

ISLAND TIMES

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Leprechauns Go For The Gold



Pensacola Beach's Society of Leprechauns is ready to welcome Irish men and women of all nationalities at their Twentieth Annual St. Patrick's Day Pub Crawl. Traditionally, hundreds of revelers, wearing their fanciest greenery, join the Leprechauns in their march from bistro to bistro. Auctions are held at each pub, and all proceeds go to Pensacola Covenant Hospice. Directing this year's Pub Crawl are from (L to R): Darla Permenter, Ruth Gray, Daniel Blake, and Shirley Blake. Daniel, who is in the seventh grade, is a third generation Leprechaun, and the grandson of Pub Crawl founder, the late Paddy Blake. Story, Page 2.

St. Paddy's Day Pub Crawlers Find Pot of Gold

Her royal Irishness, Beverly Hughes, reigning Queen of the Society of Leprechauns will be their last monarch. The Leprechauns have decided that their ladies are all queens, and they no longer will name a queen to

guide the revelers on their St. Patrick's Day Pub Crawl.

But, that doesn't stop Beverly from making her final mission, a huge success.

"I am going around and get all the auction prizes just like

I did in 2004," Beverly said. Her efforts garnered thousands of dollars for the fundraiser.

"I am going to do that again," she said.

The Twentieth Annual St. Patrick's Day Pub Crawl began

its 2006 journey with a bake sale at the Elk's Lodge March 4.

The Pub Crawl will start at Bobby D's with a brunch of traditional corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, and specially

baked Irish goodies. The first stop will be at Sidelines at 11 a.m. Crawlers will spend an hour at each bistro, including Crab's We Got 'Em, The Dock, the Sandshaker, the Elk's Lodge and finally, Bobby D's.

Sales of t-shirts, Irish souvenirs, and auctions of merchandise will take place at every stop. Krewes of Coma Queen, Lynn Cieutat will be the auctioneer.

Crawlers are asked to wear green and may join the group at any spot. There is no charge to be part of the revelry. The Society of Leprechauns and their generous followers raise thousands of dollars every year at the event, and the proceeds are donated to Conventant Hospice of Pensacola.

For more information, contact Shirley Blake at 932-7249.

SRIA Items Go Forward, Backward and Stand Still

Some items moved forward, some moved backward and some stood still at the March 8 Santa Rosa Island Authority Committee meetings.

A discussion on hotel room size and amenities came up once again as Beachside Resorts sought approval for final construction plans from the Architectural and Environmental Review Committee. Previously, the SRIA had recommended lowering the square foot area of hotel rooms and to scale down any additional amenities such as microwaves and refrigerators. The Beachside project calls for a "planned unit development," a nineteen story building containing 190 hotel rooms and 16 residential units. The first floor would provide parking along with an outdoor paved lot totaling 390 spaces.

Vernon Prather questioned approval of the project before the SRIA had some way of assessing parking impact in the core area and assessing impact fees based on that information.

"I have a problem with twenty units which are over 1900 square feet," Bill Griffith said. "Something doesn't seem quite right. I hope this doesn't end up being a condo complex eventually."

Staff reported that Beachside Resorts had met conceptual approval requirements which were approved last September. A motion was then made to accept the proposal and to move it along to the Full Board April meeting.

But, Chairman Thom Blas

said, "I am concerned that we as a Board are showing some concerns. I do not think this request will meet with favorable action until the Board has more information. I would like to move that this request stay in committee."

The motion passed, so the Beachside project, which had been approved minutes earlier to go to the Full Board, fell back into committee.

The Administrative Committee voted to send the much discussed Minimum Lease Fee Policy and Consideration Fee Policy to the Full Board.

The definition of a hotel motel also came before the Administrative Committee. Speakers representing hotels on Pensacola Beach objected to the more stringent proposals the SRIA recommended on room size and amenities.

Speaking of the regulations now in place, Baker Clark, owner of Five Flags Motel said, "I studied every county in this State and there is one which has an ordinance on size and length of stay, Escambia. We need to get in step with the rest of the state."

Committee members voted unanimously against changing the current ordinance to a more restrictive regulation, so the Hotel Motel definitions remain the same, governed by the old county ordinance.

Another item which has been discussed at length by the Board is the parking of Recreational Vehicles on the Island. The Administrative Committee voted to adopt a recommendation

from staff which would allow parking of RVs and other large vehicles only during special events. The number and placement would be governed by the Events Approval Checklist. This item goes to the Full Board.

A request from Circle K on Via de Luna to terminate their lease was delayed until SRIA attorneys have time to draft the paperwork on the lease termination, pending an environmental report on the condition of the site.

The store formerly sold gasoline.

Two new shops, The Fancy Flamingo and a retail sales shop were granted approval for leases on Quietwater Beach Boardwalk.

A final item of interest is the change to hold committee meetings on the first Wednesday of the month and Full Board meetings the second Wednesday of the month.

Island Authority meetings are held in the SRIA offices at 5 p.m. and are open to the public.

SRIA Approves Construction and Repair Projects

Repair and construction projects continue to dominate the meetings of the Santa Rosa Island Authority. The March 1 full board meeting was no exception when the Board approved purchase orders of \$425,924 to repair the roads south of Via de Luna and \$180,897 for roads on the north side of Via de Luna. Residents will be happy to know that the bumps and breaks in the roads off the main drag will be eliminated.

The Board approved the request of Bill Griffith, vice chairman, to have a resolution drafted to thank the Krewes of Wrecks for their efforts in presenting the Krewes of Wrecks parade.

"They did a superb job of fundraising," Bill said. "This is the first year the Authority could not fund the parade, and they pulled it all together. Thank you for a great effort."

Thom Blas, chairman, agreed that is showed great teamwork to raise the funds for the parade. He also commended the Beach Maintenance Department for cleaning up the island after the parade.

"By ten a.m. on Monday the streets looked really good," Blas said.

The consent agenda was approved by the Board. The Minimum Lease Fee Policy and Consideration Fee Policy are held for

discussion at the March 8 board meeting.

A request for an extension of time to repair the Fishing Pier was also moved into committee. Pier attorney, Chris Cadenhead, told the Board it would be unwise to begin construction during the summer months because of dangers to individuals using the Pier, danger of construction near the public beach, and difficulty of removing large equipment in case of a hurricane threat.

Buck Lee, SRIA General Manager, had a request all his own. He asked the Board to approve his intention to send a resolution to the Florida Congressional Delegation, asking for the immediate repair of the road to Fort Pickens and the road to Navarre.

"Tourism is affected by the lack of access to Ft. Pickens," Buck said. "And we really need the additional route off the island that Highway 399 provides. It is a matter of public safety."

Two SRIA trucks which "just barely run" may be replaced by two former yellow safety trucks provided by Pete Moore Chevrolet. The company has offered to take the two old trucks in trade and offered the yellow trucks at a reasonable price.

"We have the monies in the budget to buy these trucks," Bob

West, SRIA Safety Director said. "We have donations from groups like the Santa Rosa Triathlon which we do appreciate."

Sandy Johnston, Executive Director of the Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce, stated in her report that the Mardi Gras has been very good for the Beach.

"We have some very happy and tired merchants here," she said. "And, residents have commented on how great the parade was."

The board approved the contract for the general manager for another year. Buck Lee, who started working with the SRIA in May of 2005, will receive a five percent pay increase.

SRIA full board meetings are the second Wednesday of every month at 5 p.m. at the Authority office. The meetings are open to the public.



Spectators packed the parade route as Chamber exec Sandy Johnston provides a cool ride for Grand Marshall Lee Gunn during the Krewes of Wrecks parade.

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Barefoot on the Beach



John Patrick (Paddy) Blake was one of the most gifted Irishmen I have ever known. Gift of gab. Gift of generosity. Gift of humor. Gift of loyalty. Gift of devotion. Gift of spirit. Gift of love. In fact, it was Paddy's unquenchable love for humanity which fuelled his journey to find the pot of gold which could be turned over to good causes.

Twenty years ago on St. Patrick's Day, a bunch of rowdy Irish folks boarded a small bus, and traveled from pub to pub on Pensacola Beach, with one goal in mind. They just wanted to see how many cold beers they could down in honor of St. Patrick.

A couple of years later, Paddy jumped on the bus and sent it on a detour. Paddy never stopped the fun loving Irish from crawling from pub to pub, but he did change a few of their habits once they arrived at each bistro.

All by himself, Paddy tamed the wild and crazy pub crawlers and turned the annual event into a wild and crazy fundraiser. He developed a workable plan. He went to local pub owners, offered to put them on the pub crawl list, place their names on a t-shirt, if they, in turn, would help finance the purchase of the shirts. Business owners jumped on that. Paddy sold the shirts

and the first profits began to come in. During those early years, the Society of Leprechauns donated their proceeds to the Pensacola Beach Elementary School, the amount often reaching as much as \$1000.

Over time Paddy developed a group of faithful followers. Irish men and women of all nationalities from Pensacola Beach and surrounding towns. They formed the Society of Leprechauns. Guided by Paddy's wife, Shirley, the Leprechauns soon assumed their volunteer positions. Dressed in green from head to toe, they sold Irish memorabilia like t-shirts, green garters, and flowers. They went to every single pub on the crawl where they helped Paddy conduct auctions of merchandise, donated by beach businesses. All of a sudden, a bunch of Irish people who used to be just revelers, became revelers and philanthropists. By now, the St. Patrick's Day Pub Crawl on Pensacola Beach took on what could be called a dignified aura. The Leprechauns held a bake sale. They crowned their queen in ceremonies at Bobby D's Beach Bar. The Irish had made their mark.

But, just remember, this is no stick-in-the-mud, dried up walking experience. This is high octane celebrating which rivals Mardi Gras. Anyone who has ever danced around the Island

By Jane Waters Cooper with the Leprechauns can, and will attest to this.

In recent years, the St. Patrick's Day Pub Crawl proceeds have been donated to Covenant Hospice of Pensacola. They look forward gratefully to the check which usually now runs around \$8000 per year.

Sadly, Paddy Blake, the beloved Saint of Pensacola Beach, passed away unexpectedly in July of 2004. But, thanks to Shirley, his son Danny and all the Leprechauns Paddy's Pub Crawl continues to brighten the Island on St. Patrick's Day. And it also brightens the hearts of the Cov-

enant Hospice staff. When the check is presented now, usually by Shirley, you can almost see an image of Paddy, standing in the background, flashing that infectious smile. It's as if he is saying, "O.K. you crazy bunch of blameyers. You did pretty good."

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PEOPLE



CHEF BOB IS BACK

Bob Blomefield, well known Beach chef, is now working at the Gulf Breeze Hospital Cafeteria. Bob was the Head Chef at the Dunes Hotel for many years.

MARCH 20

Spring has sprung. The grass has riz.

I wonder where the flowers is? **THROW ME SOMETHING**

Beach residents who have moved away or who are still evaguees managed to get back for the Krewe of Wrecks parade. Cyndi Schumaker, Tallahassee, Bob Shubob, Kathryn Curle, Laura Spraggins and many others came home for the parade. Where was Bunkie?

NEW SKIPPERS

The Pensacola Beach Yacht Club is welcoming the following new members: Preston and Ramona Brogdon, Nashville; Bruce Yates, Gulf Breeze; and Randy and Diane Godwin, Pensacola.

TEN O'CLOCK SCHOLAR

Taylor Sexton who is in the third grade at Pensacola Beach Elementary School was late for classes every morning while the students were attending school in Gulf Breeze. When repairs were complete on the Beach School, and the students moved back, the teacher's aide in the third grade, Monika Springer, challenged Taylor. She promised that if he would get to school on time during the months of January and February, she would serve brownies to the whole class. Well, the whole class is cheering Taylor. He won the challenge and they had a brownie party.

TEXAS TENNIS, ANYONE?

How does the card shuffling boss of the Texas Hold 'Em 4 Fun poker get tennis elbow? Ask Rick Uzdevenes.

HOLIDAY

Marie Steele, who spends most of her time as an insurance adjuster took a break over the Mardi Gras holiday. She's been working endless hours in Mississippi, so getting back home for the Wrecks parade was a special treat.

GREAT GALS

Like mother, like daughter.

Celene Sessions and her mom, Melanie Waite were both nominated for the prestigious Women of the Year Award during the Sacred Heart Spirit of Women ceremony last month. Melanie, who was Queen of Coma in 1994 and Celene, a Wrecks Deckhand in 1989, are both school teachers.

GOOD MORNING, WENDI AND TOMMY

Wendi and Tommy Grice put Pensacola Beach and Pensacola on the national map a couple of weeks ago when they showed up outside the Good Morning

America studio. It was easy for the weatherman who talks to the crowd outside ABC to spot Wendi and Tommy, who were wearing gigantic hats decorated with beach scenes, the Blue Angels and Roy Jones, Jr. among others. They wore Pensacola Beach shirts and lots of Mardi Gras beads. When Coker asked Tommy a question, the usual glib Tommy seemed too tired to answer. After all, they had been standing on the street since 4 a.m., waiting their turn to showcase Northwest Florida.

Letters to the Editor

Restoring Faith

Nan Harper and I were coming back from Mobile Saturday, March 4 and had a blowout on I-10. After pulling over and assessing the situation we noticed a car pull up with a quick offer to help. The gentleman took over the problem and changed our tire within 10 minutes and we were on our way. After completing the job at hand he identified himself as Joey Braswell, an Escambia County Deputy and steadfastly refused any monetary compensation. We would like to thank him for his help for I don't know how long we would have been stuck on the side of the road. He restores our faith in humanity!

John Pinzino
Broker/Owner
Island Realty of Pensacola
Beach

Beach Thoughts

Hi Everyone.

I am receiving *Island Times*. It really makes me homesick. The Beach has changed so much since Ivan, but the hearts and spirits of all the Beach people will always survive.

Through the loss of our loved ones we really learn to appreciate the value of life. I've only made a few friends here, and have mostly turned into a recluse. Can you believe that? I won't be there for Mardi Gras. I know the Beach will party on without me. I'll be there in 2007. My thoughts will be with the Beach people, now and forever.

I love you all,
Sandy Watkins
Sandy Watkins, Krewe of Wrecks
Mardi Gras Queen in 1993, was a popular member of the Beach family for many years. She lives in Asheville, NC.

• TRIVIA • TRIVIA • TRIVIA • TRIVIA

Amy Drees was the first to answer the trivia question which was: "The biggest event on Pensacola Beach in March is the St. Patrick's Day Pub Crawl, founded by the late Paddy Blake. For many years, Paddy had a close Irish friend who co-chaired the event.

"What is this person's name?" Richard Dancer is the correct answer. Richard owned the Beach Laundry, and is now employed at WalMart in Gulf Breeze. So, Amy wins the coveted *Island Times* t-shirt.

Remember trivia is open to

everyone. If you are the first to email the correct answer to the following question, you will win a t-shirt. "The court jester, the go-to prankster, the Beach jokester be performing his usual April tomfoolery this year? Who is he?"

The rules are the same.

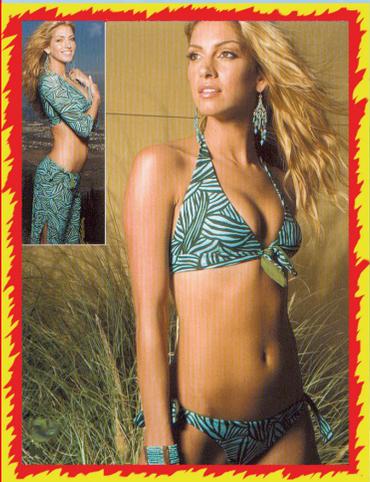
Email your answer with "Trivia" in the subject line to islandtimes@bellsouth.net before 5 p.m. March 22.

Be sure to include your name and phone number. An *Island Times* t-shirt awaits the first correct emailed answer.

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Yo Ho Ho - Pirates Capture Biggest Treasure

Float judges never had time to sip their champagne after the Krewe of Wrecks better-than-ever parade began to roll in front of the pavilion reviewing stand on Sunday, February 26.

Lee Gunn, one of the most popular deputies who served the Beach for sixteen years, was the Honorary Grand Marshal, leading the parade. The entourage of Krewe of Wrecks royalty followed, just ahead of the forty float procession.

Thousands of spectators were having fun, but the judges were hard at work, choosing the best floats. Winners of the Grand Marshall Award, for the overall best float were the Pirates of the Lost Treasure.

Other winners were:

Small Floats

- 1. Krewe of Seville
- 2. Pensacola Beach Yacht Club Moonlight Madness
- 3. Krewe of Margaritaville

Medium Floats

- 1. Krewe of Seville II

- 2. Krewe of Konfusion
 - 3. Krewe of Navarre Jesters
- Large Floats**
- 1. Krewe of Bula
 - 2. Krewe of Junkanoo
 - 3. Pirates of the Lost Treasure

And what did the revelers like most about the parade? Beads, beads and more beads. Everyone went home with just as many "throws" as they could carry. The Krewe of Wrecks put on their usual spectacular show ... fabulous floats and buckets of beads.



Dressed as a Beach Flip Flop, Krewe of Junkanoo Captain Amy Cheshire partied with all her heart and sole, Sunday, February 26. The Junkanoo float ran away with second place in the large float category during the Krewe of Wrecks parade on Pensacola Beach. Amy said they had been kicking around an idea for a theme and came up with the colorful, quirky beach sandal costumes.

Look Out New Orleans, Here Come The Beach Elks

Compliments to the Elks' chefs were heard all over the Beach at the Krewe of Wrecks twenty-sixth annual Red Beans and Rice free luncheon at Casino Beach. More than 1500 bowls of the spicy delicacy were served on Monday, Feb. 27 along with hundreds of sausage sandwiches. The members of the Woman's Club team, captained by Evelyn Wright, were the servers again for the twenty-sixth time.

"Each lady on the team has her own position," Chrissy Cook, Woman's Club president said. "The ladies will not let anyone replace them or disturb the team

order."

The ladies have established their own efficient assembly line which starts with Trish Burnett, the Dish Lady. She hands the bowl to Sharon Peirce, the Ricer. Naomie Jones is the Bean Spooner and Carleen Wheeler stirs the pots with her canoe paddle. Jane, McGrath, Keeper of the Coins, reminds everyone that donations are welcome. Members of the Bread Brigade are Mildred Price, Ruby Mantooh, and Shelby Smith.

Donations for local charities were more than generous according to Andrea Brunt, Head Wreck.



Pensacola Beach Woman's Club members serve at the world's largest free red beans and rice luncheon Monday, Feb. 27. The vivacious volunteers are (L to R): Sharon Peirce, Chrissy Cook and Carleen Wheeler.



The "Miss Jane" sailed down Via de Luna with a bunch of castaways and royal misfits from the Krewe of Wrecks for the first time during the 2006 Krewe of Wrecks Mardi Gras parade. The new float is "Wrecked on these Dunes Forever" according to Vern and Betsy Phillips, float coordinators. The vessel is chartered to take the former royal court and other salty dogs through the sea of Mardi Gras partiers.

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peas, porridge & a dry martini

by kathi lewis

I can't believe it's already time for the St. Patrick's Day festivities - when the air is filled with the scent of corned beef and cabbage cooking, leprechauns begin popping up here and there and, hopefully, someone will find a four-leaf clover! (It won't be me. And if I'm that close to the ground, please help me up.) Of course, it's impossible to even think about the Pub crawl without remembering the beach Irishman who started it all here on the Island, our very own beloved and unforgettable Paddy Blake! (Yes, Richard Dancer, I know you were involved also.) And we all know they had lots of help. You may be surprised to find that my recipe today came from Paddy, but we'll get to that later.

First, I have to tell you that Paddy and Shirley have been my friends for over 20 years. Paddy loved to tell everyone that I was the only female that could call his house and ask Shirley if he could come out and play. It was true. And, if Paddy was there first, then at some point we'd call Shirley to come and play.

His worst mistake was leaving Shirley and me in Bobby D's one Sunday. We'd been drinking shooters and were having a wonderful time when we finally noticed he was gone. Now, Shirley was a little "ticked off" that he left without saying anything, so she decided to teach him a small lesson (okay, I helped). We ordered the rest of our drinks and shooters on Paddy's bar tab. The next day when he came into the bar, he was told he had a \$30 bar tab. Paddy said, "But I don't have a bar tab here!" The bartender said, "You do now."

So his first beer that day was

very costly and he never left us alone in the bar again. He swore that he told us he was leaving. Maybe we missed it. Shirley's a lot of fun even without alcohol!

Here's some drinking trivia I came across in an article somewhere: Did you know that Guinness stout has more heart-healthy flavonoids and triggers more anti-clotting activity than light colored beer? I sure didn't. And beer hops contain a type of flavonoid that may help ward off some cancers. Hops may also fight hot flashes and osteoporosis. I guess that means that more "mature" ladies need to start guzzling down the beer. They did say that you would have to drink a whole keg to get enough to make a difference. They said that was not recommended, but they didn't say it was impossible. I don't think that's much of a problem around here.

Please participate in the Pub Crawl - it's for a good cause and you'll have tremendous fun! This one's for you, Paddy. You are celebrated, loved and missed. I hope you will all join me in raising a toast to Paddy and all the Irish men and women.

Okay, let's head to the kitchen.....

GREEN BEER

1 can/bottle of your favorite beer
1 frosted mug
1 bottle green food coloring

Pour beer into frosted mug. Add as many drops of green food coloring as necessary to achieve the desired color. Serves 1

Enjoy and have a Happy St. Patrick's Day!

See ya in the kitchen...



Rulers til the end! The Krewe of Coma crowned their 2006 Queen Lynn Cieutat and King Ed Whiteley on Fat Tuesday. Well wishers filled the Sandshaker and followed the royalty in a lighted processional to The Dock to bring an official end to Mardi Gras 2006.

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

Wine Talk



with **Bob Temple**
Beach Wines and Liquors

The Most Wine-Challenged Food

There are some foods that simply do not taste good with wine. Heading this list is asparagus, a member of the lily family that contains the sulfurous amino acid methionine. This compound, in combination with the vegetable's grassy flavor, can render wines quite unpleasant. The wine that challenges asparagus most is chardonnay. Your best chance of serving asparagus with a white wine rests with steaming or microwaving the asparagus until almost done, then grilling it and serving it with sauvignon blanc or pinot grigio. The grilling process takes the bitter edge off the greenness of the asparagus. Then, you can create a harmonious balance by serving it with a wine that also has light green flavors.

HINT: Other good wines to serve with grilled asparagus include riesling, beaujolais, dolcetto, and white zinfandel.

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Deacon, AKA Braveheart's Son of a Preacher Man, is a 150 pound Newfoundland from Gulf Breeze. Deacon missed the Kritter Krawl this year because he was getting ready to show in the Pensacola Dog Fanciers' Dog Show, March 4-5 at the Equestrian Center. Deacon who is owned by Susan Carnes Garrett, put his best paw forward for the judges.



Business Buzz ~ ~

BREAKERS

You may begin to see a lot of young faces and even some pale faces. PJC, Escambia County and Santa Rosa County School began Spring Break, March 13 followed by UWF on March 20. It's non-stop kids having fun from now through Easter.

GAME DAY

No, not football. Just Bridge, Bunco, Canasta, Dominos, Mah Jong, Scrabble, Rummy, Hearts, and Poker. All of this and a fantastic lunch at Bon Appetit. This is the Pensacola Beach Woman's Club Annual Fundraiser. Get your tickets early at \$20 per person. Call Naomi Jones at 932-9644 or Linda Knell at 934-9008. The party is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, April 28.

IT'S AOK

Deb Friedman says it's time to wrap up the beads and bylaws and put everything away for next Mardi Gras season. The Association of Krewes will have a 2006 Mardi Gras on the Island wrap-up meeting Monday, March 20 at 5:30 p.m. at the Comfort Inn on

Pensacola Beach. The agenda includes the final funds distribution.

AFTER HOURS AT THE PUB

The Beach Chamber's Business After Hours meets Tuesday, March 28 at Paddy's O'Leary's Irish Pub in downtown Pensacola Beach. Island Realty is the co-host. John Pinzino and Nan Harper are issuing a special invitation to businesses and residents alike. Come on down, says John.

SOLD OUT SEA OATS

Fran McCurdy, coordinator of the Sea Oats for Sandpipers Beach School fundraiser, said she sold them all. Proceeds from the event help the school and planting the oats helps the Island. Everyone wins.

CRUISIN' THE BEACH

Celebrity motorcycle designers from California and Louisiana fueled their custom choppers at Pensacola Beach's Surf Side gas pumps. The Discovery Channel was on the Beach filming for the popular series Biker Build Off which will air sometime this fall.

National Championships Sail to PBYC

Members of the Pensacola Beach Yacht Club are ready to go as hosts for this year's United States Multihull Championships for the Alter Cup on March 18-23.

The fleet will be composed of twenty teams, including 2005 defending champions, Greg Thomas and Jacques Bernier, representing the Northeastern states. Local entries include Kirk Newkirk and

Glenn Holmes, Bob Curry and Brett Moss, and Alex Shafer and Nigel Pitt.

Events will begin Saturday, March 18 with check-in practice racing, and a welcome party at the Yacht Club. Races will take place Sunday through Thursday.

After the races on Thursday, there will be a social followed by the Awards Ceremony and entertainment.

Good News Gets Better and Better

The good news on Pensacola Beach's economic recovery just got better when owners and managers gave reports at the February 28 meeting of the Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce at the Comfort Inn.

Mardi Gras on the Island was fabulous for Island Style, according to owner, Jeff Elbert. "We did a gangbuster business," Jeff said.

Sean Rogan said Hemingway's had an explosive Mardi Gras weekend.

"We had to lock the doors at Hemingway's at 8 p.m. on Parade Day," Sean said. "We had served all the food we had, and we were completely out of everything."

Buck Lee, Santa Rosa Island Authority General Manager, told the business owners that he was very pleased with the Beach Mardi Gras, the first he has experienced since taking the Manager's position last May.

"Eight or nine thousand vehicles came through the Toll Booth on Parade Day Sunday," Buck said. "The crowd was large, the businesses were filled and everyone had a great time."

And Mardi Gras is just the beginning of what appears to be a banner year for Beach businesses. Hotels are already mostly booked for Memorial Day Weekend and Fourth of July. They are booked solid for the Blue Angels Air Show. Hotels will again be filled November 14-17 when NCAA athletes will use Pensacola Beach for their Olympic Village during their soccer

and cross country running competitions.

An announcement was made that Flounder's and Crabs are now open for lunch, beginning at 11 a.m. Also, the Fishing Pier is back to its full, 24 hour-a-day

schedule.

March's business meeting will be at Springhill Suites, Tuesday, March 28 at 8:30 a.m. Business After Hours will be the same day at 5:30 p.m. at Paddy O'Leary's and is co-hosted by Island Realty.

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Bananimals Give and Give, But Never Bark, Claw, Hiss, Oink or Cluck

Some beach krewes may have gone back to their dens to rest after their four month Mardi Gras celebration which ended on Fat Tuesday, February 28. But not the Krewe of Bananimals, who met at their headquarters in The Islander Lounge on Sunday, March 5, to plan for next year's

festivities and to take proper care of all their charities.

Artie Davis, reigning Bananimal King, opened the meeting with thank yous to their support group including Pete and Angela Moore, Tom and Cindy Cerullo, Rob and Tina Jackson, Charles Henry, and Kevin

Rudski, owner of the Islander Lounge.

"We had a great time at our All Krewe Ball," Artie said. "And we plan to continue the tradition."

Members then voted to hold the 2007 Ball on January 27 at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Karen Cook Cowen enlisted the help of the Bananimals in filling 150 Easter baskets for "Karen's Kids," children in protective custody in Santa Rosa County.

"We need donations of cash, wrapped candy, crayons and other items for the baskets,"

Karen said. Bananimals can bring their donations to their next meeting on April 2. Donations from the public will be welcome. Donors can take their gifts to the Real Estate House at 731 Pensacola Beach Blvd. no later than April 5. For information or to have your contribution picked up, call Mary Jo Tibbits at 916-0599.

Before adjourning to the bar for drinks and pizza, the Bananimals voted to donate \$200 to the St. Patrick's Day Pub Crawl.

Dues for the Krewe are \$80 per year. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Krewe should get in touch with Artie Davis at 324-2906.

Weeks Takes Win In Monthly Poker Championship



Capt. J. O. Weeks is the Texas Hold 'Em 4 Fun Poker Chaption.

Weekly winners of the Texas Hold 'Em 4 Fun on Pensacola Beach gathered for a Championship Round Friday, March 3 at the Paradise Bar and Grill. J.O. Weeks rose to the top of the heap which included Vance Teeple, Jeff Vowell, Erin Servies, Gary Schrock, Joe Damario and Jeff Lockwood. J.O. is now the Grand Champion for February. Ken Dubose was a dealer during the Champions Tournament.

Action at the end of February heated up at the Paradise with Joe DeMario edging out Jeff Lockwood for the win on Feb. 27. The following Monday sported a record crowd when 31 players signed up to test their skill. Larry

Richard took all the chips with Jeff Vowell as the runner-up.

Wednesday games are hosted at The Islander Lounge. When players graced those hallowed tables on March 1, Trey Dunlap played to victory. David Osborne finished ahead of Fran Cox in the March 8 poker tourney.

Texas Hold 'Em 4 Fun Poker games are held on Pensacola Beach on Monday and Wednesday nights beginning at 7 p.m. There is no charge to play and only a basic knowledge of poker is necessary.

"You can even get Poker Wear now that we have t-shirts for sale," quipped Saltwater Rick, poker promoter.



Artie Davis lets the beads fly off the Bananimals float.

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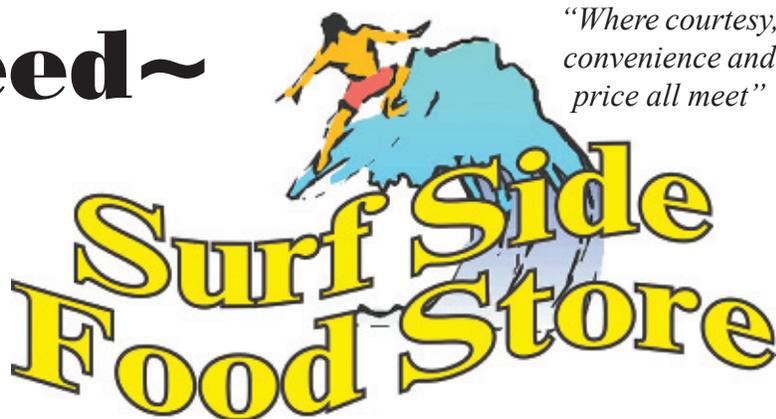
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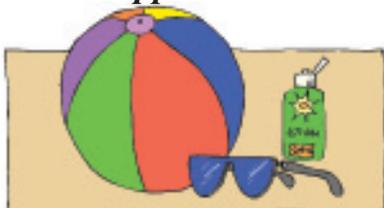
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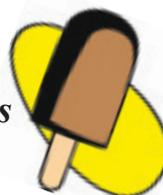
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The LIZZARD'S TONGUE

by E.K. Hewson



March 17 has always been very lucky for me even though I carry no Irish genes (unless you count the jeans I wore to McGuire's in the 1980s). There is no Seamus O'Shaughnessy or Maggie O'Toole in any of my family's lineage. Yet the luck of the Irish has always been by my side particularly during some of the most memorable times in my life.

It was 17 years ago at McGuire's Prediction Run, while sitting on the curb awaiting our results and sweating out one too many Irish drinks from the Pensacola Beach St. Patrick's Day Pub Crawl held the night before, that my boyfriend professed his undying love for me. I

guess it wasn't the 10K run followed by a few green beers that were talking as Harry made good on his promise and today I refer to him as my husband.

Some years later on March 17, we adopted our dog from FOCAS, an animal rights group in San Diego, California. Charlie is still hanging tough for being 15-years-old and partially blind. He has defended his turf in four different states, seven houses and with a determined spirit in spite of five cross country military moves.

It was also nine years ago on March 17 that I found out I was pregnant. As I imagined how my belly would arch much like a perfect rainbow, I realized that there

would be no pot of gold at one end, but something much more valuable when then time came - our son. Thank goodness it was not a leprechaun as some had predicted.

So as Harry (my husband), Harry (our son), Charlie (the dog) and I went on a four-leaf clover hike last weekend, I wasn't too upset when we came up empty handed. In fact, I don't think I have ever found a four-leaf clover; but somewhere in my life I have found faith, hope, and love. As for luck, my husband always says that is something you make yourself - no leaf needed. And that from a man who has a long list of Irish names in his lineage.

Until next time, Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Luv, Lizzard

The Beauty & Beach

By Danah & Gwen Gibson

Pink. Juicy. Nude. Sheer. Don't be scared, these are all the buzzwords on the Spring Lip trends! The overly-lined two toned look is over and has been for quite sometime! Here are some hints to get out of the winter rut and change things up a bit.

Lips are going very light this year. A lot of natural or nude colors of lipstick, or just use your favorite lip liner and gloss right over it. That way you have a nice gloss with a little color. It's pretty long-lasting. If you want a really natural look, but aren't sure what shade to choose, try and get one closest to the inside of your lower lip. This also helps with

which tone to use, too.

For a nighttime look shiny gloss in deep hues of blue-red, plum, bronzes, and bright crimson are matched with a pale eye color, heavy liquid eyeliner and extra long eyelashes, (think 40s and 50s glamour pin-up girls). Try a fleck of gold shimmer eyeshadow right in the center of your bottom lip for the Angelina pout and swept across your eyelids for an added sparkle. Flick whatever is left on your brush on your cleavage for some glimmer there. You never know when the light will hit you in such a way that you might need a bit of shine in this area.

Here's to a beautiful you!



Nauga Queen II Gwen Gibson, left, is greenin' up the Morgan Park as she presents Dot Morgan with a cash donation. The Naugas gathered the green from the proceeds of the Nauga Champagne Breakfast and Native Noontime Ball prize drawing.

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MARDI GRAS IS FOR LOVERS - so Angele and Jim Hardin have traveled many years to Pensacola Beach from Atlanta for the Krewe of Wrecks celebration. The newlyweds, who were married February 14 in Las Vegas, attended the Coma Coronation at The Sandshaker on February 28. Angele said they will be back next year for their anniversary.

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Esposito's Surf Report



by Freddy Esposito

How soon we forget.....

Okay, it's time for me to say this! For the last few months, all I hear and see on network and cable TV is coverage of the aftermath of Katrina. There's footage of New Orleans and updates daily on progress or lack of.

It's like the only hurricane that anyone talks about. Hey folks, what about those other storms that ravaged the entire Gulf Coast? You know, a little storm named Ivan - or Dennis.

Oh...how soon America forgets. Here on Pensacola Beach, it's still an uphill climb. Construction is everywhere. Roads are being rebuilt. Trash is still abundant and life is not back to normal..

Hey, I know that Katrina was a terrible storm and my heart goes out to all, but what about us? Are we not good news anymore? We were hit by two hurricanes, three tropical storms - all in a one year span of time.

New Orleans was not hit directly by Katrina. What about Waveland and Gulfport? They took a direct hit.

But news sells and New Orleans is news.

We should never forget anyone that has been hit by these horrible storms. In no way am I discounting what happened to our

friends in New Orleans who have had a hard time and my prayers still go out to them, but I live here and see this everyday. Not just on the beach, but all over our area.

When you read the papers, they say that everything is back to normal out here on the beach. What? Normal is a strange way to put it!

Just drive past the Core Area and tell me if that looks normal to you. Trailers. Debris fields and good people still waiting for their insurance companies to pay off. No sea oats. No greenery. No sand dunes, and the surfbreaks well, that's a whole new subject.

Sure, the bars are open and you can eat and party as much as you want, but tell that to a family who still lives in town or in a FEMA Trailer. Are they ready for Summer 2006?

Thanks for letting me rant. Sometimes it might help. Stay Stoked.

Priorities

by Pete Della Ratta

What is the dilemma? You have the right tackle, the right rod and reel, a boat which doesn't sink, the right wind conditions, and the right water temperature! So, why am I not catching any fish? It's because I'm at home doing the what nots around the house that I didn't do the last few weekends I was fishing. Once again, I am playing catch up because I want to do my part. Sound familiar? It happens all too often here.

Here's an idea for the day you are not on the water. Get ready and with all your fishing equipment in the vehicle, whether by boat or land, head to one of the many local fish markets in town. If it makes you feel better, pull the boat behind you when you go. When you get there, waiting is all too familiar because the selection is too hard to choose from. After you bag your selection, you will feel partially satisfied, because for once, coming home empty handed is not an option. You will have had the chance to smell and see all different types of fish while saving money on gas. If you are known to be the local hero of fishing then be as inconspicuous

as possible and leave the boat at home.

The smart angler knows what fish can be cooled inshore at the moment (redfish, trout, sheepshead, shark, and the all tasty pompano) and offshore (trigger, grouper, bigger sharks, the hard fighting amberjack (AJ), tuna, and different species of snapper except the infamous Red Snapper) and soon to be cobia once the water temp is near 70 degrees.

If you know some secret spots in the bay you can catch some grouper and snapper but make sure you know the rules

and regs of what you can keep and what can cost you a lot of money in fines. Why would you want to keep a juvenile fish when you can let it go and catch it when it has had breakfast, lunch, and dinner for a few years?

Until then, enjoy your days on the water fishing, cruising, or doing the what nots at home. Just remember, nothing beats coming home exhausted with the fish you spent all day working to catch.



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Wednesday
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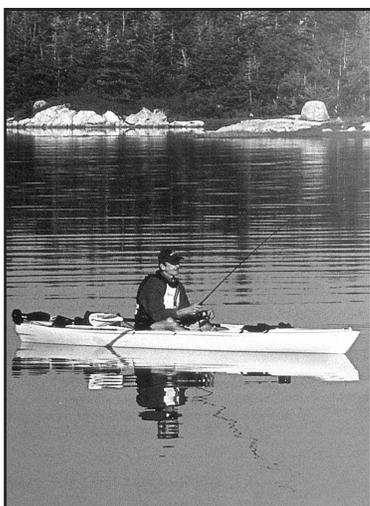
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A Cross in the Sand

By Dr. Chuck Randle

Pastor, Pensacola Beach Community Church

Very soon we will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day. In the church denomination to which I serve, saints are not high on the radar screen. We have no mechanism for raising people to sainthood, either posthumously or otherwise. We don't pray to the saints, though we have no quarrel with those who do. We do sometimes speak of people being saints with a small "s", which generally refer to those who seem to fulfill all the requirements of exceptionally good people. But, we do go along with the culture in observing St. Patrick's Day.

St. Patrick is traditionally known for removing all the snakes out of Ireland, which is

false, as are many of the stories associated with him. We know he was born in Britain to wealthy parents, and at the age of sixteen was abducted and taken to Ireland. After about six years he escaped, got involved in religion and returned to Ireland as a Christian missionary. He was highly regarded and today, not only the Irish, but many people celebrate his special day. Some celebrate with great gusto and others are rather subdued, but however we celebrate it we should remember that Patrick serves as a good example of what one person can do. In that sense, we can all be saints with a small "s"!

Talented St. Patrick - Missionary, Slave, Singer

by Candace Segar

Saint Patrick was a missionary in Ireland during the 5th century. Historians believe he was born in southwestern Britain approximately 389. His name at that point was Succat.

During his young life, Succat was kidnapped and brought to Ireland and renamed Patrick. It is thought that he lived in either the County Autrim or County Connacht for six years as a herdsman and slave, and that it was during this time that he had a vision. He managed to escape to the northern coast of Gaul and was later ordained a priest. Upon this change he decided to return to Armagh, a town in northern Ireland and founded a church. After 431 Patrick succeeded St. Palladius, who was Ireland's first bishop.

There are two surviving pa-

pers written by Patrick in Latin that attest to his familiarity with the vulgate translation of the Bible. (Basically the vulgate was a translation from Hebrew to Greek to Latin. The Latin version of the Bible was considered to be authentic by the Council of Trent.) One of his papers, entitled, *Confessions*, showed Saint Patrick to be an adherent of Pelagianism. (This is a rationale and considered to be heretical doctrine emphasizing human free will and minimizing the need for divine intervention and

redemption.) In addition to his writing skills he also composed music. Saint Patrick wrote a strange chant called the Lonic which is found in the Book of Hymns.

He is also known for his creativity with the shamrock. He used it to emphasize the "Trinity" as defined by the church during his life. Saint Patrick's Day is actually a feast day on March 17. This day allows Christians to take a short break from Lent and to celebrate the beginnings of the Irish conversion to Christianity.

THE SEAGULLS SING

I've Been Searching for a Path By Sage Baird

*I've been searching for a path,
But I haven't found one yet.
My path might find me,
Yet I doubt it, can't you see.
I've been searching mighty long,
And have been waiting, too.*

*And suddenly have the urge to feel mighty blue.
I don't understand it.
No, I don't.
All I understand are wills and won'ts.
So, I keep searching. Hoping my search will end.
It hasn't yet, but, then, I'm only 10.*



Sandpipers Invite Everyone To Beach School Open House

Pensacola Beach Elementary School has extended invitation to the community to attend the Open House of their new school. Students returned to the rebuilt structure on January 3, and the school has come a long way in getting back to normal. The event will be Thursday, March 30 beginning at 4 p.m.

"The students and staff at PBES would like to encourage all public and businesses to attend to show appreciation to all of those who were involved in getting us home again," Conna O'Donovan, event chairman said.

The charter school which was almost destroyed by Hurricane Ivan was not only restored, but upgraded, over a 16-month period of construction.

PBES is once again seeking businesses and organizations as Partners-In-Education. For more information, contact Conna O'Donovan at 232-4001.

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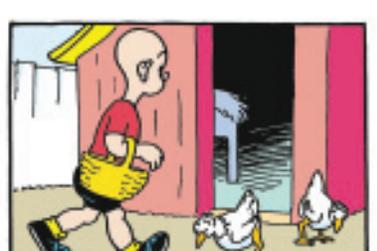
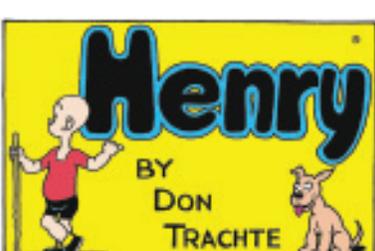
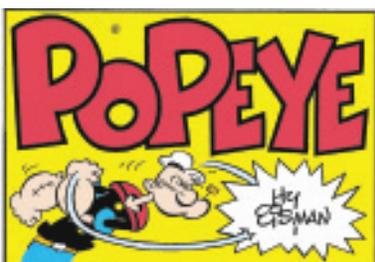
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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) The week promises a calmer aspect. Although there might be some lingering effects of a recent job problem, things should continue to ease up. Also expect a change in a home-based situation.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) If you feel uneasy about a colleague's suggestion, it might be that your wise inner Taurean guide is alerting you to a potential problem. Stepping away could turn out to be the right thing to do.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A family get-together opens up new opportunities for renewing ties. It can be especially effective in dealing with disagreements that should have been, but were never fully resolved.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You might be surprised at the response you get to a recent decision. You might be even more surprised by the reasons behind it. In any event, you'll learn something important.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Your aspects favor resolving any tensions left over from a recent incident. You might want to consider having a "clear-the-air" talk as soon as you can. A call can lead to a change of plans.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Avoid repeating yourself. If your first few efforts fail to connect, maybe it's because you haven't found the right way to get your message across. Try changing your approach.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Good intentions plus a strong resolve to succeed can take you where you want to go. Don't give up just because someone suggests you might be pursuing an impossible cause.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) An unexpected setback can be a blessing in disguise. Use it to re-check your facts and how you've presented them. Meanwhile, look for ways to expand your contacts.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You should finally be seeing a positive change in a recent personal situation. However, an on-the-job matter might need more attention than you realized. Stay with it.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) While you should be close to completing an important matter, you still need to focus on being focused. But things ease up in time for weekend fun with family and friends.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A certain matter might take an unexpected turn. Don't simply accept it; ask for an explanation. What you learn might be helpful in shifting the situation around to your benefit.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Projecting a positive attitude helps restore calm even when you're confronting some pretty stormy situations. Stay the course. The outcome will be well worth your efforts.

BORN THIS WEEK: While you enjoy tradition and stability, you also appreciate the good things that change can bring.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS are \$5 for 20 words. Additional words are 10 cents each. Send ad with check made payable to Shelley Ink, P.O. Box 844, Gulf Breeze, FL 32562.

Real Estate

Lots on Pensacola Beach Santa Rosa Villas Estates
Lot 7 Calle Marbella, Gulf View Gated Subdivision
\$545,000 MLS:290526
Santa Rosa Villas

1754 Ensenada Seis, Gulf Front Lot, In Private Cul-De-Sac, \$1,680,000 MLS:288030
Santa Rosa Villas Estates
Lot 35 Ensenada Marbella, Direct Gulf View, In Private Cul-De-Sac, \$950,000 MLS:278391

603 Ariola Drive

Corner Lot, Located across from Gulf, Public easement to Gulf, \$840,000 MLS:293192
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BEACH

WARNING FLAGS

For your swimming safety please note which flag is flying prior to entering the water. For added protection swim in areas with life-guards.



Water Closed to Public



High Hazard High Surf and/or Strong Currents



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John Parrish can find the car for you. Call John at Pete Moore Imports 850-341-1200. Stop in and see John Monday thru Thursday and Saturday.

For Sale

BEDROOM SET - 7 piece Solid Wood Set, still in box. Retail \$3000. Sell \$1095. Can deliver 850-418-2015

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PLUSH TOP

Full from \$125
Queen from \$140

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Cleaning

Capable, Bonded, Licensed Available to clean your home or office. Please call 850-490-5817 or 850-494-0964 for an appointment.

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

P	L	E	A	R	A	M	S	I	L	O
D	O	W	N	S	I	D	E	A	V	O
Q	U	E	S	T	I	O	N	L	A	C
	W	A	S	T	H	A	N	K	S	
A	B	B	E	Y	S	I	A	M		
S	E	A	R	C	H	O	R	I	Z	O
P	A	L	S	H	A	N	K	O	P	A
M	I	S	H	A	P	S	A	N	E	W
	H	O	P	E	S	C	E	N	E	
E	N	T	R	E	E	A	I	R		
P	E	R	I	R	E	S	P	O	N	S
O	V	U	M	O	M	I	S	S	I	O
S	E	E	P	N	U	S	S	L	U	G

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Entreaty
- 5 Aries
- 8 Grain storage site
- 12 Disadvantage
- 14 Acknowledge
- 15 It may be popped
- 16 Doily fabric
- 17 Existed
- 18 "Much obliged"
- 20 Westminster, for one
- 23 "The King and I" setting
- 24 Burn a bit
- 25 Spicy pork sausage
- 28 Chum
- 29 Mutton cut
- 30 - -Locka, Fla.
- 32 Little accidents
- 34 Freshly
- 35 Clinton hometown
- 36 Where the action is
- 37 Main course
- 40 Melody
- 41 Gilpin of "Frasier"
- 42 See 4-Down
- 47 Egg
- 48 Skipper's result?
- 49 Leak slowly

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		

- 50 Greek consonants
- 51 Punch
- DOWN**
- 1 Promptly
- 2 Bud's partner
- 3 Cohort of 5-Across
- 4 Reply
- 5 Reformer Jacob
- 6 Hubbub
- 7 Brings up
- 8 Deli meat
- 9 Terrible guy?
- 10 Tress
- 11 Has bills emotion
- 13 Command to Rover
- 19 "Listen!"
- 20 Cleo's slayer
- 21 Shaft of light
- 22 Java Sea island
- 23 Form
- 25 School-dance overseer
- 26 Region
- 27 Admitting customers
- 29 Old woman's home?
- 31 Idolater's
- 33 Prawn
- 34 Not this way!
- 36 Tries the Tokay
- 37 Classic poetry
- 38 Actress Campbell
- 39 Verifiable
- 40 Unrepaired
- 43 Ostrich's kin
- 44 Goose egg
- 45 Old French coin
- 46 H.S. subj.

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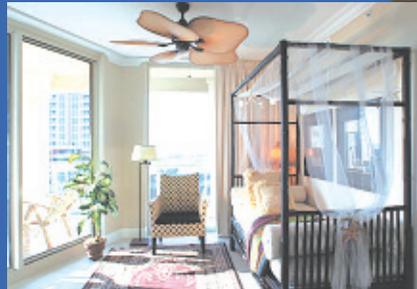


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Gulf Coast's PEOPLES CHOICE BEST OYSTERS!

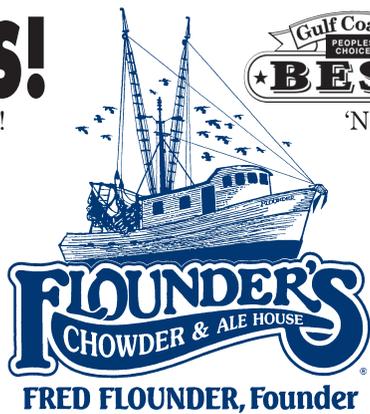
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'Neath the moon & stars on our beach

"Floundering at its best"
- Fodor's Florida

"Best seafood on Pensacola Beach"
- Fromers Guide to Florida



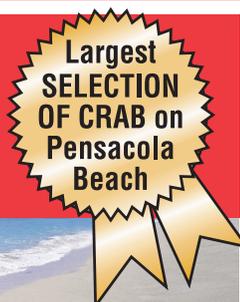
"Best seafood on Pensacola Beach"
- USAir Magazine

"Great Vibes...and happy guests"
- Florida Trend Magazine

At the traffic light on beautiful Pensacola Beach • 932-2003

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