

# ISLAND TIMES

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Pensacola Beach, Florida

May 18, 2010

## Love From The Sisters To The Soldiers

## SOBs Kick Off Year Long Effort during Military Appreciation Month



PACKED FOR IRAQ - The Sisters of the Beach assembled at a secret location to kick off a strategic military operation to send boxes filled with love to First Sergeant Matt Drees and his 140 soldiers. Reporting for duty are SOBs (L to R): Christine Bunkie Hewerdine, Pensacola Beach Mayor Becky Shearman, Kathi Lewis, Chrissy Cook and Anne Vinson. For the rest of the story, see page 2.

# Attention, Headquarters Company – Here Come The SOBs

The Sisters of the Beach will not have to worry about breaking the mythical glass ceiling on the Island. They have already done that. Years ago. When the first unstructured group of party-girls appeared on the scene, the male population of the Beach family didn't pay much attention. The girls indulged themselves in soirees almost weekly. Sleepovers, cocktail parties, cookouts, brunches, all fueled by their signature drink, champagne. Then, they grew serious and became the one organization, or disorganization, which befriended anyone who needed help. If someone got sick, they went right to the house and fed them homemade chicken soup and stayed to offer care until they got well. In countless tragedies and disasters, the Sisters were there. The party animals had become Angels of Mercy. They still had their weekly gatherings, sang their racy song, earned funds through bake sales to help whoever needed help. They still had no rules, no officers, no dues. They had only one simple credential. You have to be a beach girl to join.

The male population of the Beach family grew more and more confused and confounded. They wanted to belong. Finally, the girls set up a standard by which the guys could get inside their guarded meetings. They would have to show up at a party bringing an acceptable gift and

would be dressed in proper attire, the same thing streakers wore.

Leroy Cardenas picked up the gauntlet, went to a Slumber Party, complying with the regulations. When the SOBs realized a man was at the door, they held a hasty conference. They went to the door, told him they had changed their minds, but he was to leave his gift, which was a case of Budweiser, to go home and get dressed.

So, maybe they didn't even realize it, but the Beach male supremacy vanished from that moment. What glass ceiling?

Fast forward to now. Yes, the SOBs still exist. Some of their early members have moved away or passed away. Some live in Pensacola or Gulf Breeze. A nucleus still lives on the Island, and they are still taking care of each other and everyone who needs help. After thirty plus years, the SOBs have mellowed somewhat. They still host their Christmas luncheon where many guests appear and on Wednesdays they hold Mental Health Night.

One male who grew up on the Beach and heard all about the madcap activities of the SOBs first hand decided to ask a favor of the girls. First Sergeant Matt Drees, just before he was deployed for the fourth time, made one request from his Beach sisters. He was wondering if they would send boxes of items to remind the troops in his command of home. Matt has 140 soldiers

which he administers to by arranging (in his own words) "beans, bullets, band aids and billeting" for every soldier in the Company.

Drees is the First Sergeant of the Headquarters Company Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

There are one hundred men and forty women in the company.

Matt has served in the Louisiana National Guard for almost 17 years. He talks passionately about these soldiers who are so far from home. Most of them are from Lafayette, Louisiana, according to Matt.

Matt is working on making Pensacola Beach their second home. They have spent two weekends at Paradise, some competed in the Santa Rosa Island Triathlon, and he is planning a reunion in 2011 after they all get

home.

Matt said getting boxes from home means that you matter.

"Someone has taken time and effort out of their busy lives to plan, to think about us soldiers far away from home; that there are some Americans who value today's warriors, no matter where in the world they serve," he said.

When his members ask about the SOBs, Matt has his answers ready.

"I tell them about my hometown, Pensacola Beach. I talk about our little slice of Paradise and about our community, the Mardi Gras krewes, the Pub Crawl, the Blue Angels, and especially the military support."

The SOBs still do not have a president, committee chairmen, or any of the other chiefs to put

in charge of such a daunting task as this one. So, Kathi Lewis has stepped to the front.

"We will be sending one or two boxes of love to Matt's company every month until they come home," Kathi said. "We sent our first box last week and now we are working on June's shipments."

"This is a huge task," Kathi said. "We are asking for community support and will ask the school children to make cards to put in the boxes."

The SOBs do not have a treasury so they will be digging in their own pockets and hoping other members of the Beach community will do the same.

Several SOBs from out of town have sent checks to help with the postage.

Kathi sent this message to all her sisters as they prepared to pack the first box, "I know all the hearts of the SOBs are with the soldiers, and we pray for their safety each day. We know the SOBs are all about heart and we can count on each of you in the coming year. Love, to all my Sistas."

And, yes, Leroy Cardenas is finally the only male SOB. Several years after he was turned down for membership, he suffered a life threatening injury in a terrible accident. Fortunately, he survived and the Sisters made Leroy, a Vietnam veteran, a lifetime honorary SOB.

The SOBs have no by-laws, no treasury, no chairman, no strings attached. All they have to offer is unbridled love.



**Charlotte Spencer arrives ready for the SOB Operation Boxes of Love.**

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Community Church, Paddy O'Leary's  
Or leave message at 850-206-7257

# Barefoot on the Beach

By Jane Waters Cooper



I am about to tell a story of political intrigue. Don't worry. There is nothing shady or illegal in this historic vignette. It is, however, just a step away in almost any direction from standard political procedure. This sort of thing rarely happens, or turns out so well.

Grover Robinson, III, was the father of our Commissioner Grover, IV. This senior Robinson, now deceased, was serving in the Florida House of Representatives in 1980. I received a call from Rep. Robinson's office at *The Islander* Newspaper, which I published. At that point, the newspaper was in its second year of publication. He explained to me that he had a plan for the Beach and asked if I would visit him.

"Would you be interested in the story?" he asked.

"Yes," I replied, "But my next issue does not come out for almost two weeks."

He said he was well aware of that and I thought I detected something in his voice that sounded a bit smug. Like he was happy about that fact.

We met at his office later that day and he told me he had planned to arrange for the election of a Beach resident to serve on the Island Authority. At that point there were no Beach residents on the Board.

We often felt we were the red-headed stepchildren servicing the County at their beck and call. An elected member from the Beach sounded great to me, but how would Rep. Robinson ever ac-

complish such an unpopular task? Unpopular, that is, with the County. The Beach would, in my opinion, greet the news with wild approval. But, how could it possibly happen?

"I will introduce a bill in the House of Representatives," he said. "It will contain all the details of creating the election."

That was it. He never once told me his remarks were off the record. But I never discussed his plan with anyone. I think, deep down, I was afraid it might fail.

Three days later I received another call from his office. He said the SRIA asked him to come meet with them, and would I please come and cover the meeting?

I agreed.

When I walked into what was then their tiny meeting room, I immediately sensed an air of hostility.

When the Legislator arrived, the fireworks began exploding. The Board had heard about the bill he was planning to introduce.

"We don't want an elected person on this appointed board," Bobo Jones shouted. "We want you to stop this bill."

Rep. Robinson in his calmest voice, replied, "I am sorry I cannot do that. It's already in the hopper and will be introduced on the floor today."

The Board members may have been stunned, but they were not quiet. They had all kinds of retributions including about everything but tar and feathers. Finally, Robinson thanked them for the meeting and we left.

He bid me goodbye outside the

SRIA office. He shook my hand and held it briefly.

"I want you to know I appreciate you showing up here today," he said.

He smiled and triumph was written all over his face.

And it finally dawned on me that the presence of a media person in the room with the politician meant his remarks were available to the public. That's all it took to be legal in those days.

His remarks did eventually reach the public, especially in *The Islander* Newspaper. Several contenders filed to run during the first campaign that year including Dr. Emily Baird, Larry Judge, T.T. Lowery, and front runners McGuire Martin, president of the Pensacola Beach Business Association; and Dr. James P. Morgan, president of the Residents and Leaseholders Association. Both were my friends. One was my neighbor.

The race narrowed to a two-man shoot out between McGuire and Jim Morgan. Finally, McGuire

prevailed by a 12 vote margin. My neighbor, Jim was a gallant and true Southern gentleman. When I walked across the street to talk to him, he held out a bottle of ice, cold beer, so we could celebrate his second place.

Later, I receive a silver cup from McGuire which was inscribed, "Thanks, Landslide McGuire."

I had taken an active part in McGuire's barely successful campaign.

He served the first eight years after his election, running unop-

posed. Later Commissioner Tom Banjanin appointed him to the Board.

Years later, Robinson died in a plane crash. But, he left his legacy to the Beach. He tip toed into the House of Representatives with his bill to elect a Beach person to the SRIA board. By some miracle, he saw that it passed. And Beach people could stop saying, "We have a government without representation."

At least, at last, we had a voice.

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# PBA Questions Fee Hike Procedure, Supports Beach Recycling Effort

The Residential Lease Fee increase, recently approved by the Santa Rosa Island Authority has caught the attention of the Pensacola Beach Advocates. The Board of Directors made a decision to authorize the president, Jim Cox, to prepare a letter to be sent to the SRIA Board members asking for the lease fee to be reviewed.

Cox, at the May 3 Board meeting said the ten percent raise had not been done correctly.

"It was not presented in committee. There was no public input and no proof to the Board that the increase was necessary," Cox said. "Other sources of income have not been explored."

Jayne Bell, SRIA director of administration, explained that this was the Authority's only opportunity to raise the residential fee.

"We have cut back," she said. "I do understand that it could have been handled better. We were in a

budget mode, but, please believe me, the SRIA is here to serve the community on the Island. You deserve to be heard."

The PBA Board also took issue with the sensitive news that Pensacola Beach might become an alcohol free area. Sheriff David Morgan sent a letter to Commissioner Grover Robinson regarding an ordinance he would like to propose prohibiting alcohol consumption on any public area on Pensacola Beach, including the white sand beaches.

"This ordinance is supposed to reduce potential crime," Cox said. "I am disappointed that this information has not been shared at the SRIA Board meeting."

The PBA will discuss this proposed ordinance with its Board members and write to Commissioner Grover Robinson recommending that the SRIA should discuss the matter and submit a recommendation.

In an effort to increase re-

cycling on the Beach, the Board approved a \$750 expenditure to purchase ten additional recycling bins for the SRIA. The Authority has recently purchased five new bins and is expected to add to that number. The PBA Board will ask the Island Authority to print "Donated by the Pensacola Beach Advocates" on the bins they contributed.

During the business meeting, Judi Purcell was elected a member of the Board of Directors. Purcell, who lives on Pensacola Beach is a tax preparer and an ordained minister.

The Board will partner on a Neighborhood Awareness campaign with the SRIA in providing residents with a magnet with the Escambia County Sheriff's Office number on it. This initiative will be sent to the SRIA board for approval May 26.

The PBA distributes materials to its members through email and its website at [www.pbadvocates.org](http://www.pbadvocates.org).

org. Meetings are scheduled as necessary. Dues are \$30 per family or business. A dues application is

available on page 6 of this edition. For additional information, email [info@pbadvocates.org](mailto:info@pbadvocates.org).

## The Tax Man Grabs More Money From Navarre Beach Leaseholders

The news was not good for Islanders when Santa Rosa County Judge Gary Bergosh ruled against Navarre Beach leaseholders in their case opposing ad valorem taxes levied on their leasehold land, May 7 in Circuit Court. Navarre Beach leaseholders had previously lost their case involving ad valorem taxes being assessed on their improvements in 2005.

Pensacola Beach leaseholders suffered a similar fate in their opposition to having ad valorem taxes levied on their improvements. In December 2009 Escambia County Judge Michael Jones rendered his

decision against the Pensacola Beach leaseholders based on the precedential Santa Rosa County case. Lawyers have filed an appeal.

When asked if he would include the value of the leasehold land on Pensacola Beach in the 2010 tax rolls, Escambia County Property Appraiser Chris Jones said, "The ruling could have an effect on the tax status of the land on Pensacola Beach, but I am waiting to read the Judge's written order and consult with legal counsel before I make any other comments."

Judge Gary Bergosh's written opinion should be available soon.

# After Sundown

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Steve Cox is the driver and librarian at the Bookmobile.



## peas, porridge & a dry martini

by Kathi Lewis



God Bless our Troops and our SOBs! Since this is Military Appreciation Month, it was a perfect time to launch our SOB's "Boxes of Love" shipped to First Sgt. Matt Drees and his troops. I have been amazed and nearly overwhelmed by the response, imagination, and creativity from these incredible women and their connections to our community. We received more than enough for our first shipment (140 packages of cookies). The SOB's agreed that each soldier should receive something in the first box.

The next one will contain such items as personal toiletries, lotions,

every candy imaginable, cookies, beach Frisbees, beach playing cards, hand made cards from my grandson Jesiah's third grade class at Cordova Park Elementary School, beach sun visors, sunscreen, gum, beach post cards, and the list goes on. I can't even remember everything we've received thus far. You can read more about it on page two.

Some of the soldiers have been here before and maybe they will come back to see us. Oh yeah, I can see the makings of a "Welcome Home Parade" already.....fairy dust, flags and smiling faces.

I've been a part of the SOB's for nearly 30 years and I've watched the circle of hearts shrink at times and grow bigger at other times. But I still have to admit that I am constantly surprised and amazed that such a large group can come together so quickly in a common goal. There are no agendas, only sincere offers of help. There are no complaints, only a willing eagerness to work. There is never any animosity, only hearts full of love. And whenever there is sadness or sorrow, there are many shoulders

offered in comfort. But there is never a dull moment; not with these hearts full of love, laughter and the sheer joy of playing together while our hands hold cups full of Champagne consumed in celebration of our lucky, lucky lives! We are some very lucky gals.

I am very proud of our Military, our Country, and our Paradise. I am also proud and, oh so blessed, to be an SOB.

We are also blessed that at the time I am writing this our shores remain clean of the latest fiasco, the oil spill. I attribute that to one of my favorite SOB's, Miss Jane. I think she is "willing the oil" to stay away from our beach for a little while longer. I have always believed her because she's always been right. That's a pretty good track record right there. You can go with the "oil trackers" if you want, but I'm sticking with my Jane.

And, just to set the record straight, I'd like to clear up a misconception that a lot of you seem to share out there in the real world. Y'all seem to think Queen Shugah is responsible for keeping the oil

off the coast of Pensacola Beach. Y'all are wrong! That's not a job for Queen Shugah. That nasty oil spill is the work of humans, not Mother Nature. Queen Shugah's strength must be conserved in order to commune with Mother Nature in the event of a hurricane threat to our coast. That's it readers, hurricanes, just hurricanes! And having served in the Royal Flip-flops, that's enough to ask of one Queen. It's harder than we make it look.

I'm suggesting y'all get your offerings ready for the "Wooly Booger's Keep the Hurricanes Away this Season Bawl" because you don't want to be the weak link in Queen Shugah's Kiss Chain should the Island be threatened this year. Be at Paradise on June 5 at 4 p.m.

If that's not enough to make you want to call your doctor, this is. This week's recipe comes from my personal physician, Mary Ellen Neal. And God Bless Mary Ellen, too - she's been tasked with the responsibility of keeping me sane enough to attend Mental Health Night each week. And that's no easy job.....so, let's cook!

### INFORMED CITIZENS GIVING A VOICE TO THE BEACH



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- Blackening seasoning
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- 2 Tbsp. lemon juice
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Cook bacon until crisp, drain leaving 1 tsp. bacon fat in pan. Add shrimp to pan and sprinkle with blackening season to taste. Cook shrimp just a couple of minutes, then add remaining ingredients, reserving the rest of the bottle of wine for the cook to drink. (Okay, Okay, I added that myself). Continue cooking until shrimp is done. Serve over pasta.

C'mon, it's from a medical professional, it's gotta be good.

Enjoy, don't forget to share and support our Military!

See ya in the kitchen....

# Where is Margaritaville?

*“Somewhere between the Port of Indecision and Southwest of Disorder”* Jimmy Buffet

If you are still looking for that lost shaker of salt, your search is over. Margaritaville Beach Hotel will open soon on Pensacola Beach and all the island beach lore which surrounds Jimmy Buffet will flow into the extensive acreage of the resort.

The exciting announcement was made at the Full Board meeting of the Santa Rosa Island Authority on May 12.

“Thank you for letting us expedite this,” Jim Wiseman, Margaritaville developer, said. “This has been a heck of a three week period.”

“We were all set to open in Hollywood, Florida when Jimmy Buffet said, ‘I met a girl on Pensacola Beach who has a hotel that I want to make a Margaritaville Hotel.’”

The girl would be Marilyn Woodbury Hess, of American Fidelity, owner of the still not quite finished hotel which was originally built after Hurricane Ivan as a Holiday Inn Indigo. It is the first of a multi-phase project which includes a water park.

Wiseman said Margaritaville is a half billion dollar a year company.

“We should have been in the hotel business long ago,” he said. “It was meant to be. Jimmy is behind this a hundred percent. He grew up in Pensacola. He played on Pensacola Beach.”

Other hoteliers were supportive of the new addition to the Island.

“This is the best thing that has ever happened to Pensacola Beach,” said Fred Simmons, owner of Paradise Inn and the “buffet-esque” bar located there.

“Where is Margaritaville?” Buffet wrote from New York, a parody on his book, “Where is Joe Merchant?” published in 1992, which is a wacky tale that only Parrotheads and everybody else

could love.

Margaritaville Beach Hotel on Pensacola Beach is, for now, the first and only Buffet hostelry in the world.

The board approved the request to move forward with the resort.

Raising lease fees by ten percent came to the board during the Board Members Forum. The matter, which was never brought up in Committee, affects 3,550 leases. Board members discussed the item which had been previously approved with no input from Beach residents.

Board member Vernon Prather commented, “I think we were premature on this and I was all alone in my ‘no’ vote. This impacts leaseholders and I am still in favor of rescinding our previous action and as we get into the budget process, we can look at it again.”

Board member Fred Gant, said, “We should not just let this go away. The money is not the issue; the process is the issue. I would be satisfied if we could deal with this in budget meetings.”

Cameras may be installed on the Fishing Pier to reassure tourists that the Beach is still here in its pristine state. The images would be available online.

Dave Pavlock, Board member, asked the staff to investigate costs and Matt Mooneyham, Director of Developmental Services, came up with a cost of \$3,500 per camera.

Fred Gant and Ed Guernsey both considered the cameras an emergency, so the Board voted to take the money from contingency to purchase the cameras.

A discussion about the labor intensive policy of issuing IOUs to motorists who can’t pay the bridge fee will be changed in accordance with the Board’s vote to accept staff’s recommendations. Non payers will be turned around and not allowed to enter the Beach. If they

don’t turn around their photo will be captured on camera and the photo will be turned over to the Escambia County Sheriff’s office. The Board voted to implement and review after one year.

Another development which will change the view on Via de Luna will occur since the Board granted approval to Jim Reeves to build an upscale RV park on his property which was the site of the Tiki Motel.

The park would be temporary, and would be replaced depending on an economically friendly climate, but the approval was for a ten year period. The Board could grant an additional five years for the resort which will have 40 pads and a landscaped buffer on all sides.

Buck Lee, executive director of the SRIA, said the investment could bring snowbirds to the Beach and increase the Authority’s income.

Maureen LaMar, the Beach Chamber’s executive director, told the Board that 1,745 guests had gone through the Visitor’s Center in April. Sixty-six percent reported that they had been here before or were visiting friends. The greatest numbers were from Louisiana, Georgia and Florida.

It was announced that sponsorships for Bands on the Beach by local businesses would be \$1,000. The cost is \$1,500 for off-beach businesses.

The meeting ended on a high note of jubilation when Jim Cox, president of the Pensacola Beach Advocates, told the board and the audience that “Our beach newspaper is now five-years-old. The publisher, Shelley Johnson, is the only person in the room to have perfect attendance at the SRIA meetings over the last five years.”

The next SRIA meeting will be the Committees which meet at 5 p.m. on May 26 in the Authority Office. Meetings are open to the public.



Slots and Spots Team Division winners Ken Bell, left, and Pensacola Beach’s Jim Knell found success with a secret inshore redfishing spot in the Sound. They collected a first prize at the weigh in at Flounder’s on May 1. Jim, who is a retired Marine Corps pilot, organizes the Military Fishing Expedition on Pensacola Beach. Photos from the Military Fishing Expedition will appear in the June 1 edition of Island Times.



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# The School Bell Rings

## KIDS CAMP

A Recycling Summer Day Camp is being hosted by the Division of Solid Waste Management Recycling Operations Kids ages seven to 14 are invited to attend. The one day camp is free; sign up now

as space is limited. Dates are June 9, 16; July 8, 22, 29; and August 3, 5, 12.

The recycling summer day camp includes a tour of the Perdido Landfill and Recycling center, hands-on recycling projects,

working with different recycling programs and an eco-walk on the Perdido Riverwalk. For more information, contact 937-2160.

## WINNING ART

Energy Services of Pensacola representatives visited Escambia

County schools to make Energy presentations. Following the presentation fourth graders at the Beach School were allowed to enter a drawing contest showcasing what they learned. Meredith McCurdy was one of the winners and was awarded a certificate of accomplishment and a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond during a ceremony at the Pensacola city council meeting held April 8.

## BRIGHT STUDENTS

The Third Grade Sunshine Math Team at Pensacola Beach Elementary won Third Place in the Escambia County Elementary Sunshine Math Competition this year. They competed against 40 teams at Tate High School Saturday, May 8. Members are Peter Seigh, Thomas Niven, Emily Wang, and McGuire Wolfe. Their teacher is Joy McLaurine.

## TOP SPEAKER

Jamie Seabrooke, a sixth grader at Woodlawn Beach Middle School, earned first place at the school level in the Tropicana Speech Contest. He represented his school at the Santa Rosa County-wide competition, May 13.

## BOOK COUNTERS

The Pensacola Beach Elemen-

tary School will inventory the books in the library over a three day period, May 19, 20, and 21 during school hours. If you would like to assist in this effort, please call Pam Speirs to volunteer at 850-572-0146.

## BIG EASY BOUND

Fifth grade students at Pensacola Beach Elementary School will be making their annual trip to New Orleans on May 20. They take a whirlwind one day tour the historic city's sights and arrive back on the Beach in time for bed.

## SCHOOL BOARD MEETS

The Beach School Board will meet, Monday, May 24 at 6 p.m. at the School. The meeting is open to the public.

## DATES TO NOTE

No classes will be held on Monday, May 31 in observance of Memorial Day at the Beach School. The last day of school is June 9.

## GOODBYE TO HIGH

Commencement is set for June 4 for Gulf Breeze High School seniors. Look for Brad Foley, George Weisnicht, Marc Sessa, and Omari Kali-Baines in their caps and gowns.

## BOOKMOBILE

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# Musicians Memorial Rocks The Beach

What started as an idea to honor the musical legacy of a friend who passed away last year has exploded into a celebration to remember all local musicians whose instruments are now silent. The Pensacola Musician's Memorial Remembrance & Jam will be at Paradise Bar and Grill, Monday, May 24. The first notes will be played at 5 p.m. This free concert is open to all ages.

"Dennis Gossman and I planned to honor Danny Everman," said longtime musician Mike Wheeler. "It was going to be a one-time thing for Danny. Then, we found Lisa Black's Pensacola Musician's Memorial Facebook page, and the wheels started turning. Lisa and I met and discussed merging her Facebook page with a live event, and it has grown from there."

The event will include photo boards, band memorabilia and an eclectic list of musicians will entertain. Many well-known local performers are set to attend, including some popular local band reuniting, specifically for the event. The names of musicians who have passed away will be read during the evening.

"This is not going to be a somber gig," said Wheeler. "We want it to be comforting and encouraging, but we also want it to be a real 'throw-down,' to celebrate their lives and the music that they played. I mean, we're talking some great soul, country, rock, and funk artists. So it's gonna' rock! And that's fine with me."

A commemorative t-shirt will be for sale for \$20 to offset the cost of hosting the event.

For more information, visit the Pensacola Musicians Memorial and Tribute page on Facebook or email Wheeler at [earthguest@cox.net](mailto:earthguest@cox.net).



*Don't blink or the Krewe of Bananimals will put a crown on your head and name you the King of the Jungle. This is exactly what happened May 2 at the Sabine Sandbar to Bob Cowen. His Queen is Carlette Howell.*

*The Bananimals named their new royalty and corralled the krewe's board. Serving are: Rob Jackson, President; Kyle Kildow, Vice President; Bruce Yoder, Secretary and Mary Jo Tibbetts, Treasurer.*  
photo by SL Johnson

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Pensacola Beach Elementary School third graders teamed up with Island Times for a Book Drive during April. Three hundred seventy-three books were donated to children in foster care in Escambia County. Students who collected books are: (L to R, bottom to top) Cordelia Zielinski, Grace Reece, Wren Deputy, Annabel Jacobs, Carlee Amberson, Chloe Huntley, Cayson McCurdy, Joshua Thompson, Veronica Gyoerkoes, Isabella Rice, Peter Seigh, Ashley Price, Zoe Cooper, Alli Seeker, Madi Clay, Kat Denton, Patrick Cronin, Olivia Chaney, Hannah May, Thomas Niven, McGuire Wolfe, Emily Wang, and teacher Joy McLaurine. Not in photo: Clay Clifton, Mackenzie Patrick, and Sophia Slobodian

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# BUSINESS BUZZ.....

**SUPER SLIDE**

In case you have not noticed the giant, blue and yellow inflatable slide at the Soundside Market, it's back. Chic Demareau, owner of the slide and the Tiki Island golf course, says the wet and wild attraction was a hit last summer. Better get in a few practice runs before the *Island Times* Super Slide competition on July 4.

**DOING THEIR PART**

Storage Advantage on McClure Dr. in Gulf Breeze will accept donations of towels, large Rubbermaid tubs with lids, portable backyard pools, baby blankets and heating pads to assist in the cleaning of wildlife caught in the oil spill.

**HAIR TODAY HELPS TOMORROW**

Danah Gibson of Danah's Hair Salon has been engaging hair stylists and pet groomers to get educated about Matter of Trust hair collection. The hair can be recycled into matts to filter oil out of water. Sharon Mattair at Studio 98 in Na-

varre is ready to assist should the spill reach our shores.

**PULL OVER FOR YELLOW FLASHING LIGHT**

If you see a black hearse with a yellow flashing light, pull over. You will not be ticketed but will be part of the Boogie, Inc. Karaoke Party Night. Bonnie and David McDonald's disc jockeys appear at the Sandbar on Tuesday and Thursday; and at the Shaker on Wednesday. Get ready to sing and dance.

**TWO PAWS UP**

The dog lovers who own The Break are hosting a Pub Pedal Poker Run on Sunday, May 23. The proceeds go to the Pensacola Humane Society.

**BOAT CHARTS NEW COURSE**

Capt. JR of Blue Marlin Water Taxi and Tours, is usually booking trips to show tourists points of interest from the waters edge or riding locals from the dock at PegLeg's to Paradise, but the oil spill has changed his plans this summer. He

will be ferrying officials and workers to larger boats in support of the clean up operations.

**COME ON DOWN**

In honor of National Tourism Week Pensacola Visitor's Bureau

is sponsoring a contest for locals to host their family reunions in the area. The family who organizes the largest family reunion and the family who hosts the guest that travels the farthest will receive a prize

package. Submissions can be made to llee@VisitPensacola.com.



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# The Lizzard's TONGUE

by E.K. Hewson



I am beginning to think that the Memorial Day holiday is nothing but a fond memory of a slower paced time in my life. A time when I took a moment to reflect upon those American heroes who sacrificed their lives for this great country.

When I was a kid, Memorial Day weekend marked the end of the school year and the start of summer vacation. Maybe that was because it was already so hot and humid in New Orleans by the last weekend in May that no one -- students, teachers nor administrators -- wanted to be stuck indoors. Here in Maryland, the

students will return to school after the long weekend and still have a minimum of two more weeks of classroom instruction. I am sure there will be some last minute project due and we will spend Memorial Day finishing it up.

Then there is this concept of a Main Street parade in small town America where red, white and blue bunting lines the front porches of every business and home. And every citizen flies the American Flag at half staff on Memorial Day in honor of our fallen military members. I think I've been watching too much

of the Lifetime For Women Movie Channel.

I admit, I have never lived in small town America or anywhere near Main Street, but I have lived in two places always ready to parade for any occasion -- New Orleans and Pensacola Beach. I have not, however, attended a Memorial Day Parade. Maybe someday.

Of course, now that I am a full-time working adult, the idea of a three-day weekend is just an outright foreign concept. Oh, I will take time off on Monday to spend it with my family and think about how many men and women lost their lives so I could live how I choose today. Yet somehow those 40 hours will still have to be worked. Tuesday through Friday just officially became 10-hour work days, instead of eight.

I think I am starting to feel for the three little boys in the Norman Rockwell painting titled "No Swimming." It's the one where these young fellas are in a mad sprint across the page with clothes in hand. You just know all they wanted to do was take a dip in the creek wearing nothing but their mischievous smiles. Yet their aspirations to cool off in the crystal clear waters, for whatever reason, were squelched. That's how I am starting to feel about Memorial Day.

A holiday, where I should be remembering all the sacrifices that have gone into this country, has recently become a symbol of just the opposite. No parade. Just an extended school schedule and never ending work. I now understand why in 2002 that the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War requested that Memorial Day fall on the fixed date of May 30. They requested and lost, but argued that a sliding date just to accommodate a three-day weekend undermines the very meaning of the day and leads to ambivalence on the part of the American people.

Hmmm, I have to wonder how Norman Rockwell would depict Memorial Day 2010?

Until next time...



Karen Kreitzberg's Pensacola Beach home was the gathering place for Goddesses on Mother's Day, May 9. All the glamorous gals received a "Goddesses Gather Here" poem and gift cards to go have dinner together. The ladies, who are beach neighbors or have children the same age, say they are well-deserving of their Goddess designations. Opening their surprises are (L to R): Karen Kreitzberg, Denise Wheatley, Kathy Tanner, Mildred Frate-Smith, Kim Zeigler, and Polly May Myers.

Photo submitted by Robbie Loftly



Proud grandpa Eddie Williams danced the night away with six-month-old Phare Toupelo Newlin at the Voice of the Wetlands Party at Paradise on May 7. Eddie was The Islander Newspaper Father of the Year 25 years ago.



Monique Verdin, left, who organized the Voice of the Wetlands Awareness Party at Paradise May 7, was so happy about the success of the fundraiser, she planted a kiss on ten-year-old Sam Jordan's cheek. The event raised \$750.

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Mark Levron, horn player with the Houma, Louisiana Josh Garrett and The Bottomline Band, belts out When The Saints Go Marching In, as locals (L to R): Rick Cantin, Tricia Cantin and Danette Krumell cheer him on during the Voice of the Wetlands Party at Paradise May 7.

# BYTES AND BITS

By Joe Stukey, Your Computer Pal

Q: "What is Microsoft's Remote Desktop?"

A: In Microsoft's Windows program there is a feature called "Remote Desktop Connection". That feature is found in the "Accessories" folder in the Programs list. Its purpose is to allow the computer user to access another computer through the Internet. For example, you might want to work at home and access the computer at your office. Before you attempt the connection, make sure that the office computer is using at least the Professional version of Windows XP or a newer edition. The Windows XP Home Edition will not work.

The first step is to locate the "IP address" of the office computer. While sitting at the office computer, use a website like www.ipchicken.com to retrieve your IP address. That is the address that you will type into the Remote Desktop Connection program in your computer at home.

Then, in the office computer, select the option that allows the computer to be accessed by a remote user. Also, put a password on your user account so that the computer can be remotely accessed only by you. If the office computer is attached to a router, the settings in the router will have to be modified to make it transfer the connection to your office computer.

When you attempt to connect to your office computer, you will see the remote computer's logon screen. After entering the user ID and password, you will then see the screen of your office computer and will be able to use any of the programs on it. You will notice that the computer runs a bit slower on the remote connection. Other programs, such as GoToMyPC, are available from several suppliers. Those programs make the remote connection much easier, but you will have to pay a monthly fee. For questions, contact Joe at joe@ycpals.com or 206-3156.

## Stars Shine Bright At Bama Jam

The Verizon Wireless BamaJam Music and Arts Festival is three days and nights of the star studded music extravaganzas. Hosted in Enterprise, Alabama on June 3 - 5, the open air Country Music festival blends in Bluegrass and Alternative bands to provide diverse artist lineups.

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The festival is about 130 miles from the beach, but worth the drive.

Tickets are available for one day or for the entire three festival. Check out the complete schedule www.bamajammusicfestival.com



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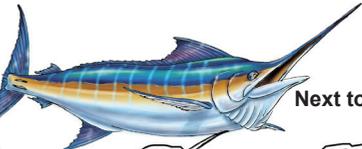
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# Beach Gals Are Aces At Hold Em Poker Tables

With the bat of an eye and an all-in bet, Pensacola Beach lady poker players stole the limelight during the recent Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun tourneys. Poker playing diva Billie Urquhart earned a win in an all-female final on May 8 at Paddy O'Leary's over Mary Jo Misiak. The female Player of the Month during April, Mary Kay Wood, battled her way through a field of 17 top notch players at the Sandshaker on May 10 to face Glenn Burleson for the win.

Results from weekly action are as follows:

## Paddy O'Leary's

May 1

1. Todd Lentini
2. Phil Tracy
3. Pete Falgout

May 2

1. Pete Falgout
2. Freddie Falgout

May 8

1. Billie Urquhart
2. Mary Jo Misiak

May 9

1. Justin Scher
2. Todd Lentini

## Sandshaker

May 3

1. Tex Atkinson
2. Sherri Lovell

May 10

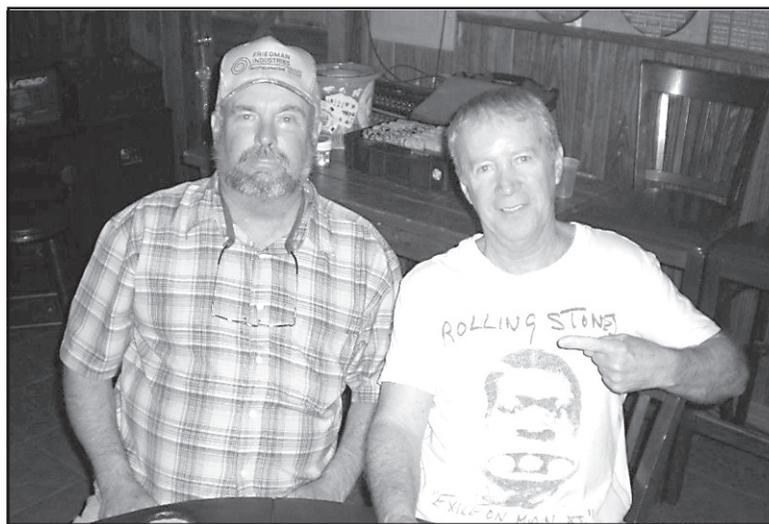
1. Mary Kay Wood
2. Glen Burleson

## From the Chip Stack

Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun players welcomed sometime beach bum and card sharp Pete Falgout, who lives full time in Sulligent, Alabama. He was visiting his brother, Freddie, who hangs his hat on the southside of Via de Luna.

Invite your friends to see the white sands on Pensacola Beach. No oil. There's always an extra chair at the poker table for visitors.

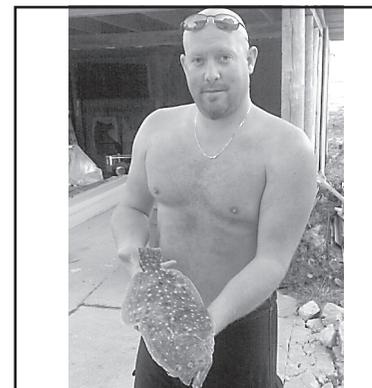
For more information about Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun games, call Rick Uzdevenes, poker promoter at 850-324-2667.



Brothers Pete, left, and Freddie Falgout battled at the poker tables at Paddy's on May 2. The Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun gang is always glad to see Pete.



Glen Burleson put on his Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun shirt briefly while in Egypt - just for fun and photos.



Justin Scher shows off a Flounder he bagged recently.

# Law Firm Offers Advice on Oil Spill Problems

Phil Hall of McKenzie, Hall and De La Piedra Law Firm warned the forty in attendance at their informational meeting on May 10 that historically BP has a poor track record.

He showed documented incidents of the fines levied against BP for failing to comply with the law. The meeting at the Pensacola Beach Community Church was to give information and offer services to those who have claims against BP due to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Hall said BP had misled the public regarding the amount of oil spilled.

"This misinformation is consistent with their history," he said. "BP spends on an average \$200,000 per year to get out the message that they are a green company."

Jim McKenzie, senior partner, during his presentation gave the following pieces of advice to the

group:

- You can try to deal with BP in getting compensation for your losses. I don't think they will give you a substantial amount of help.

- The tar balls that are arriving at Dauphin Island, could be here by this week.

- There are millions of gallons of oil in the Gulf. There is a distinction between what is on the surface and what is under the water.

- Do not try to clean up or handle this oil. It is hazardous. Avoid it.

- The Gulf front cannot be protected by leaseholders. Up to the high water mark is under the control of the Coast Guard. The inland waterfront can be boomed by citizens.

- Contact your elected officials to encourage protection and action in the clean up. Rep Jeff Miller should hear from you. Contact any or all of your elected officials from the Governor, the members of the Northwest Florida Legislative Del-

egation through to local officials.

Dale Perkins, ECUA District 4 representative, which includes the Beach, said, "Senator Bill Nelson, has voted against offshore drilling, should be contacted."

McKenzie continued, "I urge you to join the Coastkeepers organization. I think that is important. You will need to use the same survival skills of patience and perseverance that you developed during the hurricanes. And, do not sign anything that BP gives you without having it reviewed by an attorney."

"This was a preventable tragedy. It also points out that we need to be less dependent on oil," McKenzie said.

Jim McKenzie and his wife Randy were residents of Pensacola Beach for ten years. Their home was destroyed by Ivan and Dennis, so they moved to East Hill, but still attend the Beach Church.

You can reach their office at 850-202-4529.

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## Weekly Schedule

FOR RESULTS  
Island Times

Info  
850-324-2667



Downtown  
Pensacola Beach

Monday: Sandshaker, 7 PM

Thursday: Paddy O'Leary's, 7PM

Saturday: Paddy O'Leary's, 3PM

Sunday: Paddy O'Leary's, 7 PM

See you at the Poker Tables!  
Everyone is welcome to join us.

Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun  
Poker Hotline 324-2667

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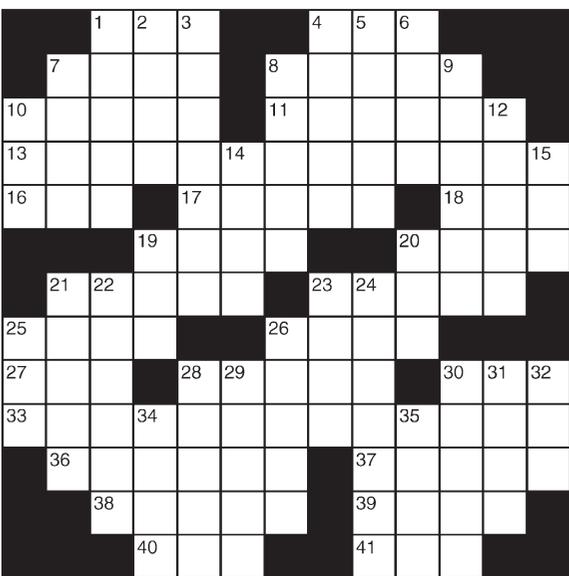
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# King Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 1 Yuletide drink
- 4 Sch. org.
- 7 Tittle
- 8 Stumbles
- 10 Fess up
- 11 Devours
- 13 "Here today, gone tomorrow" celeb
- 16 Turner or Koppel
- 17 Overact
- 18 Expert
- 19 Cereal choice
- 20 Obtains
- 21 Spectrum creator
- 23 Sprite
- 25 Mine car fillers
- 26 Hawaiian necklaces
- 27 Coal carrier
- 28 Clip wool
- 30 Billboards
- 33 Make a deal more enticing
- 36 Bit of lore
- 37 Devoid of contents
- 38 Primary pipes
- 39 Has a bug



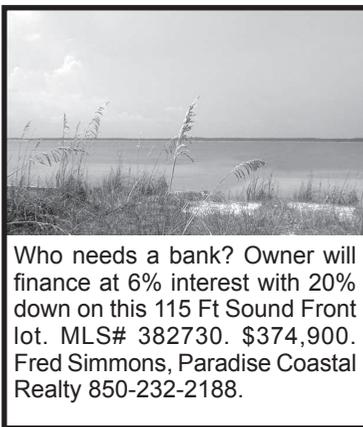
- 40 Modern-day evidence
- 41 Desiccate
- DOWN**
- 1 Wanderer
- 2 Elevator
- 3 Reaps
- 4 Brooklyn institute
- 5 Ten percent church donation
- 6 Basilica area
- 7 Between jobs
- 8 Mortise's partner
- 9 Evening meal
- 10 Sternward
- 12 Celebration
- 14 Mosque VIP name
- 15 Ph. bk. data
- 19 Again, in music
- 20 U.S. soldiers
- 21 Roam predatorily
- 22 Cash in
- 23 Exploit
- 24 Dunce
- 25 Surprise
- 26 Gives temporarily
- 28 Oktoberfest souvenir
- 29 Redhead's secret?
- 30 Use
- 31 They're often connected
- 32 Pigpen
- 34 "Holy cow!"
- 35 Eastern potentate

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### Meetings

Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce. Board of Directors meeting, Tuesday, May 18, 5 p.m. SRIA boardroom.

Pensacola Beach Elementary School Board meeting, Monday, May 24, 6 p.m. on campus. Open to the public.

Beach Chamber Membership meeting, Tuesday, May 25, 8:30 a.m. Days Inn. Guests are welcome. Please register at 932-1500.

Beach Chamber Business After Hours, May 25, 5:30 p.m. Island Realty.

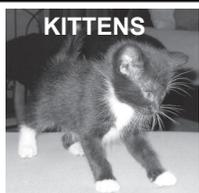
## King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.



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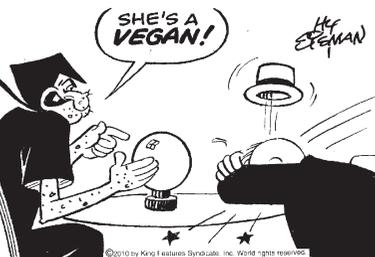
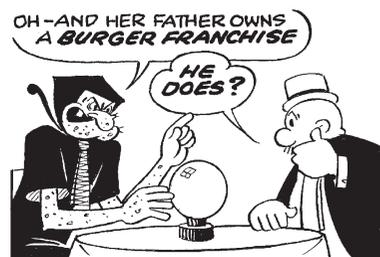
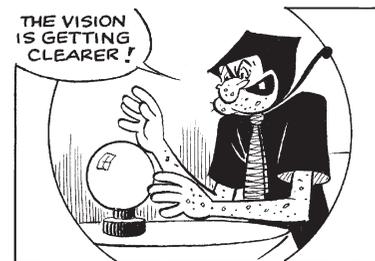
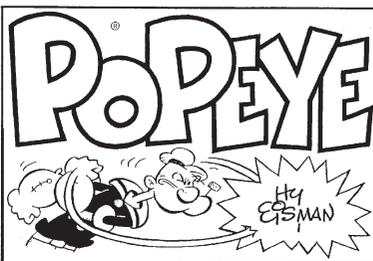
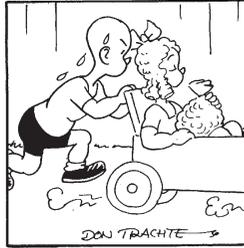
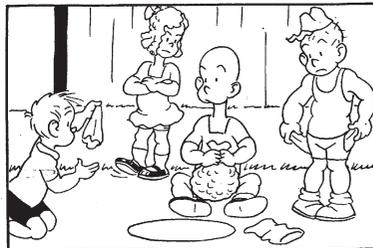
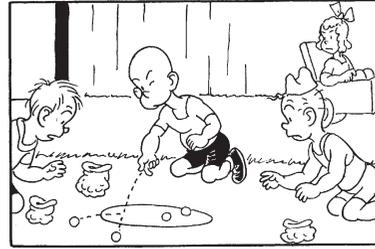
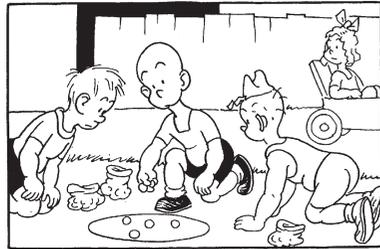
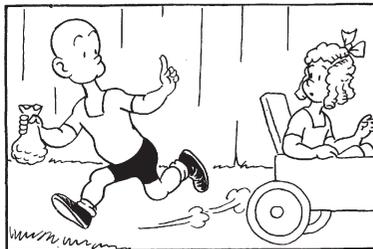
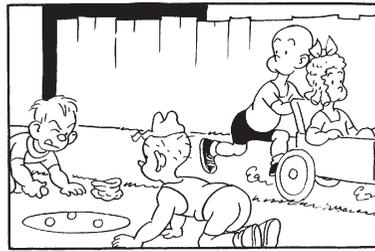
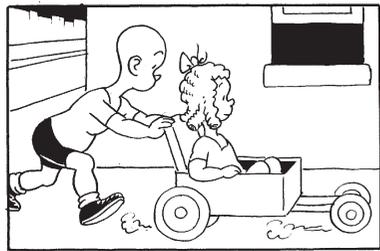
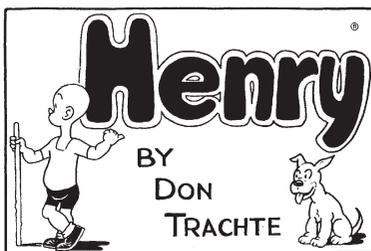
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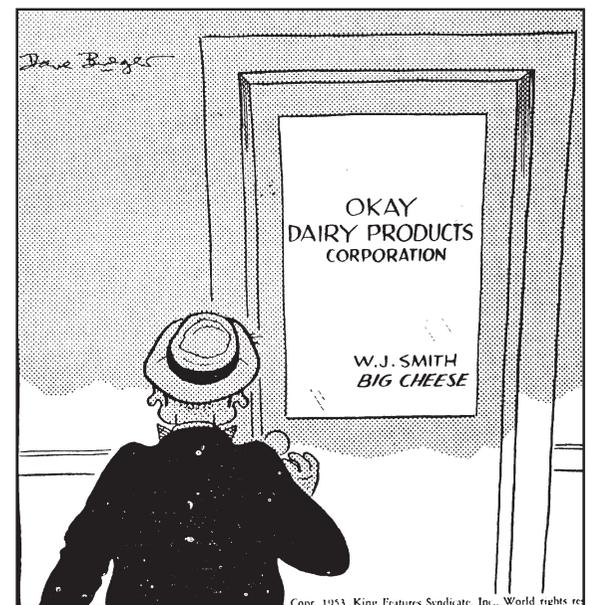


## LAFF - A - DAY



"Test it on me—I'll bet it isn't kiss-proof!"

## MISTER BREGER By Dave Breger



Knock, Knock  
Who's There?  
Ice cream.  
Ice cream, who?  
Ice cream, if you don't let me in

# Junior Optimists Charter Chapter Name, Choose Community Project

The members of the Junior Optimist chapter at Pensacola Beach Elementary School adopted the name Sandpiper Club at their meeting May 6. Thirteen members recited the Optimist Oath with President Daniel Green followed by a report that their first fundraiser was

a success. Treasurer Maddie Grace McCurdy announced that the April 28 Hat Day earned \$88 and *Island Times* sent a donation bringing the Club's monies from zero to \$108.

The annual dues were set at \$10 per member.

The Club also feathered their

nest for next year by voting unanimously to retain \$20 in the treasury. The balance of money will be used in charitable or community projects.

The Sandpipers felt strongly about assisting any shore birds which may be affected by the oil spill locally.

"I will bring you the list of items that Emerald Coastkeepers requested to clean the oiled birds," said third grade teacher Joy McLaurine. "Then you will be ready to make a donation, should the need arise."

Julia Wassner suggested ideas for an additional fundraiser.

"We could sell something to

raise more money," she said. "It is getting very warm outside, so we could sell ice cream or lemonade."

Other ideas included a pickle sale, seashell sales and a car wash. These ideas will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Pensacola Beach Optimist Club President Louise Greenley delivered a \$2500 donation from the Club to the Beach School Principal Jeff Castleberry.

"I am proud and honored to present this check to the Beach School," said Greenley. "This money was raised at our Beach Meets Far East party last month."

The Sandpiper Club members erupted in applause with their President saying, "Thank you for donating to our school."

The Club, which is open to third, fourth and fifth graders will have an election of officers at their final meeting before summer break, Thursday, May 27 at 2:30 p.m. at the School.



Pensacola Beach Optimist Club President Louise Greenley, right, presented a check to Beach School Principal Jeff Castleberry, May 6, during the Junior Optimist Club Meeting. The Club makes an annual donation for school improvement. Junior Optimist treasurer Maddie Grace McCurdy, left, and President Daniel Green attended the presentation.

## Gulf Breeze Bait and Tackle Pompano Tourney Results as of May 11 tourney ends May 31

- |                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| 1. Peter Tran    | 5.68# |
| 2. Tim Masseo    | 5.51  |
| 3. Mike Crowder  | 4.73  |
| 4. Gerald Thomas | 4.72  |
| 5. Chris Neal    | 4.71  |
| 6. Tony Pham     | 4.69  |
| 7. Mike Bindo    | 4.46  |
| 8. Loy Morgan    | 4.36  |
| 9. Ben Claud     | 4.11  |
| 10. Randy Ramsey | 4.06  |

Lady Angler  
1. Theresa Horton 4.35

Junior Angler  
1. Devin Lowell 4.06

Pier Angler  
1. Danny Smith 4.31



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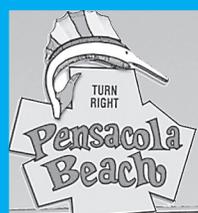
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# readin' the water

by Saltwater Rick

The last couple of weeks have produced a lot of excitement in the fishing world. Saltwater Blues Band member Rodney Bryant called me on the first day of May as I was leaving for work with news of a Monster Speck. As he arrived in front of Paddy O'Leary's with the fish, and produced it from the cooler it was an eight and one half pound Gator Trout. Take a look at the photo to the right. Rodney did not want the spot where he caught it revealed, calling the area, his special spot. And I can see why, that's the largest Speck I've seen in my 50 years of fishing these waters.

Let's just say, east of buoy 131 in the Santa Rosa Sound. With the thought of that trout in my mind, I spent the next couple of days working the area in my boat, The 4fun, with no such luck, but, the beauty of the Island and the waters surrounding it really made fishing a side line

to sight seeing and soaking it up.

There was not a house or building in sight, just the seaoat covered sand dunes and salt air filling my lungs. I cast a thousand times into the clear saltwater letting the breeze push my boat east a long the shoreline for miles. I had the time of my life.

Tons of Ling have been caught on the Big Boats cruising the coast. The Hog Wild came in last week with ten 50-plus pounders. Deckhand Shawn O'Neal told me as he cleaned up the catch that they saw over fifty that day and caught 17 releasing the small ones.

Why not Charter yourself a trip while the gettin' is good!

Poker Star Justin Scher hooked up a nice Flounder in the Gulf while having some fun with the Ladyfish. That's the first one I've seen this year. His photo is on Page 14.

Surfer Mike Willett has been



haulin' in the catfish. So as not to step on them, I guess. He also reports lots of fat Pompano. Thanks, Mike.

I've been told that the *Island Times* has the best fishing stories and pics on the rack and I thank you, our readers and fisherpersons, for making that happen.

So do yourself a favor and go fishin', and send us the pics.

## Queens Look To Hook Kings

Lady anglers have their sights set on being crowned the winner of the Queen of Kings, June 4 -5 at Paradise Bar and Grill. Entry information is available at [saltwater-events.com](http://saltwater-events.com)



Rodney Bryant hooked this Speckled Trout in the Sound around Range Point. It weighed in at 8 1/2 pounds.

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5pm til 7pm

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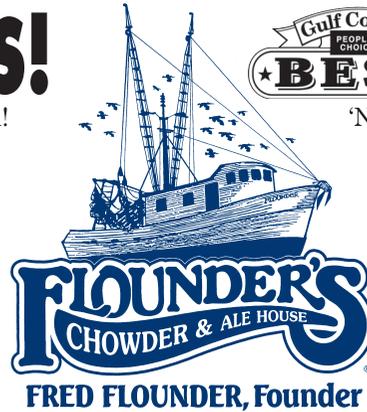
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