

**FEBRUARY 2024 EDITION OF THE OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS
NEWSLETTER, THE OIL LANTERN**

Page 1 of 11 Pages



P.O. Box 4323
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32549

**OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS
ASSOCIATION**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Our February 2024 meeting will be held on **Monday, February 12** starting at 7 pm. For our February meeting, members will have the option of attending the meeting in-person at the Okaloosa Island Firehouse (104 Santa Rosa Blvd) or attending over the internet by Zoom. In a few days OILA members will receive a Zoom meeting invitation by e-mail, with instructions on how to join the meeting.

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THE OIL LANTERN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE OKALOOSA ISLAND
LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION, Inc
P.O. Box 4323, Fort Walton Beach, FL 3254
Editor: Jim Simpson, (850) 585-2116
Association Website: www.oilaweb.com
February 2024



OILA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023-2024

President:

Brian Harrington
604 Pelican Drive
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548
850-420-8410
Haibiss01@yahoo.com

Vice-President

Louis Belanger
1800 Butternut Ave
Metairie, LA 70001
504-453-4575
Louis.belanger@bellsouth.net

Director

Jerry Boggess
8202 Persimmon Lane
Long Beach, MS 39560
228-323-0264
Jerry.w.boggess@gmail.com

Director

Stanley King
2485 Oakleigh Ct NE
Atlanta, GA 30345
404-931-9693
Skinq3@mindspring.com

Director

Dr. Frank Adcock
8596 Rockcreek Pkwy
Cordova, TN 38016
901-484-9391
fadcock1@comcast.net

Director

David Jones
P.O. Box 1029
Andalusia, AL 36420
334-488-1773
beachhaven203@gmail.com

Director

Dylan Hunt
628 Pelican Drive
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548
353-562-4700
dylan.i.hunt@gmail.com

Treasurer & Newsletter Editor

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

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)
Donovanjyd41@gmail.com

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT – Brian Harrington

A safe route for non-motorized traffic from Okaloosa Island to Destin has been long-needed and 2024 kicked off with the Bridge-to-Bridge Bike Path one step closer to becoming a reality. After 5 years of negotiations with the USAF and FDOT, County officials have ratified the signature on an easement from Eglin Air Force Base. This action allows construction of a 12 ft wide multi-use pathway along U.S. 98 from Okaloosa Island for the 4.3 miles from Beasley Park to the Destin (Marler) Bridge. (see article on page 6)



The County is also sending a letter of intent to Eglin AFB leadership to responsibly re-open the section of beach at the western base of the Destin Bridge. This represents the first step toward developing a master plan for improvements such as parking, boardwalks, trashcans, and bathrooms. The County also proposes hiring lifeguards, park rangers and providing other services to maintain the area for public recreation. (see article on page 8)

If completed, both of these projects will especially improve quality of life for Okaloosa Islanders. Destin is in need of more public beach access and reopening this section gives Destin residents and vacationers a closer option for seaside activities. Additionally, the 8.6-mile round-trip path to the Marler Bridge gives bicyclists and runners the ability to travel and exercise under much safer conditions.

I'm looking forward to the commencement of both of these projects and to the continued betterments of our already enviable location on Florida's most beautiful beaches.

OILA—We're stronger together.

A sunny & blustery Arbor Day commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs & the 22nd Anniversary of the Destin Garden Club. The bald cypress tree-planting ceremony was held at Okaloosa Island's Women Veteran Memorial. Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel read the proclamation recognizing January 19th as Florida's Arbor Day and Destin Mayor, Bobby Wagner and Cindy Dohner, the former director of the US Fish and wildlife were in attendance. Special thanks goes to Kathy Foster of the Island Garden Club for helping to organize the event.



OILA President Brian Harrington and his wife Silvia Attended the Ceremony



(left to right) Destin Mayor Bobby Wagner, Destin Garden Club President Lee Vanderpool, Anne Collins, Okaloosa County Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel and Cindy Dohner

**February 2024 Meeting Agenda Date: Monday, Feb 12
Time: 7:00 p.m.**

I. PLACE: For our February 2024 meeting, members will have the option of attending the meeting in-person at the Okaloosa Island Firehouse (104 Santa Rosa Blvd) or attending over the internet by Zoom.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call of Board Members: Brian Harrington

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: John Donovan - Draft minutes, January 8, 2024, Meeting (copy in this newsletter)

V. Treasurer's Report for February 2024 - Jim Simpson, Treasurer

VI. Standing Committee Reports: Brian Smith: Architectural Review Committee Report for January 2024 (printed in this newsletter)

VII. New and Unfinished Business

1. Re-opening the beach at Destin Bridge
2. USACE Storm Risk Management Design Agreement Status
3. Island Decorations Committee

VIII. Announcements, Speakers and Programs

XI. Adjournment

January 2024 Rainfall 5.2 Inches



Jan 3...**0.3** inches Jan 12...**0.2** inches
 Jan 5...**1.1** inches Jan 19...**0.4** inches
 Jan 6...**0.1** inches Jan 25...**0.5** inches
 Jan 8...**0.3** inches Jan 27...**1.0** inches
 Jan 9...**1.3** inches

Avg Rainfall for January.....**5.0** inches
 Variance to Average.....**+ 0.2** inches

Feb Avg Rainfall.....**5.8** inches
 Feb Record High.....**80° F** (1980)
 Feb Record Low**11° F** (1951)
 Feb Avg Water Temperature..**64° F**

March Avg Rainfall.....**5.8** inches
 March Record High.....**80° F** (1957)
 March Record Low**4° F** (1985)
 Mar Avg Water Temperature..**66° F**

YTD Variance**+ 0.2** inches
 Year to Date Rainfall..... **5.2** inches
 Avg Annual Rainfall**65.1** inches



ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT FOR JANUARY 2024: The OILA Architectural Review Committee (ARC) received and reviewed the following during June and July 2023 and upon review and adherence to the OILA Covenants, has approved the following project(s):

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lot(s)</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Owner/POC/Address</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>In-Compliance & Approved</u>
12 Jan	8		D. Myers Venus Condo	Concrete, Staircase, Railing, Balcony, Walkway Repair/Restore/Replace	YES

Special Notes: The OILA ARC instructions for your project are located on the OILA website:

<http://www.OILAweb.com/ArchitectureReview.html>

Please read and follow the instructions for submission of an OILA ARC application:

3. OILA ARC review package:
 - 3.1. Completed OILA ARC application,
 - 3.2. Survey plat of the property,
 - 3.3. Overlaid illustration of the project on a copy of the survey plat.
 - 3.4. Other supporting documents* (drawings, plans, specifications, etc.) (*If these are large files, they can be submitted separately). (Combine the files into one file for submission to the ARC, either in MS Word or Adobe PDF format.)
4. Email the completed ARC application file to the OILA ARC for review at OILAARC@yahoo.com.

The ARC applications will be reviewed in the order they are received and the review will be completed within 2 weeks of a completed application. (Note: The ARC no longer holds meetings in-person/zoom meetings the 1st and 3rd Thursday's of the month).

Draft Minutes – January 8, 2024 OILA Membership Meeting

- 18:45 ZOOM meeting room open for chat.
- 19:00 Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, (All 7 Directors were present: Brian Harrington, Louis Belanger, Jerry Boggess, Frank Adcock, David Jones, Stan King, Dylan Hunt)
- 19:02 Members were given time to review the draft minutes.
- 19:05 Brian Harrington made a motion Approve November’s Draft Minutes. Frank Adcock seconded. (Member vote was conducted and minutes were approved)
- 19:07 Treasury Report. Was given by Jim Simpson. President made a motion to reimburse Jim Simpson for expenses including postage to mail the October & November OIL Lantern, a motion to reimburse Jim Simpson for postage to mail the 2023-2024 special membership renewal effort, and finally a motion to reimburse Jim Simpson for the costs of envelopes and labels for the 2023-2024 membership effort. A total of 349.32. Kathy Foster called for a vote and the membership voted to approve the reimbursements later during the meeting.
- 19:15 Standing Committees –ARC report—Nick Hall & Brian Smith were unable to attend, Brian Harrington briefed that the ARC had approved 2 projects in December—exterior renovations at the Blue Dolphin Condo and approval to replace and modify the deck at a home located at 417 Cobia Ave.

19:20 *Discussion topics:*

Brian Harrington read the letter that OILA mailed on November 29th addressed to Brigadier General Geraghty, the Commander of Eglin AFB:

Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548

MEMORANDUM FOR: Commander 96th Test Wing, Eglin AFB 29 November 2023

SUBJECT: Reduction of Santa Rosa Blvd from Four Lanes to Two Lanes

I am Brian Harrington, the President of the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association (OILA). Our organization exists to coordinate affairs between the leaseholder members and the Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners (BCC). We preserve the public lands on Santa Rosa Island, Okaloosa County, and advise and assist the county in the application of the protective covenants that affect leasehold members. Additionally, OILA advises the leaseholders and the public in general in their rights and obligations under said leases. Okaloosa Island’s Protective Covenants and Restrictions were established in 1955 and include area zoning, types of allowable architecture, height restrictions, signage, building setbacks and easements that impact over 3,000 individual property owners.

I am writing to request the Commander’s position on Okaloosa County’s planned reduction of the traffic lanes on Santa Rosa Blvd and its potential impact on the DoD’s access to the Santa Rosa Island (SRI) Range Complex.

Currently, the BCC is planning to reduce Santa Rosa Blvd from four traffic lanes to two lanes in the interest of green space and low speed multi-purpose traffic lanes. In the past, the government has spent millions of taxpayer dollars developing projects without first consulting USAF leadership. In 2014, the Florida Department of Transportation developed a plan for a bridge to span the Intracoastal Waterway from Fort Walton Beach to Santa Rosa Island (SRI). This project would have been disastrous for Okaloosa Island’s residents. Fortunately, the Deputy Commander of the 96th Test Wing judiciously stepped in and ended the bridge project stating that it “may impact our mission.”

Santa Rosa Blvd (SRB) is critically important for both ingress and egress from Okaloosa Island for both government and private users. It is the sole access road to Okaloosa Island from Highway 98 and is the only access road for residents and visitors to the more than 3,000 condos, homes, and hotels located on Okaloosa Island. Department of Defense (DoD) assets accessing SRI range complex facilities through the East Gate must also travel down Santa Rosa Blvd. Congestion and traffic backups are commonplace with Santa Rosa Blvd in its current four-lane configuration. I am concerned about the potential impact on human safety that a lane reduction coupled with an increase in low-speed vehicular traffic may bring. This becomes especially concerning during emergency situations and extreme weather events.

Eglin’s SRI Range Complex is a significant 96th Test Wing asset that encompasses more than 8,000 acres and provides a unique environment for military special operations for all branches of service. SRI is routinely used by: 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), HAVE ACE, 1st Special Operations Wing, 720th Special Tactics Group, 6th Ranger Training Battalion, 23rd Special Tactics Squadron, 14th Weapons Instructor Course, and the 342nd Training Squadron Detachment. Visiting units include US Army SF and Rangers, US Navy Special Boat Teams and Sea-Air-Land Teams, US Air Force Combat Control and Tactical Air Control Party along with US Marine Corps Special Operations.

The Commander's position is vitally important to future plans concerning changes to Santa Rosa Blvd. The Okaloosa County Board of Commissioners needs to be aware of potential DoD concerns. OILA has taken a position in opposition to Okaloosa County's proposed lane reduction. However, recognizing the weight that the Commander's position will have on the outcome of this proposal, OILA is asking for a written position. I would think that the military would be equally concerned about reduced access to SRI for specific event responses, training and other deployments. I would also request to be kept informed about any DoD position so that OILA can work cooperatively to address our mutual concerns. I can be contacted at haibiss01@yahoo.com or 850-420-8410.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Harrington
MAJ, SF (Ret) USA
OILA President

Brian Harrington then read the response form General Geraghty

Mr. Harrington,

Sir, thank you for your recent email as President of the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association (OILA) regarding Okaloosa County's proposal to reconfigure Santa Rosa Blvd on Okaloosa Island.

Because any local transportation project has the potential to affect certain aspects of our mission, I certainly appreciate you contacting me regarding this specific roadway proposal. I value input from each of our local partners in making sure our test and training mission remains the highest priority. At this time, however, the DoD does not have an official position on what impact this project might have on our personnel or mission.

Again, I truly appreciate the opportunity to provide my comments. -jtg

Brigadier General Jeff Geraghty
Commander, 96th Test Wing
850-882-9600

During the following discussion several members agreed that from the tone of the email, it appeared that the Eglin AFB Commander was not previously aware of the proposal to modify Santa Rosa Blvd.

Brian Harrington attended the January 2nd Public Hearing in Crestview and briefed the membership on the County's plan to replace the water lines on Okaloosa Island:

*Okaloosa County is using OCWS to conduct water main replacement.
Dialogue established between OILA and Mike Hackett (OCWS Director)
Project to begin by the end of 2024—with a goal of starting earlier.
OCWS will keep OILA up to date on the plan by phase month to month.
Trenching & tying in to SRB Main lines done at end of each phase.
This project is NOT associated with the SRB improvement project according to Jason Autrey*

Brick Bradford expressed concerns that the county may damage private property, specifically driveways, during the water main replacement project.

Brian Harrington proposed the creation of an Island decoration committee:

*He asked for members to consider volunteering to form committee.
TDC Money was proposed to fund decorations.
Two types of seasonal decorations were proposed--Patriotic & Christmas Holiday.
Also discussed was a potential website committee and members were asked to consider volunteering.*

The membership also discussed the FWB proposed ferry route that was in the local news:

*This 25k study is privately funded with neither FWB nor Okaloosa County paying for it.
Discussion included who stands to benefit?
Boat basin was for non-motorized use? Will it become a parking lot?
Covenants?
Through informal communications with county officials, only the boat basin located at Beach Access#2 and Beach Access#1 are in consideration for this plan and that it was unlikely to be supported.*

20:00 Motion to Adjourn



OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 4323
FORT WALTON BEACH, FL 32549
Webpage: www.oilaweb.com

TREASURER’S REPORT: January 8, 2024

MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: 250

November 13, 2023 TOTAL BALANCE: \$29,032.81

ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AS OF November 13, 2023.....\$ 27,523.48

RECEIPTS SINCE LAST REPORT:

Membership Dues.....	\$ 780.00
U.S. Mail Fees.....	\$ 108.00
*Donations.....	\$ 18.00
Total Receipts:	\$ 906.00



*Donations: Marie Liebold...\$18.00

EXPENDITURES:

Reimbursement to Brian Harrington for the printing & mailing of 3,097 stamped post cards (\$1,711.20) for the Island-wide membership invitation project, for an additional 500 post cards (\$89.11) plus \$21.81 for a total of..... **\$ 1,822.12**

Payment to Moorhead Law Group for attorney retainer for OILA for the time period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024..... **\$ 650.00**

Total...\$ 2,472.12

EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT:

Reimburse Jim Simpson for the cost of postage to mail the December 2023 issue of The OIL Lantern..... **\$ 39.60**

Reimburse Jim Simpson for the cost of postage to mail the January 2024 issue of the OIL Lantern. **\$ 39.60**

Total....\$ 79.20

ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AFTER RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES & EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT AS OF JANUARY 8, 2024 \$ 25,878.16

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF November 13, 2023..... \$ 1,421.28

BEAUTIFICATION FUND EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORT No Expenditures

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF January 8, 2024..... \$ 1,421.28

CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND BALANCE AS OF November 13, 2023.....\$ 88.05

CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORT No Expenditures

CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND BALANCE AS OF January 8, 2024 \$ 88.05

SUMMARY: January 8, 2024 Fund Balances

-- Association’s Discretionary Fund Balance.	\$ 25,878.16
-- Beautification Fund Balance.....	\$ 1,421.28
-- Christmas Decorating Fund Balance (Donations).....	\$ 88.05

TOTAL FUNDS BALANCE.....\$ 27,387.49

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Simpson, Treasurer

12-FOOT WIDE 'BRIDGE-TO-BRIDGE' PATH ACROSS OKALOOSA ISLAND INCHES CLOSER TO REALITY - *By Jared Williams, GetTheCoast*

After years of negotiations, Okaloosa County officials unanimously ratified the signature on an easement from Eglin Air Force Base to allow construction of a new multi-use pathway parallel to U.S. 98 along Okaloosa Island

The 12-foot-wide pathway will stretch from Beasley Park to the Destin (Marler) Bridge, allowing bicyclists and pedestrians to travel the scenic route separate from traffic.

County leaders have pushed for the project for nearly five years to improve safety for non-motorists. "I really am excited. We're going to finally have a bike path from bridge-to-bridge," said Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel.

The county has worked extensively with Eglin and FDOT staff over the past 5 years to secure approvals for the 4.3-mile path, which sits on federal land controlled by the Air Force base. The signed easement grants Okaloosa permission construct, operate and maintain the improvements.

Jason Autrey, public works director for the county, updated commissioners at their Jan. 2 meeting that the



\$2 million for US 98 Bridge-to-Bridge Multi-Use Path from West Okaloosa Island to Destin (Okaloosa Public Information Office)

final easement was ready for their approval. Because the process took several years, then-Chairman Trey Goodwin had already signed the documents allowing planners to move the project forward while awaiting the board's formal backing this month. "For several years, we've been working on the bridge-to-bridge path," said Autrey. "The big piece of that was getting an easement from Eglin Air Force Base."

The agreement requires the county to fund the pathway's construction and ongoing maintenance. It also obligates the county to upgrade access points between the highway and dunes, expand parking capacity at beach access ways, and better controls near the Marler Bridge. "It's not just putting down asphalt pathway," added Autrey. "There are some other improvements associated with it and that was a very important task of working with Eglin. We're excited about it and can't wait to get it going."

Ketchel said achieving safer bike access on Okaloosa Island has been a priority since her brother died in a cycling accident as a teenager. "My brother, Stephen Newcomer, was killed on a bicycle when he was 17-years old," she said. "That has been my lifelong effort to get bike paths in place. That's my heart. The project is estimated to cost \$4-5 million and will be funded through a state grant and Tourist Development dollar.

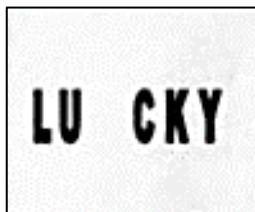
WUZZLE PUZZLES - What is a Wuzzle Puzzle? It is a puzzle consisting of combinations of words, letters, figures, or symbols positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, etc. Are you ready to take the challenge and figure out the "disguised" meaning of these wuzzles? Good luck. The answers are available on page 7. of this newsletter.



Wuzzle No. 1



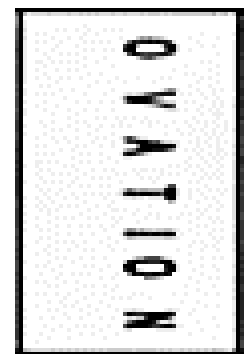
Wuzzle No. 2



Wuzzle No. 3



Wuzzle No. 4



Wuzzle No. 5

Fort Walton Beach to explore ferry system from The Landing Park to Okaloosa Island Boat Basin - *By Jared Williams, GetTheCoast*

The Fort Walton Beach City Council unanimously voted to explore a ferry route between The Landing Park in downtown and the new Okaloosa Island Boat Basin at its Tuesday meeting.

The Fort Walton Beach City Council unanimously voted to explore a ferry route between The Landing Park in downtown and the new Okaloosa Island Boat Basin at its Tuesday meeting.

The council declined to dedicate any city resources toward a previously proposed Destin-Fort Walton route.

Mayor Dick Rynearson brought up the water ferry topic for discussion, having originated from Destin Mayor Bobby Wagner last month. Details on the ferry system remained vague, other than transporting passengers across Choctawhatchee Bay. In November, the Destin City Council voted to contribute funding to a study on a proposed ferry system between Destin and Fort Walton Beach.



This is just a map showing the two potential ferry drop-off and pick-up locations. This is not official.

The council approved \$12,786 toward a \$51,144 feasibility study on the ferry system. Destin funding was contingent on the Fort Walton Beach City Council contributing \$12,786 and the Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners contributing \$25,572.

The FWB Council agreed not to spend any taxpayer funds on exploring ferries. But several members supported designating potential landing zones to gauge private sector interest.

Councilman Travis Smith said he would only back designating pick-up and drop-off spots for licensed charter companies, but nothing further. "The free market is a great thing for a reason, because if there's demand for it, somebody will be doing it," Smith said. "Nobody's doing it right now."

Councilman David Schmidt motioned for city staff to work with Okaloosa County officials to develop a basic scope for a ferry route between The Landing and the new boat basin on Okaloosa Island.

The motion passed unanimously following clarification that no money was being committed. Supporters saw it as a way to get private companies' input on a short Fort Walton-Okaloosa Island route's viability, without dedicating any city funds. "I'd like to find out," Schmidt said of private sector interests. "And if there's none, we're not out of a bunch of money."

The city council declined to explore a Destin-Fort Walton route or spend money on any feasibility studies between the two cities across Choctawhatchee Bay.

Members said the private sector could pursue and self-fund a Destin-related ferry if market demand exists, without city involvement. But for now, the council will focus its efforts on an Okaloosa Island-Fort Walton route.



Doctor Doolittle
Wuzzle No. 1



Tennis March
Wuzzle No. 2

WUZZLE PUZZLE ANSWERS



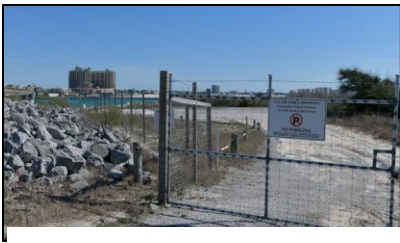
Lucky Break
Wuzzle No. 3



Backwards Glance
Wuzzle No. 4



Standing Ovation
Wuzzle No. 5



Gate Currently Blocking Access to Redneck Beach



Aerial Photo of Redneck Beach at the Foot of Marler Bridge (east end of Okaloosa Island)

OKALOOSA COUNTY COMMISSION SENDS LETTER OF INTENT FOR THE REOPENING OF REDNECK BEACH

In 2020 the beach area located at the foot of the Destin Marler bridge (see bottom left photo) was closed by a directive from Eglin Air Force Base and 96th Test Wing. The access road was fenced off (see top left photo). The reason given for the closure was justified as a reaction to the risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Eglin came into possession of the beach area in 1988. Up until that time, the area was owned by the State of Florida and was traded with Eglin AFB in exchange for a parcel of land in Fort Walton Beach that now hosts a Northwest Florida State College annex.

The 1988 agreement continued to provide public access to the beach under Eglin ownership. This open access continued for over 30 years until the above-mentioned Eglin directive closed the beach to the public in 2020.

On January 16, 2024, the Okaloosa County Commissioners voted unanimously to send a letter of intent to Eglin AFB regarding the possibility of re-opening of Redneck Beach to the public. This letter has been endorsed by former Destin City Council member Parker Destin, current Destin Councilwoman Hebert and Destin Mayor Bobby Wanger and the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce.



GOING, GOING.....

UPDATE. PROPS BREWERY AND RESTAURANT IN THE PARADISE POINTE SHOPPING CENTER COMPLETELY TORN DOWN – by Jim Simpson

The Props Brewery and Restaurant which was in the Shoppes at Pointe Shopping Center has been taken completely down. (photos left & right)



GONE!

The outside dining section (825 sq ft) of the building (next to Brooks Bridge) was taken down earlier as part of the Florida Department of Transportation eminent domain clearance for the new bridge. The restaurant closed in January 2023.



Left to right: Christmas Decorators: Jim Hendricks, Bob Hendricks, Alan & Carmen Parker, Jim Benquier

A TIP OF THE HAT TO WILD WILLY'S ADVENTURE ZONE



FOR PROVIDING COURTESY STORAGE FOR THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS USED TO DECORATE SANTA ROSA BLVD.

In the photo on the left the Christmas Decorating team stores the displays until next year's Christmas Season.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY – FEBRUARY

The name of February comes from the Latin word “februum,” which means purification.

February 2, 1901: Congress authorizes the establishment of the Army Nurse Corps under the Army Medical Department.

February 8, 1916: Charles Kettering received a patent for a self-starting automobile engine.

February 10, 1967: The 25th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, clarifying the procedures for presidential succession in the event of the disability of a sitting president.

February 13, 1917: Over Pensacola, FL, CPT Francis T. Evans (USMC) becomes the first aviator to perform a loop in a seaplane. His Curtiss N-9 stalls after the maneuver and Evans barely manages to save the plane before splashing into the Gulf of Mexico.

February 14, 1854: Horace Smith and Daniel Wesson patented a firearm.



February 21, 1865: John Deere received a patent for plows.

February 23, 1942: During World War II, the first attack on the U.S. mainland occurred as a Japanese submarine shelled an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California, causing minor damage.

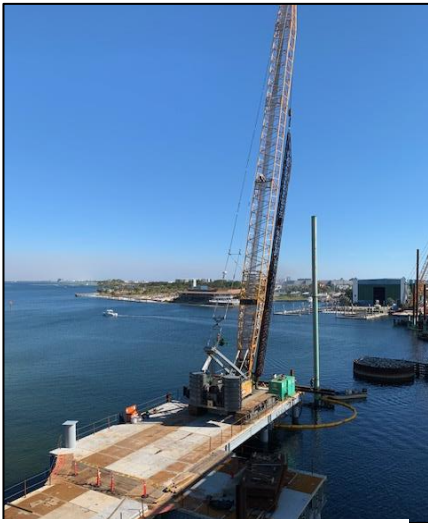
February 24, 1857: The first perforated United States postage stamps were delivered to the government.

February 26, 1848: The *Communist Manifesto* pamphlet was published by two young socialists, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. It advocated the abolition of all private property and a system in which workers own all means of production, land, factories and machinery.

February 27, 1900: Felix Hoffman patented acetylsalicylic acid, better known as aspirin.

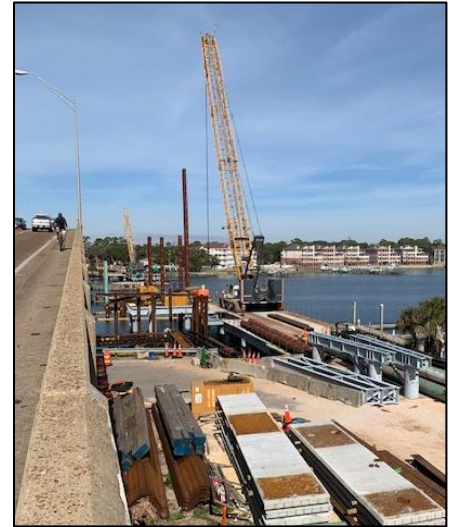
🎵 THE BROOKS BRIDGE PILE DRIVER RHAPSODY 🎵 – Composed by the Florida Department of

Transportation, Performed by the United Bridge Workers Local 364.



Brooks Bridge Pile Driver
Fort Walton Beach Side

Those of us who live close to the Brooks Bridge construction site are now treated to the “Music of the Pile Drivers”. We are not complaining – after all, you can’t make an omelet without breaking eggs, but it is hard not to get in “synch” with the “thud-bang” cadence of the pile drivers. In fact, some of us have developed the “pile driver twitch” by raising and dropping our shoulders in unison with the machines. On must deprogram before driving the car or doing things like typing this article. Final note – we really do need a new bridge – but 2027 is a long way down the road. Lots of music for the next 3 years.



Brooks Bridge Pile Driver
Okaloosa Island Side

TRIVIA CRAWLER: THE FIRST TELEVISION ADS

The first official paid television advertisement came out in the United States on July 1, 1941 at 2:30 p.m., over New York station WNBT (subsequently WNBC) before a baseball game between the Brooklyn Dodgers and Philadelphia Phillies. The announcement for Bulova watches, for which the company paid anywhere from \$4.00 to \$9.00 (reports vary),



displayed a WNBT test pattern modified to look like a clock with the hands showing the time. The Bulova logo, with the phrase “Bulova Watch Time”, appeared in the lower right-hand quadrant of the test pattern while the second hand swept around the dial for one minute. (see photo). The first TV ad broadcast in the UK went on air on ITV on September 22, 1955, advertising Gibbs SR toothpaste. In Asia, the first TV ad broadcast appeared on Nippon Television in Tokyo on August 28, 1953, advertising Seikosha (subsequently Seiko); it also displayed a clock with the current time.

PLEASE SHARE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WITH FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN JOINING OILA

There are now **two ways to join the Leaseholders OILA**: 1. You can join online. Click on this webpage: <http://www.oilaweb.com/Membership.html> (please note that NO donation to Zeffy – our free payment hosting platform is required) or 2. You can join by mail by utilizing the following membership form.

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE
OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION
(OILA)**

{If you have any questions concerning membership, dues or this form, call Jim Simpson, Treasurer, at (850) 585-2116}

NAME: (Please Print): _____
(Last) (First) (Middle Initial)

OKALOOSA ISLAND

PROPERTY ADDRESS:

(Please note: You must hold a land lease, a fee simple title or own a condominium or a co-operative dwelling unit on Okaloosa Island to be eligible for membership)

_____ (Street) _____ (City)
_____ Telephone No. _____
(State) (Zip Code)

MAILING ADDRESS:

_____ (Street) _____ (City)
_____ Telephone No. _____
(State) (Zip Code)

Membership dues are **twelve (\$12)** a year. With this subscription, your monthly issue of the OIL Lantern, OILA's newsletter, will be distributed to you by email. Please enter your email address on the following line:

(Please enter your email address here)

If you wish to receive your copy of the OIL Lantern by U.S. Mail (in addition to distribution by email) there is an addition postage fee of **six (\$6)** a year.

Please check the block which identifies the level of membership you desire:

\$12 – Annual membership

\$18 – Annual membership (\$12) plus (\$6) U.S. mail delivery. If you select this option, your newsletter will be sent to mailing address you designated above.

Please check the block for the membership category you desire, make your check payable to the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association or OILA and mail your remittance (**\$12 or \$18**) to the following address:

Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association, P.O. Box 4323, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549.

I request membership in the Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association. I am eligible for membership, have completed the application form and have remitted my dues: