



Volume 16, No. 12 August, 2021

# FOCUS

The Official Monthly Newspaper of Main Street Fort Pierce

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**4th of July Celebration**



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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

# Main Street Fort Pierce – Proud Partners with a Generous Community

by Britt Reynolds



When the *National Trust for Historic Preservation* created the 4-point *Main Street Approach*® (Promotion, Design, Economic Vitality, Organization) they found that for *Main Street* programs to survive and flourish, they needed to form partnerships and serve as a liaison between businesses, governments, community stakeholders, investors, other non-profits and organizations, and the public. Throughout our 33 years, *Main Street Fort Pierce* has formed some incredible partnerships and together this community has worked hard to reinvest in the historic commercial center of this community, otherwise known as downtown Fort Pierce.

We have been humbled by the generosity of some of our partners during the past couple of months. As a non-profit, we rely on our events and membership to raise money for our programs and staff. We just started holding our events after a

year of cancellations and every penny helps. These downtown businesses helped us by donating funds they raised recently:

Becky at **Chic & Shore** held a birthday day fundraiser in March and donated the proceeds to *Main Street*. She has been a true friend to *Main Street Fort Pierce* since she opened. Be sure to check out her store for beautiful home décor, especially around holidays.


**Sailfish Brewery** has been a local success story and a great example for other future entrepreneurs. We love watching them grow and are thrilled with the atmosphere they bring to downtown Fort Pierce. They recently held their event *Brunch and Brew* with the *Brew Works Charitable Foundation* and donated the raised funds to our organization.

**R. K. Davis** has been a long time partner with the *Main Street Fort Pierce* program. They worked with us on the **Historic City Hall** and with the **Manatee Observation & Education Center**. Recently, Doug Davis called to partner a match with the D.A.R. Grant we were awarded to paint and do some repairs on the historic **Platts/Backus House**. They are generous donors in support of our community.

Fort Pierce is filled with people and organizations like these that give back to the community they live and work in. We thank all of these special folks for their contributions.

Come join us for *Friday Fest* on July 2nd and that same weekend, we are excited to bring back the annual *Stars & Stripes of St. Lucie 4th of July Festival!* Also, don't miss the Christmas in July shopping event on July 24th. Look for more information about these events in this issue.

Come join us downtown – it's going to be a busy month! ❖



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Officers, Board of Directors & Staff**

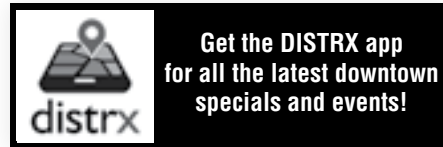
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# Calendar

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



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

## MONTHLY EVENTS

**July 2, Friday: FRIDAY FEST AT MARINA SQUARE** — 5 to 8:30 p.m.; with music by **Dave and the Wave**, 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.

**July 4, Sunday: STARS OVER ST. LUCIE 4TH OF JULY FESTIVAL & FIREWORKS** — Hosted by Main Street Fort Pierce, Sponsored by the *City of Fort Pierce*; **Main Street Fort Pierce**, 466-3880; mainstreetfortpierce.org.

**July 16, Friday: ARTWALK** — 5 to 8:00 p.m.; Various studios and shops open throughout the downtown area; artstlucie.org.

**July 24, Saturday: CHRISTMAS IN JULY SHOPPING EVENT** — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (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.

**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

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

## MANATEE OBSERVATION & EDUCATION CENTER

429-6266 • ManateeEducationCenter.org

## SUNDAY DOWNTOWN CHURCH SERVICES

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

**First Church;** 464-0440, firstchurchfp.org.

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

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

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

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Heathcote Botanical Gardens**  
772-464-4672  
heathcotebotanicalgardens.org

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

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

**St. Lucie County Marine Center**  
772-462-3474  
stlucieco.gov/marine\_center

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

JULY 1: NATIONAL GINGERSNAP DAY

JULY 4: NATIONAL FRIED CLAM DAY

JULY 4: INDEPENDENCE DAY ←

JULY 6: INTERNATIONAL KISSING DAY

JULY 6: NATIONAL FRIED CHICKEN DAY

JULY 7: WORLD CHOCOLATE DAY

JULY 10: NATIONAL KITTEN DAY

JULY 13: COW APPRECIATION DAY

JULY 14: BASTILLE DAY

JULY 14: NATIONAL MAC & CHEESE DAY

JULY 16: APOLLO 11 LIFTS OFF IN 1969

JULY 18: NATIONAL ICE CREAM DAY

JULY 20: NATIONAL MOON DAY

JULY 21: NATIONAL HOT DOG DAY

JULY 24: NATIONAL AMELIA EARHART DAY

JULY 24: NATIONAL DAY OF THE COWBOY

JULY 25: NATIONAL PARENTS' DAY

JULY 30: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FRIENDSHIP

## Fort Pierce Yacht Club 10th Annual Patriotic Boat Parade

**F**ort Pierce Yacht Club invites you to attend our **10th Annual Patriotic Boat Parade**. Held annually on the 4th of July at noon, we gather in the turning basin at 11:30 to start a 12 p.m. run east up the Inlet and then back west, south to City Marina and east again to Harbor Isle and Faber Cove. This is a community event so come on out and show us your colors! At 6 p.m., parade attendees are welcome to join us for a picnic/BBQ at **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**. Go to our website [www.fortpiercenyachtclub.com](http://www.fortpiercenyachtclub.com) to make your pre-paid reservations for an evening of good food, good cheer, and fireworks!

It felt good to bring back Summer Solstice celebrations. Hope you did not miss out on an invitation to join our “drum circle,” led by Kevin Beatkeeper. We had 50 people beating their drums from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. and welcoming in the solstice. **Fort Pierce Yacht Club** continued the celebration with a community wide sailboat race on Saturday and a raft up on Sunday (when we also celebrated Father's Day).

Don't miss out on our events: check us out at [www.fortpiercenyachtclub.com](http://www.fortpiercenyachtclub.com) or follow us on Facebook — better yet, *join us!*



## Annual Christmas in July Shopping Event — Fun and a Chance to Win the Downtown Shopping Spree Giveaway

**C**ome downtown on July 24th from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and take selfies in your Christmas shirt with store logos in the background to earn tickets to enter the **Downtown Shopping Spree Giveaway!** Bring school supplies to **Legit Cuts Barbershop** and take a selfie showing the supplies and earn 2 extra tickets!



One selfie per store or selfie station = 1 ticket. Selfies *must* be taken with the store logo in the background and the more stores or restaurants you visit in downtown Fort Pierce, the more tickets you earn to win.

Participants can also wear their “ugly sweater” T-shirt or tank top to enter to win an SPF 30 shirt.

As of this writing, the value of the **Downtown Shopping Spree Giveaway** is over \$500 and climbing daily. All participants must be 18 years or older to win. All photos need to be shown to Beryl at **Notions & Potions** by 6 p.m. for proof and to fill out their tickets. The drawing will be held at 6:30 p.m. and participants

do not have to be present to win. If you need assistance with your selfies, the downtown businesses are happy to help.

Participating businesses include: **Taco Dive, Chic & Shore Things, Last Dragon Tattoo, Pierced Cider, Cobbs Landing, Sailfish Brewing Company, Legit Cuts Barber Shop, 2nd Street Bistro, Whirled Inc, Notions & Potions, The Cake Lady, and Varsity Sport Shop.** ❖



# It's Hurricane Season. Are You Ready?

by Jann Widmayer

We are all familiar with the damage a hurricane, or even a strong, fast-moving thunderstorm can cause. Now is the best time to plan, prepare, and take the steps necessary to help you and your family stay safe during the 2021 Atlantic hurricane season (June 1 to November 30).

After the record-breaking 2020 Hurricane season, the predictions for the 2021 hurricane season from Colorado State University is again above average with 17 named storms, including 8 hurricanes, and 3 major hurricanes. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration stated their predictions as 13–20 named storms, 10 hurricanes and 3–5 major hurricanes. We are not even a month into hurricane season and there have already been three named storms this season: Tropical Storm Ana (May 19–23), Tropical Storm Bill (June 13–15, and Tropical Storm Claudette, named on June 19).

Storms are coming and the steps to prepare your plan are simple. Listed below are steps that can assist you with your planning. In addition, a listing of online resources can be found at the end of this article.

## EXAMINE YOUR RISK

- ☞ Are you in an area that is prone to storm surge and storm tide?
- ☞ Are you in an area that could experience inland flooding from heavy rainfall?
- ☞ High winds, rip currents and tornadoes are also major hazards associated with hurricanes.

## MAKE YOUR PLAN

- ☞ Find out if you live in an evacuation zone. Develop an emergency plan that includes your evacuation route. Experts recommend preparing an alternate route as well. Share your plans with someone that is not in the path of the storm.
- ☞ Plan your evacuation destination. Remember that most hotels still have pandemic guidelines, so call ahead. If needed, be sure they accept pets.
- ☞ If you plan to evacuate to a shelter, update yourself on local public shelters. Know which shelters are for special needs or are pet friendly. Most areas require early registration for a special needs or pet-friendly shelter.
- ☞ If you plan to evacuate to another state, be sure you know the pandemic guidelines for that state.

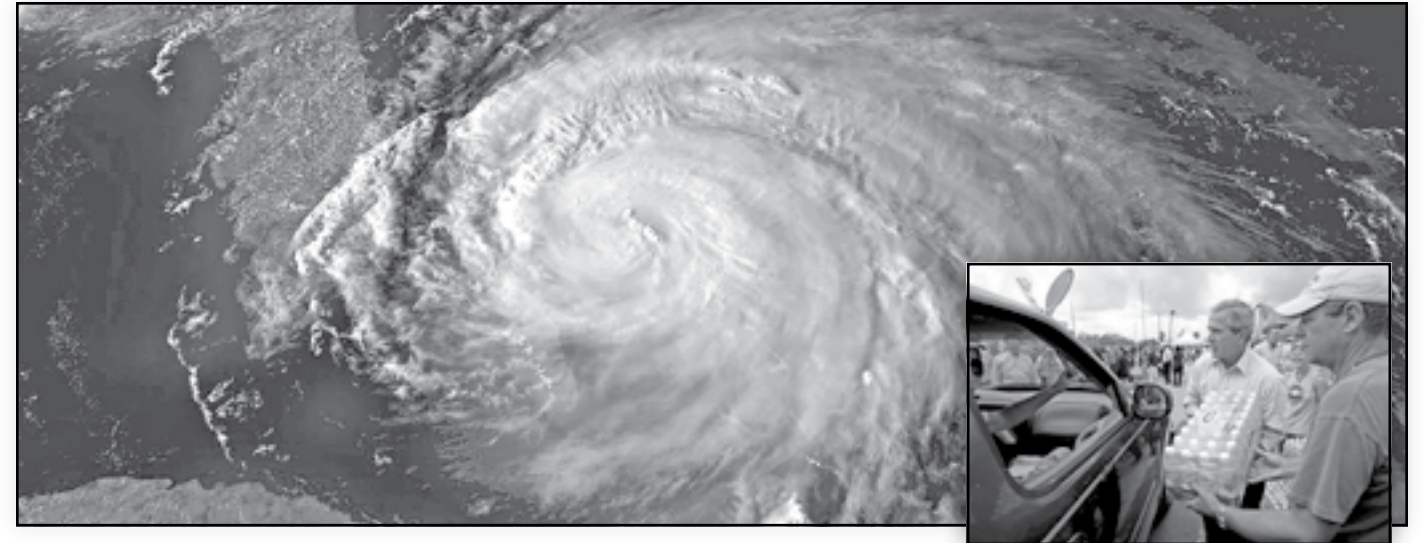
- ☞ If you plan to stay with family or friends, discuss any pandemic guidelines with them and how you will all stay protected.
- ☞ Make a plan for all of your pets. If you have to evacuate, never leave them behind.

## PREPARE

- ☞ Prepare a list of emergency numbers and post in a convenient location, such as on the refrigerator door.
- ☞ Prepare your *Hurricane Emergency Supply Kit* now. Basics include enough non-perishable food and water to last at least three days. Have a two-week supply of prescription medicines and medical supplies. Don't forget to pack food and supplies for your pets. Flashlights, battery-operated radio, and extra batteries should be included in your kit, along with some cash. (Banks may be closed and ATMs will not work if there is a loss of power).
- ☞ If you are in an evacuation area, prepare a "go kit" with personal items you cannot do without (including bedding). Additional recommended items may include face masks, hand sanitizer, disposable gloves, disinfecting wipes and trash bags. If you have to evacuate, be sure to take your emergency supply kit along with your "go bag."
- ☞ Prepare your home and yard. Complete any needed maintenance early on anything that might pose a problem or danger during a storm, such as tree trimming.
- ☞ Review insurance policies and photograph/catalog household belongings.
- ☞ Gather financial, personal, household, medical and insurance information. Be sure IDs are up to date. Make copies and keep them in a secure location or a password-protected digital space.

## BEFORE A STORM

- ☞ Fill your vehicle with fuel. Move your vehicles into the garage or to another secure location.
- ☞ Review your emergency plan with your family.
- ☞ Keep pets with you in your safe space.
- ☞ Put up shutters and secure any outdoor objects that may pose a risk during high winds.
- ☞ Listen for emergency information and follow recommendations from local authorities. If you are told to evacuate, use



Hurricane Frances takes aim at the east coast of Florida in 2004. At 1 a.m. on September 5, the center of the broad eye of Frances made landfall at the southern end of Hutchinson Island, near Sewall's Point, Jensen Beach, and Port Salerno, Florida. President George W. Bush declared all of Florida a federal disaster area and visited Fort Pierce, assisting American Red Cross workers deliver water on September 8. Three weeks after Hurricane Frances, the center of Hurricane Jeanne's eye achieved landfall near Stuart, at virtually the identical spot that Frances had come ashore, the first time in record keeping that a hurricane made landfall in the same place as a previous storm of the same season.

- roads that emergency workers recommend; others could be damaged or flooded. Never drive through flooded areas.
- ☞ Know how to turn off your power should you see flooding, downed power lines, or if you have to leave your home.
- ☞ Fill clean water containers with tap water for drinking in case your water supply is compromised during the storm. Bathtubs, sinks and buckets can be filled with water for washing.
- ☞ Be sure you keep cell phones and other devices fully charged in case of a power outage.

## DURING A STORM

- ☞ Keep your supply kit in a place you can easily access.
- ☞ Listen to TV or radio for updates on the storm.
- ☞ Stay away from windows and doors. It is best to weather a storm in a room with no windows, or a closet.

## AFTER THE STORM

- ☞ Listen to local officials for information and special instructions. Stay inside until authorities announce that it is safe to leave your home. Watch for announcements and updates from FPUA on [www.facebook.com/TeamFPUA](http://www.facebook.com/TeamFPUA) or [www.fpua.com](http://www.fpua.com).
- ☞ Be careful during clean-up. Wear protective clothing and work with a partner.
- ☞ **Never** go near downed power lines — they may still be energized. Keep your distance as standing water or the ground around the lines could also be energized. Even underground lines can electrically charge standing water.

- ☞ Avoid wading in flood water, which can contain dangerous debris.
- ☞ Save phone calls for emergencies. Phone systems are often down or busy after a disaster. Use text messages or social media to communicate with family and friends.
- ☞ Document property damage with photographs. Contact your insurance company for assistance.
- ☞ Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Use generators, stoves, and grills outside and away from windows, doors and air conditioning intakes.

When hurricanes are predicted to head our way, panic can cause shortages of needed items. Don't wait for severe weather to be announced. Plan ahead to avoid the panic and purchase your supplies now. The best way to stay safe during any emergency situation is to know your plan and be prepared.

The following sites are excellent resources to help guide you with preparation and help you stay informed during a storm:  
*Preparedness websites:* [www.hurricanestrong.org/](http://www.hurricanestrong.org/), [www.ready.gov/hurricanes](http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes); [www.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes](http://www.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes); [www.weather.gov/safety/hurricane](http://www.weather.gov/safety/hurricane).

*Local websites:* [www.stlucieco.gov/departments-services/a-z/public-safety/disaster-preparedness](http://www.stlucieco.gov/departments-services/a-z/public-safety/disaster-preparedness); <https://fpua.com/storm-center/>; [www.facebook.com/TeamFPUA](http://www.facebook.com/TeamFPUA).

*Weather/Alerts Apps:* [www.fema.gov/mobile-app](http://www.fema.gov/mobile-app); [www.weather.com/apps](http://www.weather.com/apps).

*Storm tracking:* [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov). ❖



**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.



**TODAY YOU CAN:**

**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.



**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.

**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.fpua.com/storm-center/](http://www.fpua.com/storm-center/)

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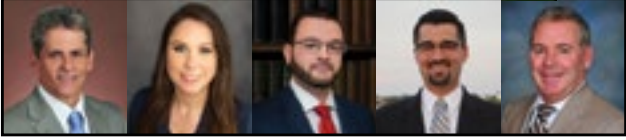
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**878-1952**

Fax 878-1709  
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**Stars Over St. Lucie**

**4th of July Celebration**

**A City of Fort Pierce & Main Street Fort Pierce Event**

**Sunday, July 4th at 6:00 p.m.** (rain or shine)  
**Marina Square at Melody Lane**  
in Fort Pierce

Music performed by the **Joey Tenuto Band**

**Food & Drinks**

Massive American Flag display provided by the **Fort Pierce Utility Authority**

9:00 p.m. – **Fireworks Over the Indian River Lagoon**

Many thanks to the City of Fort Pierce and our local businesses for sponsoring the fireworks.

The Downtown Parking Garage is open and free for your parking convenience.





**For more information, contact Main Street Fort Pierce (772) 466-3880.**



# Grace Education Campers Build Job Skills at the Manatee Center

Submitted by Manatee Observation & Education Center Staff



The Manatee Observation & Education Center is proud to partner with Fort Pierce's *Grace Education & Business Community Center* for the third summer running. Through this collaborative effort, *Grace Education* campers, ages 12–14, volunteer at the **Manatee Center** and receive on-the-job training while experiencing the Center and all it has to offer.

*Grace Education & Business Community Center*, located at 712 North 7th Street in Fort Pierce, supports area youth year-round with income-based academic

programming. The center is an essential resource for youth in need of assistance with schoolwork and general mentorship and guidance. Through their holistic approach, *Grace Education Center* works to guide area youth toward success in life.

Through the annual partnership with the **Manatee Center**, *Grace Education* campers become official volunteers and receive job training from the **Manatee Center** Volunteer Coordinator in various areas including care and maintenance of live exhibits, visitor services, and environmental interpretation. The youth play an important role in manning the **Manatee Center**

1–2 times per week throughout the summer. Specifically, these young volunteers greet and interact with **Manatee Center** visitors, run the touch tank program, and educate the public with regard to manatees, water quality and our Indian River Lagoon.

The *Grace Education* youth volunteers also host peer-based educational programming, by presenting activities to **Manatee Center** summer campers

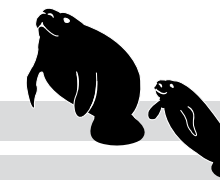


ages 7–12. Peer-based programming is powerful in its ability to build confidence and reinforce new knowledge and skills for the older presenters while setting a great example of volunteerism for the younger children.

At the end of the summer, *Grace Education* campers are recognized in a special end-of-summer ceremony at the **Manatee Center** and are given the opportunity to showcase what they've learned to family and community members. Graduates from the *Job Training-Volunteer Program* also receive gift cards from *Grace Education* to purchase clothing and school supplies for the upcoming school year.

“It's gratifying to work with area youth in a program that simultaneously sows environmental awareness, fosters job skills and nurtures a sense of community,” says Wren Underwood, Volunteer Coordinator at the **Manatee Center**. “Our volunteer program is richer because of this unique partnership.”

The **Manatee Center** volunteer program hosts more than 100 volunteers of all ages and backgrounds. Learn about the Center's volunteer opportunities by contacting Wren Underwood at [Volunteer@ManateeEducationCenter.org](mailto:Volunteer@ManateeEducationCenter.org). ♦



## The Manatee Center July Events

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

**Friday, July 9th at 12:00 p.m.**

***Seagrass Restoration in Florida***

*Lunch & Learn* — Join us for a free presentation at the Manatee Center led by Florida's Sea & Shoreline Aquatic Restoration team. You'll learn about Sea & Shoreline's various seagrass restoration projects throughout Florida, including St. Lucie County, and soon Moore's Creek at the Manatee Center. Bring your lunch and bring a friend. *Free Event.*

**Wednesdays, July 7, 14, 21 and 28 at 9:00 p.m.**

**Saturdays, July 10, 17, 24 and 31**

***Guided Kayak Trip***

Look for wildlife, get up close and personal with mangroves, learn about the *Indian River Lagoon* on an easy ninety-minute paddle led by a MOEC naturalist. Great for beginners and anyone who wants to learn more about the Lagoon. The fee for this program is \$30 per person and includes kayak, paddle and safety gear. *Registration is required.* Call 772-429-6266 option #4 or e-mail [Education@ManateeEducationCenter.org](mailto:Education@ManateeEducationCenter.org) for more information or to register.

**Saturday, July 24**

***TREASURE COAST WATERWAY CLEAN-UP***

The Manatee Center is one of many host sites along the Treasure Coast where you can participate in the annual Treasure Coast Waterway Clean-up alongside hundreds of other volunteers who help clean up the waters on this day. You can walk, or kayak, your way through the Manatee Center area and collect trash from our beautiful Indian River Lagoon waterways.

Contact Wren Underwood for more information at 772-429-6266 option #4.

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# Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County Partner on SUN Trail Connection

Construction of a new trail is underway through the *Indian Hills Recreation Area*. This joint project will help bring the *Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail Network* to Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County.

The construction project will create an improved north-south multi-purpose path through the recreation area from the **Indian Hills Golf Course** to the south of Savanna Road. This will be the first of several *SUN Trail* segments planned in St. Lucie County that will eventually establish an 18-mile route of the *East Coast Greenway* from North



PHOTO COURTESY OF SLC COMMUNICATIONS

Hutchinson Island to Jensen Beach. A joint project between St. Lucie County (grant applicant), the City of Fort Pierce (project manager), and the Florida Department of Transportation (funding administrator) is valued at roughly \$500,000.

**PRP Construction Group, LLC**, of Indiantown, is the contractor who will be constructing this section of the trail. The contract time is 180 days with final completion set for November 9. Work will commence at the north end near Indian Hills

Drive and progress south. The trail will be 12 feet in width and approximately one mile in length.

The *East Coast Greenway* is a multi-purpose path that connects 15 states and 450 cities and towns for 3,000 miles from Maine to Florida. Through a series of grants from the Florida Department of Transportation and the *SUN Trail Network*, this area could receive nearly \$20 million worth of improved trail infrastructure by 2030.

The *SUN Trail Network* is the statewide system of high-priority paved trail corridors for bicyclists and pedestrians. Today, the *SUN Trail Network* includes a combination of existing, planned, and conceptual multiple-use trails. It is a refined version of the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS) Plan's Land Trails Priority Network.

Located at 52 Savannah Road, the *Indian Hills Recreation Area* is a stormwater treatment facility designed for a 1,242-acre watershed that features passive recreation including a walking trail and exercise stations.

For more information contact Erick Gill, Communications Division Director, 772-462-1791 / gille@stlucieco.org. ❖

# Sunrise Theatre 16th Season Opens



The Robert Cray Band Friday, January 2, 8 p.m.

We are excited about our upcoming 16th Season with an array of artists coming to the Sunrise Theatre stage. The season has something for all ages, from The Price Is Right On Stage show, the classic rock band Kansas, legendary trumpeter Chris Botti, comedian Howie Mandel, America and the Four Tops. We are "Lighting Up The Sunrise" with a full line up of spectacular shows with more to come throughout the season. Memberships are available on-line now with the season shows on sale to Sunrise Theatre Members beginning Tuesday, July 8th at 10 a.m. On sale to the public begins Tuesday, September 7th at 10 a.m. The box office is working on limited hours at this time, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Monday and Thursday 772.467.4128 or e-mail srtbox@sunrisetheatre.com.



Chris Botti Wednesday, March 23, 7:30 p.m.

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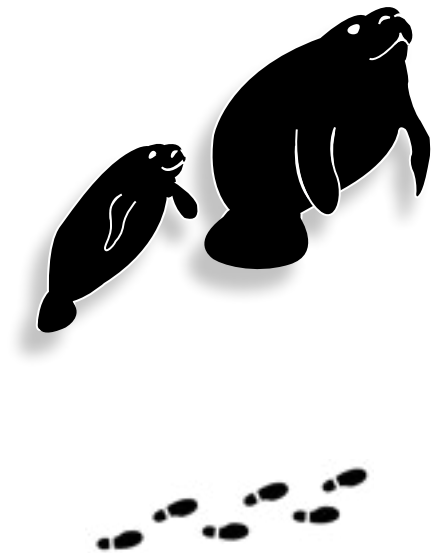
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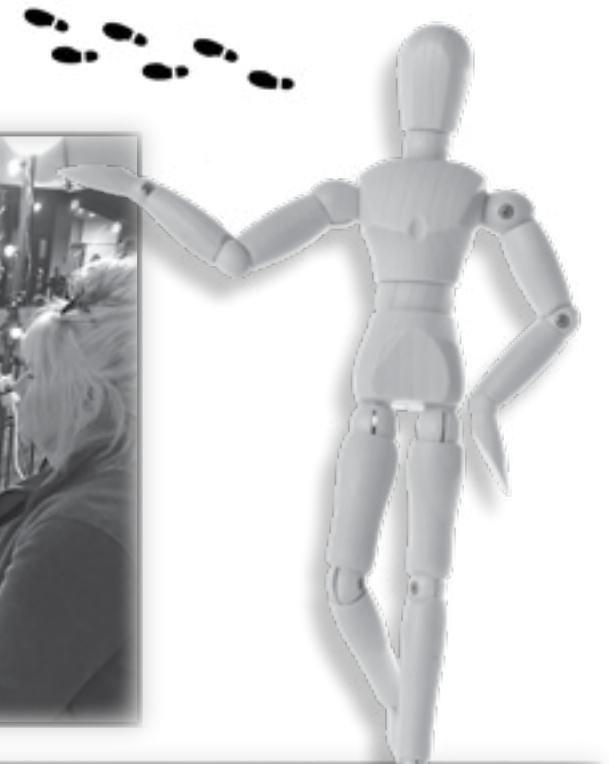
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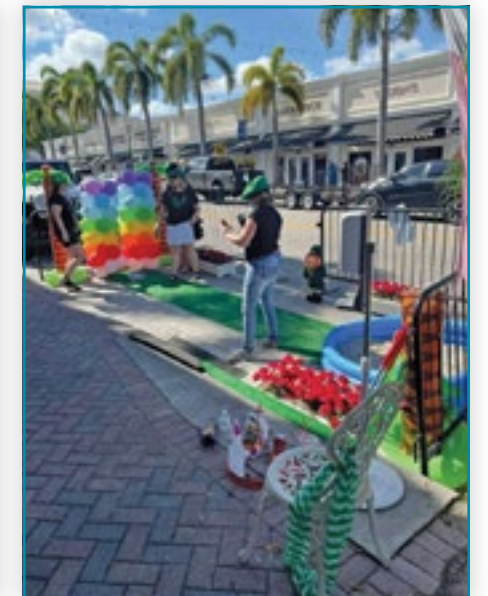
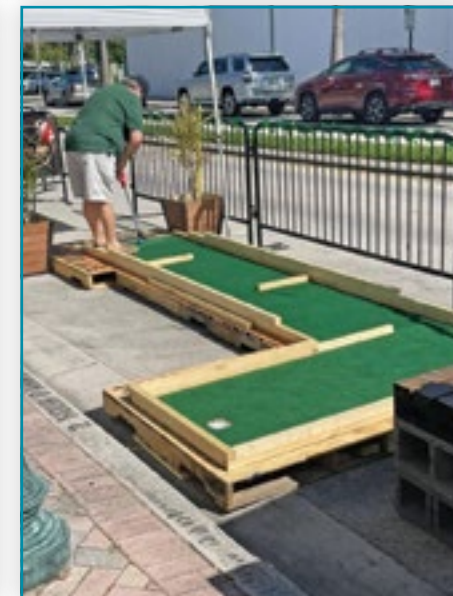
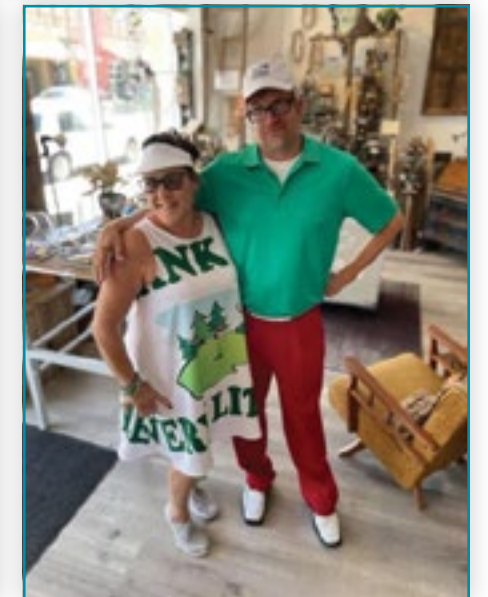
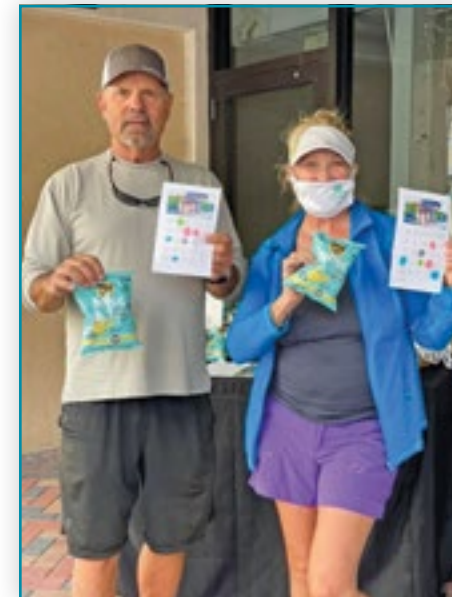




# Around Downtown

## Putt-Putt Parklet Golf Downtown Fort Pierce March 13, 2021

## Fort Pierce Inlet 100th Anniversary Bingo May 15, 2021





# Excitement in the Air...

by Lisa Jill Allison, Lisa Jill Allison Art Gallery



I am not quite sure what it is, but we are all feeling it and it is wonderful! There is a feeling of progression, community and sheer optimism. Spring has sashayed into summer and this summer has brought a new pulse to Fort Pierce. The subtle buzz of expansion hums in downtown and serenades the surrounding community. Who would have thought that our new and improved **St. Lucie Cultural Alliance** would have already hosted one of the hottest and most progressive events of Fort Pierce, with their *Inaugural Treasure Coast Arts & Mindfulness Festival*? If you missed it this year, don't worry; plans are already underway for next year's festival. Art of all sorts, from traditional forms to crystal bowls with integrated painting was explored and presented to a delightfully diverse audience. Hugs, hugs and more hugs were exchanged as groups of people shared their passions in the art and wellness arena. A progressive combination for any area, our beautiful little town of Fort Pierce pulled it off with flying colors.

New life is also being breathed into our shopping and food choices. As I stand in my gallery on the second floor of the **One**



**Eleven Building** on the corner of Orange Avenue and Indian River Drive, I am in the heartbeat of a dynamic town with people of all ages and races partnering in making their dreams a reality. My gallery now overlooks the **Fort Pierce Trader's Market**. All I can say is that I will have to maintain self-control. From my bird's eye view I can see shelf after shelf stocked with all kinds of healthy goodies and unique food staples. Organic, local and free range can be seen amongst the delightful choices. Gleaming stocked coolers beacon me and I am thoroughly intoxicated by the aromas that have wafted into my space as the chefs of the beautifully appointed kitchen explore the savory, and might I add healthy, fare they will tantalize you with on your visit to the market. From my vantage point, I also see a huge handcrafted long table, where I already envision groups gathering to eat, share, laugh and make new friends. Thankfully, with all this good food, we can anticipate the opening of the wellness branch of the **Fort Pierce Trader's Market** in the coming year.

As you leave the downtown area and head over the bridge, the beaches seem more beautiful than ever. Perhaps it is our renewed appreciation for the liberty of being at the beach that gives those aqua waters an extra burst of blueness. We are now



also sharing our beaches with a mighty influx of neighbors from the south and even from coast to coast. Like a beacon of possibilities and friendliness we have attracted people from far and wide to make Fort Pierce their home. Yes, this means changes for Fort Pierce. A bit more patience in traffic, maybe a slight walk to your destination from parking (just consider it good exercise). I remind myself that sometimes sharing requires effort. Sharing our home with new ones shifts our life some, yet like any budding new relationship, the adjustments are far outweighed by



the wonderful experiences the relationship provides. Plus, we know how to do this — that's just part of who we are.

Honestly, I could go on and on and on about what is happening and how wonderful it feels! Come downtown and visit any of the places I just mentioned and feel for yourself. Feel the excitement

that even a 90-degree day cannot extinguish. Everyone here is ready to greet you, share the town with you and leave you feeling as good as a cool glass of homemade lemonade on a hot summer day. ❖

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# Love, JAZZ Community: The Fountain of Youth

by Don Bestor

For centuries we've been searching for the Fountain of Youth; the mythical spring that magically restores our youthful energy, vigor, and beauty. Famed explorer Ponce de Leon was allegedly looking for the Fountain of Youth when he stumbled upon the beautiful, tropical paradise he named Florida. He may not have found the mysterious fountain, though, as records show de Leon died at 47. Still, like so many of us, he was looking for something that would keep his mind and body sharp as the years roll by. And while we now have easy access to fillers, skilled surgeons, and a host of ingenious creative and technological advances, experts suggest that there are some simple things we can do to keep our minds sharp and our brains working even as we begin to get a little long in the tooth.

According to researchers from Johns Hopkins, it has been shown that listening to music can reduce anxiety, blood pressure and pain, as well as improve sleep quality, mood, mental alertness, and memory. Their advice is simple, "If you want to keep your brain engaged throughout the aging process, listening to or playing music is a great tool. It provides a total brain workout." How do they know that music is the magic wand? "Johns Hopkins researchers had dozens of jazz perform-

ers and rappers improvise music while lying down inside an fMRI (Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging) machine to watch and see which areas of their brains light up." Cue the downbeat, and what kicked in? You guessed it — the lights and the brain activity, proving beyond a shadow of a doubt that music is even more magical than we imagined. The official wording from the Johns Hopkins researchers went like this: "Music is structural, mathematical and architectural. It's based on relationships between one note and the next. You may not be aware of it, but your brain has to do a lot of computing to make sense of it," noted one otolaryngologist.

Members of *Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society* have understood this for a long time. That's why they offer so many opportunities for individuals throughout the Treasure Coast to stimulate their own brains as they enjoy live music. Throughout the summer months, from June through November, you can boost your brain power every other Tuesday evening while enjoying the company of friends, a gorgeous sunset by the water, and an adult beverage or two, as the *Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society* presents *Jazz Jams* at the **Fort Pierce Yacht Club**.



If your Tuesdays are already filled with other educational or brain-boosting activities, you might stop by **2nd Street Bistro** on the last Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 9 p.m. for a delightful dinner and brain-building music. You might even decide to dance a little, too, so you'll have your exercise goals covered in one fun evening.

Every other Wednesday, you can fill your senses with music at the **Port St. Lucie Botanical Garden**, where everyone is welcome to come in, enjoy the music, and if you want, you can sit in or sing with the pros. You see, you don't have to be young to enjoy the positive effects of music on your brain. And while we may still be searching for that magical fountain that will turn back the clock, stop and think about what happens when you hear a special song from your younger years. Isn't it

true that you are instantly transported to another place and time where you suddenly feel the way you did when you first heard that song? Ponce de Leon may have been looking for a mythical spring, but here in Fort Pierce, we know that the real fountain of youth can be found every time the bandleader says, "One, two, three, and..."

If you'd like to learn more or support the *Fort Pierce Jazz and Blues Society* by becoming a member or providing a gift membership for someone else, you can reach us by phone at 772.460.JAZZ (5299) or via email at info@jazzsociety.org. To check out our full schedule, visit www.jazzsociety.org. ❖



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## TREASURES OF THE PAST

*100 years ago this month as reported in the Friday, July 22, 1921 edition of the Miami Herald*

### Dopes and Sodas Five Cents

For the first time since the war, “dopes” and sodas are again retailing at several places in Fort Pierce for five cents. This is good news to many people who cannot do without their daily quota of these beverages. The fountains have not yet dropped their prices, but they will no doubt fall in line shortly.

*100 years ago this month as reported in the Tuesday, July 26, 1921 edition of the Miami Herald*

### Gulf-Atlantic Highway is Latest Tampa Route

#### League is formed at Fort Pierce meeting to boost for short-cut across state

Organization of the Gulf-Atlantic Scenic Highway League was effected here Monday with representatives from four counties present. Eventually the league is to have representatives include all of the counties between Dade and Pinellas through which the new highway will pass.

The proposed road will provide a new route from Miami to Tampa and St. Petersburg, via Fort Pierce, Okeechobee, Sebring and Haines City.

There is about 84 miles of this route to be hard-surfaced, the rest being good, well-paved road.

One of the features of the highway is to be the planting of ornamental trees and shrubs along its entire length.

The route will be about 50 miles shorter than the Melbourne route to Tampa from points on the lower east coast.

J.E. Ethredge of Sebring was made president, and M.W. Luce secretary. A vice-president is to be named from each county through which the highway passes.

*100 years ago this month as reported in the Saturday, July 30, 1921 edition of the Tampa Tribune*

### To Enforce Driver's Law

The state law which prohibits children under fourteen years of age from driving automobiles, unless they are accompanied by duly authorized chauffeurs or by the owner of the vehicle, is to be enforced in Fort Pierce. The city council has instructed the city attorney to draft an ordinance along the lines of the state statute with the intention to making it effective at the earliest possible moment.

*75 years ago this month as reported in the Saturday, July 6, 1946 edition of the Miami Herald*

### Surplus Sale is Scheduled

The first of a series of “sales at site” programs launched throughout the nation by the War Assets administration will begin in Florida at the Navy's amphibious base at Fort Pierce July 15.

Announcement of the impending sale was made by WAA executives in Jacksonville who said it was designed to step up the disposal of surplus property to the public.

During the sale, from July 15 to 26, special sales will be set aside for priority groups as follows:

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Sales to veterans and federal agencies, July 15–16; to certified veterans, July 15–19; to RFC for resale to small businesses, July 22; to state and local governments and their instrumentalities, July 23; to eligible non-profit institutions, July 24, and to the general public, July 25–26.

In Washington War Assets Administrator Lt. Gen. E.B. Gregory has announced that current prices of surplus property will be maintained in line with the national fight to prevent inflation.

*75 years ago this month as reported in the Saturday, July 12, 1946 edition of the Miami Herald*

### Veterinarian Back in Civilian Life

Dr. Jay N. Thomas, Fort Pierce veterinarian, is back in civilian life after nearly four years' service and will resume the practice of his profession here. Entering service as a private Aug. 19, 1942, Dr. Thomas emerged as a major, having been separated from service at Fort Bragg, N.C. July 4.

Commissioned as a first lieutenant soon after entry into service, he was sent to the San Antonio Cadet center for OTS, assigned to duty in the transport command of the Army Air corps. Later, he was transferred to Del Rio, Tex., where he was in charge of war dogs. Promoted to a captaincy, he was assigned to duty in the Chine-Burma-India theater, where for six months he was in charge of food inspection. He then returned to the States and shortly afterwards was sent to Natal, Brazil for duty with the South Atlantic wing.

*50 years ago this month as reported in the Friday, July 9, 1971 edition of the Orlando Sentinel*

### Fort Pierce Airport Ready for Future

Anticipating a deluge of aircraft activity when Walt Disney World opens in October, Fort Pierce – St. Lucie County airport manager Curtis King said he is ready.

The airport is equipped to handle STOL (short takeoff and landing) aircraft, and has a great potential since the construction of a STOL airport at the Disney World site, according to King.

“It's a logical conclusion we will get traffic from there,” said King. “And there also is the possibility of a regular schedule of STOL flights connecting with through traffic at Orlando Jetport to Disney World and the surrounding towns, and that should include us.”

King said the present airport terminal facilities at Fort Pierce are adequate for the foreseeable future. He pointed out that application has been made to the FAA for extending the present runways to accommodate a wider variety of craft.

Recent changes in customs regulations to permit aircraft landing after regular hours to be inspected at a standard fee instead of extra fee, also opens up new potentials, according to King.

Fort Pierce is a direct route between Disney world and the Bahamas and when traffic justifies it, customs officials have indicated a full time customs service can be established here.

In addition to the extra bonus in business expected from Disney World, King said all aviation is expected to double in the next ten years.

“Our airport will get its share,” he said. “In the last three-and-a-half years, our business has increased at the rate of 45 percent per year.”



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# Protect Your Small Business This Hurricane Season

## Follow these steps to bolster your business against hurricane risks before one ever strikes

by James Rivera, Associate Administrator, SBA Office of Disaster Assistance



With 30 named storms, the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season was one of the most active and costliest on record. The 2021 Hurricane season starts on June 1 but it's never too early to prepare. Damage from a hurricane can be costly for small businesses and can pose hazards for you and your employees. Fortunately, there are ways that you can fortify your business against a hurricane to minimize losses and reduce risks for workers.

SBA offers a guide ([www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/hurricanepreparednessba.pdf](http://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/hurricanepreparednessba.pdf)) to help you consider how a hurricane might impact your operations and determine how you can prepare before one ever strikes. Below are a few key take-aways to help you get started.

### WAYS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES TO PREPARE

#### BEFORE A HURRICANE

Some of the most important steps you can take to prepare for a hurricane occur before a storm forms. These steps include:

Putting a system in place to back up critical business data. Your data should be backed up regularly and should be accessible off-site, making cloud data solutions ideal options.

Ensuring your insurance includes relevant protections for hurricanes. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), standard insurance policies do not cover flooding, including storm surge flooding, but flood insurance is available for business owners through the National Flood Insurance Program. ([www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov))

Developing an emergency communications plan. Make sure you have a plan in place for how you will communicate with key stakeholders — including employees, customers, and suppliers — during and after a hurricane. As a part of your plan, keep an up-to-date list of these stakeholders' contact information accessible off-site.



Making sure your disaster kit is fully stocked. In case you are ever on-site at your business during a weather disaster, you should have a disaster kit ([www.ready.gov/kit](http://www.ready.gov/kit)) with critical supplies such as water, food, masks, a flashlight, a first aid kit, and more.

FEMA offers an assessment to help you identify safety and business continuity risks your specific business may face in the event of a hurricane, via their hurricane preparedness toolkit. The toolkit also walks you through how to address these risks.

#### HOW TO PROTECT YOUR BUSINESS AFTER A STORM

##### IS ANNOUNCED

When the *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Hurricane Center* issues a watch or warning, start taking the following steps:

Take precautions to ensure that items outdoors will not blow away or cause damage. Remove all loose debris and anchor or relocate all nonessential equipment to a safe indoor location.

Install windstorm shutters or plywood over windows and doors. Doing so will help prevent interior damage to your building.

Disconnect the main electrical feeds to the facility. This will help prevent a potential fire caused by short-circuiting of damaged equipment. Similarly, shut off natural gas supply to minimize fire loss. Get ahead of post-storm recovery efforts. Have cash on hand for



post-storm needs, such as buying food and supplies. Additionally, fill fuel tanks of generators, fire pumps, and all company-owned vehicles.

If an official evacuation order is in place during a hurricane, no employees should stay behind. However, if you are on-site at your business during the storm, remain in a place that has been identified as safe from wind and flood.

#### RECOVERING YOUR BUSINESS AFTER THE STORM

Wait until the storm has passed and local officials declare your area safe before entering your business to secure the site and survey damage. Start any needed repairs as soon as possible to prevent further damage.

If your business is in a federally declared disaster area, you may qualify for SBA disaster assistance. Check <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/s/search-declarations> to see if a disaster has been declared in your area and apply for a disaster loan. SBA resource partners are available to help you apply for disaster loans and to walk you through the steps of rebuilding your business. You can get free preparedness advice and guidance on how to recover from a local resource partner <https://www.sba.gov/local-assistance>.

The SBA is committed to helping you overcome any obstacle. We are here to help you prepare your business for hurricanes and other disasters. Visit [SBA.gov/Disaster](http://SBA.gov/Disaster) to learn more. ❖

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# Fort Pierce Fishing is *Hot!*

by *Bo Samuels, Captain of Pullin Drag Charters*

The best way to beat the summer heat is to get out on the water! Fishing and boating are two great activities to enjoy on the Treasure Coast when it's just too hot to do much else. Plus, there's just no shortage of fish in the beautiful waters of Fort Pierce so you should end up with a cool fish dinner.

Mangroves, lanes, and muttuns are great to target on the reefs in about 50-100 feet. As usual, live bait is best for snapper fishing but frozen will work, too. Use shrimp or live pilchards with 30-pound fluorocarbon and #2 hook and keep your bait on the bottom for best results. Snapper fishing at night before the full moon can produce some great bites. Mahi fishing is going strong offshore. Naked or skirted fresh ballyhoo are the bait

of choice for dolphin fishing. Just look for weed lines, diving birds, and floating debris on a slow troll and be prepared for some acrobatic action when you get a hit.



This picture is one big mahi bull recently caught off Fort Pierce by Royce Ashburn. Great job, Royce!

Lobster mini-season is the last Wednesday and Thursday of the month so you can expect more

boat traffic and lots of divers. Check your local bait & tackle shop like **Little Jim Bait & Tackle** for all rules and regulations, plus great food and drinks. Wishing everyone a very safe Fourth of July. Always thankful for the freedom to keep *Pullin Drag!* ❖



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# Recipes from My Roots

Caitlin Raymond

Caitlin Raymond is our next student at Fort Pierce Central High School who participates in the Culinary Program to share a favorite family recipe. Caitlyn feels strongly about family and home. She feels it is a place to go and be loved and cared for always. Her favorite time is with her mom, dad and brother and enjoying the smells of her mom's home-style cooking.



The last time she visited family in South Africa and felt connected to her roots she was with her Mom's family sharing a dinner. Caitlyn identifies mostly with South African/Indian food and one of her favorite recipes is Soji (So-gee). Soji is made with Semolina which is a coarse flour made from durum wheat. In South Africa they use a wheat called Taystee (very similar to Semolina) to make their Soji. It is a breakfast porridge. Her first time eating this tasty meal was on her trip to South Africa with her family. ❖

## Recipe for Soji

- 1 cup Taystee Wheat
- 90 grams butter (7 tablespoons)
- 1 tsp ground cardamom
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 1-½ cups warm milk
- ½ cup hot water

Optional golden raisins and slivered almonds

Toast the Taystee wheat, cinnamon, cardamom, and sugar in a wide pot until the color is whitish not brown. Add the butter and let it melt fully. Add the milk and water and stir until smooth and thickened. If you prefer to, mix in the golden raisins and top with slivered almonds. ❖





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