



Volume 15, No. 4 November, 2019

FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce



31st Annual Sights & Sounds Festival, Parade & Tree Lighting Ceremony

"Christmas by Land, Air or Sea," Saturday, December 8

See page 14

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



Coffee
WITH THE MAYOR

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

Friday, November 15 at 8:00 a.m.
at Fort Pierce Yacht Club
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Reflections of the Future Art Show

by Sue Dannahower



This is my favorite time of the year. The holidays are right around the corner and there is a cool chill in the air. In November, *Main Street Fort Pierce* will host "Collaboration" Reflections of the Future Art Show. It's the perfect time to pick


up a few holiday gifts for friends and family. Visit us at MainStreetFortPierce.org to see these and other upcoming events.

If you are looking for a way to get involved with your community, please come find out what we are all about. *Main Street* has over 30 events each year that are designed to bring people to Historic Downtown Fort Pierce. Without the

valuable time our volunteers provide, these events would not be possible. We have a lot of fun!

We couldn't exist without the support of our members. Your personal involvement and membership commitment help *Main Street Fort Pierce* accomplish goals, set new ones, and support downtown's economic wellbeing, revitalization and cultural vibrancy in the very heart and soul of our downtown community.

Stroll our downtown shops, visit the Saturday *Farmers Market*, have lunch on the waterfront, enjoy a scoop of gelato from *Uncle Carlos'* or try one of the *Cake Lady's* delicious cupcakes. Shop and dine locally in *Beautiful Historic Downtown Fort Pierce!* ❖



MAIN STREET FOCUS FORT PIERCE

Volume 15, No. 4

November 2019

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Calendar

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

MONTHLY EVENTS

November 1, Friday: FRIDAY FEST — 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Marina Square & Melody Lane; Live music with **Flat Natural Band**; **MOBILITY WEEK**, sponsored by FDOT & St. Lucie TPO; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

November 7, Thursday: 11TH ANNUAL REFLECTIONS ART SHOW — at the Platts/Backus House, 122 A.E. Backus Ave.; Artist reception from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with light appetizers and a cash bar; Friday – Exhibit open from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Exhibit is free to the public; 466-3880; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

November 15, Friday: COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR — 8:00 a.m. at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**; Sponsor – **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**; Main Street Fort Pierce, 466-3880; www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

November 15, Friday: ARTWALK — 5 to 8:00 p.m.; Various studios and shops open throughout the downtown area; seriouslymixedmedia.com, artconnectionfp.com.

November 30, Friday: SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY — Support local merchants during the holidays! Receive a FREE downtown passport from Chic & Shore Things, get it stamped by 8 participating businesses, return stamped passport to Notions & Potions by 7:30 p.m. for a chance to win a downtown shopping spree! No purchase necessary. (See article in this month's edition).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

December 8, Sunday: SIGHTS & SOUNDS ON 2ND FESTIVAL & PARADE — Theme: "Christmas by Land, Air, or Sea"; estival begins at 1:00 p.m. with performances from local dance groups, children's activities, pictures with Santa, crafts, holiday shopping, and more; Parade begins at 4:00 p.m. with tree lighting ceremony immediately following the last float (see info in this month's *Focus*).

Thursdays from December 5th thru December 19th — **DOWNTOWN SIP & SHOP THURSDAYS**; holiday shop in downtown after hours!

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

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

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

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SEE BACK COVER FOR UPCOMING SHOWS

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

MANATEE OBSERVATION & EDUCATION CENTER

429-6266 • www.ManateeEducationCenter.org
Tuesdays @ 2:00 p.m.: *Fin-Tastic Fish Feeding* — come meet the fishes in the Center.
Wednesdays @ 2:00 p.m.: *Tide Pool Touch Tank* — touch and hold the urchins, conchs, and more.
Thursdays @ 2:00 p.m.: *Meet the MOEC Reptiles* — touch and hold Diego the corn snake and turtles
Fridays @ 2:00 p.m.: *Seahorse Snack Time* — watch the MOEC seahorses eat and play.
Saturdays @ 2:00 p.m.: *Fin-Tastic Fish Feeding* — come meet the fishes in the Center.

SUNDAY DOWNTOWN CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

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

Bud Adams Gallery of Historical Photographs
772-462-1795
2nd Floor of P.P. Cobb Building, Open Fridays and Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Downtown Fort Pierce Library
772-462-2787 • www.st-lucie.lib.fl.us
Page to Screen Book & Film Discussion
Group for Adults

November 15th – The Children Act
Email johnsonjen@stlucieco.org for more information

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

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

Fort Pierce RiverWalk Center
600 North Indian River Drive
Please call for complete schedule of exercise classes & games
772-489-6473 • www.cityoffortpierce.com

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

Heathcote Botanical Gardens
772-464-4672
heathcotebotanicalgardens.org

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

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

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

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

TURKEY
STUFFING & MORE

Shop LOCAL for the Holidays in Downtown Fort Pierce

The businesses of downtown Fort Pierce have your gift buying needs covered for this holiday season. Shop downtown for the most personalized gifts for your friends and loved ones. Check out these fun holiday shopping opportunities organized by the Downtown Business Collaboration:

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY – NOVEMBER 30TH

Small Business Saturday is a national event held on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. This year, if you visit downtown Fort Pierce on Small Business Saturday you can enter a chance to win a downtown shopping spree! To enter this free drawing, participants need to: (1) pick up a downtown passport at **Chic and Shore Things**, located at 205 N. 2nd Street, by 4 p.m.; (2) have their passports stamped by *eight* participating businesses, and; (3) return their stamped passports to **Notions & Potions** at 116 N. 2nd Street, #103 by 7:30 p.m.

The drawing will take place on Facebook Live at 8:30 p.m. that evening, and the winner takes all. (Do not need to be present to win.) Some businesses will also have free SHOP SMALL

canvas bags available, while they last, for Small Business Saturday shoppers.

Small Business Saturday is a great day to get most or all of your holiday shopping completed early and support your local merchants. (Don't worry about missing the big game that day — it will be on at most of our local restaurants and/or bars.)

DOWNTOWN SIP & SHOP – THURSDAYS (DECEMBER 5TH THRU DECEMBER 19TH)

Throughout the holiday shopping season, participating downtown businesses will remain open until 8:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings starting on December 5th to December 19th. Not only will these businesses be open later for shopping, but most will offer tasty treats & beverages for their customers from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Also, be on the lookout for the *Mistle Toad*. Every week during the Sip & Shop event this crafty amphibian will be hiding in a different merchant's store. Find it and enter a drawing for special prizes. ❖



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Celebrate Mobility Week and the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway at Friday Fest

November's *Friday Fest* will include a celebration of *Mobility Week* and the *Treasure Coast Scenic Highway*. *Friday Fest*, the longest running street party on the Treasure Coast, takes place at Marina Square situated on the Indian River Lagoon. With expansive views of the Indian River Lagoon, the *Treasure Coast Scenic Highway* offers visitors a glimpse of Old Florida's pristine beaches, quaint towns, nightlife, and unlimited outdoor recreation while connecting communities and nature. *Mobility Week*, sponsored by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), is Florida's annual collection of outreach events intended to bring attention to safe multimodal transportation choices.

A scenic highway is a public road designated through an official government agency to protect and promote the road's special features. The *Treasure Coast Scenic Highway*, which generally traverses North and South SR A1A and Indian River Drive, was designated in 2005 to preserve and enhance the cultural, historic, recreational, and natural resources of the area while pro-

moting appreciation and enjoyment through improved access, information, and education for visitors and residents alike.

FDOT's *Mobility Week* encourages Florida residents to "mix-it-up" by trying a new method of transportation for their commute, shopping and recreation: Ride the bus, walk, bicycle, or carpool/vanpool. FDOT's *Mobility Week at Friday Fest* will feature free tram tours of the *Treasure Coast Scenic Highway*, Zagster bicycle rides, and Bird electric scooter rides to promote the enjoyment of beautiful, historic downtown Fort Pierce.

Children's activities include a giant slide and a bounce house. Face paintings will be provided for kids of all ages. Vendors will offer artisanal crafts and mouth-watering food varieties including Greek, Latin, BBQ, seafood, Americana, and countless snacks. Admission is free.

Come visit the *Treasure Coast Scenic Highway* booth and help celebrate *Mobility Week* at Friday Fest, November 1, 2019, from 5:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. ❖

Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Connecting Communities and Nature

With expansive views of the Indian River Lagoon, the *Treasure Coast Scenic Highway* in St. Lucie County offers visitors a glimpse of Old Florida's pristine beaches, quaint towns, nightlife, and unlimited outdoor recreation while connecting communities and nature.

A scenic highway is a public road designated through an official government agency to protect and promote the road's special features. The *Treasure Coast Scenic Highway*, which generally traverses North and South SR A1A and Indian River Drive, was designated in 2005 through the volunteer efforts of the Treasure Coast Corridor Management Entity (TCCME).

Dormant during the Great Recession, the TCCME was revived in 2016 through the hard work of Chairwoman Diana Gregory, Vice Chairwoman Mary Chapman and other community advocates.

Agencies assisting the TCCME are the St. Lucie Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), Florida Department

of Transportation (FDOT), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Florida Scenic Highways Program, and local partners including the cities of Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie and St. Lucie County.

Recently, FDOT upgraded the scenic highway signage to improve the visitor experience.

The mission of the TCCME is to preserve and enhance the cultural, historic, recreational, and natural resources of the area while promoting appreciation and enjoyment through improved access, information, and education for visitors and residents alike.

The TCCME meets quarterly and has developed promotional media including a brochure, portable kiosk, website, and social media presence.

Future efforts include enhanced social media engagement, increased community recognition, volunteer recruitment, and completion of its annual work plan. ❖

Fort Pierce Yacht Club: Filling Sails, Hearts, and Coffee Cups

by Diane Korbey

We will be filling Sails: The Fall Sailboat Racing Regatta is coming to Fort Pierce again! Held annually for the last 10 years, **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** will be hosting offshore competitive sailboat races on November 9th and 10th. These races attract competitors from Martin to Brevard Counties. No less than 20 boats will be on the start line Saturday the 9th for an approximately 25-mile PHRF-handicapped race; Sunday they will be back out for two six- to ten-mile races. The club whose participants place best overall take home the *Fort Pierce Yacht Club Perpetual Fall Regatta Trophy*. It is a wonderful event to showcase our City, our marinas, our restaurants and our Club to visiting yachtsmen! The event is open to all



with valid PHRF ratings. You can find more information on fortpiercelyachtclub.com.

And we will be filling Coffee Cups: In Fort Pierce, we celebrate community every month with *Main Street Fort Pierce's Coffee with the Mayor* program. So, it only seemed fitting to the members of **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**, which hosts the monthly community gathering, that they sponsor and share coffee and great

news with the community during that month of giving thanks and remembering family, friends and community. On November 15th, **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** will sponsor *Coffee with the Mayor*. If you come, you'll find free breakfast, coffee, friendship, and in November — a terrific surprise announcement from **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** members.

While you all know **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** for the on-the-water events that we host for the community each year, including sailboat racing, raft-ups, *4th of July Boat Parade*, *On the Water Charity Poker Run*, and boating safety programs, there is much that we not known for. The organization is not only home to the monthly *Fort Pierce Coffee with the Mayor* event but to *Third Thursday Eco-Evenings* and it hosts nonprofit organizational meetings and celebrations regularly. Members also aid and volunteer to help the *Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Foundation*, *Main Street Fort Pierce*, the *Garden Clubs of Fort Pierce*, **FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute**, the *Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup* and SHIP. And even though we'd rather be feeling the briny breezes blowing through our hair, members of the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** work together all year long filling hearts — to help raise and distribute funds to a host of nonprofit community organizations whose missions touch the hearts of its members.

November 15th, we will share some really big news, so members hope you'll be on hand at 8 a.m. at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** to fill your sails with the briny breeze, your cup with some fresh-brewed joe, and your heart with a steaming hot cup of community. ❖

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MONDAY

free **Bingo 6:00 p.m.**
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THURSDAY

Trivia 7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY

Live Music

Artists Collaborate for the 11th Annual *Reflections* Art Show

The *Eleventh Annual Reflections Art Show*, “*Collaboration*,” is all about bringing a community of artists together for an extraordinary show. Celebrated artist Anita Prentice, along with *Main Street Fort Pierce*, hosts this event annually at the **Platts Backus House**. Anita has created numerous public monumental works, including a tribute to the *Highwaymen* on Fort Pierce Intermodal Bus Station, grave markers for several

Highwaymen Artists, the Butterfly Mosaic at Port St. Lucie Botanical Garden, The Arch at Fort Pierce’s Melody Lane Fishing Pier, 170 bus stop benches throughout St. Lucie County, the historic Immokolee Above Ground Pool, the seawall at the former home of Jimmy Buffet in Key West and so much more.

Among this year’s diverse group of artists are Debi Crouse, Mike Cully, Saskia Fuller, Skip Fuller, Marie Claudia Rivadeneira, Jack Shelton, John Shelton, Maria Sparsis, Leslie Stokes, Ginny Piech Street, Vladimyr Thelisma, Stacey Varn and the Treasure Coast Community Theater. In keeping with the title of the show, these artists have paired to create unique pieces of collaborative art reflecting the individual imagery of each artist. Anita Prentice and Mike Cully have been collaborating for three years. Mike, a member of *Main Street*, has been a builder of furniture for many years. Anita and Mike’s collaboration for this show is called “Table On The Side.”

Linwood “Skip” Fuller and Saskia Fuller recently moved into their new home in the up and coming Edgewood neighbor-

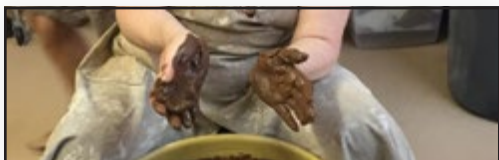
hood, recently designated as the *Vero Beach Art Village*. They are meeting their new neighbors but are mostly intrigued by the multitude of furry and feathered new friends. Their house is slowly being covered in colorful murals, as Linwood is honing his spray-painting skills. If you see him, feel free to stop by and say hello. It will be intriguing to see what their collaboration turns out to be.

Maria Sparsis and Ginny Piech Street will be represented by numerous small teapots constructed by Maria and glazed by Ginny. The charming stoneware teapots are of an intimate size. They combine the vivid imagination and whimsy of both artists, culminating in something that will put a smile on the viewer's face. Born on the island of Cyprus to a Cypriot father and a British mother, Maria Sparsis has also lived and worked in Wales, Scotland, New England and, for the last 15 years, Florida. A Marine Biologist by training and a scientist by inclination, Maria has a deep commitment to, and love of nature in all its forms. Much of Maria's artwork is inspired by both her love and knowledge of nature and her sense of humor and fondness for the absurd. Sharing her focus with both printmaking and clay, Ginny has been experimenting with printed patterns on the clay surface. Her pieces for this year's *Reflections* show will focus on that combo platter. She's excited about presenting this new work to the public. She will also have her usual humorous surprises so get ready to have some fun!

Strongly influenced by her mother, an artist and musician, Leslie has been painting since the age of 13 when she produced her first portrait on an oversized canvas. She currently paints in a studio in the downtown Fort Pierce, *Florida Arts District*. She is collaborating with Maria Claudia Rivadeneira since they met at a residency six years ago. They have been painting together periodically ever since that point. Maria Claudia, a native of Bogota, Colombia, graduated from Andes University as an architect. She currently lives in Port Saint Lucie, Florida and travels back and forth to her home country. Additionally, she has dedicated her time and passion to painting as a way to express herself, concentrating on themes about the subtle and delicate expressions of the feminine human soul that reflect the deepest feelings and forms that are layered with complex life experiences.

A tree has two lives; one while alive and growing, giving us beauty, shelter and many times food; the other after its death, giving us its wood to produce useful and long-lasting

Continued on page 11 ...



What About that Turkey!

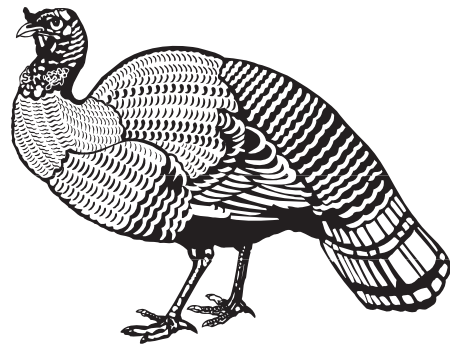
by *Britt Anderson*

Let's be clear up-front, I'm not talking about the turkey industry that provides us with the turkey you and I buy at the store or your local turkey farm. I'm writing about the wild turkey, the bird, and how it has become an American tradition. But first some basics about the bird, its origin and its habits.

Its genus is *meleagris*. It has a distinctive fleshy wattle hanging from its beak which is called a snood. While the turkey is native to North America, turkeys have been used and/or domesticated in Mexico and South America for hundreds of years. Turkeys were brought to Europe from the middle east where those merchants were called "turkey merchants." They were imported through Constantinople thus getting its name of turkey. Shakespeare uses the term "turkey-cock" in *Twelfth Night* indicating that the term and the bird were widely known in England at that time. India, Poland, Russia and Peru also had names for the bird, but the name "turkey" has been the one that has stuck.

The male turkey is larger than the female and doesn't mate for life. In fact, many males go off in a herd together. A female will have one brood in her life, consisting of four to 17 eggs. They will remain with her for up to a year when they will be able to take care of themselves. She nests on the ground in dead leaves at the base of a tree. Both male and female turkeys can run and fly when threatened. I have had the privilege of watching a flock of wild turkeys. They can run surprisingly fast and their flights from the ground to the lower branches of surrounding trees is not only delightful but hilarious. They normally roost in flocks. Wild turkeys are considered game birds and their population is increasing. They have responded well to game management and are second only to deer for hunters. If you are a bird hunter Florida has a Spring turkey season. There is a quota and lottery system for permits on specified locations and days. If interested I suggest you contact the *Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission* for further information. (1(888) 404-3933 or myfwc.com)

We know that the pilgrims or settlers celebrated the first Thanksgiving with the Wampanoag Indians in 1621. Edward Winslow who was present writes in a letter: "Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we



might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors. They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help besides, served the company almost a week." While there is no specific mention of turkeys most have assumed that the word "fowl" included turkeys. It was known to the settlers that Queen Elizabeth had served turkey when celebrating the sinking of a fleet of Spanish ships on their way to attack England. Others opine that she had another goose roasted and the settlers chose to roast turkey instead. The Spanish Armada was launched in 1588 and the engagement lasted through 1604 so the date of this occasion is unclear.

Nothing much was heard about the turkey for the next hundred or so years, although one can assume it was being hunted, killed and eaten as were other fowl and game. But as the United States was being formed and the Continental Congress was drafting our founding documents Benjamin Franklin began to champion the turkey as the national emblem of the United States. The turkey lost out to the bald eagle. But the turkey had other advocates. Sarah Josepha Hale, a New Hampshire writer and early advocate for women of her time, took up the turkey's cause. She's been called the "godmother of Thanksgiv-



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ing.” While promoting Thanksgiving as a national holiday she wrote: “The roasted turkey took precedence on this occasion, being placed at the head of the table; and well did it become its lordly station, sending forth the rich odor of its savory stuffing and finely covered with the froth of the basting.” In 1863, probably in an effort to unify the nation after the Civil War, President Lincoln invited Americans to observe the last Thursday in November as a day of thanksgiving. It wasn’t until 1941 that President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the U.S. Congress made Thanksgiving a legal holiday.

Karen Davis, president of United Poultry Concerns has stated: “The ‘turkey at Thanksgiving idea’ is that the turkey is the de facto symbol of America’s prowess, of its national origin myth.... But it’s a creation myth that was just invented.” President Ronald Reagan strengthen that myth when he began the tradition of pardoning two turkeys as a way of avoiding questions over pardons concern-

ing the Iran-Contra affair. And so, the turkey, with or without a political context continues to be a part of “Americana”.

The turkey in so many ways expresses our national pride with its tail feathers, our wealth and abundance and even our social habits. Perhaps Benjamin Franklin was right in his desire to have the turkey as our national emblem. But whether the turkey has that status or not it has served and still serves our country well by bringing us together in thanks. The wild turkey is pardoned while the poultry industry produces all those millions of turkeys for us to consume on Thanksgiving. However, there are turkey alternatives being produced and developed. I’m not quite there yet. Some traditions, even if they are mythical, are worth holding on to. So, whatever you choose, enjoy your Thanksgiving, count your blessings and those of this great country and give a special thanks to the turkey for all it has given to us. As always. *wishing you fair winds and following seas.* ❖

REFLECTIONS ... continued from page 9

items which are both functional and beautiful. John Shelton’s work is a reflection of this second life. He creates one-of-a-kind pieces and each one displays careful and thoughtful consideration of the unique qualities that particular piece of wood offers. Jack’s son John has followed John’s creative thoughts and ambitions and is producing one of a kind concrete garden art. His pieces can be viewed on his web site, GPDesignz.com. He has been producing this work for about six years and is known locally for his generous donations to fund raising organizations. Jack and John Shelton will combine their talents to produce pieces for *Reflections 2019*. Anita will also collaborate with John Shelton to produce several large, nature-based platters.

Debi Crouse is a local Digital/Mixed Media Artist who, along with Stacey Varn traveled into the world of miniatures to create a unique group of tiny treasures.

Stacey Varn, a Mixed Media and Assemblage Artist here in Fort Pierce, is an avid oil painter who recently diverged to assemblage and the world of miniatures. Her passions are Art, Music and Dance which complete her world in a way that is

not only rewarding but always a learning experience. Along with the miniature assemblages with Debi Crouse, she will be performing several dances with Vladimyr Thelisma. Stacey and Vladimyr have been dancing Kizomba for the past three years. Kizomba means party and is a dance from Angola.

Included are performances by the **Treasure Coast Community Theater**, located in the heart of Port St. Lucie.

You won’t want to miss this pre-holiday show. There will be a little something for everyone: mosaics, art to wear, clay, abstracts, furniture, botanical vessels, turned wood sculptures, christmas ornaments, and many surprises.

Save the date for “Collaboration,” The *11th Annual Reflections Art Show*. Artist’s Reception is Thursday, November 7, 2019, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Enjoy light appetizers and a cash bar. Second Peek, Friday, November 8, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This exhibit is free to the public and will be held at the Platts/Backus House located at 122 A.E. Backus Avenue in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce. For more information call *Main Street Fort Pierce* at (772) 466-3880.

The City of Fort Pierce Continues to Beautify the Peacock Arts District

The City of Fort Pierce continues to beautify the *Peacock Arts District* (PAD) with the installation of new street pole banners and decorative street signs. Last week, new banners were installed on Orange Avenue, Delaware Avenue, 7th Street and 10th Street. The new artwork demonstrates the vibrancy of the community and highlights Fort Pierce as an arts destination by celebrating the creativity of local artists and delineate the new arts district.

Earlier this year, the City of Fort Pierce launched a PAD Banner Contest. The city received over 100 entries and a total of 23 designs were selected to be displayed. The contest highlighted incredible talent in this community, ranging from elementary-age students from *Creative Arts Academy of St. Lucie* (CAST) to professional local artists.

Furthermore, new decorative street signs were also installed throughout the PAD. The City brightened up the corners with purple street signs featuring the PAD logo, firmly branding the district with its own unique flair.

The new banners and street signs join other PAD beautification efforts such as the painted pot project and the mural program. The City's goal for the *Peacock Arts District* is to create a bright, attractive, eclectic environment that celebrates the arts and encourages private investment that builds and supports the local economy.

For a list of the PAD Banner winners and featured banners, visit: cityoffortpierce.com/815/PAD-Street-Pole-Banners. ❖

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St. Andrew's Students Conduct Ocean Research Aboard the SSV *Corwith Cramer*

Two **St. Andrew's Episcopal Academy** students experienced an adventure with a purpose, in a partnership with the *Sea Education Association* (SEA). This unique student enrichment program at **St. Andrew's** was the brainchild of Suzanne Barry, Head of Schools at **St. Andrew's** and an alumna of SEA. Jessie Alkire and Madison Green, along with Ms. Barry, had an experience of a lifetime aboard the research vessel *SSV Corwith Cramer*, as active crew members on this tall ship.

Sailing from New London, CT to Woodshole, MA in blustery October weather, they stood watch, handled sails and lines, completed hourly boat checks, along with performing routine cleaning or maintenance duties. However, the *Corwith Cramer* is more than that. Madison and Jessie were able to learn from the scientists performing research and assist in the lab. October in New England can challenge any sailor going offshore. Our students had to learn and understand the physics of sailing in cold weather with hours of gale force winds. This tall ship is not a luxury cruise ship and takes no tourists. Everyone on board is there to be a part of the crew and the comforts of home are scarce, except for the camaraderie with fellow crew members and meals.

One of the educational highlights, was sailing around Block Island, which is about four miles off the coast of Rhode Island. It is home to the first commercial offshore wind farm in the United States. The 30-megawatt, five-turbine Block Island Wind Farm began commercial operations in December 2016. One of



the founders, John O'Keefe, was aboard the *Corwith Cramer* and provided Jessie and Madison an insider's knowledge on the project and the benefits for research, education, the community and the environment. Additionally, they recorded data from the fish and bio-luminescent marine life they discovered and discussed the salinity and Chlorophyll-A Levels with the scientists as they reviewed the results.

"My experience as a college student, crewing aboard the *Corwith Cramer*, was a much broader learning opportunity than I could have received anywhere else," says

Ms. Barry. "The leadership lessons fostered within this adventure are many. My hope for Jessie and Madison, and future **St. Andrew's** students, is that they learned as much about themselves as they did from the classes and duties on the ship."

Indeed, the students talk about how valuable the experience was to them. "We were pushed to our limits on this trip and it strengthened both of us. I feel we both can take on new challenges with less fear," explains Jessie. Madison agrees. "It made us more confident about taking on bigger roles. We learned how to work through difficulties and lead," she says.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Academy looks to partner again with SEA to continue engaging students with the type of unique, hands on learning that is a trademark of the school's instruction. Learn more about the academy's nearly 50 years of educational leadership by visiting staacademy.org. ❖



31st Annual Sights & Sounds Festival, Parade & Tree Lighting Ceremony

"Christmas by Land, Air or Sea," Sunday, December 8

Presented by Main Street Fort Pierce and City of Fort Pierce with Sunrise City Kiwanis

Sights & Sounds on 2nd Festival

Schedule of Events

10:30 a.m. – Outdoor Sunday service by the **Common Ground Vineyard Church** at intersection of Orange Avenue and 2nd Street

1:30 p.m. – **SANTA ARRIVES IN FIRE TRUCK**

4:00 p.m. – **PARADE BEGINS**

Santa will be at the *Sights and Sounds Festival* to take requests and photos with children. Other children's activities include: free children's activity booths from area non-profits, a "build a downtown" Lego brick area, pony rides, face painting, petting zoo, special characters, bounce houses and entertainment from local dance groups & musicians.

Sights & Sounds on 2nd Parade

Grand Marshall – Fort Pierce Lions Club

The *Sights & Sounds Parade* starts at Tickle Tummy Hill on Second Street at 4:00 p.m. It will travel south to Orange Avenue; turn east on Orange and North on Indian River Drive concluding at the River Walk Center.



Sights & Sounds on 2nd Tree Lighting Ceremony

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

After the tree lighting, stay around for the “The Holiday Lights Spectacular” in Marina Square on Melody Lane. “The Holiday Lights Spectacular” is presented by the City of Fort Pierce. The light show consists of over 100,000 lights synchronized to holiday music and is a must-see for both locals and out-of-town guests. The lights and music will run from 6:00–9:00 p.m. daily until January 5, 2020.

For over 30 years, *Sights & Sounds on Second* has brought residents and visitors together to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season in Fort Pierce.

For more information call *Main Street Fort Pierce* at 772-466-3880 or www.mainstreetfortpierce.org.

Free parking is available at the City Parking Garage (Orange Avenue & Depot Drive), County Parking Garage (2nd Street & Boston Avenue).



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**MEMORIES OF ELVIS
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**THE GREATEST LOVE OF ALL:
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JANUARY 25TH



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**BRING BACK
THE MEMORIES**
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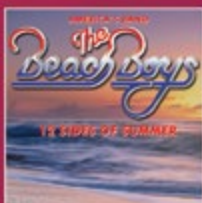
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**ABBA MANIA:
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**CATAPULT:
THE AMAZING
MAGIC OF SHADOW DANCING**
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THE BEACH BOYS
FEBRUARY 22ND




**DINOSAUR WORLD LIVE:
A DINO-MITE ADVENTURE**
FEBRUARY 23RD



**HOTEL CALIFORNIA:
A SALUTE TO THE EAGLES**
FEBRUARY 27TH



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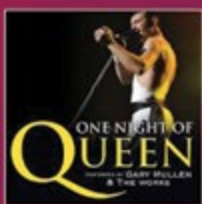
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Your Weekend Wear Can Make You An Eco-warrior!

by Meredith Bennett, MOEC Marketing and Retail Specialist

Did you know that micro-plastics have been found in the deepest depths of our oceans, and were recently discovered within ice cores drilled in the Arctic?

Years ago, and much closer to home, I personally found a sea turtle in the Indian River Lagoon that, sadly, died because he had gotten tangled in a plastic bag. On that very day, we banished plastic bags from the **Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop** and we started using paper bags made from recycled materials.

The **Manatee Observation and Education Center** (MOEC) has been educating the public about the importance of keeping our estuary and the Indian River Lagoon clean for over 22 years. This season, a unique display will be featured in the exhibit hall showing the length of time it takes certain materials to decompose. You will be amazed (and appalled) at the information. Single-use plastics are the biggest problem. For example, did you know that a plastic bag could take over 100 years to fragment, and plastic water bottles up to 450 years?

You can also learn more about *The Unnatural History of Plastic* at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** this month, November 21st at 6:30 p.m., where Dr. Tracy Mincer of Florida Atlantic University will highlight the challenges of plastic in our Lagoon.

But this isn't the end of the story. Many eco-minded companies have found ways to combat the plastic pollution problem. Many make products from recycled materials; others have created products that prevent wasteful consumption. And I am glad to report that you can find many of these products at the **Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop**.

30A is a line of super-soft clothing made from recycled water bottles. You will not believe how soft they are! As of March 2019, 30A has removed 3.1 million plastic bottles from landfills and oceans. You might have seen them on *Good*

Morning America during a segment focused on "Go Green, Choose Clean" that aired in June.

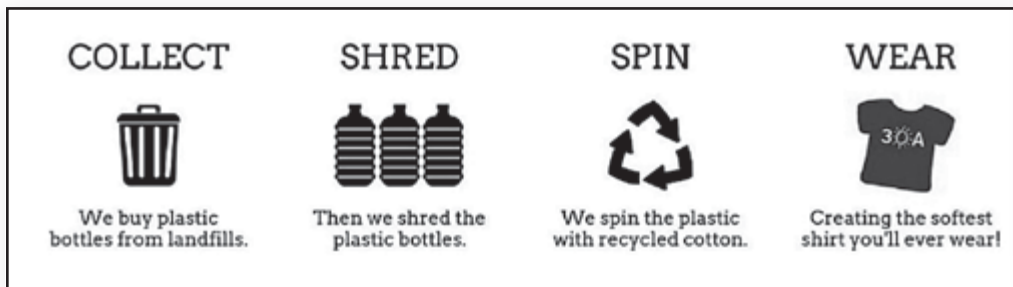
This diagram shows how their products are produced:

The Mermaid has chosen a number of 30A's BEach HAPPY!® designs for the entire family! So let your week-end T-shirt spread the word about conservation.

The **Manatee Center** and the **Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop** encourage you to be more conscientious of your plastic consumption. Consider how often you come in contact with plastic products on a daily basis: the lid on your morning latte, the eating utensils in your carry-out, the bottled water in your gym kit, grocery and shopping bags. Don't forget all of those straws! You can reduce your plastic waste by investing in quality products that last. Instead of plastic water bottles carry your own glass or stainless-steel bottle, instead of disposable coffee cups, use your own travel mug.

Become an Eco-Warrior! Keep an eye out for MOEC's future educational display on plastics disintegration to learn more about this issue. Then visit the **Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop** to give your newfound knowledge a workout by selecting gifts for your loved ones that are pro-active and eco-minded. Your thoughtful gifts will show everyone that you are aware and that you care!

Meredith has served as the buyer for the Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop since 2007, supporting the Manatee Center's environmental mission with environmentally friendly gift shop items for over a decade.



The Manatee Center November Events

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

Friday, November 8th at 12 p.m.

Manatee Mystique!

Lunch & Learn — November is *Manatee Appreciation Month!* Join us for a free presentation at the Manatee Center to learn about manatees. Bring your lunch and bring a friend. *Free event.*

Thursday, November 21st at 6:30 p.m.

The Unnatural History of Plastic

Eco-evening at the *Fort Pierce Yacht Club* — Join us for a special presentation by Dr. Tracy Mincer of Florida Atlantic University. *Free event* at the *Fort Pierce Yacht Club*

Friday, November 29th all day

Black Friday

Black Friday sales in the **Vanishing Mermaid Gift Shop** and kids crafts in the **Manatee Center Exhibit Hall.**

Recurring Programs

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

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

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

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

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

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Thank Goodness Summer's Over!

This year has flown by, or at least crawled through summer's doldrums, but now is the time to slow down and relax a bit. The worst of hurricane season is past and we're on to holiday season! Believe it or not it's just a few short weeks before Thanksgiving! Every Saturday, the ***Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers' Market*** is showing off the best of the season.

Farmers are delighted to have produced the bounty of local produce- citrus, fresh vegetables, flowers. The processors then take those delicious vegetables to make pickles, jams, jellies and sauces. The restaurants use them to create delectable dishes on your table. It is a never ending cycle.

With fall weather bringing cooler temperatures with less humidity, it's easy to make the stroll around Marina Square to peruse the vendors at the ***Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers' Market***. The abundance is amazing. Farm fresh poultry, eggs, sprouts, prepared onsite crabcakes, taste-tempting guacamole, jams, jellies, sauces of everything imaginable, Jamaican meat patties, hydroponic lettuces, exotic cheeses, honey, grass-fed meats, ocean fresh smoked fish spread, fresh squeezed orange juice, fruit smoothies, sugar-cane sweetened fruit and vegetable drinks, locally grown organic vegetables, home-made dog treats, and the list goes on and on! Whatever you want you can get!

Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers' Market has partnered with *Master Gardeners* and **Heathcote Botanical Garden** to provide information about almost anything you would want to grow in this area. These knowledgeable and friendly folks are ready to discuss all types of plants known locally. Treasure Coast Food Bank has been steadily collecting non-perishable food for several years at their booth, a noble cause for all of Saint Lucie County.

As the season progresses, the seawall becomes a favorite hang-

out for observation of sea life in the lagoon. It's not uncommon for manatees to come right up to the wall, and porpoises put on their delightful aquatic shows regularly. Bait fish swirl while predator fish dart among them catching their breakfast. All the while pelicans and seagulls fly dizzily through, up and down as they try catch the wriggling fish. Can't beat that show!

Entertainment was never the focus of the ***Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers' Market***, but it has become a huge draw over the years. Several bands, both local and from afar, have decidedly been a favorite among regular patrons at the market. *Big Coque* has been part of the scene for at least 10 years. *Rapture*, *Live Bait*, *Firewater Tent Revival*, and *Dave and the Wave* keep the crowds lively. Often newer bands will have the opportunity to show their talents at the Market. Dancing in the walkways is not required but seems to be necessary. The music is as varied as the crowds.

Parking is at a premium during the winter season, so the City of Fort Pierce is running a trolley tram every Saturday morning to accommodate those who don't want a long walk to or from their cars. With Melody Lane blocked for seawall reconstruction and privately-owned unpaved lots now posted with no parking/tow away zone, it's imperative to take advantage of the free parking garages and the tram service.

The ***Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers' Market*** has something for just about everyone. Every Saturday morning, 8 until 12, at Marina Square in historic downtown Fort Pierce is the place to be. It certainly has become a *Saturday Morning Tradition!* Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. See our website www.fortpiercefarmersmarket.com for details about our mission, vendors, upcoming events and more. See you there! ❖



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Simple Pleasures – The tour of Downtown Fort Pierce Continues

by Lisa Jill Allison



Feel like getting out of the house? Feel like doing something you probably haven't done in years? Now let's add feeling part of the community and not spending any money. Does that sound like a win/win?

Then I suggest a visit to the **Susan Broom Kilmer Library**, beautifully perched on the riverfront in Downtown Fort Pierce. Just head east on Orange Ave until you can't go any more and there you are.

The library is an experience that is best experienced with all senses opened wide. The stunning water view can immediately inspire visions of beauty and adventure. The delightful local restaurant scents wafting by may elicit desires to explore exotic cuisine. The playful breeze may awaken memories of childhood loves and thoughts of romance.

The stage has been set and upon walking through the library doors the curtain rises to a panoramic setting of young and old surrounded by books upon books upon books on anything and everything to satiate awakened desires for experiences.

Now, in the comfort of plush chairs, inviting ambience, perfect lighting and artfully arranged décor, your experiences await.

There is nothing like the feel of a book in one's hands to transport to another place and even time, to then ride the full roller coaster of human emotions. Perhaps a trip upstairs to the lofty scenic reading area is just what is needed to complete the experience.

Too soon, reality beckons you back. Time to head out, but not before making your final book selection and choosing a few of your favorite movies and TV series on DVD to share with those at home.

As you can see, an unscheduled, casual visit to the library is a splendid break from the ordinary and yet the library offers so much more. The **Susan Broom Kilmer Library** presents a rich selection of programs and services for children through adults for entertaining, educating and enlightening. For a full schedule of services simply Google "library downtown Fort pierce." Your adventure awaits. ❖

A Book

A book awaits upon a shelf
just longing to be read
upon the beach with sunkissed hands
or tucked cozy in a bed.

Books take you places beyond thoughts
And touch your soul so deep.
Books shine like morning glory's sun
or rock you off to sleep.

So contemplate this simple way
To bring new life to you,
To fuel your mind and feed your heart
Just like the morning dew.

Adult Programs at the Kilmer Branch Library

Page-to-Screen Book Discussion and Movie

November 15 @ 1p.m. — The Children Act (2017) based on the 2014 book by Ian McEwan. Copies of the book available to check out. Contact Librarian Jennifer Johnson for more information 772-462-2199

Speaker Series at Kilmer:

Pirates of the Treasure Coast — Saturday, November 2 @ 2 p.m. Lecture Series (While all ages are welcome, this program is intended for adults)

"Pirates of the Treasure Coast," features historian and educator Allen Balogh, author of the pirate novel "Black Sails, 1715." Balogh will talk about the sinking of the Spanish fleet off the Treasure Coast in 1715. The spill of riches off the seas prompted an invasion of pirates, and Balogh will talk about those who lived during the Golden Age of Piracy: Benjamin Hornigold and his prodigy Blackbeard, along with Black Sam Bellamy, Paulsgrave Williams, Henry Jennings and the insidious Charles Vane. ❖

Love, JAZZ Community: Music and Gratitude

by Don Bestor

Tuesday, November 5th is a big day “in the Fort.” Not only is it the first day the weekly *Jazz Jams* courtesy of **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** go back to being weekly, signaling the start of ‘season’ in Fort Pierce, but to celebrate, the organization is bringing Scott Merischen, the magical man behind the Jazz Harp. If you love the harp, you’ll love hearing Merischen and what how he makes it sing and dance to recreate the tunes you’ve long known and loved.



Sylvester Stallone. His band has opened at private shows to introduce artists like Tony Bennett, Lionel Ritchie, Roger Daltrey, and Liza Minelli. On Tuesday, November 5th, Merischen will be bringing his magical strings to the **Sunrise Black Box Theatre** for one night only, and the audience will be limited to first-come, first seated in the intimate **Black Box** setting. Tickets are just \$11 for this special evening, so come early; the full bar will be available, and **Brooklyn Sweets** will

Over the past three decades, Merischen’s audiences have included three living U.S. Presidents, countless political figures, and celebrities including Bill Gates, Oprah, and

be on hand with delectable refreshments.

But wait — there’s more! On Sunday, November 17th, the sun will be out, and the briny breezes will be blowing at the

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Fort Pierce Waterfront as **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** presents its wildly popular *Waterside Blues* from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The free concert is open to all and provides a full afternoon of incredible music, beginning with a set from the **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** Performing Ensemble at 1 p.m., followed by two hours of blissful Rappture, starting at 3 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs and your furry friends, if you'd like because this concert is fun for the whole family, and it's absolutely free. There will be refreshments available, so plan to have some lunch, share some laughs and with friends, loads of sunshine, dancing, and music, music, and more music!

Why would **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** offer two professional concerts and a whole afternoon of fabulous fun and music, you ask? It's simple. It's just one way this organization chooses to thank the community for its support of live, professional musical performance all year long. Since Novem-

ber is a month that focuses on gratitude and giving thanks, members of **Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society** make it their mission to show their gratitude to the community all year long, but especially during November. If you're looking for a way to share yours, why not consider becoming a member of this organization which provides live, professional entertainment, scholarships, classes, dancing, memories to last a lifetime, and loads of fun all year long? Or maybe you'd like to gift someone else with a membership? Either way, it's inexpensive and easy to do by visiting www.jazzsociety.org, or calling (772) 460-JAZZ today. Heck! You may even hear a little awesome and angelic harp music in the background as you show your gratitude just by showing up. ❖



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Small Business Solutions: Cloud Storage, Thumb Drive or Disk Drive? Pros and Cons

by Anita Campbell, published on www.sba.gov



Be certain that the storage solutions you choose are going to keep your data secure.

Today's businesses need to store more data than ever before. In fact, data storage requirements are growing by about 40 percent each year. However, you need to make sure that the storage solutions you choose are going to keep your data

secure. In fact, there were an average of 62 cyberattacks each day in 2018, with many of those affecting businesses and their sensitive data.

In order to keep all of the data you use safe and easily accessible, you need to find the right storage and backup solutions. There are a ton of different options to choose from, including cloud storage, thumb drives, and disk drives. All of these options have their own advantages and drawbacks. So you need to carefully consider your own storage needs before choosing. And you might even opt to make use of multiple options in different ways.

Here's a rundown of each of these options so you can create the combination that works best for your small business.

CLOUD STORAGE

Cloud storage is a model that essentially allows users to store files and information across various servers. So you don't keep it in a hard drive that's located on-premises. Instead, it's backed up in a separate location.

One of the main benefits of cloud storage is that it allows your data to be accessible from anywhere. You can bring up the same files at your desk that you can on your home computer or your laptop when you travel. You can also give your team members access, or even allow clients to view select files through cloud sharing platforms. Keeping your files saved in a separate location from your business can also be useful in disaster recovery. If there's a flood or fire at your facility, you can still access that important data if your hard drives or on-premises servers were destroyed.

However, security is a major concern for businesses using cloud storage solutions. Since the data is not stored in your own disks or hard drives, you have less control over who can access it. And hackers often target cloud based storage platforms. So you may not want to use this solution for files that contain customer information, financial records or confidential company data. In fact, only about 18 percent of all files uploaded to cloud based sharing and collaboration platforms contain sensitive data. But despite those challenges, about 80 percent of businesses have adopted cloud storage in some capacity.

THUMB DRIVE

A thumb drive is a small, portable device that allows you to store and share files. You plug it into a computer or other device using the USB port. Then you can add files to back them up in a second location or easily share those documents with other devices.

These devices are small and very simple to operate. You simply plug it into your computer and drag and drop files that you want to back up. Some even offer advanced features like password protection so you can keep those files extra secure.

However, if you use them on a device that's infected with viruses or malware, you could end up spreading those vulnerabilities around your office. Additionally, their small size makes it easy for users to lose or break them. So they probably shouldn't serve as your main storage solution for especially important items.

DISK DRIVE

A disk drive is a type of hardware that uses rotating disks and electro-mechanical technology to store information. This can either be housed within a computer or laptop, or contained on a separate external hard drive.

This type of storage is fairly affordable and easy to use. There are a variety of hard drive storage options out there. And many offer higher capacities than those available with small thumb drives. So you can easily find an option that provides enough capacity for your storage needs, even if you need to store large files or programs.

However, this type of physical storage doesn't last forever. And when the disk stops working, you could end up losing

the data you have stored on it. As such, it's usually best to back up the data you have stored on this type of device on another source as well. They also don't usually come with password protection or advanced security features. So it may not be the best option for super sensitive data. But someone would usually need to have a physical copy of the disk in order to access that information.

Anita Campbell runs online communities and information websites reaching over 6 million small business owners, stakeholders and entrepreneurs annually, including *Small Business Trends*, a daily publication about small business issues, and *BizSugar.com*, a small business social media site. ❖



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by Sue Dannahower

Wild Rice

Wild rice, despite its name, is not directly related to the rice we usually cook. Grown in shallow water like small lakes or streams, the grains of wild rice are a dark brownish black color and have a somewhat chewy outer sheath with a more tender inner grain. It is nutty, earthy, and has a heartier in flavor.

Wild rice is good for you. Unlike other starchier rice varieties (such as basmati, jasmine, etc.), wild rice boasts several key nutritional benefits.

- Wild rice is high in protein, coming in second when compared to oats in protein content per 100 calories.
- High in the amino acid Lysine which may help with calcium absorption, wound healing, and reduce anxiety.
- High in fiber (whereas white rice is not).
- Low in fat.
- Wild rice is gluten-free. ❖



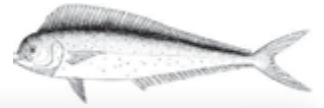
COOLER WEATHER, COOLER WATERS

by Captain Bo Samuel, Pullin Drag Charters

November brings cooler waters to our local area which means more fish are moving in. Sheepshead, snapper, jack, and pompano are more abundant and a good choice to target. Look for pompano in shallow waters of the lagoon and off the beach with live shrimp for best results. Mahi can be caught offshore as they are following the cooler water and migrating down from the Carolinas. Snapper and sheepshead are found around channel markers on either incoming or outgoing tides.

Snook are still being caught and as always, giving a good fight. Use live mullet or pilchards for your best chance at hooking one of these linesiders and focus on the ledge of the Fort Pierce Inlet, bridges, docks, and other structures. Keep the drag tight and be ready to set back on the rod when a snook is on and you will have a great fish story to tell. If your snook is in the slot, no less than 28 inches and no more than 32 inches, you will have a great fish dinner as well! Trout fishing is good now, too, and keep on the lookout for tripletail near buoys and channel markers where they can sometimes be seen floating on the surface. Tripletail can be found inshore and offshore and typically swim near floating debris and weed lines.

Remember to "Shop Small" this season and buy your tackle, nets, rods, and reels at your local tackle shops. They are also good for fishing licenses and FWC rules and regulations. Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and feeling thankful to keep Pullin Drag! ♦



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Recipe Corner

by Sue Dannahower

Incredible Thanksgiving Sides

Cranberry Pecan Sweet Potato Wild Rice Pilaf

Crunchy pecans, cranberries, sweet potato, wild rice, and herbs come together in this colorful dish!

- 3 cups chicken broth (or vegetable broth)
- 1 cup wild rice blend
- 1/2 teaspoon dried parsley
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 sweet potato diced small
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup cranberries
- 1/3 cup pecans chopped



In a medium sized saucepan bring the broth to a boil and add wild rice, parsley, oregano, and thyme. Reduce the heat to a simmer and cover with a lid. Cook for 45 minutes or until tender. In another skillet add the olive oil, sweet potato, and onion and cook until tender. Add cranberries and chopped pecans and cook for 1 to 2 minutes. Add to the rice mixture and fluff with a fork. *Serves 6.*

Vegetable Casserole

This recipe is a great addition to your Thanksgiving table.

- 1 head cauliflower, cut into flowerets
- 1 head broccoli, cut into flowerets
- 1 small bag of baby carrots, whole
- 1 1/2 cups sour cream
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 1/2 cups cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 cup parmesan cheese

Cook the vegetables until just tender. Drain and set aside. In a large bowl mix sour cream, mayonnaise, cheddar cheese and milk. Add in vegetables and mix until well coated. Place in an oven-proof casserole. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese. Bake 350° for 30 to 45 minutes or until the casserole is heated through. *Serves 8 to 10.*



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