

THE MAY ISLANDER

Next meeting May 16 in the Civic Hall at the SGI Firehouse, 324 E. Pine Avenue

Social 6:30 p.m., Meeting 7:00 p.m. The speaker will be Sheriff Mike Mock

BYOB and a covered dish

Alan Pierce Brings Members up-to-date on County Actions

Franklin County Manager Alan Pierce talked about upcoming actions by Franklin County headlined by the repair of the fishing pier damaged during Tropical Storm Debby.



Alan Pierce answers questions from members

The company that will add the walkover re-connecting the separated pier began work last week. Alan said there was heavy work to be done as some of the damaged pilings will have to be removed. They expect the entire pier to be in use this summer.

Commissioner Jackel Updates Attendees on Bed Tax

Franklin County District One Commissioner and Civic Club member Pinki Jackel talked about the proposed increase in the bed tax assessed against homeowners renting out their Island homes. As Chairman of the Franklin County Tourist Development Council (TDC), Commissioner Jackel discussed why the TDC proposed to double the tax. As reported in the Apalachicola Times, she said, "The grid shows what the tourism discretionary tax money for tourism is doing. Tourism activity has grown by over 60 percent since the inception of the sales tax. The tax money has allowed TDC to provide over \$2 million to nonprofit organizations. Our not-for-profits are very busy providing things to do for visitors and promoting the environment and all the great things we have in Franklin County. "If we have done all this with the 2 percent we

collect, what can we do with more? If we increase it by 2 percent, that will be an additional \$800,000 per year. That's about \$65,000 monthly."

(See Bed Tax, Page Two)

Proposed By-Laws passes by unanimous vote

In a mainly online vote, the proposed By-Laws were accepted by unanimous vote. Voting by ballots given out at the April club meeting was less than 5% of the votes cast. The revised By-Laws will be signed at the next Club meeting on May 16.

Ann Giknis Resigns Position as Treasurer

SGI Civic Club Treasurer Ann Giknis has tendered her resignation to the Civic Club Board of Directors. Ann and husband Fran have purchased a home in Williamsburg, Virginia and plan to move soon to be near their son and other relatives. President Newt Colston has asked for volunteers to finish out 2013. Anyone wishing to help out can call Newt at 850-927-3001 or email the Club at sgicivicclub@gmail.com.

(Bed Tax, from Page 1)

Jackel received universal support from the TDC board members.

Other coastal Panhandle counties collect 4 to 5 percent. It was recommended that this proposal be brought up before the Franklin County Commission.



Adele Colston announced that the Civic Club made \$4600 during Winter Bingo

Upcoming Events

Plein Air Paint-out

Thursday, May 2 through Sunday, May 12 A 10-day open air painting event featuring national artists creating memories of the Forgotten Coast on canvas. Artists will be painting on the beach, across the marsh, beside the lakes and throughout the streets of waterfront towns from Mexico Beach, Windmark, Port St. Joe, Cape San Blas, Apalachicola, Eastpoint, St. George Island, Carrabelle, and inland at Wewahitchka. You are cordially invited to join us at this premier art

exhibition and sale featuring on-location artists. Experience beauty through the eyes of America's finest plein air artists!

St. George Island

Island Light Vignettes -

The St. George Lighthouse Association with the assistance of the Panhandle Players will present a series of vignettes based on the novel "Island Light" by Apalachicola author, Alexander Key. The production will occur on Saturday, May 18 at 8 p.m. in St. George Lighthouse Park. "Island Light" tells the tale of Max Ewing from Apalachicola, a lieutenant with the Confederate States Navy who escapes from prison in the Dry Tortugas and makes his way home after the war between the states. Ewing is planning revenge for the wartime fate of his hometown, when circumstances lead him to St. George Island and a job as a substitute for the injured assistant lighthouse keeper. There is no entry fee.

Apalachicola

Civil War Exhibit and Living History Weekend

Friday, May 17 through Sunday, May 19. The Apalachicola Maritime Museum is coordinating a packed weekend of events May 17-19 to tell the story

of the Civil War's impact here. For more information, a detailed schedule, and updates, please visit www.ammfl.org, or stop by the Museum, located at 103 Water Street.

St. James

Golf Gone Wild

Saturday, May 18 A golf tournament and silent auction to help injured and orphaned birds and wildlife; sponsored by St. James Bay Golf Course and Forgotten Coast TV to benefit the Florida Wild Mammal Association (FWMA).

Come play on a beautiful, Audubon-sanctioned golf course with CASH PRIZES and help injured and orphaned birds and wildlife too. There will also be a silent auction from 1:00 to 4:00 pm with many amazing items up for bid, including a lot of art and photography but also many other exciting items as well. Be sure to visit the Crooked River Grill (located at the Golf Resort) for some fabulous food with a great view, and enjoy the sponsored bar in the Fountain Room which opens at 2:30. We are also currently seeking DONATIONS for the silent auction, VOLUNTEERS to help with the event, and SPONSORS for Golf Gone Wild.

St. George Island

Kayak and Stand-Up

Paddleboard Demo Day

Journeys of St. George and Island Adventures want *(See Kayak, Page 3)*

(Kayak, from Page 2)

you to come try out a kayak or stand-up paddleboard in the boat basin across from Harry A's, 10:00 am - 3:00 p.m. on Friday, May 24

Sunset/Full Moon Climb

Friday, May 24th from 8:00pm to 9:30pm. On the evening of the full moon in May. Watch the Sun set and the Full Moon rise from the top of the Cape St. George Light! Tickets are \$15.00 per person, or \$10.00 for St. George Lighthouse Association members, and include light hors d'oeuvres and a



sparkling cider toast to the Full Moon. After sunset, additional climbers are welcome at the top for a view of the Full Moon, as time and space permit. The Full Moon only climb is \$10.00 per person and \$5.00 for SGLA members. Reservations are

recommended, and can be made by calling 850-927-7745 or by stopping by the Keeper's House Museum.

www.stgeorgelight.org

Alligator Point

2013 Captain Jack Offshore/Inshore

tournament May, 25th at the Alligator Point Fire Station. Proceeds go to the Capital Area Chapter Red Cross and the Alligator Point/St. Teresa Fire Station.

Email contact is

captainjacktournament@gmail.com.

Eastpoint

Panhandle Habitats Series: Barrier Islands Class at the National Estuarine Research Reserve

Wednesday, May 29. This class covers such topics as island habitats, common plants and animals, waves and currents, hurricanes, human impacts, island and dune formation, erosion and regulatory issues. This class includes a field trip to St. George Island State Park. Registration deadline is May 24; rain date is Thurs May 30. 8:45 am - 4:30 pm

Cost: \$10.00 per person per class payable to Friends of the Reserve Registration is required:

You MUST register no later than five days before the class.

To register or for more information contact Margo Posten at (850) 670-7719.

St. George Island

Annual SGI Mullet Toss

June 8 sponsored by the Blue Parrot. Registration begins at 10:00, festivities at 11:00. Adults \$25, Children \$15. The event benefits the Apalachicola Bay Charter School.

Eastpoint

Fishermans Choice Kids Fishing Tournament

Charles and Rex Pennycuff are hosting their 14th annual Fisherman's Choice Youth Fishing Tournament on June 8th. Kids 16 and under will fish for fresh and saltwater species. Call Fisherman's Choice for more information at (850) 670-8808.

Thanks to the Franklin County Tourist Development Council for Upcoming Events.

<http://www.saltyflorida.com/events>

Visit our website:

www.sgicivicclub.org for the latest news from St. George Island and the surrounding area .

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