Fall Regatta** will be held on November 12-14. This regatta, and the **Spring Regatta**, is open to sailors from neighboring yacht clubs and to all of you in the community who would like to participate.

Hosts two women's races each year? These races require a woman at the helm for the entirety of the race and encourages women crew members. It too is open to all of you in the community who would like to participate. The Fall **Women's Trophy Race** will be held October 16th. Ladies, bring your boat out and join our friendly, cruisers-style race! Besides, we want to meet all women who sail!

Hosts monthly offshore races, open to the community? We are hoping to "up our game" and add more boats to our start line. Interested in competitive fun? We run cruiser-style races and can easily add a racing class. This is an opportunity to get your boat off the dock and have fun on the water, and back at the clubhouse.

Partners with **Lisa's Kayaks** to run monthly kayaking events?

Will bring back raft-ups this fall? We welcome you to get to know us by joining us on the water for an afternoon of camaraderie. We will also hold cruises, cruises to lunch, and more.

Will host the **St Lucie County Christmas Boat Parade on December 11th**? We are seeking more community participation; in fact, our goal is to have more boats participate this year than Indian River County who holds the record for the last several years. The after-parade awards ceremony will be a bigger event

this year — a Christmas happening! Watch for registration details and come on out, St. Lucie County boats!

And is the organizer of the **4th of July Boat Parade**? In its 12th year, we hold the parade starting at 12 noon in the turning basin. Community boats come out to display their patriotic colors.

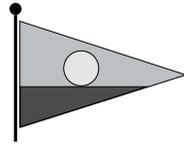
Partners with other local organizations to host boating education courses? Open to the community, we encourage you to watch for announcements and get educated about the "rules of the road," navigation, weather, and other subjects that will make you a better boater.

Hosts an annual **Poker Run on the Water**? This is an event to raise monies for the sponsorship of a summer intern at FAU Harbor Branch. We are committed to maintaining the quality of our local waters. All of you in the community, including paddlers and jet skis, are urged to participate — be a sponsor, do the run, make a donation.

Off the water, gathers on Friday nights (and Sundays on the patio, monthly)? And if you love boating, we encourage you to stop by and join us.

Sponsors a 4-month "get to know us" pass to Club events as prizes and donations to local events? Attend the Main Street Auction on Feb. 19th and bid on our donation so you too can be part of our boating club with a social twist.

Want to know more? Come to **Coffee with the Mayor** at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club. And check out our website at [www.fortpiercenyachtclub.com](http://www.fortpiercenyachtclub.com) and follow the links to our calendar of events. ❖



## Historic Cannon Restored After 300 Years Beneath the Sea

by Matthew Samuel, Keep Fort Pierce Beautiful Advisory Board

The three-year reverse electrolysis and preservation process of the 1715 cannon is nearing completion! Recovered from the site known as the Sandy Point Wreck in August of 2018, the cannon is planned to be a major historical addition to downtown Fort Pierce near the Melody Lane Pier. The removal of encrustations and the reverse osmosis bath have prevented further corrosion of this special artifact with the goal of it being a stable, long-term monument. Members of the *Keep Fort Pierce Beautiful Advisory Board*, Mayor Hudson and the City of Fort Pierce, Fort Pierce Lions Club, Captain John Brandon, Captain Dan Porter, and **1715 Fleet-Queens Jewels, LLC**, are excited to see their collaborative efforts come together as the cannon was removed from its electrolysis bath tank for the last time on September 15th.

Final preparations include fine sandblasting to remove any rust. After that, a rust inhibiting sealer called Ospho will be applied and then a coat of a rust inhibiting flat black paint will

be added. The building of a custom-made cannon carriage is also underway as the project moves closer towards permanent public display.

The 300-plus-year-old cannon donated by Captain John Brandon, treasure diver and leader of the salvage operation, and the **1715 Fleet-Queens Jewels, LLC** underwent the lengthy reverse electrolysis process, one year for every hundred years submerged in the ocean, at the City of Fort Pierce Public Works Department. It is thought to be one of forty cannons on the tentatively identified Nuestra Senora del Rosario, part of the Spanish Plate Fleet which sank off the coast of Florida in 1715 during a terrible hurricane. The loss of this 1715 fleet with significant cargo of gold, silver, and jewels off the eastern coast of Florida is the reason we are called the Treasure Coast.

"This significant artifact and its long-term public display will be an enduring reminder of the unique history of our coast," said Captain John Brandon. ❖





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## ARE YOU PREPARED FOR HURRICANE SEASON?



These are a few things you can do to help minimize your chances of a power outage during a storm.



### Limit the number of items around your house that can become projectiles.

Limit items in your yard that could become projectiles during a storm. They could injure others, damage property or power lines.

### TODAY YOU CAN:



### Put together a plan.

Since there is no guarantee that you won't lose power, decide now what you and your family will do should you lose power during a storm.

[www.fpu.com/storm-center/](http://www.fpu.com/storm-center/)



### Trim your trees.

Trees should be assessed and trimming should be done before or early in the season. For safety reasons, tree trimming should be done by professionals.

## HISTORICAL STORIES ARE THE HEART OF GHOSTS OF FORT PIERCE PAST WALKING TOURS

Does Fort Pierce have ghosts? Most probably it does; however, more importantly, it has had people that shaped its existence into the waterfront hamlet we all know and love. These people came from all walks of life, and each created their own unique path that helped Fort Pierce become the city it is today. Each October, *Main Street Fort Pierce* highlights the lives of these past Fort Pierce residents during the *Ghosts of Fort Pierce Past Walking Tours*.



This event began in 2004 and has grown from one evening, one tour and 10 characters to two evenings, four tours and 22+ characters. This special history tour is not lead by one narrator speaking and guiding the tour, but instead has seven to eight stops where actors playing the roles of significant Fort Pierce past personalities tell their stories. These characters also depict what life was like during the period they lived — before air conditioning, mosquito control, early hurricane warning systems, reliable roadways and other modern conveniences were invented.

The proposed tour schedule for this year's event is as follows:

- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27TH – SUNRISE CITY TOUR
- MR. & MRS. CHARLES McCARTY – THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS AND HIS ASSASSINATION
- MR. & MRS. EDWIN BINNEY – THE CRAYOLA CRAYON INVENTOR AND FORT PIERCE
- MR. & MRS. FLAGLER – HOW THE RAILROAD TRANSFORMED SOUTH FLORIDA
- MR. WILLIAM HATCHER & FLORIDA LAND BOOM ARCHITECTURE
- ASHLEY GANG – THEIR DEEDS AND DEMISE
- SHERIFF DAN CARLTON & THE DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE SHOOTOUT

*Continued on page 18 ...*

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**HISTORICAL ... continued from page 17**

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POP KOBLEGARD & THE SUNRISE THEATRE

WATERFRONT TOUR

COBB'S STORE – PIONEER GENERAL STORE AND CITY FOUNDING FATHER  
TREASURE HUNTING ALONG THE TREASURE COAST – THE 1715 FLEET  
LT. COL. BENJAMIN PIERCE & THE ORIGINAL FORT PIERCE  
THE FORT PIERCE WOMAN'S CLUB – CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN IN EARLY FP  
WORLD WAR II, FROGMEN, & BIRTH OF NAVY SEALS  
TYLER FAMILY – FORT PIERCE HOTEL

CORA STICKNEY HARPER – HER ACCOMPLISHMENTS & SUDDEN DEATH  
BOSTON HOUSE – UNIQUE ARCHITECTURE & ACTUAL HISTORY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28TH – EDGARTOWN TOUR

DOCTOR & MRS. PLATTS – 1ST RESIDENT DOCTOR, SUPERINTENDENT  
OF SCHOOLS & PHARMACY

ZORA NEALE HURSTON – HER AMAZING LIFE AS AN ANTHROPOLOGIST AND WRITER  
A. E. BACKUS – HUMANITARIAN & FL HALL OF FAME LANDSCAPE ARTIST

EDGARTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD – 1ST RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD OF FORT PIERCE  
MOSE METZGER – FISHING VILLAGE LIFE

ALFRED HAIR – FOUNDER OF HIGHWAYMEN ARTISTS  
ANNIE HOGG – PIONEER MERCHANT

HARRY HILL & FLAGLER – EARLY PHOTOGRAPHY IN FORT PIERCE & FLORIDA

PEACOCK ARTS TOUR

FORT PIERCE METHODIST – MISSION ARCHITECTURE AND UNIQUE ORGAN  
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\*Tour characters are subject to change prior to event  
Tours run every 15 minutes from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. for  
each tour. Tickets for tour are \$10 each and benefit *Main Street  
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or to the event and can be made at [www.mainstreetfortpierce.org](http://www.mainstreetfortpierce.org). Once registered participants will receive texts and/or  
emails directing them to the contactless check-in areas for the  
tours. Each tour is approximately 1 hour and requires around  
a half mile of walking. For additional questions, please call the  
*Main Street Fort Pierce* office at 772-466-3880. ❖



# Night of the Thirsty Dead Halloween Pub Crawl

Join **Sailfish Brewing Company**, **2nd Street Bistro**, **Cobb's Landing**, **Pierced Cider** & **Bottom's Up Public House** for the best Halloween pub crawl party on the East Coast! On Saturday, October 30th, we're celebrating the *Night of the Thirsty Dead* with our spooky friends and the biggest Halloween costume contest **cash prize** the Treasure Coast has ever seen, *again!*

Check in for costume contest 7 – 10:30 p.m. Costume Contest begins at 11:15 p.m.

\$5,000 in cash prizes: First Place – \$2,500; Second Place – \$1,500; Third Place – \$1,000.

Visit **Sailfish Brewing Company** website or Facebook page for more information. ❖

# Inaugural "Wild Gamette – Bling, Bang & Boots" Charity Event

Ladies! It is time to become part of history with the inaugural *Wild Gamette Charity Dinner* in Downtown Fort Pierce.

This exciting event will be held on Friday, October 8th from 7–11 p.m. and includes an evening of food, cocktails, games, door prizes, raffles and auction items with our favorite sponsors along the waterfront in the heart of downtown Fort Pierce. (**Cobb's Landing** along Marina Way).

The *Wild Gamette* is an unprecedented all-female charity event to benefit the *Busch Family Foundation*, while making a difference

in our community and supporting local women and girl's charities.

Tiffany B. Ashton, our very own Fort Pierce native and national recording artist has composed a song just for us "Cowgirl Up" that will be featured and become part of the *Wild Gamette* brand.

The women-only (21 years and older) party will feature C Lioness — our female DJ that will help us dance and rock the night away while enjoying the many fun activities that are full of bling, bang and boots. Visit Wild Gamette Facebook page for more information. ❖

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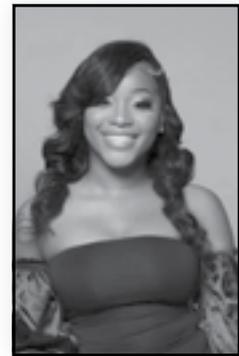
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# The Beauty Bank Studio Now In the Galleria at Downtown Fort Pierce

by Dale S. van der Lugt



The **Beauty Bank Studio** nail salon has recently relocated to **The Galleria of Pierce Harbor** and is taking on new clients. Owner Tyesha Thompson is a local, returning to Fort Pierce after her college attendance at FAMU, and is happy to be near family and friends and cultivate new relationships through her clientele.

Tyesha graduated Beauty School in 2019 as a licensed nail technician and after working in a salon, building her own clientele, and learning the trade, opened her own shop in early 2020. She likes the fact she can create her own atmosphere and carry some of her favorite products by Valentino and Young Nails. She said it just felt right to be back home and both she and her clients love the new location for her shop, upstairs in Unit 205, at **The Galleria of Pierce Harbor**.

Continuing her education in the art of nail care, and to improve her skills, Tyesha has just recently returned from Tallahassee where she took a course from her mentor and friend who she still follows on social media. Tyesha considers her work wearable art and finds it important to keep up with the latest in nail trends.

Nail art is Tyesha's place of Zen, saying "painting nails is kind of like therapy" and she loves to be challenged with new ideas from her clients, always hoping to "top" the last set. Her specialty is acrylics, 3-D nail art, and hand painted art on nails. "I didn't know how much women love having their nails done until the pandemic" says Tyesha, and she is so happy to provide a service that uplifts other women. She has a strong base of regular customers, however, is open to expand her client list and welcomes newcomers to her shop.

Appointments can be booked, Tuesday through Saturday, through [thebeautybankstudio.as.me](http://thebeautybankstudio.as.me). Tyesha's Instagram handle is [@thebeautybankstudio](https://www.instagram.com/thebeautybankstudio). ❖

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# The Galleria at Welcomes Honey & Company at the Fort

by Dale S. van der Lugt

The Galleria of Pierce Harbor and Historic Downtown Fort Pierce welcomes Emma McElwee, a small-town Georgia country girl transplanted to our coastal treasure, Fort Pierce. The events and challenges of the past two and a half years could have crushed the spirit of a new entrepreneur, but not so with Emma. She had a dream of



opening a fashion boutique for women and has the passion to drive it forward. With no retail background, but with lots of shopping experience, Emma is making her dream come true with Honey & Company, the newest and trendiest women's clothing and accessories boutique in downtown Fort Pierce.

Emma hails from Cedartown, Georgia, where she says, "there is a two-lane road through the town that connects everybody, and maybe five stoplights". Emma told me it's kind of like a Hallmark movie sort of town. Although she does

SHOP SMART  
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HISTORIC DOWNTOWN FORT PIERCE

love to fish, Emma never imagined opening a store in a coastal Florida town but fell in love with a local and has not turned back. She's putting to life what she feels she knows best, family, people, and shopping.

Emma would like our community to know she is here to support and nourish new friendships. She wants to help women

feel beautiful, and loved, and fashionable, in all aspects. Emma tells me it is so important for women to always feel good about themselves. And she can help them with that. Whether it's with a new pair of earrings, a handbag or just an uplifting conversation, she is here to support the local community and plans on being here all the way through retirement.

Take the opportunity to visit The Galleria of Pierce Harbor, grab a bite at one of the eateries downstairs and then stroll upstairs to Unit 207. Emma's message for you? "Come visit me at Honey & Company, for the shopping experience, or just to stop by and say Hi and visit a spell." She's already made a niche for herself! ❖

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## TREASURES OF THE PAST

*100 years ago this month as reported in the October 5, 1921 edition of the Palm Beach Post*

### Ft. Pierce Girl Killed in Stunt Flight Attempt

Long Branch, N.J., Oct. 4. – While attempting to make a flying leap from a speeding automobile to an airplane late today, Miss Madeline Davis was so badly injured that she died from a fracture of the skull in a hospital here tonight. Her home is in Fort Pierce, Fla.

Miss Davis lost her balance as she reached for the bottom rung of a rope ladder suspended from the airplane and fell from the automobile landing on her head. She was practicing the stunt under the direction of Ruth Law, well known aviatrix, when the accident occurred. She had appeared at fairs in the west in a parachute drop, her companions said.

*50 years ago this month as reported in the October 23, 1946 edition of the Miami Herald*

### White Cane Ban

Use of white walking canes by other than blind persons on the streets of Fort Pierce will hereafter be unlawful under the provisions of an ordinance given first passage by the city commission. The ordinance, in line with a national movement to promote safety for the blind, also gives blind persons using white walking canes the right of way over traffic when crossing the street.

*25 years ago this month as reported in the October 26, 1946 edition of the Miami Herald*

### Drive Set for Library

Plans for the inauguration of a drive to raise by public subscription the sum of \$50,000 to construct and equip a public library for Fort Pierce were announced Friday by the library advisory committee.

The building would be constructed on property already given by the city for that purpose, located at Indian River Drive and Atlantic Ave.

Dan McCarty was designated to head up the money-raising campaign, which is to open Nov. 25 and run to Dec. 10. He was authorized to designate his assistants.

Organization details for the incorporation of a non-profit organization are to be handled by Attorney Dewey Crawford.

It is proposed to expend \$35,000 on the construction of a building and utilize another \$15,000 for equipment and books.

*25 years ago this month as reported by Anne Wilder in the October 20, 1971 edition of the Miami Herald*

### Naval War Hero Gets Medals – 26 Years Later

It took only a matter of minutes on March 6, 1945, when a young Navy pilot landed his sea plane in Japanese held Davao Harbor in the Philippines to rescue a downed airman from certain capture.

But it took 26 years for the Navy pilot – now attorney Charles Becht of Fort Pierce – to receive the distinguished flying cross for the rescue.

Tuesday evening, at ceremonies in the Naval Reserve Center in West Palm Beach, Becht was awarded the decoration, along with the air medal and two gold stars in lieu of two additional air medals.

The latter decorations were for participation in the rescue of 17 wounded men, Americans and Philippine guerrillas from Porto Princesca in the middle of a heavy engagement, for the rescue of a pilot adrift in the ocean for three days, and for sinking 212 tons of Japanese shipping.

With the awards came citations commending the officer for his heroism under fire and for superior airmanship.

The awards were more than a quarter of a century late because a squadron plane, carrying the recommendations for the medals, was lost.



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And Becht, busy with completing college, studying for his law degree, and then starting his practice in Fort Pierce, forgot about the awards, although he knew they had been recommended.

Congressman Paul Rogers was contacted, the records were checked, and Tuesday night the long delayed medals were awarded.

With Becht were his wife, his sons, Charles Jr., 17 and Eddie, 12, and daughter Carol, 12.

Twenty-one-year-old Barbara Becht is away at school and could not attend.

...Of Becht's original squadron of 90 officers and enlisted men, not one was wounded or killed, although the squadron was in the thick of heavy fighting. "...Living with danger was a way of life," Becht said.

"We were all young people and I suppose we were laying our lives on the line. You were caught up in what had to be done." "You know the old saw about doing it for mother, God and country – well that was exactly the way I felt."

Twenty-six years later his country gave its official honors and thanks to former Lt. Becht for what he had felt, thought and done.

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# Farewell Friday

by Lisa Jill Allison, Lisa Jill Allison Art Gallery



The heart tug came Thursday night, impelling me to tie up loose ends and pack a bag. Friday morning I slid behind the wheel as the sun embraced the horizon. A silent prayer was offered. My loyal four-legged companion Rosy, who many of you have met at the gallery, was going to sit this one out at home under the care of a new best friend. Radio talk shows, self-help audio books and inspirational podcasts — the usual ride fair — did nothing to distract. This time, mindless radio station-flipping occupied the drive to Saint Augustine. This time, the visit would be different than any other visit, now and forever.

Tiptoeing into the house, the shift was palatable. Aides, Hospice, social workers and, I do believe, angels, all attended to mom. I sat beside her, held her hand, and the rest of the world drifted away. We became united in the journey ahead. Even mom's little rescue dog, adopted by mom in the throes of her own ailments and need of being rescued, was to ride this one out. Just that morning, before my arrival, knowing what lay ahead, one of mom's aides had asked to adopt the little one and had taken her home to meet her other menagerie. Time stood

still that morning in mom's home, the home she had lived in for many, many years. As is often the case during such a time, there were light moments and dark moments. The dark moments were buffered by love. Needs changed and a trip to Hospice, thankfully just down the road, became the best choice. Never have I seen grown men so quietly and gently enter a sacred arena as we were now in, and with the grace of a fine-tuned, well-orchestrated precision team, respectfully transport a tiny, frail body, tenaciously holding on "just to make sure all was done and everyone was okay;" the everyone being my three siblings and myself. We rode together, hands clasped and eyes locked in a gaze of safety and assurance.

The room was beautiful, with loving attention to detail — immaculate, simple and a place where someone could feel that all was in order. There was nothing left undone. The curtains were parted just enough to let the rays of God filter in from the now rising moon. Yes, I am choosing to share the beauty of the room, not the purpose of the space because this is how mom taught me to view the world, to see the beauty. It's good to remember who helped us find our spark.

When asked if there was anything that I wanted, "I want to get in bed with mom," were the words that came out. I crawled in, the rail was re-raised and mom and I floated in a space that

cannot be described. It is somewhere between the deepest pain that can be imagined and the sheerest joy, as mom begins to be released from a body no longer able to carry her soul and her soul in turn accepts a new life without her body, perhaps like a butterfly emerging from a cocoon, untethered and soaring above it all.

The person helping — and "person" does not aptly describe this professional that discretely came into our space at just the right times to help navigate the course — proved to be a source of solace and direction. This visit in the room, she let me know it was now my job to bid mom farewell and assure her it was okay to leave us. This I did in earnest. Then a thought came to mind. I got out of bed, pulled up a chair, and played mom's favorite song on my phone. Mom's spirit took to the dance floor during the first chorus. She left her body and me behind. I rejoiced at her new freedom and mourned my loss. Hours later, as I sat on the curb waiting for Uber to bring me back to

mom's home, I felt more alone than ever before. Home took on a whole new meaning as I hungered to be back in loving arms, surrounded by the familiar.

These are the experiences of those around us in our little town. As we go about our days, visiting our downtown friends, shopping for handmade candles at **Notions and Potions** or getting all dressed up spiffy by the gals at **Rosslow's**, these are the moments we share and these are the events that fill us with awe and sometimes leave us a bit raw around the edges. As our daily paths intersect and merge for the moment, we are in the presence of others' joys, tragedies, strengths, weaknesses and uncertainties. What an honor to mingle in this way. Let's never forget the intimacy and support we provide each other. We are a unique gem that has stood the test of pressure and time, still remaining in a very special place in which to have the adventure we call life. I personally am so very grateful to be part of such a place! ♦

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# Mullet Magic

by Captain Bo Samuel, Pullin Drag Charters

Now what all the excitement is about? The long-awaited mullet run is on! This time of year, schools of mullet migrate south along the coast and are easy to find on the beach, moving through the inlet, and over the grass flats. Mullet are terrific bait to use for some of our area's most popular fish: snook, tarpon, redfish, and kingfish. Snook season opened in September and using finger mullet as your bait of choice will provide a great chance at hooking a prized linesider.

Use a spinning reel combo with 40-pound leader and a size three hook for best results. Keep your drag tight and be prepared for some great action. Hooking a snook never disappoints but they are smart enough to run and try to break the line on nearby structures.

Regulation slot size for keeping snook is 28 inches to 32 inches. Those outside the slot should be released quickly to minimize trauma. The photo shows lady angler, Mary Kniffen, with a very nice snook!

Offshore the kingfish bite is still good with action at about 80 to 100 feet. Mullet, threadfins, and blue runners on a slow troll are best bait choices for putting kings on the deck. Anglers are allowed to keep two kingfish per day. It's also a good time to look for mahi as the water temperature starts to cool.



Come visit us at **Little Jim Bait & Tackle** for some great food and music plus fishing rules and regulations. If you want to get in on the fun of the mullet run, come on over and let's get *Pullin Drag!* ❖



# Roots and Recipes IV

## German Meatballs



Home means a place where I feel the safest and where I can express my sadness and happiness," says Anthony Ketterer. The reason places like his parents and grandma's house feel like this is because of the memories. Some memories are of smelling Christmas candles or are the taste of Grandma's enchilada soup. Home is the memories of being with family.

Anthony felt especially connected to his roots when grandfather's brother came to visit Florida from Germany. The family was spending time celebrating the 75th birthday of his grandfather. Anthony's uncle prepared a German dish which was Anthony's inspiration to make more German food.

The German recipe that Anthony identifies with the most is Buletten, a type of meatball that his grandfather made every year on Christmas. It is a dish from Berlin and is his family's heritage.



## Recipe for Buletten

- 2 slices of bread
- 1/2 Cup minced onion
- 1 Tbsp butter or margarine
- 1 1/2 pounds ground chuck
- 1/2 pound ground pork
- 2 eggs beaten
- 1 tsp nutmeg
- 3 Tbsp chopped fresh parsley
- 1/2 tsp grated lemon rind
- 1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
- 5 Cups beef broth
- 1/2 Cup flour
- 1 Cup water
- Hot cooked noodles

Tear bread into small pieces, and place in a small shallow bowl. Add water to cover, and let soak about 5 minutes. Squeeze water from bread; discard water. Set bread aside.

Sauté onion in butter until tender. Combine sautéed onion, bread, meat, eggs, salt, nutmeg, parsley, lemon rind, lemon juice, and Worcestershire sauce in a large bowl. Mix well; shape into 2-inch meatballs.

Bring beef broth to a boil in a large Dutch oven; add meatballs. Reduce heat; cover and simmer 15 minutes. Remove meatballs; set aside. Reserve pan liquid.

Combine flour and water, mixing well. Stir flour mixture into reserved pan liquid. Cook over medium-high heat, stirring constantly, until thickened and bubbly.

Return meatballs to Dutch oven; cook over low heat until meatballs are thoroughly heated. Serve meatballs and gravy over hot cooked noodles. ❖

*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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