

ISLAND TIMES

Volume I, Number 25

Pensacola Beach, Florida

April 12, 2006

Batter Up - Beach Kids



You know it's spring when the umpire calls out "Batter Up" and the first pitch is thrown. Newcomers who are making their debut in a team sport are the Beach's Sidelines Sharks T-Ball Team. They have already experienced the thrill of victory in their very first game, and they are looking forward to a winning season. The Sharks are Front Row (L to R): Cayson McCurdy, Mallory Proctor, Carlee Amberson, Blair Amberson, and Meredith McCurdy. Middle Row (L to R): Joshua Scheurich, Matthew Scheurich, Matthew McCurdy, Thomas Niven, Kaden West, and Patrick Cronin. Back Row (L to R): are coaches Ken McCurdy, Kristin Amberson, and Todd McCurdy.

SRIA Board Hosts Its Own Spring Marathon

It was the Santa Rosa Island Authority spring marathon Wednesday, April 5, when the Board crammed three meeting agendas into one four-hour session. A change in the order of committee and full board meetings made the transitional process necessary. Committee meetings will now be held on the first Wednesday of the month, followed by the full board meeting on the second Wednesday.

The full board approved a number of requests and items which had remained in committee including a regulation which prohibits the mooring of boats in Little Sabine Bay while the island is under a hurricane watch situation or a more serious hurricane condition. Boats must be removed from Little Sabine Bay within 24 hours of an announcement by the National Hurricane Center of a hurricane watch or more serious conditions.

The Board also approved a regulation which will prohibit the parking of recreational vehicles, busses, tractors, semi trailers, boats and boat trailers on public areas and parking facilities. Board member Dr. Tom Campanella cast the lone vote against this regulation, citing the fact that many of the people who arrive in large vehicles patronize island shops and restaurants.

SRIA staff reported that 65 trailers are still occupied by residents as temporary living quarters although the deadline for removing trailers was March 17. Letters of removal will be sent to all residents living in trailers. However, 45 of the 65 are on the premises of the primary residences of leaseholders, and they will be allowed to stay if the residents come to the SRIA with their requests for extensions. The other 20 must be removed.

The Board approved a con-

tract price of \$15,500 with Gulf Islands National Seashore to conduct marine turtle nesting surveys on Pensacola Beach.

The Authority also approved a contract for sand fencing in the amount of \$229,239, most of which will come from FEMA funds. They also approved of a contract of \$288,316 for dune vegetation. This project is funded by state monies.

In other matters, the Board will go forward with the canceling of the Circle K lease on Via de Luna as requested by the leaseholder and will allow Jubilee Entertainment Complex to begin the county permitting process for rebuilding, with construction based on SRIA permits.

The board also established construction deadlines for two beach businesses which have been closed since Hurricane Ivan. The Coconuts location has 18 months to complete construction

and the Holiday Inn Express will have 36 months in which to rebuild.

SRIA engineers brought the following update on hurricane repairs and road construction. According to Dave Hemphill, Baskerville and Donovan, much had been accomplished in March and all projects were on schedule for completion.

ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Stormwater Improvements are complete. Ft. Pickens Road improvements are moving toward a May 24 completion date. Via de Luna Roadway Improvements should be finished April 22.

HURRICANE REPAIRS

Sand renourishment at the SRIA office's beach and roadway

repairs at Seashore Village are complete. Both the Visitors Information Center and the SRIA Maintenance Buildings will be finished at the end of this month.

The repairs to the Toll Booth and the roads north and south of Via de Luna are slated to complete in Spring of 2006.

The Quietwater Pier will reopen in May.

Projects scheduled for Summer completion are: Casino Beach Public Restroom Facility, Fort Pickens Gate Restrooms, Park East Restrooms, Casino Beach Pavilion, Cowley Park and Fort Pickens Gate Shelters.

The next SRIA committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 3 at 5 p.m. at the Authority office. The meeting is open to the public.

Beach Businesses Report Better Than Ever Volume

Reports from Pensacola Beach businesses at the March 27 Chamber of Commerce meeting were indicators of the ongoing strong economy in the post hurricane retail community.

"We are having bigger crowds than pre-Ivan or even our grand opening. If you come to eat at 6:30, plan to wait. We're loving it," Sean Rogan, Hemingway's Restaurant manager said.

Jim Hlubeck, ERA Beach Ball Realty and Beach Chamber president said real estate on the Beach is not all gloom and doom. "Current prices are attracting buyers and properties are closing," he said.

Most hotels are enjoying near capacity weekends, and many rooms have already been booked for the summer. The Hampton Inn reopens the second week of April. The outdoor Tiki Bar at the Springhill Suites is scheduled to open mid-May. And, down the line, the Palm Beach Club will welcome residents back in October.

One of the biggest boosts to the economy will come in November when Pensacola Beach will be the "Olympic Village" housing 1000 athletes and coaches competing at UWF in the Division II NCAA National Fall Festival. Beach hotels have already been booked and sponsors are looking for other rentals and

condos. Volunteers are needed in many areas for this event. Anyone interested in helping should call Ray Palmer, 850-434-2800. Sports will be cross country, field hockey, soccer, and volleyball. Businesses can obtain information by calling the Visitor's Information Center, 932-1500.

Sandy Johnston, Beach Chamber Executive Director, announced that Blues on the Beach would continue on Tuesday nights throughout the summer, due to grant money received by the Santa Rosa Island Authority. Businesses interested in sponsoring the program during the fall should call Sandy at 932-1500.

Rick Sundstrom, president of the Pensacola Beach Optimist Club, announced that the Optimists have contributed \$30,000 over the past three years to the Pensacola Beach Elementary School.

Chrissy Cook, president of the Pensacola Beach Woman's Club, thanked Island Times and Island Realty for their cash contributions to the Club's Game Day Party.

The next meeting of the Chamber will be at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 25 at the Comfort Inn. Business After Hours will be the same day at 5:30 p.m. at the Sandshaker. It will be co-sponsored by the Best Western Hotel and ERA Beach Ball Realty.

School Invites Community to Open House

Pensacola Beach Elementary School will welcome visitors at an Open House on Thursday, April 27, beginning at 3:30 p.m. This will be the first opportunity since their return in January for school officials to show off the newly renovated and expanded facility. After Hurricane Ivan almost destroyed the school, it took

a year and a half of rebuilding before students and teacher could return to the classrooms on the Beach. While the school was under construction, classes were held first at the United Methodist Church in Gulf Breeze and later at the First Baptist Church in Gulf Breeze.

"This is our first chance to

welcome the community to see our new school," Conna O'Donovan, chairman of the event, said. "We hope we'll have a large crowd."

The school board has established a Partners-In-Education program which will be presented at the Open House. Partners may select one of five different levels. Businesses, organizations, and individuals may become partners with the school. The levels are \$250, \$500, \$1000, \$2000 and \$5000 and over. Partners in all levels will receive appropriate recognition in school publications and local media. They will also receive certificates and plaques. In addition to cash contributions, partners often develop working relationships with the students. Many partners attend school events and offer to help fill needs as they arise.

Pensacola Beach Elementary School was founded by the late Harry Gowens, and the first classes were held in his A-frame house. The school is now located at 900 Via de Luna.

Now a charter school, Pensacola Beach Elementary School ranks academically among the top schools in the State of Florida. There are 150 students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Information on all areas of the charter school will be available at the Open House.

Junkanoos Hop Along Bunny Trail

Members of the Krewe of Junkanoo have put away their Mardi Gras masks, and are now hopping down the Bunny Trail. The energetic krewe will host an Easter Party for big kids at the Sandshaker Saturday, April 15, beginning at 2 p.m. The Adults Only party will feature an Easter Egg hunt inside the bar. Games, raffles, 50/50 and prizes will be part of the festivities.

There will be a "Guess the

Number" of jelly beans in the jar contest and "Fishing for Eggs." A Bunny Hop, Deviled Egg Contest, and Easter Bonnet contest round out the day's activities.

"This is going to be a real Junkanoo blast," Amy DePew, Junkanoo president said. "There's something for everyone."

Live music, great drinks, and the Bunny Hop. Who could ask for anything more?

ISLAND TIMES

PUBLISHED EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY

JANE WATERS COOPER PUBLISHER

SHELLEY W. JOHNSON, EDITOR

Post Office Box 844 • Gulf Breeze, FL 32562

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Barefoot on the Beach



By Jane Waters Cooper

They don't sell eggs in sporting goods stores. But, they should. Eggs are not just something you eat for breakfast or hunt at Easter time. Eggs, which are the beginning of most of life, are also a significant factor in lots of sports. Especially, this time of year.

One spring, my daughter Liz and I spent a few days in the Bahamas. Liz, who never wanted to miss anything, signed up for the hotel bus tours every day. I would rather have stayed in the Casino but Liz thought the tours would enlighten us on the ways of Bahamian life.

So that's why we boarded a bus one morning and headed away on a trip called "Beach Party." When we arrived at our destination which was a run down wooden building on the Atlantic beach, the sponsors softened us up by serving rum punches. Then, the fun began. A spaghetti eating contest was followed by other lack luster competitions. I opted out of everything until Liz swore she needed me as a partner in the Over-The-Net-Egg-Toss. Eggs splattered all over the Beach as we went about the serious sport of throwing an egg back and forth until somebody missed and humpty dumptied into the sand. Liz and I finished in the top three and for all that athleticism, guess what the prize was? Rum Punch.

After the games, we returned to the hotel, and I had some really dark thoughts about spending forty dollars a piece to throw an egg over a net and drink rum in a ramshackle hut. After all. I could have been popping quarters into a slot machine, resting assured it would not pay out in rum.

The memory of that egg game in the Bahamas brings to mind the unbelievable versatility of the egg in sports. Just about everybody has run a relay at some

time carrying an egg in a spoon. There's no real purpose however, in listing here the names of all egg sports. Except for one.

And that's the notorious Egg Drop. Years ago, Sandy Johnston (yes, our own Executive Director of the Chamber) was Promotions Director for a very popular radio station, Q-100. She originated the Egg Drop which took its messy place every year in the spring on Pensacola Beach. First, the Casino Beach Parking Lot Egg Drop area was covered with plastic, a prudent idea since eggs have a tendency to stick to surfaces like glue. A crane was set up above the plastic field. Sandy and her cohorts, climbed in the crane's basket, carrying a bunch of eggs with them. One by one contestants, who had invented their own egg catchers stepped to the center of the playing field to try to catch the Q-100 egg which was falling twenty-five feet from the top of the crane. A few people actually caught an egg without breaking it. They received prizes. Not Rum Punch. One was a little boy who had a shoe box, filled with foam. His was a smart device with a wide top and plenty of protective material inside. One guy who invented the most elaborate catcher was the late Stanley. His materials were a coat hangar, a pair of panty hose, and cotton. Once assembled, it looked impressive. One problem. It didn't work. His egg went splattering to the plastic.

The Egg Drop was unquestionably the second most popular spring event on the Beach in the early eighties, topped only by the appearance of nationally famous bands.

Hundreds of spectators rimmed the plastic field, formed cheering sections, and erupted in a frenzy when some player actually caught an egg.

Well, the Egg Drop is no more. And, I haven't heard of any Over-The-Net egg tosses recently. But, all is not lost. The Krewe of Junkanoo is hosting an Adult Easter Party at the Shaker Bar, April 15. Hone you egg skills. Maybe, you'll win a Rum Punch.

Pensacola Beach Community Church

920 Panferio Dr • 932-6628

Easter Schedule

Thursday, April 13

Maundy Thursday Service, 6:30 p.m. Church

Saturday, April 15

Easter Egg Hunt, 9 a.m. Church Parking lot
Sunrise Service, 6:30 a.m. Quietwater Beach Boardwalk

Sunday, April 16

Church Easter Service, 10 a.m.

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PEOPLE



NO FOOLIN'

Christine "Bunkie" Hewerdine celebrated her birthday on April Fool's Day. She threw a party at her house and her gift to herself was having pink streaks dyed in her hair.

HOME SWEET HOME

Becky and Chris Shearman are back where they belong in their Sabine Drive residence. After living off the Beach a year and a half while their house was rebuilt, home looks better than ever.

RICHARD'S RECOVERING

Richard Wells, longtime Beach businessman and resident, is recovering after suffering a stroke in March. Nothing gets Richard down. He's driving and was visiting Judy at the Bank of the South shortly after his stroke.

HOME AT LAST

Slowly, but surely, the Beach family is reuniting and getting back to normal after Ivan broke up the close knit tribe. Jackie Henderson and her son, Thomas, moved back to their Panferio Drive home on March 25.

NEW SKIPPERS

The Pensacola Beach Yacht Club continues to welcome new members. Going on board this month are Steve and Debbie Ellis Griffin, Pensacola Beach; Rick and Peggy Van Sleen, Bruce Capps, Beverly Kellerman, Gulf Breeze; and Dodge Rees, (junior member) Pensacola.

FIRE ESCAPE

Heidi Esposito, who is a volunteer at the Pensacola Beach Elementary School heard the fire alarm go off during a reading session, but she had no experience with the drill. "What do we do," she asked?

A first grader, Edgar Shigley, stepped up and told her, "Don't worry Miss Heidi. I'll show you the way." Next time Miss Heidi gets caught in a fire drill, she'll know where to go,

thanks to Edgar.

DOIN' THE BUNNY HOP

Marie Steele broke her ankle three weeks ago and is healing from surgery at Gulf Breeze Hospital. After maneuvering around on crutches and one foot, she's a shoe in to lead the Junkanoo's Easter Bunny Hop.

A WHALE OF A TEACHER

Pete Della Ratta and his three hundred students from Woodlawn Beach Middle School will descend on Shoreline Park in Gulf Breeze this week. Pete arranged through a grant to spend three days teaching his students about fishing, water quality and

shoreline protection. There will be six hands-on stations, games, prizes and a picnic lunch. Pete is our fishing columnist, and a very cool teacher.

PRETTY FISHY

Christy Jones has the Lively One II booked for Monday, April 17. If you can get up at dark thirty and want to wet a line, then call her at 934-6535, to reserve your space. She's sure they'll be bringing home a full box of fish.

JJ'S DREAMING

JJ Waters has landed her dream job, a rep for World Publications, calling on four and five-star resorts. When she is not traveling, she is dreaming of the day that her Ariola Drive home will be completely rebuilt.



Beach business members gathered at Paddy O'Leary's Irish Pub to attend Business After Hours. The evening event was co-sponsored by Island Realty Tuesday, March 28. Chamber members were treated to hors d'oeuvres and door prizes. (L to R) Mike Cronk and Yvonne Stompe were presented with prizes by John Pinzino, Island Realty and Chamber exec Sandy Johnston. Scott Carstens and John Johnson (background) discuss Beach construction strategies.

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Trivia players, have you lost your touch? We got you on the last question. No one knew the correct answer. The question was, "Several years ago, two Beach Mardi Gras krewes sponsored parades on Easter Sunday afternoon. Can you name them?" The correct answer is the Krewe of Rock and Reggae and Krewe of Junkanoo. All right, try, try again. "Pensacola Beach used to have a season which opened on one holiday and ended on another. What were the two holidays? Better get your answer in early on this one!

The rules are the same. Email your answer with "Trivia" in the subject line to islandtimes@bellsouth.net before 5 p.m. April 19.

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

If you are really into competitive games, go to page 13 to checkout the *Island Times* Pirates in Paradise Contest. Just find where these swashbucklers hang out and you could be rich. Cash prizes to the first entry with the most correct answers.

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Beach Community Goes To Bat for Mrs. Wright

Pensacola Beach Elementary School Board members noted a significant increase in visitors at their March 27 meeting. Most of the audience had heard the possibility that Marie Wright, veteran third grade teacher, might not be rehired after teaching at Pensacola Beach Elementary School 24 years. They came to the meeting to voice their support for Marie.

Charlie Schuler, who has 31 years in education and is now a PJC administrator thanked Mrs. Wright for what she did for his children and all children.

"Now with my experience as a teacher and college administrator, I can tell you it's not just about money. An institution is judged by how it treats its people, especially a school. It's how we treat our children and how we treat our teachers. When we have to make a difficult decision we have to do what is fair for our people. So, I find it unfathomable that someone who was as good a teacher for so long as she, a teacher who successfully touched as many lives as she did, would then be asked to leave in her last year. I must admit that in my 31 years of teaching I have never heard of this," Schuler said.

Casey Trout, Mary Alice Roose and Sally Chamberlin whose children all were taught by Mrs. Wright reinforced Schuler's comments and were highly supportive of Mrs. Wright.

Peggy Baker, former teacher at PBES, and Sandee Bredesen, currently teaching at the Beach School, both praised Marie for her ability and courage.

Speaking on her own behalf Mrs. Wright said, "When PBES became a charter school all the current teachers were asked to stay as leased employees. They made a commitment and a good faith promise that we would remain here as teachers for as long as we wished to stay. They felt that this was of paramount importance to the student's success at this school. Mr. Castleberry asked why I felt any hurt about the end of my employment. My attempt to reply is this: It sends a message to the community and the school that I am not a good teacher. It implies that I have done something very wrong.

Since employees of 24 years as a teacher are not generally removed from their position unless they have failed in teaching the children. I feel that this places a black mark on my reputation as an educator. I have not had any formal or informal observations of my teaching over the last three years, have not been told by my supervisor of any specific areas of inadequacy, nor have I been counseled or given any specific direction to change my teaching style. My end of the year evaluations have always been satisfactory. My third grade classes FCAT scores have consistently been at the top of the county. Last year's class was the only one in Escambia County where every student passed both reading and math. I never envisioned my career at the Beach School would end this way."

Vernon Niven, responding for the Board said, "We now have eight weeks to work on this. In defense of the Board, we have never been in this situation before. We have no experience with this. My recommendation right now is how the community might best serve the needs of Mrs. Wright, the school and our parents. We need to spend the next eight weeks working within the Sunshine Law. We will get all the input we need and try to come up with the right answers. That's our job. We'll make the right decision."

In other business, Todd McCurdy said one thousand dollars was needed to have playground equipment, which was donated by the Hampton Inn, incorporated into the existing playground equipment. The Board approved the expenditure.

Beach school children will have shade when a 25 by 40 foot aluminum frame with a canvas top is installed on the grounds. The school received a grant to cover the cost of the sun shade according to Vernon Niven.

A discussion on the class size cap resulted in the Board's decision to retain the current written procedures and adhere to the Florida State standards which puts the total school population at 116.

The PBES Board meets next on April 24 at 6 p.m. at the School. The meetings are open to the public.

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by kathi lewis

Well, I hope you're all sitting down - we actually had a party that did not take place at Paulette Provost's house! Paulette's only complaint about my last column was that I failed to mention that we were at her house when Courtney gave me a ride home. So, there Queen Shugah, are you happy now?

Anyway, the party was for Christine Hewerdine's Birthday. She is better known as "Bunkie" to the beach crowd. We went to her house. Christine has her own "island" in her backyard and it is gorgeous! In fact, she had a sign (before Ivan the Terrible) that said "Christine's Island." Lonnie, her husband, did all the tile work surrounding the pool and it is beautiful. So, now you know why Bunkie doesn't come out to the beach often - all she has to do is go in her backyard. Well, since Ivan, a lot of us have been and still are in - her "backyard".

Lonnie has worked on a crane for over 20 years and, for the first time ever, is now working on our Beach. Beep when you see him, he's between the Hilton and the Hampton. Welcome to the Beach, Lonnie!

The birthday party was wonderful and I want Lonnie's recipe for that jalapeno dip - it was great! We were lucky to spend some time chatting and catching up with Liz Hewson - Lizzard's Tongue columnist.

Here's a "forgot to mention." It was great to see Janice Morgan (long-time islander who moved to Montgomery to be near her parents) and her beau, Randy. They are the great Nauga Hunters and I don't think they've ever

missed a Nauga breakfast.

Okay, I'll get to what I'm supposed to be writing since this is about Easter. We'll be going to Georgia to see the relatives, watch the grandchildren hunt for eggs, and eat tons of food. We haven't seen them in six months, so we're all excited. There's 20 grandchildren from 15 years old down to six months. We still hold our family gatherings at my Mother's house. I know that she and Daddy are watching and are pleased that we will be together, as always, for holidays. My favorite food for Easter (besides all the things you can make with left-over eggs) is Coconut Cake. You can't have Easter without Coconut cake! You can make so many shapes - eggs, bunny, baskets. Besides it's the icing that really makes this cake. Okay, let's cook...

FRESH COCONUT CAKE
1 box butter yellow cake mix
(mix as directed & bake)
Let layers cool completely.

ICING FOR COCONUT CAKE
1 - 8 oz. cup Cool Whip
1 - 8oz. cup sour cream
2 tsp. vanilla flavoring
½ cup powdered sugar
½ package grated (frozen or fresh) coconut

Mix ingredients well. Spread over cake. You can sprinkle remaining coconut over frosted cake, but I don't because I don't like dry coconut. Chill in refrigerator.

If you're so inclined, you can make your cake from scratch, but I don't have the time or energy, and as I said - it's the icing that really makes this cake. Have a safe and happy Easter everyone and I'll see ya in the kitchen....



No Fools, Just Friends - Christine "Bunkie" Hewerdine celebrated her birthday, Saturday, April 1. There were no April Fools jokes for her, just old friends to wish her happy birthday. Well wishers surrounding Christine (center) include (L to R): Pat Rovai, Mia Polaski, Kathi Lewis and Liz Hewson.



Deputy White House Chief of Staff Karl Rove got a chance to talk about beach politics with local Realtor Nan Harper. Rove was speaking at a Republican banquet hosted at the Hilton Garden Inn, on Pensacola Beach Friday, March 31.

Wine Talk

with Bob Temple
Beach Wines and Liquors

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT IN A WHITE WINE?

Galicia is a region of Spain just north of Portugal. Not only is it separated from the rest of the country by its Celtic background, it also has an atypical climate. Instead of being hot and dry, like the rest of Spain, its position next to the Atlantic gives it a maritime climate. While cool and damp for part of the year, the summers are sunny and dry. These are perfect conditions in which the thick-skinned white grape variety known as Albarino thrives in the important wine district of Rias Baixas. Wines made from this white grape are pale gold in color and dry, with melon flavors. This is a white wine that certainly merits consideration.

Hint: In Portugal, Albarino goes by the name of Alvarinho, which is a principal component of the local Vinho Verde wine.

If you are looking for white wine alternatives. Look no further than Beach Wines and Liquors, Inc. We can provide you with experienced expertise that can lead you to the perfect wine choice. We guarantee your satisfaction with any purchase made here. Questions? Call 932-8850. -adv - -

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Business Buzz ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

KIDS FRIENDS

After a Santa Rosa County resident donated one million dollars and land, the Santa Rosa Kids House will become a reality. Officers in the organization which does volunteer work with the children in protective custody are Beach residents Angela Moore, vice president; Karen Cook Cowen, secretary; and Pete Moore, treasurer. The Kids House will provide space for all agencies involved with helping the children.

GET SMART

If you haven't already marked your calendar for the Capital Gains Team Seminar at the Bay Beach Inn in Gulf Breeze for April 13 from 7 to 9 p.m., write it down now. This important meeting will be presented by a group of professionals who will provide information on buying and selling in today's market. This seminar is informational only. There will be no selling of services.

MACK IS BACK

Renee Mack, well known Beach chef, is now one of the happy staffers at Paradise Bar and Grill. Anyone who has tasted Renee's fabulous meals, will be glad to hear she's back in the Pensacola Beach restaurant mainstream.

YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE

Beauty columnist Danah Gibson and Mary Kay Sales Director Susan Haselton-Barr want you to be Beach beautiful without leathery skin. Ask them for the latest to protect and perfect skin and hair.

TURN UP THE HEAT

We're roasting Mayor Bob! If you have a story about the long time Mayor of Pensacola Beach, Bob Merriman, then appear at the Shaker, Thursday, April 27 at 8 p.m. Be ready to toast and roast. If you have never met the Mayor, get there early, to grab a front row bar stool.

OFF BEACH OFFICE

Linda and Wally at the UPS Store in Bruno's Shopping Center in Gulf Breeze can be your off-beach office center.

They offer just about every office service you can think of plus postal and shipping. All that and you can even pick out a clever birthday card there.

PIRATES

PegLeg Pete says he is looking through his spyglass down Fort Pickens Road for approaching scallywags. If you can get past him, then come in for a Snow Crab Bucket Special on Tuesdays.

COWBOY BLING

Pandora de Balthazar has temporarily traded her beach dress for a sparkling rhinestone belt buckle and fancifully embroidered jeans. She is overseeing her Antique European Linens store in Roundtop, Texas.

Pandora said in Texas it doesn't mean a thing, if it doesn't have some bling!

JERRY DELIVERS

Don't waste a minute of your precious Beach time worrying about groceries. Call The Market and have the whole list delivered right to your Beach house or condo. Get some homemade pie for dessert.

MIKE VISITS THE ADMIRAL

Mike Lloyd and his graduating class from Whiting Field celebrated their April 7 winging with a Friday night party at Flounder's on the Beach. Admiral Fred Flounder gave an appropriate send off to the new Naval aviators.

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Get Your Tickets - It's Game Day

March Madness is over. Football is in the off season. So, the coaches at the Pensacola Beach Woman's Club are hosting Game Day on Friday, April 28. The games begin at 10 a.m. with lunch from 12 to 1 and more games until 3 p.m. The always popular event will be at the Bay Beach Inn. Cost is \$20 per person.

Teams and individuals can

participate in Bridge, Bunco, Mah Jong, Rummy, Hearts, Dominoes, and Scrabble. There will be door prizes, a silent auction, and a 50/50 drawing.

The festive luncheon attracts a sell out crowd. Tickets must be purchased prior to the party date. Contacts for tickets are: Naomi Jones, 932-9644; Carol Stark, 934-5836 and Linda Knell, 934-9008.

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Buck Lee Wins Distinguished Citizen Award

The Pensacola Beach Elk's Lodge presented their annual awards at their installation meeting March 25. The coveted Elk's Distinguished Citizenship award went to Buck Lee, Santa Rosa Island Authority General Manager. He was recognized for his dedication and service to the residents and businesses of Pensacola Beach. The award cited his diligent work after Hurricane Ivan which facilitated a prompt and efficient recovery.



Buck Lee

been challenging for our community," Buck said. "But I am proud to see it coming back to life."

A special award went to Dick Zelius, who received the Distinguished Service Award for his 43 years of work in various capacities. He's been the secretary for 35 years, served two terms as Exalted Ruler, one as Esquire and has been a five year trustee.

He not only received a plaque, but also funding for a trip to Las Vegas with his wife, Claire.

Rick Van Dyk was named Elk of the Year and Larry



Dick Zelius

Gunter was named Officer of the Year. Recognized for meritorious service to the lodge were Jim McReynolds, Dave Perry, Ron Christian, Buddy Scruggs, and Chris Dugas. Posthumous awards for service were presented to the families of Tom Roche and Dan Randall.

Beach's DeNunzio Takes Gold in Science Olympiad

James DeNunzio earned top honors in his division of the Florida Science Olympiad, April 1 in Orlando. James, who is a Gulf Breeze High School student, won the Scrambler and Wright Stuff. He will be part of the Gulf Breeze High Team who will represent the state of Florida in the National Science Olympiad May 19 and 20 at Indiana University in Bloomington.

Gulf Breeze Schools Science Olympiad Teams have won the High School division for the last three years and the Middle School division for eight consecutive years.

Members of the Gulf Breeze High Team who were medalists include: Rita Yelverton, Harrison Sepulveda, Sara Stout, Holly Brown, Kelsey Campbell, Kim Dirschka, Adam Rockett, Meagan Schaeffner, Kyle Finelli, Stewart Williams, Will Dirschka, Johnathan Lott, Will Rone, Daniel Hatcher, Huy Pham and Kara Brown.

Gulf Breeze High Coaches included teachers Merrill

Bordelon, Susan Cundiff, and Leslie Skinner, with parents Liz Yelverton, Paula Brown, Ellen Finelli, and Pam Dirschka.

Gulf Breeze Middle's medal winners were: Ryan Burke, Hunter Bradshaw, Andrew Clark, Vincent Costers, Nick Musmanský, Tiffany Sharar, Eric Burke, Nathan Gupta, Rachel Harvey, Roland Harvey, Cody Meadows, William Farmer, Joey Finelli, RJ Burns, Ryan Henderson, Will Spearing, Adam Woods, Kayla Bates, and Sarah Woods.

GBM coaches traveling with the team included teachers Melanie Waite, Sharon Schaeffner, and Bob Smith; parents Ellen Finelli, Patty Burke, Roberta and Jim Harvey, Lisa and Sunil Gupta, Griet Roes, Chris Costers, Christine Henderson, and Frances Spearing. Family members who made the trip were Judy Bradshaw, Janice Clark, Lee Farmer, Jeanne Meadows, Patrick Henderson, Nick Gupta, and Dave Woods. Teachers Deborah

Cathey and Mike Ruth and parents Scott Finelli and Scott Musmanský also coached events.

Escape to the Island



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A Cross in the Sand

By
Dr. Chuck Randle

Pastor
Pensacola Beach Community Church

The Community Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Pensacola Beach Community Church, will be on Saturday, beginning at 9:00. Easter is one of the most significant days in the life of the Christian Church.

There are so many symbols, many used without an understanding of their underlying meaning or origin. As Easter speaks of new life, it has been the custom to wear new clothes symbolizing the shedding of the old life and taking on the new life. In the early church, those who were baptized at the Easter Vigil dressed in white robes and wore the robes during Easter week as a symbol of their new life in Christ. People who had been baptized in previous years wore new clothes to indicate their sharing in the new life. New clothes at Easter became a symbol of Easter grace.

Easter eggs also speak to new life as little chickens burst out of their shells into a new life. The egg itself promises new life as in spring, birds, and many other animals are hatched from eggs. More than 1 billion Easter eggs are hunted in the United States each year in parks, back

yards, and other appropriate places.

The Easter sunrise service was brought to America by Protestant immigrants from Moravia who held the first such service in Bethlehem, Pa., in 1741. The Gospel of Luke records: "...but on the first day of the week, at early dawn" women visited Jesus' tomb and found it empty. Many of the symbols of Easter had their beginnings in other cultures as legends and lores, but they have been reclaimed by the Christian tradition and their relationship to other traditions have been forgotten.

Just as Easter speaks to newness of life, so we have taken these symbols of an earlier time and given them new meaning and significance. Whatever symbols we are inclined to use, nothing can be filled with more enthusiasm and hope as a Christian congregation singing on Easter morning, "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!" And though we may have a variety of understandings, we are one in our understanding that Easter speaks to us of new life, not just for the next world, but for the present as well.

THE SEAGULLS

A Journey of Life

By Sage Baird



A journey of life,
Is like a knife.
It will hurt,
Yes, it will.
Till the sorrows fill,
It hurts so much.
It hurts a bunch.

It feels like
A lunch with a munch.
With all your might,
You will fight.
You may have to do it at night.
It gives you a fright,
Because it's the journey of life.

Pack A Bag For Overnight Teen Retreat

All High School age youth are invited to participate in a Holy Thursday Retreat as part of the Life Teen program at St. Ann Catholic Church in Gulf Breeze. The overnight Holy Thursday Retreat will begin at 5 p.m. Holy Thursday, April 13 and be held through noon on Good Friday. Participants are encouraged to bring their Bible, rosary, pillows,

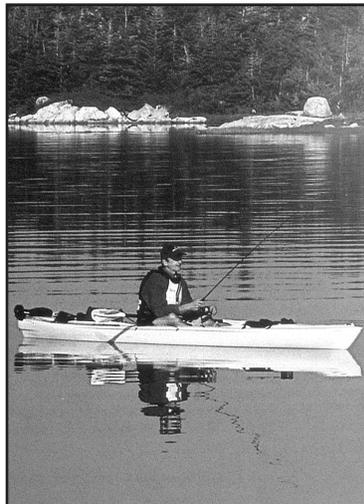
sleeping bags and toiletries with them.

St. Ann is located at 100 Daniel Drive in Gulf Breeze behind Dolphin Football Stadium. Registration and permission forms are required.

For more information please contact Youth Director Bryan Burnett at 932-4215 or St. Ann at 932-2859.



Pensacola Sail and Power Squadron educational officers Ron and Phyllis Swope visited Pensacola Beach Elementary School to announce winners of the Poster Contest. Winning students who were judged on content as well as color choices are: Front row (L to R) Sara Post, Jace Amberson and Lia Lampone. Back row (L to R): Kimberly Stelson, T.J. Baughn and Slater Trout.



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HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 12 6:00 p.m.	Seder Meal
April 13 5 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Holy Thursday Life Teen Retreat Mass of the Lord's Supper Adoration until Midnight
April 14 3:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Good Friday Stations of the Cross Celebration of the Lord's Passion
April 15 5:30 p.m.	Holy Saturday Easter Vigil & Reception
April 16 8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Easter Sunday Easter Sunday Mass Easter Sunday Mass <i>Easter Sunday Masses followed by Brunch in Nickelsen Hall</i>

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The LIZZARD'S TONGUE



by E.K. Hewson

Okay, I admit it. I am an iPod addict -- plain and simple an Apple junkie.

It all started at Christmas when my husband gave me an iPod nano, a 1.5 ounce MP3 player that holds up to 1000 songs. Now the sleek little entertainment center has become my constant obsession.

First and foremost, I have set my homepage on my computer to www.apple.com/ipod/. So much for Google. Then I have proceeded to fill her little microchip to capacity with free and subscription pod casts, as well as with previously owned music and recently purchased songs from the iTunes store.

Every night I slide her petite business card size body into her matching white case and plug her into the computer so in the morning she awakes fully charged and ready to play all day. I have even purchased a host of car and mobile accessories to keep her in the style to which she has become accustomed. Little Nan even has her own wardrobe. She has her white protective sheath to just hang out in; a black leather flip case for the car; a lime green arm carrier for sporting activities and a Ziplock plastic baggie for rainy days. Even her headphones have custom ear bud pads, including a silicon pair to block out the effects of wind.

In her defense I found myself taking offense to Lynne Truss, author of The New York Times' best seller "Talk to the Hand," who took a dim view of those of us who wear our iPods in public and become so involved in what we are listening to that we shut out the world around us to the extent that we are rude.

Dancing in the driveway for no apparent reason? Maybe. Singing out loud and off key? Absolutely. Animatedly gesturing and waving to others while running? Guilty as charged. Rude? Never.

I have even put my life on the line for Little Nan. Well maybe not my life, but the entire right side of my body. It was a rainy day and I was out for my morning jog. My contact lenses were fogged from the heat of my core temperature combining with the cooler outside air. I was running along a small path when I saw two Marines coming at me. Trying to do too many things at

once, like adjust my stride, gauge how far the Marines were moving over, and chew gum, I completely missed the curb. As I tripped over it and proceeded to fall forward, I remembered that Little Nan was in my left pocket. At the last second I twisted more onto my right side, slid across the pavement, took down the Marines, tore the skin off my right hand and shredded my lycra running tights. More embarrassed than hurt, I quickly got up, tried to play down my injuries with the two very young Marines and took off running again with Cheryl Crow blasting in my ears "the first cut is the deepest." How appropriate. Later I listened to an ER doctor explain how lucky I was and that he thought the bruise on my back which was about the size and shape of a grown man's kneecap would keep me out of my running shoes for about six weeks and eventually the gravel would work its way out of my hand, too. Yes, I was very fortunate and so were those Marines. I have no idea how I would have reacted had Little Nan been hurt. There might have been three of us in the ER that morning.

To date I have found no "anonymous" organization to join to get my iPod addiction under control, so as I download just one more song from the iTunes store and slide the padded headphones into my ears, my life becomes "my bubble, my rules."

Until next time.
Luv,
Lizzard

Last Week's Weather - straight from Heaven

Where are the April Showers that bring May flowers? I don't know. I do happen to know that a replica of the fine boat that sailed in 1620 to Plymouth Rock is moored behind the Mayflower House Museum.

April is always an interesting month on the Beach. Easter is big. Egg hunt for kids at the Beach Church and for adults at the Shaker. Sunrise Service at the Amphitheater on the Boardwalk and indoor service at the Beach Church.

The Beach has been hopping and not because it's Eastertime. Good weather and spring vacationers have been everywhere. Everyone's coming to the Beach, even the local television station. They aired a piece about the port-o-lets at Casino Beach. Must have been slow news night. They promised a follow up story on

which days the port-o-lets are cleaned. I guess they are saving that for sweeps week.

I may scoot over to the Capital Gains Seminar, April 13. Lose weight and gain money. That's the plan - to show a capital gain without changing pants sizes.

Let's look at Last Week's Weather.

Tuesday: Happy to be here
Monday: Fine day
Saturday: Dew formed on beer glasses
Friday: Did I see clouds
Thursday: I saw a low front
Wednesday: Cold suds needed
Tuesday: Postcard weather

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Monday
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Tuesday
Karaoke w/Jen at 7 • Prizes for Singers

Wednesday
Mid Week Attitude Adjustment. Stop In.

Thursday
Half Price Drinks w/Shaker T-Shirt

Friday
Karaoke at 8 • Prizes for Singers

Sat & Sun: Live Music

Shaker Saturdays • April
15th: Boogie, Inc 2-6 & Homesillet, 7 pm
22nd: Paul Killough, 1:30 & H3O, 7 pm
Shaker Sundays • Tunes in the afternoon
16th: Terry Lee Poole & Friends, 2 until
23rd: H3O, 2 until

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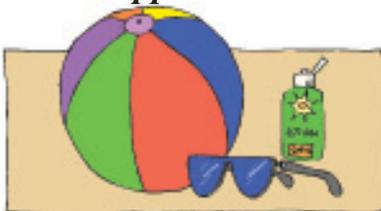
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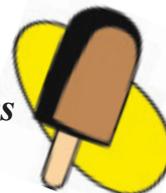
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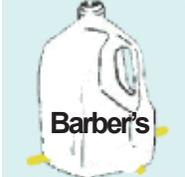


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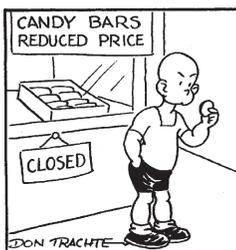
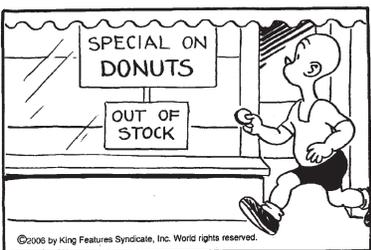
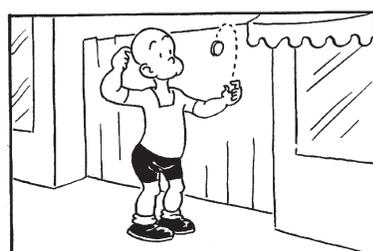
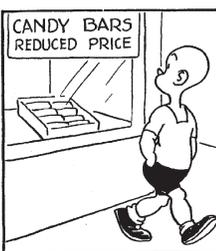
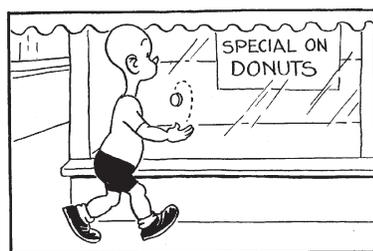
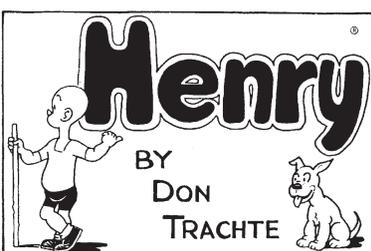
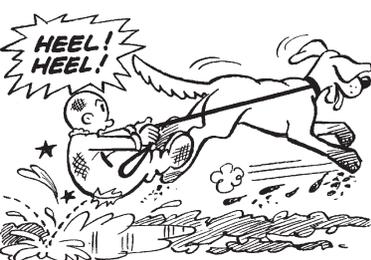
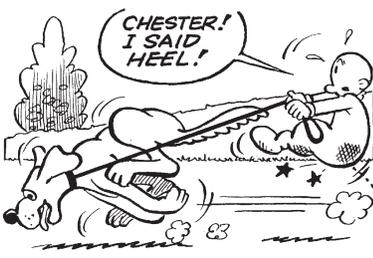
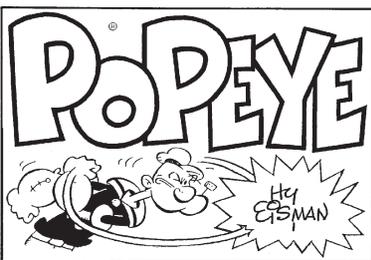
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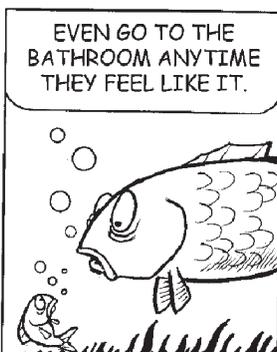
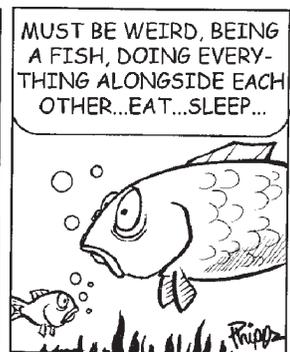
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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Whether a waiting period is taking longer than expected, or just seems that way, the anxious Lamb would do well to create a center of calm within her- or himself, and not do anything rash.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Practical matters dominate the week, but cultural activities are also favored, especially those that can be shared with someone special in the Bovine's life. Some important news might be forthcoming.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You need to know more about a possible career move in order to see if it offers a real opportunity or just a change. You're sure to get lots of advice -- some of it good -- but the decision must be yours.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) The arrival of hoped-for good news about a loved one dominates most of the week and provides a great excuse for the party-loving Moon Child to plan a special event to celebrate.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Leos and Leonas rushing to finalize their plans might want to think about slowing down the pace, or risk overlooking an important consideration that could become a sore point down the line.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) The week's challenges call for logical approaches. But sentiment also has its place. Sharing memories with a special someone, for example, strengthens the bond between you.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A brand-new approach to a problem could have a good chance of succeeding if it's based on a solid foundation of fact to strengthen its potential for standing up to scrutiny.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A favorable report should give your optimism an important boost as you confront another phase of a challenge. Don't be timid about accepting advice from someone you trust.

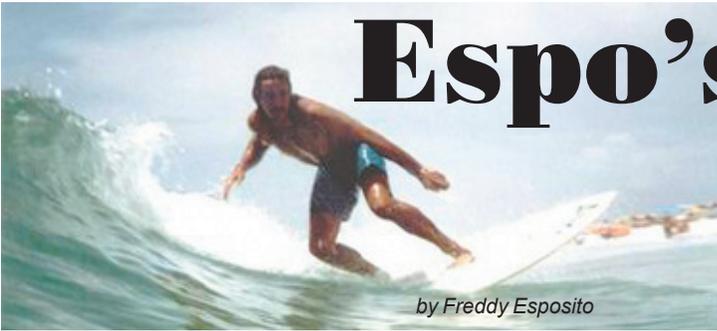
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You might want to target another goal if your current aim is continually being deflected. But stay with it until you find that first sign of an opening, and then follow through.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Although offers of advice might not always please the usually sure-footed Goat, good counsel is always worth considering, especially from those whose experience can be invaluable.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Don't rush to make up for lost time. Your productivity can be measured not only by what you do, but how you do it. Move carefully until the job is done the way you like it.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Emerging facts about someone you know might cause you to rethink your relationship. But remember to make judgments in context of a full situation, not just on scraps of data.

BORN THIS WEEK: You are known both for your love of acquiring beautiful things as well as for your generosity to others.



Esposito's Surf Report

by Freddy Esposito

When I was a little kid, the beginning of summer on Pensacola Beach was the Holy Grail of my childhood.

Summer meant no school, if you were lucky. Lots of girls in bikinis...and surfing at the pier with all my friends. Wow, what a time! I can still smell the Coppertone in the air.

The pier back then was a meeting place for all types, surfers, fishermen, football jocks and long haired out of work hippies selling tie-dyed t-shirts. Dude, this place was so cool!

Back then the pier was more of an icon. It was the place to be.

We would spend all day and into the night, right there, in our spot. With all my peeps! Like a crazy tribe of savages. We survived eating potato logs and drinking orange thirsty smashes, and little else.

No big colleges in town. No tourist invasions. Just locals, locals, locals.

Life was grand indeed. Some of us would spend the night under the pier, so we would be the first in the water. Watching the sun come up was the thing to do and we were on it.

No one ever seemed to complain. We lived in cheap trunks,

and rode old hand me down surfboards. It just couldn't get any better. Life was quite simple. The beach lifestyle was in full effect.

Now, well things look a little different. Our beach is not the same place. Now, everyone's on their cell phones or freakin' I-PODs. Or just driving in and out of the parking lots in little cheesy cars with really big spoilers on them. Hey, and no surf racks. Where did they go?

The surf culture is now mixed with hip-hop. It's shaken with techno gadgets and foreign cars, and add a dash of creepy old guys with wet long jeans on- and there you have it! The Pier.

Am I just getting older? Maybe, but our beach is changing everyday with new condos and four lane roads. Who knows what's next? Another traffic light? Stay stoked..

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



SUPER STUDENTS - Pensacola Beach Elementary School Fifth Graders were selected as Students of the Month for January and February. Teachers Margie Pitts and Tina Reichert selected these students for outstanding performance academically as well as for being good school citizens. Fifth grade winners are: (Front row, L to R) Sage Baird, Pearl Clarkin, and Slater Trout. Back Row: Ariel Cantrell.

Pirates in Paradise Contest



Ahoy, Matey!
Play or Walk the Plank.

There are pirates all over Pensacola Beach. Pillaging, plundering. Find them and win!



1. Identify the Pensacola Beach location of each pirate pictured. Write it under the photo.
2. Mail your entry to: Island Times, PO Box 844, Gulf Breeze, FL 32562-0844.
3. Booty for Winners:
First Prize: \$75 cash
Second Prize: \$25 cash
Third Prize: Pirate t-shirt

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

SEARCH PENSACOLA BEACH BUSINESSES FOR THESE PLUNDERING PIRATES.

FIND AS MANY AS YOU CAN & MAIL YOUR ENTRY IN TODAY! ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY APRIL 19, 2006

The Beauty & Beach

By Danah & Gwen Gibson

SUN AND SKIN

When we're on the beach, we all know we need to protect our skin from the sun's harmful rays. How many people do we know that have developed skin cancer (melanoma)? Remember the days of mixing baby oil and iodine, heading to our favorite spot and baking for hours? Little did we know back then, that this is a big no-no!

Of course, it's impossible to avoid the sun. Who wants to stay inside all summer when you live in paradise? And the sun's not all bad anyway. Sunlight helps our bodies create Vitamin D. So, follow these tips to help manage sun exposure:

☺ Wear sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15, even if it's cloudy or don't plan to spend alot of time outside.

☺ If you go swimming, or plan to be out for hours reapply every hour. Even if the bottle says waterproof or sweatproof.

☺ Look for the words "broad spectrum protection." This blocks UVA and UVB rays. Nonacnegenic and

noncomedogenic on the label means it will keep your pores clear.

☺ Use the "Shadow Rule." If your shadow is longer than you are tall, then it's a safer time to be in the sun. Rays are strongest between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

☺ Apply more sunscreen when you're around reflective surfaces, like our beautiful white sands, water, snow and ice.

☺ Some medications, such as birth control pills and prescription acne medications can increase your sensitivity to the sun, so be careful. If you want the glow of a tan, try faking it with self tanners or salon tanning treatments, like the spray on stuff. Avoid tanning beds though, because although manufacturers claim that tanning beds are free of UVB rays, they still use harmful UVA rays!

Finally, Happy Easter and if you feel the need to cover your hair with an Easter bonnet year-round perhaps you need to call the Hair Hotline at 932-4323.

Get in the Swing of Things at Bayview Community Center

If you want to dance like the stars, put on your zoot suit and sign up for Swing Dancing lessons, which are offered every Friday Night at Bayview Community Center in Pensacola.

The Swing and Latin lessons begin at 8 p.m. and the dance begins at 9 p.m. Advanced

lessons are also offered at 8 p.m.

These dances are smoke and alcohol free. All ages are welcome. It's great family fun.

Bayview Community Center is located at 2000 East Lloyd Street in Pensacola. For more information please call 850-433-6003.



Ayden Lee Kirby is destined to be a Beach Boy according to his grandparents, Rita and Gene Von Bon. Ayden was born on February 24, weighing 8.5 pounds and measuring 21 inches. His parents are Tina and Don Kirby who are presently stationed in North Carolina. They will be moving to Florida this year. Rita commented, "I can make my new blonde headed baby a real beach boy! Gene and I are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the Kirbys to the Panhandle area."

Stay Out All Night For A Good Cause

Gulf Breeze Relay for Life will be Friday April 28 at the Gulf Breeze High School Track. Beach resident Maria Weisnicht is the team leader for the Daughters of Penelope, a team of women from the Annunciation Greek Orthodox church.

Relay for Life is an overnight event that unites our community in a common effort to support the American Cancer Society's lifesaving mission to eliminate cancer as a major health problem. It starts just before dusk on a Friday evening and continues until the morning of the next day. You don't have to stay all night but stay as long as you want.

For more information please contact Maria Weisnicht at 850-932-6581 home; 850-261-6146 cell or email maria@weisnicht.com

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Poker Players Vie for Championship Titles, Bragging Rights

Poker Fever has spread across Pensacola Beach like wildfire. The Texas Hold 'Em 4 Fun Poker Tournament of Champions hosted at the Paradise Bar and Grill on March 31, pitted former weekly winners against each other until one lucky player gathered all the chips. Invitations were issued to Larry Richard, Jeff Vowell, David Osborne, Tim Rinker, and Chris Hogan. Trace Lewis was on the alternate's list.

When all the cards were dealt and the smoke had cleared Trace Lewis led the pack with David Osborne as the runner-up. Trace will be the Champion's Champion until the next tournament takes place on April 28.

Weekly winners who will be invited to the April Tournament of Champions will include Jeff Lockwood who outlasted Chris Hogan to take the win on Monday, March 27 at Paradise Bar and Grill. Fran Cox will also add his name to the winner's list. He posted his first win at the historic Islander Lounge on Wednesday, March 29. Lisa Muir was a close second.

Famous author Tex Atkinson gave Joe DeMario a challenge for the chips, but Joe chalked up the win at the Monday, April 3 showdown at Paradise. Action moved down the street to the Islander Lounge on Wednesday, April 5 where Mike Captain showed the crowds how to win in style. This was Mike's first ever win. Ray Cocuy played to a second place finish. Louis Farmer made the trip to play this week.

Texas Hold 'Em 4 Fun promoter Saltwater Rick said, "The games are open to anyone 21 and older. If you have a basic knowledge of the game, you are welcome to join us."

Games are played at Paradise on Monday nights and the Islander Lounge on Wednesday nights. Players should arrive before 7 p.m. to sign in and get a seat. The call to shuffle up and deal comes about 7 p.m. There is no charge to play.

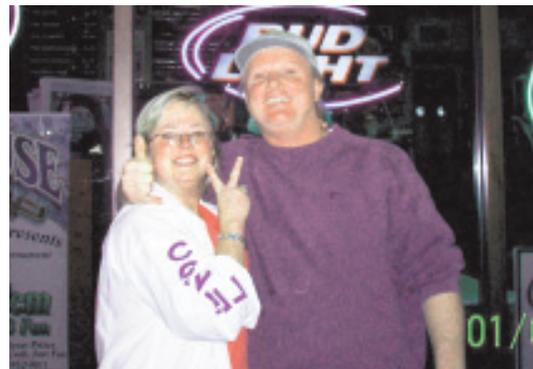
For more information on Texas Hold 'Em 4 Fun, contact Rick Uzdevenes at salt2o@mchsi.com.



Poker in Paradise winner Jeff Lockwood admits that card playing skill is important but a little luck never hurts. Jeff had all the chips in the March 27 weekly game.



Trace Lewis was crowned the Champion of Champions at the Texas Hold 'Em 4 Fun Tournament. Trace is a regular at the weekly Beach poker games.



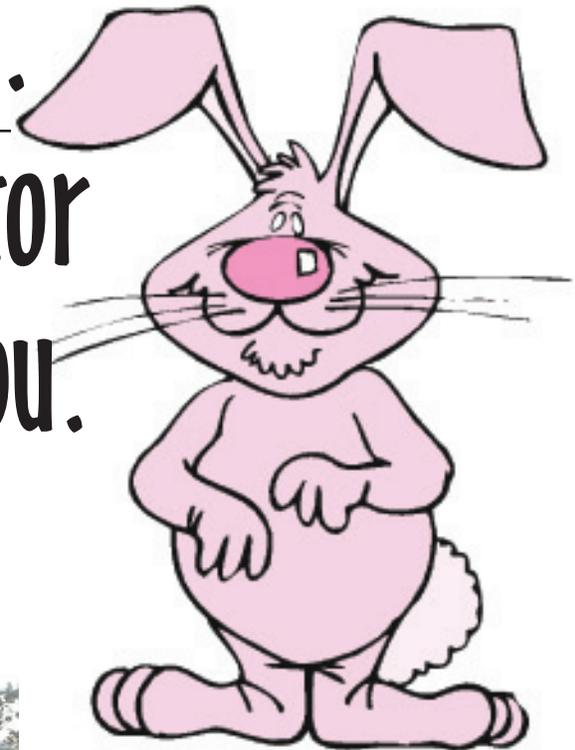
Lisa Muir (left) came in a sizzling second to Fran Cox at The Islander's Wednesday night poker game. She is ready to win all the chips next time.



Joe DeMario, left, and Tex Atkinson are looking at the flop on the felt to decide their next move. Joe outlasted Tex at The Islander's weekly game.

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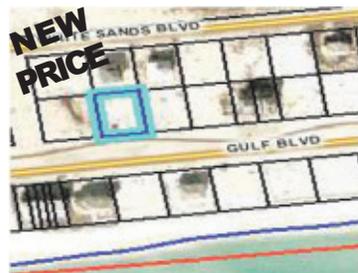


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All real estate transactions are different and this is why you need an experienced professional working for you.



What's All the Commotion?

by Pete Della Ratta

What's All the Commotion?

It's here again folks! That's right, Cobia season. It is time to knock the dust off that 9 to 10 foot medium to fast action rod and re-spool that reel with the common 17-30 lb. test line. The Cobia is one of the hardest fighting fish to land and if you do get them to the boat, make sure they are over the size limit. Then, do not pass go but head directly into the cooler. If you go to the pier, be careful. Some anglers use 1-3 ounce weighted lures that can be dangerous when tourists or the inattentive locals walk near or behind a casting angler.

Whether you get to them by boat or by way of pier, don't miss one of the most delicious fish you will ever taste. Lightly fried or baked is the way I like them depending on the amount of time I have and how much clean up I actually want to do.

Sheepshead are still prevalent in local waters where any kind of structure has withstood Mother Nature. (Do I dare say their names? Most of us just want to rebuild and look to the future.) All you need is a #2-#6 hook with some live shrimp on it and throw it around some structure. Try the fiddler crab if the Sheepshead are being picky, because you can never have enough options in bait. If you feel some light nibbles, that is the Sheepshead saying thank you for the meal because if you wait until the second or third nibble it is too late. They are called assassins or convicts because of this alone.

Trout and Redfish are still found on the flats (shallow water) but usually around the docks and canals. The rivers are producing some quality fish in places usually not deemed appropriate for these species. White Trout is being caught at the Three Mile Bridge rubble with shrimp being the bait of choice. Make sure you have a good live well and recharge that battery or have extra batteries for a long day on the water. Live bait will out-fish dead bait most of the time. If you like the cast and retrieve method, throwing light jigs,

spoons, and grubs will also catch the occasional Trout and Redfish.

If you are like me and enjoy a day of relaxing on the beach with your feet in the sand, some food, and a cold beverage, Pompano fishing is for you. A bycatch of Redfish, Whiting, Sheepshead, or the all wonderful Catfish will sometimes be on the other end of the line. Make sure you bring sunscreen, wear a hat or visor, and have the all important polarized sunglasses. Whether you like to spend all day on the boat or just get your feet wet, now is the time to do it before it gets too unbearably hot outside.

Don't forget, if you'd like to visit the middle school



fishing and environmental seminar that I am hosting at Shoreline Park South, it will continue through Thursday, April 13 from 9:30 until 1 p.m. Students from Woodlawn Beach Middle School will be testing water quality, fishing, and practicing casting nets. Adult volunteers are always welcome. Contact me at DellaRattaP@mail.santarosa.k12.fl.us.

Until then, may you have good tides and tight lines.

Historic Fort Offers Daily Tours to Hearty Visitors

Florida Scenic Trail volunteers from the Western Gate Chapter, park volunteers, and employees recently completed a variety of tasks including re-routing the Florida Scenic Trail and sweeping out Fort Pickens in preparation for the recent re-opening of the entire Fort Pickens Area to the boating, cycling and walking public. While the eastern section of the popular Fort Pickens Area was reopened to the public earlier, the historic district from the Ranger Station at Langdon Beach to the western end of the island was closed because of damages to the structures from Hurricane Ivan.

"Although the Fort Pickens Road remains closed, the public can now tour historic Fort Pickens, fish off the fishing pier, and walk the entire shoreline," said Seashore Superintendent Jerry Eubanks.

The Fort Pickens Road is

open to pedestrians and visitors on bicycles while the campground, Battery Langdon, Battery Copper and adjoining beaches will remain closed while cleanup work continues.

For their safety, visitors should observe all closure and safety signs; be prepared for changing weather and water conditions; drink plenty of water; remember to take back whatever they packed; and watch the time.

The Fort Pickens Area hours of operation are 8:00 a.m. to sunset and tours of Fort Pickens are given daily at 2:00 p.m. For information contact 850-934-2600 or visit the park's web page at

www.nps.gov/guis.



CULLEN'S COBIA - Cullen Stanley hooked this thirty pounder on March 31 using a Cobia Jig. Cullen, who has lived and fished all of his life on Pensacola Beach loves Cobia season. But, that's no surprise - he has Cobia fishing in his genes.



SKOMP'S SIXTY - Jeff Skomp offered this Cobia a live eel and it was off to the races. After he boated this sixty pound beauty out in the Gulf on Sunday, April 2 there was nothing but high fives. Jeff will be right back out there as long as the season lasts.

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Mostly Nuts & Bolts

By Candace Segar

Precious Plywood

If you had to choose a type of wood from three choices of wood, which one would you choose? a. particle-board, b. plywood, c. pressure-treated plywood. If you asked, "For what application," you get an A. If you said pressure-treated plywood, you also get an A.

Crazy Crowbar & Happenin Hammer

There is nothing I cannot destroy, oops take apart, disassemble when I use my trusty crowbar and hammer. They are my crewmates in times of demolition. Never leave home without them.

Sexy Scaffolding

Now I tell you it doesn't get any better than when you have custom designed scaffolding. You want to make sure you look your best when you're sanding overhead and crap is falling down on your face and hair. Well, at least your scaffolding looks good.

Gutsy Glue

Now there is glue and then there is "Gorilla Glue." Use it for woodjoints. It is so strong it will stick your butt to the table. Don't try this application, just trust me it works.

Daunting Drill

Now, my drill is a tool with great sensibilities. It has optimum force and power and before you know it, you screwed the screw through the middle of the planet or at least all the way to China.

Toughie Coated Drywall Screws

Well, you may be thinking a screw is a screw. Oh no, these screws rank with pressure-treated plywood. Enough said.

Cocky Concrete

Is there anybody out there who doesn't just love concrete? It's tough, it's strong, it's beautiful. What's not to love?

Scary Saw

I had a big fear of circular saws. So I bought a 4 inch battery operated Makita. This is the equivalent of training wheels. Eventually the pressure treated plywood required a big girl's saw. I now have a 7 1/4 inch Makita circular saw.

Lucky Level

I like the look of a level. When you buy a 100 year old house and you are planning to renovate it, give your level a big kiss and throw it in the trash.

College Hammers Out Carpentry Program Details with Habitat For Humanity

Pensacola Junior College, in partnership with Pensacola Habitat for Humanity, is beginning a new vocational carpentry program within its engineering technology department in May.

Students master carpentry skills as they build real Habitat for Humanity houses via the on-the-job training program that features four career paths - construction carpentry assistant, trim/finish carpenter, roof/frame carpenter and foundation carpenter.

PJC's Carpentry Vocational Certificate is approved by the Florida Department of Education.

"We know this partnership is a win-win agreement for Pensacola Habitat for Humanity and PJC," says Betty Salter, Habitat for Humanity executive director.

For more information about the vocational carpentry program and PJC's associate degree programs in building construction and manufacturing, call the engineering technology department at 484-1950.

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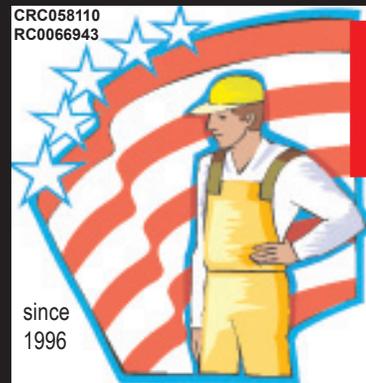
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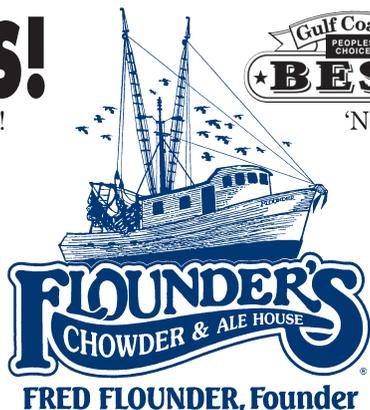
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 - Fodor's Florida
"Best seafood on Pensacola Beach"
 - Fromers Guide to Florida



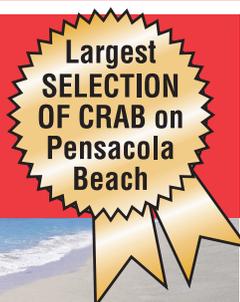
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