

News

The cool beauty of life that falls on us

I sat on my porch at my Indian Lakes apartment in Destin last Monday and breathed the freshness of my second month as a Floridian.

The air had finally cooled to below 70 degrees and felt more like autumn than I thought Destin ever would. I never go jogging on pure principle that it bores me to death, but Monday was different.

I left work at a reasonable hour, wasn't worried about a hurricane and I wasn't so hot that I felt my face melting off. So when I got home I grabbed a small transistor radio, which I listened to a la boom box and not with headphones, laced up my kicks and dashed off to the golf course behind my complex.

It felt great. I enjoyed that run more than any other in my life.

The golf course was deserted. For once in my life it was just me, alone.

I felt comfortable in my cherry red face and slow-as-a-snail pace. OutKast jammed on the little radio and I incorporated a little jogging along the gorgeous lake on the manicured

greens of heaven.

When I got home I felt even better.

I fired up the propane grill that I had borrowed during the electric outage of Hurricane Ivan and threw on marinated chicken and zucchini.

As I sat there the sun was setting. As a woman who enjoys the closeness to God at sunset, I nearly choked up.

The sky was a perfect sherbet orange where it met the earth and melted into pastel green where the sun was still shining. A deep fuchsia line cut across the purple that melted into a robin egg blue.

I stared as I prayed for all the amazing things the lord does and the mercy he has granted me.

I thought about my big sister, Vrolet, in New York expecting a baby any day and my mom who is going to deliver my family's newest miracle of life.

The same mom, who as I bunkered down at Eglin during Hurricane Ivan, called and cried because she was scared for not only my personal safety but also that the worldly possessions that I treasure

Can't Get There From Here



By Pasha Carroll

would be washed away by giant waves.

I prayed for all the families that lost their homes in the eye of another natural disaster. I thanked God that he spared so many lives during the last week, and I prayed for every soul that didn't make it another day.

As I ate, the breeze washed over me and the sliver of sun in the horizon faded.

The past month and a half has been full of bumps and bruises. Nothing comes easy, if it does, it isn't appreciated as much.

In the last week I feared the worst. Okaloosa and Walton counties were truly spared any real hardship. My apartment building lost siding, shingles and doors, but nobody lost their lives.

My first hurricane was-

n't unlike a snowstorm in Western New York where I am from. Or a forest fire in California that chars homes in quantity, or mudslides, tornadoes and earthquakes elsewhere. There are different disasters created by Mother Nature in every region of every state of every country, none better or worse than the other, simply different.

I hated the two-week-long anticipation of Ivan. To me, that was the worst. I would rather know only a few days in advance. That was the anxiety that really took a toll on me.

I am not denying the havoc that Ivan wreaked on our neighbors to the

west, but I believe in pulling up your boot strings and making tragedies learning experiences.

I hope that people here spend the money to live safely in paradise and build to hurricane standards. The future is bright for folks in Florida. May God bless and pull each person through the tough times. Hopefully, we can put Ivan past us quickly and embrace the light ahead.

Pasha Carroll is a staff reporter at The Walton Sun. Her column appears the fourth Saturday of each month. She can be reached at 267-4555 or pasha_carroll@link.freedom.com

SWFD fire report

The South Walton Fire Department responded to the following calls for the week of Sept. 12 - Sept. 18.

- 1 - Beach Related/Water
- 10 - Miscellaneous
- 9 - Fire
- 1 - HazMat
- 11 - Fire alarm malfunction
- 22 - Medical
- 6 - Non-emergency transfers

This week's safety tip: To put out fire in a frying pan, cover it with the pan lid. Don't throw water on it and don't try to carry it outside.

"The Smile" of 30-A

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