

ISLAND TIMES

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March 25, 2009

Building Faith Upon The Sand



Pensacola Beach Community Church has uncovered the hidden treasures that the youth in their congregation can be, so they created a program to enrich their experience. The youth groups which meet on a weekly basis are full of high energy Beach kids ready to make a difference in the community. The Church sponsors a Senior High Youth Group and the 3:16 Middle High Youth Group. The 3:16 Middle High Group, which meets on Wednesdays, is comprised of middle school students whose goal is to have fun while learning about the Bible. Preparing to launch on a Scripture Scavenger Hunt are 3:16 members (front row, L to R): Lizzie Hoehn, Madison Murphy and Kendall Hoover. Back row (L to R) are: Matt Schang, Thomas Fitzgerald, Youth Pastor Dewey Barker, Kyle Fogel, Michael Neal and TJ Baughn.

Teens and Tweens Energize Beach Community Church

It took a long time for the adult parishioners in the Pensacola Beach Community Church to discover one of their most untapped energy sources. It was the kids, of course. There they were willing and ready to do good things for the Church and themselves. Sherry Hobbs, who had three school-aged children led the way two years ago. Gordon Paulus and Dewey Baker have been the leaders of the groups she established for about a year and a half.

"Sherry Hobbs got the thing going," Gordon said. "Dewey has continued the momentum. Their experience is the major reason the Beach Church now has a good youth program."

The groups are small, six regular members in the Senior High group, coordinated by Gordon and 12 in the 3:16 Middle High group, led by Dewey.

Both groups have weekly meetings which include a Bible lesson, dinner and activities. Sometimes they have a speaker, and one activity that the younger group really looks forward to is the Lock-in. They spend the night at the Beach Church after going bowling, or swimming in a local pool.

These kids also put on some Sunday services and they also help with the Easter Egg Hunt.

"You know it's interesting that although these kids see each other everyday at school and other places, they really look forward to getting together at the Church for their meeting," Gordon said.

Gordon had nothing but praise for the kids he works with.

"I took over this group when they moved up from middle school,"

Gordon said. "Giving them a time and place to meet on their own makes them feel as if they are part of the Beach Church."

He added, "I grew up in a strong youth group that helped shape who I am, so I have always wanted to make sure my daughter, Breezy, has had the same opportunity."

The 3:16 Middle High group brings an over-abundance of energy to the program. The 3:16 is taken from John 3:16 which is the foundation for their faith.

"We average twelve young people per week," Dewey said. "Mostly, they live on the Beach but not all are members of the church."

"We believe there are three important things that Christians do everyday - pray, have fellowship, and read the Bible. We do all three," Dewey said.

What they do for the community reflects the teachings from these concepts. This group had been active in Relay For Life, Manna Food Bank Souper Bowl food drive, Vacation Bible School and the Foster Children's Christmas Party.

One of their projects they really like to talk about is winning the first Corporate Cup trophy at the Fiesta of Five Flags Sand Sculpture Contest in 2008. The sculpture was "Symbols of our Faith." They are already planning the theme for this year's competition and will be going for a repeat win.

They have a Lock-In on the calendar and are enrolled in a challenging ropes course this spring.

The group traveled to Callaway Gardens at Christmas and look forward to visiting other churches to share their new Puppet Ministry.

"Our membership has doubled

in the last year and a half," Dewey said. "Kids have been so excited about what and how they are learning and invited friends to join. Now those friends are inviting friends."

"This is a place for them to come and learn about God in an environment that is less intimidating than a formal church worship service," he added.

Membership in the 3:16 Middle High group has few requirements. Participants must be in grades six through eight. Belonging to a church is not required.

SRIA Delays Beautification Project

The Santa Rosa Island Authority delayed making a decision to send out Requests for Qualifications for a Master Planner and Landscape Architect until loose ends surrounding the Island Beautification Fund are cleared up. Although they received a copy of the RFQ document from the Ad Hoc Committee at their March 11 meeting, the Full Board decided unanimously to send the item back to committee. Members of the Ad Hoc Committee are SRIA Board Chairman Fred Gant, and Board members Dave Pavlock and Vernon Prather; Portofino developers Robert Rinke and Andrew Rothfeder.

The original agreement was between Portofino developers and the SRIA and included the creation of a fund by Portofino which would accumulate over a ten-year period of time, at which point the Island Beautification could begin. The fund would grow by excess yearly lease fees which Portofino imposed on themselves.

Portofino and the SRIA, however, are attempting to find a way to begin the work right now. There is already a substantial amount of money in the Fund, which is dedicated to Island Beautification projects and future required infrastructure needs.

The first sum needed is \$130,000 to pay for the master planner and landscape architect. The allocation of the \$130,000 requires an addendum to Portofino's mas-

"Some of these kids go to other churches," Dewey said. "Some have no church home at all."

Dewey Barker is uniquely qualified to guide the youngsters in the youth organization. "God has given me the desire and ability to work with our young people," he said. "When working with young people today, it is necessary to keep the program exciting and changing to keep their interest to motivate them to come back every week."

"I use the art of the Gospel Illusion, crazy games, adventure recre-

ation, trust-building activities, sports skills, Christian comedy, church history, and the traditional Bible study."

Parents and teachers will admit that there is a lot involved in guiding today's tweens and teens, and giving them guidance to help set values that will stay with them all of their lives is a monumental task. Seems like Gordon and Dewey have a patent on the process. Just ask the kids at the Beach Church. They will tell you they like learning about God and having fun. In that order.

ter lease. The problems surrounding the project have arisen because of the changes in the lease.

"I think it is paramount that the funding statement for the Island Beautification project mirrors the interim agreement. They do not mirror each other at this time. This needs to be ironed out," Vernon Prather said.

On the other hand, Fred Gant, SRIA Board chairman, said, "The process can proceed without this being ironed out. This will allow us a master planner. This agreement refers to the \$130,000. I see us moving forward with the project, then we can deal with the master lease another day."

Other Board members pointed out the risks they were taking with the lease amendment the way it is right now and through the years to come.

"I think there is more work that needs to be done here," Prather said.

At press time, the Ad Hoc Committee was reconvening and a full report will appear in the next edition of *Island Times*.

For now, the project is on hold. The SRIA Board voted unanimously to send the Portofino Lease amendment back to committee for further discussion.

Portofino came into the lime-light yet again when the condo owners appeared to voice their opinions about the SRIA committee approval of a portable

waterslide to be placed on leasehold property just east of Portofino.

Those who favored the idea saw it as a way to improve the economy, help rentals, and provide entertainment. Those who are opposed to the addition, say the project will detract from the area.

The motion to send the entire matter back to staff passed unanimously.

In a later statement, Rob Babcock with Premier Resort Management at Portofino announced that the waterslide project had been cancelled.

The Board heard good news when the new Sheriff David Morgan appeared before the Board.

"We are going to change the flavor of law enforcement on Pensacola Beach," he said. "We will create a more family-friendly environment. We promise to hold down gang activity."

He went on to say that Pensacola Beach is one of the economic engines which drives Pensacola, and it cannot be allowed to deteriorate.

"We will use a force multiplier which is a reserve program with 5 or 6 patrols. You will see walking deputies. We will have a good handle on this Beach. If this is not good enough, we will shuffle until we get a safe environment. We will have a safe summer season."

The next meeting will be in committees on Wednesday, March 25 at 5 p.m. at the SRIA office.

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Barefoot on the Beach

By Jane Waters Cooper



It's been twenty-three years since the glorious landing of Starship on Pensacola Beach. And the landing of the famous musical group almost sunk the Island. Grace Slick and her four guys created the most horrendous traffic jam of all time on Pensacola Beach. It was March of 1986 when spring breakers, tourists, townspeople, and the poor old Beach residents lined up wherever they could to hear the popular sounds of Starship.

Parking was not a problem. Motorists parked in neutral grounds, driveways, both sides of the street as far as the eye could see on Panferio, Via de Luna, Maldonado, Ariola Drive and all the other small streets they could find. They drove up from Ft. Walton Beach and Panama City, down from Mobile and Pensacola and flew and arrived on the Beach from every other minor and major college town in America.

Hundreds of boats were anchored in the Gulf of Mexico in front of Casino Beach. Starship received a boisterous welcome.

The concert which started at noon with the warm up band, The Outlaws, took off big time by two o'clock. Stragglers, hopeful but too late, were walking over the Bob Sikes Bridge after the concert ended. I remember the massive invasion of Pensacola Beach well. My newspaper, The Islander, was a contributing factor to the onslaught. It was normally a weekly tab, just like the Island Times, but we went for the big one when Anheuser Busch dangled a middle inside- two page ad, paying the highest rates, no strings attached.

Color was hard to come by back then, so we chose two for this premium edition. Red and blue. Liz Waters Hewson, Cathy Kress and I worked ourselves almost to death to produce at 36-page, two section special issue. We learned weekends were for working as we cut, clipped, and

pasted all our hard earned advertising and special copy which would eventually reach out and touch the music lovers of the world. When we took all this work to Crestview to our country printing press, they rolled their eyes back and stuck their ink smeared hands in their pockets. Then, they took a deep breath and produced 15,000 copies.

We only had one truck, so we made two trips just to pick up the papers. Then, oh, then, we had to distribute them. We used all of our cars, our time, and our ingenuity to get them to Panama City, Ft. Walton Beach, Mobile, Destin; all over Pensacola, Gulf Breeze, and the Beach and elsewhere. That Islander with "all the things you ever wanted to know about Starship" was in the hands of everyone three days before the concert. You could have mopped Cathy, Liz and me up with a blotter. We were exhausted, dehydrated, worn out and plain old grumpy.

But we recovered quickly. Anheuser Busch was sending two marketers to the Beach. I think they came here from St. Louis to oversee the entire production; just to be sure things went well. I think that is the reason they came. What they actually did was hang around my office and we took them to dinner at Flounder's and for drinks at Dirty Joe's. They loved it. They loved us, the Beach, the people, the forever melee, and contagious fun.

The day of the concert, they disappeared and I never saw them again. However, they did not leave without giving me two backstage passes. We soon found out we were the only media admitted backstage.

All other news folks struggled for their stories and photos in the crowd. The Budweiser people and the, then logo and mascot of their company, Spuds McKenzie, the dog with one black eye, were

all heart, forever loyal to The Islander. (We did have to pay for our beer, however.)

I think Starship was one of the last big name bands ever to come to Pensacola Beach. At that point, the powers-that-be said enough is enough. Although the crowd didn't quite sink the island, it did get very close.

Spring Break is different now. The drinking age is 21-years-old. Gosh, that's adulthood except for the thousands of kids who have fake IDs. That's one difference and there are a few other factors which regulate the rites of spring. Apparently, this year, two of the new themes have made their mark on increased crowds. The economy and the dangers in Mexico will send more spring breakers to Florida. And remember, the main attractions, the surf and sand are still here. The first weekend was gangbusters.

Not what it once was, but gangbusters, none the less.

Some day soon, Shelley will get a shot at a defining moment which will stick in her memory for years. Something like the Starship concert. Or more likely, something else.

In the meantime, at least her paper is not all garbled up with changes caused by the economic downturn. It will soon grow bigger, riding the in-

creased expenditures of the spring breakers and others on Pensacola Beach. It is a wonderfully positive place to live, and visit. By the way, the rumor was that Starship brought 90,000 people to this shore. There was no way to really count, so this figure, while justifiable is not verifiable.

And, I feel like I must repeat myself. What a wonderfully positive place to live and visit.

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PEOPLE

Cheeseburger In Paradise

Beach Chamber Vice President Sean Rogan has been seeing stars. He reported that superstar John Travolta visited Pensacola Beach two weeks ago. Travolta, who stayed at the Hilton, noshed a rare cheeseburger, one of Sean's favorite dishes.

Birthday Bash

Shirley Hart celebrated her birthday at the Beach Elk's Lodge on February 28. Good wishes and good food were all part of the action.

Taking A Break

Sisters Erika and Crissi Geier were raised on Pensacola Beach, so returning to celebrate Spring Break was a natural fit. Erika arrived from South Florida where she is in college and Crissi, who is in the Air Force, took leave to meet her younger sister. Shelly and Hank Geier are their parents.

Party Time

Louise Greenley is really looking forward to her March 25 birthday. Daughter Kathy and her family will fly in to help get the party started.

Fritz And Friends Fish Fry Open To Everyone

Fritz Givens and his friends are cooking up some fun at the Pensacola Beach Elk's Lodge Saturday, April 4. The famous group is hosting a Fish Fry beginning at noon. Plates with hot, crispy fried fish and all the traditional side dishes are on the menu. The public is welcome.

Curious chefs have been trying to pry the recipe for their success from Fritz's team members. But, no such luck. It is a closely guarded secret.

"We'll be frying fish using our secret batter recipe," said Givens. "Everyone is welcome to attend. The proceeds benefit the Lodge."

Pensacola Beach Elk's

Cookie Maker

Little Lakin Harvey and mom Diana were spreading good cheer all over the island. The two Beach gals were delivering fresh baked cookies to all their friends last week. No reason, just being nice.

Fine Time

Trace Lewis has a fishing story that ends with a good soaking, a \$75 fine and no fish. He took his Carolina skiff in the Gulf just off the Beach to fish, until a five foot wave washed over his bow taking his GPS for a swim. The next day with his black lab by his side, he searched the beach hoping the electronic gadget had washed ashore. Not his lucky day. He got cited for having a dog on the beach and never found the GPS.

Beach Lovers

Jim and Melody Spink love Florida's beaches. It's no secret. For a change of pace from Pensacola Beach, they bought a little place about 15 miles from Ft. Myers. After a few weeks, Melody did get homesick for her friends in Northwest Florida, so they are back home now.

Trivia

Who has the authority to answer the next question?

Well, well, well. If Paddy Blake had only known how many Irishmen were helping him with his St. Paddy's Day Pub Crawl, he would have been thrilled. The last question was "Who was the sidekick who helped Paddy run the Crawl for a number of years?"

Kim LoBue was the first to reach the finish line with the correct answer. It was all spelled correctly and contained both names - Richard Dancer. Kim gets the shirt.

Five days later, Ella Hess sent the correct answer but wasn't sure if his last name was Dancer or

Dancer. And, in between those two answers came a host of names. Bill Greene got Judy L'Oignon and Tommy Grice's vote.

Ted Pence submitted Lloyd Hess, truly a Beach leprechaun who used to write poetry for *The Islander* Newspaper which Ted mentioned. He was all that, but not the helper.

Sharon Mattair had a half answer. "It was Richard," she emailed. "It was Richard and Vivian."

Richard's last name was not Vivian. That was the name of his wife. Sharon

knew that.

And Sir Morrie, Knight of the Trivia Roundtable, had Richard right, but the last name escaped him. "Was it Doll or Dahl?" he asked.

So, we go from Irish to Old Beach.

If you really want an *Island Times* t-shirt, you need to be the first to email your answer to this question. "Where was the very first Santa Rosa Island Authority Office located?"

Please remember to abide by the rules. Get to your computer, email the correct answer along with your name and phone number.

Rules have not changed. Send your answer to islandtimes@bellsouth.net with "trivia" in the subject line and include your name, phone number. Deadline to answer is April 1, 2009. Good luck!



Kim LoBue, pictured here on her decorated trike at the Beach Christmas parade, is the Trivia Winner.

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Beach Advocates Give Voice To Hundreds Through Survey

Pensacola Beach Advocates, whose group represents 400 stakeholders, developed an on-line survey to give their members an opportunity to voice opinions on Core Area Improvements. Because

of the importance of this topic, this survey was also made available to potential members of the organization who consist of residents, leaseholders or those with a business interest on Pensacola Beach.

Completed surveys were received from 247 respondents.

“One of the goals of PBA is give a voice to our stakeholders. We feel this survey does just that,” said Jim Cox, PBA president.

The compiled responses to the survey are presented here.

What is the nature of your relationship with Pensacola Beach?

Primary Residence:	
Leaseholder or Renter	49.8%
Residential Leaseholder:	
Secondary Residence	35.2%
Residential Leaseholder:	
Rental, Land or Investment	29.1%
Commercial Leaseholder	3.6%
Business Interest:	
Not a Leaseholder	4.1%

Which of the following best describes the amount of time you spend on Pensacola Beach?

Year Round	49.4%
6 to 9 Months of the Year	8.1%
3 to 6 Months of the Year	8.5%
1 to 3 Months of the Year	20.6%
Less than 30 Days a Year	13.4%

How often do you use the following facilities, amenities or services on Pensacola Beach?

	Regularly 24 or more	Frequently 12 to 23 times	Occasionally 4 to 11 times	Rarely 3 times or less
Public beaches for swimming, surfing	39.8%	17.2%	21.7%	21.3%
Waterways for boating or fishing	16.1%	16.5%	24.4%	43.0%
Bike or walking paths:	49.8%	18.0%	17.6%	14.6%
Beach trolley service:	4.3%	6.4%	21.7%	67.6%
Casino Beach parking lot:	10.4%	17.8%	29.5%	42.3%
Quietwater Boardwalk parking lot:	18.5%	30.3%	30.7%	20.5%
Other public beach parking lots:	6.3%	7.9%	28.7%	57.1%
Charter fishing or marina services:	1.7%	2.5%	11.3%	84.5%
Retail shops:	14.9%	29.3%	41.3%	14.5%
Convenience stores:	24.5%	31.0%	31.8%	12.7%
Hotels or other rental properties:	2.6%	1.7%	12.0%	83.7%
Restaurants:	44.1%	33.1%	21.2%	1.6%
Bars/Entertainment:	30.5%	19.3%	23.3%	26.9%
Recreation services (rentals or games)	1.3%	6.0%	20.0%	72.7%

The Core Area is defined as the section from the old Holiday Inn property on Ft. Pickens Rd. eastward along Via de Luna ending at Avenida 10. The SRIA is seeking input on the need for and the nature of improvements or changes in the Core Area.

Please rate the need for the following improvements or changes in the Core Area.

	Recommend	Undecided	Oppose
Pedestrian crossover(s):	56.3%	23.1%	20.6%
Extended pedestrian boardwalks along the Sound/Gulf:	66.8%	19.4%	13.8%
Maximize use of existing parking through trams or trolleys:	74.1%	17.8%	8.1%
Improved lighting for CasinoBeach parking lot:	47.4%	37.2%	15.4%
Parking garage:	22.3%	26.3%	51.4%
Multi-use facility to include additional parking:	34.0%	36.4%	29.6%
Convention center:	31.6%	25.5%	42.9%
Move Pensacola Beach Blvd. to create more parking at Boardwalk	10.1%	33.2%	56.7%
Create standards for building styles and colors:	55.1%	19.4%	25.5%
Designate protected area w/no development	83.4%	11.7%	4.9%
Implement more consistent sign regulations:	67.6%	24.3%	8.1%
Remove Wastewater Treatment Plant from Beach:	61.5%	27.5%	11.0%
Move SRIA Maintenance Facility from Soundfront:	61.1%	30.4%	8.5%
Additional hotels:	17.4%	27.9%	54.7%
Additional retail shops:	53.4%	26.3%	20.3%
Additional bars/entertainment:	36.4%	32.0%	31.6%
Additional recreation services such as rental and games:	37.6%	39.3%	23.1%

For complete survey results, comments and additional information about the PBA, please visit www.pbadvocates.org.



Spring Cleaning - Villa Sabine residents Doug and Leslie Gordon helped spruce up the neighborhood's common areas during the Spring Clean-up March 14. They were hauling off cart loads of debris and unwanted litter. The reward was a post clean-up party which included green beer and pizza.

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Look for the RED ROOF at the traffic light on Pensacola Beach



peas, porridge & a dry martini

by Kathi Lewis



It is 6:30 a.m. and I am actually, partially awake. This is not part of my daily schedule at all. I had to go to the Sleep Disorder Clinic, and that appointment made me miss the Pub Crawl. I consider anything that starts before noon to be totally uncivilized.

It seems to me that even God decided to be Irish on March 17 as He sent us spectacular weather for St. Patrick's Day! Reports were that the Beach was full of lads and lassies. I did not have a single leprechaun show up to grant me a wish, so now I'll have to pin my hopes on the Easter Bunny!

Speaking of which, if someone has lost a pet bunny, the bunny was seen on Largo Dr., Sunday, March 15. Our dog, Peanut, chased the poor bunny around the house three times before I could even scream "stop." Please don't call me, because I'm not sure what happened to the bunny or where it now hides. If you think the bunny might be yours, just come by or check around Largo Drive and Rio Vista. With four rabbit's feet, the little fur ball should have some good luck.

I believe whatever good luck I may occasionally have comes from pure happiness and laughter. Especially the belly laugh, which can promote weight loss, good health—both physical and mental, and creates more muscle mass. Have you ever watched people laughing? I enjoy watching the Comedy Channel, but lately I've been concentrating more on the audience. I've seen people laugh so hard that they literally lean forward in their seat. How can that not be a good thing? There's a lot of muscle use there.

And the day after Wednesday Mental Health Night, I always have aches everywhere. But they're good ones from laughing - I call it my exercise routine.

Most of you know I don't do research, but I was a little curious about the origin of All Fool's Day, which we call April Fool's Day. I spent a few minutes online and quickly discovered that no one really knows the origin. One of the

most popular beliefs is that it began in 1582 when Pope Gregory XIII ordered a new calendar to replace the old Julian calendar, which celebrated the New Year on April 1. (The Romans had a Festival named Hilaria, which began on March 25. Sounds like a Mardi Gras thing - The Krewe of Hilaria) The new calendar changed the New Year's date to January 1. However, some of the citizens continued to celebrate the old date of April 1. This caused others to make fun of them and to send them on "fool's errands" or try to trick them into believing something different. Eventually the entire practice spread throughout Europe and the USA. Whatever - it sure can be a lot of fun!

Happy Birthday to my Sister and friend, Christine "Bunkie" Hewerdine who is the only one I know born on April 1. I'll be happy to be a "fool" with you any day.

This week's recipe is one I've had for a long time. It's easy and "kid friendly." Since the munchkins are on Spring Break, let them help

with these! Okay let's cook....

Easy Cinnamon Puffs

2 Pkg. (8 count) Crescent Rolls
1 Bag large marshmallows
1 ½ Stick butter, melted
1 ½ Cup brown sugar
3 Tbsp. ground cinnamon

Combine cinnamon and sugar in small bowl. Open crescent rolls and use one at a time. Dip marshmallow in melted butter and then in sugar and cinnamon mixture (packing it on heavily). Place dipped marshmallow on widest end of crescent triangle and roll up. Pinch to seal seams; then dip crescent in melted butter and place in muffin pan. Continue until all rolls are used. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes until golden brown. SPECIAL NOTE: make sure you use heavy -duty foil under muffin pan as the marshmallows will escape leaving only the puff. This makes 16 puffs.

Enjoy, share and have a very safe and Happy Spring Break!

See ya in the kitchen

Pensacola Plans Pooch Parade and Music Fest

Pensacola Beach's Doug McAllister, owner of Fun Coast Promotions, is presenting Woofapalooza-Pensacola's Pet Parade and Music Festival, Saturday March 28 in downtown Pensacola. The parade registration begins at 9 a.m. at 180 Governmental Building which is the Pensacola City Hall. Floats and cars in the parade should be on site by 9:45 a.m. The Parade begins at 11 a.m. Pets should be costumed in their best parading attire. Prizes will be given for best dressed, best float, best team, ugliest dog and pet-owner look alikes.

The parade rolls from City Hall in Pensacola east down Government Street to Seville Square. The Music Festival will begin at noon. Proceeds from the event will help benefit local pet shelters.

Fun Coast Promotions hosts Kaboom, Fourth of July Fireworks on Pensacola Beach. For more information, contact Fun Coast Promotions at 850-346-9184.

Wine Talk

By David Griffin,

Beach Wines and Liquors



CAVIAR WITH YOUR VODKA?

If you drink your vodka straight, you may be interested to know that this clear spirit has a long history of being consumed with traditional Russian meals. To begin with, vodka goes very well with fatty meat and salty fish. The vodka complements these foods, contributing to good digestion and washing down the fat, which, in turn, helps to maintain sobriety. In fact, traditional Russian meals are made to remedy the negative impact of vodka on one's head, provided the vodka is consumed in moderation. Hot meals aside, vodka is mostly consumed with appetizers. In fact, Russian vodka's aroma and purity have been traditionally adjusted to complement Russian appetizers, chief among which is caviar. Herring is another good bet.

HINT: Salted picked or salted mushrooms are also favorite Russian appetizers that go well with vodka. There are many wonderful vodkas from countries other than Russia. If you are puzzled, let us help you. Beach Wines and Liquors, Inc., wants you to know that a world of wines and spirits awaits you at 5 Via de Luna. Whether you are very knowledgeable or would appreciate our assistance, we are here for you. Call 850-932-8850 for easy directions.

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SIT ON DALE'S BIG DECK

Stakeholders Zero In On Core Area Redevelopment

Beach folks had their say at the first public workshop concerning the redevelopment of the Core Area on Pensacola Beach. The one hundred stakeholders brought many new and diverse ideas to the table at the meeting last Wednesday. They agreed on one item - that a visioning plan, prepared by a professional organization was needed. Secondly, there was a consensus that parking is a problem at certain times on the Beach, but no real solution showed up in the speeches and the written plans sent to the workshop facilitators. The public meeting was sponsored by the Santa Rosa Island Authority and facilitated by their engineering firm, Baskerville Donovan.

Fred Gant, SRIA Board Chairman, welcomed the crowd.

"We have many studies sitting on the shelf at the SRIA," Gant said. "The reason they have not been implemented is that there was no funding source. We had identified a source with the increase in toll, but before the Board of County Commissioners is willing to consider the increase we must come to a consensus. We must create one plan."

Jim Cox, president of the Pensacola Beach Advocates, set the tone for the hiring of a planner.

"You are contemplating spending millions of dollars and perhaps changing the Island forever," Cox said. "You need a plan. You need to do it right."

Julian MacQueen, owner of the Hilton and the Hampton Inn on the Beach agreed with Cox.

"We need to take a scientific approach. We need to have a parking study and we need to go through a visioning process. Let's identify the problem and move toward a solution. I think we should eliminate the toll. I think we need a study. We should not be serving one interest," MacQueen said.

Mike McLaughlin, beach resident and owner of Lee Tracy's on the Boardwalk, also said the toll should be removed. McLaughlin said there is a parking problem at the Boardwalk, but a short term solution would be to bring a tram to move people around the Core until a long term solution can be reached.

Jackie Drewett, resident, took another pathway asking officials to think about the beauty of the barrier island.

"You cannot preserve beauty by building more, by creating parking garages. We should not concentrate on charging people to enjoy the island. Businesses come and go, but the beauty of the island does not," she said.

Beverly Boswell, Beach resident and co-owner of the Sandshaker who voiced her opinion said she would like the vistas and view to stay open.

"We need a study. There are no quick fixes. When we remodeled the Shaker, we kept the ambience. It's what makes us unique. The same goes for Pensacola Beach. I am happy and proud to live here. I know we can come together to create a win-win situation."

Robert Gleim, whose company manages Bamboo Willie's, asked that a master marketing plan be developed. He is calling for the Beach Chamber and local government to support that initiative.

Two developers who had previously submitted plans to the Island Authority were introduced. Carter Quina of Quina Grundhoefer Architects, said, "Parking garages are ugly. But in an urban area we have to stack cars because of space constraints."

He pointed out that his plan contained three sites for parking garages and three sites for developmental opportunities which will hide the garages. The focal

point of his plan is a pedestrian walkover which connects the beach to the bay.

Chris Shearman of Alcon Construction presented his plan which included redeveloping the old Casino plus four parking decks. The core needs activities, parking, more businesses; and it needs to be promoted April through October," Shearman said. "A fully developed core will increase room nights, home values, and make the Beach a destination."

Commissioner Grover Robinson spoke to the group saying that although he was originally opposed to a raise in the bridge toll, it is now the main impetus in getting something done. He is adamant, however, that the transponder fee be maintained at \$50 annually for a long period of time, five to ten years.

In addition to Fred Gant, other SRIA Board members present were Dr. Thomas Campanella, Tammy Bohannon, and Dave Pavlock.

Mike Langston, Baskerville Donovan, who serves as the SRIA engineer, thanked those who attended and offered input. He said he will be accepting more ideas in writing or by email at mlangston@baskervilledonovan.com.

Dr. Lila Cox, presented the results of the Pensacola Beach Advocates survey as the last item on the agenda. The complete results of the survey are on Page 5 of this issue.

"One of the results of this survey was not in its statistics, but that there are 247 people who have a vision and they are willing to tell us what it is," Dr. Cox said.

Buck Lee, SRIA director, who was also in attendance, has indicated that there may be additional public workshops provided for the stakeholders over the next few months.



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Between Sidelines & Crabs • Look for the Waterfall, Stay for the Fun

Comfort & Joy

by Pandora de Balthazar

For many, many years, I have enjoyed Sundays on the Island. In fact, it was a fun and comfortable time that I looked forward to each week. I hope you do, as well.

Some of you will remember with me, the varying locals scene over the past years. I came to Pensacola Beach first in 1976, bringing my son, Robert, and many friends and neighbors followed over the years. Wow, that's 32 years of Sundays...so I began to think of the rhythms of our Sunday routine on the Island, and my new appreciation for Little Sabine Bay.

Pensacola Beach Community Church has become the center of our Sunday mornings. Glorious vistas and meaningful messages merge to make this a destination every Sunday we are home.

For the late afternoon, however, our routine has turned West, with a homecoming to the most incredible sunsets from our deck overlooking Little Sabine. The place to hang is by the water, watching the day, and the sun, settle in for the evening.

Joy at watching the companionship and laughter amongst our children and grandchildren, the absolute glee of the fun and games they so enjoy on our beach. I am allowed the freedom to sit and cherish every moment, each smile, and the teasing

laughter they make together.

What's amazing to me is how I have begun to love Little Sabine. Once known as a Gulf of Mexico Girl only, it's grown on me, until I feel like I am floating on an island, surrounded by gently blowing palms, peaceful scenes, and the beach so close at hand. Little Sabine has a peacefulness, and a glow about it, both day and night, that makes it a hidden secret among the dunes.

The entertainment is built in, of course. Sailboats go gently in the water. Crab Island awaits the children by float or by boat! And, of course, we have music in the day and evening, but not the obnoxious noise that some complain about. Our dunes and homes mute the sound so we enjoy daily entertainment, fragrant with the scents of the Gulf of Mexico.

Little Sabine is idyllic, and La Caribe is a haven of calm most of the time. Our children and grandchildren can play without worry in the white sand, or along the waterside. And, our friends, those who truly mean something to our lives, well they know just where and when to find us, and share the sparkle, and the setting of the most majestic of sun sets, each and every day.

Comfort and joy on a true beach day-Sunday on the Island. A haven of fun in your very own home.



TOO COOL - Ready for their Sunday afternoon fun at grandma Pandora's house are Kenady Cooke, front, and big sister Cailyn Renee' Cooke, age 4.



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Volunteers Needed To Clean Seashore Roadside

A volunteer effort has been launched to beautify the newly opened scenic road from Navarre Beach to Pensacola Beach. Groups of volunteers will meet each Saturday at 8 a.m. through April 25 to clean up.

Meet at the first parking lot in the National Seashore closest to Opal Beach. Please wear gloves, sturdy shoes and bring heavy duty trash bags.

Contact Laurie Gallup at 850-936-1312 for details.



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SANDCASTLES

Pensacola Beach Real Estate

Mansions to Cottages: Plentiful Choices In Pensacola Beach Real Estate Market

What's for sale on Santa Rosa Island? Something for everyone. According to the listings published in the Pensacola Multi-listing Service, there were 371 properties available on Pensacola Beach last week. The

inventory offers a variety from palatial, waterfront executive homes to cozy condos. The asking prices range from \$4,300,000 to \$139,900.

Some of the most recent listings include three Portofino con-

dominium units ranging in price from \$349,000 to \$390,000. A very desirable waterfront home in Villa Sabine is offered at \$964,900 and a Santa Rosa Dunes Condominium is available for \$259,900. Waterfront properties at attractive prices.

As potential buyers consider real estate, the topic of financing takes the stage. According to Chandra Toop at People's First, there is financing available for condominiums on Pensacola Beach. She notes that these are fully qualified loans.

"In this economic environment, there are many variables, but with the appropriate down payment, credit rating and proven ability to meet the financial obligation, financing can be found through local banks," she said. "Financing on Pensacola Beach is attainable. It's a truly wonderful place to live."

Women's Council Of Realtors Taps Harper As President

Nan Harper of Island Realty will become the first Florida State Women's Council of Realtors President from Northwest Florida since 1976, when Gwen Appelquist held the honor. This reflects years of dedication to the tenets of Women's Council, a source of professional enhancement and entrepreneurial advancement throughout the country.

As a result, Pensacola will be the host site for the October 2009 Leadership Retreat, which will include over 100 outstanding Realtors from throughout the state.

"This provides a unique opportunity for our chapter and our

related professionals to highlight the quality of life which we enjoy in Pensacola," said Harper. "And in the words of former Mayor Vince Whibbs, 'Pensacola - the Western Gate to the Sunshine State, where thousands live like millions wish they could.'"

Sponsorships are available. The goal is to make this educational retreat a memorable experience that will bring these Realtors, their families and clients to return to visit Northwest Florida and to relish the glorious, family-oriented beaches of Northwest Florida.

For more information, call 850-293-9321.

My New Listings

Soundfront
225 Sabine Drive
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Gulfront - 202 Ariola Drive
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Information from Pensacola Multiple Listing Service
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Property Address	Price
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1100 Ft. Pickens Rd. #A3	\$230,000
1300 Ft. Pickens Rd. #227	\$275,000
850 Ft. Pickens Rd. #1140	\$365,000
3 Portofino Dr. #1503	\$420,000
2 Portofino Dr. #PH5	\$450,000
3 Portofino Dr. #1603	\$450,000
1 Portofino Dr. #1704	\$575,000
1 Portofino Dr. #2004	\$580,000
3 Portofino Dr. #1901	\$675,000
4 Portofino Dr. #2101	\$700,000
1010 Maldonado	\$425,000
2 Sugar Bowl Ln	\$450,000
262 Sabine Dr	\$812,500
1406 Ariola Dr	\$2,290,000

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Pensacola Beach, 5BR/5BA, Gulfront, 3100 SF, MLS # 348804, \$2,800,000. Joseph Billingsly, Paradise Coastal Realty, Inc., 850-291-6761

Pensacola Beach, 4BR/3BA, Gulfront, 3128 SF, MLS # 345506, \$2,250,000. Sherlyn Waghalter, RE/MAX on the Coast 850-449-4242

Pensacola Beach, 5BR/3.5BA, Gulfront, 2706 SF, MLS # 354901, \$1,899,000. Fred Simmons, Paradise Coastal Realty, Inc. 850-232-2188

Pensacola Beach, 4BR/3BA, Gulfront, 2150 SF, MLS #363760, \$1,799,000. Fred Simmons, Paradise Coastal Realty, Inc. 850-232-2188

Pensacola Beach, 4BR/3.5BA, Waterfront, 4100 SF, MLS#325067, \$1,750,000. Kathy Tanner, Tanner Realty of Northwest Florida, 850-982-0755

Pensacola Beach, 4BR/3BA, Gulfront, 2006 SF, MLS#363742, \$1,699,000. Fred Simmons, Paradise Coastal Realty, Inc. 850-232-2188

Pensacola Beach, 3BR/2BA, Gulfront, 1440 SF, MLS#333592, \$1,495,000. Jennifer McCrary, Paradise Coastal Realty, Inc. 850-932-0067

Pensacola Beach, 4BR/4BA, Waterfront, 3843 SF, MLS # 320735, \$1,490,000. Teena Cobb, Cook Realty, 850-501-5875

Pensacola Beach, 5BR/4BA, Soundfront, 4590SF, MLS#354772, \$1,295,000. Heather Dupuis, Exit Realty N.F.I., 850-712-9186

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4 bedroom/4 bathroom condo near the core area of Pensacola Beach. The open floor plan allows for Gulf views from the living room, kitchen, and master bedroom. The large kitchen has granite counter tops and a double oven. The unit features two Gulf side balconies, a two car garage. Elevator opens into a private foyer. The property is being sold fully furnished. \$625,000. Call Jeremy Johnson, Broker/Associate Island Realty, 850-377-3145.

Pensacola Beach, 5BR/3.5BA, Waterfront, 4375 SF, MLS# 349772, \$1,275,000. Tammy Bohannon, PA; ERA Beach Ball Realty, 850-982-7128

Pensacola Beach, 1682 Calle Bonita, 3/2.5 Townhome. Gulf Views from patio & balcony. Great investment at this price. \$350,000. Dennis Remesch, RE/MAX on the Coast, 850-384-7607.

Pensacola Beach, Lowest priced waterfront townhouse, \$219,000. The unit was upgraded in 2005 with a new roof, new A/C system, new kitchen counter tops, and new flooring. Call Jeremy Johnson, Broker/Associate Island Realty, 850-377-3145.

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Gulf Breeze, 1139 Redwood Lane. 3/2 Split floor plan. 1376 SF brick home. Fireplace. New flooring. Fenced yard. Two car garage. \$169,900. Dennis Remesch, RE/MAX on the Coast, 850-384-7607.

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Events

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April 17 -19 Pensacola Beach Crawfish Festival at Bamboo Willie's on the Boardwalk. Get 'Dem Spicy Crawfish. A portion of the proceeds benefit the Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce.

July 4 - Pensacola Beach, Kaboom, Fireworks Extravaganza.

July 11 - Pensacola Beach, Blue Angels Airshow.

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BUSINESS BUZZ ...

Try Before You Buy

Kirk Newkirk is sure if you try it, you'll like it. So, he is hosting a Demo Day, Saturday, April 4 at Key Sailing for anyone who wants to get a feel for his Hobie Cat kayak products. The watercraft come with a variety of choices, sizes and with sails. Key Sailing is located at the north end of the Boardwalk underneath Surf Burger.

McGuire's Rates National Acclaim

Did you know that McGuire's Irish Pub is one of the top ten places to visit on St. Patrick's Day? *USA Today* listed McGuire's in their Friday the Thirteenth issue as the place noted for cooking up the best Irish fare in the Southeast. The article noted that McGuire's had won thirteen Golden Spoon awards among other special accolades. They forgot to mention that McGuire's hosts thousands of runners for its St. Patrick's Day event every year. Interesting to note was that the other pubs were all in large cities - New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Las Vegas, Denver, Atlanta, Boston, and Philadelphia. Lift a pint for McGuire's, Pensacola.

Book Preview

Tex Atkinson, aviator and author, has announced that his second book is in the works.

His first book, "From The Cockpit," is available on Amazon.com. He promises to give *Island Times* readers a sneak peek very soon.

Donations Needed

Clean out your closets. Cook Realty on Pensacola Beach is accepting donations of garage sale items for the Santa Rosa Kids House spring sale. The sale is set for Saturday, March 28 in Milton. All items are needed.

Dolphin Sightings

Joann Johnson says it's time to ride the Chase-N-Fins. Residents and tourists will be amazed to see the dolphins' antics. The vessel, which books charters for groups or walk-ons, is docked at the

Pensacola Beach Marina.

Beer Bobble

David Griffin does not put up with practical jokes that involve stealing beer off the delivery truck. He calls the Beach deputies who promptly arrest the suspects. Go to Beach Wines and ask him about the whole story.

Mousie's Art B'Gosh

Those who were lucky enough to score a St. Paddy's Day Pub Crawl t-shirt last week, probably noticed that the art was created by Mousie. A true beach collector's item. The proceeds from the sale of the shirts were donated to Covenant Hospice.

High Flying Praise

The U.S. Airways Magazine March 2009 edition gives thumbs up to Pensacola and Pensacola Beach during what they termed as the "secret season." Noting that September through February is when "rates are cheaper and the barrier island beaches are less crowded." It ranked Pensacola 22 out of the top 27 in the Best Seaside Resorts for Mixing Business and Pleasure.



Top O'The Morning To Ya, The Go Irish on the Island was a huge success as was the March 17 St. Paddy's Day Pub Crawl. I would like to thank my fellow Leprechauns, the Beach Chamber, businesses and all who danced, crawled and added to the fun.

The Society of Leprechauns will be able to donate \$660 from the proceeds of our Pub Crawl raffles to Covenant Hospice. I know the proceeds from the t-shirt sales have amounted to \$2500.

It is a worthwhile effort that we make each year to honor our dear Paddy Blake and all Irishmen like him.

Special recognition to the kind Tiki Island golf owners who had stuff for the kids to do. I know the wee ones had fun.

It was a beautiful day on Pensacola Beach.

Love to all,
Beverly Hughes
Leprechaun for Life

BYTES AND BITS

By Joe Stukey, Your Computer Pal

Q: "Can I use AOL for free?"

A: If you are paying for AOL you should certainly consider converting to a free AOL account. Only the AOL customers who still use the dial-up Internet connection will still be required to pay for the use of that service. In order to continue competing in their market, the company's business model changed some time ago because their competitors (Hotmail, Yahoo, Gmail) all offer free accounts.

For customers who have high speed Internet services through the cable and telephone providers, customers can have free email accounts. With a free account, you keep your existing email address, but you cannot use AOL's dial-up service and you cannot call AOL for technical support. For most people, that is not an issue, especially when it saves them as much as \$300 per year.

If you have the AOL program installed on your computer, you

can easily convert to a free account. Log in using your account ID and password, then go to the menu item labeled "Settings". From the next menu, select "Billing". Follow a few steps to convert to a free account. You will then receive an email confirming that you have changed your account.

If you don't have that program on your computer, convert your account by phone. You can then take the money you just saved and go shopping.

This article was provided by The Stukey Group. For questions, contact Joe at joe@ycpals.com or 206-3156.

Pensacola Beach Chamber Membership Meeting
Tuesday, March 31
8:30 a.m. Comfort Inn
Business After Hours
5:30 p.m.
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The School Bell Rings

AIM HIGH

First grade Beach School teacher Sandee Bredesen flew high over the island Saturday, March 14 to encourage her students to reach for the stars.

She got the opportunity to pilot the plane with Captain John Paganelli of Air Combat USA. Two of her students were so inspired they wrote the following stories in their journals:

By Sofie Babcock

Do you know the story of the airplane and the pilot? Oh you didn't? Then I will tell you. One day there was a pilot. Her name was Pilot Bredesen. She had a plane. It was brand new and she had 23 boys and girls in her plane. She took them anywhere, like school or the movies and a pool. The only thing was that she never had time for Mr. Bredesen. Now.... he is a good dancer. He can do the tango or the salsa. So in the new plane, they went on a date to Subway and lived happily ever after!

By Sophie Faircloth

What's that in the sky? Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No it's...well actually it is a plane, but not just a plane. It's a plane with the air's acrobat, the queen of the clouds...the one who can multiply so she can teach and fly at the same time. She's a goddess to the sky and she's a fantastic teacher, too! She can do flips in the air and not in the air. We have a great teacher, but when it comes down to it, it's her personality that's great!

WORLDLY WIN

Nick Bookout, an eighth grader at Gulf Breeze Middle School, won the school level of the National Geographic Bee on January 21. Nick has qualified for the State Geographic Bee. He will

compete against 99 other contestants, April 3 at Jacksonville University.

GO FOR THE GOLD

The Gulf Breeze Middle



Commercial pilot Captain John Paganelli, left, and teacher Sandee Bredesen in the plane prior to take off.

School (GBMS) Science Olympiad Team earned first place for the eleventh year in a row in the Florida Science Olympiad Tournament hosted at the University of Central Florida on Saturday, February 28. The team, comprised of 15 students and five alternates from grades 6 through 8, competed in 23 different events.

As winners of the state competition, GBMS will represent the State of Florida as they head to the Science Olympiad National Tournament at Augusta State University in Augusta, Georgia, May 15-16.

Team member and Beach resi-

dent Jett Crowdis is joined by Griffin Battel, Nick Bookout, Rainey Fountain, Nick Gupta, Sebastian Jones, Logan Norris, Rhett Oakley, Davy Pardonner, Allison Proctor, Emilio Rivera, Annemarie Schultz, Kyle Stanley, Nick Staviski, Caroline Sullivan, and Krista Woods on the team.

Students earning medals at the Florida Science Olympiad Tournament are:

1st Place Amphibians & Reptiles - Logan Norris, Rhett Oakley
1st Place Anatomy - Nick Gupta, Allison Proctor
1st Place BioProcess Lab - Griffin Battel, Nick Bookout
2nd Place Elevated Bridge - Nick Bookout, Annmarie Schultz
1st Place Experimental Design - Logan Norris, Allison Proctor, Annemarie Schultz
3rd Place Robo Cross - Griffin Battel, Nick Gupta
1st Place Crime Busters - Davy Pardonner, Krista Woods
2nd Place Trajectory - Logan Norris, Kyle Stanley

SCHOOL BOARD MEETS

Pensacola Beach Elementary School Board will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, March 30, which is the same day that students return to classes after Spring Break.

Mostly Nuts & Bolts

By
Candy Segar

I think one of the best ideas that one network evening news station had was to present some good news at the end of their broadcast. It was great to see individuals who were taking matters into their own hands to help offset the troubled economy. I believe that hearing this good news each night is an extremely important concept which goes beyond our country, our planet and our universe. This is about consciousness.

I do believe that everything is interconnected; there is a collective consciousness where change takes place. Look at the changes humans have made as we evolved over the centuries. The one example which just leaps out at me is sending astronauts to the moon. I wonder, if we can do that, why can't we stop fighting among ourselves. Well, I was listening to a CD which referenced the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi who brought transcendental meditation to the West during the 1960s and 70s. This philosophy taught us to look inside ourselves because what happens inside each of us is reflected outwardly and affects the world around us. Maharishi Mahesh Yogi is quoted

as saying, "All occurrences of violence, negativity, conflict, crisis and problems in any society are the expression of stress and tension in the collective consciousness."

If we start thinking in a more positive direction, but with ourselves very grounded and very aware, I think humanity could achieve miraculous things. If our thoughts are energy, and energy is converted into matter, there would be no limits on us as a species and our achievements. Maybe this would elevate the consciousness of those individuals who appear to have no conscience at all. Oh what a wonderful world it would be!



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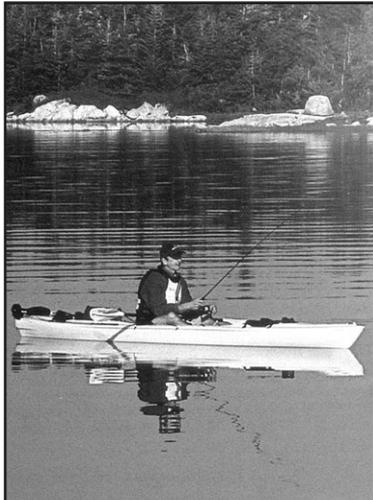
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The **LIZZARD'S TONGUE**
by E.K. Hewson



Every week day my 11-year-old son, Harry, reads the "Kids Post," a special section of *The Washington Post* geared toward young readers. I like to read it as well because it explains world events in terms everyone can understand. Just recently it had a great explanation of the foreclosure crisis that is crippling areas of this country. After Harry finished reading it, he looked up over his glasses at me and asked, "You and dad didn't borrow any money that you can't pay back should one of you lose a job, did you?" I assured him that his dad and I could meet all of our financial obligations, even under the most extreme circumstances. And true to being a child, he quickly changed the subject to, "Do we have any plans for Sunday, March 22, International Goof Off Day?" Caught off guard, once again because I didn't even know there was such a day and that you had to plan for it. But yes there is, and yes you do.

After further research on the subject, I found that International Goof Off Day does exist and it is always on March 22. I am telling you this now so you can mark it on your 2010 calendar. International Goof Off Day is a day set aside for you to just relax, enjoy and do anything and everything you want - as long as you're not supposed to be doing it.

Personally I believe planning defeats the purpose of goofing off, but if your household is like mine, blocking out a little time to goof off isn't such a bad idea.

So as I wrap up this column in order to meet the deadline-- I am already 35 minutes late -- I must have been goofing off-- I will share with you our list of goofing off activities for 2009, so you can have an idea how to celebrate in 2010. Harry informed me that according to a study conducted by Nintendo, playing video games is the number one way to celebrate International Goof Off Day. So his suggestion is to play endless rounds of Guitar Hero, wii Tennis and Nerf N-Strike while eating endless pancakes and fresh squeezed orange juice made by me, followed by a three hour round-trip drive to the local mega bookstore to just look at or maybe even buy a few books chauffeured and financed by me, and then one championship match of around the perimeter of the house Bocce Ball while the charcoals heat up for cheeseburgers grilled by me.

Hmmm. I am beginning to think there is something suspect to this International Goof Off Day and there was probably a reason it was in the "Kids Post" and not front page, above the fold in the section one of *The Washington Post*.

Until next time...



Angella Gallinger, center, was a real knock-out in her green bikini at the March 17 contest at Bamboo Willie's. General Manager Robert Gleim, left, emceed the event. Boxing star Roy Jones, right, chose Angella to serve as a Ring Girl at his March Badness Boxing Bout, March 21, at the Pensacola Civic Center.

A Cross in the Sand

By Dr. Chuck Randle

Pastor

Pensacola Beach Community Church

Its difficult to pick up a newspaper, or listen to the television, without hearing lots of discouraging words. It is very disheartening to hear about the kind of abuse that goes on in financial institutions, government, communities, churches, families, and nearly everywhere where trust has been a very priceless commodity. It even filters down to small communities.

Last Saturday, March 14, I was ready to come home using Garcon Point Bridge just before noon and stopped at the toll booth to pay the \$3.50 toll. My grandson was behind me in his van with his family and I said to the toll taker, "I'll pay for the car right behind me - the Chrysler van."

He gave me three dollars back out of a ten dollar bill and I proceeded on across the bridge. However, I noted that my grandson was at the toll both a little longer than usual, and so I asked him when we had gotten to a restaurant the reason for the delay. He said the toll taker didn't say that I had paid his toll, and collected the usual \$3.50. It's not the idea of losing \$3.50 - its all about trust and honesty. Obviously, the toll taker simply took the extra toll and pocketed it.

I wonder how many other people are taken advantage of in that way or another. I've always believed that anyone who is honest in little things can be trusted to be honest in larger things, and vice versa - those who are dishonest in small things will probably be dishonest in large things. Whenever we betray the trust and confidence of another, we weaken the fabric in which our lives are woven, and we reflect on others in our profession.

I read a story the other day of a new minister who had arrived in town, and had taken the bus to get across town. After paying the fare and sitting down, he realized the driver had given him fifty cents too much change. He debated what to do with it, after all, it was such a small amount and he didn't want to embarrass the driver. However,

as he was leaving, he turned to the driver, put the fifty cents into his hand, and said, "You gave me too much change."

The driver said, "Aren't you the new minister in town?"

When he got an affirmative answer, he said, "I thought so. I knew I had given you too much change,

but I just wanted to test you to see what kind of a man you are. I know now .. and I'll be in your church on Sunday."

I'm not on a crusade, however, I do think the time has come to try and put back into our society the principles that build us up rather than tearing us down.

Beach Church Celebrates Women's Sunday

Newly ordained minister Ellen Blaise and Deacon Jackie Trout will lead the Pensacola Beach Community Church, March 29 during Women's Sunday.

Celebrated annually at the Beach Church during March, the Women's Sunday will begin at 10 a.m. Everyone is welcome. The Beach Church is located at the corner of Via de Luna and Avenida 18.

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Take Two Apples

and call me in the morning...
The doctor is in and she's hip, too!
By Tracey Pinkston, J.D., M.D.

Chemistry 101 & Your Health - Part II of a multi-part series

In the March 11 edition of *Island Times* I explored some of the chemicals in everyday foods which make their way to our dinner table - and how to avoid them.

Here are a few more strategies to reduce your family's chemical exposure.

NATURALLY CLEAN

To reduce chemical exposures in your home, change from chlorine bleach and abrasive toxic cleaners to natural alternatives. Hydrogen peroxide, baking soda, and vinegar are excellent cleaners and disinfecting agents and are natural and biodegradable. Hydrogen peroxide is actually the chemical our body's cells use to kill off foreign invaders like viruses and bacteria! How about non-chlorine bleach? It is actually hydrogen peroxide.

What about dish-washing? Change to a vegetable based detergent. How about furniture polish? Olive and nut oils (like almond or walnut) are great for this. For any household cleaning need, there is a natural, safe, biodegradable alternative.

SOMETHING'S IN THE AIR

For freshening the air, avoid sprays, mists, and plug-in type air fresheners. A HEPA air filter in your air conditioner or even an ozone generating purifier (make sure it is a high quality corona generator that does not produce nitrogen byproducts) are great alternatives that remove particles from your household environment rather than covering them up with chemicals.

HARMFUL DUO

Two other chemicals that are literally in the water should be avoided, too. Both Fluoride and Chlorine have their own sets of associated health problems. Not least among those is the connection between fluoride, chlorine and the near epidemic levels of hypothyroidism (low thyroid func-

tioning) now seen in the U.S. Once thought beneficial for teeth and bones, even the ADA is beginning to realize that enough is enough. More communities are pushing to have fluoride removed from the drinking water. Meanwhile, installing a carbon filter on your tap can remove this chemical. Additionally, be sure that neither you nor your children swallows toothpaste containing fluoride. Consider changing to a non-fluoride alternative, especially for children less than 6 years old, who may swallow the toothpaste inadvertently or even on purpose because they like the taste. Excessive fluoride can damage teeth and bones. It also competes for iodine binding sites needed for proper thyroid functioning.

Chlorine poses similar problems. However, in the case of chlorine, so much gets into our bodies that you will want a filter on your whole house, not just the tap you use for drinking and cooking. Chlorine is absorbed right through the skin so that bathing now poses a hazard. We get more chlorine from a ten minute shower than from drinking 8 glasses of unfiltered tap water!

STAINLESS, NO PLASTIC

And forget those plastic bottles... if you haven't heard enough by now about the plastic bottles to go get yourself a nice stainless steel one, then I'll refer you to EWG.org for the full frightening story!

Keep Reading - Please always consult your doctor before starting or stopping any medication or nutritional supplement.

(These statements have not been reviewed by the Food and Drug Administration. This article is not intended to diagnose, treat, prevent, or cure any disease. This article is intended for general informational purposes only. It is not intended as specific medical advice for any individual. Please seek the advice of a physician or other licensed health care provider before undertaking any health-related changes in your medications or lifestyle.)



The Beach Road Opens - Earle Bowden Way re-opened after a four year hiatus on March 6 with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Officials celebrating the opening are (L to R): Gulf Islands National Seashore Superintendent Jerry Eubanks, Escambia County Commissioner Grover Robinson and Earle Bowden.

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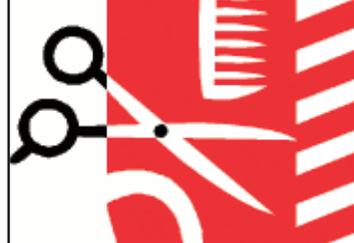
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readin' the water

by Saltwater Rick

It's Pompano season on the Gulf Coast and the anglers are lining the beach in search of these top shelf table fillers.

Jeremy at Gulf Breeze Bait and Tackle reports that Tim Markham has the lead in the annual Pompano tournament as of March 18, with a 3.95 pounder and Magan Delangis is in second place with a 3.76 pounder.

Beach gal Tiki Terri McKamey reports success in her secret spot early in the mornings on good old sandfleas.

It's all eyes on the water as Cobia season gets into full swing with the first ones being caught off shore, and as the waters warm they

will get closer and closer to the beach.

Sheepsheads are being takin' by the cooler full on the Bridge and around all structures in the Gulf and inshore.

Monster Specks, Flounder and Redfish are following the schools of bait in the grass beds and the Spanish have started shredding the water also. I went out the other night in my boat, the 4FUN. As I was leaving the launch at Oriole Beach with my spotlight in hand the Blue Crabs were everywhere in the grass.

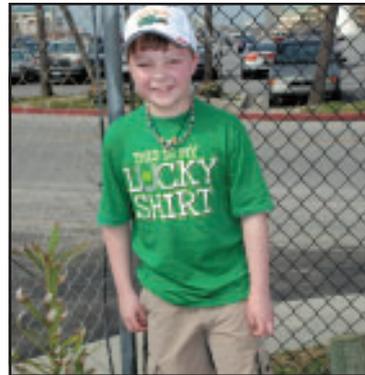
All the signs are here - It's spring time and there's not much more to say except, do yourself a favor and Go Fishing!



Wearin' of the Green - St. Paddy's Day Pub Crawlers started the day with a good luck toast at Sidelines at 10 a.m. March 17. Pub Crawlers from Pensacola included (L to R): Amanda Walker, Wende Tew and Matt Brigham.



Mary Bedard is a woman of many talents. She poured her best pint and waited for the amber ale to settle before topping it off at the Pour the Proper Pint contest at Paddy O'Leary's Saturday, March 15.



A wiley Leprechaun left a pot of coins somewhere at Tiki Island on March 15 and nine-year-old Richie Price from Wisconsin wore his lucky shirt to help him in the search. No big prize, but alot of fun for the kids.

Royal Hands Appear At Beach Poker Tables

Will Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun players refer to Kristin Larmier as Her Highness or Royal Kristin? She has amazed them all by drawing to a Royal Flush not once, but twice in a span of ten days. The first was at the Sandshaker March 2 and the second was during play at Paddy's on March 12.

"Amazing," said Rick Uzdevenes, poker promoter. "Perhaps Lady Luck is partial, because Jenny Doherty put a royal flush on the table last year, too. These gals can really play cards."

Players tests their skill and nerve at the poker tables at Paddy O'Leary's weekly games.

Father Sean Knox was the victor on March 5 with a great come from behind win. Beach girl Kim Duell was down to a chip and a chair with five players left and won seven hands in a row to put her in the final showdown against Father Sean. She had to settle for second. Big Todd Lentini was third out of the field of 20 players.

Two nights later James Elvis Presley took the win over Fran Cox. Tiki Terry McKamey was third place.

Justin Scher was the winner on March 8. Phil Tracy was the runner-up.

Winning at cards runs in the Tracy family. Phil Tracy's son, Michael D. Tracy joined the poker game on March 10. He played the game of his life as he went all the way besting top Beach player Justin Scher in the final. Michael received a "Willett Wall Willie" custom made beach trophy.

On a repeat of Tuesday night, Michael Tracy emerged victorious over Justin Scher March 12 after a great battle to make it two in a row for the visiting Texan.

The mysterious and sometimes Irishman Waldo Defindorfin hit a Full House with his eights and fours on the final hand to beat Tiki Terri McKamey and claim the Paddy's Pot O' Gold Poker tournament win. Eighteen of the top players in the Beach poker world battled for the title on March 14. Kim Duell was third, Mike Willett, fourth, and Fran Cox, fifth. A "Willett Wall Willie" decked out in shamrocks and Irish green was awarded to Defindorfin along with a Paddy O'Leary's bar tab. He bought drinks for all the players with his winnings.

Houston visitor, David Titus made his way to the winner's circle when he defeated Toots Humphrey in the final Sunday, March 15.

Tiki Terri McKamey played her heart out to defend her recent win, but, it was Fran Cox and Tex Atkinson in the final at the Sandshaker Lounge on March 9. It turned out to be a back and forth knockdown drag out battle with Fran taking the win after 20 minutes of serious card playing.

"This was a great night of cards and the first open air night of the new year. Let's see some fresh faces in the fresh air, please start coming and enjoying the best game around," said Uzdevenes.

Tex Atkinson took the title after battling Phil Tracy in the final on March 16 at the Sandshaker. First timer and beach legend

Tommy Grice was third.

Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun games are open to anyone who has a basic knowledge of the game.

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Aclarion, a now famous rock band from Atlanta, will hit Flounder's Beach March 26 - 28. Band leader Ryan Landry says powerful is too pedestrian a word to describe their performance. Landry is joined by Casey Prezioso, David Garcia and bassist Tab Brown. Aclarion has been playing to sold out crowds in Atlanta, Panama City Beach and as far north as Anchorage, Alaska. Catch them live 'neath the moon and stars.

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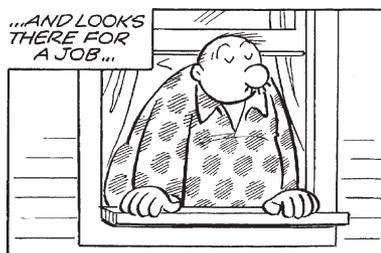
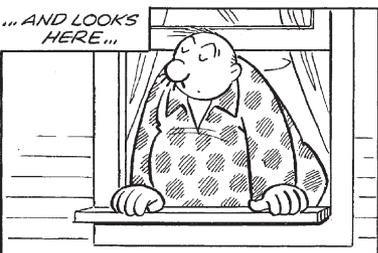
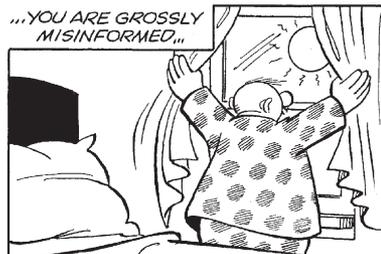
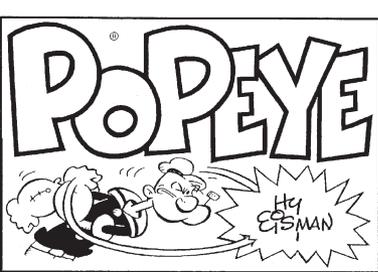
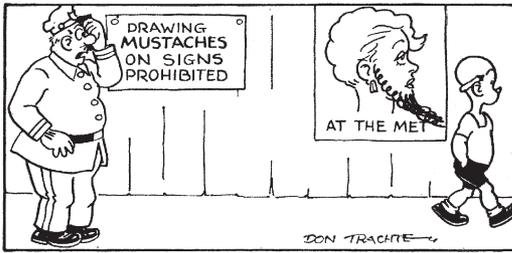
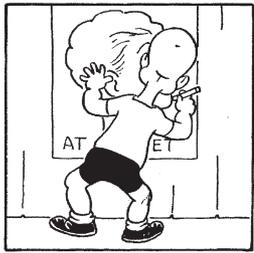
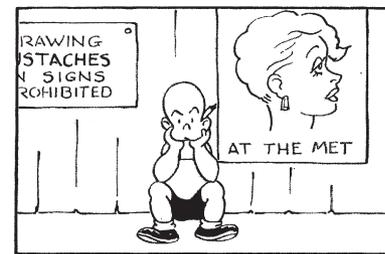
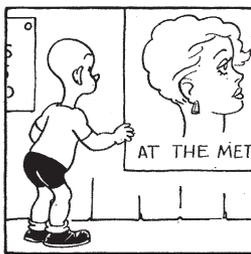
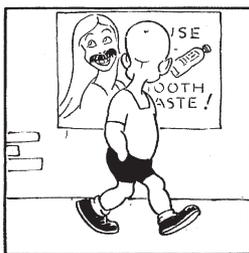
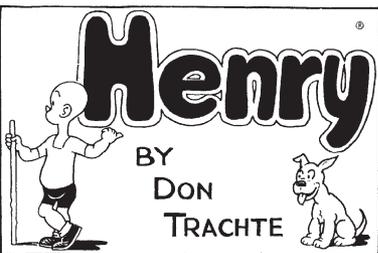
The "World Famous Sandshaker"- a Pensacola Beach Tradition since 1973. It's the Home of the Original Bushwacker and has been selling this signature drink for over 30 years. The Shaker was the 1st bar on the Beach to offer this tasty frozen concoction. Live Music Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat & Sun. Karaoke Tuesday Iguana Grill open Wednesday-Sunday

Across from the Boardwalk on Pensacola Beach. Open 10 am until 3am. 850-932-2211. www.sandshaker.com for photo gallery and event schedule.

NATIVE CAFE

Open at 7:30 a.m. six days a week. Closed on Tuesday. Owned and operated by friendly natives serving locally produced seafood and delicacies. The Fish Tacos are an experience to enjoy. The owners say their goal is to preserve the unique flavors of the Gulf Coast. Go fresh. Go native. Specialty desserts top off expertly prepared meals. Seating is informal. Art gallery setting with local artists displaying whimsical works.

45 Via de Luna. Downtown Pensacola Beach. 934-4848.



"Well, HE doesn't think the meatballs are underdone."

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



*Knock, Knock
Who's There?
Norma Lee
Norma Lee Who?
Normally I ring the doorbell.*



Public Invited

**Fritz and Friends Fish Fry
Pensacola Beach Elk's Lodge
Saturday, April 4 • 10 til 2**

**Bloodmobile
Give Life**



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Fresh Gulf seafood charbroiled over flaming hardwood fires



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Gulf shrimp served scampi style, barbecued, beer batter fried, or steamed in beer



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'Neath the moon & stars on our beach

"Floundering at its best"

- Fodor's Florida

"Best seafood on Pensacola Beach"

- Fromers Guide to Florida



Mobil
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"Best seafood on Pensacola Beach"

- USAir Magazine

"Great Vibes...and happy guests"

- Florida Trend Magazine

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She Crab Soup
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traffic light on Pensacola Beach