

ISLAND TIMES

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Fireworks Finale

Welcome 2008!



The Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce will be ushering out the old year and ringing in the new at midnight December 31 with a dazzling pyrotechnic display presented at the southernmost point of downtown Pensacola Beach - the Gulf Fishing Pier. Chamber Events Chairman Nan Harper welcomes all of you with open arms to come to the Island, enjoy the evening and view the fireworks. More on this story, see Page 2.

Old Year Skyrockets Away, New Year Lights Up Beach

The old year 2007, will leave the Beach with a bang and the New Year will be welcomed with fire in the sky over the Gulf of Mexico. The display on December 31 is the hallmark event of the Season Your Holidays with Island Spirit, a month long festival, presented by the Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce.

"We are so excited about being able to have fireworks to entertain the families of our community," Nan Harper, Chamber Events chairman said.

The display will be presented by the same fireworks company which gave a show on the Beach on the Fourth of July. Pyrotechnico is one of the world's premier fireworks companies. They have served in many world famous venues such as the Super Bowl, Democratic National Convention, MTV promotions, and thousands of fairs and events throughout the United States, Europe and the Caribbean.

"They put on a really fine show," said Doug McAllister, owner of Fun Coast Promotions. "We are fortunate to be able to book them."

It is also fortunate for families in Northwest Florida that Beach businesses and residents were generous in their contributions to make this memorable evening happen. Donors include Innisfree, Lee Tracey, Jerry Andrews, Island Realty, Sandi Johnson, Coldwell Banker United, Lila and Jim Cox, Surfside Food Store, Regency Towers Condo Association, The Dock, Resort Realty, Flounder's, Paula Sunshine, Beach Ball Realty; The Sandshaker Lounge, The Olive Drop, Jim and Sandy Banks, Dr. Thomas Campanella, Paradise Inn, and the Santa Rosa Island Authority.

A party tent, donated by NationWide Tent 'n' Events, will be erected at the Gulfside Pavilion creating a warm and inviting atmosphere while the last hours of 2007 tick away.

Fireworks will begin at midnight but entertainment all over the Island will precede the show. Restaurants will be serving special menus. The three establishments surrounding Casino Beach will be open. Tiki Island will have hot chocolate and cappuccino

available. The arcade will be ready for revelers young and old.

"We want all families to come see the fireworks," Nan said. "This is just the grand finale of the long list of holiday events we sponsored to brighten the whole month of December."

The last event of the festival will be really cool when the third annual Polar Bear Plunge takes place at Paradise Bar and Grill on New Year's Day. The swim in Santa Rosa Sound will begin at 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join the Plunge with the ten dollar entry fee going to the Chamber of Com-

merce. Wildwood will be playing live. Good luck black eyed peas and greens will be served after the polar bears complete their swim.

"We promise this will be a fun time for everybody, spectators and polar bears," Renee Mack, Paradise general manager said. "There is no better way to start the New Year than spending a few minutes in Santa Rosa Sound followed by my famous New Orleans-style black eyed peas. Ya'll come"

Following the Plunge, the Chamber will award the grand prize of the Passport to Santa's Island promotion. Entrants

picked up their passports at the Visitor's Information Center and toured around the Island getting them stamped. Completed passports earned the bearer a chance to win a grand prize which includes a night's stay and dinner at H20 at the Hilton plus other prizes. The drawing will be at 3 p.m.

And, so with popular bands, fireworks, and a cool swim, the Beach Chamber brings the curtain down on the Season Your Holidays with Island Spirit. But, not to worry, the show will be back next year, bigger and better than ever.

Happy New Year.

SRIA Ten Million Dollar Request Falls on Deaf Ears

When Buck Lee, Santa Rosa Island Authority Executive Director, asked the Escambia County Commission for ten million dollars to build a parking garage, his request fell on deaf ears.

Although Lee outlined a plan at the December 13 meeting, to pay the money back by selling the current SRIA loca-

tion for four million dollars and to send the retail rental receipts for businesses in the proposed garage to the County, they turned the request down.

He didn't get any money, but he did get lots of advice.

"I really question whether you need a parking garage," Commissioner Mike Whitehead said. "Do you have a lack of business because you lack parking? Or if you have additional parking will it draw additional business? After this discussion for the last twenty years, I would take a different approach."

Commissioner Whitehead then suggested the project

should be advertised as a Request for Proposals in the markets like New York City, Los Angeles and Atlanta.

"We need a different approach," Whitehead said. "Find the big money from out of town and say this is what we want. What can you do? I still don't know that you have a parking problem more than a few days a year."

Whitehead said the \$100,000 that the SRIA has to go forward with the study of the project would be better spent by consolidating their properties, creating a vision of what should be developed on them, and advertise that in an RFP in big cities.

Sans Souci Condo Gets First Turtle Friendly Award



Andrew Diller, Escambia County Marine Extension Agent presented the Sans Souci Condominium Association President Bob Robertson with a commendation for the Turtle Friendly lighting installed at the Gulfside condos.

Andrew Diller, Escambia County marine extension agent, presented Bob Robertson, Board president of the Sans Souci Condominiums, a commendation for being the first Gulfside condo with complete regard for and compliance with turtle-friendly lighting standards, at the December 12 Santa Rosa Island Authority meeting.

Monica Cain and Kirsten Dahlen presented the results of the 2007 turtle nesting season which runs from May 1 through September 30.

"We had a very low number of hatchlings and nests this year," Cain said. "Only Loggerheads and only three nests producing 197 hatchlings. Ordinarily, we would have about 700 turtles that make it to the Gulf."

The Island Authority has been diligent in its efforts to use only turtle-friendly lighting in its own projects, and to encourage Island residents and businesses to do the same.

Engineer Reports Most Projects Complete

Dave Hemphill, Baskerville Donovan, Inc., gave his final report of the year at the December 12 meeting of the Santa Rosa Island Authority.

"I am pleased to announce that Roads, Inc., will complete the widening of Via de Luna by December 15," Hemphill said. "I have reviewed the \$22 million road improvement contract and there is a possibility that we will come in \$400,000 under budget on this project."

Hemphill said the Fort Pickens gate picnic shelters will be complete by December 22.

He updated the Board on the Little Sabine project saying the pipe to be installed is being redesigned so as not to impact the seagrasses. He

noted that the new design might be less expensive to produce.

Hemphill presented a review of completed repair works, including before and after photos, on the following: Quietwater Pier, Cowley Park and running track, Bob Sikes Toll Facility, SRIA maintenance buildings, restroom facilities including the new public restroom on Casino Beach, Gulfside Pavilion roof and amphitheatre seating, Casino Beach retaining wall, street signs, dune walkovers, Visitor's Information Center, Quietwater parking lot, Ft. Pickens gate and Quietwater Beach picnic areas, Gulf Pier, and stormwater outfalls.

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Barefoot on the Beach

By Jane Waters Cooper



Surprise. This column is not about resolutions. Resolutions seem to have a notoriously short life span, ranging from a couple of days to a couple of months. This is about things on the Beach which are really bugging me. If you want to know what they are, read on. If not, feel free to stop right here.

PARKING GARAGE: Do we really need a ten million dollar parking garage on Pensacola Beach? No. It would be nice to think that parking for 400 or so cars in addition to what we already have would solve the parking problems on the few high festival days and crowded summer weekends. It won't. We're no different than any other resort area when it comes to parking. One year, we went to Egg Harbor, Wisconsin, hoping to attend a festival in the small town. No such luck. No parking place. We drove along the main street, reached the end, turned round and drove away. I once went to the much publicized Venice Beach in California. I wanted to see the guy walking on broken glass, hear the musicians, and just generally see the outrageous sights. In order to do that, we had to park blocks and blocks away from the fun stuff at a charge of \$10. Was the crazy place worth the trek and the ten bucks? Yes. The Island Authority has already said that the garage will

be primarily for day visitors from Escambia County. As the Pensacola News Journal editorial board has said, there are lots more appropriate places to use this kind of sum. I agree.

VIAD LUNA RACEWAY: Do we really need traffic controls on the new roadway? Yes. How many times have you seen families trying to cross the street as you drove along the old, two-lane highway? The problem just got worse. True, the new street provides a panoramic view of the main part of town, but it also has accelerated the hazard of the simple act of going from one curb to another. A traffic light down around the Shopping Center would be a great deterrent to speeders, and allow for a safe journey across the spacious street for pedestrians. Traffic lights, we are told, are too costly. What, then, about signs that say "stop?" Every vehicle would be required to come to a complete stop and not move forward until the street was clear of pedestrians. The safety department had done a wonderful job of saving swimmer's lives. Can we do the same with traffic control on Via de Luna before the next life threatening accident happens?

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: Do we really need to decorate the Island for Christmas? Yes. Once you leave the light laden trees in the Gulf Breeze median, it looks like just any other night

of the year on Pensacola Beach. If The Zoo can install a million lights for Christmas, why can't the Island light the main thoroughfares?

RESIDENTS RIGHTS: Do the residents of Pensacola Beach requests and concerns need to be addressed in a courteous and timely manner? Yes. This is a sticky wicket which dates back over all the years. Do the residents play a secondary role in the overall scheme of planning for the island? This is just a personal observation, but residents seem to be shuffled off to the "someday" file. For instance, a concerned parent who lives on Ariola Drive has been politely asking that the speed bump in front of his

house be replaced after the storm which washed it away. Remember, that was three years ago. So far, he has had no response. A great deal of attention is focused on ways and means of increasing tourist business. And, that is fine, unless the residents are forgotten in the melee. Most Beach residents are faithful, patient, and happy as little clams to be able to live on Pensacola Beach. Maybe, they don't even know that they pay more lease fees than the businesses. (SRIA records reflect the following totals for the fiscal year 2007. Commercial lease fees were \$2,876,633.82. Residential lease fees totaled \$3,218,157.44.

I know these figures are a

little out of kilter due to the impact of Ivan, but the residents definitely hold their own in generating revenue. They deserve more respect. The residents and small businesses are the vibrant heart of this community. Shouldn't they receive the same attention as big business and the high rollers?

I'm like every other resident on Pensacola Beach, bursting with joy at being able to live in Paradise.

But, God forbid, there are always spots of trouble in Paradise. Sometimes, I just have to rock the boat.

Maybe, someone will be listening.

Happy New Year.

Krewes Glide Into New Year with Formal Affair Royal Coronation Part of Festivities

The Mystic Krewe of Nereids and the Krewe of Brewe are co-hosting the seventh annual Black Tie Ball at the Elk's Lodge on New Year's Eve. The Ball will be from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. and will feature music by Dunnotar and Boogie, Inc.

The Nereids will host

their 2008 coronation ceremony during the Black Tie Ball. Queen Ella Hess and King Art Parrish will crown the new royal couple.

"I have had such a great time as Queen of the Nereids," said Ella Hess. "It will be a magical evening. I am honored to crown the next queen

on New Year's Eve."

A midnight breakfast buffet will be served. Tickets are \$35 each and are available from any member of the two krewes and at the Elk's Lodge. As the name implies, the dress code is formal.

Call Bonnie McDonald at 850-438-1660 for tickets.

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PEOPLE

The Sister's of the Beach offer their New Year's wishes:

God Bless our sisters. Let's make this the best year ever.

Beverly Hughes

Let it snow! Somewhere else! Happy 2008 with NO storms.

Judy L'Oignon

Happy New Year to all you Southern belles and beaux.

Melanie Waite

What a wonderful group of women! May 2008 be our best year ever. Good friends, good times and no bad weather.

Sister

Here's to a healthy, happy New Year!

Paulette Provost

You cannot imagine how happy I am to see all my Sisters and be on the Beach. Best wishes in the New Year.

Sharona Mattair

Here's to all my sisters, I love you so much. Past, present and future SOB's. May all our joys be true joy and may our pain be champagne. To 2008!

Kathi Lewis

Thank God I did not move to Arizona. I would have missed all the fun on the Beach. Happy New Year.

Claire Marcey

Here's to my friends, my sisters, and my family, I hope that 2008 is a little better than 2007. I love each and everyone of you and wish you a Happy 2008! May God Bless.

Amy DePew

Thank goodness we have this time of year to catch up with one another. Places change, our lives change, but our fellowship together remains the same. Happy New Year. May 2008 be full of joy, peace, and dreams that

come true. God bless you all.

Lydia McCaa

As usual, I don't have words of wisdom, however, I wish all the best of health, wealth and happiness for the whole year. God bless you all.

Lorraine Brown

I, Kennedy Neal, resolve to have more fun with my Beach sisters on a regular basis. Hang out more and love you all more.

KN

It is a wonderful privilege to be included with the SOB's. I've been an SOB at heart since 1982 when I lived on Ensenada Uno, but I missed out on a lot of fun with all of you. So, I resolve to change that and spend as much time as possible with you from now on. Have a prosperous and happy 2008.

Ella Hess

What a wonderful world God has created for us! Thanks for being here, there and wherever our spirits are needed most. Love,

Deb Friedman, aka Logan's Gammie

Health and Happiness to all SOB's. God Bless.

Karina Foster

SOB's forever

Danah Gibson

I would not miss this occasion for the world. No one has sisters like we have sisters. Best wishes for the New Year, Sisters!

Lynn Cieutat

How lucky we are to have each other! Here's to a great 2008!

Gwen Gibson

I would not be the person I am today without all the wonderful sisters. You are a bunch of amazing women and you inspire

me. Happy New Year

Jayne Redmond

I resolve to be more elf-like all year. This spirit should continue all year.

Sam

I resolve to be a better wife, mother and friend.

Sandi Johnson

I am thankful to be back home and thankful for our friends who have taken care of us and hope to be good friend back to them.

Chrissy Cook

I resolve to be a better Christian, to be more faithful and appreciative of all the blessings that I have been given. I also want to do more to help others, especially children.

Marilyn McDonald

I resolve to just be thankful for all the blessing that I have from God - my friends, family, children, health and lots of love.

Jackie Henderson

As I write this I think about how proud I am to be here with my daughter, Ashley on her seventeenth birthday. Also with us on this auspicious occasion is her friend, Kayla who is becoming like one of my own kids. May the good things in life find each of you in this upcoming year.

Charlotte Spencer



DEAR SAINT NICK - Santa arrived on the Boardwalk December 15 just in time to hear from Cailyn Cooke. Cailyn had already mailed her letter to Santa but wanted to have a personal conversation with him. She lives with her parents, Megan and Robert Cooke in Fort Walton Beach and visits her grandmother, Pandora de Balthazar on Pensacola Beach.

Happy New Year
from
Jane & Shelley



Pensacola Beach



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Church Services Pensacola Beach

Churches are located at the corner of
Avenida 18 & Via de Luna

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church

Sunday, 9:45 AM

Pensacola Beach Community Church

Sunday, 10 AM

ISLAND
REALTY

PTA Seeking Ways To Spend Money

The fruits of all their hard work this year have shown up in the \$18,500 bank account of the Parent Teacher Association of the Pensacola Beach Elementary School. The announcement of their successful fundraising was made at their December 13 meeting.

"Room mothers will be sending you an email requesting your input on how to spend this money," Monette Hodges, PTA president said. "We know there are many ideas and suggestions and we want to hear them all."

A parent and a teacher were recipients of awards at the meeting. Todd McCurdy, president of the School's Board of Directors accepted a plaque commending him for his great work at the school.

Debbie Campanella, second grade teacher, announced that Sandee Bredesen was the Beach School Teach of the Year.

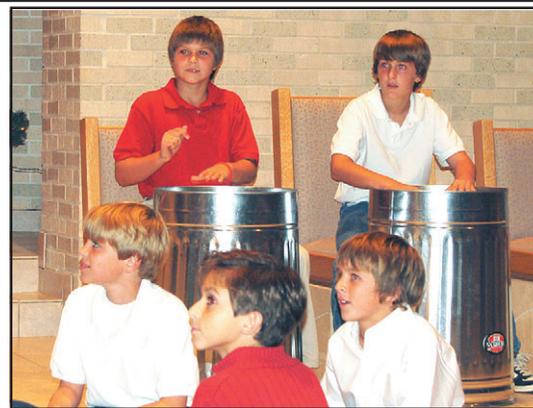
Both the PTA meeting and the Christmas on the Beach school holiday production which followed were at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church.

Under the direction of Molly Worthington, students from kin-

dergarten through fifth grade gave an energetic and touching performance. After the performance, a spaghetti dinner was served by the PTA.



First grade Pensacola Beach Elementary School Teacher Sandee Bredesen was named Teacher of the Year at the December PTA meeting.



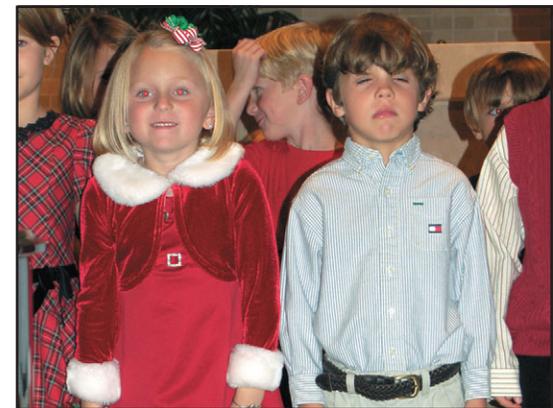
Beach students performed an original street percussion number complete with trash cans as drums. Musicians are front (L to R): Christopher Cody, Ian Price and Dylan Blass. Back (L to R) Peyton Hoover and Chris Welt.



Third graders Chad Moorman and Edgar Shigley get into the Christmas spirit at the Elementary School's Christmas on the Beach production, December 13 at Our Lady Catholic Church.



Beach School music teacher Molly Worthington accompanied the students on piano as they presented their choral program. Ryan Andrews, first grade, became enamored with the inner workings of the piano.



The Beach School kindergarten class performed classic Christmas songs during the December 13 program. Dory Donatelli, left, and Toler Keigley prepare to sing Jingle Bells to the hundreds who attended.

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Be Blessed with Rest in the New Year!

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peas, porridge & a dry martini

by kathi lewis

Nauga ChristmasPirates? Just when you think you've seen it all. If you don't know what I'm talking about, dear readers, it means you missed this year's Pensacola Beach Chamber Christmas Parade. There might be a slight chance of seeing a Nauga Pirate somewhere else in the world, but I doubt it. I believe this was the one chance of a lifetime! For one thing, most people don't even know what a Nauga is, much less how to turn one into a pirate!

I had a chat with Nauga Queen Christine "Bunkie" Hewerdine. She was a bit perplexed when she received her "presence required" notification from Queen Nauga I, with the instructions to dress as a Nauga Pirate.

"How do I do that?" she asked with a puzzled look.

"You don't," I replied. "You are the Nauga Queen and, as such, you can dress however you please!"

That's the beauty of being a Queen of anything! Once I explained, Queen Bunkie began to smile and gather her beautiful clothing together for her royal trek down Via de Luna.

And this is one of the things I love best about our Island - nothing really ever comes with instructions or directions. You just make it up as you go along. Lord, I became the self-appointed High Priestess of the Naugas just by wearing an armband around my head and declaring myself so! I honestly don't know what possessed me at the time. It seemed like a good idea but in reality, the medallion left a replicated bruise in the center of my forehead and I had a headache for three days. I'm not sure if the headache was from the armband on my head or the spirits consumed in celebration.

When I decided being the High Priestess was too hard, Queen Naugas I and II said, "No, you are the Nauga High Priestess forever!" You have to be careful out here, some ideas will get you into trouble!

Speaking of trouble, the Mystic Krewe of Nereids were spotted in Mobile, Ala. Christmas partying and bead tripping. They were seen (how could you miss

them) sparkling, blinking, dancing and secretly purchasing tons of Mardi Gras stuff!

However, neither heat, rain, sleet, snow, shopping nor two days of parties and bead tripping could keep those ladies from returning home in time to participate in the Christmas Parade. That's another thing I really love about this Island; everyone plays so well together.

Okay, sometimes we play too hard. Then we suffer a few days and swear we'll never do it again. But we do. I've had many discussions over the years about the best cure for a hangover.

My friend, Andrea Brunt (God rest her soul) called one day when I was suffering from too much fun. She swore that potato soup was the best cure for what ailed me. I looked in my cabinet and found some instant potato soup. I asked her if that would cure me faster. It didn't. A lot of people swear by the "hair of the dog," but that has never worked for me. Robin Taylor once told me that Alka-Seltzer Cold Plus was the best thing. I tried that, too. I've always heard that water is the worst thing to drink the morning after and maybe it is, but I can't help it. I drink tons of it; ice cold! (Of course, if I did what was good for me, I wouldn't be drinking in the first place.) Some people prefer cold water in the form of an icepack. Tried that, too.

When you get to the bottom of it, folks, truth is we've got a lot of parties ahead packed into a small time frame. If you've got a hangover cure that works, I'd sure like to know.

In the meantime, hang on to your hats, belly-up to the bar, designate a driver and have some fun! After all, we Islanders always do things in a big way! And that's another thing I love about our beach. Now, let's head to the kitchen for my favorite cure....

- Tons of Ice-cold water
- Big fat greasy burgers with bacon and cheese
- Lots of greasy fried potatoes
- Some good (or bad) television
- A very good book
- One large, soft and very comfortable sofa
- Three days of doing absolutely nothing

Happy New Year! Join the Krewe of Wrecks and I'll see you at the Black Tie Ball!



The Krewe of Nauga's Queens decorated and costumed as the Pirates of Santa's Island in the Pensacola Beach Chamber's Christmas Parade Sunday, December 16. Taking part in the swashbuckling fun were (front, center) Christine Bunkie Hewerdine, Queen Nauga XIII. Nauga queens in the back row, (L to R) are: Karina Foster, Gwen Gibson, Renee Mack, Danah Gibson, Sharon Mattair and Deb Friedman.



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Wine Talk



with Bob Temple
Beach Wines and Liquors

A CHILLING EFFECT

While nearly everyone is likely to chill a bottle of white wine before serving, relatively few give much thought to chilling a red. The fact is, however, that many red wines taste best when served fairly cool (not ice cold). The ideal temperature for serving a fine red wine is 60 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit, and some red wines are best when served even colder, around 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Beaujolais, for example, is the best candidate for a red wine to be served well-chilled on a hot afternoon. It is relatively straightforward, with a concentrated fruitiness and low levels of oak, tannin, and alcohol. Other "big chill" reds include young Riojas, the lighter Zinfandels, and Pinot Noirs.

HINT: Other red wines that are good candidates for the refrigerator include those made from the juicy Bonarda grape, which is an Italian transplant.

To chill or not to chill, that is the question. Beach Wines and Liquors, Inc., wanted you to know that a world of great wines awaits you here. And, we have the answer to that question, call us at 932-8850. Whether you are very knowledgeable and know exactly what you want, or would appreciate our assistance, we are here for you. Please don't drink and drive. Happy New Year from Bob and the gang!

Happy New Year

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Big Artists, Little Artists Win Coloring Contest

Beach artists, large and small, gathered their crayons, and their coloring sheets and gave it their best to win prizes in the contests during the Season Your Holidays with Island Spirit festival. Judges at Island Style had a difficult time choosing their winners, but came up with the following:

Children, ages 8 and under: Meredith McCurdy, first; Clayton Clifton, second; and Michael Garrett and Thomas Goodroe, honorable mention.

Children, ages 9 and older: Katt Crowdis, first; Christian Lakers, second; and Sara Post

and Jace Amberson, honorable mention.

First and second place winners received Island Style gift certificates. Tiki Island golf passes went to those who received honorable mention.

Adults who entered the coloring contest at the Sandshaker on Saturday, December 15, were cautioned to stay inside the lines and finish their artistic renderings within one hour. Sheets and crayons were handed out at 4 p.m.

Ann Kirk, Queen of the Shaker Bar, accepted each entry and handed out free drink cards to each contestant. The drinks were courtesy of "Sonny Claus" Campbell.

The judges looked at dozens of entries, narrowed the field to three and finally came up with the winner, Roland Baldamero. Along with his free drink, he received a t-shirt, bar tab and a lighted bar sign. The contests and festivities were sponsored by the Beach Chamber of Commerce as part of their month long Christmas festival.



At the Coloring Contest awards ceremony are (L to R): Shaker co-owner Beverly Boswell, Winner Roland Baldamero and Shaker Queen Ann Kirk.

Season Your
Holidays with
Island Spirit
presented by the
Pensacola Beach
Chamber of
Commerce

December 31
Fireworks Finale - Casino
Beach Parking Lot - Midnight
Dazzling display of pyrotechnics will awe spectators ready to ring in the New Year on Santa Rosa Island.

January 1
Polar Bear Plunge - Paradise Bar and Grill - 2 pm
The emerald waters of Santa Rosa Sound are filled with those hardy souls who wade, swim and scurry to the finish line. Heaping bowls of black-eyed peas wait to warm them. Entry fee benefits the Chamber. No charge to cheer. Passport to Santa's Island Grand Prize Drawing at 3 p.m.

Passport to Santa's Island Last Chance to Be A Traveler
It's not too late to be an official traveler on Santa's Island. Passports are still available at the Visitor's Information Center. Get yours today and get it stamped at participating Chamber businesses. Completed passports get a souvenir and entry into the grand prize drawing.

CALLING ALL PARTY ANIMALS

We are ringing in 2008 with a **BIG New Year's Eve Bash** and **YOU** are invited!
Come help us celebrate!
Live entertainment by **Miles from Coltrane**



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FRIDAY & SATURDAY 8:30pm-12:30am - Live Band (www.sandshaker.com for lineup)
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Ears, Queens, Wildwood, Champagne and Pajamas Make Nauga Breakfast

If you are not wearing those fuzzy little ears on Saturday, January 12, you better run and hide from the Nauga police. The Krewe of Nauga Champagne Breakfast and Native Noontime Ball will be at The Dock beginning at 10 a.m. Your fifteen dollar ticket will include your own personal pair of Nauga ears, membership in the Krewe of Nauga, a full breakfast buffet and champagne. There will be prize drawings and raffles during the morning. Dress code is pajamas.

The Second Annual Nauga Dawga contest winner will be announced. Photos of your pet may be taken to Danah's Hair Studio in advance of the party, or you may enter at the Breakfast. Entry fee is \$5.

The kittens will come into the party plans this year with the in-Nauga-ural Purrfect Kitty contest. The same entry rules apply for dogs and cats. All proceeds go to the Pensacola Humane Society and other animal related charities.

One of the Beach's favorite bands, Wildwood will play and the new Nauga queen will be in-

troduced.

For more information, please call the Nauga Hotline at 932-4323.



One of the most recognizable gals on the Island, Paige Speirs is the official Pensacola Beach Elementary School Crossing Guard. Her parents Sheila and Steve may enter her in the Nauga Dawga Contest.

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Krewes Must Attend Safety Meeting

One of the most important meetings of the Beach Mardi Gras planning sessions will be the safety meeting on Wednesday, January 9 at 6 p.m. at Paddy O'Leary's.

"It is important for krewe captains and float drivers to at-

tend this meeting," Deb Friedman, Association of Krewes president, said. "It is important that every krewe be represented."

Escambia County deputies from the Beach substation will explain rules and safety regu-

lations for the Mardi Gras parade, February 3. Krewes will receive complete information on entry size limits, walkers and their required vests, line-up and disbanding. Pre-parade and post-parade rules will be discussed.

For more information, call Deb Friedman at 850-712-8546.

Red and Green Turns To Purple, Green and Gold

Holiday parties are ending just in time to start Mardi Gras on Pensacola Beach when the high flying Mystic Krewe of Nereids presents its annual King Kake Party at Paradise Bar and Grill, January 5. The party begins at 3 p.m. with Boogie, Inc. cranking up the tunes until 6 p.m. and then the all-female band, 30 x 90, takes the stage at 6 p.m.

The real star of the show is the King Kake, a pastry delicacy with a traditional purple, green and gold sugar topping. The person, who gets the piece of cake containing the plastic baby, is thereby elected to have

the next King Kake party. Or, so the legend goes.

The Nereids will hold a raffle of prize baskets filled with goodies. Proceeds will go to support Beach friends who need a little help.

The new Nereid King and Queen will be introduced at the party and will begin their year long reign.

"Everybody is welcome to come to this party and begin the Mardi Gras season with us," Sharon Mattair, krewe member said. "Wear your beads and Mardi Gras colors. It's time to kick off the season."

Party Dress Code Requires Glitz, Glitter And Glam

The shine of the Paradise Bar and Grill's stage lights will glint off of tiaras and crowns at the Rhinestone and Royalty party, Sunday, January 6. Mardi Gras krewes and their royal courts will be honored at the 3 p.m. soiree which features rhythm and blues music by an all female band, "30 x 90."

"Twelfth Night is the first official day of the Mardi Gras season and it occurs on January 6. We will honor all kings, queens and their courts by treating them like Beach royalty," said Renee Mack, general

manager of the Paradise Bar and Grill.

Those who have not yet been given a royal title should wear plenty of glittering rhinestones and pretend that they, too, are Mardi Gras rulers.

The Mardi Gras season on Pensacola Beach culminates with the Krewe of Wrecks parade at 2 p.m. Sunday, February 3 followed by a free red beans and rice luncheon on Monday, February 4. The final party of Mardi Gras on the Island is the Krewe of Coma coronation at 6 p.m. on Fat Tuesday, February 5.

Junkanoos Plan Cajun Boil

If part of your Mardi Gras partying plan includes spicy Cajun delicacies, then put the Krewe of Junkanoo's Cajun Boil on your calendar. The annual event will be Sunday, January 13 at the Sandshaker Lounge from 2 to 5 p.m. The featured dish is Chicken and Sausage Jambalaya served with hot music and cold drinks.

"We will have a door prize drawing and raffle offers throughout the party," said Marci Wiles, the Junkanoo Krewe's party planner. "Proceeds are collected all season long to support local charities."

For more information about the Krewe of Junkanoo or the Cajun Boil, contact Amy DePew at 850-565-0672.

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Mardi Gras on the Island 2007-2008

Krewe of Wrecks Meetings
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▶ Jan 7 Sideline's
 Jan 14 Elk's Lodge

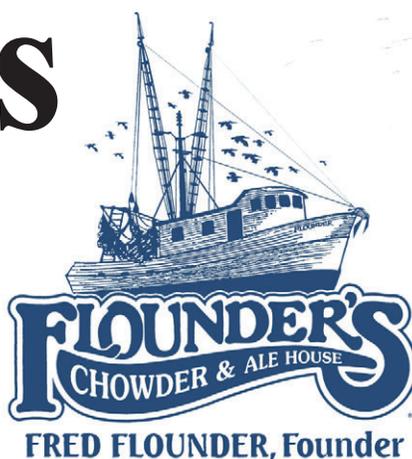
| | | |
|--------|--|-------------|
| Dec 31 | Nereids/Brewe New Year's Eve Ball - Elks Lodge, 8 pm | \$35/person |
| Jan 5 | Krewe of Nereids King Kake Party, Paradise, 3 pm | Free |
| Jan 6 | Rhinestone and Royalty, Paradise, 3 pm | Free |
| Jan 12 | Krewe of Nauga Champagne Breakfast, The Dock, 10 am | \$15/person |
| Jan 13 | Krewe of Junkanoo Cajun Boil, Sandshaker, 2 pm | Free |
| Jan 18 | Krewe of Nereids Moon Pie Party, Sandshaker, 7 pm | Free |
| Jan 19 | Krewe of Junkanoo Ritter Krawl, Gulfside Pavilion, noon | Free |
| Jan 19 | Krewe of Kids Parade, Gulfside Pavilion, 1 p.m. | Free |
| Jan 19 | Krewe of Bananimals Ball, Quality Inn, Gulf Breeze, 8 pm, BYOB | \$25/person |
| Jan 21 | Krewe of Wrecks King's Supper, Elk's Lodge, 7pm | \$25/King |
| Jan 21 | Krewe of Wrecks Queen's Dinner, Flounder's, 7 pm | \$25/Queen |
| Jan 25 | Shaker Krewe Toast 2 U, Sandshaker Lounge, 8 pm | Free |
| Jan 26 | Krewe of Wrecks Grand Costume Ball, The Dock, 8 pm | \$25/member |
| Feb 2 | Krewe of Wrecks Champagne Breakfast, Crab's, 10 am | \$25/member |
| Feb 3 | Krewe of Wrecks Parade Via de Luna, 2 pm | Free |
| Feb 4 | Krewe of Wrecks Red Beans and Rice, Casino Beach, 11 am | Free |
| Feb 5 | Krewe of Coma Coronation, Sandshaker, 6 p.m. | Free |

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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

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

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

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

THE CABANA CLUB & CAFE

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



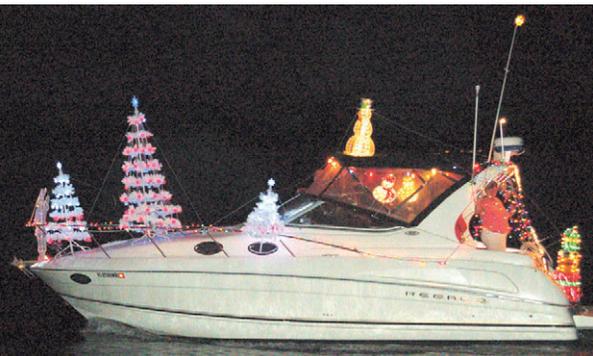
Olivia Warren, 12 (left) and younger sister, Victoria, 8, made Christmas wreath ornaments to hang on their tree at home. The Sacred Heart Academy students were part of the gluing and glittering that took place during the Chamber's Ornament Making session, December 15.



Home for the Holidays - Pensacola Christian College sophomore Valerie Ptaszek and her mom, Christine Ptaszek were guests at the Hilton who enjoyed the Chamber's Ornament Making session. They stayed on the Beach before heading home to New York.



Crafty Lady Hazel Fairey assists Mary Drees and her granddaughter Maci with their ornaments at the December 15 Ornament Making at the Hilton. The Beach Church's Crafty Ladies worked as volunteers for the Chamber event.



The Sooner Than Later captained by Dennis Goade motored over from the Palafox Pier to join the lighted boats on Pensacola Beach, December 15.



The weather outside had been frightful, but the evening stayed delightful long enough for a few lighted boats to set sail December 15. The Caddy Wampus captained by John Bozeman motored around Little Sabine Bay spreading Christmas cheer.



Santa checked his list twice as David Bonz Alexander tried to convince him that he had been good all year.

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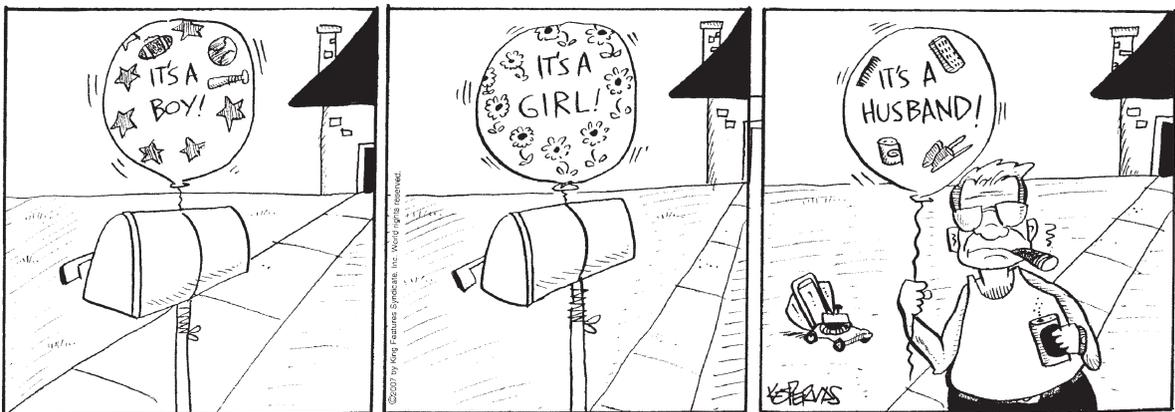
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



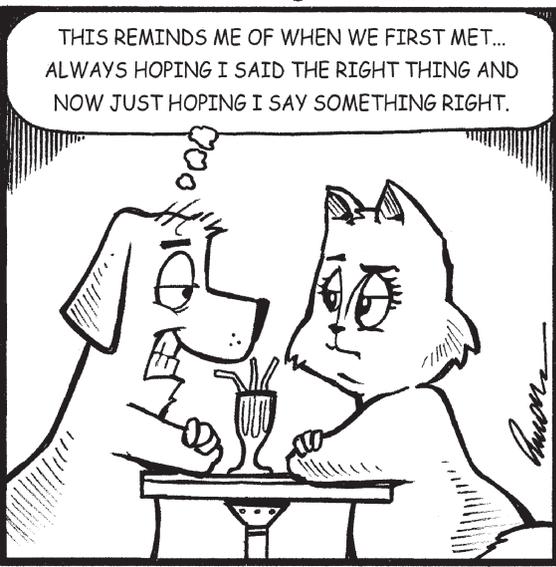
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



MISTER BREGER By Dave Breger



By Madame Astra

The advice that Madame Astra reveals is based on shifting stars, moons and suns. Celebrate daily.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan 19) Details. Miscommunication can be around this week. She is an unwelcome guest. Find out what needs to be done.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18) Your activity level increases. Deep sea fishing or boating are outings that you can benefit from most. Connection to the water increases your energy.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) Sit on the Beach and ooze contentment. Let your mind wander into a place where creativity can overshadow common sense. Dance with the gulls.

Aries (March 21 - April 19) Commerce is in your corner. You can sell and trade with a great deal of confidence. This only lasts until the new moon.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) There is someone willing to guide you, but you must make the first contact. Information comes in small doses. Literal pursuits are rewarded.

Gemini (May 21- June 21) Discount any advice you get from a Leo. The lion may be a liar this week. Stay out of his lair.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) Your social circle widens. Surprising results come from patient, practical planning.

Leo (July 23 - Aug 22) You feel like roaring. Be strong and positive in all that you do. Do not take time to look back or your momentum will stop. Move ahead with your projects.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept 22) Take to the wing. It may be bird watching or flying an airplane. You feel the thrill of leaving the Earth beneath you. Soar.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct 23) Think twice before making a key decision regarding money. The deal must be detailed and in writing. Get a second opinion or another option.

Scorpio (Oct. 24 - Nov 21) Jealousy is simmering just under the surface. If you are the green-eyed monster, calm down. If someone is envious of you, seek time away from him.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) Smooth sailing this week. Check paperwork and jewelry to make sure they are safe. Lucky numbers are 5, 17, 34 and 35.

Dance Dance Revolution Spins Into Tiki Island

Dance Dance Revolution, the new arcade game that the kids are playing, is now at Tiki Island on the Beach. The game is played on a dance pad which has arrows for feet movements in conjunction with music and directions from the video screen.

The success of this game is the player's ability to time and position his steps in sync with the screen.

"This game is terrific exercise," Terri McKamey, Tiki Island manager said. "Fifteen minutes on it gives you a great workout."

The only other nearby locations for the Dance Dance game are in Pace and Ft. Walton Beach, so Terri welcomes everyone to come to Tiki Island to practice and to enter their tournament on Saturday, January 5 at 11 a.m. There will be a cash prize for the

winner. The tournament will have bracketed competition and entrants will move toward a final dance-off. There are no age groups and everyone is invited to compete. The entry fee is \$10.

"This tourney will be the Saturday before the kids have to go back to school," Terri said. "It will give them something to look forward to before returning to school after the holidays."

Letters To The Editor

Greetings from the Namaste'

Our first day, Monday, December 10, was like nothing else we'd ever experienced. We left Pensacola Beach at about 9:00 a.m. still feeling all warm and fuzzy from Barbara's and Marty's hugs. Our warmth and fuzziness dissipated rapidly when we lurched into the Pass and out into the great Gulf of

Mexico.

With winds projected to be 5-10 knots, we were expecting to spend our first day motoring on a frog pond. What was actually waiting for us was three to five foot rollers with smaller confused seas and the wind on our bow. So why were the seas so big? It was that "persistent east wind" (that's the National Weather Service's term) that

created such steep seas.

Proudly, we all kept our grits, but it was no small accomplishment! Even poor Captain Ron meowed and heaved, but kept his honor and his Science Diet Hairball Control.

Happy New Year.

Namaste' Trish and Jeff

[The Namaste is a charter sailboat that ties up at the Sabine Marina from March until December. She is sailing to Key West for the winter. Trish Pleasant and Jeff Bowman are the captains.]



They call themselves "The Camo Girls" but apparently aren't trying to hide from anything in particular. They aren't planning to go hunting and don't belong to a military unit. These Beach School ladies making a fashion statement dressed alike in their favorite shades of camouflage are (L to R): Debbie Campanella, Abby Jacobs, Ali Salazar, Meredith McCurdy, Blair Amberson and Kristin Amberson.

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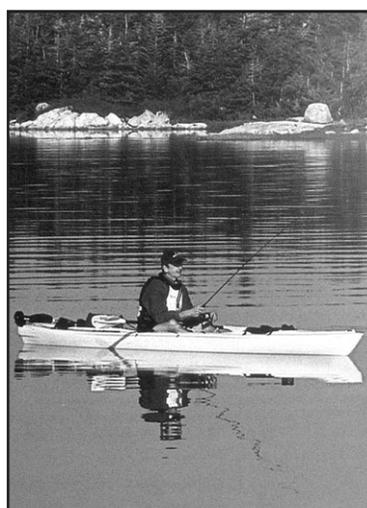
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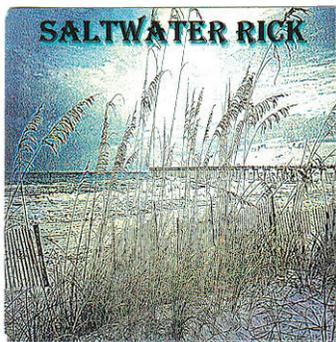
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Enter Your Pet's Photo in the

NAUGA DAWGA & PURRFECT KITTY COMPETITION

- Bring your dog's or cat's photo (4 x 6 or smaller) to Danah's Hair Studio or the Nauga Breakfast
- Photos accepted through 11 a.m. January 12.
- \$5 entry fee benefits the Humane Society
- Photo will be displayed on the Waggin' Braggin or Pretty Kitty Board





readin' the water

and attach a photo if you have one. Send fishing stories to salth2o@mchsi.com

Did anyone turn a kid onto some fishin' stuff? I can't think of a better gift than a new rod and reel. It's the one thing they can do that produces eatable results and a big smile just for feelin' that tug on the line.

We enjoy such a gift just by living here - our Bay system, that I am so thankful for. I just can't imagine not being about to harvest a bit of its bounty for the health and nourishment of my family.

Welcome to the last report of 2007. A lot of great stories have come and gone in the past year and some great dinners have been eaten. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas. Now, you can get out there with all your new gear and get some new stories and tales to tell.

Capt. Darrin Churchward reports this recent action:

"Hey Rick. I had another great charter on December 10. We were on the water at Shoreline Ramp in Gulf Breeze by 9:15 a.m.

We went to the Pass to warm up on some Bluefish using top water plugs. We all caught fish.

At 1:45 p.m. we headed back into the Bay to look for birds diving on Menhaden and got as far as Deadman's Island where there were about a hundred pelicans diving on an acre of Bull Reds. Marlin, his girl friend Julie, and her son Tommy all hooked up with big reds on their first cast. After a couple hours of tight lines and bent rods the trio had boated around twenty beautiful Reds. Tommy caught the biggest fish of the day.

What a day!"

Thanks for the update Darrin.

The Pensacola Bay Area will be featured on ESPN2 when the Oberto Redfish Cup Championship finals are televised at 7 a.m. on Dec. 29. The show will broadcast a second time at 4 a.m. on Dec. 30.

I want to hear about your recent catches. Send me an email

Why go to "The Great Wall" and buy your meat and fowl when you can have so much fun catching your own or better yet, let your kids come home with dinner! I mean in this electronic age, when does that happen?

My proudest moments as a teenager were seeing my Father's face, may he rest in peace, when I came home with a nice catch. I can't do that again, but, I still take my catches to Mom.

I hope all the loyal readers of Island Times have the very best new year and do yourself a favor and go Fishin'.



Recent charters on Capt. Darrin Churchward's boat had a great day of fishing. Julie inspects her son Tommy's Bull Red caught in Escambia Bay on December 10.

Seashore Offers Day Camp for Kids, Candlelight Tours for Adults

Gulf Islands National Seashore will host Junior Ranger Day Camp during the school break on Friday, December 28 from 9:00 a.m. until noon and a Sea Star Day Camp for children ages 3 - 5 on Friday, January 4 from 10:00 - 11:00 at Naval Live Oaks Visitor Center in Gulf Breeze.

For information on the Junior Ranger Day Camp call 850-916-3001. For additional information

on Sea Stars Day Camp for younger children call 850-934-2631.

The Seashore will host Candlelight Tour at Fort Barrancas as part of their January events. The tours are scheduled for Saturday, January 19 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. to commemorate the 37th anniversary of the seashore. For reservations call 850-455-5167.

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Snowbird Turned Beach Bunny Wins Poker Tourney

On the twelfth day of the twelfth month we had some hot action at the Paradise Bar and Grill poker tables. Snowbirdin' from Oklahoma and renting a place on the Beach for the winter must agree with Denise Dotson. She made her way to the winner's circle taking out Beach poker playing icon Tommy Chavis in a one hand final after clearing out all the top players on the Island.

It was packed on December 17 at the Paradise. Fran Cox dealt this way to the final table then had the cards fall just right as he won his second tournament of the month. Billie Urquhart was the runner-up.

Fran has the lead with two wins this month as of press time.

Just down the street at Paddy O'Leary's, George Grant took out Kristin Larmer in the final. Bud Waite made his first appearance in awhile at the pub on December 16.

The amazing Jay Donaway edged out defending champ Billie

Urquhart on December 18 in a great back and forth final. Sixteen players made their way to the tables.

From the Chip Stack

Please note: We will be playin' on January 1 at Paddy O'Leary's at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

We have a schedule change and we have added a night of hot poker action to our Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun. There will be poker on Thursday nights at Paddy's.

"Texas Hold 'Em 4444 continues to be popular on Pensacola Beach," said Promoter Rick Uzdevenes. "Everyone is welcome to join the games. You only need a basic knowledge of the game. We play for fun and braggin' rights. The ladies have been finishing consistently in the top two. It's a game for everyone."

For more information about the games email salth2o@mchsi.com or to purchase Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun Beach Pokerwear call Rick at 850-324-2667.



Denise Dotson has joined the ranks of the winning poker players on Pensacola Beach. Denise is a winter resident with poker skills and little bit of luck.



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Program Revisits Gulf Breeze UFO Phenomenon

The January program of Unlimited Horizons will present a full review of the Gulf Breeze UFO Story, featuring Art Hufford, former President, Pensacola-Gulf Breeze Mutual UFO Network. Hufford will document 11 years of contact with Unidentified Flying Objects. Hufford's program, a multimedia presentation, "20 Years Later... The Gulf Breeze UFO Sightings: The Real Story" will be Sunday, January 13, 2:30 to 5:30, at the South Santa Rosa Recreation Center, 800 Shoreline Dr., Gulf Breeze.

Art Hufford is an honors graduate of Georgia Tech in Chemical Engineering and has a MBA from the University of West Florida. He retired in 1997 from the Monsanto Company following a 33-year career in management. He joined the Mutual UFO Network in 1988 and became a MUFON Field Investigator. He was later appointed MUFON State Section Director for Escambia and Santa Rosa counties.

The program will feature over 100 slides and video clips and is open to the public. A donation of \$7 will be requested. For more info, unlimited-horizons.org.



A Beach Christmas Parade Tradition - Kim LoBue has just the touch in turning her bicycle into a rolling bin of Christmas cheer. She rode in the December 16 Beach Christmas parade.

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The Beauty & Beach

By Danah Gibson

Here we are, another year gone and looking forward to a brand new year-2008. Instead of resolutions, how about a promise to yourself? Let's face it, life for most of us is a work in progress. Don't assume that you will always know how to wear your hair in the most comfortable way for you! Which means the following hints will help you find your way:

1. Start by defining your overall style.

Are you a jeans and t-shirt kind of person or do you cringe at the thought of wearing anything without a designer label attached? Defining your overall style helps you find hairstyles compatible with who you are, and how much time you are willing to spend on your 'do!

2. Be a Copycat

If you're unsure of your own style, check out your favorite celebs for inspiration to trigger your own hair comfort zone. Most of these folks have access to the most brilliant hairstylists, fashion and make-up gurus, so keep that in mind when mimicking.

3. Define your willingness to be a non-conformist

It's human nature to want to conform. Not only do conformists avoid the risk of exclusion, it's easier to follow the crowd. But

does following the crowd with the hairstyles you wear force you to be someone you really don't want to be? Take the time to understand the truth behind your hairstyle selection motives.

4. Take baby steps

Rome wasn't built in a day. Be willing to take baby steps toward your comfort hair zone. If you plan to adopt a more radical cut or color, take it slowly, especially if it's your first time. Sometimes, hormones and just plain boredom will lead you to a "hair disaster." Evaluate all consequences that your new style could have on your career or family, which leads to...

6. Be prepared to defend your style

Once you find your cut, color and style that gives you "true strand peace," everyone from your family, friends, and the guy at the grocery will put their two cents in about your new look. Ignore them and follow your own wishes! Everyone is unique and deserves to follow their own heart. Life is too short to suffer with a hairstyle that goes against your true comfort hair zone. So go out there and found a style that gives you true joy!

Happy New Year. I hope to see everyone at the Nauga Champagne Breakfast- January 12, 10 a.m. at The Dock!

Surfers Remember Their Own

Bring the photos of those you want to be remembered at the Annual Surfer's Memorial at The Break Beach Bar at 6 p.m. on Saturday, January 12. Live music will be performed by Wildwood and the Michael Jencks Band. Complimentary food will be served and their will be special drink prices.

Bidding in the Silent Auction will begin at 6 p.m. with all proceeds going to local charities. The Surfers always include the Pensacola Beach Elementary School in their contributions and will make their donation to the School at the party.

For more information, contact freddy@espocreative.com



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Mary and Dick Fritz celebrated 40 years of marriage in December with an anniversary party at the Cabana Club. Some of the younger guests were back row (L to R): Hannah and Maria Fritz. Seated (L to R) are Cate, Zoey and Finn Fritz and Amelia Raybourn.

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The LIZZARD'S TONGUE



by E.K. Hewson

The other day, I misplaced my calendar and missed a doctor's appointment. Fortunately, I was able to reschedule for the following morning. As I apologized to my doctor for any inconvenience this may have caused, he launched into a mini-lecture on how some great scientists and philosophers believe that time, rather than being an objective thing to be measured, is part of the measuring system only used by humans. At first, I wasn't sure if he was chastising me for missing the original visit or trying to politely tell me I needed to get some type of electronic organizer to keep me on task. Neither. He was just glad that I rescheduled and made it into his office.

So that doctor's visit got me thinking about time, especially since we are getting ready to wrap up another year. When did measuring time as we know it come to be? It appears that the origins of the current measurement system date back to 2000 BC and the Sumerian civilization. Our time is measured on the sexagesimal system based on the number 60. (Sixty seconds in a minute, 60 minutes in an hour.) I don't know what those Sumerians were thinking, other than coming up with measurement systems, but I wish

they would have had the forethought to know that sometimes I need more than 24 hours in a day to get everything done. One 27 hour day every other week would have been nice.

I started to wonder what if the Sumerians had used different bases, like 30 or 120, what would time be like now? Would time drag on or march right by? Would we still have minutes, hours, day, weeks, months and years? Or would it all be called something else? Would I be half as old or double my current age? Once again it would all be relative and as we all know, time stands still for no one. Or does it? Isn't it always five o'clock somewhere?

As you ring in the New Year with friends and family, remember these words of British journalist and writer John B. Priestly: "A good holiday is one spent among people whose notions of time are vaguer than yours."

And as you resolve to do this, that and then some in 2008 keep in mind that fellow Floridian, John Archibald Wheeler, an eminent theoretical physicist who coined the term "Black Hole," once said that "time is what prevents everything from happening at once."

Until next time...



The Krewe of Junkanoo collected \$300 for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. Accepting the check is (center) Lt. Col. Scott Grandgeorge, USMC. Representing the krewe are (L to R) Amy DePew, Dee Riley, Becky Serio, Sandy Huggins and Sal Serio.

Get Ready To Race

If your resolutions include lacing up your running shoes, enter the Pensacola Beach Run, Saturday, January 5. Registration will be open until 7:30 a.m. on race day. Entry forms can be completed online at active.com.

The first race of the year on Pensacola Beach offers a 5K, 10K and half marathon course. Awards will be given for first, second and third in each race and by age groups.

For more information about this race visit pensacolarunners.com or email Gary Bunde at bunde@cox.net



The United States Marine Corps Color Guard set the pace and presented the colors at the Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade, December 16. The 25 unit parade included marching groups, decorated floats and Santa Claus riding on a firetruck. Leading the way were (L to R): Lance Cpl. Kemar Pinnock, Sgt. Derrick Schroeder, Cpl. Joshua King, and Lance Cpl. Richard Pickett.

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Mostly Nuts & Bolts

By
Candace Segar

New Year's Eve is so exciting. Everything is new. There are parties to go to, fireworks to watch, passionate kisses to give at midnight, and best of all, *The Twilight Zone* marathon. I don't remember when my husband Ralph and I became marathons, but we have always been *Twilight Zone* fans. I think Ralph would classify me as a rabid *Twilight Zone* fan.

There are 156 episodes in the series including self-contained fantasy, science fiction and horror genres. I thought I was a *Twilight Zone* connoisseur, but my research for this article proved that idea incorrect.

Rod Serling had great difficulty in selling the *Twilight Zone* to network television. What was CBS thinking? I think this question by Mike Wallace to Rod Serling in an interview which aired on September 22, 1959 says it all.

"You're going to be, obviously, working so hard on *The Twilight Zone* that, in essence, for the time being and for the foreseeable future, you've given up on writing anything important for television, right?"

We should be so lucky to have such outstanding writing in the 21st century. This just blows my mind. And to add insult to injury, the original pilot episode by Serling entitled, "The Time Element" which debuted on November 24, 1958, is rarely aired on television and is only available in an Italian DVD box set. Well, at least the Italians know pure genius when they see it.

I am gearing up for this year's marathon. My checklist includes: food that Ralph can heat up for me - check; bathroom close by - check; extremely comfortable sitting/lying down arrangement - check; and the complete DVD collection for back up - double check! It just doesn't get any better folks.

As for ringing in the New Year, if you need a break from *The Twilight Zone* marathon, go to Pensacola Beach and watch the fireworks at midnight and kiss someone.

Happy New Year!

BYTES AND BITS

By Joe Stuke

Q: Why can't I open email attachments in Outlook Express?

A: That problem can be caused by a couple of issues. One is directly related to Outlook Express options. The other occurs when you don't have the necessary programs installed on your computer. If you get an error message indicating that your email program has blocked an attachment, go to the "Tools" menu, select "Options" and change your security settings to allow the attachment to be viewed.

If the email program has indicated that another program is needed to view the attachment, you can usually download the necessary program. Look at the name of the attachment, paying attention to the 3-letter suffix that

follows the name. Then look on the Internet for the meaning of that extension. For example, use Google to look for ".xls file extension." You will find a website that specializes in providing that information.

In this case, the ".xls" extension is for Microsoft Excel. Microsoft provides free software to view Word, Excel, and Powerpoint attachments. Simply use Google to search for the file to download (download Excel Viewer) and then install it. Other programs, such as Adobe Reader, can also be located and downloaded using Google - the best search tool on the Internet.

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



Christmas carolers boarded the Double Decker bus in front of Flounder's Friday, December 14 at 6 p.m. as part of the Chamber's Season Your Holidays with Island Spirit festival. Preparing to take the busload on their choral caper is driver Rich Barrows (center). The open air upper deck was filled to capacity so these ladies rode inside the bus. Riders included (L to R) Chrissy Cook, Sandi Johnson, Beverly Boswell and Marcia Hoven.



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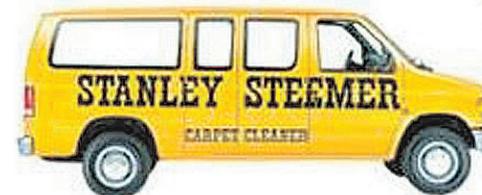
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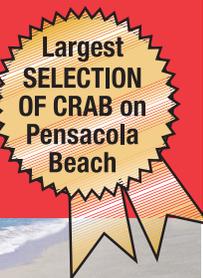
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