

ISLAND TIMES

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Pensacola Beach, Florida

February 16, 2012

Wrecks Rock !

Mardi Gras on the Island 2012



The Krewe of Wrecks rock and rule over the Island's Mardi Gras. With a wave of a scepter, the Wrecks royalty transforms the Beach into a make-believe kingdom where their subjects are to cast away worries and frets. The Wrecks honor their leading ladies in a resplendent evening event at Flounder's each year. Toasting the magic of Mardi Gras are (L to R): Wrecks First Mate II Denise Kever, Wrecks First Mate V Molly McGuire, and Wrecks First Mate XXV Judy L'Oignon. To get caught up in the magic, turn to Page 2.

Wrecks Rule, Rock and Roll

It's good to be a Wreck. The original krewe on Pensacola Beach is ready to rock and roll with you at an islandwide party like no other.

Since the very first parade on Pensacola Beach in 1980, the islanders embraced the spirit of Mardi Gras. What makes the all-volunteer corps of ready revelers dedicate countless hours to host the island celebration? Thirty-two years ago they decided that the greys of winter would be replaced with purple, green and gold of Mardi Gras. The doldrums of the off-season were cured by the parties of a madcap carnival season. And the genuine love for their island and carefree beach lifestyle could be showcased with a procession along their main avenue.

It's a mystical and mysterious transformation. It's all part of Mardi Gras on the Island as presented by the Krewe of Wrecks.

The Wrecks will crown their royalty in a lively Champagne Breakfast at Crab's, Saturday, February 18. After that, the party gets big, goes public and is non-stop.

The Wreck's Captain and his First Mate are assisted by deckhands and ship's officers. At high noon on February 18, Captain Wrecks XXXII will proclaim, "The subjects of this Beach must partake only in laughter, music, dancing, imbibing, costuming and carefree merriment from sunup until sundown. All said subjects, be they here for this day or forever, are ordered to abandon tears, gloom and worry! Let the Fun Begin."

► **The Street Dance:** Saturday, February 18, 1 p.m. The Wrecks royal court makes its first public appearance at Sabine Sandbar. The event is open to all and there is no charge to attend.

Most of the dancing happens on the waterfront second floor deck, but the tradition is for a second line procession to spontaneously make its way into Pensacola Beach Boulevard. That part doesn't last long, so don't miss it.

► **Krewe of Wrecks Mardi Gras Parade:** Sunday, February 19, 2 p.m. Rolls from Avenida 10 and Via de Luna to the Gulfside Pavilion. Fifty units representing many krewes, sparkling royalty, and precision marching will wend their way down the main drag. Parade Marshal is Colonel Mike Cook, United States Army, retired. The whole world is invited, and it feels like they all accepted the invitation. It's the best party on the beach. There is no charge to attend, but it's wise to come early and stay late. Parking lots begin to fill up about 10 a.m. Island businesses open early for breakfast.

The parade floats line up beginning at 10 a.m. on Via de Luna. Motorists are asked to use extreme caution and patience. The Escambia County deputies will close Via de Luna at parade time. They will direct traffic off the island after the parade disbands.

There are a few rules for spectators. If you want to catch beads, find a spot behind the barricades. Riders may not start throwing until the parade reaches the barricaded route.

There is an open container law which is enforced. No alcohol is allowed in public parking lots.

Be considerate of those around you. Have a good time and use common sense.

► **After Parade Party and Awards Ceremony:** Sunday, February 19, 3:00 p.m. Gulfside

Pavilion. Meet the krewes, dance among their royal courts. The best floats will be recognized. Awards will be given to the best costumed riders. Lots of Mardi Gras merriment and mayhem. No charge to attend. Everyone is welcome to join the fun.

► **Red Beans and Rice Luncheon:** Monday, February 20, 11 a.m. Casino Beach parking lot. It's a delicious New Orleans tradition that made its way onto the island. The Wrecks serve a spicy, steaming bowl of red beans over rice at no charge. That's right, free. Open to the public. Thousands will show up for the noontime party. There's

music. Drinks are available for sale. Tips are accepted for the charity du jour. The Wrecks are notoriously generous.

► **Krewe of Coma Coronation:** Tuesday, February 21, 6 p.m. Sandshaker Lounge. There is no charge to attend but a lighted hat is a must. There are prizes for the best blinkers and high shiners. The secret identity of the 2012 King and Queen of Coma will be revealed. A lighted hat procession follows the walking path north to the Sabine Sandbar. This event is open to everyone.

► **Shoe Box Float Party and Contest:** Tuesday, February 21, 8 p.m. Paradise Bar and

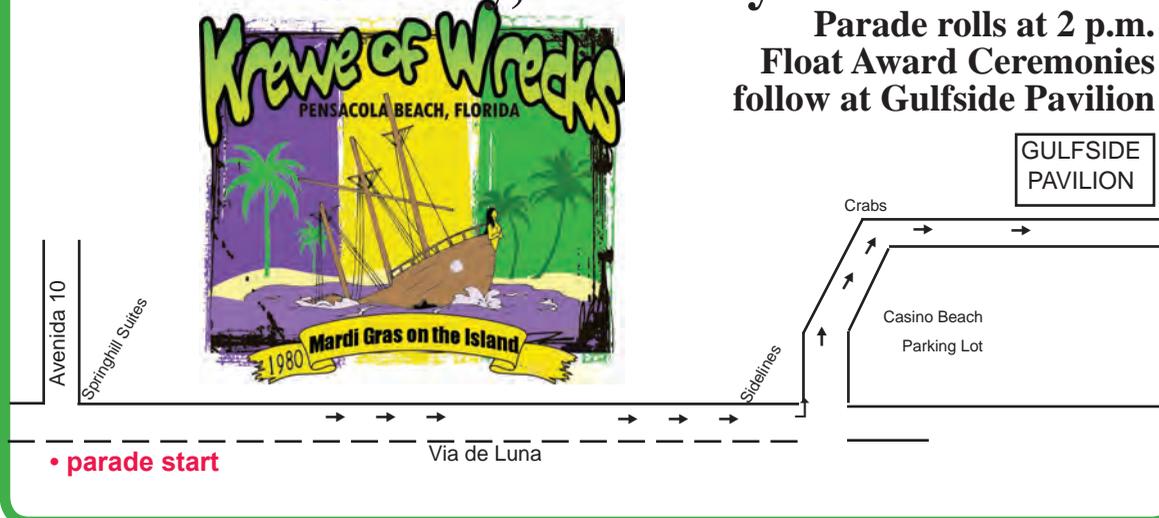
Grill. This is the last official party of the season. It centers around the crafty and creative art of making a miniature float from a shoe box. There is no charge to enter your design. Prizes are well worth the effort. General Manager Renee Mack judges the floats and gives away bar tabs, t-shirts and a grand prize overnight stay at the Inn. The dancing continues.

The Mardi Gras season has no beginning and no end for the Krewe of Wrecks, it lives in their hearts and minds every day. The rest of the world celebrates from January 6 through midnight on Fat Tuesday.

Krewe of Wrecks Mardi Gras Parade Route

Sunday, February 19

Parade rolls at 2 p.m.
Float Award Ceremonies
follow at Gulfside Pavilion



Lee Delivers Comprehensive State of the Island Address To Board

Santa Rosa Island Authority Executive Director Buck Lee reported the State of the Island to a standing room only crowd at the February 8 SRIA board meeting. His comments gave reason for optimism as the Beach moves into the new year.

"Some of the Beach businesses saw stellar numbers and we expect the trend to continue through 2012," Lee said. "Total revenues were up over 2010 and 2009."

New businesses opening this year include Shaggy's Restaurant and Innerlight Surf Shop. Innerlight owners JB Schluter and Lydia Spencer have purchased and are renovating the former Market and Pensacola Beach Marina property. Attorney

Jim Reeves' upscale RV Park is under construction and set for a 2012 launch date.

The SRIA has invested in entertainment to attract Beach visitors. Bands on the Beach will run from April through October each Tuesday evening. The first ever BonFire Jam concert on Pensacola Beach is set for May 12. The Pensacola Beach Air Show, which has been included in the Southeastern Tourism Society's top twenty-five events, is scheduled for July 13-14.

SRIA department directors made detailed presentations.

SRIA Public Safety Director Bob West added comments about the Air Show in his report.

"The 2011 Air Show had good crowds and good weather.

It was the busiest since 2003 for medical emergencies, but despite the call load response time averaged 2.5 minutes," said West.

West updated the Board about the Lifeguard program and its successes.

"Working with these phenomenal young men and women is by far the best portion of holding this position," he added.

Paolo Ghio, SRIA Director of Developmental Services, included in his department goals to secure funding for dune protecting walkovers, beach renourishment and assist leaseholders with grant workshops.

The entire State of the Island address is available online at <http://www.sria-fla.com/reports.php>.

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Forever...Barefoot on the Beach

As a tribute to Jane Waters Cooper, Island Times will continue to run some of Jane's favorite columns for your enjoyment

The Islander Newspaper, February 27, 1987

Let the Good Times Roll! Eight years ago, three people, Frank Douglas, Larry Geisel and Jane Waters met on a dark, cold, misty November afternoon in Delgado's (now Flounder's). Their purpose was to conduct a feasibility study on presenting a Mardi Gras celebration on Pensacola Beach. The first order of business was to scrub the study. The threesome knew that starting a promotion with

no money, no precedent, and no sponsorship could only be insane. So, they proceeded to establish the Krewe of Wrecks. Larry became the first treasurer by contributing a hundred bucks to get a bank account set up. Memberships went on sale for \$5 each. Thirty people bought them and the Wrecks were in business.

Amazingly, the format set up in 1980 has never changed. The celebration has simply blossomed under the careful tutelage of the Wrecks Board

of Directors. Many of the first thirty members have gone, but they left their mark. The parade that first year consisted of a few automobiles, the SRIA garbage truck, two fire trucks and the Mayoki Indians. Still the royal court headed the procession, riding in vintage convertibles, just as they do today. Capt. Harry Gowens sponsored the Red Beans and Rice Luncheon, carrying the financial and food preparation burden on his own in 1980. The second year,

the Island Authority crashed through with the bucks to continue the luncheon and they have done this every year since.

We are all singing the official Krewe of Wrecks song written by Rosemary Ryle. We are still producing costumes for the royal court, using the design Sara James created in 1980. And, we are still putting her logo on our t-shirts. Year after year, we return for meetings in the same beach bistros which have served the Wrecks so well. The meetings remain the same, retaining the successful agenda...five minutes of some kind of business and a couple of hours of hardy partying.

Back in 1980, the Wrecks could not afford to buy postage stamps, so membership cards were handed out at meetings just as they are now. Meeting dates were announced in *The Islander*, and this tradition continues.

There are a lot of unsung

heroes and heroines in the Wrecks' chronicles...like the members of the Woman's Club, who come forth to serve Red Beans and Rice every year, the sequiners who decorate the sailor hats and costumes, the t-shirt sellers, the beer pullers, and munchee makers.

I am the only member of that first triumvirate still working with the Krewe of Wrecks. It's time-consuming, sometimes frustrating, frequently nerve wracking, and I would not trade the experience for anything in the world. (Oh well, maybe a million dollars.)

Tomorrow, as I step to the podium and give my eighth greeting of "Happy Mardi Gras," all the happiness in the hearts of the Wrecks who have enjoyed or who still enjoy the mystical communion of fun loving souls, will flood over me. And, I will rejoice one more time that Mardi Gras on Pensacola Beach lives...

Happy Mardi Gras!



QUEEN GENA AND HER ENTOURAGE - The Krewe of Bananimals partied until the stoke of midnight, Saturday, February 11 at Castaways during their royal Mardi Gras Ball. Paying tribute to their 2011 Queen are (L to R): Buck Emerson, Dr. Karan Gil, Bob Cowen, the Queen Gena Raymon, Dick Brown and Pete Moore. The Bananimals, founded in 1997, meet year round at the Sabine Sandbar. They support many charitable causes including the Santa Rosa Kids House and Pensacola Humane Society. They will parade on the Beach February 19.

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MARDI GRAS

Mardi Gras on the Island Events

February 18

Champagne Breakfast, Crab's We Got 'Em, 10 a.m., \$\$ Wrecks Ticket info: melanie@waite.cc

Street Dance, Sandbar, 1 p.m. Open

February 19

Krewe of Wrecks Parade, 2 p.m. Open

February 20

Red Beans and Rice Lunch, 11 a.m. Casino Beach. Open

February 21

Krewe of Coma, Sandshaker, 6 p.m. Open

Shoe Box Float Contest, Paradise, 8 p.m. Open

Visit the Mardi Gras on the Island Founder's Bench at Flounder's

OPEN = everyone is welcome
\$\$ = Ticket is required

PensacolaBeachMardiGras.com

PEOPLE

BEACH BABE

The contest was for beautiful people laden with Mardi Gras spirit, so the smiling and lovely Bev Butler was crowned the Krewe of Brew's 2012 Beach Babe at the Sandshaker January 28. She earns a coveted spot on the Krewe of Brew float during the Krewe of Wrecks Mardi Gras parade.

LOVE THIS LASS

Amid the shenanigans at the Krewe of St. Patrick Ball, February 3, Wes Harvel got down on one knee and asked Melissa Redding to be his bride. All Irish eyes were on Melissa, who said "yes." They danced the night away on the waterfront dance floor at Paul's by the Bay.

PROUD AS PEACOCKS

The stork is wearing purple, green and gold feathers to deliver this new krewe member. Kathleen Monahan and John Murphy are proud new grandparents of Lillian Elizabeth Harrelson, who was born on February 6 in Pensacola. Congrats.

BIG FOUR OH

Navarre's Candace Arrow-smith was whisked away for a beach birthday on February 3. Her husband Steven took her for a romantic dinner at The Grand Marlin. The couple's youngsters, Conlin and Campbell, got to play their grandmother's house. It was Campbell's turn the following weekend. She turned two-years-old on February 12.

SISTERHOOD

Virginia Rutledge was honored by her sorority sisters last month for surpassing a milestone of seventy-five years as a Delta Gamma. The national office in Columbus, Ohio recognized her accomplishment and presented Virginia with a cream colored rose. Celebrants included Marilyn Kelly, Terri Guillory, Mary Claus, Bobbi Weeks, Lane Thomas, MaryPat Forgie, Lynn Carmichael, Joanna Gurchiek, Stephanie Cannon, Susan Cole, Ami DeBrine, Diane Thompson, and Diane Folse.

AIM HIGH

Former Beach School student Chad Harvey has been accepted into the International Baccalaureate program at Pensacola High School. Chad, who is in eighth grade, is the son of Casey and Diana Harvey. Little

sister Laken is in the second grade at the Beach School.

DESTIN FAMILY

Delores and Lock Wernet are former Beach and Gulf Breeze residents who now live in Destin. Alice Aman Ramsey made sure they get to keep up with all that's happening by sending them a gift subscription to *Island Times*. Perhaps it was for Valentine's Day.

IN THE STARS

Dawn Wise is a wife, mom and career woman who stays way too busy. She's the guest relations and special events coordinator at McGuire's. Her husband recommended that she slow down and stop taking on so many tasks, which was exactly what her *Island Times* horoscope predicted. She slowed down long enough to read her horoscope, but that was all.

GETTING ROUNDED UP

The Krewe of Bananimals opened the corral long enough to bring in three new members last week. Membership Chairman Darlene Larkin welcomed Arona Zelman, Linda Petty and Robert Smith to the herd of partying people.

PARTY TIME

Theresa Carter and her friends from Mobile visited Nettie McCulley in her home on Maldonado Drive on February 7. Theresa and Nettie's friendship dates back to 1970 when they worked together in a school library in Maryland. Nettie made sure Theresa and her gang visited all the fun places on the Beach. After lunch at Crabs, Patti Wright entertained the group at Portofino. Nettie bragged a bit on her friend's family. March 10-11 Theresa's granddaughter, Kathryn Morgan, New York City Ballet soloist, will perform with Mobile Ballet in "Swan Lake." Bravo!

EARLY BIRDS

Cailyn and Kennady Cooke were early birds for the Kids and Kritters parade. Seems grandmother Pandora de Balthazar calendared February 4 instead of February 11. No problem. The whole family made cookies and had an old-fashioned tea party complete with kid-sized teacups.

THANKS MAJOR

A special thank you from the Kids and Kritters to Jim Knell for bringing dozens of U.S. Marines as helpers.

Trivia

Well, the Trivia Master feels pretty much like Jacques Cousteau right now. He dove into the depths of Beach lore and asked, "In the summer of 1979, what Beach hotel offered SCUBA lessons?"

Some pretty fine trivia players floated answers across the electrons, but not one of them splashed down with the correct answer. Skipper's Dive Shop offered SCUBA lessons on Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. at the Pensacola Beach Holiday Inn. The Innkeeper was Allen Dean who thought offering people a chance to learn an exciting new skill like SCUBA diving would be a way to help them make the most of their vacation on the Beach.

The Trivia Master's favorite red head, Beverly McCay, was close to correct with this. "When I worked at Howard Johnson's, Frank Douglas, the general manager, made an arrangement with Skipper's Dive Shop to do NASDS certification. Folks would come in from all over - midwest, west and south - to get their certification and part of it took place in the pool. I am sure that was before 1979."

Noting that Beverly Mc-

Cay was raised on Pensacola Beach and that she is the GM of the Holiday Inn Express, the Master tips his hat to her. Close, but no cigar. Her seat at the Trivia Roundtable awaits. She has to earn it, however, with a string of correct answers.

Sir Offshore Chuck Brower accused his keyboard of playing evil tricks on his brain when he sent two incorrect guesses. The Tiki, although a hot spot for locals with their Gulf front lounge, was never a place of learning, anything. Jim Knell and Kelly Eddins sent the same answer. Swift, but sorry. No scuba.

The MaiKai was Sir Offshore's second answer. That sailed off the edge of the Earth.

Our most venerable Knight of the Roundtable, Sir Morrie, usually bubbles up with a correct answer. He was not sure, but captured a correct guess with this, "I believe it was the Five Flags Inn. Although it could have been Tiki, HoJo's or Holiday Inn."

Since he is a Knight, the Master allows him to send answers like that. The rest of you have to play by the rules. One answer or guess, as the case may be.

Well, the *Island Times* trivia t-shirt is a fine prize, so let's give one away. The first person to email the correct answer to this question will win.

He's toasted the Sisters of the Beach, served the Queens of the Mardi Gras, weathered Erin, Opal, Ivan and a host of others things that have blown across the sands of the island. He has been one of Fred Flounder's finest for over twenty-five years. Name this friendly fellow and win an *Island Times* t-shirt to wear to the Mardi Gras parade.

Who is it? Email your answer to islandtimes@bellsouth.net with trivia in the subject line. Include your name and phone number. The deadline to answer is Tuesday, February 28. Good luck!

Star Gaze
March 28
6 to 8 PM
Pensacola Beach
Elementary

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Monday Red Beans & Rice

Fat Tuesday
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8 PM

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Mardi Gras Weekend

- **Fri & Sat 17th & 18th**
The Dream Vipers
- **Sunday, Parade Day**
Mike Jenks Band
- **Fat Tuesday**
John Hart & Fatty Waters
- **Feb 24 Paul Killough**
- **Feb 25 Posi Tones**
- **Feb 26 Simplified**
- **Feb 27 John Hart & Fatty Waters**
- **Feb 28 Simplified**
- **Feb 29 Fish out of Water**

Authority Board Votes For Overpass At Marathon Meeting

The six members of the Santa Rosa Island Authority Board traveled a long and winding road which ended at the main intersection of Pensacola Beach. They voted, 5 to 1, at their February 8 Full Board meeting to recommend that a vehicular overpass be constructed as a major component of the Pensacola Beach Master Plan for core area redevelopment. Dr. Thomas Campanella, elected member, cast the opposing vote. The estimated cost is \$25 million.

The two year journey began with Ft. Lauderdale based planners EDSA creating a conceptual Master Plan. A thirteen member steering committee reviewed the plan and made recommendations to the SRIA board. Escambia County hired engineers who submitted two buildable options. The first included a pedestrian overwalk and the other, a vehicular overpass. Both plans reduce the number of available parking spaces, but increase safety and pedestrian access from the Beach to the Sound. One possible funding source is an increase in the toll to \$2.

The boardroom was overflowing with concerned citizens. Comments came from 18 speakers, among them were members of the recently disbanded Steering Committee. The Steering Committee members Jim Cox, Marilyn Hess, Julian MacQueen

and Robert Rinke all spoke in favor of the overpass option.

"We have one chance to do something truly amazing," said hotelier Marilyn Hess. "We have the ability to update our island and be the only pedestrian-friendly beach. Every place else has messed it up."

Hotelier Julian MacQueen asked the Board to look to the future.

"Look forward and beyond. Allow for the growth and demand that would come to Pensacola Beach," he added. "Look at the future and the competitive advantage. This shows that we value our guests and visitors over the vehicles."

Beverly Campbell, Sandshaker owner and Beach resident, was concerned about the cost and goal of the redevelopment.

"This started as a parking issue and now it is a safety concern," she said. "We need to know what we need to accomplish here. To go into debt and to raise the toll concerns me. I would rather see a pedestrian overpass with the other money spent on the relocation of our Visitor's Center."

Bill Compton, a Beach resident who is an urban planner, asked the board to use a common sense approach with a landscaped pedestrian sidewalk system, parallel to the roads.

"Why are you spending this kind of money to address an oc-

casional problem?" he inquired. "I strongly and professionally recommend against these options."

Speakers offered alternatives which ranged from crossing guards to lowering the speed limit to 15 miles per hour.

Board member and Beach resident Tammy Bohannon thanked the community for attending the meeting.

"We were tasked to get a consensus. People in the audience want to do nothing. Over the past thirty years, we have put plans on the shelf. We need to move forward. Businesses have made an investment out here and we (SRIA) have not made an investment. Plan B will provide a sense of arrival and a wow factor," she said.

Board Chairman Dave Pavlock commented, "This is Escambia County's biggest playground. I love the plan, but it's too much to pay for the result that we expect. We need something that is a little bit cheaper, but will still increase the level of service at the intersection."

In addition to the reservations about cost and esthetics of the project, Campanella questioned the entire process.

"I don't mind backing up. This kinda got out of hand," he said. "Before we spend \$25 million that the County does not have, we need to retime lights, move crossing to another area. It's the beach that brings people here, not the roadways or the

palm trees."

The motion to approve the vehicular bridge was made by Vernon Prather with stipulations for further public and SRIA involvement. He included funding, operations and maintenance in his motion which passed with five votes.

"This board can conceptually approve this plan but remain an active part of the design review process," he said. "I would like the County to fully explore all funding possibilities since I am not in favor of making the toll increase the only option. The SRIA should develop operational and maintenance cost estimates for what is being proposed."

Baskerville Donovan's Freddy Donovan noted that the County includes a time for review and public comment during the design phases of projects such as this.

The Board tackled the prioritization of other Master Plan projects after a request came from Escambia County Administrator Randy Oliver. The north entry and gateway project is at the top of the list followed by a north-south access road to the Bob Sikes fishing bridge, a walkable boardwalk connecting the core area, east and west streetscape and pedestrian connections, and the east entry

gateway.

The Master Plan recommendations will be discussed by the Board of County Commissioners at the Committee of the Whole, March 8 at 9 a.m. The Commission meets in Board Chambers, Room 100, 221 Palafox Place.

Other business of the board included:

□ A settlement agreement with Five Flags Tourism Group to pay \$9041 in fees due for DeLuna Fest 2010. An audit showed a discrepancy of \$21,789 in revenues.

□ Engineer Mike Langston, BDI, reported the Via de Luna median landscaping may be taken over by Escambia County. The funding which was dedicated to the project for bidding and administrative tasks could then be re-allocated into design. The board approved this 5 to 0.

□ Thatched roof, tiki style palapas will be located at island trolley stops this season. Bids are being accepted from potential vendors.

□ The Beach Ball water tower will be repaired and painted in April. Tank Pro was the low bidder.

The next SRIA meeting is Wednesday, February 22 at 5 p.m. The meetings are open to the public.

Beach Leaseholders May Apply For Homestead Exemption

Pensacola Beach leaseholders have been assessed ad valorem taxes upon both their improvements and land this year. Litigation is ongoing between the County taxing authorities and the leaseholders.

Until such time as the court rules in the case, the leaseholders are not compelled to pay their taxes. However, interest does accrue on the taxable amount.

Leaseholders who qualify may apply for a Homestead Exemption. Escambia County Property Appraiser Chris Jones said today the downtown property appraiser's office will be open Saturdays from 9 a.m. until noon through the March 1 deadline, for citizens wishing to file homestead tax exemption for 2012. The downtown office is on the third floor of the Escambia

County Courthouse, located at 221 Palafox Place.

"We want to provide as much convenience as possible for citizens who want to file for exemptions," he said.

If a home was purchased before January 1, 2012 and it is a primary residence, homestead exemption should be filed by March 1, 2012. Citizens can also file exemptions at the main office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

"It's something every homeowner should take advantage of," Jones said. "Homestead exemption can reduce the taxable value of a residence by as much as \$50,000."

Renewal notices for existing Escambia County homestead residents have already been mailed. Owners with new residential

property or owners transferring ("porting") their prior homestead benefit should file for the exemption by March 1.

The documentation required to file homestead exemption is:

- Evidence of home ownership.
- Social Security number of applicant and spouse, if applicable.
- Proof of Florida residency such as a Florida driver's license, Florida vehicle registration, Florida voter registration and other information that will prove residency.

Anyone 65 or older or who is disabled may qualify for additional exemptions.

For more information, please call the Property Appraiser's Office at 434-2735 or go online to www.escpa.org.



CASTING CALL!

PEN AIR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION IS LOOKING FOR ACTORS TO APPEAR AS **SUPER HERO** SPOKESPEOPLE THROUGHOUT 2012!

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

Auditions will be held at Pen Air FCU on Nine Mile Road. Please be prepared with recent headshot and resume.

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CHARACTERS PORTRAYED SHOULD APPEAR AS FOLLOWS BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO THESE DESCRIPTIONS:

Male: The portrayed character appears intimidating but helpful; very muscular build; dark features; age 25-50.
Female: The portrayed character has a strong, poised, witty and intelligent personality; dark hair and toned build; age 18-30.
Female: The portrayed character is strong and sassy; Light colored hair; 18-30.
Male: The portrayed character is wise and calm, and appears as a mix between Robin Hood and a retired military man; muscular build; age 25-50.
Male: The portrayed character is extremely smart and analytical; normal to slender build; age 18-28.

For info, contact Libby at morrli@penair.org or 850-505-3200 Ext. 4151

PENAIRPATROL.ORG





peas, porridge & a dry martini

by Kathi Lewis

During the last thirty years I have been on nearly every side of Mardi Gras which exists. I have been involved in nearly every aspect of the Mardi Gras Parade with the exception of being on the Board of the Krewe of Wrecks. And that is one thing I'm grateful not to be. Those people work extremely hard every Mardi Gras season to make sure that we have our parade in paradise, and that it's the best of its kind anywhere.

It's hard enough to attend every single KOW meeting, not to mention setting that all up, dealing with the money, paying what has to be paid, complying with the SRIA along with the Escambia County Sheriff's Office and making our parade safe, accessible and guaranteed to be the most fun you will ever have in a single day.

And that's just the parade part. We haven't even gotten to the massive job of cooking and serving red beans and rice, along with beverages and entertainment to anyone who shows up without charging a single cent. Now you tell me where else in the world you can get that?

I have gone from riding on the back of a pick-up truck with the Sisters of the Beach (SOBs) on a "hurricane evacuation" float to riding in the parade with the SOBs as the more sophisticated Pensacola Beach Raisins. Ok, we were still on the back of a pick-up truck but we had much better costumes. And this was before anyone else costumed as The Singing Raisins. (Oh yeah, I knocked Deb Friedman's giant sunglasses off as soon as the

parade started trying to throw beads to her daughter Deanna.)

I have gone from slaving over a hot grill cooking a bazillion eggs to feed the hungry masses to proudly riding in a convertible wearing the tiara of the KOW First Mate. Now you tell me where else in the world could have that happen?

I have attended After Parade ceremonies in the Penthouse on the top of the Holiday Inn and I have hosted After Parade parties in my own Sand Dollar Café. I have attended ceremonies at the Boardwalk Amphitheatre and danced on stage at the Gulfside Pavillion.

I have been a participant and a spectator in the beach's longest Mardi Gras parades when they began at the Fire Station and floats were lined up and down the street where I live. I have sometimes received more throws for allowing guests access to my home and facilities than I ever collected in any parade.

I have spent more money on, thrown, caught, given, received, hauled, loaded, unloaded, begged, fought for and possibly thrown away more beads than any one sane person should have in their entire life.

I joined a krewe made up entirely of women and we have screamed, cried, laughed, fought, got over it, got mad at, but most of all loved. We have created, designed, painted and decorated an entire float in the large category and have received first place in our Float Division along with Grand Marshall's Award, more than once. Okay, so maybe we have a little help from our friends, mermaids and love slaves, so what? Now you tell me where else in the world could I do that?

We are without a doubt the most Blessed people upon the face of the Earth to live our lives in paradise. On an island where

magic, make believe, fairy dust, beads, glitter, sparkle and love make every face shine and every heart smile.

So when you cross that bridge and go through the toll gate; when you see the dolphin tanks and your wheels or feet touch the sand in paradise, give your Praise to God but don't forget to thank the people who make this day possible every year.

Tiaras and hats off to the small but mighty Krewe of Wrecks guided by Jeff Goudey and his entire Board of merry-makers.

Today I am cooking up a different kind of dish...

Recipe for a Successful Parade

- Please keep yourselves, your children and/or pets behind the barricades. They are for your protection.

- If you are taller than 24 inches, please plan to be in the second row behind the barricades.

- If you get hungry or thirsty, please patronize our beach businesses. They are here to serve you.

- If you catch some beads and there is another hand entangled, let them go. There will be enough for everyone.

- If you have a chair and see an older person without one, please be kind and share.

- If you are in front of the little ones, please step back. We will throw as hard as we can to reach the back of the crowds.

- If you are indulging in alcoholic beverages, please drink responsibly and try to pace yourself. It will be a very long day and water can be a very good thing.

- Don't forget to make a shoe box float for entry in the Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras Float Contest!

Laissez les Bon Temps Rouler
See ya in the kitchen.....



THE QUEEN AND THE BABE - Gwen Gibson, left, was crowned Queen of the Krewe of Brewe at their Black Tie Ball, February 4 at the Elk's Lodge. Bev Butler, the Brewe's Beach Babe, right, will ride with the Queen on the krewe's float.



Tommy and Wendy Grice on the dance floor at the Krewe of Brewe Ball, February 4.

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A Cross in the Sand

By
Rev. Dr. Tom Garrison
Pensacola Beach Community Church



Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday are right around the corner. Many of us know and celebrate Mardi Gras, and maybe we could rethink our worship time in our Ash Wednesday Service on February 22 at 6 p.m. Please plan to come and begin our journey of Lent together.

In Western Christianity, Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count).

Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. During some Ash Wednesday services, the minister will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads or right hand of worshippers.

Not all Christian churches observe Ash Wednesday or Lent, but Roman Catholics, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and Anglican denominations, and also the UCC do. These churches, as well as Eastern Orthodox, observe Lent during the 6 weeks or 40 days preceding Palm Sunday with fasting continuing during the Holy Week of Easter. Lent for Eastern Orthodox churches begins on Monday and Ash Wednesday is not observed.

The Bible does not mention Ash Wednesday or the custom of Lent, however, the practice of repentance and mourning in ashes is found in 2 Samuel 13:19; Esther 4:1; Job 2:8; Daniel 9:3; and Matthew 11:21.

Beach Churches Set Ash Wednesday Services

Ash Wednesday services will be held on February 22 at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Mission, 920 Via de Luna at 6 p.m. For more information go to www.stannulgfbreeze.org.

Pensacola Beach Community Church, which is at the corner of Via de Luna and Avenida 18 hosts their service at 6 p.m. More information is available at www.thebeachchurch.com.

Book Club Discusses Wilson Novel

Meeting Set For February 27 at Beach Elks Lodge

The Gulf Breeze Book Club will hold its next regular monthly meeting Monday, February 27, 6:30 p.m. at the Pensacola Beach Elk's Lodge. The book to be discussed this month is "Anthill" by E.O. Wilson, a work of fiction that is set in Southern Alabama and the Florida Panhandle.

The author is described online as, "Regarded as one of the world's preeminent biologists and naturalists, Edward O. Wilson grew up in south Alabama and the Florida Panhandle, where he spent his boyhood exploring the region's forests and swamps, collecting snakes, butterflies, and ants--the latter to become his lifelong specialty. The author of more than twenty books, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning "The Ants" and "The Naturalist" as well as his first novel "Anthill," Wilson, a professor at Harvard, makes his home in Lexington, Massachusetts."

Visitors are always welcome

at the meeting. Please contact Donna Jones for more information at donnaljones@hotmail.com or 850-932-8620.

Letters To The Editor ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Sailors Return

We're home! Buddy and Linda Tippin, 30 year beach residents are back home. If our name doesn't ring a bell maybe you remember the two Siberian Huskies that lived on the roof on Rio Vista Drive. Still don't remember us? Well, we managed the Sandshaker Sandwich Shop back in 1998-1999.

We planned our three month sail to the Bahamas on our 43' sailboat, "Windward Spirit" and left in March of 2011. After enduring Hurricane Irene in the Abacos along with several other interesting mishaps along our 4,000 mile journey, we returned "home" safe and sound some 10 months later.

Windward Spirit endured the hurricane, but sustained significant damage... as did we. The boat was patched well enough to make it home. She now faces a couple of months on the hard for necessary repairs as the boat and crew make ready to head out again. This time plans will take us to the South Pacific via the Panama Canal for some extensive cruising.

So, if you see me or Linda say "Welcome Home" and "Fair winds and following seas" for the upcoming journey in November. And, if you have time for a Margarita or two, we'll tell you an interesting sea story.

Buddy Tippin
Pensacola Beach

Big Thanks

From Small Fry

On behalf of the participants in the Kids and Kritters Parade, I would like to thank the volunteers, judges and participants who made the coldest day in 2012 into a festive, fun parade day. Thanks to: Judges Lila and Jim Cox, Terry Preston, Amy Depew, Dr. Tim Gossman. Volunteers Jim Knell, Lynda Knell, Bettie Lee Sundstrom, Mary Ann Claus, Rick Gordon, Mary Wright, Libby Morris, Melanie Waite, Dan McGrath, Richard Johnson, United States Marines from MATSG-21, Jackie Henderson, Diana Harvey, Lois Hausman, Pat Cribb, Andy Murphy, Chuck Brower, Kim Schmitz, Bob Dority, Madison Murphy, and Boogie, Inc. Donations from Carleen Wheeler, Krewe of Wrecks, Island Times, Susi Mardis and Krewe of Junkanoo, Gwen Gibson, Angela Moore and Krewe of Bananimals. Special Thanks to Sidelines; and to the Godfathers - Ted Pence, Art Parrish and Jim Kittel.

Shelley Johnson
Parade Chairman

Twentieth Year

I just wanted to highlight some of the key events from our February 11 Mardi Gras Ball. We celebrated our 20th anniversary! I think I speak for everyone who attended it was one of the best

balls EVER! Tim Spencer started off the night for cocktail hour and then "Southern Breeze" rocked the night away. Tim Morgan had prepared food for the krewe--you know it was good! Castaway's also provided some tasty appetizers to keep us going.

We surprised the krewe by going back to the tradition of crowning new royalty at the ball. Brenda Roberts and Rusty Kleinsmith were both pleasantly surprised to receive their crowns. I must say I enjoyed wearing the new beautiful capes for the krewe hand-crafted by Brenda and Rusty. How fun it was to pass them down to them!

The Kildow family showed up in force to join in the efforts of decorating. Brenda had put together some unbelievable centerpieces as well as "sprucing up" decorations from past events. New members Carmen Patterson, Rhonda Barkley, and Cate Brown showed up to join the fun.

The krewe honored founding members and our first King Bryan Denham and Queen Karen Cook Cowen.

We continued with a post-party at the Sandbar on Sunday with leftovers from the ball. President Angela Moore led the cleanup effort along with Jerry and Stacey Wright.

Gena Raymon
Bananimals Queen
2011

Sunday Services

Worship by the Water, 9 AM Flounder's Beach
Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church
www.gbumc.org

Our Lady Catholic Church, 9:45 AM
Avenida 18 /Via De Luna www.stannulgfbreeze.org

Pensacola Beach Church, 10 AM
Avenida 18 /Via de Luna www.thebeachchurch.com



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The UPS Store

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2-16 6:30 p.m.

Beachkeepers Ramp Up Recycling With New Event

Recycling fever is racing across the island fueled by the PBA Beachkeepers. The environmentally-minded group will host Recyclemania, Saturday, March 31 according to event captain Lois Hausman. This announcement was made during the February 7 Beachkeepers meeting.

Recyclemania, which begins at 8 a.m. at Casino Beach, will include information booths, a shredding event and a community-wide yard sale.

"It's a great way to do your spring cleaning, and recycle household items into a little bit of cash," said Hausman.

Yard sale spaces will be \$20 for non-members and free for Pensacola Beach Advocates

members. The spaces are limited. Pre-registration is required. Applications can be requested at info@pbadvocates.org.

Gilmore Shredding will be on site to accept up to fifty pounds of paper materials from residents.

"I have previously volunteered at a shredding event," said PBA President Jim Cox. "It's fun. The professionals handle the actual shredding, so you can just drive up and drop off. It's very easy."

The Beachkeepers have four areas of concentration, which are: dune preservation, alternative transportation and parking, wildlife and litter and recycling.

The Dune Preservation Team is encouraging beachwide educa-

tion about restoring dunes with plants and properly constructed dune cross-overs.

"The Santa Rosa Island Authority committee will be discussing dune walkover repair and construction on February 22," said Beachkeeper Ray Ascherfeld. "It is important that we attend that meeting to share our findings on how best to preserve and restore the island dune system."

The seasonal Beach Trolley system will also be discussed at the February 22 SRIA Committee meeting. The Beachkeeper's alternative transportation subcommittee supports more education about riding the free trolley.

"Let's encourage neighbors and visitors to ride the trolley,"

said Beachkeeper Jay Baynes. "We can volunteer to share information and maybe even ride the trolley as a group to show support. In any case, we should all attend the SRIA committee meeting and ask that the Board refer back to their Trolley Committee's 2011 recommendations."

Other forms of getting around the island like bicycling just got easier. According to Baynes, the Santa Rosa Island Authority has replaced older and increased the number of bike racks on the island.

Harry Purcell noted that planting on the island to hold sand in place also increases habitat for beach wildlife. His comment was part of the wildlife subcommittee's discussion on shorebirds,

pelicans and butterflies.

"Plants which attract butterflies used to be all over the island," he said. "We need to get those back."

The wildlife subcommittee is preparing educational information about shorebird and turtle nesting season along with pelican habitat.

JJ Waters Beachkeeper's chairman, commented, "What this group has done in such a short time is amazing. I am encouraged by the goals and commitment."

The Beachkeepers group is open to anyone interested in good stewardship of the Island environment. Membership in the Pensacola Beach Advocates, which is \$30, is a prerequisite to joining. There is no charge to be a Beachkeeper. For more information go to www.pbadvocates.org.



We Can Do It! Judy L'Oignon dressed as Rosie the Riveter at the Krewe of Wrecks Grand Mardi Gras Ball, February 11 at the Elk's Lodge. The theme was "God Bless America." Judy won the Costume Contest. She served as the krewe's First Mate in 2004.



CC The Clown Award winner Laken Harvey, left, lines up for the Kids and Kritters Parade, February 11 with Rebecca Watford of Best Paw Forward, her Doberman Hawk, Frankie "I'm A Lover, Not A Fighter" and his mom Teresa Harris. In the background are Bryan Hodges and Richard Mosley of Gulf Breeze. The event attracted 54 dogs, and hundreds of humans of all ages. The next Kids and Kritters Parade is proposed for February 2, 2013.



Jim Cox, left, awards Lauren Pinkston a CC the Clown Award for her costume at the Kids and Kritters Parade, February 11 at Casino Beach.

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The second annual Kids and Kritters Parade, February 11 at Casino Beach, was a tail wagging success. Winning the dog costume contest was Pinkston's Three Ring Circus. The two Yorkies were under the Big Tent while Sebastian the Ringmaster walked alongside. The pack belongs to Dr. Tracey Pinkston.



The Circus Wagon with little Angela Stubbs among the animals won third place in the float division at the Kids and Kritters Parade, February 11 at Casino Beach. Mom Beth provided the pulling power.



Jill Jones and her Afghan Hound Zoie were the second place winners in the best costumed dog division at the Kids and Kritters Parade, February 11 at Casino Beach parking lot. There were 54 dogs entered. Each dog earned a milkbone at the end of the parade route.

The official Woolly Booger Sheriff K-9 Rommel Shearman escorted the Kids and Kritters parade, February 11 around the Casino Beach Parking lot route. He is followed by his owner Becky Shearman.



Daisy the Doxie took home third place honors for her costume at the Kids and Kritters Parade, February 11. Her owner Valerie Gardner helped her carry her award.



Brayden Hodges, left, and Christian Mosley, were dancing to the Mardi Gras music at the Kids and Kritters parade, February 11.

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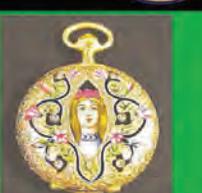
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BYTES & BITS

By Joe Stukey
Your Computer Pal

“What is Indoor Mapping?”

Almost every foot of the world outside of buildings has now been mapped by Google and its competitors. Now they are turning their attention to the floor plans for large buildings. Floor plans for shopping malls, airports, hospitals, convention centers, stadiums, college campuses, and large department stores are all being uploaded into mobile applications that can be used on smart phones and other mobile devices. With that app installed, your mobile device can guide you to a specific part of the building, while reducing the chance that you will be late or get lost.

Inside buildings, GPS signals may not be very strong, so that problem has to be overcome by technology. The technology being built into the computer's navigation chips is being improved to make the GPS feature work better. The process for mapping a building is tedious. A mapper has to walk the entire area several times, while pinpointing their current location on a handheld device every few feet. That information is then sent to a software shop to be converted into a downloadable program for mobile devices.

Google has released maps for Home Depot, Macys, and many airports, among others. Each building owner pays a fee to have their building included in the downloadable apps. Walmart has released an app that allows a shopper to find the fastest route through the store aisles to make their purchases.

Soon you may be able to have your mobile device guide you right to your seat at a concert or sporting event. You can be guided to a specific piece of art at a museum, or to a specific gravesite in a cemetery. Looks like it won't be long before you really will feel lost without your cell phone.

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

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United States Marines who volunteered at the Kids and Kritters Parade, February 11 on Pensacola Beach are (clockwise): Shawn Oxpring, Chance Davis, Kyle Palmer, Daymon Bush, Mitchell Carr, Edgardo Leon, Jerard Battle, Kyle Williams, Trevor Matteson and Kendrick Poulin. All are Private First Class from AMS-1. They were treated to lunch at Sidelines.



Lunching at Sidelines, the United States Marines who volunteered at the Kids and Kritters Parade, February 11 on Pensacola Beach are (clockwise): CPL Cody Pavlicek, and Privates First Class Brooke West, Ramiro Aranda, Jeremiah Breen, Geoffrey Rogers, Mark Potter, Julio Hernandez, Luis Roman Garcia, Joshua Vance, Cody Hanson and Tina Habron. All from AMS-2.

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BUSINESS BUZZ.....

BEACH SPIRIT

Florida Travel and Life writer Patricia Letakis got sand in her shoes enticing her readers to try the Shaker, Native Café and Flounder's. She wrote "A rusty shrimper's boat at the entrance hints at the restaurant's quirkiness. The bartender draws a draft beer from a scruffy old fire hydrant mounted on the bar, and a server scurries by with a slice of a three-layer Key lime pie. It's a pleasure to discover Pensacola Beach's carefree spirit — no golden arches or high-style boutiques, just an Old Florida beach town with a sprinkling of Southern charm." *Island Times* concurs.

TOOT YOUR HORN

Your Better Business Bureau® Foundation serving Northwest Florida is currently accepting nominations for the 2012 Customer Service Excellence Award. You can nominate your Beach favorites, or yourself. Fill out an entry form at www.nwflbbb.org/TorchAward. You can get more info at 850-429-0002.

WEAR YOUR BLING AT GAME DAY

Gulf Breeze Hospital Auxiliary is hosting a Masquerade Jewelry sale, March 1 and 2, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Andrews Institute Performance Center, Classroom C. Items are \$5 each. While you are supporting the Auxiliary, get a few \$20 tickets to their famous St. Pat Game

Day on Friday, March 9. It takes place from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church on Daniel Drive. Lunch will be served, raffles, door prizes and Silent Auction items will be available. Call the Gulf Breeze Hospital Gift Shop at 850-934-2183 to get a ticket.

ACTING UP

Are you a super hero type? Do you feel like you could leap tall buildings in a single bound? PenAir Federal Credit Union is searching for a few good men and women to fill their spokesperson spots. Auditions will take place Monday, Feb. 27 from 4 - 6 p.m. Fly in. Drive over. Transport yourself, but do try out. The opportunity is one-day only. More information is located on Page 5.

STAYCATION

Do you really need a reason to sneak away to a beach hotel and spend the weekend? How about an American Express Gift Card? The program continues through the end of February, while supplies last. Fill out the form online, and make a reservation. <http://www.visitpensacola.com/form/amex-giveaway>.

WARMING LUNCH

Twenty-one Marines volunteered to cordon off the Kids and Kritters parade route on February 11. They stood in the cold protecting the kids and cars from straying for three hours. When it was all over, they marched over to Sidelines for sizzling hamburg-

ers, fresh off the grill. Thanks to Jim Amberson and his staff for the great service for our military volunteers.

PEACOCKS IN PACE

Marsha Beach is the head bird at the Prissy Peacock in Pace. Her upscale consignment shop

has a beautiful selection of ladies clothes from jeans to formals. Call her for easy directions from the Beach, 994-8027.

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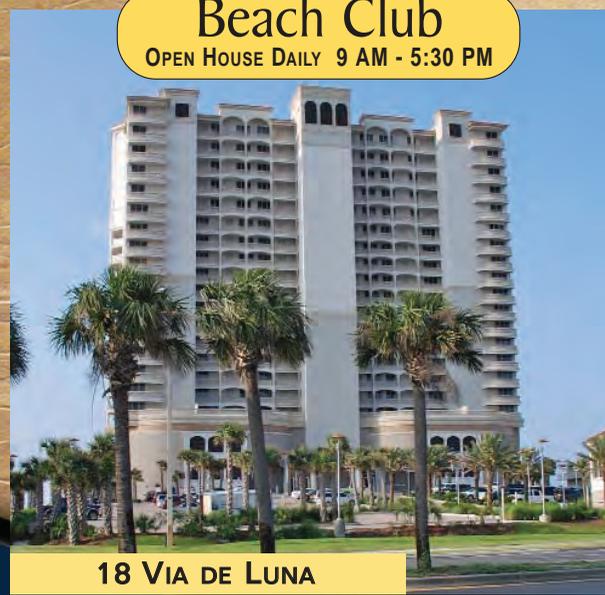


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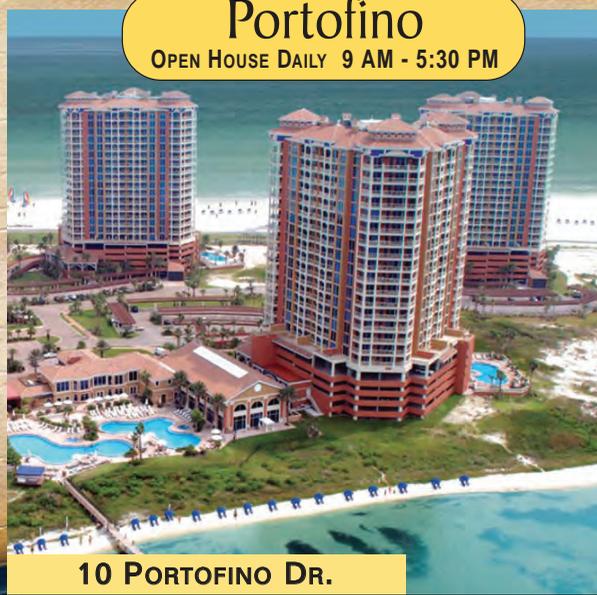
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Hey Yawl

By Frank Cooper

The Best Fiddle Sears Roebuck Makes

Two of my beach friends Allan and Jureda Lambert, returned from a trip to North Georgia recently. They went to Atlanta and then up to Amnicola Falls and on to Dawsonville, the home of Bill Elliot of NASCAR fame. This is a very familiar area to me, but I have to admit most of my time there was right after the war. That's World War Two, son.

I was real anxious to talk to Allan when he returned to find out what the area looks like today. The weather was not good, so they were unable to get to Helen, their ultimate destination. They were not very impressed because it is all grown up now. Imagine, Highway 400 from Atlanta right slap up into extreme North Georgia. All you see is highway. You seem to miss all the hills and

mountains. What you do see now are motels and fast food joints. I am really happy I saw it when it was hills and mountains and farms and only a few people.

Two of my beer drinking buddies back after the war were Tom Franklin and his brother Joe from Decatur, Georgia. Joe was one of those obnoxious drinkers. He was always picking fights. At the University of Georgia football games his seats were in the Georgia student section and he insisted on standing up at critical times in a game and yelling out, "I don't care who wins just as long as Georgia loses". He never felt he had really enjoyed a game unless he had started at least one fight. And he enjoyed a lot of football games.

Joe and Tom had an uncle who lived so far up above Cleveland, Georgia that he never even registered for the draft. The government knew he was there, but nobody did anything about it. In fact he had been the County Agent at one time. And almost everybody knew he hadn't registered and they just didn't say anything about it. Later on during the war Uncle Tom drove his old truck down to Gainesville and tried to volunteer for the Army but he had some kind of health problem so they didn't take him.

Uncle Tom lived in a house that must have been a hundred years old. It was frame with a porch all across the front and the back. There was a parlor in the

front and a huge kitchen with a big fireplace. This was the most comfortable place in the house. It was warm in the winter time and big enough to be cool in the summer. This was where the family spent most of the time if they weren't outside hunting or fishing or plowing or cutting firewood or making whiskey. The REA ran power to the house some years ago but they had no heat other than that fireplace in the kitchen and maybe a portable electric heater or two.

We were all sitting around in front of the fire when Uncle Tom looked back over his shoulder and asked his wife, Pet, to get the whiskey. Yes, I said he looked over his shoulder because that's where she sat. She sat behind him. They had been sweethearts since they were children and everybody knew they would be married some day. She always walked behind him in school and after they were married she still walked behind him. She cooked all the meals and did sit with him at the dinner table but she never sat beside him anytime else. Pet went and got the bottle. It was clear glass bottle and the booze in it was clear as water. Uncle Tom made his own whiskey for his own use and for the use of his friends. He never sold any of his whiskey. He just gave it away. He never thought he was breaking any law and he never got into any trouble from this home made corn whiskey. Of course, this was in

White County, Georgia, among his many friends and cousins; and since he wasn't selling any whiskey, who was going to complain?

After a little of that corn whiskey, Uncle Tom asked Pet to meet us out in that cold parlor at the pump organ, so we could sing a little. I got my mandolin and my friend Tom got his fiddle out of the car and while we were getting settled down Pet played a hymn or two.

About that time Uncle Tom came into the parlor with the broadest grin you ever saw. He just couldn't contain himself. He pulled out the prettiest violin I had ever seen. He carefully tuned it while Pet gave him the notes. When he was finished he started playing "Amazing Grace." I swear, that was absolutely the prettiest thing I had ever heard. I couldn't keep from crying. This crying thing is a trait I inherited from my Daddy. When ever he was really moved, he cried. I do the same thing. This can be a problem at times, but I don't care. It is just the way we are.

Uncle Tom looked at me and said, "Don't feel bad, son. This is the best fiddle that Sears Roebuck makes and that is the best hymn I know."

Think about that for a minute. A little corn whiskey and a good hymn played on an old pump organ along with the best fiddle Sears Roebuck made. You just don't get any better than that.

Poker Goddesses Clean Up At Tables

The Goddesses of the Game are back in the winner's circle at Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun on Pensacola Beach. Sara, Terri and Deb are channeling their inner Fortuna, the Roman Goddess of Good Luck, during February. Reigning Player of the Month Sara Mandel soared into February with a win over Mike Wood at Paddy's on February 2.

Two days later, Terri McKamey claimed the Dock as her kingdom and the chips were all hers when she beat the mysterious Waldo Defindorfin. Eric Weatherford delivered a win for the men with his steady play at Paddy's on February 5. The runner up was lovely Jamie Jones-Riley.

Deb Friedman shook 'em up at the Sandshaker on February 6 with a win over James Taylor, but settled for second place on February 9 behind the fine play of Wade Hosler.

"I like playing cards," said

Friedman. "I like winning, too!"

Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun games are open to anyone with a basic knowledge of poker.

"Since we play in bars, you must be twenty-one or older to play," said Rick Uzdevenes, poker promoter. "The tables are open to all and we encourage visitors to sit down and play. It's a great way to get to know some locals."

Games are played at 7 p.m. Mondays at Shaker and Thursday at Paddy O'Leary's. Saturday's game starts at 2 p.m. at The Dock. The shuffle up and deal is called at 5 p.m. on Sundays at Paddy's.

Note that because of the Krewe of Wrecks parade, Sunday, February 19, there will be no Texas Hold 'Em games. Play will resume Monday, February 20 at the Shaker.

For more information call the Poker Hotline at 850-324-2667.



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Our Bar

FEBRUARY

- 16-Karaoke w/ Becky 7pm-11pm
- 17-Karaoke w/ Becky 7pm-11pm
- 18-Mardi Gras Street & Dance Party w/ Boogie Inc. 1pm-5pm,
- Tim Morgan & Tim Spencer 7pm-11pm
- 19-Pre and Post Parade Party w/ the Bananimals!
- Music by Crosstown, 3:30-7:30 p.m.:
- \$3 Crown on Down 7pm-Close
- 20-Happy Hour All Day All Night, VIP Birthday!
- 21-\$3 Crown on Down 7pm-Close
- 22-\$3 Crown on Down 7pm-Close
- 23-Karaoke w/ Becky 7pm-11pm
- 24-Karaoke w/ Becky 7pm-11pm
- 25-Ricky Lee Phelps and Dennis Gossman 7pm-11pm
- 26-Party Down with Southern Breeze 3pm-7pm \$3 Crown on Down 7pm-Close
- 27-Happy Hour All Day All Night, VIP Birthday!
- 28-\$3 Crown on Down 7pm-Close
- 29-\$3 Crown on Down 7pm-Close

Let's Dance!
Mardi Gras Street Dance
Sat, Feb 18
1-5 pm

Dale's Big Deck

www.DalesBigDeck.com
715 Pensacola Beach Blvd
at the Sabine Marina



In New Orleans if you get the baby in the King Cake, you must host the next party. On the Beach, if you get the winning ticket for the Booze Basket, you must host the next party. Darling Tina Riley was the lucky Irish lass to win the Basket of Cheer from the Krewe of St. Patrick. The money goes to support their charity, the Semper Fi Fund. A votre sante'.

Speaking of cheerful, did you see the costumes and petite floats at the Kids and Kritters parade? Mon Dieu! Those munchkins were impressive. Bodes well for Mardi Gras 2025. The wind nearly blew the rhinestones off their crowns, but Wrecks First Mate Nancy Kittel, Brewe Queen Gwen Gibson and Junkanoo and Nauga Queen Amy Depew made the scene.

I love a good coronation! Gwen Gibson rocked the Krewe of Brewe crowning. Her dedication to their first queen, Miss Jane and her proclamation to let the good times roll, en Francais, were a grand tribute. Her crown, not a tiara, a real crown, is dazzling. Not too much, just enough rhinestones. Of course, can you ever have too many rhinestones? Notably beautiful was Beverly Campbell's hair accouterment.

Let's talk free. Is there really any such thing as a free lunch? Well, yes. And, no. For those of you who are new. And, for those who just don't know. The Krewe of Wrecks hosts a big time free lunch on Monday, February 20 at the Casino Beach parking lot around 11. Lively music, spicy red beans. The line stretches around the block for the mid-day meal. And, it can be free, if you

need it to be, but if you have a few bucks to share, drop 'em in the jar. By all means. The proceeds from the event are part of the charitable giving program the Wrecks have established.

Two left feet? Not in the street. The Street Dance dates back to a time when a few wild ones wanted to dance on Via de Luna. Did not matter. Back then, there were not many cars traveling along the beach highways on a cold day in February. So, let's dance at the Sandbar on Saturday.

I saw some dancing girls. Not a can-can, but a wild-women thing. It was the Mystic Krewe of Nereids tapping and spinning around the dance floor. Their Queen Monette Hodges was front and center in the clip filmed by VJ-DJ Zemenick. For my eyes only. You have to be invited to see the performance.

Do you want to catch beads or just watch the parade? Position yourself in the crowd accordingly. Rule of thumb, if the surrounding revelers are half your age and twice your size, move. It's a parade, not the NBA tryouts. Fortunately, the krewes are generous and without spilling your drink or exerting yourself, you can catch a bag of stuff -with which you will know not what to do the next day.

I miss the New Orleans tradition of costumed spectators on Parade Day. The Beach Revelers will sport some cosmic headgear and an occasional prop, but I would love to see the Beach parade watchers begin to costume. Then they could do as they do in the Big Easy, and inquire, "Whadda ya dressin' as?"

This is it, mon cher!

Seeing Stars... your horoscope for next week

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Mars, your ruling planet, helps you deal with career challenges in a way that reflects some of your own hidden strengths. This impresses some important decision-makers.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your strong Bovine will, combined with your romantic nature (you are ruled by Venus), helps turn a romance with a potential for problems into one with more-positive possibilities.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Mercury's influence creates some unsettling moments, but nothing that you can't live with. You'll soon learn more about that major change that is about to be revealed.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Opportunities for you are like the phases of the Moon: constantly appearing and reappearing. So, cheer up. The opportunity you think you let slip by will be replaced by another.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) An opportunity that you hoped would open up for you remains closed. Stop wasting time scratching at it. Something else you'll like will soon make itself apparent and accessible.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Congratulations. You'll soon hear some positive feedback for all the hard work you recently put into a project. A Pisces could soon swim into your personal life.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Someone whose friendship you felt you had to write off will try to revive it. What you do is up to you. But don't do it without giving it considerable thought.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A job-related

plan might need to be reworked to allow for changes. Lucky for you that Saturn remains a strong influence that can help you focus on getting it done right.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) This is a good time to move into areas of self-discovery. You might be surprised about who you really are and how you really relate to those around you.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Expect to confront someone who will make an unwelcome request. Stand by your resolve to do the right thing no matter what "persuasion" might be offered.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A friendly com-



petition could become more contentious than you expected. Take time out to discuss the reasons behind this unexpected change, and act accordingly.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You have a wonderful mind for solving mysteries, so you should feel confident about solving the one developing very close to you. An unlikely source offers help.

BORN THIS WEEK: You're a great host or hostess. You love being with people, and you're very good about planning all sorts of social events that bring folks together.

It's Mardi Gras...

Willie's

Style!



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SAT
FEB 18
8 PM

SUN
FEB 19
3 PM



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- ▶ Party People

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March 17 • 5 pm

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Spring Break
April 20-22

Crawfish Festival

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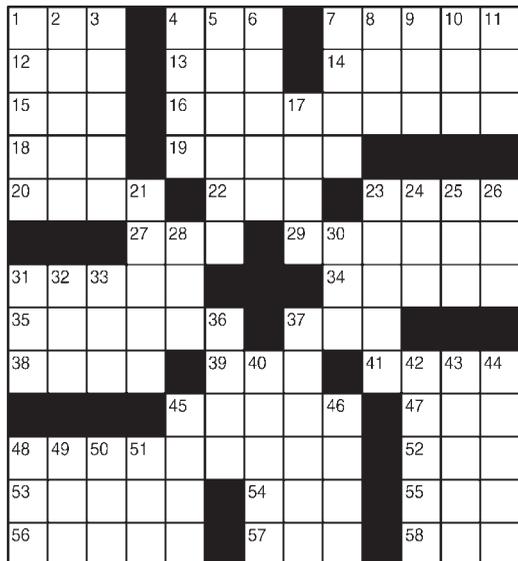
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King Crossword

- ACROSS
 1 Symbol of intrigue
 4 iPhone download
 7 Nut job
 12 Actress Longoria
 13 Meadow
 14 Foreigner
 15 Part of UCLA
 16 Beatles ditty
 18 Schuss
 19 Heavens above
 20 "Phooey!"
 22 Green prefix
 23 Castro's home
 27 Young fellow
 29 Trafalgar admiral
 31 Daniel who's played 007
 34 Prepared
 35 Gilligan's boat
 37 Scratch
 38 Carry
 39 Simile center
 41 Entanglement
 45 Its participants must form a line
 47 Spring mo.
 48 "The Swedish Nightingale"
 52 Conk out
 53 Alaskan



- DOWN
 1 People of Pontypridd
 2 Bring forth
 3 Fundamental
 4 Swiss range
 5 Cheated at hide-and-seek
 6 "War of the Worlds" effect
 7 Methods
 8 Every iota
 9 Spy-novel org.
 10 Jennings of "Jeopardy!"
 11 Inseparable
 17 Night light?
 21 "A Fish Called Wanda"
 23 Office worker
 24 N.A. portion
 25 Physique
 26 Whatever number
 28 Past
 30 Historic time
 31 Nashville-based MTV offshoot
 32 Carnival city
 33 Pismire
 36 Cry like a banshee
 37 Fridge decoration
 40 Check for smells
 42 Bottom
 43 Put one's two cents in
 44 Pollster's find
 45 Info measure
 46 Toteboard tally
 48 Show that spawned "NCIS"
 49 Right angle
 50 Ultramodernist
 51 Gist

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Pensacola Beach Two bed Two bath condo. MLS listing #398291. Call today for your tour. \$165,000. Linda Murphy, Keller Williams Realty, 850-748-0865

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Four bedroom brick home 2,000 SF. Prestigious and quiet section of Gulf Breeze Proper. Features a formal living room, formal dining room, and a family room with a fireplace. Lush landscaping and a pool in the private backyard. Nan Harper, Island Realty, 850-293-9321

Real Estate For Rent

Pensacola Beach - 3 Bedroom/2 Bath waterfront. Lease six month minimum. \$2000 per month. 207 Sabine Drive/Villa Sabine. Furnished or unfurnished. Beach Elementary School, Gulf Breeze Middle and High Schools. 850-430-9251.

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Fitness

TAI CHI Come Tuesday 5:30 pm at United Methodist, 75 Fairpoint, Gulf Breeze, Fellowship Hall. FREE classes for community wellness! BEACH TAI CHI, 380.8830, Email star8830@yahoo.com.

Weddings

NOTARY to perform wedding ceremonies. 850-748-6878

Pets

Adoptable dogs and kittens. Pensacola Humane Society. www.humanesocietyofpensacola.org

Lost & Found

GOLF HOOP EARRING. Monday, February 6 on Pensacola Beach. Call 850-932-4090.

MY HEART. In San Francisco. High on a hill. It calls to me.

Happy Mardi Gras

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Calendar

Mardi Gras calendar
pensacolabeachmardigras.com
 Page 3 of this edition

-
- Feb 16
 Beach Church BINGO. \$20. 6:30 pm
 Feb 17
 Beach Bridge Club
 Feb 20
 Beach Bridge Club
 Feb 22
 SRIA Committee Meeting, 5 p.m.
 SRIA Boardroom.
 Feb 24
 Beach Bridge Club
 Feb 25
 Law Enforcement Polar Bear Plunge,
 10 a.m. Holiday Inn Resort
 Feb 27
 Beach Bridge Club
 Feb 28
 Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce
 Membership Meeting, 8:30 am.
 Days Inn. 932-1500 for guest ticket
 March 2
 First Friday, Boardwalk
 March 3
 Boogie on Down, 5K Run for UCP.
 Pensacola Beach. 8 a.m.
www.active.com
 March 3
 Gulf Breeze Chamber Gala. www.gulfbreezechamber.com
 March 9
 Gulf Breeze Hospital Auxiliary Game
 Day. 10 a.m. Gulf Breeze Presbyterian
 Church. Tickets \$20 Gulf Breeze
 Hospital Gift Shop, or 932-7619 or
 748-0006.
 March 10
 Hike Florida Trail Association. Meets
 at Fort Pickens Gate Park, 9:30 a.m.
 March 14
 SRIA Full Board Meeting. 5 p.m. #1
 Via de Luna. Open to the Public.
 March 15
 Game Day and Card Party, 10 a.m.
 Our Lady Hunt Hall. Pensacola Beach
 Woman's Club.
 March 17
 St. Paddy's Day Pub Crawl, 10 a.m.
www.PensacolaBeachChamber.com

-
- March 31
 Recyclemania, 8 to Noon. Casino
 Beach. www.pbadvocates.org

.....

BEACH CHURCH BINGO
 1st and 3rd Thursdays,
 Dinner \$6 at 6. Bingo \$20 at
 6:30. www.thebeachchurch.com

.....

BEACH BRIDGE CLUB
 9:15 to 2 on MON and FRI
 Pensacola Beach Elks Lodge
 Sid Hite 932-1739

.....

April 8 Easter Sunday

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Mostly Nuts and Bolts

By Candace Segar

As always, Valentine's Day is mixed into the Mardi Gras season.

I have all kinds of memories about Valentine's Day. One of my favorites is being in the first grade and rushing out to show my Mom all the Valentines I got. They were wound up in the front of my dress. (We wore dresses back in the Fifties. Yes, in the 1950s!) A storm was brewing and a huge gust of wind grabbed my Valentines that I was trying to protect from the wind and rain. My Mom raced out to help me gather those Valentines before they got soaked. That was quite a feat considering she was eight months pregnant. For some reason each and every Valentine meant something to me. I have since graduated from first grade and the multiple Valentines to one very special Valentine - my husband Ralph.

Not many folks can say that they met on the Turbine Deck of a Nuclear Power Plant, but that is exactly where we met. We talked to each other for a month, and my co-worker said, that guy just keeps staring at you. He never would ask me out, so finally I asked him out. He told me he never dated anyone he worked with, and I told him it wasn't a date, it was dinner. Finally, he said okay.

I realized at that point I had messed up. I didn't know how to cook at all. I went home and asked my neighbor what to do. She suggested I go back and find out what he liked to eat. I did and reported back he was a meat-and-potatoes man. She said she would cook the meal for me. I just needed to divert his attention and then race to her house to get the food, one course, at a time.

The day finally arrived. He came over with three bottles of wine. I had purchased three bottles of wine. Really, six bottles of wine - what were we thinking? He opened a bottle in the kitchen, and I raced out

the front door and came back with the first part of the meal. I circled around into the dining room. My plan was working pretty good until he watched me go out the door for the third time. I guess he just got curious as to where I was going.

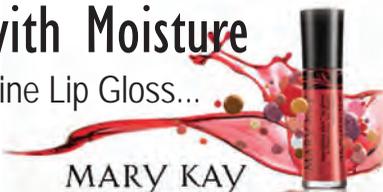
He laughed and laughed. The meal was delicious and I know all the craziness was what made that first "get together" so special. Ralph never left.

He and I have been married for twenty-four years, and I still haven't learned to cook. But it doesn't matter. I am still his Valentine and he is mine! I love him more every day!



The Lord and Lady of the Court of St. Patrick were crowned at the Shamrock-N-Roll Ball February 3 in Pensacola. Lady Alicia Taylor and Lord Mario Roberts danced a jig and toasted the Krewe of St. Patrick until the wee hours.

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Weekly Schedule

FOR RESULTS
Island Times

Monday:
Sandshaker, 7 PM

Thursday:
Paddy O'Leary's, 7PM

Saturday:
The Dock, 2 PM

Sunday:
Paddy O'Leary's, 5 PM

Info
850-324-2667

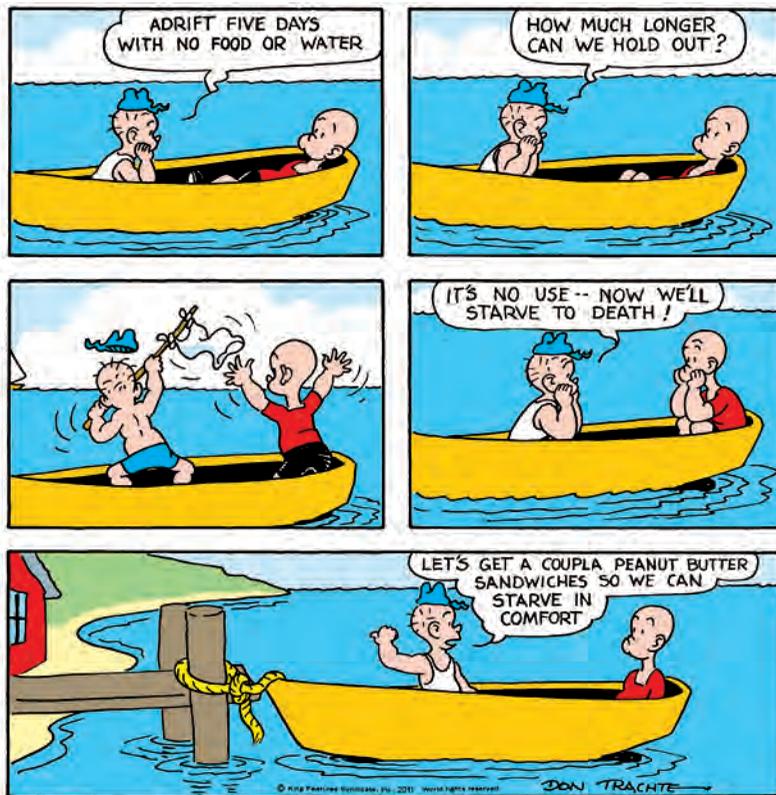


Downtown Pensacola Beach

Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun
Poker Hotline 324-2667

Henry

BY DON TRACHTE



POPEYE

His Cousin



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



UNOFFICIAL FUN FACT #11:
WE SPEND APPROXIMATELY
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WATCHING FOAM GO DOWN.

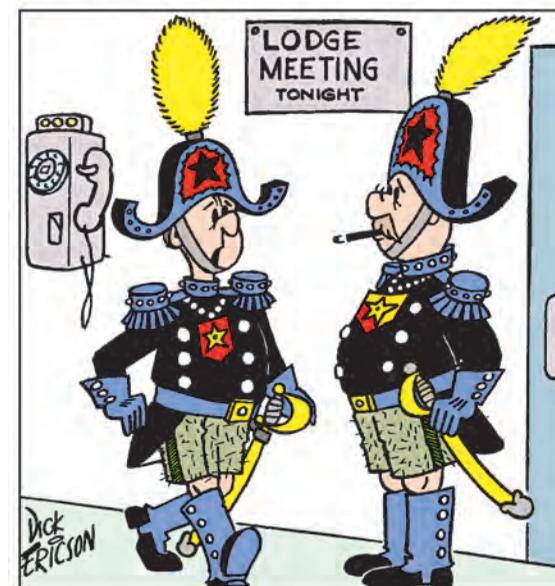
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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



LAFF-A-DAY



"The Supreme Exalted Unlimited All-Powerful Invincible Ultimate Potentate can't make it tonight—his wife won't let him out."

MISTER BREGER

 By Dave Breger

"NOBODY" S married—I'm just advertisin' my pots-an'-pans business ..."



Sierra Fernandez, 12, from Navarre, finished strong in the 5K distance of the Double Bridge Run, February 4. Her time of 28:46 earned ninth place in her age group. The runners, who started in two different places, all finished at the Boardwalk on Pensacola Beach.



Cooling down after facing two bridges - Michael Oberhaus approached the 15K Double Bridge Run as a series of short challenges to overcome. He said the February 4 run was a good distance, and was satisfied with his time of 1:16.47. Oberhaus is from Pace, Florida.



The Campbells are cruising to the finish line. Left, Joe Campbell ran the 15K distance of the Double Bridge Run, February 4 in a time of 1:17.13. Kelly Campbell competed at the 5K distance. Her time was 32:42. Joe's dad, Sonny was on the course cheering, but not competing.



Haden McBroom is a well read young man. He is in second grade at the Beach School and earned the most Advance Reading points in the entire school. Quite an accomplishment according to his teacher Debbie Campanella. His proud parents are Brian and Mandy McBroom.

Hike The Trail On Pensacola Beach

The Florida Trail Association's Western Gate Hikers are lacing up their boots for a Beach event. A Hike and Bike on the Pensacola Beach Bike Trail is set for Saturday, March 10 at 9:30 a.m.

Participants should meet at the sound side parking lot near the entrance to the Gulf Islands National Seashore at Fort Pickens. Bring your bike or your hiking shoes and join George Brinkman, who is the event

coordinator. A dutch treat lunch follows at Peg Leg's on Ft. Pickens Road.

More information is available by calling Brinkman at 850-932-0125 or online at www.meetup.com/ftawesterngate/.

*Boogie on Down to
Pensacola Beach
5K Walk/Run
Saturday, March 3, 8 am
to benefit UCP
sign up at
www.active.com*

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Tucked away in the parking lot of the Paradise Inn, it's directly on Santa Rosa Sound. Boat and Bicycle parking. Open 7 days. 850-916-5087.

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Celebrating 30 years of Floundering 'neath the moon and stars. Offering fresh Seafood including Tuna, Mahi and of course Flounder! Award winning chowder, po boys, burgers and Pensacola Beach Style baked oysters. Sample our Fresh catch including the Shrimp Boat Platter- loaded with shrimp cocktail, BBQ shrimp, fried shrimp, popcorn shrimp and U-peel ems. Kids love our Pirate Ship playground located on our beach - well within view of dining parents. For late night revelers- Flounder's is host to the world's finest beach bands. Dance all night on Flounder's beach to the most popular bands from across the south.

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After Sundown

PEGLEG PETE'S

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

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

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. Serving breakfast and lunch everyday; 45 Via de Luna. Downtown Pensacola Beach. 934-4848.

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readin' the water

By Saltwater Rick

It's fishin' time on the Gulf Coast and the action is hot and heavy all over the system.

Gator Trout are being caught in the grass beds around Big Sabine Point and Redfish in the shallows. Mullet are everywhere, as always, and the Gulf is ripping with Pompano, Bluefish and Redfish, too.

With the springtime coming and the warm water, it should be a record year! Ling and King are coming to feed on the little fellows. With a little luck you, too,



can have a freezer full in no time.

You have to get out there and do it. Pomp fishin' off the beach is so much fun I can't stand it! So get out there, catch some fish. Snap some pics and send to *Island Times*. It's the best read on the coast. My advice, do yourself a favor and take a kid fishin'!

Surfer Celebrate Spencer's Life

The first ever Yancy Spencer, III, Memorial Surf and Stand Up Paddle Fest will take place at "The Cross" on Pensacola Beach, Saturday, February 18 at 11 a.m. To celebrate the life of Yancy Spencer, participants are invited to gather for a fun day of surfing, paddleboarding and enjoying the beautiful beach. Warm up with some chili

and a commemorative movie at Emerald Dolphin at the end of the Fest.

The Cross is located on Ft. Pickens Road.

For more information, go to www.innerlightsurf.com.



For some, fishing is a year round sport. Trace Lewis is one of those anglers. When he's not working at Emerald Isle on the Beach, he's fishing. Taking advantage of the new limits on February 3, he was fishing around the Three Mile area. Check out his Redfish catches of 26 and 27 inches.

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FEB 17 @ 9 **FEB 18 @ 9**
Trunk Monkey The Mainstream

FEB 19 All Day
Beach Parade! Post Parade Party with The Astronauts

FEB 21 @ 6
Krewe of Coma Coronation & Lighted Hat Contest

Something's Always Shakin!

MON: 10 AM -Close
Half Price Drinks/Shots for **BARE** Customers

\$2 TUES: 10 AM -Close
\$2 Wine/Beer/Well. Karaoke w/Becky, 8 PM

WED: Ladies Nite. 5 PM-Close
\$2 Wine/Beer/Well. Other Drinks Half Price.

Rock Star Karaoke with Mike Jencks Band, 8 PM

THURS: 7 PM-Close
Half Price Drinks w/Shaker Shirt. Music at 8 PM

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FRIDAY
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