

ISLAND TIMES

Volume IX, Number 22

Pensacola Beach, Florida

February 18, 2014

Feathers and Fur



**Young Revelers,
Parading Pooches
Catch Mardi Gras
Spirit at
Kids And Kritters
Parade**

The Mardi Gras spirit soars, skips and gallops onto Pensacola Beach. Everyone gets a chance to party at the Kids and Kritters Parade, Saturday, February 22 at 2 p.m. in the Casino Beach parking lot, near Sidelines. Krewe of Kids Queen XXII Jocelyn Reeves, front, and Buddy the Great Dane, are joined by the Bananimals Chicks, the first Mardi Gras krewe of teenagers on Pensacola Beach. The fine feathered females are (L to R): Melia Wright, 17, Chicks Queen Samantha Cowen, 18, and Hailie Wright, 14. Not in photo: Cheerful Chick Rebecca Cowen, who was representing Gulf Breeze High School in a national cheerleading contest. Buddy was adopted last week by Karen and Steve Hendrix of Pensacola Beach. He is licking his lips thinking about dog bones, Moon Pies and King Cake. Let the good times roll, and turn to page 2.

Pooches and Youngsters Blast Off Into Mardi Gras Galaxy

Mutts from Mars. Space Kids from colorful constellations. The mothership of Mardi Gras merriment has landed and the gangway is loaded with the Kids and Kritters. The fourth annual Kids and Kritters Parade will roll or amble in the Casino Beach parking lot, Saturday, February 22 at 2 p.m. The theme is "Out of this World."

The walking procession is for kids and pets to have a Mardi Gras parade to call their own. Registration will take place in the northeastern corner of the Casino Beach parking lot across from Sidelines at 1 p.m. There is no charge for humans or humanoids to participate. The organizers require that participants be in costume and provide their own throws.

"Kids of all ages and their parents are welcome to join the parade or stake out a place on the sidelines to catch beads," said Shelley Johnson, event coordinator. "The parade route has been expanded to accommodate more entries, and more spectators."

Entry fee for pets is \$5 each. Pets must have proof of vaccinations in the form of tags or their vet record. Owners must keep

pets under control and on a short leash, six feet or less. Costumes are encouraged for pets and everyone must be on their best behavior.

Boogie, Inc's DJ Alex Ritchie is the official voice of the Kids and Kritters parade. He will play kid-friendly music until it is time for the parade to begin. Leading the parade will be Honorary Grand Marshall Lily the Horse. She and owner Burma Davis will be high stepping as the first unit. The Krewe of Kids Royal Court, followed by their 39 members will follow. Early entries include Dancingly Yours under the direction of Monette Hodges, and Little Miss Sunshine Florida Lauren Pinkston. All other entries- both kids and critters - will fall in line to process around the circular parade route.

"The fun and costumes should be out of this world," said Krewe of Kids Captain Diana Harvey. "Look for the Krewe of Kids, celebrating our twenty-second Mardi Gras season, to lead the way."

The top three best costumed pets will be awarded prizes. Gulf Breeze Animal Hospital's Dr. Tim Gossman and his wife Carol

are sponsoring the Kritters Costume Contest. They will serve as judges. Awards include special Kids and Kritters Parade medallions and gift cards for first, second and third place costumes.

Steve Picker, Brian Underwood and Becky Sherman will judge the Mini Float Contest. The floats can be constructed on a wagon, stroller or any other wheeled platform that can be pushed or pulled along the parade route. No motorized or pedal power is allowed. The top three "Out of this World" floats will receive special Kids and Kritters Parade medallions. Judging takes place along the parade route.

"We had some really creative entries last year," said Picker. "I am looking forward to this year's contest."

Each kid and critter will receive a treat at the end of the parade. Diane Tyson and her dog Blondie are the official Treat Table tenders. There will be candy for kids, dog treats, and pet giveaways while supplies last. The awards ceremony will follow immediately after the parade's completion.

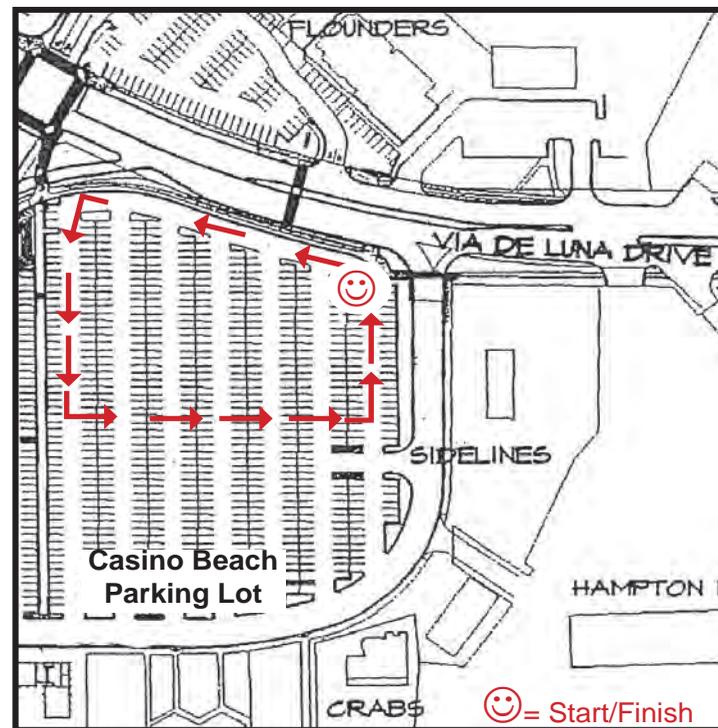
As part of the festivities, the Krewe of Nauga's Queens will

make a \$1,700 donation to the Pensacola Humane Society. The proceeds from their raffles and auctions are given to support the no-kill shelter.

Spectators are encouraged to attend and line the parade route. Bring lawn chairs, a picnic lunch and enjoy the pageantry.

The Kids and Kritters parade is hosted by Pensacola Beach's original Mardi Gras krewe, the Krewe of Wrecks. Sponsors are Gulf Breeze Animal Hospital and *Island Times*.

For more information, entry forms and fliers, log onto www.PensacolaBeachMardiGras.com.



Good Times Roll At Krewe Of Wrecks Parade Weekend

The Wrecks cast a spell. The magic of Mardi Gras sweeps across the Beach. Revelers forget their cares and dance in the island streets. Pensacola Beach's original krewe has been partying and planning leading up to this very moment, the procession of fifty glittering floats and marching units rolls along the Beach's main drag. Generous float riders bestow beads and trinkets to the thousands who line the route. The Krewe of Wrecks Parade will roll rain or shine, Sunday, March 2 at 2 p.m. from Avenida

10 to the Gulfside Pavilion.

The weekend kicks off with a Street Dance at Sabine Sandbar, Saturday, March 1 at 1 p.m. The entire world is invited to meet the newly crowned Krewe of Wrecks Royal Court. At some point in the afternoon, the Captain and First Mate of the Wrecks lead the partiers into the middle of Pensacola Beach Blvd. in a completely unauthorized, frowned-upon-by-authorities Second Line parade. The weather and patience of the drivers dictates the duration of the

krewe's antics.

Floats begin to arrive on the island days, and sometimes weeks, prior to the Sunday Wrecks parade. Spectators who arrive early on the island get a preview of the wheeled-wonders and a good parking place. Shops and restaurants open early. Tailgate parties, impromptu parties and every other kind of party carry on into the day.

Escambia County Deputies are out in force, so use common sense, follow the rules and designate a sober driver.

After the parade disbands, the Awards Ceremony and Party begins. It is open to the public at no charge. There will be music, performances, and the top krewees will be given awards in categories like Best Float and Grand Marshall's Award.

"We are so pleased to have Dr. James Andrews and his wife Jennell as our Grand Marshalls this year," said Wrecks Board Member Carleen Wheeler. "Wave to the fine doctor and his wife when you see them in one

of the lead convertibles on parade day."

Here are a few Mardi Gras reminders to help the good times roll:

- 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. Parking is free and there are public restrooms located at the Casino Beach and Portofino Boardwalk. There are additional port-o-lets along the parade route.
- Island businesses open early for breakfast.
- The parade floats line up beginning at 10 a.m. on Via de Luna. Stroll along the sidewalk and get a glimpse of the floats and riders.
- The parade rolls, rain or shine, at 2 p.m.
- There are a few rules for spectators. If you want to catch beads, find a spot behind the barricades. Riders are cautioned by authorities to keep beads in hand until the parade reaches the barricaded route. The barricades begin at Avenida 10 and Via de

Luna and line the entire parade route up to the Casino Beach parking lot.

- 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 deposit trash in containers.

- Motorists, please use extreme caution and patience. Park in designated areas only. Don't drink and drive. The Escambia County deputies will close Via de Luna prior to parade time. They will direct traffic off the island after the parade disbands.

GOOD TIMES

Turn to THE GOOD TIMES

Special Section

Pages 10-11

Mardi Gras Event Details thru
Fat Tuesday, March 4

Krewe of Wrecks Parade Route

Newly Crowned Royalty
and Photos

ISLAND TIMES

Published every other Tuesday
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Post Office Box 844 • Gulf Breeze, FL 32562
850-748-6878 phone
islandtimes@bellsouth.net
www.MyIslandTimes.com

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Forever...Barefoot on the Beach

As a tribute to Jane Waters who passed away January 10, 2012 Island Times will continue to run some of Jane's favorite columns for your enjoyment

The Islander Newspaper – February 7, 1986

This issue of *The Islander* is dedicated to the memory of the eight Krewe of Wrecks members who have lost their lives during the years since the organization was first formed. We will celebrate this year's Mardi Gras in honor of these fun loving comrades. We will not look back on the days of their membership with sadness. We will look back, instead, with great joy. For that is the way they would have wanted it.

Take Nasty Billy Carrol for instance. In 1980, the charter year of the Krewe of Wrecks' infamous history, Nasty Billy threw his heart and soul into the production that was to become the first beach Mardi Gras. We were talking one day in the Junkyard Coffee Shop and I told him I feared the parade would

be a meager and raggle taggle affair. Billy took off for Dirty Joe's, and conned ten friends into permanently painting their vehicles into Mardi Gras floats. He collected fifty bucks from them, and proudly turned in his parade entries. For years, there were trucks and cars and jeeps and old busses, painted every color of the rainbow, cruising the beach streets - - a testimonial to Billy's enthusiasm for the Krewe of Wrecks.

Then, there was that fine Elk, Ray Bridges. Ray and his wife Trudy were responsible for the only Wrecks doubloons that were ever minted. They found the designer, made the initial deposit to purchase the popular souvenirs, and took care of the entire operation from beginning to end. They also found a couple of old wheels, some lumber and chicken wire, got free material

from Monsanto and created each year our very own Krewe of Wrecks float. Ray tackled these two gigantic projects with gusto and skill. He attended his final Mardi Gras celebration in a wheel chair, and when Ray died, two Mardi Gras traditions died with him. Wrecks doubloons and the Grand Float have disappeared.

Freddie Bates was Mr. Mardi Gras himself. Nothing pleased him more than to see all those crazy Wrecks setting up huge pots and the smoker at The Tiki for the Red Beans and Rice Luncheon. He helped in every possible way, in every detail, large or small, whenever the Wrecks needed him. He was a Ship's Officer and came to every Mardi Gras celebration right up to the end of his life.

Everybody has to remember Helyne Bradshaw's remarkable imitation of Papa Joe at one

of the Wrecks first Halloween parties. What a joy she was. Each year she came up and said, "What can I do to help?" And no matter what task we gave her, she completed it and made us think she had a wonderful time in the process. I guess she did have a wonderful time working for the Wrecks. How she loved to party!

Bill Motley didn't come out of The Islander Lounge very often. Most of the things he cared about were all there in the historic old lounge...except he did like the Mardi Gras. He liked it well enough to forsake his bar stool to join the crowds in the parade or wander into a party or meeting. He was a low key Wreck, but the mere fact that he joined in the festivities was big time for Bill.

Ken Wysong, a sturdy Elk, drifted back to Pensacola Beach one year about the time of the

Mardi Gras. He was drafted to help prepare food for a Wrecks' meeting, and when he found out that the organization was notorious for full blast partying, he immediately wrote a check for his membership. It is possible that the popping of corks at the Champagne Breakfast was the most beautiful music of the day to Ken's sensitive ears.

Two Stowaways, Steve Fell and Dawn McCauley, are gone now, but they too, bring back good memories of how well the talented members of the media on the Mainland blended their gregarious personalities with those of the Beach members. They were a credit to their professions and to the Krewe of Wrecks.

Let's honor these Wrecks this year. Give the 1986 Mardi Gras your best partyin' shot - - in their memory.

Deadline Missed, Leaseholders Urged To Pay Tax Bill

Pensacola Beach leaseholders received a letter containing an apology and instructions to pay their 2013 taxes. The letter from attorney Danny Kepner of Shell, Fleming, Davis and Menge dated January 30, 2014 was sent to each client who is party to the litigation contesting the taxes being levied on leasehold property and improvements.

The Florida Statute requires that the tax lawsuit be filed annually. The annual filing contests that year's taxes, preserves the claims of prior years and prohibits the Tax Collector from enforcing payment of all taxes while the litigation is pending. The cases contesting taxation from 2004 through 2012 are still pending before the State Supreme Court.

The case was filed on

December 13, but should have been filed by December 6. Thus the apology. Since the case was not filed on time, there is no challenge to the 2013 taxes. Therefore, the taxes are due to the Tax Collector. The letter urges leaseholders to pay their 2013 tax bill prior to the March 31 deadline.

The leaseholders who pay their 2013 tax bill were instructed to have the payment apply to the 2013 tax bill, not previous years. Those leaseholders who pay their 2013 taxes will remain party to the prior years lawsuits.

While the State Supreme Court has no time deadline by which to rule, the letter outlines two possible outcomes. If the Court rules against the leaseholders, then all unpaid taxes plus interest will be due to the Tax Collector. The

missed deadline does not affect this outcome. If the Court rules in favor of the leaseholders, then taxes would not be due for 2004-2012. Refunds would be due to those who paid their taxes. There would be no refund of 2013 taxes.

If a leaseholder does not pay his 2013 tax bill, their prior years' lawsuits could be dismissed. In this particular instance, the leaseholder would lose his ability to receive a refund of previously paid taxes should the court rule in favor

of the leaseholders.

According to Escambia County Tax Collector Janet Holley, the Beach's total tax bill for 2013 is \$16.2 million. The case, which missed the filing deadline, represents about \$7 million and 2200 parcels.



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HEY BARTENDER

Local celebrities and good sports are slinging drinks on Mondays at Sabine Sandbar. They donate their tips to the Pensacola Beach Elementary School. A check for \$2,070 was delivered to the school last week. Robert and Sheila Henley, Jeff Walton, Lektric Mullet band members Bill Dossey, Ricky Lee Phelps and David Glencoe tended the bar in December. Buck Lee, Jr, Chloe Dubuisson, The World's Greatest Saints Fan Tommy Grice and Becky Gardner mixed it up in January. Tena Wright and Marilyn and Tracey McDonald all had a turn behind the bar.

The Sidewalk Social Director Gena Raymon and Russ Dieterich from High Horse Band are scheduled to pour some stiff drinks in February. Dianne and Kurt Kildow, along with Becky Gardner have volunteered for March Mondays. Cheers.

DEPUTY MAYOR NEEDED

Pensacola Beach had to temporarily close its City Hall due to an unwelcome virus which was bugging the revered Mayor Bob Merriman. His constituents voiced concerns about the empty bar stool, so Mayor Bob is taking resumes from bikini-clad assistants who he can deputize. Apply in person.

NEW CAMPER

Chris Harris found the camper for sale ad in *Island Times* and made a good deal. He is ready to take his family for overnight trips in their new travel trailer. The former owners are happy that the camper has a new home and someone to enjoy it. All's well that ends well.

BASEBALL FAN

Beach school kids will recognize a friendly face at the Blue Wahoos ball games. They all know the big blue mascot Kazoo, and now, assistant teacher Margie Pitts has a summer time gig at the ticket office.

LUCKY LASSES

St. Patrick's Day is just one month away, so the luck of the Irish is kicking in for Bobbi Cunningham and Gayle Crume. Bobbi won the 50-50 drawing at the Krewe of Wrecks meeting at Cactus Flower. Gayle took home a fistful of dollars from

the Wrecks meeting at Sidelines. Who will be next?

MORE LUCKY IRISH

Michael Sullivan counts himself lucky to have married his sweet Christy. The couple was married in Morgan Park, February 10, seven years ago. The reception was at Paddy O'Leary's, where Christy tends bar.

CRAZY EIGHTS

Glamorous Grandmother Paulette Provost sets aside the eighth of January, February and March for birthday parties. Daughter Anne Marie's birthday is January 8. Her new granddaughter Ruby Charles DePascalis was born February 8. Paulette's birthday is March 8. The Sister's of the Beach send a special welcome to ten-day-old Ruby who is at home with Anne Marie, Dad Chris and big sisters Lulu and Alana.

BREWING UP ROYALTY

The Krewe of Brew bestowed a glittering crown on Millie Davis during their Ball, February 8 at The Dock. Millie will serve as the Krewe's Queen 2014. Look for Millie high atop the Brew's float on March 2.

REAL POLAR BEAR

If you want to hear stories about a real polar bear plunge, ask longtime Beach lifeguard Dave Greenwood who just returned from a month long trip to Poland. He's back on the beach, ready to protect the public in the relative warmth of Northwest Florida.

CONSTRUCTION CHRIS

The Krewe of Nereids have high praise for Chris Shearman, who gave them some professional guidance in purchasing construction materials for their Mardi Gras float. Mother Nature had not been kind to the ladies' float, but a few fellows like Chris, Bob Dority and Jim Cox have been getting it parade ready.

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Linda Fogel is a regular competitor in the Beach triathlons and running races. It's not unusual to see her training with her dogs in tow, or pedaling fast along the beach streets. The adventurous gal has taken on a new challenge. She has packed up her pups and training gear into an RV. When her job calls her out of town, she's ready. Her home rolls with her.

T r i v i a ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

Nasty John Thomas outwitted the Master and was quicker than the masses. He correctly emailed the answer "Jeff Goudey" as the subject of the Trivia inquiry. Jeff holds the Mardi Gras distinction of serving on the Krewe of Wrecks Board after having been on the royal court twice. He was the Wrecks Captain in 1994 and a Ship's Officer in 1989. Of course, Nasty John has some royal beach blood, too. He was a Wrecks Ship's Officer in 1984 and the King of the Krewe of Nereids in 2013. Coming in as runners-up were Jayne Redmond and Dan McGrath. They knew their carnival characters.

Trivia Tim Pike tipped his hat to Morrie Drees as did Jim Knell. Morrie was a board member in 1981-82 and the Captain in 1986. Sharon McGraw thought it was Tommy Grice. Tommy served as the Captain in 2010 with Paulette Provost as his First Mate. The Saints won the Super Bowl that year. Go figure.

Good to have our beach bound mariner Offshore Chuck Brower back in the trivia mix. His guess was Bill Meilner. Captain Bill Meilner steered the Wrecks ship in 1985 during the early



Ship's Officer Jeff Goudey, 1989 Krewe of Wrecks Parade. Liz Waters Hewson is the driver. Candy Segar is throwing beads from the passenger seat.

years. He was never busted down to Ship's Officer but recorded the antics of the Wrecks with his trusty Nikon camera until he passed away a few years ago.

Harken back to the days of the Sandspur Republic to answer this one. This week's trivia question comes from Pascagoula Pete. He asks, "How many Surf and

Sand Cottages were originally built?" If you are the first person to email a correct answer to islandtimes@bellsouth.net, you will win a trivia t-shirt. Include your name and phone number with your answer. Don't delay, Pascagoula Pete will get the shirt if he outsmarts you. Deadline to answer is Tuesday, February 25.

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SRIA Board Banks on Banks, Concert Promoter Confident

The Santa Rosa Island Authority Board took a dip into the loan pool at their February 12 meeting authorizing \$105,000 advance be made to Cadillac Banks' Gulf Coast Summerfest to hire talent. The money is to be repaid from the first \$105,000 in ticket sales. SRIA Attorney Mike Stebbins presented the board with multiple documents including a weather insurance policy and facilities use agreement which are designed to secure the repayment. Money will be paid directly to the talent. Staff completed an informal credit check on the promoter.

Tickets will be sold by Ticketmaster. The price has yet to be determined.

Board Chairman Tammy Bohannon said, "I think this is a win win. I was not sold on this, but after the vetting and ongoing discussion, I am comfortable with it."

Dr. Thomas Campanella voiced concerns about the board acting as a bank and weather interruption of previous concerts.

Concert Promoter Cadillac Banks told the board, "This event is going to do well. It's gonna be fine."

The vote to approve passed 4 -2 with Board Members Janice Gilley and Campanella opposed. The one-day R&B music festival at Casino Beach is set for August 30.

A \$10,000 request made by Pensacola Sports Association to support a jet ski event sped through committee and was approved on the board's consent agenda with no further discussion.

The Pensacola Beach Advocates' request for \$5,000 in advertising money for their Earth Day event was approved after the Board discussed the merits of supporting an event which was not focused on overnight stays.

Pensacola Beach resident

SRIA Makes State of the Island Presentations Available Online

Santa Rosa Island Authority Directors presented detailed reports of successes and goals set for their departments during the State of the Island address, February 12 at the SRIA Full Board meeting. Each list of accomplishments was followed by a statement of gratitude for co-workers and board members.

Public Safety Director Bob West showed the efforts of his

Elizabeth Hewson reminded the board that the PBA was a group comprised of leaseholders whose fees support their very existence. Their resistance to funding the request rankled Hewson, who was raised on the island.

"I see you giving money to other organizations," she said. "I am a leaseholder, so this is like a slap in the face. This event may not put heads in beds, but a clean beach does. This is a community event and your residents and day visitors must have a vested interest in recycling, picking up litter and caring for the beach."

Board Member Ed Guernsey said the plea changed his mind. His motion to allocate \$5,000 to the event passed 5 to 1 with Janice Gilley opposed.

The Board approved:

- \$105,000: Banks Enterprises Gulf Coast Summerfest concert, to be repaid

- \$10,000: Pensacola Sports Association Hydro-Turf UWP-USBA National Tour jet ski event, sponsorship

- \$5,000: Pensacola Beach Advocates Earth Day Islandstyle event, advertising grant

- \$1,000: Pensacola Beach Elementary Casino Night fundraiser, sponsorship

- \$500: Relay for Life, track marker sponsorship

Pensacola Beach Chamber President Nicole Stacey's Visitors Center Report showed a slight increase in traffic at the Center during January.

"We had 1,235 guests sign in," said Stacey. "Considering the weather we've had, I am pleased with the modest increase."

Those visitors will see a new facility in a new location next year. The Board accepted a \$323,000 bid from Southeastern Construction to build a new Visitor's Center over a retention pond in the Casino Beach parking lot.

lifeguarding staff and educational initiatives have reduced deaths from drowning so significantly that other beaches are using his training program.

Executive Director Buck Lee concluded the presentation saying, "The way the departments interact is just fantastic. It has been a pleasure working here for nine years."

The presentations are available online at www.sria-fla.com.

Floridian Construction was the low bidder by \$600, but the Board voted 4 to 2 to hire Southeastern based on a stronger history with beach projects. The construction site preparation will likely take another 60 days due to utility conflicts and the project could take seven months to complete.

Island avenues will get smoother and greener. The board tasked staff to bring a planting plan for an additional \$200,000 worth of palm trees to be installed along Fort Pickens Road. The trees are paid for by excess Portofino lease fees held in the Island Beautification Fund.

Campanella, Portofino Developer Robert Rinke, Landscape Contractor Vick Wallace, SRIA Director of Administration Robbie Schrock and Escambia County Engineer Matt Mooneyham made a site visit recommending a detailed plan be approved by the individual Homeowners Associations prior to finalization.

"We don't want to impact anyone's view, so I suggest we get their input and approval on the plan," said Campanella.

The island improvement continues. The Board approved the next step in a repaving of secondary beach roads, parking lot repair and resurfacing project.

"This item is in our budget not to exceed \$500,000," said Director of Developmental Service

Paolo Ghio. "The list includes resurfacing roads, Casino Beach parking lot and an area in front of Key Sailing for \$350,000."

Staff will prepare a final list of repaving projects and engage the SRIA engineering staff as necessary.

Mike Langston, Baskerville Donovan engineer noted that the design for the Park West Sound-side Pavilion was complete and would be delivered February 13. The concept was initially presented by Via de Luna residents Bob and Monica Kellner.

Two design concepts for traffic calming areas near the entrance to Portofino were completed and submitted to Escambia County for review, according to Langston. There will be additional landscaping in this area as well.

Chairman Tammy Bohannon requested that the engineering firm bring a detailed report to the Committee meetings, since so many projects with a variety of agencies' funds were in progress or planned for Pensacola Beach. She also asked staff to bring a presentation explaining the disposition of excess Portofino lease fees.

Bohannon welcomed new Board Member Jerry Watson to his first meeting. He replaced Fred Gant as the District 3 representative. Gant served as the

Board's vice chairman, so Janice Gilley was tapped for that position.

Charlie Morgan was hired as the new director of Public Works replacing the retiring Mason Kilgore.

Beach resident Rick Gordon complimented the Board for their creation of two dog parks. He and his dog visit the west end park six days per week and are pleased with the cleanliness and cooperation among pets. He was also encouraged by the Board's support of the "Dixie Cup Amendment" which would allow restaurants to create a dog-friendly dining area.

The SRIA committees will meet Wednesday, February 26 at 5 p.m. The meetings are open to the public and agendas are online at www.sria-fla.com.



Former Public Works Director Mason Kilgore at his SRIA retirement party, February 7.

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by
Kathi
Lewis



I'm just gonna come right out and admit that I still have Christmas decorations in my house. I'm telling y'all this for two reasons. The first one is that I hope it brings comfort to the other procrastinators out there; you are not alone. It's not that I wouldn't love for it all to be in the downstairs storage, it's a matter of getting it there. Whenever I see a couple of "free days" in the near future, I say to myself, "That will be perfect for getting this burden off my shoulders." But inevitably my plans will be immediately disrupted by a friend or loved one needing help, grandchildren unexpectedly coming over and in the last instance: an Ice Blizzard.

This leads me to the second reason I'm admitting my faults. The first night of the coming Storm, granddaughter Sissy wrote a play which she and I performed while my husband Bill and the stuffed animal friends served as our audience. It was of course, sold out!

As she and I sat at our small seagrass table sipping pretend tea and dressed in our finest Ball Gowns, I was easily able to block out all the Christmas stuff surrounding us. What importance could those things possibly hold in comparison with the joy of sharing such precious time with our little Sissy?

We both turned into Mermaids at the Play's end. It is, and always will be, relationships that are most important. My hope is that everyone can realize it does not matter to a child (or adults) what tangible things or possessions you can give them; what counts, is remembered and means the most, is the time you shared and enjoyed together.

For those reasons I will no longer concern myself when the Christmas finally gets put away. It will happen when it happens.

The last weekend in January was already planned with a trip to Jacksonville. Two of my sisters Gail Rodrigues and Sharon Abercrombie and I surprised our sister Brenda Dawson with a birthday gift. She was diagnosed with Early-Onset Dementia a couple of years ago. During an earlier trip to see her, she mentioned she had always wanted to see Merle Haggard in concert. I found tickets, cleared it with Gail and Sharon and we took the

first ever trip with all four sisters to see Merle. We had the time of our lives and now plan to take a trip together at least once a year.

We explained to nearly everyone we encountered, that we were four sisters, aka Merle's Girls, and enjoying our first trip together. I have every confidence that everyone including our sweet Taxi Driver Mr. Eddie will still be laughing and talking about those "four crazy old ladies" who came to town to see Merle Haggard.

I'm already checking out another possible trip for us.

But first, I have the Krewe of Wrecks Grand Ball to prepare for and attend. Jayne Drees Redmond was in charge of creating special invitations to the Ball this year. Good work, Jayne! I love the invitations which lend an air of sophistication and elegance to the return of a very simple time when attendees were required to wear formal attire and no costumes were allowed. Of course, that happened in New Orleans. I don't remember if Wrecks ever actually did that since I have always chosen to costume, because that's what lives in all my closets.

A lot of us grew up with watching the late Shirley Temple with her curly locks, singing and unstoppable determination and attitude. She was an inspiration to so many females of all ages. So, good-bye to a legend and may she forever rest in peace.

That brings me to possible future legends in our very own little island community. By now, you've probably learned in the "People" section about the birth of Paulette Provost's new granddaughter Ruby Charles Depascalis. So you also know about the "Crazy Eights." That coincidence alone brings some special Power. But there's another factor in this equation. There are several SOB's who have a beloved family member named Ruby which makes them Name Sisters.

The potential legend brings us to Ruby's big sister Lucca (aka LuLu), who was born two years ago in the midst of a Fireworks display celebrating the 4th of July. Not only being the birthday of our Country, and MeMe Paulette's favorite holiday, it is now also the birthday of Lulu.

Now we move to the even older sister Alana. Besides her

extraordinary gentleness, poise and sweet nature, she is a Mermaid.

So, we have Alana the extraordinary and magical Mermaid; then we add the explosive and magical fireworks of precious Lulu. Toss in tiny little Ruby with her magical eights and Name Sisters. That certainly shows the potential to make legends in our humble community. I cannot wait to see what the future holds.

It was not my intention to leave out any mention of dad Chris Despascalis. I just hope he understands that this was all about the Power of Women.

For now, it's time to concentrate on something really good to eat. One of my weaknesses is bread. I love every way it can be prepared right down to taking a slice, spreading some butter on it and yum, yum, and more yum! So I'm sharing one of my favorites since it's easy, quick, can be prepared ahead, easily doubled and feeds as many as required. It's perfect for Mardi Gras – for serving at home or sharing at the last minute for a party. So, let's cook.....

Bacon Cheddar Pull-apart Bread

1 loaf of Italian Bread (or your choice, but wide bread is best)
8 oz. Mexican cheese blend, shredded

6 oz. Asiago cheese, shredded or crumbled (or your choice of cheese)
16 oz. Bacon, cooked crisp and crumbled

¾ Cup butter, melted
1 ½ Tbsp. Ranch Dressing mix (dry)
1 Large sheet of Aluminum Foil (enough to wrap bread and overlap so bread is completely covered)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. On a cutting board, slice bread in ¾ inch intervals, being careful not to cut all the way through the bread. Cut again, crosswise without cutting through. Slide bread onto foil and stuff cheese between all cuts; sprinkle with crumbled bacon (although I like to push some into the cuts with the cheese). Mix melted butter with ranch dressing and drizzle evenly over the bread. Wrap foil around bread and bake for 15 minutes; uncover and bake 10 minutes more.

Happy Mardi Gras, spend some magical time with your family, and I'll see you in the kitchen.

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A Cross in the Sand

By
Rev. Dr. Tom Garrison
Pensacola Beach Community Church



We are all on a journey whether we realize it or not. It has been the tendency of many to simply go with the flow or to take what comes. Others have outlined where they want their life to be and where they want to go in it. Both ways, of course, take a path and it is for us to discern that path.

One of the great things we can do in this life is find a "faith" that is important to us. It scares some people because it is not something tangible but rather intellectual and a matter of trust in someone or something beyond us. Maybe one of the greatest faith stories to be found is that of a person who has come to the end of their life and be able to look back at all the times that God has touched them when it was most necessary. I was once speaking to a woman who told me about her relationship to a church. She said when she began going to the church as a young girl her mother insisted she go, then as she got busy with her own life it did not seem as important to anyone around her. It was in these busy years that she began to notice something, and that was that her life was being guided by others and not by herself or God. As long as she fell into line, the world around her seemed balanced to everyone else, however when she began to decide her own path and especially with God as a big part of it, the more resistance she began to receive. It was at that point in her life that she knew there were two ways that were trying to get her attention. She told me that when she finally came to realize the way she needed to travel in this life was a journey of faith.

This journey of faith is something that has been debated for hundreds of years, and people have tried to determine if society decides that for an individual or if the individual decides it for himself or herself. It is my belief that we as free moral agents can decide for ourselves and those decisions are primary to the way our life goes. Some people feel their life does not go as well as it should, because of difficulties; sickness, financial hardship, or some other problem. In other words if life is hard, then my faith is not strong enough. With just a casual reading of the Bible, we discover the people with the greatest faith may be the ones with the most difficulty. It has been said that "an unexamined life is not worth living," and there is something very true about that. I encourage people to see that a life is a journey worth taking.

I remember the poem The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost states "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I - I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference."

It seems to me that we all come to those places in life and our faith makes all the difference as to the journey we make ours.



Pickens Palms

I was delighted to read in the January 21, 2014, issue of *Island Times* that Robert Rinke has requested an additional \$200,000 from the Island Beau-

Chow Down For Free At Church

The Pensacola Beach Community Church will be hosting a Community Pancake Breakfast from 7 to 10 a.m. Saturday, March 1 in Randle Fellowship Hall at the church. Come enjoy a free breakfast of pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee.

"Our Community Fish Frys were such a big hit that we thought we try a breakfast event, especially with the Snowbirds in town," said Gordon Paulus, Senior Deacon at the church. "It will be a great way to start the day with good food and good fellowship."

Call 850-932-6628 for more information.

tification Fund be used to install palm trees on Fort Pickens Road to enhance the west end of the beach.

As your readers well know, Pensacola Beach is a beautiful place to live. We purchased our condo on Ft. Pickens Road because we loved the quietness of the west end of the island. However, the unkempt area between the pedestrian path and Ft. Pickens Road stretching from Bank of the South to Palm Beach Club is very unappealing.

Homeowners and tourists driving down Via de Luna enjoy nicely landscaped curbs and medians that are continually maintained. The manicured landscaping on the east end of the island provides a very

upscale look. It will be nice for homeowners and tourists to enjoy a landscaped drive from Casino Beach to the entrance of Fort Pickens.

I appreciate Mr. Rinke's vision to better all of Pensacola Beach. At the same time, I encourage the Santa Rosa Island Authority Committee to accept Mr. Rinke's proposal.

Sincerely,
Brian Underwood
Pensacola Beach

Out Of Town Islanders

We enjoy your newspaper. Good way for us to keep up when we are not in our condo on Pensacola Beach.

Chuck Morrison
Pensacola Beach and
Oklahoma City, OK

- • • • • Worship by the Water, 9 AM • • • • •
- Flounder's Beach • Pensacola Beach Church, 10 AM •
- www.gbmc.org • Avenida 18 /Via de Luna •
- • • • • thebeachchurch.com • • • • •
- Our Lady Catholic Church, 9:45 AM • • • • •
- Avenida 18 /Via De Luna • Central Waterside Church, 9 AM •
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Shakespeare Expert Visits Book Clubbers

Immerse yourself in the Merchant of Venice and join the Gulf Breeze Book Club, Monday, February 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Pensacola Beach Elk's Lodge. The meeting, which is open to the public, will feature Dr. Robert Yeager, who heads the UWF English Department. Contact Donna Jones at donnaljones@hotmail.com or 850-932-8620 for more information.



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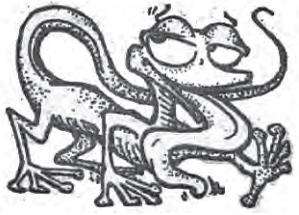
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The Lizzard's Tongue...

BY ELIZABETH K. HEWSON

Growing up Jane Waters' daughter, one of the original founders of the Pensacola Beach Mardi Gras and Krewe of Wrecks, was not always easy during carnival season, but it sure was a lot of fun. The Krewe of Wrecks began when I was a sophomore at Catholic High in Pensacola. Mom never allowed me to slack off from my school work or the endless hours I spent training in the pool and weight room at Pensacola Junior College as a member of the age group aquatic club. It was a balancing act that I was able to handle as a teenager in the early 80s, but cannot even begin to accomplish it as a parent today.

I can remember the Beach family we carpoled with from swim practice, Ed, Shirley, and Scott Morrison, asking me on Monday nights when the Wrecks were meeting, "So kiddo, what bar are we dropping you off at tonight?" Arriving around 6:20 p.m. and wreaking of a combination of chlorine and Ben Gay, I would check-in with Mom. She would immediately hand me my camera so I could take photos for "The Islander" newspaper. It was just matter of fact and I happily complied. Plus this was way before anyone else would have had a camera on them. In all actuality, I probably was starving, exhausted and still had homework to complete. It was Andrea Brunt who always managed to save me a full-sized plate of hors d'oeuvres which I would promptly wolf down. Eventually, Mom and I would hop into the Rustmobile, her Volare station wagon that had lost the battle against the salt air and sported a hood bedazzled in rust. By the time we were home, never more than a five minute drive, our day had been discussed and the reminder that 4:15 a.m. tomorrow would be here sooner, as opposed to later. Those Tuesday mornings, on our way to Pensacola for the first swim practice of the day, Scott would pepper me with questions about what I ate and how many sodas did I drink. He just thought it was so cool that I was eating dinner in a bar at a Krewe of Wrecks meeting on a Monday night. I secretly thought so, too. His parents eventually became Wrecks and Scott was a deckhand in the 1983 court.

The Champagne Breakfast always presented a schedule challenge. How could I not show up for swim practice on Saturday? Even worse, what if there was a swim meet that weekend. The closer to the date of the breakfast, the more errands I got to go on. It seemed every Saturday after swim practice, Mom and I would have something to shop for in town. A captain's hat. The first mate's tiara. Costume satin. My favorite was getting to pick out the rhinestones and jewels that my mom would lovingly glue onto the captain's hat. She would always admire her work as if she was a top milliner. I just accepted that my Saturday afternoons did not belong to me, but to the Krewe of Wrecks. It was on those Saturdays that I fell in love with fabric and sparkly trims at Betty's Bazaar. Somehow I always managed to get Mom to stay just a tad bit longer so I could take in all the colors and textures. Even though within minutes she had her bolts of royal blue and white costume satin and was ready to head back to the beach, she let me look. I would still be talking about fabric as we would pull into Nero's parking lot.

And it was only one Champagne Breakfast that I got caught. The routine for the first two years went something like this: the Friday afternoon before the Champagne Breakfast, I would mysteriously start getting sick while lifting weights. Then it was no big deal that I wasn't at swim practice the following Saturday morning because the coaches just assumed I was ill. However, the year "News-Journal" photographer Richard Hammond was a stowaway, somehow my photo ended up in Sunday's paper. Lucky for me that my swim coach at the time was not only a beach resident, but for a former Orleanian. He let me know that he was not happy with my decision and after making me swim

an incredibly difficult set on Monday morning, his parting shot was "Well, did you have fun?" Absolutely.

I never missed a parade -- initially as a deckhand, then a rider, and eventually a spectator. However, I wasn't able to attend

the Red Beans and Rice luncheon until I was in college. Missing school, even for the Krewe of Wrecks, would never have been an option.

Looking back, I can honestly say my teen years were anything but typical. Jane Waters believed

life should be celebrated and if you can accomplish that while wearing a costume and with thousands of friends, even better. I guess that philosophy trumps typical any day of the week. Happy Mardi Gras.

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Sun, March 2, 11am to 2pm



Krewe of Kids Member Nick Johnson is decked out in his Mardi Gras attire at the February 8 Royal Doughnut Breakfast at the Beach Church.

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Moon Pies sailed across the Sandshaker February 7 as the Krewe of Nereids delivered the traditional Mardi Gras treat to the guests at their Moon Pie Party. The Pensacola Beach all-female krewe decked out in top hats and tuxedo coats are: (Back row, L to R): Queen Marilyn LeNormand, Sharon Mattair, Paulette Provost, Elaine Mitchell, Lila Cox, King Bob Dority, Judy L'Oignon, Christine Cook, Monette Hodges and Peggy Henshall. (Middle row, L to R): Deb Friedman, Daisy Long, Becky Shearman and Ella Hess. Front and center: Bonnie McDonald. The Nereids will roll on March 2 during the Krewe of Wrecks parade. Photo by DJ Zemenick/Barrier Island Girl

Krewe of Nereids Founding Member Sharon Mattair, left, shows off the vintage poster while Tommy Grice serves as the auctioneer at the krewe's February 7 Moon Pie Party at the Shaker. Photo by DJ Zemenick / Barrier Island Girl



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THE GOOD TIMES 2014



PensacolaBeachMardiGras.com

Saturday, Feb. 22
Kids and Kritters Parade. 2 p.m. Casino Beach Parking Lot, across from Sidelines. Dogs and kids walking procession. Come catch some beads. Or join the parade. www.pensacolabeachmardi-gras.com.

Krewe of Wrecks Grand Ball. 8 p.m. at the Pensacola Beach Elk's Lodge. Open to the public. Tickets are \$30 per person. Hosted by the Krewe of Wrecks. It's formal to herald Pensacola Beach's original krewe at their Grand Ball. The Krewe of Wrecks break all the rules for formal galas and set all the standards for fun. Rub elbows with Beach royalty. Additional Info: Melanie Waite at melanie@waite.cc

Sunday, Feb. 23
DeLuna Fest. 2-8 p.m. Hosted by Via de Luna Shopping Center Businesses: Paddy

O'Leary's, The Islander, The Break and Dog House Deli, along with Paradise Bar and Grill. Free Red Beans and Rice at each location. Beads, king cake, and Mardi Gras madness. Live Music. Drinks Specials.
Monday, Feb. 24
Queen's Dinner. 7 p.m. at Flounder's. Open to ladies, \$30 per ticket. Limited number of tickets available. Queens are honored at this lavish dinner. All Queens in attendance are recognized. Dinner is served. Champagne flows. Tiara's are required. Rhinestones, sequins, all forms of fun and fanciful clothes are recommended. melanie@waite.cc for ticket information.

King's Supper. 7 p.m. at the Elk's Lodge. Open to men, \$30 per ticket. Limited number of tickets available. A feast fit for a king served to all previous and current rulers of the Pensacola Beach krewes.

The after dinner entertainment includes traveling across the street to Flounder's to see the one hundred dazzling women at the Queen's Dinner. melanie@waite.cc for ticket info.

Saturday, March 1
Krewe of Wrecks Champagne Breakfast. 10 a.m. at Crab's on the Beach. Sold out. The excitement bubbles over as the Krewe of Wrecks board prepares to announce the new royal court. Toasting and toast. Corks pop. Generous breakfast is served. Pomp and circumstance - as only the Wrecks can do. The names of the royal court are revealed. A glittering tiara, bejeweled captain's hat are bestowed in a wild ceremony. Attendees tie napkins together in a long strand as the official Krewe of Wrecks song is performed. A decades old tradition. melanie@waite.cc for ticket info.

Mardi Gras Street Dance. noon until the dancing stops, at Sabine Sandbar. This event is open to the public, be the first to congratulate the newly crowned Krewe of Wrecks Royalty! The Wrecks Royal Court has been known to lead a procession into the street for a brief, unauthorized dance, pending patient drivers and agreeable weather.

Sunday, Mar. 2
Krewe of Wrecks Mardi Gras Parade. 2 p.m. Via de Luna and Avenida 10, west to the Gulfside Pavilion. No charge to view. Come early. www.PensacolaBeachMardiGras.com for more details.

Monday, Mar. 3
Red Beans and Rice Luncheon. 11 a.m. Casino Beach Parking Lot, Open to the Public at no charge. The Bean Team at the Elk's Lodge spends days planning and preparing the traditional New Orleans style Monday fare.

The spicy red beans and rice are ladled into bowls by the volunteers from the Pensacola Beach Woman's Club. Thousands come for the free meal - Dining tables are lined up in the parking lot. Workers on their lunch hour dance with costumed krewe members under the tent. Drinks are available for sale. Tip jars collect cash to donate to local charities. Additional Info: Melanie Waite at melanie@waite.cc

Fat Tuesday, March 4
Krewe of Coma Royal Coronation and Lighted Hat Procession. 6 p.m. at the Sandshaker Lounge, No charge, open to all. The grand finale of Mardi Gras on the Island is the crowning of the

King and Queen of Coma. This evening event requires participants to bring, wear, or otherwise possess lighted and glowing adornments.

Anything goes as long as it glows. Clever and creative types can enter the free Lighted Hat Contest to win fame but not much fortune.

Shoe Box Float Contest. 8 p.m. Paradise Bar and Grill. No charge, open to all. The competition starts days in advance as artists and wanna be float builders begin carefully crafting mini floats out of empty shoe boxes. Need more instruction on how to construct a winning float? Log on to www.pensacolabeachmardi-gras.com.

Floats may be delivered to the Paradise Bar and Grill up to the time judging begins. Prizes include t-shirts, bar tabs and a grand prize overnight stay in Paradise. Get your floats ready to roll to the Shoe Box Float Contest.

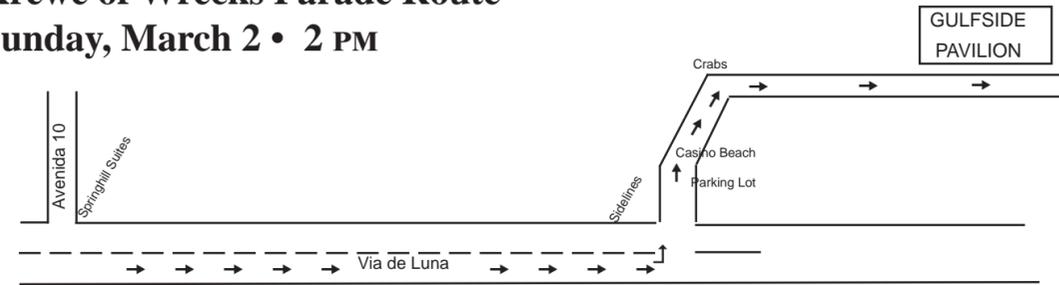
Mardi Gras on the Island comes to an end at midnight.

SNAPSHOTS...

- Krewe of Kids Balloon Drop
- Bananimals Queen Stacey Wright and Dianne Kildow
- Naugas Queens Lynn Cleutat, Karina Foster, Amy DePew, Christine Hewerdine, Danah Gibson, Becky Collins, Allison Sanchez, Gwen Gibson, Loren Littleton and Dana Graves. Seated Carrie Monaghan, Deb Friedman, Tommy Grice



Krewe of Wrecks Parade Route Sunday, March 2 • 2 PM



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Have you ever cheated? Come on, admit it, everyone has. Right? I'm pretty sure most of you have definitely cheated, but I can honestly say I have never cheated and I never will.

Confused yet? I'm talking about all the diets that call for a Cheat Day.

If you're not familiar with the Cheat Day, it works like this. You start some idiotic diet that has you restricting calories and eating insanely clean for 6 days. Then, on day 7 you go berserk and eat and drink whatever you want and as much as you want, otherwise known as a "binge."

According to some experts, the Cheat Day will spike your metabolism causing you to lose weight quicker by increasing the production of the hormone Leptin. The rest of the experts, including me, believe cheating is foolish and the small boost of Leptin is not worth the mental beating your brain takes from cheating. This will do more harm long term.

The two roads most people choose from when attempting to eat better are: Deprivation and Moderation. Which one of those words looks dark, dreary and negative? Of course, deprivation.

Let's focus on the right way to eat, moderation, and rather than bingeing on Cheat Day. If you want long term success with weight loss, you need to eat more dessert. Here's why.

Researchers were so intrigued by this idea that they decided to put the theory to the test, and see if eating sweets and treats can help regulate appetite throughout the day and help maintain weight loss long-term.

They chose to study dessert at breakfast time because according to the study, breakfast was the meal that consistently regulates ghrelin, (hormone that stimulates hunger), and while the level of ghrelin rises before every meal, it is suppressed most effectively at breakfast time.

For the study, they divided men and women randomly into two groups: Group 1 ate a 300-calorie breakfast that was low-carb with no dessert item. Group 2 ate a 600-calorie breakfast, that included an equal amount of protein and carbs, including a dessert item. To keep things controlled, both groups ate an identical number of calories.

So what were the results?

The study lasted 32 weeks and during the first half of the study, people in both groups lost an average of 33 pounds. But here's where things get very interesting. In the second half of the study, we start seeing the benefit of including dessert. Those in the group eating the smaller, low-carb breakfast regained an average of 22 pounds. Those in the dessert group went on to lose an additional 15 pounds. The moral of the story here is that being extreme (deprivation-cheat day) in your dieting approach is less likely to work than giving yourself a little flexibility (moderation) to indulge in a small way every day—as a result, keeping strong cravings from taking over.

Remember, I'm in NO way advocating 3 sleeves of Oreos for breakfast, but if you're the kind of person who loves sweets, why not try adding a few pieces of dark chocolate to your daily breakfast.

If you need help with your calorie range or you're finally ready to have the body you want and deserve, text "cheater" to 305-393-1282 right now and reserve a no-obligation complimentary fitness/nutrition consultation.

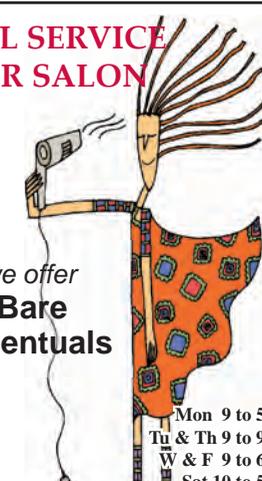
Geoff Kalmbach is the owner of *Functional Fitness Training, an in-home personal training company. Call him at 866-900-FITT for more on this topic.*

Circle K Hosts Parade Weekend Beach Run

Kick off Mardi Gras weekend with the Krewe of Circle K at the fourth annual Circle K 5K, March 1, at 8 a.m. at Casino Beach. The event is open to walkers and runners with proceeds benefitting local affiliates of United Cerebral Palsy. Entrants receive a t-shirt and goodie bag. The post race party will rock at the Sandshaker Lounge with refreshments, awards, music and games.

For more information or a printable entry form email susi@eventtiming.com.

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Monday:
Sandshaker, 7 PM

Tuesday
Pelican Lounge, 7 PM

Thursday:
Paddy O'Leary's, 7PM

Sunday:
Paddy O'Leary's, 6 PM



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After Sundown.....

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



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

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Open 7 days a week. Sunday Brunch. At the Traffic Light on beautiful Pensacola Beach, 850-932-2003 www.flounderschowderhouse.com

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PADDY O'LEARY'S IRISH PUB

May the luck of the Irish be with you as you enter the Beach's authentic Irish Pub. Happy bartenders serving Happy Hour priced drinks Monday thru Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Have you tried a Car Bomb? Electronic Darts. Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun. Live music. All kinds of shenanigans. Located in the historic district of Pensacola Beach, 49 Via de Luna. Call 850-916-9808. www.PaddyOLEarysIrishPub.com



THE ISLANDER LOUNGE AND PACKAGE

A bit of history. The oldest lounge on Pensacola Beach located in the Via de Luna Shopping Center, about one mile east of the traffic light. Specials, daily. Dance on the pole. drink a shot. Shuffleboard. Upstairs Cypress Room and Sundeck. Live music. Just steps away from The Break., our sister establishment. Open everyday for fun. 850-932-9011.



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BAMBOO WILLIE'S BEACHSIDE BAR

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Pets

Pensacola Beach Dog Parks. Daily, 7 to SUNSET. Leashed, friendly dogs. Parking Lot "E" located near park east and Parking Lot "B" near park west on Fort Pickens Road.

.....
Pensacola Humane Society has adoptable dog, cats and kittens. They are accepting cash and supply donations. www.pensacolahumane.org

.....
Thanks to the following for their support of the Kids and Kritters Parade: Krewe of Wrecks, Gulf Breeze Animal Hospital, SRIA, Lila Cox, Burma Davis, Audrey Preston, Dennis Remesch, Anita Remesch, Jane McGrath, Dan McGrath, Pat Cribb, Andy Murphy, Judi Purcell, Susi and Mike Mardis, Dan McGrath, Lisa Burgess, Melanie Waite, Brian Underwood, Steve Picker, Becky Shearman, Diane Tyson, Blondee, Jim Cox, Dr Tim and Carol Gossman.

Calendar

FEBRUARY

- 20: Snowbird Trolley Tour, 10 a.m. Casino Beach
- 20: Snowbird Dessert Party, 1-3pm, Resort Quest
- 22: Kids and Kritters Parade, 2 p.m. Casino Beach Parking Lot
- 23: DeLuna Fest Mardi Gras celebration at Via de Luna Shopping Ctr. 2-8 pm
- 25: Pensacola Beach Chamber Membership Meeting, 8:30 am, Pensacola Beach RV Resort.
- 26: Santa Rosa Island Authority Meeting, 5 pm. #1 Via de Luna, Open to the Public. www.sria-fla.com

MARCH

- 1: Circle K 5K Run, Gulfside Pavilion. After Party at the Sandshaker. 8 am
- 1: Mardi Gras Street Dance, 1 pm Sabine Sandbar. Open to public.
- 2: Krewe of Wrecks Mardi Gras parade, 2 p.m. Via de Luna to Gulfside Pavilion.
- 3: Free Red Beans and Rice Luncheon. Casino Beach parking lot. 11 a.m. Hosted by the Krewe of Wrecks. All are welcome.
- 4: Our Lady of the Assumption Snow Bird Wine and Cheese Party, 6 pm
- 4: Fat Tuesday. Krewe of Coma Coronation, Sandshaker. 6 p.m.
- 4: Shoe Box Float Contest, 8 p.m. Paradise. No entry fee.
- 6: Snowbird Martini Event, 4-6pm Crab's on the Beach
- 7: Early Deadline for Go Irish edition of Island Times
- 11: Pensacola Beach Elementary School Groundbreaking, 11:30 am
- 12: Santa Rosa Island Authority Meeting, 5 pm. #1 Via de Luna, Open to the Public. www.sria-fla.com

- 13: PB Woman's Club Fashion Show. 11 a.m. Our Lady.
- 15: Strongman Contest at Bamboo Willie's. www.bamboowillies.com
- 16: Go Irish on the Island Scavenger Hunt. www.pensacolabeachchamber.com
- 17: St. Paddy's Day Pub Crawl. www.PensacolaBeachChamber.com
- 17: Green Bikini Contest, Bamboo Willie's. 5 p.m.
- 25: Pensacola Beach Chamber Membership Meeting, 8:30 a.m. Pensacola Beach RV Resort
- 25: PB Optimist Oratorical Contest Finals, Beach Church
- 25: Beach Chamber Business After Hours, Paradise, 5:30 pm. Guests call 850-932-1500.
- 26: Santa Rosa Island Authority Meeting, 5 pm. #1 Via de Luna, Open to the Public. www.sria-fla.com

APRIL

- 1: Bands on the Beach. Gulfside Pavilion. 7-9 pm www.visitpensacolabeach.com
 - 4: Gulf Coast Interstate Relay. Ends at the Beach VIC. Thru April 5.
 - 8: Bands on the Beach. Gulfside Pavilion. 7-9 pm www.visitpensacolabeach.com
-
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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Labyrinth choice
- 5 Skillets
- 9 Half a dance?
- 12 Lotion additive
- 13 Fraternal baseball surname
- 14 Attila, e.g.
- 15 Unknown people
- 17 Pismire
- 18 Evening affair
- 19 Depend (on)
- 21 "And this should matter to me ... why?"
- 22 Object
- 24 "National Treasure" star
- 27 Chart format
- 28 Superman's alias
- 31 Melody
- 32 Corroded
- 33 "Go, team!"
- 34 Let the cat out of the bag
- 36 Badly
- 37 Pale
- 38 Aristocratic
- 40 Ego counterpart
- 41 Queenly
- 43 Small beard
- 47 Have bills

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15				16				17			
18							19	20			
			21			22	23				
24	25	26			27			28	29	30	
31					32				33		
34			35		36			37			
			38		39			40			
41	42						43		44	45	46
47					48	49	50				
51					52				53		
54					55					56	

- 48 Puts on the line
 - 51 "— the ramparts ..."
 - 52 About half the children
 - 53 Tiger Woods' ex
 - 54 "— Dalloway"
 - 55 Trade
 - 56 Logical
- DOWN**
- 1 Quarter-back's throw
 - 2 Choir member
 - 3 Actress Spelling
 - 4 Last car?
 - 5 Senate
 - 6 Hearty brew
 - 7 Neither mate
 - 8 Some Japanese fare
 - 9 They make alterations
 - 10 Suspended
 - 11 Initial stake
 - 16 Ultramodernist
 - 20 Squid squirt
 - 22 Marquee datum
 - 23 Command to Rover
 - 24 "Cash —"
 - 25 Have something
 - 26 Farmers
 - 27 Bucket
 - 29 "Unh-unh"
 - 30 Your
 - 35 Feathery accessory
 - 37 Saws
 - 39 Consecrate
 - 40 Charged bit
 - 41 Leeway
 - 42 Basin
 - 43 React in horror
 - 44 Anatomical tissue
 - 45 Ireland
 - 46 Slave to crosswords?
 - 49 Without delay
 - 50 "CSI" evidence

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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



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JOY**



FLOATING ON AIR - Millie Davis was elated to be crowned the Queen of the Krewe of Brewe at their Black Tie Ball, February 8 at The Dock. As is the norm with this krewe's reputation for antics, the formal occasion was anything but stuffy. Decorations took center stage, leaving guests wondering what happened to all of those balloons. Millie will represent the Krewe of Brewe at the Queens Dinner and at the Krewe of Wrecks parade, Sunday, March 2.

Seeing Stars... this week's horoscopes

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Try to say as little as possible about the work you're doing through the end of the month. Then you can make your announcement and accept your well-deserved plaudits.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You face a more difficult challenge than you expected. But with that strong Taurean determination, you should be able to deal with it successfully by week's end.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Before you act on your "feelings" about that upcoming decision, it might be wise to do a little fact-checking first. You could be very much surprised by what you don't find.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A recent workplace success can open some doors that were previously closed to you. On a personal level, expect to receive some important news from a longtime friend and colleague.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Put your wounded pride aside and do what you must to heal that misunderstanding before it takes a potentially irreversible turn and leaves you regretting the loss of a good friend.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) One way to kick a less-than-active social life into high gear or rebuild an outdated Rolodex file is to throw one of your well-organized get-togethers for friends and associates.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Getting out of an obligation you didn't really want to take on can be tricky. An honest explanation of the circumstances can help. Next time, pay more attention to your usually keen instincts.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Use your Scorpion logic to push for a no-nonsense approach to a perplexing situation. This could help keep present and potential problems from creating more confusion.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A friend's problem might take more time than you want to give. But staying with it once again proves the depth of your Sagittarian friendship and loyalty.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) The Sea Goat can benefit from an extra dose of self-confidence to unsettle your detractors,

giving you the advantage of putting on a strong presentation of your position.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You might want to ask a friend or relative for advice on an ongoing personal matter. But be careful not to give away

information you might later wish you had kept secret.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Use the weekend for a creativity break to help restore your spiritual energy. Once that's done, you'll be back and more than ready to tackle whatever challenge you need to face.



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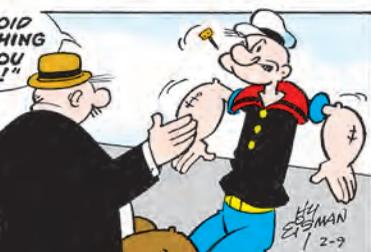
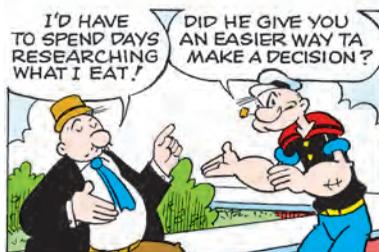
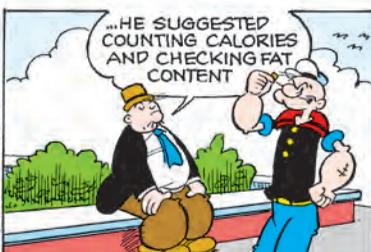
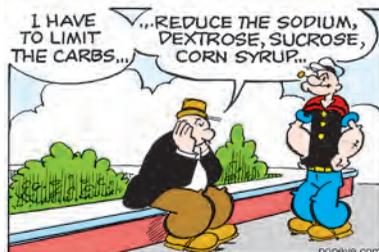
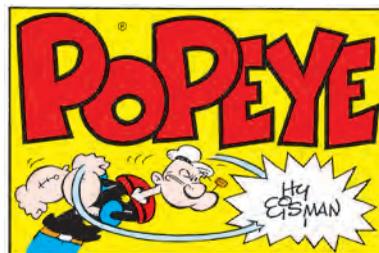
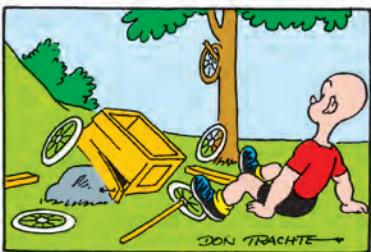
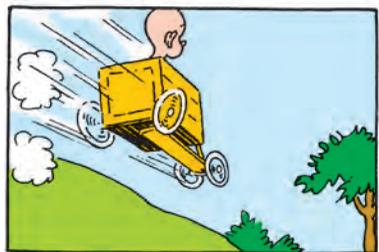
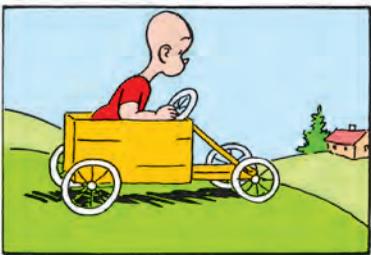
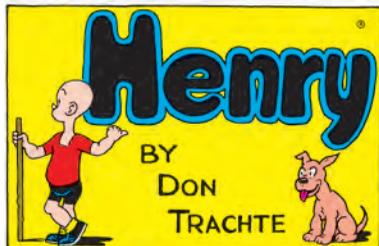
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Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



MISTER BREGER By Dave Breger



"He wants to know if we can use a foreign sales representative..."

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



LAFF-A-DAY



"How soon will you be ready? Be specific—give me a date."

BYTES & BITS

By Joe Stukey,
Your Computer Pal

Q: "How can I speed up my old computer?"

A: You will get the best results by adding one or more memory chips to your computer. Older computers were sold with a lot less memory than those that are sold today (and they had less capacity). "Memory" refers to the memory chips that are in your computer, not the amount of hard disk storage in your computer. Memory chips are in use when computer programs are being run and are cleared of their memory when the computer is turned off. The hard disk is where your personal files are stored.

So, how do you upgrade a computer's memory? You should start by researching information about your computer on the Internet. Using the computer's model number, look up information about how much memory will fit into your computer. One useful website is www.crucial.com. Knowing your model number will allow you to see which memory chips your computer can use and the maximum memory that is al-

lowed. There are many different kinds of chips and many different manufacturers. For the best results, buy the well-known brands.

Next, start your computer and look in the Control Panel to see how much memory is currently installed in your computer. If it is at the maximum amount, you can stop right there. If not, look at the actual memory chips that are in your computer. Make sure that you unplug your computer and remove the main battery (for laptops) before starting this task. For laptops, you can remove a small cover on the bottom of the computer to see the chips. For desktop computers, you will see the memory chips when you remove the side cover. If you remove the chips to look at them, always note how they will need to be re-inserted. In some laptops the memory is more deeply imbedded in the computer and cannot be reached without considerable disassembly. In that case, call a technician.

Each chip indicates how much memory is on it. If all the

memory slots are filled, all of the old memory will have to be removed to insert the higher-capacity chips. Insert the new memory chips to bring the computer up to its maximum allowed memory. When you restart your computer with the new memory chips, you should see a noticeable difference in the speed at which the computer does its work.

If the computer does not restart properly, turn it off. Re-insert the original chips and check to see that the computer starts correctly. If you run into difficulties, you might need to consult a technician to confirm that all the steps were completely correctly.

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

Volunteers Needed for Fort Registration Office

Superintendent Dan Brown announced today that the Gulf Islands National Seashore is looking for volunteers to assist with the Campground Registration Office at Fort Pickens. Volunteers are needed to work two six hour day-time shifts per week to answer phones and visi-

tor questions. Applicants will be required to complete a security background check. The Seashore will pay all costs associated with obtaining the background check.

Interested persons can contact Volunteer Coordinator Roxanne Sellers at 850-934-2608 or Stace Wilson 850-934-2622.

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Our Lady Hosts Snowbird And Soup Events

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church will be hosting a Wine and Cheese get together Tuesday, March 4 for Snowbirds from 6 to 7:30 p.m. There is no charge, but anyone wishing to attend should call the Church Office at 850-934-0222 to RSVP.

The Church will also host a

Relay for Life Soup Night Fundraiser, each Tuesday, beginning March 11. The cost is \$3 and includes soup, bread and dessert.

The Church is located at the corner of Via de Luna and Avenida 18 on Pensacola Beach. For more information, go to www.stannngulfbreeze.org.

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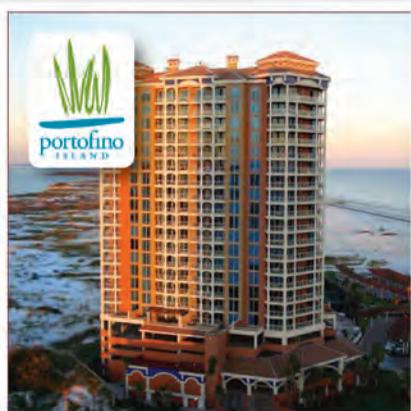
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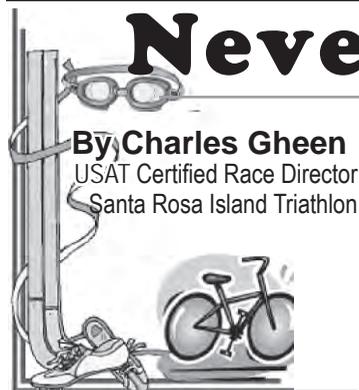
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Never Hurts To Tri



By Charles Gheen
USAT Certified Race Director
Santa Rosa Island Triathlon

Race To The Beach

Standing at the front of the Start line at Community Maritime Park in downtown Pensacola for this year's Double Bridge Run (DBR) was a diverse group of elite runners waiting to sprint to Santa Rosa Island. There were several Kenyans, a Russian, a Canadian, two members of the Air Force Marathon team and three runners from Boulder, Colorado. All were incredibly lean and powerful looking and they were moving slightly, shifting in their stances, as they focused on the task at hand.

It was just before 7 a.m., the temperature was 50 degrees, a slight fog was hanging in the air and the cannon was about to be fired to start the race. Almost 2,500 athletes were arrayed behind them getting ready to begin this challenging event. The sea of bright colors the runners wore and the loud, raucous music added to the very festive atmosphere. Another 1,000 competitors were already beginning to assemble in Gulf Breeze for the 5K portion of the race.

For 17 years Pensacola Beach has been the final destination for the DBR. Traversing 9.3 miles across two bridges and finishing amid sugar-white sands and blue-green water is an amazing experience. When you get to the top of the Bob Sikes Bridge with the incredible vista of the Gulf of Mexico, Santa Rosa Sound and the island stretching out to the east and west, it will get your full attention. You suddenly snap back and remember you are on a bridge, there are people all around you and there is still a mile and a half to run.

I've run or attended races all over the country and there is no other venue for a road race like the DBR for scenic beauty, inspiration and just the "Wow" factor. Running the marathon in Big Sur past Hurricane Point or crossing two massive bridges in the New York City Marathon with amazing views of Manhattan are in the conversation. Racing up the 2.5 miles of The Mall past the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument and the White House to The Capitol in the Marine Corps Mara-

thon is certainly breath-taking, but I'll put the DBR up there with any of them.

Tyler McCandless, the 2013 champion, stood at the Start line in the cool breeze. He was almost motionless and was staring straight ahead, seemingly oblivious to the tumult all around him. Tyler is a former Penn State All-American, has run and won races all over the country and recently ran 1:03 for the United States Half-marathon Championship in Houston. That's right, 63 minutes to run 13.1 miles. He was feeling very strong, very confident and had his race plan firmly in his mind. He intended to sprint from the start and try to run away from his competition. There was going to be no waiting, no drafting, no final push, no complicated strategy – just run as fast as you can, as long as you can for fifteen thousand meters.



Tyler McCandless

As the cannon sounded loudly, he raced down the inclined exit from the stadium and sped away on Spring Street. Quickly a gap opened up between him and Kenyan Wesley Ochoro. By the time he hit the two-mile mark on the

Bayfront, that gap was 300 yards and widening. Everyone else was running for second place now and the more interesting race further back was between the top three women who matched each other, stride for stride, across the first bridge.

Miles later, past the cheering crowds in Gulf Breeze, past the top of the Sikes Bridge, past the groomed sands of Quietwater Beach, Tyler crossed the Finish line in 45 minutes and 19 seconds. He had run each of the 9.3 miles in under 5 minutes and average 4:52 per mile. The women's race boiled down to Kenyan Cynthia Jerop and Boulder's Kristin Arendt sprinting towards the finish just yards apart. Jerop crossed the line

first and bent over, elbows on her knees, to catch her breath from the effort. She smiled broadly as she straightened up and her Finisher's medal was put around her neck by a volunteer. As the sun rose higher in the sky and shone brightly, the massive field of runners streamed across the race's end. Finally the last competitor was done, the party was in high gear and it was yet another beautiful day on Pensacola Beach.



Beach residents (L to R) Kylie and Rita Finkbone and Denise and Larry Keever wait in the chilly February 1 air for the 5K distance of the Double Bridge Run. Rita ran a 24:03 to win the Female Grandmaster trophy.

Running Realtor - Levin Rinke Resort Realty's Clark Allen is running for home. The Pensacola Beach resident had conquered most of the 9.3 miles of the February 1 Double Bridge Run. He was cruising through Gulf Breeze preparing to run up the overpass that leads to Pensacola Beach Boulevard. His time was 1:15:43.



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Thursday, Feb 20: Karaoke with Becky, 8 pm
Friday, Feb 21: Karaoke with Becky, 8 pm
Saturday, Feb 22: Freeway 98, 7 pm
Sunday, Feb 23: Southern Breeze, 3 pm
Tuesday, Feb 25: Timmy's Smart Ass Trivia, 7:30 pm
Wednesday, Feb 26: Bar BINGO with Becky, 7:30 pm
Thursday, Feb 27: Karaoke with Becky, 8 pm
Friday, Feb 28: Karaoke with Becky, 8 pm
Saturday, Mar 1: High Horse, 7 pm
Sunday, Mar 2: The Blenders, 3-7 pm

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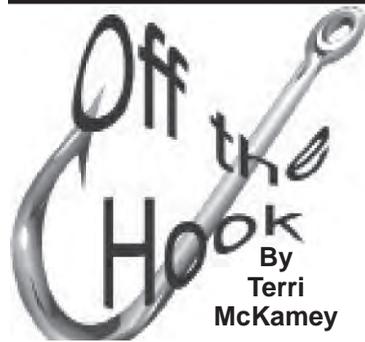


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Ice, sleet and snow are normal weather for January up north but certainly not around here. Thank goodness the weather is coming back to normal.

Temperatures are going back up into the mid sixties and the sun will be smiling down on us again. Last weekend we got a little taste of things to come and now spring fever is all over the island. Everyone is getting out of the house and hitting the beaches, piers and boats. As you can see, it's paying off, too.

Below is a picture of Dewberry bringing in the flounder from his boat and he's not the only one either.



Larry Keever and Mark Soprano with their big Red "caught on board the Chief commanded by Captain Chris." But you don't necessarily have to be on the boat to land great fish.

February is a great month for Trout in the upper rivers and upper bays, and from time to time you'll come up with some fun Redfish. Depending upon how cold it is outside will determine if the fish are deep in holes. They can be as deep as 18 feet or in depths of water 4-10 feet.

It's also getting close on those Sheepshead. Although some people are already catching a few, there will be monster Sheepshead as the weather warms up. Typically the huge fish runs are from about March 15 all the way through April. There will be Pompano and yes, there will be Cobia soon.

Right now is a great time to get off that couch and enjoy this taste of spring we are getting. I know I will be.

Please be kind to the beach. Pick up your hooks, line and other litter when you are done fishing. Watch out! Spring fever is going around and it's contagious. Grab a kid, get out and go fishing.



Larry Keever, left, and Mark Soprano with a big Redfish.



When Dennis Remesch is not selling real estate, he's out on the water. He kept the location of his hot fishing spot a closely guarded secret, but clearly he knows where the Sheepshead are hiding. All he would say was the fish were caught while fishing in saltwater aboard his boat "Anita Fish." He was fishing with his wife who is an accomplished angler Anita Remesch; and Gary Steed, who hails from Louisiana originally.

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Lentini And Scher Battle For Top Texas Hold 'Em Title

Two Texas Hold 'Em 4444 Fun Titans squared off in a winner-take-all playoff match to determine January's Player of the Month. Todd Lentini earned the title over Justin Scher in a head-to-head tourney. Weekly games are held at the Pelican, Sandshaker and Paddy O'Leary's. Here are the final results:

- Sandshaker Lounge**
Jan 13: Todd Lentini, winner. Charlie Wheeler, runner-up
Jan 20: Deb Friedman, winner. Mike Wood, runner-up
Jan 27: Mike King, winner. Deb Friedman, runner-up
Feb 3: Todd Lentini, winner. Mike Wood, runner-up
Feb 10: Patty Dawkins, winner. Terri McKamey, runner-up
- Pelican Lounge**
Jan 7: Jon Woodham, winner. Glenn

- Burleson, runner-up
Jan 14: Jon Woodham, winner. Mike King, runner-up
Jan 21: Glenn Burleson, winner. Janie Uzdevenes, runner-up
Feb 4: Tex Atkinson, winner. Deb Friedman, runner-up
- Paddy O'Leary's**
Jan 2: Justin Scher, winner. Ted Gorder, runner-up
Jan 9: Justin Scher, winner. Deb Friedman, runner-up
Jan 16: Pete Falgout, winner. Deb Friedman, runner-up
Jan 19: Waldo Defindorf, winner. Todd Lentini, runner-up
Jan 23: Todd Lentini, winner. Justin Scher, runner-up
Feb 6: Todd Lentini, winner. Ted Gorder, runner-up
- For more information, call Rick Uzdevenes, poker promoter at 850-324-2667.

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<p><u>Tues 2/18</u> Karaoke w/Becky, 8 PM</p> <p><u>Wed 2/19</u> Buck Nasty Band, 8 PM</p> <p><u>Thur 2/20</u> 1/2 price drinks w/Shaker Shirt, 7 PM to close. Tyler Mac Band 8:30 PM</p> <p><u>Fri 2/21</u> Buzzcut, 9 PM</p> <p><u>Sat 2/22</u> Military Vets Party 2 PM Something Huge, Shaker Deck, 3 PM Buzzcut, 9 PM</p> <p><u>Sun 2/23</u> Dunnottar, 4 PM</p>	<p><u>Mon 2/24</u> 1/2 price BARE, 10 am - close Texas Hold Em 4444 Fun, 7 PM</p> <p><u>Tue 2/25</u> Karaoke w/Becky, 8 PM</p> <p><u>Wed 2/26</u> Buck Nasty Band, 8 PM</p> <p><u>Thur 2/27</u> 1/2 price drinks w/Shaker Shirt, 7 PM to close. Tyler Mac Band 8:30 PM</p> <p><u>Fri 2/28</u> The Core, 9 PM</p> <p><u>Sat 3/1</u> Something Huge, 9 PM</p> <p><u>Sun 3/2</u> ...Parade Day Party All Day</p>
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