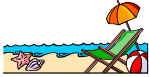


**SUMMER EDITION OF THE OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS
NEWSLETTER, THE OIL LANTERN
Page 1 of 8 Pages**



**P.O. Box 4323 OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION,
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32549**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

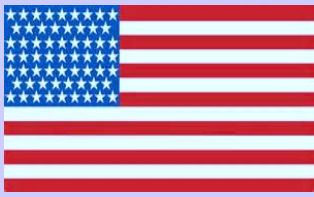
The next meeting of the OILA will be on Monday, September 13, 2021. Details about this meeting and an agenda will be provided in the September 2021 OIL Lantern. OILA does not hold regularly scheduled meetings during the months of July and August. This edition of the OIL Lantern is to keep the membership informed and updated about Summer 2021 events and activities .

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- ◆ Okaloosa Island **ROCKS** the 4th of July
 - Pelican Drive Block Party
 - Fabulous Flag Ladies of Okaloosa Island
- ◆ Island Rainfall Report for June/July 2021
- ◆ Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel Addresses the Leaseholders at June 14 Meeting
- ◆ Remember the Selective Service Draft Card?
- ◆ Wuzzle Puzzles
- ◆ Invitation from the Okaloosa Island Fire District to Attend 2021-2022 Budget Workshops
- ◆ These Months in History – July & August
- ◆ Okaloosa Island To Get Flashing Yellow Lights at Crosswalk
- ◆ “Pickles” is Prospering
- ◆ Comments from OILA Board Member, **Brick Bradford**, to the Membership
- ◆ Wuzzle Puzzles Answers



ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2011 THE OKALOOSA ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT UNVEILED THIS MEMORIAL CREATED BY FORMER OIFD FIRE COMMISSIONER NICK CORBO. THE MEMORIAL IS DEDICATED TO ALL INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED BY THE TRAGIC EVENTS OF SEPT 11, 2001.



The OIL Lantern

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS
ASSOCIATION, Inc

P.O. Box 8116, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548 Editor: Jim Simpson, (850) 585-2116
Association Website: www.oilaweb.com

OKALOOSA ISLAND "ROCKS" THE 4TH OF JULY, 2021 – MUSIC & FLAGS!

THE PELICAN DRIVE 4TH OF JULY BLOCK PARTY IS BACK! - by Nancy Hunt

In years past, Jim and Shirley Simpson were the host - event planner/coordinators of the 4th of July block party held on Pelican. It was always a wonderful event (rain free) that the neighborhood enjoyed. Many years, my grandchildren and children, just like so many others, would say, ". Remember how much fun the Pelican 4th of July block party was?" An American celebration at its finest! Neighbors got together for food, fun and an old fashioned sense of community. The men pitched in with the barbeque and set up, while the ladies brought their best "brag dish" to share for the potluck. The Simpsons planned a kids parade and they were allowed to experience one of our Okaloosa Island fire trucks. A highlight was the honoring of servicemen by playing their respective anthem. The dunking booth and the water balloon free-for-all was always a welcomed reprieve from the very hot July weather. So, the ball for another July 4th celebration on Pelican Drive began to roll when my family went to hear a rising star perform right here on Okaloosa Island at The Island. When son Dylan Hunt heard Corbette Jackson sing, he said, "I want to hire him for July 4th!". So, daughter Stacey got son Jesse in touch with Corbette and voila, the revival of the Simpson's July 4th was born. A huge thank you to Jesse and Dylan for providing our July 4th celebration with this fabulous entertainer! An organizing group formed consisting of : Barbara Secondi, Pittsburgh, Carmen Parker, Stacey Young, Jesse Hunt, and Dylan Hunt. A flyer was made and distributed (with help from Scarlett Young, Jenna and April Hunt), lists were made of supplies needed, phone calls and details were hammered out. ((WHEW, how did Jim and Shirley do all this???) Weather wasn't even thought about since it NEVER before rained on this event. About a week before, the fear of rain woke me from a sound sleep. Yikes, we need a plan B. Searched around and found The Islander had a large space available to rent- great! RSVPs were happening. Recalculating purchases and trips to Sam's club were many. (Gratitude for Jim and Shirley multiplying!) July 4th arrived, weather reported possibility of showers ending by noon. Hurray, I thought, we lucked out. Well as you all know living here, the weather is always 30% chance of rain, and changes rapidly. Thinking we were good to go with our outdoor plan we went into action. Craig Holton picked up the dunking booth and Bob Ayers filled it with water. The stage loaned to us from The Island was picked up by: Farley Street, Nick Hall, Jesse and Dylan Hunt. Then they picked up and set up the tables and chairs so graciously loaned to us by our very own Okaloosa Fire Department. A huge thank you to those that helped with set up and tear down: Pat Casey, Carmen and Alan Parker, Russ Opie, Nick and Cathy Hall, Farley Street, Gary, Dylan, Amy, Jesse, Jenna and April Hunt, and Chris DaSilva. The Garden Club set up a tent for their Fire Department calendar fundraiser.

If you were one of the many that braved the squalls that arrived just before our 5pm start, a huge thank you!! Most of our beautiful decorations and flags sadly were blown away. The potluck dishes brought were top notch!! Keeping up with the demand for the burgers and hot dogs in the rain was a challenge. The huge American flag backdrop provided by Dylan was able to be stood up eventually (but sadly it was still too windy during the singing of our National Anthem)



Corbette Jackson and His Band Provided the Music at the Pelican 4th of July Block Party

Despite the wind and the rain, we were very blessed that at 7pm, start time for Corbette Jackson, the rain finally stopped. Miraculously, no rain at all from 7 pm to 10 pm the concert time. Corbette sang our National Anthem acapella and all stood with their hand over their heart. Many enjoyed playing games, dunking Alan Parker in the dunking booth, and dancing to the fabulous music of Corbette Jackson!! Our Island firemen made an appearance and with tradition, brought a fire truck for the kids to enjoy. Corbette Jackson's music was fabulous!! The following Sunday he was on NBC singing the National Anthem for the opening of NASCAR. The unexpected rain and wind of July 4, 2021 didn't dampen the spirit of Okaloosa Islanders for our country's birthday bash!!

If you missed out on the 4th, Corbette Jackson will be playing at The Island by their beach bar on Saturday Sept. 4 at 7pm.

Continued on next page

THE PELICAN DRIVE 4TH OF JULY BLOCK PARTY IS BACK! - by Nancy Hunt (continued)

Photos of the crowd follow. Around 200 folks attended the event.



THE FABULOUS FLAG LADIES OF OKALOOSA ISLAND DO IT AGAIN!



For the 3rd year in a row, the Fabulous Flag Ladies of Okaloosa Island, **BETH JETER** (left) and **CONNIE HERRING** (right) have celebrated the 4th of July by populating the Welcome Triangle at Hwy 98 and Santa Rosa Blvd and the medians on Santa Rosa Blvd with hundreds of American flags. **THANK YOU LADIES!** Very impressive!



A TIP OF THE HAT TO ERA AMERICAN REAL ESTATE FOR DONATING THE FLAGS.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

David Sherry

554 Coral Court, Unit 511
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548
850-244-2744 (Land Line)
Beach_boy_dave@yahoo.com

Vice-President

Rick Deckert

274 Ventura Court N.W.
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548
850-699-0060 (Cell)
850-862-2675 (Land Line)
Richarddeckert@yahoo.com

Secretary

John S. Donovan

5135 Trumbull Court
Atlanta, GA 30338
770-686-5646 (Cell)
770-393-4993 (Atl Land Line)
850-244-5792 (El Mat Land line)
jdovonan1@mindspring.com

Director

Brick Bradford

Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548
850-218-0990
brickmbradford@yahoo.com

Director

Ed Henderson

520 Santa Rosa Blvd 716
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548
901-292-1473
rehenderson1@aol.com

Director

Jack Pous

118 Lisa Marie Place
Shalimar, FL 32579
512-796-896
jpous@ducinc.net

Director

Jesse Hunt

Treasurer & Newsletter Editor

Jim Simpson

240 Brooks St, Unit B302
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548
850-585-2116
sanleanna@cox.net



**JOIN THE
LEASEHOLDERS!
LET YOUR
OPINIONS BE
HEARD!**

**FOR A MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
CLICK ON THE ASSOCIATION'S
WEBPAGE:**

WWW.OILAWEB.COM

OR

**CONTACT JIM SIMPSON
at (850) 585-2116 or by email at:**

SANLEANNA@COX.NET

**OKALOOSA COUNTY DISTRICT TWO
(District 2 includes Okaloosa Island)
COMMISSIONER, CAROLYN
KETCHEL, ADDRESSED OILA AT
THE JUNE 14 MEETING**



Commissioner Ketchel and County Staff provided updates on pending Island projects including:

- Okaloosa Island Systems
- NuShore Beach Re-Nourishment
- Brooks Bridge Update
- Boat Basin Restoration Update
- Median Landscaping Update

OILA thanks Commissioner Ketchel for this information.

ISLAND RAINFALL FOR JUNE & JULY 2021



June 2021 Rainfall: 6.5 Inches

June 5.....0.1 inches	June 18....0.3 inches
June 12.....0.8 inches	June 19....1.1 inches
June 13.....0.1 inches	June 20....0.1 inches
June 15.....1.1 inches	June 21....0.7 inches
June 17.....0.1 inches	June 22....2.0 inches
	June 27....0.1 inches

June Avg Rainfall.....4.0 inches
Variance to Average.....+ 2.5 inches

July 2021 Rainfall: 7.0 Inches

July 2.....0.3 inches	July 11....0.4 inches
July 3.....1.1 inches	July 12....1.7 inches
July 4.....0.1 inches	July 19....0.2 inches
July 5.....0.9 inches	July 20....0.1 inches
July 6.....1.2 inches	July 28....0.1 inches
	July 31....0.9 inches

July Avg Rainfall.....8.5 inches
Variance to Average - 1.5 inches

Aug Avg Rainfall.....7.2 inches
Aug Record High.....103° F (1980)
Aug Record Low59° F (1989)
Aug Avg Water Temperature.....85° F

YTD Variance + 3.40 inches

Year to Date Rainfall.....39.4 inches
Avg Annual Rainfall65.1 inches

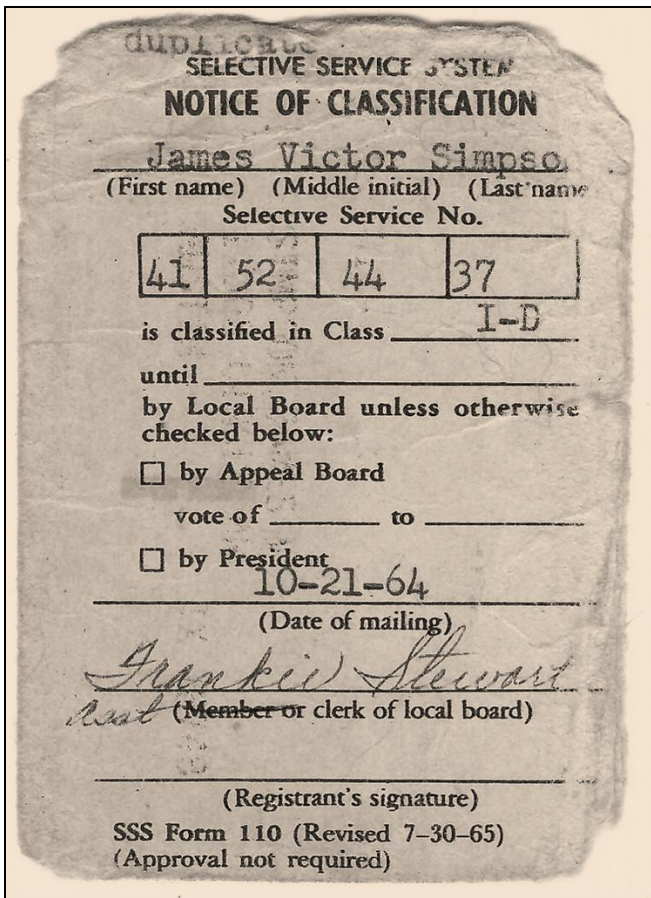
Tongue Twister

Pablo Picasso (1881 -1973) – Picasso's original name was: **Pablo Diego José Francisco de Paula Juan Nepomuceno María de los Remedios Cipriano de la Santísima Trinidad Ruiz Picasso**. For convenience reasons, he shortend it to just Pablo Picasso.

OILA DUES FOR THE 2021-2022 MEMBERSHIP YEAR DUE ON OCTOBER 1, 2021

Membership dues for the coming year are due October 1. A membership renewal notification letter along with a stamped, return-addressed envelope will be mailed in September to members who are due renewal. **Members may also renew at the September 13 meeting.**

Membership dues are \$12 a year. If you elect to receive the newsletter by U.S. Mail, the total due is \$18 (\$12 membership plus a \$6 newsletter subscription fee).



Front Side

REMEMBER THE "DRAFT CARD" FROM THE 1960'S AND 1970'S?

by Jim Simpson, Editor, The OIL Lantern

To the left and below is my Selectie Service System draft card (front & back) from 1964. Yes, I know – it looks like it was a found with the Dead Sea scrolls. Details about this card and the history of the selective service system continue below.



Back Side

This card was issued to me in 1964 by the Selective Service Board in Pampa, Texas (Where Wheat Grows and Oil Flows) in October 1964. At Texas Tech I took ROTC as an elective during my freshman and sophomore years and starting with my junior year in ROTC, I signed a contract to accept an officer's commission in the Air Force upon graduation in 1966. As such I was classified in **Class 1-D - Qualified member of reserve component, or student taking military training, including R.O.T.C. and accepted aviation cadet applicant.** Upon graduation I was commissioned; then reported for active duty at Barksdale AFB located in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Other Common Classifications Were:

Class 1-A: Available for military service

Class 2-S: Student deferment

Class IV-F: Registrant not qualified for military service (Klinger?)

In 1973, at the end of the Vietnam War, Congress abolished the draft in favor of an all-volunteer Army (AVA); however, in 1980 President Carter reinstated the requirement that men must register with the Selective Service System.

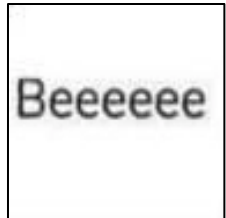
WUZZLE PUZZLES

- What is a Wuzzle Puzzle? It is a puzzle consisting of combinations of words, letters, figures, or symbols positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, etc. Are you ready to take the challenge and figure out the "disguised" meaning of these wuzzles? Good luck. The answers are available on the last page of this newsletter.

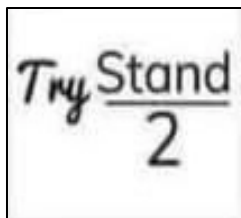
Wuzzle No. 1



Wuzzle No. 2



Wuzzle No. 3



Wuzzle No. 4



Wuzzle No. 5



**INVITATION TO OKALOOSA ISLAND FIRE DISTRICT WORKSHOPS.
SUBJECT: 2021-2022 BUDGET**

To Okaloosa Island Lease Holders

Dear Residents,

The Okaloosa Island Fire Department will be hosting workshops concerning a tax increase for the 2021/2022 fiscal year on the following dates.

August 17, 2021. 5:30 p.m. and September 7, 2021. 5:30 p.m.

I encourage residents to attend one of the two dates to be informed of all the things your fire department does and understand the challenges that we are facing as a fire department and as a community.

As you may have noticed by the unprecedented amount of traffic and tourists this year, the community of Okaloosa Island today is much different than the past. The demands on the Okaloosa Island Fire Department are also different.

The workshops will include a presentation that informs the residents of Okaloosa Island of the efforts that have been made to acquire alternate funding in lieu of a property tax increase, how your money is used and what to expect moving forward. I will remain after the presentation to answer questions.

Please RSVP so that I can add dates if necessary. To RSVP please email adminasst@oifd.org with the date you plan to attend.

Sincerely

Michael Ray Strawn

Fire Chief

Okaloosa Island Fire Department



THESE MONTHS IN HISTORY – JULY AND AUGUST

Month of July

July 4, 1946 - Philippines gain independence from US, on schedule despite World War II.

July 12, 1927 - "Green Giant" Great Big Tender Peas were trademark registered.



July 10, 1040 - In an effort to force her husband, the Earl of Mercia, to lower taxes, Lady Godiva rides naked on a horse through the streets of Coventry.

July 17, 1918 - In the Russian town of Ekaterinburg in Siberia, former Czar Nicholas II, his wife Alexandra, and their five children were brutally murdered by Bolsheviks.

July 18, 1976 - Nadia Comăneci becomes the first gymnast in Olympic Games history to score a perfect 10 score at the Montreal Games.

July 24, 1898 - American pilot Amelia Earhart (1898-1937) was born in Atchison, Kansas. She became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic and to fly solo from Hawaii to California.



July 30, 1933 - The Monopoly board game was copyright registered, and Charles Darrow, the inventor, became the first millionaire game designer after he sold his patent to Parker Brothers.

Month of August

August 2, 1876 - Wild Bill Hickock is killed during a poker game. He was holding a "Dead Man's Hand", two pair aces and 8's.

August 6, 1890 - Murderer John Hart is the first person to be executed in an electric chair.

August 9, 1173 - Construction of the Tower of Pisa begins. It takes two centuries to be completed!

August 14, 1945 - Japan surrenders, ending World War II.

August 15, 1911 - Proctor and Gamble creates Crisco shortening



August 20, 1897 - British doctor Sir Ronald Ross discovers the link between mosquitos and the transmission of malaria was discovered.



August 27, 1883 - Krakatoa volcano in Indonesia erupts with a force of over 1,300 megatons. One of the biggest natural disasters ever recorded. It was heard over 3,000 miles away and created a 120 foot high tsunami.

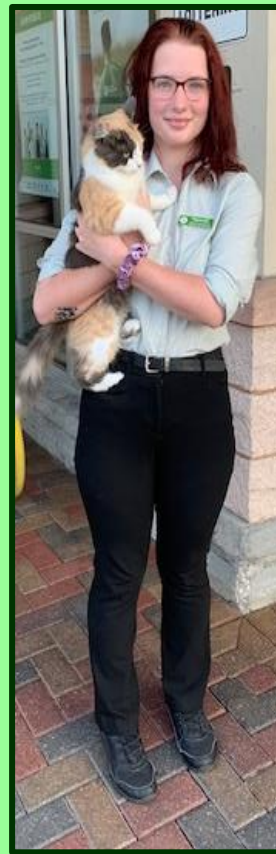
Okaloosa Island To Get Lights At Crosswalk

(Tony Judnich Northwest Florida Daily News USA TODAY NETWORK). Extract from article follows...



OKALOOSA ISLAND — By the end of this year, Okaloosa County officials hope to have button-activated, yellow flashing lights installed at various pedestrian cross walks along Santa Rosa Boulevard. The solar-powered warning lights are planned to be positioned at each crosswalk in front of the county's seven public beach accesses along the often busy four-lane island road.

Early last year, the county completed a project to ensure an ADA-compliant crosswalk, along with signage, was in place next to each access. The seven accesses stand along the 2-mile stretch of Santa Rosa Boulevard between U.S. Highway 98 and Eglin Air Force Base property on Okaloosa Island.



UP DATE!

“PICKLES”, THE PUBLIX “GREETER CAT”, IS HAPPY AND PROSPERING

As seen in the photo to the left, Pickles is resting comfortably cradled in the arms of Publix Associate, “Hannah”.

For a couple of years Pickles has greeted customers at the entrance to the Publix located in Paradise Pointe shopping center. And, of course, she welcomes food and



COMMENTS FROM OILA BOARD MEMBER, BRICK BRADFORD, TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Hello Neighbors,

I reached out to thank Commissioner Ketchel for attending our last OILA meeting at the Convention Center on 14 June... I addressed issues related to Santa Rosa Blvd and her response follows my comments...

Good afternoon Commissioner Ketchel,

I so appreciate your time and the Okaloosa County staff personnel who took time away from family to meet with OILA members during the evening of 14 June 2021.

One of the continuing challenges we face is developing a comprehensive growth management strategy and vision for Okaloosa Island. This is especially true regarding the County's goal of improving infrastructure and the beautification initiative along Santa Rosa BLVD (SRB). Yet I was most disappointed to learn from Mr. Bitterman that the \$100K requested and approved last January for more comprehensive drawings has still not been completed. My understanding was Mr. Autrey committed himself to having these drawings completed and presented to the public and BCC in June; however, Mr. Bitterman stated that Public Works is still taking suggestions and there is no definitive date set for the drawings to be completed at this time. I find this position from our County Public Works department unacceptable.

To be candid, whether sidewalks should be placed on the North and South side of SRB should not be determined exclusively by public input, rather such a decision should be primarily influenced by the ability to effectively drain water from the boulevard. Director Jesse Hunt asked if a hydrodynamic survey has been conducted to determine predictability of existing green spaces to effectively drain water from our streets. Whereas residents are already suffering from ongoing flooding issues on SRB that can result from a single afternoon thunderstorm, Mr. Bitterman explained he was not aware that any study has been performed to date. It seems rather obvious that a survey to assess flooding and storm water mitigation would be a necessary first step in developing any civil engineering strategy for the development or improvement of communities. Practically speaking, with the flooding issues Okaloosa Island already has, a primary factor would be to address suitable drainage solutions and provide options for SRB infrastructure improvements accordingly. For example, if more green space is required for adequate drainage, then eliminating the idea of an additional Southside sidewalk could be easily made.



Brick Bradford

Continued on next page

Ultimately, it is most frustrating to think Okaloosa Islanders will continue to live with habitual flooding and abysmal sidewalks for another 6 to 8 years as projected by Mr. Autrey during our meeting last February. Yet this posture also lends itself to another disappointing issue, the perception that our County Commissioners habitually fail to follow through with planned initiatives affecting Okaloosa Islanders specifically. For example, two years ago the BCC unanimously voted to study the issue of regulating Beach Vendors on Okaloosa Island. First there was zero follow through to delegate or hire an entity to conduct the study approved. Secondly, a BCC was to finalize resolutions sometime during the fall of 2020, but that agenda never occurred. Consequently, in the absence of any decision made by our BCC, Beach Vendors daily incursions on the majority of our beach front areas continues.

That said, I am delighted you agree that interactive flashing lights provides for improved safety at our beach access crosswalks, but the question of whether the BCC will respond with more good intentions or actual commitment to accomplishment remains.

In closing, Okaloosa Islanders are desperate for the BCC to take immediate action to improve our infrastructure along SRB. In fact, what would really delight the homeowners specifically is if the scope of work included resurfacing our residential streets as well.

I thank you for your time and consideration,

Respectfully, Brick Bradford

The Response from Commissioner Carolyn Kitchel follows:

Good morning Mr. Bradford,

First off, thank you for your email. I too enjoyed joining the OILA meeting and thought there was some good discussion on a lot of issues. Moving forward, I hope they will have me attend at least once a year.

In your email, I think you raise some very good points of which I discussed with County staff. In general, I have asked them to get moving on some of these projects that we have been kicking around for some time. To that end, they are working on the additional designs for Santa Rosa Boulevard and are expecting to have some new concepts/layouts to show in September. As soon as they receive them, they will be presenting them for consideration. However, after this round, realizing that everyone won't agree, I am going to push the County to make decisions and get rapidly moving on the projects that are approved. I have expedited design/permitting phase and hope to see construction of some or all of the elements in spring of 2022. It is a fairly aggressive timeline from where we are at now, but I have got to move us forward from "paralysis by analysis"

That being said, I don't have full control of the process or approvals but will do my best to respect everyone's opinions and get some things done.

Thank you for support for improvements (specifically storm water) and I hope you can attend some of these meeting to give us your input and help push these to the construction project phase.

My Sincere Thanks,

Carolyn N. Ketchel, Chairman
Okaloosa County Board of
County Commissioners

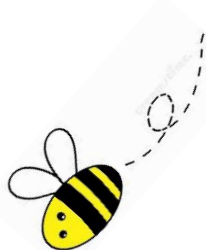
WUZZLE PUZZLES ANSWERS

Wuzzle No. 1



Jack in a Box

Wuzzle No. 2



Bee Line

Wuzzle No. 3



Trying to Stand Up

Wuzzle No. 4



Apple Pie

Wuzzle No. 5



Neon Lights