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Tidings

The Newsletter of the Friends of Perdido Bay

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www.friendsofperdidobay.com

Going Strong into 2013

With the beginning of the new year, Friends of Perdido Bay is going strong. The dues continue to come in along with donations. Our membership is up slightly and we have plenty of issues facing our group this year. This year, as in the past 25 years, Friends of Perdido Bay is sponsoring a science fair prize in the Pensacola Science Fair at the end of January. We are going to continue our limited water quality testing and our limited oversight over the major dischargers into our bay. These are responsibilities of our environmental agencies, which for funding or political reasons, seem to be lacking. Thank you all for your support and we look forward to a productive year.

It Is A Matter Of Funds

We have known for many years that our environmental agencies simply do not have the resources to fight big business. Big companies can sap the public monies allocated to legal departments very fast. I believe this is true not only in the environmental area but also in all government departments. Just look at the SEC. There are probably millions of brokerage houses participating in insider trading. But it is too expensive for the government to pursue the thousands of inside traders. Only the most egregious cases get prosecuted. The Food and Drug Administration takes years to remove a drug from the market even though the drug has been shown to cause harm. This situation is feeding lawyers. And so it goes, and it is getting worse. With the decreasing funding of governmental agencies, many businesses are taking short cuts to increase profits and the government can do nothing. The government doesn't want to know. The government has become a toothless tiger. In many cases, the public safety is at risk. Do you really know what is being dumped into Perdido Bay. No, and neither does the government. How about the air you breath? How about the food you eat? Nobody is very sure. We assume that there are inspectors, inspecting the food we eat, but they are too few. What is in the seafood coming from overseas markets - such as shrimp raised in Malaysia? Even though we say that we want smaller government, do we really want fewer food inspectors, fewer air inspectors, fewer weather stations? Big business would love to have less oversight. On the other hand, such as in the case on Perdido Bay, we have a government which is running interference for big business. It is too bad and the losers in all this are the next generations.