

ISLAND TIMES

Volume V, Number 16

Pensacola Beach, Florida

December 1, 2009

Santa Arrives Island Style



Santa Claus' sled is getting ready for his magical ride on Christmas Eve, so until then he will be surfing, jet skiing, yachting in a lighted boat parade and riding atop a bright, red fire engine on Pensacola Beach during the Season Your Holidays with Island Spirit events. Santa, with help from David Gurney of Key Sailing, makes his first appearance at the Kowabunga Breakfast at Surf Burger, December 5. He has a busy schedule, so he's checking his list of events twice and you can do the same when you turn to Page 2.

Thirty Days of Magical Christmas Springs To Life on Santa Rosa Island

Santa made his list and checked it twice. He couldn't believe how much Christmas was in progress on the island that bears his name. So, he gave the list to Rudolph, who read it with his nose shining brightly on the pages.

"It is true Santa. The Island is having Christmas for thirty days."

Santa turned his attention to his magical dolphins that guide him to the Kowabunga Breakfast on December 5 and let the Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce elves plan their signature presentation, "Season Your Holidays with Island Spirit."

"We're celebrating Christmas in a very different way," Jeff Elbert, Chamber president said. "We're offering great things to do. A lighted boat parade...nobody else around here has anything like that."

The Lighted Boat Parade on December 11 will even have a space for a few passengers who want to ride the Chase-N-Fins in the parade. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at the Beach Visitor's Information Center. Last year, the boat quickly reached its capacity and had a waiting list.

Every weekend is full of events, filled with holiday spirit. The ZooLights will make a road trip to the Boardwalk this year since the Zoo is temporarily closed.

We wanted to make sure this dazzling display would appear for the public once again," said Mike McLaughlin of Lee Tracy.

After looking at the lights, stroll around the business district on the island where you will find activities in progress in most establishments.

"We are also presenting one

of the Island's best street parades," Elbert said. "On December 13, you can watch, catch trinkets, beads and candies from the decorated floats parading along Via de Luna. You can even catch a glimpse of Buck Lee, the SRIA executive director, in his grand marshal's convertible."

The street parade will include McGuire's Pipe Band, Krewe of Nereids, Gulf Breeze Junior ROTC, Wooly Booger Queen Shugah, Krewe of Wrecks, Krewe of Bananimals, dancers, elves, marching units and whimsically decorated floats.

Entries are still being accepted for both the boat and the street parades. Entry forms are available at the Visitor's Center or online at www.pensacolabeachparades.com.

Season Your Holidays Line-Up

December 1-January 1

Season Lights

The island comes to life with holiday lights. The merry merchants of the Boardwalk will dazzle you with a spectacular light display. It's a zooful of colorful characters, twinkling, blinking and welcoming the holiday season. Carolers every weekend. Free.

December 1

Children's Coloring Contest

Limitless imaginations guide small hands in creating Island holiday works of art. Coloring sheets are available at the Visitor's Information Center, Island Style and Beach hotels. Free.

December 5

Kowabunga Breakfast with Surfing Santa

SurfBurger - 8 to 10:30 a.m. This Santa has a surfboard sled pulled by magical dolphins. Kids should have their wish list ready. Free mi-

mosas for parents.

December 6

Christmas Festival of Arts, Crafts, Food and Fun

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Mission - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Gingerbread House Make & Take

Tiki Island Golf and Games, Noon to 2 p.m. Bring a bag of hard candies to decorate your Beach version of the traditional sweet house. Free.

Santa and His Paparazzi

Boardwalk - 2 to 4 p.m. Island memories are forever when you have your photo taken with Santa in front of palm trees decorated by Beach elves. Nominal charge for photo.

Tis the Season Open House

Lee Tracy - Boardwalk - 2 to 4 p.m. Experience Lee Tracy's Southern charm.

December 7

Joy For The Beach

Presented by the Pensacola Beach Optimists at Our Lady Catholic Church - 6:30 p.m. This event dishes up abundant Island spirit. Served by high energy singers and performers costumed for the holidays. Free

December 11

Lighted Boat Parade

Pensacola Beach Marina to Boardwalk - 7 p.m. The sparkling spectacle of decorated vessels parading against a dark December sky delights those watching from the shore or a waterfront Beach business. Children are given light sticks to illuminate the landing site. Dozens of captains compete for prizes as the nautical parade delivers Santa Claus officially to the Island. Santa's Workshop will host children of all ages to whisper into Santa's ear. Free.

December 12

Ornament Making

Days Inn Pensacola Beach - 1 to 4 p.m. The Gulf of Mexico offers her treasured sand dollars and starfish that evolve into fabulous and festive decorations for the tree. Free

Island Style Tropical Holiday

Open House 4 to 6 p.m. The home of the Christmas Room on the Island. Chat, munch cookies, sip cider and enjoy the original art by coloring contestants. Free. Coloring Contest Winners announced Island Style - 6 p.m.

December 13

Christmas Cantata

Beach Church - 10 a.m. Traditional seasonal music to delight all who care to listen. Free.

Gingerbread House Make & Take

Tiki Island Golf and Games, Noon to 2 p.m. Bring a bag of hard candies to decorate your Beach version of the traditional sweet house. Free.

Surfing Santa Beach Parade

Via de Luna - 2 p.m. Delightfully decorated whimsical floats wend their way down the Island's main street sharing holiday joy, candy and trinkets with all who care to catch the spirit. Santa oversees the parade from high atop his bright red fire engine which delivers him to the Gulfside Pavilion where children of all ages can speak to him personally. Free

December 18

Sip and Sing Caroling Tour

Sandshaker - 5:30 p.m. Come early to get your boarding pass for the open air bus which will amble to each island pub, make a quick stop for carolers to entertain patrons and on to the next stop. Must be 21 to ride.

December 19

Adult Coloring Contest

Sandshaker - 6 p.m. Let Island spirit bring out your inner artist. We supply the crayons. You supply the imagination. Free. Prizes.

December 20

Santa and His Paparazzi

Island Style - 2 to 4 p.m. Island Santa awaits your arrival in the Christmas room. The sweet smell of peppermint candy canes will lead you right to him. Have your photo taken for a nominal charge.

Rudolph's Red Nose Ramble

Starts at the Sandshaker. 2 p.m. Ramble, walk or amble to Sabine Sandbar for Island Eggnog, Hooters and then to Bamboo Willie's for the Santa Look Alike and Sexy Elf contests. Follow the Red Nose. Ramble back to the Shaker for the Wrap Up Party at 4:30 p.m.

December 20

Santa Claus Look Alike and Sexy Elf Contest

Bamboo Willie's - 3:30 p.m. Looking for a St. Nick knock-off. Beard, boots and good laugh required. Mrs. Claus or even an elf or two can compete. Be naughty or nice. No charge to enter. Great prizes.

December 24

Candlelight and Carols

Beach Church - 6 p.m. The choir of the Pensacola Beach Community Church invites visitors to join in their Island Christmas Eve tradition of caroling by candlelight. Free.

December 31

Fireworks

Ring in the new year with islandwide celebrations. A dazzling fireworks display at midnight from the end of the Gulf Pier.

January 1

Polar Bear Plunge

Paradise Bar and Grill - 2 p.m. The emerald waters of Santa Rosa Sound are filled with those hardy souls who wade, swim and scurry to the finish line. Heaping bowls of black-eyed peas wait to warm them. Entry fee benefits the Chamber. No charge to cheer.



ALL ABOARD! Robert Gleim, the merriest of the Boardwalk merchants, gets the lighted train ready to chug along through the holidays delivering smiles to residents and visitors of all ages. His grandfather, who worked for the railroad as a train engineer, would be proud.

ISLAND TIMES

Published every other Tuesday

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www.MyIslandTimes.com

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Barefoot on the Beach

By Jane Waters Cooper



We were a cluster of small businesses located in aging motel cottages that were way too hot in the summer and way too cold in the winter. The streets around the ancient motel were crackled and buckled. The landscaping was dominated by sandspurs. And we had the audacity to call ourselves The Sandspur Republic as we toiled away in our dilapidated quarters which comprised the commercial district of the very first motel on the Beach, Surf and Sand Cottages.

And we were happy. Especially when the holidays rolled around, when we were able to transform the Sandspur Republic into the Magic Kingdom. We were the unremarkable and unbelievable headquarters for Christmas on the Island.

We were the catalysts of the lighting of the luminaria. Thousands of white paper lunch bags containing a little sand and a tea candle brightened the island from Villa Sabine, up to the Dunes Hotel (now the Holiday Inn Express); all the way down Via de Luna past the Sun Ray Oyster Shop and all around these funky roads in the Sandspur. It was thinly attended in the first year, but after a while,

thousands of visitors came to help us celebrate Christmas.

The public would gather on the shores of Santa Rosa Sound to watch Santa make his trip to the Island via boardsail.

Yes, Mike Mead, owner of Surf and Sail, would put on his Santa suit, cover himself with Christmas lights, and sail his board from Gulf Breeze to the Sandspur. The children had to be restrained by their parents from entering the water to greet him on his arrival. Mike would go in the back door of his shop, and a few minutes later, a portly Santa in a velvet suit, Jim Rigby, would appear and get in the decorated convertible for his ride to the Sundeck where he visited with every child, no matter how long it took.

In the meantime, every business gave out treats, cookies and hot chocolate, tiny sandwiches, cider and candy. Miss Merry Christmas in her green Christmas Tree costume strolled the streets giving gifts to the exuberant children.

The Krewe of Wrecks loaned the Sandspur their float which was turned into a hay ride, complete with what else, but hay. John Savelli, the fire chief, was in charge

of pulling this contraption full of laughing kids around the Republic.

There was no real reason to worry about all those candles which were burning along the island streets. The Firehouse Five, the Beach volunteer firemen, had donned their red coveralls, put on their Santa hats, set up their own sound system and were entertaining the crowd with their own renditions of the revered Christmas carols. Their eyes, however, rarely strayed from the luminaria. Everyone agreed it was a grand, old-fashioned Christmas event which could not be easily duplicated anywhere.

The folks who put this simple, but extremely appealing, soiree together were owners of The Sundeck, Les and Joy Anderson; Surf and Sand Manager Louise Savelli; Mike Mead, Surf and Sail Boardsailing; Bobby and Lana Draper; Bobby D's Beach Bar; and the Waters Clan at *The Islander* Newspaper.

None of these businesses exists today, but they were once the glue that made visitors and local residents stick to the island. The slogan of the Sandspur merchants was "Get Stuck On Us."

A huge number of folks did just that.

And now, there is no more Christmas on the Island at the Sandspur Republic. In fact, there is no Republic. The upscale Hilton Hotel is on the Gulf, and the exclusive shops occupy the other side of the street, known as the Soundside Market.

But, do not be sad that the old days have gone away never to return. Just rejoice that the Beach business community is going forth, carrying the standards of the great tradition. Members of the Chamber of Commerce are presenting their third annual thirty day Christmas festival, chock full adventures for you and your kids.

It's going on now. Come out and see the ZooLights, make a gingerbread house to take home

or sit with Santa a while. There are street and boat parades and Santa hosts Open Houses. The schedule is in this issue.

Some things never change. And the generosity of the commercial district on the Beach is the one constant visitors and locals can count on.

Come on out and enjoy this celebration where all the events are free.

Recapture the spirit of the Sandspur Republic during the Season Your Holidays with Island Spirit - a happy blend of yesterday and today.

Kowabunga!

Season Your Holidays
Lighted Boat Parade - Dec 11

Surfing Santa
Parade -
Dec 13

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PEOPLE

GOLDEN DAD

Beach School graduate Sasha Fruitticher, who is now an account executive for an advertising firm in Tampa, submitted a press release about her dad Tom's gold medal performance in a karate competition. It read, "The Japan Karate Association/American Federation (JKA/AF) announced today that Pensacola-native, Tom Fruitticher, chief instructor of Coastal Shotokan Karate, won first place in kata and in fighting at the JKA/AF National Karate Tournament in New Orleans. Over 250 competitors from around the country attended the two day event." Tom is a Beach resident and his son Justin is a student at the Beach School.

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Nancy Sampson, Gulf Breeze, reminisced about vacationing on Pensacola Beach with her 20 cousins each year. Nancy is the granddaughter of the Beach's Papa Joe Reynolds. Although her four children love the beach, they took advantage of the Fall Break at the Beach School to spend eight days in DisneyWorld.

MINI HUNTER

Kai Sessions just returned from a successful deer hunting expedition in Louisiana. He bagged his first deer; and he is only seven-years-old. Kai's parents are Celene and Jim Sessions, and his grandmother is Krewe of Wrecks stalwart Melanie Waite.

BEACH VET

LiMarie Rodriguez had lots of fans at the Gulf Breeze Chamber's PetFest. The Beach resident and Gulf Breeze Animal Hospital veterinarian was one of the PetFest sponsors. She was greeted with excitedly wagging tails and kisses from her clients.

CELEBRATING IN PARADISE

David Tucker was part of the crowd celebrating at Paradise Saturday night. The rain and wind did not deter the long time beach fan. His parents, the late Ann and Henry Steirlen, who lived on Via de Luna for more than thirty years, were pioneers on Pensacola Beach.

SECOND HONEYMOON

Entertainer Tim Spencer whisked his wife Charlotte away for an island anniversary celebration

last month. The couple kept their toes in the sand while camping for a week in the Caribbean and finished their vacation at a resort hotel.

BATTER UP

Gulf Breeze High School baseball phenom Ben Lively signed a scholarship to play ball at the University of Central Florida. Ben's proud parents are Eddie and Ginny Lively. Mom Ginny notes one of her hobbies is watching Ben play ball. She will have to travel to Orlando now.

ISLAND ELVES

Santa Rosa Island Authority staffers strung lights from the flag pole to create a glittering, lighted Christmas tree on the north lawn of the Visitor's Center. Executive Director Buck Lee gave the nod which sent Mason Kilgore and Don Vinyard into action. Don remembered decorating the Beach Ball water tower, so the thirty-five foot flag pole was an easy task.

Trivia



In the early days of the existence of *Island Times* we ran a question which generated a number of correct responses. The Trivia Master asked the same question in a recent issue, expecting to see the same people answering. Nope. A whole new set of Trivia players surfaced. Sandi Johnson, now the circulation manager of the *Island Times*, won that first trivia contest, but she is no longer eligible by virtue of her employment with the newspaper. She sent a correct answer anyway.

The questions was: "There was once a United States Post Office on the Beach. Where was it located?"

Big winner this time was Jim Hill with the blessing of Dave Matthews who guessed the Laundromat. Correct-o-mundo. Jim gets the shirt.

Other correct answers came from Douglas J. Thompson and Knight of the Roundtable Bill Greene, who emailed his answer from Arizona. And at last, Joanne Brooks, Queen of the

Wrong Answers had this one right.

"Oh please, tell me I'm right for a change," she pleaded.

Good job, Joanne. It's better to send the correct answer too late than never to have answered at all.

Beach oracle and Sandspur publisher Chuck Steele also sent a correct answer. He added a spicy story to his answer. Want to read it? Email him at thesandspur@gmail.com and ask for it.

Try this one. For many years, a couple owned a popular shop on the beach, first at the Casino and later on Via de Luna. Clue: they sold gifts and swimwear. What was the name of the shop?

Rules are the same. Be the first to email the correct answer to win a coveted t-shirt. Send your answer to islandtimes@bellsouth.net with "trivia" in the subject line and include your name, phone number. Deadline to answer is Tuesday, December 8, 2009.

SOBs Claim First Sunday in December

The Sisters of the Beach have established a Christmas rule. Beginning this year and lasting forevermore, the ladies will hold their famous Christmas luncheon at Flounder's on the first Sunday in December. This year's party will be on December 6 with eating, drinking, toasting and singing their signature song. They will also have a photo taken.

If you missed the Art and Wine Weekend, they will have a few items left from the original supply. They do have some of those huggies with the embroidered SOB patch left and a few other items for home decorating. (Nice gifts, too.)

After Becky Shearman,

Mayor of Pensacola Beach delivers her proclamation, locking in the date of the brunch in the future, the ladies will leave Flounder's and form a procession known as the Jingle Bell Caravan; honking, driving slowly, and singing their way to Ariola Drive. When they get to their destination, Jayne Drees Redmon will direct her annual performance of the Twelve Days of Christmas. Some of the Sisters actually know the words. Do they put them together properly? Only Jayne knows.

After the Jingle Bell Caravan, the crowd disperses to various favorite beach bistros. Some, a very few, go home.

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Lighted Boat Parade Dec 11

Surfing Santa Parade Dec 13

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Pensacola Beach Advocates Pipe Up At ECUA Board Meeting

Emerald Coast Utilities Authority Board Dale Perkins drew a line in the sand over the harsh wording in a proposed sewer line repair policy at the ECUA Full Board November 19 meeting. Perkins, whose district includes Pensacola Beach, asked fellow board members to refer the policy back to the Citizens Advisory Committee for further discussion and review.

The Sanitary Sewer Service Lateral Repair Policy would require customers to repair lines and directs staff to aggressively pursue any instances in which prohibited discharges are made into the wastewater collection system. The policy outlines a timeframe for repair and penalties for non-compliance.

ECUA customers on Pensacola Beach will be the first to be notified and asked to comply.

Jim Cox, president of the Pensacola Beach Advocates addressed the Board with his concerns.

"We feel like we are being singled out on Pensacola Beach. We ask that you support Mr. Perkins' request to refer this back to committee for further review."

Board Chairman Elvin McCorvey explained that the policy is a result of a requirement placed on the utility by the Environmental Protection Agency.

"The reason for this policy is that we're trying to pacify the regulatory agency that is watching us. If we don't fix our infiltration problems, we will pay large penalties," said McCorvey. "This policy is less harsh than the current policy. We want to work with people and outline an amount of time to repair. The policy speaks to pursu-

ing those who are illegally funneling stormwater into our system, not those who need to make minor repairs. This board is very fair. Trust me."

ECUA Engineer Bill Johnson explained to the Board that Pensacola Beach has been plagued with a large amounts of inflow and infiltration due to the age of the sewer system and effects from hurricanes. The ECUA has tested the system on Pensacola Beach, Cantonment and Downtown Pensacola which included 21,000 laterals.

"When we tested the 1300 laterals on Pensacola Beach, we found about 50 residential problem areas of which 41 are minor and will probably cost the customer about \$10 to repair," said Johnson. "We know that overflows on the Beach could be very

serious and impact tourism. This is a contained system on the island, so we will know that our repairs will be effective and we feel this needs to be addressed."

Perkins again pointed out that the current policy should be able solve the nine cases on the Beach and inquired why the damage to other areas has not been assessed.

Ray Ascherfeld, Pensacola Beach Advocates, requested clarification from the board regarding what instances a customer would be aggressively pursued.

Board members Larry Walker and Elizabeth Campbell agreed that the policy was not clear.

Walker said, "The wording in the new policy does not match the intent of this board. I move that we refer this policy back to the Citizens Advisory Committee to have the language revised with

staff's input."

The motion passed unanimously. The item will be on the agenda at the Committee meeting Wednesday, December 9 at 2 p.m. at the ECUA boardroom, 9250 Hamman Street, Ellyson Industrial Park in Pensacola.

In other business the Board approved the hiring of Suncoast Infrastructure and South Baldwin Plumbing to make repairs to the areas of the system on Pensacola Beach for which the Authority is responsible.

The ECUA board will meet next on Thursday, December 17 at 3 p.m. The meeting will be at the ECUA Ellyson Industrial Park campus in the Board Room of the ECUA's Human Resources building, located at 9250 Hamman Street in Pensacola. All meetings are open to the public.

After Sundown

CRABS - WE GOT 'EM

Only restaurant on Pensacola Beach offering breath taking views of the Gulf while dining directly on the beach. Come as you are straight off the sandy beach and enjoy our indoor/outdoor bar and gulf side deck. Crabs has the largest selection of Crab on the beach, was voted Best Crab by News Journal readers. She Crab Soup, Stuffed Blue Crabs, Alaskan Snow, King or Dungeness - you'll find them all! We have many other seafood favorites on our menu as well as a great assortment of chicken, steaks and pasta dishes. Don't forget to try one of our signature drinks like 'The Crab Trap' which come with a souvenir glass to keep!

Open 7 days a week. Sunday Brunch with live Steel Band. Look for the Red Roof on Pensacola Beach. 850-932-0700 www.crabswegotem.com

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Open 7 days a week. Sunday Brunch. At the Traffic Light on beautiful Pensacola Beach, 850-932-2003 www.flounderschowderhouse.com

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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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SANDSHAKER LOUNGE

The " 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 Music Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat & Sun. Karaoke Tuesday. "Grilling & Chillin'" with Lost Kees, Sat-Sun 1:30 to 6:30 p.m.

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

NATIVE CAFE

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



It was a dark and stormy night.well, raining anyway. What perfect weather for the annual Wooly Booger Kiss the Hurricane Goodbye Bawl! And congratulations to our new Queen Shugah Shelley Johnson. She's not an easy one to surprise, but we managed to do just that. Her son Jeremy and daughter-in-law Rachael were able to attend without tipping off Mama. Jeremy said he gave Mama the hard sell about being on the Beach already. And he is certainly one who knows how to sell. We are so proud of our new Queen.

As Miss Jane said, "Look out hurricanes." Queen Shugah was already sporting new Wooly Booger headgear at the Krewe of Wrecks meeting and I can't wait to see what surprises she has in store for us next season.

Morrie Drees had to announce that an area of low pressure was forming while we were partying and I just couldn't help reminding him that it was now the responsibility of the new Queen. Of course, Islanders are not afraid of any low pressure or even tropical storms, just the big "H." This Queen Shugah was certainly feeling the pressure this season and I only succeeded with the enormous help from all of you. For this I give you my heartfelt thanks and ask that you continue to support our new Queen.

Since we are a smaller group and Founding Wooly Booger Les Ceiutat is no longer with us, we have made some decisions regarding the Wooly Booger Social Club. The main one being to keep it as a Social Club and just have fun without paying dues or raising funds. We all feel we do enough of that already and some things need to be just pure fun and socializing!

Big thanks to former Queen Shugah Renee Mack for providing Paradise for us - a wonderful place for the Bawl, not to mention the perfect Band. If you can't dance to Wildwood, you can't dance. Thanks guys.... we love you.

Don't forget the SOB Christmas Brunch this Sunday at Flounder's. I

know there's a New Orleans Saints football game, but we have someone who will be responsible for keeping us informed of each important play as it happens. Who needs commentators when we have SOB's? A Sister is quite capable of handling anything and everything.

Of course, there will be the annual caravan afterward. Miss Jane is looking forward to running out to her balcony even during the game and gazing down upon this bubbly and lovely group of Sisters singing off-key Christmas Carols with hearts full of love. After which, we will descend upon some of the luckiest local watering holes in search of more libation. Who knows after that? We certainly don't. We do want to thank Lewis Irby and the staff of Flounder's for making sure we have lots of fun each year.

Okay, loyal readers, it's time to cook. This week's recipe is an old one and a reprint, but it's Queen Shugah's favorite! If you make it now, it will have sufficient "aging time" before Christmas. This one's for you, Queen Shugah Shelley - let's cook....

Bourbon Balls

3 Cups finely ground vanilla wafers
1 Cup finely chopped pecans
1 Cup Confectioners sugar
3 Tbsp. light corn syrup
¼ Cup good bourbon (I use at least ½ Cup)

Grind wafers and pecans in a food processor. Mix with remaining ingredients and have a shot of bourbon for yourself. Roll mixture into small balls the size of marbles, then dust with powdered sugar. Store in a covered jar or airtight container and place in the refrigerator for a minimum of three days to age properly. The longer they age, the better! Will keep indefinitely as long as the container is airtight. Remember, don't eat and drive!

Happy Holidays, share and don't forget to join the Krewe of Wrecks.

See ya in the kitchen.....

Mardi Gras Parade Rules Set By Deputies

Krewes Compelled To Attend Mandatory Safety Meeting

The Krewe of Wrecks will present their thirtieth annual Mardi Gras parade, Sunday, February 14 at 2 p.m. on Pensacola Beach. There are some new rules to follow, before the good times can roll.

As required by the Escambia County Sheriff's Department, each float must have one representative attend a safety meeting. Parade entry forms will be available at the safety meetings only. The meetings, which will be held at the Santa Rosa Island Authority Boardroom, are set for Thursday, January 21 at 6 p.m. and Saturday, January 23 at 10 a.m.

"The float drivers are welcome to attend, but it is mandatory that one krewe member who rides aboard the float must appear at the meeting to review the rules. That person will be responsible for educating his krewe," said Melanie Waite, Treas-Wreck. "Safety is our highest priority."

At the safety meeting, the krewes will receive an entry form and it will be approved by the Sheriff's Department. The entry form, fees, documentation of insurance, and photocopies of driver's licenses must then be mailed promptly to the Krewe of

Wrecks at the address provided on the entry form.

Any krewe or organization which does not meet requirements or follow the rules set will not be allowed to participate in the parade.

"We are confined to a certain number of floats," said Jeff Goudey, who coordinates the Wrecks parade. "Krewes who participated last year will have preference over new applicants, if the maximum number of entries is reached."

The Krewe of Wrecks parade which was among the Southeast-

ern Tourism Society's top 25 events in 2007, is Pensacola Beach's most successful off season event.

"We look forward to Mardi Gras every year," said Pensacola Beach Chamber President Jeff Elbert. "Hotel rooms are booked and cash registers are ringing in shops and restaurants. It has a huge economic impact and, the entire event is produced by volunteers."

For more information, regarding the Krewe of Wrecks parade, email Melanie Waite at Melanie7896@bellsouth.net.

Mardi Gras Parade Mandatory Safety Meetings

Thursday, Jan. 21 • 6 PM
Saturday, Jan. 23 • 10 AM

SRIA Boardroom



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MON - SAT 8 AM - 7 PM
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KREWE OF WRECKS MEETINGS 2009-2010

All meetings begin at 6 p.m.
Memberships are available
at each meeting; \$30.

December 7
Wrecks Mtg Bamboo Willie's
December 14
Wrecks Meeting The Break
January 4
Wrecks Meeting Flounder's
January 11
Wrecks Mtg Paddy O'Leary's
January 18
Wrecks Meeting PegLeg's
January 25
Wrecks Meeting The Islander
February 1
Wrecks Meeting Elk's Lodge

Mardi Gras on the Island

2010

January 9 Nereids King Kake Party, Paradise, 3 PM
January 15 Nereids Moonpie Party, Sandshaker
January 16 Krewe of Junanoo, Chili CookOff, Shaker, 1 PM
January 23 Nauga Champagne Breakfast, Dock, 10 AM
January 23 Krewe of Brew Black Tie Ball, Elk's Lodge
January 30 Nereids Mystical Ball, Elk's Lodge
January 30 Bananimals Ball, Bay Beach Inn
January 31 Beach Babe Contest & Cajun Boil, Shaker, 3 PM

February 6 Krewe of Kids Parade
February 6 Wrecks Grand Costume Ball
February 8 Queen's Dinner, Flounder's, 7 PM
February 8 King's Dinner, Elk's Lodge, 7 PM
February 13 Wrecks Champagne Breakfast
February 14 Krewe of Wrecks Parade, 2 PM
February 15 Red Beans and Rice Luncheon, Casino Beach, 11
February 16 Krewe of Coma, Sandshaker, 7 PM

*More details will appear as the season nears.
Not all events are open to the public.
Some events require tickets.*



BYTES AND BITS

By Joe Stukey, Your Computer Pal

Q: "I need advice about buying a laptop as a Christmas gift."

A: Buying a laptop involves a bit more than just finding one at a low price, so here are some pointers. First, look at the retailer's return policy. Some dealers have strict return policies, allowing exchanges only. That might not be the best route if the computer isn't compatible with you.

Check out the warranty period, too. Most computers have a one-year manufacturer's warranty, though you can often purchase in-store warranties to cover additional years. That can be good insurance if you run into problems later because laptop repairs, especially the screen replacement, can be expensive.

Go to the store and test drive at least two or more computers that have similar features. That will be your opportunity to see which appeals to you. Prices can vary widely between similar computers, so look for price differences, Christmas Specials, rebates, and sale prices. Look carefully to see what is included with the laptop. If you need lots of RAM (memory), try to buy a computer

with the needed memory, rather than trying to add it later. Microsoft's Office program (Word, Excel, etc) is usually included only as a 60-day trial copy.

Ask questions, or if you're not sure what to ask, take a more computer-savvy person along with you. Computer performance varies, depending on the processor type (the bigger the better), the speed, RAM (memory), and the software that is installed. The processor is like the engine in a car. The more RAM you have, the more programs you can run simultaneously. Today, new laptops might have 4 to 8 gigabytes of RAM.

Also be aware that the new Windows 7 software comes in several different flavors, though the Home Edition fits the needs of most consumers.

You can often save money by buying the store's last out-of-the-box computer that is on the display shelf.

Finally, keep in mind that your old software just might not work with your new computer.

For questions, contact Joe at joe@ycpals.com or 206-3156.



Pensacola Beach Chamber Board member Beverly Boswell, left, hosted Business After Hours at the Sandshaker, November 24. Steve Lillo, owner of Lillo's Tuscan Grille, catered a sumptuous meal for the Chamber members. The networking event included door prizes from the Shaker and Pointe South Realty.

Island Beautification &
Core Area Redevelopment
Public Input Forum
December 15 • 5 pm
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REMEMBER - There will be no January grace period. All 2009 active annual passes will terminate December 31, 2009.

NEW ANNUAL PASS SALES - Begin January 4, 2010 at the SRIA Office. Extended sales hours from Jan 4 to Jan 29 are Monday -Friday, 8:30 AM to 6:30 PM

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The UPS Store

The School Bell Rings

SURF'S UP - Professional surfer and Beach School graduate Slater Trout has donated a custom signature stand up paddle board to be used to raise funds for Pensacola Beach Elementary School. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at school or by calling Ken McCurdy at 850-501-4788. Hurry, the drawing is December 4 at the Beach School Holiday Production.

JOYFUL VOICES - The musically gifted Pensacola Beach Elementary School students will perform their annual Holiday Program, Friday, December 4 at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Mission. Come early, they really pack the place. The PTA hosts a cookie and coffee reception after the program.

CHAMBER REP - Shelby Smith represented the Beach School Board at the Beach Chamber's November business meeting last week. She gave the Chamber members information about how the Charter school is funded and its unprecedented growth. "The third grade is bursting at the seams with 26 students; all who live on the Beach," she said. "There are families with young children who are moving to the Beach."

BOOK FAIR - Do your Christmas shopping at the Beach School's Book Fair. The fair will be open to the general public from Monday, December 7 through Thursday, December 10 from 8 to 10 a.m. Additionally, the fair will be open December 8 and December 10 from 5 to 7 p.m. The book selection has a wide range of titles which can be viewed online at <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/>

homepage/pbeach. Monies raised will benefit the school library.

GIFT ME - Third grade teacher Joy McLaurine announced that the Scrip Program is in full swing. Beach parents and community members who are planning to purchase gift cards for the holidays may do so through the Beach School. The cost of the gift card remains the same, but the school will receive a portion of the purchase. Big and small stores are participating. More information is available at the School along with order forms.

HONORS STUDENTS - When Pensacola Beach School students graduate, they move up to the

Gulf Breeze Schools. Beach resident Leanne Lampone noted all the former Sandpipers who are bringing home honors during the first nine week grading period. At Gulf Breeze Middle School, sixth graders Jace Amberson, Lia Lampone, Emily Larsen, Jacob Scarberry and Hannah Watson earned all A's. They were joined on the A Honor Roll by the following: Jett Crowdis, Savannah Crowdis, Sara Post, seventh grade; and Savannah Dunne, Reghan Elliott, and Mitchell Robbins in eighth grade. The following were named to the A-B

Honor Roll: Jacob Baldwin, Sara Burnett, Shelby Christensen, Megan Cronin, Erik Egly, Anna Larsen, Haylie Lecaroz, Ian O'Brien, Gage Smith and Marley Taylor, sixth grade; Zane Gill, William Green, Jon Grigsby, Savannah McCleary, Duncan Niven, and Taylor Sexton, seventh grade; and Cate Hodges, Drew Holk, Stephanie Moraes and Bailey Trzcinski, eighth grade.

Former Beach School kids who are making the grade at Gulf Breeze High School are: Seniors Marc Sessa, Omari Baines and George Weisnicht; Juniors Jenni-

fer Dolfie, Brianna Paulus, Elle Wade, Constantine Anastopoulo, Shelby Hobbs, Thomas Lampone and Michelle Moraes; Sophmores John Baldwin and Haley Bohannon; and Freshmen P.J. Dunne, Adam Foley, Eric Post, Maylee Crockford, Thomas Fitzgerald, Kendall Hoover and Oceane Ziegler.

HOLIDAY BREAK - The last day of classes for the year will be Friday, December 18 for students at Gulf Breeze Middle, High and at Pensacola Beach Elementary School. Students will return to school on Monday, January 4.



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Can The SRIA Welcome The Bride and Groom, But Solve Parking And Noise Problems?

The bride and groom have said their vows in the natural beauty of Pensacola Beach. Strike up the band, pour the toasts, serve the food. Celebrate. Life is good.

Whoa, not so fast, say the year around residents who live nearby. We can't sleep, can't get into our driveways because the streets are clogged with wedding guests' cars. Residents have taken their complaints to the Santa Rosa Island Authority who began developing a plan which would work for both the short term renters and the permanent leaseholders at their November 18 meeting.

Fred Gant, SRIA Board chairman, told the large audience and the committees at the meeting, "This is a trend that is taking place. If that trend gets bigger, it will become a problem. We need to stop that trend. We need to be very careful about how we approach this issue."

Resident Jim Leslie said he had to call the deputies because there was so much noise he couldn't hear the Gators football game. "We have 35 to 40 nights per year with weddings. This is a residential section. It was not designed to bring money to the Beach. Hold the parties at the Hilton."

Scott Smith, a Beach resident for 15 years, says the Beach has always been mixed rental and residential. "It's part of living on the Beach. I don't want to see you taking the rental property owner's rights away. I urge you to be cautious in putting any restrictions on rentals."

The Development and Leasing Committee heard a number of speakers, pro and con, before they decided to ask staff to prepare an application for short term renters, which would define the guidelines for them to follow. The document will be reviewed at the December 16 meeting.

Tiffany D'Alemberte appeared before the Development and Leasing committee to request an extension to the lease at Tiffany's.

In making the request, Jesse Martin, D'Alemberte's husband said, "We have been a part of the Beach for 50 years. This is the way we earn our living and we want our lease extended so we can continue. We are all for all kinds of improvements and want to be part of the team."

The SRIA staff asked the Board to table the request until the completion of the Land Planners presentation.

The request will remain in

committee while staff brings back information, details and recommendations regarding the leases held by The Dock and Tiffany's.

Dr. Thomas Campanella, Board member, reminded his peers that their lease cannot be taken from them.

"You will have to relocate them," Campanella said. "These people are here as called for in their lease. They have gone through two court cases and every hurricane. I think we should grant this extension."

Gant and Vernon Prather said they would like Tiffany's to be granted a prime location to give them a "sense of permanency."

A request by Aloha Liquors to sublease the former Baars Realty building on Pensacola Beach Blvd. will go before the Full Board for discussion. Aloha would open a liquor store in the location, if approved.

Dottie Ford continued to bring upbeat financial news to the Administrative Committee.

"Our revenues are up \$45,000 over what we projected for the month of September and \$392,268 for the year," she said.

Bob West, SRIA safety direc-

tor, asked the Architectural and Environmental Committee to approve a draft of a proposed county ordinance which would give authority to the SRIA public safety officials and senior staff to require the public to comply with reasonable commands given to them by these professionals.

These would include: stop fishing or paddling kayaks too close to swimmers; cease ball games or digging holes which might hurt others on the beach; stop climbing on lifeguard towers; stop jumping off Piers and docks; no swimming on red flag days; refrain from swimming while intoxi-

cated; refrain from entering the Gulf after being previously rescued; remove tents or objects that impair a lifeguard's ability to see or perform his duties.

Executive Director Buck Lee noted that there are 14 conservation areas on the island. In an effort to get the public to appreciate how much of the island is in conservation and cannot be developed, the SRIA staff has created signage to designate the areas. The signs were approved by the board.

The next meeting will be the Full Board at 5 p.m. at the SRIA offices on Wednesday, December 2. All meetings are open to the public.

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Tourism Committee Touts Beach Success

Ed Schroeder, vice president of the Pensacola Chamber of Commerce, told the Tourist Administration and Convention Committee that panhandle hotels are outperforming their neighbors.

"The islands are doing a really good job," he said. "Pensacola Beach accounted for 39 percent of the total bed taxes collected in Escambia County. That percentage will likely increase to 45 or even 50 percent with the new properties that are scheduled to become available in the next years."

Laura Lee, public relations manager of the Pensacola Convention and Visitor's Bureau, commented on the number of contacts her group had made recently, including meeting with travel writers from *Travel and Leisure*, *Conde Nast* and the *Today Show*.

She announced that airlines will

offer direct flights from Washington, D.C. to Pensacola beginning with Mardi Gras weekend. She said the CVB is preparing goodie bags to be given to each passenger on the inaugural flight.

Buck Lee, Santa Rosa Island Authority executive director, who is a member of the TACC committee, reviewed the activity on the island.

"We have had a great year," he said. "My staff has kept under budget and our revenues were more than what was anticipated."

Innisfree Vice President Harlan Butler, who is the newly appointed TACC chairman, complimented Lee on his appearance on national television during the storm, Ida.

"You have such a commanding voice and always say the right thing," Butler said.

The next TACC meeting will be on Wednesday, January 20 at 9 a.m.

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Letters to the Editor

I have been listening to Commissioner Grover Robinson and SRIA Exec Buck Lee on Channel 3 talking about the continuing need for beach renourishment. I am also very aware of the perspective of "off islanders" about using their tax dollars to finance this.

One thought I have is to look at whether or not Pensacola Beach is a

net provider of income to Escambia County. And if so, then could we not argue convincingly that we simply reduce that yearly flow of tax income by an amount equal to what would be needed to finance beach periodic renourishment, e.g., every five years, for example. It would seem that this would effectively neutralize the anger of other residents of

Escambia County.

Another source of income could be a portion of the increase in the \$1 toll be dedicated to the renourishment fund. And I would suggest that the \$50 annual toll be raised to \$75 to specifically provide additional funding for renourishment. This would have the very positive aspect of showing that Beach residents are willing to finance an ongoing need with our own money. And a \$25 increase would not be a significant burden. And those paying the extra \$25 would know that the increase is for our benefit, and not just disappearing into the black hole of Escambia County's budget.

I think a combination of these sources of financing could provide a reliable source of funding of a recurrent cost we all know will occur, and demonstrate that those of us who live on Pensacola Beach are willing to pitch in when the result is clearly in our own benefit.

Thanks for listening.

*Darell McIntyre
Pensacola Beach*



Gulf Breeze Chamber of Commerce turned the City over to the dogs during PetFest, November 22. Gadsden Gossman, front and center, declared himself the Mayor for the Day since his people at Gulf Breeze Animal Hospital were among the event sponsors. (From Left) Joy McDuffee, Carol Wilson and Dr. Tim Gossman served as his helpers.

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ROAD CLOSURES -

At press time Ft. Pickens Road from the Gate to the Fort was still closed due to storm damage: Updates 850-934-2600

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BUSINESS BUZZ

POLITICAL PROWESS

State and local politicians who represent the Beach have been making headlines. State Representative Dave Murzin received the Florida Retail Federation's highest honor given to a lawmaker. He was named the Retail Federation's 2009 Legislator of the Year for his work as chairman of the House Economic Development and Community Affairs Council. Escambia County Commissioner Grover Robinson, whose district includes Pensacola Beach, has been appointed as the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.

GRAND PLAN

Walt and Cindy Lumpkin have their sights set on Valentine's Day - not for hearts and flowers, but for the opening of the Grand Marlin. It is located at the former Boy on a

Dolphin site at the foot of the Bob Sikes Bridge. February 14 is the date of the Pensacola Beach Mardi Gras parade, too.

FUN IDEAS

Chic Demereau, who owns Tiki Island, is in the family entertainment business. As part of the visioning process that Pensacola Beach is undergoing, he is offering a few fun ideas on people movement. They include zipping around by air and even a Disney-esque tram ride.

VIC VOLS

If you stop by the Pensacola Beach Visitor's Information Center to drop off your completed parade application, you may see some fresh faces. The University of West Florida students in the Recreation and Resort Management program are gaining valuable internship hours and assisting in greeting visi-

tors. The degree program, designed with the area's business community in mind, is under the Health Leisure Exercise Sciences Division, College of Professional Studies. Steven Phillip is the program coordinator.

BIG FISH

Former Mayor of Pensacola Beach Ed Mock is hosting a fish fry each Thursday from 5 to 8 at the Sandshaker. He is not running for re-election but wants his friends to stop by. No worries about the cold or wind, the area is protected from the elements and the heaters are turned on says Shaker owner Beverly Boswell.

FRED FLOUNDER'S DRINK

Tuesday night's standing room only at Flounder's bar where the Martinis are flowing. Fred Flounder prefers his very dry with lots of friends.

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OWN THE LIFESTYLE

The Lizzard's TONGUE

by E.K. Hewson



Last week my son, The Kid, competed in his first out-of-town swimming competition in Baltimore, Maryland, about a two and half hour drive from where we live. I was giddy with excitement as this brought back wonderful childhood memories for me. The Colonel, however, was completely baffled by the entire pre-meet process and did his best to leave me to my own devices.

I can remember when my parents would fold down the Volkswagon camper van's back seat and make a bed for my sister and me to sleep in while we got up and on the road at 0-dark thirty to make a 7 a.m. warm-up time. My dad would already have Volksy, (yes, we had named the van), warmed up; and the pillows and blankets would have that fresh out of the dryer smell. So I did my best to recreate that for The Kid. I must admit that the backseat of a Prius is not that spacious and wearing a seat belt makes it hard to really lie down, but I did have fresh out of the dryer linens at the ready. Of course, we left on Friday night after swim practice and I knew I had to work all day on Friday, so the pillows and blankets had been hanging out in the car

since Thursday. It's the thought that counts, right?

Next on my list was food. As I was packing a bag with The Kid's organic, gluten-free cereal and his organic milks that do not need to be refrigerated until opened, The Colonel had the audacity to question my preparations. Really he just made the observation that we were staying in a hotel that offered free breakfast from 6 to 10 every morning. But there it was, like the 800 pound gorilla in the kitchen. Had I not shared with him that when I competed, my mother would somehow figure out a way to make me a plate of rice or pasta, two foods not normally available on a breakfast menu, but two foods I always ate before a home meet.

Then, I double checked The Kid's swim bag to make sure he had everything he needed. Suit, goggles, team t-shirts and shorts, flip flops, Ugg boots, socks, warm-up jacket and pants, towels, cards, book, electronic game, pencil and paper. Everything checked out, except The Kid had only packed one towel. Muttering to myself, that I couldn't believe he only packed one towel, The Colonel admitted that he

thought four towels were excessive and had unpacked a few. What, had someone replaced my husband with the towel police? I explained to him that the thick one was to sit on and the three thinner ones, which would dry quickly, were for after warm-up and The Kid's races. I advised The Colonel to grab a thick towel for himself to sit on as well. Gym floors can get awfully hard on the bottom as the day drags on.

Finally after a long Friday at work and one last swim practice, we were on the road to Baltimore. The Kid was belted in and hunkered down among pillows and blankets in the backseat, and everything he needed to compete was in the trunk. We arrived at the hotel around 11 p.m. and quickly tucked The Kid back in for a good night's sleep. Not sure if it was on the master plan or even allowed, The Colonel tentatively asked me if I wanted to go sit in the hotel lobby and relax. As we left the room, I noticed he grabbed a shopping bag. He had brought wine and hors d'oeuvres. It was then I realized that he might just make a great swimmer's dad after all.

Until next time...



The Pensacola Beach Woman's Club toasted Nellie Bryan's November birthday at their luncheon meeting. Nellie, who was a beach pioneer, currently lives in Gulf Breeze. She was born in 1910.



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Woman's Clubbers Party Through The Holidays

In keeping with years of Beach tradition, Pensacola Beach Woman's Club celebrated Thanksgiving early with a turkey feast at their November 19 meeting at the Beach Church Fellowship Hall. PBWC former president Mary Drees' husband, Morrie, provided the turkey, cooked to perfection and famous Beach chef Steve Speirs prepared the dressing. Members brought sides dishes to round out the luncheon.

The program featured the Pensacola Faith Based Coalition program manager Joseph L. Herring who explained their mission is to promote family bonding, assist families with becoming self-sufficient,

and to provide referral services to assist those in need.

President Lynda Knell announced that Janet Miller, Patty Lou Kattner, Janet Penniman, Pegge Phaneuf, Beverly Dufrechou, Renee Nader and Nellie Bryan were celebrating birthdays in November.

The Woman's Club Christmas luncheon will be a festive affair at Hemingway's on Pensacola Beach December 15. The social hour begins at 11 a.m. The "Cheerful Cherubs" will perform. The cost of lunch is \$12 and reservations must be made prior to December 11.

For more details, please call 850-932-5998.

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Planners Seek Input For Future of Pensacola Beach

The opportunity to shape the future of Pensacola Beach by sharing your ideas is being offered by the Beach's planning firm, EDSA, in the form of a public input meeting, Tuesday, December 15. The public is encouraged to attend the meeting which is being held at the Board of County Commission Chambers, 221 S. Palafox Street in Pensacola. The session begins at 5 p.m.

Representatives from the master planning firm, EDSA, will present a brief overview and then will allow citizens to share their input on the future of Pensacola Beach. This is the second public input session.

The thirteen member Steering Committee will meet Wednesday, December 16 at the SRIA office at 1 Via de Luna at 3 p.m. Both meetings are open to the public.

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Season Your Holidays Parade Route
December 13, 2009 • 2 p.m.
Pensacola Beach

Begins at Avenida 10 & Via de Luna
Ends at Gulfside Pavilion

Free Photos with Santa at the Pavilion

www.pensacolabeachparades.com

Lighted Boat Parade Route
Friday, Dec 11 at 7 PM

Start: Little Sabine Bay
Ends: Boardwalk

Santa Rosa Sound
Gulf of Mexico

Ingredients to Season Your Holidays with Island Spirit!

SEASON YOUR HOLIDAYS

Events are free!

- Parades
- Caroling
- Zoo Lights
- Fireworks
- Enter the Lighted Boat Parade & Surfing Santa Beach Parade
- Entry Forms at the VIC

December 5 Kowabunga Breakfast with Surfing Santa - Surf Burger - 8 am
December 6 Christmas Festival - Our Lady Catholic Church - 9 am to 4 pm
December 6 Gingerbread House Make and Take - Tiki Island - Noon to 2 pm
December 6 Santa and His Paparazzi Photo Session - Boardwalk - 2 to 4 pm
December 6 Tis The Season Open House - Lee Tracy-Boardwalk - 2 to 4 pm
December 7 Joy For The Beach Production- Our Lady Catholic Church - 6:30 pm
December 11 Lighted Boat Parade - Beach Marina to Boardwalk - 7 pm
December 12 Ornament Making - Days Inn - 1 to 4 pm
December 12 Island Style Tropical Holiday Open House - 4 to 6 pm
December 13 Christmas Cantata - Beach Church - 10 am
December 13 Gingerbread House Make and Take - Tiki Island - Noon to 2 pm
December 13 Surfing Santa Beach Parade - Via de Luna - 2 pm
December 18 Sip and Sing - Adult Caroling Bus Tour, Sandshaker - 6 pm
December 19 Adult Coloring Contest - Sandshaker - 6 pm
December 20 Santa and His Paparazzi Photo Session - Island Style - 2 to 4 pm
December 20 Rudolph's Red Nose Ramble - start at Shaker - 2 pm
December 20 Santa Claus Look Alike Contest - Bamboo Willie's - 3:30 pm
December 24 Candlelight and Carols - Beach Church - 6 pm
December 31 New Year's Eve Fireworks
January 1 Polar Bear Plunge - Paradise Bar and Grill - 2 pm

After all, our Island's first name is Santa!

Information:
800-635-4803 • 850-932-1500
Visit PensacolaBeach.com • PensacolaBeachParades.com

Pensacola Beach Chamber Events

Lighted Boat Parade
\$15 ticket to ride!
932-1500

Hold 'Em Gang Welcomes Returning Players

The Colonel and The Commander Win With Military Precision

The Colonel's back commanding the play and sweeping the field at the Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun poker tables. After a six week absence, Colonel Phil Tracy rejoined the Beach poker elite with back-to-back victories at Paddy O'Leary's on November 12 and 14. Trace Lewis and Todd Lentini were the runners-up, respectively. Not to be outdone, Justin Scher posted wins on November 15 over Billie Urquhart, and over Matt Reynolds on November 19. Scher slid back to the second spot after Eric "The Postman" Weatherford delivered winning hands all night on November 17 at Paddy's.

Sean and Pam Gough traveled from their northern home in Jasper,

Indiana to spend the holidays at their Fort Pickens Road condo. The couple always receives a warm welcome from the Texas Hold 'Em gang and they scored big wins on November 21. Sean Gough outlasted his wife Pam to earn first place. Pam Gough came roaring back to the winner's circle on November 22 when she put a stop to Justin Scher's run for all the chips.

At the Texas Turkey Hold 'Em 4444 Fun game on Thanksgiving Day at Paddy's, Ted Gorder gathered a bountiful amount of chips to win over Richard Butler.

Poker play moves to the Sandshaker Lounge on Pensacola Beach on Monday nights. Pat Kelly and James Taylor battled until Kelly

set a new chip record of \$14.8 million in fun chips and earned the win. All eighteen players went away winners after Jerry Limle, Mary Jo, and Mary Kay Wood put on a meal to be thankful for.

James Taylor returned the following Monday night at the Shaker to finish in second place again. November 23 play belonged to Commander Mike Driscoll on his way to setting a new high chip mark at \$16.8 million.

Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun is open to all players over 21. A basic knowledge of the game is needed, but newcomers are welcome. Weekly play will continue throughout the holidays. Get in the game.

For more details, the poker hotline is 850-324-2667.

Chamber Members Get Into The Season

The members of the Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce are a merry group during the holidays. The group reviewed details of their month long Season Your Holidays with Island Spirit at the November 24 business meeting.

"It is our goal to create a second season on Pensacola Beach with quality events from September to March," said Jeff Elbert Chamber president. "The TDC allocation of \$50,000 will be spent to promote these events to our out of town guests."

Executive Director Maureen LaMar then introduced Jane Birdwell of BPM, the advertising agency who will promote the Chamber events.

"It is my distinct pleasure to work with the Chamber. This is an exciting opportunity for us. I look forward to putting our gun fire behind these events and telling the

world about them."

Birdwell's firm was chosen by the Chamber board from a group of seven advertising agencies who responded to the request for qualifications.

In other business, LaMar reminded members that it was time once again to sign up as sponsors

of the Business After Hours, a monthly networking session. Interested businesses should call LaMar at 850- 932-1500 or email penbeach@visitpensacolabeach.com.

The Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce will host a holiday party, December 29 in lieu of their December meeting.

Weekly Schedule



FOR RESULTS
Island Times

Info
850-324-2667

Monday: Sandshaker, 7 PM
Tuesday: Paddy O'Leary's, 7 PM
Thursday: Paddy O'Leary's, 7 PM
Saturday: Paddy O'Leary's, 3 PM
Sunday: Paddy O'Leary's, 7 PM

Poker Hotline 324-2667

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44	Unstable	23	Norm (Abbr.)	49	Nobel	50	Venomous
	particle	25	False idol	50	Venomous	51	Bill and —
46	Brandy flavor	26	Church	51	Bill and —	52	ife's
50	Pinnacle	27	Antelope's	52	ife's	54	"Roscoe"
53	Cranberry	28	Fail to hit	54	"Roscoe"		
	territory	29	Rue the run				
55	Old portico	30	Rivers or				
56	Angry	Collins					
		longtime					

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King Crossword
Answers
Solution time: 21 mins.

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Meetings

Island Beautification Public Input Meeting - Tuesday, December 15 at 5 pm. Board of County Commissioners meeting room, Pensacola.
Island Beautification Steering Committee Meeting - Wednesday, December 16 at 3 pm. SRIA Boardroom, Pensacola Beach.



extra extra... read all about IT

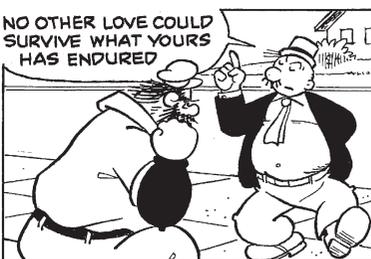
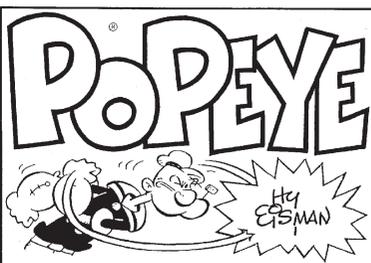
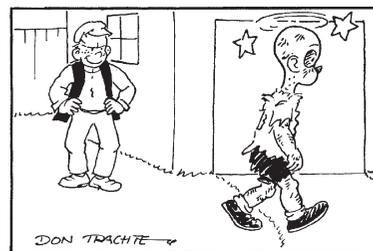
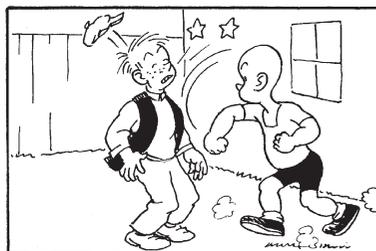
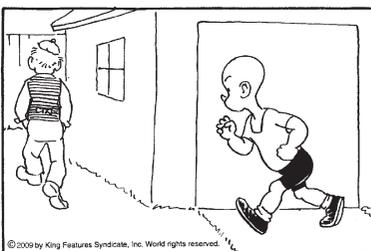
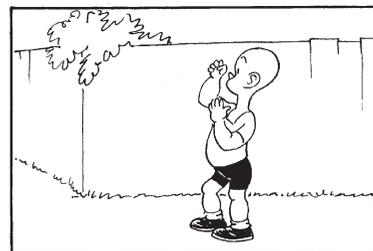
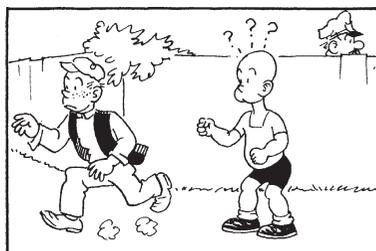
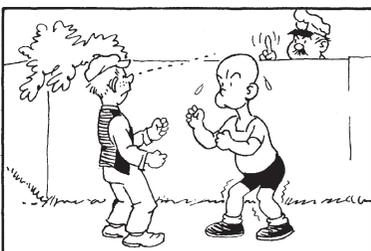
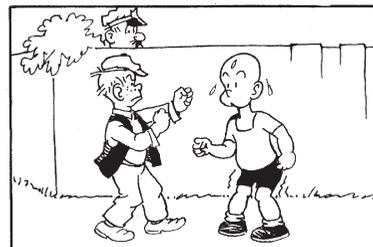
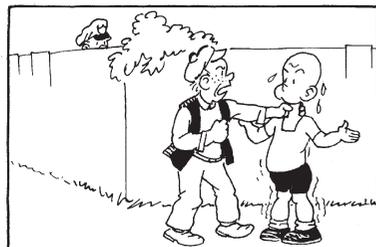
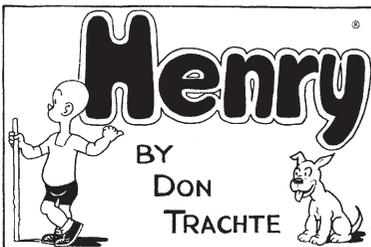
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MISTER BREGER

By Dave Breger



"All right, so all last night you dreamt you were working here ... I STILL don't feel it warrants eight hours overtime pay!"

LAFF - A - DAY



"Gracious! He must have got them while we were on that crowded bus!"

Kowabunga Breakfast
Surf Burger • Dec 5
8 AM

Gingerbread House
Make and Take
Tiki Island • Dec 6
Noon

Santa & His Paparazzi
Boardwalk • Dec 6
2 PM

Lights on the Boardwalk
Through January 1
5 to 9 PM



Wooly Boogers blew into the Paradise Bar and Grill during a wet and windy Saturday night to party at the Kiss The Hurricane Season Goodbye Bawl. The legendary messages painted on bed sheets adorned the dance floor on November 21 while the historically Wooly band Wildwood rocked the crowd.



Mardi Gras Queen Paulette Provost and Pensacola Beach Native Jayne Drees celebrate!



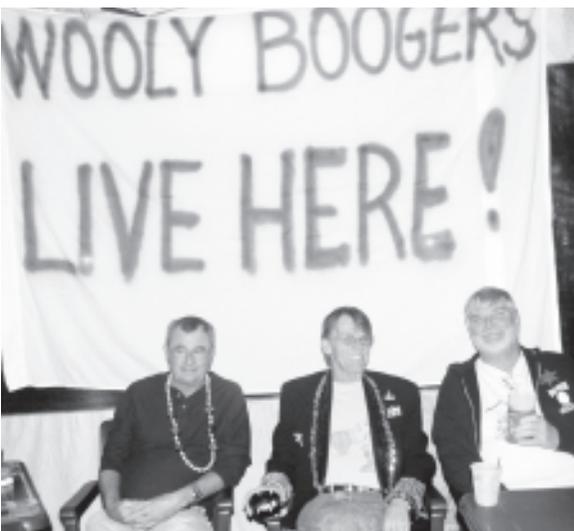
Wooly Walt Lumpkin and wife Cindy showered Queen Shugah with Who-Do VooDoo gifts.



From Left: Woulda-Been Wooly Jim Cox, 2009 Queen Shugah Kathi Lewis, Carleen Wooly Wheeler, and "Royal Consort to Queen Kathi" Bill Lewis send the hurricane season off in fine style.



Amy DePew tells Chic Demereau about the wild times with Wooly Boogers.



James Winstead, George Henshall and Jeff Goudey stake their claim to the Wooly Booger Kingdom.



Certified Wooly Booger Denise Keever, left, Chrissy and Mike Cook will keep the hurricanes away.

The Legend of the Wooly Boogers -

There are volumes of strange stories about Pensacola Beach and its colorful population, but none top the saga of the Wooly Boogers. The name was attached to members of the Beach family who the Deputy-in-Charge of the Beach, Roy Wilson, in 1981 considered unsavory. He indiscriminately detained and arrested innocent people who were just standing on Derelict Corner, or entering or exiting a bar. Or even jay walking. Or for some other bizarre crime. The tension between the Beach folks and the officer became tenuous to the point that a Grand Jury hearing was arranged for the deputy. After testimony from the Beach family members, he lost his job at the sub station, and became famous Island lore.

Although the Beach family had been successful in running him off the Island, they never did anything about their victory until Les Cieutat, founded the Wooly Booger Social Club in 1996, fifteen years after the original bruha. Wooly Boogers showed up from everywhere to join the group; certifiable, wanna-bes, woulda-beens and shoulda-beens. Les, His High Wooliness, directed the Boogers at all their fundraising and charitable contributions until his death in 1999. At the time, he passed away, he was working hard on the second Kiss The Hurricane Season Goodbye Bawl. The Wooly Boogers went into more or less permanent mourning for their leader, and, now emerge only once each year to proclaim their victory or agonize over their defeat in fending off major storms.



Mardi Gras' Krewe of Nereids brought their mystical mermaid magic to the Wooly Booger Bawl. (L to R): Elaine Mitchell, Paulette Provost, Peggy Henshall, and Charlotte Spencer.



Second generation sweetness Rachael Johnson, left, and her Beach-raised husband Jeremy, right, kept "mum" until Queen Shugah Shelley Johnson was crowned.



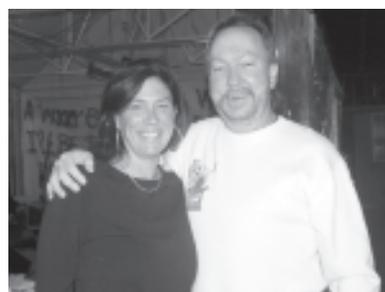
Check out Lila Cox' earrings. Wooly Booger Morrie Drees



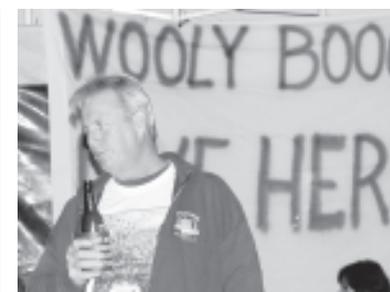
Certified Wooly Booger Andy Brunt is focused on football.



Wildwood played through it all - Espo on drums, Gossman on guitar



Wendy and her husband, Wrecks' King Tommy Grice



Larry Keever was among the Wooly Boogers - then and now.



Lindsey Brown, tended to the thirsty Wooly Boogers.

A Cross in the Sand

By
Dr. Chuck Randle, Pastor
Pensacola Beach Community Church

Now that we are almost at the end of this old year, I was thinking about rhythms and seasons. In the Christian Church, we are at the beginning of the Church Year - First Sunday of Advent. Just as January 1 signifies the beginning of our chronological year, Advent signifies the beginning of the Church Year. Just as the chronological year is divided into seasons (4), so the Church Year is divided into seasons: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, only to come around again to Advent. Some churches may add a few more seasons. Just as the seasons of winter, spring, summer, and fall, have certain characteristics, we also discover that the seasons of the Church Year have certain characteristics. It only seems natural to recognize seasons for our lives are connected to the daily rhythms of the

rising and setting sun.

Sally Pobjewski explains that the cycles of light and dark influence our bodies, behaviors, and even our health. She points out that rhythmic patterns of activity have an effect on our daily lives, controlling our times to be awake and asleep, our work and rest, eating patterns as well as desires for intimacy. She calls them "circadian rhythms" - body changes that come and go at fairly fixed intervals during the normal period of a day.

She writes, "To appreciate the complexity of circadian rhythms, consider what happens to your body before you wake every morning. All night long, the pineal gland at the base of your brain has been secreting a hormone called melatonin. An hour or so before you wake, melatonin production shuts down, while production of a

stress hormone called cortisol skyrockets. Body temperature increases, the gastrointestinal tract starts moving again, and cellular metabolism revs up to provide energy to support the day's activity. By the time you open your eyes and stretch, the cells and organs in your body are already at work and ready to start the day" (University of Michigan Medical School publication, Spring 2007). Her hope is that society will recognize the importance of maintaining a healthy circadian rhythm because it is so important to our health and well-being.

The same is true of our spiritual health. By being aware of the rhythms, the seasons of our Church Year, we will be more sensitive to how it affects our attitudes and appreciation for the emphasis of each of these seasons.

Mostly Nuts & Bolts

By
Candace Segar

I decided about a week ago to do something I had never done before - ask for an autograph! Well, I have discussed the movie, "The Day The Earth Stood Still" and the TV series "Father Knows Best, multiple times in my articles. So I looked up actor Billy Gray's website and found his email address and wrote him the following letter:

Dear Billy,

My favorite movie is *The Day The Earth Stood Still*. I enjoy it so much and truly appreciate your wonderful performance especially the part when you slyly part with \$2.00 for Klattu's diamonds. I would like to purchase an autographed copy of your picture in that movie if possible. Please let me know if that is an option.

Also, I need to add that I also enjoyed watching you as Bud in *Father's Knows Best*. Thank you for great acting and giving so many people in this

world great enjoyment.

Sincerely your fan,
Candy

He wrote back and said,
Candy,

Thanks for the kind words. Send a SASE and what you feel is right to my address.

You Know Best,
Billy

Wowie! This made me feel so good. I am going to frame my email with my picture.

But for now I have to get back to my current home improvement project - drilling holes for the wire in our new garage in our home in Tennessee.

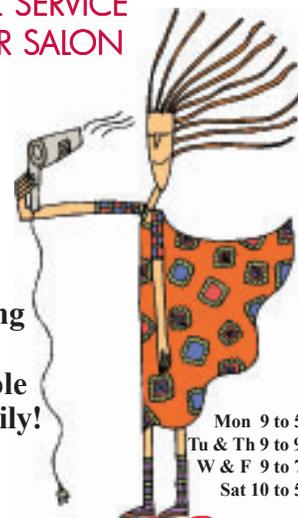
But that's another story.-

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Leigh Shearman and Mike Weaver were married Saturday, November 21 at the home of Chris and Becky Shearman in Villa Sabine. Leigh is a Pensacola Beach native. She is the daughter of Chris Shearman and Claire Zelius. The wedding was performed by Amy DePew. The couple resides in Pensacola.



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readin' the water

by Saltwater Rick

The Redfish are everywhere in the system and lots of fun to catch. Rig yourself up a slip sinker with a chunk of good old cut Mullet on a circle hook and hit the grassbeds. While you're waitin' on a bite take another rod and tie on a topwater jig, like a mirror lure or your favor old wooden plug and work the beds for some of those nice Speckled Trout that are hangin' out. The Flatfish are getting big, too, and with this cold snap we're havin' they are moving out.

Huge schools of Bluefish are all over the shallows of the Gulf and with that action brings the Big Boys - Sharks! Black Tips are feeding in close and will take a big hunk of cut

bait for a ride.

If you have an angler on your Christmas list, think about a tackle box. A filet knife is a good gift if you ever clean fish, and a fish cooker would come in handy for many folks. No fisherman ever has enough flashlights, and you can choose from small to huge, rechargeable or battery powered. And, remember if you have fish in the freezer that you don't plan on eating, donate it to the Wildlife Sanctuary (850-433-9453). They are rehabbing injured animals and seabirds who could use a good meal.

So, if you've had enough Turkey and TV, do yourself favor and go fishin'.



Big Bull Reds are still patrolling the waters around the island. Gulf Breeze contractor Bryan Hodges, left, helps Beach Realtor Jeremy Johnson, hoist this 38 inch beauty before releasing it back into the Sound on November 16. The photo was submitted by the Beach's Craig Wood. It earns him an Island Times t-shirt for Fishing Pic of the Month.



Take A Kid Fishing



Racing Fans Rev Up For Snowball Derby

NASCAR's Kyle Busch To Race In Pensacola

The 42nd Annual Snowball Derby brings side-by-side, paint-swapping racing to Pensacola's Five Flags Speedway December 2-6 with some of racing's top drivers competing in the traditional finale to the motorsports season.

The Green Flag Party is hosted on Dec. 2, where fans can meet their favorite drivers, followed by three full days of racing action. The Snowball Derby will once again show why it has grown to be one of America's premier short-track events. More than 30,000 fans are expected to jam the bleachers and watch as Kyle Busch, NASCAR Nationwide champion, Augie Grill, two-time defending Snowball Derby champion, Johanna Long, Blizzard Series Champ and Pensacola-native, and other top drivers fight for 300 laps around Five Flags' famed half-mile asphalt oval chasing \$120,000 in purses.

On-track action begins Thursday, Dec. 3 with practice for the Allen Turner Snowflake 100, a Pro Late Model event, and the Snowball Derby, a Super Late Model event. Exciting Sportsmen and Bomber division races will cap the day.

All-important pole qualifying events will take place Friday and Saturday.

The green flag for the Snowball Derby will drop Sunday, Dec. 6 as the sport's best Late Model drivers

take to Five Flag Speedway's asphalt for 300 laps of all out, tire-shredding, side-by-side racing.

For more information, visit www.5flagsspeedway.com or call 850-944-8400.

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\$6.00 Crab Traps

THURS. AYCE Snow Crab \$32.99
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FRI. AYCE "You Peel Em"
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