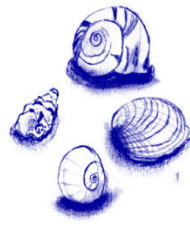




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BRIEFS:



Wire Pirates Hit San Leon

Residents on the bay side of 8th street in San Leon were dismayed last month to discover thieves had stripped electrical wiring from no less than three piers, seawall to "T" heads, an average of six hundred feet each. In some cases there were multiple leads running the length of the piers. The thefts occurred sometime during the week of September 10th. It is still a matter of speculation as to how the thieves accomplished their task. Best guess theories suggest they used john boats to glide along the sides of the piers at night, cut and coil the wire.

Even with the cost of copper leveling out, there is still profit to be made selling items containing copper, especially wire. Galveston County Sheriff's office is investigating the incident. Fingerprints were collected and advisories sent out to scrap wire collection points. Security has now been beefed up both on shore and in the water along the bayfront. "The crooks have found a new gambit. So, like kids stealing from a cookie jar, they won't stop as long as there are any cookies left," said Deputy Brent Cooley. Heads up to pier owners in the Bacliff, San Leon area.

Thanks to George Dismukes for this story

Colorful Judge Sam Takes A Break:

By now, you have probably heard that Federal Judge Sam Kent in Galveston has been given a 4 month paid vacation as punishment for sexual harassment of a female court employee.

That said, interested readers should know that this is far from the first time that serious issues have been raised regarding Judge Kent's judicial ethics. Indeed, it is no secret that Kent is a notorious figure in the Texas legal community and perhaps even nationally.

Here are a few relevant aspects of Judge Kent's record:

In 2001, the Chief Judge of Southern District of Texas re-assigned 85 cases away from Judge Kent, because the cases were being handled by Kent's best friend, attorney Richard Melancon and there were allegations that Kent was engaging in favoritism on his friend's behalf. In a 2002 decision, a Fifth Circuit panel removed Judge Kent from a case because he had demonstrated open bias against and "hostility" towards one of the parties. Although it is not terribly unusual for litigants to assert that a judge is biased against them, it is relatively rare for appellate courts to accept such claims and remove the judge from the case.

In denying a request for a change of venue requested for travel reasons, Judge Kent once opined that he didn't care if the defendant traveled to court on the back of a "huge Texas jackrabbit".

Although the proceedings against Federal Judges are kept secret, there have been numerous leaks to the effect that the Judge was also drinking on the job, and that there were several other women he allegedly sexually harassed. The House of Representatives may even start impeachment proceedings against him.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Page 02 Letters To The Editor
- Page 04 Dear Steve From Sunny San Leon
- Page 06 Police Blotter
- Page 08 Fishing In Paradise
- Page 16 Funny Bones
- Page 20 News & Views
- Page 25 Classified ads

Something good on every page!



A pair of house-stealing house movers finally have a date with justice

"Honey, somebody took the house!"

A tenacious victim in San Leon is largely responsible for the arrests of a couple of alleged con artists last month. The victim, who has requested her name not be used for publication, is only one of what officials believe are many victims of a fraudulent enterprise known as Evergreen House Moving Co. and as All Universal House Moving Co.

Donna and Curtis Holcomb were charged on September 18th with Fraud, and held on bonds of \$100,000 each in the Harris County Jail. Both have since made bail and are due in District Court on October 11th.

According to the victim in San Leon, the couple sold her a house in the Heights neighborhood of Houston for \$35,000 in 2003. The couple agreed to move the house to San Leon, where the victim was going to have the house set up for a disabled relative. After collecting \$22,500 from the victim, the couple sold the house to another victim. Then they sold it again to a third victim. None of these people ever got the house.

You have seen the house though. It is currently sitting on the side of the road on FM517, just east of Highway 146, at the location where the Sugar Shack Bar was once located. The house has been sitting there for about a year.

Although the indictments issued on September 18th were only for the arrests of the husband and wife, a source close to the investigation has confided to the Seabreeze that other family members of the pair are likely to face charges as well. Investigators believe the pair may have had accomplices, and are looking into suspicious financial transactions.

The San Leon victim – at her wits end when the pair took her money and skedaddled – placed ads in the Seabreeze asking people who had been victimized by the pair to contact the Galveston County DA's office. It was this ad that resulted in the information that finally led to an arrest.

The victim also appeared on the Troubleshooter Radio Program with host Tom Martino. After her first call to the consumer advocate's show, Martino was swamped by calls from all over the Houston area. The calls were from other victims. There were calls from a man who bought a house, but only half of it was delivered; a person whose backhoe was taken by the couple and not returned, and allegations that the pair would go out in the middle of the night and steal houses. Some of those stolen houses may have been brought to Galveston County – the Bacliff and San Leon area – and sold to unsuspecting lot owners.

Martino, whose program is broadcast all over the US, received so many calls about this couple, he invited the San Leon victim to appear on his program the following day, where the show fielded calls for nearly four hours.

The victim says that the investigators are aware of some of the pair's activities, but there are probably many other thefts which may go unpunished. She hopes the two will receive prison time and be forced to make restitution. She also believes that family members assisted the pair in their illegal activities and in "laundering" their profits. Authorities are still trying to find out where all of the money went.

Harris County Clerk records indicate that Curtis Wayne Holcomb and Donna Gayle Holcomb operated two businesses (All Universal Services and Texas House Movers) from a house in Bacliff at 4021 Oak Lane. It is believed that the house at Oak Lane was another property the couple sold numerous times to various buyers. Both businesses were registered in December of 2003. The clerks office also lists numerous civil actions against both defendants.

It is also expected that cases will be filed in other counties as well. Investigators from Magnolia, Chambers County, and other places are considering additional charges against both defendants.



Authorities say the Holcombs couldn't get permits, so most of their house moving was done late at night or the wee hours of the morning.

San Leon Firemen Save Baby's Life

On Tuesday September 25th at 4:00 pm on 24th Street in San Leon, a drama unfolded. A mother had no phone, could not speak English, and had an unconscious baby in her arms. She flagged down a car and the driver called 911.

Three firemen Scotty Lyons, Kevin Johnson, and Robert Salderna arrived on the scene within minutes. They encountered the mother holding a 2-year-old girl who had turned blue and was foaming at the mouth. She was also extremely hot.

Scotty gave her 2 rescue breaths and she jerked. Kevin and Robert hooked up the oxygen system. Life flight was called because she was so blue. The little girl was put into the ambulance and taken to the fire station on 12th St where life flight could safely land. The little girl was running a 105 degrees fever, so the firemen covered her in ice packs.

The little girl was flown to UTMB in Galveston where she stayed 3 days. She is now back home and doing well.

The emergency doctor at UTMB said that if it were not for the quick action and decision making of the San Leon firefighters the little girl would have died within 2 to 3 more minutes.

The 3 life saving firemen went to visit the little girl and took her a fireman hat and a stuffed teddy bear. Job well done.

