

ISLAND TIMES

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February 27, 2008

Ready, Set, Run!



The road leading to Fort Pickens, which has been closed to vehicles since Hurricane Ivan, has become a popular stretch of pavement for local runners. The three hundred runners who will compete in the March 1 Fight to the Fort Run will traverse both the paved and unpaved sections on the designated 15 mile challenge course. Giving the group some Fort road running tips is veteran competitor Glenn Windham, left. He advises the group to head west! Next to Glenn is Park Ranger Larry Bova, also a runner, who gets his watch ready to time the practice run. Beach runners gathered at the road to the Fort are (L to R): Patsy Melin, Mary Samaras, Jack Cerone and Chris Neal. For more on this story and other events at Fort Pickens, see Page 2.

Runners Battle Stretches of Sand In Fight To The Fort Race

Ft. Pickens Down But Not Out - Offers Biking, Walking, Stargazing

What can you do in a National Park which has no automobile access after the entrance roadway took a triple whammy from Hurricanes Ivan, Dennis and Rita? You can't get there in your car, but there are still ways to enjoy the park, especially this spring.

One of the most exciting events in March will be a one-time only race. You can make your mark in Ft. Pickens history by participating in the Fight to the Fort Race on Saturday, March 1.

The run, sponsored by the Pensacola Runners Association, will be limited to 300 runners. Entrants must be at least 16 years of age and must have qualified by participating in the Double Bridge Run, a half marathon or marathon within the last four months, in which they have kept a steady pace of 15 minutes or less per mile.

The course is from the Ft. Pickens gate to the Fort and back, a total of fifteen miles. The kicker is that two stretches of damaged roadway amount to about 1.2 miles of the total distance, so running will be through the sand in those areas.

This run will never be repeated since the road is expected to be open in March of 2009. Aid stations will be along the course and vehicles will be patrolling the race course. Racers will be given a long-sleeved t-shirt and a post race party will be held. Entry blanks are available at the Downtown YMCA, the Pensacola Sports Association office, Gulf Breeze Aerobics and Fitness, or runners can register online at www.active.com. The entry fee is \$30.

For additional information contact Race Chairman Charles Gheen at charles_ghen@gmail.com

The following Saturday, March 8, a Bicycle Tour to Ft. Pickens will begin at 8 a.m. at the Ft. Pickens gate. This event is

open to everyone who is able to ride a bike to the Fort and back to the gate, over mostly asphalt except for the two damaged areas in the road noted above.

Park Ranger Amanda Carrigan-Grissom advises all riders to wear sturdy shoes.

"It really helps to have foot protection while riding and while negotiating the two parcels of damaged road," Carrigan-Grissom said.

Riders need to bring lunch, plenty of water, sunscreen and a hat.

After a brief welcome by Carrigan-Grissom, riders will set their own pace as they ride to the Fort.

"You will enjoy the isolated natural experience of the Fort ride," she said. "This is not a race.

It is a recreational ride. You can stop whenever you wish and enjoy the surroundings."

Riders will have their picnic lunch on the grassy parade ground and will be asked to leave the Fort by 2 p.m.

"We really have to be creative in order to provide access and enjoyable events at Ft. Pickens since the road is not yet complete," Carrigan-Grissom said. "I hope anyone who is interested in the recreational ride will join us."

If you don't run or bike, not to worry. The Park Service announced dates for Sunset Walks in March. The first will be on March 5 at 5:30 p.m. The second will be March 12 at 6:30 p.m. and the final one will be March 19 at

7 p.m. Park Ranger Stanley Lawhead says if you can only attend one, the March 19 date will be a great walk since the full moon will be shining over Santa Rosa Island. Walkers should meet at the entrance gate to the park and are cautioned to dress appropriately for the weather.

If stargazing is your thing, you can join the Escambia Amateur Astronomer's Association to take a look at the stars on March 7 at 6 p.m. and April 4 at 7 p.m. The Astronomer's Association will set up telescopes for public viewing of the stars, planets, and constellation on these dates. The telescopes will remain in place until 11 p.m. The public can park in the parking lot next to the gate and will need to walk about one-

tenth of a mile past the gate to the stargazing area. For more information on this program, call the Naval Live Oaks Visitor's Center, 934-2600.

If you are new to the area, Ft. Pickens gate is located at the western end of Ft. Pickens Road. There is a large, free parking lot available to the public at this site.

Until the entrance road to Fort Pickens Park is complete in 2009, park rangers will continue to develop programs which the public can enjoy. They are using their creative powers to bring events, so everyone who misses the park's normal wide range of activities realizes that Ft. Pickens is still there. Inaccessible to all but the brave and sturdy, in some cases. But, still there.

Road Widening May Leave SRIA \$400,000 Windfall Money Could Pave Parking Lots

At their February 13 meeting the Santa Rosa Island Authority board granted Buck Lee, executive director, permission to consult with bond attorneys Lott and Lott. The request involves the spending of \$400,000 left after the Via de Luna road widening project was completed. The excess came as a result of Lee's negotiations with the Emerald Coast Utilities Authority to pay for reclaimed water to irrigate landscaping along the roadway. The question is whether or not the Authority can use the funds for projects which Lee has in mind, such as resurfacing the Via de Luna Shopping Center and the employee parking lot at the Authority office. All bond money must be used for transportation related projects.

Attorney for The Palace, Paul Flounacker, appeared before the Board to ask for relief

in payments due. The Board voted four to one to forgive a payment of \$18,000 in liquidated damages acquired during the SRIA's attempts to get them to clear their property and rebuild after Hurricane Ivan. They also put a cap of \$3500 on attorney's fees.

Owners of The Palace say they will construct an 18-story hotel on the land which will require rezoning the parcel. The attorney also said they had entered into a lease with Jubilee Restaurant with an option to purchase the property. The restaurant will need a \$100,000 face lift since it has never been restored after Hurricane Ivan.

Dr. Thomas Campanella who cast the lone vote against giving up the \$18,000 in liquidated damages noted that The Palace owners had been slow to pay anything, did not clean up their property without the threat of losing their lease, and failed to keep promises.

"They have not proven to this Board that they will honor a promise to perform. I would not be in favor of waiving the liquidated damages."

Board member John Peacock, made a pitch for increasing business on the Island.

"We want to increase business, increase density, increase money, and bring more park-

ing," Peacock said. "This is the jewel of Escambia County and in order to make money for Escambia County they must be willing to invest in Pensacola Beach. We could create the downtown Pensacola Beach that Vision 2010 calls for."

During the engineer's report, Dave Hemphill, Baskerville Donovan, Inc., said negotiations are underway between the Executive Director and the ECUA on building a pumping station for reclaimed water.

Lee provided the Board with the details of the project, noting that the ECUA needs a forty by sixty foot piece of property to locate a reuse tank.

The SRIA could give the ECUA a small parcel in the maintenance yard and the ECUA would, in turn, give the SRIA the area where the now dismantled beach ball once stood along with other considerations.

Hemphill also reported that the Request for Proposals for the parking garage construction will be discussed at the February 27 Committee meetings.

Sandy Johnston, Executive Director of the Beach Chamber said the traffic at the Visitor's Center continues about the same as last year.

Peacock challenged Sandy

saying, "I am trying to figure out what you do other than count cars. I am sure it is meaningful. I just don't know what it is."

Board member Tammy Bohannon suggested that Peacock spend the day at the Visitor's Information Center to find the answers to his questions.

Peacock made another suggestion regarding business on Pensacola Beach during the Board members forum.

"If we decide to halt future spending on national advertising and start advertising locally in the *Pensacola News Journal*, our money might be better spent. We could have something like Gallery Nights. We need to start the cash registers ringing on the Boardwalk."

Bohannon countered with a cautionary remark about possibly bringing outside vendors to the Beach.

"We need to support the percentage paying businesses," she said.

The next meeting is Wednesday, February 27 at 5 p.m. at the Island Authority office. At this meeting the Pensacola Beach Chamber will bring its full report on their research of the noise ordinance and their proposed list of events for 2008-2009. All meetings are open to the public.

ISLAND TIMES

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Barefoot on the Beach

By Jane Waters Cooper



Some things just happen every four years for whatever reason. Like the Summer Olympics in Beijing this year and the presidential election in November. And, also in 2008, all the world gets an extra day, free and clear. No string attached. It's Leap Year, of course, so tack on an extra day in February. It seems to me that February 29 should be a day of rejoicing everywhere in the world. It should be a day when the banks, post offices and schools could close and toasts could be proposed to Julius Caesar and Pope Gregory XIII. They might not hear the toasts, but Julius was the emperor who took the advice of his Greek astronomer, Sosigenes to create the Julian calendar in the year 46 B.C.

Sosigenes said the one day the Earth takes to rotate on its axis does not divide evenly into the one year it takes the Earth to revolve around the Sun, hence every fourth year extra day makes everything right.

Right? Well, sort of. The system seemed fine for several hundred years until the Catholic Church adopted Christianity as its official religion, and juggled the calendar a bit to work in the prescribed number of mandatory masses between Christmas and Easter.

The story gets murkier when the solstices and equinoxes come into play. On the equinox the Sun rises due east and sets due west from every location on Earth ex-

cept the poles, where the length of the day and night are equal, of course the equinox derives from that fact. Everybody knows that.

Fast forward. The Julian calendar met with numerous changes, setbacks, and updates during the next hundred years, depending on the vagaries of the Sun, Moon, and the needs of religion.

The discrepancies caught the eye of Pope Gregory, XIII in 1582. Christopher Clavius, astronomer and priest, estimated that the accumulated error had amounted to ten years, so the length of a year was 365.2425 rather than the heretofore accepted 365.25 days. Not a problem, said Christopher. Just drop three leap years every 400 years to bring the calendar in sync with religious requirements. So, what they did was declare the day following October 4, 1582 as October 15, dropping ten days. Just like that.

The adoption of the Gregorian calendar didn't really fly with everyone over the next centuries. Martin Luther in Germany, and Henry VIII in England broke with the Catholic Church. Remember Henry formed the Anglican Church when the Pope refused to let him divorce one of his six wives?

To make a long and what is now getting to be a boring story, short, we can sum up with the fact that the Western Europeans did not accept the Gregorian calendar for a hundred years and the

Eastern countries never did.

Russia was the last country to adopt the Gregorian calendar after the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917.

So, here is an extremely condensed version of the vagaries of Earth, sun and moon, coupled with religious requirement and the ramblings of a few weather guys, which brought about the Gregorian calendar. And, we still have Leap year. Don't even think about the odds and ends which have been left out of this historical treatise which dates from 46 B.C. to 2008. If you want all the

scoop on the innuendos and tricky maneuvers, check the internet.

For now, without the aid of astronomers or TV weathermen and weatherwomen, I'd like to see February 29 celebrated as an official or unofficial holiday. It could be high tech such as sky gazing and refiguring previously used formulas. Or, and this is the way I see it, could have a laid back day when men, women and children, and household pets did whatever they wanted. Like eating candy for all three meals. Taking naps on the sandy beach. Stopping all

vehicular traffic by dancing in the streets from sunup to sundown. There would be all kinds of fun events like poker and golf with prizes to those with the worst scores. No fundraisers would be allowed. Just let it all hang out on that one day every four years. If February 29 Fest didn't happen anywhere else, it could be easily adapted to Pensacola Beach. March Gras is over. St. Paddy's Day is not here yet. What a great day for a beachwide party, something to look forward to gleefully for four years. Like the presidential elections.

Campanella Wants Answers

Dr. Thomas Campanella, chairman of the Board of the Santa Rosa Island Authority, is looking for community response as the SRIA continues its vision of the future of Pensacola Beach. Campanella has sent out a request for responses to the following:

- ▶ List two qualities of Pensacola Beach which you find most appealing.
- ▶ List two factors that influence tourists to visit Pensacola Beach.

Campanella thinks the

ideas and feelings of the residents and businesses are critical to the overall visioning process on Pensacola Beach.

Responses should be sent to Island Times via email at islandtimes@bellsouth.net or mail to Island Times, P.O. Box 844, Gulf Breeze, FL 32562. Please do not answer by phone.

Responses will be delivered to Dr. Campanella as they arrive. Dr. Campanella is the lone elected member of the Authority.

The Optimist Club of Pensacola Beach Beach Ball 2008

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FAST FIRST YEAR

It was just a little more than a year ago when Michael Sullivan married Christy Jones while surrounded by friends and family in beautiful, lush Morgan Park. Christy says their first anniversary crept up on her quickly. Time flies when you are having fun.

FLEETFEET

Clark Allen and his wife Stephanie completed the 15K distance of the Double Bridge Run, not the 5K, that we had reported earlier. Clark has to stay in tip top shape for his upcoming surf trip to Costa Rica. He is looking forward to four days of non-stop surfing with breaks to eat and sleep sandwiched in between.

CHRISTENING SAILBOAT

Elizabeth and Lynn Dell christened his new thirty-two foot sailboat Friday, February 15 just in time to compete in the Beach Yacht Club's Valentine Regatta. According to their friend, Pandora de Balthazar, it is the fast-

est sailboat on the water and creating quite a stir.

BUSY BEACH VISITORS

Barb and Phil Ruxton from Rising Sun, Indiana are visiting Barb's sister, Pensacola Beach resident Sandi Johnson. They like to go, go, go. They made a day trip to Fort Walton but Sandi stayed behind at her Portofino condo. When they returned, the trio went to Sidelines for wings. Then, it was off to wish Sandi's nephew Finn Fritz a happy second birthday, February 13. Finn lives on the Beach with his parents and sister Zoey.

ANOTHER YEAR

Island Times health columnist, Dr. Tracey Pinkston celebrated her birthday February 17. The vivacious young doctor does not worry about those landmarks, she knows how to stay young and healthy.

NEW YACHT CLUBBER

Local attorney and Beach resident Jennifer Byrom joined the

Pensacola Beach Yacht Club. The love of sailing must run in the family; her daughter Gracie is a junior sailor. Look for Debbie Sanspre of Milton, and Scott and Theone Wilkenson of Cantonment at the Beach Yacht Club, too.

SAVETIME

Sunday, March 9 is the beginning of Daylight Savings Time. So, set your clock ahead before you go to bed and spend all day Sunday wondering where the time went.

ROYALTY ARRIVES SOON

Mystic Krewe of Nereids member Peggy Henshall is preparing to receive royalty. Well, sort of. Her mother will be relocating from New Iberia, Louisiana to Gulf Breeze. Ms. Lena, as she is affectionately known by her Beach friends, pens an electronic Weekly Wit and Wisdom column to her friends. Her nom de plume is Queen Madame. All hail the Queen.

Trivia

The Trivia Master in his devilish mind hung out a question in the last issue of *Island Times* which required multiple answers. He received multiple answers from multiple people. Unfortunately, most of them were not correct. The question asked the name of the Beach resident who once owned four nightclubs. It also asked for the names of at least three of the clubs.

Angeli McMillan of Gulf Breeze was the first to send an email. Incorrectly, she guessed Chan Cox and listed his bars and restaurants. Her second guess was June Guerra for Jubilee and Capt'n Funs. All wrong. Angeli admits she just wants to win one of those coveted *Island Times* t-shirts. Try again.

Answers began pouring in. Jeff Goudey got the Beach resident, Kevin Evans, right, but then proceeded to describe the bars, noting that the one in West Pensacola had a mechanical bull. Only problem was that he didn't name the bars.

Larry Keever thought he had the winner, Kevin Evans, he said, owned Kevin's En La Playa, Kevin's West and Bogies. First

answers are correct up to Bogies, which is wrong.

Morrie Drees, veteran player, sent two emails. He came closest in his second email when he answered Kevin Evans owned Kevin's En La Playa, Kevin's West, and Bogies. Bogies was owned by Jimbo Scoggins.

And, finally, on Thursday, February 14, at 6:12 p.m. Sharon Mattair recalled that Kevin Evans owned Kevin's En La Playa, SS Casino Nuevo (not Bogies) and Kevin's West. His fourth club was Happy Days Again, located in Pensacola. So, Sharon has a new t-shirt to wear during the opening of her new salon in Navarre.

Let old history lie for a while as we try a contemporary question. What is the name of the Pensacola Beach charter boat captain whose wife is the Escambia County attorney?

Rules are the same. Be the first to email the correct answer and you will be officially declared the winner. The rules are the same. Send your trivia answer to islandtimes@bellsouth.net with "trivia" in the subject line. The deadline to respond is 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5.



Sharon Mattair

Tourist Development Council Tackles Funding Distribution Problem

The Tourist Development Council, at their February 12 meeting began the process of clarifying some apparent misconceptions on who is in charge of distributing bed tax money.

Denis McKinnon, chairman, said, "Right now I am very frustrated. My phone calls to the County Commission are not being returned and this is a very important matter."

McKinnon pointed out that the Florida statute clearly states that the Tourist Development Council must be involved in the spending of the fourth cent.

"We're to oversee how those dollars are spent to assure that they are distributed in accordance with the law," he said.

McKinnon said if the County is unwilling to come to the table and meet regarding this, the TDC will be forced to go to the State Department of Revenue.

Council Member Mike DeSorbo, told McKinnon the Commissioners may not be aware of the law and are acting out of ignorance.

"I commend you, Denis, for your attention to this," he commented.

The TDC now has \$550,510 in available funds and the County has \$800,000 in fourth cent tax money.

The TDC wants to hire a strategic planner to create a funds allocation plan which would require the participation of the Board of County Commissioners.

Members of the Council gave McKinnon a vote of confidence in his attempts to contact the Commissioners.

In other business, Nancy Halford spoke on the preparations under way for celebrating the 450th anniversary of the founding of Pensacola.

The celebration begins on May 23, 2008 and culminates on August 15, 2009," Halford said.

"We hope to have the King

and Queen of Spain, the El Cano and other tall ships here on that date," she said. "We even invited The Pope."

Pensacola Beach



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Island Times Tax Story Reaches State Department of Revenue

Legislative Representative Dave Murzin has asked the *Island Times* publisher to give him permission to distribute copies of a recent tax story which appeared in the Beach newspaper (Overtaxed Commercial Leaseholders Seek Relief, January 30, Page 7, *Island Times*) Pensacola Beach is in Rep. Murzin's district and he always taken the concerns of the Island seriously.

"This account of the current tax situation was the clearest, most concise I've seen," he said.

To date, his office has sent the story to their House attorney and to the State Department of Revenue. Murzin has pledged that he will take steps to help solve the problem.

The story was the result of the combined effort of Shelley Johnson and Jane Waters Cooper. Shelley carefully covered both the Santa Rosa Island Authority and the Escambia County Commission presentations by Marilyn Hess, chairman, American Fidelity. American Fidelity owns two Holiday Inn franchised

hotels on Pensacola Beach as well as properties in nearby locations.

After compiling her notes on these meetings, Shelley interviewed Kevin Rudski of Navarre Beach to get information on how the Navarre Beach businesses were handling the same problems.

Jane wrote the story based on Shelley's findings.

Island Times has promised that it will not only offer entertainment to its readers, but that it will diligently pursue and report on the serious items which will occur on the Beach. *Island Times* takes particular pride in knowing the newspaper article had begun to reach statewide levels. *Island Times* takes further pride in its in-depth, accurate reporting of events which impact the Beach.

Rep. Murzin wants all Beach residents and businesses to know he values their input and will listen to their concerns.

The telephone number at the Representative's Pensacola office is 494-7330. His office number in Tallahassee is 850-488-8278. His email address is dave.murzin@myfloridahouse.gov.



Pensacola Beach Elementary School third graders teamed up with *Island Times* and conducted a school-wide book drive to benefit children in foster care in Escambia County. The Book Buddy Team encouraged their schoolmates to donate new and gently used books. Teacher Joy McLaurine announced a grand total of 400 books had been collected. Book Buddy Team members are front row (L to R): Shelby Dunne, Maddie Grace McCurdy, Kylie Finkbone, Dylan Skutt, Parker Baynes, Benton Byrd, Patrick Hodges and Rich Earl. Back row, (L to R) Reddon McLaurine, Joey Martin, Colin Adams, Dillon McCain, Mary Elliott, Paris Dupuis, Justin Fruitticher, Daniel Green, Starfish Holk and Edgar Shigley. Not in photo: Chad Moorman and Jackie Owens. Books were delivered to Pandora de Balthazar who will distribute them to the appropriate agencies.

Fire Station Name Honors Rudski Brothers

The Navarre Beach Fire Station will now be known as the Rudski Fire Station, after ceremonies this week honoring Kevin and Ken Rudski, Navarre Beach residents and volunteer fire fighters.

Kevin Rudski became a

Pensacola Beach businessman several years ago, taking over The Islander Lounge from his brother Ken, who went to Navarre to operate the family's business there.

After upgrading The Islander and bringing it to a successful level, Kevin sold the busi-

ness and moved back to Navarre Beach to take an active part in the family business.

The Ruskis were featured on Channel 3 News when they humbly accepted the change in the name of the Fire Station, saying it was a "real honor."

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peas, porridge & a dry martini

by Kathi Lewis

Oh no, I didn't forget to thank Running Around Wreck, Jeff Goudey, I just ran out of space. So, to Jeff and all the Board members of the Krewe of Wrecks, thank you for an incredible job! I'm already almost excited about next year's Mardi Gras.

Ya'll know there's no gossip to share because everyone has been in a "coma" since the Krewe of Coma Parade. That's why it's called the Coma Parade and very effectively brings the Mardi Gras Season to an abrupt halt.

I know some of you go out on Valentine's for dinner and whatever, but Bill and I don't. We have food brought to us. There's nothing better than food delivered straight to your front door, ready to eat! I wish everybody offered delivery services; then I could really become the hermit I long to be! Yeah, right...

One of my favorite Valentines this year was a little paper box made by my grandson Jesiah with a little help from Mom Mel. Jesiah created the artwork for the box, which included two emblems (hand drawn) from Nanny's favorite football team - the "Atlantian" Falcons! (His mispronunciation is caused by a hearing loss.) What I truly love about my grandson is the thought he puts into gift giving. He always includes a "great-granny" bird on every card and picture he makes for me. Although he's only 7, he has a remarkable understanding of the meaning for me. For Jesiah, giving is a labor of love and he puts that same thoughtfulness into every gift.

A great idea for gifts throughout the year is food, so get your scissors out for this recipe. No, don't give people the recipe for a gift; you know what I mean. We all have too much stuff, especially considering you may be picking it out of the sand and throwing it all away some day. Hopefully not, but that is always a possibility here. Anyway, you know a tasty gift is a great idea because people love to have food cooked for them. The only way it can get any better is having it brought to you.

Elaine Mitchell does just that every week for Mental Health Night. Yes, she creates, cooks, packs it up and delivers it! And

that, my friends, is another example of a labor of love. Elaine loves to creatively cook and we love being her guinea pigs and eating it all! It's always delicious!

This recipe is one Elaine created out of excess. Excess Satsumas, that is. Back in December, when Marilyn LeNormand hosted the Nereid's Christmas party and bead trippin' events, she was literally overrun with Satsumas. I've known Marilyn for over 20 years and never knew about her father's Satsuma trees. Well, the late Stacy Jones grew some fabulous, sweet delicious Satsumas and his trees produced tremendous amounts last year. Marilyn peeled, squeezed, ate, gave away tons, and still had lots of satsumas. We even drank Satsuma juice with champagne!

During breakfast, Elaine began to think about using Satsumas to make a glaze. She created this fabulous recipe and served it with ham steaks. It was definitely a winner! It was even more special because it came from the Satsumas grown by Marilyn's Daddy. Mr. Stacy Jones will always be missed by his loving family and friends. I hope those wonderful Satsuma trees he put such good care, love, hard work and thought into will continue to produce and thrive for many years. We will think of him and remember his labor of love with each one consumed. So, Marilyn and Elaine, my wonderful friends and sisters, this one's for you. Let's cook.....

Satsuma Glaze

8-10 Satsumas, peeled & juiced (keeping 2 whole)
1 Cup Kikkoman's Teriyaki Sauce
1 pkg. Sliced toffee almonds

In saucepan, bring Satsuma juice and teriyaki sauce to a boil; continuing to boil until slightly thickened. (approx. 20-30 minutes) Add sliced almonds and marinate ham steaks or chicken. Peel and separate remaining Satsumas, add to marinate and cook meat. You can substitute your favorite fruit (oranges, tangerines, etc.), dark Karo syrup, pecans or other nuts instead of almonds, and any type of meat or fish. So, start cooking and have some fun!
See ya in the kitchen.....



ONE HUNDRED GOOD DEEDS - Pensacola Beach Elementary School kindergarten students celebrate the one-hundredth day of school by collecting 100 items to bring to class. Joseph Urquhart collected one hundred canned food items to donate to the food bank. Teacher Jennifer Neal said students bring a variety of items from jelly beans to raindrops, but she was thrilled with Joseph's generous spirit.

Let The Games Begin Woman's Club Hosts Fundraiser

Whether you are a card sharp or a Bunco babe, it's time to reserve your tickets for the Pensacola Beach Woman's Club Game and Card Party, Thursday, April 10 at Our Lady of the Assumption on Pensacola Beach. The event kicks off at 10 a.m. with a roomful of game players and card shufflers who will take a break from noon until 1 p.m. for lunch. The action continues until 2 p.m.

"We have a great variety of door prizes to give away this year," said Jane McGrath, Club president.

The fundraiser includes a silent auction, raffle and a 50/50 drawing.

"No one should go home empty handed from this party," commented Jane. "The Silent Auction items are really fabulous."

Attendees can choose to play any game they wish, but the scheduled games include Bridge, Bunco, Mah Jong, Rummy, Hearts, Dominoes and Scrabble.

"Everyone is welcome to join us at this event," Sandi Johnson, Club vice-president said. "Last year we had quite a few men, out-of-town guests and Beach locals get in on the fun."

The Pensacola Beach Woman's Club supports Beach events and organizations with donations and volunteer hours along with fostering a camaraderie among its female members.

Most recently, the Club participated in the Krewe of Wrecks parade.

Tickets are \$20 which includes lunch. Call Jane McGrath at 934-0553 or Sandi Johnson at 916-2533 to make your ticket purchase.

Wine Talk

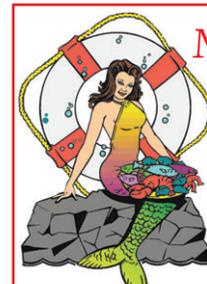


with Bob Temple
Beach Wines and Liquors

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 pickles 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 wine and spirits awaits you here. Whether you are knowledgeable and know exactly when you want, or would appreciate our assistance, we are here for you.



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In the Soundside Market, next to Wings, across from Hilton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No More Off Season

For years hotel owners, realtors, and others throughout this magnificent panhandle of Florida have referred to November through April as the "Off Season." These words my very well be an acronym for "I Quit!" In some cases this cessation of business they say has been a welcomed breather period - a time to

lay back and relax. Then in the next breath, they are the first to complain when the money stops flowing. There really is no "Off Season." Let me tell you why!

I'm a Chicago guy. As I write this piece, my town is buried in several feet of snow, where my friends and relatives back home are enduring sub-zero cold and strong winds from the north,

which breed more white stuff with yet colder temperatures to come. In contrast, this snowbird comes out of his hotel into fifty degree refreshing light rain which soon changes to seventy degree sunshine. The Gulf scenery is magic therapy, while the well-manicured golf courses await the afternoon play.

We don't have an "Off Sea-

son;" instead we have the following: the Holiday Season which includes Santa on the Beach at Christmastime; the January-February Conference and Convention Season; the Mardi Gras Season; the Spring Break Season; and festival of all kinds scheduled to support worthy charities. All of these seasons precede the Fourth of July preparing us for Pensacola's own Blue Angels' Season. In addition, we are entertained throughout by a cast of some of the world's finest musicians playing in well-known restaurants and clubs.

If most of the advertising dollars were concentrated in places like Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis, and all the way east to New York; we'd find thousands of people, just like me, eager to escape winter's wrath. Incentives to encourage additional non-stop airline service to Pensacola at more reasonable rates, would certainly

help in our efforts to promote tourism as well as frequent business events.

Laurie Woollard

Mardi Gras Gratitude

I would like to thank Jeff Goudey and his committee for the outstanding Mardi Gras this year. The parties, balls, and coronation were all just great. I am sure that the Krewe of Wrecks parade will once again be listed as one of the top twenty events to see in the Southeastern United States next year. Putting all these events together in the short space of time this year took tremendous effort on the part of many individuals.

Businesses prospered. Tourists and locals alike found plenty of entertainment available to them in January.

So, I would like to say, "Thanks to Jeff and the Krewe of Wrecks for a job well done!"

Jeff Elbert, president
Pensacola Beach Chamber
of Commerce

The Seagulls Sing



Pictures

by Mike Willett

*Fighting for an image of myself
Some far away version that's been put on a shelf.
When I see it I think I'm still there
But my mind understands, the past goes nowhere.*

*So I look at the pictures and say,
"How great it was!" and "That was the day!"
But sometimes change comes fast.
What's done is done, you can't change the past.*

*Life throws you a living twist.
You can't live in the past, it's too big a risk.
But it's easy to deceive myself,
Create a new image and put it back on the shelf.*

*So while the image is always the same,
My perspectives and concepts certainly will change.
So the conflict continues within;
Am I who I am now, or who I was then?*

Silken Sands Conference Seeks Romance Writers

Gulf Coast Romance Writers will offer authors an opportunity to network and attend professional enhancement seminars at the 2008 Silken Sands Writers Conference, April 11-13, at the Hampton Inn on Pensacola Beach.

From registration on Friday morning to the fantastic Book Fair you'll delight in the sugar white sands of Pensacola Beach. Network with writers, agents and editors. Pitch to an agent and editor. Attend workshops given by publishing professionals. Lucky attendees will win one of the fabulous raffle prizes or a critique from an agent, author or editor of their choice. For the critique raffle, an author should bring the first 30 pages of his manuscript in case he is one of the lucky winners.

Additionally, Sherrilyn Kenyon, an internationally known author, and Catherine Mann from the Navarre area will be our featured speakers. Roland Haas, author of *Enter the Past Tense*, the story behind his life as a CIA assassin, will be on the Conference agenda and will interest writ-

ers of all genres.

The regular registration fee of \$145 ends March 10 and goes up to \$165. Registration information is available at www.gccrwa.com. For more information contact Fran McNabb, Conference co-chair at mcnabbf@bellsouth.net.

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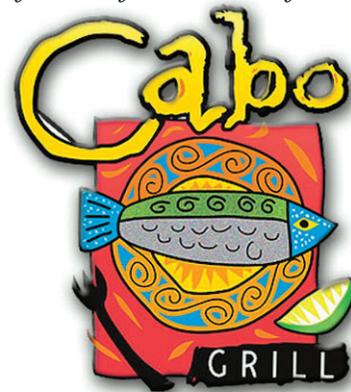
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Business Buzz ~ ~ ~ ~

SAMPLE WINES, HELP KIDS

Children's Home Society's third annual "A Sunday of Soundside Splendor" will be March 9 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Portofino. This premier event features exclusive tastings of fine reserve champagne and wines paired with the exquisite cuisine. Children's Home Society operates ten foster homes in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. Approximately 1000 children in our area are in out-of-home care at any point in time. Tickets are \$125. For additional information contact Gay Deese at 266-2700 or 266-2705.

IT'S GREEN ON THE HILL

Springhill Suites has gone green. After installing the largest geothermal system in Northwest Florida, the hotel received international recognition with a first place award from the Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers. It heats the pools and chills the ice saving lots of energy and money.

PURRFECT OPPORTUNITY

Barbara Grice, president of the Humane Society noted that

they could use a little help. If you would like to donate forty-one cent stamps, copy paper, manilla envelopes or garbage bags, call 432-4250. You may get a purr or a bark as a thank you.

BRACE FOR HURRICANES

The Be Ready Alliance Coordinating for Emergencies will host its Hurricane Expo, Saturday, April 12 at the Pensacola Civic Center beginning at 10 a.m. Don't wait until Hurricane Season to think about your home and business. Plan now. The Expo will educate homeowners and businesses about the importance of preparing for and mitigating against disasters.

Vendors are welcome. Exhibitor applications can be found at www.MyHurricaneExpo.com.

HEROES NEEDED

Pensacola Beach Public Safety Department is looking for a few good men and women to fill vacancies in the lifeguarding corps. The requirements to apply are stringent and training is tough, but it leads to a rewarding position. According to Bob West, safety director, "Employment as

a Pensacola Beach Lifeguard prepares you for success in your future. Pensacola Beach Lifeguards have gone on to become physicians, lawyers, investors, governmental employees and managers for large corporations."

Call 850-554-4301 for more information.

BREAK IN THE BEACH

Flounder's Beach is ready for Spring Break. Manager Lewis Irby said the line up for March includes Hidden Element March 6-8; Shakedown Monkey March 13-15; and Fly By Radio March 21-22. Flounder's is located at the traffic light on Pensacola Beach.

EYE ON THE SKY

If you missed the February 20 eclipse, put an early morning celestial event on your calendar. The moon, Mercury and Venus are going to rise together low in the eastern sky at 5:10 a.m. on March 5. Look for Mercury just above the thin crescent moon and Venus on the left. This info comes to us from Glenn Windham who read it in *The Ensign*, Jan/Feb edition. Glenn recommends viewing from an eastern facing balcony.

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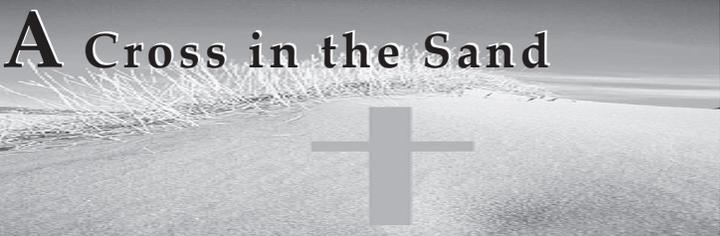
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A Cross in the Sand

By Dr. Chuck Randle
Pastor, Pensacola Beach Community Church

There is a Chinese story of a farmer who used an old horse to prepare fields for annual plantings. One day, the horse escaped into the hills and when the farmer's neighbors sympathized with the old man over his bad luck, the farmer replied, "Bad luck? Good luck? Who knows?"

A week later, the horse returned, followed by a herd of horses from the hills. This time the neighbors congratulated the farmer on his good luck. His reply was, "Good luck? Bad luck? Who knows?"

Then, when the farmer's son was attempting to tame one of the wild horses, he fell off its back and broke his leg. Everyone thought this very bad luck. But, the farmer's only reaction was, "Bad luck? Good luck? Who knows?"

Some weeks later, the army marched into the village and conscripted every able-bodied youth they found there. When they saw the farmer's son with his broken leg, they let him off. Now was that good luck or bad luck? Who knows? (Author unknown)

When events take place in our lives, it is easy to put them into categories – good luck or bad luck. Given time, we can generally determine which is was: good luck or bad luck, or neither. Perhaps the answer lies in the way in which we respond. Losing a job may be devastating, however, it may be the impetus that makes us take a different tack and we may find ourselves in a more desirable position than before. It depends on our response to the situation. Reports indicate that some of the people who have won the lottery think it was the greatest thing that ever happened in their lives. However, some inexperienced in the handling of money, soon found their lives in a far worse position than before – bankrupt and disillusioned. The outcome was due to their response.

The most important factor in every experience we have is our response to it. Will we take advantage of the options available, or allow ourselves to be filled with discouragement and failure? Who knows? The answer is within ourselves.



New Sandpipers - Shelby Christensen, Dylan Skutt and Tyler Christensen are new students at Pensacola Beach Elementary School. They moved here from Michigan and live with their parents at Baywatch on Pensacola Beach.

The School Bell Rings



High Grades in High School

Tom Lampone has earned a 3.7 average during the second nine-week grading period. Tom is a freshman at Gulf Breeze High School and lives on Pensacola Beach with his parents, and sister Lia.

Briana Paulus, also a freshman at Gulf Breeze High School, earned straight As in the second nine week grading period. Briana is a member of the Pensacola Beach Church Youth Group.

.....

Beach Scholars Make the Grade

Pensacola Beach Elementary School students who earned Honor Roll status for the second nine-week grading period are as follows:

*Debbie Campanella's
Second Grade Class*

All A Honor Roll

- Blair Amberson
 - Caroline Hadden
 - Abigail Jacobs
 - Meredith McCurdy
 - Patrick Seigh
 - Zosia Uszok
- ### A-B Honor Roll
- Morgan Churchill
 - Thomas Goodroe
 - Macy Mateer
 - Lauren McCleary
 - Aidan O'Brien
 - Alexandra Salazar

*Joy McLaurine's
Third Grade Class*

All A Honor Roll

- Shelby Dunne
- ### A-B Honor Roll
- Colin Adams

- Benton Byrd
- Rich Earle
- Mary Elliott
- Kylie Finkbone
- Justin Fruitticher
- Daniel Green
- Starfish Holk
- Maddie Grace McCurdy
- Reddon McLaurine

*Susan McLeod's
Fourth Grade Class*

All A Honor Roll

- Jace Amberson
 - Lia Lampone
 - Marley Taylor
- ### A-B Honor Roll
- Jacob Baldwin
 - Megan Cronin
 - Maguire Foreste
 - Shane Imm
 - Gage Smith

Margie Pitts' Fifth Grade Class

All A Honor Roll

- Jett Crowdis
 - Katt Crowdis
 - Will Green
- ### A-B Honor Roll
- Dylan Blass
 - William Crockford
 - Zane Gill
 - Jon Grigsby

- Maddie Mateer
- Savannah McCleary
- Sara Post
- Ian Price
- Brai Royer
- Kiley Stromberg
- Zac Taylor

.....

Warm Welcome

Kylie Finkbone, Pensacola Beach Elementary School third grader, welcomed Dylan Skutt to her class and sent this information about her new classmate:

Dylan's from Lansing, Michigan. His favorite color is lime green. His hobby is playing dodgeball, and I know he loves to fish. His favorite TV show is Nick at Night. His favorite toys are airplanes.

He lives at BayWatch on the Beach with his parents, brother Tyler and his sister Shelby, who is in fourth grade.

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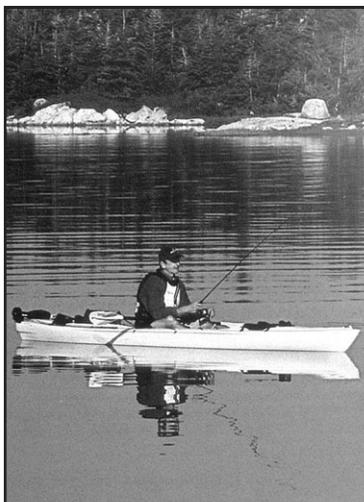
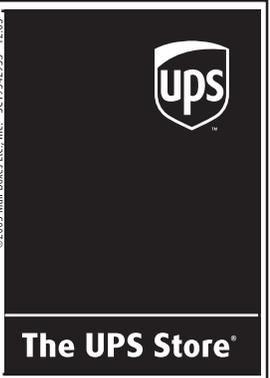
Holidays

Pensacola Beach Elementary School will observe Good Friday, March 21. There will be no classes. Spring Break is March 31 through April 4.

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Pensacola Beach Church Services

Sunday, 9:45 AM - Pensacola Beach Community Church

Sunday, 10 AM - Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Mission



LET'S GET THIS PARTY REVVED UP - Mr. and Mrs. Boogie, David and Bonnie McDonald, provided the music and revved up the party at the Beach Bash Bike and Car Show, February 2 at the Visitor's Center parking lot. The show, hosted by the Gulf Coast Chapter of American Bikers Aimed Toward Education, was part of their birthday celebration. It attracted 40 motorcycle entries along with eight vintage cars. Hundreds of bikers and car enthusiasts rolled in to vote for their favorite entry and, of course, listen to the tunes on a perfectly warm Pensacola Beach day.



AND THE WINNER IS...Anson "Boo" Boutte's Harley Davidson earned the most votes in the Beach Bash Bike and Car Show, February 2 at the Visitor's Center parking lot. The show was hosted by the Gulf Coast Chapter of American Bikers Aimed Toward Education, a motorcycle rights organization. Bikes were judged by Bike Show attendees. Boo purchased his custom motorcycle at Thunder Mountain Harley Davidson in Loveland, Colorado. Boo and his wife, Theresa, live in Cantonment but are longtime fans of Pensacola Beach.

After Sundown



CRABS - WE GOT 'EM

Go crabbing on the Gulf of Mexico, at Crabs, We Got 'Em - Alaskan Snow, Dungeness and King Crabs are all on the extensive seafood menu. Sip and sit at the live aquarium bar or at the upstairs, outdoor Gulfside deck. Oysters and Wings are two bits on Monday through Thursdays. No reservations, come as you are.

At the traffic light -find the red roof and the twinkling lights on Casino Beach and you're in Crab Heaven. Open everyday. 850-932-0700. www.crabswegotem.com

PARADISE BAR AND GRILL

A little bit of paradise at this open air, island style bar with its own private white sand beach. Pull up a rattan stool. Cold beer. Live Music. Exotic Libations. Friendly locals. Lunch and Dinner everyday. Cuban sandwiches. Black and Blue Burgers. Happy Hour 11-7. Live Bands. Poker on Monday and Wednesday.

Tucked away in the parking lot of the Paradise Inn, it's directly on Santa Rosa Sound. Boat and Bicycle parking. Open 7 days. 850-916-5087.

SEVILLE QUARTER

The Gulf Coast's Premier Entertainment Complex. Seven rooms of fun all under one roof! Karaoke, Texas Hold 'Em, Team Trivia, Pool, Video games & more. Live Entertainment 7 nights a week. Live music on 4 stages every Friday & Saturday night. Serving lunch and dinner. New Gift Shop! Located in Historic Downtown Pensacola at 130 East Government Street. Open Monday - Saturday from 11 until 2:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. until 2:30 on Sunday. Ring 434-6211 or visit www.rosies.com

FLOUNDER'S CHOWDER HOUSE

Step back in time and enjoy Flounder's antique collection. Step into now and enjoy Flounder's top rated seafood. Indoor and outdoor dining. Even a beach playground for the kids. Beach Bar 'neath the moon and stars - Diesel Fuel in a commemorative mason jar. Bilgewater Margaritas. Gift shop. Fred Flounder, founder.

Located at the traffic light on Pensacola Beach. Next to the 55 ft. shrimp boat. Open everyday. 850-932-2003. www.flounderschowderhouse.com

PEGLEG PETE'S

Ahoy, Matey. You've found a Pensacola Beach treasure. Pirates welcome. Fresh Gulf seafood served in the galley or outside on the awning covered deck. Glass front bar overlooks LaFitte Cove. All kinds of oysters. Live lobster. Gumbo. Dinner specials nightly. Sizeable sandwiches and burgers for Landlubbers. Take home a t-shirt.

Look for the Jolly Rogers flying over the west end of the Island at 1010 Fort Pickens Road. We're here everyday at 11. 932-4139. www.peglegpetes.com

SIDELINE'S SPORTS BAR AND RESTAURANT

Score! Don't miss a point. See it all in high definition - 11 big screens, 42 televisions. If it runs, jumps, races, it's here. Famous for Thursday Wing Night. Burgers. Seafood and Ribs. Kids menu for the JV players. Full bar. Indoor or outdoor seating. Video sports games.

Centrally located on Via de Luna, just east of the main parking lot and the traffic light. Kick off at 11 a.m. seven days a week. 934-3660.

MCGUIRE'S IRISH PUB

Even a bragging Irishman can't do justice to McGuire's where the atmosphere is an authentic turn-of-the-century pub. McGuire's has been named one of America's great steakhouses, and is world famous for its culinary artistry. Dollar bills on the walls, a moose to kiss and employees who give a damn! Try an Irish Wake or Senate Bean Soup.

Open at 11 a.m. everyday. Easy drive to 600 East Gregory Street in Pensacola. 850-433-6789 www.mcguiresirishpub.com

SANDSHAKER LOUNGE

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.

THE CABANA CLUB & CAFE

Open for Breakfast and Lunch everyday from 8 to 2. Waterfront dining overlooking beautiful Sabine Bay. The Club is also available for wedding receptions, business meetings or any other occasion that calls for a spacious waterfront venue, casual to elegant catering and a staff who truly cares about their clients. Sunsets are priceless. Elevator rides are free. Your hosts are Carol and Jerry Sears. Located on the third floor above the Market on the Island. 916-7446.

Get listed in After Sundown - email islandtimes@bellsouth.net for rates.

Sink A Mini Golf Hole In One, Win A Mini Car

Time to tune up your short game. Tiki Island Golf and Games will be the site of the 2008 Red Cross Mini-Golf Championship, Friday, March 14. The first tee time is 11 a.m. with players also teeing up at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Team registration is \$100. Businesses can sign up a team and reserve a tee-sign for \$250.

"We anticipate a full day of heated competition on the greens," said John Hosman, event chair. "Our goal is to have

54 teams play for prizes and bragging rights in this inaugural mini-golf Red Cross fundraising event."

A hospitality tent will be set up and teams will be provided with complimentary food and beverages.

Teams will compete on the Tiki Island 18-hole course and every hole-in-one winner will receive a new miniature car.

"You could win a 2008 car for a hole-in-one," said Leigh

Broxton, Red Cross. "Actually it is a car manufactured in Detroit by Mattel. This set of wheels is so hot you will want to hold it in the palm of your hand."

The Red Cross will use the proceeds from this event to continue to provide aid to victims of disasters and to assist military families in crisis.

For more information or to register your team, call Leigh Broxton at 850-432-7601 or email broxtonl@usa.redcross.org.

Beach Businesses Sponsor Charity Golf Tourney

Cabo Grill on Pensacola Beach has teamed up with Flounder's, Bamboo Willie's, Hooters and thirty-eight other area businesses to help sponsor the tenth annual Network Golf Tournament which benefits Special Olympics. The four man scramble format will be played Friday, April 4 at Marcus Pointe Golf Club in Pensacola beginning at 7:30 a.m. A second shift of play will begin at 1 p.m.

Bogey packages are available for \$500 and include golf for

four and ditty bags. Par packages are \$1000 and include golf for four, ditty bags, tee sign and media coverage. Eagle packages are \$2000. Eagle entries will earn golf for 8, ditty bags, tee sign, banner, logo on flagstick, media and hole sponsorship.

All entries include green fees, complimentary food and the awards party immediately following the completion of play.

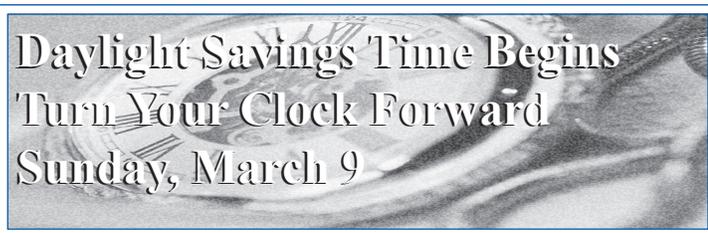
Golfers who score a hole-in-one may be eligible to win a car, boat or waverunner.

Businesses who wish to sponsor a tee sign may do so with a \$100 donation.

"Get your entries in early," said Robert Gleim, Cabo Grill. "This traditionally fills up fast. A good day of golf, good party and all for a good cause."

The proceeds from this event go to support the Special Olympics athletes in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties.

For registration information call Randy Bricker at 850-232-2335.



Daylight Savings Time Begins
Turn Your Clock Forward
Sunday, March 9

IT'S SHAKIN' AT THE SHAKER

MONDAY 10am til -bare Appreciation Day: 1st drink FREE with badge or id. Happy hour til close! 7pm Live Recording w/Michael Jencks
TUESDAY 8pm til - karaoke party!
WEDNESDAY 7:30pm til - "Open Mic Nite" w/Eddie
THURSDAY 8pm til - Live music by Tim Spencer
T-shirt night - 1/2 price on any drink when wearing shaker shirt
FRIDAY & SATURDAY 8:30pm-12:30am - Live Band (www.sandshaker.com for lineup)
SUNDAY 3-7pm - Toast & Jam w/ Michael Jencks (www.sandshaker.com for lineup)



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Specialty items include: Jambalaya Grits, Fried & Blackened Fish, Gumbo

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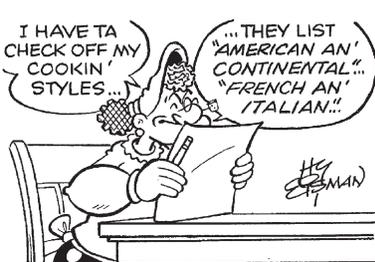
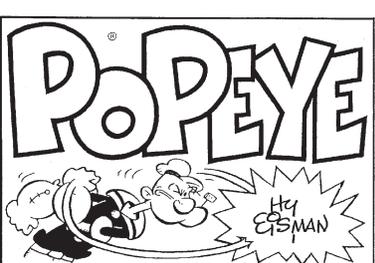
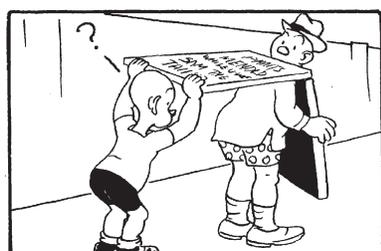
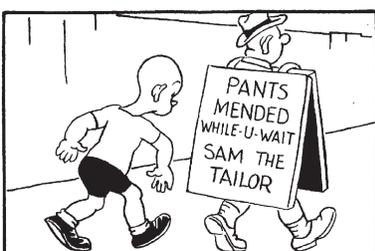
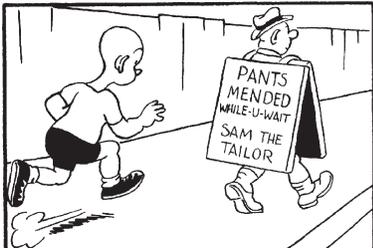
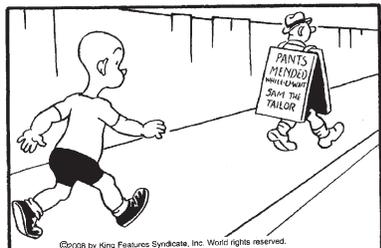
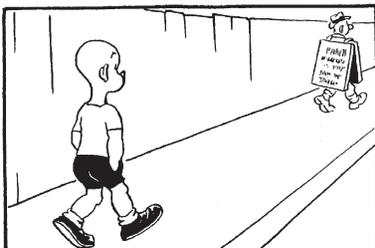
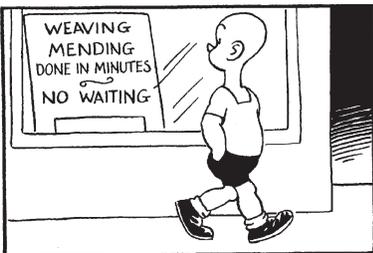
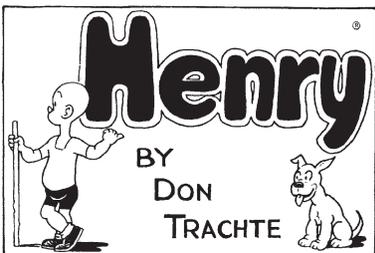
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- Coffee
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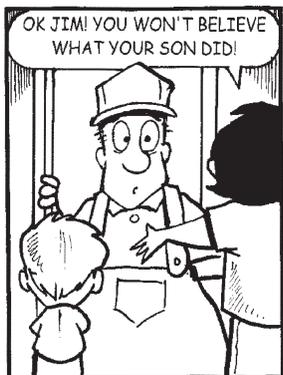
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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your soft-hearted self is drawn to a tempting offer. But your hard-headed half isn't so sure. Best advice: Do it only after every detail is checked out to your liking.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your inventive mind should help you find a way to get around an apparently impassable barrier and make yourself heard. Your efforts get you noticed by the right people.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You're enjoying this creative period. But by midweek, you'll need to emphasize your more pragmatic talents as you consider a risky but potentially lucrative move.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) An unexpected rejection could turn into something positive if you pocket your pride and ask for advice on how you can make changes that will make the difference.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Your Lion's heart gives you the courage to push for answers to a job-related situation. Stay with it. You'll soon find more believers coming out the ranks of the doubters.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your curiosity pays off this week as you push past the gossip to find the facts. What you ultimately discover could lead you to make some changes in your plans.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A new sense of enthusiasm helps get you out of on-the-job doldrums and back into a productive phase. Family matters also benefit from your more positive attitude.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A bit of nostalgia is fine. But don't stay back in the past too long or you might miss seeing the signpost up ahead pointing the way to a new opportunity.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) If you feel you need to take more time to study a situation before making a decision, do so. Don't let anyone push you into acting until you're ready.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) As the Great Advice Giver, the Goat really shines this week as family and friends seek your wisdom. Someone especially close to you might make a surprising request.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Spiritual concerns dominate part of the week before more worldly matters demand your attention. An old promise resurfaces with some surprises attached.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You're in a highly productive period and are eager to finish all the projects you've taken on. But don't let yourself get swamped. Take a breather now and again.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a gift for learning new things quickly and applying your knowledge to best advantage where needed.

Tex Shares One Eyed Viking Pirate Love Story

A Beach Legend~

By Tex Atkinson

Like many other areas, Pensacola Beach has old legends floating around. There is one that always pops into my mind when I am on the beach in the early evening of a full moon.

Pensacola Bay was once a haven for a famous Pirate named

One Eye and his small fleet of ships. They built a small fort where Ft. Pickens now stands.

The story goes that One Eye was a Viking who discovered that the Caribbean, Tampa Bay, and Pensacola Beach were much more comfortable home ports than Greenland, Iceland and Newfoundland. And that attacking shipping and taking home the

loot was much easier than landing in Europe and fighting hard to capture a few spoils.

Their tactic was to attack any ship at sea, defeat it by boarding and then slaughtering most of the captives. They took all valuables as loot, chose a few of the heartiest males for slaves and the most beautiful women for their own pleasure.

It came to pass that One Eye and his crew defeated and boarded a Spanish ship and One Eye fell desperately in love with one of the Spanish maidens they took captive. He brought her to his home port of Pensacola and kept her as his bride.

When One Eye had to return to sea he assigned his best warrior and closest friend to take command of a select crew to guard their fort on Pensacola Beach and to protect his bride.

One Eye was at sea for many weeks and when he returned he learned to his horror that his bride and his best friend had become lovers.

He immediately went into a rage that had no control and ordered his crew to prepare his bride

and her lover for execution which would occur just after sunset as a full moon rose in the east.

His friend and his bride were made to knell with their hands bound and their heads were placed upon two beheading blocks. They were placed side by side facing each other so that One Eye's bride was forced to watch as he beheaded her lover. She knew that her fate would follow.

As a brilliant full moon began to rise in the east One Eye, the most vicious Pirate of all times, stood over his friend who had betrayed him and raised his sword high above his head. But just as all present thought the sword would come slashing down, One Eye dropped to his knees. In a sobbing voice he told his friend that he was forgiven, that he could understand his love for his beautiful bride and that he was now a free man. Then he told his fellow pirates to take his bride's lover away and put him in command of one of their ships in the Caribbean.

Then One Eye untied his bride took her into his arms and held her tightly. He cried on her

shoulder and begged her to forgive his anger.

His young bride had never loved the cruel Pirate who had taken her captive and forced his affection on her. But suddenly, as she felt his arms around her, listened to his heart broken sobs, and felt his tears flowing on her shoulder she was overcome with an overwhelming passion. She fell madly in love with One Eye and they remained lovers until their death.

When the next full moon rises over Pensacola Beach walk as far as you can toward Ft. Pickens and listen carefully. If you are a true believer in the power of love you can hear the blissful sobs of two lovers. Those of a powerful warrior who discovered the sweet contentment of forgiving and others from a beautiful young bride who lost a lover but in the process found a much stronger love that would last a lifetime.

[Tex Atkinson lived many years on Ariola Drive on Pensacola Beach. The retired aviator is the author of "From The Cockpit" and Beach poker champion.]

Tibbits Wins Sweetheart Award At Valentine Regatta

Animal Gets in Sticky Sailing Situation

Pensacola Beach Yacht Club hosted the Valentine Regatta, Saturday, February 16 in Santa Rosa Sound. Jo Dee Cattrell, fleet captain, reports that it was a great day on the water - good wind, sun and good sailing. Other than the outstanding performances turned in by winning captains and crews, Jo Dee wanted to recognize the crew of the "Animal" for their perseverance.

"They were stuck in the channel going out of Little Sabine and when they were finally set free they came out and did their own mini-version of the course. Now that's good sportsmanship," commented Jo Dee. "I know I will leave someone out so I don't know that I should even try, but here's to the Animal with Gus Neal, Scott Stonebraker, Brian Denham, Mike Blanda (our Commodore), Anne Geisel, Carol Robison and Joey (who apparently worked his bum off)."

"Also, I would like to thank our Race Committee of Tim Simmons, Al Marretta, Linda Kraft and Kristen Stonebraker for their efforts," added Jo Dee.

Mary Jo Tibbits graciously

offered her boat to serve as the committee boat. She was awarded the "Sweetheart of the Day" award for her help and support. It was her first time out with Race Committee and she is already offering to do it again.

The Awards Party, which follows the conclusion of the race, had to be temporarily delayed because of the magnificent sunset, according to Jo Dee. After the sun set into the western horizon the following received awards:

Results

Spinnaker Course 13.4 nm

1. Angel - Skipper Lynn Dell
2. Tripp Tonite - Skippers Dick Dunbar and K. Thompson
3. Polish Navy- Skipper Dan Owczarczak

Non Spinnaker Course 9.5 nm Class B

1. Shaman - Skipper Don Williams
2. Dream Maker - Skipper Tom Elliot
3. Sunset Raider - Skipper Ron Jordan

The next Pensacola Beach Yacht Club Regatta will be the Maxine 2 which sails on Saturday, March 8.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner Open to the Community

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day on the Beach! Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Mission will host their annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner, Friday, March 14. The mission has obtained a special dispensation for parishioners to eat meat on a Friday in Lent for this festival.

The evening will include a happy hour at 6 p.m., a sing-along of Irish tunes, a dinner of

corned beef and cabbage, and a visit from St. Patrick himself with his retinue!

This event is open to the community and admission is \$5 per person. Children three and younger are free! Please RSVP by 5 p.m. March 10 to Jane McGrath at 934-0553.

Our Lady of the Assumption Mission, is located at the corner of Via de Luna and Avenida 18.

March 17

Society of Leprechaun's St. Paddy's Day Pub Crawl

Pensacola Beach

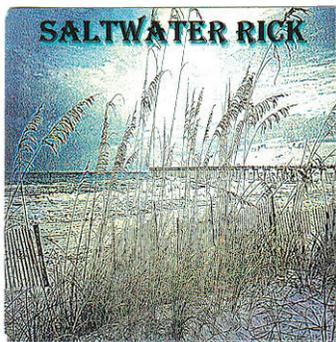
10 AM	Sabine Sandbar
11 AM	Sidelines
Noon	Crabs
1 PM	The Dock
2 PM	Sandshaker
3 PM	Sabine Sandbar
4 PM	Elk's Lodge

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readin' the water

guessin' that today (February 27) we'll see the first Ling landed. As the Lings go, so go the Pompano, and when the big ones are out of sight, grab that jiggin' rod and load up on some Poms.

Inshore fishing should be lightin' up by the time this hits the streets with Spanish Macs ripping through anything that

moves. I like my little crappie jigs on a 30# mono leader. Walk out on the old bridge just at the drop off and let 'em take it.

Offshore, Trace Lewis went out and loaded up on the Flounder. Wow, what a haul!

Next time call me, I'll go. You should go fishing, too. Do yourself a favor and go fishin'.

It's gettin' warm and the fish are moving into the area. Schools of Pompano have been sighted and a few have come up. I'm sure as you read this the waters will be teaming with the tasty two pounders. As the Gulf waters warm and the winds change the bounty of the Earth will show up at your favorite fishin' hole. As the temps go up the movement of warm water species will start from the east and the big boys and girls will be hunting Ling up and down the coast.

At the newly upgraded Gulf Pier it's first shot time and I'm



A nice catch of Flatties lined up for cookin'.



DOUBLE DOORMATS - Famous Beach fisherman and poker star Trace Lewis hauled these Flounder in on the Three Barges Reef just outside the Pensacola Pass.

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Players Battle For Top Spots in Weekly Action

Almost anything can happen at the Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun weekly poker tournaments. Locals hit hot winning streaks while visitors traveled from 400 miles away to join the action this month on Pensacola Beach.

Paddy O'Leary's

To kick off the month dedicated to hearts, Miguel Thompson took down the mysterious Waldo Defindorfin in the final on February 7. Although we don't know whether the hearts were any better to him than the rest of the suits, he led the pack.

"It was a great week at the poker tables," said Rick Uzdevenes, Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun promoter. "The regular players are the backbone of our games and are always ready to welcome new players or guests to the tables."

Richard Osborne made a rare appearance at Paddy's February 10 and took home the prize leaving Larry Gers as runner up. Fran Cox was at the helm.

Doug Carey took out Beach farmer and wiley card player Anne Vinson on February 12 at Paddy O'Leary's.

There was no love lost on Valentine's Day when 18 players battled the 2006 Player of the Year, Trace Lewis, on a cool night at the Beach. Trace took the win and Phil Tracy settled for a second place.

Lady poker player Billie Urquhart made a strong come from behind win. She outplayed

Jeff Lockwood in a head to head showdown after cleaning the final table of top notch Beach players February 17.

On February 19 Phil Tracy won again. This was back to back wins which put him in line for Player of the Month honor. Mike Nowick came all the way from Central Florida to have a great night of poker. He played to a second place finish. Mike was all smiles when Phil gave him "the" winner's t-shirt.

The Islander Lounge

The oldest lounge on Pensacola Beach hosts poker games on Saturday night at 7 p.m. Tommy Chavis was the winner at the historic Islander Lounge on February 9. He defeated Fran Cox in the final. Larry Gers dealt the showdown round.

Trace Lewis claimed the win on February 16 and is in contention for Player of the Month. Tommy Chavis was runner up.

Paradise Bar and Grill

February 11 was a beautiful warm and breezy night at the Beach. It was a perfect waterfront setting to play poker and watch Trace Lewis knock off last week's champ Donna Matthews.

Tommy Chavis made it hurt as he called Phil Tracy's "all in," and took him all out on February 13.

Phil Tracy returned to the winners' race Feb. 18 with his second win of the month. Larry Gers hit the cards all night until the end, but, had to settle for second

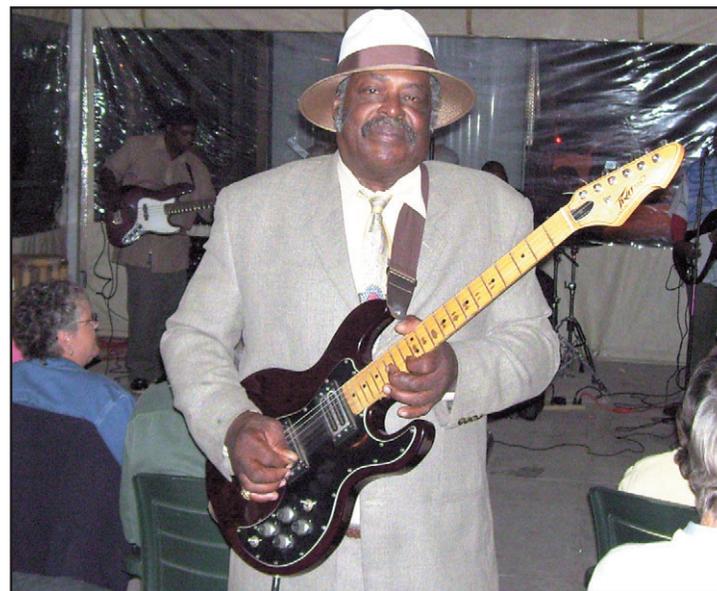
place.

Richard Osborne and Mike Nowick battled it out in a 25 minute final on February 20. Richard held on for the win. Mike had his second second in as many days. Better luck next time.

Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun is

open to anyone who has a basic understanding of poker and is 21-years-old. Games are played in downtown Pensacola Beach, so join the fun.

For more information, please call 850-324-2667.



Daddy Mack Band from Memphis, Tennessee served up some serious blues to the bar patrons and poker players at the Paradise Bar and Grill Monday, February 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.

As promised, here's the second part of the column on natural, healthful interventions that you can incorporate in your daily food routine to supercharge your health. Be well.

Whole Grains

Whole grains like oatmeal actually help the liver process cholesterol out of your system. Some people will see good changes in their cholesterol numbers after eating oatmeal every day for a month or two. You may or may not be able to reach your target goal with just changing your breakfast, but it should help. Other whole grain cereals should also help your cholesterol numbers head in the right direction. Many foods that used to be processed are now readily available in whole grain formulations, such as bread and pasta.

Niacin

Niacin has often been thought to be the very best cholesterol treatment. It is a natural B3 vitamin and helps to raise the good cholesterol as well as lower the bad cholesterol. Some people do experience some unpleasant flushing side effects at the doses needed to treat high cholesterol, but sustained-release and "no-flush" preparations are now available.

"B" Healthy

Other B vitamins, including in particular B6 and B12, plus Folic Acid function together in the metabolism of proteins and fats and are critical in the building of our blood cells. Additionally, these vitamins help metabolize homocysteine, which is important for heart health, since high homocysteine levels have been associated with cardiovascular disease.

Oh, Soy, Helpful

Isoflavones are extracted from soy and help with the appropriate functioning of the little endothelial cells that line our blood vessels. (They also have been shown to help with prostate and breast health and reduction of hot flashes in menopause-and who doesn't want that?)

Super Cells

CoEnzyme Q10 is an essential cofactor for healthy metabolism at the cellular level. Deficiencies are commonly found in all types of cardiovascular disease states. As a dietary supplement, it has been shown to help lower blood pressure and improve cellular metabolism and cardiovascular health. The best source of this terrific cofactor is fish.

Alphabet of Helpers

Vitamins C and E and tocotrienols (part of the E family) are all terrific anti-oxidants. This means they keep the bad cholesterol from being metabolized into sticky, clot-forming, cholesterol plaques in the heart and blood vessels. There has been much debate and research regarding whether supplementation with these is beneficial or not, but they still make my "favored" list.

Aspirin

You may not realize that aspirin is from nature, but it is. Aspirin is from the bark of the willow tree and it helps keeps platelets from sticking together into clots in the bloodstream that can lead to heart attacks and strokes. For many people, a daily low dose aspirin may be an excellent heart healthy choice.

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.)



As I travel throughout America, working with our Hungarian goose down distribution, I am amazed at the thousands of smart, busy, hardworking businessmen and women who are living lives with less than six hours of sleep each night, and what a role model they are for their children. Lack of sleep seems to be an accepted American standard of life today, and yet, how can one drive long distances, comprehend and take tests, operate on patients, or perform at their very best when they are sleep deprived?

In fact, Sleep Deprivation is a silent killer. Scientists and physicians alike have long discovered that lack of sleep has been traced to numerous serious illnesses, such as heart disease and diabetes, not to mention weight gain, depression, and definitely your daily performance in life.

How can your children learn when they are in school with fewer than the minimum of nine hours of sleep, depending on their age? How can you work and earn at your best level with four to six hours of sleep, when eight to nine are necessary for a normal adult?

I have decided it's time to remind each of you that enjoying

Hats Off To Art Of Fashion Kentucky Derby Luncheon

The Art of Fashion, which will be from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 5 at New World Landing is a "Kentucky Derby" themed luncheon. It features a runway fashion show, live art auction, and a silent auction of hats designed by local artists and celebrities.

Tickets for the Art of Fashion are \$35 per person. Proceeds from the event will benefit programs offered by Covenant Hospice. For more information about the event, sponsorship opportunities or to purchase tickets please contact Emily Cowan at 208-7122 or visit www.covenanthospice.org.

your lives also means giving yourself the permission sleep. Give yourself the tools to enjoy life at its max! Giving yourself the right to a full, uninterrupted night's sleep is the best investment you can make in your own life, and in the lives of others. My mission is to teach, encourage, and proclaim the right to a great night's sleep for us all!

Here's to a great night's sleep for each and everyone of you, tonight, and forever.

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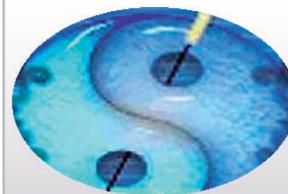
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The LIZZARD'S TONGUE



by E.K. Hewson

Okay, I must admit, I've become quite the political junkie. Somehow between the Iowa caucuses and Fidel Castro's resignation, I now find myself completely, 100 percent addicted to election processes both on the domestic and international scene. This confession scares me considering at the ripe old age of 18, my idea of choosing a political party was to side with the folks who chose not to boycott the 1980 Olympics held in the former Soviet Union.

Yes, I know all about the recent election in Pakistan and what political parties won and which one didn't. I like how anyone not associated with the current political party in power is part of the opposition party. Opposition party sounds more like a gathering of politicians with clinically diagnosed defiant disorders getting together to have a beer, as compared to people who want to tackle territorial terrorism head on.

I've recently learned that the Kremlin is secretly backing the democratic candidate running for office in Russia so as to appear to have fair and open elections. Andrei Bogdanov is the head of the little-known Democratic Party. Don't feel bad if you have never heard of him. Most Russians don't know who he is either.

It is also interesting to note that in Kenya it's not whether you win or lose an election, it is how your contingency wields a machete that truly counts. And in Cuba, if you've been president for 49 years and decide to retire, the unanswered question remains: are you still president?

All this political babble coming from a girl who has changed her own political party affiliation the way desperate gamblers bet on the horses - with reckless abandon and with the hopes of maybe this time the politician I took a chance on will be a winner and right all the wrongs in the world. Come on lucky McPaubamahucketon.

I even have a calendar with all the U.S. caucus and primary dates for all the parties. Okay, it was actually a flyer that I picked up on the military base where we are currently stationed. Not everyone living aboard MCAS Cherry Point is registered to vote in North Carolina. So as I write this article, I can recite each vi-

able candidate's number of delegates - excluding the super delegates and, of course, Florida and Michigan's potential delegates (or then again, maybe not). I have even been checking my local, national and cable listings and can't seem to find who will be carrying the 2008 Green Party National Convention to be held in Chicago this July. I thought I could use the GPNC as an opener to the Democratic and Republic National Conventions. Kind of like pre-season football. You know just a little something to tide you over until the real action begins in late August at the DNC in Denver and during the first week in September at the RNC in Minneapolis-St. Paul.

I guess I haven't been this excited about politics since I ran for president of my freshman class at Pensacola Catholic High. My campaign manager and best friend, Tracy Flores, cut faucets out of construction paper and in her best penmanship wrote "Waters is Running." We thought we were so clever until my opponent posted signs that said "Turn Off The Drip." In the end, I was defeated by two votes. Unfortunately I could not blame it on malfunctioning voting machines or hanging chads. It was plain and simple. One student, one vote. And I lost.

Until next time...

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POPEYE WOULD BE PROUD - Beach school friends gathered at Sidelines for Wings Night last week. Apparently, Sidelines wings really get you pumped up. Although none of the kids ordered extra spinach on their plates, they still had big muscles to show off. Clockwise, from left: Justin Fruitticher, Daniel Green, Reddon McLaurine, Thomas Goodroe, Cayson McCurdy, Ryland McCurdy, Kristin Goodroe and Maddie Grace McCurdy.

Gulf Breeze Expo 2008 Expects 3,000 Attendees

The Gulf Breeze Area Chamber of Commerce will host the 19th Annual Gulf Breeze Expo on Saturday, March 15 from 9a.m. to 2 p.m. at the South Santa Rosa Recreation Center, 800 Shoreline Drive. The event is a free Business Expo with Family Fun that draws 3000 attendees. Over 100 indoor and outdoor exhibitors showcase their businesses while

local non-profits, civic groups and charities provide outdoor activities and entertainment for children and the whole family.

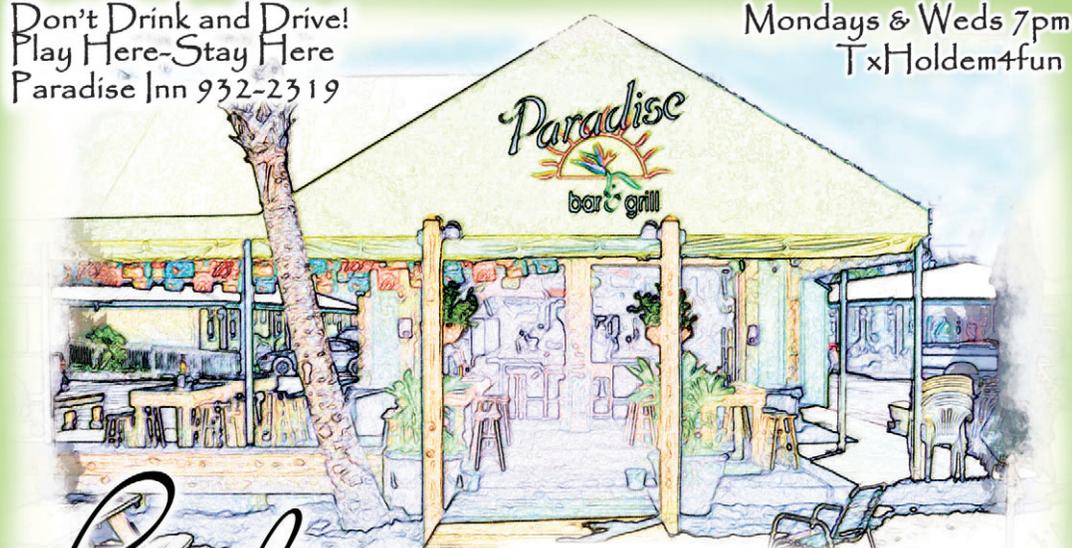
New this year is an exciting preview party and Business After Hours entitled "Taste of the Expo." It will give members of all area Chambers an opportunity to network plus get a free "sneak peak" at the Expo on Friday

evening, March 14, from 5:30 to 7:30pm. Local restaurants and caterers will showcase their best desserts and appetizers, while Chamber members vote for the winners of the "Golden Spatula" Awards.

For registration and more information call the Gulf Breeze Area Chamber of Commerce at 850-932-7888.

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BYTES AND BITS

By Joe Stucky

Q: How can I improve my computer's performance?

A: To help you with that question I have found a website that might assist you. That website is www.microsoft.com/athome/moredone/optimize.mspx#EKB. If you can type all that, you will receive detailed instructions, including screen shots, for making your computer go faster. Included are instructions for checking your disk for errors, removing unneeded files, defragmenting your hard disk, speeding up Internet Explorer, and automatically updating Windows software.

Computer viruses and spyware programs can reduce your computer's performance significantly, so you will need protection from them if you are using the Internet. However, some

of the new anti-virus programs are so big that they actually reduce the performance of your computer. Find out which has the least impact on the speed of your computer before making a purchase, especially if your computer is not new.

If you are using the Windows XP program on your computer, make use of the ALT-CTRL-DEL keys (press all 3 at the same time) to see how your computer is performing. The information that will be displayed includes the number of programs that are running and the percentage of your computer that is being used by those programs. When your computer is supposed to be idle, make sure the usage is between 0% and 5%.

For questions, contact Joe at joe@ycpals.com or 206-3156.

Axes Fly, Lumberjacks Compete

Day Long Family Focused Festival In Milton, But Worth The Drive

Enjoy a full day of old-fashioned, outdoor, family fun at the 20th Forestry Conclave and Lumberjack Festival sponsored by the Pensacola Junior College Milton Forestry Club and Student Government Association. The free event is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 1, at the PJC Milton campus.

It's a day of food, bluegrass music, nature exhibits, games and competitions for all ages, free seedlings, awards and door prizes. The festival is action-packed, featuring log rolling, bow sawing, axe and knife throwing, pole felling, compass pacing and more. Activities for children include softball, face painting, coloring and crafts.

The festival splits lumberjack competitions and events into three age classes at different times: adults (ages 16 and up), 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; children (under 12), 9 to 11 a.m.; juniors (ages 13 to 15), 11 a.m. to noon.

It's fun to watch and compete. The registration fee for lum-

berjack competitions is \$3 per adult for the first event and \$1 for each additional event. Children, senior citizens and high school students compete for free.

Exhibitors include the Florida Division of Forestry, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Santa Rosa Master Gardeners, New Horizon Nature Photography, Wildlife Sanctuary, PJC Zootech, Florida Trail Association and Girl Scout Troop 489.

The PJC Milton campus is located at the intersection of Highway 90 and Avalon Boulevard. For more information, call 484-4463 or visit the festival's website at www.pjc.edu/milton/lumberjack.



Guy Stephens competes in the 2006 Lumberjack Festival.

Mostly Nuts & Bolts

By Candace Segar

If you recall in the January 16 edition of *Island Times*, Mostly Nuts was about my Bigfoot hunting excursion. Well, if you are looking for more information on the subject, here are two resources. First, my fellow engineer and Big Footer, Don Tart, posted the article I wrote on the Bigfoot Field Researchers Association website. The link is http://www.bfrobot.net/GDB/show_article.asp?id=550

Secondly, the good folks at Unlimited Horizons are hosting a program "Evidence for a Bigfoot/UFO Connection," Sunday, March 9 from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Gulf Breeze Recreation Center, 800 Shoreline Dr., in Gulf Breeze. Kewaunee Lapersitis from Washington State and one of the world's foremost authorities on Bigfoot/Sasquach will present this program.

According to the information released by Unlimited Horizons, Kewaunee, author of *The Psychic Sasquach* and the *UFO Connection*, will give an overview of the history Sasquatchery and why both Bigfoot hunters and scientists have not been able to capture one or solve the mystery.

Emphasis of this lecture will be on the BF/UFO connection wherein Kewaunee will cite numerous cases from his files.

Kewaunee's new book, *The Sasquatch People*, will be released later this year. He will also be featured in a new and upcoming documentary to be on a major television network.

Most of the Unlimited Horizons programs are very informative and they ask for a small donation at the door. For more info, www.unlimited-horizons.org.



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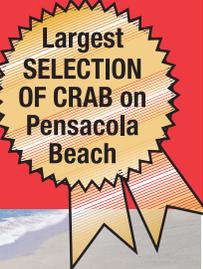
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