

ISLAND TIMES

Volume II, Number 2

Pensacola Beach, Florida

May 24, 2006

Movin' On



HAPPY KIDS - Fifth graders bid farewell to Pensacola Beach Elementary School last week, and most of them will move on to Gulf Breeze Middle School this fall. Just being themselves are Front Row (L to R): Alexa McKnight, TJ Baughn, Taylor Baynes, Eric Post, Michael Neal, Matt Bayer lying across. Soleil Sakry, Harley Taylor, Sage Baird, Chelsea Cahela, Emma Kinneer, and Savannah Green lying across. Middle Row (L to R): Matt Schang, Alexandra O'Brien, Madison Murphy, Maylee Crockford, Jack Ettelson, Alex Niven, Kelsey Carver-Wireman, Cody Cowen, Nick Gomez. Back Row (L to R): Fifth grade teacher Margie Pitts, Pearl Clarkin, Shyann Saunders, Chase Dupuis, PJ Dunne, Ariel Cantrell, Sydnee Kimbrough, Jessica Koch, Marina Johnson, Kendall Hoover, Cody Haynes, Thomas Fitzgerald, Adam Foley, and Fifth grade teacher Tina Reichert. Fifth graders who are not in photo: Slater Trout, Oceane Ziegler and Zayne Leslie. Story, Page 2.

PBES Fifth Grade Looks At The Past And Dreams Of The Future

School life will be different for the fifth grade graduates of Pensacola Beach Elementary School as most of them head for Gulf Breeze Middle School. The view will be less exotic. There will be lots of students, many teachers, and several classrooms.

But the Beach School kids are ready. They have already been displaced for three semesters after storms, Ivan and Dennis, all but destroyed their beloved school.

Just before their graduation,

the *Island Times* sent the fifth graders a questionnaire to give them a chance to talk about their past at the Beach School and their hopes and dreams for the future.

When asked what they liked most about the Beach School, their answers were equally divided between "the great teachers" and "the view."

Thinking ahead to their lifetime careers, the youngsters chose high profile professional occupations; doctors, attorneys, scientists,

veterinarians, NFL football stars, architects, and engineers.

Emma Kinnear and Pearl Clarkin want to be actresses and Savannah Green hopes to perform on Broadway. Cody Cowen would like to be a paleontologist and Slater Trout would be a lifeguard in the summer and a ski patroller in the winter. Nick Gomez would look toward a job as a toy engineer. Kelsey Wireman would be a jeweler. Jessica Koch would like to be a dolphin trainer at Discovery Cove. Nobody considered

teaching as a career except Margie Pitts, one of the fifth grade teachers who wants to continue on at the Beach School. And, finally, one student wants to stay on the Beach. Adam Foley would like to own the Surf Burger.

In answer to a question on giving advice to next year's fifth grade class, most responses suggested that it's not a good idea to make your teacher mad or talk too much, but Alexa McKnight offered advice that could very well

be good for the rest of their lives. "Once you're in the fifth grade, don't worry about what other people think about you, and always do your best."

This year's fifth grade set a record number with 32 students who were divided into two classes, taught by Margie Pitts and Tina Reichert. After a trip to New Orleans, honors ceremonies, and promotion to middle school this year's fifth grade grads attended the school at the Beach for the last time on May 19.

Fort Pickens Road Ready for July Fourth

Dave Hemphill, the Santa Rosa Island Authority engineer told board members at their full board meeting, Wednesday, May 10, that Ft. Pickens Road construction would be complete by July 4. This completion date for construction does not include the bike path. Hemphill also said the maintenance buildings are almost complete, and that Panhandle Paving is trying to finish repairs on the roads north and

south of Via de Luna by Memorial Day.

Trailers located on leaseholders' properties came before the full board, and nineteen families were given approval to keep their trailers until September 16, 2006. These families are using the trailers at their places of residence until the construction of their homes is complete. The Board authorized staff to grant extensions to other trailer dwell-

ers who have valid proof the trailer is the primary residence. The SRIA will require other families to remove trailers since they only use them on weekends or to oversee construction of their homes. All trailers which are not primary residences must be removed by May 24.

"Blues on the Beach is absolutely fantastic," Sandy Johnston, executive director of the Pensacola Beach Chamber of

Commerce told the Board. "There was standing room only for the first concert."

The Visitors Information Center is averaging more than 100 visitors day to day, according to Sandy.

The Board granted the Clarion an extension to begin rebuilding by May 10, 2007 with completion by May 10, 2010. Plans, however, must be submitted to the SRIA by November 3,

2006. The Clarion property is up for sale, but no acceptable offer has been received so far.

Good news was reported by Nita Omley, Finance Department manager, that March revenues exceeded projections and the staff has worked very hard to keep expenditures down, thus allowing SRIA operations to proceed. Other good news came from Bob West, safety director, who announced that lifeguard wages will go up a dollar an hour due to eliminating long term benefits which the lifeguards did not use.

A resolution commending the Krewe of Wrecks for their commitment and perseverance in obtaining funding to bring an annual tradition, the Mardi Gras parade, back to the island, was presented. Sandy Johnston, accepted the resolution on behalf of the Krewe of Wrecks who were unable to attend the meeting.

The SRIA will meet next in committees on June 7 at 5 p.m. at the Authority office. The meetings are open to the public.

Leaseholders Gain Momentum

The Pensacola Beach Residents and Leaseholders Association is gaining momentum with new members attending the monthly business meeting. Tona DeMers, president, announced at their meeting May 9 that a letter had been sent to all members to get their ideas, concerns, and thoughts about current and future Beach projects.

"We are also formulating a survey which will be sent to all Beach leaseholders," Tona said. "Completion of this process should take four to six weeks."

Victoria Clarkin, secretary, remarked that the time has come to rebuild the community. "I think this group is rebuilding now, too. It's time to rebuild our website, and newsletter," she said. "I think we need to show that PBRLA is coming together to help community members."

The PBRLA intends to go forward in positive areas including taking an active role in hurricane preparedness and post hurricane activity.

"We are not accorded the same rights as the rest of the property owners in the county in a post storm situation," President Tona DeMers said. "We need to be al-



Board members of the Pensacola Beach Residents and Leaseholders have a little Saturday afternoon fun at Flounder's Beach. (L to R) Victoria Clarkin, secretary; Gary Smith, treasurer; Tona DeMers, president; and Fran Summerlin Histed, vice-president

lowed on the Island early to assess our damage."

She said PBRLA needs to play a more active part in helping residents after a storm.

"News crews should not be allowed on the Island before the residents," she said.

Joe Barron, longtime Beach resident, told the group he thought they had a friend in Buck Lee,

Santa Rosa Island Authority general manager. Buck Lee returned residents to the Island within three days after Hurricane Dennis.

David Valentin, candidate for the District Four seat on the Escambia County Commission, was the guest speaker. He told the group he was not a politician, but a public servant. If elected,

he assured the members that he would appoint a Beach resident to the Board of the SRIA.

Membership in the PBRLA is open to all Beach residents and leaseholders. Dues are \$20 per year. Call Tona DeMers at 932-2190 for information. The next meeting will be at the Pensacola Beach Community Church on Tuesday, June 13 at 6 p.m.

ISLAND TIMES

PUBLISHED EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY

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Barefoot on the Beach



By Jane Waters Cooper

Did Mother Nature decide to give Pensacola Beach a break? What a spectacular springtime! Almost every day was picture perfect for months. But now, June 1, is almost here, and we are once again eye to eye with six months of you-never-know-what's going to happen. Many of us have just about finished renovations from Hurricanes Ivan and Dennis. Some haven't even started. So, Mom Nature, give us a break. Skip us this year when you plan your hurricane schedule.

Although none of us is fond of hurricanes, we always seem to talk about them. Who remembers Frederick? Frederick struck the Beach shortly after we moved here in 1979. I can't remember the category, but I do remember the destruction. I also remember that we, as a family, along with Escambia County were ill prepared. Everyone did evacuate, and after finding refuge in a Brewton motel for a few days, we were told we could come back to the Beach. So, hundreds of us, sightseers included, headed to Gulf Breeze where no traffic was moving. We arrived in Gulf Breeze at 8 a.m. and we finally drove onto the Beach five hours later. Our street was impassable, so we parked on Maldonado and trudged to our undamaged home on sand swept Ariola Drive. Most of the houses on the Gulf and many across the street were destroyed beyond repair.

But, we were lucky. We even had not lost power. However, living on the Beach then was not that much fun. We could come and go during the day, but we were under martial law, with a curfew at night. No agency was providing water, ice or food. We hadn't stockpiled any of these items, so we just about wiped out the Gulf Breeze grocery stores. We have since learned that provisions must be put in our hurricane box, and that doesn't mean just candles and matches.

My most vivid memory of Frederick is the first Sunday morning after we returned. We put on our shorts and arrived at the Beach Church that morning, looking a bit bedraggled. Everybody looked the same, tired and bewildered.

My children and I, who were more or less the alter guild, set up the chairs, and pulled the sofas to face the altar. We prepared the communion table, and waited for the Reverend Thaine Ford to come down the aisle. When he reached the podium, Thaine announced that his sermon would be about building a house upon the sand. Not a good idea, according to the Bible, but Thaine said we who live on Pensacola Beach consider it an act of faith.

As he proceeded through his sermon, it began to rain. The church roof was damaged so rain began pouring into the building on the south side. So Thaine

moved the podium and continued to talk. The parishioners all moved accordingly. And we kept moving. Finally, we were all huddled up against the fireplace.

Thaine finally declared the service at an end. There was no hand shaking. No "Go in Peace." None of that. Just a bunch of us scurrying away like little drowned rats, hurrying to find shelter at home.

After trudging along the wet block though the sand to our house, we discovered we had no electricity and no phone. We did have water, and we did have a frozen chicken. Cooking that chicken was going to require some serious preparation. We had a small barbecue and dry matches. But where could we find a dry spot for the barbecue? We covered an area on the upstairs balcony with rain coats, shower curtains, and old drop cloths, and somehow, we were able to get the coals burning in the dry place on the deck below. There, in driving rainstorm, using two bags of charcoal and lots of foil, we cooked our Sunday dinner.

The post hurricane downpour went on for days. We had no power for a week, and the phones were out even longer.

There was no sophisticated county emergency team back then, so our survival depended on our own individual ingenuity.

My major concern in all that bedlam, was to find a way to publish the fledgling *Islander Newspaper* on time. With the help of my children and the printers in Crestview, *The Islander* came out on its scheduled publication date. We returned from Crestview and distributed the paper to the few

businesses that were open. This was not a memorable edition, but, at least, we didn't miss a beat.

Dear Mother Nature, we on Pensacola Beach do not need a 2006 hurricane to talk about. We have enough vivid memories of Frederick, Opal, Ivan, Dennis, Rita and Katrina. Did I miss anybody? You gave us a magical spring. Could you please give us a magical summer and fall?

Lanza Voted Lifeguard of the Month

Bob West, Santa Rosa Island Authority Public Safety Director, has announced that Nick Lanza has been named Lifeguard of the Month for March. Nick won first place votes from his lifeguard peers in a field of nine finalists.

"I am pleased to report that Lifeguard Nick Lanza with a score of 17 points out of a maximum of 39, is the Pensacola Beach Lifeguard of the Month of March 2006, recognized by his peers and supervisors," Bob said.

Lifeguards who submitted votes for Lanza commended him for his multiple rescues, good attitude, hard work and his eagerness to do what ever the agency requires.



Nick Lanza

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PEOPLE



CROSSING DOG

Steve Speirs, who always seems to volunteer in all the right places, is the assistant crossing guard at Pensacola Beach Elementary School. Steve readily admits that the crossing-guard-in-charge is his dog, Paige.

REMEMBERING AUDREY

Audrey Foster who was the popular secretary at the Beach School for many years, still likes to hear news about her former students. Audrey knew every kid, every year by name. She's retired and living in Gulf Breeze.

BEACH BIRTHDAY

Mary Jo Tibbits celebrated her birthday on May 12. Her ready smile and energetic lifestyle would have prevented anyone from knowing she was one year older, if she hadn't told everyone.

RECOVERING WELL

Beverly Hughes, attended her first Krewe of Bananimals meeting in May after undergoing sur-

gery.

FORMIDABLE SECOND GRADERS

Freddy Esposito, *Island Times* surfing columnist, says he has conquered plenty of frightening situations in his life, but nothing was ever quite so intimidating as his water, rip tides and weather speech to the second grade at the Pensacola Beach Elementary School. The kids, eager to learn about water conditions in their own backyard, the Gulf of Mexico, hammered Freddy with questions.

ONLY THE BEST

Congratulations to Daniel Green and Amber Wester, Students of the Month at the Pensacola Beach Elementary School.

SUNRISE, SUNSET

Just a few short years ago, Terri Jameson was picking out a costume for her daughter, Jasmine,

to wear in the Mardi Gras Krewe of Kids parade. Now, Jasmine is picking out the courses she will take at UWF this fall. She graduated from high school this week.

BEACH THERAPY

Sue Martini from New Orleans is staying with friends while she recovers from recent back surgery. She says the Beach is her therapy.

SHARON VISITS

Sharon Simmons and Bob Seitz, visited Pensacola Beach once again after moving to Hot Springs Village, Arkansas. If you can't find them on the Beach or in Arkansas, they will be at their vacation cabin in Helen, Georgia.

HEART REHAB

Fran Summerlin Histed is back on the Beach after completing cardiac rehabilitation in Birmingham. She is the vice-president of the Beach Residents and Leaseholders Association.

TRIVIA • TRIVIA • TRIVIA • TRIVIA

Trivia players, you all bombed out on our last question which was "When the Pensacola Beach Elementary School first opened, there was no principal. However, there was a teacher-in-charge. Can you name her?" The answer is Glenda Willets, who not only taught at the school, but did all the administrative work as well.

Here's a new trivia question: "A few years ago, a busi-

ness in the Via de Luna Shopping Center burned down. What was the name of the shop that burned down?"

The emailer with the correct answer gets an *Island Times* t-shirt. The rules are the same.

Email your answer with "Trivia" in the subject line to islandtimes@bellsouth.net before 5 p.m. May 31.

Be sure to include your name and phone number.

Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce
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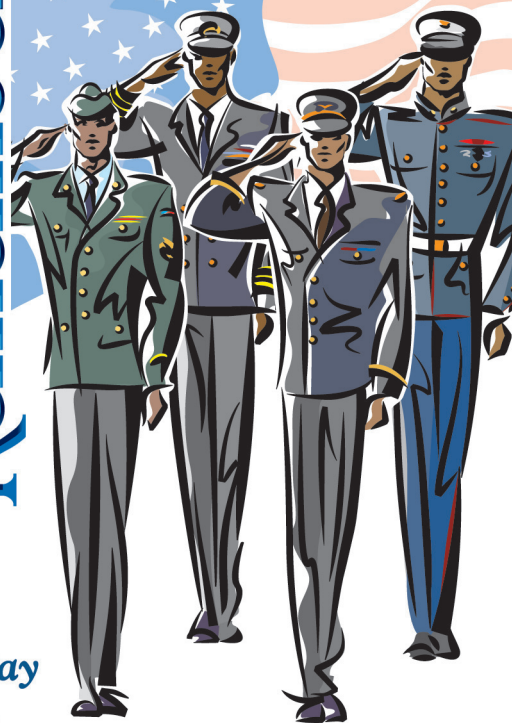


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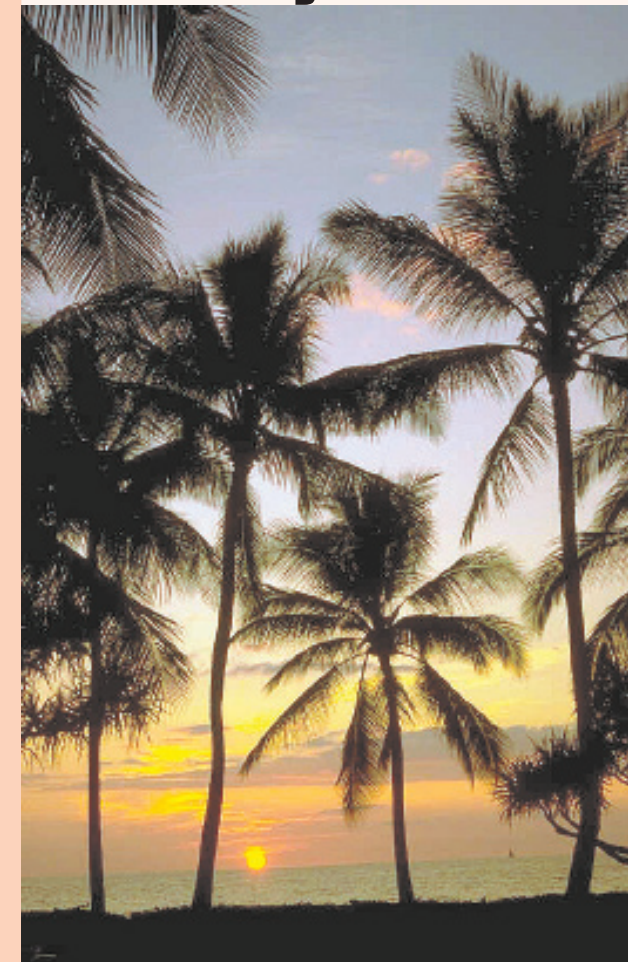
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by kathi lewis

I hope everyone had a wonderful Mother's Day! I had an entire wonderful weekend. After visiting with my daughter and grandchildren, I attended a get-together thrown by Jim Winstead for his lovely wife, Courtney. She is retiring soon and hopes to become a beach bum (there's a lot of potential there). She knew they were having friends over, what she didn't know was that Jim had arranged for their son, James, who lives in New York, to be there. It was an absolutely priceless moment when she saw her son!

And with that, we knew there would be one less Mom at Paulette's on Sunday. We did enjoy a surprise visit from a brand new Mom – Sara Shaw, along with Rob Harris and their new son, Ash. He's grown tremendously since we saw him last and he is so adorable I've adopted him as my own. So, I now have three adorable, precious grandchildren.

We were also joined by Elaine Mitchell and her beautiful daughter, Andrea. They headed off to the movies for a mother-daughter day.

Paulette's daughter, Caroline arrived with beautiful things for her mother. And along came Jeff Goudey (we know Jeff is not a mother, but he is very handy in the kitchen). It was a beautiful day in Paradise and the Blue Angels did a Mother's Day fly-by. (Just for Paulette, of course.) I gotta tell you that Paulette makes the best roast you ever put in your mouth! She says it's her grandmother's pan – not her. Whatever, it is amazing.

Speaking of sweet Caroline, her birthday was May 20. Happy birthday. She always takes such good care of her mother and me, no matter how nerdy we get. However, I'm pleased to report that the Caddy decided to return home both days without incident. We have our new home on the Beach – just no inside walls, electric,

yet. Drive by and take a look – it's the little round brown house on Largo.

I also received a message from Christine (Bunkie) Hewerdine on Saturday that said she was on the way to see her new granddaughter. No details, yet.

I hope everyone will take the time to really think about Memorial Day this year and what it means to each of us. Remember, we would not be here without them so think of what each of these veterans have done and suffered in order to protect and serve our country. Don't just say "thank you" – show them, better yet cook this easy recipe and invite a veteran to dinner or take dinner to them. They deserve it! We are proud of our military and this is the day to show it. Please say a prayer for our fallen heroes who are no longer with us, but in a better place. So, to all who served, Happy Memorial Day and I hope you have a wonderful weekend. Okay....let's cook.

Simmered Pork Chops

6 or 8 pork chops, bone in, or boneless
2 tbsp. Vegetable oil
1 large onion, sliced
2 cans Golden Mushroom soup, undiluted

(You will need a large skillet for this recipe.) Brown pork chops in oil, drain and set aside. Layer skillet with pork chops and sliced onion, then pour golden mushroom soup over all. Bring to a mild boil, then turn down heat and let simmer until pork chops are fork tender. (This will probably take an hour to 1-1/2 hours, so you have plenty of time to cook something else or just go away and leave it alone.) Serve with rice, pasta, potatoes, or a green vegetable and bread.

Enjoy and I'll see you in the kitchen.....

Popular Visitors Center Volunteer Dies Suddenly

When weary travelers arrived at the Pensacola Beach Visitor's Information Center, their lives were brightened considerably if they were fortunate enough to be greeted by Melanie Thompson. Melanie's winsome smile and gracious manner endeared her to everyone, not only tourists. She passed away suddenly of a heart attack on May 11, leaving her beloved husband Charlie, family members, and a host of Beach friends to mourn her passing. She was 52 years old.

Melanie and Charlie moved to Pensacola Beach in 1992 where both became immediately active in the affairs of the community. Melanie was a volunteer at the Visitor's Center for more than thirteen years.

"Melanie brought a smile to everyone's face," Sandy Johnston, VIC director said. "I never knew anyone who didn't like her."

Melanie was a graduate of Mercer University where she was a member and one term president of Alpha Delta Pi sorority. She had worked as a banker in Atlanta and for Delta Airlines in Dallas before moving to Pensacola Beach.

Melanie is survived by her husband, her mother Marilyn Jones Haas of Mt. Dora, two sisters and two stepchildren.

A memorial service was held for Melanie at the Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church on Tuesday, May 16, followed by a reception at their home on Rio Vista.



with Bob Temple
Beach Wines and Liquors

What's the House Wine?

Just as every restaurant has a reasonably priced, relatively good house wine to offer diners, so should you in your own home. When deciding on your house wine, consider a wine that is sufficiently versatile to go with many kinds of foods. For that matter, it should not be so full-bodied that it is not suitable for the summer months, nor so thin that it cannot stand up to the rigors of winter cold. In fact, a good house wine should not be too crisp, tannic, oaky, or spicy. It should be a good middle-of-the-road wine. Choose both a red and a white house wine, as you and your guests may prefer one or the other.

HINT: Once you have selected both your red and white house wines, purchase them by the mixed case.

A moderate choice in both red and white wine is the best for your house wine. Beach Wines and Liquors, Inc. can help you choose the perfect house wine. By having a great red and white wine available year round in your home, you will always be prepared. Come and browse our great selection.

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June 3 Pensacola Beach

Business Buzz ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

BONNIE'S BOOGIE BLUES

Bonnie McDonald, one of the mermaids in the Mystic Krewe of Nereids, provide the stage lighting for the bands playing at Tuesday night's Blues on the Beach. Bonnie, co-owner of Boogie, Inc., spends all the time she can on the Beach, even if it means she has to work.

FANCY FLOAT

The motor yacht Cabernet is available for charter. Pandora de Balthazar and her guests took the Cabernet out to the Oriskany sinking May 17. Not too romantic, but lots of fun.

AFTER HOURS BASH

The Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours will be Tuesday, May 30,

at 5:30 p.m. at The Islander Lounge. The co-host is the Best Western.

FREE RIDES BACK AGAIN

You can now ride the elevator to do your grocery shopping at The Market on the Island. The elevator, broken down for a few days, is operating again.

SALES TAX SUSPENDED

Now is the time for all good Beach people to prepare for hurricane season. The State of Florida will give you a break, briefly. No sales tax will be collected through June 1 on certain hurricane preparedness items like flashlights, batteries, coolers, radios and generators, to name a few. Stock up.

SKI BUMS WANTED

Book now, if you want to be a ski bum at the beginning of next year. Reagan Belcher will tell you how. Gulf Breeze Travel has a few seats left for a weeklong Austria trip.

CLUTTER CLEARING

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YOU'VE BEEN FRAMED

Cynthia at The Framery in Gulf Breeze placed Roger Tornow's military memorabilia in a shadowbox. Gather your photos or medals and she can do the same for you.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Shelley & Jane -

Just want to add my Congratulatlions on completing a year with the *Island Times*. In the ten years I've been here on the Beach, we've gone full circle - only now it's daughter and mother. You're a welcome breath of fresh air and your efforts at keeping our beach community intact and informed are much appreciated.

Sincerely,
Chuck

Charles Randle, Pastor
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Students Shine In Optimist Club Contest

Pensacola Beach Elementary School third grader Maddie Mateer was the first place winner in the Pensacola Beach Optimist Club sponsored Oratorical Competition. Awards were made at the finals, Tuesday, May 2.

During March Beach School students in third through fifth grades wrote and delivered speeches on the topic, "My Future is Bright Because" in pre-

event. "I'd do this every year, if asked, as it is such a terrific event," she continued.

Participants were judged on content, poise, delivery and timing. The field was narrowed to 12 contestants for the finals which were held at St. Ann's Catholic

Church's Fellowship Hall Tuesday, May 2. The finalists were: Taylor Baynes, P.J. Dunne, Savannah Green, Maddie Mateer, Alexa McKnight, Stephanie Moraes, Madison Murphy, Molly O'Donovan, Ian Price, Sara Post, Bailey Triczinski and Slater Trout.

"Sighting their positive feelings and confidence with their individual personal assets made the students feel their futures were bright. The youngsters spoke about their love of this country, the support of their parents, their athletic, musical, intellectual, or artistic talents and optimism that the years ahead hold nothing but great things," said Mary Claus, PBOC member.

First place was awarded to third grader Maddie Mateer. Fifth grade students Alexa McKnight and Savannah Green placed second and third respec-



Winners of the Oratorical Contest are: (L to R) fifth grade student Savannah Green, third place; fifth grader Alexa McKnight, second place; and third grader Maddie Mateer, first place.

tively. Each received a beautiful large square ceramic tile trophy featuring artwork of the beach, Oratorical Contest Winner 2006, the PBOC Logo, and noting their participation in the Pensacola Beach Elementary/PBOC event.



Savannah Green was named the Pensacola Beach Elementary School Student of the Year.



The twelve finalists in the Oratorical Contest enjoyed the reception at the awards ceremony. Finalists are: (L to R) Taylor Baynes, Ian Price, Molly O'Donovan, Sara Post, Bailey Triczinski, Savannah Green, Slater Trout, Madison Murphy, P.J. Dunne, Alexa McKnight, and Maddie Mateer.

liminary classroom competitions.

The event, chaired by Optimist B.J. Davis, is a strictly regulated contest, timed and judged by PBOC members. Members listened to the students deliver enthusiastic talks on the topic, which is chosen by Optimist International each year.

"It was really difficult to choose winners of the preliminary competition as all the kids did such a fabulous job," said Jane McGrath, new member to PBOC, who helped judge the

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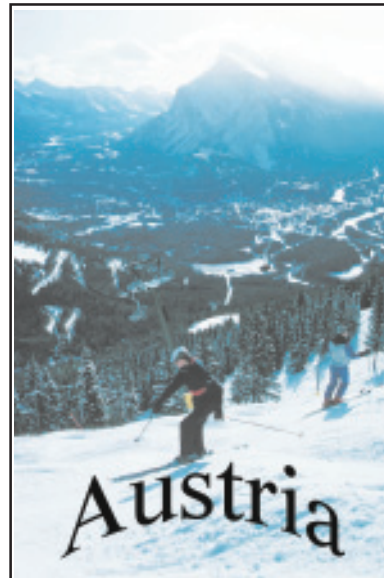
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Hurricane Frederick's Fury-A Child's Look Back to 1979

By Michelle Brooks

Some of my earliest memories of life on the Beach are about a hurricane.

In September 1979, I was four-years-old and just starting Kindergarten at Pensacola Beach Elementary School. I lived close enough to the school to walk to school in the mornings, but I rode the bus to my babysitter's house in the afternoon, along with a boy named Jason Frederickson. Jason was a year ahead of me in school, so he looked out for me in the afternoon, making sure I got on the bus and got off at the right stop. The first I remember hearing of Hurricane Frederick was when Mr. Dorfler, the bus driver, joked that Jason, who was a bit of a troublemaker, must be related to the big storm.

Before the hurricane hit, my dad and I evacuated from the Beach to North Hill in Pensacola. Frederick was the kind of storm where we knew that getting off the Beach onto higher ground would be enough to keep us safe. In Pensacola, we stayed in my

mom's apartment with a bunch of parents' friends. We listened to music and played games by the light of hurricane lamps. Then we went to sleep in sleeping bags on the floor. It was like a slumber party for adults, and I was invited.

In the morning, we went outside to see the damage. In Pensacola, there wasn't much to see. Some branches had been blown down and a car damaged by a chimney brick pulled loose in the wind. Back on the Beach, we discovered that our cinder block house hadn't gotten off as easily. We had a hold in our roof and serious water damage. For the next few weeks my dad and I lived in motels on the Beach and waited for the house to be repaired. My dad made sure I knew everything would be okay, so I remembered those weeks like a vacation. I don't think I'd ever stayed in a motel and I certainly had never gotten to eat out so much.

In those days, the school was just one long portable building with two grades in each classroom. The storm had

done enough damage to shut the school down for weeks, so my friends and I got a break from the serious business of going to kindergarten. That didn't mean we didn't go to school, of course. With a foot of water in the schoolyard, we found fun new ways to play. We waded under the jungle gym and caught tadpoles in the puddles and watched the water slowly dry up.

Finally, when the hole in my roof was replaced and the school was reopened, life picked up where it had left off.

These memories probably seem sunny for a hurricane story, but it's amazing what a kid can see as an adventure if her families and friends assure her that things will be okay. I spent the next seven years in that five room school building, without a second thought to the damage done by the storm. In 1979, the Beach was lucky, Hurricane Frederick was not the same kind of storm Ivan was. I was lucky. I didn't lose anything that couldn't be rebuilt. And the school was lucky. No one questioned whether it would reopen (or at

least, not while this four-year-old was listening). Things are different this time, and many people will never be able to remember Ivan as anything but the disaster it was. However, with a new school, there's a much greater chance that another generation of kids will spend enough happy years going to school on the Beach to remember Ivan as one episode in the long line of challenges that this community has overcome together.

Michelle Sullivan Brooks is a graduate of Pensacola Beach Elementary School and Gulf Breeze High School where she was the valedictorian. She received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Harvard University, graduating with honors. She lives in Cambridge, Mass., and is a venture capitalist. Her father is former Beach resident, Michael Sullivan of Pensacola.

Our Lady Calms the Spirit During Hurricane Season

St. Ann Catholic Church, Gulf Breeze and Our Lady of the Assumption, Pensacola Beach will prepare for hurricane season in the soul and spirit at "Calming the Waters" on Pentecost Sunday, June 4, at Our Lady of the Assumption Mission. This is a collaborative effort of St. Ann Catholic Church, Gulf Breeze with St. Sylvester's in Navarre and Our Lady of the Assumption Mission in Pensacola Beach.

"As members of our local Interfaith Disaster Resources team, we seem to be quite aware of the necessity of preparing our physical premises for the upcoming hurricane season. This special prayer service is a great way to prepare ourselves spiritually as well," said Msgr. Luke Hunt.

Families are invited to bring an item from their homes to be blessed, as a symbol of

faith in the Lord's ability to calm our fears. Beginning at 2 p.m., the event will be a prayer service format including music, ecumenical prayer, blessing; homemade cookies and punch; children's activities; and a table of community resources on hurricane preparedness and response.

Call St. Ann Catholic Church, Gulf Breeze at 932-2859 for more information.

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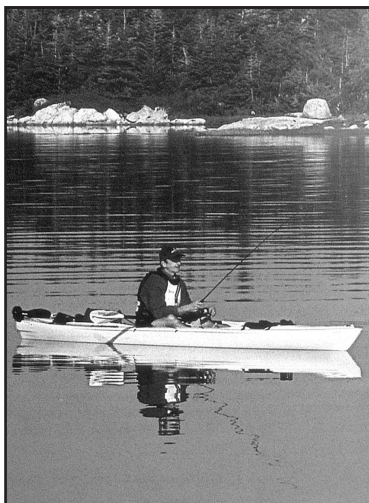


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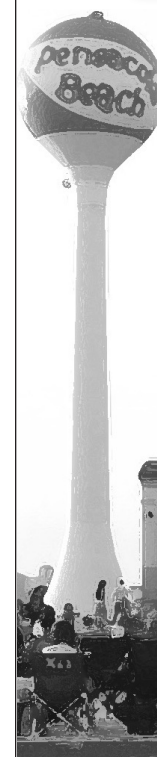


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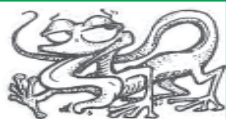
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The LIZZARD'S TONGUE

by E.K. Hewson



Last week I co-hosted the monthly gathering of the Cherry Point Officers' Spouses' Club. The advertised reason for the meeting was to elect our new board of directors for the upcoming fiscal year which for this OSC runs June to May. And though we are now mandated to be an OSC, no spouse of the male persuasion ever joins us. Too bad, their loss.

Marine officers' wives are cut of a very similar cloth as the Sisters of the Beach. They like to eat, drink, socialize and take care of their community - and not necessarily in that order. My co-host and I knew that the OSC elections were very important, so we spent weeks planning this event. We would talk about it

while out jogging; review our to do lists over lunch at one of the waterfront restaurants in Beaufort; and double check our progress nightly while raiding her husband's red wine stash and eating salt and vinegar potato chips. Needless to say, we had a lot to do three days before the actual event like confirm the numbers with the dessert caterer, find a jazz band, finalize the menu, shop for the food, decorate, make party favors and come up with door prizes. Somehow together we pulled it off.

She showed me how being a colonel's wife with a great smile has its privileges. Three phone calls later we had an awesome Marine jazz duo thanks to two corporals who arrived with guitar and electronic keyboard in hand; patriotic themed banners and a full blown state flag display. I showed her how growing up on Pensacola Beach and learning from the best would make this one meeting that would be talked about years from now.

When all was said and done I had transformed her waterfront backyard into a miniature Krewe of Wrecks champagne breakfast but with everything being red, white, and blue; not purple, green and gold.

I did my best to prepare a menu of traditional Sisters of the Beach food - Judy L'Oignon's dill and cucumber sandwiches, Kathi Lewis' chicken salad, two different types of quiche, and fresh berries and cream. As my co-host, placed the catered pastries and coffee on a side table, I set the dining tables. Red, white and blue cloths with coordinating

napkins, one bottle of champagne per place setting and a patriotic party favor that was nothing more than a Susan B. Anthony dollar glued onto a ribbon that said "I Voted." My co-hosts comments went from "Are you sure?" to "This looks great!"

Normally our morning events begin at 9 and end somewhere around 10:30. At noon, the jazz duo asked my co-host if she could call their boss because they were only scheduled to play for an hour and a half. She did and sent them back to their unit with the entire dessert tray and the advice to stop calling her ma'am. Somehow the new board was unanimously voted in and we all raised our champagne glasses in

honor of the outgoing board. Under their leadership we raised thousands upon thousands of dollars, all of which was used to fund community outreach projects and college scholarships for dependents whose Marine sponsor is stationed onboard MCAS Cherry Point.

As my co-host and I untied the last of the cloth napkins and slugged case after case of empty champagne bottles to her recycle bins, she looked at me and said, "I like your beach traditions. We need to do this again next year."

Hmmm, I wonder if base housing would approve a small walking parade. Until next time...

Luv, Lizzard



A TOUCH OF THE GRAPE - Expert wine tasters Ron and Barb Hill enjoyed all the M&J Wine selections that Kathy Kellett (right) had to offer at the Beach Wines and Liquors, May 11. The next wine tastings will be June 2 and June 9.

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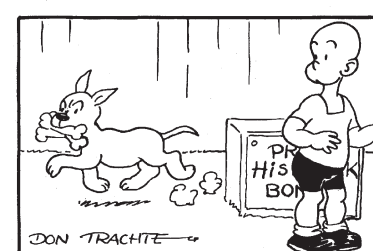
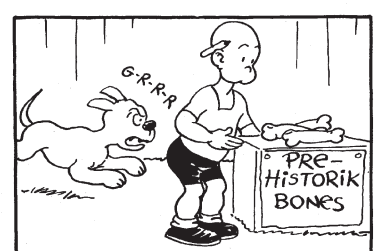
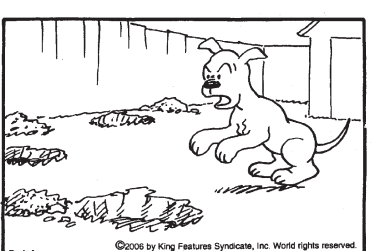
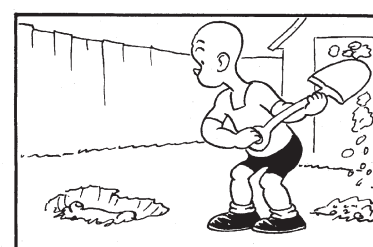
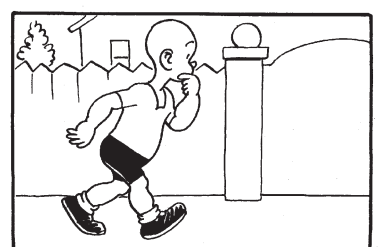
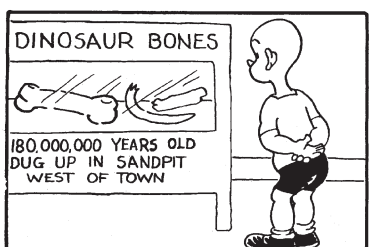
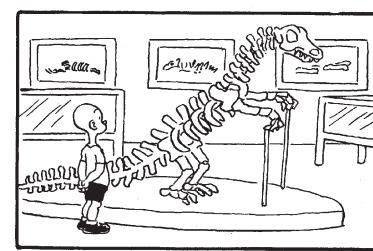
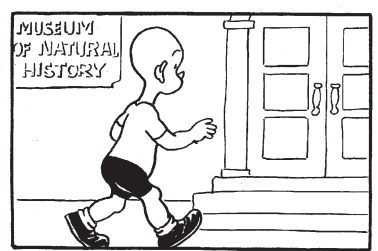
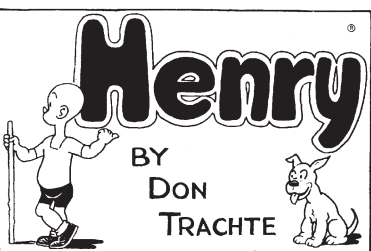
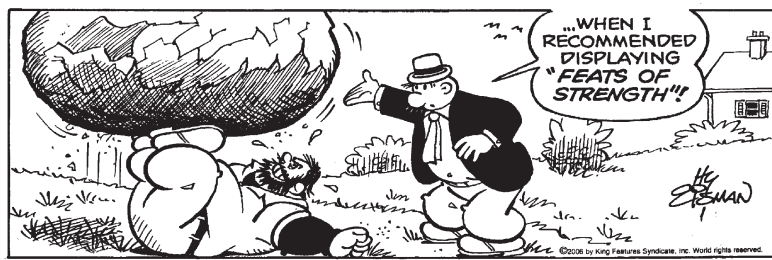
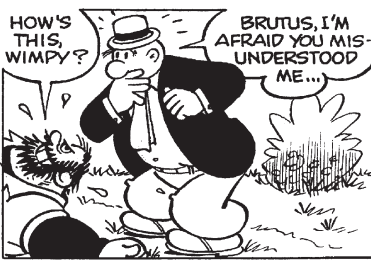
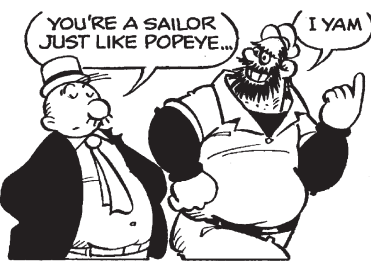
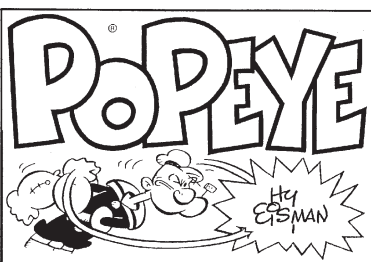
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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Although you might prefer moving forward at a steady pace, it might be a good idea to stop and reassess your plans. You could find a good reason to make a change at this time.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Just when you thought you had everything planned to the smallest detail, you get some news that could unsettle things. But a timely explanation helps put it all back on track.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Home and work continue to compete for your attention. But you handle it well by giving each its proper due. Someone you trust offers valuable advice. Listen to it.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Unsettling news creates a difficult but not impossible situation. Continue to follow your planned routine, but keep your mind open to a possible change down the line.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Lick your wounded pride if you like, but it's a better idea to find out why your suggestions were rejected. What you learn could help you deal with an upcoming situation.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Feeling a bit listless? No wonder. You might be pushing too hard to finish everything on your to-do list. Cutting it down could help get your energy levels up.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Taking time out of your busy schedule might be the best way to handle that sensitive private matter. It will help reassure everyone involved about your priorities.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Insist on full disclosure by all parties before agreeing to be part of a "great deal." What you learn should help you decide whether to go with it or not.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your decision to protect the secret that was entrusted to you might irk some people. But it also wins you the admiration of those who value trust and loyalty.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Creative activities take on a practical approach as you realize you might be able to market your work. Ask for advice from someone experienced in this area.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) If you're suddenly a bit unsure about your decision, ask trusted colleagues and/or friends or family members for suggestions that could help resolve your doubts.

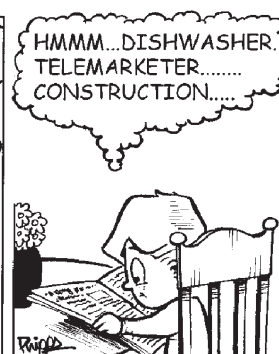
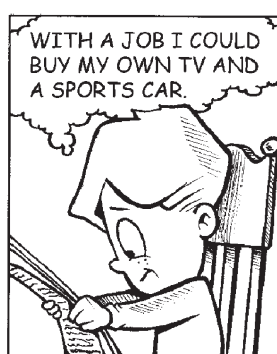
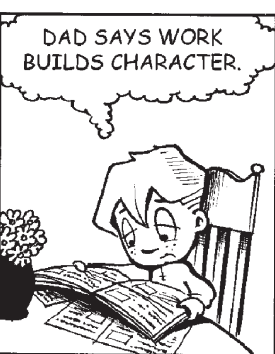
PISCES (February 19 to March 20). A workplace situation could get stormy. But stay on course until there's a solution that meets with everyone's approval, and things can finally calm down.

BORN THIS WEEK: You keep an open mind on most matters, making you the confidante of choice for people who need your honest counsel.

(c) 2006 King Features Synd., Inc.

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Espo's Surf Report

by Freddy Esposito

Dude...Where's my Car?

Okay, let's look at a growing issue on our beloved Pensacola Beach. The one thing we all deal with everyday, all of us. We call it traffic!

Have you driven down the hoods on the beach lately? It's like playing pinball with your life. There's cars, trucks, cranes, tourists, and us locals just trying to make it home.

Think about this. It's, let's say, Blue Angel Weekend, right. The road's all torn up, there's Creative Parking Theory in full effect, people from Minnesota are buried to the axles in the soft sand and F-18 fighter jets are storming the beach. One thousand boats are in the Sound. Sand is ten inches high on the back roads. My God, it's like war!

Does anyone have a plan? I mean with all these cars and all these people...hmm?

If the goal is getting more

people on P-Beach, then instead of more places to live and less places to park or drive should we change it to more places to park and less people? Whatever.

You may see my point. The math is easy. It's called critical mass and we have hit the wall.

Here's a thought. If whole purpose of a four lane road is to be able to handle more traffic, (yeah, I said it...more traffic), then where do these people go when they actually stop their cars? Where? The Casino Beach parking lot, the side roads, in front of your house?

Oh, and we've got at least 18 months left on the whole four lane thing, plus hurricane season, the 4th of July and so on...

Hmm...I wonder if they make Valium patches? We could hand them out at the toll bridge with white hard hats. Yeah, I can see that...Welcome to Pensacola Beach. Good Luck!



The School Bell Rings

By Madison Murphy

School for this year is over and for fifth graders this means its their last year here at PBES.

May 8 through May 12 was very busy with the second and third grades going to Mobile, Alabama.

The kindergarten class hosted a surprise birthday party for their teacher, Mrs. Neal on May 10. The fifth grade went to New Orleans on Thursday, May 11. The whole school walked around looking at fifth grade's science fair projects, then went to the beach for kite day on Tuesday, May 16. We had a water fun day on May 18. That is what was happening at PBES during the last weeks of school. Sorry to say, but this will be the last addition of The School Bell Rings for this year.



Jennifer Neal

Have a great summer from everyone at Pensacola Beach Elementary School.

Family Surf Fest • The Pier Saturday, May 27



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Mardi Gras Never Ends for Bananimals

Mardi Gras may be over for most krewes, but the Beach's Krewe of Bananimals just keeps rolling along. They held their election of officers at their May 7 meeting at the Islander Lounge, and Artie Davis was voted back as president for another year. Other officers elected are Rob Jackson, vice-president; Linda Terry, secretary and Mary Jo Tibbits, treasurer.

Karen Cook Cowen, founder of the krewe, commended the Bananimals for their help in her work with the children in protective custody and the Kid's House in Santa Rosa County. She announced that the Lunch Bunch has received the Children's Champion Award.

"When I pass the hat around and you throw in all that money, we are able to make little back packs for the kids who may be leaving their homes in the middle of the night," she said. "That's where your money goes."

The Bananimals believe in



The Krewe of Bananimals installed their Board of Bananimals at the Islander Lounge May 7. These fun loving souls will be in charge of the bunch (L to R) Artie Davis, president; Mary Jo Tibbits, treasurer; Linda Terry, secretary; and Rob Jackson, vice-president.

planning ahead. Their next meeting will be a June 4 Shrimp Boil at The Break at 4 p.m. They will crown their King and Queen for the upcoming Mardi Gras sea-

son at this party. And, they are already looking forward to January 27, 2007, the date of their annual formal ball at the Hilton Garden Inn.

The Beauty & Beach

By Danah & Gwen Gibson

No matter what type of hair you have, there are things you can do to keep it healthy, lustrous, looking its best. Here are some tips for a healthy head of hair.

DIET

Go nuts for coconuts! Like everything else about beauty, healthy hair begins with your whole body. Start with your diet. Include lots of green leafy vegetables and fruits. Dairy products such as milk and fresh yogurt will also help. Fresh coconut is also considered excellent "hair food" – sprinkle grated coconut over salads, or fresh fruit.

Stop eating all those refined, processed and canned foods. Shy away from foods with artificial preservatives and chemical additives.

Heat up your hair by cooking with certain spices - adds flavor to your food and provides nourishment for your hair. Cumin, turmeric and black pepper are some "hair-friendly" spices. Add a healthy pinch of each to single-portion soups and stews as they are cooking.

STRESS

Stress can be seriously injurious to long-term health and color of hair. Try and manage your time and tasks to minimize time-related pressures. Things like overbooking clients and newspaper deadlines will make your hair go limp. Relax, meditate and go to the Beach. Sit still. Balance to your mind.

Relaxing or uplifting music can be therapeutic. Get adequate sleep to help the natural process of rejuvenation.

CLEANSE

Stay away from harsh chemical topical products that can damage hair over time. Look for gentle, natural cleansers and conditioners, especially if you wash your hair daily. Your salon can help you choose shampoos and conditioners that contain nourishing botanicals.

Read labels carefully – sometimes, products that say "herbal" or "natural" are not and they sneak in some interesting chemicals.

A warm oil scalp massage

two or three times a week will help stimulate and moisturize the scalp. You can use good quality coconut, almond or olive oil. Apply some warm oil to your hair and gently massage into your scalp evenly with your fingertips. Leave on overnight or wrap in a sexy scarf and go to the Beach for an hour, then get it out by shampooing your hair. The scalp massage helps you relax.

TOOLS

Never attack wet hair with a brush, no matter how rushed for time you are. Tangles in wet hair are best removed with a wide-toothed comb or pick. Use a wooden comb if you can find one; it doesn't generate static electricity. Daily blow drying can damage hair in the long-term, making it brittle and causing split ends. Try letting your hair dry naturally, then brush into place. To stimulate the scalp brush your hair regularly. It will keep it looking healthy and lustrous. Brush each night in all directions in turn – left to right, right to left, front to back and back to front. Use smooth long strokes from scalp to hairtips.

If you have a hair emergency call the Hair Hotline at 932-4323. We can help.

Happy Birthday Shaker Bar

The one-year-old Sandshaker Lounge is hosting a really big celebration for its first year under new ownership. The Memorial Day weekend bash will begin at 6 p.m., Friday, May 26, with Mousie, famous New Orleans artist on hand to draw caricatures. Shaker Samples will be served at 10 p.m. To find out what the samples will be, you must attend the event. The Mighty Mudsharks will be on the bandstand.

There will be giveaways all weekend, a birthday cake, live music, and BBQ on the grill. The Shaker will offer Spin the Wheel prizes, a Sunday afternoon auction and a limited editions First Birthday t-shirt.

"It's going to be one fabulous weekend party," Beverly Boswell, co-owner said.

Shaker Bar Queen Linda Terry agreed even more. "Fabulous, fabulous, fabulous," she said.

Learn How to Make a Butterfly Garden , review the UF/IFAS publication on Butterfly Gardening in Florida. It's available online at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/UW057>



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Wild West Characters Haunt Beach Poker Games

Check your six shooters at the door, it's time to play poker. In a game that has its roots on riverboats and Wild Western saloons, it is no surprise to see names like Wild Bill Cody Scarborough and Tex Atkinson at the top of the list of Texas Hold 'Em 4 Fun players. When the cards hit the felt at the Paradise Bar and Grill, Monday, May 8 Wild Bill took out Tex in the final hand.

Larry Richard returned to the winners circle at Paradise Monday, May 15 defeating Tasha Minder in the final showdown.

and then, rode off the Beach with all the loot. Nancy Lynch recovered from a short stack to win in her first appearance on the Beach. Jeff Lynch took the brunt of the slaughter for second place.

Wednesday, May 17 Aaron Gnann defeated Andy McKeown in a terrific evening of poker at The Islander.

Games start at 7 p.m. and are open to the public.



Nancy and Jeff Lynch

National Park Service Superintendent Jerry Eubanks announced that Environmental Assessments (EAs) are being drafted on the proposal to relocate and/or establish sand berms along Fort Pickens Road and J. Earle Bowden Way on Pensacola Beach and will be available to the public in late May. The EAs will address planned improvements to both roads and will be available at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>.



Larry Richard

Games are dealt at the historic Islander Lounge in downtown Pensacola Beach on Wednesday nights In May 10 action The Lynch Mob rode onto the Beach and took first and sec-

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You will need to head to these coordinates: 30 degrees 02.6 minutes North and 87 degrees 00.4 minutes West. Coming out of the Pass, head 130 degrees for 22 miles and begin looking for some structure that shows up on your fish finder. It will be hard to miss the 800 plus feet of the Mighty "O". Only time will tell what species of fish will call this home. Either check the Pensacola fishing forum or call the local dive shops such as The Scuba Shack to ask what is being seen at this dive site.

If the gas bill alone is making your sea legs get weak, then staying inshore and targeting the Speckled Trout or tasty Redfish is for you. Live bait or artificial lures have proven to catch some big fish in recent weeks. Checking the tides, the moon phases, and any change in the barometric pressure will help in the hooking of whatever species you are targeting.

Snapper and the occasional Grouper are still being caught in the Bay, but knowing where to go is like trying to find that needle in a haystack. Trying to find someone to take you to their spot or to talk about where they caught their last one is even harder.

The water temperature is rising and Mahi-Mahi or "dolphin" are bound to start showing up off-shore where there is any kind of structure on top of the water such as grass lines. I've even heard them being sighted near a floating garbage can.

June grass or what is known as seaweed to us common folk is in the Gulf of Mexico right now and Pompano fishing is better off a pier where you can sight fish for them. You may want to use a jig, gold spoon, or tip it with shrimp if that is your choice.

Remember, you never know when that Cobia will show up, so keep an extra rod with a Cobia jig ready in your arsenal. Being prepared will help you catch more fish in the long run.

Finding time to get on the water is where most seem to stray. Make sure all those honey-do's are done the night before, so you can get an early start the next day.

Fish early and often and keep those fishing or boating stories coming by submitting them to PeteDRJr@Yahoo.com.

Fishin' Chix Ready for Reel Fun

The Fishin' Chix will be holding its first ever "Pink Rubber Boots" Ladies Fishing Rodeo on Saturday, June 3 from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at Flounder's Chowder House on Pensacola Beach. Proceeds from the rodeo will benefit the Children's Department at Covenant Hospice.

Fishin' Chix is on a mission to inspire and fashionably attire adventuresome "reel" women.

The fishing rodeo entry fee is \$200 and includes fishing onboard a captained fishing boat. However, individuals may use their own private boat. Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place. A Captain's Meeting Wine & Dine will be held on Thursday, June 1 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Atlas Oyster House in Pensacola.

For more information on the "Pink Rubber Boots" Ladies Fishing Rodeo, call Claudia Espenscheid at 501-2632 or fishlips@fishinchix.com.



PULLING THE TRIGGER - You wouldn't know it to look at her, but Gulf Breeze resident Patti Hall is an accomplished angler. Last month She traveled 17 miles south of the Pass to hook onto this 10.4 pound Trigger fish.



Bob West SRIA Public Safety Manager, left, welcomes Dr. Erich Ritter, an internationally renowned shark expert to the Beach Saturday, May 13 at the Authority Office. Ritter gave a two-hour continuing education seminar about shark behavior to the Pensacola Beach lifeguards, emergency medical personnel and National Park Service rangers.

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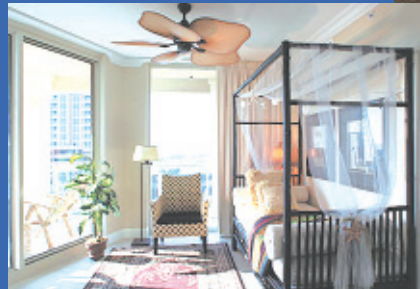


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Whirlwind Romance Sails into Couple's Lives

Jean Grabowski and Tom Luke are Hurricane Ivan victims, but what began as an escape from a swirling storm turned into a whirlwind romance. Hurricane Ivan left Pensacola Beach resident Jean Grabowski temporarily homeless, so her sister, Rosemary LaPorta took her in. Kind Rosemary also had given shelter to Tom Luke whose condo and boat were lost to Hurricane Ivan. Tom and Jean were not strangers having met at Pensacola Beach Yacht Club and at local 5K runs.

Romance blew ashore with the storm and as Tom loves to say, "Thanks, Ivan, because we've been together ever since."

Tom and Jean traveled to Chicago to see Jean's family and celebrate her brother's birthday. "Tom asked my brother, Rocco, for my hand in marriage and proposed to me right in front of my whole family," said Jean. "It silenced my large Italian family. You could have heard a pin drop while they waited for my answer."

The answer was "yes" and the couple will marry on Pensacola Beach in June 2007.



Tom Luke and Jean Grabowski



Mostly Nuts & Bolts

By Candace Segar

I found out this weekend that Ralph and I have a new best friend. She is sleek, sporty, trim, and fast. Her name is "riding lawn mower." Now you may think this is odd, but when you hear this story you'll agree.

We own some property that has an acre and a half on it that is cleared. We decided to mow it because the wildflowers were about three feet high. And wouldn't you know it - we got into fight over who would get to mow first. I won because Ralph had to do other things.

An hour later, I had only mowed half of the lawn, and I must say the thrill was gone. I didn't let Ralph know that though. I pulled a "Tom Sawyer

painting the fence trick" on him.

"Oh this is great. Just go slow because there are stumps and rocks," (Tee hee tee hee) I smiled and walked off.

I watched him as he eagerly got on board, "riding lawn mower." He started out slow, then picked up speed and was cruising until he hit a stump. That slowed him down for awhile, then he picked up momentum. I honestly think he enjoyed it, numb butt and all.

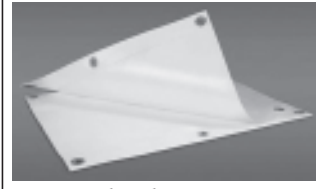
We never really appreciated our girlfriend, "riding lawn mower" because in the past we only had a ten to fifteen minute job for her at home. But trust me, after this experience, we praise her.

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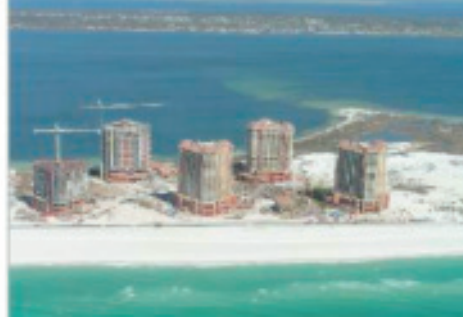


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Lost

Sterling Silver "Real Love" Ring: Last seen on Saturday, May 13 on the upstairs deck at the Islander Lounge on Pensacola Beach. Sentimental Value. Call Gwen 850-932-4323

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

B	R	O		P	A	L		G	A	L	A		
R	I	F		O	H	O		E	W	E	R		
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B	O	O	R		L	U	G		P	A	R		

King Crossword

ACROSS

- Kinsman, for short
- Chum
- Big bash
- Musical phrase
- "Caught ya!"
- Basin accessory
- Pinnacle
- Manhandle
- "Swell!"
- Adolescents
- Celtics legend
- Water holder
- Hunts
- Legal hurdle
- Bert's pal
- Stench
- Remuneration
- Weevil's target
- Singer Georgia
- Wife of 5-Down
- Saturates
- Triumphed
- Apprehend
- "Strange as it seems, ..."
- Hairless
- Crib
- Canal zone
- Curved molding
- Nay canceler
- Parks or Bonheur

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10			
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41						42		43						
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50	51	52				53		54		55				
56								57				58		
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- Loutish one
- Schlep
- Standard

- Astonishment (Abbr.)
- Meadow
- Drawings
- Traffic mishap
- Kenny G's instrument
- Wish undone
- Chart
- Nose-in-the-air sort
- Scrabble piece
- Vend
- Marshy areas
- Mine entrance
- Judicial garb
- Army rank
- Evergreen type
- Hot tub
- Menagerie
- Prophets
- Place
- Let fall
- One of the Simpsons
- Calendar unit
- Go up and down
- Past
- Virgo neighbor
- Kvetch

DOWN

- Pesky kid
- Wedding shower?
- 1931 song, "All -"
- Burst
- Wicked Biblical king
- Mensa rejection stat
- Female impersonator, e.g.

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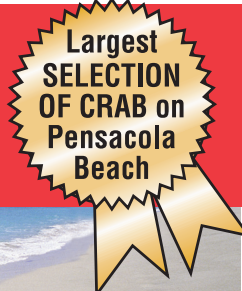
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