

ISLAND TIMES

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Pensacola Beach, Florida

April 3, 2018

Sound The Alarm

Firefighters Challenge Heats Up Beach Weekend



Orlando Rivera from the Midway Fire District in Santa Rosa County competed in the 2017 Firefighters Challenge at Casino Beach. This year's competition heats up Saturday, April 14 at 9 a.m. at Casino Beach. Contests, static displays and children's activities are all part of the event. Turn to page 2 for more.

Firefighters Challenge Heats Up Beach Weekend

The competition heats up at the Pensacola Beach Firefighters Challenge, Saturday, April 14 at the Gulfside Pavilion area at Casino Beach. Crashing through locked doors, dragging dummies, hoisting hoses and trudging through the soft white sand in full firefighting gear is the task of the day as contestants from across the Southeast come to Pensacola Beach to test their strength, agility, teamwork, and professional skills.

The event, hosted by Pensacola Sports, showcases the firefighters' athleticism in a series of grueling events set in an obstacle course next to the Gulfside Pavilion. Opening ceremonies, which are well-worth arriving early for, are at 8:30 a.m. The individual competition begins at 9 a.m. with firefighting teams competing in a relay style format from 2 to 4 p.m. The course includes forced entry, where contestants must break through a door; charged hose drag, Kaiser sled, dummy drag and hose hoist. Each participating firefighter will be wearing full structural firefighting gear including boots, gloves, air packs, helmets and masks.

Last year's event attracted teams who prepare and train year round for this competition. There were two female entrants among the 50 individual ranks. The Pensacola Beach Firefighters Challenge mirrors the international competition that airs on ESPN.

The formulation of the event dates back to 1976 when Chief David Gratz, Director of Fire/Rescue Services, Montgomery County, Maryland wanted to develop a physical ability test to determine whether a job applicant had the requisite capabilities to perform the essential job functions of a firefighter. It was followed by research and testing. Researchers eventually developed a battery of physical challenges, and noticed the firefighters were naturally competitive in their approach to the test. The notion eventually led to the Firefighters Challenge, first contested in Washington, D.C. in May 1991.

The Pensacola Beach entries will max out at 60 individuals and 25 teams, according to Pensacola Sports organizers.

Midway Firefighter Orlando Rivera who finished in the top 15 in the 2017 contest will

Female Firefighter Anna Ruzevik on the Kaiser Sled.



miss this year's event. He is completing his course work to become a registered nurse. No worries, there will be a host of other local units to cheer for.

There are strong entries from Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties, but also look for Florida based teams from Panama City, Tallahassee, Apopka, Pensacola, and Orlando. Alabama will be represented by units from Daphne, Saraland, Montgomery and Auburn. Firefighters from Brandon and Ocean Springs, Mississippi along with teams from Slidell,

Walker and Baton Rouge in Louisiana will vie for top honors. The firefighters from Byron, Georgia are entered in this year's event.

New this year is an opportunity for civilians to compete as individuals or as a corporate team.

"We have a Corporate Challenge and an Individual Challenge," said Jason Libbert, Pensacola Sports director of events. "Companies, families, friends can join together to form a team and enter. They will do everything the firefighters do, except they will not wear the firefighting gear."

If you want to compete, registration is online at www.PensacolaSports.org/pensacolabeachfirefighters/. The charge for individuals is \$50 and team entry fee is \$200. All competitors are timed and the top three teams will receive awards immediately following the events. Awards will be made to the top male and female overall and in four age groups.

Pensacola Sports is hosting a kick-off party at Bamboo Willie's on Friday, April 13 at 5 p.m. Contestants can pick up their packets, shirts and challenge

coin. Beer and cokes along with Hooter's wings and Papa's pizza will be served. This event is free for entrants and guests can purchase a \$20 ticket. A Firefighters Social will be held after the competition, Saturday, April 14 at 7 p.m. at Hemingway's Island Grill. Tickets to attend are \$20 at the door and include free drinks and light appetizers.

Kids will love the contests and the Casino Beach parking lot is filled with hands-on activities hosted by firefighting squads, search and rescue units, and other agencies. There's bright red plastic firefighter's helmets, coloring books and stickers.

Kids will get to take charge of a fire hose and douse a replica of a burning building. Lots of big firetrucks and equipment will be on display. But, by far, one of the most popular is the Wells Fargo Stagecoach. The Wild West replica stagecoach drawn by impressive steeds gives kids of all ages a free ride around the Casino Beach parking lot in a closed-to-traffic area from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Pensacola Beach Firefighters Challenge is open to the public at no charge. Cheering is encouraged. For more information, www.PensacolaSports.org.

Firefighters must drag a 175 dummy across the line before moving on to the hose hoist.



Philanthropy Group Seeks Grant Applicants

Gulf Breeze Will Do, a women's philanthropic group focused on helping the community by pooling funds and voting as a united group to award grants, has 236 members this year. The group is open to women, 18 and older, who reside in the greater Gulf Breeze area and on Pensacola Beach.

The \$250 annual dues is used in its entirety toward grants to enhance the community.

To date, Gulf Breeze Will Do has awarded \$198,270.16 to 31 projects benefiting the Good Samaritan Clinic, Ocean Hour,

the Weekend Food Program, Gulf Breeze Middle and High Schools, Oriole Beach Elementary, Woodlawn Beach Middle School, Gulf Breeze Volunteer Fire Department, Night to Shine and many more.

Pensacola Beach Elementary School Teacher Joy McLaurine commented, "This is a generous group that I am pleased to be part of. I encourage everyone, particularly Beach organizations to submit grand applications this year."

Gulf Breeze Will Do will be accepting grant applications

soon with a deadline date of September 17, 2018. All members vote for the finalists chosen by committees either by absentee ballot or attending our annual meeting in November.

The grants are awarded in four categories:

- Art, Recreation & Sports (including school teams & organizations)
- Education (public or private education)
- Hardship Support Services
- Public Safety & Environment

Potential applicants should visit GulfBreezeWillDo.org for more information.

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Mark Your Calendar

BCC: Thursday, April 5, Agenda Review, 9 a.m.; Public Forum, 4:30 p.m.; Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m. 221 Palafox Place. www.myescambia.com, Questions? District Four 850-595-4940

SRIA: Wednesday, April 11, 5 p.m. SRIA Boardroom, #1 Via de Luna. Full Board Meeting. Agenda available at www.sria-fla.com

BCC: Thursday, April 12 Committee of the Whole, 9 a.m.; 221 Palafox Place. www.myescambia.com, Questions? District Four 850-595-4940

Candidates Forum: Tuesday, April 17 Beach Community Church 6 p.m. Commission District Four

SRIA: Wednesday, April 25, 5 p.m. SRIA Boardroom, #1 Via de Luna. Santa Rosa Island Authority Committee Meeting. Agenda available at www.sria-fla.com

Town Hall Meeting: Monday, April 23, 5:30 p.m. Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church. Traffic Congestion Management Plan

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
August 14, 1992

When I was a little girl I always thought one of the funniest pictures in the family photo album was the one of my dad

wearing his Shriner's Fez. He was a gentle smiling man, so the photo of him wearing that headpiece and looking sternly at the camera always blew me away. I suppose every Shriner

must have the same dedication he had. Although he migrated from New Mexico to Nebraska as a young family man, he never changed his affiliation with his temple in Albuquerque. He sent his dues there and he mailed his Shriner's Hospital contributions to the temple which had a name that I can no longer remember and never could pronounce. To me, the name of the temple, was strange, too.

proud that he had received such recognition. Unfortunately, on one of his trips to New Orleans to see us, the tie tack disappeared. Shelley says all she can remember from that visit was "looking for Bampo's tie tack."

so much to Dad. Finally, my mother who had taken the sheets off the bed, checked the laundry room. Carefully, we picked the sheets out of the basket (we were blessed that she had not put them in the washing machine) and we shook them. The tie tack rolled to the floor and everyone cheered.

My parents had packed to leave. Their bags were in the hallway, and suddenly Dad realized the tie tack was gone. The entire household was turned into a frenzied search, and I kept wondering if we could buy a new one. I had little hope that we would locate the tiny piece of jewelry that morning. But we kept looking because it meant

Dad left New Orleans that morning a happy man, complete with his Shriner's jewelry glimmering on his tie. He continued every year to send his contributions to Albuquerque for the Crippled Children's Hospitals. And, when he died his temple made one last donation, dedicated to his memory.

Walk The Beach To Honor Jim "Pop" Elbert Event Raises Funds, ALS Awareness

The first ever "Walk The Beach To Fight ALS" is set for Sunday, April 15 at 9:30 a.m. on Pensacola Beach. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. at Flounder's Chowder House. Participants will walk as a group from Flounder's east along the multi-use path to Gowens Park and return to Flounder's for a VIP Walkers Party and ceremony.

and a ticket to attend the VIP Walkers Celebration from 10:30 a.m. to noon at Flounder's. Light refreshments are included. There will be a cash bar.

After my dad had been a Shriner for fifty years, he received a tie tack - The Scimitar with a diamond in the curve. He wore it frequently, obviously

Hospital Auxiliary Hosts Silver Sale

It's time to shine. The Gulf Breeze Hospital Auxiliary is hosting a fundraiser with Silver Connection Jewelry Wednesday, April 11 through Friday, April 13 at the Gulf Breeze Hospital campus. The sale will take place in the lobby area of the Medical Office Building which is immediately adjacent to the Gulf Breeze Hospital building. The sale will conducted Wednesday, April 11 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.;

Thursday, April 12 from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.; and Friday, April 13 from 8 a.m. until noon.

Silver Jewelry Connection has an entire line of sterling silver items as well as costume jewelry. The selection will be varied.

All profits go to patient care at Gulf Breeze Hospital.

For more information on the sale or Gulf Breeze Hospital Auxiliary, please call Wendy Brandon at 850-748-0006.

Most of us are aware of the parades, public high jinx, and the fun Shriners always display at their conventions, but it's always nice to keep in mind that they are the guys who support hospitals where hundreds of thousands of youngsters have received treatment for problems caused by crippling accidents and diseases. Personally, if I happen to run into any of the thousands of Shriners who have honored us by holding their convention here this weekend, I'll bid them welcome...and I will be looking to see if any of them are wearing diamond studded tie tacks.

Funds raised will go toward:

- Continuing the 150+ research projects looking into the causes of ALS in hopes of developing better treatments
- Supporting patient services clinics, support groups, equipment lending, and transportation
- Leading the way in helping to ensure the ALS community has proper access to care

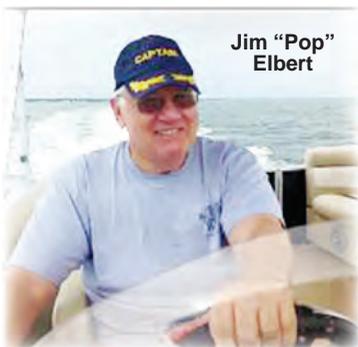
"There is currently no cure for ALS," added Elbert. "And that is just unacceptable for a disease with a life expectancy of 2-5 years. I am so excited to be hosting this fundraiser. The money that we raise will go towards a mission that we can all get behind - a world without ALS. We need to do everything we can to find a treatment and a cure. Together, let's make a difference - one dollar at a time!"

The event is open to the public and is family-friendly. The pace will be leisurely and strollers are welcome. Those who do not wish to walk the route are welcome to attend the event with a \$25 donation.

Walk The Beach is intended to raise awareness and funds for ALS, a deadly progressive neurodegenerative disease. All of the proceeds will be donated to the local ALS Chapter to honor Pensacola Beach resident and businessman Jim Elbert who passed away in February after a courageous battle with ALS.

The Elbert Family has organized this event to serve as a living tribute and memorial to their patriarch. Along the Walk The Beach for ALS route are points-of-interest which relate to Jim Elbert's longtime residency and commercial efforts on Pensacola Beach.

"The walk will go from the former Island Style shop next to Flounder's along the bike path to the Gowens park," said Jeff Elbert, Jim's son and the Beach Walk organizer. "This route showcases the many places that Pop held



Jim "Pop" Elbert

dear to his heart as well as the multiple locations of my family's businesses, such as Discount Beachwear, Island Video, The "Pink Store" and Toucan's T-shirt Shop. The Beach Walk route mid-point turnaround is his own street, Panferio Drive, where we spent so many wonderful times as a family."

Entry is \$25 and includes a custom "Walk The Beach" t-shirt

"Grab a group of friends and create a team," encouraged Elbert. "The 2018 fundraising goal is \$10,000. On behalf of my entire family, we are honored and grateful to all who participate."

The Walk the Beach for ALS has its own fundraising page where donations are being accepted. For more information, to volunteer or to pre-register, please go to <http://webfl.alsa.org/goto/WalktheBeachforALS> or call 850-554-6652.

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PEOPLE

Trivia

LIL READER

Hailey Rose Mardis is having *Island Times* delivered to her mailbox. While the pre-schooler is somewhat of a beach fixture, she is way too young to read. Thinking she will share her copy of the beach's newspaper with her folks, Susie and Mike. Or maybe she likes the cartoons and the photos. Happy reading.

STRAIGHTEN UP

Bob Shubob Seymour (yes, the same guy that went to see Moose the Cat at the Publix) reports that his daughter Stella has orthodontics on her teeth. His surprise is that the sweet little third grader is not a bit timid about showing off her big smile – braces and all. Way to go, Stella!

IN BOCCA AL LUPO

That's Italian for good luck. That's what Brenda Purdy had when her name was pulled out of the raffle basket as the winner of the Pensacola Beach Woman's Club Italian vacation getaway. There were 249 others, who did not win but supported the fundraiser that was part of the Fashion with a Twist show and luncheon. Pensacola Beach's Mary Claus won a basketful of cash as the 50/50 winner and admitted that she was the high bidder on an adult beverage basket in the silent auction.

BEING YOUNG

Melissa Wright celebrated her birthday at the kick off to the Flounder's Eat, Drink and Flounder concert series, March 23. It seems only fitting that someone so youthful would be there as a VIP to see the Eli Young Band. The birthday entourage included her college aged daughters, too.

SAILING AWAY

Beach residents will remember Mike and Lee McLaughlin from their Boardwalk shop Lee Tracy. The couple, who have labored over the last decades with four retail shops across the Gulf Coast, are taking a break. They have decided to motor around in a big boat named "The Pelican." Follow them at saltyatsixty.com.

HE'S THE 'PAL

Former professional baseball player and *Island Times* columnist Pete Della Ratta was all smiles at the Seagrass Festival, escorting his two daughters and catching up with old friends. When he's not fishing, or at the Gulf Breeze sports fields, he's at Holley Navarre Middle School where he is the popular assistant principal. When he was a classroom teacher, he instituted a Learn-To-Fish program for his students. He has not slowed down. This year he founded a Student Leadership Development Program at Holley Navarre.

The esteemed publisher of the under-dune publication, *The Sandspur*, Chuck Steele is number one with his answer, "Villa Primera." The question was "what was the first residential subdivision's name?" His slice of paradise has been leased to him since 1984, but the original lease issued in 1954.

Don't let the date on the current lease fool you, Steele has been around the beach a long time. He did not arrive with DeLuna, but it was not long after. "There are lots of people on the Island who have been around for longer than I, but nevertheless I began my fifty-first year on the Beach last December," quoth he.

Villa Primera was officially "a subdivision of a portion of Santa Rosa Island, heretofore, known as Residential Subdivision No. 1 on Santa Rosa Island, Escambia County, Florida." The map is dated January 30, 1950 and includes lots bordered by Avenida 10 to Avenida 13 from the Gulf, north to the Sound. It's notable that the park area that is now called "Gowens Park" is included as a park in this original platted subdivision.

The whole shebang was signed, sealed and delivered by Earl Westmark, the chairman of the Escambia County Commission and Langley Bell was the

Clerk of the Circuit Court.

Steve Headley was going for a two-peat but slid into second place although his answer was correct.

Beverly Hofer McCay, who is the head honcho at the Holiday Inn Express, was raised on Pensacola Beach. She immediately knew it was Villa Primera, and threw in the name of the second development, Villa Segunda, just for good measure. "My uncle lived in Villa Primera. That's what brought my parents to the island. One visit and they got sand in their shoes," wrote McCay. "They built their house on Ariola in Villa Segunda. I had to do a history report in grade school and mom suggested the history of the names of our streets. So I enlisted Norman Simons (and some legwork at the Public Library, but mostly Norm) to help me. Ariola was a Count who was sent by Spain to establish a fortification at the entrance of Pensacola Bay to hold off the French because they'd just established a settlement on the Bay of Biloxi (about where the Beau Rivage sits now)."

McCay floats to the top of the Trivia hierarchy with that answer! Somewhere between oracle and goddess.

Morrie Drees, the Venerable Knight of the Trivia Roundtable recalled a common nickname for the area, "the first area developed on the beach was called Ariola subdivision." Street lingo for sure, but not the county's official jargon.

The Trivia Master tips his hat to an original SOB Jane Peaden who archived the Santa Rosa Island plats in her real estate

library. She's a permanent, full time beach bum now.

From the Original Thinkers department comes a question about a hot event. Fancy folks and big time organizers swoop down on the beach with festivals, concerts and such. They tout the original names like DeLuna Fest – post Ivan that was the strictly local Mardi Gras parking lot party that sprung up in the Via de Luna Shopping Center in front of the historic Islander Lounge. Friends gathered, drank beer and kids caught beads being flung from the upstairs deck. The name was pirated by upstart concert promoters who put on a big shindig at Casino Beach – twice. Now it is being used by Pensacola Sports for their first year beach games festival. The sports gurus are pretty good at what they do, so it might stick around for a while. They are the inventors of the Pensacola Beach Firefighters Challenge, or so they thought. The Trivia Master scoffs at the thought.

Do you remember when the first Pensacola Beach Firefighters Challenge was held on Pensacola Beach? Give the Trivia Master the year and you could be the proud owner of an *Island Times* trivia t-shirt. While you won't have it in time to wear it at the April 14 event, but you can wear it with pride to the Crawfish Festival, DeLuna Beach Games and every island bar.

Send your answer to shelley@myislandtimes.com with Trivia in the subject line. The first correct answer wins. If you miss the mark, grab a beer and play next time. Hurry, the deadline to answer is April 10.

Go Where The Locals Go

Music

Wednesday, April 4, 6 PM
Sugar Ray Rayford

Thursday, April 5, 6 PM
Markey Blue

Friday, April 6, 6 PM
Jeff Jensen

Saturday, April 7, 6 PM
Swingtown - Steve Miller Tribute

Sunday, April 8, 3 PM
The Barons

~ ~ ~

Tuesday, April 10, 6 PM
The Barons

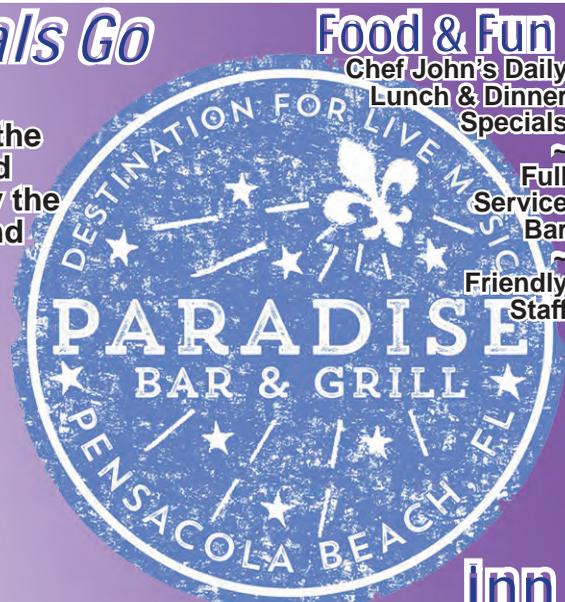
Wednesday, April 11, 6 PM
Ray Fuller & The Blues Rockers

Thursday, April 12, 6 PM
Ray Fuller & The Blues Rockers

Friday, April 13, 6 PM
Paxton Norris Band

Saturday, April 14, 6 PM
Big Al & The Heavyweights

Sunday, April 15, 3 PM
Big Al & The Heavyweights



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SEADOG




John Seadog Selak passed away Monday, March 26 at home on Pensacola Beach. He was an iconic beach character, surfer, entertainer, musician, comedian, poet, photographer, black belt, crab wrangler. He had an irrepressible spirit, endless compassion, a vast spirituality and the uncanny ability to elevate, love and enchant the world around him.

NOVEMBER 15, 1953
MARCH 26, 2018

Meet County Commission Candidates At Beach Forum

Half Dozen Vie To Represent District Four Constituents

A Candidate Forum and Meet-and-Greet is set for Tuesday, April 17 at 6 p.m. at the Pensacola Beach Community Church at the corner of Via de Luna and Avenida 18. The Pensacola Beach Advocates and Dr. Laurence "Larry" Smith are co-hosting the event. Voters can familiarize themselves with the six candidates who are running to fill the District Four Escambia County Commission seat that was previously held by Grover Robinson, IV. Pensacola Beach is part of Escambia County District Four.

"We expect a crowd, so doors will open at 5:30 p.m.," said Pensacola Beach Advocates Board Chair Terry Preston. "Please plan to be in your seats for a prompt 6 p.m. start!"

Candidates are Robert Bender, Kendrick Doidge, William Fetke, Christopher Phillips, Terry Strickland and Boyce White. All are Republican candidates, so voting will take place in the August 28 Primary Election. Precinct 94 is located on Pensacola Beach. The Supervisor of Elections David Stafford shows 2,713 registered voters in Precinct 94.

Upon arrival, guests will be given an opportunity to submit questions in writing to be posed by the moderator.

Dr. Laurence "Larry" Smith will be moderating the meeting and Terry Preston will be timekeeper. Candidates will be given two minutes to make an opening statement, followed by the question-and-answer session. "We are asking for ques-



Escambia County District Four Commission Candidates participated in a Candidates Forum at The Lewis Bear Company, March 22. They are (L to R): Boyce White, Terry Strickland, Christopher Phillips, Bill Fetke, Kendrick Doidge and Robert Bender.

tions in advance and will tabulate for the most common inquiry," said Smith. "We can maximize the time, avoid duplication and hear more from the candidates using this method." The question-and-answer session

will conclude at 7:15 p.m. and each candidate will be allocated time for a closing statement.

"As of right now, five of the six candidates have confirmed they will attend," said Preston. "Please join us, and then head

over to Bands on the Beach!"

The Candidates Forum is open to the public. Everyone is encouraged to attend. There is ample parking at the Pensacola Beach Community Church, located at 920 Panferio Drive.

Trolleys Roll Into Summer Season

The familiar beach trolleys will roll along island avenues after the Santa Rosa Island Authority Architectural and Environmental Committee approved the interlocal agreement at their March 28 meeting.

Santa Rosa Island Authority Executive Director Paolo Ghio presented the schedule and costs.

The trolleys will begin service May 28, running daily from 4 p.m. to midnight. Two trolley

routes run from Park West to Portofino with an additional trolley servicing the core area.

The cost of the 2018 trolley contract is \$172,147 for the for 102 days of service. The funding for the trolleys is provided by residential and commercial lease fees.

Portofino resident Dr. Larry Smith asked Committee members about the trolley purchase

and ownership as it related to Portofino's Island Beautification Funds. Ghio responded that the funds were a portion of the purchase, and the trolleys are owned by Escambia County. He added that they are for island-only use and annual costs relate to operations and maintenance, not rental of the units.

The item moves to the Full Board Meeting, April 11 at 5 p.m.

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peas, porridge and a dry martini

BY KATHI LEWIS



It's still a bit too chilly for me to believe that Spring has Sprung regardless of what my calendar says. Yes, I thought I heard the voices of spring.....no wait, that's just Peanut and Bill snoring on the couch together (the sound of all seasons).

At least the sun is shining and it's beautiful outside (viewed from the inside). I just need a few more degrees on the thermometer. An additional 20 degrees would be nearly perfect. I say "nearly" because if it's absolutely perfect, then I'd feel compelled to go outside. With nearly, it's always a nice choice. I like choices, as I'm sure we all do.

I had the choice recently to call and complain to a credit card company. I received a letter saying that my interest would increase. No choice. Wrong! There's always a choice, even if it's choosing between a rock and a hard place. After verifying all the necessary information to convince them I was me, I was supplying a reference code which was a string of letters. I was going with the basics like "C for Charlie." I reached an "O" and said, "O as in Oprah." "Next letter was W. I said, "W as in Win."

As I finished the letters, the customer service rep started laughing and said, "I was positive you were gonna say Winfrey for the W." I got the giggles, too, but I told her that everybody "knows" Oprah. She said she needed that laugh. So did I and after asking politely for a review of my personal account (which I knew was stellar), she authorized the retention of my current lower interest rate. Just goes to show you, it never hurts to be nice, laughing is necessary and being kind is never wasted.

As much as I love Spring, I've always deplored spring cleaning. Oh, I've had years where I've vowed, "This is it. I'm gonna do it!"

It's not the actual cleaning itself I hate, it's that whole idea of cleaning out and getting rid of stuff. Well that, and I get totally peeved at having to clean the cleaning equipment that was supposed to make my life easier. I have tossed a lot of things over the years, mostly with the help of a hurricane or two. (Which we will not have this Season.)

But as soon as I pull out a

box or drawer and start trying to sort the contents, the memories begin to play in my brain like flashes of an old movie that is my life. I remember when my daughter Mel made and painted the plaster casts of this long faded Christmas Bells ornament which still hangs on the Christmas Tree each year. I remember the day Jesiah came home from kindergarten with a picture made by placing his tiny feet in paint and stepping on paper in a design that created a flower (stem and leaf included). I remember how excited Sissy was when she brought me her "cwabs" made from her tiny hand prints.

When my Mother died, my sisters and I marveled at all the cards she kept; every single one we had ever given her. Going through them brought the memories of our lives together. We would ask, "What grade were you in when you made that one?"

We laughed as we re-lived vacations, family reunions, long summers and each single holiday we shared that bonded and shaped our family. These things were not junk or trash to our Mother. They were simply part of her treasures. Once she was gone, they became our treasures and brought us closer together than ever before. I see my Mother every day when I look at her tin "sweet tea" pitcher which I use to hold large kitchen utensils. And I long for my Daddy when I rinse his "Retired" souvenir ashtray.

When it's time for my next journey, I want my family to know and feel my love for them. I want them to know that these things I've kept are tangible treasures that keep the memories for us all. That I loved each one of them so much that I couldn't part with a reindeer made of one footprint and 2 handprints or all the silly and loving cards. And yes, I held on to all those mainly

horrible school pictures because they meant so much to me (even my own school pictures). How else would my grandchildren know what I looked like in first grade? How would they compare the photos of their own future children to see who favored whom?

So, I'll just do the dang cleaning and forget the packrat piles of containers that hold so many parts of my life, heart and soul. I hope they will laugh and reminisce with joy for what they may be holding in their hand; finding comfort in something solid. You don't get that from cyberspace.

All that talking and thinking has made me very thirsty, even though it was just a couple of hours ago that I had lunch. My sweet, sweet friend Courtney Winstead treated me to lunch as a "thank you" for her birthday gift. Who else does that? I'm a blessed and lucky gal to have such a wonderful friend.

However, I'm still thirsty.... so let's make a nice cocktail instead of cleaning. Keep in mind that each ingredient can be used to clean something.....I prefer mine in a glass.

Lucy's Kleaning Lemonade
1 Part Vodka
2 Parts fresh lemonade
1 Part Club Soda
1 cup honey
1 cup sugar

Make fresh lemonade with real squeezed lemons. Add honey and sugar in a small saucepan. Heat on medium, stirring constantly until sugar grains are dissolved and syrup is hot, but not boiling. Gradually pour syrup into lemonade stirring and tasting until it's to your liking. Combine the rest over ice and find a nice soft spot on the couch.

Enjoy, share and be kind. See ya in the kitchen....

Festival Race Supports Island School

Get your feet moving at the Crawfish Festival, April 20-22 on Pensacola Beach. Run a race, dance to the live music and stroll along the Pensacola Beach Boardwalk at the weekend event.

The Crawfish Festival 5K, is Saturday, April 21 at 8 a.m. and the proceeds from the race are donated to the Pensacola Beach

Elementary School. Discounted entry fees of \$25 will increase after April 7, so get registered at www.Crawfish5K.com. The deadline to enter online is midnight, April 20; but you can enter on race day.

The race course begins and ends at the Gulfside Pavilion, near Crab's on Pensacola Beach.



Great Gumbo! The Frisky Dolphin Team (L to R) Kelly Beverly, Michael Hall, Todd Henderson and Kevin Hausfeld brought home a second place award in the professional category of the Gulf Breeze Rotary Gumbo Cookoff, March 24. The Frisky Dolphin is located on Pensacola Beach Blvd. overlooking Sabine Marina.



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Chamber Fills Beach With Green, Covenant Gets Gold

Irish eyes were smiling on the Pensacola Beach Chamber and Mother Nature provided a perfect day on Pensacola Beach for the revelers who attended the March 17 St. Paddy's Day Pub Crawl.

The sunny, warm springtime Saturday saw 18,460 cars travel through the Bob Sikes Toll Facility as the beach businesses braced for the well-attended St. Paddy's Day Pub Crawl hosted by the Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce.

The event, which was founded by John Patrick "Paddy" Blake, is dedicated to raising funds in his memory. The Pensacola Beach Chamber will make a donation to Covenant Care in the amount of \$2,670 at their Business After Hours, April 24 at 5:30 p.m. at Frisky Dolphin.

"The t-shirt sales generate the funds, and we sold them all," said Pensacola Beach Chamber President Alison Westmoreland. "We are pleased to be able to support the beach business com-

munity with this event, and honor the memory of its founder with a donation to Covenant Hospice."

The Pensacola Beach Chamber partners with the Santa Rosa Island Authority in a support role for Red, White and Blues Week. The Chamber hosts the beach's premier food festival, Taste of the Beach, September 15 followed by the Art and Wine Festival, October 21. Season Your Holidays with Island Spirit begins December 1.

For more information, www.PensacolaBeachChamber.com or call 850-932-1500.



First time St. Paddy's Day Pub Crawl attendees (L to R) Henry and Joy McLaurine, and Tina and Joe Leonard were pacing themselves as they crawled from the first stop at Crab's, east to Paddy O'Leary's.



John "Slappy" Foster goes all out in his St. Paddy's Day Pub Crawl attire. He was at the Paradise Bar and Grill stop on the Crawl looking as Irish as a leprechaun. When he is not working in the Gulf Breeze Hospital operating room, he is out fishing aboard his boat "Off The Hook."

Intersection Signalization Upgrade Looks Great, Yet To Be Used

Escambia County Traffic Engineers installed equipment which gives them the capability of remotely controlling the traffic signal at the intersection of Via de Luna and Fort Pickens Road. The box located at the southern side of the intersection is wrapped in an impressive Blue Angels Air Show and a Pensacola Beach Ball graphic.

Island traffic backs up at the intersection, particularly on busy weekends. The traffic congestion is an ongoing problem which officials try to alleviate. The County intends to coordinate with law enforcement to remotely manipulate

the signal timings.

According to David Forte, Escambia County's Traffic operations division manager, the equipment is fully implemented and came "online" with the County's Traffic Signal Operations Center on February 14. It can be monitored by County Traffic Operations Staff during the regular work week, but any funding for weekend or 24 hour monitoring has yet to be allocated. Traffic is typically heaviest on the weekends.

Forte noted that other intersections in Escambia County have been controlled remotely but, to date, the Beach's has not.



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The School Bell Rings

FINE SPEAKERS

Pensacola Beach Optimist Club Oratorical Contest Finals are April 3 at 6 p.m. at the Beach Church. Competing will be the top three from grades 3-5, who were chosen on March 28.

Third grade: 1. Aubrey McMillion, 2. Sawyer Asmar, 3. Devon Uniacke

Fourth grade: 1. Ania Uz-sok, 2. Estelle Reese, 3. Bella Ciolino

Fifth grade: 1. Buck Trammel, 2. Chloe McMillion, 3. Brody Hills

SAFE SWIMMERS

April 13 is officially Beach Safety Day at the Beach School. Pensacola Beach public safety will make their annual visit to the school to remind students about all the safest ways to enjoy the beach and pool this year.

MATH STARS

Third, fourth and fifth graders will travel to Washington High School April 14 to test their math skills against the brightest and best in Escambia County at the 2018 Sunshine Math Competition. The Beach School has been competing in this event since 1993.

KEEP LOOKING UP

The Escambia Amateur Astronomers will be at the Beach School Friday, April 20 for As-

tronomy Night from 6 to 8 p.m. The group brings telescopes and computer aided sky viewing equipment plus a band of knowledgeable volunteers. The event is open to the public on campus, weather permitting.

READY FOR BIG SCHOOL

Kindergarten registration and orientation at Pensacola Beach Elementary is set for Friday, April 27 at 10 a.m.

"I look forward to meeting all my new friends who are interested in being Beach School students," said Jennifer Neal, kindergarten teacher. "Kindergarten is an exciting experience and should be a most enjoyable one. I intend to do all I can to ensure that each child has a successful beginning."

Enrollment forms are available at www.PBES.org. The school office can be reached at 850-934-4020.

OPERA OPEN TO ALL

The Pensacola Beach School second grade class will once again write, produce and perform an opera. The students, under the direction of Music Teacher Mary Holway, will perform May 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Beach Church. This production "The Day the Crayons Quit" is based on the book by Drew Daywalt and Oliver Jeffers. The event is open to

the public.

STRUTTING THEIR STUFF

The annual Sandpiper Strut, a school fundraiser, is set for Friday, May 11. Students will walk from the Beach School along the sidewalk to the Casino Beach. An awards ceremony immediately

follows for students who have raised the most in pledge money, and everyone enjoys a picnic lunch before returning to school. Residents are welcome to line the route, wave and cheer as the 150 Sandpipers strut their stuff along Via de Luna. Donations are ac-

cepted at PBES.org.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

April 6: Reports Cards, third nine week grading period

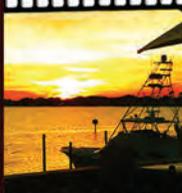
Monday, May 28: Memorial Day, no classes

June 1: last day of school, early release



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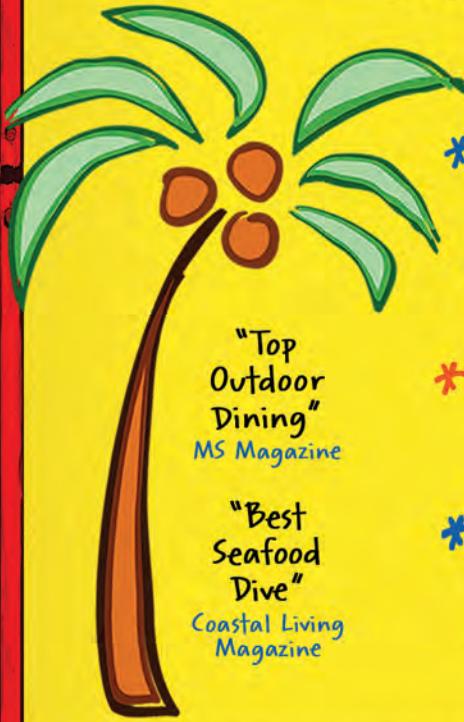







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Walk The Beach is intended to raise awareness and funds for ALS, a deadly progressive neurodegenerative disease. All of the proceeds will be donated to the ALSA Florida Chapter to honor Pensacola Beach resident and businessman Jim Elbert who passed away recently after a courageous battle with ALS.

ALS

ASSOCIATION

Florida Chapter

From Firefighters To Water Circus - April Offers Events For Everyone

Bands on the Beach

The free concert series kicks off Tuesday, April 3, 7-9 at the Gulfside Pavilion. Modern Eldorados play. Continues weekly through October. Bring chairs and friends. Grab a to-go order from a beach restaurant. VisitPensacolaBeach.com

Kidney Walk

Saturday, April 7 at 8 a.m. at the Gulfside Pavilion. A morning to raise awareness about kidney disease and transplants. Donors and recipients will participate. PensacolaKidneyWalk.org

Ocean Hour Clean Up

Bob Sikes Bridge near Grand Marlin, 9 a.m. Ocean Hour brings all the supplies. You bring water and willing workers. Concludes at 10 a.m. OceanHourFL.com

Gulf Coast Half Marathon

Sunday, April 8 at 7 a.m. Starts at the Gulfside Pavilion. Ends at the Santa Rosa Island Authority Office. 13 mile, 10 mile and 3.1 mile courses. RunPensacolaBeach.com

School of the Soldier

Saturday, April 8, 11 a.m. Fort Pickens, entrance fee.

Meet at Fort Pickens Bookstore. www.nps.gov/guis

Pensacola Beach Firefighters Challenge

Saturday, April 14. See story, page 2. PensacolaSports.org

Cirque Italia

Thursday - Sunday, April 12 -15 at Cordova Mall. In Pensacola but worth the drive. This Water Circus is a luxurious experience where technology and performing arts are mixed to create a one-of-a-kind show. No animals are used, but there's traditional acts. For those who enjoy whimsy, there's an Avatar and not one, but two mermaids. There is almost no bodily limit for the contortionist, Ricardo, as he bends in ways you never would have imagined. The incredible wheel of death performance features a front summersault flip, something you will be hard-pressed to see anywhere else. If that doesn't get your head spinning, perhaps our 5 roller skaters and their incredible tricks and turns will. You can purchase tickets cirqueitalia.com/tickets or by phone at 941-704-8572.

Bird Walk & Field Trip

Saturday, April 14 with the

FM Weston Chapter of the Audubon Society. Meet at Park West Parking lot at 7:30 a.m. to carpool to Fort Pickens. Free field trip.

Saturday, April 20 at 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. at Fort Pickens for Bird Walk Watching with the FM Weston Chapter of the Audubon Society. Meet at Park West Parking lot to carpool.

Beach Walk For ALS

Sunday, April 15 at 8:30 a.m. See story, page 3.

Candidates Forum

Tuesday, April 17 at 6 p.m. Beach Church. See story, page 5.

Star Gazing

Beach School Astronomy Night, Friday, April 20 at dark. Open to the public, at the campus across from the Fire Station.

Free Sidewalk Star Gaze at the Gulfside Pavilion, April 20 and 21, dusk, weather permitting. No charge. Telescopes, comput-

ers, binoculars provided along with knowledgeable Escambia Amateur Astronomer's Association volunteers.

Crawfish Festival

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, April 20-22. Begins at noon on Friday with crawfish and bands at Bamboo Willie's. Continues all weekend with bands at Bamboo Willie's and the Boardwalk Amphitheatre. 20 concerts, 10 tons of crawfish, waterfront location. BambooWillies.com

Crawfish 5K Run, Saturday at 8 a.m. at Gulfside Pavilion. Run benefits the Pensacola Beach Elementary School. Crawfish5K.com

Sunset on Santa Rosa Island

Friday, April 13 at 6:15 p.m. at Fort Pickens. Entrance Fee. Meet at the old Fort Pickens Campground Store parking lot for 30 minute program; involves

walking on uneven surfaces, sandy walkways, and steps. ww.nps.gov/guis

Earth Day at the EPA

Saturday, April 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. guests are invited to EPA Island, accessed from Villa Sabine, to participate in Earth Day. Activities, educational kiosks, displays.

Traffic Congestion Management Plan Forum

Town Hall Meeting. Pensacola Beach Traffic Congestion Management Plan. 5:30 p.m. (tentatively at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church.)

DeLuna Beach Games

Saturday, April 28, 7:30 a.m. at Flounder's Beach. Three open water swim courses. All day volleyball tournament. Flounder's ambiance. No charge to cheer. Plenty of free parking at Flounder's and at Casino Beach lot. PensacolaSports.org

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BYTES & BITS

By Joe Stukey,
Your Computer Pal

Q: How Do I Cancel My Facebook Account?

A: The latest news about Facebook has some Facebook users wondering if they should continue to use that service. According to news sources, it appears that an app allegedly used by Cambridge Analytica was able to collect personal information from approximately 50 million users. The app reportedly asked users to fill out a survey, while not telling them that the app was capable of collecting personal information about them and about people in their friends list.

This case highlights a problem that has long been present in social media networks. The problem is that personal information can be accessed by many third party apps that are used by the account owner. Social media services make money by selling advertisements. To better target their market, advertisers make use of personal details provided by the social media service. We probably don't know all the ways that our information is collected.

Before deciding to cancel an account, look first at the security and privacy settings in your account. Changing those settings may reduce the risk that your information will be used without your knowledge. Follow the instructions below to get to the account settings, then look at "Security and Login," "Privacy," "Ads" and "Apps." In my account I found that lots of ads could be blocked, in addition to apps that I had supposedly "liked" (which I never do). Also, review your profile and hide sensitive information. Only your friends, not the public, should be able to see your postings. Some information, such as birthday, address, and current location should always be hidden.

To cancel a Facebook account, choose the arrow at the top of the Facebook page, just to the right of the Quick Help symbol (click the triangle that points downward). On the list that appears, choose the "Settings" menu. Then, from the menu that appears, choose the "General" option. In the General Account

Settings, choose "Manage Account." There you will find "Deactivate Your Account." The user's password will be required in order to proceed past that point. Once that is done, choose a reason for closing the account and click "Deactivate."

If also using Facebook Messenger, it remains active and would have to be deactivated separately in the Messenger app. The Facebook profile photo remains visible to people who want to send you a message. To close the Messenger account, open the app and tap your profile photo. Under "Privacy and Settings," enter your password and choose "Deactivate."

Some users are switching to Instagram, another Facebook company, because it seems to be less intrusive. But, keep in mind that it probably will make several billion dollars this year from advertising.

This article was provided by Joe Stukey, of the Stukey Group. Contact Joe at jstukey@mchsi.com, by phone at 850-206-3156, or look Joe up on Facebook.

Modern Eldorados Kick Off Concert Series

Bands on the Beach strums to life Tuesday, April 3 at 7 p.m. at the Gulfside Pavilion. The free concert series which is funded through



the island's lease fees, will feature The Modern Eldorados. The group, founded by Mobile based singer/songwriter Gretsch Lyles (photo, left) has been described as "a cultural asset" and a "Mobile, Alabama Treasure." The Modern Eldorados are dedicated to the preservation and proliferation of Rockabilly and traditional country music. Bring your chairs, enjoy the show. Pets and glass

containers are prohibited. Visit PensacolaBeach.com for more.



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Jason Nicholson, a veteran of the tourism industry with over 30 years of experience, Chairman of Visit Pensacola and Vice President of Operations of Innisfree Hotels

Visit Pensacola launched their "Tourism Works for Pensacola" campaign, March 21. This is a public service campaign designed to educate citizens about the economic impact and overall value of tourism to the local economy. Jason Nicholson, a veteran of the tourism industry with over 30 years of experience, Chairman of Visit Pensacola and Vice President of Operations of Innisfree Hotels expressed just how vital the tourism industry is to our community. "Forty-six percent of all ad valorem taxes (property taxes) paid in Escambia County are paid by accommodation providers which include hotels, condominiums, bed and breakfasts or home rental," Nicholson explained.

"Because of those guests coming into our accommodations, we get to employ 17 percent of Escambia County's workforce which equates to over \$380 million in payroll. In a beautiful cycle, that revenue is seen in the smiles of our employees when they provide for their family, in the city's infrastructure and so much more. These revenues, generated by visitor spending, provide critical revenue for programs on which all Escambia County residents rely and enjoy. The return on investment is clear: as the Pensacola Bay Area continues to welcome record numbers of guests, everyone benefits." For more, Visit Pensacola.com.

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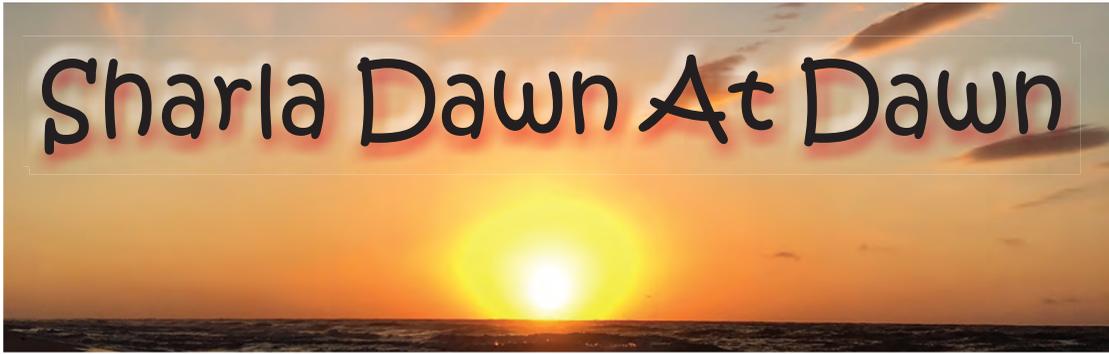
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Sharla Dawn At Dawn

I'm being watched! (And so are you)

And I've decided that's good thing.

Remember that old 80's paranoia song—"I always feel like somebody's watching me..."—where the poor guy's afraid to close his eyes in the shower for fear he'll open them to some kind of bloody "Psycho" scenario? Ha!

That's not the kind of "watching" I'm feeling here. No, I'm hearing that sweet Gershwin love song from the 1920's—"I'm a little lamb that's lost in a wood/ I know I could/ always be good/ to one who'll watch over me." I'm being looked after; I am not alone—even on this desolate beach at dawn.

I haven't always felt watched over by an over-arching benevolent life force—call it God, or Jehovah, or Vishnu, or Bahá, or Allah, or Universe, or your late Uncle Fred. I haven't felt worthy of such attention—especially

during times of little-lost-lamb waywardness. But I'm finding that worthiness has nothing to do with it. Thank God—or Uncle Fred—I get a chaperone regardless of merit. I just have to look

up—look up from my life, and see the real world around me. For me, that means getting out of my head, getting out of my house and getting out onto this beach at daybreak.



Sharla Dawn Gorder, a writer living on Santa Rosa Island, is the author of "My Vices Collide, A Celebration of Being a Little Messed Up."

Event Goes To The Dogs, Cats

Pensacola-area animal rescue organizations are hosting the first ever "Spring into Love" Pet Adoption Event Saturday, April 21, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Pensacola Fairgrounds.

From cats and dogs to pigs and horses, there will be hundreds of domestic animal friends hoping to find a loving and safe forever home. This family-friendly

affair will include free parking and admission, fun kids activities, educational opportunities and demonstrations. There will be fundraising opportunities to benefit local animal rescue organizations, as well as pet-related merchandise for purchase.

For more information, please visit the Animal Allies Florida at www.aaFlorida.org.

Spend An Hour On The Beach

Join the Ocean Hour volunteers for a Beach Clean Up, Saturday, April 7 at the foot of the Bob Sikes Fishing Bridge. Registration is a 8:45 a.m. and the clean up begins at 9 a.m. Meet at The Grand Marlin parking lot.

Ocean Hour provides all the clean up supplies. Volunteers should bring water, sunscreen, wear clothing appropriate for the weather. The clean up concludes at 10 a.m.

Ocean Hour will conduct

two more clean up events at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 7. One is at the Bob Sikes Bridge north end in Gulf Breeze. Take the south bound lanes and meet in the parking lot before crossing the bridge.

The other is at the Naval Live Oaks Reservation, Gulf Islands National Seashore, 1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway.

For more information about Ocean Hour visit www.ocean-hourfl.com; or on Facebook, www.facebook.com/oceanhourfl.



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Seeing Stars..... this week's horoscopes

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Resist a confrontation with that irksome person. The matter will soon blow over anyway. Meanwhile, channel your high Arian energy into areas with more positive potential.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) The innovative Bovine finds a creative way to resolve a sensitive domestic problem by midweek. A former colleague returns with an intriguing business suggestion.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) An unexpected critical statement from someone you trust could catch you momentarily off guard. But you soon recover your equilibrium and rise to the challenge.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You might feel you can handle a new project on your own. But advice from someone with experience could help you avoid possibly costly as well as time-consuming obstacles.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Waiting for others to make decisions is difficult for the take-charge Lion. But by week's end, you should hear news that will help you regain control of the situation.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your superjudgmental side could dominate the week unless you try to keep it in check. Otherwise you risk offending people, including some who are very close to you.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Expect more information to come out about that possible career shift. Meanwhile, your loving concern helps someone close to you get through a worrisome period.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Despite an occasional setback, workplace pressures should continue to ease through most of the week. This would be a good time to plan that long-delayed trip.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) The sage Sagittarian quickly recognizes an opportunity when she or he sees it, especially if it's one you've been planning for. Take aim and go for it.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) The Sea Goat's unique insight guides you as you check out a questionable situation. Your efforts should prove rewarding for you and your many supporters.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You might want to pace yourself a bit more. Rushing could lead to serious slip-ups. Take more time to check out details you might otherwise overlook.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) The best way to resolve those remaining problems is to ask others for help. They'll be happy to do so, especially when you agree to share the credit for a job well done.

Sunrise and Sunset

by Susan Haselton-Barr

Jambo! (*Hello Everyone*) Well-fed dogs and nesting birds always return home or to the Paradise we call home.

Summer is here and our local residents are flocking back to Pensacola Beach. I was trying to get across the street to the Gulf Breeze CVS on Saturday. I was on the post office side of Highway 98. After moving only a few feet in 10 minutes I sighed, so loud, the car vibrated. I did the unthinkable. Parked my car in the nearest spot which was clear across the Walmart parking lot near Starbucks. Shod in my tennis shoes this lady (me) hoofed it to the crosswalk. Now to play Disney Crossover on Highway 98.

CVS was in my crosshairs and I gingerly waved my arms to all vehicles blocking the intersection. Pleading with the drivers, I made eye contact, "Please don't

hit me. Please look up and see me. Please stop texting."

With great skill I made it to the other side. Only a few honks and strange gestures ensued with my arrival at CVS. With anxious trepidation I walked through the sliding front door. Were band-aids and antibiotic cream worth this perilous trek?

Then I heard the sweet words, yet again, from CVS Manager Shelly Pittman, "Welcome to our valuable CVS shopper Susan Haselton-Barr."

The world became right again.

The days of spring and summer will fly by. Fall will come and only the locals will reclaim our slice of Heaven. Be patient. There is hope.

Tip: I've reached an age where my "train of thought" often leaves the station without me!



with Safari-Su

Enjoy your summer. Take advantage of our slice of Heaven. Go to the beach during the weekdays, however.

Let's look to the past only as it gives us pleasure. Let's look to the future only as it gives us hope.



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that Eugene Cernan was the last man to walk on the moon?

that the average person speaks 7,000 to 20,000 words

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that President James Madison was the first U. S. president to declare war?

that Pennsylvania is the only U. S. state with a name beginning with the letter "p"



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Nature Notes

By Rick O'Connor
Sea Grant Agent at University of Florida IFAS/Escambia County Extension

Is it Seagrass or Seaweed?

For many, it really does not matter. But is there a difference? Yes... there is. Seagrass is what typically washes ashore on the sound side – seaweed is what we typically see on the Gulf.

So what is the difference?

Seagrasses are actually grasses. They are true plants in the sense they have roots, stems, and leaves. They also produce flowers, but they are so small it is very hard to see them. Pollen and seed dispersal is via the currents. What the observer sees when snorkeling in seagrass meadows are the leaves – in this case called blades. The stems run horizontal beneath the sand, as many grasses in our lawns do. These are called rhizomes, and the roots extend from them. Turtle grass and Shoal grass are the two most common types we have here.

Seaweeds on the other hand, are not true plants because they lack roots, stems, and leaves. They are often called algae and must be submerged in water in order to absorb it. They are either float and drift in the currents, or can attach to hard objects on the seafloor using a structure called a holdfast. June grass and Sargassum are two common types that drift ashore.

So why don't seagrasses grow in the Gulf?

Like all plants, seagrasses need sunlight. At least 25 percent of the sunlight reaching the surface must reach the bottom for them to photosynthesize. Near the shore, there is enough sunlight for seagrass, but they cannot tolerate the larger waves that our nearshore Gulf produces – thus they are restricted to the quieter waters of the Sound. We do have seagrasses growing in Big Lagoon, Old River, parts of Pensacola Bay, and even in some of the local bayous.

This ecosystem is important to the overall health of our bay. It is known that 80-90 percent of the commercially and recreationally important finfish and shellfish require seagrasses, or salt marshes, for at least part of their life cycle – so they are important economically as well.

Seaweeds also need sunlight. In rocky areas, you can find them attached in sunlit waters. Much of our area is sand, so we do not see as many forms of seaweed as they do in the Keys or in California.

However, we do have floating forms.

Seagrass Awareness is important. Many people provide opportunities to educate locals about our seagrasses and the issues they are facing. Excessive run-off from parking lots, boat ramps, homes and other areas increase the turbidity and decrease the salinity of the water – both of which are detrimental to seagrass health.

This run-off also contains pollutants that are problematic – particularly nutrients from fertilizers. The fertilizers trigger algal blooms which block sunlight and, in some cases, smother the surface of the grass blades.

Then, there is prop scarring. The shallow waters where seagrasses live are also popular spots for boaters to visit. The prop-

ler scarring leaves open tracts throughout the seagrass meadows and, unlike some grasses in our yards, can take years – even decades – to recover.

There has been significant loss of seagrass all across the Gulf region, including Pensacola Bay. The loss of seagrass has also affected species such as bay scallop and horseshoe crabs.

There are signs of recovery and we need to continue reducing our impact to keep this trend going. Florida Friendly Landscaping, Clean Boater practices, and Living Shorelines are some methods that can help.

Want to learn more? Contact your Escambia County Extension Office to learn more about these programs at www.escambia.ifas.ufl.edu, 850-475-5230 or email me at roc1@ufl.edu.

County Collects Tires

Escambia County recently collected 1,360 waste tires totaling 22 tons to be disposed of during Escambia County Tire Amnesty Day, March 24, helping to rid the community of old tires that may be used as mosquito breeding sites.

About 217 residents participated in Escambia County Tire Amnesty Day at the Escambia

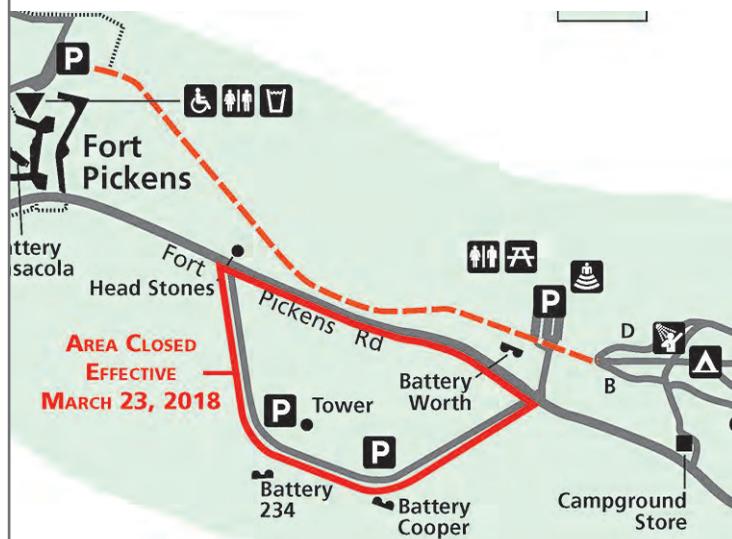
County Public Safety Building. The Escambia County Mosquito Control Division also treated the tires with larvicide and distributed educational handouts about mosquito prevention during the event.

Escambia County Waste Services Department can be reached at 850-937-2160 or wasteservices@myescambia.com.

Battery Cooper Closes

Gulf Islands National Seashore officials have closed the Battery Cooper Loop Road in the Fort Pickens Area effective immediately. An Architectural and Engineering firm conducted an inspection of the structural integrity and condition of the tower.

They recommended closure of the road and area surrounding the tower due to the questionable structural integrity of Tower 234, a World War II era spotting tower located along the Loop Road. The area is expected to be closed for some time.



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 "Grey's Anatomy" network
- 4 Facebook contribution
- 8 Undergoes recession
- 12 Carnival city
- 13 Arthur of tennis
- 14 Portrayal
- 15 Place to find a rake
- 17 Cheer
- 18 Bart's sis
- 19 Keep tabs on
- 20 Tureen accessory
- 22 Authoritative order
- 24 Oodles
- 25 Diamond-back, e.g.
- 29 Present
- 30 Stinky
- 31 Praise in verse
- 32 False teeth
- 34 Unaccompanied
- 35 Make one's way
- 36 "Annie Hall" director
- 37 Yuletide rendition
- 40 "Buenos —"
- 41 On
- 42 Annoy for one's own

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- 8 Mistakes in print
- 9 Galosh
- 10 United nations
- 11 Eve's third son
- 16 Bouncy melody
- 19 Hospital section
- 20 Come to earth
- 21 Lotion additive
- 22 Celebrated with a bash
- 23 Eye part
- 25 Gull's cousin
- 26 Cabana's location
- 27 Not working
- 28 Noble gas
- 30 Coal or gas
- 33 Doubly thick salad
- 36 Wasn't well
- 37 Eatery
- 38 Teeny bit
- 39 Wander
- 40 Be overly fond of
- 42 Enthusiast
- 43 Individual
- 44 "— the season ..."
- 45 With it, once

DOWN

- 1 Illustrations
- 2 Story of a life-time?
- 3 Lose warmth
- 4 Old hat
- 5 Job safety org.
- 6 Yon maiden
- 7 A Kennedy brother

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Calendar

APRIL 2018

- 3: Bands on the Beach, free concert. 7-9 p.m. Gulfside Pavilion. Bring a lawn chair. No glass or pets. VisitPensacolaBeach.com
- 3: PB Optimist Club Oratorical Contest Final, Beach Church
- 7: Kidney Walk, 8 a.m. Gulfside Pavilion. 5K Walk (not a race). To raise awareness of Kidney Disease and transplant. www.Pensacolakidney-walk.org
- 7: Ocean Hour Clean Up, 8:45 am. Bob Sikes Bridge near The Grand Marlin & Naval Live Oaks, GB.
- 8: Gulf Coast Half Marathon, 10 miler and 5K. www.runpensacolabeach.com/home.html
- 8: School of the Soldier, Ft. Pickens, 11 a.m. Meet at Ft. Pickens Bookstore. 850-934-2600, www.nps.gov/guis
- 10: Bands on the Beach, free concert. 7-9 p.m. Gulfside Pavilion. Bring a lawn chair. No glass or pets. VisitPensacolaBeach.com
- 11: SRIA meeting, 5 p.m. #1 Via de Luna. Open to the public. Agendas available at www.sria-fla.com
- 13: Pensacola Beach Firefighters Challenge. Casino Beach, Saturday, 8:30 to 4. Pensacolasports.org
- 14: Audubon Field Trip Ft Pickens. 7:30 a.m. Meet at Park West parking lot
- 15: Beach Walk for ALS to honor the memory of Jim Elbert. 8:30 reg, \$25. 9:30 walk Flounder's to Gowens Park back to Flounder's. Party 10:30 to noon.
- 15: School of the Soldier, Ft. Pickens, 11 a.m. Meet at Ft. Pickens Bookstore. 850-934-2600, www.

- nps.gov/guis
- 17: Candidate Forum, Beach Church, 6 pm
- 17: Bands on the Beach, free concert. 7-9 p.m. Gulfside Pavilion. Bring a lawn chair. No glass or pets. VisitPensacolaBeach.com
- 19: PB Chamber Beach Ball Breakfast Meeting. 7:30 a.m. Guest Passes, call 850-932-1500.
- 20: Crawfish Festival, Bamboo Willies and PB Boardwalk. Sat & Sunday, too. BambooWillies.com
- 20: Star Gaze, east of Gulfside Pavilion. Dusk. Weather permitting. eaaa.net
- 21: Crawfish Festival 5K, 8 a.m. Gulfside Pavilion, Crawfish5K.com
- 21: Audubon Society Bird Walk, Meet at 9 a.m. at Park West. Walk will be in Ft. Pickens.
- 21: Earth Day at EPA, 10 - 2. EPA Pensacola Beach, thru Villa Sabine to EPA.
- 21: Star Gaze, east of Gulfside Pavilion. Dusk. Weather permitting. eaaa.net
- 23: Town Hall Meeting, Congestion Management Plan, 5:30 to 7, location TBA
- 23: Pensacola Beach Elementary School Board Meeting, 6 p.m. on Campus. Open to public.
- 24: Beach Chamber Business After Hours, 5: 30 p.m. Frisky Dolphin.

- Guest Passes, 850-932-1500
 - 24: Bands on the Beach, free concert. 7-9 p.m. Gulfside Pavilion. Bring a lawn chair. No glass or pets. VisitPensacolaBeach.com
 - 25: SRIA meeting, 5 p.m. #1 Via de Luna. Open to the public. Agendas available at www.sria-fla.com
 - 28: DeLuna Beach Games. 7:30 a.m. Three open water swim courses. Volleyball tournament. Flounder's. Hosted by PensacolaSports.org
- MAY 2018**
- 1: Bands on the Beach, free concert. 7-9 p.m. Gulfside Pavilion. Bring a lawn chair. No glass or pets. VisitPensacolaBeach.com
 - 5: Brawl on the Beach Crossfit Competition. Casino Beach. All weekend. Open to spectators at no charge
 - 5: Pensacola Beach Optimist Club Kentucky Derby Party. Santa Rosa Dunes Clubhouse. Fundraiser for Beach School and others. Tickets, 850-384-7436
 - 8: Bands on the Beach, free concert.

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For Sale: Two 150 year old crystal candle stick holders \$50. 6 Mikasa 11 in. White dinner plates, cost \$130; sell for \$30. Desk, Chair and Desk Lamp \$35. 4 Crystal Bar Glasses and Crystal tray \$25. If interested will email a photo. Pensacola Beach 850-932-4804 or jeanmnaber@gmailcom

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— King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	B	C	P	O	S	T	E	B	B	S
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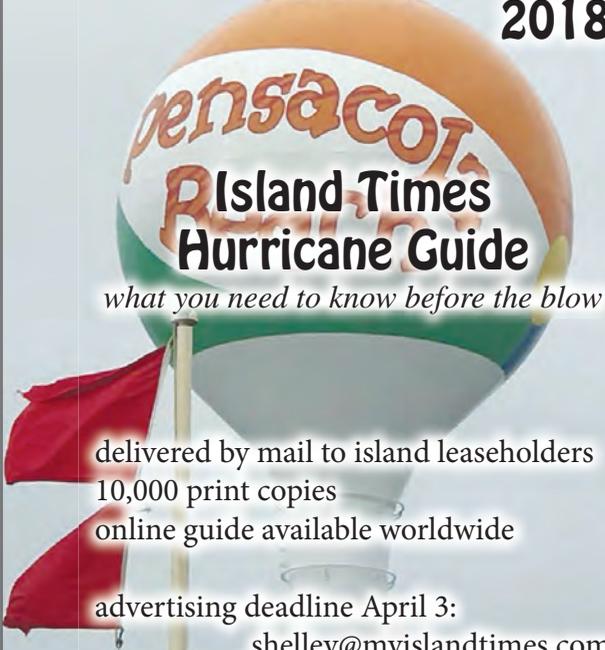
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Business Buzz

LACIE'S LAW OFFICE

Pensacola Beach raised Lacie Bowden has officially opened her law office, Lacie Bowden Law, P.A. in Gulf Breeze. It's the newest addition to the Bay Bridge office complex. Bowden's practice areas include wills, family law, personal injury and criminal defense. She specializes in making clients at ease, so her slogan is "Making your legal needs a breeze!" More about this online at www.alegalbreeze.com.



Lacie Bowden

KARA'S ON THE JOB

The Santa Rosa Island Authority bid farewell to Cheryl Dill who served in the Human Resources and Event departments. Dill moved away. Kara Gauntt has been promoted to the position, so she's the person who will review event applications and keep the calendar up to date. Congratulations Kara.

BRONZE MEDAL

If they gave out Olympic style medallions for real estate sales, Emerald Coast Realty would have a bronze to put in their trophy case. They were the third highest for condo sales on

Pensacola Beach in 2017. That is in a field of fifty brokerages with sales on the Beach. Congratulations to Kim Gibbons and her team.

SANDY BUSINESS

Visit Florida commissioned architect Rick Mungeam of Beach Sand Sculptures to create a six foot tall sand sculpture inside the I-10 Welcome Center. The massive sculpture depicts Florida-centric icons such as dolphins, turtles, waves, and a beach ball alongside the official Florida hashtag, #LoveFL. The sand sculpture took more than 20 hours to complete. It will be sealed with a weather guard to protect the sculpture and keep it intact for Welcome Center visitors to enjoy for more than a year. Annually 650,000 visitors pass through this Welcome Center.

PAYING LESS

Gulf Power received unanimous approval from the Florida Public Service Commission to pass along approximately \$103 million in tax savings to its 460,000 customers. With the approval, the average residential Gulf Power customer using 1,112 kilowatt-hours per month can

expect to see a \$14 drop on their monthly energy bill for 2018 — the largest decrease in company history. More than \$30 million in savings for customers will continue into 2019 and beyond.

BEST BEACH BAR

One thing Pensacola Beach does better than anywhere else is offer a great selection of drinking establishments. It's time to vote for the bar you like best at FloridaBeachBar.com. The Top Ten Beach Bars will be determined by the total number of votes cast online, combined with Florida Beach Bar's proprietary Pink

Flamingo Rating (determined based on proximity to the beach, amount of live music, availability of food and beverages.) So vote for your favorite Pensacola Beach bar. Casino Beach Bar was in the top ten in 2017.

CHAMBER CHATTER

The Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce has initiated an Ambassador's Program. The Ambassadors will serve to personally engage new and returning members, answer questions, encourage participation at meetings and Business After Hours networking events. If you would like to be an

Ambassador, contact Chamber President Alison Westmoreland at 850-932-1500. The Beach Chamber membership meeting is Thursday, April 19 at Our Lady's Hunt Hall; breakfast at 7:30 and meeting at 8 a.m. The Business After Hours is Tuesday, April 24 at 5:30 p.m. at Frisky Dolphin. For guest passes or more information, contact the Chamber at penbeach@visitpensacolabeach.com or 850-932-1500.

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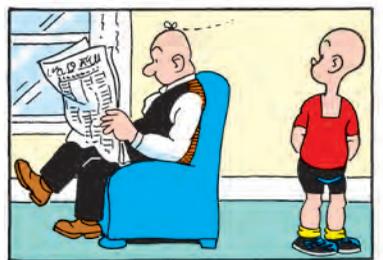
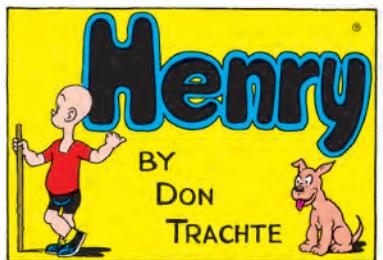
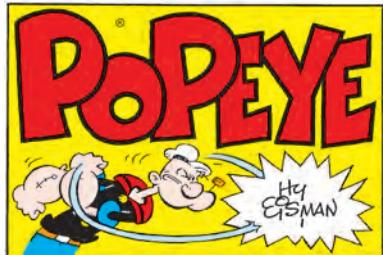
Office	Sales
#1 LEVIN RINKE REALTY	\$105,999,100
COMPANY #2	\$30,223,000
COMPANY #3	\$20,699,400

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LAFF-A-DAY



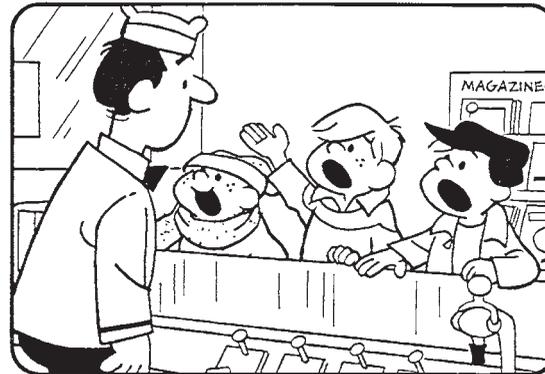
"Rattle the dog's dish, dear."

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Cap is different. 2. Scoop is missing. 3. Light is missing. 4. Header is missing. 5. Straw holder is missing. 6. Rack is lower.

After Sundown.....

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Never Hurts To Tri



By Charles Gheen
USAT Certified Race Director
Santa Rosa Island Triathlon

Why Do You Run?

You've seen many articles, I am sure, about why people run (and swim and bike). The reasons are many and varied and you may identify with some or all of them. Some people run because they are athletic and they enjoy it as a natural expression of their athleticism. Some run because they want to lose weight. Some people run because it relieves tension or anxiety. Many run because it gets them "in shape," makes them feel healthy and may prolong their life. Some run for the social aspects of the sport.

I run because it's a very natural part of my fitness regimen. It's one of the keys to my health and wellness in my mind. I run because it's a key part of my lifestyle, my discipline and my training. I also do it because it's physically and mentally therapeutic for me.

There are various other reasons why people run - many just because they like it and to have fun. And, then there's Greg Schnoor.

I heard about Greg a few years back as a guy with a very serious medical condition who ran marathons and ultra-marathons. In the last several months our paths have crossed because we've each worked on the internet presence of the Pensacola Runners Association. We agreed we should get together for coffee and, finally, it was my very good fortune to meet him in person.

Greg is from Milton and he went to college in Gainesville. Building on his website development education he worked there for several years and then moved back to Northwest Florida. His experience and expertise in website development, Search Engine Optimization (SEO), and other website-related marketing skills has translated into his own successful business, Jump Start Marketing. Along the way he got married. He and his wife have four children.

In 2010 Greg was undergoing a scan prior to a scheduled sinus surgery when he was diag-

nosed with a two-inch brain tumor. Soon thereafter he returned to Gainesville to have the tumor removed at Shands Hospital.

Shands is renowned as a teaching hospital for the University of Florida Medical School and is famous as a center of excellence for brain surgery. The operation was successful, but Greg was further diagnosed with a rare, Grade 3 malignant tumor in his brain. He soon began treatment with six weeks of radiation. Simultaneously, he started daily chemotherapy.

After that first round of treatment was done, he continued the chemotherapy five days every month and had "MRIs to check for updates, lab work and follow-up appointments for over four years up until March 2015."

At first he was worn out by the chemo and would stay in his house laying on the couch. During those early months of treatment he accompanied two of his sons to their running club and thought he might use exercise as a way to fight his disease. He began walking and then jogging. Soon he was running slowly, then faster and he entered a 5K race. He "found running to be a great physical and mental medication" and felt the activity helped him tolerate the chemotherapy better. He got stronger and faster and began running longer distances.

At the same time he looked for races that helped support brain cancer research. He didn't find many such events and resolved to start such a competition

himself.

In 2013 he began the Brain Tumor Run/Walk For Research 5K. The race is a not-for-profit race and has raised many thousands of dollars for research of this disease. Meanwhile, Greg continued to run.

In 2014 he set his personal records for 5K at 19:19 (a 6:14 pace) and the marathon with 3:27 (a 7:57 pace) respectively. He continued running marathons and then went further into ultra-marathons which have included distances of 50K (31 miles), a 50 miler and 100K (62 miles) races. He also threw in a 66-mile formal training run. Greg says when he does ultra-marathon distances he eliminates stress and negative thoughts and focuses on the beautiful views along the way.

Searching for those views, earlier this month, he took on the Conquer the Rock 50K on Pinnacle Mountain in the Blue Ridge Range in South Carolina. This race would be very arduous and difficult. It includes three loops up and down the mountain with over 10,000 feet of total gain (and total loss on the return trips) and was very technical. Over half the starters would not finish the race.

Greg resolutely ran on and finished well under the time limit. He knew he was under-trained, but he felt fine at the end. He resolved to train more diligently for his next race.

Whatever it is, it won't be the most difficult challenge he has faced.



Santa Rosa County K9 Zeus, left, waits for his handler Chris Mann of the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office to give his next command at a law enforcement K9 demonstration at the Gulf Breeze Springfest, at Shoreline baseball field, March 24. Zeus participated in agility, suspect apprehension and drug identification exercises before a standing room only crowd.



Puerto Cortes, Honduras

Master Chief Hospital Corpsman Omar Azmitia, of Pace, Florida, dances with a Guia De Familia volunteer at the Franklin D. Roosevelt School during Continuing Promise 2018 on March 18. U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet has deployed a force to execute Continuing Promise to conduct civil-military operations including humanitarian assistance, training engagements, and medical, dental, and veterinary support in an effort to show U.S. support and commitment to Central and South America.

U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Cmdr Jason Souza

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Off the Hook

By Terri McKamey

You would think this On-Again-Off-Again weather would slow the fishing down, but as you can see from the Gulf Breeze Bait and Tackle Tournament leader-board pictures, the weather has not slowed these anglers down one bit. Congratulations! These are some beautiful fish, aren't they?

This column's going to be short and sweet guys, because I want to get some fishing in before I have to go back to work this week. Spring break was super busy.

In the very early morning head to the grass flats for some excellent Speckled Trout and Redfish. You must make it an early morning trip to get those really nice ones.

Also early morning surf fishing has been quite productive for Pompano, Whiting, and Drum Redfish. We are starting to see a few Spanish Mackerel and Lady Fish, too. For bait, sand fleas, live shrimp and fiddler crabs have been very successful.

Pier, bridge and jetties fishing will land you Sheepshead, Drum and Mackerel. I hear a few Kings are beginning to make an appearance.

The piers are super full right now with everyone trying to get a shot at Cobia. And I'm sure you've seen the boats cruising just offshore up and down the shoreline. They have their eye on Cobia, too.

Kids are back to school and the weather is getting better by the day. Hopefully I will have a good fishing story to share next time since I'm ready to head out the door now.

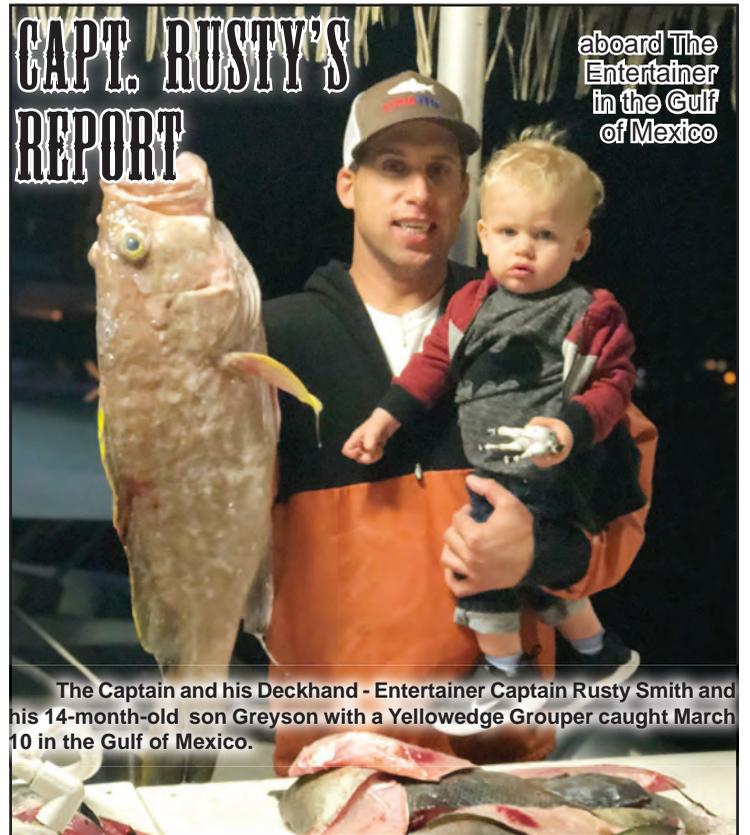
Book a day fishing trip, head out to your favorite fishing hole or just do a little surf fishing. But whatever you do, enjoy every second of Spring. Grab a kid and go fishing!



Abby Rutledge with the new first place Sheepshead. It tipped the scales at Gulf Breeze Bait and Tackle at 12.72 pounds.



Jerry Lebakken with the new first place Pompano, weighed in at Gulf Breeze Bait and Tackle at 6.32 pounds.



CAPT. RUSTY'S REPORT

aboard The Entertainer in the Gulf of Mexico

The Captain and his Deckhand - Entertainer Captain Rusty Smith and his 14-month-old son Greyson with a Yellowedge Grouper caught March 10 in the Gulf of Mexico.

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Pensacola Beach at the Boardwalk

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"Local Broadcast"
Sun, April 15:
4 PM - 8 PM
"Lektric Mullet"
9 PM - Midnight
Karaoke with Becky

Monday: 10 AM -Close
Half Price Drinks/Shots for BARE Customers. Trivia, 9PM
Tuesday: Karaoke w/ Becky 8 PM
Whisky Wednesday:
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