

ISLAND TIMES

Volume V, Number 17

Pensacola Beach, Florida

December 15, 2009

Christmas Cheer



The Sisters of the Beach spread good cheer around the Island each day, but during Christmas they make sure that everyone gets in the spirit. They gather at Flounder's by the dozens to celebrate the magic of the season. Their joyous voices can be heard above the clinking of champagne glasses as they toast a day that is theirs to share. Celebrating SOBs are: (front row, L to R) Ginny Fitzgerald, Kathi Lewis, Karen Hagford, Jayne Redmond, Christine Hewerdine, Amy DePew, Dee Dee Green, Shari Strain, Beverly Sarasua and Samantha Peavey. (Middle row, L to R) Amanda Thomas, Anita Solarski, Yoko Jimison, Samantha Yoko, Mavis Rosetti, Beverly Hughes, Paulette Provost, Christine Cook, Elaine Mitchell, Mary Drees, Jane Peaden, Claudia Fischer, Mary Thibodeau, Nancy Kittel, Peggy Henshall, Patrice Friant, Barbara Peavey, Cathy Kress, Claire Marcey, Judy L'Oignon, Deb Friedman, Janet Peavey and Dana Ellis. (Back row, L to R): Becky Shearman, Diane Collins, Lynn Cieutat, Charlotte Spencer, Lila Cox, Doris Hernandez, Cindy Lumpkin, Melanie Waite, Lynda Knell, Sandi Johnson, Danah Gibson, Sharon Mattair, Gwen Gibson, Patsy Nall and Shelly Alexander. Where will the Sisters celebrate next? See story, page 2.

Photo courtesy of Barrier Island Girl Photography

Party On Grown Ups - Christmas Is Coming Your Way

The rambunctious partiers, the Sisters of the Beach are leading their peers, the twenty-one plus crowd into the adult portion of the Season Your Holidays with Island Spirit. And what a portion it is! The SOBs celebrated their annual Christmas luncheon at Flounder's on December 6. No one can remember exactly how many years that wild Christmas party has taken place.

"We're pretty sure it's been going on more than twenty years, maybe, I think," said Christine Bunkie Hewerdine.

Not that anyone cares about such dull information. The ladies have one goal - having a wonderful time during the Christmas season.

The high flying organization started more than thirty years ago with a few island girls as the members. It grew fantastically fast and now sets the gold standard for partying on the Beach.

If you are looking for the Sisters of the Beach, you will probably find them at one or all of the following parties which they have stamped with their approval:

Sip and Sing Caroling Tour

All board at the Sandshaker, December 18 at 5:30 p.m. for a night of Christmas spirit served up in two-part harmony. Grab a boarding pass and hold on tight, it's going to be a fun ride.

Come early, the seats will fill up fast on Chaddywacker's Christmas Sip and Sing open air carol-

ing bus. It will launch from the Sandshaker at 5:30 and roll west to PegLeg Pete's. The bus will be decked out for fun with lights and music. Stops include the Dock, and Crab's; then down to Paddy O'Leary's and Paradise. The carolers will get to serenade everyone at Flounder's; then on to the Boardwalk as they make an appearance at the Amphitheatre. Must be 21 to ride. Please bring your best singing voice and a bunch of Christmas spirit.

Adult Coloring Contest

Let Island spirit bring out your inner artist on Saturday, December 19 at 6 p.m. at the Sandshaker Lounge. The Shaker supplies the crayons. You supply the imagination. Santa Sonny Claus says everyone who enters earns a free drink. No charge to enter. Grand prizes for first, second and third. Don't let the kids have all the fun. Last year's contest drew about thirty entrants.

Rudolph's Red Nose Ramble

Santa wants you to guide his sleigh through downtown Pensacola Beach. Come dressed as one of the magical reindeer and arrive at the Sandshaker on Sunday, December 20 at 2 p.m. There will be a prize for the best costume. The winner gets to lead the crowd as they ramble, walk and amble to Sabine Sandbar for Island Eggnog at 2:30. There will be special drink prices for merry people. Hooters

is the next stop at 3 p.m. Bring your camera and get your photo taken with the Hooter's girls. Then, it's on 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. with the Dirty Muther Tuckers playing live music.

Santa Claus Look Alike and Sexy Elf Contest

The stage is set for jolly, bearded guys to win big prizes at Bamboo Willie's, Sunday, December 20 at 3:30 p.m. Judges will be looking for a St. Nick knock-off. Beard, boots and good laugh required.

The Sexy Elf contest is new this year. Be naughty or nice. No charge to enter. Prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of both contests.

Christmas is for everyone, after all. Let the kids come to the final events on the Island. Let them take a final view of the spectacular ZooLights and then there are a few events they can call their own like Santa and his Paparazzi at Island Style.

Santa and His Paparazzi Photo Session

Island Santa awaits your arrival in the Christmas room at Island Style, December 20. The

sweet smell of peppermint candy canes will lead you right to him. It's your last chance to have your photo taken and to speak to him personally before he leaves the island to prepare for his worldwide trek on Christmas Eve, so stop in between 2 and 4 p.m. at Island Style.

Candlelight and Carols

The choir of the Pensacola Beach Community Church invites visitors to join in their Island Christmas Eve tradition of caroling by candlelight at 6:30 p.m. The candlelight is inspiring, the music joyous and the Christmas spirit abundant.



Escambia County Commissioner Grover Robinson, IV, right, and his children, Grover and Anna, were charged with flipping the switch to illuminate the island on November 27 at the Boardwalk. The ZooLights came to life while the Joy For The Beach carolers led by Karen Jurkovich provided a sing along. Clark and Company performed in the Amphitheatre. The holiday events continue on the Beach through New Year's Day.

Students Take Scientific Tour

Pensacola Beach Elementary School students from the third, fourth and fifth grade took a science related field trip in November and they had a ball. Joy McLaurine, third grade teacher, reported to the Pensacola Beach Elementary School board at their November 30 meeting that the trip was an extremely valuable experience.

"We went to the Navarre Science Center which is on the east end of Santa Rosa Island on Navarre Beach. This is a cooperative effort between Santa Rosa County and Navarre High School," McLaurine said. "The kids experienced topics

in Aquatic Biology, Environmental Science and Zoology."

The building for this program was donated by Santa Rosa County and the equipment is supported through grant money. Students pay a charge to attend the center and the money goes toward paying for the utilities.

In keeping with the science theme, the Board gave unanimous approval for the University of West Florida to host their Science Camp during the summer.

"This is a wonderful collaboration," Jeff Castleberry, principal, said. "We have a facility which can offer them both surf and

sound access. We benefit from the positive publicity and the rent they pay."

A greater emphasis has been placed on science at the Beach School as a result of its inclusion on the state standardized FCAT exam.

The students' last day of school before the holiday break will be December 18. They will resume classes on January 4.

The next meeting of the School Board will be Monday, January 25. All meetings are open to the public.

For more information, visit www.pbcs.org.

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Barefoot on the Beach

By Jane Waters Cooper



If you have a feeling you have read this story before, you are probably right. Since we reprint this fantasy every year at Christmastime, it slides comfortably into Beach lore. We believe it should be repeated every year, because it has good thoughts. It's all about a devoted married couple, unbroken friendships, loving, sharing, and living life in the exotic lane. It also reveals the secret that thousands of people who visit Pensacola Beach never want to leave, but like Santa some insurmountable obstacle stands in their way. It teaches us that families all over the world are really just like us, Beach folks in their hearts. And all of us Beach dwellers know the lesson we learn from it - that no matter what issues are lapping at our shores, we will somehow protect our enchanted way of life. We will prevail because every Christmas Eve we are blessed with a sprinkling of elfin dust when Santa stops by to check on his property. Hey, Santa and Rosa, your island is alive and well.

How Santa Named His Island

When Santa Claus visits the Island every Christmas, he always brings Mrs. Claus along. She doesn't make many business trips with her husband, but she has a special reason for returning year after year to the Beach.

This legend goes far back to a time when there were few living things on the Island. The white sand glistened for miles and miles, untouched by streets or structures. Or people. Santa, who was making his annual rounds that year, decided the uninhabited white stuff he noticed below would make a safe landing place for his sleigh so he and the reindeer could take a break. He fastened his seat belt, and turned on his twinkling lights. The eight tiny reindeer brought the heavily laden sleigh down easily. It nestled in the soft sand, a distinctly different runway from their usual snowy rest stops. Santa got out of the sleigh, loosened his belt, stuck his boot in the squeaky sand, and exclaimed to the reindeer, "Hey, we landed in Paradise."

Donner and Blitzen snorted because the snow ball they tried to make wouldn't stick together.

I may relocate my workshop to this Island, Santa mused. We could eliminate the woodcutter section, and add those guys to the toy making division. Think how happy the kids would be if we produced more toys than ever.

He pondered the possibility as he removed his heavy jacket and let

the sun shine on his chest. We would never have to arrange for vacations, because no one would want to leave paradise. Our new work uniforms would be long shorts and t-shirts. All our raw materials could come in like magic on the water. We'd never have to thaw out the cans of paint.

Santa pulled off his heavy boots and pants and jumped into the Sound for a swim wearing only his candy striped underwear.

We would have to put up a new sign. That old North Pole sign is pretty worn out anyway. What can I name this place?

Then a Christmas light exploded in Santa's head. He would name this romantic little Island after his beloved wife and himself. Santa Rosa Island. Santa liked the sound of the new name.

Reluctantly, he put his heavy, red suit back on, and prepared the reindeer for take off. After the worldwide delivery trip ended, and he was resting by a big open fire in his living room at the North Pole, he told his wife, Rosa, about his plan to move the entire operation to a truly, magnificent place surrounded by sparkling water. A place that was warm and cozy. Where the elves could test the water skis, yachts, fishing rods, and sailboards the year round.

"Ah, Rosa, I have found paradise," Santa said. "A romantic place for the two of us."

Rosa pushed her spectacles up

on her nose, and Santa knew he was in trouble. She only did that when she was getting ready to yell at him about major problems like running out of Barbie dolls or drinking too much Coca-Cola.

"Santa," she said in that awful tone of voice, "How could you play such a dirty trick on Frosty the

Snowman?"

So, Rosa had the last word, Santa could never move to a place where his old sidekick, Frosty, would never survive. Santa did not move his factory to the Island.

But one starry Christmas eve, he asked Rosa to ride with him, and he landed on the beach for a short

time. Just long enough to put a small sign, "Santa Rosa Island."

So that's how the island got its name. And that is the reason Mrs. Claus climbs aboard the sleigh on the night Santa makes his annual visit to Pensacola Beach. After all it's not every wife who has a whole island named after her.



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PEOPLE

NO PARTY FOR THOMAS

SRIA board member Dr. Thomas Campanella, who lives in Villa Sabine, tried to find time to host a party for his December first birthday. He and his wife Debbie had so many meetings, football games and holiday parties scheduled that he just gave up. So, here's to the busy Doc-Happy Sixtieth Birthday from *Island Times*.

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'

Dee Riley was busy showing her daughter, Sherry, the ZooLights and all the hot spots on the beach. When Sherry returns to Texas, Dee will jet over to California where she plans to visit Big Bear and the entire

The Sisters of the Beach send their best wishes to each other and to the readers of *Island Times*. They arrived at Flounder's on December 6 for their annual Christmas Brunch. Some SOB's live on the beach; others across the bridge. Some came from hundreds of miles away and one visited from Australia. Here are a few of their comments:

The SOB Brunch is my favorite party of the year. I cannot imagine Christmas or life without my Sisters. May the best of your past, be the worst of your future. *Kathi Lewis*
Love all of these ladies so much. We are so lucky to have each other.

Charlotte Spencer

To be a part of all the fun and love - again!
Hoping all my wonderful SOB girls have a wonderful holiday season. I am so lucky to have all of you in my life! Love you all.

Paulette Provost

I am having a great time. I just moved here from Bennington, Vermont and I love it.
Long live the SOB's!

Courtney Winstead

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our old beach buddies and all of our new beach buddies. Support our troops.

Amy Cheshire DePew

Beautiful women, beautiful moments.

Patrice Friant

We Wish You A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Southern California area.

DRAWN TO FAMILY

Middle school student Josie Collins is the talented artist who created the illustrations for the Island Style Coloring Contest. She inherited the task and her talent from Bonnie Elbert, her grandmother. Winners of the contest will appear in the December 29 edition of *Island Times*.

DANAH ROCKS

Former Beach business owner Danah Gibson is a rock 'n' roll trivia buff, so it is no surprise that she spent her birthday at the Hard Rock in Biloxi with her sister Gwen and a few friends.

Marcey, Judy LeBum, Peggy Henshall, Chrissy Cook, Lynn Cieutat, Gwen Gibson, Beverly Sarasua, Diane Donahue Collins, Shari Strain

Oh, my Sisters. What a great day. I love you all and always will.

Bunkie Hewerdine

You girls are one of the great wonders of the world. - Mary Drees
Life is better with a little fairy dust. The world is a better place when you have sisters to love and enjoy.

Jayne Drees Redmond

Life is good and the many years are precious.

Beverly Hughes

My first time to be an SOB. The beach sisterhood is the greatest experience.

Doris Hernandez

My first SOB party and I am having a blast. Thanks so much for the sisterhood.

Cindy Lumpkin

Predictions for 2010 - The Saints first Super Bowl appearance and world championship followed by a great day for a Mardi Gras parade on the Beach.

Lila Cox

In 2010, I wish everyone health, happiness, jobs, raises, no hurricanes, and a Happy Mardi Gras!

Melanie Waite

I am grateful for the Sisters of the Beach. I hope to be a better sister, wife and mom in the New Year. I love you all and this beautiful beach.

Sandi Johnson

Hope to see everyone of you here next year - happy and healthy.

Lynda Knell

Trivia?? ?? ?? ?? ?? ?? ?? ??

The Trivia Master was back to his old arrogant self. He was strutting around admiring his untouched supply of a shipment of brand new t-shirts, until an eleventh hour email arrived from Kathryn Curle who said that the Island Sundry Shop is the answer you seek to the question, "For many years, a couple owned a popular shop on the Beach, first at the Casino and later on Via de Luna. What was the name of the shop?"

Lots of wrong answers arrived first. The most popular was Dinah's Shore Shop. Dinah's little boutique was located on Pensacola Beach Blvd. in the shadow of the Marina Restaurant. But, Susan Kennedy, Joann Hargrove and Dave Wheeler from Atlanta all sent it in as their answer.

Knight of the Trivia Roundtable Sir Bill Greene said he was emailing his answer from his sandbox in the Arizona desert. He thought the answer was Herbie T's, owned by

Louise and JR Turner. Well, that shop was located on Via de Luna and was owned by Herb Turner, Jr. It's always good to hear from a Knight, right or wrong.

The Trivia Master also got a note from Doug who said the shop was Discount Beachwear, part of the Sea Gallery stores owned by Jim and Bonnie Elbert. Now, expanded to four stores owned by the Elbert's son Jeff, and Mario Roberts. All true, but not the answer.

The Island Sundry Shop, was owned by Elsie Wolters and her husband, Jack. Tourists used to buy their swim suits from this shop when they came to visit instead of buying them at home before their trip to the Island.

Originally, Elsie and Jack owned the Seaside Shop in the old, revered Casino. They met there when he was a Marine, fighting in an exhibition match, and she was attending a party. They were later married. Elsie still

lives in Pensacola. Her husband passed away in 2002.

Can you outwit the Trivia Master? Will the tall stash of brightly colored t-shirts stay intact? Are the players good at math and measurement? We will soon know.

You can stand on the ground and estimate or you can hire a cherry picker to help you out with this one. What is the height of the Beach Ball Water Tower in the Casino Beach parking lot?

The answer which comes closest to the correct height without exceeding it, will be declared the winner. Go, players. You have your mission.

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. Hurry! Deadline to answer is Friday, December 18, 2009.



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If your business is interested in sponsoring Bands on the Beach, please submit your proposal by noon on January 13, 2010 in a sealed envelope to:

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



peas, porridge & a dry martini

by Kathi Lewis



What a splendid and incredible day we all shared at the SOB Christmas Brunch. Mucho thanks to Lewis Irby, manager of Flounder's along with our wonderful waiters Stuart and William. They kept the bubbly flowing and endured our not-so-melodious singing. Those of us who can't sing know it, but still believe in making a joyful noise.

Miss Jane (Waters Cooper) was treated to her annual Christmas Caravan after the brunch where we assaulted her ears with our joyful noise. Jayne Dress tried very hard to coordinate us and assigned each of us a different verse of the Twelve Days of Christmas. She was not completely successful.

Miss Jane even gave up precious time from watching her Saints game to stay on her deck and listen until we left. We all know that shows how much she really, really loves us! Almost as much as we love her... She also sends Frank downstairs with a basket of treats carefully picked out and individually gift bagged for every Sister who shows up! She may never know how much we love these gifts from her and what they mean to each of us.

They remind me of our Grannie's Christmas box from home. Each year my Mother (called Grannie by everyone) insisted on having a gift under her Christmas tree for each person in our family. And there's a heckuva lot of us! She would shop all year for these gifts and you could not possibly guess what would be in your box. There was always more than one thing and you couldn't help but love it all. Because we knew it came from love even after she changed from boxes to the easier gift bags.

Since my mother has passed away, we miss getting Grannie's gift and I think we always will. So you can see how precious it is to me to receive those lovely gift bags from Miss Jane (and Frank).

We added an extra stop this year by Loretta Browder's house. You might think our singing had improved by then. You would be very, very wrong. So we're not sure if

Loretta was crying from happiness or the pain caused by our joyful noise! We love you, too, Ms. Lo.

My Mama loved all the Holidays, although Christmas was her favorite. She somehow managed to teach us about the birth of Jesus and about Santa Claus. She taught us about the Crucifixion and the Rising of Christ along with the story of the Easter Bunny. She taught us so well and with such love, that we were never confused nor did we ever question any of it. She showed us that there is always more than one way to see and appreciate things in life and for this I will always be grateful.

This week's recipe comes from a memory of my Mama's cooking during the Christmas Holidays. Although it is not her recipe (she would never make turnovers with canned biscuits) it is as close as I've been able to find. I hope you enjoy it as much as we did when Mama cooked them. So, let's cook!

Apple Cinnamon Turnovers

1 Med. Tart apple, peeled and chopped
 ½ Cup Applesauce
 ¾ Tsp. ground Cinnamon, divided
 Dash ground nutmeg
 1 Tube (7 ½ oz.) refrigerated biscuits
 1 Tbsp. butter, melted
 2 Tbsp. sugar

Combine the apple, applesauce, ¼ tsp. cinnamon and the nutmeg. Separate the biscuits, roll out each one into a six-inch circle.

Place a biscuit on a greased baking sheet. Place a heaping tablespoon of apple mixture in the center of each. Fold in half and pinch edges to seal. Brush with butter. Combine the sugar and remaining cinnamon; sprinkle over tops. Bake at 400 degrees for 8-10 minutes until edges are golden brown.

Of course, Mama fried hers on top of the stove with a little grease. I'm sure these may be healthier but I'm willing to bet they won't taste as good as Mama's did.

Enjoy, share and have a very Merry Christmas!

See ya in the kitchen.

Letters to the Editor

Hello Beach Friends,

Sorry to say that Pam and I will not make it to Pensacola Beach again for the holidays. We were unexpectedly given a nice project to work on in West Virginia and we really needed to get back to work. Keep sending the emails. We will stay in touch and be back to the Beach, and to Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun as soon as possible.

Merry Christmas to all!
 Sean and Pam Gough

Bright Idea

I thank all of you who came up with the idea and coordinated the ZooLights on the Beach. I took my four-year-old grandson Andrew to view them and we both loved it. His favorites were the train, planes and monkeys.

Karen Hagford
 Gulf Breeze

**Island Beautification &
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KREWE OF WRECKS MEETINGS 2009-2010

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**December 21
 Wrecks Meeting Sidelines
 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**



Sara Shaw and Rob Harris were married December 4 in a private ceremony in Seville Square. Sara, who works at RMI on Pensacola Beach, and Rob, a journalist at the Independent News, live in Pensacola with their two sons Ash and Max.



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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 27 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: "How can I listen to music on the Internet?"

A: There are plenty of radio stations on the Internet that will stream music to you. Just use Google to locate the radio station that plays the genre of music that you like and keep that website open on your computer. You can minimize the Internet screen while you work on other things. Look for "online radio stations".

To avoid having to listen to whatever is on their schedule, you can select other websites that allow you to customize your listening experience. Websites such as Pandora.com and LastFM.com use some sophisticated technology to allow you to select the music that you want to hear. Once you begin selecting your favorite music, the website locates similar music in the online library. The idea behind that service is to provide similar music, not on-demand play of a specific song or artist.

Selection of music is based on some 400 musical attributes, such as rhythm, key tonality, vocal harmonies and instrumental proficiency. The list of music that will automatically play grows, based on your interest in albums from the library. If you hear a song that you do not like, you can delete it from the list. Each time that you go to Pandora.com, your music starts playing and will continue to play throughout the day, until you leave that website.

It is a free service as long as you listen to only 40 hours of music per month. After 40 hours, there is a 99 cent charge for the rest of the month. Pandora also allows your music to be streamed to your Facebook profile or to your iPhone.

These articles are prepared for you by The Stukey Group. We wish you the best during the holidays and a prosperous 2010.

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

Holidays Bring Nauga Queens Out For Royal Feast and Secret Vote

The banquet table will be set with gold rimmed glasses and sparkling plates as the Queens of Nauga arrive at the home of Karen Cook Cowen on December 20 to begin their Christmas Feast. The royal entourage will gather decked out in their Christmas finery for a sumptuous meal followed by a gift exchange.

This collection of Mardi Gras rulers, who very rarely have a serious thought, will gather around Queen Nauga I Danah Gibson to craft a list of nominees for the 2010 Mardi Gras season. The list, guarded by Nauga security, is kept in strict confidence until it can be delivered to the Secret Society of Royal Recognition.

"I am not able to divulge much

information about the process by which a person becomes a Nauga Queen," said Gibson. "Certainly, it is something you should aspire to."

Prior royalty includes Danah and Gwen Gibson, Sharon Mattair, Karina Foster, Renee Mack, Lynn Cieutat, Shelley Johnson, Karen Cook Cowen, Deb Friedman, Carrie Monaghan, Christine Hewerdine, Dana Graves, and Tommy Grice.

The Society will hand down a decision before the Krewe of Nauga Champagne Breakfast and Native Noontime Ball, Saturday, January 23 at The Dock.

The theme for this year's event is 2010: A Space Naug-essy. Dress should be pajamas or space suit. Tickets will be available at the door beginning at 10:30 a.m.



Nauga Queens - Lynn Cieutat, front, and Danah Gibson

Island Beautification & Core Area Redevelopment
Public Input Forum
December 15 • 5 pm
221 S. Palafox Street

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- ▶ Santa Rosa Island Authority Office
- ▶ Online at www.sria-fla.com

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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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Kowabunga! Matthew McCurdy won the custom paddle board raffled off December 4 at the Beach School Holiday Program.



Reddon McLaurine, left, agrees that his mom is the best. Joy McLaurine was recognized as the Teacher of the Year during ceremonies December 4 at the Beach School Holiday Program. Joy, who teaches third grade, received a poinsettia and a standing ovation.



Kindergartner Kacie May chimes in during "Let's Jingle Everywhere" at the Beach School's holiday program December 4.



Principal Jeff Castleberry, left, awards Volunteer of the Year honors to the Beach Optimist Club, Dec. 4. Accepting on their behalf is Louise Greenley, president.



Fifth graders Paris Dupuis, left, and Starfish Holk were tasked with assisting the Kindergartners during the Beach School's holiday program, December 4 at Our Lady Catholic Church. After lining up and distributing percussion instruments to their twenty-one little charges, they took a break in the audience.



Kindergartner Alana Thomas displays her Sandpiper Spirit while singing the "Beach School in Paradise" song at the Holiday program, December 4.

Mass Schedule

St. Ann • Gulf Breeze

- Mon - Fri Morning Mass
6:30 AM & 8:30 AM
(6:30 MASS ENDS DEC 23)
- Dec 24 Children's Mass, 4 PM
Youth Mass, 6 PM
Midnight Mass
Music begins 11:30 PM
- Dec 25 Christmas Mass, 11 AM
- Dec 31 Vigil Mass, 6:30 PM
- Jan 1 Mary Mother of God
Holy Day of Obligation
Mass, 11 AM

Our Lady • Pensacola Beach

- Dec 25 Christmas Mass
9:45 AM

for more information
StAnnGulfBreeze.org

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Sponsors Turned On By Band Concert Series

Santa Rosa Island Authority Executive Director Buck Lee made an announcement that was music to the ears of the Full Board at their meeting, Wednesday, December 2. Bands on the Beach, the popular summer concert series on Tuesday nights at the Pavilion will continue through 2010, but the \$30,000 tab will be picked up by Beach businesses rather than the Santa Rosa Island Authority.

"At the conclusion of our regularly scheduled band concerts, Beach businesses asked that the bands continue," Buck Lee, executive director said. "They sponsored a few additional weeks. Now some have offered sponsorship monies for the entire 2010 series."

The sponsorship will include a business banner and mention in all the advertising that the SRIA sends out. The SRIA will be the promoter and presenter of the events and will maintain control of hiring the bands.

Letters will be sent to all Beach businesses offering them the opportunity to sponsor Bands on the Beach. Ads will be placed in the *Pensacola News Journal*, *Island Times* and the *Gulf Breeze News* to attract sponsors. Dead-

line for committing the sponsorship will be January 15.

Leaseholders will now be able to get information on storm damage, evacuations, returning to the island, damage assessments and road closures through the SRIA email messaging system.

"It's easy to do," Lee said. "A couple of people have already signed up. The SRIA website is www.sria-fla.com. You can click on the e-alert sign up on the left hand sign and complete a short form requiring name and email address."

After signing up, an opt-in email will be sent as a confirmation.

Postcards explaining the process have been mailed to all leaseholders.

Mike Langston, Baskerville Donovan, reported to the Board that the Traffic Circulation and Parking study by Tindale-Oliver was completed and was being reviewed by Escambia County.

Langston also said that Little Sabine Bay Restoration is ongoing. He pointed out certain changes have been made in the piping route because of high tides, a high water table and also to avoid sewer and water line con-

flicts.

"The project is on schedule," Langston said. "It will be complete by June."

The chairmanship of the Board went to Tammy Bohannon in a unanimous vote to accept the following slate: Bohannon, chairman; Ed Guernsey, vice-chairman; Dave Pavlock, secretary-treasurer; and Vernon Prather, acting secretary-treasurer.

A new liquor store will open on the Beach in early 2010 since Aloha Wines and Liquors received permission to sublease the former Baars Realty building on Pensacola Beach Blvd.

Florida Pizza Kitchen will move from its Via de Luna location in front of Paddy O'Leary's to the area in the Soundside Market, formerly leased to Domino's Pizza.

Maureen LaMar, manager of the Visitor's Information Center reported that November of 2009 total visitors pretty well matched those of November 2008.

"We had visitors from 47 of the 50 states," LaMar reported. "States sending the most guests were Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan, Wisconsin,

Missouri and Mississippi."

Good Time Tours, a member of the Beach Chamber, received permission to have a spot in the Visitor's Center parking lot to pick up riders headed for the casinos along the Gulf Coast.

"It is really a service for winter," Lee said. "Since we have amply space for them to park, this is fine. They want to pick up snowbirds at the VIC."

And, as a final item of business, Board Chairman Tammy Bohannon appointed Fred Gant to continue as a member of the Steering Committee which looks over the plans for the Redevelopment

and Beautification of the Island. It was not without controversy since members Guernsey and Thomas Campanella felt she should serve in that capacity as the Board Chairman. However, the vote was 4 to 2 in favor of Gant.

The next meeting of the SRIA will be the committees at 5 p.m. Wednesday, December 16. All meetings are held in the Island Authority Boardroom and are open to the public.

Island Beautification & Core Area Redevelopment
Public Input Forum
December 15 • 5 pm
221 S. Palafox Street

Merry Christmas from Island Realty



John Pizino
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Cupboard & Kitchen

Mermaids & Nautical

Wrecks Take On Marines For Thanksgiving Dinner

Fifty-six United States Marines landed at the Elk's Lodge on Thanksgiving Day and they enjoyed a full course dinner, thanks to the Krewe of Wrecks.

"God bless America," said Running Around Wreck Jeff Goudey. "We had a great Thanksgiving with the troops. They came early and started with dessert, but we fooled them, we had more desserts."

Paulette Provost, reigning Wrecks queen, told the members at their November 30 meeting at Paradise, that the New Year will be started off royally and all ladies should get out their tiaras for the Tiara Night at Flounder's on January 4.

"If you don't have a tiara or can't find yours, go out and buy a new one," Paulette said. "Do not come to the meeting with a naked head. The queen has spoken."

The Christmas spirit has taken over the Wrecks and they will be collecting food for Manna Food Bank. Non-perishable food items can be brought to Sidelines during the Monday, December 21 meeting.

Reigning King of Coma Don Richards announced that the Wrecks float has undergone repairs.

"It was in good shape for the

Chamber's Christmas parade and it will be all set to roll on February 14," Richards said.

Lucky, lucky Bob Condon won the 50-50 drawing. After he asked Mary Drees to pull the winning number, she did and it happened to be Condon's.

The Wrecks were a restless group at the Paradise meeting including hostess, Renee Mack. Almost everyone was anxious to get to their TV sets to watch the Saints and the Patriots. Their loyalty was

well repaid. Who dat says dey gonna beat dem Saints?

Don't miss the December 21 meeting. The Saints will not be playing, so you can take your time to buy Christmas gifts like Thirtieth Anniversary Shirts, Memberships, and tickets to the Wrecks premier events.

There are currently 99 Wrecks. And the membership books are still open. Will you be one-hundred? Join at the next meeting. Now is a good time to be a Wreck.

Soloist Alexa McKnight delivered a show stopping performance at the Joy For The Beach Concert, December 7 at Our Lady Catholic Mission. The program, which is written and directed by Beach Realtor Karen Jurkovich, is sponsored by the Pensacola Beach Optimist Club.



THE ROAD LEADING INTO FORT PICKENS HAS RE-OPENED. For more information on Seashore programs or other park information, please contact the Naval Live Oaks Visitor Center at 850-934-2600 or visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/guis.



Pensacola Beach Real Estate sales and Transactions update:

- ▶ 129 Closed transactions to date for 2009
- ▶ 23 Contingent & Pending transactions to date.
- ▶ 8 Single Family homes in past 3 months:

700 Panferio, 864 SF	\$182,500
204 Via de Luna, 2649 SF	\$228,000
805 Largo, 1008 SF	\$234,900
1111 Ariola, 1178 SF	\$275,000
913 Panferio, 1100 SF	\$279,000
1307 Maldonado, 2710 SF	\$436,750
1303 Ariola, 2676 SF	\$450,000
121 Via de Luna, 4300 SF	\$1,050,000

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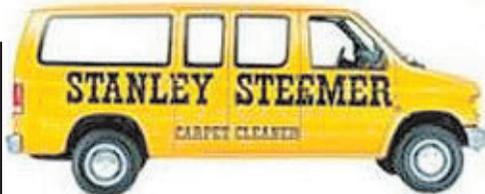
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BUSINESS BUZZ

FRESH FLOUNDER

Award-winning Chef Mark Murphy has joined the culinary team at Flounder's according to General Manager Lewis Irby. He is stirring things up in the kitchen with flounderific new dishes.

GO NATIVE

Joyce Brown at Native Café says turn on and tune in for the Gulf Coast's Network series that airs from 7 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday and Friday nights through December 24. You will see familiar, friendly island natives on the television.

BEACH BIZ

If you have always wanted to be in the heart of downtown Pensacola Beach, now's your chance. One of the rare commercial spaces has come available for rent. Call Gary Humphrey at 850-324-2763 to learn more about this.

GET READY FOR RED, WHITE & BLUES WEEK

All eyes will be skyward in July on Pensacola Beach. The Beach Chamber will dazzle the night skies with a Fourth of July Fireworks Show on Sunday, which will kick off the week long Red, White and Blues week. As soon as the sparks die down, the Blue Angels will heat up the skies over the Beach with their impressive maneuvers which start on Wednesday, July 7. The Blue Angels Air Show will be Saturday, July 10 with both civilian and military aircraft performing breathtaking stunts.

WHODAT

As Saints fever grows, Carol Campbell stocks up on more and more fanware. Fleur-de-lis glasses, bags and home décor are everywhere in her Blue Sky Gift Shoppe in Gulf Breeze, right past the Sonic. She also has collegiate ornaments and gifts. Geaux see her.

SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

High atop the Soundside Market sits the Pointe South Real Estate office. The friendly staff is welcoming a new office manager, Bobby York. Bobby will fit in just fine on the Beach. He had a great time at the Shaker at the Chamber's Business After Hours last month.

WINNING IT ALL

Alabama graduate Laura Lee has two things to cheer about. She has been promoted to director of communications for the Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Commerce and the Pensacola Bay Area Convention & Visitors Bureau. She will promote the Pensacola Chamber alongside her role as promoting the Pensacola Bay Area as a premier destination for tourists. And, her alma mater - is headed to the National Championship Bowl Game.

WHO'S OPEN FOR CHEER

Some of the Beach bartenders will be preparing for Santa's arrival, so check your list twice before planning a Christmas Eve toast. Early closings include Flounder's and Sabine Sandbar at 6 p.m.; PegLeg's at 4 p.m. and Sidelines at 5 p.m. Paradise Bar and Grill will be closed December 24 and 25. The Sandshaker and Paddy O'Leary's will be open as usual for Christmas Eve.

Listen for the whirring sound of blenders making Bushwackers at the Shaker about noon on Christmas Day. The Sandbar will be open at 4 p.m.

CHRISTMAS FARE

It's a warm, wide-open invitation to join a longstanding Beach tradition for Christmas dinner at the local pub. Seamus Hunt and Gary

Humphrey will prepare ham with the help of the fine Irish lass Christy Sullivan. Anne Vinson is cooking sidedishes. Bring a dish to share. Dinner will be served at 12:30 p.m.

Sidelines, PegLeg's, Paradise, Flounder's, Crab's, McGuire's Irish Pub, Bullfeathers, Surf Burger and Native Cafe will all be closed on Christmas Day.



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Let's Talk Trash

Just a reminder - trash pick up on Pensacola Beach will be Saturday, December 26 and Saturday, January 2.

Also, beginning December 26, the ECUA will pick up your Christmas Tree at the curb. Do not put the tree in your trash can and be sure all decorations have been removed. Trees or portions thereof should not be more than six feet in length.

If you need more information, call 476-0480 or visit www.ecua.org.

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NOT TOO
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HOLIDAY PARTY

The Lizzard's TONGUE

by E.K. Hewson



Dear Santa,
I know it's been a long time since I've written. Do you consider three and half decades too long? I can't believe I just asked you a time related question considering you can travel around the world and deliver presents to good little girls and boys all in one evening. And not get caught. Hmmm.

Well, I wanted to share with you that once again, I believe. You see my Christmas spirit has been a little off this year. Usually by now, anything that is not moving in my home ends up with some kind of holiday decoration on it, in it or around it. The shinier, the better, too. However, this year, I lugged down all 35 green and red bins from the attic after Thanksgiving and then they just sat in the garage for days. Unopened. Untouched. UnChristmas.

Then something mystical happened.

A couple of weekends ago, I watched the New Orleans Saints play the Washington Redskins and much like those sappy made for television snowman movies, there was magic in the air at FedEx Field. Bitter, ice cold magic, but it was still there. More importantly, I learned

how to believe in all things impossible and unimaginable once again.

You see there were about two minutes left in the game and the Redskins were about to score again. The Saints were looking down the barrel of their first defeat of this season. I was facing a longer than two hour drive home and was chilled to the bone. So I made the calculated decision to leave and get a head start on the 90,000 Redskin fans who would be (1)boasting over the win, (2) trying to pick a fight, or (3) taking my spot on I-95. Bottom line is I headed to the warmth and safety of my car.

Once again I stopped believing in the improbable. I had lost the faith in the fleur de lis adorned helmet, much like in the red and white fur trimmed coat.

As I safely navigated my way out of the parking lot and while waiting for a stop light to change, I tuned into the Redskins' radio station to listen to what I thought would be the post game highlights, or for me lowlights, only to find out it was a tie game and had gone into OT. At first, I felt like reindeer droppings for leaving before the last snap of the football in regulation time, but then as my fingers and toes began

to regain feeling, I realized I could still believe from the warmth and safety of my car.

While the Saints marched down the chewed up grass for the game winning field goal in OT, I felt like my UGG boots were no longer two sizes too small and that all the deer trying to cross the rural roads I drive daily would all have noses that glowed red – especially on foggy nights. As I pulled into my driveway, I knew what I had to do. With the speed and agility of Darren Sharper, the determination of Robert Meacham and the precision of Drew Brees, I carried all 35 of my holiday bins upstairs from the garage into the living room, unloaded and scored the perfectly decorated house in no time at all.

So, Santa I truly believe. I do. I do. I do. And I only have one present on my Christmas wish list. Yes, you know exactly what it is -- tickets to the Super Bowl XLIV preferably at the 50 yard line behind the Saints' bench. Remember, I truly do believe – even if it took me years to get back in the game. Love, Lizzard.

Until next time...Merry Christmas and Geaux Saints!



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The Breakfast with Santa foster children's event coordinated by Pensacola Beach's Pandora de Balthazar, requires hundreds of volunteers. Student volunteers at the Island Times sponsored booth were Beth Anne Parra, 12, left, and Kayla Smith, 16.

See what the
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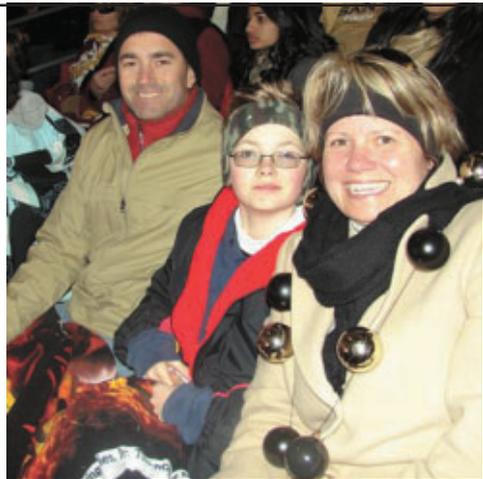
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Braving the cold to cheer the Saints are (L to R): "The Colonel" Harry, "The Kid" Harry and Liz Hewson, Island Times Columnist and native Orleanian. The Saints won in overtime Sunday, December 6 outlasting the Washington Redskins, 33-30. The Hewsons reside in Tall Timbers, Maryland.



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Scher Takes Top Spot

Texas Hold 'Em champ Justin Scher added another Player of the Month title to his trophy case for savvy play during November's weekly games. Eric Weatherford was the runner-up.

"We will announce the Player of the Year award on December 30," said Rick Uzdevenes, poker promoter. "Scher and Phil Tracey are both in contention."

Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun games are hosted at Paddy O'Leary's and the Sandshaker on Pensacola Beach. Everyone is welcome to join the game. Only a basic knowledge of the game is needed. Players must be 21 or older. The results are as follows:

Paddy O'Leary's

November 28

1. Justin Scher
2. Pam Gough

November 29

1. Kristin Larmier
2. Todd Lentini

December 1

1. Jenny Doherty
2. Trace Lewis
3. Justin Scher

December 3

1. Justin Scher
2. Ted Gorder

December 5

1. Billie Urquhart
2. Ted Gorder

December 6

1. Jenny Doherty
2. Russell Patterson

Sandshaker

November 30

1. Glen Bursleson
2. Larry Paz

December 7

1. Mike Wood
2. Jerry Limle

From The Chip Stack

The Beach poker family welcomes back Shirley Nolan to the tables.

The Christmas Eve game is on! Paddy's at 7. Should be very spirited play.

Best wishes for a happy and wonderful holiday from Rick and Janie Uzdevenes.



Justin Scher earned a player of the month award at Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun during November.

Weekly Schedule

FOR RESULTS
Island Times

Info
850-324-2667



Downtown Pensacola Beach

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

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SEASON YOUR HOLIDAYS

Ingredients to Season Your Holidays with Island Spirit!



Events
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- December 18 Sip and Sing - Adult Caroling Bus Tour, Sandshaker - 5:30 PM
- December 19 Adult Coloring Contest - Sandshaker - 6 PM
- December 20 Santa and His Paparazzi Photo Session - Island Style - 2 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 - 6:30 PM
- December 31 New Year's Eve Fireworks - Midnight, Gulf of Mexico
- January 1 Polar Bear Plunge - Paradise Bar and Grill - 2 pm

New Year's Eve
Fireworks
Spectacular
Midnight
over the Gulf

Splash into the New Year
at the
Polar Bear Plunge!

Santa and His
Paparazzi will make
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After all, our Island's first name is Santa!

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Pensacola Beach
Chamber Events

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TWICE AS NICE! The four-month-old Asmar twins, Lily, left, and Sawyer, right, sit on Santa's lap as his paparazzi photographer snaps photos at the Pensacola Beach Chamber's Season Your Holidays event on the Boardwalk, December 6. Barrier Island Girl photographer and Beach resident DJ Zeminick captured this shot for the twins' parents, Joel and Meri Asmar of Pensacola Beach.



Seven-year-old Liam Wright was all about the business of Christmas when he visited with Surfing Santa at the Kowabunga Breakfast December 5. The Gulf Breeze resident watched patiently while Santa arrived via jet ski and made his way up the crowded steps to Surf Burger. Liam waited his turn and then pulled out his long list of items which he carefully read.

Navy Museum Hosts Holiday Band Concert

The National Naval Aviation Museum located aboard Pensacola NAS is getting in the Christmas spirit. The Museum will host a free Christmas Concert, December 17, featuring the Navy's New Orleans "Show Band."

The holiday concert will be from 6-8 p.m. in the Blue Angels Atrium. The 18-member ensemble will fill the air with big band, jazz and sounds of the season.

The museum has plenty to offer in addition to 30,000 square feet of exhibits. Don't miss the Top Gun Air Combat Flight Simulator, the IMAX® theatre, Cubi Bar Café and the Flight Deck Store.

The National Naval Aviation Museum features free admission and a full slate of events throughout the year. For a complete list of Museum events, exhibits and attractions, visit NavalAviationMuseum.org or call the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation at 850-453-2389.

Organization Seeks Food Donations for Christmas Drive

Caring & Sharing in South Santa Rosa County is in need of food donations, you can assist by dropping off non-perishables like canned fruits, canned meats, cereal, oatmeal, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, and soups, (please, no glass) at the Gulf Breeze Chamber on Highway 98.

For more information, please call: (850) 939-0727, or visit www.santarosacares.org.

Krewe of Junkanoo
CALENDAR

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Radiating Christmas spirit - Lorene Lanza was rocking around the Christmas Tree with the Joy For Beach Singers. She was among the choral group who presented the sing-along Christmas carols during the Season Lights Up event, November 27 at the Boardwalk.



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King Crossword

ACROSS

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Meetings

Island Beautification Public Input Meeting - Tuesday, December 15 at 5 pm. Board of County Commissioners meeting room, Pensacola.

King Crossword
Answers
Solution time: 21 mins.

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Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from Island Times

extra extra... read all about IT

Island Times, in your mailbox, every other week!

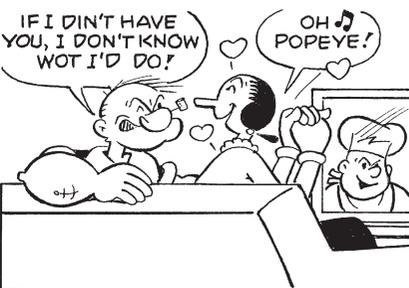
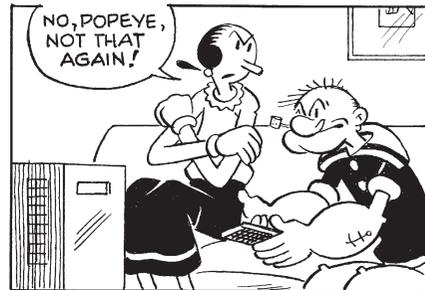
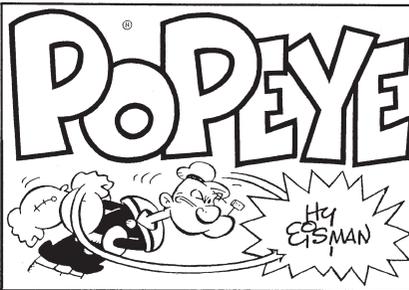
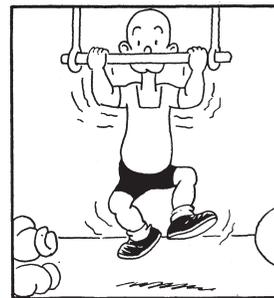
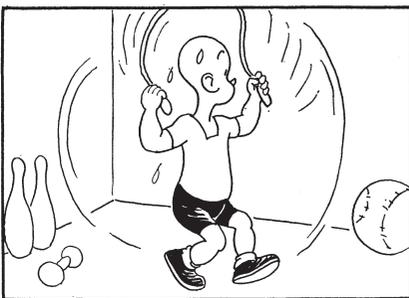
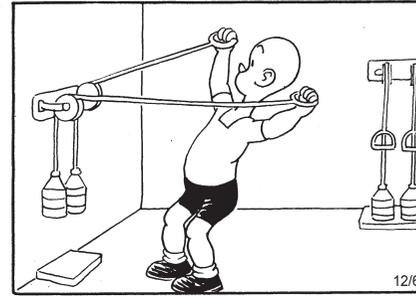
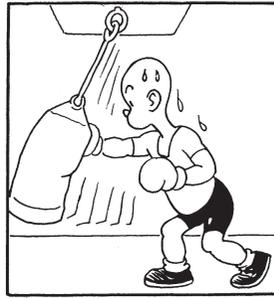
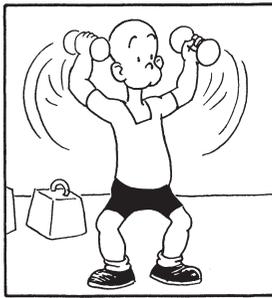
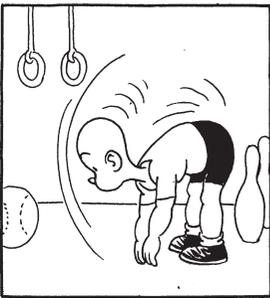
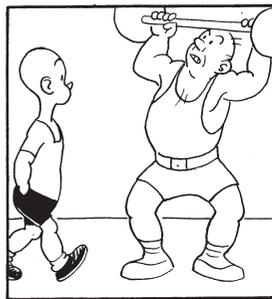
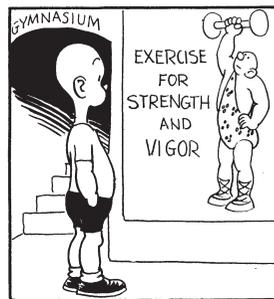
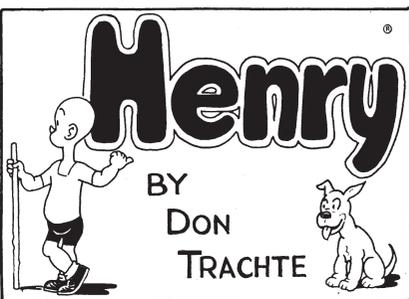
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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



HUBERT - - By Dick Wingert



"That's it! That's it! Now hold that jack and discard the three of clubs!"

Polar Bear Plunge

January 1 at 2 pm

Paradise Bar & Grill

Wear a costume and win a prize!
Each entry receives a black-eyed pea for good luck.



Barry's Pignskin



Prognostications

Bama's biggest fan, Barry McCleary, has been huddled up making a game plan to predict which college teams will score big on Bowl Game Day.

"I have been a college football fan all my life," says McCleary, who is an attorney in Pensacola. "I use a combination of experience, superior reasoning skills, intuition and sometimes I just guess!"

Barry made his picks and left a spot for you to do the same. *Island Times* will tally his score and report the percentage of correct choices in our January 12 edition.

Will you be a winner, too? Mark your choices and mail them to: *Island Times*, PO Box 844, Gulf Breeze, FL 32562. Hurry, we need to receive them before game time on December 19.

Entrant with the most correct answers scores an *Island Times* t-shirt!

2009-10 College Football Bowl Schedule

Bowl	Teams	Date/Time	Network	Barry's Pick	Your Pick
New Mexico:	Wyoming v. Fresno State	Dec. 19, 3:30 p.m.	ESPN	Fresno State	_____
St. Petersburg:	Rutgers v. Univ. of Central Florida	Dec. 19, 7 p.m.	ESPN	Rutgers	_____
R+L Carriers New Orleans:	MTSU v. So Mississippi	Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m.	ESPN	So Mississippi	_____
MAACO Las Vegas:	Oregon State v. BYU	Dec. 22, 7 p.m.	ESPN	BYU	_____
Credit Union Poinsettia:	Utah v. California	Dec. 23, 7 p.m.	ESPN	Utah	_____
Sheraton Hawaii:	SMU v. Nevada	Dec. 24, 7 p.m.	ESPN	SMU	_____
Little Caesars:	Ohio v. Marshall	Dec. 26, noon	ESPN	Marshall	_____
Meineke Car Care:	N. Carolina v. Pittsburgh	Dec. 26, 3:30 p.m.	ESPN	Pittsburgh	_____
Emerald:	Boston College v. USC	Dec. 26, 7 p.m.	ESPN	USC	_____
Gaylord Hotels Music City:	Kentucky v. Clemson	Dec. 27, 7:30 p.m.	ESPN	Kentucky	_____
AdvoCare V100 Independence:	Texas A&M v. Georgia	Dec. 28, 4 p.m.	ESPN2	Georgia	_____
EagleBank:	Amry or UCLA v. Temple	Dec. 29, 3:30 p.m.	ESPN	Temple	_____
Champs Sports:	Miami v. Wisconsin	Dec. 29, 7 p.m.	ESPN	Miami	_____
Roady's Humanitarian:	Idaho v. Bowling Green	Dec. 30, 3:30 p.m.	ESPN	Idaho	_____
Pacific Life Holiday:	Nebraska v. Arizona	Dec. 30, 7 p.m.	ESPN	Nebraska	_____
Bell Helicopter Armed Forces:	Air Force v. Houston	Dec. 31, 11 a.m.	ESPN	Air Force	_____
Brut Sun:	Stanford v. Oklahoma	Dec. 31, 1 p.m.	CBS	Stanford	_____
Texas:	Missouri v. Navy	Dec. 31, 2:30 p.m.	ESPN	Navy	_____
Insight:	Minnesota v. Iowa State	Dec. 31, 5 p.m.	NFL Network	Minnesota	_____
Chick-fil-A:	Virginia Tech v. Tennessee	Dec. 31, 6:30 p.m.	ESPN	Virginia Tech	_____
Outback:	Northwestern v. Auburn	Jan. 1, 10 a.m.	ESPN	Auburn	_____
Capital One:	Penn State v. LSU	Jan. 1, noon.	ABC	LSU	_____
Konica Minolta Gator:	W. Virginia v. FSU	Jan. 1, noon	CBS	West Virginia	_____
Rose Bowl Game presented by Citi:	Oregon v. Ohio State	Jan. 1, 3:30 p.m.	ABC	Oregon	_____
Allstate Sugar:	Florida v. Cincinnati	Jan. 1, 7:30 p.m.	FOX	Florida	_____
International:	S. Florida v. N. Illinois	Jan. 2, 11 a.m.	ESPN2	South Florida	_____
Papajohns.com:	Connecticut v. So. Carolina	Jan. 2, 1 p.m.	ESPN	South Carolina	_____
AT&T Cotton:	Oklahoma State v. Mississippi	Jan. 2, 1 p.m.	FOX	Mississippi	_____
AutoZone Liberty:	East Carolina v. Arkansas	Jan. 2, 4:30 p.m.	ESPN	Arkansas	_____
Valero Alamo:	Texas Tech v. Michigan State	Jan. 2, 8 p.m.	ESPN	Texas Tech	_____
Tostitos Fiesta:	TCU v. Boise State	Jan. 4, 7 p.m.	FOX	TCU	_____
FedEx Orange:	Georgia Tech v. Iowa	Jan. 5, 7 p.m.	FOX	Iowa	_____
GMAC:	Central Michigan v. Troy	Jan. 6, 6 p.m.	ESPN	Troy	_____
BCS National Championship Game:	Texas v. Alabama	Jan. 7, 7 p.m.	ABC	Alabama	_____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Wildlife and Wine - A Safari Adventure

By Marcia Hoven

I just returned from a South African adventure where Pam and Russ Baird from Gulf Breeze served as excellent tour guides for our trip to Kruger National Park. Traveling with us were Maria and Wayne Lohman, residents of Pensacola Beach.

Pam and Russ were very organized and had the van loaded with supplies and fully equipped. They were ready to roll upon our arrival at Tambo International airport in Johannesburg.

We spent six days in the Kruger National Park staying at Skukuza and Letaba lodges. These are modern and well-equipped accommodations, so we did not have to rough it.

We couldn't have had better or more knowledgeable tour guides since Pam and Russ visit Kruger

Park yearly. They know the animals habits and habitats. We were in luck as we spotted four of the big five. The big five are elephants, rhinos, lions, buffalo and leopards. Leopards are the hardest to locate, and in spite of the rainy season being late, and the trees bare, the leopards still managed to avoid us.

As with any visit to South Africa, the wildlife experience is awesome and sometimes entertaining.

The day that our tour guide Pam awakened to find a monkey on her bed staring at her, was a highlight of our trip! (Who left the door open Maria?)

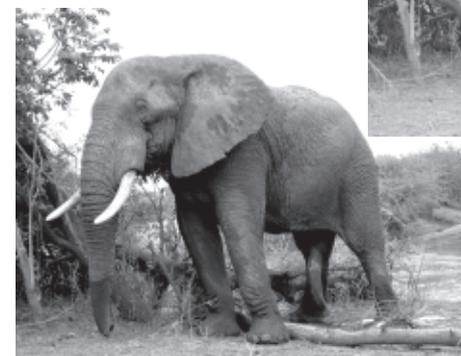
It is impossible to see all of Kruger. It is huge, about 20,000 square kilometers or roughly the size of Wales. The days we spent there were wonderful, but we had many more miles to travel.

Maria, Wayne and I travelled on to Capetown where we stayed on the Indian Ocean at Bantry Bay. The hotel was built on rocks and we spotted whales and seals from our balcony while sipping excellent South African wine which we picked up at the wineries in Stellenbosch.

The entire country is gearing up for the World Cup next year. Two new stadiums have been built in Capetown and Durban. All major cities are preparing for their guests.

After leaving Capetown, I travelled to Durban, and tried my best to stay on the left side of the road while driving down the South Coast of KwaZulu-Natal, *South Africa* to rejoin Pam and Russ at their lovely home at Ramsgate.

Ramsgate has a beautiful beach, but it was time to return to my beautiful beach on Santa Rosa Island.



South
African
Elephants

photos by
Maria & Wayne
Lohman

A Cross in the Sand

By
Dr. Chuck Randle, Pastor
Pensacola Beach Community Church

The online encyclopedia, Wikipedia, defines "tradition" as a practice, custom, or story that is memorized and passed down from generation to generation, originally without the need for a writing system. Many traditions have grown up around Christmas, associated with the Story of Christmas that has been handed down for over two centuries. Others have evolved which only slightly have to do with the stories surrounding the birth of Jesus. It was made clear to me that traditions are not only important to adults, but to children as well, when my seven-year old great grandson was speaking of the activities of Christmas and said, "Well, we always get up Christmas morning, open our presents, eat breakfast, our families get together and we open more presents, eat dinner, play with our toys, and then go home."

That was a tradition that meant a lot to him. One of the traditions I enjoy is sharing the poem by theologian, philosopher, Howard Thurman:

Christmas returns, as it always does, with its assurance that life is good.

It is the time of lift to the spirit, When the mind feels its way into the commonplace, And senses the wonder of simple things: an evergreen tree, Familiar carols, merry laughter.

It is the time of illumination, When candles burn, and old dreams Find their youth again. It is the time of pause, When forgotten joys come back to mind, and past dedications renew their claim.

It is the time of harvest for the heart, When faith reaches out to mantle all high endeavor,
And love whispers its magic word to everything that breathes.
Christmas returns, as it always does, with its assurance that life is good.

Whatever traditions we may observe, may we all experience "the time of lift to the spirit," "the magic word" whispered by love, and recognize that "Christmas returns, as it always does, with its assurance that life is good."

Mostly Nuts & Bolts

By
Candace Segar

Daisy Ms. Christmas Spirit!

My sister, Queen Sugar to all you natives, turned me on to a really good book. It wasn't the type of book I would normally read, but she had read it twice. It was that good! The name of the book is "The Art of Racing in the Rain" by Garth Stein, and it is so cleverly written. The story is about a family, but what makes this book so unique is the narrator - it's the family dog - Enzo. He gives the reader interesting insights from a dog's perspective that are quite profound. Enzo makes you think a lot about how you treat an animal which leads me to last Christmas.

I was delivering presents to Queen Sugar and her husband, Richard, when all of a sudden I felt eyes staring at me. It was so intense that I looked down and those amber-colored Chesapeake Bay Retriever eyes were trained

on me. They were Daisy's eyes and yep she was staring at me. She was sending me a message loud and clear in my head, "Where are my Christmas presents?"

I felt awful. How could I have forgotten Daisy at Christmas? I told her, "I am leaving right now and will get you a super, duper Christmas present."

She backed away and stood behind Richard's leg.

Well, I came back with a bright shiny silver lunch box filled to the brim with treats and pull toys. Daisy

knew immediately it was for her and insisted on opening it.



Daisy Johnson

Queen Sugar had to assist, but once the box was open, Daisy dived in claiming her presents.

That wasn't the end of it. She placed the lunch box in a certain spot in the living room where it has remained. So this year the first person I bought a present for was Daisy. You may wonder why I am treating Daisy like a person?

Read the book, and you'll understand.

Volunteers Honored At Beach School Program

Principal Jeff Castleberry told the standing room only crowd at the Beach School holiday program December 4 that the volunteers at the Beach School mean the world to him. In recognition of their efforts, he presented red poinsettias to Volunteers of the Year in the following categories: Youth Volunteers Shelby Hobbs and Cassie Lane; Parent Volunteers Karen and Todd McCurdy; and Community Volunteers the Pensacola Beach Optimist Club.

"The entire Club is being recognized for being such willing helpers," Castleberry said. "They have made over \$50,000 in donations to this school."

Castleberry made a special effort to commend Helen Cotton, who is retired and volunteers each day at the Beach School.

After the awards, the students performed their holiday program.

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Pensacola Beach Chamber
will
Season Your Holidays
with Island Spirit



readin' the water

by Saltwater Rick

I remember when I was a kid back in the 60s in Gulf Breeze, all I wanted at Christmastime was fishing stuff, a football and every couple of years a new bike.

Most of time you could find me down at Shoreline Park, Deer Point or up at the old Three Mile Fishing Bridge hanging out, fishing and selling my recently hooked Croakers and White Trout to the tourist fishing the bridge. Then I'd head on down to the ol' Shop EZ, which is now a flower place at Hoffman Drive and Highway 98. I'd get a coke and a pickle and sit on the sidewalk with my dog "Little Joe" and count out-of-state car license plates as they rumbled past me on their way to a beachside vacation.

In those days you rode your bike around, to school, to the ball park, everywhere. Boy, how things have changed!

I still have most of my old fishing reels, and as luck would have it, they are collector's items, but I wouldn't sell them for anything. You just can't sell memories. I can't anyway.

I guess what I'm gettin' at is, forget about all this crap that hooks up to the television and computer and get yourself and your kids something that will last a lifetime and feed you to boot. Go down to your favorite tackle shop and give yourself or your loved ones an America-made Rod and Reel, a locally made cast net or just a couple of nice lures as stocking stuffers. It's the best thing you can do. Then, do yourself and your family a favor and Go Fishin!

Hope you enjoy "readin the water," and thanks for supporting the *Island Times*! And, most important, thanks Mom. Merry Christmas and I love you.



Four hundred athletes competed in the Jingle Bell Run on Pensacola Beach, November 28. Eight-year-olds Hannah Richards, left, and Chloe Huntley, right, of Pensacola Beach, hoofed the 3.2 mile run dressed as reindeer. Mom Karen Krosnoy trotted along with them.



The Jingle Bell Run on Pensacola Beach includes a children's fun run and Santa Claus chase. Ready for the starting line on November 28 are (L to R): Emma Thompson, Annalise Rotunda and Dory Donatelli.

Local Redfish Action Gets National Attention on ESPN

Fishing fans can get a good look at professional Redfishing action when Pensacola and the Pensacola Seafood Festival will be featured on ESPN2 as part of two 30-minute broadcasts of the 7th Annual Crown Royal Redfish Cup tournament series.

Part one of the three-day tournament held in Pensacola will broadcast at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 19 on ESPN2. Part two will broadcast at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 26.

The Crown Royal Redfish Cup, the most lucrative and most viewed redfish tournament circuit in the world, was founded in 2003 and has been seen by more than 18 million viewers on ESPN2.

The 2009 tournament series consisted of 112 of the world's most elite saltwater anglers competing in four regular season events to qualify as one of the top 21 teams to advance to the Redfish Cup Championship, which was held in Pensacola, Sept. 24-27.

Competition began in April in Punta Gorda, Florida with additional events in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi before wrapping up in

Pensacola.

The Pensacola Bay system, rich in sea grass beds as well as artificial and natural reefs, is one of the state's largest watersheds. The characteristically cool and brackish waters dur-

ing the fall months make Pensacola Bay a haven for redfish and a popular destination for anglers.

Kevin Broussard and his father Cajun Phil took home the grand prize of \$50,000.

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FRI. AYCE "You Peel Em"
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