

ISLAND TIMES

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Pensacola Beach, Florida

February 14, 2007

Valentines



A romance has been brewing for nine years between Michael Sullivan and Christy Jones. Last Saturday, the couple, surrounded by friends and family said their wedding vows beneath the venerable oak trees at Morgan Park. For more on this story, see Page 2.

A Love Story - Valentines Tie The Knot

This is a love story. It all starts with a customer whose bartender became his confidante. Michael John Sullivan kept showing up at the Pensacola Beach Elk's Lodge a few years ago where Martha Christine Jones was the bartender.

"At first we had a patron-bartender relationship," said Christy. "Then, we became really good friends and somehow things turned to romance."

Christy and Michael have been together now for nine years, so this year they decided

to get married.

This love story reached its culmination on Saturday, February 10 when Shelley Johnson performed their wedding ceremony in Morgan Park.

Joe Sullivan, Mike's brother was the Best Man and Sherry Arnett, Christy's sister served as the Matron of Honor. The bride was given away by her brother-in-law Jan Arnett.

The newlyweds have five grown children who attended the wedding. Mike's children are Michelle Brooks and her husband, Jake from Cambridge,

Massachusetts and Mary Helen Sullivan, Pensacola. Christy's children are Chris White from Oxford, Ala.; Buff Thompson and husband, James, Saks, Ala.; and Miles Jones and his wife Samantha, from St. Augustine, Fla.

Other out of town guests in addition to Sherry and Jan Arnett, Palm Coast, Fla. and their children Justin, Jason,

Mark, and Christian, were close friends, Bob and Sharon Seitz from Hot Springs Village, Arkansas.

Michael's sister Mary Lou Daly of The Berkshires, Massachusetts and her two sons, A.J. and Tommy came for the wedding along with A.J.'s girlfriend, Dettina from Germany. Rocky Mosca from Massachusetts also was in attendance.

Michael's parents are the late Joseph Patrick and Helen Sullivan of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Christy's parents are Rachel Kohn and Jack Waters of Alabama.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held at Paddy O'Leary's.

Both former Beach residents for many years, the popular Sullivans now reside in Pensacola.

Board Discusses Visions, Process To Find Planner

Fourteen Studies Go Back to Archives

Fourteen studies made over the past twenty plus years to help guide the direction of the Santa Rosa Island Authority do not address today's issues. The SRIA board, meeting at a special visioning workshop at 11 a.m. Tuesday, February 6 concluded that the matter should be on the agenda at the February board meeting. Member John Peacock suggested that the Board should direct staff to prepare a Request for Qualifications from planning providers.

Dave Hemphill, Baskerville Donovan Engineers, the firm delegated to study the fourteen plans, said the Comprehensive Land Use Plan prepared by Wallace, Roberts and Todd in 1988, was by far the best plan. However, the plan is now nineteen years old.

Dave recalled a committee of Joe Endry, Vince Whibbs, E.W. Hopkins, and Bill Griffith that noted that Pensacola Beach was not family friendly. So, the bars surrounding Casino Beach were razed and the Pavilion was constructed. He added that a study over the two year period revealed that the Casino Parking Lot was only filled seventeen days of the year.

Vernon Prather, Board Chairman, said, however, that he was concerned about parking.

"We should prioritize goals and focus on that issue," he said.

He noted that five items

were identified for consideration including an updated Land Use Plan, parking/ parking garage, construction of a boardwalk around the core area, and additional public facilities and development at Casino Beach.

Dr. Thomas Campanella presented the Board members with a copy of a FEMA report entitled, "Revitalize Santa Rosa Island." It stated that the Board should secure funding for planning and consulting services, prepare scope of work and advertisement, select and retain a planning consultant, and develop and adopt a new comprehensive plan through the public planning process involving all the stakeholders.

When the floor was open for questions and comments, Dan Green agreed that a new Land Use Plan is necessary. He made several suggestions including the possibility that the school may construct a Pensacola Beach Performing Arts Center. The building would serve as a permanent means of funding for the school for years to come, according to Dan.

"This would generate funds for the school as well as bring another dimension to the Beach," Dan said. "Even those who come here for conferences could use this facility."

The SRIA Full Board meeting is today, February 14, at 5 p.m. at the Authority office. The meeting is open to the public.

Keep Your Cool As The Parade Rolls Along

Beads and Moon Pies Rain Down To Waiting Hands

No one has ever written a book about it, but there is an unwritten law of conduct to be observed during Mardi Gras parades. Although you are in a huge crowd, all vying to catch the same pair of beads, keep your cool. If the trinkets and beads are clearly headed to one person, let him have them. The Krewe of Wrecks parade is noted for its generosity. You will wind up with more than you can carry, so be patient.

Even if it is Mardi Gras, maintain your normal safety rules. Do not jump over barricades to get across the street. Even more important, do not lift

children over the barricades so they can pick up a pair of beads that landed in the street.

For finding a place to park to watch the parade, think early. The earlier, the better. Although deputies say most people arrive by 10 a.m. there are some pickups already lining the street by Thursday before Parade Day. Remember not to block driveways or to park in loose sand.

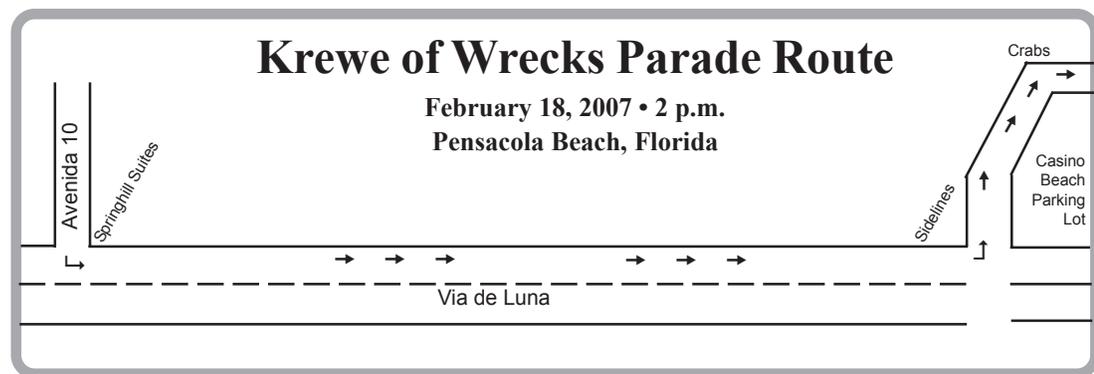
Beach merchants will provide plenty of food and drink on Parade Day. If you plan to buy and drink beer available all along the parade route, just be sure you have a designated driver lined up to get you home. It's always a

long day, and the party spirit will prevail.

Don't fight. You could wind up in the slammer and miss work on Monday. Be patient.

Remember everything takes twice as long to accomplish when you're one of one hundred thousand people. Stay put after the parade until the crowds begin to thin and traffic is running smoothly.

Plan on spending an entire magical day on Pensacola Beach on February 18. And don't leave home without a big bag for holding all the loot you will catch.



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Barefoot on the Beach

By Jane Waters Cooper



Crunch the numbers. Now that Mardi Gras on the Island is almost over, everyone who participates the social effect of the celebration on Beach residents who might otherwise be languishing in hibernation. But what about the economic impact? Mardi Gras has an unusual life span every year on the Island when it covers a four month period beginning on Halloween and ending sometime in February. It covers four months in the dead of winter, historically not the best for Beach business.

Take the meetings alone. The Krewe of Wrecks meets fourteen times on Monday nights at various Beach establishments. Monday is not exactly a party night until the Wrecks get loose. Having approximately fifty or more Wrecks partying in your establishment on a cold Monday night is nothing short of a miracle.

Those meetings are the tip of the iceberg. Other krewes take over the weekends and sponsor sixteen well attended events. All on the Beach. With the exception of the parade and the Kritter Krawl they are all held in Beach businesses.

Let's pick a day in January to scrutinize what is going on. It's a cold, wet, overcast gloomy winter Saturday, January 27. The weather does not stop more than 500 pajama clad individual from showing up at The Dock for the Krewe of Nauga Champagne Breakfast and Native Noontime Ball. At fifteen dollars a piece! They receive breakfast, endless

champagne and the opportunity to spend lots of money on drinks and raffles. According to Gwen Gibson, the captain of the Krewe, when they stopped serving breakfast and didn't charge at the door, there were more than 700 people crammed into The Dock.

More than half of that crowd stayed for the Krewe of Brewes' Beach Babe Contest in the late afternoon. To top off that day, while it was still cold and rainy the Krewe of Bananimals welcomed other krewe members at their Grand Mardi Gras Ball at the Hilton Garden Inn. Cost, \$50 per person. All of the money for the Nauga Breakfast goes directly to the Dock, so the krewe holds little fundraisers during the party. This year, they raised \$2303. They donated half to the James P. Morgan Park and half to the Humane Society. That's just one day in the Mardi Gras journey across the Beach. All events are not that big and not that much money transpires. But, they have two common threads. Money goes to the establishment where the party is held and most krewes have charities they support with funds raised at these parties.

The "Biggie" of the whole shebang is the Krewe of Wrecks Mardi Gras Parade. On this day, the main thing businesses have to worry about is running out of beer to sell. The hotels are booked to capacity for a three day minimum at summer rates. Not bad.

The streets are packed on Parade Day with a crowd estimated as high as 100,000. It seems

a whole lot bigger when you are trying to get off the island after the two o'clock procession ends.

Crunch the numbers. Look what we're doing here for all kinds of businesses. No one goes to the Krewe of Nauga breakfast in old pj's. They dress up in everything from velvet smoking jackets to real silk nighties. There must be a run on nightware sales in Pensacola in January. Add on the fabric

shops, costume shops, formal wear boutiques and rental businesses, hair styling, beads and Mardi Gras throw businesses (thousands of dollars are spent on beads and trinkets), lumber yards for float building materials. The list goes on. The side effects of a four month long festival are staggering.

I am not an economist, I wish I was. Then I could tell you, to

the penny, what the economic impact of Mardi Gras is on Pensacola Beach. So, since I do better with words than numbers, I hope everyone has a happy Mardi Gras. After all, its original intent was to provide a social scene for Beach residents within their own community.

The apparent enormous financial ripple effects are just more sugar on the King Cake.

Last Chance To Roll With The Good Times

Mardi Gras is steam rolling toward its wild conclusion. If you haven't been to any events so far, it's your last chance to enjoy the glittering world of make believe before the krewes go away for another year. The final events are:

Krewe of Wrecks Champagne Breakfast

This time honored event starts at 10 a.m. at Crabs on Saturday, February 17. Royalty will be revealed. Champagne flows. Live band. Must be a member of the Krewe of Wrecks and have a ticket in advance. \$20 per person. 932-4444.

Krewe of Wrecks Street Dance

Dancing in the streets at Bobby D's Beach Bar. It doesn't

get any wilder than this party. Everyone is welcome.

Krewe of Wrecks Mardi Gras Parade

Rolls out of Avenida 10 at 2 p.m. Sunday, February 18. Wrecks royalty heads parade, followed by 50 elaborately decorated units. You know the drill on this one. Come early. Stay late. Enjoy.

Red Beans and Rice

Whoever says there is no such thing as a free lunch is lying. Free red beans and rice served under the tent in the Casino Beach Parking Lot. Live music. Starts at 11 a.m. and lasts until the last red bean and grain of rice are served.

Krewe of Coma

Procession

Starts at the Sandshaker, Tuesday, February 20. Reigning Queen Lynn Cieutat and King Ed Whitely have proclaimed the parade "A Lighted Hat Parade." Power up your favorite hat. Final event of Mardi Gras starts at 6 p.m. New royalty will be introduced.

Lenten Season Begins

Go to the Pensacola Beach Community Church at 6:30 p.m. to refresh yourself and prepare for the Lenten Season. Service includes imposition of ashes, scripture and Holy Communion. All are welcome.

St. Ann's Catholic Church, 100 Daniel Drive in Gulf Breeze will hold Mass on Ash Wednesday at 6:30 and 8:30 a.m., also at 6:30 p.m.

EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
 (*Wrecks Event which requires Krewe membership)

Feb. 17	*Krewe of Wrecks Champagne Breakfast 10 a.m. Crab's
	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 11 a.m. Casino Parking Lot
Feb. 20	Krewe of Coma 6 p.m. Sandshaker

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PEOPLE

HBD, QUEEN

Ella Hess, the reigning queen of the Mystic Krewe of Nereids, celebrated her birthday at the Rhinestones and Royalty party at Paradise Bar and Grill on February 2.

VALENTINES

Happy Anniversary to Lana and Bobby Draper who will mark their wedding day celebration on February 14.

BRIGHTEN JAN'S DAY

Jan Scruggs, manager of the Dock, is recovering from her bone marrow transplant in Houston. She would love to hear from her Beach friends. Send cards to Jan Scruggs, 7171 Buffalo Speedway, Apt. 1615, Houston, Texas, 77025.

ELVIS IS ALIVE

Elvis lives on the robe of Patti Marie Warner who wore it, as usual, to the Krewe of Nauga breakfast. She was celebrating her birthday, January 27.

SKI BREAK

Currin Caudell brought home a souvenir from his snowboarding trip - a broken wrist, which didn't seem to bother him according to

his grandmother, Joy Anderson.

BUSINESS AND SURFING

Freddy Esposito, Island Times Surfing columnist, has been in Costa Rica helping a friend with a real estate transaction. His wife, Heidi, suspects Freddy found a way to catch a few waves between business meetings.

BACK HOME AGAIN

After a three week vacation in South America and Antarctica, Jim and Lila Cox are happy to be back on the Island. They are just in time to drive the float in the Krewe of Wrecks Mardi Gras parade.

LONG BIRTHDAY PARTY

Debbie Helm, Queen Nauga VIII, began celebrating her birthday at the Nauga Breakfast and continued on to the next day, January 28 which was her real birthday.

LONGER BIRTHDAY PARTY

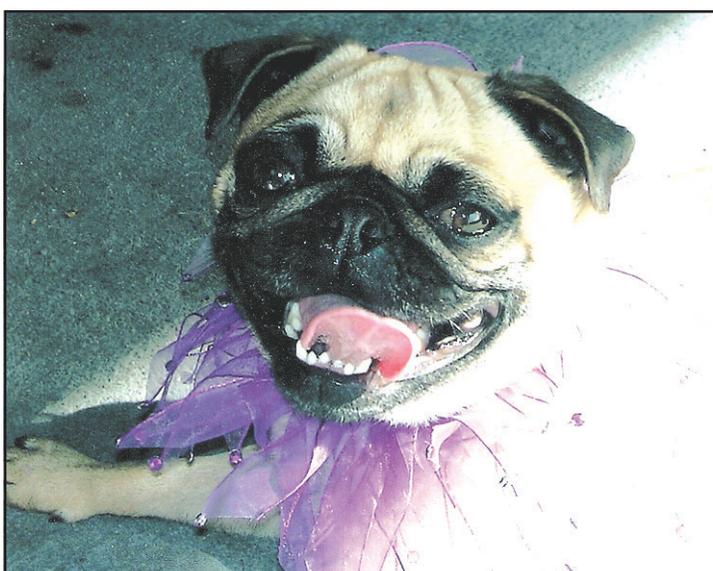
Beverly Hughes announced that she would be celebrating her birthday, too, beginning with Mardi Gras and ending on February 28 which is her birthday.

Commissioner Hosts Town Hall Meeting

District Four County Commissioner Grover Robinson wants to know what his constituents think. He will host a Town Hall style meeting on Thursday, February 22 from 6:30 to 8:30 at the Masonic Lodge, 2320 E.

Johnson Avenue in Pensacola to find out.

Topics will range from ECUA and code enforcement to roads and drainage. For more information please call the District Four office at 850-595-4940.



Maggie the Pug was named the Nauga Dawga of 2007 at the January 27 Krewe of Nauga Champagne Breakfast and Native Noontime Ball. She will guard the mystical kingdom of Naugas on Pensacola Beach all year long. Maggie's owner is Julie Bulla. The proceeds from the Nauga Dawga competition were donated to the Humane Society.

Woman's Clubbers Catch Mardi Gras Spirit at February Meeting

Pensacola Beach Woman's Club will let the good times roll at their Mardi Gras themed meeting Thursday, February 15 at Hunt Hall on Via de Luna at 11:00 a.m. Ladies should dress in Mardi Gras colors for the Pot Luck luncheon and presentation. All members are asked to bring a dish.

Carol Ascherfeld will give a presentation and slide show about migratory birds.

As usual members will roll with the Wrecks on February 18 during the Beach Mardi Gras parade and help serve the Red Beans and Rice Monday, Feb. 19.

For more information contact Sandi Johnson at 916-2533.

TRIVIA

For shame that no one knew that the King of the Krewe of Wrecks plays golf everyday. Did King Ralph Turner pay every one off not to reveal that he goes to the golf course that often? The question was: "The reigning king of the Krewe of Wrecks is Ralph Turner. What sport does he play more than any other?" The answer was the word "golf."

Nobody got it.

The trivia master thought that was an easy question. However, the t-shirt prize remains on the shelf this week.

Try filling in the blanks on this question. "In like a _____; out like a _____."

Clue: this is in reference to March weather. Be the first to email the correct answer and the t-shirt is yours.

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. February 21.

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Deputies Set Parade Safety Rules

Rules for floats entered in the Krewe of Wrecks Mardi Gras parade, February 18, have been established and will be enforced, according to information from the Escambia County Sheriff's Department. The Association of Krewes met with the deputies and Santa Rosa Island Authority staff on January 25. All krewes in attendance at the meeting received copies of the rules and their questions on safety were answered by Escambia County deputies Sgt. Steve Smith and Lt. Gary Montee, office-in-charge on Pensacola Beach.

AOK Chairman Deb Friedman thanked the SRIA and the deputies for all they are doing to keep the parade safe for everyone.

In addition to the list of rules, Sgt. Smith provided guidelines which must be followed.

All float drivers must be sober and there will be a DUI checkpoint officer manning the check-in to ensure that no float driver is impaired. Float drivers should remain with the float at the line-up and also after the parade disbands in case the float has to be moved.

Float walkers should be stationed on either side of the float and must wear an armband for identity.

Sgt. Smith also asked float riders not to turn on music during the line-up.

Float riders were asked to be considerate of the residents of Pensacola Beach.

"Don't litter," Smith said. "Keep your refuse on the float."

Floats may be parked in the Pier parking lot on Saturday night. A deputy will arrive by 10 p.m. to secure that area.

After the parade, the barricade crews will begin taking the

barricades down and will move as rapidly as possible.

"If it's a nice day, we expect more people than last year," Smith said. "Most people arrive around 10 a.m. and traffic slows at noon. The traffic should be back to normal by 8 or 9 p.m. after the parade."

The 50 float procession is scheduled to start at 2 p.m. on Sunday, February 18, and will roll from Avenida 10 to the Casino Parking lot.

The next meeting of the AOK will be a wrap in April.

"I will plan a meeting to discuss the budget and funding along with the 2008 events schedule," Deb said.

Surf Side Strollers

Walking Club
Thursdays,
5:30 pm

All are welcome
No charge to join



Surf Side Food Store
22 Via de Luna
Pensacola Beach

Letters To The Editor

Employees Have Drive

Just wanted to send out a special thanks and recognition to some of the people who made the renewal month of January pretty much issue free. These individuals went above and beyond the call of duty to insure that the renewal process went as smoothly and was as accurate as possible. The system has not worked since Ivan and you would not believe the amount of information that was incorrect or just not there. These individuals held weekly meetings, had constant communication with each other and just absolutely refused to let any incorrect information get by them. We have over 20,000 active transponders in our system so you can only imagine the amount of data that we were dealing with.

For the month of January we had three people per shift on the inside checking and double checking all information that was given to us. We also had one to two people on the outside sifting through information and prescreening people in order for the process to take as little time as possible and not inconvenience the transponder owners. The individuals who worked Monday through Friday from 7

to 7 and on Saturdays 8-12, in all kinds of weather were Marsha Jordan and Kathryn Miller. The individuals who were assigned inside and were very diligent in their duties were Mike Graham, Annie Belew, Frank Grassi, Cy Taylor and Violet Varns a special thanks goes out to Cheryl Messier from SRIA for helping us also. They all took this very personally and they all wanted to do

their best for the people who live, work and visit Pensacola Beach and trust me... without their dedication it could have gotten pretty ugly.

Richard Butler
General Manager
Bob Sikes Toll Plaza

Runners Thanks

On behalf of my co-director, Gary Bunde, and the Board of the Pensacola Runners Association I would like to publicly thank Pensacola Beach for the warm welcome you have given the Pensacola Beach Run. For years it was the Navarre Beach 5K, 10K and Half-Marathon and was held at the Holiday Inn. After Ivan we needed a new a new location and chose Pensacola Beach. It was a wonderful choice!

We want to thank Tom Rasinen and Sonny Maughn and the staff of the Hilton Garden Inn for their assistance and hospitality. A special hug and gratitude to Steve Balon, Tom Carmichael and the bartenders at Capt'n Fun's on the Island. They stepped up and hosted our post race party and awards when our original venue backed out. It was a great location for a fantastic party.

We also want to thank the Santa Rosa Island Authority for their cooperation with this race. And, of course, we could not have had such a safe, well organized road race without the Escambia County Sheriff's Department and their staff.

The Pensacola Runners Association is proud to sponsor the Pensacola Beach Run. This year, on the first Saturday in January,

we attracted nearly 1200 runners and walkers to our Beach. Our goal in 2008 is to have 1500 participants who will rent rooms, eat out and contribute to the Beach's winter economy.

Sincerely,
Susi Lyon

Appreciative of Support

The family of Catherine Bonnie Edwards wants to extend their sincere thanks and appreciation to all the people who so kindly lent their support during this difficult time.

Sincerely,
Bill Edwards

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peas, porridge & a dry martini

~~~~~  
by kathi lewis

Happy Valentine's Day to all! And a great big thank you to God for this glorious sunshine! Yes, I hope we're still having this bright, shiny weather while you're reading today's *Island Times*.

Are we having a great Mardi Gras season, or is it just me? What happened to the Great Nauga Hunter and SOB, Janice Morgan, this year? She's always there. We missed you! Another missing SOB, who absolutely embodies the Mardi Gras Spirit to me, is Marilyn LeNormand. I just wanted you to know that we are all thinking of you and missing you. We hope you feel better soon. Also missing from this year's festivities is SOB Leigh Fisher. Well, she's not technically missing, she's just not here. We all miss you, too. Leigh is the one you want to stand beside for the Mardi Gras Parade. You are guaranteed a ton of throws.

Everyone needs to prepare for the Wrecks parade on Sunday. I have a feeling it's going to be the best since our "Pre-Ivan" parades, so make sure to come early and support Beach businesses. "Neighbor helping neighbor" is what my mother always said life was about and you get to have a tremendous amount of fun while you're doing it! Since I have indeed had a tremendous amount of fun at each event I've attended, let me now thank my drivers Amy Depew (from the Nauga Breakfast) and Renee Mack (from the Black Tie Ball). It's wonderful to have people who care about you. So, thank you, my Sisters!

A late "Happy Birthday" to my daughter, Mel. Her birthday was actually January 16. Being late is a trait inherited in my family. If my mother had ever received a card (for any occasion) on time from me, she would have thought she'd missed the actual event. I, at least, always managed to call her on the actual day. I just call it "beach time."

Sorry that I'm still not on-line, but working on the borrowed laptop has given me an unexpected pleasure; an opportunity to visit with another Sister, Jane Waters Cooper, and her husband Frank, every other week. I have begun to look forward to these visits since I haven't been able to

see Jane and Frank often. You may remember, I shared a building with Jane way back when. Another paper, another restaurant, and another time. Frank lived in Albany, Georgia (my hometown) for several years and we have a lot in common to chat about.

If you have a "Special" someone you'd like to impress for Valentine's, try this week's recipe. Don't let the list of ingredients frighten you. It's very simple, easy and only takes 25 minutes prep time (even less with a small food chopper) and 25 minutes cooking time.

I'm on a seafood kick, but you can also substitute chicken or ham with this recipe, just leave out the clamato juice. Okay, let's cook....

**Golden Seafood Chowder**  
 ½ cup onion, finely chopped  
 ¼ cup butter, cubed  
 1 can (14-1/2 oz.) chicken broth  
 1 cup cubed, peeled potato (or can, drained)  
 2 celery stalks, chopped  
 2 carrots, chopped (or can, drained)  
 ¼ cup Clamato juice  
 ¼ tsp. lemon pepper seasoning  
 ¼ tsp. garlic, minced  
 ¼ cup all-purpose flour  
 2 cups milk  
 2 cups (8 oz.) shredded sharp cheddar cheese  
 2 cans (6 oz. each) crabmeat, drained  
 2 cups cooked med. Shrimp, peeled & deveined

Saute onion in butter in a large saucepan until tender. Stir in broth, potato (if fresh), celery and carrots (if fresh), Clamato juice, lemon-pepper and garlic. (If using canned vegetables, add these when you add seafood to prevent overcooking.) Bring to a boil, reduce heat, cover & simmer 15-20 min. until veggies are tender.

In a small bowl, whisk flour and milk until smooth; add to soup. Bring to a boil; cook & stir until thickened. Reduce heat, adding the cheese, crab & shrimp; cook & stir until cheese is melted.

Enjoy, share with someone, Happy Valentine's and Mardi Gras to all!

See you in the kitchen...



Tammy Brammer, left, gets the royal treatment at the Rhinestones and Royalty Party held at Paradise February 2 from (L to R): former Junkanoo Queen Susi Mardis, reigning Junkanoo Queen Nancy Kittel and Tammy's husband Mardy Brammer. Tammy and Mardy became engaged at the Black Tie Mardi Gras Ball last year and were married in June. They are proud to announce that they will be adding a new baby to their krewes in August.



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## Wine Talk



with Bob Temple  
 Beach Wines and Liquors

Champagne's Fireworks Explained

People often say that Champagne bubbles "go right to their head." As it turns out, that is absolutely true. Scientists have found that Champagne's bubbles are responsible for the giddy, light-headed feeling that many people experience with a glass of Champagne. When the effects of still wine were compared with those of Champagne, it was found that alcohol levels rose much faster among the drinkers of the bubbly stuff. Other research has shown that the smaller the bubbles, the better, because there are more available bubbles to release aroma and flavor. As these bubbles explode to the surface, they transport taste, scent, and a popping sensation on your tongue and the tip of your nose that we liken to fireworks.

HINT: Chemical components that are dispersed throughout Champagne including dissolved salts, carbohydrates and minerals, play a bigger role in determining bubble size than the diffusion of the carbon dioxide.

If you enjoy the "fireworks" experienced by some when they enjoy a fine glass of Champagne, you need to come to the local wine experts at Beach Wines and Liquors, Inc. We pride ourselves on serving our local community with the finest of wines and champagnes. Questions? Call 850-932-8850.



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Mardi Gras Breakfast February 18 Come Early Royal Fare

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# Business Buzz ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## LOVERS ALERT

Beach businesses are playing Cupid this year. Begin your Valentine's Day with breakfast at the Cabana Club Cafe. Complimentary Mimosas served with each order. In the evening find your way to Flounder's, where famous couples dine on romantic specials for two. If Gulfront dining is what your rendezvous requires, then feast at Crabs on lobster for lovers. End the day with dancing to love songs by Byron and the Blue Angels at the Sandshaker Lounge. Champagne toast at 10 p.m. and some lucky girl will go home with a heart shaped keepsake.

## BLUES ON PARADE

Watch for something new this year. The Blue Angels are entering two units in the Krewe of Wrecks Mardi Gras parade on February 18. The Air Museum trolley will be in the procession along with a cockpit which will be entered as a float.

## OTHER BUSINESS

You can find plenty of food, drinks, and souvenirs at businesses located just off the parade

route from the toll plaza to the traffic light. Everything from the Market on the Island to Flounder's will be open all day.

## HONORS KEEP COMING

Sean Payton, coach of the New Orleans Saints, has already been named Coach of the Year, and now the Mardi Gras Krewe of Orpheus has named him Celebrity King. He will ride in the lead float in their parade. Will he throw footballs to his adoring fans?

## COLTS GALLOP OVER BEARS

Congratulations to our famous, fearless football prognosticator Barry McCleary, who predicted the Indianapolis Colts would beat the Chicago Bears in the Super Bowl on February 4. He pointed out that he is not a meteorologist, so he could not have foreseen the rain that turned the field into a muddy morass. Oh well, it was the Colts 29, against the Bears 14.

## FIREWORKS FRENZY

If you have missed the traditional fireworks on Pensacola Beach on the Fourth of July, you

can help put the sizzle back into summer by becoming a sponsor of Kaboom - Pensacola Beach 's Fourth of July Fireworks Extravaganza. A sponsorship kick off meeting will be Thursday, February 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hampton.

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Beach Church Youth Group

# Grillin' & Chillin' Mardi Gras BBQ

Benefits Beach Church Youth Programs



Parade Day, Sunday, February 18

Surf Side Food Store Parking Lot

*Can't catch beads on an empty stomach*

# Celebrate the New Schedule at St. Ann Starting February 25!

## Saturday

4:00 - 5:00 PM Vigil Mass during Standard Time

5:00 - 6:00 PM Vigil Mass during

Daylight Savings Time

(March 17 - November 3)

Traditional Music

Reconciliation follows Mass or by appointment

## Sunday

8:15 - 9:15 AM Mass - Traditional Music

9:00 - 10:00 AM Breakfast

(Mass at Our Lady: 9:45 AM)

10:00 - 10:50 AM Sunday

School, Youth Ministry & Adult Study

11:00 AM Mass -

Contemporary Music



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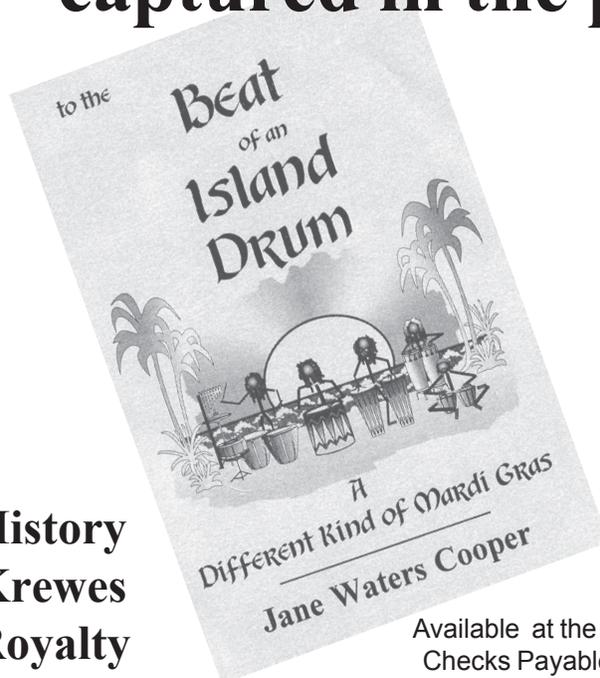
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# Mardi Gras on the Island captured in the pages of

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proceeds go to the Krewe of Wrecks Parade Fund

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Available at the Pensacola Beach Visitor's Center. Checks Payable: Krewe of Wrecks Parade Fund.

# Champion of Beach Causes, MJ Menge Dies

M.J. Menge was always on the side of the population of Pensacola Beach, fighting to right the wrongs that were imposed on the Island. Menge died on February 13, seven years after doctors diagnosed his cancer and gave him a few weeks to live.

Mr. Menge was successful in overturning ad valorem taxation on the Beach during the mid 1980s. And now, his law firm



MJ Menge

Shell, Fleming, Davis and Menge is deep in defending beach residents and businesses in a lawsuit where the tax assessor is planning ad valorem taxation once again. M.J. Menge thought ad valorem taxation on the Beach was morally wrong, and he fought tirelessly to stop the collection of taxes. The current lawsuits are still in the courts.

Most recently, in November at a League of Women Voters meeting, Menge went to

bat for Pensacola Beach after Commissioner Mike Whitehead attempted to begin the process of abolishing the Santa Rosa Island Authority. Menge gave the history of the Beach at that meeting, and then offered an impassioned speech for retaining the SRIA.

He said, "I am going to tell you that our beaches are just a very precious resource for this community. Not only economically, but for us. They are the hallmark of this area. They deserve to be maintained and managed in a proper manner. The SRIA has been doing this job for over 58 years."

Menge was about the best friend the Beach would ever have. His efforts will be remembered by

everyone on the Beach as he worked so hard to keep the tax collector away from their doors.

Mr. Menge is survived by

his wife, Sandy, and children Vivian and Randy. A memorial service was held on Wednesday, Feb. 7. Burial services were private.

## Book Signing Event Introduces Glorious Linens

Local readers will delight in the elegance found within the pages of "Glorious Linens" according to Pandora de Balthazar. Representatives of Martha Pullen Co, who published "Glorious Linens" will be available at book signing party sched-

uled for Tuesday and Wednesday, February 20 and 21 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the 9 South Ninth Avenue store.

"Many of our pieces are featured in this coffee table book," said Pandora. "The pages take you on a journey where each

piece of linen tells a story of another time and generation. Timeless beauty captured by breathtaking photography."

Copies of the book will be available for purchase. For more information, please call 432-4777.

### The Greenery Cafe & Weinstube

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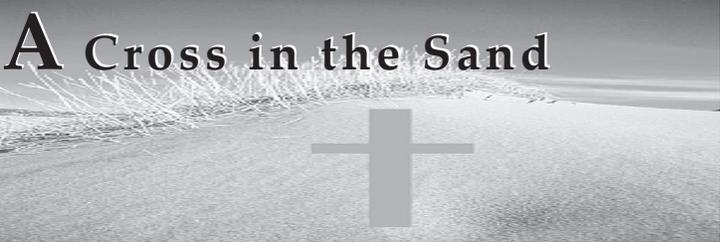
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# A Cross in the Sand

By Dr. Chuck Randle  
Pastor, Pensacola Beach Community Church

We sometimes may think that Valentine's Day is for the "Young Lovers" or for the romantic at heart, therefore, flowers, chocolates, and cards, are sent with sentimental notes. I believe Valentine's Day is for everyone - an opportunity to say thanks for being the recipient of a kindness, or simply being a friend. Someone has suggested that we have many acquaintances, but only a few friends. With that in mind, the following sentiments, by an anonymous author, would make our hearts grow warm.

I love you not only for what you are, but for what I am when I am with you. I love you not only for what you have made of yourself, but for what you are making of me. I love you for the part of me that you bring out. I love you for putting your hand into my heaped-up heart and passing it over all the foolish and the frivo-

lous and weak things that you can't help dimly seeing there, and for drawing out into light all the beautiful radiant belongings that no one else had looked quite far enough to find. I love you for ignoring the possibilities of the fool and weakling in me, and for laying firm hold on the possibilities of the good in me. I love you for closing your ears to the discords in me, and for adding to the music in me by worshipful listening. I love you because you are helping me to make of the timber of my life, not a tavern, but a temple, and of the words of my every day not a reproach, but a song. I love you because you have done more than any creed could have done to make me happy. You have done it without a touch, without a word, with a sign. You have done it at first, by being yourself. After all, perhaps that is what being a friend means.

# Friends Remember Ricky Spraggins

It is with a heavy hand and a heart that I put ink to paper to say "until we meet again" to our dear Ricky Spraggins. All of us who knew Ricky, knew him as a country boy at heart but he always had a spot in his heart to make Pensacola Beach his home for 20 plus years. He loved life, the beach, his wife Laura and children Sandy and Paul, his family in Georgia,



Richard Spraggins

playing ball, shrimp and Mardi Gras to list a few of the grander and smaller. Ricky will always be remembered for his grin, his laugh and his spirit, so true and so giving, always helping and caring. Ricky taught and enlightened everyone by example about what the "love of a son" should be by returning to Georgia to care for his ill mother before her passing; about the

"love of a husband" should be in his marriage to Laura and about the "eternal love of a father" in his life with his children Sandy and Paul.

As many of us struggle about what holds this Earthly life together Ricky has showed us that at the end of the day it is to love and be loved. Forever you will be loved Ricky, on Earth and now in Heaven.

Thank you, Ricky Spraggins for being you. You were truly noble and your beach family will truly miss you!

P.S. Mardi Gras will never be the same but we will find a way to get a beer and those beads to you!

[Ed. Note: This tribute was submitted and written by Ricky's Beach friends in his loving memory.]

# Helpers Hammer Habitat House

David and April Dobson and their children David, Jr., and Abigail will receive the eleventh Habitat for Humanity built by St. Ann Catholic Church and Our Lady of the Assumption Mission. Groundbreaking on the house in Midway will be February 24, said Bev Ishol, St. Ann's Habitat liaison.

"We've been financially very blessed," Ishol said. "We must be meant to do this ministry, because the money keeps coming in for it!"

Scheduled workdays for the house on Ambassador Street are February 24, March 3, and March 10, she said. Anyone willing to work, give in-kind donations (lunch, for example), or monetary help can call Ishol at 934-2845.

# Our Lady To Host Stations of The Cross

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Mission on Pensacola Beach and St. Ann Catholic Church in Gulf Breeze are a parish of 2,700 people.

Lenten Services begin with Ash Wednesday Masses at 6:30 and 8:30 a.m., and 6:30 p.m., at St. Ann, February 21.

The Stations of the Cross will be held on Fridays at Our Lady of the Assumption on Pensacola at 6:45 p.m.

Sunday Mass is held at 9:45 at Our Lady on Pensacola Beach and a traditional Mass begins at 8:15 at St. Ann's in Gulf Breeze, followed by breakfast and Sunday school. Mass with contemporary music is celebrated at 11 a.m. at St. Ann.

For more information, please call 850-932-2859.

**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.**



Karen Peterson leads two dozen aspiring watercolorists in her class on Wednesday mornings at Our Lady's Hunt Hall. Proceeds from the tuition will be donated to Our Lady's Building Fund.



Beth Barham lets her inner artist take over during the first of six Watercolor Classes at Hunt Hall on Pensacola Beach. Her sunrise over Pensacola Beach was a true work of art.

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**LAND LUBBERS BEWARE** - The Krewe of Kids commandeered the shores of Pensacola Beach, February 10 during their fifteenth annual parade at Casino Beach. The krewe, who were swarthy pirates, were led by their lovely Queen Morgan Parrish and their buccaneer king John Burrell.



**WINNING POOCH** - Chandler Mardis loves Mardi Gras so she fashioned a real float for her pup, Jesse, to ride in as he competed in the Krewe of Junkanoo's Kritter Krawl, Saturday, February 10 at Casino Beach. The two youngsters took home the top award as the Judge's Favorite much to the crowd's delight.



Burma Davis and her kitters Franklin and Mikey all dressed alike and won the owner-pet look alike award at the Kritter Krawl.



Junkanoo Royalty Jim and Nancy Kittel award Morgan Ray and Bosco the best costume at the Kritter Krawl.



# 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.

## SEVILLE QUARTER

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## FLOUNDER'S CHOWDER HOUSE

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

## 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.

## 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

The "Almost 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 Thurs, Sat & Sun. Karaoke Tues, Fri. Tiki Bar specials Fri-Sun. Iguana Grill open Thurs-Sunday

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

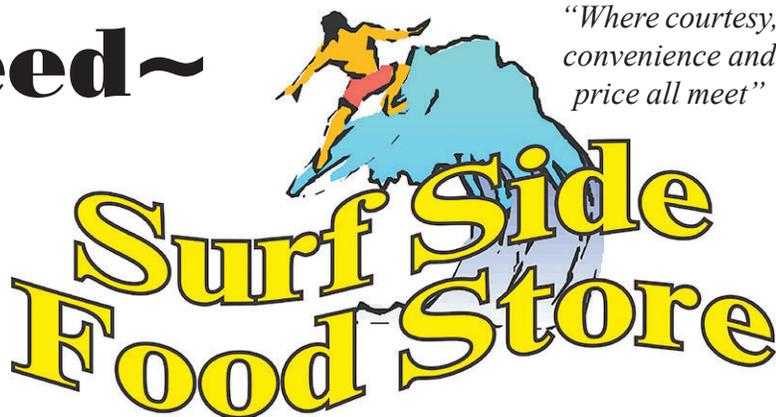
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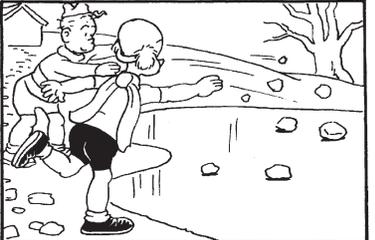
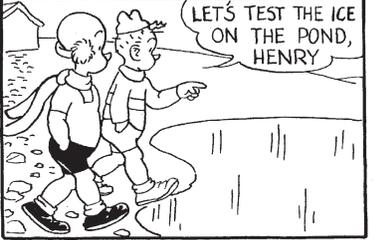
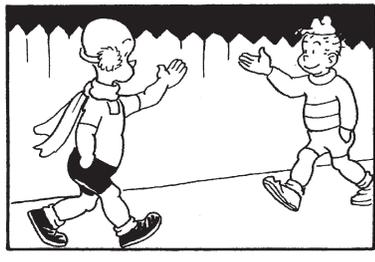
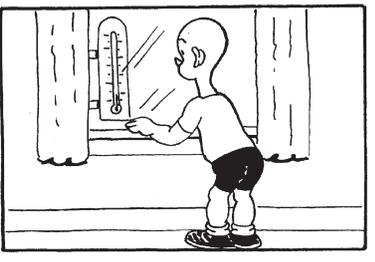
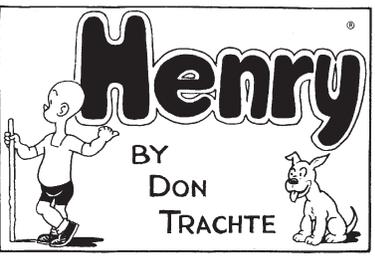
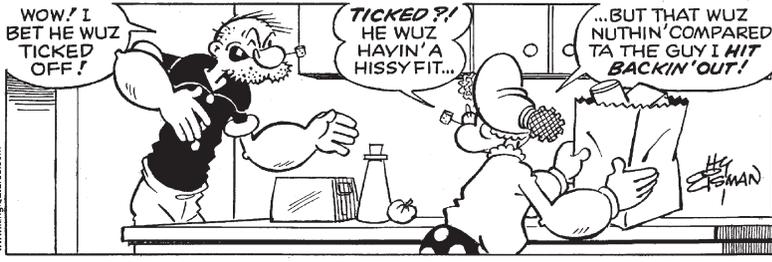
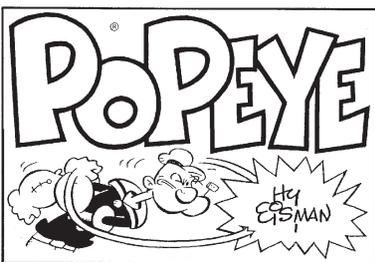
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R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Your ideas are finally reaching those who can appreciate them. But don't expect any immediate reactions. That will come later. Meanwhile, a personal matter needs your attention.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Your energy levels are rising, and you're feeling restless and eager to get into some activity, whether it's for profit or just for fun. In either case, the aspects are highly favorable, so go for it.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) A relationship seems to be winding down from passionate to passive. It's up to you to decide what the next step will be. But don't wait too long to take the initiative. Delay could create more problems.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) A decision looms. But be very sure that this is what you really want before you sign or say anything. Once you act, there'll be little or no wiggle room for any adjustments.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Money matters improve, but you still need to be cautious with your spending. Also, set aside that Leonine pride for a bit and apologize for contributing to that misunderstanding.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) A tempting financial situation could make the usually unflappable Virgo rush in before checking things out. Be alert to possible hidden problems. Get the facts before you act.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) It's nice to know that you're finally getting due credit for your efforts. You should also know that new opportunities will follow. A family member brings important news.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Any uncertainty that begins to cloud an impending decision could signal a need to re-examine your reasons for wanting to take on this commitment.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) You benefit from taking time out of your currently hectic schedule to do more contemplation or meditation. This will help re-energize you, both in body and soul.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Nursing hurt feelings can zap the energies of even the usually self-confident Sea Goat. Best advice: Move forward. Success is the best balm for a painful ego.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) A display of temperament surprises you, as well as those around you. It could be all that pressure you're under. Consider letting someone help you see it through.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Some things don't seem to be working out as you'd hoped. Don't fret. Instead, take some time out to reassess your plans and see where changes could be made.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You enjoy traveling and meeting people. You are especially good with children and would make an excellent teacher.

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# Espo's Surf Report



Costa Rica  
I have just arrived back from what I consider one of the most beautiful and enchanting places on earth, Costa Rica.

For the last few years I have had the privilege of surfing the incredible waves on Costa Rica's west coast, and enjoyed the lush rain forest environment.

I stayed in a small beach town called Jaco Beach on the central west side. This town is the head of the travel industry when it comes to surfing and sport fishing. Tons of waves, warm 88 degree water and a great place to sample to local flavor.

Jaco is very much like Pensacola Beach. It started out as a simple little beach town, and now is exploding with new growth and American businesses. It saddens me to watch giant condos and hotels being built on the once simple beach.

You see, Jaco is like a name brand...it's the first place most of us go when we get to Costa and then travel to surrounding surf breaks like Hermosa, Tuline and Boca Barranca - all insane waves!

It had been about a year and a half since I had been back there, and I was shocked at the progress.

In that short time several new hotels and resorts have opened, plus new American restaurants have appeared.

You have no idea how weird it was to see a brand new KFC and Subway on the main drag. Something I thought I would never see. Down right strange.

Make room for the big dogs and say goodbye to the local Ma and Pa style restaurants. Things are changing fast.

As I sat out in the lineup, the backdrop of the rainforest was always incredible to look at, but now the skyline is littered with giant cranes towering into the sky, again like us, things are growing off the charts.

Costa Rica still has some unspoiled beaches and breaks, but they are vanishing fast, even Hermosa a once long stretch of black sand beach now has new condos and houses everywhere. Wow, what has happened?

Well, it's progress. Like us, the Costa Ricans want to progress to the next level. Well, some of them do and like us, some don't like any advancement at all, and some rely on it for their future. For me it's very strange to see Costa Rica advance so quickly.

I am sure that there are people that say the same thing about our sleepy little beach town.

AS FAR AS THE WAVES - Well it was 4 to 5 feet, no wind, perfect tubes and alot of Americans.

Still, if you get a chance visit this small and beautiful country, sample the great food, enjoy the wonderful people, surf the perfect waves....and order me a big mac!

# SRIA Seeks Skilled Lifeguards

Bob West, Manager of the Santa Rosa Island Authority Public Safety Department has announced the procedure for establishing his lifeguard staff for the coming summer. The initial training tests for new lifeguards starts Saturday, March 10 at the Washington High School pool and track at 8 a.m. Applicants should arrive at the high school by 7:30 a.m. "I don't know how many applicants we will have," Bob said. "I have had inquiries from guards in Okaloosa and Walton counties, NAS Rescue Swimmers, guards from South Carolina, one swimmer from the Ukraine, physical education teachers, competitive swimmers and surfers. I hope to have about 25 to select from."

- Eligibility requirements are:
- ▷ 16 years of age
  - ▷ Have a driver's license
  - ▷ ARC Lifeguard certification
  - ▷ Swim 600 yards in 10 minutes or less

▷ Run 1.5 miles in 12 minutes or less

Interviews, written tests and skills testing are also a part of the try outs.

Post employment candidates must complete the 40 hour Santa Rosa Island Authority Open Water Lifeguard training program consistent with USA guidelines, Medical First Responder DOT National Standard Curriculum training and ARC CPR training. Candidates receive pay while training. Candidates must achieve a minimum of 80 percent on written tests to

pass and successfully complete all practical testing.

Bob said that when he is fully staffed by the second week in May he will have 28 lifeguards in 40-hour positions and eight lifeguards in the 20-30 hour position.

"Once the new lifeguards are trained, they sit with experienced lifeguards," Bob said. "When I am fully confident of their water rescue skills we begin preparing them to operate vehicles on patrol."

Applicants may secure additional information, contact the on-duty senior lifeguard at 850-554-4301 or email the Department of Public Safety at bob\_west@sria-fla.com

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## Moonlit Walk Features Lunar Eclipse

On Saturday, March 3, at 5:30 p.m., Gulf Islands National Seashore will offer an opportunity to enjoy the first of two total lunar eclipses in 2007 announced Park Superintendent Jerry A. Eubanks.

The one hour-walk celebrating the celestial event beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the gate to the Fort Pickens Area. Visitors should be prepared to walk about half a mile down the closed roadway and out to the beach. Bring a blanket or towel to sit on and a flashlight.

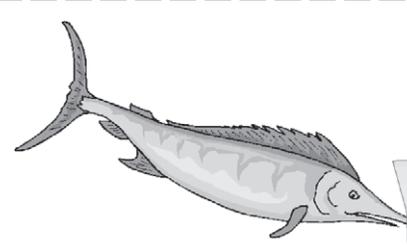
"Saturday's eclipse is unique in that it is partly visible from every continent around the world. It's a perfect time to go exploring," said Superintendent Eubanks. "Our only natural satellite of Earth will be enveloped completely in the planet's shadow. This ordinary night will be turned into something special!"

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**Don't Miss A Word**

# Locals Venture To South Africa

BY KAREN KREITZBERG

Recently Yoko Jimison; aerobics instructor, Public Relations Specialist for RMI, and South African native returned home sharing her trip with her two most devoted students - Anita Solariski, who celebrated her recently defended dissertation, and me. The South African trip was magical! The country is full of flowers, is not humid, and contains many of the same physical beauty as does America.

We began at the most southwestern tip- Cape of Good Hope in Capetown where we stayed at an adorable B&B. The city is very cosmopolitan with a strong European flavor and is built around the base of Table Mountain and Lion's Head. We were fortunate to be able to take the cable car (Yes, I did the cable car too. It's the only way to get up to the top) to Table Mountain the first day since it is often shrouded in cloud or too windy to make the trip. In this way we could see from 3,000 feet what were going to visit for the next 6 days. Even though S.A. is one-seventh the size of US, they have as varied a topography as we do, they just compress it into a smaller space much easier to visit.

From Capetown and it's mountains dropping thousands of feet into the cold Atlantic and warm Indian Ocean. We drove along the southern coast visiting the wine country (little Austrian or Swiss villages), beach towns, surfing meccas, whale breeding and feeding grounds, a penguin reserve, Tsitsikama Forest where we stayed in a tree house, Knyana where we stayed on top of a mountain in a log cabin but could still hear the surf crashing, and CapePoint where we had to keep our windows closed from the wild ostrich and baboons.

The swells were so huge along the coast we could always hear the crashing of the waves, must be why the surfers love it so. The coves were often strewn with boulders which always made walking interesting there. Every restaurant we visited was reasonable and had fantastic food, most were open air and were by the water or hung from a cliff. Think their produce must be organic as all the fruits and vegetables and especially soups were bursting with flavor. The fish mild and de-

licious, curries spicy and full of seafood, bread full of seeds and health!

As we went further East and stayed with Yoko's friends and family in Port Elizabeth, Durbin, Kruger, and Joberg the men would prepare the S.A. traditional barbeque or Braai. This consists of the grilling with wood our entrees - usually pork, lamb, chicken, and many varieties of sausage - springbok, venison, and mystery meat, as well as crayfish - our lobster. That night our chef was a bit too generous with the wine and our crustaceans seemed to be either over or under done. It's a big production for the guys and the first couple of them were fun, but I was dying for a burger or hot dog by the end of the trip.

The Kruger game park with Yoko's delightful friend who in a former life must have been a lioness herself, Taffet, was the most unique portion of our trip. Six million acres of absolutely wild game protected and cared for much more closely than anything else in the country. They have the right of way, humans are there only to be tolerated by animal and staff! We saw everything except a cheetah. We had to be in our enclosed - walled, barbed wired, and electric wired - camps by 6:30 p.m. and could not leave before dawn- 5 a.m. - when 437 species of bird began to sing, screech, tweet, flap, and caw.

The hippos grunted as they grazed all night. Strange cats would call and scream after dusk. And were it not for the little mouse who'd taken up residence in our curtain rod at Lataba, I'd have been very secure knowing that we were walled-in while the jungle lived at night!

We did take one scary night drive with the rangers and found the critters hard at work finding their place in the natural food chain. Taffet also took us on night walks searching the interior walls of our stockade hoping to find hyena slinking around the perimeter, but all we found was a huge scorpion. We emptied our shoes carefully every day thereafter.

Upon our return to Pensacola Beach the weather been bright and cheery, if cold, and the Gulf full of surfers recently. Scattered clouds had collected in the west and the sun broke through just in time to set, a huge orange orb that melted into the Gulf. As soon as it hit the water, the orange ball liquefied horizontally and seemed to be floating on top of the water as the sun disappeared. Then the moon rose through hazy patches of cloud and as it shown on the beach in shadow, it appeared to be a snowscape.

We live in such beauty right here at home! It's so good to be back, but I can't wait to get to Panama with the family, however that's another story!



**THE MARINE HAVE LANDED** - Thousands of Marines stormed Pensacola Beach Saturday, Feb. 3 while participating in the Double Bridge Run. Leading the troops onto the Island are (L to R): Cpl Brandon Price, SgtMaj Ralph Vaught, Col Christopher Holzworth and LtCol David Glassman.



Larry Keever, clad in Hawaiian print running shorts, braved the frigid temps and whistling wind to compete in the Double Bridge Run, Saturday, February 3.



Denise Remesch and Melissa Neal finished in fine form at the Double Bridge Run, Saturday, February 3. The affable Dennis was sprinting toward the refreshments.

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# Poker Players Crown Monthly Champion, Weekly Winners

The best of the best gathered around the felt covered tables at the Paradise Bar and Grill, Saturday, February 3 to determine who would be named Texas Hold 'Em 4 Fun Champion for January. Mark "Dr.J" Beachman took his winning streak to two in a row with a big win at the Monthly Championship. Roberto "Kid Roll" Vasquez was runner up. The Champions Tournament pits weekly winners and any past champions against each other to



January Texas Hold 'Em 4 Fun Champ Mark Beachman

crowns a monthly monarch. Mark Beachman took the chip lead into the final table and never looked back as he took out champion after champion to claim the title of January 2007 champ. Weekly games are played on Monday nights at Paradise. Glenn Burleson won his first title getting his cards at the most opportune moments. Miguel Thomas was second. The

following Monday twenty-nine players began battling for the winners seat. At the end of the evening, first time player Janet Woods was the winner. Janet played steady and waited to make her move and was rewarded with a run of good cards that helped take her through the top players in the area. Anne Vinson was second. Games move to downtown Pensacola Beach's historic district with Mark Beachman taking out Bud Waite at Paddy O'Leary's on January 30 and Tim Rinker winning on February 6. At the oldest lounge on Pensacola Beach, The Islander, Fran Cox outlasted Trace Lewis on January 24. Michelle Bour-

geois laid waste to another pack of the finest poker players in the sand to claim the Saturday, January 27 poker shirt. Tommy Chavis was the runner up. Two-year Texas Hold 'Em 4 Fun regular Mike Dupeire took his first win at The Islander on January 31 with Bud Waite coming in second. Mike's pocket Queens filled up with sixes for a boat to carry Bud's chip's away. Trace Lewis whittled down a group of 17 card players to take

the win at The Islander on Feb. 3. Tim Rinker was the first runner-up. Everyone is welcome to play Texas Hold 'Em 4 Fun's weekly games on Pensacola Beach. A basic understanding of the game is necessary. For more information, please call 916-0967 or email [salth2o@mchsi.com](mailto:salth2o@mchsi.com).



## Seashore Presents Presidents Day Program

### The History and Culture from George Washington to George Bush

If you can't get a ticket to the Krewe of Wrecks Champagne Breakfast and you don't like dancing in the streets of Pensacola Beach, try the special President's Day presentation at Naval Live Oaks Visitor Center in Gulf Breeze on Saturday, February 17. The 45 minute presentation is offered twice at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. "The program features an in-depth look at Gulf Islands National Seashore through the eyes of the President of the United States," said Gulf Islands National Seashore Superintendent Jerry Eubanks. "From George Washington to George W. Bush, Gulf Islands National Seashore has a unique cultural and historical connection to the Presidency of the United

States." Superintendent Eubanks encourages everyone to visit the Seashore to join us for our Presidents' Day Presentation. The program is free. For addi-

tional information about this program or other programs offered at the Seashore, call the Naval Live Oaks Visitor Center at 850-934-2600 or visit our website at [www.nps.gov/guis](http://www.nps.gov/guis).

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# Beauty & Beach

By Danah & Gwen Gibson

This week, I am going to write a little about skin care, but first I would like to personally thank all of you who attended our Krewe of Nauga Champagne Breakfast and helped to raise over \$2300 for the Humane Society and J.P. Morgan park. (And those of you who dropped donations by the shop, too!) It really makes me feel good to be able to party for a great cause and also, to give fellow Beach proprietors a little "boost" during our slow winter months.

This was one of the original reasons for having a Beach Mardi Gras, although some have forgotten, the wealth needs to be spread around!

On to my beauty tips of the week.

How about a mini-spa, just for your face! A facial is not for everyone. You either love it or you don't. If you love it, it's the ultimate in pampering. A facial is basically a sauna for your face. Steam is used to soften skin and open your pores so that dead cells and blackheads can be easily removed. Professional facials are fabulous, but here's a quick way to do one at home.

1) Wash your face with a mild soap or cleanser and exfoliate with a gentle scrub.

2) Bring a large pot of water to boil. To make your facial a little more relaxing, add lavender, rosemary, chamomile or eucalyptus

and cover. Pandora de Balthazar on Ninth Avenue has a wonderful collection of lavender including the essential oils perfect for this facial.

3) Turn off the heat and let stand for 5-10 minutes. Using a towel to cover your head, hold your face over the pot- about 10 inches from the pot so as not to burn your skin- and stay for 5-10 minutes. The smaller your pores the less time you need in the steam. The steam will soften pores and make it easier to get the dirt and oil out.

4) Wipe face clean with a warm washcloth.

5) If skin is oily, apply a clay or mud mask and follow the directions. Typical drying time is 10-15 minutes. For dry skin, use a moisturizing mask. If you have combination skin, like an oily T-zone- use the mud on oily areas and moisturize the others,

6) Rinse with cold water to reduce pores, then apply a light facial lotion. Your skin should be feeling refreshed and great!

There are tons of facial services that I do not know much about, but our Nail Tech, Genella Vegas, has just graduated from Esthetician School, and in the not too distant future we will be offering these services at the shop. Happy Mardi Gras!



by Pandora de Balthazar

We are smack dab in the middle of Mardi Gras and celebrating the one day for lovers, Valentine's Day. If you really love yourself and your family you will be sure to get enough rest during this busy time of year

In fact, if you sleep less than eight full hours of uninterrupted sleep nightly, or if your child sleeps less than 11 hours of uninterrupted sleep nightly, then you are depriving yourself of powerful rejuvenation powers furnished by the body in the sleep cycles. Plus, you are teaching those around you habits that can cause serious health issues, not to mention poor learning skills and poor work performance.

Regardless of your age, job, education, and even economic status, you cannot escape the short and long term negative effects of lack of sleep.

It's a near epidemic that affects many of the people around you, either by insomnia, sleep apnea, or simple lack of sleep due to business or social activities.

Your body, when sleep deprived, demands different foods, and in particular, more sugar, and then processes those foods in ways that cause weight gain. In fact, getting the proper amount of sleep can actually cause you

to lose weight!

Here are some quick tips:

- Plan your Mardi Gras Parties, and Plan your Sleep:
- Give yourself permission to sleep 8 or 9 full hours, and go to bed in time to get them!
- Turn off the TV and turn down the lights, to wind down and prepare to sleep.
- Settle into the finest down pillow you can buy, and settle into the finest sheets your body can touch.
- Keep your room cool, and the noise level low, slide off into sleepy time, and stay there until you wake on your own.

What do you do when you can't get your full 8 or 9 hours

uninterrupted sleep?

Make the opportunity to take a Power Nap in the daytime whenever you can, banking those hours for when you can't.

Sleep soundly, and build a restful bed, using all natural cotton and linen sheeting, plus Hungarian goose down. It keeps you comfy, and provides a soft landing after those Mardi Gras nights!

For more information on Sleep Deprivation, please call me: 850-432-4777, or drop by 9 South Ninth Avenue, Pensacola, to try out our European Sleep System. Also, when you are in, pick up or order the book "Power Sleep," by noted author and Cornell University professor, Dr. James Maas.

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# The LIZZARD'S TONGUE



by E.K. Hewson

I am not a big fan of Valentine's Day being celebrated on February 14. Personally, if it were up to me, I would like to change it to some other date. Preferably one that I could be certain that the Marine Corps would guarantee that my husband would be around to celebrate it with me.

You see for too many years my husband, Harry, and I have only been able to exchange Valentine's via the post office. Sometimes our written gestures of love required international postage and were no surprise thanks to the mandatory customs forms. For some, just a good old current rate postage stamp sufficed. After 18 years, the odds of us actually being in the same city, state, or country have been reduced to 1 in 9. Translation, we've only celebrated this overrated, too mushy, good for nothing but chocolate, flowers and diamonds holiday twice in our almost 18 years of dating to marriage relationship. Yes, we even met on February 17. Once again, Cupid was either three days too late or 362 days early.

Around the first of this year, I started silently hoping that Harry would be home this Valentine's Day. By the middle of January, I was openly verbalizing and leaving hints about nice restaurants in the area and how I could easily get a kid sitter for our son. On February 1, my husband's work related travel schedule was posted. Once again, out came the postage stamps and the Red Envelope catalog.

I must have whined "but I was hoping that just this year..." when my husband reminded me that hope is not a method for success. With that in mind I went to work on declaring that in this household Valentine's Day will no longer be celebrated on February 14 and in 48 hours I would have a new date based on statistics that would ensure we could deliver cards and presents in person. I was determined to cut any third party delivery service out of the loop.

After spending hours digging through boxes of letters and old planning calendars, I decided

that August 14 would be the new and improved Valentine's Day for this couple. I was adamant that this mere six month shift would guarantee me a candle lit dinner complete with husband delivered fancy chocolates, fresh cut flowers and something sparkly that I could stuff in my jewelry box but not really wear since I don't really like baubles and bangles. Then it happened. Very gingerly and with a bit of trepidation in his voice, my husband reminded me of how many Augusts he spent overseas or attending conferences or doing an exercise or work-up anywhere but close to home. Just for good measure, he threw in the half dozen cross country moves that were all made in the first two weeks of August.

My husband is probably correct when he says hope is not a method; but for this hopeless romantic, I think I will continue to hope that in 2008 my husband and I can be together as a couple in the same room to celebrate Valentine's Day. If not, we will always have the post office.

Until next time...

## Chamber Members Report Good Winter Look Forward to Best Ever Summer

Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce members heard good news from each other as business representatives made reports on their current activities. Speaking at the business meeting of the Chamber on January 30, Nan Harper of Island Realty announced a "first" for the Beach.

"The Florida Real Estate Commission will hold their annual meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn on February 20 through 21," Nan said. "This is their first visit to Pensacola Beach. These are very prominent people in the real estate business. I hope we can greet them with open arms on their first visit here."

Other speakers offered news from the Beach business community, including the manager of the Toll Plaza, Richard Butler, who said the renovation is almost complete and all four lanes will be open on Mardi Gras Parade Day. He also took into consideration suggestions from the membership that the pass purchasing

procedures be moved to a different location than using one of the toll lanes.

Beach hotels, Pensacola Beach Resort, Hilton Garden Inn, Hampton Inn, Springhill Suites, and Paradise Inn all gave upbeat reports on occupancy. Most are completely booked for the Mardi Gras parade weekend.

Beverly Boswell, co-owner of the Sandshaker, said the bar is hosting local qualifying for the national Rock, Paper, Scissors Competition. The finals will be in Las Vegas, and will be telecast on ESPN.

Sandi Johnson and Chrissy Cook of the Pensacola Beach Woman's Club announced that the club would be entering a float in the Krewe of Wrecks parade, and will be assisting with Red Bean and Rice.

Mike Cook of the Pensacola Better Business Bureau announced that the BBB is holding a scholarship program for high school seniors. Applications can be found at [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org).

Sandy Johnston, Chamber Executive Director, added another reason to cheer the Beach's progress when she said 30,151 visitors had come through the Visitor's Center in 2006, a thirty percent increase over 2005.

The next business meeting will be at the Comfort Inn at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 27 with Business After Hours at the Olive Drop on the same day.

For information on joining the Chamber call Sandy at 932-1500.



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# Mostly Nuts & Bolts

By Candace Segar

## Motor Mind Meld

This weekend my concrete mixer almost went to mixer Heaven. The problem was with the mixer's motor. But oddly enough this problem actually turned into a reward - a better mixer than the original design - and this is why! My mixer now rotates both clockwise and counterclockwise. Of course, my husband Ralph and I were planning two concrete pours this weekend when we discovered the mixer was broken. And, of course, we fought over how to resolve the problem with the motor.

My philosophy and technical expertise said to lubricate the internals of the motor and run it until it died. Ralph's philosophy and technical expertise said to rewind the windings; if indeed a winding was bad. Due to the unprecedented high costs of replacement motors and pulleys; not to mention workmanship on an existing motor, I won the decision. We sprayed CRC's All Purpose Lubricant saturating the bearings and other internals inside the motor casing. Lo and

behold we got movement. It wasn't great, but if we assisted the motor start, it worked fine. It was during our initial added thrust to our motor that we realized our mixer could turn in either direction. It all depended on which way we helped start the motor.

This motor is single phase running on 120 AC. Depending on the direction provided by the STP, that would be me or Ralph (Starting Torque People), the motor will spin in either direction. Ralph and I are the starting torque for the motor hence we are one with the motor. Under normal circumstances, if the motor was healthy, it would supply its own starting torque. But due to a bad winding, it needs the torque people for assistance.

It isn't everyday a person gets to be one with a motor. And who knows maybe someday nanomotors will fill in areas of our bodies that might need help and provide us with the "torque" we need to get started. I think that would be awesome.

## Free Concerts Highlight Annual Band Convention on Beach

Beach residents and visitors should get ready for a musical extravaganza of free concerts beginning March 1 at the Hilton Garden Inn. Free concerts, camaraderie, and great band music will be the focus of the 29th annual Association of Concert Bands Convention on Pensacola Beach February 28 through March 4. This year's convention is hosted by the Pensacola Civic Band.

The concert schedule is as follows:

**Thursday, March 1**  
**7:30 p.m. Mobile Pops**  
**8:45 p.m. Tallahassee Winds**

**Friday, March 2**

**8:00 p.m. Baton Rouge Concert Band**  
**9:15 p.m. Plano Community Band**

**Saturday, March 3**

**3:00 p.m. Association of Concert Bands Convention Band**  
**7:30 p.m. Gainesville Community Band**  
**8:45 p.m. Pensacola Civic Band**

All concerts take place in the Ballroom of the Hilton Garden Inn on Pensacola Beach and are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Robin Rowan at 850.433.1319.



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**SWEET TREATS** - Pensacola Beach Elementary School teachers indulged PTA members with an afternoon Appreciation Party complete with a chocolate fountain. Red roses and a variety of chocolate treats were presented to PTA members to thank them for their hard work. Getting ready to dip into the chocolate fountain are: front row, (L to R) PTA member Karen McCurdy, and teachers Margie Pitts, Sandee Bredesen, Jennifer Neale, Joy McLaurine, and Debbie Campanella. Back row, (L to R): Fourth grade teacher Susan McLeod, and PTA members Tonya Goodroe, Pam Cahila, president, Katie Robbins, Sherry Green, Lori Blissit, and Heather Cofelt. Not in photo are PTA Board members Katie Cronin and Sindi Hightower.

*Recycling Ralph says...*



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# CLASSIFIEDS

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## Real Estate For Sale

**Unobstructed Gulf View 4 BR/4 BA.** \$995,000. Jeremy S. Johnson, Realtor, Island Realty of Pensacola Beach. 850-377-3145

**Pensacola Beach Townhome** 3/2.5, just steps from the Gulf. Great waterfront views from patio and balcony. As is price makes this a great investment property. \$395,000. Call Dennis Remesch, Re/Max on the Coast. 850-384-7607

**Gulf Breeze Proper** - 2 Bedroom. 2 bath Sailwind Condo. Immaculate with pool. New interior. \$135,000. Jeremy S. Johnson, Realtor, Island Realty of Pensacola Beach. 850-377-3145

**Great Investment Opportunity** 3 bedroom/2.5 bath townhouse for under \$200,000. Swimming pool with waterfall. Lush landscaping. Many financing options available. Available for Lease. Call 850-934-3233 for your tour. Real Estate House

**Pensacola Beach Gulf Front** Emerald Isle Unit 604 - 2 bedrooms/ 2 baths. Gulf front living at its best. Located within easy walking distance of restaurants and shopping. Sold furnished. \$550,000 - MLS 314598 Jeremy S. Johnson, Realtor, Island Realty 850-377-3145

**DEEP PROTECTED WATERFRONT:** 3 bedroom townhome w/4 slips & Gulf views, no flooding walk to Gulf pier & Boardwalk \$575,000 Call Grey Burge @ Real Estate House 850-572-7355

**To BDJ - I love you two bunches SJ**

## Real Estate For Rent

**DAILY - WEEKLY - MONTHLY Gulf Front Condo** Emerald Isle on beautiful Pensacola Beach. Two bedroom Two bath, heated pool / jacuzzi. Tastefully furnished. Call 850-934-3442

**Gulf Front Condo - Emerald Isle** 2 & 3 Bedroom Vacation Condos for rent. Beautifully Decorated. Heated Pool/Jacuzzi Mention this ad for discounts. Call (850) 932-0775 or (800) 554-3695

**Three Bedroom House - Furnished or Unfurnished.** Monthly or Annual. Completely Remodeled. Quiet neighborhood on Sound side. A Deal at \$1100 per month. 850-602-8045

**Close to Beaches and Shopping** 3 bedroom/2.5 bath townhouse for \$1400/ mo. Swimming pool with waterfall. Lush landscaping. Furnished or unfurnished. Call 850-934-3233 Real Estate House

## King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

## FOR SALE

**Portofino - Premium gulf front unit, furnished \$850,000**

**Portofino - Best 2 bedroom unit in the complex. Unobstructed views of the gulf, sound, and westerly view of beach \$925K**

**Jeremy S. Johnson Broker Associate/Realtor Island Realty**

850-377-3145  
Fax: 850-916-7199  
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## King Crossword

### ACROS

- "Planet of the -"
- Urban transport
- Analgesic target
- Emotionlessness
- Discourteous
- Aussie critter
- Earthenware pot
- Third-party abbr.
- "Cabaret" composer John
- Poolroom necessities
- Fourth canonical hour
- Summertime desserts
- Frog-dissection class
- Bikini half
- Musical transition
- "- the ramparts ..."
- Bewitch
- Old coot
- Ostentatious display
- Tiny fly
- Dorothy's home
- Author Fleming
- Send forth

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 |    |    |

- |                          |                               |                           |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 42 Illinois city         | the public                    | 27 Safecracker            |
| 47 Admonition to Nanette | 8 Now                         | 29 Actor LaBeouf          |
| 48 Overbearing           | 9 "Lang Syne"                 | 31 "Catcher in the -"     |
| 49 Despot                | 10 "Spamalot" creator Eric    | 33 Pollux's twin          |
| 50 Writer                | 11 Approach                   | 34 Exams                  |
| 51 Shoulder band         | 13 Supermarket stack          | 36 Kind of shark          |
|                          | 19 Wheel-base terminus        | 37 Superman's alter ego   |
|                          | 20 Chest protector            | 38 Biblical prophet       |
|                          | 21 Land measure               | 39 Pinta partner          |
|                          | 22 Slender                    | 40 "Meet Me - Louis"      |
|                          | 23 Autographs                 | 43 Literary collection    |
|                          | 25 Rug tradition-ally seen in | 44 One of Hawaii's Maunas |
|                          | 26 Acceptable                 | 45 Type units             |
|                          |                               | 46 Ordinal suffix         |



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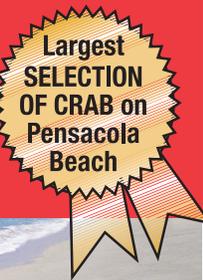
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