

# ISLAND TIMES

Volume V, Number 18

Pensacola Beach, Florida

December 29, 2009

**Ring  
In  
2010**

**Fireworks  
Fill Skies**

**Polar  
Bears  
Plunge  
Into Icy  
Waters**



The full moon will be the only illumination of the inky black sky above Pensacola Beach on the evening of December 31 until the strike of midnight when the Chamber's New Year's Eve Fireworks Show explodes over the Gulf of Mexico. Ringing in 2010 on Pensacola Beach is easy. Parties and events are plentiful. Little Max Harris is eagerly awaiting the arrival of the new year - he will celebrate his first birthday in 2010. Max can't join the hundreds who will brave the chilly waters of the Sound at the Polar Bear Plunge at 2 p.m., because his parents, Sara and Rob Harris, say it's his naptime. For more on this story, see page 2.

# Year Ends With A Bang - 2010 Starts With A Splash

Wouldn't you like to bring in the New Year with a big bang? Join the New Year's Eve partiers on Pensacola Beach at Casino Beach to view the midnight fireworks and herald the arrival of 2010 with a fabulous display of fire in the sky.

"This is a special gift from the Beach Chamber of Commerce," said Jeff Elbert, president. "It will bring the New Year here in high definition."

Restaurants, gift shops, and bistros will be open on the brightly lit beach before the fireworks display. Bands will play. Tiki Island's game room will be open.

"Bring the kids out for the display," Elbert suggested. "They would surely like to be part of seeing the New Year arrive amid rockets and falling stars."

Everyone can sleep late and still get to the Polar Bear Plunge on time, since the chilly tradition does not begin until 2 p.m. at Paradise Bar and Grill on January 1.

Registration begins at 1 p.m. when volunteers from the Pensacola Beach Woman's Club will open the sign-in table. The entry fee is \$5 and goes to the Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce. Each entrant will receive a wristband.

The official starter for the Plunge will be Renee Mack, general manager of Paradise.

"We will have New Orleans sized bowls of black-eyed peas and cornbread," Mack said.

"The entry fee includes a door prize ticket to compete for bar tabs and t-shirts."

The premier award of the day is the huge basket of fabulous surprises provided by *Island Times*.

"We are giving away one of our coveted t-shirts, a computer bag and embossed notebook, and a beach chair, among other things," Shelley Johnson, publisher said.

The good news is that the *Island Times* award goes to the most fabulous costume or plungewear. You don't even have to be one of the bears. Just get your best winter ideas together for a costume.

Awards will be given at the completion of the Plunge.

## Tax Ruling Clouds Holidays With Agony of Defeat - But It's Not Over Yet

Happy New Year, Pensacola Beach. Judge Michael Jones has granted a Summary Judgment which means that all residents, with a few exceptions, must pay ad valorem taxes on the improvements to their properties. Arguments in the litigation were complete in May of 2008, and on the advice of their attorney, Danny Kepner of Shell, Fleming, Davis and Menge, many residents did not pay the tax from 2004 when they received their first tax bills. They will be assessed twelve percent interest on the balance due.

However, the case is not over. Beach resident Lila Cox, who serves as a liaison on the tax lawsuit committee, reported after a meeting with the attorneys on December 22 that a decision was made to file a Motion for Rehearing. Kepner filed the motion on December 23.

The Motion is a request for the Judge to take two actions. First, to rule in favor of the leaseholders based on precedent cases cited and how Pensacola Beach leases differ from the leases in those cases. Secondly, to follow statutes which prohibit the

When asked about the weather conditions for the Plunge, Bob West, Santa Rosa Island Authority safety director, predicted it could be as warm as 70, or as cold as 40 or maybe even 30 degrees.

"My kids and I are planning to participate this year, regardless of the air temperature," West said. "The Farmer's Almanac says it will be blustery and cold the day before New Year's Day and very cold on New Year's. I am therefore predict-

ing it will be in the 40's at Plunge time. I hope I am wrong."

"Only those people who have purchased wrist bands will be allowed to Plunge," Mack said.

Line up will be on the shoreline behind Paradise. The course is from the Beach to the end of the Paradise Pier and back.

Beach resident Marcia Hoven has made the Plunge every year.

"Cold does not even adequately describe the way the water feels

when you first wade out," she said. "Then, it is just mind over matter as you splash your way back to the Bar for hot food and cold drinks."

This year's event is a fundraiser for the Beach Chamber of Commerce. Funds from the sale of Plunge t-shirts at \$5 and from the entry fees go to the Chamber.

For more information, call Maureen LaMar at the Pensacola Beach Chamber at 932-1500 or visit [www.PensacolaBeachHolidays.com](http://www.PensacolaBeachHolidays.com)

issuance of tax certificates to enforce real estate taxes on improvements; and set the interest rate at 12 percent.

The Tax Collector has collected 18 percent interest from leaseholders who have recently paid their taxes.

According to state law, the only judge who can grant or deny the motion is Judge Jones. Jones has been reassigned to hear Escambia County family law cases effective on January 16. It is believed that he will rule on the motion before that date, but is not compelled to do so.

Leaseholders are under no obligation to pay taxes until the order is final in this litigation. The order is not final until the Motion for Rehearing has been granted or denied, and until the appeal process has been exhausted should the leaseholders wish to appeal. The appeals process goes to the First District Court of Appeals, and then, if available, the State Supreme Court.

Many of the leaseholders' questions were answered in the 49 page document prepared by Judge Jones. The answer to the question of why the tax assessor chose the year 2004 to send out tax bills was offered in the Judge's opinion.

"Emboldened by the *Ward v. Brown* (Navarre Beach) outcome in the Santa Rosa Circuit Court, the Escambia County property tax appraiser assessed Plaintiff's homes and condominium units as real property for the purposes of local government ad valorem taxes and the Escambia County tax collector levied ad valorem taxes upon the Plaintiff's leasehold properties on the portion of Santa Rosa Island that lies in Escambia

County. The litigation ensued."

The Summary Judgment concluded that Pensacola Beach leaseholders were equitable owners of their properties, by virtue that they can buy, sell and sublease. Although the leases were judged not to be perpetual and there is no option to purchase, the judge said that the leaseholders enjoy the burdens and benefits of ownership. Those included the enjoyment of capital appreciation and depreciation for tax purposes. The leaseholder also must insure, maintain and repair their properties.

The document notes that the lease fee paid by the resident is used for administration and maintenance of Beach entities.

The Judgment also noted that none of these fees are deposited in the Escambia County General Fund from which the County pays law enforcement, maintenance of parks, buildings, roads, neighborhood services, long range planning, pre-trial release program, emergency management, communications, animal control, library services, mass transit system, health department, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector, Clerk of Court, Supervisor of elections, medical examiner's office, Baker Act payments, indigent burials, and cost of administration. None of the lease fees support public schools although Beach children have the right to attend Escambia County Schools. (Obviously, Pensacola Beach, a self sustaining community has little or no need for the many services described.)

The document contains a paragraph where the defendants have pointed out that the Florida Supreme

Court has twice ruled that the leaseholders on Pensacola Beach have the equivalent of ownership.

"Since these leaseholders have the equivalent of fee simple ownership, it does not appear that they have enriched the county in any manner by building on the island."

Items such as the millions of dollars collected in bed tax which go directly to the county nor the payment of MSBU taxes which all Beach residents pay are not mentioned.

And now, who are the Beach residents who are exempt from paying ad valorem taxes? Since 1984, beach residents have been under the impression that they were protected from paying ad valorem taxes by the Supreme Court ruling in *Bell v. Bryan*. However, it seems that the only residents affected by this decision are those who were actual named parties in the suit.

The suit was filed by Marian B. Bryan, Nellie B. Bryan, Walter D. Bryan, Rupertino D. Bryan, Jr., W.O. Wedel and Merrell Fairchild. They, or their heirs, will not have to pay ad valorem taxes.

It should be noted by Beach residents that Judge Jones prepared a long document, which was thorough and comprehensive, giving detailed information on the history of the island and the past tax cases as part of the background for his ruling.

The ruling and Motion for Rehearing can be viewed at [www.pbeachtaxsuit.com](http://www.pbeachtaxsuit.com).

Each leaseholder who is party to the suit will receive a letter in January from the law firm about the ruling and future actions.

## ISLAND TIMES

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# Barefoot on the Beach

By Jane Waters Cooper



*Now is the time for resolutions and predictions. I'm choosing to write about predictions. I like to live dangerously.*

## BEAUTY & THE BEACH

Some really high powered people have been hired to submit a plan to, shall we say, change the Beach. We can probably say goodbye to funky and fun buildings like Tiffany's which just would not be a good fit in the Beautification Plan. Places like the landmark Sandshaker will remain.

## PREDICTION

The Beach will be more beautiful. Should be an interesting spring.

## WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

Yes, and not a drop is safe to drink. Or so say the members of an organization called Environmental Work Group who studied 100 cities and ranked Pensacola at the top of the worst list. ECUA officials say their water supply is in compliance with all regulations

and is safe. Dick Snyder, UWF professor, says a filter would clean out any contaminants in the water. Advice: get a filter.

## PREDICTION

The water quality will improve now that this dubious report has had widespread publicity.

## SCHOOL DAYS

The Pensacola Beach Elementary School can only get better. But how can that be? It is already a Blue Ribbon School, posting the highest ranking grades in state achievement tests.

## PREDICTION

The Beach School will start a band with horns and drums. It will be the only elementary school band for miles around.

## NO HURRICANES ALLOWED

Not a chance with the new Queen Shugah leading the defense. She will be bringing her bag of New Orleans voodoo and Poison dolls to outwit the wind.

## PREDICTION

Another hurricane free season. **OVER THE TOP**

Oh, bottom dwellers of yesteryear, the New Orleans Saints are now riding on the wings of angels. Winners of the NFC soon. Tomorrow the world.

## PREDICTION

It is written in the stars. Brees and buddies can do it all - - and they will.

## POLITICAL PETTINESS

Isn't it a shame that Commissioners could not stop the squabble between their hired help and the High Sheriff. They fired the administrator so that solved their problem. This sort of thing makes our six-member SRIA Board look like we're living in Camelot. Somehow, these same County Commissioners appointed five nice, stable, sane members to the SRIA. We, the people, elected our favorite candidate who is also nice, stable and sane. The six of them walk down an oftentimes precarious pathway, but they govern

with dedication.

## PREDICTION

The SRIA will continue leading the way.

## PHOENIX RISING

In less than two years, the Beach Chamber of Commerce has risen and taken its rightful place as the unchallenged leader of the businesses on the Beach. They have provided the community with a number of outstanding events, most recently the thirty days of holiday celebrations. Now, they are making themselves visible and effective everywhere - - at in town tourism meetings, County Commission meetings, and every other gathering that has anything to do with the promotion of Pensacola Beach.

## PREDICTION

The Beach Chamber will continue to persevere, bring quality and quantity to their already illustrious list of events.

## GOOD TIMES ROLL

Mardi Gras is in full swing

right now on Pensacola Beach, rounding out its thirtieth year. Yeah, long time for a Beach tradition to last. Right now, the krewes are peaking toward the climax which will be a firestorm of events from the Krewe of Wrecks parade to the culmination at the Krewe of Coma coronation.

## PREDICTION

No matter what obstacles may rear their ugly heads, the Mardi Gras will live forever on Pensacola Beach. It is tattooed into the hearts and souls of the parties.

## LOVE

Love is a commodity which captures a young man in the spring. Which flows from parent to children. Which, sometimes, not very often, engulfs an entire community. Which is the glue that holds the Beach folks together in all kinds of storms.

## PREDICTION

Love for each other and for their paradise is the first sign of spring. We will breathe deeply of the salt air elixir of life on the island long, merry and exotic.

## Nereids Open Season With King Kakes And Coronations

January 6 may not mean much to some people, but to Pensacola Beach's Krewe of Nereids the ancient feast day, the Twelfth Night after Christmas, is the time to begin their Mardi Gras season.

The Nereids King Kake Party is on January 9 at Paradise Bar and Grill. This custom dates back to New Orleans in 1870, when the King of Misrule crowned his queen at the ceremonial ball which included a giant sized pastry. The King would give each young lady a tiny gift box, but only one contained the prized gold bean. The recipient of this would be the Queen. This tradition has long since been lost by the faux rulers, but the children in the Big Easy carry on the tradition by hosting King Cake parties during carnival season.

The Nereids will provide free cake for everyone at the party. The Mustard Brothers straight from the heart of New Orleans will begin play-

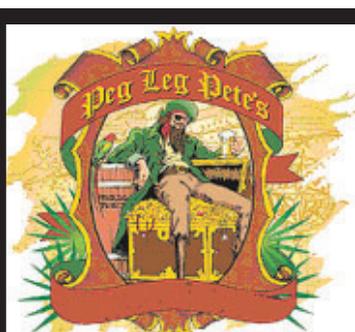
ing at 4 p.m. and Boogie, Inc. will keep the crowd on their feet with popular Mardi Gras music.

Reigning Queen Elaine Mitchell and King George Henshall will crown the new royalty in a glittering ceremony. The new rulers will reign over the King Kake Party, the Moonpie Party at the Sandshaker, January 15; and the Grand Masquerade Ball on January 30.

The King Kake party is a fundraiser for charity with chances on door prizes available for one dollar each.

The eighteen-year-old Krewe of Nereids is one of the oldest Beach Mardi Gras organizations. The high spirited ladies want to remind everybody that the King Kake and Moonpie parties are open to the public. There is no charge to enter.

"We want everybody to participate in Mardi Gras, said Queen Elaine Mitchell. "If you are looking for fun, we have plenty to share with you."



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Ho  
Ho

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# PEOPLE

## STAR POWERED

Former Beach resident Layla Knell has landed an intern's position with the famous celebrity chef Rachael Ray on her popular daytime television show. The Beach School grad is hoping to see her parents Jim and Lynda and all her beach friends who visit New York. Tickets are free, but have to be requested in advance at [www.rachaelray.com](http://www.rachaelray.com).

## ALAS LASS

Christy Sullivan readied the Pub and sent out reminders to all her friends prior to Christmas Day. She noted that hubby Mike was in Boston visiting relatives for Christmas, so she spent the day with her beach family feasting.

## BIG WINNER

Darlene Smith was the big winner at the Krewe of Wrecks' December 21 meeting at Sidelines. She took home the cash prize from the 50-50 drawing. The Wrecks membership has grown to 104 strong. There are still a few memberships available.

## PARTY WITHOUT JR

Carleen Wheeler's son John Robert was headed to Pensacola for the holidays, so Carleen planned a party in his honor. A Nor'easter with 62 mile per hour winds blew his travel plans away. He was stranded at his Martha's Vineyard home. He missed his party but arrived in time for Christmas.

## NEW DIGS FOR DEB

Deb Friedman enlisted the help of her friends in a dash to move from her Sandollar Condo to the Sabine Yacht and Racquet Club. She completed the move in one day. Good thing, because she had to get to Charleston to see her grandson Logan for Christmas.

## WELCOME TO THE BEACH

John Pinzino transforms from his all-business demeanor into Super Grandad this week. His granddaughters Charlotte and Alyssa Kuemmeth will be on the Beach visiting him until the New Year.

## MISS MERRY MARGARET

Each year Margaret Cunningham orchestrates a Christmas celebration in Swenson Park in Gulf Breeze. The frightful weather

postponed the December 12 event. Margaret worried that no one would show up at the rescheduled event. Santa sprinkled some holiday magic on the event and over 300 people attended.

## BOAT DONATION

Joann Johnson, owner of the Chase-N-Fins dolphin sightseeing boat, decorates her vessel and takes passengers to ride in the Chamber's Lighted Boat parade. This year ticket sales were so brisk, that Johnson made a donation to the Toys for Tots program with the profits.

## SAVE THE DATE

National Park Service Biologist Mark Nichols is ready to talk turtles. He set the annual Turtle Lighting Symposium for February 25 at 8 a.m. at the SRIA boardroom. Beach residents are encouraged to attend.

## KATIE'S DAY

Katie Collins, who grew up on Pensacola Beach, is a tireless volunteer. She teaches a children's class on Sundays at the Beach Church, volunteered at the Breakfast with Santa foster children's program, and is always ready to lend a hand. She works full time and runs a Mary Kay business in her free time. She slowed down long enough to blow out the candles on her birthday cake, December 28; then it was right back to her busy schedule.

## SPUDS DIRSCHKA

Former Beach resident and business owner Pam Dirschka reports that she and husband Paul purchased a 200 acre farm in Canada recently. Pam loves the trees and brought 70 pounds of her potato crop home to Gulf Breeze last week.

## WANTED POSTER

In 2002 Nina Fritz did a watercolor of *Island Times* fishing columnist Saltwater Rick. At that time, he could not afford to purchase it and it has since been sold to an unknown art collector. Do you have it? Rick wants to buy it. Fritz has offered to do a re-creation of the watercolor. So, Rick will sit once again for the locally famous artist. If you know the whereabouts of the first piece, please call 916-5258 or email [islandtimes@bellsouth.net](mailto:islandtimes@bellsouth.net).

# Trivia?? ?? ?? ?? ?? ?? ?? ??

The Trivia Master, during his meaningless meanderings came upon the Beach Ball Water Tower in Casino Beach. Wondering how tall the structure is, he decided to quiz his Trivia players for the answer. The water tower which now serves only as decoration is actually 128 feet tall (as certified by the SRIA's Director of Environmental and Developmental Services Matt Mooneyham.)

Dave Wheeler, our frequent player who emails from his home in Atlanta, came closer than anyone else with his guess of 110 feet which he admits is just a guess. It was good enough to win the t-shirt.

Runner up was Ben Womack with a guess of 74 feet and 3 inches.

One incorrect answer broke

the bank. Melissa Irwin thinks the water tower is 2,000 feet tall.

Two Knights of the Round Table checked in with Sir Bill Greene reporting from his Sand Box West in the Arizona desert that he thought the tower was 96 feet. And Sir Morrie Drees asked his own question, "Was it supposed to be measured from the ground level or sea level?" Never heard another word from Sir Morrie, perhaps he is scaling the tower right now.

Countess Kim, have you gone underground for the winter? The Trivia Master misses you.

Be the first to answer the following correctly by email and you will be the proud wearer of an *Island Times* t-shirt. "Two bands played more often than any others at the Krewe of

Wrecks balls and parties during the early years of Mardi Gras on the Island. Can you name one of them?"

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](mailto:islandtimes@bellsouth.net) with "trivia" in the subject line and include your name, phone number. Hurry! Deadline to answer is Tuesday, January 5, 2010.

## TIARA NIGHT



JAN 4 • FLOUNDERS

Wrecks Meeting, 6 PM

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

### NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Book Your Room For New Year's Eve  
Party at Paradise • Music by The Hushpuppies  
Fireworks over the Gulf at midnight  
Ring in the New Year and Stay with Us!  
Special Room Rates - Call 932-2319.

### KING KAKE PARTY

January 9 • 3 PM - Royal Coronation  
Music by -THE MUSTARD BROTHERS  
New Orleans Mardi Gras Band

Jan 1 and 2 Josh Garrett and  
The Bottom Line • 6 pm til

Paradise  
bar grill

Jan 8 Mike Norris & Friends  
Jan 9 - 10 The Mustard Brothers  
from New Orleans

### POLAR BEAR PLUNGE

Dip into Santa Rosa Sound & hurry to the finish line. Heaping bowls of black-eyed peas & drink specials. \$5 Entry fee benefits the Chamber. PRIZES!

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Polar  
Bear  
Plunge

1-1-10

2 PM

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# SRIA Application Combats Party Problems

Marriage vows may still be exchanged on Pensacola Beach, but in some cases, strings may be attached. After hearing complaints over the past few months from neighbors enduring the loud music and traffic jams generated by the wedding celebrations, the Development and Leasing Committee at its December 16 meeting voted to accept the plan to require short term renters to file an application with the Santa Rosa Island Authority before planning a large wedding in a residential area.

The Application which carries a fee of \$25 would be required only if the wedding party has more than 35 guests.

The agreement in the application would contain the following limitations:

- Must be signed by both the renter and the representative of the owner of the home.
- Outdoor bands and noises

would have to be stopped by 8 p.m. on Sunday through Thursday nights and 10 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

The Board asked staff to prepare another application to be presented to the Board on the January 13 agenda.

A discussion followed the decision to go forward with the application and Board member Vernon Prather said, "We are trying to take an activity which is not conducive to a residential area and make something fit the residential area which is not zoned that way. We have a commercial activity occurring in a residential area."

Sherry Snyder who owns a rental home said that motion would have unintended consequences.

"We built our home to rent it, not necessarily to parties or a wedding," she said. "I am afraid about restrictions on how I can use my home as a

rental unit."

The application will return to staff for additional language for guidelines which will include that church and school parking lots cannot be used by renters without permission.

In other business, the discussion on the lease extension request by Tiffany's resulted in the item being returned to staff. The longstanding Gulfront business' lease is expiring and the current location may be used as part of the core area redevelopment.

Gregory Smith, Tiffany D'Alemberte's attorney, suggested his client needed more protection.

"She should have a comparable location and comparable space and the choice of where she is located," he said.

D'Alemberte's attorney will receive a copy of the draft of the lease extension. After he reviews it, the document will be sent to the SRIA

attorney for a final review. It will then be returned to the SRIA Full Board meeting, January 13.

The final request on the D and L agenda was from Beach Buns and Dawgs, a mobile vendor service operated by Hal Harris. Harris was granted permission to continue to operate at Park East and Fort Pickens Gate during summer months. He must comply with the details regarding site clean up and amenities as outlined by the Board.

Buck Lee, executive director, made two requests to transfer funds to the Beach Chamber of Commerce. The first was to add \$20,000 to the Fourth of July Fireworks fund since the County is unable to send this amount this year. The second request was for \$10,000 to establish a Chamber website.

"They do a first class job of running the fireworks," Lee said. "They can get a band or expand the fire-

works."

"The Chamber has not had a website," explained President Jeff Elbert. "We felt it would be a duplication of the SRIA website."

Lee said the SRIA has changed some of the parameters of its site, so it is a good time for the SRIA to help the Chamber launch a site.

"I think the Chamber is doing an excellent job," Prather said. "This is a good investment."

Both requests received unanimous approval from the Administrative Committee.

Dottie Ford brought the usual good news to the Administrative Committee. "October's financial statements reflect that the revenues are up \$56,000 over what was anticipated. I'm very happy to see that," she said.

The next Authority meeting will be the Full Board on Wednesday, January 13 at 5 p.m. at the SRIA office. 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](http://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](http://www.flounderschowderhouse.com)

### PEGLEG PETE'S

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

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](http://www.peglegpetes.com)

### SIDELINE'S SPORTS BAR AND RESTAURANT

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

Centrally located on Via de Luna, just east of the main parking lot and the traffic light. Kick off at 11 a.m. seven days a week. 934-3660.

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One of America's great steakhouses; proudly serving USDA Prime Steaks, seafood and Irish specialties including Irish fisherman's bouillabaisse, Corned Beef and Cabbage and Shepherd's Pie all inside a turn of the century New York Irish Saloon themed pub. McGuire's is celebrated for its atmosphere, boasting more than 750,000 signed dollar bills hanging from the ceilings of the pub. Live entertainment coupled with great food and warm and friendly service by Employees who Give a Damn! Visit our on-site brewery and the O'Tolf Wine Cellar featuring the complete vertical collection of the Chateau Mouton Rothschild Artist Series. Featured on NBC's 'Today' Show, highly recommended by Fodors, Frommers and AAA travel guides, Florida Trend Magazine Hall of Fame Member.

Open every day at 11 am, 850-433-6789 [mcguiresirishpub.com](http://mcguiresirishpub.com)

### 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](http://www.sandshaker.com) for photo gallery and event schedule.

### NATIVE CAFE

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peas, porridge & a  
dry martini

by Kathi Lewis



I think I'll just leave the Christmas decorations up all year; that's the only way I'll ever get ahead of the season! Does it seem to come faster each year to everybody or is that just me? One minute it's Thanksgiving, the next it's Christmas and before you know it, it's over. Where did it go? And why didn't it take all the wrapping paper, tissue and bows with it?

Well, actually I do know where all the tissue paper went. ....

The Wednesday Night Mental Health Ladies Annual Christmas Party was held, as always, at Queen Paulette Provost's nearly perfect house. After some very confusing numbering of the gifts by Peggy Henshall and Charlotte Spencer, we each drew a number from the beautiful china cup. Peggy was Santa, delivering each gift to the matching numbered recipient. I'm not sure who brought the gift or even who received it. I just remember Amy Depew exclaiming in a very loud voice that the gift was way over-wrapped and there were poor children in China that didn't have any tissue at all. So, we gathered all the tissue for Amy so that she could send it to these poor children. That's our Amy, always worrying about others....and keeping us laughing!

Oh c'mon, for those of you who are calling the Political Correctioness Police, I know you've heard that before. My Daddy told one of his five children at every meal that there were starving children in China.

I guess it was a very bad time for China when I was a child. I always had a hard time figuring out how eating the dreaded lima beans could possibly help those poor children. But somehow, I guess Daddy sure knew what he was talking about 'cause China is doing much better now.

Anyway, the Party was another extraordinary night with the Ladies as we practiced mental health in abundance. Each gift somehow was perfectly matched to its recipient. It was amazing.

Really, I'm wearing mine right

now. It's a half sweater, which is perfect for me. Anyone who knows me knows that I could not possibly wear a whole sweater; I would melt into a puddle of liquid. I know some people probably refer to my gift as a sweater vest, but half a sweater fits me much better. I love it so much that I'm thinking of getting half a coat to finish out the winter! I don't know why I never thought of this before.

I hope the Mental Health Ladies Night girls know how much I love them. No matter how crazy my life gets, they keep me sane. Scary thought, huh?

Well it's time to put away the red stuff, keep the gold and green stuff out, and dig through the storage closet for all your purple stuff. It's gonna be another short Carnival Time and you don't want to miss a minute. Don't forget the fairy dust 'cause life is always better when it's shiny.....

I want to wish you all a Happy New Year, especially those who serve in our Armed Forces. God bless you and keep you safe. This recipe goes out to all our Troops who spent their holidays in a foreign country. It makes a big batch of cookies that travel well and is guaranteed to give these heroes a taste of home. So, let's cook.....

#### Orange Oatmeal Cookies

2 Cups All Purpose flour  
2 Cups Sugar  
4 tsp. baking powder  
1 tsp. salt  
1 tsp. nutmeg  
1 Cup Shortening (Crisco)  
2 Eggs  
4 tsp. orange zest  
2 Tbsp. orange juice  
3 Cups Oatmeal

Blend flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and nutmeg; add shortening, eggs, orange rind and juice. Mix well. Stir in oatmeal. Drop level tablespoonfuls of dough on greased baking sheet 2" apart. Bake at 375 degrees for 12 - 15 minutes. Makes 5 dozen.

Enjoy, share and Have a safe and happy New Year!

# Real Hotties Needed For Junkanoo Chili Cook Off

When you're hot, you're hot and you get a whole year to brag about it, if you win the Krewe of Junkanoo's Chili Cook-Off, January 16 at the Sandshaker Lounge. The event opens at 1 p.m. and the tasting concludes at 4 p.m. The awards ceremony will follow.

Leigh Weaver, head Junkanoo chili bean, says there is a list of rules for the chefs to follow, but there is one rule that must be adhered to, "This event is sponsored by the Krewe of Junkanoo. With this in mind, all entrants must remember that they are at the Beach. Have fun and celebrate. If you are unable to have fun, this event is not for you."

Entry fee for those who can have fun and wish to compete is \$30. Registration forms are available by emailing junkanoochilicookoff@cox.net or by calling 850-554-0405.

General Admission to the event is \$5 which includes a taste of each entry and a voting ballot.

Prizes will be awarded for first,

second and third for the Best Overall Chili. The winner's name will be added to the Bragging Rights Plaque that will be displayed at the Sandshaker year round.

There will be a Battle of the Badge where fire fighters, police and EMS personnel will challenge each other's culinary skills. Additionally, judges will award a prize for the booth with the best theme, decoration or costume.

For more information, call Weaver at 850-554-0405.



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### KREWE OF WRECKS MEETINGS 2009-2010

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

January 4  
Wrecks Mtg 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 5 Krewe of St. Patrick, Flounder's, 6 PM  
January 9 Nereids King Cake 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 Brewe 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 8 Wrecks Champagne Breakfast  
February 13 Krewe of Wrecks Parade, 2 PM  
February 14 Red Beans and Rice Luncheon, Casino Beach, 11  
February 15 Krewe of Coma, Sandshaker, 7 PM  
February 16 Shoe Box Float Competition, Paradise, 8 PM



More details will appear as the season nears.

Not all events are open to the public. Some events require tickets.

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## Dine One Last Time in 2009

The promise and anticipation of the New Year can be celebrated long before the clock strikes midnight on Pensacola Beach. Popping corks and exquisite cuisine will create a romantic interlude for couples who dine at Flounder's. Locally famous chef Mark Murphy is preparing a special dinner for two complemented by a full bottle of champagne, according to Manager Lewis Irby. All your favorite menu items will also be available at 2009 prices.

PegLeg Pete will be waiting to greet his guests on the deck of the Fort Pickens Road restaurant that bears his name. Great oysters and cold beer to ring in the New Year.

Sidelines will be serving their famous wings. No time outs allowed. Non-stop sports action no matter what day it is. Five bowl games on December 31 and five more on January 1 - Go team.

You can have it all. Front row

seats and first class service directly on the Gulf at Crab's, We Got 'Em. Full moon and fireworks on December 31.

Renee Mack will be serving a fresh catch of the day and a hot band of the night on New Year's Eve at Paradise. The Hushpuppies will play. The kitchen will be open late.

Kowabunga, dude. Surf Burger will be open on December 31 until 9 p.m. Bring your best girl to grab a burger and milkshake before 2009 slips away. Sports, especially surfing on multiple televisions.

Chef Willie Eberlin reminds diners that the ZooLights on the Boardwalk will soon go dark, so come early and stay late at Bullfeathers. Champagne, cocktails and dinner specials.

Your first meal of the new year can be served by the friendly natives at Native Café. The doors swing open at 7:30 a.m. New Year's Day.



**Santa Look Alike Alec Adams really had to check his Naughty and Nice list twice to see where Michelle Foss, left, and Shawna Lane, right, are noted. These three were the winners of the Santa Look Alike and Sexy Mrs. Claus contest at Bamboo Willie's on December 20.**

## Tiny Floats Parade Into Paradise

Miniature float builders are drawing up plans and gathering bits of glitter and shimmering sequins to turn ordinary shoe boxes into fabulous Mardi Gras floats. The third annual Shoe Box Float Competition will be the final event of Mardi Gras on the Island, Tuesday, February 16 at 8 p.m. at Paradise Bar and Grill.

"As is the custom in the New Orleans schools, children bring a shoe box to class and with a lot of crepe paper, glitter and imagination, turn it into a Mardi Gras float," said Renee Mack, Paradise General Manager. "Islanders are starting to get the hang of Shoe Box float making and the competition should be

stiff this year."

In addition to the open division, there will be a children's contest this year sponsored by *Island Times*. First, second and third place trophies will be awarded.

Decorated floats will be accepted at Paradise beginning at noon on Monday, February 15. Judging

will take place at 8 p.m. Fat Tuesday. Prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the competition to first, second and third place floats.

For more information, email [renee\\_mack@bellsouth.net](mailto:renee_mack@bellsouth.net).

## BYTES AND BITS

**By Joe Stukey,  
Your Computer Pal**

**Q:** "What are Fake Virus Alerts?"

**A:** Fake Virus Alerts are malicious programs that download themselves into your computer and try to put you into panic mode. They are designed to make you believe that your computer is infested with viruses, malware, and spyware. They are well-disguised as antivirus software and appear to be there to help you. That's why they are called "fake virus alerts." Some of them will have names like Antivirus 360, Antivirus 2009, Antivirus 2010, and Security Center Alert.

Their main goal is to get your credit card number. When they first appear on your computer (usually

from a website that you visited), the programs begin to "scan" your computer and immediately start reporting lots of viruses. The scan usually only takes a few seconds to make a list of viruses. Remember that a scan that lasts a few seconds can't really locate that many viruses. The scan is fake, and is done to convince you to give them your credit card number so that they can fix the "problems."

Sometimes, after typing in your credit card number, the Fake Virus program just disappears off your screen, not bothering to even tell you that the credit card was accepted. At that point, it is best to call your credit card company and put a hold on your

card.

The way to respond to those Fake Virus programs is to reach for the power button on your computer. By turning the computer off quickly, you have a chance of clearing the Fake Virus from your computer. If it is still there when you turn the computer on again, you might as well start looking for some technical support. Those bad programs can be very crafty and often disable the real antivirus program that you had been using.

This article was provided by The Stukey Group. For questions, contact Joe at [joe@ycpals.com](mailto:joe@ycpals.com) or 850-206-3156.

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# Steering Committee Needs More Time To Evaluate Planners Presentation

The thirteen member Steering Committee which was created to assist EDSA, land planners, met on Wednesday, December 16 for two hours, but that wasn't enough time for them to meet their goal to reach "some degree of consensus" to report to the SRIA board.

"We will take your refinements and bring them to the public process at the third input session and have a final plan in the Spring," Paul Kissinger, EDSA, said.

Kissinger did appear at the December 16 meeting of the SRIA, and told the Board members that the Steering Committee would meet again on the Beach where they will prepare a recommendation based on information from the public and the Steering Committee.

"There will be another public forum," Kissinger said. "And the planners will refine and update; and present the final plan."

During a public meeting in Pensacola on December 15, Kissinger noted that a number of plans were presented to the audience and there seemed to be an overall acceptance of some of the plans.

"There were common themes of concern," he said. "Among them was parking, beach access, emphasis on natural beauty, parking strategy for employees."

Although committee members realized time was running short for the completion of the task at hand

the EDSA team presented conceptual drawings.

"We are not going to rush through this," Kissinger said. "We spent a lot of time creating these plans and options and we want you to consider them carefully."

The following elements were included in the visual display:

- Enhancing pedestrian connectivity and linkages
- Reorganization of public parking and circulation patterns for greater efficiency
- Extension of existing boardwalk along Santa Rosa Sound and connect to the core beach area
- Relocation/reorganization of the Visitor's Center to a more centralized and prominent location
- Creating a gateway and entry experience into the core area at the intersection of Pensacola Beach Blvd, Via de Luna and Ft. Pickens Road.
- Strengthen the connection from beach to bay

Various designs were presented to achieve these results included:

- Changes in the road locations, lanes
- Roundabouts
- Pedestrian promenades
- Enhanced pedestrian crossing areas
- Parking garages, enhanced surface area parking
- Entertainment amphitheatre

- Extensive landscaping and cooling areas
- Beachfront park and promenade
- Plaza and drop off area
- Pedestrian skywalks

Kissinger showed the inspirational imagery that creates a feeling of what Pensacola Beach is - - surf and sand dunes and movement of water and wind.

Conceptual drawings of the toll booth were shown and what the toll booth could look like. The gateway must provide a sense of arrival and set a theme for visitors to the Island.

"What is the theme?" asked Committee member Julian MacQueen. "That should be created first and, then, we move forward from there."

Member Tom Almon added, "I think we are on solid ground to come up with a catch phrase with the term island that can be emblazoned on the entryway and incorporated in the architecture."

The Steering Committee members heard information about the funding methods for the redevelopment of the core area of the Beach.

Commissioner Grover Robinson, IV, told the Committee that the Commission wants to see a plan, one plan, before discussing the toll raise.

"The task is yours to get the plan," he said.

SRIA Executive Director Buck Lee has set the next Steering Committee meeting for Tuesday, Janu-

ary 12 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the SRIA boardroom. The meeting is open to the public.

The complete presentation can be viewed at [www.MyIslandTimes.com](http://www.MyIslandTimes.com)



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# Wrecks Vessel Hoists Party Flag

## Krewe Toasts Thirty Years of Mardi Gras On The Beach

The Krewe of Wrecks flagship is cruising the waters of Pensacola Beach now with its party flag flying on high. They voted at their meeting at The Break to designate January 4 at Flounder's as Tiara Night. This is a not a Ladies Night. It is "everyone must wear a tiara" night. This portion of the dress code will be strictly enforced according to Running Around Wreck Jeff Goudey.

"We will have a large volume of business to complete," Reigning Queen Paulette Provost said. "We can get more done while wearing proper Mardi Gras tiaras."

The Wrecks are celebrating their thirtieth anniversary and have adopted a nostalgic theme for this year's events,

"ShipWrecked on the Beach for 30 Years." The Wrecks' board is in the process of inviting all former royal court members back to the island. Some have moved away. Some are in hiding.

"We are trying to find them all, so this year's Mardi Gras will be the best ever," said Goudey.

Two meetings of dire importance are the Safety Meetings called by the Escambia County Sheriff's Department. The first is at 6 p.m. on January 21 and the second is on January 23 at 10 a.m. Both meetings are at the SRIA office. All krewes must have a float rider as a representative at this meeting which concerns the safety rules of the Wrecks Mardi Gras parade,

scheduled for February 14.

Volunteers are still needed to help decorate for the Champagne Breakfast, Grand Costume Ball, Krewe of Wrecks float, and volunteers are also needed to serve in various capacities at the Red Beans and Rice luncheon and the parade.

Former Wrecks Queen Claire Marcey invited all the Wrecks to the Old Fogey's New Year's Eve Party from 6 to 8 p.m. on January 31 at The Islander Lounge.

Memberships are still available in the Krewe of Wrecks at \$30 per person and they still have some Thirtieth Anniversary t-shirts available.

For more information, contact Treas-Wreck Melanie Waite at melanie7896@bellsouth.net.

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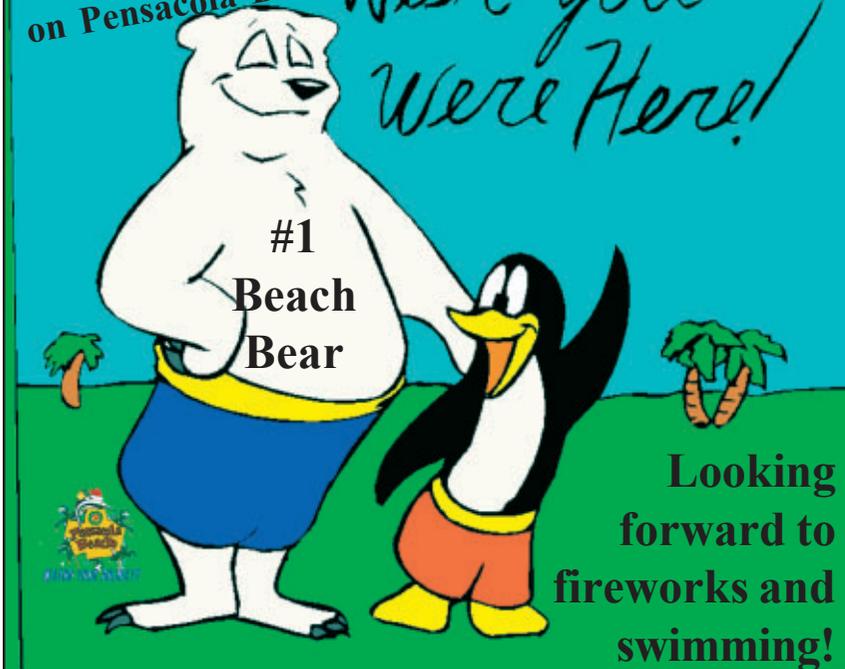
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### Information

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PensacolaBeachHolidays.com

# Songwriters Return To Paradise

The songwriters will return to Pensacola Beach for their second annual festival from September 27 to October 3, in 2010, and the students at the Beach School will be included in the activity. The group confirmed the date at their December 15 meeting on the Beach.

Reneda Cross of J. Pasquale Music, said the school kids were involved last year when Pasquale himself performed for the students and answered their questions about songwriting. Cross noted that she hopes to expand this program this year.

"There is a program called Words With Music for kids. Students write lyrics and submit them to songwriters who put them to music," she said. "This program was developed by the Country Music Hall of Fame to keep arts in the school."

The first festival hosted 31 songwriters at five beach venues.

"Our goal in 2010 is to have 60 songwriters at ten venues," said Cross.

Pasquale praised the beach's reception of the songwriters.

"People wanted to come to Pensacola Beach. They loved it

when they got here. It was like a songwriter's family reunion."

New at the 2010 festival will be a vintage guitar show. This brings vendors and enthusiasts from all over the nation.

This festival could give Pensacola Beach worldwide publicity, according to Cross, who said it will be featured in industry magazines and those which are dedicated to the vintage music collectors.

For more information about the Pensacola Beach Songwriters Festival, email [rc.songwriters@yahoo.com](mailto:rc.songwriters@yahoo.com).



Gulf Breeze Middle School hosted the final round of the National Geographic Bee on Friday, December 11, in the school's library. Winners are (front row, L to R): Grayson Rine, third place; Gillian Werner, first place; and Aaron Zanca, second place. JoAnn Considine, Geography teacher and Bee coordinator is in the back row.

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# BUSINESS BUZZ

## MR BOOGIE SPREADS GOOD NEWS

The Beach's favorite entertainment DJ, David McDonald, is putting down his party music mic, and doing a week-long radio show for News Radio 1620 AM. Tune in from 4 to 7 p.m. today through the New Year to hear David's positive spin on today's recession. His guests for the "I Refuse to be a Victim" program include Chamber Execs Meg Peltier from Gulf Breeze, Dana Story from Perdido Key and Donna Tucker from Santa Rosa County. Well known Beach personalities Art Parish, Doug Permenter and Shelley Johnson will be on the air, too. Former Pensacola newscaster Mark Curtis will visit the show on January 1. Mark Curtis is currently a Washington, D.C. correspondent.

## ON TOP OF TAXES

Membership has its benefits. Pensacola Beach Advocates members were among the first to know about the judge's order in the Beach tax suit. They were alerted via email almost immediately. Kudos to the Beach citizens group, PBA. Information about the group is available at their website [www.pbadvocates.org](http://www.pbadvocates.org).

## RENEW YOUR PASS

Bridge transponders have to be

renewed by December 30. Better get over to the SRIA office and bring your checkbook before they close for the New Year's Eve holiday.

## DREW DAT

Saints fans are in good company at Paradise Bar where the staff is outfitted in Drew Brees jerseys. If the Saints win, you might even score a free bowl of Renee's red beans.

## FIND TREASURE ONLINE

You can watch WSRE's original documentary, narrated by Ken Burns: "Gulf Islands National Seashore - The Treasure of the Gulf Coast" online at <http://www.wsre.org/video/gulf-islands-national-seashore.asp> The producer, director and writer of the Gulf Islands documentary, Jill Hubbs said it was an incredible experience. She spent a year researching, filming and editing a film designed to showcase the history, culture and beauty of Gulf Islands National Seashore. Share the link with out of town friends. They will be lured to the Florida panhandle to experience Gulf Islands for themselves

## APRES SKI

The Cervantes Street ski apparel store, Weatherford's is jam packed with the latest in outdoor fashions. If you want to hit the

slopes or remain toasty on blustery days, make a trip to see them. An added bonus, is the friendly yellow dog who helps you shop.

## O CHRISTMAS TREE

Ready to get rid of the tree? ECUA will pick up its customers' Christmas trees, along with regular

collection service of yard waste. Remove all tinsel and decorations from the tree and it must be cut into pieces that are less than 6 feet in length. Trees can be placed at the curb with other yard trash. Do not put tree in the green garbage containers.

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Mardi Gras' Krewe of Nauga attended the Royal Feast at the home of Nauga Queen VIII Karen Cook, left. Joining her for the fun are Nauga royalty (L to R): Gwen Gibson, Dana Graves, Tommy Grice, Karina Foster, Sharon Mattair and Danah Gibson. Nominations for the next Nauga Queen were placed in a sealed leopard covered satchel to be delivered to the Secret Society of Royal Recognition. The new queen will be crowned on January 23 at the Nauga Breakfast.

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# The Lizzard's TONGUE

by E.K. Hewson



It's been almost 50 years since the first episode of "The Jetsons" aired on television and as we approach 2010, I want to know where Rosie, the robotic housekeeper, is. Even though she only appeared in two of the original 24 episodes that began in 1962, the show was re-run so many times that I personally thought by now I would own my very own Rosie. Where is she? Don't even try to counter with the fact that there are automated floor sweepers on the market. The Roomba is no Rosie, with her extendable arms and her perfectly executed 90 degree turns.

I've have purposely modeled my current lifestyle after "The Jetsons" in hopes that Rosie will appear on my doorstep, ready to be assembled, complete with a maid's outfit and dusting cloth.

I somewhat have the George Jetson work schedule. I work five, four-hour days or sometimes I

work four, five hour days, but not for a tyrannical boss. The company I work for provides IT services. George, on the other hand, worked only three, three-hour days per week and for a short and overbearing boss. Spacely Space Sprockets did, however, manufacture a product, sprockets.

I cook much like his wife Jane. I take the cardboard box out of the freezer, place it in the microwave, push a button and voila dinner.

I no longer have dogs, but when I did they were always very Astro like. When my first dog Roy and I would go for a run, it was a 50-50 chance he would spot a cat, take off and drag me along for the ride. I think my last thought would be as my workout clothes were being shredded to bits was well at least we're not on a treadmill.

Of course, I don't have a teenage daughter named Judy. I do have the genius pre-teen son, The

Kid, because he knows everything. Didn't we all at that age?

I must admit I don't have the cool aerocar, but I do drive a Prius; and sometimes I just walk out of my bedroom, down a flight of steps and telecommute to work or to go shopping anywhere the internet will take me. That ought to make rural Southern Maryland somewhat comparable to Orbit City.

Right now, I own a Swiffer, a Dyson, a Kindle, a Blackberry, an iPod, and a microwave that says "thank you" and "enjoy your meal." I even have time released air fresheners. But still no Rosie. Maybe in 2010 she will make her debut.

For now, I resolve to keep my rosy disposition, thorns and all, when it comes time to do daily household chores. Of course, I could be so totally retro and Google maid services. Until next time...Happy New Year!



Kim LoBue was rolling along in the Chamber's Surfing Santa Beach Parade December 13 on her tinsel powered tryke. She and her wheels were beautifully decorated. G. Cole and Jack White are in the background.



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*A LITTLE DICKENS - Ebenezer Scrooge scowled at the frivolity and fun during the Lighted Boat Parade VIP Viewing Party at Flounder's, December 11. Throughout the evening, he was warmed by the good spirits, enchanted by the lighted vessels and charmed by the Chamber's guests. He transformed into the affable Villa Sabine resident Jim Cox and celebrated into the night.*



The north winds blew during the Lighted Boat Parade, December 11, but these friends did not feel the chill. They gathered to view the parade at the VIP Party at Flounder's. Cindy Allmon, Joann Hargrove, Claudia Riberio, BJ Gyoerkoes and Karen Krasnosky were joined by Chilly Willy the Penguin during the invitation-only event.

## Fireside Stories Light Up Fort Pickens

Gather round the campfire to hear the history of Fort Pickens located at the western tip of Santa Rosa Island, Saturday, January 2 at 5 p.m. Entrance fee is \$8 per vehicle. Participants should bring chairs and blankets and dress for outside weather.

For information call 934-2600.

## Eubanks Announces Retirement from National Seashore

After serving as Superintendent of Gulf Islands National Seashore since December 9, 1984, Jerry A. Eubanks announced that he will retire on January 2. He has led the country's largest national seashore through numerous organizational and operational changes which resulted in extensive natural, cultural, and recreational program improvements. Among many other successes, Mr. Eubanks has led the recovery efforts from numerous hurricanes, the implementation of a prescribed fire management program, and the inclusion of Cat Island within the National Seashore. Cat Island is considered by many the crown jewel of the Mississippi Coast barrier island system.

A native of McCool, Mississippi, Mr. Eubanks joined the National Park Service in 1960, after graduating from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering and working for a brief period for the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

Early in his career Mr. Eubanks was selected for and spent a one-year assignment in Washington, D. C., as a Management Trainee for the Department of the Interior, an assignment which included working as a staff member for U. S. Congressman Bernie Sisk of California. Mr. Eubanks has received numerous awards for his exemplary service to the National Park Service, including one for beach erosion control measures utilized while at Cape Hatteras National Seashore and the Department of the Interior Meritorious Service Award in May, 2000.

Jerry and his wife Anne have two married daughters living near the Great Smoky National Park and six grandchildren. After retirement,

Mr. and Mrs. Eubanks plan to plan to travel, including to those National Park Service sites where they used to live and work.

The public is invited to a reception for Superintendent Eubanks on Friday, January 22, 2010, at the Naval Live Oaks Visitor Center in Gulf Breeze from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Deputy Superintendent Nina Kelson will be Acting Superintendent until such time as a replacement is hired.



Superintendent Jerry Eubanks

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# December Boasts Spirited Play At Beach Poker Games

The spirit of giving abounds at the Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun poker games on Pensacola Beach. During December players gave each other hard stares, blank looks, seductive smiles and quizzical grins as they battled and bantered their way to the top spots. Justin Scher has staked his claim among Beach poker stars as the man to beat. By December 24 he had earned enough wins to be crowned as the Player of the Year for 2009.

Jenny Doherty wrapped up a game prior to Christmas with steady play and a little luck. She paired the

two Aces in her hand with the two on the board to wipe out Justin Scher and put Tim Koontz in second place on December 15 at Paddy O'Leary's.

Billie Urquhart, Erica Sirmon and Kristin Larmier are the Beach ladies who outplayed the men this month.

The results are as follows:

## *Shaker*

### December 14

1. Dr. Glenn Burleson
2. Cassie Smith

### December 21

1. Diamond Donnie Beall
2. Dr. Glenn Burleson

## *Paddy's*

### December 12

1. Erica Sirmon
2. Billie Urquhart

### December 13

1. Justin Scher
2. Russell Patterson

### December 17

1. Kristin Larmier
2. Bill Dossey

### December 19

1. Justin Scher
2. Trace Lewis

### December 20

1. Todd Lentini

2. Russell Patterson

### December 22

1. Justin Scher
2. Eric Weatherford
3. Jenny Doherty
4. Josh Nichols

Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun is open to anyone 21 or older who has a basic knowledge of the game.

"We have a great poker family," said promoter Rick Uzdevenes. "About 18 to 20 players come to the tables for week night games."

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

## 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

Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun  
Poker Hotline 324-2667

# Racers Prepare To Run The Beach

Runner and walkers can step into the New Year with a sprint to the finish line on January 16 during the Pensacola Beach Run. The event kicks off at 8 a.m. at the Gulfside Pavilion at Casino Beach. Entries will be accepted until thirty minutes prior to the race start. The entry fee is \$22 until January 15 and goes up to \$25 after that.

The course is a fast, flat route along paved roads on Pensacola Beach. Runners will be treated to views of the Gulf and the Sound as they pound out the 5K and 10K route.

The post race party includes live music, soft drinks and beer. The fun starts at 9:30 a.m. The awards presentation will take place during

the party and will include runner's awards in Male and Female Overall, Masters, Grand Masters and Senior Grand Masters; and three deep in standard five-year-age groups. Walkers will compete in 5K and 10K distances with the top five male and female receiving awards.

For more information and registration go to [www.active.com](http://www.active.com).

Mardi Gras on the Island  
Krewe of Wrecks Parade  
Sunday, February 14  
2 p.m.  
Rain or Shine

# Cruise Over To Tour Historic Sailing Ships

In 1492, Christopher Columbus sailed the ocean blue and replicas of his vessels are available for self guided tours in downtown Pensacola. The sailing ships Nina and Pinta arrived at Palafox Pier on December 22 and are open from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. every day until January 3. The admission price is \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors, \$5 for students. Children 4 and under are free.

The Niña is a replica of the ship on which Columbus sailed across the Atlantic on his three voyages of dis-

covery to the new world beginning in 1492. Columbus sailed the tiny ship over 25,000 miles. That ship was last heard of in 1501, but the new Niña has a different mission; it is a floating museum, and visits ports all over the Western Hemisphere.

The Pinta was recently built in Brazil to accompany the Nina on all of her travels. She is a larger version of the archetypal caravel and offers larger deck space for walk-aboard tours and has a 40 ft air conditioned

main cabin down below with seating. Pinta is available for private parties and charters.

For more information, visit [www.thenina.com](http://www.thenina.com).

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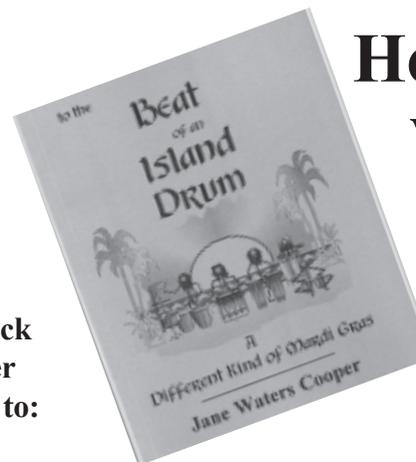
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## Who was there?

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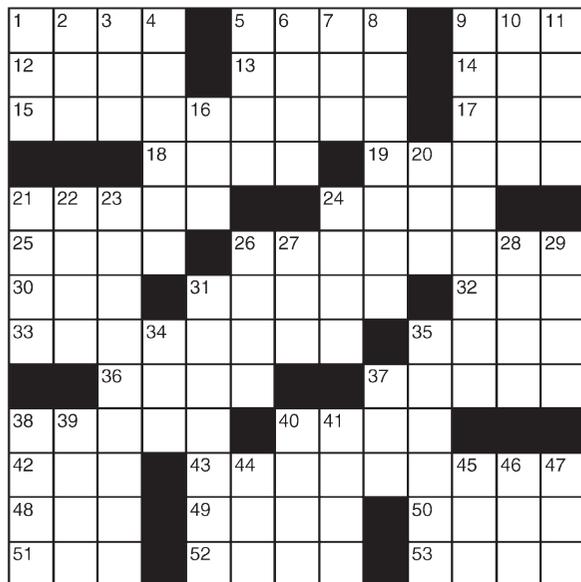
Natives say our  
Fish Tacos  
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# King Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 1 Cry like a banshee
- 5 "Say again?"
- 9 Crafty
- 12 Europe's neighbor
- 13 German car name
- 14 Tiny veggie
- 15 Peter Parker's alter ego
- 17 Cartesian conclusion
- 18 Hostels
- 19 Drove
- 21 Founded (on)
- 24 Unaccompanied
- 25 Swiss peaks
- 26 Directly
- 30 Floral neckwear
- 31 Actor Alan
- 32 NASA deviation
- 33 Last page?
- 35 Small combo
- 36 Nestling hawk
- 37 Dashboard features
- 38 Folkways
- 40 Painter Mondrian
- 42 Actress Gardner
- 43 1984 mockumentary subject
- 48 Buddy



- 49 Sea flock
  - 50 Therefore
  - 51 Wapiti
  - 52 Method (Abbr.)
  - 53 Turned blue?
- DOWN**
- 1 Existed
  - 2 Cleopatra's slayer
  - 3 Midafternoon hour
  - 4 Restroom designation
  - 5 Caution
  - 6 Runs smoothly
  - 7 Oklahoma city
  - 8 Small-timer
  - 9 Freshwater algae
  - 10 Begin
  - 11 Sweet potato
  - 16 Conclude
  - 20 Yale student
  - 21 Hairless
  - 22 Sheltered
  - 23 It takes thyme
  - 24 Use a teaspoon
  - 26 Spheres
  - 27 Guitar's kin
  - 28 Greet
  - 29 Pairs
  - 31 Accumulates
  - 34 CBS logo
  - 35 Named
  - 37 Narcs' org.
  - 38 Jerry Herman
  - 39 Ellipse
  - 40 Needles' mates
  - 41 "Meet Me - Louis"
  - 44 Use a crowbar
  - 45 Take a shot at
  - 46 Time of your life?
  - 47 Home for 14-Across

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**Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce memberships are available by calling Maureen LaMar at 850-932-1500.**

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**King Crossword**

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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A	S	I	A	A	U	D	I	P	E	A
S	P	I	D	E	R	M	A	N	I	A
		I	N	N	S	H	E	R	D	S
B	A	S	E	D	S	O	L	O		
A	L	P	S	O	U	T	R	I	G	H
L	E	I	A	R	K	I	N	Y	A	W
D	E	C	E	M	B	E	R	T	R	I
		E	Y	A	S	D	I	A	L	S
M	O	R	E	S	P	I	E	T		
A	V	A	S	P	I	N	A	L	T	A
M	A	C	E	R	N	S	E	R	G	O
E	L	K	S	Y	S	T	D	Y	E	D

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**Meetings**

**Island Beautification Steering Committee Meeting - Tuesday, January 12, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. SRIA Boardroom. Open to the public.**

extra extra... read all about IT

*Island Times, in your mailbox, every other week!*

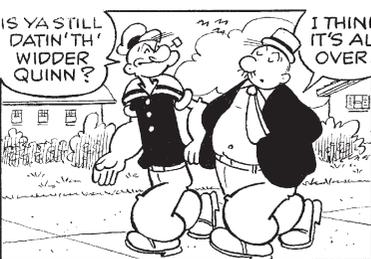
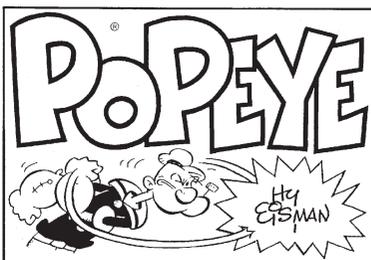
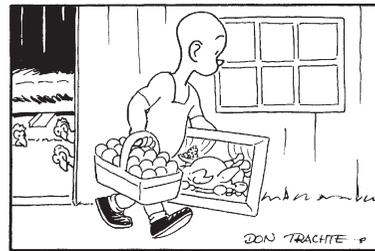
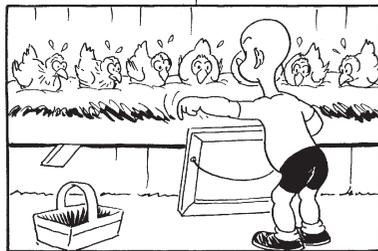
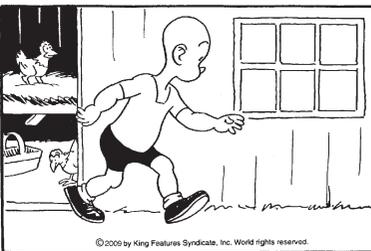
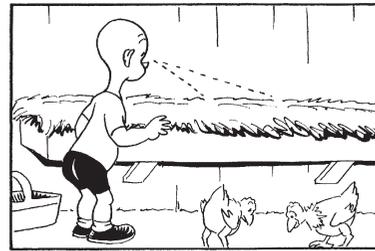
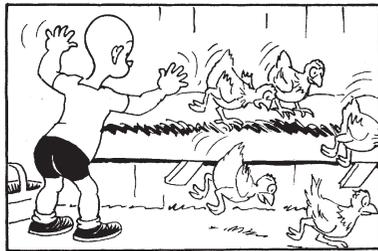
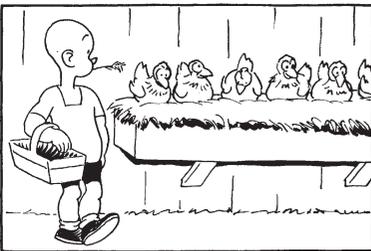
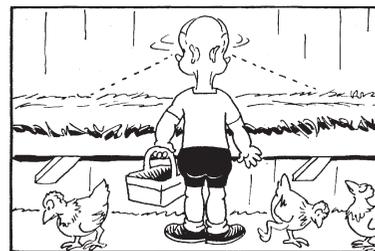
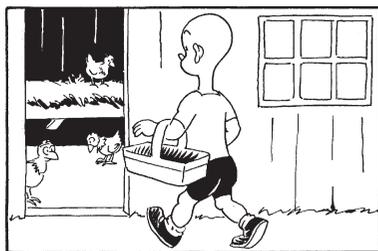
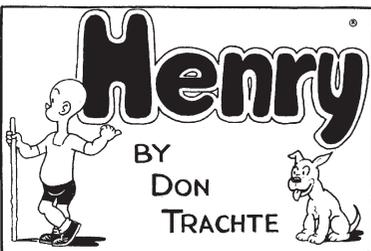
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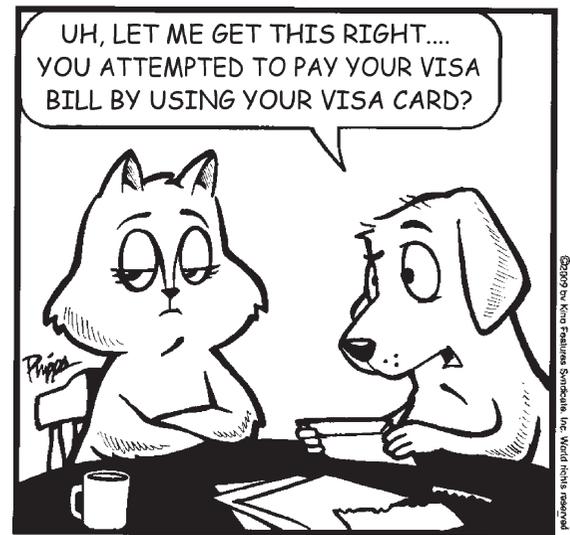
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## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



LAFF - A - DAY



"So you're not the marrying kind, eh?"

## HUBERT - - By Dick Wingert



"Any meatballs left over from dinner?"

**Polar Bear Plunge • January 1 at 2 pm**

**Paradise Bar & Grill**

**Wear a costume and win a prize!**

**\$5 entry fee - free to watch**





Accomplished artist Josie Collins, left, created tropical Christmas scenes for the contestants at the Island Style Coloring Contest to decorate. Josie, an eighth grader in Gulf Breeze, inherited her talents from her grandmother Bonnie Elbert, who crafted the coloring sheets for years. Over 50 talented artists submitted entries in two age divisions. The winners, announced on December 12 at Island Style are as follows: 8 and Older Division - First place, Zofia Uszok; Second place, Maddie Grace McCurdy; Third place, Mary Elliott; and Honorable Mention Patrick Cronin. 7 and Younger Division - First place, Hannah Buzhalter; Second place Kacey May; Third place, Tommy Joy; and Honorable Mention Lakin Harvey. Emily Chaney was awarded the People's Choice Award. The coloring contest is part of the Chamber's Season Your Holidays with Island Spirit promotion.



The Adult Coloring Contest was hosted by the Sandshaker Lounge on December 19. Crayons and colored markers sat next to cold beers and bushwackers. Christy McClusky of Pace works on her entry which earned her a second place award. The coloring contest is part of the Chamber's Season Your Holidays with Island Spirit promotion.

## 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADERS 3 WISHES FOR 2010

The first semester of the school year is complete and students at Pensacola Beach Elementary look toward the future. We asked the third grade class to name three wishes they would like to have granted. Their answers varied from the altruistic idea of peace on Earth to a ten foot long chocolate bar. Joy McLaurine and Tara Turk are the third grade teachers.

**Carlee Amberson** - more rubber ducks, Penn State to beat LSU in the Capital One Bowl game (sorry Mrs. Campanella), my own room

**Patrick Cronin**- Nintendo DSI, paintball gun, 10 foot long chocolate bar

**McGuire Wolfe** - to live forever, peace and love on the Earth, my sister to live safely

**Emily Wang**- more ice cream in a week, don't want my dad to leave too many times or for a long time, my school will have great success.

**Joshua Thompson**- million dollars, super powers, light saber

**Veronica Gyoerkoes**- a razor scooter, I want a DSI really bad, All Dogs Go To Heaven the movie

**Grace Reece**- a new puppy, my family doesn't move, a happy new year

**Allison Seeker** - a pet horse, a hex bug (ant), a marshmallow gun

**Olivia Chaney**- a guitar, a piano, a drum set

**Mackenzi Lane Patrick** - for another phone, another friend, and a bit of love

**Madi Clay**- that the Dallas Cowboys win the Super Bowl, I will never change my mind so I can be a Marine Biologist, that my mom will let Lola grow big pookie hair.

**Clay** - world peace, Nerf guns, toys

**Ashley Price**- that animals don't eat other animals, powers to heal animals that are sick, power to change pennies and one dollar bills into a million dollar bill

**Peter Seigh**- keyboard, Nerf sword, MP3 player

**Isabella Rose Rise** - more peace on Earth, Everybody will be nice to one another, no more doing stuff to Earth like pollution - less cars- recycle - use busses - stay green

**Zoe Cooper**- world peace, no animal abuse, no war

**Emily Boyle**- A million dollars (I really want it!), A horse (I really want it!), super powers (I really want it!)

**Wren Deputy**- a small puppy, an electric scooter, lots of candy and backpack clips

**Hannah May**- Alabama to win the National Championship, another puppy, more love and peace on Earth

**Cayson McCurdy**- Alabama wins, more sunny days, no more pollution

**Chloe Huntley**- to go to South Africa, world peace, to be rich

**Sophia Slobodian** - a horse, a great holiday, be a singer

# Comfort & Joy

by Pandora de Balthazar

January has long been considered "White Sale" month for many shops, stores, and manufacturers. Oddly enough, inventories have somewhat been emptied by December 31 of each year, so this is a time of renewal, realignment and reduction in shelf product, and yet a bonus to those in need of linens, textiles, and bedding. Be sure the styles and sizes match your needs.

Here are some helpful tips for you to use to pre-plan your January White Sale shopping:

## Bedroom:

► How long have you had your pillows?  
► When was the last time you washed your pillows?

[If the answer about laundering was more than six months...the time has come to either wash or replace your pillows]

► How many set of sheets do you have per bed?

► How often do you change your sheets?

[The recommended number of sheet sets is three, and linens should be changed every third day...after all, you change your clothes at least once a day, yet you are on your sheets 40% of your life]

## Bathroom

► How many people live in your home?

How many sets of towels do you have?

[The recommended number of towel sets is three per person...do the math]

► How many bathrooms do you have?

► How many hand towels do you have?

[Handtowels are the perfect answer to recycling, so long as you use and launder them often. Keeping fresh handtowels in your powder rooms and bathrooms is extremely important to good health and cleanliness. One for each day is a beginning; and one for each guest is a necessity! Save them, launder often, and enjoy how beautiful and practical they are.]

## Dining Room

► How many dining tables do you have?

► How many table cloths do you have ready to use?

► How many sets of napkins do you have per cloth?

[The recommended number of table cloths per table is three, and the number of napkin sets per tablecloth is also three.]

So, start checking your own inventory of linens before you buy, and remember to focus on your own good health and cleanliness at home. After all, the environment in which you sleep, eat, and entertain is a direct influence on your own well being.

As Mama used to say, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness," so do yourself a real White Sale favor, and invest in linens that feel great, last a long time, and can be laundered and turned regularly, to offer you the best home and sleeping environment you can have.

While on the subject, take time to assess the light and sounds in your bedroom, or that possibly disturb your sleep..it does make a difference, and perhaps your own white sale item should be black out shades or black out drapes...to help you during the deep sleep process.

January is a time for fresh starts, and fresh linens. Resolutions to good health should include one of the most basic elements of your daily regime - good sleep.

A good night's rest will bring about amazing wake-time results. Make a goal of eight or nine uninterrupted hours of sleep per night. Prepare your sleeping quarters to be conducive to rest. Don't take the day's worries to bed with you. The old adage, "Let me sleep on it," should be set aside for "I'll be fine if I get nine."

Success with sleep will yield many benefits. You should experience improved health, and greater daily productivity.

Best wishes for a restful new year!

# A Cross in the Sand

By  
Dr. Chuck Randle, Pastor  
Pensacola Beach Community Church

I've heard people say, "I'll be so glad when this year is over! Perhaps next year will be better!"

Those who are unemployed, experienced a serious illness, lost a loved one, suffered through a great disappointment, may feel relieved - feeling that a day on a calendar marks the change to new possibilities. And they may be right. Very often, the attitude we take on makes all the difference. It is called "Self-fulfilling Prophecy." If we think it will be better, the attitude we adopt will help to make it better. In the same way, if we think it will not be better, chances are that everything we do will be designed to fulfill that prophecy. Robert Merton, professor of sociology at Columbia University, coined the phrase "Self-fulfilling Prophecy," and it has been a part of the philosophy of those who work to make a difference in the lives of people, businesses, and corporations. It is often amazing at how well it works. For once we establish an expectation, whether accurate or not, we act in ways that are consistent with that expectation, and in many cases, the end result is surprising in that the expectation comes true.

As we begin the New Year, we would do no better than take seriously the words of Stacey Chillemi,

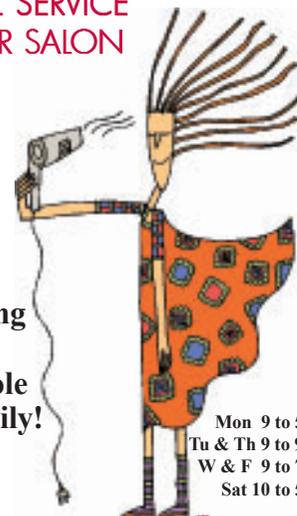
## Martin Tickles Ivories At Music Club Meeting

Professional jazz pianist and piano teacher Al Martin will be the featured artist at the Music Study Club meeting, Wednesday, January 13 at 10 a.m. in the Pleitz Chapel at First Baptist Church, 500 N. Palafox Street in downtown Pensacola. The event is free. The interested public is cordially invited. Light refreshments will be served before the program. For information, visit the website [www.pensacolamusic.org](http://www.pensacolamusic.org).

"Do not be afraid, take one day at a time, be proud of who you are, walk with courage and your head up high, believe in yourself, focus on the positive, for the footsteps imbedded in the ground of your new path will become the solid foundation to your future."

Perhaps, just perhaps, as we move through the New Year, we will be able to proclaim not that the past were the best years of our lives, but that these are the best years. Expect the worst, and the "self-fulfilling prophecy" may be proven in our lives. Expect the best, and the entire year may be filled with wonderful surprises that we could never have imagined!

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# readin' the water

by Saltwater Rick

This is the last issue of 2009 and I would like to thank our readers for the wonderful support you have given the *Island Times* this past year!

The winter weather is here, so there have been some days that have not been the best for fishing, but, if you work your way into the warmer spots around the Sound and Bays you should be able to find a nice Redfish or two for the dinner table.

The Specks are gettin' big and Sheepshead are all over the Bridge Piles. The Mullet are everywhere and it is oyster season with very tasty Northwest Florida oysters being served in our local eating joints.

At least the cold weather is good for something. Remember to put oysters in the dressing if you have a New Year's meal or find a recipe that includes the local catch. Here's to wishing that your New Year is bountiful with friends and fish. Enjoy the fishing pics and do yourself a favor, take a kid fishing.



### FISHING PIC OF THE MONTH ANGELA THE ANGLER

Angela Hartzog hooked her first fish ever during a December fishing excursion with Justin Scher and friends. She was bundled up to fend off the cold night air, so all you can see is her smile. Angela joins the ranks of lady anglers who patrol the shores of Santa Rosa Island in search of the perfect catch.



Todd Lentini hoisted this Bull Red out of the water long enough for a photo after a night of fishing at Fort Pickens.



Justin Scher and his Bull Red



Eric Weatherford landed this beauty while fishing at Fort Pickens with the Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun gang.



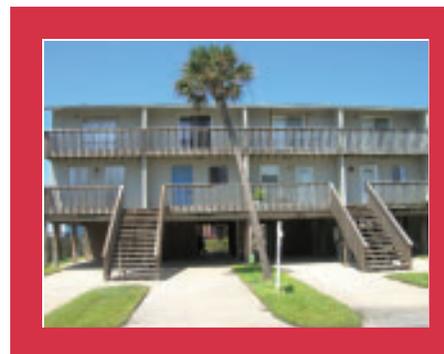
Justin Scher with a Black Tip Shark caught near Fort Pickens. Scher took his Texas Hold 'Em friends out to wet a line last month. Scher seems to possess the right mix of skill and luck.

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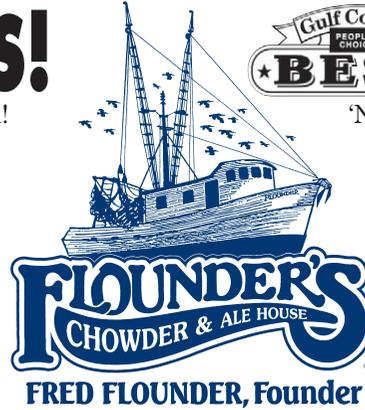
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