Hold On To Your Hat
Optimist Club Brings Derby Day Styles To Pensacola Beach

These ladies have a seriously optimistic hat-titude! Beach residents Beverly Dufrechou, left, and Pat Spencer are longtime members of the Pensacola Beach Optimist Club. Bev and Pat - as they are called by friends - have served as the greeters for the Club’s Derby Party for several years. Guests who arrive at the Santa Rosa Dunes Clubhouse for the Optimist Club’s Run for the Roses Kentucky Derby Party will check in, get their drink tickets, fun betting racing form and a cheerful welcome from this pair. The Derby Party is Saturday, May 7. Doors open at 3 p.m. and there is a great deal of horsing around prior to the 5:25 p.m. post time. Trot over to page 2 for more.
Southern traditions mingle with beach sand and the result is a Kentucky Derby party like no other. The Run for the Roses Kentucky Derby Party, Saturday, May 7 hosted by the Pensacola Beach Optimists under the direction of Carleen Wheeler, earns that title.

Wheeler, a certified Kentucky Colonel, brings all the fine Derby traditions to the Santa Rosa Dunes Clubhouse, so the Optimists’ guests can sashay, sip and drop a few dollars to benefit the School and Optimist charities. The doors open at 3 p.m.

“Advance tickets are $25,” said Wheeler. “Just like at the Derby, the charge is $30 at the door. Our stalwart hospital-gals Bev Dufrechou and Pat Spencer will be there to greet guests as they arrive, and sell tickets as needed.”

This year’s theme is “Yesterday and Today” to honor the traditions and the panoply of the one hundred forty-second running of the Kentucky Derby. The race, which will be televised on multiple screens at 5:25 p.m., is broadcast from Churchill Downs, the world’s most legendary racetrack.

“Be sure to enjoy the decorations and new this year, a static display of authentic Derby glassware from McGuire Martin’s personal collection and mine, too,” explained Wheeler.

Guests should note that while the grandstand guests at Churchill Downs will be dressed in dapper attire and the finest spring fashions, Beach Optimists are a little more relaxed.

“The judging and hat parade begin about 4 p.m. That gives guests one hour to arrive, visit the Silent Auction table to bid on cool prize packages like jewelry from Antiquarian Traders or a dinner gift card from Flounder’s or Crab’s. There will be 50/50 tickets for sale.

The fun betting windows open at 3 p.m. so racing fans should study the list of entries and pick their favorites prior to post time. Will Gunrunner be on target for the finish line or will you get sweet on Danzing Candy? Wheeler, who has some experience with horsing around, reminds the Derby party guests to really get in there and place their bets.

“The proceeds from this party are donated to support the Pensacola Beach Elementary School,” says Wheeler. “Don’t be shy. Get up to the fun betting windows, and our volunteers will help you place some dollars right on the horse’s nose to win.”

And, which horse does Wheeler pick out of the list of prospects? Perhaps she will be struck by Cupid’s arrow. The Kentucky born horse will be just shy of his third birthday, and has the iconic dappled gray coat that always catches Wheeler’s favor. He is trained by the very famous Bob Baffert. Above all, Wheeler gives this advice, “It’s the Kentucky Derby where there is no such thing as a sure thing. Any horse could win."

Prior to the post time, party guests can be beach-bound horse owners. The “Derby Horses” will be auctioned off to the highest bidders beginning at 4:30 p.m. The “owner” stands to gain fame and good fortune if his horse wins the race. American Pharaoh won the 2015 Derby and went on to win the Triple Crown joining famous horses like Seattle Slew and Affirmed. The 2016 Derby could be a historic moment in racing history as well.

A sumptuous dinner served buffet style will begin at 4:15 p.m. with special Kentucky Derby-ware. And, the post race ceremonies will conclude the event.

Tickets are available by calling Optimist Treasurer Dave Sundstrom, 850-384-7436 or Carleen Wheeler at 850-450-3465 or emailing Mary Ann Claus at beachbunny808@hotmail.com. The Kentucky Derby has been run annually since 1875. So, the yesterdays are many, and the today is May 7. Don’t miss it.

Residents Asked To Weigh In On Long Term Traffic Congestion Plans

The County wants your input on long term projects relating to traffic. A kick-off meeting for the Pensacola Beach Congestion Management Plan will be Thursday, April 28 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Beach Community Church. Residents and all interested parties are encouraged to attend the meeting which will be conducted in an open house format. Attendees may arrive at any time between the hours of 5:30 and 7 p.m. to view and visit multiple project stations which will be set up along the perimeter of the meeting room. Representatives will be available at each station to answer questions and receive input.

The Board of County Commissioners is seeking input to develop a long-term capital improvement plan, with a goal of relieving traffic congestion and improving pedestrian safety on Pensacola Beach. Projects included in the plan will be driven by ideas and input from citizens, gathered through public workshops and face-to-face meetings with residents and stakeholders.

Proposed long-term improvements to be reviewed through the Pensacola Beach Congestion Management Plan include, but are not limited to, relieving traffic congestion at the existing traffic signal, optimizing parking in the core area, providing additional traffic lane and frequency, adding a park and ride trolley and determining potential funding sources for all projects.

The input being sought is for the long-term projects. Feasibility studies are proposed for transit/trolley route analysis, park and ride feasibility analysis, review of employee parking options, and pedestrian crosswalks conceptual design and location.

Additionally, Escambia County has identified several short-term improvements to provide immediate congestion relief over the next several years. These projects are to include, but are not limited to:

- Dual right turn lanes into the Casino Beach parking lot at Sidelines
- Coordinated pedestrian signal at Flounder’s crosswalk
- Evaluation of park and ride trolley service
- Evaluation of existing southbound right turn lane onto Fort Pickens Road
- Via de Luna Drive/Fort Pickens Road signal timing modification study and recommendations
- Bus and trolley route analysis and recommendations
- Parking space analysis and recommendations, with a focus on the existing Santa Rosa Island Authority site
- Circle K parking lot entrance/exit modifications

During the kick-off meeting, Escambia County representatives will review the schedule of short-term traffic improvements and gather input from attendees about long-term improvements and community traffic needs.

For more information about the Pensacola Beach Congestion Management Plan, contact project consultants Bonita Player, P.E., or Randy Fuller with Engineering & Planning Resources at 850-602-9232 or at PcolaBeachTrafficPlan@epr-florida.com.
Drivers Continue Signing Up For SunPass

Florida Turnpike Enterprise’s SunPass® experts were stationed in the Santa Rosa Island Authority Boardroom April 19 to assist drivers maneuvering through the new web-based annual pass registration. Representatives from Orlando, Boca Raton and as far away as Texas were on the Beach to get drivers signed up. They will return Saturday, May 7 from 8 a.m. to noon at the SRIA office to complete the final steps.

Pensacola Beach visitors and residents can, however sign up for the Florida Turnpike Enterprise’s SunPass® prepaid electronic tolling system on the Bob Sikes Bridge in a variety of ways:

**Online:**
Get a SunPass sticker online at www.sunpass.com. Drivers can activate and deposit funds into their prepaid accounts then, visit www.MyEscambia.com/PensacolaBeachPass to purchase your Pensacola Beach Annual Pass and link it to your SunPass account.

**In Person:**
Drivers can purchase a SunPass sticker at retail outlets including Publix and CVS Pharmacy. SunPass® users may activate and deposit funds into their prepaid accounts at www.sunpass.com, or by calling 888-865-5352 and using a credit or debit card. Or bring SunPass sticker to SRIA office to complete the final steps. At The SRIA Office, #1 Via de Luna:

- The customer service representatives will assist you in each step. SunPass® transponders can be purchased and activated. After about four hour delay, the driver can return and have the account linked to the Pensacola Beach Annual Pass at the SRIA office.
- Homestead residents are allowed up to two $5 Pensacola Beach Annual Passes. Beach residents must bring printed proof of homestead exemption to the Santa Rosa Island Authority Office toll window in order to qualify for the $5 annual pass.
- Pensacola Beach Annual Passes are $50 per year for public annual passes and $70 per year for commercial annual passes.

**Other stuff:**
- Pass is good for 365 days.
- Beginning May 31, the far left lane on the Bob Sikes Bridge will be a designated SunPass® Pensacola Beach Annual Pass Only lane. No cash will be accepted in this lane.
- Toll Pass Sales Window at the SRIA extended hours during May: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon.
- The new system will officially launch on Pensacola Beach May 31; keep your current yellow “bridge pass” sticker affixed to your vehicle until May 31.
- Recycle your old beach transponder. Scrape off and drop off at SRIA window. No need to wait in line.
- $1 cash will still be accepted at toll booth.
- Toll Collection and the Toll Facility are under the control and direction of Escambia County.

Hobie 16 competitors Marc Bachman, left, and Ron Gaston sail to the start line, April 10 in Santa Rosa Sound.

Sailors Compete At Midwinters

Key Sailing and the Pensacola Beach Yacht Club were ground zero for the Hobie Midwinter Sailing Championships, April 8-10. Thanks to Julie Connerley for sending the following results:

**Hobie 16 Class**

**Hobie 10 Class**

**Hobie 18 Class**

**Wave Class**

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*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*
FIRST WACK
Madison Murphy turned 21-years-old on April 11. The beach-raised kid enjoyed a special rite of passage when her birthday party entourage delivered her to the Sandshaker Lounge where she was served her very first Bushwacker. Pensacola Beach’s signature drink in the place that made it famous – you can’t beat that. The fun part is that Madison’s mom Linda Murphy was the person responsible for introducing the creamy concoction to Pensacola Beach, way back in the 70s.

FLIP FOR THIS
Beach residents Mike and Chrissey Cook are beaming with pride. They traveled to Galveston, Texas to cheer their grandson, Jared March and his Aunt Pandora de Arendt was a student of and followed in the footsteps of longtime beach resident, the late Dr. Jim Morgan, also a coastal geologist.

TOP PIRATE
Cody Evans is working hard at PegLeg Pete’s on Fort Pickens Road. His efforts do not go unnoticed. His bosses named him “Employee of the Month” for March and his Aunt Pandera de Balthazar was super proud of him. Of course, the rest of the family was, too.

BEST YET
Congrats to the Capt’n Fun Runners who took top honors at the Gulf Coast Half Marathon for their high spirited water station at Glenn and Nancy Windham’s home. They donated the $1,000 prize to the University of West Florida Cross Country Team. The Krewe of SWAT earned second place and third place winners were the UWF Volleyball team.

GOOD LUCK RELAY
If you see Shannon Berry bartending at Sidelines, give her a high five for her hard work as a coordinator of the Beach Breeze Relay for Life event.

T r i v i a
The Knights of the Trivia Roundtable clank their tankards on the thick and scarred wooden tabletop to signal their approval of their longest standing member, Sir Morrie Drees’ answer to last week’s trivia question. The Trivia Master asked for the location of the former Treasure Chest gift shop. Sir Morrie wrote, “It was located near where the miniature golf course sits, behind Sidelines. Your aim is true and your answer correct Sir.

Martha King and her husband Jim owned the shop which was packed with souvenirs and gifts. They were seasonal shopkeepers who worked long hours in the summer and locked the doors during the cold days of winter. Martha had a big sense of humor and even remained smiling the day that she toppled upside down into her own dumpster. How she got there is trivia for another day.

Big Bob Dority had some other location in his mind. He thought it sat next to the Old Bobby D’s. If you are an old school islander, then you know Big Bob is referring to the heart of the Sandspur Republic. Bobby D’s Beach Bar occupied one of the cinderblock cottages located on Via de Luna. When the old cottages were razed, the owner, Bobby Draper, moved the bar to the Sabine Marina, next to the Yacht Club. Thus, the “old” location description. But, no. That’s not it. But, the Trivia Master does miss hanging around on Bobby D’s deck; and eating a Lester Burger at the Sundee Saloon and Sidewalk Café.

The Queen of Wrong Answers Joanne Brooks sent this answer via courier pigeon. “Geronimos.” The Trivia Master has to assume she is thinking about the collection of retailers who are at the very eastern most edge of the Via de Luna Shopping Center. That location housed the famous nightclub Kevin’s, and the equally infamous Baron Samedis prior to that.

The Queen doth lend a regal hand in the Visitor’s Center of Fort Pickens, which was where Geronimo was incarcerated. It is unlikely that she would have gone so far off the beaten track.

The Trivia Master appreciates all the colorful characters who grace the island, both past and present. Tales of salty sailors, popular beach bums, artists and waifs’ surface from time to time. Among them are a cadre of cooks and chefs. One talented kitchen wizardess served garbage. Her name was Fannie Mae. If you ate her cooking, you remember it. If you met her, you can’t forget her. Where did she work?

If you have the stomach for this question, send an answer to islandtimes@bellsouth.net. The Trivia Master requires your name and phone number be included. The deadline to answer is Tuesday, May 3. Good luck.

Bands On The Beach Caters To Rockers
The 13th Hourglass, one of Pensacola’s most popular rock bands in the 60s, will perform at Bands on the Beach from 7-9 p.m. on Tuesday, April 26 at the Gulfside Pavilion. The free concert series is hosted by the Santa Rosa Island Authority every Tuesday through October 25.

Touch of Gray will take the stage Tuesday, May 3 from 7 to 9 p.m. for a two-hour musical journey back to the rock and roll you remember.

Guests can bring beach chairs, but should leave glass bottles and pets at home. There is no charge for parking at this family friendly event.

For more information, log on to www.visitpensacolabeach.com or call 850-932-2257.

Go Where The Locals Go
for music
Voo Davis.... Tues, April 26 at 6 pm
Cat Daddy.... Fri, April 29 at 6 pm
Whyte Caps.... Sat, April 30 at 6 pm
Cedric Burnside Project.... Sun, May 1 at 3 pm
Mystery Music Mondays hosted by Paxton Norris at 6 pm
Betty Fox..... Tues, May 3 at 6 pm
Johnny Sansone & John Fohl.... Wed, May 4 at 6 pm
Ben Loftin......... Fri, May 6 at 6 pm
Beau Soleilavec Michael Doucet Monday’s Day, Sun, May 8 at 8 pm & Tues, May 10 at 8 pm

for food
Try a Fred Burger or Renee’s Famous Shrimp Salad at our waterfront tables
SRIA Board Rolls With Traffic Projects Updates

Construction projects, toll pass systems, traffic meetings and ferry boat landing improvements were included in the Escambia County Transportation and Traffic Operations Division report to the Santa Rosa Island Authority Board at their April 13 meeting. Division Manager David Forte updated the board about the traffic calming and roadway improvements that are currently being installed on Earle Bowden Way at the Portofino entrance. Forte noted that pavers had been chosen and the project moves toward a completion date near June 24. The project will be stalled by a brief cessation during the Memorial Day Weekend.

The traffic calming project stops during Memorial Day Weekend, as the Bob Sikes Bridge ect stops during Memorial Day Weekend.

Forte was confident in the contractor who is installing the equipment and SunPass system, reporting that their experience and quality of work was well documented.

Forte announced that Volkert engineers were conducting one-on-one interviews with beach stakeholders in advance of the Congestion Traffic Management Plan Public Kick Off Meeting, which is set for April 28, at 5:30 p.m. at the Beach Church. Congestion relief projects in the core area range from one way exit and entrances to Casino Beach to signalized crosswalks. The County plans to host three public workshops.

Two major construction projects are slated to commence during the winter months. The first is to provide greater access to the Bob Sikes Fishing Bridge for vehicles and anglers. The Pensacola Beach Access Road will be constructed from Quietwater traveling north to The Grand Marlin. The Fishing Bridge area will be upgraded to meet ADA standards and allow greater access. The second project is the extension of the Quietwater Pier to accommodate the ferry service that is slated to commence in March 2017. According to Forte, the project will include an extension of the pier further into Santa Rosa Sound, additionally a shaded ticket kiosk will be built. The project includes bringing the area up to ADA compliance from the parking lot to the ferry landing site. The project, which is funded through a federal grant, is estimated to cost almost $1 million.

The SRIA Full Board granted final approval to requests for funds from the Miracle Strip Corvette Club, Pensacola Sports and Pensacola Beach Elk’s. The monies are used to assist with marketing the Corvette Show, Pro Watercross and Elk’s Charity Golf Tourney, respectively.

The trio of requests concerned Board Member Jerry Watson that the funds would be depleted too early in the year. To avoid that, Member Karen Sindel suggested the SRIA adopt a publicly noticed annual grant request period much like Escambia County and Visit Pensacola use. Director of Administration Robbie Schrock added that staff is preparing options to address that concern in the upcoming budget cycle.

Board Member Tammy Bohnann inquired if staff was coordinating with Escambia County prior to preparing the FY 2017 SRIA budget. Schrock replied that Executive Director Paolo Ghio, Finance Director Dottie Ford and she have been in multiple meetings with Escambia County staff to further investigate what items the county may be willing to fund. SRIA Budget workshops are set for May 25, June 8 and June 22.

The Santa Rosa Island Authority meets Wednesday, April 27 at 5 p.m. at #1 Via de Luna. The Meetings are open to the public. Agendas are online at www.sria-fla.com.

Lifeguard Tryouts Test Speed and Skill

Pensacola Beach Lifeguards will host a tryout event for individuals looking for a challenging, rewarding and exciting job. The tryouts will take place at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 30 at the University of West Florida Aquatic Center, located at 11000 University Parkway, Bldg. 72.

Position requirements for employment include the following:

- Able to swim 600 yards in a pool in 10 minutes or less
- Able to run 1.5 miles on a track in 12 minutes or less
- Be at least 16 years old
- Possess a valid driver’s license
- American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification is preferred

Applicants are asked to arrive at least 15 minutes early and to bring all relevant certifications to the tryout event. Attending and passing a tryout is required to be considered for employment.

There will be a total of 70 Pensacola Beach lifeguards, according to Senior Lifeguard Alex Johnson.

“We don’t have a set number of positions we are hiring,” said Johnson. “It just depends upon how many pass, how well they do, and how their interviews go.”

For more information, contact Johnson at 850-503-1799 or at adjohnson@myescambia.com.
I was watching a movie the other day and heard one man describe another man as "crazy as a three dollar bill." What a crazy coincidence since barely an hour earlier I found a three-dollar bill in a purse that had not been used in quite some time. I can't even remember the last time I used the purse, but it evidently happened during some long ago Mardi Gras. I think one of the krewe members got them from who knows where. The $3 bill has a picture of Bill Clinton in the center. I remember where the original Krewe of Brewe would hand out $2 bills.

The original "Brewnks" were the first Love Slaves to the Krewe of Nereids, since most were husbands, boyfriends or otherwise involved with the members. After several years, the Love Slaves formed a revolution, created their own krewe and tried to abandon the Nereids; something not easily done considering the relationships involved. The two krewes co-hosted their Champagne Brunch and After Parade Party, both of which was held each year at my restaurant, The Sand Dollar. So I collected quite a few of the $2 bills and kept them for several years. I eventually spent them while on a trip to Panama City.

My spring cleaning/purging led me to finding the $3 bill and getting tired from all that cleaning led me to rest and watch the movie that mentioned being as crazy as one. All that leading sent me on a lovely trip down Memory Lane until I returned and begin to wonder if maybe the universe was trying to tell me that I am...Crazy as a $3 bill! After several years, I mean, it wouldn't surprise me that I am...Crazy as a $3 bill.

For those few who don't know by now, Michael and David Doucette of Beau Soleil are the brothers of Pensacola Beach resident Paulette Provost. They are playing another performance at Paradise on May 10 if you can't manage to be there on Mother's Day. I plan to be there for both performances since I am a big fan. The first CD I bought of theirs is called "Bayou Cadillac." Y'all already know I love old Caddys and Beau Soleil and there's a song that grandson Jesus loved when he was still a baby. I would put on the CD, pick him up and hold up my right thumb which he would grab and around and around the house we'd dance until one of us (me) wore out. Shoot, I'm about worn out now just remembering all that dancing. Guess I'll just have to rest until Mother's Day. Normally we (me, along with a small group) would be Road-Tripping to Mexico Beach bringing the Cinco de Mayo Celebration to Lynn's Cieutat's beautiful Cottage By the Sea and our favorite watering hole, the Look-Out Lounge. They will be greatly disappointed this year but we're blaming the calendar. It wasn't a hard choice between Mother's Day with our favorite Band or Cinco de Mayo. Cinco de Mayo comes every year. Beau Soleil does not.

We'll still make the trip to Lynn's of course, it will just be another date with a new celebration this year. However, in celebration of Cinco de Mayo I've chosen a special Mexican concoction to share as this weeks recipe. No cooking involved......well, actually the original recipe called for grilled pineapple but who wants to wait for pineapple to grill? So, let's not cook.....

Pineapple Margaritas

1 Pineapple, peeled, cored and cut into 1/2" thick rings
1/4 Cup chopped fresh cilantro leaves and upper stems
2 Tbsp. dark brown sugar
3 Cups pineapple juice, chilled
1 and 1/2 Cups white or silver tequila
3/4 Cup freshly squeezed lime juice
1 1/2 Cup agave syrup or simple syrup
1 Tbsp. Mexican chilli powder

In a pitcher, combine cilantro and 2 Tbsp. of the brown sugar. Cut 2 slices of pineapple into wedges and set aside. Coarsely chop remaining pineapple and add to pitcher. Stir in pineapple juice, tequila, lime juice and syrup. Let mixture stand 10 minutes or chill for up to 4 hours (bechta can't wait that long). On a small plate, combine remaining sugar, chili powder and 1 Tbsp. Salt. Rub glass rims with lime wedges, then dip into sugar mixture. Serve in glasses with ice and add pineapple wedge to rim. (Makes 8 servings anywhere other than here. For the Sisters of the Beach and other islanders make a double batch. They are usually thirsty.)

Enjoy, smile and be kind. No act of kindness is ever wasted. See ya in the kitchen......

Storm Season Predictions

The weather forecasters who perch in the lofty Colorado Rockies have predicted an average season for tropics-based storm activity in the Atlantic basin. Storm season begins June 1 and lingers until after Hurricane.
The Beach Breeze Relay For Life is inviting all community members from both sides of the Bob Sikes Bridge to fight back against cancer. This year’s “Capes with a Cure” themed event will be held at Dolphin Stadium at Gulf Breeze High School on Friday, May 6 from 4 p.m. until midnight.

The event leadership team is also inviting teams to join the event. Teams are often made up of co-workers, friends and family members as well as businesses, schools, organizations and religious groups. Prior to the Relay event, team members raise dollars by fundraising and securing sponsorships.

Longtime Sidelines bartender Shannon Berry created Connor’s Crusaders, a team named after her nephew who is a cancer survivor. Berry hosts crawfish boils, bake sales and Sidelines most recently gave ten percent of their Dine Out Day’s restaurant revenue as a donation to Relay. “I hope we can ignite a lively, enduring relationship among these youngsters,” said Shannon. “I am so grateful for this opportunity to personalize our two countries’ histories and build friendships that may endure for generations.”

A bronze sculpture of Bernardo de Galvez is slated for unveiling in downtown Pensacola next year, a project of the Pensacola Heritage Foundation.

Ocean Hour Needs Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to participate in the Ocean Hour Clean Up Saturday, April 30 at Park East, located a little over a mile east of Portofino on J. Earle Bowden Way. Organizers ask that volunteers arrive at 8:45 a.m. to sign in. The clean up begins at 9 a.m. and lasts one hour. Buckets, bags and gloves are provided. Attendees should dress appropriately for the weather. Water and sunscreen are suggested.

For more details, call 850-450-1112 or email oceanhourfl@gmail.com.

Letter Writing Campaign Brings New Friendships

In celebration of Galvez Days and the ongoing collaboration between the Sister Cities of Pensacola and Macharaviaya, Spain, students at Pensacola Beach Elementary and Torre del Mar school have become pen pals.

The fifth and sixth grade students in the school at Torre del Mar in Malaga, Spain are planning and preparing for Galvez Day, May 8, with murals, poems and essays, according to Beach Elementary and Torre del Mar school have become pen pals.
The School Bell Rings

SPEECH!
The Pensacola Beach Optimists hosted a school-wide Oratorical Contest which culminated in nine Pensacola Beach Elementary School students competing April 5 at the Beach Church. The winner, fifth grader Katie Turk moved up to compete against sixth through eighth grade students in the Zone level in Gulf Breeze, April 9. Katie turned in a stellar performance nabbing second place. Bran Mitchel was the winner and Beach School alum Kacie May took home third place. Turk competed in Gainesville in the Statewide Contest, April 23. She was the lone elementary school competitor. Stay tuned to the next edition of Island Times for the results.

MAKING THE GRADE
Congratulations to the following Pensacola Beach Elementary School students who were named to the Honor Roll for the third nine weeks:

**Debbie Campanella’s Second Grade Class**
- A Honor Roll:
  - Charlie Abston, Preston Alphonse, Ava Biland, Bella Ciolino, Colby Coolbaugh, Kayla Cote, Jack Cromey, Brayan Dadisman, Trey Hanson, Chloe Hargraves, Julia Hills, Brett Horton, Nick Jenkins, Stella Keigley, Mitchell McCoy, Lauren Olson, Graham Pennington, Mason Simpson, Madison Smith, Anna Uszok, Sidney Flemming and Lily Walker
- A/B Honor Roll:
  - Taima Cerone, Emery Diloreto, Whyatt Lei and Kaiden Vaughn

**Joy McLaurine’s Third Grade Class**
- A Honor Roll:
  - Izzy Beech, Dylan Doyen, Brody Hills, Carter Hoeft, Buck Trammell, Dima Webber and Kate Westholm
- A/B Honor Roll:
  - Paul Alphonse, Maggie Corley, Chloe McMillion, Austin Mickler, Lily Montgomery, Victor Petruc, Madison Randall, Daniel Satterfield and Riley Seeliger

**Erin Olson’s Fourth Grade Class**
- A Honor Roll:
  - Zoey Amjad, Audrey Foss, Ella Montgomery, Stellan Nilssen and Benjamin Olson
- A/B Honor Roll:
  - Noah Allen, Isaac Braun, Ian Bunting, Jacob Clifton, Nicholas Collins, Parker Cote, River Hunter, Will Jenkins, Ivey Johnson, Ella Kaufman, Maya Leshnov, Lily Hefert, Madeline Smith and Anderson Tanner

**Stacey Knapp’s Fifth Grade Class**
- A Honor Roll:
  - Eliza Abston, Baylen Crane, Zach Giovannini, Jack Gordon and Katie Turk
- A/B Honor Roll:
  - Kate Allen, Avae Dantino, Maggie Feltenberger, Emery Hasell, Taylor Jenkins, Eli Jones, Gracyn Phelps, McKell Spring, Hollyn Will and Caleb Wooden

Congratulations to the following Gulf Breeze Middle School students who earned a place on the Honor Roll during the third nine-week grading period:

**Sixth Grade**
- A Honor Roll:
  - Sheridan Balthazar, Peyton Bunting, Natalia Dadisman, Dominic Jackson, Madeline Johnson, Kacie May
- A/B Honor Roll:
  - Charlton Atkins, Taylor Brame, Brianna Dixon, Skylar Farej, Michael Mabire, Matthew McCoy, Gabriel Wilson

**Seventh Grade**
- A Honor Roll:
  - Elizabeth Friedrich, Audrey Gordon, Lauren Kent, Max Maetheer, Lauren Thompson, John Turk
- A/B Honor Roll:
  - Hannah Buchalter, Macy Cronin, Taylor Farej, Lauren Feltenberger, Lucas Hildebrand, Kai Hoffert, Jude Hunter, Ryan Jenkins, Ryland McCurdy, Christopher Osthimer, McKaylie Uhl

**Eighth Grade**
- A Honor Roll:
  - Ashley Etheredge, Erin Johnson, Chloe Hoffman, Matthew McCurdy, Kimberly Noble, Tekoah Roby
- A/B Honor Roll:
  - Ella Amos, Sofie Babcock, Mark Braxton, James Renfroe, Zachary Smoker, Victoria Williams

ROOKIES REIGN
Congrats to Gulf Breeze High Teacher Kimberly Messer and Gulf Breeze Middle Teacher Ryan Ottensmeyer who will be recognized at the Twenty-First Annual Rookie of the Year Reception on May 11 at Russell Elementary School. Santa Rosa’s Rookie of the Year 2016 will be announced during the awards presentation.

YOU NAME IT
The Beach School fourth grade class is working on their entries to the Gulf Islands National Seashore Name The Boat contest. Superintendent Dan Brown has extended the deadline to April 29 for local fourth grade classes to think of creative ferry boat names that are relevant to the National Seashore’s natural and cultural resources. The winning names will be adhered to the two Pensacola Bay Ferry boats which will dock at Fort Pickens, Quietwater Pier and Downtown Pensacola beginning March 2017. All students from the winning classes will be invited as special guests to the ribbon cutting ceremony in 2017, followed by a free ride on the ferry’s inaugural trip. More information is at nps.gov/guis.
Check www.navarrechamber.com for complete details.

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**Pensacola Beach Chamber volunteers served hungry patrons April 9 at the Pensacola Beach Crawfish Festival hosted by Bamboo Willie’s. Selling the mudbugs are (L to R): Beach Visitor’s Center Admin guru Allison Westmoreland, Pensacola Parade People owner and Chamber Board member Terry Preston, Beach resident Lois Hausman, and Covenant Hospice’s Larry Patterson. The festival benefits the Beach School and the Chamber.**

**Groms And Guppies Get Ready To Carve Em Up**

Hey Kids, it’s time to hit the waves. The Innerlight Kids Surf Contest is set for Saturday, May 21 at 9 a.m. on the Gulf front beach, just east of the Calle Hemos neighborhood. The first parking lot after the houses at the east end of the island is where contestants can park and walk over to check in.

“This is the most enjoyable contest you’ll ever enter. We place a premium on the competitor having the most fun,” said Shannon Gardner, event coordinator. “Here’s some good news. If you were registered to compete in the Innerlight Kid’s Surf Contest 2015 (which was cancelled due to poor weather conditions) you do not have to pay an additional entry fee or register. You are already in!”

The contest is open to any kid 16 and younger. Surfers who are seven-years and younger must have a parent or guardian in the water. Kids in the other divisions are allowed to have assistance from parent or guardian, but it is not required.

The entry fee is $10 which includes a free hat. Enter at any Innerlight location or get a registration packet at www.inerlightsurf.com/kids-surf-contest/. Contest is limited to 100 entries which will be taken on a first come, first served basis. Pre-registration ends May 18, and you may enter the day of the event, if there are any available slots.

Categories are: Guppies for surfers seven and younger; Menehune boys and Menehune girls for 8 to 10 year olds; Grom boys and Grom girls for surfers 11 to 13 years old; and Junior boys and Junior girls for 14 to 16-year-olds.

“Once upon a Time ” These four words begin the story and move us into the magical world of Disney’s Beauty and the Beast presented by the award winning Gulf Breeze High School drama department.

Beauty and the Beast premieres Saturday, May 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Saenger Theatre, 118 S. Palafox, downtown Pensacola. A second matinee performance is set for Sunday, May 15 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are available, at the Saenger Box Office or ticketmaster.com.

**Drama Students Present Classic Disney Story**
Island Times loves dogs!

Please use the Pensacola Beach Dog Parks. Mind the rules. Be a responsible pet owner.

Pensacola Beach's Station 13 was well represented in the first ever Pensacola Beach Firefighter's Challenge hosted by Pensacola Sports, April 9 at Casino Beach. Niels Andersen, left, and Dan Kunz participated in the Team Division where they served as part of a relay knocking down doors, carrying charged hoses through the sand, attacking the Kaiser sled, dragging a dummy and raising a coiled hose up two stories. Kunz also competed in the individual competition where he placed third overall. Thirty-five individuals entered from five different southeastern states.

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Seeing Stars

this week's horoscopes

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Temper your typical Aries urge to charge into a situation and demand answers. Instead, let the Lamb's gentler self emerge to deal with a problem that requires delicacy.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You are aware of what's going on, so continue to stand by your earlier decision, no matter how persuasive the counter-arguments might be. Money pressures will soon ease.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) By all means, have fun and enjoy your newly expanded social life. But don't forget that some people are depending on you to keep promises that are very important to them.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You need to wait patiently for an answer to a workplace problem and not push for a decision. Remember: Time is on your side. A financial matter needs closer attention.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You now have information that might be cropping up in what had seemed to be a straightforward deal.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Good news: You're finding that more doors are open- ing for you to show what you can do, and you don't even have to knock very hard to get the attention you're seeking.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your gift for creating order out of chaos will help you deal with a sudden rush of responsibilities that would threaten someone less able to balance his or her priorities.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Congratulations. Your energy levels are coming right back up to normal -- just in time to help you tackle some worthwhile challenges and make some important choices.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) The sage Sagittarian should demand a full explanation of inconsistencies.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A conflict between obligations to family and to the job can create stressful problems. Best advice: Balance your dual priorities so that one doesn't out- weigh the other.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Don't guess, speculate or gossip about that so-called mystery situation at the workplace. Bide your time. An explanation will be forthcoming very soon.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Boredom might be creeping in and causing you to lose interest in a repeat project. Deal with it by flipping over your usual routine and finding a new way to do an old task.

BORN THIS WEEK: You can warm the coldest heart with your lyrical voice and bright smile. You find yourself at home, wherever you are.

Sunrise and Sunset

by Susan Haselton-Barr

Jambo! (Hello Everybody) Parking Lot People. The definition of this term has varied in the last few decades, but the basic concept is the same. At the height of my Parking Lot People phase I spent most of it at an old watering hole on the beach. I am not going back as far as the Tiki - fast forward a few years and you arrive at Bobby D's on the beach.

If the building was too crowded, I sat happily in the car watching people come and go. What fun that was! Happy friends dropping by my car window to chat. Visiting about the week's happenings with a casual ease that is earned after years of friendship.

Today the world is full of peculiar. I see people sitting in their cars, all alone being Parking Lot People. When I glance through their windows they are madly texting away, totally void of any human contact. A sad state of affairs. Almost as if they manipulate reality to fit their needs.

I vote we go back to drive in movie theatres and ice cream socials. More face to face or eyeball communication. There is nothing better than seeing the lip curling up in laughter and the twinkle in someone's eyes when they are truly tickled over a story that is being told, or maybe retold.

Tip: Shower with your eyes closed. No not singing in the shower, just eyes closed. Find the soap and shampoo without looking. It'll give you a brainpower boost by taking your mind off autopilot. Because when we do routine things in a new way, it immediately stimulates the growth of new nerve cells that keep the brain flexible, while improving memory focus.

Then, call a few friends and play a game of Trivial Pursuit or charades.

May each sunrise bring you hope. May each sunset bring you peace.

Agency Hosts High Flying Contest

Win a three night weekend stay at the gorgeous Hilton Gulf front on Pensacola Beach during the Blue Angels Air Show weekend July 14-16 and help the Independence for the Blind of West Florida serve the area's sight challenged community. Independence for the Blind is offering tickets at five dollars each or discounts for greater quantities.

The drawing will be held June 28, at Bands on the Beach on Pensacola Beach. Winner does not need to be present. All proceeds benefit the Blind and Visually Impaired of Northwest Florida.

Tickets can be purchased through June 28 online at http://ibwest.org/angels-on-the-beach or by calling Sally McConnell 850-477-2663.

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Suite 5 • Pensacola
Flower Over To Butterfly House

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

It’s Sea Turtle Season

For most of us, this is not news - sea turtle season comes around every year and long time islanders know the deal - turn down the lights and remove items from the beach at night. But there are a lot of folks visiting our area who may not know about this issue and what they can (and in some cases… must) do to help.

May 1 is the official beginning of the sea turtle nesting season. Every year these “ladies” travel from around the Gulf to Pensacola Beach to dig nests for the next generation. All five species of sea turtles are federally protected, and four of the five are known to nest on western portion of Santa Rosa Island.

These animals face a variety of threats that have put them into the imperiled situation they are in. Derelict and active fishing gear, boat strikes, and drifting plastics are all problems offshore. When they reach the beach, the list includes uncovered holes, chairs, tents, more marine debris, more derelict fishing gear, and artificial lighting.

Being federally protected animals, local governments must do what they can to help manage their populations. Most visitors to the island should be aware that there is a county ordinance requiring all personal property be removed from the beach between dusk and dawn. In addition to this ordinance there are other things we encourage everyone to do. Under a particular litter problem along our shorelines and reducing this is actually very easy - just place it in a trash can.

1. Please fill in any holes that you dig in the sand after your day on the beach. Both sea turtles and humans fall into these. 2. Take all of your debris with you. The Santa Rosa Island Authority provides trash and recycle bins at each dune walkover. Food and beverage containers are a particular litter problem along our shorelines and reducing this is actually very easy - just place it in a trash can.

3. If fishing, try to recover any loose or cut monofilament. This is a problem for all wildlife on the beach. There are monofilament recycle containers on the fishing pier and at the Pensacola Beach Marina. 4. Use turtle friendly lighting. If you are visiting from out of town and cannot replace lighting, we ask that you turn as many of the lights off as you can during the evening. Remember to close your drapes to keep indoor lighting from reaching the beach.

If you have questions concerning the “Leave No Trace” ordinance contact the Santa Rosa Island Authority at 850-932-2257 or log on to www.VisitPensacolaBeach.com and click on “ordinances” and “Pensacola Beach Rules.”

If you would like to know more about how to make your lighting “turtle friendly” please contact the Escambia County Extension Office at 850-475-5230 or visit online at www.escambia.ifas.ufl.edu.

By practicing these behavior changes we should make the beach safer for everyone as well as have a real successful sea turtle nesting season.

King Crossword

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<tr>
<th>Across</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Frosty’s “eyes”</td>
<td>1. Barbershop item</td>
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<td>2. Family member</td>
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<td>3. Burden</td>
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The PBA Government Affairs committee members attended at the March 30 SRIA Special Meeting where the SRIA Board discussed the recent Court of Appeals ruling on the empty parcel of land east of the Portofino towers.

Several Board members seemed to feel that this ruling should put an immediate stop to any ongoing efforts to reduce lease fees. The PBA Governmental Affairs Committee recognizes that the ruling could affect leaseholder’s attempts to garner a cash-flee title since there is now another property designated as such. This does not affect our SRIA income nor the cost of SRIA operations.

Because of this, we will continue to encourage the SRIA Board to seek ways to reduce costs and reduce lease fees accordingly. Just as the Board has the authority to increase lease fees if operations require more money than incoming revenues, they should do the responsible thing and reduce lease fees when operations cost significantly less than revenues.

The SRIA will begin budget discussions over the next few months. Do you want the savings from reduced operations to be passed along in lease fee reductions? If so, please join us at some of these meetings and let your voice be heard!

For more information, log on to www.PBAdvocates.org.
Gulf Breeze - $158,900. 4/2 in two beautiful swimming pools. Located directly on the Gulf of Mexico. Steps from sparkling Gulf of water front, 1112 E. Garden St. Call for easy directions downtown since 1910. Reynalds, 36 oldest name in retail. We have been collecting, furniture, art, glassware, dishes, lamps and more. Pensacola's Antiques and Such For Sale

WATERFRONT: Three bedroom two bath Santa Rosa Shores home sits on a canal/148 feet of water front, 1112 Sunset Lane. 1421 sq. ft. $299,000. MLS# 492965 Linda Murphy, Keller Williams Realty 850-748-0865

I found her. I flounder. I oyster to read boring stuff

King Crossword

Solution time: 25 mins.

What's on the shelf of the Jane Waters Little Free Library Check it out!

- Books & Magazines
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- 1203 Ariola Drive
- Library tended with Love by Lizard the Librarian

Irish Times Classifieds

April
26: Pensacola Beach Chamber Meeting, Pensacola Beach RV Resort, 8:30 a.m. Guest passes, 850-932-1500
26: Bands on the Beach, 7-9 p.m. Gulfside Pavillion. Free concert. Ok to bring food, drink. No pets or glass. More info: Visit-PensacolaBeach.com
27: Santa Rosa Island Authority Meeting, 5 pm. #1 Via de Luna, Open to the Public. sria-fla.com
28: I Hate Open Water Swimming, TriGulfCoast.org. Membership required. 6:30 am
28: PB Traffic Congestion Public Input Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Beach Church
30: Pirate Day at Shaggy's to celebrate their new Pirate Ship

May
1: Sea Turtle Nesting Season
3: Bands on the Beach, 7-9 p.m. Gulfside Pavillion. Free concert. Ok to bring food, drink. No pets or glass. More info: Visit-PensacolaBeach.com
4: Santa Rosa Island Authority Meeting, 5 pm. #1 Via de Luna, Open to the Public. sria-fla.com
6: If you see a Horseshoe Crab, call 850-475-5230
6: Deadline to submit your ad to run in Trolley Times. Email: shelley@myislandtimes.com for more info.
7: PB Optimist Kentucky Derby Party, 3 p.m. Tickets,$25. Call 850-384-7436.
8: Mother’s Day
10: Bands on the Beach, 7-9 p.m. Gulfside Pavillion. Free concert. Ok to bring food, drink. No pets or glass. More info: Visit-PensacolaBeach.com
12: Portofino Tri, 6:30 p.m. TeamMpi.com
13: ProWatercross Jet Ski event, Gulf front. Thru weekend
14: Pensacola Beach Triathlon, Casino Beach, 7 a.m.
17: 5: Bands on the Beach, 7-9 p.m. Gulfside Pavillion. Free concert. Ok to bring food, drink. No pets or glass. More info: Visit-PensacolaBeach.com
21: Leftover Run 5K, 8 a.m.
21: Kids Surf Contest, 9 a.m. Innerlightsurf.com
21: Hands Across The Sand, 11-12:30, Casino Beach
21: 350 Pensacola Silent Demonstration, 8-Noon Gulfside Pavillion
22: If you see a Horseshoe Crab, call 850-475-5230
24: Chamber Meeting, 8:30 a.m. Springhill Suites
28: Beach Chamber Business After Hours, 5:30 p.m. RedFish, BlueFish, Pensacola BeachChamber.com
25: Santa Rosa Island Authority Meeting, 5 pm. #1 Via de Luna, Open to the Public. sria-fla.com
26: SunPass becomes operational at toll facility
27: Trolley services begins
28: Memorial Day Regatta, Pensacola Beach Yacht Club
29: Mere Mortals, Quietwater. Membership required. TriGulfCoast.com

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Pensacola Beach Yacht Club. 7: PB Optimist Kentucky Derby Party, 3 p.m. Tickets,$25. Call 850-384-7436.
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Q: “What is Google Alphabet?”
A: Google went public in the stock market in 2004. The company’s stock was initially being offered at a little over $100 a share. Wall Street analysts were skeptical of the young upstart’s valuation because they couldn’t really understand Google’s business model or their plans for growth. The analysts were not sure that Google’s search engine could compete with the likes of Microsoft and Yahoo. The company was valued at $27 billion, which was then approximately equal to the value of General Motors.

A lot has changed since that time. It looks like it would have been a very smart move to buy the Google stock back then at $100. Today it is priced at approximately $760 per share. The company has expanded and has recently been renamed to Alphabet. Its current valuation is around $533 billion, which is close to the value of Apple.

Take In A Creature Feature

Gulf Islands National Seashore at Fort Pickens provides protection for a wide variety of habitats for a myriad of species. Take a break from the sun and learn about some of the plants and animals that call the seashore home during The Creature Feature, Saturdays and Sundays at 3:30 p.m. Guests should meet at the Fort Pickens Museum.

The 30 minute talk is ADA accessible and fun for the entire family.

Every month seems to have an emphasis on various concerns. Last time I wrote about safe driving awareness, and this week I want to share some thoughts on “Sexual Abuse Awareness.” It’s not an easy topic to discuss, but something of which we should have knowledge. Many of these facts come from the “Institute of Education Services, National Center for Education Statistics,” along with other resources on the Internet.

For starters, child maltreatment will be experienced by 1 in 10 children; sexual abuse affects 1 in 16 children; and family violence will be witnessed by nearly 1 in 10 children. Abused children make up 25 percent of those under the age of three; while 45 percent of abused children are under the age of five.

In 2012, 1,593 children in the United States died because of abuse or neglect. Of that number, 70.3 percent were under the age of three; and 44.4 percent were younger than one year of age.

Of course, sexual abuse is not limited to these early ages. Every year 2.9 million child abuse reports are made, some by teachers, law enforcement representatives, and social service providers. Several years ago, during 2012, in 80 percent of the cases the parent was the perpetrator; 82.2 percent of perpetrators were between 18 and 44 years of age; and 39.6 percent were in the age group of 25-34.

It has been estimated that the annual cost of child abuse in the United States is $124 billion. There is not enough space to discuss this at length, but there are signs of abuse that appear and as parents and concerned persons, we should educate ourselves on those signs.

For those interested, you could check out these sites: www.911rape.org; www.aflersi-ence.org; www.ncve.org.

As a sign of solidarity, many placed a blue ribbon on our mailboxes, or on a tree in our yard, or anywhere conspicuous, that suggests to everyone to be aware of the emphasis on sexual and physical abuse during this month of April. Be vigilant all year long. No one deserves to be one of the many abused persons in our society.
CRABS ON THE BEACH

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 outdoor/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.crbsegotem.com

PARADISE BAR AND GRILL


Lillo’s Tuscan Grille

At the northernmost location in the Soundside Market, Lillo’s legacy recipes and Italian hospitality bring customers back time and time again. Homemade lasagna, pizzas, award winning desserts. Full bar, great wine selection. Meet Steve and his family who have been serving the public for over 30 years. First bar on the Beach to offer this tasty frozen concoction. Something’s always shakin’ - Monday half price BARE 10 a.m. til close; Trivia at 9 p.m., Tuesday is Karaoke with Becky, Throwback Thursday with half price drinks if you have on your Shaker Shirt. Live Entertainment Year Round. Check out the Gift Shop. Across from the Boardwalk. Open 10 am - 3 am. 850-932-2211. Check out our calendar! www.lillostuscangrille.com

PegLeg Pete’s

Ahoy, Matey. You’ve found a Pensacola Beach treasure. Pirates welcome. Fresh Gulf seafood served in the galley or outside on the awning covered deck. Glass front bar overlooks LaFitte Cove. All kinds of oysters. Live lobster. Gumbo. Dinner specials nightly. Sizeable sandwiches and burgers for Landlubbers. Take home a t-shirt. Look for the Jolly Rogers flying over the west end of the Island at 1010 Fort Pickens Road. We’re here everyday at 11. 932-4139. www.peglegpetes.com

Flounder’s Chowder House

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

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

McGuire’s Irish Pub

One of America’s great steakhouses; proudly serving USDA Prime Steaks, seafood and Irish specialties including Irish fisherman’s bouillabaisse, Corned Beef and Cabbage and Shepherd’s Pie all inside a turn of the century New York Irish Saloon themed pub. McGuire’s is celebrated for its atmosphere, boasting more than 750,000 signed dollar bills hanging from the ceilings of the pub. Live entertainment coupled with great food and warm and friendly service by Employees who Give a Damn! Visit our on-site brewery and the O’Toff Wine Cellar featuring the complete vertical collection of the Chateau Mouton Rothschild Artist Series. Featured on NBC’s ‘Today’ Show, highly recommended by Fodors, Frommers and AAA travel guides, Florida Trend Magazine Hall of Fame Member. Open every day at 11, 850-433-6789, mcguiresirishpub.com

Sandshaker Lounge

The “World Famous Sandshaker” - a Pensacola Beach Tradition since 1973. Home of the Original Bushwacker. Been selling this signature drink for over 30 years. First bar on the Beach to offer this tasty frozen concoction. Something’s always shakin’ - Monday half price BARE 10 a.m. til close; Trivia at 9 p.m., Tuesday is Karaoke with Becky, Throwback Thursday with half price drinks if you have on your Shaker Shirt. Live Entertainment Year Round. Check out the Gift Shop. Across from the Boardwalk. Open 10 am - 3 am. 850-932-2211. Check out our calendar! www.sandshaker.com

The Islander Lounge and Package


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Bamboo Willie’s Beachside Bar

Never Hurts To Tri .......... 

By Charles Gheen

USAT Certified Race Director
Santa Rosa Island Triathlon

Lovin’ The Mullet Man

Two weeks ago, I was feeling very guilty and a bit “depressed” because I had not registered for the Mullet Man Triathlon at the Florabama bar on Perdido Key. True, I am completely untrained and haven’t swum a stroke in months. True, my only cycling for months has been on a spin bike at Anytime Fitness in downtown Pensacola. And, true, I have had a viral infection for weeks that won’t go away and that has greatly hampered my respiration and running. But, it’s the Mullet Man, right?

I think I’ve run the Mullet Man six or seven times over the years. USA Triathlon does not sanction it and it is not conducted in accordance with the same standards that every other multi-sport race you’ve been in has followed to a “T.” It’s eclectic in many ways and the post-race party is always in and around the Florabama which reeks of smoke. But, it has its own special charm and appeal.

The swim is in the Gulf of Mexico which has different wave patterns on the state line, than at Pensacola Beach and, in April, the water is usually quite cold. I wore a wetsuit only once and it tried to strangly me so I won’t be wearing a wetsuit there ever again. At times they have not anchored the buoys properly and, sometimes, the buoys have floated west towards Orange Beach or southwest towards Mexico. Add it all up and the swim is usually an adventure of varying distances. It is supposed to be one-third of a mile in length.

After you come in from the swim you mount your bicycle just outside of Transition and then ride across traffic on the beach road and head west across the bridge and into Alabama. There are no cones on the bike course, but the bike path is great and there are usually people at the few intersections to keep cars from pulling out in front of you. The turnaround has varied (according to my bike computer) over the years from 8 to 9 miles out. This has made the bike leg anywhere from 16 to 18 miles long. I guess, however, that we are all riding the same distance and we all have to cross the bridge twice so that’s not really too big of a deal.

The run is classic as you come out of Transition, run across the road, then run to the bridge and around the supports (so that you’re under it). That’s about 2.1 miles and then you run back for 4.2 miles total. The people at the Florabama try to make it a great event and they always have a band, hot food and good awards.

So I was feeling bad about missing my 6.5 mile run 6:30 that morning starting at 6:40 a.m. and then decided to drive out and see the race go down. As we got over the Baars Bridge and onto Perdido Key, we could feel and see the intensity of the wind from the east. I thought “wow, the headwind on the way back is going to be monstrous. I wonder what the swim was like?”

Soon after parking I checked with the timing crew and found out the swim was canceled because the Gulf was way too rough. I walked down to the beach and saw that they had made the right decision, but I was disappointed for the competitors.

The last of the bikes were coming in when I got there and the riders looked windblown and exhausted, to say the least, from riding 8.5 miles back against a strong headwind. Although the faster athletes were done, I got to see much of the field go out on the run and then finish the race. They too had to fight the wind on the home leg of the run discipline. I talked to a lot of the athletes and they were smiling wryly as they verified my thoughts about the swim and the wind. Remember when I was feeling guilty about not signing up for this year’s race? I’ve amended my attitude and I look forward to next year’s amazing race on Perdido Key.

Boston Marathon Thoughts

I watched the Boston Marathon on the excellent coverage provided by the NBC Sports Network. It was amazing and dramatic as usual. I have a soft spot for this race, as most runners do, because of its history and because of the bombing tragedy in 2013. So, while I’m focused on the race, the competition and following our local runners, I also have the people who were killed, injured and traumatized squarely in my mind.

This year the race was a beautiful, sunny day that may have been too hot. Both of the elite races (male and female) were run at a pedestrian pace. No one seemed to want to race hard or fast perhaps due to the temperature. So it devolved into a “strategic” race where no one would press the pace and everyone ran along together until the latter stages of the course.

In the end the Ethiopian athletes dominated the Kenyan athletes in both genders and the winning times were well off record pace. The top Americans were on the sidelines resting up for the marathon at the Olympic games in Rio de Janeiro and did not compete. I enjoyed it immensely, but someday, somehow, I want to see our runners race for the title.
This season will help maintain fishing opportunities for recreational anglers in state waters and provide additional May and fall weekend fishing days according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

There's absolutely no reason you shouldn't be out there right now soaking up the sun and enjoying this perfect weather! The fishing is fantastic right now. So what are you waiting for? Grab a kid and go fishing!

Congratulations go out to Joseph Dewberry! Not only did he put his boat “The Answer” in the water for some fine Cobia fishing; he earned his 100 ton captain's license. Way to go! And he brought home some pretty Cobia, too.

Gena Glover posted a Cobia photo online taken at Paradise Bar and Grill. Pretty exciting weekend for all. It's all about the Cobia this month, guys.

Those aren't the only fish out there. Dylan Johnson pulled in plenty of Jack out on Pensacola Beach Pier.

Now to a few bits of information you’re going to need in the next few days. At its April 13 meeting in Jupiter, Florida the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) approved a measure to lower the recreational Red Drum daily bag limit in the northwest Red Drum management zone (Escambia County through Fred Howard Park near Pasco County) from two fish to one fish per person.

This change will go into effect Sunday, May 1. The daily bag limit is also one in the southwest management zone, which means after this change is effective, the daily bag limit will be one Red Drum per person, per day in all Gulf of Mexico state waters.

All other Red Drum regulations remain the same, including the eight fish vessel limit and six fish per person transport limit.

These changes come as the result of stakeholder concerns that Red Drum populations have declined in some parts of the Panhandle region of northwest Florida since 2013, the final year of data included in the most recent stock assessment. May 1 - that is this Sunday, guys!

In addition Red Snapper season is as follows:

The 2016 season will open Saturdays and Sundays in May starting May 7. On May 28, the season will open continuously through July 10. Finally, the season will reopen for Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays in September and October, and on Labor Day. This would provide for a 78-day season in Gulf state waters.
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WEDNESDAY
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THURSDAY
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FRIDAY
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