

ISLAND TIMES

Volume II, Number 19

Pensacola Beach, Florida

January 17, 2007

New Board Members Steer Chamber Into 2007



Beach businesses are looking forward to a banner year in 2007. According to their usual custom, the Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce will submit a slate of officers selected from the Directors previously appointed. Directors are (R to L): Diane Tyson, Sabine Marina; Karen Cook Cowen, Real Estate House; Kristin Amberson, PegLeg's and Sidelines; Sean Rogan, Portofino; Sandy Reynolds Johnston, Executive Director Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce, Beverly Boswell, Sandshaker Lounge and Nora Jones, Bamboo Willie's. Not pictured are Nan Harper, Island Realty; Jeff Elbert, Island Style; Danah Gibson, Danah's Hair Studio; Capt. Buddy Rogers, Reel Easy Charters; and Shelley Johnson, Island Times. More on this story, page 2.

Beach Chamber Prepares For Election of Officers

It's election time for the Chamber of Commerce on Pensacola Beach. A slate of officers will be selected from the following list of individuals who have already been appointed as board members: Sean Rogan,

Portofino; Nan Harper, Island Realty; Nora Jones, Bamboo Willie's; Beverly Boswell, Sandshaker; Jeff Elbert, Island Style; Karen Cook Cowen, Real Estate House; Kristin Amberson, Sidelines and PegLeg Pete's;

Danah Gibson, Danah's Hair Studio; Buddy Rogers, Reel Eazy Charters; Diane Tyson, Sabine Marina; and Shelley Johnson, Island Times.

The election will take place at the regular monthly meeting of the organization on January 30 at 8:30 a.m. at the Comfort Inn.

The Beach Chamber grew out of the Beach Business Association about 1985. McGuire Martin was the first president of the Beach Business Association and Harry A. King was the first president of the Chamber of Commerce.

During the years it has functioned on the Island, the Chamber has accomplished a number of things, most notably the construction of the Visitor's Information Center which was built

through donations from local businesses. The building now belongs to the Santa Rosa Island Authority. The Chamber sponsored a Seafood Festival, Spring Break concerts and Mardi Gras events.

Sandy Reynolds Johnston, Executive Director, began working with the Chamber right after the hurricanes in 1995.

"I began work with the Chamber after Opal," Sandy said. "We've had some up times and some down times, but we have managed to keep going through all the hurricanes."

The Chamber's dues structure is based on sales volume, and yearly dues range from \$125 to \$300 per year. Memberships for individuals who do not own

a business is \$90 per year.

Membership includes a space for brochures in the Visitor's Information Center, a monthly newsletter, access to amenities provided by the state and national Chamber organization, and local workshops. There are approximately 100 members at the present time, according to Sandy.

The Chamber holds business meetings on the last Tuesday of the month at the Comfort Inn and hosts Business After Hours, a social meeting at 5:30 on the same day. Business After Hours meets at different establishments on the Beach.

For more information, call Sandy at 932-1500 or attend the meeting on January 30.

Study Finds Common Threads Many Projects Already Sewn Up

Members of the Santa Rosa Island Authority Board heard an overview, covering the 14 studies which have been done on Pensacola Beach in recent years at their January 10 full board meeting. Dave Hemphill, Baskerville Donovan Engineers, made the presentation, noting that there were many common threads which appeared in the various studies. Parking, road repairs and upgrades, destinations resorts, among other Beach issues have been addressed, according to Hemphill.

"A lot has been successfully addressed and accomplished," he said. "Road improvements, drainage, improvements to the core area and the Fishing Pier have been made. It takes a lot of funding to make these projects happen."

Board members commented on the study with Kelly Robertson saying, "I believe it is the responsibility of this Board to promote an agenda and advance those ideas that we believe will result in a robust and lasting economy for the Pensacola Beach commercial core, while protecting the quality of life and preserving those issues that will enhance those qualities that made all of you want to be members of the residential community."

Chairman Vernon Prather asked for a motion to refer the report to the Administrative Committee where it would be kept in front of the board and continued attention would be paid to it. The motion passed unanimously.

A second report of particular interest to those who have sand berms on their property came from Dr. Al Browder of Olsen and Associates. The title of the report, "Man Made Flood Plain Obstructions" addressed two areas: the impact that these obstructions could have on insurance and whether or not the obstruction created a diversion of water.

After presenting the lengthy report, Dr. Browder made a number of recommendations, which follow in part: (1) Restrict berm

creation (2) retaining walls which might go along driveways to be restricted to no higher than 18 inches, (3) retaining walls which run parallel to the shore should be prohibited in AE zones. He said the SRIA should consider getting leaseholders to get a professional certification on any structure which might be considered an obstruction. A copy of the study will be made available on the SRIA website, www.sria-fla.com. The Board voted to send this item to the Architectural and Environmental Committee for further discussion.

In other business the board voted to amend the 2007 budget to include additional working capital carry-over in the amount of \$525,000. The carry-over will be used for petromat and overlay for the Quietwater and Circle K parking lots, Mardi Gras, Sand Retention report, property survey and appraisals, hospitality, a delivery vehicle, and contingency funds. This amendment will be sent to Escambia County for approval.

Philip Napier received conceptual approval for the Grand Marlin Marina's 80 slip protected marina. The Marina will make slip and fueling facilities available to the general public, which will promote tourism and encourage locals to come to the beach by boat.

The meeting closed on a positive note when Buck Lee announced that Pensacola Beach would participate in the Team Up to Clean Up campaign where a leaseholder's yard will be declared a winner each month. Winners will receive a sign for their yard, announcement of their names at the SRIA meeting, and a photo in local media.

Buck also presented his State of the Island report at this meeting, see story on this page for more on the report.

The committee meetings will be January 24 at 5 p.m. at the Island Authority office. All meetings are open to the public.

General Manager Issues Yearly State of The Island Report

Buck Lee, General Manager of the Santa Rosa Island Authority has released his annual State of the Island report for 2006. Buck said that 2006 was great and he looks forward to 2007 with enthusiasm.

"I believe the summer of 2007 will be spectacular," Buck said.

Buck pointed out that financial conditions on the island improved over the past year, even as one third of the hotel rooms were off the market.

Highlights of his State of the Island report follow:

NEW PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT: Buildings four and five were completed at Portofino in 2006. Expected completion of Emerald Dolphin and the Beach Club Towers is set for this March. Construction should start early this year on a permanent restaurant on the

Fishing Pier. The Hilton Towers should be complete by spring.

TROLLEYS: The system will be used in the core area this summer.

ISLAND BEAUTIFICATION: Landscaping will take place on Via de Luna once the roadway is complete. New street signs will be installed this year.

RECREATIONAL PATH: Ten plus miles of paths should be complete in 2007.

PROMOTIONS AND EVENTS: The SRIA will produce the air show featuring the Blue Angels on July 20.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: The SRIA has received grant funding to improve the water quality in Little Sabine Bay. Also, the SRIA continues a Turtle Monitoring Program to protect turtles who reach Pensacola

Beach to lay their eggs. They also maintain a light monitoring program to determine if surrounding lights from nearby structures will interfere with the turtles when they hatch.

After Buck presented the State of the Island report he said, "The Island is on its way to being the prettiest I have seen it in 60 years of living here. People are going to come out to the Beach and see the vast improvements. We are going to have a fantastic summer. This is an exciting time. I am as excited as I can be for what this is going to mean to businesses, locals, tourists and to those who have invested in and believe in Pensacola Beach."

Various other items were carried in the State of the Island report, most of which have already appeared in Island Times. The complete report is available at the SRIA office.

ISLAND TIMES

PUBLISHED EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY

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Barefoot on the Beach

By Jane Waters Cooper



Just when you have put the last Christmas ornament away, exchanged the gifts that didn't fit, and ate the last of the turkey soup, here comes a card from Jane and Frank. It's not a Christmas card, not a Mardi Gras card, and it's too early for a Valentine. What is it? It's a New Year's card wishing you 365 days of wonderful happenings.

Why do we send New Year's cards instead of Christmas cards? Lots of reasons. Some of those reasons are valid and good.

Well, for one thing, I consider the French as a people who are social trend setters for the rest of the world. The French send New Year's cards. So, I'm following their lead.

But that's not the only reason for sending New Year's cards. These greetings have a life of their own. For instance, have you ever wished you had remembered to send a Christmas card to an old friend after you received one? It's perfectly legit to send a New Year's card. Also you can briefly answer all those questions in the long Christmas letters you receive. Like "Are you well?" "Are you happy?" "We're considering making a trip down your way this summer. Will you be home?" Yes to the first two questions. No, we are not accepting reservations for

the summer at the present time to answer the last question.

And think of how much joy you are bringing to the Post Office by delaying your cards for a few weeks. They can get your cards right to your recipients on a timely basis along with their credit card statements, and Internal Revenue announcements without worrying about stacks of mail like they have in December, mostly Christmas greetings.

I have one thing against New Year's card. They are boring. They featured a Martini glass, or a bowl of fruit, or some other inane object. I actually sent cards this year that had mittens drying on a rack. Yes, a wet mittens greeting. And the messages are even worse than the artwork. "Wishing you the best of everything for the New Year." Now, that's exciting.

A few years ago, Frank and I designed our own cards. We had our photo on the front and a message I wrote on the back. Producing our own original cards got to be a lot of work and was taking up time we should have been devoting to Mardi Gras. So, back we went to the Hallmark store. Who are we to second guess them?

Speaking of original cards, I do have an exclusive arrangement to provide my nine-year-old grandson, Harry, with what I

hope is entertaining snail mail. He has his own email address, but I don't go there. I send him "Stick People Greetings." These little stick people cards cover most holidays, and are raggedy and funny. But they convey the message. Recently, Harry has been sending me his own version of

stick people. They are so good they put my efforts to shame. Don't ever try to outscore a nine-year-old.

Now, where is this column going? Mostly, to pieces. So, I'm back to my New Year's cards. If you receive one from Frank and me, you know we're answering

your Christmas card, and that we are honestly wishing you a whole year's worth of love, luck and only a few lemons thrown in between just to provide contrast.

And always remember this, the French people are so haute. Do as the French do and you'll be haute, too.

Krewe of Wrecks Meetings • Begin at 6:00 p.m.

There are a few memberships remaining. Join at the meeting. \$20

1/22-The Islander

1/29-Flounder's

2/5 Sidelines

EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

(*Wrecks Event which requires Krewe membership)

Jan. 19	Nereid Moon Pie Party	7 p.m.	Sandshaker
Jan. 21	Junkanoo Cajun Boil	2 p.m.	Sandshaker
Jan. 27	Nauga Breakfast	10:30 a.m.	The Dock
Jan. 27	Brewski Beach Babe	1:30 p.m.	The Dock
Jan. 27	Banimals Ball	8 p.m.	Hilton
Feb. 2	Rhinestones & Royalty	7 p.m.	Paradise
Feb. 3	Brewski/Nereid Black Tie Ball	8 p.m.	The Dock
Feb. 9	Krewe of Warriors Ball	9 p.m.	Hadji Shrine Temple
Feb. 10	Junkanoo Kritter Krawl	Noon	Gulfside Pavilion
Feb. 10	Krewe of Kids Parade	12:30 p.m.	Gulfside Pavilion
Feb. 10	Krewe of Wrecks Ball	8 p.m.	The Dock
Feb. 11	DeLuna Fest	11 a.m.	The Islander
Feb. 12	Queen's Dinner	6 p.m.	Flounder's
Feb. 12	King's Supper	6 p.m.	Elk's Lodge
Feb. 17	*Krewe of Wrecks Champagne Breakfast	10 a.m.	Crab's
Feb. 17	Krewe of Wrecks Street Dance	1 p.m.	Bobby D's
Feb. 18	Krewe of Wrecks Parade	2 p.m.	Via de Luna
Feb. 19	Red Beans and Rice	Noon	Casino Parking Lot
Feb. 20	Krewe of Coma	6 p.m.	Sandshaker

Letter to the Editor

The Price of FEMA Money

At Wednesday's SRIA Board meeting, we heard a rather lengthy, and expensive dissertation of FEMA's wishes for a flat, 'duneless' beach. The recommendations given by the esteemed presenter brought images of yardstick wielding code inspectors citing beach residents for excessive sand. Thankfully, our Board did not seem inclined to take up these recommendations, but we were left with the thought that FEMA may force some of these measures upon us.

Next came the acceptance of bids for some additional beach

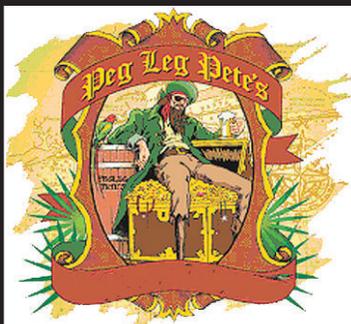
projects. The majority of them were being paid by FEMA. Which begs the question, if we continue to take money from the federal government, are we giving up our rights to make decisions for our own community? The evening's discussion further illuminated the fact that a large portion of our Beach revenue is being derived from the influence of public works projects and government grants.

Our community needs to be able to stand on its own feet without the influence of these projects, because they won't last for very much longer.

Jeff Taggart
Pensacola Beach

Allen Levin, Beach Developer, passed away Friday, January 12.

A Tribute to Allen will be published in the next edition of Island Times.



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NEW YEAR NEW SKIPPERS

New members from near and far are starting the new year right by joining the Pensacola Beach Yacht Club. The welcome flag is flying for Greg and Marilyn Hoggatt, Pensacola Beach; Kim Hamilton, Gulf Breeze; George and Jan Black, Richard Henzel, and Bruce McLeod, all of Pensacola. Wesley and Tracy Klein of St. Petersburg are also new members. They signed up just in time to get involved in the Yacht Club's Mardi Gras festivities.

JJ's BACK

J.J. Waters is back on the Beach again. She is the Regional Director for Resorts and Great Hotels magazine. She started a wild New Year with a bash at Capt'n Fun's.

BUNKIE'S BROTHER VISITS

Mike and Cathy Chaney from Bunkie, Louisiana spent New Year's with Mike's sister and brother-in-law, Christine and Lonnie Hewerdine. They were among the revelers at Paradise Bar and Grill on New Year's Eve.

TOM CAMPANELLA SEE SWEET BOWL

Dr. Tom Campanella and his daughter Lauren, were in New Orleans on January 3 to witness the pounding of Notre Dame by LSU. LSU is Tom's alma mater. Tom's wife Debbie, had to miss the game, so she would be on deck at the Pensacola Beach Elementary School to greet her second grade class on their first day of school following the holidays.

SEVENTEENTH TRIP

John Morgen of Wichita, made his seventeenth annual trek to the Beach over the holidays. John was a childhood friend of the late Manny Friedman. Deb Friedman brought John to see the Polar Bear Plunge on New Year's Day.

NELLIE GOESTONAVARRE

Longtime Beach resident Nellie Bryan moved to Mississippi after the hurricane. Well, she is a little closer to home now. She has moved to Navarre and is staying with relatives.

TOP OF THE HEAP

Heather Asmar, Jean Marie Grabowski and Carol Battles all earned first place in the first Beach 5K run in their respective categories in 2007. The Pensacola Beach Run took place January 6 and Rosemary LaPorta hoofed her way to a second place in the 5K event. Andrew Rothfeder who competed in the half marathon distance was a third place winner.

ROMANTIC HOLIDAY

Fred and Angelika Simmons took off a couple weeks from the Beach's Mardi Gras crowds and vacationed in Spain. They report a relaxing, wonderful trip and they are back and ready to party with Mardi Gras revelers.

ONE DOZEN VACATIONS

Karen Cook is pretending she's working offshore. She works three weeks and takes a mini one week vacation. On their first week off, she and husband Bob took a trip to St. Augustine.

TRIVIA

No One Knew Where The Polar Bears Plunged

Where have all the trivia players gone? Where have all the Polar Bears gone? Is everyone brain dead? Sorry, gang, none of your answers were correct.

The question was about the annual Polar Bear Plunge location. "Name one other sponsor and the matching body of water other than this year's Paradise." One correct answer was the SunRay Taco Shop and Santa Rosa Sound. Another was S.S. Casino Nuevo and the Gulf of Mexico. Oh well, if at first you don't succeed, try, try again.

Let's get into the hairy, scary

past of some of the Beach's Mardi Gras traditions. "How did the Krewe of Bananimals get its name?" Details, please.

If you are the first to email the correct answer, you will win the t-shirt which was left over from the last issue's trivia question.

The rules are the same.

T-shirt for the first correct answer sent to islandtimes@bellsouth.net. Email your answer with "Trivia" in the subject line before 5 p.m. January 24. Be sure to include your name and phone number.

Woman's Club Kicks Off New Year Lunch and Grits Top Agenda

The Pensacola Beach Woman's Club will kick off the new year with a Pot Luck Luncheon and Meeting Thursday, January 18, at Our Lady of Assumption's Hunt Hall on Pensacola Beach. The meeting will start promptly at 11:00 a.m.

The Pot Luck Luncheon will be served following the meeting

and members will be entertained by GRITS. Each member is asked to bring a pot luck dish to share.

The Pensacola Beach Woman's Club meets the third Thursday of the month at 11 a.m. New and prospective members are encouraged to attend.

For more information, please contact Sandi Johnson 916-2533.

Underdog Gators Get The Last Bark Pigskin Prognosticator at 65%

Barry McCleary, Island Times fearless pigskin prognosticator, knew what he was up against. He knew he was going against all predictions by the media and other big wigs in the football world. He said Florida would beat OSU. He knew Florida was at least a one touchdown underdog in its quest for the national championship last week. Underdog. Smungerdog. Barry planted his feet in his native Florida soil and predicted that the Gators would win. And they did. Big time, 41-14. That Monday night football game

belonged to the Gator Nation, and they have the trophy to prove it. Congratulations, Barry.

Overall, Barry predicted 21 of 32 games correctly, a 65% rating. Whenever possible, Barry chose southern teams over those from other parts of the country, with remarkable success. Florida sports fans are basking in the glory this year as they now own the college national football championship, the college national basketball championship and the NBA basketball championship.

Go, Gators.

The Insurance Crisis in Florida will be presented by the League of Women Voters, Saturday, January 20 at the Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, 40 S. Alcaniz St.

Coffee at 9; Program at 9:30

Panel Members: Attorney Charles Beall

State Representative Don Brown of Defuniak Springs

Cliff Long, Consumer Outreach Coordinator,

Florida Department of Financial Services

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Get Up, Get Out, Get Going To Beach Mardi Gras Events

There's no need for anyone to sit around at home during the coming weeks. The Beach's biggest forever and ever party, Mardi Gras, is scattering magic dust everywhere.

Here's what's happening over the next two weeks:

Mystic Krewe of Nereids

Moon Pie Party, 7 p.m. January 19 at the Sandshaker Lounge. Lots of Moon Pies, a traditional Mardi Gras sweet. Lots of door prizes. Dancing and Mardi Gras revelry.

Krewe of Kids

Sign up party on January 20

at 10 a.m. at the Pensacola Beach Elementary School. Open to all elementary school aged children and pre-schoolers, if accompanied by an adult. Jackie Henderson, Krewe Captain, 932-8713.

Krewe of Junkanoo

Cajun Boil on January 21 from 2-5 pm at the Sandshaker. "We don't really Boil Cajuns - we are having Chicken and Sausage Gumbo this year," said Amy DePew. Raffle Baskets, and a 50/50 drawing.

Krewe of Wrecks

Famous party meetings, 6 p.m.

January 22 at The Islander Lounge and January 29 at Flounder's. Some memberships are still available.

Krewe of Nauga

Champagne Breakfast and Native Noontime Ball at 10:30 a.m. at The Dock, January 27. New queen will be presented. Music, favors, and breakfast plus champagne. Special Nauga ears to all who attend. Nauga Dawga photo contest. Tickets are \$15 at the door.

Krewe of Brewwe

Beach Babe Contest, 3:30 p.m. at The Dock, January 27. Watch the Brewskis crown their Beach Babe of the Year.

Krewe of Bananimals

Royal Mardi Gras Ball, 8 p.m. January 27 at the Hilton Garden Inn. Emerge will play for the event. There will be hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Everyone is welcome and urged to attend. All the krewes and their

royalty will be introduced. Bananimals King Pete Moore and Queen Dawn Moore will reign over the Ball. Dress is black tie or costume. Tickets are \$50 at the door or call Krewe President Artie Davis at 324-2906.

Krewe of Bananimals Ball
8 p.m.
Saturday
January 27

Everyone is invited!



at the Hilton
Black Tie or
Costume

Tickets \$50: at the Door
or by calling 324-2906

Association of Krewes Starts To Fast Forward

This year's Mardi Gras is pretty well wrapped up, but members of the Association of Krewes are planning for the future. Deb Friedman, president announced at their January 4 meeting. Just as soon as the 2007 Mardi Gras parade is over, she will begin to work on a proposed budget for 2008.

"Our request to the Santa Rosa Island Authority for additional financial help for this year was approved, bringing their contribution to a total of \$20,000," Deb said. "We will prepare a proposal for next year about two months after this year's event ends."

Deb invited all who are affected by the financial impact of the Mardi Gras to be present when she makes her budget request at the SRIA.

A special Parade Safety meeting will be held at the Santa Rosa Island Authority Board Room on January 25 at 6 p.m. A representative of the Escambia County Sheriff's Office will be there to answer any questions on safety and logistics of the parade.

Deb urged all krewes to send a representative to this important meeting. Drivers and those who provide support by walking next to the floats are encouraged to attend.

"Possibly the most important thing we do it keep this event safe," Deb said. "With 100,000 people on the Island, we must keep safety as our priority."

Jeff Goudey and Phil Simoneaux, Board members of the Krewe of Wrecks were on hand to distribute parade entry

forms and rules.

"Please read all the rules carefully which are contained in the Parade Entry packet," Jeff said. "If you have a question, attend the Safety Meeting to get official answers."

When asked a question about where last year's parade balance was, Deb explained that the \$13, 924 has been retained to help fund this year's parade. Expenses usually run about \$35,000, so the funding from the SRIA, plus last year's balance, some local funding, and the parade entry fees will be used to pay for this event.

Twenty-four representatives attended this meeting, but the Association of Krewes meetings are open to any krewe who participates in the Beach Mardi Gras.

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Enter Your Dog's Photo in the Nauga Dawga Competition

- Bring your dog's photo (4 x 6 or smaller) to Danah's Hair Studio, Pensacola Beach
- Photos accepted beginning January 3 through noon January 27.
- \$5 entry fee benefits the Humane Society
- Photo will be displayed on the Waggin' Braggin Board

All photos will be displayed and judged at the Krewe of Nauga Champagne Breakfast and Native Noontime Ball, January 27 at The Dock. An official Nauga Dawga will be named!



Hemi Johnson
Rescued Golden Retriever
2 years old



Krewe of Kids Sign Up
Saturday, Jan. 20
10 a.m. • Beach School
Open to Fifth Grade and younger
Dues \$5

Happy Mardi Gras



peas, porridge & a dry martini

~~~~~  
by kathi lewis

I know my editor is waiting for this and I hope all you readers are, too. So, we'll get right to it. It's Mardi Gras! You won't be able to go to a single place on this island without seeing purple, green and gold. Join in and play - it's the greatest party (and longest) of the year.

It was, as always, kicked off by the Mystic Krewe of Nereids King Cake Party at Paradise. What an amazing amount of Mardi Gras spirit these women have! I repeat myself when I say they know how to throw a party.

As I looked around the crowd of people, some familiar and some not, I realized something (I had an epiphany, very rare for me these days). We have all seen the changes our beloved Island has gone through, with more on the way. Some of these changes, we can fight and some we can't, no matter what we do. We are careful to choose our battles.

What the "powers that be" don't seem to realize is that they can never change us or the way we love and care about our Island. The 'original' spirit that inhabits this Island - that which the islanders and the visitors will continue to feel long after we are gone. That is not necessarily what brings people to this area, but it is most definitely what keeps them coming back. They enjoy the fun we are always having somewhere; and the relaxed attitude and atmosphere we create. That cannot and never will be accomplished by land developers or county commissioners whose eyes are filled with dollar signs. It's true love for this Island that visitors feel from the locals with whom they choose to communicate. And, trust me, they do talk to locals and ask our opinions about every issue they hear.

Okay, back to Mardi Gras - Congratulations to King Art Parrish and Queen Ella Hess, of the Mystic Krewe of Nereids. Queen Ella, still retains that crown from the Brewski's, which makes her two Queens at once. She will soon be passing that on after the Krewe of Nauga Breakfast at the Krewe of Brew

Beach Babe Contest. King Art Parrish responded with perfect gallantry as he escorted some of us ladies home afterward. Thanks, Art, we are proud of you and you deserve to be King. As for Queen Ella, she asked me since I am known throughout the land as the QOE, could she be the Queen of everything else (QOEE). Well, of course, you can. We are also very proud of you. So, Queen Ella, this recipe's for you.

Thanks to all my readers and an extra special thanks to Robert Ivory and Elijah Bush. They have worked on my home and they are also quite musically talented. Robert loaned me a CD of their music and I loved it! It's down-home gospel sung acappella and they can harmonize like you won't believe. I got a lot of painting done listening to that CD.

Please join a Krewe (especially the Wrecks) and participate in Mardi Gras - it boosts the economy for beach businesses, you get to have a ton of fun and it continues to keep our beach spirit alive and well.

Okay, let's cook.....

### Queen's Creamy Shrimp

4 strips bacon, sliced into ¼ in. pieces  
1 lb. peeled & deveined small shrimp  
8 thinly sliced scallions, separate white & green parts  
Salt & cayenne or white pepper to taste  
3 cloves garlic, minced  
¼ Cup flour  
1 ½ Cups half and half

Cook bacon until crisp in a sauté pan. Add shrimp, scallion whites and garlic to the bacon and grease. Saute until shrimp just begins to firm up. Dust the mixture with flour and stir until well blended. Add half and half and stir until well blended. Bring to a simmer, stirring occasionally. Season with salt, cayenne, & pepper to taste. Serve immediately over grits or rice. Garnish with green part of scallions. Add some wonderful French bread for a meal fit for a Queen!

See ya in the kitchen. - or at all the Mardi Gras events.



Amid the madcap merriment of the Mystic Krewe of Nereids King Cake Party at Paradise, January 6, Art Parrish and Ella Hess were crowned as King and Queen. The royal couple will reign over all the Nereids parties, balls and parades.



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## Wine Talk



with Bob Temple  
Beach Wines and Liquors

### IS OAKY OKAY?

Wine lovers who talk about "oakiness" are referring to the flavors that wine picks up as it ages in oak barrels. The oak used to make the barrels in which wine is stored contains many compounds that leach out into the wine, imparting some astringency and heft. The newer the wood, the more assertive it generally is. American oak is said to be more assertive than its French counterpart, which has been a differentiating factor in recent years among Chardonnays from the two countries. In fact, some have criticized California Chardonnays for being to "oaky" in the past, something that domestic wine makers have taken into consideration. Some of the oaky flavor has been tempered in order to not be overpowering.

HINT: If you would like to taste the difference in oakiness between American and French wines, drink a Napa Valley Chardonnay next to a French Chablis. Wine that is aged in oak barrels picks up distinctive flavors according to the properties of the oak.

At Beach Wines & Liquors, Inc. we are wine experts and we can help you pick the perfect wine, taking into consideration your preferences on the level of "oakiness." We carry both domestic and imported wines so we'll be able to provide both French and American Chardonnays. Questions? Call 850-932-8850.



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# Business Buzz ~

## YOU ARE GETTING SLEEPY

If you resolved to get more done this year then you need to start by getting the best rest at night. Learn how at a Sleep Seminar. Offered by Pandora de Balthazar, 9 South Ninth Avenue on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. or by appointment. Only in January and February. You snooze, you lose.

## SAVE THE EARTH

Jim Howes, Escambia County's Recycling Chief has sent another recycling center for Pensacola Beach residents to use. The new recycling center which arrived on the Island last week is on the west end of the beach across from Ft. Pickens gate on the Soundside. The east end recycling center is located between the Beach School and Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church. Recycle cans, bottles, and of course, newspapers.

## NEW BREAKFAST SPOT, LUNCH TOO

Breakfast lovers can't wait for Tuesday, February 1, not because it is the day before Groundhog's Day. Never mind who sees what shadow, it will always be springtime at the Cabana Club Café, a new breakfast and lunch restaurant. The Breakfast Politicians are delighted to find a cooked to order meal plus home-spun service. Take the elevator or the stairs to the third level of the The Marina to enjoy the Beach's newest eatery.

## LEARNING TO BE CAREFUL

Dr. Jim Martin, PJC Vice President for Student Affairs sends a friendly reminder about the Thursday, January 18, meeting of the Gulf Breeze Chamber of Commerce Education Task Force. This meeting will be held at noon in the Media Center/Library of the Gulf Breeze Elementary School.

The topic of the program will be Precautions Parents Should Take From Internet Child Predators. Officer Chris Wilkinson of the Pensacola Police Department will be the speaker. All interested parents and community members are welcome to attend.

## VALENTINE HEARTS

Linda and Wally at the UPS store remind lovers that is never too early to start sending Valentines. If you do wait until the last minute they offer overnight shipping to help Cupid deliver.

## NO COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Don't fret about the end of the college football season, Jim Amberson at Sideline's promises that you will find a sports show on one of their 42 high definition televisions to keep you entertained. Add wings and a cold one. What a deal.

## BEACH STROLL

Thursday evenings at 5:30 p.m. Group leaves from Surf Side Food Store, on Via de Luna across from the historic Islander Lounge. Lots of things that are good for you - friends, fresh air and light exercise.

## Rybka Shows Sculptures At PJC Exhibit

Former Beach resident Kris Rybka will be one of a trio of artists exhibiting at the Visual Arts Gallery at the Anna Lamar Switzer Center for Visual Arts. Kris will be showcasing her metal sculptures along with William Clover, digital arts; and Jerry Lamme, mixed media.

The exhibit runs through February 9. The public is invited to a reception for the artists from 6 to 8 p.m. January 25.

The gallery is located on the Pensacola campus at Ninth Avenue and Airport Boulevard. Hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday. Admission is free. For more information, call 484-2550.

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# Mardi Gras on the Island captured in the pages of



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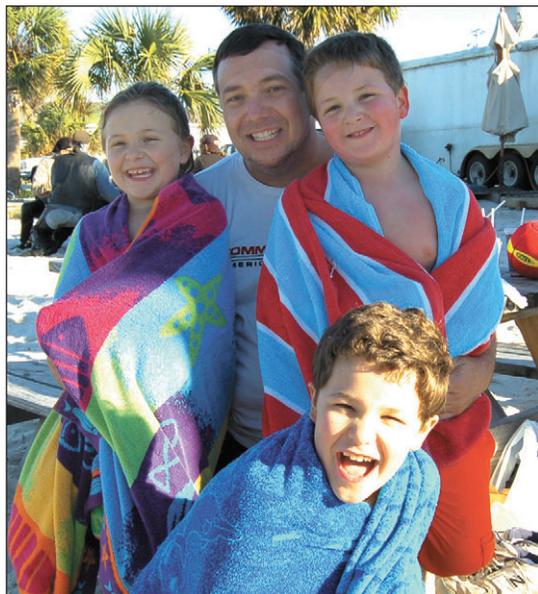
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# Polar Bears Plunge For Thrills and Chills



The funkiest and most creatively dressed Polar Bear Plungers competed in the Polarwear Contest. Tiara topped Justin Lewis of Milton, left, won the grand prize weekend in Paradise; and Brett Favre Mournner Patti Marie Warner, who is a veteran polar bear plunger was the runner up.



The O'Connell family from Chicago annual new year's trip to Pensacola Beach now includes a brisk swim. Dad Bill O'Connell, who is surrounded by his seven-year-old twins, Dani and Jack, promised to "plunge" in 2007, so they did. Nine-year-old Nick, is getting warm in the Florida sun.



The Polar Bear Plunge was a chilly experience for the participants who jumped into the waters of Santa Rosa Sound on New Year's Day, but the event netted cash for the Mardi Gras parade fund and the Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce.

The first fundraiser of the year was at the Paradise Bar and Grill where 57 applicants has signed up to make the plunge. Some of the applicants decided not to make the plunge, but everyone enjoyed Paradise General Manager Renee Mack's Cajun cooking. T-shirts were given to all who registered.

A grand prize was awarded to Justin Lewis of Milton for the most creative plungewear. Patti Marie Warner was the runner-up in her Green Bay Packers garb complete with a Brett Favre bobble head doll.

"It was a perfect day for plunging," said Renee who expects twice as many entrants next year.

Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce  
Business Meeting - Tuesday, January 30  
8:30 a.m. Comfort Inn

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# A Cross in the Sand



By Dr. Chuck Randle  
Pastor, Pensacola Beach Community Church

I love stories ... and this story would be good to keep in mind all throughout this New Year.

A mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open a package.

"What food might this contain?" The mouse wondered - he was devastated to discover it was a mousetrap. Retreating to the farm yard, the mouse proclaimed the warning. "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!"

The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said, "Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it."

The mouse turned to the pig and told him, "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!"

The pig sympathized, but said, "I am so very sorry, Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do about it but pray. Be assured you are in my prayers."

The mouse turned to the cow and said, "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!"

The cow said, "Wow, Mr. Mouse. I'm sorry for you, but it's no skin off my nose."

So, the mouse returned to the house, head down and de-

jected, to face the farmer's mousetrap-- alone.

That very night a sound was heard throughout the house -- like the sound of a mousetrap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness, she did not see it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught. The snake bit the farmer's wife.

The farmer rushed her to the hospital and she returned home with a fever. Everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farm yard for the soup's main ingredient. But his wife's sickness continued, so friends and neighbors came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig.

The farmer's wife did not get well; she died. So many people came for her funeral, the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them.

The mouse looked upon it all from his crack in the wall with great sadness.

So, the next time we hear someone is facing a problem and think it doesn't concern us, remember -- when one of us is threatened, we are all at risk. We are all involved in this journey called life. We must keep an eye out for one another and make an extra effort to encourage one another.

# PBRLA Votes In Sand Issue, Enclosures

Members of the Pensacola Beach Residents and Leaseholders Association voted to present their position on two issues which are currently under discussion by the Santa Rosa Island Authority. During their business meeting on January 9 at the Cabana Club, Tona de Mers, president introduced Dan Green, property appraiser and real estate broker, who addressed the enclosures which are constructed under homes built on pilings.

"The goal of the SRIA was to try to limit the amount of debris generated during a storm and also to discourage leaseholders from placing non-permitted living space on the ground floor of their homes," said Dan.

Rather than restrict the total amount of allowable space to be enclosed with break away walls, Dan suggested that the enclosure should be relative to the home and lot size to ensure the value of the home is not decreased. He said that restricting the size of the enclosure

to a square foot measurement is arbitrary and infringes on the leaseholder's property rights. He felt it could devalue your home considerably and suggested that if you have significant enclosed area you should lobby the SRIA to let them know your feelings on the issue.

After discussion, the members voted to ask the SRIA to consider a policy which includes having a structural engineer design break away walls. The walls should have limited ability to break away and be within FEMA regulations.

Marianne Crowdis who is one of the Beach residents who has retained sand on her property announced that the SRIA will reveal the contents of a study by Olsen and Associates on the "sand issue" at their Wednesday night meeting.

Dr. Tom Campanella who was in attendance said that the original intent of the study was to be island wide, not just affecting resi-

dents.

"We have to have some guidelines," Tom said. "We have to have a place to start. This was a way to accomplish that."

The members then voted to ask the SRIA not to regulate sand activity.

The next meeting of the PBRLA will be on Tuesday, February 13 at 6 p.m. at the Pensacola Beach Community Church.



**Pensacola Beach Community Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
Via de Luna & Ave 18  
Sunday Services 10 a.m.

**Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Mission**  
Via de Luna & Ave 18  
Sunday Mass 9:45 a.m.

## Youth Group Plans Busy Year

Middle and High School students have a group all their own at the Pensacola Beach Community Church. The Middle High Youth group meets every Wednesday from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Church house.

"The members have a great time. We eat, enjoy fellowship, study and plan service projects," said Sherry Hobbs, leader.

Plans for this year include updating the Church sign on Via de Luna, a Relay for Life project, movies, museums and more food.

Anyone interested in joining or providing dinner for the group,

please call Sherry at 916-4338.

Prospective members are welcome to come to a Wednesday night meeting.

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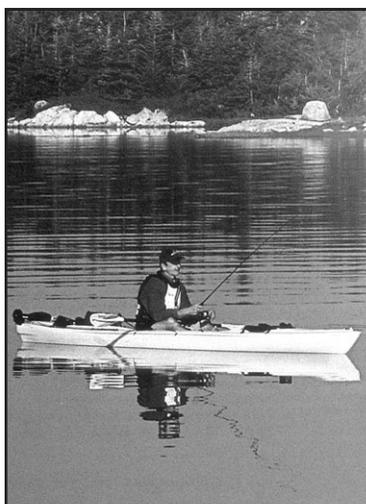
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The Break on Pensacola Beach was awash with surfers of all ages at the Surfer's Memorial, Friday, January 12. During the event, the donations were presented to the Pensacola Beach Elementary School. The Surfer's Memorial group presented a check for \$5000 to the School followed by a donation of \$2500 from Gibby Fail's company Fish Pie Records. Dan Green, board president of the Pensacola Beach Elementary School, Inc. (left) accepts a check and congratulations from (L to R) Jim Freeman, Heidi Esposito, Freddy Esposito, BZR Turner, DeeDee Hebert and Gibby Fail.

The event which has been held annually started informally as a few surfing friends gathered to remember the late Willy Dail.

Longtime friends attended the Surfer's Memorial at The Break, Friday, January 12 on Pensacola Beach to toast lost brothers and sisters. The adjoining business, DJ's Beach Cafe showcased the memorial name board and photo display, along with a variety of donated artwork which was auctioned to support the group's community efforts. Gathering to bid on the auction items were Heidi Esposito, Peggy Sue Anderson, Debbie Campanella, Teddy Hofer, Jim Freeman, Barb Hill, and Mark Anderson.

In honor of those who are gone, but not forgotten, the Surfer's made a donation to the Pensacola Beach Elementary School.



# 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](http://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.

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.

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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](http://www.peglegpetes.com)

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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.

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## 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](http://www.mcguiresirishpub.com)

## SANDSHAKER LOUNGE

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Across from the Fishing Pier on Pensacola Beach. Open 11am until 3am. 850-932-2211. [www.sandshakerlounge.com](http://www.sandshakerlounge.com) for photo gallery and event schedule.

## THE ISLANDER LOUNGE

The oldest lounge on Pensacola Beach. Happy Hour 11 to 7. Hot, crispy deli sandwiches from 11 to 11. DJ spins dance tunes 7 nites. Fri-Sun Live Music. Shuffleboard, video games, pool, foosball, golf, bowling. Brass Pole. Poker Wednesdays. Original music Tuesdays. Visit the upstairs Cypress Lounge, open air bar overlooking downtown Pensacola Beach. Available for private parties.

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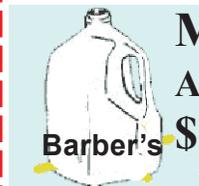


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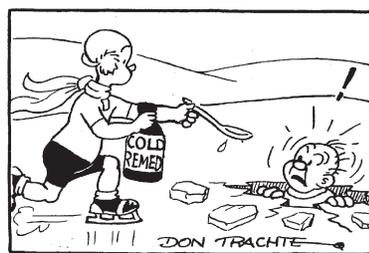
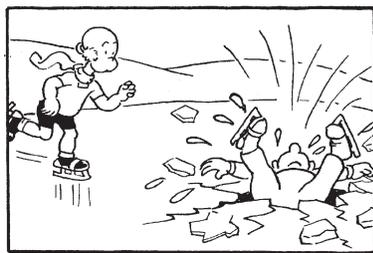
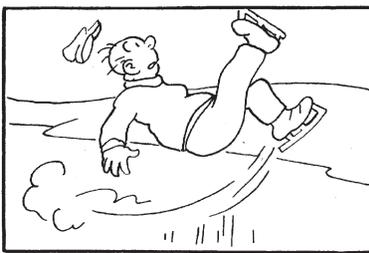
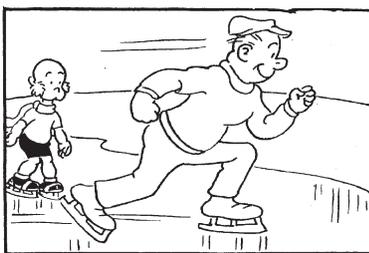
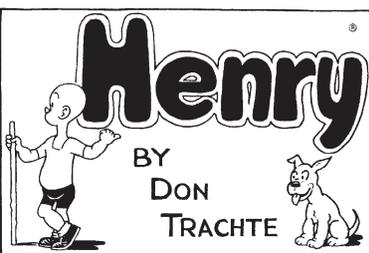


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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Is that Arian self-esteem in need of shoring up? Best advice: Do something that will make someone feel good about him- or herself. It will make you feel proud that you did it.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) It's time to prove to your detractors that you're way ahead of them when it comes to getting things done. So, be sure to avoid surprise distractions and complete that project as soon as possible.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Be careful not to waste your precious energy on frivolous matters that don't advance your goals. Stay focused. There'll be time enough for fun and games after you reach your objective.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) You've done well on your own. But now could be a good time to consider advice from confidantes, as long as you continue to let your own instincts be your primary guide.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) A belated New Year's "gift" could create a problem if you feel unwilling or unable to adjust your plans to accommodate the new development. Check all options before deciding.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) There's a possibility that you could be goaded into making a statement you might regret. It's important to try to stay cool no matter how heated the conversation gets.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) A recent sad experience can become a valuable lesson. Examine it well and take what you've learned to help you make that important upcoming decision.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Lingering problems in a personal or professional partnership still need to be resolved so you can move on. Insist on more cooperation from everyone.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) That recent problem that made you feel emotionally trapped and physically exhausted is gone. Don't dwell on it. Instead, make new plans and set new goals.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Your creative talents combine with a strong domestic aspect, which means you can start on those home-improvement projects you've been planning for a long time.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) It's a good time to anticipate a change in the near future. This could mean taking on a new career, going off to a new city or moving into a new home.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Soon, you should be learning more about the motives of those who continue to pressure you into making a decision you're still not sure about. Use this information wisely.

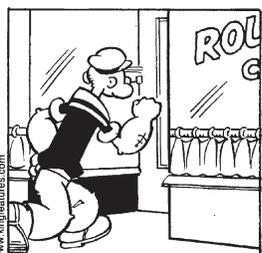
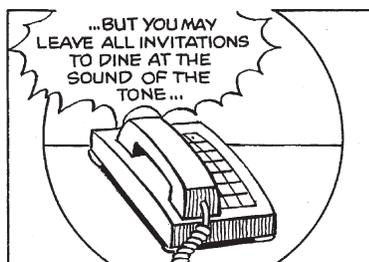
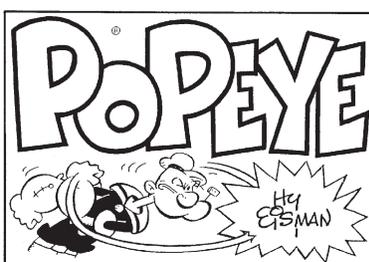
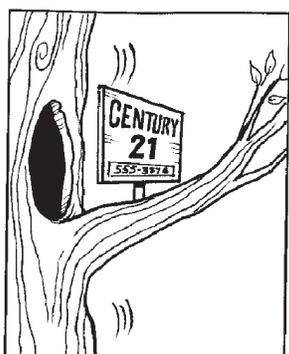
**BORN THIS WEEK:** The flow of your generosity seems to have no limit. But you're smart enough to know when it's time to cap it.

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**Amber Waves**

by Dave T. Phipps

REMEMBER, SON, ONLY CUT DOWN TREES THAT ARE ALREADY DEAD.



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# Espo's Surf Report



Okay, here's a lesson on driving the lovely road known as Via De Luna.

Here's some of the do's and don't's of navigating this stretch of Pensacola Beach.

First, I know that bicycling is an old and wonderful pastime of residents and tourist alike. You know, getting on the old beach cruiser and causally making your way up and down the beach. Remember? Well, folks that now is considered a daredevil action sport.

Look, I love to cruise myself, but with the road under construction is down right dangerous. There's cars, trucks, water tanks, detours, and paving equipment everywhere. Then, add locals and our bikes, and well, it's now a human pinball machine! So, maybe a side road is a better idea. Hey!

Second, for people who are not from here, that sand on the side of the road is not for parking. It's soft white, orange, gray and thick, and your car will sink like a rock in it. Just count the number of cars per day stuck in the sand. Hmmm...don't park there, please.

Third, attention road construction crews, please slow down. Why? Well, there are people on bikes and sunken cars everywhere. Get it?

And this is the one I love the most, the speed limit. Wow, what in the world is going on with that? Some people drive 50, some 30,

## College Offers Hiking Class

Make your next hike your best one ever by taking Hiking and Backpacking, a new Pensacola Junior College Continuing Education course.

The class runs 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 6 to March 6, at the Pensacola campus. Cost is \$40. Call 484-1797 for details.

Learn about local and long-distance hiking trails, equipment and clothing choices, provisioning and trail cooking, map, compass, GPS techniques, trail dangers and environmental concerns.

Register at any PJC campus or go to [www.pjc.edu/ContinuingEducation](http://www.pjc.edu/ContinuingEducation).

some only 5 m.p.h.. There's no way these equations will work. Pick a speed and go with it!

You see many of us travel that road everyday, sometimes 4 and 5 times a day.

We need some sort of planning information from someone who knows something. Perhaps that would help.

Oh and consider this, if you live on Via De Luna, how's the whole parking and getting to your driveway plan going to work? Now there's a median separating you from your house, you will have to drive past your home, turn back and then park in your mini driveway. That's big fun there.

Let's all hope this four-lane super beach road will help our small beach community or is it the beginning of the end for us to use the phrase "small beach community" ever again.

# America The Beautiful Park Service Pass Offers One Price Access To Recreation

## Annual Seashore Pass Good At Perdido Key

Superintendent Jerry Eubanks reminds frequent visitors that the Gulf Islands National Seashore Annual Park Pass is still available for a cost of \$25. This pass allows the purchaser unlimited free entrance to the Seashore during the 12-month period following its purchase. Since Fort Pickens is not open, entrance fees are only being charged at the Perdido Key Area.

In addition, Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett and Under Secretary of Agriculture Mark Rey recently announced a new interagency recreational pass that will benefit visitors to other national public lands as well. It combines the benefits of existing recreation passes from five federal bureaus into one comprehensive pass called "America the Beautiful-National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass."

The new pass covers recreational opportunities on public

lands managed by the Department of the Interior - the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Reclamation, and by the Department of Agriculture - the U.S. Forest Service. While access to most public lands remains free, the pass will apply to those locations that currently have entrance or standard amenity fees.

The new passes are available at federal recreation sites that charge entrance and standard amenity fees, by calling 1-888-ASK USGS, extension 1, via the Internet at <http://store.usgs.gov/pass>, or through select third-party vendors. The annual cost is \$80, except for the following: 1) A \$10.00 lifetime pass for U.S. Citizens or permanent residents age 62 and over; 2) A free lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents with permanent

documented disabilities; and 3) A free 12-month pass for volunteers acquiring 500 service hours on a cumulative basis. Contact the Park Volunteer Coordinator at 850-934-2654 to learn about volunteer opportunities at Gulf Islands National Seashore.

Locally, the Gulf Islands Annual Pass and the America the Beautiful Pass may be purchased at the Perdido Key entrance station in west Pensacola, Florida, the Naval Live Oaks Visitor Center in Gulf Breeze, Florida, and at the Davis Bayou Visitor Center in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. One hundred percent of the revenue derived from passes sold at federal recreation sites will directly benefit the selling agency and no less than 80 percent of the revenue will remain at the site where the pass is sold.

For more information about these and other programs, please contact the Visitor Center in Florida at 850-934-2600.

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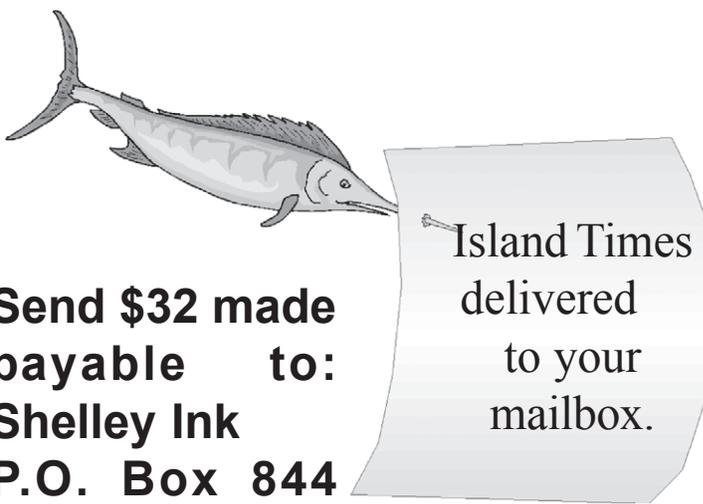


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**Don't Miss A Word**

# Scuttlebutt, You Say?

By Pete Della Ratta

Check it out! The definition: Grapevine; pipeline; word of mouth

These days most people hear about what is going on through the infamous word of mouth grapevine or through the water cooler pipeline and do not know whether it is true or not. We like to be a part of the scuttlebutt. I like to hear what others are saying, because not only do I enjoy learning new words and phrases, but I also see the importance in allowing people to get something off their chests or clear their minds of information overload. Haven't you ever learned something on the Discovery Channel or elsewhere only to anticipate telling someone about it the next day at work, or more importantly, on the boat so you can feel smarter when others are catching fish and you are not. It really works. It distracts others from paying attention to the lack of fish that have been brought up or even nibbled on your hook!

Stories have been a tradition of fishermen and fisherwomen everywhere since the start of time. There is a saying "Give a man a fish and he can eat for a day, but teach a man to fish and he will eat and feed himself and others for life." I also remember hearing "take only what you need and waste not." Too many times these days people try to get all they can from good ole Mother Nature but are limited in their thinking of what will happen if everyone acts like that. The whole time they are taking in their full quantity, stories are flying off the hook. No pun intended. These two stories are intertwined by knowing how conservation affects all of us including the ecosystem and what you can do to help preserve what we have for generations to come. Who doesn't embellish a story or two while fishing with a buddy or child? It will definitely get the other party interested in the process of how it got you there.

My whole point to this madness is no matter what you do or who you are, get on the water, have some fun, gain some knowledge, tell some stories, and pass the tradition of the scuttlebutt on to those who are listening. Below is a little bit



of reading material which will cause brain overload. You may just want to dump the info to others. Through this process, others will hopefully learn about conserving our waterways.

**Fishing Tip:** When numerous birds are diving in the water, paddle or motor over to the spot. There are probably Redfish feeding on the bait which they are forcing to the top of the water column. Hence, birds being able to pick them out of the water. Use stretch lures to land some bigger Reds and the occasional Grouper around the Coast Guard Station and in some deeper holes in the Bay. They are there, but not in the numbers they once were.

Fish the shallows at night for trout. They are there but in limited numbers and most of the time too small, but they are a heck of a fight with light tackle.

Is there anything more fun than catching some average fish on ultra light tackle? Catching big fish on light tackle or I know, hauling that lunger off the bottom. All of it sounds fun to me.

### What's the Scuttlebutt?

An excellent way to stay current with all the latest news in the world of marine science education is Scuttlebutt, and the Bridge email discussion lists. This is a no cost, international listserv which provides a forum for educators and scientists to informally discuss marine education ideas, issues, and questions, and allows ocean science programs from across the globe to advertise summer and year-round opportunities for educators and students. With over 800 members in 15 countries, Scuttlebutt is monitored by the Bridge staff, which assists in locating experts to answer posted questions when needed. All educators and scientists interested in marine science education are invited to subscribe.

The Bridge: <http://www.marine-ed.org/bridge>

Scuttlebutt: [http://www.marine-ed.org/bridge/index\\_scuttle.html](http://www.marine-ed.org/bridge/index_scuttle.html)

# Love Is In The Air When The Wind Is In My Sails

BY TRISH THE SKIPPER, NAMASTE

**PART III**  
"Would you like to take the helm?"

The helm? Take the helm? What was he talking about?

"Would you like to sail her, to drive?" Guess my poker face had failed me again. He was gesturing toward the big wheel and stepping away slightly. Oh my God! He's asking if I want to sail the boat? Could I possibly do that? Is it like flying an airplane, one wrong move and you kill everyone?

"Come on. It's not too different from your windsurfer. It's just a bigger boat, but the wind has the same effect on her."

"Sure," I said in what I hoped was a nonchalant way, hoping Bob and Jim didn't catch the quiver in my voice.

I turned the wheel slightly to the right and then to the left to see what effect it would have. Sure enough, it was just like my windsurfer. I felt her lean slightly as the wind found the sail. She squatted down in the water and picked up speed. That was good. That was very good, so I steered a little more into the wind and she heeled a little more and picked up speed again. The wind was coming up, a rainstorm on the horizon, and we were flying! It was just me and her and the wind....

"Um, my wife doesn't like it when I bury the rail like that - something about it being her home. She didn't used to be like that, but ever since we lived

aboard, she's gotten more protective."

"How fast are we going?" Clearly, we were zooming, flying, setting records.

"Uh, hull speed is seven and a half knots, and we're just about there. She really doesn't like heeling her over like this, you know, burying the rails and all."

"Seven and a half knots? No. We must be going faster than that. We can go faster," and I twitched the wheel a bit more. She responded like the lady I knew her to be, dug a little deeper into the green froth, and speeded up a bit more. By this time, the wind was howling and spray was coming over the bow. The rails were indeed buried. It was lovely.

"I think you'd better let me take over. It's getting a little crazy out here."

Give her up? Was he asking me to give her back to him, give her up to him? I was just getting the hang of it. No. "Okay," I smiled, "I guess I need to use the restroom anyhow." The fact was my knees were shaking and my palms were sweating, not from fear, but from the same emotion that had made my 12-year-old knees knock when Mike Taylor had been bold enough to hold my hand in the movies. I was in love, star struck, obsessed, and pos-

sessed. I would never be the same again. Twenty-four hours later, I had cashed in my paltry teacher's retirement fund and was searching for a boat of my own. A week later, I was captain of "The Dreamer", a 24 foot Columbia, a little long in the tooth and needing "just a little TLC", but still the new love of my life.

Was it love at first sight? Yes, and more. Was it obsession? Yes, and more. Those of you who share that absolute need to be on the water understand. Mother Ocean is in our blood, and our boats are our co-conspirators, bringing us closer while keeping us safe while we chase our unquenchable need.

[Trish is the owner of the Namaste sailing vessel which offers charters from Pensacola Beach. She can be reached at 305-766-3518.]

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# Bright Beach Students Named To High School Honor Roll

Special Thanks to Liz Bohannon for her assistance identifying Beach residents..

Island Times would like to congratulate the following students who were named to the All A Honor Roll at Gulf Breeze High School for the second nine week grading period. To be included on the A Honor Roll a student must have received a 9-weeks grade of 90 or higher in each subject.

### SENIORS

Spencer Blaydes, Elizabeth Bohannon, Michael Bredesen, Rachel Conte, Justin Lutz, Katelind Markey, Jacob Pace, Rachel Sanford, Summer Schuler, and Ellen Schwier.

### JUNIORS

Sean Jenkins, Jeffrey Lanza, Erika Reid, Graham

Wade, and Eleni Weisnicht.

### SOPHOMORES

Michala Nowak, Elizabeth Patterson, and Alyssa Smith.

These students have been named to the A-B Honor Roll. To be included on the A-B Honor Roll a student must have received a 9-weeks grade of 80 or higher in each subject.

### SENIORS

Jonathan Dumbacher, Whitney Longmire, Brittany Sexton, and Richard Ryan Young.

### JUNIORS

Andrew Davis, Jenny Hasseltine, Andrew Hobbs, Meghan Kirby, Raymond Palmer, and Anna Reynolds.

### SOPHOMORES

Angelo Anastopoulos, Carl Baldwin, Travis Gill, and Lauren McDonald.

### FRESHMEN

Michelle Albert, Omari Baines, Andrew Davis, Carly Loehr, Bianca Takacs, and George Weisnicht.

# Texas Hold 'Em Crowns Beach Player of the Year

The last Friday of 2006 tested the Texas Hold 'Em 4 Fun Champions in a Best of the Year Game held at the Paradise Bar and Grill on Pensacola Beach. The place was hoppin' with the Adam Holt Band playin' to a tent full of Hold 'Em players.

Trace Lewis nailed down his claim as the best player

on tour with a strong win against stiff competition. Fran Cox had an even stack with Trace on the final hand, but Trace hit an Ace on the river to claim the title for the year. Trace wins braggin'

a poker showdown. After all the cards were dealt Nick Gossman

"This was a great night of poker," said Tim.

Paradise Bar and Grill hosted an afternoon full of cool people who were willing to swim in the chilly waters of Santa Rosa Sound. Equally cool was Oklahoma visitor Steve S. as he played his way to the win on January 1 at Paradise. Local card sharp Larry Richard was a close second.

The following week at Paradise the women were out to take top honors. Michelle Bourgeois was unbeatable - taking out the final table with strong betting and a go-for-it style. Redneck Annie Vinson put up a strong fight for second and Trace Lewis was third.

Texas Hold 'Em 444 Fun hosts games on Pensacola Beach at the Paradise Bar and Grill on Monday nights and at the historic Islander Lounge on Wednesday

and Saturday nights. The games start at 7 p.m. Beach Time. Everyone is welcome to play.

"We have a great group of players who enjoy the competition but new faces are always welcome," said Rick Uzdevenes.

"You don't have to be an expert card player. If you have a basic understanding of the game, come out and play."

For more information about Texas Hold 'Em 4 Fun email salt2o@mchsi.com



Fran Cox, left, congratulates Trace Lewis who won the end of the year Champion's Tournament.



Redneck Anne Vinson and Michelle Bourgeois are frequent winners at the Poker tables.

rights until the next hands are dealt.

On the night before New Year's Eve, Hold 'Em games at The Islander Lounge pitted family members against each other in

outdrew his dad, Dr. Tim Gossman, in his first ever Texas Hold 'Em 4 Fun tournament win.

Looks like John "JMac" McNamara made a new year's resolution to win at cards. He outlasted JO Weeks to claim the win on January 3 at The Islander.

Redneck Annie Vinson came from a short stack all in to win a Saturday Night T-Shirt at the Texas Hold 'Em tables on January 6.

On Wednesday night January 10 the Islander was packed. Tim Rinker shutdown "The Cobra" Justin Robbins in the final. Both players had the same chip count on the final hand!

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# The Beauty & Beach

By Danah & Gwen Gibson

**NAUGA SAGA** - Every year, around Mardi Gras time, I hear the same question, many times over, "What is a Nauga?" You might have been to or heard of our Krewe of Nauga Champagne Breakfast and Pajama Party, but here is the original Nauga Beach tale, The Nauga Saga, penned by our Queen Mother of all Naugas, Mrs. Jane Waters-Cooper.

It has come to the attention of the Peoples International Nauga Awareness Society (PINAS) that a padilla (pack, flock or herd) has been discovered on Pensacola Beach. Little was known pertaining to these hardy little creatures until the day that animal lover Bill Greene happened upon a beach hairdresser covering a barstool with naugahyde.

Caught in the act, Bill Greene explained to her that it had taken the skins of 15 Naugas to produce the cover she had just installed. The horrified hairdresser stopped using the hyde at once to call the National Library of Science, PETA, The Audubon Society, and the Zoo for more information on the nauga. She discovered that their original habitat was apparently some sandy shore, somewhere, but how they migrated to Pensacola Beach is not entirely clear. There has been some speculation that a pair of the little creatures may have been brought to the island by a Vietnam vet. The beach padillas consist of 30-40 Naugas who lived in the Sandspur Republic, near or under Danah's Hair Studio (and yes, they have followed us down to the "hood")

Most of them are light beige, some with spots, but there have been a few reports of some being purple, green and gold. Their eyes are brown, but they turn blue if they go for a dip in the Gulf. They have short ears and a tail and a moth-eaten type fur around the neck. They are four-legged animals, but have the ability to walk on their hind legs. The little creatures live on a simple diet of hairspray, catching it as it drifts out the window, thus preventing deterioration of the ozone layer, however, they become disoriented and wobbly if they ingest too much hairspray (not to be confused with the party animals

who inhabit the beach, who at times may also show signs of disorientation and general wobbliness.)

Scientists are currently studying the means of communication between the tiny naugas and humans. The most likely theory by Nauga expert the Late & Great Paddy Blake, is that the little animals have supersensitive feelers. These act as sensors which record the frivolous antics of the Mardi Gras season on Pensacola Beach. So, the Naugas react by partying in the hairspray and dancing in the sand. Nauga watching societies have been organized on Pensacola Beach, and membership is restricted to those individuals who have never installed naugahyde, sat on it, or in anyway approved of naugahyde projects.

Sign up today at Danah's Hair Studio! For further info, please call the Nauga Hotline 932-4323. Sponsored by the Peoples International Nauga Awareness Society-(PINAS).

Hope to see you all at the Krewe of Nauga Champagne Breakfast and Native Noontime Ball, Saturday, January 27 at 10:30 a.m. at The Dock. It's fifteen bucks for all the fun you can stand plus breakfast. Pajamas required. It's a blast!



by Pandora de Balthazar

To sleep or Not to Sleep...that is the question!

In our last column, you read about the importance of sleep for your brain and your body.

Now, let's look at what we can do to increase Comfort and Joy in our lives, and increase our peak performance by something as simple as getting enough sleep.

**First:** Give yourself the permission to sleep.

**Second:** Make the commitment that you are worth a full 8 hours uninterrupted sleep. [You are, aren't you?]

**Third:** Decide what time you want to wake up [and coordinate this time with when you really have to wake up]

**Fourth:** Create a "Pre-Sleep" environment: You do this by setting aside time for yourself that is relaxing and soothing, at least an hour before bedtime, making sure that it gives you time to relax and still sleep the full 8 hours, plus 20 minutes after waking.

- Turn off the television, computer, computer games or any visually stimulating environment, to allow yourself the privilege of beginning to think about sleep, and to enjoy the process of getting sleepy.

- Put away the alcohol, wine, and caffeine 3 hours before you want to begin your adventure into

deep sleep!

- Take a warm, relaxing bath or shower, adding lavender bath salts or lavender essence oil.

- Create a sleeping environment that soothes your spirit, rather than dominates your thoughts about what you forgot today.

- Dress your bed with textures and bedding that feel good to your skin and keep you cool throughout the night for an uninterrupted night's sleep.

- Surround yourself with the best quality Hungarian goose down pillows your can afford, selecting those that are best designed to merge your body to the mattress, including a down mattress pad to provide natural ventilation between you and the chemicals mattresses are made from.

- Make sure to dress your bed with the finest sheets you can find, so you have a cool corridor of air surrounding you, not too heavy, and just light enough to snuggle into for peaceful sleep. I propose 600 thread count sheets or better, better are 800 and 1000 thread count sheets that are simply so divine you can't wait to slip into your bed!

- Sit up in your bed, in a nice comfy position, turn down

the lights and rest for 15-20 minutes and enjoy the serenity, just relaxing and thinking about the joys of life, and know how much better you will feel when you wake following a peaceful night's rest.

- Concentrate on wonderful thoughts for these precious moments.

**Fifth:** Go to sleep:

Slowly sink into your most comfortable sleeping position and snuggle, knowing you have prepared yourself for a wonderful, and uninterrupted night's sleep!

**Sixth:** Plan when to awaken, and plan time to enjoy it!

When you wake up, prop your pillows against the headboard and allow yourself the privilege of awakening slowly but surely. It's a wonderful privilege.

Have your coffee and paper in bed, daily, allowing yourself that luxury of relaxing before you start your day!

Plan your day and your exercise time, so when you get up from this awakening time, you are ready to shower, have breakfast, and make the most of each and every day!

Put more Comfort and Joy in your life. If you have any questions, please call me at 850-432-4777, so we can talk about sleep.

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# The LIZZARD'S TONGUE



by E.K. Hewson

As my husband, Harry, nears that magical 20 year mark in the Marine Corps, thoughts of being a military retiree's dependent often enter my mind. Then I make my weekly pilgrimage to the commissary, you civilians call it a grocery store, and it all comes to a screeching halt. It's a Wednesday and sometime around 0930. I have my car windows rolled down. The winter sun is already heating up the morning sky. I am listening to a Jimmy Buffet CD and am scanning the headlines of yesterday's "Wall Street Journal." I have 30 minutes to call my own while I patiently wait for the digits of my watch to blink 10:00.

I can't help but observe a couple driving up in the latest model mini-van with more bumper stickers proclaiming been there, done that and am now USMC Retired. The van has no car seats nor does the inside look like it's ever seen a fast food kid's meal either. I can tell that the passenger and driver are having a discussion as to whether it is a shorter walk to the front door of the commissary from the handicapped parking spots or the rank assigned parking spots. I see neither a star nor a bird on the windshield. Those are the only two decorations that get you front row parking. They finally choose a handicapped parking spot and also manage to take up half of another space designated for ex-

pectant moms or families with small children.

I watch as the driver gets out, walks around the van and opens the door for his passenger. Arm in arm they walk to the line of grocery carts standing sentry in front of the small, but clean, food store. They marvel at the selection. There are hand carts, plastic carts, metal carts and extended carts to keep small kids safe. They choose the traditional metal cart. Good choice. The wheels seldom work on the plastic ones.

Using the metal cart as some type of battering ram, they become quickly perplexed and then agitated as to why the automatic doors are not opening. Brusquely the man asks a lance corporal in uniform, whose body language is screaming do not bother me, if there is something wrong with the doors. Not missing a beat nor removing his cell phone from the talking position, the young Marine motions to the 6 foot by 10 foot sign using his freshly lit cigarette like it's a corporate boardroom laser pointer. The commissary is closed on Mondays, opens at 0900 on Tuesday and Saturday, and 1000 on Wednesday-Friday plus Sunday.

Then it begins - endless "back in the day" banter that only retirees' memories can recall. It always begins with the commissary's hours, which for the most part have been the

same for the past 20 years, and ends with "back in the day" mothers had to dress appropriately and kids were well behaved. I guess wearing my husband's 10-year-old Naval Post Graduate School sweatshirt and a pair of jeans just wouldn't have passed muster "back in the day" and certainly neither would the 19-year-old Officer Candidate School t-shirt that I have on underneath. My son, however, is and always has been a well mannered child in the commissary.

Yes, maybe it's a good thing my husband has no intentions of retiring at the 20 year mark. Because when all is said and done, I haven't quite committed to memory a 30 minute repertoire of "back in the day" recollections, especially about the commissary. Nor do I have a bird on my windshield.

Until next time...

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# Mostly Nuts & Bolts

By Candace Segar

## Color Color Everywhere

Although it is January, I am now beginning to plan my gardening scheme for my front yard. I was wondering if my off the wall, or rather, off the grass approach was a viable one. It appears that it is. I planted a bunch of palm trees, bushes, and perennials, and most of them are flourishing. I really had no design in mind. My mantra was I never want to mow the front yard again. Right now I am still mowing. But soon that will all change.

I spoke with a nursery specialist. And when I handed him a picture of what I wanted to achieve in my front yard, he laughed, and kiddingly said he hated it when people brought in pictures. As he looked at the picture though he told me they did carry everything and pick up time would be March. But the most important point that he made was that my future front yard might take at least five years to achieve. That hit home and made me feel good.

After that conversation, I showed my friend LyVonne, who has the most beautiful garden, my picture. She said without hesitation, "Let's get newspapers, compost and the plants and do it." LyVonne has a planting method

that employs the use of newspaper and compost which go hand in hand with my recycling efforts. With all this support my garden will be magnificent. I have the following plants on my shopping list: Arborvitae (evergreen foliage); Dogwood (Variegated cream and green leaves); Maiden grass (reddish bronze plumes); Lady's mantle (velvety leaves and chartreuse flowers); Siberian Iris (bright purple blue flowers); Japanese anemone (double pink flowers); Sedum (rosy pink flowers); Veronica (blue flowers); Jupiter's beard (reddish with white flowers); and Daylily (yellow flowers)

Note to self: My five year goal for my yard is a big undertaking. I need to be patient. It is a loving work in progress, and no more mowing!

So, you can see, I am remodeling the whole house including my yard. Take time now to plan your landscaping. It will take patience and a few years for me to achieve my goals, but I am committed to "greening up" my yard. Keep in mind that the most eco-friendly yards can be real time savers as well. Eventually I will have a used lawn mower for sale..

## We're Hot Stuff - NOAA Reports 2006 Warmest Year on Record

Beach Temp Average High at 64 Degrees for December

Tourists and residents on Pensacola Beach love warm winter days and we have had more this year than ever before. The 2006 average annual temperature for the contiguous U.S. was the warmest on record and nearly identical to the record set in 1998, according to scientists at NOAA's National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C. Seven months in 2006 were much warmer than average, including December, which ended as the fourth warmest December since records began in 1895.

Based on preliminary data, the 2006 annual average temperature was 55 degrees F across the nation. These values were calculated using a network of more than 1,200 U.S. historical climatology network stations.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, is celebrating 200 years of science and service to the nation. From the establishment of the Survey of the Coast in 1807 by Thomas Jefferson to the formation of the Weather Bureau and the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in the 1870s, much of America's scientific heritage is rooted in NOAA. Additional in-

formation on U.S. climate conditions in 2006 is available online at: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/research/2006/ann/us-summary.html>

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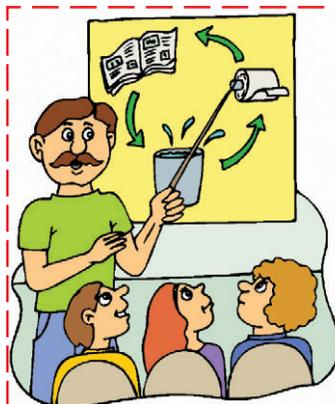
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Answers  
Solution time: 27 mins.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | A | M | S | C | A | B | W | E | T | S |   |
| A | G | E | C | O | N | E | I | E | R | I | C |
| D | O | C | T | R | I | N | E | I | O | T | A |
| H | O | O | F | A | R | S | O | N |   |   |   |
| H | O | A | R | D | S | A | N | D |   |   |   |
| E | R | N | E | D | O | C | T | O | R | O | W |
| L | E | I | S | I | N | U | S | E | T | H |   |
| D | O | C | U | M | E | N | T | T | A | T | E |
| T | O | M | Y | A | R | R | O | W |   |   |   |
| S | H | R | U | G | S | N | O | W |   |   |   |
| T | O | U | R | D | O | C | K | Y | A | R | D |
| A | P | I | N | O | P | A | L | R | I | O |   |
| Y | E | N | S | G | A | M | E | D | D | T |   |

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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Highlander's hat
- 4 Strikebreaker
- 8 Moistens
- 12 Epoch
- 13 Ice-cream holder
- 14 Idle or Ambler
- 15 Tenet
- 17 Wee bit
- 18 Horseshoe site
- 19 Bad lighting?
- 20 Gather greedily
- 22 Hourglass fill
- 24 Sea eagle
- 25 "Ragtime" author
- 29 Island souvenir
- 30 Nasal passage
- 31 Biblical verb ending
- 32 Paper
- 34 London gallery
- 35 "You Go - Head"
- 36 Archer's missile
- 37 Gesturer's "dunno"
- 40 What some men are made of
- 41 Go sightseeing
- 42 Shipbuilders'

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  |    | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |    | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12 |    |    |    | 13 |    |    |    |    | 14 |    |    |    |
| 15 |    |    |    | 16 |    |    |    |    | 17 |    |    |    |
|    |    | 18 |    |    |    |    | 19 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 20 | 21 |    |    |    | 22 | 23 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 24 |    |    |    | 25 |    |    |    |    | 26 | 27 | 28 |    |
| 29 |    |    |    | 30 |    |    |    |    | 31 |    |    |    |
| 32 |    |    | 33 |    |    |    |    |    | 34 |    |    |    |
|    |    |    | 35 |    |    |    |    | 36 |    |    |    |    |
| 37 | 38 | 39 |    |    |    | 40 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 41 |    |    |    |    | 42 | 43 |    |    |    |    | 44 | 45 |
| 46 |    |    |    |    | 47 |    |    |    |    | 48 |    |    |
| 49 |    |    |    |    | 50 |    |    |    |    | 51 |    |    |

- place
- 26 Aft
- 46 Neat as -
- 8 Nut
- 47 October gem
- 9 Piccadilly
- 48 Carnival city
- 10 One of the
- 49 Desires
- 11 Read bar
- 50 Set
- 16 Moved quickly
- 51 Insecticide
- 19 Picnic invaders
- 20 Maintained
- 21 Sandwich treat
- 22 Chastity's dad
- 23 - above the rest
- 25 "Carpe -"
- 27 Preminger of Hollywood
- 28 "It's hot in here!"
- 30 Urban blight
- 33 180's
- 34 Helen's home
- 36 Bracelet site
- 37 Remain
- 38 Bill Clinton's hometown
- 39 Destruction
- 40 Con job
- 42 Mutt
- 43 - -Locka, Fla.
- 44 Disencumber
- 45 Morse E

### DOWN

- 1 Slight bit
- 2 Past
- 3 Grease monkey
- 4 Seafood selection
- 5 Hairdo
- 6 Landers or Coulter
- 7 Spelling



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