

ISLAND TIMES

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Pensacola Beach Advocates

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Giving Citizens A Voice



Pensacola Beach Advocates, with a membership of over 200 families and businesses, provides a voice for its members with regard to beach issues. The non-profit group is celebrating its first anniversary, but there is no time to rest. The Board of Directors is keeping the group informed about visioning and planning, the progress of the ad valorem tax suit, and environmental initiatives. The PBA recently joined the Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce. And, they will prove how really tough they are when they use some strong arm tactics while paddling the racing bathtubs to victory, during the Anything That Floats competition September 6. Leading the Advocates this year are Board Officers (L to R): Scott Holland, vice-president; Sandi Johnson, secretary; Jim Cox, president; and Glenn Windham, treasurer. For more on this story, see Page 2.

Pensacola Beach Advocates Give Residents A Voice; Support Business Community

The Pensacola Beach Advocates have come a long way since their inception one year ago. The membership has grown as the group serves as a voice for stakeholders on the Island.

A commitment to good stewardship of the Beach included the PBA Board's unanimous vote to join the Beach Chamber at their August 10 meeting. The PBA will partner with the Chamber at the Taste of the Beach festival, September 19-20, by introducing a Be Kind to the Beach recycling effort.

"We are working toward the elimination of plastic water bottles which are clogging the landfills by gathering sponsors to offer aluminum water bottles for sale at Taste of the Beach," said Lila Cox, chair of the program. "The PBA will have a booth at the festival to support the recycling effort and funds raised through sale of the bottles will go to the Chamber."

PBA members are following closely the efforts of the Consolidation Committee, the ad valorem tax lawsuit, and the Core Area redevelopment according to Jim Cox, PBA president.

Cox updated the group on the progress of the planning for Pensacola Beach's Core Area.

"I think the PBA is important in this process," he said. "I have spoken to SRIA board members seeking a balance on the soon-to-be selected Steering Committee which would include residents, business owners, and members representing inside the core area and outside the core area."

Cox is a potential member of the Steering Committee.

"Our two goals will be to communicate and encourage participation in the public forums and then survey the PBA members and present those results to the planners," he said.

The PBA now has 210 member households and businesses, according to Lila Cox and Sandi Johnson, co-chairs of the membership committee.

A new drive has been started to increase the membership significantly considering the need for a voice for the island residents during this time of planning and visioning.

"This is the only group which gives the Beach residents an organized voice," said PBA board member Darell McIntyre. "We encourage everyone to join since we will be surveying members to make their wishes known. We will be proactive

in these issues."

Personal requests, a mail campaign, and a membership form in Island Times will be part of the drive. The form is located below.

Dues are \$30 per family or business per year. Membership is open to island leaseholders and residents and those who have a business interest in Pensacola Beach.

Next on the Board's meeting agenda was a discussion on the possibility of incorporation for Pensacola Beach which must await the decision of the courts on levying of taxes on leasehold Beach property.

Another issue which surfaced was the problem that large gatherings held in neighborhood houses generates. These houses, used for weddings, reunions and other celebration, have created problems of parking, noise and litter for Beach residents.

"All Beach residents know they are supposed to call the police, but when you are awakened at 3 a.m. that seems little comfort," PBA Vice President Scott Holland said. "Besides, we don't want to call the Beach deputies every weekend."

The only solution, according to Holland is to have the owners of the rental house, and the agencies which

rent them take care of the problem themselves.

The PBA Board is not all business. They will be entering the "Anything That Floats" competition at Bamboo Willie's on Sunday, September 6. Jim Cox and Max Scroggin will paddle the guy's boat. Lila Cox and Sandi Johnson will represent the ladies.

Although the organization does not have a regular meeting sched-

ule, there is a monthly newsletter and the website, www.pbadvocates.org is updated regularly.

The next General Membership meeting has been set at the Beach Church Fellowship Hall, at 6 p.m. October 21. The next board meeting will be October 5.

For more information, visit the PBA website or email info@pbadvocates.org.

Join The Pensacola Beach Advocates

- **Dues \$30 per household or business**
- **Make check payable to Pensacola Beach Advocates, Inc.**
- **Complete form and mail to: PBA, P.O. Box 1262, Gulf Breeze, FL 32562-1262; or bring to Membership Meeting, Oct. 21, at 6 p.m., Beach Community Church Fellowship Hall**

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Leaseholder Resident Business Interest

Please mark all that apply

Islanders Send Consolidation Commission Strong Message: Leave The SRIA Alone

Members of the Commission who are now considering governmental consolidation have received a message from Pensacola Beach. LEAVE THE SANTA ROSA ISLAND AUTHORITY ALONE. THEY ARE DOING A WONDERFUL JOB. A Sub-Committee to the Consolidated Government Commission met for three hours on Pensacola Beach, Wednesday, August 19 and they heard from Escambia County Commissioner Grover Robinson, the Beach Chamber, the Pensacola Beach Advocates, Island Authority members and staff, and Beach residents. All favored the retention of the Authority just as it is now.

An alternative plan proposed by the Consolidation Group had been to recommend an authority to govern all the waterfront in Escambia County. The SRIA could have fallen

under that umbrella, but members of the consolidation sub committee were seeking input prior to making a recommendation to the Consolidated Government Study Commission.

Rick Finch, a Beach resident appointed by Robinson to the Consolidation Study Commission, said, "The goal of consolidation is to become more efficient. It is my personal feeling to leave the SRIA alone in the consolidation effort because of lease fees and the tax suit."

Commissioner Robinson added, "We are on a lot of shifting sand. The courts will end up determining what happens. There are lots of unanswered questions. With taxes and ownership."

Robinson and Finch both favored adding more elected members to the Island Authority.

Buck Lee, SRIA executive director, speaking for the staff said, "We are experiencing growth. If you look up and down the Beach we have enough hotels for a vibrant tourist economy. They like our beachfront and our ample public beach. There are some beach communities which do not allow that. We have Quietwater Beach and amenities like picnic areas with grills available for all the citizens of Escambia County."

Dr. Lila Cox, representing the Beach Advocates, said, "Keep in mind the SRIA looks out for all the citizens of Escambia County and our board is a pretty good group. Citizens come here and enjoy the island for free. The SRIA has done a good job."

Jeff Elbert, president of the Pensacola Beach Chamber concurred with Cox. "The SRIA has

worked with the business community and knows the needs," he said. "It's a smaller government which is more efficient than a broader, larger group which would not understand our needs."

Rick Gordon, Beach resident, said, "We are unique. We have good mix of people and good use of our island. The SRIA works well and does a wonderful job."

The three sub-committee members present at the meeting, Finch, Tim Common, and Gerald McKenzie, could only glean a single message to take back to the Consolidation Commission. LEAVE THE SRIA ALONE. WE LIKE IT.

The Consolidation Commission will meet Tuesday, September 8 at 5:30 p.m. at the J.E. Hall Center, 30 East Texar Drive, Pensacola. The meetings are open to the public.

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Barefoot on the Beach

By Jane Waters Cooper



"Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord. He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored. He hath loosed the faithful lightning of his terrible swift sword. His truth is marching on."

Hurricane Ivan cunningly found a few wrathful seedlings the Lord missed and wreaked havoc along the Gulf Coast in 2004.

The little Fellowship Hall of the Beach Community Church was one of Ivan's victims. But the Beach congregation picked up the pieces and battled back. During the past five years, they have raised funds, plotted and planned and now a pristine Fellowship Hall sits solidly beside the sanctuary, bright, new, warm and inviting. Congratulations to all who unwaveringly took up the banner and marched on to rebuild the Hall, a documentary of their tenacity.

Guests of all denominations turned out to join the valiant church congregation to dedicate the Hall on August 9 with music, and speeches and a real old-fashioned cookout. And, yes, prayers of Thanksgiving. What a happy ending. And what a great beginning for the present congregation and for generations yet to come.

The new hall was completed under the direction of Dr. Chuck Randle, pastor of the Beach Church.

This accomplishment brings back so many memories of the Church. Pensacola Beach Community Church was founded more than thirty years ago by Jack and Louise Greenley and Ann and Henry Steirlen.

The following stories and anecdotes are products of my memory. Let's hope it's working. If not, I apologize in advance.

When I arrived on the Beach to live here permanently the Beach Church was meeting in the original Woman's Club Clubhouse. Although we were Episcopalians we joined the Beach Church as "associate members." Very quickly, and I'm not sure how or why, my daughter Liz, who was fourteen-years-old and I, became the janitors, the altar guild, and sort of caretakers of the Church. On Sunday mornings, Liz would roller skate

to the Church and I would drive the Rustmobile. We would "set up" the sanctuary. We moved all the folding chairs into pew like configurations and then, we pulled the big heavy couch and overstuffed chairs to the back of the room. We placed the linen on the altar, put the Communion bread (a loaf of French bread) and wine out on Communion Sundays. Most interesting was the candelabra, brass and beautiful and clearly inscribed, USN. We never knew how the Reverend Thaine Ford, our pastor and former Navy Chaplain, came in possession of it. We took reverent care of the candlestick, polishing it and lighting the candles for every service.

The number of parishioners was small but loyal, and proper. I remember both of my daughters, Shelley and Liz, sang in the small choir. Louise played the piano. All went well until one of the older church members complained that Liz and Shelley were wearing shorts beneath their choir robes. I think that sensational costume caused their permanent suspension from the choir, but not the church.

Thaine was a powerful, bombastic, fun loving minister. I recall that he was a pastor who humanized the Bible. Somehow, you felt Jesus might be your next door neighbor while he preached.

Thaine's idea of Christmas Eve was a bit different. He told the congregation one Christmas that he had invited two Vietnamese mothers and their children to the service. He wanted everyone to bring gifts and food for the Christmas dinner for each of the two families.

They came to the Church that night and we all sat around the lone decoration, a small Christmas tree. The Vietnamese did not speak English, but they spoke from the eloquence in their beautiful dark brown eyes as they opened the gifts the Beach people had brought. We sang some carols and finally someone from the congregation packed the families and their gifts of food and toys and clothing into his van and took them home. It had been a picture perfect Christmas Eve.

The Church very soon began to take on the look of other congrega-

tions when in November of 1979, they formed a Women's Guild. Lou Zeitvogel was the first president. Other officers were Nell Britson, and Jeanette Beam. Their goals were to help others in need, meet neighbors who live on the Beach, and to sponsor a family from Vietnam. Charter members of the Guild were: Ann Clark, Louise Greenley, Phyllis Hoffman, Mary Fishbeck, Sarah Speers, Evelyn Wright, Clyde Johnson, Margie Randolph, Ann Steirlen, Shirley Womack, Gloria James and Marion Cook.

Thaine was always the lone leader of the early Church. He loved having fun and frequently hosted gatherings at his Beach house including the Best Brownie Bake Off and Best Barbecue. Awards were given to the winners. He also wrote a column for *The Islander* Newspaper, "When Two or Three Are Gathered." I remember one where he was asking the Lord to please start summer. Beach people were tired of the cold weather, and he assured God that we would all tell the truth and be good - - even Harry Gowens, if He would answer his prayers.

Ivan is not the first and only hurricane to touch the church. Frederick came along in 1979, and when we were allowed back on the island we went to church. A huge cloud covered the Beach that first Sunday morning and we were hardly seated when the rain began pouring into the old building. Thaine kept moving the podium to get out of the rain, but he continued to preach.

The congregation moved chairs in harmony with Thaine's podium until the interior rivaled Noah's Ark. So, we left, many walked because some of the streets were still impassable. I seem to recall that Thaine's sermon that morning was "build your house upon the sand."

As years went by, the Beach Church became an affiliate of the United Church of Christ, had acquired several different pastors, and the Woman's Club had given their building and land to the Church. Then, while Jack Forest was the pastor, a new sanctuary came to be. The little structure which was, by now, bursting at the seams, became the Fellow-

ship Hall.

Sometimes I think about that fledgling Church, its small choir, its piano, podium, "rented" candlesticks, and the French bread at Communion. And I remember the founders.

The Greenleys (Louise still attends church on the Beach every Sunday and sings in the choir); the Steirlens, the Womacks, the Britsons and Beams, and within a very short time more beach families joined the local church and contributed mightily to its steady growth.

And, then suddenly, two groups from town began to frequent the Beach Church. One was a motorcycle organization. They rode their noisy vehicles to the church, but once inside they conducted themselves with the Sunday-Go-To-Meeting demeanor. They were known as "Thaine's Angels." I do not remem-

ber where he found them or how they found him. The second group was more easily identifiable with the former Navy chaplain. Young Marine and Navy pilot trainees began coming to the Beach Church. At least now, the chairs were all filled.

Yes. I am proud to say my daughters and I played a cameo part in the beginning of the Beach Church. We served as judges at Thaine's forever food contests, and we were players in Holy Day ceremonies. Perhaps I have not remembered the stories as well as I should have. Let's hope I came close.

"Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord." You bet they have. How else could an underfunded, under attended, under rated tiny congregation, segregated on an island, grow into a heart throbbing, bustling center of the community? How else?

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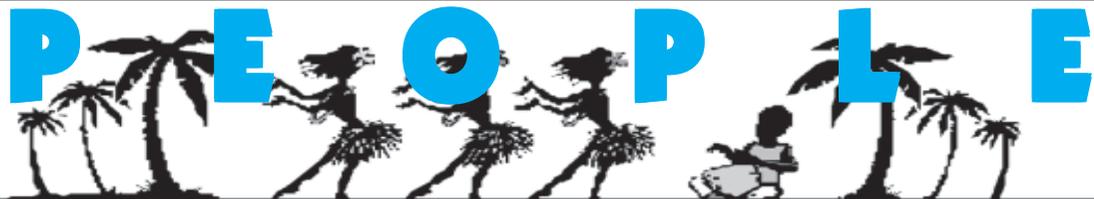
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Trivia **??????**



ROBERTS LANDED OUT OF THIS WORLD TRIVIA QUESTION

The most brilliant trivia players in the world have flunked Beach Ancient History. The Trivia Master asked for the name of the doctor who originally owned the spaceship house on the Beach. No one knew the answer; not even Joe Kracheck, who emailed Matti Suuronen as the answer. Joe did not elaborate so we don't know who Matti is, but he or she was not the original owner of the Beach house.

Dr. Bill Rundels is the answer. He was a plastic surgeon living in California when he had the spaceship flown to the island by helicopter.

So, little Mr. Puffy Toad, the Trivia Master is still strutting around keeping close tabs on his t-shirt supply.

However, the following information will bring him down off his puffy pad. Jim Roberts, ECUA Public Information Officer, said he was standing in the parking lot in front of Mr. Ford's Tastee Freeze speaking with Deputy Don Parker when the spaceship was brought in. It was July 17, 1970.

He later moved into the house and paid one hundred dollars a month to live there. His comment was that the UFO look alike was always a tourist attraction and it was easy to meet girls if you're a bachelor living in the spaceship. Thanks for the question, Jim.

So, Jim Roberts and the Trivia Master finished first in this week's

competition.

Can you bring the Trivia Master to his knees? He is leaving the Ancient History Department, so all you players get your heads out of the sand and send your answer to the newspaper via email. If you are the first one with the correct answer you will receive one of those coveted t-shirts.

The Bathtub Races were the highlight of the Labor Day Weekend on Pensacola Beach for many years. They were sponsored by the Gulf Breeze Jaycees. They have now been replaced with the Anything That Floats, hosted by Bamboo Willie's.

Do you remember the name of the jovial guy who directed the Bathtub Races for many years until they no longer existed on Pensacola Beach? Here's your chance to get an Island Times t-shirt in one of the fabulous new colors.

Postscript: Louie Bohannon announced that he knew the answer to who owned PJ Sweets; Dr. Campanella. Two things ruled against Bohannon. (1) He reported his answer on August 15, weeks after the deadline; and (2) he told his answer to a bystander, but did not email it.

Rules are the same. Send your answer to islandtimes@bellsouth.net with "trivia" in the subject line and include your name, phone number. Deadline to answer is August 30, 2009. Good luck!

ROUND THE WORLD

The Kreitzberg family has been sailing around the world on The Sora. According to Karen, it is an awesome experience, but she did take a vacation from sailing to return home to the states and the Beach for a few months. It's back to the decks of The Sora which is currently docked in Phuket, Thailand. Smooth sailing.

NANCY'S BACK

Nancy Kittel, who has recently joined the ranks of the retired, spent the summer in cooler climes. She is now back to her usual haunts on the Beach which include the Elk's Lodge, the Krewe of Junkanoo meetings and dinner outings with her girlfriends.

LEOS ROAR

Lila Cox has a knack for remembering birthdays. Her latest Candle and Icing Report included Chamber Board member Nora Jones whose birthday was August 14. Sean Rogan

blew it out on August 9 and Jackie Henderson chalked up another year on August 10. Island Times columnist Candy Segar, Amy DePew and Jean Curtis both are all lady leo's. She added Mario Roberts, who turned 40 on July 27, partied so many days that the celebration earned its own name, Mario Fest!

BACK TO THE FUTURE

The Pensacola Beach Woman's Club officially moved from their temporary home at Our Lady's Hunt Hall to the Beach Church Fellowship Hall Thursday, July 13. Sandi Johnson said they cleared out their supplies and paraded across the street to settle back in their original home at the Beach Church. They are eternally grateful to Our Lady for the hospitality.

THE CROSS

Look for Ron Spitsbergen's documentary on The Cross on Pensacola

Beach. To satisfy his own curiosity, he started to do some research. He has mountains of historical information and is compiling it into a single report.

FIFTEEN MINUTES OF FAME

Sherrie and Dick Nelson of Gulf Wind condos are stars. They were on the set of the Mike Huckabee Show which aired August 8 and 9. Their friend, James Burton, was one of Huckabee's guests.

POKER FANS

Springfield, Missouri's Linda Williams said the poker family on Pensacola Beach treated her to a memorable vacation experience. She had a great time at Paddy O'Leary's and finished in the top spots. Williams needed two copies of Island Times mailed to her, so she could "show" all her friends in the Show Me State that her victory was reported in the beach rag.



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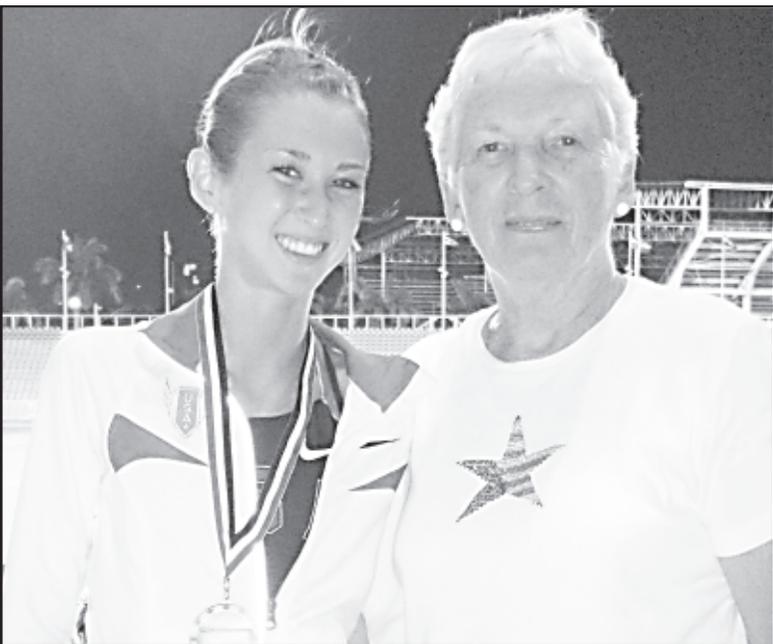
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Pan-American Games 5K gold medalist Sarah Andrews, left, is congratulated trackside by her grandmother Janet Penniman of Pensacola Beach. The games were held August 1 in Trinidad Tabago. Sarah will begin her senior year in high school this fall in The Woodlands, Texas.

Boat Builders and Kayak Costumers - Get Ready! Anything That Floats - Sunday, Sept. 6 • 2 PM

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Look for the Jolly Rogers flying over the west end of the Island at 1010 Fort Pickens Road. We're here everyday at 11. 932-4139. www.peglegpetes.com

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

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Open at 7:30 a.m. six days a week. Closed on Tuesday. Owned and operated by friendly natives serving locally produced seafood and delicacies. The Fish Tacos are an experience to enjoy. The owners say their goal is to preserve the unique flavors of the Gulf Coast. Go fresh. Go native. Specialty desserts top off expertly prepared meals. Seating is informal. Art gallery setting with local artists displaying whimsical works.

45 Via de Luna. Downtown Pensacola Beach. 934-4848.



peas, porridge & a dry martini

by Kathi Lewis

I was thinking about having a "Mars Viewing Party" but I'm still searching the skies for the moon much less finding Mars. Well, maybe Bill and I will just open up the doors anyway and hope for the best from our panoramic view.

A reminder to the Sisters of the Beach: Start getting ready for the Beach Chamber's Art & Wine Weekend. October 3-4. We need your help, talent, art, hard work, salesmanship and whatever else you have to donate. We're always looking for suggestions for new SOB Art and I know we have some very talented Sisters out there. We always need workers for the SOB Tent, so don't worry if you're not that crafty.

We have perfected the craft of recognizing an SOB even if she hails from far away lands, like upstate New York. Remember, SOB's are born, not made. There are always some out there who just need to be reminded. We've never had a formal application for membership (although we've shared many laughs at the thought of making one up), nor leaders, nor officers, so we've confused quite a few people with our existence. I remember one elderly lady who thought we were an all female Church. Can you imagine? Yet another one declared (without an election, mind you) that yours truly must be the President of the SOB's. We're still laughing over those misconceptions but, as always with the SOB's, NO ONE is or has ever been in charge. So, come on out my Sisters! Let's have some fun, buy some stuff and we'll put whatever money we may end up with in the "kitty" for a rainy day.

We may have some rainy days ahead, but Bill Lewis, the Woolly Royal Consort to the Queen, and I are still insisting there will not be any hurricanes on the Island this year! The National Weather Center has no knowledge of Woolly Booger Power and this can cause severe inaccuracies in their storm predictions. Whatever they say, just keep blowing kisses to the south. Luckily for us, even our northern friends know this has proven to be quite effective

in avoiding hazardous storms.

Wear your No Hurricane pins for extra power. Bill and I are sure looking forward to giving up this treacherous although very honorable position in November.

My wonderful friend Morrie Drees came up with a fabulous idea recently about having a once a month "get-together" for long time (and also newer) Islanders. It's all about catching up with each other and spending just a little quality time together while we're still here (and not waiting for tragedy to bring us together). Kind of like we used to do back in the days of the Tiki Lounge before we all became older and busier.

Morrie said, "If it happens, it will be the SOB's who get it done!"

So this Sister has come up with the idea of COLORS (Celebration of Life on the Republic of Sandspurs). Once a month, on the fifteenth, whatever day it falls upon, we shall invade one of our beach establishments and celebrate our own existence. We will only have a couple of months, because we all agreed to suspend this celebration during Mardi Gras (since we see quite enough of each other then and the season gets really busy).

Since it has fallen upon the SOB's to organize and/or arrange for this unique celebration, I felt it only fair to start with Sister Renee Mack. The very first meeting of COLORS will be on Tuesday, September 15, at Paradise Bar & Grill from 5 - 7 p.m. No promises other than a lot of fun that you do not want to miss. Mark your calendars!

Get your scissors ready for this recipe - it's a keeper! Let's cook.....

Tropical Slaw

- 1 Lg. Shredded cabbage
- 2 Cups pineapple chunks
- Chopped parsley
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice
- ½ Cup Mayonnaise
- Salt & pepper to taste

Combine all ingredients, toss well and chill. You can substitute any greens or fruits to adapt your own unique recipe.

Enjoy, share and I'll see ya in the kitchen.....

PegLeg Pete Returns After Heist

Someone pillaged the porch at PegLeg Pete's on Fort Pickens Road, Tuesday, August 18 and removed the most photographed pirate on Pensacola Beach, PegLeg Pete. According to owner Kristin Amberson a massive pirate hunt was launched and he was returned to his post by late Thursday afternoon.

"They must have had bolt cutters and been strong because the pirate statue is very heavy," said Amberson.

Amberson was relieved to have the iconic statue returned to his home port.



Fine Dining At Casino Beach

Don't put those party sandals away yet. The Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring its Second Annual Taste of the Beach on September 19-20. Don't plan to leave town right away after the Jamaican Fest on Labor Day weekend, you will not want to miss this outdoor party.

Beach restaurants who are members of the Chamber will be serving their signature dishes under colorful canopies at Casino Beach during the two-day festival.

"This year we are featuring food at a dollar or two with nothing over five dollars," Event Co-Chairman Renee Mack of Paradise Bar and Grill, said.

The Miracle Strip Corvette Show, live bands, Dancingly Yours dancers, Yo Yo the Clown, and yes, the Sauce Boss will entertain. This year's event will introduce a recycling program by the Pensacola Beach Advocates. There will also be a play area for children.

"This is the Chamber's way of introducing fine foods by great Beach chefs," said Jesse Brown, event co-chair.

Rick Gordon, coordinator of the Life's A Vette Corvette Show, which is hosted on September 19, said, "The food was delicious. The weather was great. It was a real nice addition to our show to team up with the Chamber that day."

The festival will be from 11 a.m.

until 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Food can be eaten at the Festival site or taken out.

Look for the complete menu and entertainment schedule in the September 4 edition of *Island Times*. In the meantime, call Chamber Exec Maureen LaMar at 932-1500 for more information and details.

Wine Talk

By David Griffin,
Beach Wines
& Liquors



UNDERAPPRECIATED WHITES

With plantings that were once limited to the Northern Rhone appellation of Condrieu, the white Voignier grape was at risk of extinction. Fortunately, vintners in other countries have taken up the cause of this fine grape and have increased plantings significantly. When made well, these New World examples make good alternatives to the fine, but relatively expensive Condrieu bottlings. Many have hailed Voignier as the "new Chardonnay," expecting it to become as well known. Another underappreciated white wine is Chenin Blanc, which is responsible for some of the finest dessert wines in the world. This grape also produces some dry Loire whites and is planted widely in South Africa under the name Steen.

HINT: Try Pinot Gris if you are interested in a spicy wine with good acidity.

Beach Wines & Liquors, Inc. wants you to know that a world of white, red and blush wines awaits you here. If you are hosting a special dinner or a party and would like some suggestions regarding which wines to serve with most all foods, we are here for you. Choose from our great selection of wines. We are located at 5 Via de Luna across from the Hilton.



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SRIA Board Decisions Challenged

The Santa Rosa Island Authority faced two challenges at their August 12 meeting. The first concerned the amount of money which could be used for the consultants who are preparing a visioning plan for the Island's core and the second developed over the Board's approval of a commercial sign placement in the public right-of-way.

"We have allotted \$300,000 dollars for this project," Ed Guernsey, said of the Island Beautification and Core Development plan. "I want to be sure we get a really good project and not shortcut anything. As a community we have missed this opportunity before. Let's not do that again. We have the money. Let's allocate it."

Dottie Ford, SRIA Director of Finance, told the Board there was already a \$50,000 expense for a traffic study and \$45,000 used in the selection and advertising process.

Fred Gant, Board Chairman, said, "If we need to put another \$50,000 to this we should."

The work of the sub-consultants has created the situation. They deal with very important parts of the plan: water transportation assessment, economic and market assessment, outdoor and wilderness recreation programming, engineering, and transportation and traffic analysis. The Full Board voted unanimously to hold a special meeting prior to the August 26 meeting of the Authority. The agenda will include the cost and scope of the Master Plan, along with the composition of the Steering Committee which will be tasked to work with the planning consultants.

The second challenge was created by the Island Authority's decision to allow the Sandshaker Lounge to place a sign on the public ground adjacent to Cook Realty on Pensacola Beach Blvd.

Karen Cook, owner of Cook Realty addressed the Board.

"I have lived here for thirty years, been a Chamber board member for 15 years. This is my first time to come here and ask for something or complain. You voted, based on my approval. I did not approve this sign. I would like to request that you take another vote. This is prohibited

by the SRIA rules. I asked to erect a sign there and was turned down. How, in good faith, can this Board approve this sign in front of my business?"

Residential neighbors who live in the area agreed with Karen.

Scott Stonebreaker said, "This sign will be right in front of Cook Realty and will obscure their sign."

Beverly Boswell, co-owner of the Sandshaker, said, she did not realize she would have to come back to the Authority over the sign.

"We support Cook Realty," she said. "We will not block her sign. We are part of the Beach community. We will plant flowers, do whatever we need to do. We want to be a good neighbor."

The Board's prior vote to approve stood on this issue. The new sign was in place on August 15.

SRIA Executive Director Buck Lee made a request to place yellow poles in areas which are designated "no parking" to deter cars from parking illegally. The Board turned this request down. They agreed that yellow poles were unsightly and not attractive on an island which is dedicating a lot of money to a beautifi-

cation project.

Dr. Thomas Campanella, board member, pointed out that the problem should go to committee. "It just popped up," he said. "We are talking about beautification and this is tacky."

A report from the Visitor's Information Center reflected a count of 4848 visitors in July with 47 of the 50 states represented. Guests from sixteen foreign countries came through the Center in July.

Buck Lee, announced that the toll booth traffic numbers from the Blue Angels Air Show and the ongoing Bands on the Beach on Tuesday nights are great.

"What we are doing here with the Air Show and Bands is a great effort," Lee said.

A budget meeting followed the Board meeting. Lee said the budget is lower than it has been in the past. It was \$6,987,000 in 2009 and is proposed at \$6,858,928 next year.

The next budget workshop will be Wednesday, August 26, at the SRIA boardroom, following the committee meetings which begin at 5 p.m. All workshops and meetings are open to the public.

Letters to the Editor

To The Anonymous Donor;

On behalf of the Santa Rosa Kids House Board and the Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce Board, thank you for the donation of water and Gatorade for use during the Blue Angels Weekend. The monies raised through the sale of the water assists us in supporting

the good work that the Santa Rosa Kids House continues to provide. The Gatorade was a real treat for the Chamber volunteers and those VIP hosted under the tent during the Air Show.

Best regards,
Karen Cook Cowen
Cook Realty

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Comfort & Joy

by Pandora de Balthazar

The bridal trousseau is making a comeback. Traditionally, this was a collection of clothing, housewares and linens for a young lady to take with her after she married. The new bride's hope chest was filled with family heirlooms and bridal accessories.

Currently, brides are looking forward to returning to some of these wonderful traditions. Filling a hope chest can be the revival of a time honored tradition.

The bride can make a list of the accessories, bed linens and towels that she would like to put in her hope chest and share it with family and friends. This makes a perfect theme for a shower.

The gift of an antique hanky or beautifully crafted quilt will far out shine the chrome on a new blender. Vintage jewelry is another fine gesture that will become a family heirloom. Silver table settings with linen napkins have made a comeback in the world of disposable everything.

This may be the time for texting and tweeting but young couples still need the basics to feather their nests. Here's to love.



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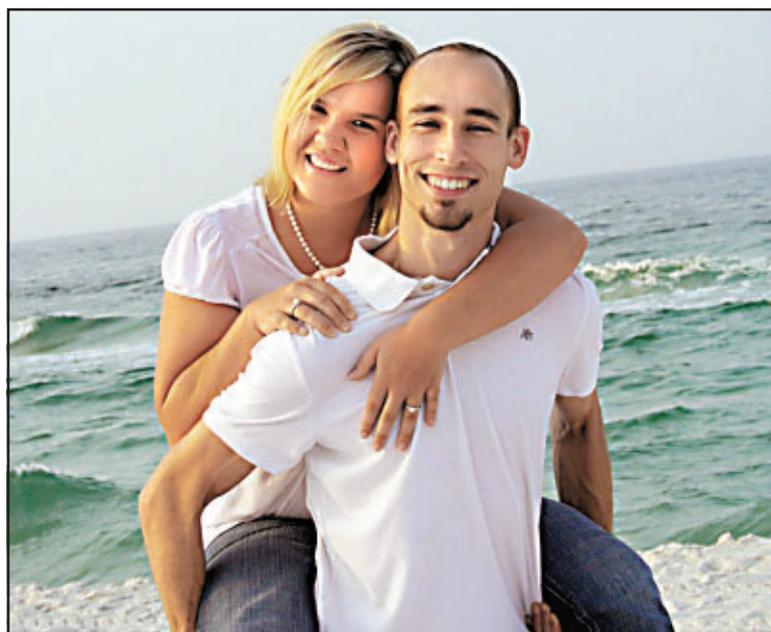
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Elizabeth And Nick Set A Date

Pensacola Beach native Elizabeth Bohannon is engaged to Nicholas Ryan Feilner. Elizabeth, who is the daughter of Louis and Tammy Bohannon, will graduate from Florida State University in December with a Bachelor's degree in Communication/Business. Nick is a 2009 graduate of the University of West Florida in Computer Engineering. He is employed at Eglin Air Force Base as a civilian. His parents are Cindy Feilner and Tom Feilner.

The wedding is set for November 28 at Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church with a reception to follow at The Lee House in Pensacola. The couple will honeymoon on a Mediterranean cruise.

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Royal Wanna-be's Line Up

The rhinestone tiara is sparkling and contestants are lining up with hopes of becoming the Queen of the Shaker on Sunday, September 13 during the three day ShakerFest 2009. The Pensacola Beach landmark will host their fifth annual celebration Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 11 - 13. The original intent was to toast the recovery of the Beach after Hurricane Ivan's unwanted arrival in 2004, but the party continues each year.

The 2009 Fest weekend includes live music performed by three popular regional bands; Miles From Coltrane, The Astronauts and Lectric Mullet.

Tropical attire is encouraged on Saturday afternoon for the Kahlua Luau and Lobster Boil which begins at 3 p.m.

The culmination of the weekend's events will be the coronation of the Queen of the Shaker at 3 p.m.

"All ladies are welcome to enter," said Beverly Boswell, co-

owner. "The voting is very simple. The contestants collect one dollar per vote. The person who collects the most money wins."

Money collected during the hotly contested Queen's race is donated to charities. Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce's event fund is one of the Beach initiatives which will benefit this year.

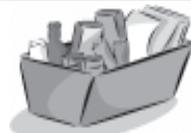
Patti Hall is the reigning Shaker Queen. She has not an-

nounced whether she will run for a second term.

"If you want to have a lot of fun, I suggest you put your name on the list of potential royalty," Hall said. "I have had a blast this year, representing the Shaker in parades and at parties."

For more information about ShakerFest and how to become a contestant go to www.sandshaker.com or stop by the lounge.

RECYCLE - Bring paper, cardboard, junk mail, plastics, newspapers or aluminum cans to the blue recycling bin located at Ft. Pickens Park Gate or Cowley Park just east of the Beach School.





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Beach resident Dr. Bobbie Chapin was the lucky winner of a door prize at a recent Women's Council of Realtors Leadership Retreat fundraiser hosted by Pandora de Balthazar on July 30. Chapin will host the next event at Lillo's, September 17.

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Visit the Taste of the Beach, Sept 19-20, Casino Beach for recycling give-aways. Aluminum water bottles for sale to benefit the Beach Chamber.



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BUSINESS BUZZ

GOOD TEE DEALS

Here's the best deal in town. You can be a tee-sign sponsor at the American Legion's Putt Putt Tournament for just \$25. Last year, the monies raised supported aid to veterans in local nursing homes, Gulf Breeze High School Jr. R.O.T.C., Pensacola Beach Charter Elementary School, Boys State, Honor Flight and Covenant Hospice. Email Bill Greene to sign up at greenisgreat@yahoo.com.

BOOT CAMP

Blonde and diminutive Pensacola Beach native Erin Zeigler looks nothing like a drill instructor, but she is hosting 4 Shore Fit Boot Camp at the Gulf Breeze Rec Center beginning on September 14. Erin is currently earning her Master's degree in Sports Psychology and is a certified trainer. The cost of the four week camp is \$150. Log on and tone up at www.4shorefit.com.

NEW EVENTS COORDINATOR

Robbie Lofty has been hired by the Santa Rosa Island Authority as their Events Coordinator. Lofty is a graduate of the University of Tennessee with a degree in Tourism Management. She began work on

August 17.

HAPPY HOUR

The sushi rolls are a delicacy crafted by the chefs at Fuji Steakhouse and Sushi Bar in Gulf Breeze. The culinary works of art are offered on special from 2:30 to 5 p.m. as a very happy Happy Hour item.

SOMETHING TO CHEER ABOUT

The Gulf Breeze High School cheerleaders are sending a hip-hip-hooray to Chic Demerau and Terri McKamey at Tiki Island. The family entertainment venue assisted the group with a Tiki Slide fundraiser which netted \$5,000.

BEST BEER FEST BETS

Seville Quarter will host BeerFest, Friday, September 11. If you purchase your \$20 ticket online at www.escarosaindependenceweekend.com the entire ticket price will be donated to the Independence Fund. Good fun and the money goes to a good cause. Cheers.

FORE THE KIDS HOUSE

The 2009 Santa Rosa Kids House "Stop the Hurt" Golf Tournament is scheduled for September 18 at the Tiger Point Golf Course. All you duffers can get signed up at 850-623-1112.

AMERICAN MUSCLE

Casino Beach parking lot will be the scene of the Miracle Strip Life's A Vette at the Beach Corvette Show, Saturday, September 19 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Cars representing five decades of American craftsmanship will be on display at no charge to the public. Anyone interested in sponsoring a prize package should call Beach resident Rick Gordon 850-916-0997 or just flag him down when you see his silver Vette.

SWINGERS WANTED

The very first 9-11 Charity Golf Tourney to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project is set for September 11 at Tiger Point Country Club. Get in the swing of things, enjoy a day of golf for just \$75. Entry information is available at 850-758-6698.

PERFECT TOUCH

Melissa Wagner has been providing luxury manicures in Gulf Breeze for over a decade. She is located at Baybridge Hair Designs, a full service salon located on Highway 98 about five miles from the beach. Melissa admits that some of her clients are like family and she's ready to bring you into the fold.

Swimmers Should Monitor Surf Flag Warnings

Locals and visitors need to keep a close eye on tropical systems that churn up the surf on the Island. Take care in venturing out in the water during the rough surf days.

"Please closely monitor our surf

warning flags and use extreme caution," said Bob West, Santa Rosa Island Authority safety director.

The lifeguard staff has been reduced for the season, but information is available at 932-SURF.

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The Lizzard's TONGUE

by E.K. Hewson



Back in the 1980's the all-girl band, The Go-Go's, sang a song about vacations. If my memory is still in check, "vacation was all they ever wanted, vacation was all they ever needed."

A motto I used to think I could always live by. After all, who wouldn't want to be on a permanent vacation? Well after 10 days of too much fun in the Florida sun, I can honestly say there is nothing as nice as home sweet home, even if home is in Southern Maryland.

Oh, don't get me wrong. I enjoyed every single nano-second of my time on Pensacola Beach. I am still drawn to the sugar white sands and the warm Gulf waters – even when yellow flags are flying. Dinner out every night at such great restaurants as Flounder's and Sidelines makes pre-vacation dieting totally worth it.

And there is nothing better than spending time with family doing fun things like sliding down a giant inflatable slide, cheering on hermit crabs and gathering for an evening of Rock Band and pizza. Yes,

Pensacola Beach is all the vacation I ever wanted.

But after we travelled on to Central Florida and became one of the many theme park junkies, my idea of a vacation began to change. After too many days of being spun, flipped and overly under-served, I started to ask myself if I would rather spend my leisure time standing in line or laying on the beach? Would I rather drink Dark & Stormies custom made by Bob Shubob while watching the sun set at Paradise or be served a pre-fab margarita by a young lady who can only talk about her degree in hotel and restaurant management from some upstate New York university while lounging around a pool shared by hundreds of other visitors from states like Wisconsin and Washington? Even stone cold sober, that's a no brainer.

Would I rather nosh at Tchoup Chop (one of Emeril's many kicked it up a notch restaurants in theme park central) or Surf Burger (view is so much nicer)? Shop at an over-priced Universal Studios-owned gift

shop or beach family owned Island Style?

I guess there are some things, like customer service, that come naturally to some and not to others. Charging everything to your room or visiting the Bank of the South's ATM and chatting with Judy and crew? I'll take the latter no matter what the service charge.

So as I boarded the plane from Orlando back to Washington, DC, I realized that I needed another vacation to recover from the last week trying to relax and have fun. Then it dawned on me. When I recall in my mind Belinda Carlisle belting out "Vacation," I can see myself dancing around my bedroom at my mother's house on Ariola Drive, kind of like, for sure, on that totally gnarly vacation that I ever wanted and needed.

From now on my airline tickets will specifically state DCA to PNS to DCA. No side trips! And who knows maybe some day I will hold a ticket in my hand that is just DCA to PNS. Now that's a permanent vacation. Until next time

Snowy Peaks Lure Local Ski Clubbers

The Pensacola Ski Club hosted a Ski Expo in Pensacola August 20 to announce their 2010 Ski Trip schedule. Imagine hitting the slopes in the following locations: January 16-23, Snowmass; January 23-30, Telluride; January 23-30, Breckenridge; Jan 30-Feb 6, Vail; Feb 6-13, Park City; Feb 20-27, Taos; March 2-13th, Paris, 3 valleys, Geneva; and March 27-Apr 4, Big Sky Spring Break.

If this sounds cool to you, then sign up as a Pensacola Ski Club member. Membership in the Ski Club is \$25 per year, plus a \$20 initiation fee for new members. Payments accepted by mail to PSC, P.O. Box 12692, Pensacola, FL 32591.

Ski Club Newsletter Editor Susan Naile said, "All trips are posted on our website along with membership and trip applications at www.pensacolaskiclub.com. Think Snow!"



Bob Lamar, left, portrays the Reverend Domingo Salazar who offers a prayer of thanks after landing on Pensacola Beach, Saturday, August 15 during the reenactment ceremonies hosted at Fort Pickens Gate Park. Don Tristan de Luna, center, who claimed the land for Spain was played by Erik Wortendyke, and Emily Mixon posed as Maria Ramirez. The landing was followed by Catholic Mass conducted on the Beach by Bishop John Ricard.

A REAL REASON TO PARTY

Wendell Carrol is famous around the beach for his willingness to party. It did not take much to kick up a real celebration for his fiftieth birthday two weeks ago. Friends filled Paddy O'Leary's and showered him with good wishes. Wendell, who is famous for his outrageous Mardi Gras costumes, is now the proud owner of a pink feather boa, tiara and magic wand. Look for him casting spells on hapless Island maidens.



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BYTES AND BITS

By Joe Stuke, Your
Computer Pal

Q: "Why does my laptop computer get so hot?"

A: I have written about this before but, because of the high number of problems that we are seeing, I would like to make laptop users more aware of the potential risks. Over the last few years there has been a shift from desktop computer purchases to laptop, or notebook, computer purchases. Many of those laptop computers are now several years old.

As time goes by, the small fans inside the computer pulls dust, lint, and pet hair into the computer. Eventually, the dust builds up around the air intake, slowing the air flow. As the intake becomes more heavily covered with dust, the air flow stops completely. Because the computer is generating high heat, the computers internal parts become extremely hot. The heat can be felt on the bottom of the computer and occasionally through the keyboard.

The result is that the computer starts to exhibit problems, including video failure and failure to power on. By that time, the main circuit board (motherboard) may be damaged beyond economical repair and may have to be replaced. The good news is that, if the problem is detected early enough, the covers of the computer can be removed and the blockage can be cleaned out. After that, the computer will be back to normal.

A few other things, such as defective batteries, can cause computers to be hot, but that is easily detected by operating the computer without the battery. In that case, check your vendor's website to find out if your battery is under a recall.

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

National Funny Man Entertains on Beach

The guffaws and giggles will be abundant when Covenant Hospice presents the 15th annual "Evening of Comedy" Saturday, August 29 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Hilton Pensacola Beach Gulf Front. The Broadway themed event will include a live and silent auction, a cash bar, hors d'oeuvres, dinner and a whole lot of laughter. WEAR-ABC 3 News Anchor, Sue Straughn will host the Evening of Comedy and will feature national comedian, Tom Ryan. Ryan has been a stand-up comedian for more than 15 years, opening up for acts such as B.B. King, Dennis Miller and Tim Allen. Ryan has also ap-

peared on Showtime, A&E, Comedy Central, and the Late Show with David Letterman.

Tickets for the Evening of Comedy are \$100 per person, and can be purchased online at www.covenanthospice.org or by calling 208-7122. Proceeds will benefit Covenant Hospice, a non-profit organization helping patient and families dealing with end-of-life issues and their families throughout 35 counties in South Alabama, Northwest Florida, and the Big Bend area of Florida. For more information, please contact Leah Harrison at 208-7122.

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A Cross in the Sand

By
Dr. Chuck Randle, Pastor
Pensacola Beach Community Church

A newspaper reporter had heard of a young man who was a very successful entrepreneur. He called for an interview and went to the large mansion along a street that was lined with other mansions. During the interview, the reporter asked, "You have an incredible story. How did you make all this money?"

The entrepreneur looked the reporter in the eye and said, "I'm really glad you asked, for it is a wonderful story. You see, when my wife and I married, we started out with a roof over our heads, some food in our pantry, and a dollar between us. I took that dollar bill, went over to the grocery store, bought three apples, and shined them all up. Then I sold each apple for fifty cents a piece."

When the reporter asked, "And what did you do then?"

The man said, "Then I bought six more apples, shined them up, and sold them for fifty cents a piece."

The reporter was excited as he thought this would be a great human interest story, and he asked, "Then what?"

The entrepreneur said, "Then my father-in-law died and left us \$20 million."

Wealthy because of his ingenuity? No, wealthy because of the generosity of another. We know that things aren't always as they appear, or as others would like us to believe. Most of us have achieved because of dedicated hard work, either by brawn or brains, but we also realize that along the way someone offered a helping hand. Perhaps not like the \$20 million, but some kind of encouragement or insight that made the difference between achieving or failing. A sign of maturity is to recognize the ways in which others have influenced and impacted our lives, and the willingness to acknowledge that. We never know just how we affect the lives of others - for good or bad.

Another thing to consider is the ways in which we touch the lives of others. As someone once said, "Be careful how you treat others on your way up the ladder of success, for you may meet them on your way down!"



The Beach Community Church invited the entire Island to the Fellowship Hall dedication July 11. After the ceremony, a barbecue dinner with all the fixins was served. The expert chefs who smoked, basted, and tended to the cooking for fourteen hours on the giant Grillzilla are part of a competitive culinary team whose name is a closely guarded secret. The BJB team's downhome barbecue dinner served over one hundred hungry beach folks. Photo, left: Beach Church Deacon Audrey Sisney prepares to shred the pork with her Bear Claws. Photo, right: Larry Sisney and Beach Church Deacon Billy Cotton cooked and entertained during the marathon barbecuing session.

Everyone played a part in the dedication of the Beach Church Fellowship Hall, Sunday, July 11. Preparing to make a presentation to the congregation are (front, L to R): Chase Rodgeron, Maria Gruszczynski, Matthew Rodgeron and Zoe Cooper; and (center, back row) Andy Tharpe.



The Reverend Dr. Jean Simpson, United Church of Christ regional conference minister, left, celebrated with Beach Community Church founding member Louise Greenley, right, at the dedication of the Fellowship Hall, Sunday, July 11.

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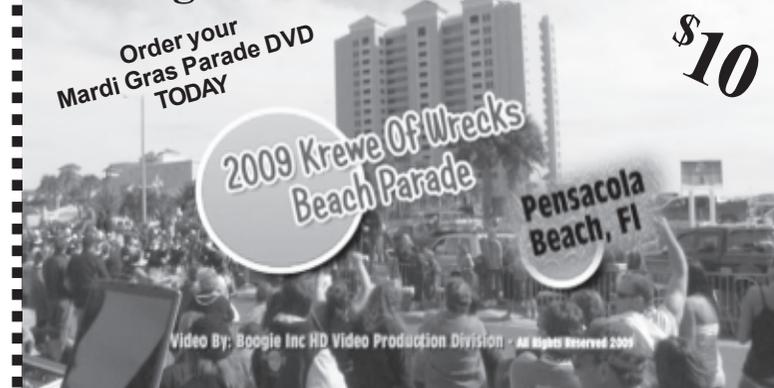
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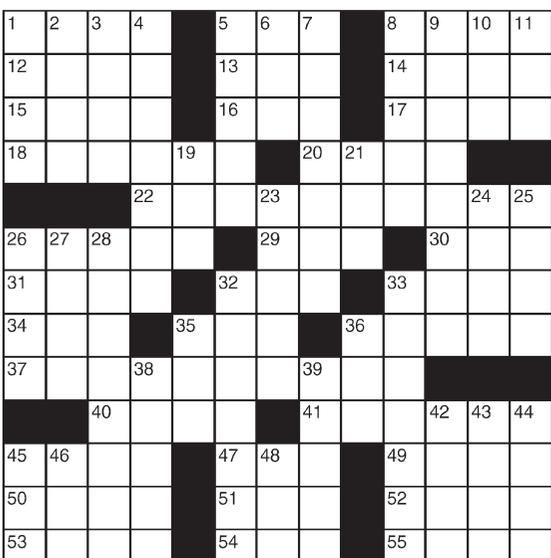
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ACROSS

- 1 Give the axe to
- 5 Prompt
- 8 Surrounded by
- 12 Jamaican citrus
- 13 Venomous viper
- 14 Arp's style
- 15 Handle roughly
- 16 Long March leader
- 17 Exile
- 18 Threatening term
- 20 Siestas
- 22 Yogi Bear's home park
- 26 Winter warmer
- 29 Type squares
- 30 Bagel topper
- 31 Partner in crime
- 32 More, to Manuel
- 33 Father (Fr.)
- 34 Ms. Farrow
- 35 Insult (Sl.)
- 36 Metric measure
- 37 Comedian Paula
- 40 Morse morsels
- 41 Bandleader Cugat
- 45 Eastern bigwig



- 47 Bill
 - 49 Part of A.D.
 - 50 LummoX
 - 51 Swelled head
 - 52 "- Rhythm"
 - 53 Go angling
 - 54 Dog's dog
 - 55 Whip
- DOWN**
- 1 Wrestling style
 - 2 Culture medium
 - 3 Hint
 - 4 Party pooper
 - 5 Ship of the desert
 - 6 N.A. nation
 - 7 People are
 - 8 Take as one's own
 - 9 They're roomy and gloomy
 - 10 Picks out of a lineup
 - 11 Gram. case
 - 19 Wet expanse
 - 21 Foolish sort
 - 23 Minimum
 - 24 Standard
 - 25 Former partners
 - 26 Overly theatrical
 - 27 Hodgepodge
 - 28 Robert Graves
 - 32 Faux pas
 - 33 Triumph
 - 35 Banned bug spray
 - 36 "CSI" evidence
 - 38 Bridge player
 - 39 U-shaped yoke holder
 - 42 "Young Frankenstein" role
 - 43 Grandson of Eve
 - 44 "Portnoy's Complaint" author
 - 45 Sprite
 - 46 Miss Piggy's pronoun
 - 48 Palindromic title

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Meetings

Pensacola Beach Elementary School, Inc. Aug 31, 6 pm at PBES. Open to the Public.

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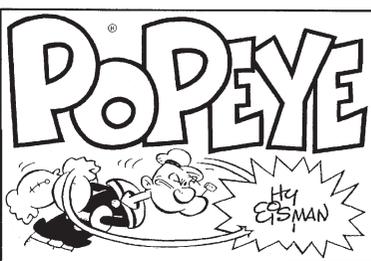
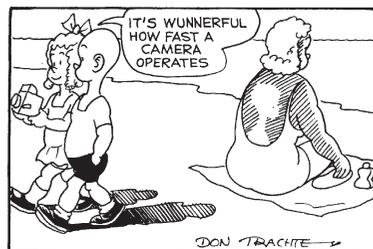
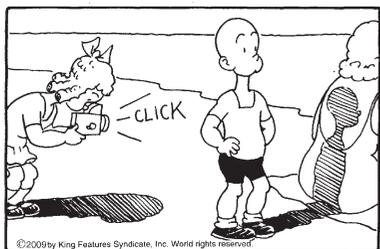
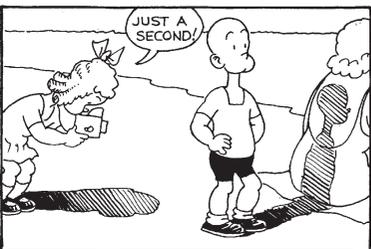
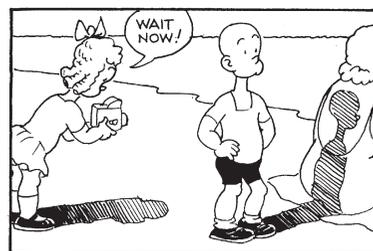
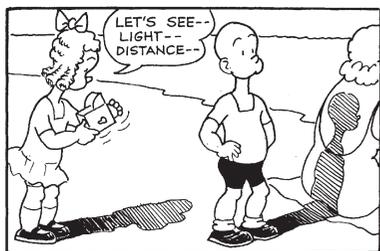
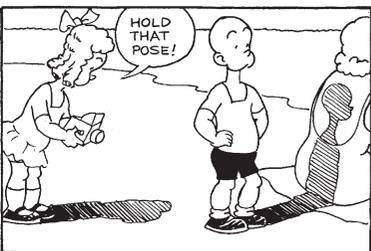
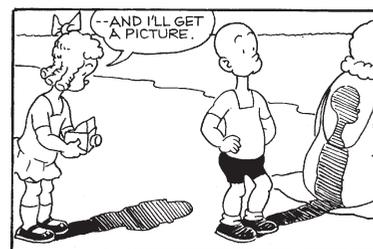
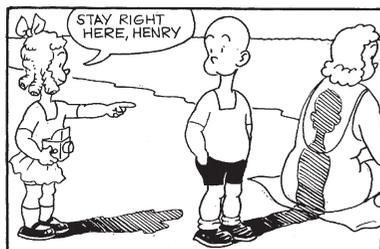
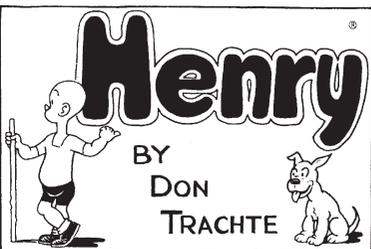


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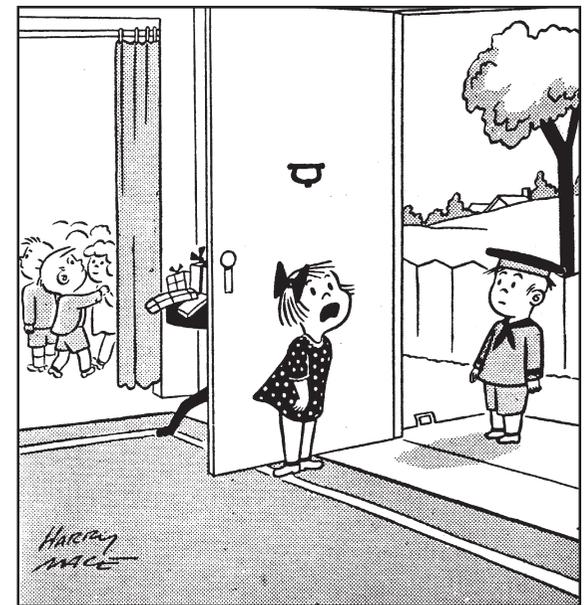
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Answers

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S	A	C	K	C	U	E	A	M	I	D	
U	G	L	I	A	S	P	D	A	D	A	
M	A	U	L	M	A	O	O	U	S	T	
O	R	E	L	S	E	N	A	P	S		
		J	E	L	L	Y	S	T	O	N	E
C	O	C	O	A	E	M	S	L	O	X	
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L	O	U	T	E	G	O	I	G	O	T	
F	I	S	H	P	A	W	L	A	S	H	



LAFF - A - DAY



"Jimmy forgot my birthday present, Mother— does he get to come in?"

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



Knock Knock!

Who's there?

Gorilla.

Gorilla who?

Gorilla cheese sandwich for me and I'll be right over.

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Sunday, September 6 at 2 p.m.
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ShakerFest
Saturday - Sunday, September 12-13
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Taste of the Beach
Saturday - Sunday, September 19-20
Casino Beach - Food, Entertainment, Fun
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Mostly Nuts & Bolts

The Universal Light by Candace Segar

[This is Part I of IV]

When I was a kid and watched The Adventures of Superman featuring George Reeves, I knew right then I wanted to be a reporter. Little did I know that one day I would stumble onto the story of the millennium. It began like any other day, coffee stains on my shirt, the constant clicking on the computers, Anne and Barbara discussing their two beats - obits and City Hall - you know - the usual.

Then my phone rings. It was one of my favorite sources, a kind of crusty old retired major from the Marines. "Hey Charlie," he bellowed out over the receiver.

"Hey Joe, whatcha got for me today?"

"Oh, Buddy Boy - there is something weird going on."

Now for Joe to start out with a statement like that was totally out of character for him. His leads were factual, but boring. I wasn't going to get too excited about it. So I leaned back in my chair, carefully placed my feet on the desk, grabbed my coffee and sipped as he spoke. I had to admit something was different today; he was animated, excited, stumbling over his words.

"Joe, slow down, slow down. What are you talking about?" I asked.

"Charlie, it's a lamp and people disappear after they buy it," he replied.

"Well, that makes a lot of sense, Joe," I chided. "What are you drinking in your coffee?"

"No man, this is serious," he said gruffly. "You know how every week I go to an auction on Friday or Saturday night for entertainment, well there's a lamp that shows up every so often at a different auction house. It eventually makes the rounds back to the original auction house, and then starts the cycle all over again."

"So what? It could be different copies of the same type of lamp," I replied.

"No, this is a very unusual lamp," Joe insisted. "It's mustard colored, massive, heavy metal. After I saw it about the fifth time, I got suspicious wrote down the serial number. It's the same serial number every time."

"Why do we care?" I impatiently asked.

"Because each person who has bought that lamp has vanished. That's why it keeps coming up for auction. There is something almost seductive about it. Hell, I almost bid on it myself," Joe answered.

"Okay, I need facts," I said as the reporter in me kicked in. "How many times has it gone up for bid? Get me the names of all the auction houses who sold it. If you can, find out the names of everyone who has purchased it. I'll look into it once I have some details."

[**Editor's Note:** Candace Segar, an Island Times columnist, is an electrical engineer and owner of CRS Commissioning, Inc. She is currently working on a fantasy, science fiction trilogy and is a published member of the Science Fiction Writers of America.]

Founding Poker Player Returns To Claim Title

Sean Gough staked his claim as a Beach poker pioneer at The Islander Lounge in January 2005 by being part of the first ever Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun poker game. He and his wife Pam drove from Kentucky through the remnants of Tropical Storm Claudette to return to the action at Paddy O'Leary's on Tuesday, August 18. And, for his effort, Gough won the tourney with Beach poker diva Billie Urquhart taking second and his wife Pam Gough rounding out the top three.

Monday night action is hosted at the Sandshaker Lounge where Tex Atkinson reigns at the poker tables. Atkinson made a late run cleaning out Les Archer in the final on August 10 which made it three Monday night wins in a row. He was out of town on August 17, so Tiki Terri McKamey made short work of the final table. She amassed a big stack of chips while taking down top player after top player. Longtime Lifelight EMT Mike Wood had his best night in awhile, and survived to take second. Jerry Limle made a rare appearance.

Players look for the luck of the Irish when they take a seat at Paddy O'Leary's poker tables. The full moon shimmered through the rain on August 5 at Paddy's, but that didn't put a damper on Justin Scher who outlasted a large field. Phil Tracy was the runner-up.

Tracy claimed the runner-up

spot for the second time on August 6 behind Courtney Winn. Eric Weatherford was a strong third after clearing four players off the final table in one massive All-In hand.

Justin Scher was back in the winner's circle on August 9 when he bested Ryan Schnippert in the final.

Arthur Anastopoulos, the beach tennis pro, had his way at the poker tables August 11. He served up some aces before battling top female beach poker star Kristin Larmier in the final showdown. Kristin settled for second place.

After an evening of powerful play on August 12 Phil Tracy and Mike Willett had an equal chip



Courtney Winn with her winning hand on August 6 at Paddy O'Leary's.

stack. Tracy won the All-In hand placing him in the all familiar winner's circle.

Angela Hartzog motored in a full boat to the final table August 13 sinking Phil Tracy on the last hand.

Brandon Delles is an artist who plays to win at the poker tables. On

August 16 Brandon "The Artist" Delles took down Justin "Dublin" Scher in the final.

For more information call the poker hotline at 850-324-2667.

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Litter Getter Beach Lady Rescues Wayward Turtle

Beach resident Monica Kellner picks up random items left on the sand by careless people on her daily beach stroll. She does it to help preserve the Beach's pristine white sand and take care of nature. She rarely finds anything of interest. During a walk last April she noticed a flat dark object at the water's edge. It looked like a piece of cardboard. Upon closer inspection, she discovered it was a green sea turtle that was dangerously close to perishing.

"The weak little turtle, which was covered in barnacles, was being battered against the sand as each wave washed ashore, so I decided

to pick it up and call for help," Kellner said.

What transpired on that quiet spring morning was nothing short of stupendous. Her solitude was shattered by a bevy of governmental agencies, lifeguards, surfers, curious onlookers and fish and wildlife officers. Not all agencies agreed on what the little turtle's fate would be, some said let nature take its course, but the National Park Service officials came to the green sea turtle's rescue.

"I had already named the turtle Barnacle Bill, because of his condition," said Kellner. "I really felt like he deserved to be helped. After all, he was not a piece of litter to be discarded."

So, Barnacle Bill was transported to Fort Walton Beach's Gulfarium where he was placed in their rehabilitation program. Over the following four months, Kellner inquired and visited the turtle until she received a call that it was time to return the turtle to the Gulf.

"During the course of his rehab his name got changed to Thin Mint," Kellner said laughingly. "And, that's not all. He was healthy, with a good strong shell, ready to make his way back to the wild."

On Monday, August 3 the turtle was returned to the Gulf. National

Park Service officials joined by Gulfarium employees and volunteers gathered at Fort Pickens and released Thin Mint back into the wild. A large female turtle was also released by the same group that day. Kellner was part of Thin Mint's return to the Gulf. A successful day



Thin Mint, also known as Barnacle Bill, prepares to launch back into the Gulf on August 3 after four months of rehab at the Gulfarium.

for all involved.

"Strangely, it was a real feel good moment for me to see that I made a difference, however small," she said.

Kellner continues to make her daily rounds on the sands of Pensacola Beach picking up debris and taking care of nature.



BETA Children's Theatre, under the direction of Michelle Kerrigan and student directors Kayla Goliwas and Our Beach's Own Maddie Mateer, performed "Toto, Too", a musical tribute to The Wizard of Oz Thursday and Friday, July 30 and 31. Beach residents who performed were Abby Jacobs who starred as the Wicked Witch of the West and Lauren Pinkston who made her debut as a Flower Munchkin and member of the Ensemble. The other players were Emma Chestney (Toto), Jonna Boulton (Dorothy), Ashley McDonnell (Glenda, the Good Witch), Tucker Chestney (Scarecrow), Lexis Wilson (Tinman), and Lizzie Wilson (Lion).

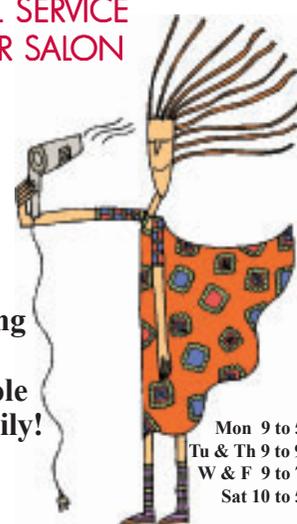
The Show Must Go On - Pensacola Beach resident Maddie Mateer co-directed the BETA Children's Theatre production of Toto, Too last month. Mateer, a seasoned and talented actress, is a Beach School graduate.



Monica Kellner with Thin Mint just prior to his release back to the Gulf on August 3.



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readin' the water

by Saltwater Rick

Stormy weather had returned to the area waters last week and cut down on the boating trips, but, in protected waters sight-seeing and catches of the super tasty Flatfish are being reported.

Tiki Terri McKamey said she's had her line in the Little Sabine with some luck. In the Pensacola Pass reports of Redfish riding the incoming tide have anglers checking the tide charts and roughing it out in the white capped waters in search of these plate fillers.

Specks are thick in the grassbeds along Oriole Beach and around Range Point. Bring your mullet net as I have not seen so many jumping in years. Big Beautiful Silvers in the 18 to 24 inch range just circled Janie and me in our boat, The

4fun, last weekend as we worked topwaters off the westside of Range point for Specks. Like always I forgot to load my cast net since I was not thinking of mullet, but, that will not happen again!

Speaking of mullet, I received an email from Crash Davis, a cat who resides in Villa Sabine. Apparently, he brought a seven-inch live mullet into his owners' bedroom. He must have thought it was a nice gift. They are still trying to figure out how he caught that fish.

I love a good fishing story, send them to me at islandtimes@bellsouth.net

School is back in session and for the Moms and Dads who have more free time, do yourself a favor and go fishin'!



Barrier Island Girl Photographer DJ Zemenick captured this image of a wash through while on her turtle patrol at Fort Pickens in the early hours of Sunday, August 16. Although Tropical Storm Claudette did not visit Pensacola Beach, she sent some rough surf and beach erosion. Fort Pickens was closed to visitors at 4 p.m. on August 16 because of weather conditions.

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See The Stars On Pensacola Beach

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Some of the best things in life are free, and Pensacola Beach hosts a variety of them. Bands on the Beach is a summer concert series sponsored by the Santa Rosa Island Authority each Tuesday night at the Gulfside Pavilion from 7 to 9 p.m. Pensacola's own Civilized Natives entertain crowds August 25 with an evening of original music and popular covers from Celine Dion, and Eric Clapton.



Southern Breeze

The Escambia County Amateur Astronomers will have everyone seeing stars when they present "A Fun Night Under The Stars" at Casino Beach beginning at 7:30 p.m. Friday, August 28 and Saturday, August 29. Members will have telescopes and binoculars set up for views of the Moon, planets and other celestial objects.

"Clear skies permitting, members will begin setting up their telescopes at dusk along the walk near

the Fishing Pier," said Dewey Barker, ECAA star gazer.

Free Friday Flicks, which is produced by Fun Coast Promotions, will show "Grease" at the Gulfside Pavilion at 8 p.m. on Friday, August 28.

The Sounds of Summer concerts make sure that rock, blues and country fill

the air from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, August 28 when 2 High Strung performs at Quietwater Amphitheater. The Kyle Parker Band will get things moving on Saturday, Aug. 29. The Shell will be rockin' when Southern Breeze blows into town on Sunday, Aug. 30. The Sounds of Summer are sponsored by the SRIA.

Spectators are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets to the pavilion area. No pets are allowed and glass is prohibited on the Beach.

These events are all open to the public at no charge.

Thursday - Sunday at Sunset

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