ISLAND TIMES

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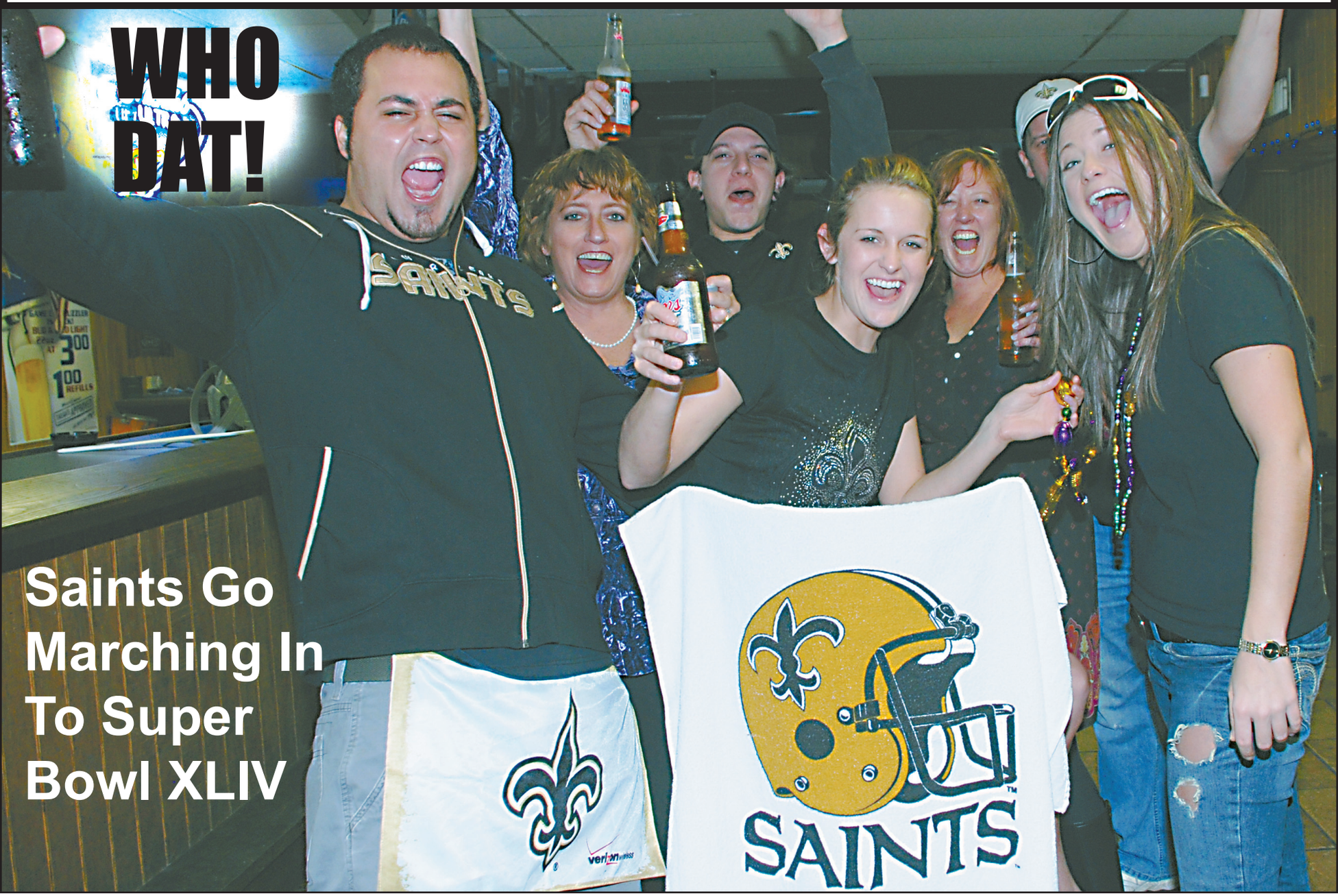


Saints Go Marching In To Super Bowl XLIV

Oh, when the Saints go marching in . . . to the Super Bowl on February 7, these die hard fans will be watching on Pensacola Beach. Cheering for the New Orleans team with the wild enthusiasm that has spread across the entire island, these Who Dats were gathered at The Break. (L to R) Stephen Hanein, Lulu Nicholson, Chuck Dizzle, Dana Baggett, Ranee Thomas, Matt Hartley and Ashley Johnson are super fans ready to chant," Who Dat Gonna Beat Dem Saints?" No one. For more on this story, see Page 2.

Who Dats Take A Wild Ride on the Road To Victory

Victory is in the eyes of the beholder. And there are no better eyes than those of the New Orleans Saints as they gear up to become the world champions. They were able to unravel the Minnesota Vikings in last Sunday's game to win their first ever NFC Championship and a berth in the Super Bowl. After taking the Vikings to the mat by a score of 31-28 they have only one remaining battle to fight. You will know how that turf war ended against the Colts before we publish again. May the Saints have carried the bigger sword and slayed the dragon after forty-three years of trying.

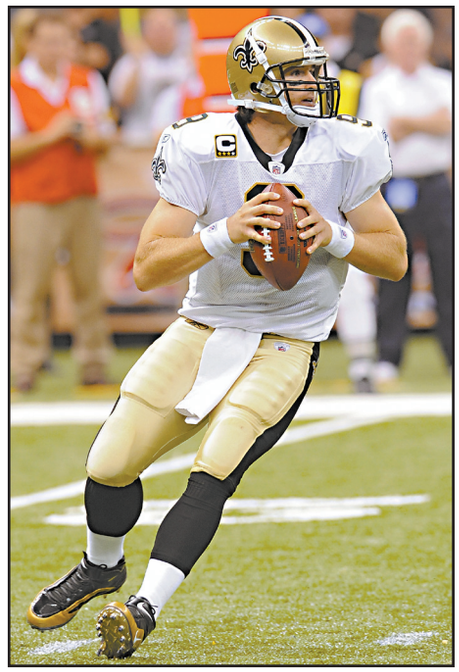
The numbers of Saints fans on the Beach have escalated as the franchise has marched or stumbled its way through one disappointingly dismal season after another. Their greatest achievement, before Sean Payton arrived on the scene four years ago, was in 1987 when Coach Jim Mora guided them into the playoffs for the first time after a twelve and three season. They lost their first playoff game that year. They reached the lowest point of their many low seasons in 1980 when they won only one regular season game. This performance led to the fans showing up at games wearing bags over their heads and watching the Aints fall apart in every game.

During these dark football times, the Beach's fans remained, hopeful and dedicated. They showed up at Bobby D's Saints headquarters every Sunday religiously where the ceremonies began with Wendy Brandon spooning out bowls of gumbo for the hard core viewers. At yet another ceremony Paddy Blake built a fire in a trash can and burned the New Orleans team in effigy. He said he was through, finished, done with the Saints. And yet, he went back in the bar and watched the game.

NEW WHO DAT FANS - Nine-year-old Alyssa, left, and her sister Julianna Navarro are Florida natives who now live just north of New Orleans. They have adopted the Saints as their team and cheered them to victory over the Vikings from their vantage point at Sidelines. The girls were visiting the beach after competing in a swim meet in Gulf Breeze.

All this was happening while the front office, under the direction of Tom Benson, owner, hired a string of high profile coaches. Coaches who had produced winning seasons and Super Bowl champs; Hank Stram, Bum Phillips, Wade Phillips, Mike Ditka, and Jim Haslett. When Jim Mora threw his headphones down in disgust and walked away from the team in 1996 after coaching for ten years, Rick Venturri finished the season.

Then along came the answer to everyone's prayer. Da Coach from the Chicago Bears, Mike Ditka, would come to New Orleans as the savior. His first move was to trade off valuable draft picks so he could get the famous collegiate running back Ricky Williams.



The Saints will go marching to the Super Bowl behind their quarterback Drew Brees.
photo Michael C. Hebert/New Orleans Saints

On a desk at the *Island Times*, rests a personal note, handwritten by Ditka. "Keep the faith," he wrote. "Ricky will take us to the Promised Land."

Wrong.

After two failing seasons, Mike left.

Finally, Jim Haslett, who owns a condo at Portofino, takes Center Stage. Or did it take him? He fizzled and the Saints left a trail of broken hearts as they watched the games at the new Bobby D's and later the Sabine Sandbar. But the fans never gave up even if they had to participate with half hearts.

And now after all the weathered old superstar coaches have gone, along comes a handsome young face to lead the team - a position he had never had before. If you hear Orleanians are taking down the sculpture of Andrew Jackson in Jackson Square, you can be sure the new hero of New Orleans, Sean Payton, will replace him. Payton has assembled and coached a brilliant team of players, who have all been adopted by Orleanians. No more bags over their heads. These guys are their own beloved sons. They have restored the dignity of the hurricane battered city, one of the most exotic cities in the world. But it never had a good football team. Until now.

Coach Payton and quarterback Drew Brees, vowed to return some of the love the fans are displaying. All the other players have fallen in line and an emotional bunch of talented players run out of the tunnel through a giant helmet bearing the Fleur de Lis on Sunday.

New Orleans artist Mousie and her palm frond Saints umbrella.

Beach locals have many ties with the Saints. Tom Benson used to come to the Island by boat and walk over to drink beer with an awestruck crowd at Bobby D's.

Benson later became close to Lana and Bobby and sent them game tickets in the Superdome, invited them to exclusive parties. Recently, locals grew just as excited when they spotted Deuce McAllister dropping off his clothes at the Beach Laundromat.

The year the Saints played in Europe, Bobby D's hosted a "Saints in London" festival. The Umbrella Decorating Contest was won by Orleanian artist, Mousie, who produced a glittering gold and black fairy dust palm branch creation. Mousie, now lives in Gulf Breeze, but she remains a hard core Saints fan.

Yes, Saints fans are everywhere on the Beach, ranging from those who are native Pensacolians to the many New Orleans transplants who are now Beach dwellers. There are almost as many fans as there are Fleur de Lis, decorating the Island on flags, fence posts, golf carts, beads, shirts, caps, shoes, socks, headbands and maybe even underwear.

No matter what happens next, all these fans can be proud that they never gave up the Saints. Sean Payton's real Saints have won the division twice, played in the NFC championship twice, and now are headed for the Super Bowl. It can't get much better. March to victory, Saints. For your town and ours.

GAME TIME GUESS

Jim Amberson, owner of Sidelines Sports Bar and Restaurant predicts that the Colts and Peyton Manning will corral the New Orleans Saints on Super Bowl Sunday. All televisions will be tuned in and ready to go on February 7 at 5:30 p.m. for Super Bowl XLIV.
Island Times Pigskin Prognosticator and attorney Barry McCleary objects to that prediction. He says Saints will be world champions.

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Barefoot on the Beach

By Jane Waters Cooper

My husband, Frank, has a new hobby. It evolves around corn meal and is most uncharacteristic of him. After being married to me for almost fifteen years and leading a life without cornbread, he is taking this problem into his own hands. His new hobby is baking cornbread, including all kinds of exotic recipes. I know that cornbread is the soul food of the South, excluding New Orleans where French bread reigns, so I am taking my place among the castaways who do not consider cornbread the beginning and end of all meals.

As the primary castaway, I am now sticking to the facts. Right, you say.

"You know I really love cornbread," Frank said to me about a week ago. "I think I will try and make some."

Thanks to his gentle spirit, he did not say, "You desperate witch of a housewife, why didn't you ever learn to make cornbread?"

First, there was the preparation. He went to WalMart where he bought a preseasoned cast iron skillet. Without this piece of equipment, you can hang up cornbread baking.

Then, you get a mix. Frank bought several, Jiffy and Martha White, among others. Frank said his mother made cornbread with buttermilk, so he choose that as his liquid over water or plain milk.

Once in the kitchen, he turned on the oven, a trick he learned from heating up frozen DiGoroino pizza. Then, the procedure begins. Mix, egg, buttermilk. Stir. Put in the WalMart preseasoned pan which has by now preheated in the oven (Very important). Now, back at 400 degrees for twenty to twenty-five minutes. It smells good while baking, but takes like the cornmeal never got cooked to me.

I raised my children in New Orleans and I can never remember one of them saying, "Why don't we ever have cornbread, Mom?"

I would have answered because it crumbles up in your mouth like raw corn meal.

Maybe that's why Frank's father dropped the cold, leftover cornbread in a glass of buttermilk and proceeded to eat it with a spoon. As if it were a banana split.

Fortunately, I guess, there are ways and means of making the cornbread so it is high, fluffy and melts in your mouth. Most Southerners think those special creative recipes were brought down here by Northerners in an effort to sabotage the real thing.

To Frank's credit he is expanding his cooking horizons to use some of the fancy recipes. Like, putting a can of whole kernel corn in the mix.

"Try this one," he tempts.

He brings a piece of the bread, cut like a minute piece of pie on a plate and sets it before me on the coffee table. Never mind that I have a glass of wine and some graham crackers already in front of me as I turn on the TV. Cornbread with real corn. Wow! I admit it tasted much better than the usual stuff and told Frank thanks while I watched him devour a king sized piece and wash it down with Cabernet.

I returned to my crackers and wine. I'm sure you have already guessed which combo gets my vote.

It's very devastating that cornbread is one of the few areas where Frank and I are out of sync. I know you must be feeling sorry for Frank. It really isn't necessary. He makes some kind of cornbread every day and he eats it with soup, gumbo and yogurt. He's loving every minute of his new gourmet hobby. He tells me of his thoughts of how he may next use bacon grease in the mix. Puhleez!

Or maybe even go as far as to include jalapenos. Maybe, some day he will produce a pan of the stuff and I will like it.

In the meantime, I don't have to worry. I don't have to worry, because no matter what it contains, it will be eaten by a man who has been starving for cornbread for fifteen years.

Mini Revelers Celebrate Mardi Gras In A Big Way

Mardi Gras is not just for grown-ups, as was evidenced at the Krewe of Kids Sign Up meeting Friday, January 22 at the Beach Church Fellowship Hall. The krewe which is open to fifth grade students and younger is now in its eighteenth season.

Krewe Captain Jackie Henderson gathered the Kids around to learn their secret cheer, handshake and theme. The Kids then munched happily on cookies while they continued to plan for their Royal Doughnut Breakfast which will be hosted on Saturday, January 30 at 9 a.m. at the Beach Church Fellowship Hall.

The Royal Doughnut Breakfast is open to krewe members only. The kids will play games and dine on purple, green and gold decorated doughnuts. Soft drinks are served to accompany the sweet, sticky treats.

"We really go all out for this event," said Henderson. "The kids get to eat sweets and drink pop for breakfast; and then we crown our royal court."

The Krewe of Kids have a King and Queen chosen randomly from the fifth grade members. A prince and princess are crowned to round out the Royal Court. The King and Queen lead the entire krewe during the final event which is the Krewe of Kids parade.

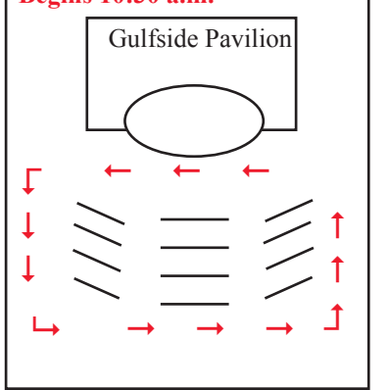
The parade will take place at the Gulfside Pavilion at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, February 6. The Krewe of Kids will lead the walking procession and invite other kids to join them.

"We encourage everyone to come out and bring their decorated strollers and wagons," said Henderson. "It's the same morning as the Double Bridge Run, so there will be lots of cars and people in the core area."

The dues to join the krewe are $5 and the membership rolls close prior to the Doughnut Breakfast.

For information about the Krewe of Kids, please call Jackie Henderson at 932-8713.

Krewe of Kids Parade Route
Saturday, Feb. 6
Line Up 10 a.m.
Begins 10:30 a.m.



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PEOPLE

TIME FLIES

Pedro Moraes commented that time really flies. His daughters, who are Beach School grads, are growing like weeds. In amazement Dad says that Michelle is a licensed driver and will be a senior at Gulf Breeze High School. He adds that Stephanie is doing great in Middle School and has sprung up to five feet five inches tall.

BON VOYAGE DOC

Dr. and Mrs. Mark Seigh recently hosted a birthday bash at their Portofino condo for Maggie VonAchen. Guests included Maggie's husband Don, Dennis Slepsky, Liz Saxton and Marilyn Hoggett. The Seighs and their sons Patrick and Peter will be leaving the Island this Spring, since he has been selected for a four year residency in radiology at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland. They will be missed particularly by local Hashers.

SWEETHEARTS

Congrats to Beach Realtor Linda Murphy and her husband Robert who are celebrating their fifteenth wedding anniversary on January 28. They live in Gulf Breeze with daughter Madison.

CAPTAIN JEFFREY

Never far from the water, Chase-N-Fins Captain Jeffrey Waters has been working for a beach service in Fort Walton until his dolphin sightseeing cruise boat needs him again at the helm. Mom JJ, who is the sales manager at local radio station CAT Country, says he is looking forward to taking the eco-tourists back out to see the wild dolphins in the Sound.

SELF PROCLAIMED CHEF

Bold and brash Boo Boutte wrote a note to the Krewe of Junkanoo Head Chili Bean Leigh Weaver claiming the title as the best chili chef. He said, "It is a good thing I am out of the country working in Nigeria because no one makes chili as good as mine. I would have won the Chili Cook Off hands down."

JW'S OKAY

Longtime Beach business owner Jack White was sidelined by surgery, but came through with flying colors. He is up and around, but not back to work yet. DJ's Cafe will be closed for a couple of months while he recuperates.

BEAD BONANZA

The Krewe of Kids are ready to parade at the Casino Beach on February 6 at 10:30 a.m. with two big batches of Mardi Gras beads donated by Krewe of Wrecks members Sally and Alex Goldberger, and Jim and Lila Cox. The Kids are famous for recycling the glittering strands.

MISSING LIL

For Beach resident Eleanor Todd, Mardi Gras brings back fond memories of her former neighbor, the late Lil Kamphuis. Todd recalled Lil's diverse background - a Wrecks queen, parliamentarian and military officer - all her adventurous stories made her such a treat hang out with.

RETURNING KNIGHT

Bill Greene thought he could trade the white sands of Pensacola Beach for the desert of Arizona. Nope. He is back home where he belongs seated at the Trivia Roundtable with goblet in hand.

KATTNER ON LEAVE

Andy Kattner, who was home on leave from Iraq, stopped in at the Krewe of Wrecks meeting at Paddy O'Leary's. Andy is a 2002 graduate of Gulf Breeze High School and the son of Dr. Max and Patty Kattner. He has since returned to his duty station at Outpost Apache.

SOFT SANDS

Rick Uzdevenes rode in like a knight upon a white horse to rescue two very lucky gals from Virginia. Their Ford Mustang stuck in the soft white sand. "I snatched that pony out with my white whale in no time flat," said Rick from the driver's seat of his oversized white van. Then he drove off.

BIRTHDAY GIRL

Carrie Monaghan left her friends on Pensacola Beach to visit her 81-year-old dad in North Carolina. She was gone eight weeks, then hurried home so she could celebrate her birthday on January 20. That served as a warm-up for the Krewe of Nauga Champagne Breakfast. Both were blowout fun.

Trivia

Everybody on the Beach knows what the Mardi Gras colors purple, green and gold stand for except one person. We received a batch of correct answers and one wrong answer. Guess who thought gold stood for hope? None other than the Queen of Wrong Answers. Joanne Brooks got the other two colors correct, so she was only one third wrong. Not bad.

The first to email the correct answer was native-Orleanian-turned-beach-gal Chrissy Cook. Purple stands for justice; green for faith and gold stands for power. Chrissy gets the coveted shirt.

Others sending in the correct answer included runner-up Jayne Drees, Melanie Waite and Chuck Steele from Mexico Beach. Chuck added a bit of his own humor. A New Orleans resident who was originally from a Northern city mused about how you could tell if you were truly in tune with the spirit of Mardi Gras. You actually think purple, green and gold look good together.

Bill Greene, who has been sending his answers from Arizona, delivered a correct answer from right here on the Beach. Back to the Roundtable for the second Knight.

Well, the Trivia Master loves Mardi Gras and yes, he thinks purple, green and gold are a designer's dream of an exotic color combination.

The Trivia Master is having a hard time letting go of Mardi Gras questions. Here's an easy question about the Beach celebration. What was the name of the first ever Beach Bum of the Year who rode in the first ever Mardi Gras parade? She was wearing a little black dress and pearls.

The Queen of Wrong Answers, Joanne Brooks, concentrated on fashionable football ensembles last week. She was correct, however, when she announced - win or lose, you still want to look good!

Rules are the same. Send your answer to islandtimes@bellsouth.net with "trivia" in the subject line and include your name, phone number. Hurry! Deadline to answer is Tuesday, February 2.

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BUD SMITH
Friday, Jan 30

SUPER BOWL WEEKEND
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▸SUNDAY • Feb 7 - Game Time
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Reservations - 850-932-2319

Feb 16 • Fat Tuesday
Shoe Box Float Contest 8 p.m.
Come early for the best seat!

We are not monkeying around.....it's time for

Krewe of Bananimals Mardi Gras Ball

Snowbirds Welcome! Everyone is Invited!

Saturday, Jan 30 • 8 p.m. to Midnight
Bay Beach Inn • Gulf Breeze
Tickets $40

Black Tie
bring your own beverages & set ups
ice provided

HURRY

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916-0599

Tickets available at the door

Music by
Christi Campbell Band

Photos by
Don Duke Photography

After Sundown

Crabs - We Got 'Em

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

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

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

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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

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. Texas Hold 'Em 4444Fun & BARE Nite on Monday & T-Shirt Nite on Thursday.

Across from the Boardwalk on Pensacola Beach. Open 10 am until 3am. 850-932-2211. www.sandshaker.com

Native Cafe

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

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

peas, porridge & a dry martini

by Kathi Lewis

I managed to survive the Mystic Krewe of Nereids Moon Pie Party this year without any major shoe damage. Maybe I didn't dance as much or maybe I just danced a lot without any shoes at all. I know the "golden slippers" I wore last year were barely hanging on by a strap by the time I returned to Krewe Den. In fact, I'm pretty sure the entire sole of one slipper stayed in the car after I was gone.

I threw the shoes in the trash as soon as they fell off my feet, but 2009 Queen Elaine Mitchell retrieved them for the float. The real story is that the shoes were thrown away more than once, but Queen Elaine had spoken and my golden slippers rode on the Nereid float on a bed of black velvet as "the first casualty of the Moon Pie Party 2009."

Unfortunately it was me, not my shoes, who ended up as "the first casualty of the Nereid Float 2009." For that incident, I was given a gold helmet. This is a German motorcycle helmet and very shiny and beautiful. I was instructed to wear it this Mardi Gras. However, after receiving quite a number of moon pies to the head region at our last shindig, the owner has requested the helmet back. Oh I don't blame her; it's just her Mardi Gras survival skills kicking in.

Now you know why we Nereids always wear our top hats to that Party!

I really love being a full finned member of the wonderful Mystic Krewe of Nereids and y'all know we're a lot of fun. Well, maybe just a little too much fun occasionally, but we always have great intentions. We promised our friends, the Krewe of Junkanoo, that we would enter the Chili Cook-Off. We had the chili made, well, actually it was Cathy "SeaQueen" Long who made the chili. Her only mistake was showing off the chili Friday night at Krewe Den after the Moon Pie Party. She wanted some taste testers.

Well, she got 'em. And apparently that chili was pretty tasty because the taste testers ate the entire batch of chili! Yes, they did. But thanks SeaQueen, I'm sure it would have been tough to beat us in the competition.

So we apologize to our friends, the Junkanoos and hope our lack of participation is forgiven now that you know "the rest of the story." Maybe we can participate in one of your fundraisers that will not require us to bring the food. We have a definite lack of self discipline when it comes to food in the midnight hour.

And since I was unable to remove myself from the couch and thus did not even attend the Chili Cook Off, this week's recipe will not be the winner of the Chili Cook Off. This one comes from Morrie Drees and it's actually a story-recipe. He told me he got this recipe from watching the late Arthur Skaggs who would wander off to the market or fishing pier when he got hungry at the Elk's Lodge. It's definitely a keeper and good at any hour of the day or night. Morrie actually cooked the Fish Chowder and brought some to my husband Bill and me, so I can tell you it was good to the last drop. So let's cook!

Fish Chowder

Morrie told me he goes to the marina when the charter fishing boats come in. He gets some of the backbones that they would have thrown away. When the fishermen filet a 20 pound fish, they leave a lot of meat on the backbone. He takes it home and cuts it into chunks, then covers the fish with water and boils it until done. He picks the meat off the bones and reserves the meat. Then he dices into small pieces some potatoes and boils them in the fish broth until tender. He sautés celery and onions in butter and adds to broth. Next he adds the crumbled fish. He adds an equal amount of half and half and simmers. Salt and pepper to taste. (I know it serves at least four.)

Enjoy, share, put on your party hats and fairy dust and join the Krewe of Wrecks! Next week I'll tell you how kitchen gadgets come in handy when decorating a float.

See ya in the kitchen….

The moonpies flew through the air from the expert hands of longtime Nereids Marilyn LeNormand, left, and Paulette Provost. The Krewe of Nereids filled the Sandshaker's dance floor January 15 with scores of fans of the gooey cookie confection. After the moonpies were all gone, Bonnie McDonald of Boogie, Inc. played dance music and emceed the door prize drawings.

Krewe of Warriors Ball

FRI• FEB 5• 7:30 PM
HADJI SHRINE, 9 Mile Rd
Music, Cash Bar
Costume, Formal, Casual

Ticket $30 - 994-6723
At the door $35

kreweofwarriors.com

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Mon - Sat 8 am - 7 pm
Sunday 8 am - 6 pm

MARDI GRAS ON THE ISLAND 2010

	Event	Admission Information
Jan 30	Nereids Mystical Ball, Elk's Lodge, 8 PM	$25 AT THE DOOR - OPEN TO PUBLIC, FORMAL
Jan 30	Bananimals Ball, Bay Beach Inn, 8 PM	$40 AT THE DOOR - OPEN TO PUBLIC, BYOB
Jan 31	Beach Babe Contest & Cajun Boil, Shaker, 3 PM	FREE - OPEN TO PUBLIC
Feb 1	Wrecks Meeting, Elk's Lodge, 6 PM	$30 MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE
Feb 6	Krewe of Kids Parade, 10:30 am, Casino Beach	FREE - OPEN TO PUBLIC
Feb 6	Wrecks Grand Costume Ball, Elk's Lodge, 8 PM	$30 AT THE DOOR -OPEN TO PUBLIC, COSTUME
Feb 8	Queen's Dinner, Flounder's, 7 PM	$30 ADVANCE TICKET FROM KREWE OF WRECKS
Feb 8	King's Dinner, Elk's Lodge, 7 PM	$30 ADVANCE TICKET FROM KREWE OF WRECKS
Feb 13	Wrecks Champagne Breakfast, Crab's, 10 AM	$30 - ADVANCE TICKET PURCHASE ONLY
Feb 14	Krewe of Wrecks Parade, 2 PM	FREE - OPEN TO PUBLIC
Feb 15	Red Beans & Rice Luncheon, Casino Beach, 11AM	FREE - OPEN TO PUBLIC
Feb 16	Krewe of Coma, Sandshaker, 7 PM	FREE- OPEN TO PUBLIC
Feb 16	Shoe Box Float Competition, Paradise, 8 PM	FREE - OPEN TO PUBLIC

More MARDI GRAS Events

Feb 5	Krewe of Warriors Ball, 7:30, Hadji Shrine	$35 AT THE DOOR
Feb 12	Krewe of LaFitte parade, 8 PM, Pensacola	FREE - OPEN TO PUBLIC

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Lee Reports The Island Is In Good Financial Hands with the SRIA

Buck Lee, Santa Rosa Island Authority Executive Director, gave his State of the Island report to the members of the Board at their January 13 meeting.

"Last year was a good year financially for the SRIA," Lee said. "Our revenues were up about $400,000 and thanks to our Directors, expenses were down about $1 million from budget."

Lee announced the opening of the Grand Marlin Marina and Restaurant this spring and the opening of the Holiday Inn Indigo this summer.

He noted the many steps the SRIA had taken to improve the quality of Pensacola Beach including the dredging of the entrance to Little Sabine Bay, the popular Bands on the Beach on Tuesdays, hiring a Master Land Planner, plantings, providing extra security and addressing beach problems as they occur.

"As you can see there are so many great things happening on Pensacola Beach and we are doing our best to stay on top of everything and keep you informed. We continue to offer and promote a family atmosphere as we move forward with a very productive and exciting New Year on beautiful Pensacola Beach," Lee said.

This year, each of the five directors of the SRIA departments submitted a detailed State of the Island report from their areas. The complete reports may be viewed at www.myislandtimes.com.

During its business session, the Authority accepted from staff and approved the large gathering/wedding event application and guidelines. This document, at a charge of $25, must be filled out by individuals and rental property owners who are planning a wedding party of 35 or more guests. The document is designed to stop the excessive noise, parking problems and other nuisances that the large parties in residential neighborhoods have created.

Included in the guidelines are the times the parties must stop loud music. It is 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights; and 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. They must also give information on parking arrangement for party guests.

Jim Leslie who lives across the street from one of the houses which rents to people who are hosting large parties said, "I appreciate all your work and I can see you have been trying to work toward something that is fair. Those who want wedding receptions to go on unchecked don't live across from these large rental homes."

The measure passed unanimously. The new ruling does not apply to residences where people live permanently. They may continue to host parties in their homes without restrictions.

Approval to renew the economic incentive to commercial leaseholders was a granted by a 4 to 1 vote with Board member Vernon Prather opposed.

It will be business as usual for purveyors of hot dogs on the Beach. Tiffany's received a 37 year lease extension since the core area redevelopment plan apparently will not affect the landmark business. Their minimum lease fee will increase from $1921 to $5784 per year. And, Beach Buns and Dawgs, the mobile concession at Ft. Pickens gate park and Park East, received approval for operating hours for the upcoming season. Hal Harris and his wife and business partner, Paula Squazzo, were told there would be no port-o-lets, no torches, but five picnic tables and an ice machine will be allowed. They did, however, get some good news when the SRIA reduced their after-the-fact approval penalty from $500 to $1.

Baskerville-Donovan Engineer Michael Langston said in his report that Little Sabine Bay Restoration is on schedule.

"Pipe installation has been completed in Villa Sabine and the pump station has been stabilized with lime rock."

Langston said the dredging of Little Sabine Channel is complete.

Also, the island should be able to use the reclaimed water system by July 2010.

"This water will be treated and totally safe for irrigation," he said.

The next meeting will be the Committees at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 27 at the Island Authority office. The meeting is open to the public.

To view Island Beautification conceptual drawings Log on to MyIslandTimes.com

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Bytes and Bits

By Joe Stukey
Your Computer Pal

Q: "How much memory does my computer need?"

A: The memory that you are asking about is called RAM (random access memory). That memory is used by the computer to run programs. Larger amounts of memory allow the programs to run more quickly. The amount of memory needed depends on which operating system you use.

For Windows XP, a computer needs a minimum of 512mb of memory. Many of the older computers only had half that much memory. A computer that has 1024 megabytes (1 gigabyte) of memory can run Windows XP programs very well.

For Windows Vista and Windows 7 computers, the memory requirements are much higher. Some of the early Vista computers had only 1 gigabyte of memory, which caused their performance to be very slow. Most computers being sold today have 3 to 4 gigabytes of memory, with some having 6 gigabytes or more.

To check the amount of memory in your computer, locate the "Control Panel", then look for the menu item that refers to your system configuration (such as "System" or something similar. Your memory may be shown in megabytes or gigabytes. It is fairly simple to put more memory in your computer. Purchase memory that is designed for your computer model. Open the computer and locate your existing memory (in a slot about 5 inches long). Insert the new memory chip in an empty slot and turn the computer on. New memory is automatically recognized and added to your computer's memory bank.

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

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Wrecks Are Dancing on the Party Trail

If you are planning to attend the final parties of the Krewe of Wrecks, it's time to stop hesitating and get your tickets to the Grand Costume Ball, Queen's Dinner, King's Supper and Champagne Breakfast.

"We have a limited number of tickets to sell for the Queen's Dinner and the Champagne Breakfast," said Melanie Waite, Treas-Wreck. "We will have them at the next meeting on February 1, at 6 p.m. at the Elk's Lodge."

Keepsake items also on sale will be the Krewe of Wrecks Thirtieth Anniversary t-shirts and Wrecks caps.

The Wrecks are seeking historic krewe photos and t-shirts to display at the Grand Costume Ball which is a tribute to being ShipWrecked for thirty years on the Island.

"Bring any vintage Wrecks t-shirts to the next meeting," said Running Around Wreck Jeff Goudey. "We want to borrow them to display at the Ball. They will be returned unharmed."

The Ball is set for Saturday, February 6, beginning at 8 p.m. at the Elk's Lodge. Tickets are $30 and include two free drinks. There will be a buffet of hors d'oevres. Be ready to hit the dance floor in your formalwear or best shipwrecked costume. Tunes will be provided by Chuck Connell and his band EZ Money. The hotly contested Costume Competition will offer prizes for first, second and third. The party is open to the public and tickets are available at the door.

Don't miss the final meeting of the Wrecks for this Mardi Gras season, February 1. The membership will close at the end of this meeting, so if you have not joined bring your thirty bucks and be a Wreck.

Reigning Queen Paulette Provost has issued her final decree, "Wear your tiaras to the final meeting, darlings."

Brewskis Look For Beach Babe

Beach babes and beauty queens will take the stage on Sunday, January 31 to vie for a place high atop the Krewe of Brewe's Mardi Gras float. The annual Beach Babe Contest hosted by the Krewe of Brewe at the Sandshaker Lounge kicks off at 3 p.m. There is no entry fee and the contest is open to everyone.

"We will choose the most beautiful lady who has a lot of Mardi Gras spirit," said Larry Gunter, krewe member.

Krewe members will serve as judges and award prizes to the top three entrants.

"After the contest, let's boogie," said Gunter. "We have the now famous Lectric Mullet providing live music. They play everyone's favorites."

The krewe crowned Beverly Sarasua as their 2010 queen at the Black Tie Ball, January 23.

Queen Beverly said, "I don't know if anyone can rule over this krewe, so I am just going to hold on tight and enjoy the ride."

For more information about the Beach Babe Contest, contact Gunter at ecmginc@aol.com.

Oh my dears, you have so many parties and so much to learn. Let's start at the top.

A steady diet of King Cake and red wine will not make you fat, if you dance every dance.

Champagne should be sipped. Well known fact, the bubbles accumulate in your body and make you light enough to float off. Take that as a warning.

Unless you are invited to wear a tiara to a soiree by the reigning queen, don't. The only tiara topped coif should be the hosting krewe's queen.

There are three Mardi Gras balls this weekend. The Mystic Krewe of Nereids at the Elk's Lodge; the zany Bananimals at the Bay Beach Inn; and the over the top Order of Zeus at the Fairgrounds. It is impossible to attend all three, so pick one and dress the part.

The Mystic Krewe of Nereids event is a Masquerade Ball. Formal with the most feathered and avant garde masks you can find. Their King is going to dance one dance with each lady who graces his Ball. Line up, curtsy and cut a royal rug. Remember formal is floor length gowns and tuxedos.

And, for Mardi Gras, more is more. So, be more beautiful and more flamboyant than you were last year. Real or rhinestones? Both!

A fashionista disaster is trying to put a glam shipwrecked costume together for the Wrecks Ball on February 6. Well, if Mrs. Howell could look so top shelf on Gilligan's Island, you can make a statement on your island. Sip a few rum drinks to get inspired.

The nasty job of float construction should be left for those who do not have manicures with one exception - Shoe Box Floats. You must have yours ready by Fat Tuesday. Start now. Renee Mack says the competition at Paradise will be fierce. Here's the basics. Find a shoe box. Is there one in the back of your closet? Or buy some new shoes. You deserve it, cher. Paint. Glue. Decorate and transform that box into regal rectangle.

If you catch sticky beads you can be sure they came from the Krewe of Brewe (beer drenched) or the Krewe of Kids (sugar coated). The Kids will be parading for the 18th year on Feb. 6 at 10:30 at the Pavilion. Second best parade on the beach - short and oh, so sweet.

The days of Mardi Gras on the Island are like a garbage omelet - you don't know what you will get, but when it arrives you love it and want some more. Bon chance.

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Steering Committee Mulls Parking Garage Issue

Does Pensacola Beach really need a parking garage? If the answer is yes, where would be the best location? Land planners and the local steering committee spent a major part of their three hour meeting on January 12 discussing and answering these two questions which are a part of the conceptual drawings submitted by EDSA, the master land planning firm.

The meeting covered a lot of ground, but was still not sufficient to reach any conclusions, so the Santa Rosa Island Authority has scheduled a meeting with representatives from ESDA at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 2.

In his memo to the SRIA, Paul Weinberg of EDSA, said they were offering three options which were presented as conceptual drawings. The goal was to increase mobility of cars and people in the core area. Each of these options offered a parking garage which would increase parking by 300 to 350 places.

Steering committee responses to the options came quickly. Committee member J.J. Waters asked if there was a way to solve the parking problem without a garage.

Robert Rinke, committee member, answered her question by saying, "We can solve the parking problem with ferries, trolleys and a parking garage for the long term. Start with a three level garage and ready it for additional decks in the future."

Julian MacQueen asked the planners to produce numbers, supporting their plans.

"The experts need to define future growth," he said. "Tie these suggestions together with some numbers. It needs to be quantified. Give us some data to back up their recommendations."

Jeff Elbert, Beach Chamber president, pointed out that the plans as presented would alienate some businesses.

"Those who have invested in the Beach for decades could be harmed by these changes," he said. "This is something we need to address."

Mike Foley said he liked the concept of the landscaped roof area of the parking garage put on the property which is now where the SRIA office is located.

"The spot for a parking garage with a green top and walkover to the beach is the best. It is park-like and better than the other concepts."

Pensacola attorney John Trawick offered his thoughts.

"A lot of people won't even consider a garage. It is very political and the Commission will have to sell it to their constituents. I think I am hearing that a parking garage may be a foregone conclusion."

Chairman Fred Gant said he would ask EDSA to prepare a conceptual drawing of the garage at the SRIA location.

The meeting moved along to a discussion of other means of transportation other than individual automobiles.

Weinberg, participating via telephone, said the water transportation should be viewed as an experience. He said after studying the ferry system the boat would require a subsidy to cover operating costs and to keep tickets affordable.

Fred Gant asked Weinberg how the phrase "beach to bay" assisted in the renderings of the conceptual plans.

"The intention is to build off of your two assets," Weinberg replied. "It is the intention for all the options in the core and streetscapes. Enhancing the safety and mobility to go from beach to bay, linking that for pedestrians, both experiences."

Gant pursued the opportunity to speak to Weinberg and asked him what the basis for the projections for growth were.

"The only numbers we have say that the growth is capped by what you have left to develop on the island," Weinberg said.

MacQueen then brought up the subject of a parking garage again and asked if there was hard data to support the need for a parking garage.

Weinberg replied, "The reason is that you would net a loss in parking because of what we offered in the concepts in landscaping and improvements. So you need a garage. We do not have the numbers. There was a need and a desire provided as input from the public."

Weinberg added that the planners would take the location at the SRIA site and other items from the discussion and go from there.

Committee member Jim Cox asked what was going to happen to Tiffany's and the Public Safety Building. In the conceptual drawings, apparently Tiffany's would remain at its location, but the Public Safety building would go. Cox also asked about the Visitor's Information Center and the possibility that it might be better situated near the toll facility.

MacQueen asked about overpasses and underpasses for pedestrians. He said that the plans need to avoid putting things up in the air which impede the view.

"Planning the underpass is better," said Weinberg. "We do not have the data on the water table. We might have to raise the road. People do not like to use underpasses."

Weinberg also said that the notion of an overpass would go away if the SRIA site is used for a parking garage.

The next step is to bring Paul Kissinger and Paul Weinberg from EDSA and their transportation planner to work with the Steering Committee, Tuesday, Feb. 2 at 10 a.m.

Buck Lee, SRIA executive director, asked the Authority Board at their January 13 meeting to authorize an additional payment of $18,500 to cover the cost of bringing the planners to the Beach. EDSA estimated that the personnel cost would be $8,500 and the additional conceptual drawing of a parking garage at the SRIA site would be $10,000.

The Board approved the additional costs until they heard the following statement from Dr. Lila Cox who addressed them during their meeting:

Dr. Cox, a Pensacola Beach resident, told the board that her education and professional experience is in public policy and planning. She said that she was very pleased that the Board was undertaking a planning process and that she had attended each planning meeting.

She said, "I am very concerned about the way this is going. You have a planning firm who gathered public input, accepted 250 surveys from PBA, met with a steering committee as well as your Board - during which many made the comment that they did not want a parking garage. The planners returned with three conceptual drawings all of which contained one, if not two, parking garages. The process is running amok. They weren't listening."

Cox continued, "And now, they are being asked to prepare an additional drawing that reflects a consensus of the steering committee members and they are requesting additional money for that. You should be very concerned. Please remember that we are the clients, the customers."

Cox concluded by telling the Board that the Steering Committee is comprised of good people and is functioning well.

Chairman Tammy Bohannon commented about the planning firm.

She said, "EDSA is listening, but not to the right people. I understand that Mr. Lee is very frustrated with the process."

Board member Thomas Campanella added, "They gave us their vision. I would have thought they would have given us at least one plan without a parking garage."

The board rescinded their previous vote and voted unanimously to authorize $8,500 for EDSA team members to come to the February 2 Steering Committee meeting.

The meeting is open to the public although there is no public input time allowed at this meeting.

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Tourist Development Council Reviews Funding Procedures

The Tourist Development Council put their heads together to determine the best way to allocate the funds they control. They decided at their January 12 meeting one of the best changes they could make would be to request that the three Chambers of Commerce - Pensacola, Perdido Key and Pensacola Beach meet together once per month to discuss a collaborative effort to promote tourism.

Stephan Hall, Escambia County Budget Office said, "Basically, the TDC money is to put heads in beds. In our office we like to see documentation of tourism related activities that equate to overnight stays."

Jeff Elbert, president of the Pensacola Beach Chamber said, "We affirm that bringing all the Chambers and agencies to one table is a good idea. We have needs that are not being met and would like to have the opportunity for more input."

Evon Emerson, Pensacola Chamber chairman, said she would call the first meeting of the three Chambers.

TDC Chairman Denis McKinnon asked each member of the Board to explain why they were there at the meetings. Grover Robinson, whose County Commission district includes Pensacola Beach said, "I was hoping to learn from other council members since some are tourism and hotel officials."

He continued, "We need to focus on the entire area that is Escambia County and not compete with ourselves. How can we work better with each other?"

Nan Harper, Pensacola Beach Realtor, who is a Council member, said she had the same feeling as Commissioner Robinson.

"I would like to see an expanded season for the area and hear new ideas about how to bring overnight guests," Harper explained.

Dr. P.C. Wu, council members said, "I was surprised about how much there is to know about the bed tax and how much money goes to the Civic Center. It leaves the rest of you to fight for a few crumbs."

Commissioner Grover Robinson noted that the Civic Center has come down from $1.6 million to $1.3 million and has a goal of $1 million.

The date, time and place of the next TDC meeting will be announced. All meetings are open to the public.

Boat Club Motors Into Social Season

Ahoy, all salties, the Pensacola Beach Boat Club is ready to party and the gangway is open. The Club will kick off its social season with a cocktail party at the Pensacola Beach Elk's Lodge, Sunday, February 21 from 2 to 4 p.m. There will be a cash bar.

"We would like to see a big turnout for our Cocktail Party. Everyone is invited. We want past, present and future members to join us. No reservations, just come," said Shirley Hart, chairman.

The best bet for March will be to join the Boat Club on their gambling adventure to Biloxi. The group will travel by bus, Saturday, March 13 for a day at the casinos.

"We are a fun, welcoming group," said Hart. "The seats are limited on this trip, so we are signing up party people right now."

Information is available at the Elk's Lodge or by calling Hart at 850-494-0208.

Cold Turtles Rescued By Volunteers

The frigid air in January caused the water temps to dip far enough to stun the sea turtle population in Northwest Florida. According to Melanie Waite, a turtle volunteer, approximately 1800 turtles had to be taken to warmer water during the lingering cold snap. Gulf World in Panama City and the Gulfarium in Fort Walton Beach provided refuge for cold battered turtles.

Some of animals have been returned to the Gulf of Mexico and some did not survive the episode. Inshore rivers and bays also became too cold for the turtles to survive.

Residents who find stranded sea turtles can alert Gulf Islands National Seashore 850-934-2600.

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Beach Chamber Goes Green

The Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors meeting January 19 was all about the green. The first meeting of the 2010 was dominated by financial reports, budgets, money allocations and finally an update on the Go Irish on the Island promotion.

Jane Birdwell, owner of BPM, the Chamber's ad agency, kicked off the meeting with a report on the Season Your Holidays advertising successes followed by a breakdown of the publicity and marketing set for Chamber's March 12 -17 Go Irish on the Island. The agency created the website www.PensacolaBeachHolidays.com as one tool for ongoing promotion. National magazine ads, blogs and a comprehensive publicity program were launched.

"I am very pleased with this report," said Jeff Elbert, Chamber president. "The Tourist Development Council grant is restricted to advertising to bring out of county visitors to stay overnight on Pensacola Beach. We will continue this effort to build our second season."

The Chamber will promote the island year round with special emphasis on the fall promotion of Taste of the Beach in September and Art and Wine Weekend in October.

The treasurer's report was positive with Board members noting that in the current economic crisis that the Beach Chamber is maintaining a good membership base.

"We had 47 new members join last year," said Maureen LaMar, executive director. "That is a direct result of the benefits our members are enjoying."

LaMar prepared a preliminary budget for 2010. The budget is currently being reviewed by the Board and will be amended and voted on at the February meeting.

Jeff Elbert, in his president's comments, announced that he represents the Chamber on the Island Beautification and Core Area Redevelopment Steering Committee.

"This committee is working hard on some very difficult ideas to come to a consensus on issues like parking and traffic relief," he said. "We will have another meeting with EDSA, the planning firm, on February 2 at the SRIA office. That meeting is open to the public, but there is no public comment."

The Chamber's monthly membership meeting is Tuesday, January 26 at 8:30 a.m. at Days Inn. The Business After Hours will be hosted by the Days Inn at 5:30 p.m. on the same day.

For more information about the Chamber, contact Maureen LaMar at 850-932-1500.

Gulf Breeze's Rita Rone, left, won the Gulf Breeze Celebrates the Arts 2010 logo contest and was presented a check for $250 by the Gulf Breeze Arts, member Lorene Lanza. Her winning entry will be used as the 16th annual Fine Arts Festival logo that will appear on T-shirts and posters being sold during the festival set for March in downtown Gulf Breeze.

Business Buzz.....

Romeo, Where Art Thou?

At Bullfeathers, that's where. The Beach Church's group, Retired Old Men Eating Out, ROMEO, held their January 21 lunch and munch at Bullfeathers on the Boardwalk. Owner and Executive Chef Willie Eberlin whipped up a sumptuous lunch for the fellows.

Shining Example

Pandora de Balthazar will be honored at the Governor's Mansion on January 27 during the Points of Light ceremonies. She received the prestigious designation because of her tireless work with the foster children's program. Pandora, who owns Pandora de Balthazar, created a multi-layered program to support the foster parents, children and those who are aging out of the system.

Saltwater Blues Are Back

The infamous Saltwater Blues Band members are tuning up for a ten year reunion tour. Saltwater Rick Uzdevenes, vocals and guitar; Otto" Toe" Agricola, lead guitar; Rodney Bryant, vocals and guitar and Reese Howard on bass and harp. Look for them at a beach location soon.

Irish Invasion

The Krewe of St. Patrick's one hundred and fifty sturdy Irishmen have vowed to have fun. The lads and lasses clad in green will ride in the Pensacola and Beach Mardi Gras parades and squeeze the last bit of revelry into a Fat Tuesday party at Flounder's. They will rest until March 17.

Kid's House Benefits

Photographer Don Duke will capture the Bananimals at their Ball. Proceeds from the sale of the keepsake DVD will be donated to the Santa Rosa Kid's House.

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The Lizzard's TONGUE

by E.K. Hewson

CNN recently released the results of a national poll that found only 22 percent of Americans are happy with their jobs. I count my blessings on a daily basis that I fall into that minority and do not spend close to 40 hours per week allegedly miserable like the remaining 68 percent. When I am not struggling to meet an "Island Times" deadline or being the maid, chauffeur and cook for young Harry, I manage to find the time to live up to my fancy title of Director of Corporate Communications for an IT firm that has corporate offices in the Metro Washington DC area and field locations throughout the world. I've had this dream job for a little over a year and it's all because I struck up a conversation with one of the owners while standing in line waiting for a tall mocha at my local Starbucks. Maybe there is something to be said for "coffee, tea, or me." Yet after listening to this CNN poll, I had to ask myself if I were fired today what other jobs would make me happy. Here are my top three.

Wool Cap and Cubby Fixer. I think it would be total fun to be the guy who goes around on the sidelines during ice cold football games and places wool caps on the players' heads. I watched this guy during one of the final NFL games of regular season play and he had his technique down. In one fluid motion, he would reach up, pull on the hat and the team's logo managed to always be front and center. The football player never had to take his arms out of his giant parka to make an adjustment to this wool cap. It was perfection every time. I think this may also be the person who perfectly organizes a player's cubby before a game with each uniform and pads all neatly hung up and every helmet facing in the same direction. I think all my years as a mom could qualify me for this position. After all, I've spent the last 12 years putting a hat on The Kid before he heads out into the cold and on a weekly basis I still hang up clothes in his closet.

Facebook Security Checker. I want to know who comes up with all the nonsensical, yet funny, phrases that you have to type in before you friend someone on Facebook. These are not the usual random letters and numbers like most authentication checks. These make me want to friend more people just so I can see what the security check phrase is going to be. It's kind of like eating a bag of fortune cookies. It's not about the cookie, but about the fortune. I am sure it's a computer that generates these sayings, but someone had to program it. I am good with telling inanimate objects what to do. Why just the other day, I told my car that it better not run out of gas as we coasted right into the nearest gas station with at least a mile or two to spare.

Spam E-Mail Typist. Though I never open any unsolicited e-mails, I certainly get my share sent to my Hotmail account. I know this because these messages are always sent to my junk mail box which I check daily because sometimes an important e-mail from someone who is contacting me for the first time will get filtered there. I just love the all the typos in the subject line. I don't know the content of these e-mails but even through the misspelled and character enhanced subjects, I can figure it out. I think this is a job I could do in my sleep. Just put a pillow by the keyboard, shut my eyes and begin typing. Plus, I have experience with typos in headlines which loosely correlate to subject lines. Take a good look at your keyboard. One year I had Marines collecting toys for something other than tots. That caught my attention and made me want to read on.

Yes, I think I am going to polish up my résumé with some of my more unique skills. Who cares about the MBA or 20 years experience in my field? One never knows when one will cross over from being in the minority to being in the majority and I plan on being ready. Until then…

Humane Society of Pensacola. 5 North Q Street, just west of corner of Navy and Pace Blvd. 850-432-4250. Adopt a pet and bring a new member into your family. There are lots of cats and kittens for adoption.

Mary Wright of Wright's Pet Sitting Service in Gulf Breeze championed a pet food drive for the Pensacola Humane Society last month. Her efforts netted a mountain of food.

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Scher Dominates Poker Tables

If the poker crew were to crown a king, it would have to be Justin Scher who has bluffed and bet his way to winning four Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun poker tourneys in the last two weeks. But, the chips got stacked against him during play on January 16 at Paddy O'Leary's when advertising exec and Beach resident Ashley Chisholm posted her first ever win at the beach poker tables.

"It was just beginner's luck," Chisholm said. "Of course, I won the game of darts I played that day, too."

Monday night Texas Hold 'Em games are hosted at the Sandshaker. Two dozen players gathered on Monday, January 11 to play some cards and chow down on Mike Wood's Chicken and Dumplings. Shaker owners Sonny Campbell and Beverly Boswell treated the group to a free round of drinks.

Good things continued to happen when Justin Scher produced four-of-a-kind to set himself up to win over Mike Driscoll.

The next Monday night belonged to Cassy Cady-Smith who earned her first win. She outlasted a field of 17 players which included Jimmy "JT" Taylor and His Highness Tommy Grice.

The results from weekly action at Paddy O'Leary's are as follows:

January 5
1. Scott Carlisle
2. Waldo Defindorfin

January 7
1. Justin Scher
2. Father Sean Knox

January 9
1. Justin Scher
2. Mike Wood

January 10
1. Justin Scher
2. Billie Urquhart

January 12
1. Phil Tracy
2. Jamie Lukers

January 14
1. Miguel Thompson
2. Mike Wood

January 16
1. Ashley Chisholm
2. Phil Tracy

January 17
1. Kristin Larmier
2. Jerry Limle

January 19
1. David Edwards
2. Josh Rogers

Justin Scher was awarded a custom Wild Willett Wall Willie made by Beach artist Mike Willett. The creation, which was one of the most coveted items during the Art and Wine Weekend on the Beach last September, was crafted to honor Scher's Player of the Year championship. Scher completed his 2009 season with more wins than any other player. He has kicked off 2010 with the same winning style.

Ashley Chisholm adds her name to the list of the talented lady poker players on Pensacola Beach. Chisholm took all the chips at her first visit to the Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun game played at Paddy O'Leary's on January 16.

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The School Bell Rings

CHAMPION SPELLER

Jamie Seabrooke won the sixth grade Spelling Bee at Woodlawn Beach Middle School on January 7. He will be representing the school in the Sandy Sansing Spelling Bee at PJC competing against other students in Santa Rosa County. Jamie is a Pensacola Beach School graduate.

WEB RANGERS ROCK

The National Parks have a new program for kids to learn about natural science and the park system called WebRangers. If the weather is too nasty to explore the Gulf Islands National Seashore, kids of any age can sign up to be a WebRanger at www.nps.gov/webrangers. It's free and you get a secret code word after you complete a WebRanger adventure online. Be ready to redeem your secret codes for a reward.

NEW SANDPIPER

Fourth graders at the Beach School are welcoming their new classmate Alanna Bodenhaus who has moved to the Beach from Idaho.

DAY OFF

Students at the Beach School can really whoop it up at the Pensacola Beach Mardi Gras parade February 14, since the next day is a school holiday.

BIG BUCKS FOR BIG KIDS

Escambia County Supervisor of Elections David Stafford is accepting applications for a $1,200 college scholarship to be awarded this summer by the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections. It's available to college juniors or seniors who are majoring in political science, public or business administration, or journalism/mass communications. Among the requirements, students must have maintained a "C" average or above the previous year, demonstrate financial need and be registered to vote. Copies of the application and full eligibility requirements may be downloaded from the Supervisor of Elections website at www.EscambiaVotes.com.

Runners Race Across Two Bridges To Beach Finish Line

Pensacola Beach will be the finish line of the Double Bridge Run, Saturday, February 6. The 15K run begins in downtown Pensacola at 7 a.m. and ends at the Boardwalk. There is a 5K course which starts in Gulf Breeze and also ends at the Boardwalk.

A post race party with an awards ceremony is set on the Boardwalk.

According to the website, www.doublebridgerun.com prize money is awarded to the overall winners of the 15K race which attracts top runners from across the country. Over 1500 entries are expected compete on the most scenic bridge route available. Last year's race included the USA National 20K Champion James Carney and former Olympic husband and wife team of Mark Carroll and Amy Rudolph.

Beach residents should use caution when exiting the Beach. The core area will be very congested, as will Pensacola Beach Blvd.

One lane of the northbound span of the Bob Sikes Bridge will be reserved for runners.

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Mostly Nuts & Bolts

By Candy Segar

Once upon a time, years and years ago, I use to run. I would train on a track in New Orleans and occasionally, a New Orleans Saints football player would appear on the track as well. But this isn't about the New Orleans Saints - although I must say I am forever a fan. Geaux Saints! Who Dat!

This is about running. I have jogged a little and run a little, off and on through the years and would buy the latest in jogging shoes. Then the little back pains started, and I turned to yoga to help alleviate the twinges; which it did. But the twinges always came back after a run and sometimes just walking created a problem.

Enter two discoveries - a wonderful book entitled "Born To Run" and hiking boots with composite toes (steel toe shoe equivalent).

I found "Born To Run" listed as a must have in the book review section of a science magazine to which I subscribe. During the period of time I read that book, I had started wearing my hiking books to work and had a physical epiphany. My back was fine. I could no longer wear the running shoes. The hiking boots were so comfortable and made my feet and back feel good. "Born To Run" discussed these very issues. Feet are made to grip and to grab; hence, toes. The feet are made for firm surfaces not soft bouncing cushions. Studies have confirmed that many of the injuries to runners are caused by the shoes.

So I have tried an alternative to running shoes and they work. They're called Five Fingers - running feet. They are made by Vibram. They look like someone made a rubber replica of your foot.

Unusual, but really great. I can run faster and farther and with joy. I don't know why they are called Five Fingers; maybe, because you need to use your fingers to get your toes inside. The only thing that would be better is to run barefoot, and trust me, this gets close.

Save your bare feet for the beach and try these fingers for your toes!

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,7PM

Saturday: Paddy O'Leary's, 3PM

Sunday:Paddy O'Leary's,7 PM

Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun
Poker Hotline 324-2667

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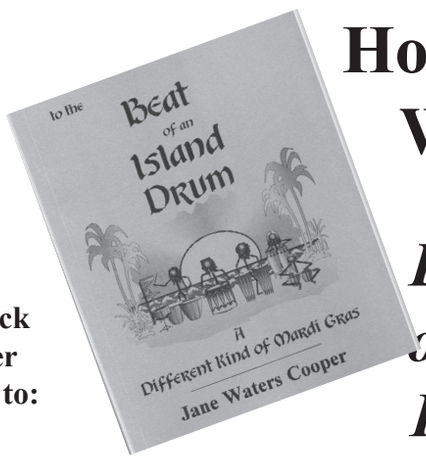

How did it all start? Who was there?

Learn the history of Mardi Gras on Pensacola Beach

Send your check or money order made payable to:
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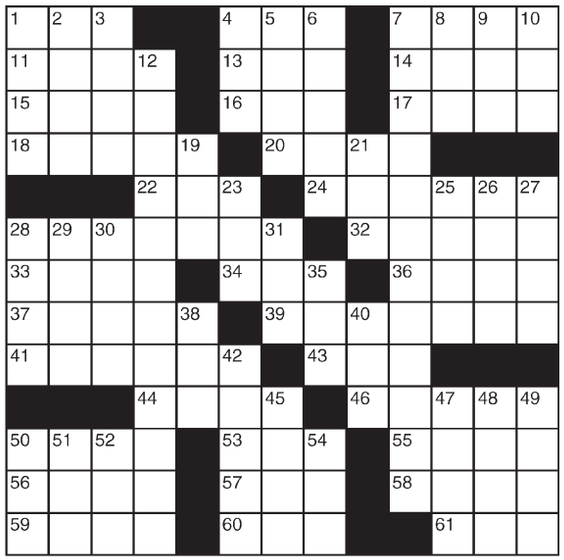
King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Pingpong tactic
4 Vacationing
7 Whirled
11 Help a hoodlum
13 Apiece
14 Skin opening
15 Ark-itect
16 Earl Grey, for one
17 Egress
18 Rise
20 Burr-Hamilton event
22 Present
24 River mouths
28 Convertible alternative
32 Type of cotton thread
33 Lotion additive
34 Japanese pond carp
36 Nothing (Sp.)
37 Beatles drummer
39 Telecast
41 Girl who isn't "girly"
43 Recede
44 Conception
46 Old photo tint
50 Sow's mate
53 Upper limb
55 Consumes
56 Desertlike
57 Old Oldsmobile
58 Staircase component
59 Jewels
60 Tree fluid
61 Type squares

DOWN
1 "Auld — Syne"
2 Reed instrument
3 Throb
4 Choose
5 Nourish
6 Charlatan
7 Events for Akeelah
8 Plague
9 Swiss canton
10 Profit
12 USAF air show group
19 Cauldron
21 Moray or conger
23 Stir-fry pan
25 Despot
26 "Things I Overheard While Talking to Myself" author
27 Line of fashion?
28 Possesses, old-style
29 Vocal range
30 Wander
31 Burst
35 Rage
38 Scepter
40 Out of use, in the dict.
42 Century divisions
45 Vicinity
47 Top of the head
48 Particular
49 Venomous vipers
50 Satchel
51 Raw rock
52 Intention
54 Swabbie's tool

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A	B	E	T		P	E	R		P	O	R	E
N	O	A	H		T	E	A		E	X	I	T
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			N	O	W		D	E	L	T	A	S
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A	R	I	D		R	E	O		S	T	E	P
G	E	M	S		S	A	P			E	M	S

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Meetings

SRIA COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, JAN 27, 5 p.m.
SRIA boardroom. Open to the Public.

CHAMBER EVENTS COMMITTEE
Thursday, JAN 28, 2 p.m.
SRIA Boardroom. Go Irish on the Island participants must attend.

DISCUSSION ON TAX CASE
PENSACOLA BEACH ADVOCATES
Thursday, JAN 28 at 6 p.m.
Beach Church Fellowship Hall
Open to the Public. Membership in PBA only $30. Will be on sale at the meeting.
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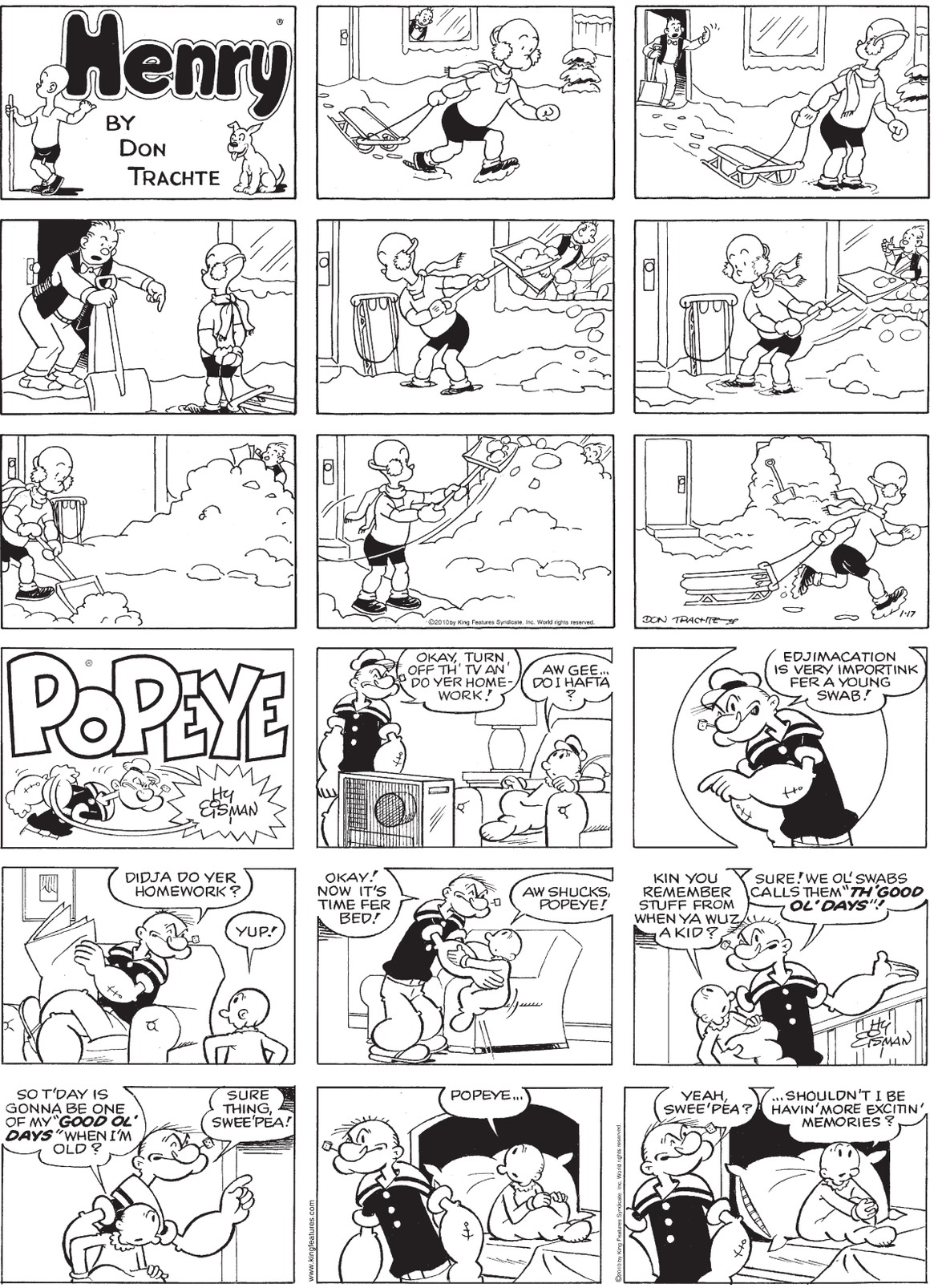
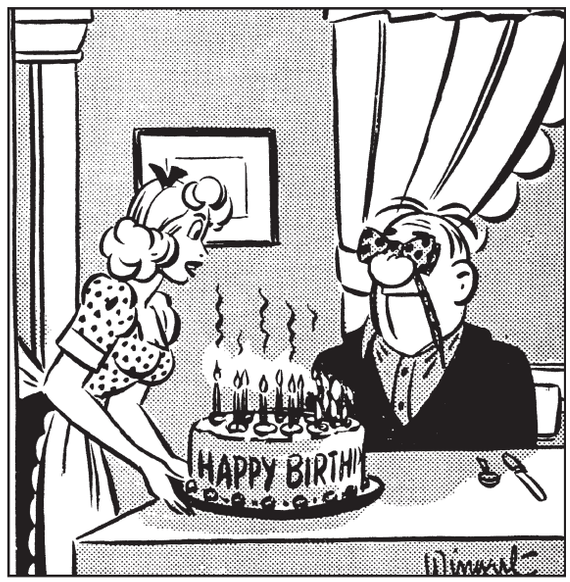


Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

HUBERT - - By Dick Wingert



"All right, NOW you can look."

Knock Knock!
Who's there?
Iguana.
Iguana who?
Iguana hold your hand.

Mardi Gras on the Island **FREE EVENTS** **OPEN TO** **THE PUBLIC**	**30th Krewe of Wrecks** **Mardi Gras Parade** **Sunday, February 14** **2 p.m. Via de Luna**	**Red Beans and Rice** **Luncheon** **Monday, February 15** **11 a.m. Casino Beach**	**Krewe of Coma** **Coronation** **Tuesday, February 16** **7 p.m. Sandshaker**	**Shoe Box Float** **Contest** **Tuesday, February 16** **8 p.m. Paradise**

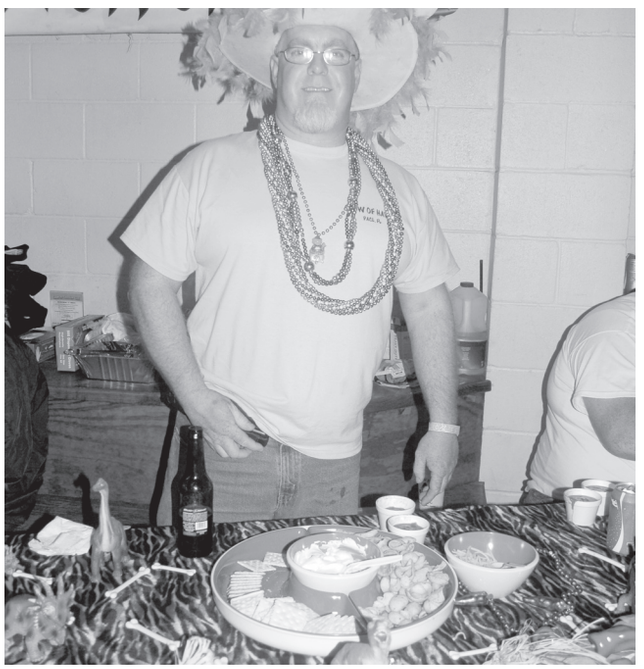
Island cooks stirred bubbling pots of spicy concoctions at the Krewe of Junkanoo Chili Cookoff, January 17 at the Sandshaker. Spectators carefully tasted each entry and voted for their favorite. Awards were give for first, second and third place. The Junkanoos crowned their new royalty King Mike and Queen Leigh Weaver, who were also the event coordinators.

Jeff Goudey has many talents - cooking chili is just one of them. The Krewe of Wrecks top guy earned third place in the Cookoff. His lovely teammate is Wrecks Board treasurer Melanie Waite who was in charge of the secret ingredient - grilled and seeded, jalapenos.

Newlyweds Leigh and Mike Weaver are the newly crowned royalty of the Krewe of Junkanoo. Leigh is a second generation Junkanoo following the footsteps of Chris and Becky Shearman. King Mike and Queen Leigh will ride in the Wrecks parade, February 14.

Roger Graham is officially the best chili cook on the beach. He was the People's Choice for best overall taste. Roger served his chili with mini-corn muffins and a big unassuming grin. He was awarded a trophy and bragging rights until next year.

Back again for the second year, the team Can't Beat Our Meat, took second prize. Expert cooks who were dressed in tuxedos and Crocs are Steve Joiner, Kim Joiner, Jay Cowick, Harold Grosscoff and Dave Dobratz.



Tending to the Crew of Havoc's chili pot was hard work. Steve Mandris of Pace took it all in stride with cold beer and their signature lime green shirts and matching hats. The team did not finish in the top three.

Pensacola Beach resident Pam Lane dressed in her best Mexican Mardi Gras ensemble to add a dash of excitement to her chili. The former Krewe of Brewe queen slaved over a hot stove to produce a four alarm entry.

A Cross in the Sand

By
Dr. Chuck Randle, Pastor
Pensacola Beach Community Church

Eliminate The Negative

Somewhere I came across a prayer that went like this:

Dear Lord, another week of our Earthly life has just gone by. During that week we have done some good things. We have missed doing some of the things we should have done. We have thought noble thoughts and some thoughts less than noble. We have fussed and complained, griped and grumbled. We have prayed and praised. We have given compliments and supported others. In short, we have been amiable and surly this week just past. What can we say? We are what we are? Help us to be increasingly what we should be. Shape our lives in this Earth time you have given us. Lead us toward perfection. Help us lean toward the light. Fit us for your everlasting time, soon to be upon all of us.

As I read that prayer over again, I began to think of those events and attitudes that rob us from being what we should be.

I thought of the fact that, so often, secondary concerns take precedence over what should be of major concern; that we spend so much time worrying about things over which we have no control, and fail to be aware of all the things of which we do have a measure of control or responsibility; we hurt or injure another by our words or actions and excuse it by saying, "That's just the way I am."

Events and circumstances shape our lives, but the greatest influence is the way we respond to everything that happens. When we are confronted, we often respond automatically, just the way we have programmed ourselves. I wonder how different life would be if we programmed ourselves to respond in ways that are respectful of the opinions of others; if we gave to others the same respect that we wish for ourselves; if we, as the old song went were to "eliminate the negative and accentuate the positive." I often wonder.

And I keep hoping.

Beach Friends And Family Bid Farewell To Dale Andersen

The family and friends of Dale Andersen bid him a final farewell with a memorial party to honor his life Thursday, January 14 at the Sabine Sandbar on Pensacola Beach. Andersen, 64, of Gulf Breeze, passed away on January 10, after a brief illness.

Although Andersen was an Iowa native and an avid Nebraska football fan, his feet were firmly planted in the sands of Pensacola Beach. He owned the Sabine Sandbar and was the namesake of Dale's Big Deck. He was well-known among his Beach friends for his shorts, sunglasses and big smile.

Andersen served his country as a medic in the United States Army during the Vietnam Era, where he received a Silver Star, and a Bronze Star among many other awards.

He was a member of the Krewe of Bananimals and the Pensacola Beach Chamber.

He leaves behind many Beach friends and his loving family; his parents, Robert and Helen Andersen; his wife of twenty years, Julia Andersen; sons, Derek Andersen (Debbie) and Darren Andersen (Holly); daughters, Samantha Flood and Jessica Porter (Chance); granddaughters, Emma Rose, Aubrie Dawn, Maiya Hope and Avery Chance (expected arrival 03/27/2010); brother, Robert Andersen.

A Funeral Service was held on January 14 followed by burial at Bayview Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Dale Andersen Memorial Fund, 3910 India Cove, Gulf Breeze, FL 32563.

Comfort & Joy

Be Blessed with Rest

by
Pandora de Balthazar

Ever hear that old saying, "You made your bed and now you have to lie in it,"? Have you had to actually lay on a bed you made, and wonder why you made it so hard? Today's topic is actually about mattresses, so relax. Enjoy! And think about the bed you lay on.

We have more than 16 mattresses in our shop, and six in our home, plus five in our Texas guest house, and even more in our shop located in Round Top, Texas. In fact, through our work, we actually work on or "make" over 2000 mattress sets or "beds" a year, so I am somewhat of an expert on this subject.

Recently, I have discovered one of the most wonderful bed systems ever. Now, I remind you that's after 18 years of selling bedding. Well, it's simply astounding.

First, it's organic. Secondly, it's reasonably priced in comparison to the alternative options. Most importantly, it's comfortable whether you weigh 120 pounds or 240 pounds.

I decided to write about this topic because it's important to your health.

I have found that many of us haven't taken our personal hygiene rules to bed with us.

Really! Think about it. You change your clothes at least once per day, yet the sheets you sleep on daily, often get changed only once per week. Imagine what's under those sheets and how that build-up affects your very health.

Did you know -

Nasty little things like dust mites double the weight of your mattress annually?

Simple things like body cream, hail gels, sweat, and even perfume permeate your bedding and your mattresses, and then...what? They stay there, and add up, until you replace the mattress, or clean it with heat or ultraviolet light. Sunshine works!

We have plenty of that on the Beach. Give your mattress some sun time. No sunscreen needed.

We all know that your health is effected by the air you breathe. It's important to apply that knowledge to the bed you sleep on.

Take time today to assess the bed you sleep on. How old are the pillows and mattresses? When was the last time they were washed or cleaned?

How often do you change your sheets? What's under your sheets and between you and your mattress?

What is your mattress made of? Is it a chemically made mattress or a natural one? In fact, what are you sleeping on?

Then, before you run off to buy new bedding, take time to do some research. It's not just about how it feels, but about how it's made, and how you maintain and care for it to keep your sleeping environment clean and safe in the future.

Remember, it's your bed, and you have to lie in it. So, make it comfortable, and make your own health better along the way.

Feel free to email me regarding the topics that I have discussed in this article or to find out more about the mattresses I have discovered. My email is Pandora@PandoraDeBalthazar.com

Be blessed with rest!

Get Some Bling At Hospital Jewelry Sale

It's not too early to think about your Valentine. The ladies of the Gulf Breeze Hospital Auxiliary are hosting a pre Valentine's Pearl Jewelry Sale, in the Gulf Breeze Hospital Cafeteria. The sale begins at 9 a.m. on Monday, February 8 and 7 a.m. on Tuesday, February 9. Proceeds from the sale go to the care and comfort of the patients.

For more information about the sale or the Auxiliary, email Marion Ginn at mlg7@bellsouth.net.

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readin' the water

by Saltwater Rick

It is quickly becoming fishing season now that the holidays are over and the cold snap has passed, the Pompano should be showing up in the Gulf waters anytime. I've seen a couple of hard core fisherman braving the breezes out Ft. Pickens way with their nine footers lining the beach, but, it was too cold for me.

After my surgery, my knee still cannot handle walking in the sand, but, it's getting much better thanks to the fine folks at The Andrews Institute's Rehab Center. By the way, that's the newest place you can pick up a copy of *Island Times*.

I just cannot wait to pull my boat, the 4FUN, out of the garage and get in the Sound. The Speckled Trout are all over the grass beds and Redfish are the catch of the day. If you have not had blackened Redfish you are missing out on the best the coast has to offer. Oysters are great while the waters are cool so fill up while it's safe.

The new Fishin' regulations are in the shops and online at www.MyFWC.com. Make sure you know what you're doing, because The Man is watching.

Remember to book your Ling/Cobia trips soon, the Big Boats are rigging up. These fine fish will be making their annual trip from South Florida to our part of the Gulf starting in late March through early May. As they migrate north, they follow the beach and swim near the surface. During the season you can see dozens of boats with ling towers bobbing along in the Gulf. You need a high vantage point to spot the fish.

Once spotted, you cast your bait. Live eels are the most popular bait, but live blue crabs, catfish, and artificial lures are also used. They will give you a fight. Can't wait.

The fish are out there. So, do yourself a favor and go fishing. And take a kid with you.

Homeless Veterans Seek Household Donations

The Escarosa Coalition for the Homeless is partnering with the Veterans Services Organization in making a request for household items, furniture and toiletries to be used in the first home opened for homeless veterans in this area.

"They have power, heat and carpeted floors but need a total of seven twin beds and bedding for them. The bathrooms and kitchens need to be outfitted. They need sofas, chairs and dinning room tables and chairs," said Janis Wilson, Escarosa Coalition for the Homeless. "Basically, everything you would like to have in your new home.

To donate, please call Janis Wilson at 850-255-5570 or Johnny Turvin at 850-339-9028.

Homegrown anglers and visiting fishermen know what a bounty we have here in Northwest Florida. The Gulf, Bay and Sound to fish in, along with a fine collection of rivers make this a rich environment. The above photo was snapped after a day's worth of fishing in South Florida years ago. Small Kings and dolphin were all the hapless angler brought to the dock. Get your gear ready, it won't be long before the fishing gets hot here.

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