

ISLAND TIMES

Volume II, Number 17

Pensacola Beach, Florida

December 20, 2006

Christmas on the Island



CHRISTMAS SPIRIT - - It's in the music of the surf, in the pale rays of the winter sun, in the mellow December breeze. The spirit of Christmas is in the hearts of everyone. These queens of the Krewe of Nauga honor their current ruler at their Christmas party. Front row (L to R): Lynn Ciutat, Reigning Queen Carrie Monaghan, and Karina Foster. Back row (L to R): Debbie Friedman, Rene Mack, Danah Gibson and Gwen Gibson. More on this story, page 2.



After Sundown



CRABS - WE GOT 'EM

Go crabbing on the Gulf of Mexico, at Crabs, We Got 'Em - Alaskan Snow, Gungness and King Crabs are all on the extensive seafood menu. Sip and sit at the live aquarium bar or at the upstairs, outdoor Gulfside deck. Oysters and Wings are two bits on Monday through Thursdays. No reservations, come as you are.

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The Gulf Coast's Premier Entertainment Complex. Seven rooms of fun all under one roof! Karaoke, Texas Hold 'Em, Team Trivia, Pool, Video games and more. Live Entertainment Seven nights a week with live music on four stages every Friday & Saturday night. Serving lunch and dinner, too! It's where the Party People Party!

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FLOUNDER'S CHOWDER HOUSE

Step back in time and enjoy Flounder's antique collection. Step into now and enjoy Flounder's top rated seafood. Indoor and outdoor dining. Even a beach playground for the kids. Beach Bar 'neath the moon and stars - Diesel Fuel in a commemorative mason jar. Bilgewater Margaritas. Gift shop. Fred Flounder, founder.

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

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Ahoy, Matey. You've found a Pensacola Beach treasure. Pirates welcome. Fresh Gulf seafood served in the galley or outside on the awning covered deck. Glass front bar overlooks LaFitte Cove. All kinds of oysters. Live lobster. Gumbo. Dinner specials nightly. Sizeable sandwiches and burgers for Landlubbers. Take home a t-shirt.

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Score! Don't miss a point. See it all in high definition - 11 big screens, 42 televisions. If it runs, jumps, races, it's here. Famous for Thursday Wing Night. Burgers. Seafood and Ribs. Kids menu for the JV players. Full bar. Indoor or outdoor seating. Video sports games.

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Clearly elegant martinis served in the signature Olive Drop glass. Full bar. Live entertainment. Dancing.

Situated in the Soundside Market across Via de Luna from the Hilton Garden Inn. Begin your experience. Open everyday.

MCGUIRE'S IRISH PUB

Even a bragging Irishman can't do justice to McGuire's where the atmosphere is an authentic turn-of-the-century pub. McGuire's has been named one of America's great steakhouses, and is world famous for its culinary artistry. Dollar bills on the walls, a moose to kiss and employees who give a damn! Try an Irish Wake or Senate Bean Soup.

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

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The "Almost World Famous Sandshaker"- a Pensacola Beach Tradition since 1973. It's the Home of the Original Bushwacker and has been selling this signature drink for over 30 years. The Shaker was the 1st bar on the Beach to offer this tasty frozen concoction. Live Band Every Sat & Sun. Karaoke Party Tues, Wed & Friday. Iguana Grill open 11 Saturday & Sunday

Across from the Fishing Pier on Pensacola Beach. Open 11am until 3am. 850-932-2211. www.sandshakerlounge.com for photo gallery and event schedule.

THE ISLANDER LOUNGE

The oldest lounge on Pensacola Beach. Happy Hour 11 to 7. Hot, crispy deli sandwiches from 11 to 11. DJ spins dance tunes 7 nites. Fri-Sun Live Music. Shuffleboard, video games, pool, foosball, golf, bowling. Brass Pole. Poker Wednesdays. Original music Tuesdays. Visit the upstairs Cypress Lounge, open air bar overlooking downtown Pensacola Beach. Available for private parties.

Find us at 43 Via de Luna. Open Everyday, 11 a.m. til 2:30 a.m. www.islanderbar.com 850-932-9011.



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hors d'oeuvres 5 to 7 Mon-Fri

live music & dancing

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Saturday & Sunday at 11 a.m.



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&
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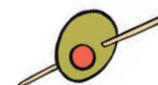
Ronnie Levine
Tuesday & Wednesday



Michelle West
Thursday - Saturday



Live Music on Sunday at 5 p.m.



located in the Soundside Market
Pensacola Beach across from the Hilton

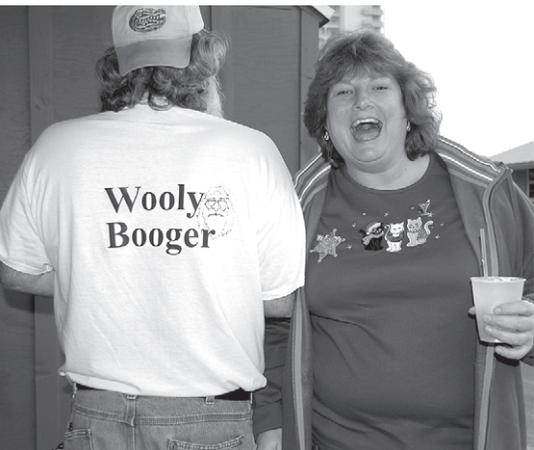
Wooly Boogers Kiss The Hurrincance Season Goodbye at December 2 Bawl Paradise Bar and Grill • Pensacola Beach



LeRoy Cardenas shows Lois Jernigan the Wooly Booger version of a Blue Tooth phone.



Queen Sugah Paulette Provost greets one of her loyal subjects, WB Jeff Goudey.



Richard Johnson's shirt gives Amy DePew a good laugh.



Two Woolies - Jackie Henderson and Marie Steele are always ready for a party.



Original WB Christine "Bunkie" and her hubby Lonnie Hewerdine made the scene.



Le Royal Bums - Chuck and Judy "LeBum" O'ignon were Wooly Booger royalty in 1986.



Kathi Lewis and Paulette Provost show off their Wooly Boogers Pay Taxes sheet.



Wooly Booger Jim Rigby, Paradise bartender Dawn Lockwood and Dan Kelley stir up some fun.

The LIZZARD'S TONGUE

by E.K. Hewson

'Twas the night before Christmas, there were no cookies in my house.
I was not mixing, stirring or baking 'cause of a holiday mouse.

The flour was gnawed open. The colored sugars were, too.
Mouse droppings filled my pantry, not just one, but quite a few.

Har and Charlie kept their distance, awaiting on the bottom stair.
While Lt Col Harry baited traps with a combat like flair.

I was not happy. No oven to pre-heat.
I threw down my apron and stomped my feet.

I hate base housing with its 1940s features.
And now I have to deal with rodentish creatures.

"Settle down sweetheart," Lt Col Harry said with a grin.
Mouse hunting on Christmas Eve. Let the games begin.

Next thing I knew, I heard something rustling.
It sounded like last minute shoppers hustling and bustling.

When out of the pantry what did appear?
But Lt Col Harry and a mouse filled with fear.

"Get it out of here!" I screamed with all my might.
Causing Charlie to bark at the sound of my fright.

Har ventured a peak at the mouse's brown fur.
Lt Col Harry promised no harm would come to her.

Outside they walked, with mouse in hand.
And freed her to the wooded land.

Then I remembered, I needn't had worry or even had stress.
The 7 Day Store was still open and sells cut-n-press.

Grabbing my car keys and giving the Rover a start,
I felt a sense of relief, a guilt-free heart.

The little brown mouse was released into the wild,
and in no time at all I had cookies for my child.

Yes, 'twas the night before Christmas
When delectable smells filled my house.
I made two dozen for my "boys"
And left one in the woods for Ms. Pantry Mouse.

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
The Lizzard*

The
Island Times
office
will be
closed
on
December 25.

We will
re-open
on
December 26.



Third Graders Buddy Up With Christmas Elf for the Day

Joy McLaurine's Pensacola Beach Elementary School third grade class imagined what it would be like to spend the day with Buddy the Christmas Elf. Here are some of their thoughts.

JACE AMBERSON - If I spent a day with Buddy the Elf, we would build legos, eat junk food and brake dance in the mail room. I hope we could go to his dad's work. It would be awesome.

LEXI MCNAMARA - We would build toys like trains and make pictures for Santa Claus and pink hats for all the girl elves. We would go get a fish tank with green and red fish for Christmas for Mr. Buddy. Me and Buddy would build the best fort ever invented.

EMILY LARSEN - If I spent a day with Buddy the Elf, we could go to his dad's office and drink coffee, read books and go to the mail room. We could get stuck in the thing that sucks up the mail.

TRISTAN SCOTT - If I spent a day with Buddy the Elf we get near dogs and when they barked we would play dead and let them lick us. Then we would pop up like a opossum and run away and jump over a fence and do the same thing with another dog.

MARLEY TAYLOR - If I spent the day with Buddy the Elf we would go to get ice cream and go to the movies and go on a merry-

go-round until we hurl.

MAGUIRE FORESTE - We would have a snowball fight. I bet Buddy would win the snowball fight.

ETHAN PHYFE - If I spent the day with Buddy the Elf we would eat candy with spaghetti. We would have a sandball fight and eat at Sidelines.

JACOB BALDWIN - We would play games like tag and go inside and drink cocoa. After that we would read a book and then eat some candy canes.

LANI SMITH - We would decorate a Christmas tree and build the Eiffel Tower and build an igloo and camp in it.

TREY WRIGHT - We would

Santa and take a picture with Santa. Then we would look for some clothes for Buddy. I looked for some clothes and tried them on. I came out with a dress on and Buddy said, "You look miraculous."

SARA BURNETT - It is so cool to have a friend that is an elf. We hang out with each other and see Santa everyday. We would eat candy til we got sick.

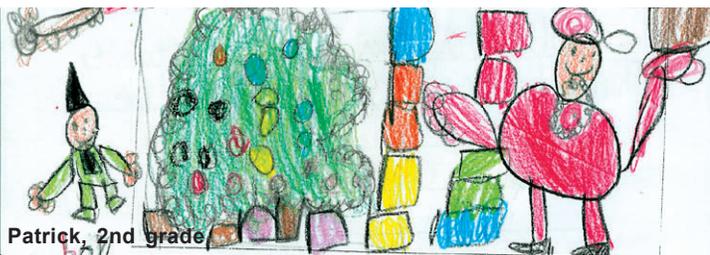
LIA LAMPONE - If I spent the day with Buddy the Elf we would play all day everywhere. Buddy and I would play in the stores with the decorations. When we were playing he swung on a paper snowflake and fell flat on his nose. We picked up fake candy canes and danced all around.

IAN O'BRIEN - Buddy and I would eat oranges until we were throwing up then we would throw the orange peels up to see how far they went. Then we would throw them in an old tree and if they got stuck Buddy would have to get them.

JACOB SCARBERRY - If I spent the day with Buddy the Elf we would go ice skating, but he would have to teach me how to ice skate and how to balance. We would go inside for some hot chocolate to warm up.



Shelby Dunne, second grade



Patrick, 2nd grade

build stuff with Legos and wood. We could go to Sidelines and have chicken wings. We could go bowling and play battle ship.

ANNA LARSEN - We would play hop scotch and monopoly. Then we would eat pancakes with M&Ms, Pop Tarts, syrup and Reeces pieces in front of the TV.

DAIZE MAGGIO - We would go find Santa's sleigh and fly up to the North Pole and meet Papa elf. We would have a great day.

MEGAN CRONIN - If I spent the day with Buddy the Elf we would go to the mall. We would go see

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850-932-2859



Christmas Eve - 4 PM Children's Mass
6 PM Mass
11:30 PM Music
Midnight Mass

Christmas Day - 11 AM Mass
New Year's Eve - 8:30 AM and 11 AM Mass (no 5:30 PM)
New Year's Day - 11 AM Mass



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Assumption
Mission

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New Year's Eve - 9:45 AM Mass
New Year's Day - Join us at St. Ann in Gulf Breeze

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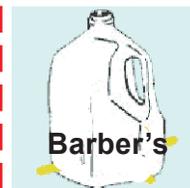
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Pigskin Predictions - Barry's Bowl Picks



Well known football fan and beach attorney Barry McCleary emerged with his choices for Bowl winners. Barry's prognostication powers come from years of dedicated research and are colored by being a diehard Crimson Tide fan.

December 20

Poinsettia Bowl: TCU over Northern Illinois

December 21

Las Vegas Bowl: Oregon over BYU

December 22

New Orleans Bowl: Troy over Rice

December 23

Papa John's Bowl: South Florida over East Carolina

New Mexico Bowl: San Jose State over New Mexico

Armed Forces Bowl: Utah over Tulsa

December 24

Hawaii Bowl: Hawaii over Arizona State

December 26

Motor City Bowl: Middle Tennessee over Central Michigan

December 27

Emerald Bowl: UCLA over Florida State

December 28

Independence Bowl: Oklahoma

State over Alabama

Holiday Bowl: California over Texas A&M

Texas Bowl: Rutgers over Kansas State

December 29

Music City Bowl: Kentucky over Clemson

Sun Bowl: Missouri over Oregon State

Liberty Bowl: South Carolina over Houston

Insight Bowl: Texas Tech over Minnesota

Champs Sports Bowl: Purdue over Maryland

December 30

Meineke Bowl: Boston College over Navy

Alamo Bowl: Texas over Iowa

Chick-fil-A Bowl: Virginia Tech over Georgia

December 31

MPC Computer Bowl: Nevada over Miami

January 1

Outback Bowl: Tennessee over Penn State

Cotton Bowl: Auburn over Nebraska

Capital One Bowl: Arkansas over Wisconsin

Gator Bowl: West Virginia over Georgia Tech

Rose Bowl: Southern Cal over Michigan

Fiesta Bowl: Oklahoma over Boise State

January 2

Orange Bowl: Louisville over Wake Forest

January 3

Sugar Bowl: LSU over Notre Dame

January 6

International Bowl: Cincinnati over Western Michigan

January 7

GMAC Bowl: Southern Mississippi over Ohio

January 8

BCS Title Game: Florida over Ohio State



The Miracle Strip Corvette Club presented Covenant Hospice with a check for \$1,000 from their "Life is a Vette" car show that was held in October on Pensacola Beach. Rick Gordon from the Corvette Club thanked the Pensacola Beach business community for their continued support. The money will go to help the special programs offered by Covenant Hospice. (Left to Right): Darrell Blanchard, President of Miracle Strip Corvette Club, Chuck Lee, VP of Business Development, Covenant Hospice and Rick Gordon, Car Show Organizer.

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Love Is In The Air When The Wind Is In My Sails

BY TRISH THE SKIPPER, NAMASTE

Part I

How does it happen; how does a girl (or a guy, let's not discriminate) go from being a normal, happy landlubber to being a slightly crazy skipper of his or her own 43 foot sailboat? For some, it may be a process that takes years, a gradual courtship that begins with a proper introduction, shy handholding, a safe trip out on the water on a sunny day, gentle breezes, a first kiss, and finally a timid turn at the helm. In my case it was more like the elevator scene in Fatal Attraction. Love at first sight doesn't even start to describe it.

I'd been watching her across Little Sabine for weeks. From the time the long, lovely, lady moved across from me, I watched each day as my lucky neighbor walked down his dock each morning and stepped aboard her lovely decks. She rose and fell in response to his footsteps as he opened hatches, wandered about her

decks, and sunned himself languidly. I sat in my living room across Little Sabine and pined and wondered what it would be like to be able to go aboard such a beautiful boat.

It wasn't as if I didn't get to be on the water. I was an avid wind surfer and my friend Jeff occasionally invited me out on his little dory to go scuba diving. She was just so beautiful! What was just so beautiful? What was hiding beneath her beautiful exterior?

"Would you like to go for a sail? I think I could arrange it. Bob's going out with the owner tomorrow." Guess Jeff had seen me pining from afar. My poker face is not so good, maybe even nonexistent.

"You're kidding. Don't tease me."

"No, really. Bob asked me if I'd like to go, but I've got to work. Wanna go?"

"Oh, my goodness, yes. Call

him and beg him to let me go. Please, please, please. Yes, I want to go! Call now. Tell him yes. Ask what time. What can I bring?"

Shortly, it was a done deal. At ten o'clock the next morning I was there, looking back at my condo from the other side of Little Sabine, wearing white shorts, a tee shirt, and a smile that I couldn't stop from stretching all the way across my face.

Her owner arrived and Bob introduced me, but, honestly, I can't remember his name or even what he looked like - at all. My eyes were only for the beautiful blue and white sailboat, my new love, my new obsession. She was huge, thirty feet at least, and even more beautiful close up than at a distance.

To be continued...

[Trish is the owner of the Namaste sailing vessel which offers charters from Pensacola Beach. She can be reached at 305-766-3518.]

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Pistol Anne Dominates Beach Poker Games

The roster for the November Champions Tournament read like a Who's Who of Beach Poker players - all invited to play Texas Hold 'Em 4 Fun at Paradise on December 2. Among the names were Michelle Bourgeois, Trace Lewis, Franny Cox, Jeff Lockwood, Anne Vinson, Mark Beachman, Bud Waite, Jamie Prowant, Justin



Bud Waite considers his options on his way to a weekly win at The Islander Lounge.

Robbins and Perry Logan. "Pistol" Anne Vinson kept her hot streak alive with a dominating style of play that was unbeatable against the top players in the area. Trace Lewis was the last to survive Anne's run, well, her hobble, to the November Champions title. Poker in Paradise is played on Monday nights each week. Tim Rinker survived the insanity of the night on December 4 to claim another title. Roberto "Kid Roll" Vasquez was second.

The following Monday a packed house saw David Osborne defeat Fran Cox in the final.

Travel to downtown Pensacola Beach's historic section and pit your card playing

skills against your friends at The Islander Lounge. In Saturday night action John "J M a c" McNamara showed why he's one of the top players in the area, taking the winner's t-shirt from Tim Rinker.

Mid week games begin at 7 p.m. at The Islander and on Decem-

ber 13 Bud Waite made his way to the winners circle. "Beachman" Mark J. slid into second place.

Texas Hold 'Em 4 Fun hosts games on Pensacola Beach at the Paradise Bar and Grill on Monday nights and The Islander Lounge on Wednesday and Saturday nights. Games begin at 7 p.m. Beach Time.

"Come out and join the fun," said Rick Uzdevenes, promoter. "We get lots of players and crowds of onlookers as well, so whatever suits you, do it."

For more information about the weekly Texas Hold 'Em 4 Fun showdowns email Rick at salt2o@mchsi.com.

memberships still available

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Soirees Send '06 Sailing Into the Sunset

Where will you be when the clock strikes twelve and the New Year dawns on Pensacola Beach? Find a party that suits your style:

Flounder's Chowder House: Admiral Flounder has ordered Alaskan King Crab and Angus Filet Mignon for New Year's patrons. The delectable duo is served for two at \$64.99. If your palette craves something saucy, order the Blackened Grouper for two and revel in the Andouille Cheese Grits as an accompaniment. \$50.99. Stay for the live music beginning at 9 p.m., party favors and complimentary champagne at midnight. The Best Western on Pensacola Beach offers a \$59 room rate for those who purchased New Year's Eve Special dinners for two. Within easy walking distance.

Crabs, We've Got 'Em: Dine right on the Gulf of Mexico. A New Year's Eve winning combination of surf and turf with salad and dessert for \$28.95. Reservations are not needed.

Springhill Suites and Sun Ray Tiki Bar: Stay in a Gulf front Suite. Enjoy a complimentary bottle of chilled champagne. Early evening Wine and Champagne reception with hors d'oeuvres

from 6 to 9 p.m. All for \$149. 932-6000

The Olive Drop Martini Bar: The Olive Drops at Midnight at the Soundside Martini Bar. Elegant drinks, live music, champagne and hors d'oeuvres. Noise makers provided. Call for party prices. 932-7675.

Sandshaker Lounge: Warning, this party will shake you up. Miles from Coltrane plays from 9 to 1. Free champagne at midnight. Drawing for Champagne Diamond jewelry. Ringing in the New Year Shaker Style - it's a Beach tradition. No cover. Come back the next day for football and Bloody Marys. 932-2211

Portofino Island Resort: Indulge your senses with a holiday stay in a two bedroom Sky Home (\$249) and a four course dinner at Terracotta, the resort's exclusive fine dining restaurant (\$75). Water taxi service to the Portofino Boardwalk, free. 916-5000.

Portofino Boardwalk: With a Key West flare and an expansive soundfront view Hemingway's Island Grill is offering a special New Year's Eve dinner for \$50. Or if you prefer a spicy, west coast experience, try the family specials at Cabo Grill.

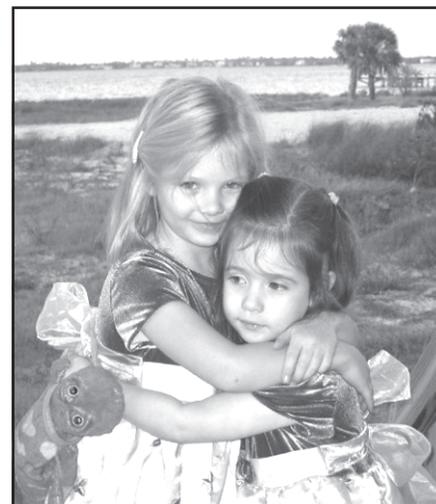
Bamboo Willie's invites island guests to party under their famous thatched roof. Live music and dancing. The Midnight Ballroom Drop should not be missed.

Paradise Inn: Nestled in the heart of downtown Pensacola Beach is the quaint old Florida-styled Paradise Inn. Rates start at \$59. At the Paradise Bar, Wildwood heats up the party at 9 p.m. The fun continues with free champagne at midnight and party favors. 932-2319.

Sidelines Sports Bar and Restaurant: Stay tuned in and don't miss a down. Wings will be plentiful. Come back for New Year's Day Bowl Games.

PegLeg Pete's: Shiver me timbers, there's a new year approaching on the starboard bow. Greet it with a Snow Crab Bucket or a live Maine Lobster dinner. 932-4139.

The Greenery: Located across the bridge in Gulf Breeze, Bud and Marietta Schroeder are preparing a New Year's Eve dinner worth the drive. Reservations are suggested. New Year's Day brunch with complimentary Bloody Marys and Mimosas will be served. 932-1525



Sarah and Kayla Shearman dressed up in their finest to attend a wedding last month. But, the two little beauties really prefer playing on the Beach. After all they are the daughters of Charlie and Carol Shearman. Dick and Clair Zelius and Chris and Becky Shearman are the proud grandparents.

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Beauty & Beach

By Danah & Gwen Gibson

Here we are at holiday time, and perhaps you are wondering, what's new this year for party hair styles? Whether you are going to a office get-together, cocktail party or out for a big formal New Year's Eve ball, you want to do a little something different with your hair. This will make you feel special on a special occasion.

Casual elegance and retro glamour seem to be the "in" thing this season. If you're looking to wear your hair up, sleek and simple are your keywords. A low-slung bun (at the nape of your neck) with one fresh flower (think stargazer, gardenia, or even an orchid) is a fabulous look. You can match your ensemble or contrast with it. In other words, if you are wearing blue, don't dye a carnation to match, a deep red rose would look better. Half-up, half-down is good for people who want a new 'do, but don't feel comfy with all their hair up. Jewel

tones are very popular now, so this style could be accented with a clip or comb with these color stones on them. This would also look great on the Veronica Lake/Christina Aguilera style.

And of course, nice loose soft, face-framing waves are always good, just do a little more than usual, and maybe tease the crown for some added height.

Wherever you may go, and what ever you may do this holiday season, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And if you don't observe any of these days, celebrate the fact that we made it through Hurricane Season 2006-STORM FREE.

The holiday hair hotline is open at 850-932-4323.

MBT at Comfort Zone Footwear

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Mostly Nuts & Bolts

By Candace Segar

General Contractor Dashing Through The House

For fifteen years Ralph and I have been working on our old house. And believe it or not, I am ready to throw down the gauntlet. Gauntlet meaning a protective glove with a flaring cuff used in manual labor not a protective glove worn with medieval armor. Now what exactly do I mean by that? Let me put it into two words. Beautiful words I might add - General contractor!

I am ready to bring in a general contractor and have him or her renovate the kitchen, laundry room, butler's pantry and sun room for starters. Two of the four rooms do not exist as a butler's pantry or sun room, yet. But they certainly exist in my mind. I have been designing this kitchen for, hmmm, perhaps, fifteen years, but it has been intermittent. Now the redesign to the kitchen is a continuous thought followed by redesign of one room after the other. Ralph and I will continue small projects, but in 2007 the General

Contractor is headed to our house. That's almost as good as Santa Claus.

Best Christmas Present Ever

Now I am going to tell you about one of the best Christmas presents I have ever gotten. It isn't your typical present, and it didn't come from Santa. It's a story about two wonderful people who are a part of my life now, thanks to my husband Ralph. They are Alice, my mother-in-law and Gene, my brother-in-law. Gene has spent the last three years taking care of Alice so that she does not have to live in a nursing home. Through his love and devotion, Alice's health has improved significantly. But the most recent news is the best present. She is walking relatively long distances. And this makes me and Ralph feel so good. Every day I thank the Universe for my family and friends. For me they are the best presents on Earth. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all the *Island Times* readers.

Junior College Offers Video Game Courses

If you can imagine it, you can design it. That's the magic of the new course in simulation and game design at Pensacola Junior College that starts in January.

Students can now earn an associate's degree in computer programming and analysis that opens the door to the video game industry.

"With this program, we've become the third community college in the state to offer students an opportunity to break into this exciting and growing industry," said Rich Cacace, professor of computer science at PJC.

Simulation and game design is a relatively new degree program that is being implemented in colleges and universities worldwide.

The computer and video game industry is the economic sector involved with the development, marketing and sale of video and computer games. It encompasses dozens of job disciplines and employs thousands of people in the United States. The video game industry alone took in \$31 billion in 2004.

For more information, contact Cacace at 484-2052, rcacace@pjc.edu. You can register at any PJC campus or online at www.pjc.edu.

Recycling Ralph says...

Americans represent only five percent of the world's population, but generate 30 percent of the world's garbage.

Recycling one ton of old paper saves 17 trees, 2 barrels of oil (enough to run an average car for 1,260 miles), 4,100 kilowatts of energy (enough power for the average home for 6 months), 3.2 cubic yards of landfill space, 7,000 gallons of water, and 60 pounds of air pollution.

Every day, U.S. paper makers recycle enough paper to fill a train of boxcars 15 miles long.

If we recycled all of the newspapers printed in the U.S. on a typical Sunday, we would save about 550,000 trees.

Recycling the steel from six cars can provide enough steel framing for an entire new house.

The energy saved each year by steel recycling is equal to the electrical power used by 18 million homes each year - or enough energy to last Los Angeles residents eight years.

The steel industry recycles almost 19 billion steel cans into new products each year - about 600 cans recycled every second.

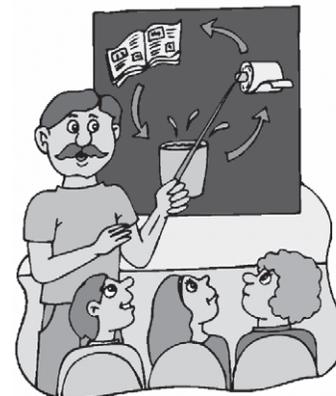
Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to power a television for three hours.

Americans throw away enough aluminum to rebuild our entire commercial fleet of airplanes every 3 months.

Aluminum cans produced in the United States can contain at least 50 percent recycled content.

Recycling one glass bottle saves enough electricity to light a 60-watt bulb for four hours.

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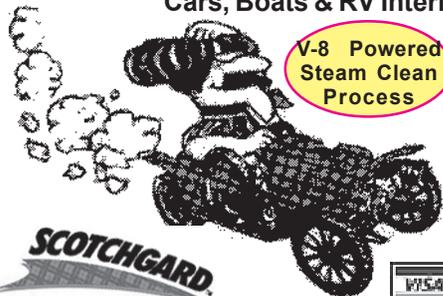


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Second Graders Send Letters To Santa

Debbie Campanella's second grade class at Pensacola Beach Elementary School made their Christmas requests in writing, so Old Saint Nick would fill his sleigh with all the right stuff.

Dear Santa,
I would like an X Box for Christmas. You can play games like skateboarding because you can ride it and do trix. And, I would like a bike because you can ride it. I like bikes because it can get you someplace where you need to go.

Love, Chad

Dear Santa,
I want American Girl Emily because it will be my own girl. Next I want Merry Jane Crocs, please. Purple. Last but not least a statue of Jesus. Are your reindeer healthy? What is your phone number? How do you get the presents on the sleigh? How is Mrs. Claus? Does she go with you sometimes? Back to the reindeer. How old are they? I will have cookies and milk and for the reindeer carrots. And maybe a note just about the reindeer and Mrs. Claus, and of course, you. Don't eat too many cookies.

Your friend, Gigi Dempsey

Dear Santa,
I have special questions for you. One is about the reindeer. How are they doing? Are they ready to fly? Another question is about the elfs. How are they doing? Are they excited about Christmas? My last question is about your sleigh. Is it packed and ready to go? Does it have lights? How are you doing? I'm excited about Christmas.

P.S. How do you see us and do you see my brother, PJ Dunne? Do you know he says, "I love Christmas" a lot?

**Love,
Shelby Michael Balch Dunne**

Dear Santa,
Let me tell you what I want to have for Christmas. First, is a Game Boy game. I want a Game Boy game because I would like

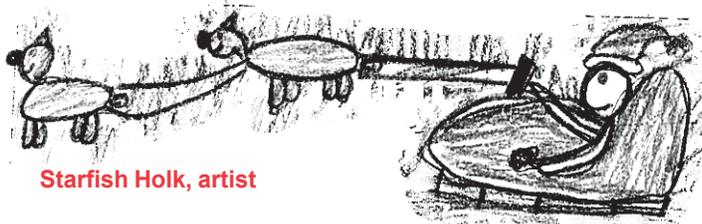


Reddon McLaurine, artist

to play my Game Boy when I am bored. Second is earrings. I would like them to say Daddy's Girl. And I would like them to be shaped like a heart. The very last is tennis shoe skates. I would like them because they're fun and I can skate in my house whenever I want.

Love, Mary Elliott

Dear Santa,
This is the three most favorite things I want from Santa. My first one is Vertcon Warriors. It is a game. You fight with little men and little weapons that you can put on them. It's a fun game. My second thing I want for Christmas is Wii. It's a game. It's an active game and it's a video game. And it's a TV game. That is my second thing. Let's move on to our next thing



Starfish Holk, artist

is the Nerf Blaster. It shoots darts. It's long and it shoots long distances, too. It's one of the new kinds of Nerf guns. It just came out one month ago. It's one of the fun toys I'm talking about. My fourth thing is moon sand. It's sand that won't dry out and sticks together. It's fun.

I love you Santa, Reddon

Dear Santa,
I would like three things. One is an electric scooter that is blue and orange and has painted flames on it. The second thing is a surfboard that is a longboard that is blue. The third thing is a four-wheeler that is fake and blue. That is why I like Christmas!

Daniel Green

Dear Santa,
May I please have a tea cup dog that is a poodle because it looks like a puff ball? And I want to teach it how to play dead and roll over and do a front flip and a back flip and bark and run and jump and swim and fetch and play with me.

Santa, are you feeling good? Are your reindeer feeling well? Are you feeding your reindeer? We'll leave you lots of cookies and milk. I've been very good this year.

Your friend, Rich Earle

Dear Santa,
I want a Vespa because I can ride to my friends. Can I have a blue one? I want a phone be-

cause I can call my friends and for an emergency. A puppy will give me company when my friends are not home.

Love, Paris Dupuis

Dear Santa,
Let me tell you three things that I would like for Christmas. The first thing is a four-wheeler. I would like a Yamaha four-wheeler just if you don't know what Yamaha means, it means blue. Another reason is to beat my brother in races and go in the woods. The second thing I would like for Christmas is a horse. I would like a brown horse. One reason is to beat my Aunt Frances in barrel racing. My third thing, last but not least, I would like an electric scooter. When I go on bike rides, my legs won't get tired because I would

have an electric scooter. Oh my, Santa, I hope everything is ok and Merry Christmas.

Your second grade elf, Starfish

Dear Santa,
Do you have helpers at the North Pole to bring presents on the sleigh? Can you turn invisible? How many times have kids seen you each year? Do you have magic? And, how can you open doors if they have no chimney?

Your second grade friend, Parker

Dear Santa,
I want three special gifts for Christmas. I hope I get all three. Green Leaf because I really like poceman. And it is really fun to play with. Green Leaf is my first thing. My second thing is Rescue Team because you get to be a poceman instead of a traner. So I can play it with my friends. And third, an air plane toy because it is fun.

And how is Root Off?

Love, Justin Fruitticher

Dear Santa,
These are three things I want for Christmas. First, I want my little pony. I want my little pony because I want to collect them all. Second, I would like an eye pod. I want an eye pod because when I go on long trips I do not want to have to bring my CD player. Third, I want to have all ten American Girls. I want them because I want to play like they are sisters and that they are

friends.

**I love you Santa Claus,
Maddie Grace**

Dear Santa,
Are your reindeer fed? How do you get down the chimney? How was your summer? I hope it was great. I want the game Pokemon Ranger. It is an exciting game.

Yours truly, Edgar Shigley

Dear Santa,
First I want an electric scooter because they go fast. I want a remote control flying Superman because it can fly. I want a Game Boy game and a Game Boy because you can play games on it. Second, how can you get down the chimney? Why do you wear a red suit? Third, thank you for all the toys.

Patrick

Dear Santa,
Here are some presents I would like. Cookie dough, an ant sucker and a basketball goal. I want the six foot goal and Verticon. But what I want the most is a cell phone. Here are some questions I'd like to tell you. How do you come down the chimney? How do you do the whole world in one night? What are your favorite cookies and milk?

Your friend, Benton

Dear Santa,
I have three questions for you. How long have you been delivering presents? How many presents do you deliver every year? What continents do you deliver to? I hope you can get a me a cell phone. But I think Santa and his elves are the best in the gigantic universe. I have questions about the North Pole. 1. How cold can it get? 2. When you give present to kids how fast do you have to go to get all the presents to all the kids on time?

Your second grade friend, Dillon

Dear Santa,
I'll tell you three things I want for Christmas. First, I want three pokemon things. I want pokebills with real pokeman in them. I want every pokemon bag. I want every pokemon card. Second I want four electronics.



**Gigi Dempsey
artist**



Mary Elliott, artist

First I want a Game Boy. Second I want a Play Station 2. Third, I want an Xbox 360. Finally, I want a Nintendo DS. Third, I want three video games. First I want every pokemon game. Second, I want every Sonic game. Third I want a football game.

Thank you for all the things I wanted.

Love, Joey Martin

Dear Santa,
I would like a razor cell phone that is green. Second I would like a Lego Aqua Raiders set. Third I would like an electric scooter that is blue. Fourth I would like a Play Station 3 that is black. Fifth I would like a Play Station game, Ratchet and Clank Up Your Arsenal. Sixth I would like a pack of 400 pokemon cards with mew ex and deoxes ex.

Your friend, Colin Adams

Dear Santa,
I have three important things on my list. Now I will tell you what they are. The first one is a Gator jersey. The second one is a walking Chihuahua and finally a church outfit. Now let me tell you why I want this stuff. I want the Gator jersey because they are the team I root for and because my mom went to their college. The next thing I would like is a walking Chihuahua that barks and wags its tail, so it could walk with me and it has a cute face. The final thing is a church outfit. One reason is for the cold weather and to look like my mom's. Christmas is my favorite holiday.

Kylie

Sleigh Bells Ring, Are You Listening?

If you're looking for a place to hide from the Christmas Spirit, don't come to Pensacola Beach. Good times and joyous spirits are just run of the mill, every day ways of life for most Beach residents, so when Christmas arrives, the bells really begin to jingle. Parties which are previews for the big December 25 holiday are over now. If you missed the boat parade, street parade, and all the needy families awaiting your special gifts, then you must be Scrooge. Or the Grinch. Or, if you just plain missed everything, come back next year.

Christmas Day means family, friends, and football and the Beach churches will be open

Beach Repair Projects Nearing Completion

Dave Hemphill, Baskerville Donovan Engineers, told the SRIA at their December 13 Board meeting that repairs to Via de Luna are moving at a faster rate than in the summer months. He said this improvement was the result of completion of underground utilities and the ability to staff the project at a higher level.

"Traffic on the north lane and the bike path is scheduled to be transferred the second week in January," he said. "Demolition of the south lane will follow with a goal of minimizing disruption during the coming year."

The Ft. Pickens roadway is complete, according to Hemphill who cites stormwater drainage, roadway improvements, new bike path and underground utilities as finished.

The public safety building at Casino Beach is on schedule for completion before May of 2007. This building will add lifeguard facilities and bathrooms to Casino Beach.

Completed now are north and south roadways, sand cleaning, Via de Luna parking lot, and Ft. Pickens Gate parking lot.

Work is still to be done on several repair projects. The plans are complete for the Quietwater Beach Parking Lot. Restriping the lot will increase parking by 100 spaces, install new lights, and increase the light level over the parking lot.

bringing their messages of the real reasons Christmas is celebrated. The Pensacola Beach Community Church will hold its regular service on Sunday, December 24 at 10 a.m. Carols and Candlelight services will begin at 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church will hold two masses. One on Christmas Eve at 9:45 a.m. and the other on Christmas Day at 9:45 a.m.

Most *Island Times* advertis-

ers will close on Christmas Day to allow their employees to spend the day with their families. However, the Sandshaker will be open on Christmas Eve with drink specials from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. and they will be open all day on Christmas.

Also open on both Christmas Eve from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. and on Christmas Day from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. will be the Surf Side Food Store.

Sidelines will be open

Christmas Eve until 6:30 and will close on Christmas Day. PegLeg Pete's will be open until 4:30 on Christmas Eve and will be closed on Christmas Day.

Flounder's and Crabs will be open Christmas Eve and closed on Christmas. The Olive Drop will be open until they hear Santa's sleigh bells, about 10 or 11 p.m. on Christmas Eve. They will open at 6 p.m. on Christmas Day.

The Greenery in Gulf

Breeze will close at 3 p.m. on Christmas Eve and all day Christmas. The Market on the Island will be closed on Christmas Day. Paradise Bar and Grill will be closed all day on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

When December 26 rolls around, everybody will be full of turkey and ready to gear up for the New Year's holiday. Have you made your New Year's Eve reservations? Everyone is open and ready to party.

No Bumps In The Road For New SRIA

No one knew quite what to expect from the first meeting of the Santa Rosa Island Authority Board members on December 6, but the packed out meeting room soon discovered that the unprecedented number of new board members did not miss a beat in carrying out their duties.

County Commissioners Grover Robinson, Kevin White, and Gene Valentino showed up to see how well their appointees did.

Vernon Prather and Tom Campanella, the only two members of the original board were named Chairman and Vice Chairman. The secretary-treasurer is Kelly Robertson and the acting secretary-treasurer is Tammy Bohannon.

Appearing before the Architectural and Environmental Committee Fred Simmons, owner of Paradise Bar and Grill, conducted his own meeting. He has been involved in a controversy over the kitchen facility which is in a portable building.

Fred noted that Continental Airlines praised his efforts to retain a real beach flavor in his bar.

Then, he turned to the audience and asked them if they thought he should get an extension. They all raised their hands. That was enough to sway the committee to grant him an extension.

But, Fred was not through. "I want to thank you. I think you are terrific and whoever that Commissioner is who wants you gone, I am not in favor of that."

The Board then returned to the less emotional order of business like the Beach sign which will be located at the Visitor's Information Center. It will contain

the names of the Pensacola Beach Community Church, Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church, Pensacola Beach Elk's Lodge #497, the Optimists Club and the Pensacola Beach Woman's Club on the sign.

And, finally what a Christmas present! Chairman Prather recommended that each of the 38 full time employees receive a bonus of \$475 each. This money came from the settlement in a lawsuit against Cingular Wireless who had installed a line without permission on the water tower in the Casino Beach Parking lot.

The Full Board met on Wednesday, December 12 and voted favorably on the following items:

☐ Granted Jim Reeves an extension until January 15 to submit final paperwork for the changes in the Tiki Motel property and the Holiday Townhouses.

☐ Granted extension until June 1 to Baker Clark, owner of the Five Flags motel, to pay a consideration fee and to submit rebuilding plans.

☐ Granted Chuck Nicholson another year's use of the overflow parking lot at the Beach Marina for a \$400 fee subject to a future increase.

☐ Granted an additional \$7500 to the Krewe of Wrecks Mardi Gras parade bringing the SRIA's total contribution to \$20,000. The vote on this issue was 5 to 1 with Peacock dissenting.

☐ Fred Simmons received an extension to maintain his portable kitchen at the Paradise Bar and Grill until December 31, 2007.

☐ Voted to follow staff's rec-

ommendation and allow a community organization Beach sign to be installed.

☐ Rescinded a decision to light the bike path only on Ft. Pickens Road and approved plans to light both the road and bike path with turtle friendly lighting.

☐ Accepted a \$150,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Fisheries and Wildlife to provide for turtle friendly lighting on Ft. Pickens Road.

☐ Approved the award of \$475 to each of 38 SRIA employees. The Board felt it was a way to say thank you to the employees who had worked so hard to repair the Island after Ivan. The vote on this project was five to one with Peacock voting against.

SRIA Board Chairman announced the composition of the committees for the upcoming year:

Development and Leasing: Fred Gant, chairman, Tom Campanella and Vernon Prather;

Operations: Tom Campanella, chairman, John Peacock and Fred Gant

Architectural and Environmental: Kelly Robertson,

chairman, Tammy Bohannon and Vernon Prather

Administrative: Tammy Bohannon, chairman, Tom Campanella and Kelly Robertson.

Prather announced that a new committee had been added, **Special Projects:** John Peacock, chairman, Vernon Prather, Tammy Bohannon.

Also, a Board Member's Forum was established at the first meeting with John Peacock issuing a statement concerning the future of the Island. He said there was a need for a visioning plan. Fourteen plans have already been drafted since 1984. A summary of these will be presented in January. Also, Kelly Robertson asked Peacock if he had ever seen the Vision 2010, prepared by the Haas Center. He said he had not, so Robertson asked if staff could supply a copy for him. The plan is on the SRIA website.

The next meeting of the SRIA will be a Full Board meeting at their office at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 10. The meetings are open to the public and a Visitor's Forum is available for those who wish to speak.

ISLAND TIMES

PUBLISHED EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY

JANE WATERS COOPER, PUBLISHER
SHELLEY W. JOHNSON, EDITOR

Post Office Box 844
Gulf Breeze, FL 32562
850-916-5258

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Beach kids of all ages enjoyed the December 3 Christmas parade. Back row (L to R): Michael deMahy, Bettie Lee Sundstrom, Dave Sundstrom, and Marilyn Sundstrom. Middle row (L to R): Jace Amberson, Parker Baynes, Santa (Russ Mann), and Taylor Baynes. Front row (L to R): Erin Bailey, Will Genkin, Carlee Amberson, Blair Amberson, Molly deMahy, and Matthew deMahy.



The Santa Rosa Kids House in Milton is one step closer to completion thanks in part to the generosity of this Beach family. The years-long effort of raising funds and donating time and services culminated for (L to R) Linda Whitman, Debbie Cowen, Ty Cowen, Karen Cook Cowen, Bob Cowen and Drew Cowen at the recent groundbreaking event. The Kids House will serve as a one stop haven for abused children processing through the legal system.

Brave Souls And Beach Babes Plunge Into Frosty Waters

Polar Bears of all shapes and sizes will plunge into the waters of Santa Rosa Sound on the first day of the New Year. Paradise Bar and Grill is hosting the Second Annual Polar Bear Plunge at 3 p.m. on January 1.

"You don't actually have to be a bear to enjoy this event, but you do need to be brave. We are offering a weekend stay at Paradise Inn to the person who costumes in the best Plunge-wear," said General Manger Renee Mack.

Paradise will have drink specials and plenty of food to warm the brave souls who take to the winter water. Refreshments will include traditional black eyed

peas and a steamed cabbage for good luck.

According to Santa Rosa Island Authority Safety Director Bob West, who provides the life-guards for the event, "The water temps should not be too cold. It depends on a number of factors but think around 60 degrees or less on New Year's Day."

Paradise Inn will offer special room rates for the New Year's weekend with a portion of the rental fee benefitting the Krewe of Wrecks Parade Fund. Proceeds from the Polar Bear Plunge will also be donated to the Parade Fund.

For more information, call Renee Mack at 916-5087.

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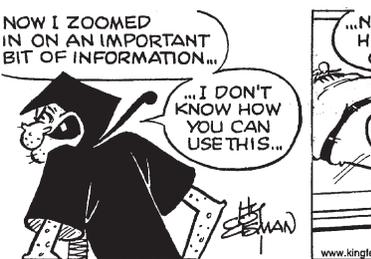
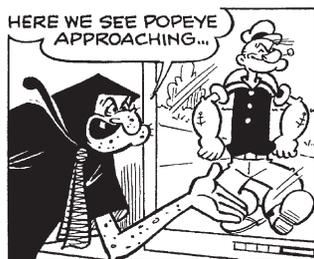
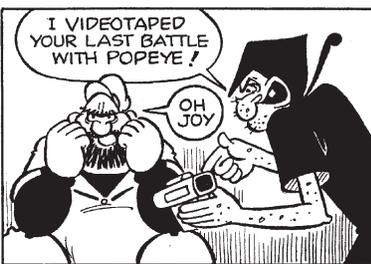
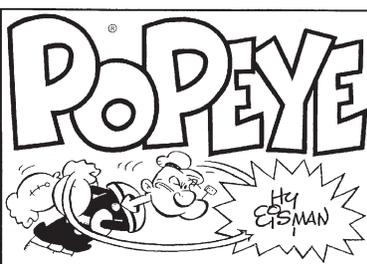
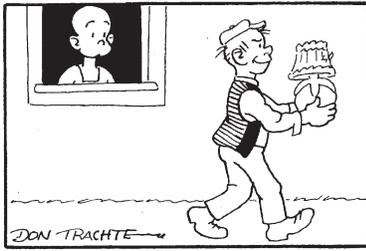
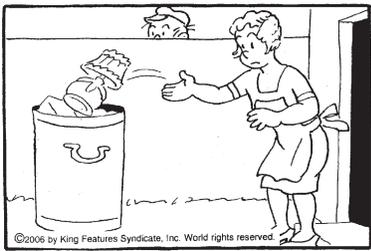
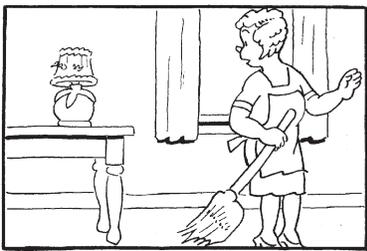
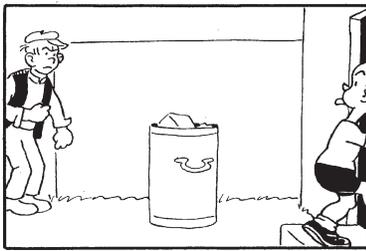
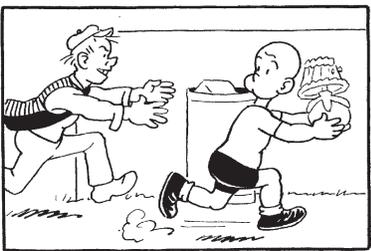
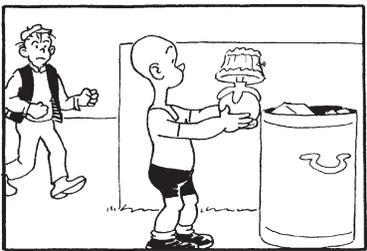
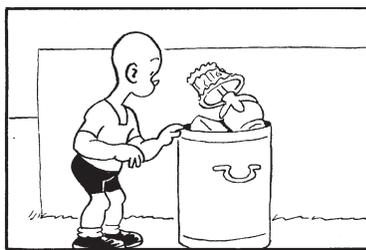
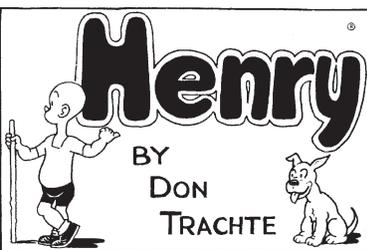
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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) With the new year's opportunities almost within reach, the Arian's courageous aspects are raring to go. And don't be surprised if a lot of people follow the zodiac's most trusted leader.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Change lies ahead for the brave Bovine who is ready to shuck off the tried and true to try something new. But appearances can be deceptive. Check it all out before you charge into anything.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) This week promises a peek into what the new year holds for the Gemini Twins, both in love and careers. Family matters continue to be a factor in decisions you're going to be facing.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) As you move into the new year, your travel aspects grow stronger, and you might find yourself making decisions about a destination and a traveling companion sooner than you'd expected.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The new year holds both glitter and gold. This means Leos and Leonas should begin getting the facts they'll need to separate the real thing from the sham in order to make important decisions next year.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A good way to start the new year might be to arrange for a visit to someone you haven't seen in a long time. You might also want to pick up that project you put off a while back.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) As you contemplate the new year's potential, you might want to talk things over with people who are or have been where you want to go. Their experience and advice can be helpful.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Someone close to you might feel you have no more room for him or her in your life. This calls for immediate reassurance of your love so you can start the new year on a high note.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) The coming year will bring more people into your life. Some situations might not work out as well as others. But overall, everyone earns something, and that's always a good thing.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) The new year could find you indulging in one or more of the hobbies you've always wanted to take up. And don't be surprised if they ultimately direct you toward a new career.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) The artistic Aquarian should find more opportunities in the new year. You might even make some potentially helpful contacts as you gather to ring in the year 2007.

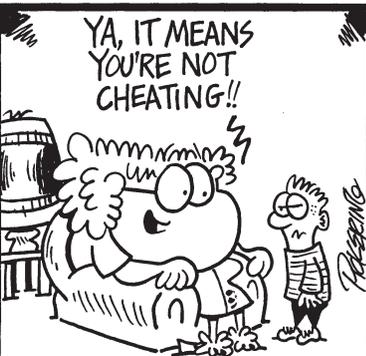
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) The new year offers challenges for Pisceans who want to make better use of the skills they now have and learn new ones. Personal relationships show stronger positive aspects.

BORN THIS WEEK: Although you sometimes tend to be a bit judgmental, nevertheless, you are generous and caring and very much beloved.

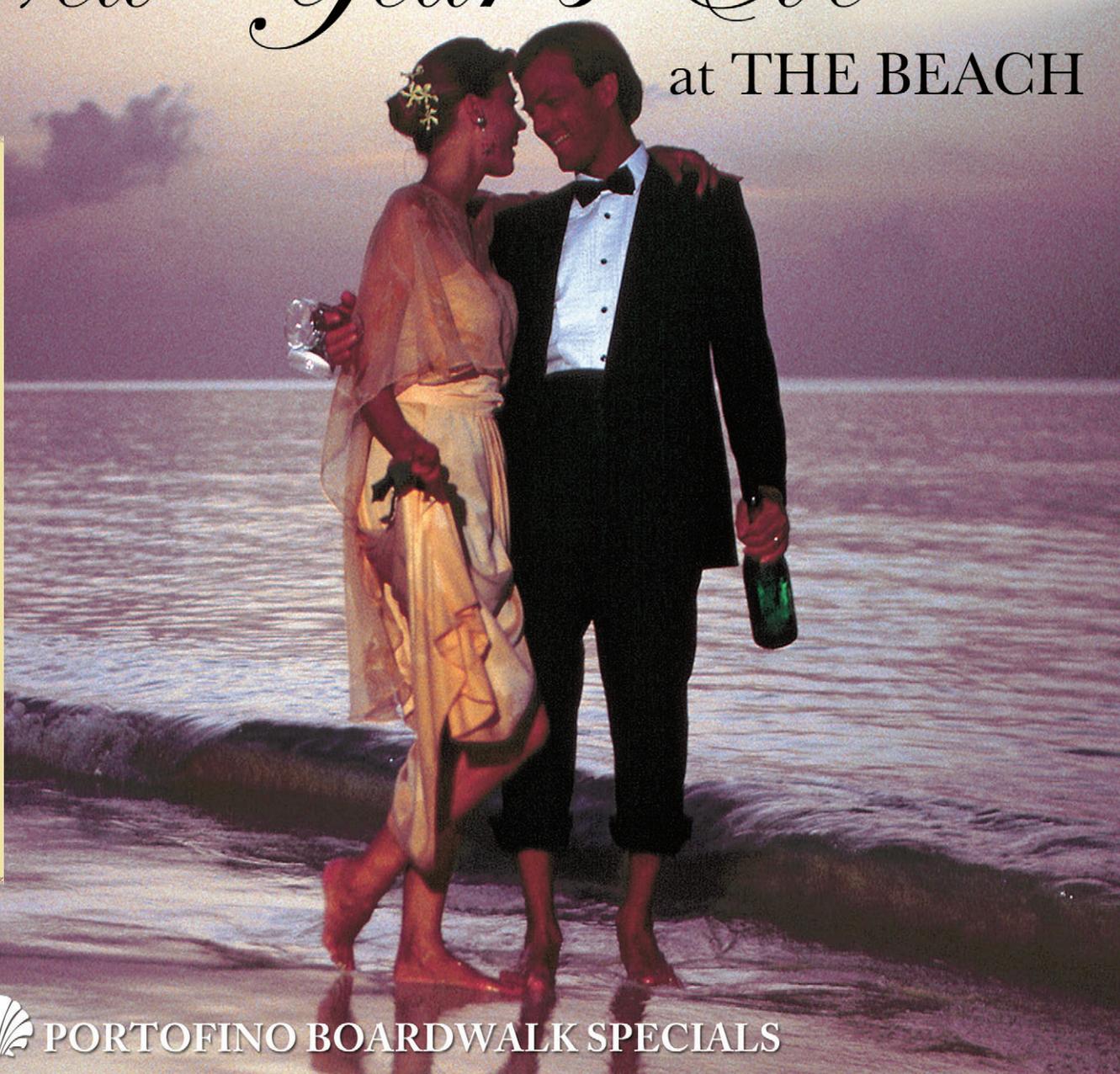
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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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MLS # 278391

Santa Rosa Villas
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27 Seashore Drive
Pensacola Beach Soundfront Lot. \$925,000 MLS# 315079

1581 Bulevar Menor
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Gulf Breeze Proper - 2 Bedroom. 2 bath Sailwind Condo. Immaculate with pool. New interior. \$142,500. Jeremy S. Johnson, Broker Associate/Realtor, Island Realty of Pensacola Beach. **850-377-3145**

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GEAUX Saints!

— **King Crossword** —
Answers
Solution time: 27 mins.

B	E	T	A	S	H	Y	B	E	A	T		
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Association of Krewes Meeting •Thursday, January 4• 6 PM
The Islander Lounge

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Wager
- 4 Wan
- 8 Thwack
- 12 Past
- 13 Entreaty
- 14 Distasteful
- 15 Hatchet-like weapon
- 17 Reedy
- 18 Settled down
- 19 Expiate
- 20 Looked lecherously
- 22 Possess
- 24 Strike out
- 25 Re Mom and Dad
- 29 Compass pt.
- 30 Also-ran
- 31 Sapporo sash
- 32 Hairdressers
- 34 Henchman of Captain Hook
- 35 Needing a massage
- 36 Pinnacles
- 37 Chopin piece
- 40 Confederate uniforms
- 41 Crow's-nest call
- 42 Annie's song
- 46 Calf-length
- 47 Rams fans?
- 48 Indivisible
- 49 - gin fizz
- 50 Actress

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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- 10 Related
- 11 Actress Daly
- 16 Sheltered
- 19 State with certainty
- 20 Praiseful pieces
- 21 Bloke
- 22 Rash
- 23 War god
- 25 Elegant part
- 26 Utter foolishness
- 27 Busy as -
- 28 Whoppers
- 30 Grown-up nits
- 33 Highland youngster
- 34 "Lion King" villain
- 36 Got up
- 37 "Desire Under the -"
- 38 Manx cat's lack
- 39 Loosen
- 40 Federal agts.
- 42 Afternoon social
- 43 Possess
- 44 Lennon's lady
- 45 Itty-bitty

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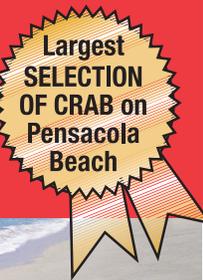
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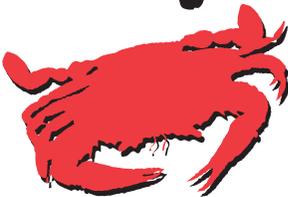
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Barefoot on the Beach

By Jane Waters Cooper



It all started with a paper lunch bag, a bit of sand and a tea candle. Back in the 1980s, the businesses in the Sandspur Republic took these simple ingredients and turned them into a Christmas celebration that attracted thousands to Pensacola Beach for "Christmas on the Island." The Sandspur Republic, more formerly known as the Surf and Sand Cottages was a cluster of small businesses, residents, and tourists where the Hilton Garden Inn and Soundside Market now stand.

The businesses were housed in a bunch of flimsy, funky cottages, connected by a bumpy, rocky street.

As the Christmas season approached, Joy Anderson, owner of the Sundeck Saloon, kept making noises about lining the streets and the buildings with luminaria.

And then what? Will people actually come to the Beach to look at candles burning in a paper bag? So, there we were sitting in front of the fireplace installed on the porch of the Sundeck, deciding to put on a Christmas event together.

Our funds were, shall we say, limited? But that didn't stop us. Louise Savelli, motel manager, said we would get the Firehouse Six for entertainment. Well, they weren't exactly on top of the charts, they had red firemen's coveralls, Santa hats, were all about 20-years old, and they loved to sing. What more could you ask?

Then, we really got busy, plotting and planning. We would put hay in the Krewe of Wrecks

Mardi Gras float and take kids on hay rides. Each business would serve refreshments; Miss Merry Christmas would stroll through the Republic giving out small gifts. Bobby D's would host a slightly risqué adult coloring contest and the Sundeck would hold one for the kids.

But the highlight of the show would be the arrival of Santa Claus on a sailboard. Little did we realize how much havoc this event would create.

Mike Meade, dressed in his Santa suit, and wearing twinkling lights would come sailing across the Sound where the children would rush into the cold water to greet him. He said a few Ho, Ho, Ho's and disappeared into his business, and out would come a perfectly groomed, fancy velvet-clad Santa Claus, Jim Rigby, to greet the children. If they ever noticed the switch from the thin, wet scraggly Claus to the dapper, rotund version, they never complained.

The event ran every year until 1992, and the luminaria sprouted all over the Beach during the final years. It started in the residences in Villa Sabine, came down Ft. Pickens Road, courtesy of The Dunes and the Bank of the South, skipped across the street to the Boardwalk, down both sides of Via de Luna to the old Sun Ray Taco Shop. The little lighted paper bags created an illusion of grandeur, a magnificent moment on the Island.

No one got hurt. No businesses burned down. No one had a big electric bill to pay. It was awesome.

Yes, our streets were bumpy

and rocky, but on that one holiday night in December, they were bathed in a luminous glow, touched by thousands of luminaria.

As I look back, I don't know exactly what it was that motivated us. I know it wasn't money, even if Bobby D's sold more drinks than usual. I guess it was the Christmas spirit. It sort of gets in your bones, and stays there until you do something noble to re-

lease it.

And so after the Firehouse Six had sung their last stanza of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" the young volunteers took to the streets, dousing the luminaria, and helping to clean up the Republic. So, there it was one night - a Christmas fairyland and the next day, back to the quaint Sandspur Republic.

It had been a great ir retrievable time.

A lot of those children who dashed into the cold waters of the Sound to welcome Santa are grown now. I hope they will remember to tell their children about Christmas on the Island. They will never have a place like that to take them. The ghosts of Christmas past, present and future were marching down the Island streets making sure everyone loved the festival. It was so funky, so quirky - so Pensacola Beach.

Pensacola Beach



John Pinzino
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- 1/8-The Break 1/15-Paddy O'Leary's
1/22-The Islander 1/29-Flounder's 2/5 Sidelines

EVENTS

- Jan. 6 Nereid King Cake Party, 4 p.m., Paradise
Jan. 13 Krewe of Sandshaker Costume Contest, 8 pm., Shaker
Jan. 19 Nereid Moon Pie Party, 7 p.m. Sandshaker
Jan. 21 Junkanoo Cajun Boil, TBA, Sandshaker
Jan. 27 Nauga Breakfast, 10:30 a.m., The Dock
Jan. 27 Brewski Beach Babe, 1:30 p.m., The Dock
Jan. 27 Bananimals Ball, 8 p.m., Hilton
Feb. 2 Rhinestones & Royalty, Paradise, 7 p.m.
Feb. 3 Brewski/Nereid Black Tie Ball TBA
Feb. 9 Krewe of Warriors Ball, Hadji Shrine Temple
Feb. 10 Junkanoo Kriiter Krawl, Noon, Gulfside Pavilion
Feb. 10 Krewe of Kids Parade, 1 p.m., Gulfside Pavilion
Feb. 10 Krewe of Wrecks Ball, 8 p.m., The Dock
Feb. 11 DeLuna Fest, 11 a.m., The Islander

Feb. 17 Krewe of Wrecks Champagne Breakfast Crab's
Feb. 17 Krewe of Wrecks Street Dance 1 p.m., Bobby D's
Feb. 18 Krewe of Wrecks Parade, 2 p.m., Via de Luna
Feb. 19 Red Beans and Rice, Noon, Casino Beach Parking Lot
Feb. 20 Krewe of Coma, 6 p.m., Sandshaker



TRIVIA

Fran Albert Recalls
Snow Producer

AILING SOB RECOVERING

After hearing that one of their very own was sick, the SOBs teamed up to send a greeting to Linda Matthews. Her husband, Dave, says she's doing better now. Send cards. Let her know you care.

CALIFORNIA BOUND

BZR Turner and Dave Bartece were off to California to visit friends. Would the friends be surfers? They will be back home on Pensacola Beach for Christmas.

WOOLY BOOGERS

CELEBRATE & DISAPPEAR

Danah Gibson was fortunate enough to celebrate her birthday, December 2 at the Woolly Booger Bawl at Paradise Bar and Grill. Jim Rigby said there were eight certifiable Woolly Boogers at the Bawl. Anyone wishing to celebrate a

birthday with them will just have to wait until the unpredictable Queen Shugah wakes them up again.

POST OFFICE ART

Second graders from the Pensacola Beach Elementary School are the artists who created the pieces hanging in the Gulf Breeze Post Office lobby. Debbie Campanella is their teacher.

ONE SKIPPER

The Pensacola Beach Yacht Club is welcoming one new member this month, Kimi Smith of Cantonment

TOMMY WHODAT

Tommy Grice showed up at the Krewe of Wrecks meeting at The Dock, wearing the latest New Orleans Saints tie. The design included a Tasmanian devil and the

fleur de lis. Geaux Saints!

ROOKIE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Pete Della Ratta was named the Rookie Teacher of the Year at Woodlawn Beach Middle School. Congratulations to Pete who is the *Island Times* fishing columnist.

GOODBYE TO RICKY SPRAGGINS

Fifty-six-year old Ricky Spraggins passes away earlier this month. He is survived by his wife Laura, son Paul and daughter Sandi. Services were Monday, December 4 at the Pensacola Beach Community Church.

Campanella Tops Teachers

Pensacola Beach Elementary School students gave a thunderous cheer for second grade teacher Debbie Campanella as she was named the Teacher of the Year by Principal Jeff Castleberry. The good news came in front of the entire student body and their parents at the annual Beach School Holiday Program

hosted Tuesday, December 12 at the Community Church.

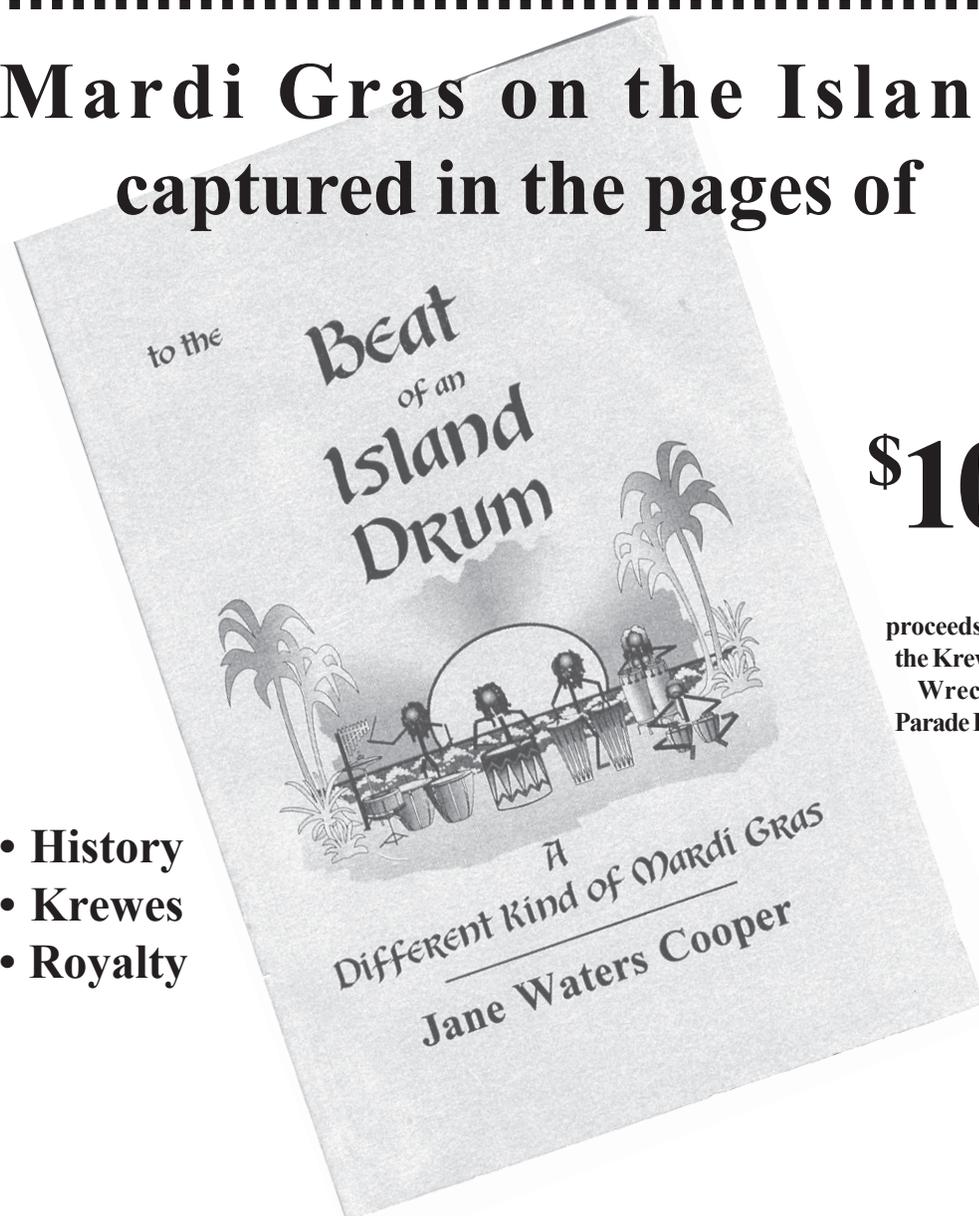


Pensacola Beach School Principal Jeff Castleberry and Debbie Campanella.

Monette Hodges and Jackie Henderson who coordinated and choreographed the program were also recognized, along with staff and volunteers.

The Beach School semester break began at noon on December 19. Students will return to school on Wednesday, January 3.

Mardi Gras on the Island captured in the pages of



\$10

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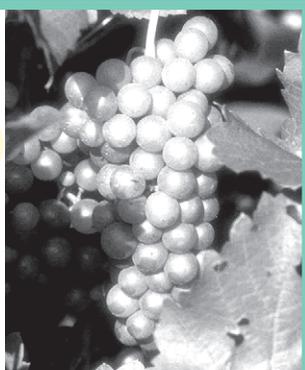
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peas, porridge
&
a dry martini
~~~~~  
by kathi lewis

You know, one day I'm going to write a cooking column about nothing but cooking! Yeah, right - who am I kidding? We all know it's a gossip column with a recipe attached. So, let's get to the gossip. I wanted to say Happy Birthdays and Happy Anniversary to Chuck and Judy L'Oignon.

We attended the Beach School program on December 12 and it was a total blast! Those kids are so cute! I swear we have the most beautiful children here in Paradise. It's unbelievable, but true. Thanks to Monette Hodges and Jackie Henderson - they must have the patience of Saints because they do a wonderful job with all those children. We have much to celebrate and give thanks for here on our little Island.

After 22 years here and 50 "something" on this earth, I still have never found a more beautiful place than home. Speaking of home, I'd love to thank Steve Swalley and his crew, Elijah, Jimmy and John for their work on our house. These people are not only friendly, but they are also compassionate and take a great deal of pride in their work. It's well deserved and we could not be in our home for Christmas without them. So, a big heartfelt Thanks and Merry Christmas to the Swalley family along with the crew and their families.

Everyone is welcome to stop by our new home on Christmas day. (Please bring food as we are not cooking.) That's right - the cooking columnist is not cooking on Christmas. We will actually be celebrating on December 28 this year. That's when our grandson Jesiah will return from his Dad's and we promised to 'hold' Christmas until then. Maybe I'll cook then.

You all know we had the Woolly Booger Bawl, and special thanks to Renee Mack for the fabulous munchies. There was definitely a drunk front that came through and there was another one right behind it. I should have warned you about the SOB Christmas Brunch that was held at Flounder's on December 17. All men are usually wise enough to hide, except Leroy. He is an Honorary Sister; the ONLY one. It is a day we all look forward to and

we let off a lot of steam and stress. We are not sober. After all, we have a reputation to uphold.

Our charity this year was Favor House in honor of one of our favorite SOB's, Andrea Brunt. There was a lot of singing, too. (Maybe next year Flounder's should hand out earplugs for the rest of their patrons! We do not want to offend anyone, but we must sing the SOB Song!)

I wanted to submit a recipe from Elaine Mitchell because she is a wonderful cook (chef) and prepares nearly all the dinners for Mental Health Night at Paulette's. Unfortunately, she cooks like I do and rarely measures ingredients. She makes the best salads you have ever tasted, along with a myriad of other dishes. We'll have to talk her into measuring and writing it down as she cooks. We'll get one from her yet, I promise.

This week's recipe is one I love because I am crazy about pineapple. If you're tired of the regulars - banana nut bread, and pumpkin bread, this is an excellent recipe for the holidays or any other day. So, let's cook...

#### Pineapple Nut Loaf

½ Cup butter, softened  
1 Cup brown sugar  
1 egg, beaten  
2 Tbsp. vanilla  
1 cup crushed pineapple  
3 Tbsp. Milk  
2 Cups sifted flour (all-purpose)  
1 tsp. baking powder  
½ tsp. baking soda  
½ Cup chopped walnuts

Grease a 9" x 5" x 3" loaf pan. Beat butter, brown sugar, egg and vanilla in large bowl until fluffy. Combine pineapple and milk in a bowl. Sift flour, baking powder and baking soda together in a separate bowl. Stir into sugar mixture alternately with pineapple-milk mixture. Stir in nuts. Place in pan. Bake in 350 degree oven for one hour, or until center is springy to touch. Cool in pan on wire rack 5 minutes. Turn out of pan and cool completely. You can dust with powdered sugar for a more festive look.

Enjoy, share with a neighbor, and join the Krewe of Wrecks. Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to all! I'll see you in the kitchen.....



Beach resident and former Blue Angel Stoney Mayock, left, samples a Clos du Bois at the Beach Wines and Liquors Wine Tasting. Bob Temple, right, says you never know which beach celebrity will show up at our tastings. Stop by December 22 and 29 to see.



IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE DANCING - Pandora de Balthazar is partnering with the Pensacola Ballet as a sponsor for the new year. (L to R) Diane DeJean, Pandora de Balthazar, Allen Benton and Emily Cowen of the Pensacola Ballet were at the donors luncheon.

## Wine Talk



with Bob Temple  
Beach Wines and Liquors

#### Holiday Wines

Believe it or not the bird isn't the most important consideration when choosing a wine to accompany a turkey dinner. Because it is mild and neutral tasting, turkey will go well with a wide range of reds and whites. So, look to the side dishes. For instance, a not-too-sweet Viognier, a well-balanced Riesling, or a spicy Geewurztraminer all have sufficient sweetness to complement side dishes like glazed carrots. They also possess sufficient acidity to cut through rich mashed potatoes, stuffing, and green bean casseroles. If you prefer red wine, look to bright, juicy and sweet wines such as Beaujolais Nouveau, young Rioja, Gamay Beaujolais from California and Pinot Noir. Their ripe fruit flavors go well with sweet sides such as yams.

HINT: For holiday dessert wines, look to tawny ports, cream sherry, or late-harvest white wines.

There's an age old practice of enjoying wine with meals and we at Beach Wines and Liquors, Inc. do this tradition justice by recommending the perfect wine to go with any meal, including your holiday meals. Come to us for wine when you need to coordinate it with meals. Trust us.

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# Business Buzz ~ ~

## TO THE BEAT

A few copies of Jane Waters Cooper's book, *To The Beat of an Island Drum* are still available and will be sold at the Monday night Krewe of Wrecks meetings. Donations will be accepted for the book with all proceeds going to the Mardi Gras Parade Fund. (P.S. These books make great last minute gifts.)

## CHAMPAGNE DIAMONDS

The sparkling wine and sparkling gems will certainly be one lucky girl's best friend on New Year's Eve. The Shaker Bar is raffling Champagne Diamonds as the clock strikes twelve and proceeds go to the Beach Mardi Gras parade fund.

## OVER THREE DECADES

Seahorse Condominium owners have announced that Bob Harris will serve as their association president once again. Bob has held that position for 31 years. Congrats Bob.

## UNDER LOCK & KEY

Have you ever seen a 40-year-old bottle of scotch worth almost two grand? Now you can. Manoj at the Island Wine and Liquor Mart has one locked away in its own custom wooden box. The lucky owner will be the very first one to open the box.

## CRYSTAL BALL IN THE BALLROOM

New Year's Eve at The Hilton Garden Inn includes a fortune teller to predict the good things that await you in 2007. That night you can foresee champagne, hors d'oeuvres and dancing - and an elevator ride right up to your room.

## NOTE THE SCORE

Pigskin Predictions have been made. See who knows the score. All the action is on the 42 screens at Sidelines. High def for real fans.



**NEW FACE** - Kim Duell is the Santa Rosa Island Authority's Assistant Human Resource and Events Manager. She joined the staff in December and came to the SRIA from the EPA office in Pensacola.

## Kids Invited To Spend A Day As A Park Ranger

After all the presents are unwrapped, elementary school aged children may be looking for some additional excitement during the school holiday. Children ages 8 - 11 are invited to join park rangers for a Junior Ranger Day Camp on Wednesday, December 27, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Naval Live Oaks Visitor Center. The day camp features the natural and cultural history of the National Seashore. Call (850) 916-3001 to make reservations for the Junior Ranger Day Camp.

Superintendent Eubanks encourages everyone to enjoy the National Seashore and join us for our ranger-led programs. For a complete program schedule and more information, call 934-2600 or visit our website at [www.nps.gov/guis](http://www.nps.gov/guis).

**Early Deadline**  
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Ian Price and Taylor Sexton, fourth graders, donned top hats and scarves before performing in the Pensacola Beach School's holiday program held at the Community Church, December 12.



Beach School first graders sang Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer at the Holiday Program. Rudolph wanna-be's Zosia Uszok, left, and Meredith McCurdy, right, prepare with classmate Grayson Smith to play reindeer games.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO OUR READERS FROM JANE, SHELLEY, KATHI, CHUCK, CANDY, LIZ, DANAH, FREDDY, PETE, PANDORA AND CHARLES

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# Letters to the Editor

## Fair?

The PNJ editorial of December 3 asserted "Beach Taxes Could Help Offset Mainland Taxation." They stated that the property tax revenues from Pensacola Beach would exceed \$11 million, inferring that this was a "fair" action to offset mainland taxation. The politicians and perhaps even some judges in Escambia County seem to agree with their fairness opinion. They assumed that all of this property tax revenue would increase the total tax revenue for Escambia County. This is a static economic analysis that assumes that an increase of taxes does not have any other economic impact on total tax revenues or private business revenues.

## Income Sources

The fallacy of this assumption can be easily refuted. The largest source of income within Escambia County comes from the salaries and sales of services and materials from federal, state, and county governments. All of these revenues are paid for by your own tax dollars! If government continues to be your largest source of income you enter a death spiral of ever increasing taxes, which you probably have already noticed.

The second largest source of income within Escambia County is from your tourist industry with a majority of this \$600 million of annual sales coming out of the pockets of visitors. If Santa Rosa County is included it is about \$900 million a year. The biggest single tourist attraction is Pensacola Beach with its eight miles of fine white sand beaches. You have long enjoyed a free ride because you offer tourists a lower cost vacation than nearby beaches,

largely because we have no property tax. The current cost of a Pensacola Beach vacation has already escalated to the point where we are less competitive with the other beach communities that share this one hundred miles of fine white sand beaches between Panama City and Biloxi. This decrease in affordability is due to the escalation of lease fees, taxes and taxes and tolls on Pensacola Beach by the state, county and SRIA. The existing sales tax and fees on short term rentals is 14% (7.5% state, 4% county, and the 2.5% SRIA lease fee.) The usual 7.5% state sales tax is also applied to all business sales on the beach. The SRIA lease fees for Pensacola Beach businesses is 3-5% of gross sales which far exceeds the very high property taxes paid by comparable mainland businesses. This effectively translates to a 10.5 to 12.5% sales tax/lease fees on all business sales on Pensacola Beach! If you think it is difficult to achieve a profit on the mainland, try to make it on Pensacola Beach. The land lease fees and MSBU fees for residents are modest but increasing and finally, the county charges \$1 toll fee per car to enter Pensacola Beach. I believe that the Pensacola Beach community is already paying out many more taxes and fees than they are receiving in benefits and are already a cash cow for Escambia County. The SRIA fees pay for our island's burden on the county, and in addition, the county collects a 4% bed tax, the bridge tolls, and receives most of the economic benefits from the tourist revenue. Now you are proposing to add property tax on top of these already exorbitant taxes

and fees. Fair indeed!

## Competing For Dollars

A cursory examination of the consequence of imposing the proposed property tax on Pensacola Beach requires a dynamic comparative, economic analysis of all nearby beach communities that share our gift of fine white sand. The \$11.21 million increase in property tax from Pensacola Beach represents an increase in cost and price to our business operators, renters, and residents. This increase decreases business volume as tourists find better deals on nearby beaches and the residents that cannot afford the increase move elsewhere. (Alabama looks much better tax-wise, particularly for retirees over age 65). This motivates selling businesses, rental properties, and residences which we are already experiencing on Pensacola Beach (there are 352 condos/houses currently for sale with a median 13% drop in sale prices). This reduces the assessed value of our properties by 13% which reduces your \$11.21 million of tax revenue to \$9.76 million.

The much larger impact results from a reduced tourist occupancy rate as our tourists take their vacation in Panama City, Destin, Fort Walton, Navarre, Orange Beach, Gulf Shores and Biloxi instead of Pensacola Beach. A cursory examination of the tax assessment methodology and millage rates along this 100 miles of white sand beach reveals that Pensacola Beach will pay the most property taxes per 1000 dollars of market value than other beach communities along this 100 mile strip. Most of the property taxes for Pensacola Beach residents will range from \$3,500 up to \$17,000 per year. The addition of property taxes to our already

heavy taxes, fees, and tolls will significantly decrease our competitive status.

## Negative Impact

Now as a result of these increased prices, let's assume a very conservative estimate of a 15% drop in our \$600 million dollar annual revenue flow from tourism Escambia County. This is a loss \$90 million of sales revenue. If the county's tax share of this revenue is only 5% this is \$4.5 million in lost tax revenue bringing our total "fairness" bonus down from \$11.21 million to \$5.26 million.

However, the far larger impact is the loss of \$90 million of annual sales to our local Pensacola and Gulf Breeze area businesses with its impact on salaries, tips, jobs and tax revenue. It is our local businesses and all area residents that will suffer the greatest impact. You may recall the ill-conceived 10% luxury tax imposed by our Congress. Rather than increasing tax revenue it destroyed the U. S. boat industry and was finally repealed by Congress. There is very fierce competition along our 100 mile strip for beach tourism business with most beach communities enjoying the support of local business leaders and politicians. Escambia County is not competing for this business and is concerned more with "fairness" than

economic impact. This editorial title said it all. "Beach Taxes Could Help Offset Mainland Taxation." Conversely, beach taxes could increase mainland and beach taxes, reduce all Pensacola area business revenue and increase unemployment.

I suggest that our business leaders within the entire Pensacola area encourage our County Commissioners to request the Haas Center at UWF perform an impartial dynamic competitive analysis on the total impact of Pensacola Beach taxes, fees, tolls and insurance on our County tax revenue and private business revenue. I am betting that the results of a "fair" study would recommend that the County Commissioners stop the Beach property tax lawsuit and reduce SRIA fees to further significantly increase the \$600 million annual revenue from our tourist business. If you had a \$600 million private industry considering relocating in Escambia County, you would offer them tax concessions to come here. Give it some thought!

Bob Kennedy  
Pensacola Beach

[Bob Kennedy is a Brigadier General, U.S. Air Force, retired. He first came to Pensacola Beach in 1949, but returned as a permanent resident in 2000.]

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