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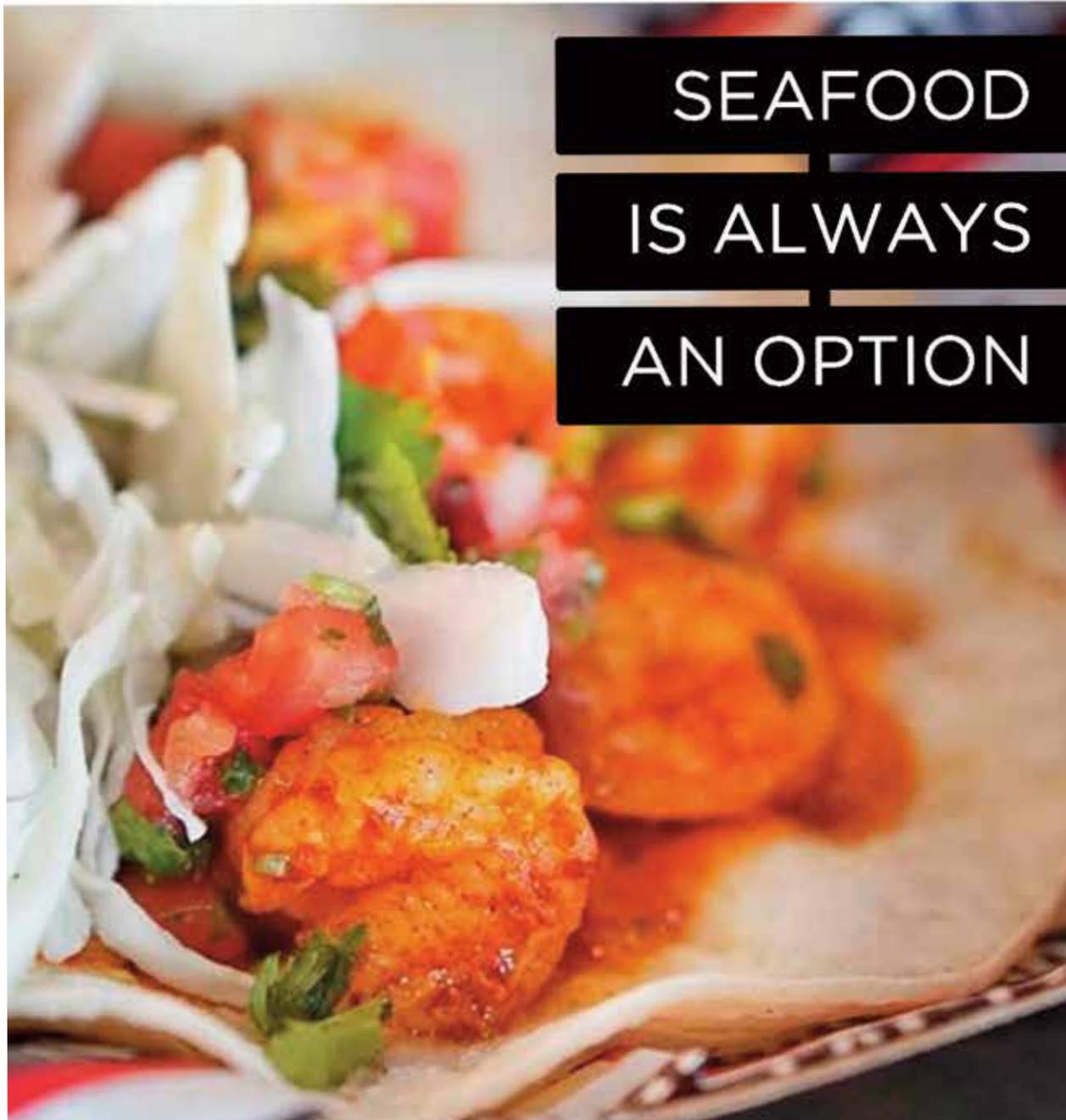
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AROUND TOWN



Commemoration of Battle & siege of Fort Morgan Aug. 5

A commemoration of the Battle of Mobile Bay and siege of Fort Morgan is scheduled from 9 a.m. 'til 5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 5 at Fort Morgan Historic Site, located at 110 Hwy. 180 in Gulf Shores.

This one day living history event will remember the sacrifices of the United States Armed Forces and Confederate States Armed Forces during this pivotal naval battle and siege. Uniformed interpreters will bring the fort to life through demonstration of period drills on the fort's parade ground as well as artillery demonstration at the water battery. Special talks given by the site historians will provide insight into the events that transpired as well as introduce topics little written about in books.

For more info, call 251-540-5257 or visit fort-morgan.org.

The Battle of Mobile Bay is one of the iconic confrontations of the American Civil War at sea. During the three-day event, the fort's museum will feature rarely exhibited artifacts from three of the fleet of ships engaged during the battle; the USS Tecumseh, USS Philippi, and the CSS Gaines.

The USS Tecumseh, an ironclad ship widely thought to be unsinkable, sank during the Battle of Mobile Bay when she struck a mine called torpedoes during the war. The ship capsized and rests upside down northwest of Fort Morgan.

Union Admiral David Farragut, lashed to the rigging of his ship, saw his fleet pulling back after Tecumseh went under. That's when Farragut yelled out his now famous order, paraphrased as, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead."

ACS Bunco Blast Aug. 5 at Lillian Community Center

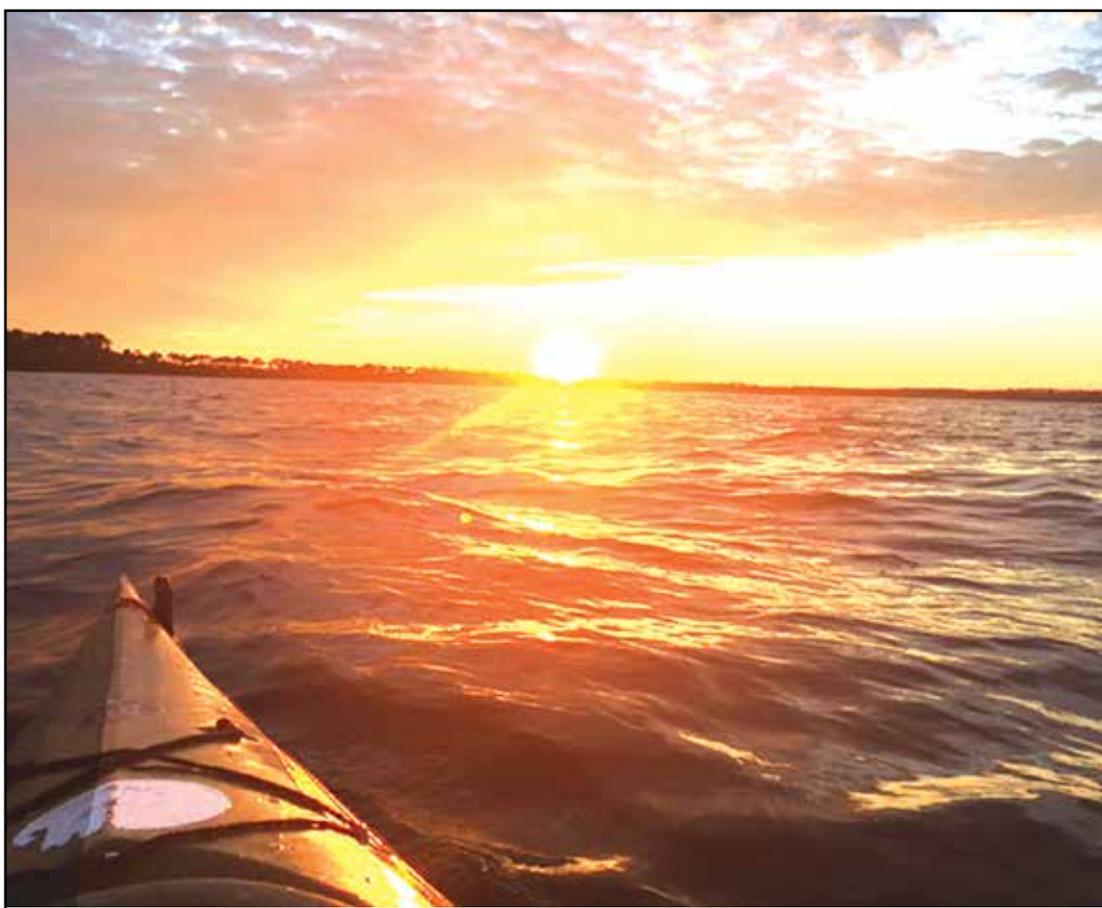
The 8th Annual Bunco Bash Fundraiser for the benefit of the American Cancer Society will be held August 5 at the Lillian Community Center. Pre-registration is \$25 and registration is \$30 at the door. Lunch is included. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and Bunco starts promptly at 10 a.m. There will be door prizes, a raffle, and bunco prizes. Please RSVP by July 22. Proceeds go to the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. For more info, contact Kay Kay at annualbuncobash.com, 251-978-4442 or kekay926@gmail.com.

"We have moved the event from the Spanish Cove Club House to the Lillian Community Center, allowing for even a bigger crowd," said

Kay. "Come and help raise money for a great cause and have a Bunco Blast."

Aug. 12 golf tourney for Perdido Bay Football Club

The Perdido Bay Football Club will host an August 12 golf tourney to raise money for its youth soccer program at Perdido Bay Golf Club. The Perdido Chamber of Commerce will co-host the four person scramble. Entry fee is \$75 per player or \$300 per team. Lunch will be served at 11 a.m., with the shotgun start to follow at noon. Hole (\$100) and corporate (\$400 sponsorships) are available. For more info, call Kenny Skinner at 251-255-4447 or visit perdidobayfc.com.



Final Relay For Life Full Moon Paddle August 6 at O.B. Wind & Water Center

The City of Orange Beach - Relay for Life team will host its final Full Moon Paddle of the summer on Sunday, August 6, with Cobalt Restaurant providing the pre-paddle meal. The paddles are held at the Wind & Water Learning Center, located at 26267 Canal Road, behind the Orange Beach Public Library. Participants must bring their own kayak or canoe, PFD & white light (headlamps work best). For more information, contact Relay Team Captain Jeanne Fitzgibbons at 251-981-1524 or jfitz@cityoforangebeach.com.

Dinner will be served at 6:15 p.m., and the paddles in the moonlight are from 7-8:30 p.m. Registration fee is \$20 per person. Everyone must be pre-registered. Online registration will be available at eventbrite.com. Printed registration forms are available at obparksandrec.com and at all recreation facilities in Orange Beach.

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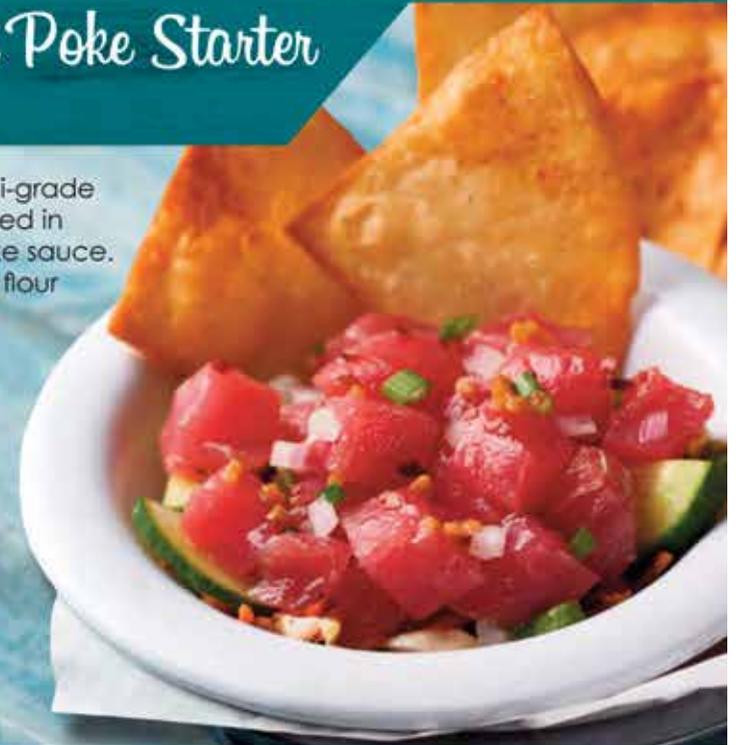


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AROUND TOWN



Eden salutes wounded military veterans with free vacations Idea started with one Eden property owner in 2014, continues to grow

Thanks to Eden Condominiums, 25 wounded American military veterans will have the chance to enjoy a week-long stay in paradise on Perdido Key. It's the fourth year in a row that Eden has offered luxury waterfront units for deserving heroes and their families. The veterans, some of whom have said they have never taken a real vacation, will begin arriving on Sept. 16.

The annual effort all started when one Eden condominium owner offered his unit to a wounded veteran as a token of appreciation back in 2014. When the other owners and Eden management heard of the gesture, they decided to join forces, and together they have provided free vacations to between 22-25 veterans each year since.

This year Eden will work with two military veteran organizations, Wounded War Heroes and the Wounded Warrior Project to identify veterans and coordinate the week-long event.

As word has gotten out, area businesses, the USO and individuals have all chipped in to expand the impact, providing meals, snacks, goods and gift cards. Eden believes the vacation giveaway will continue to grow as more and more people get involved. "This has been a collaborative effort started by the owners of Eden, which now has spread to include many others," said April Adams, Eden's rental manager. Adams says that Eden has been overwhelmed by the support they receive each year, including a proclamation from the Escambia Board of County Commissioners in honor of the effort.

Want to help?

Paper towels, paper plates and cups, plastic cutlery, toilet paper, bottles of water, soda, snacks and non-perishable foods are needed and appreciated, as well as donations to help purchase these items for the visiting families. If you or your business or organization would like to contribute, contact Eden by phone or email at 850-492-336 or rental@perdido-key.com.

Pictured: Wounded American military veterans have been enjoying free vacations at Eden condos since 2014.



Back to School Beach Bash August 17 in Gulf Shores

The City of Gulf Shores will host its annual Back to School Beach Bash at 6 p.m. on Thursday, August 17 at the west end of the Gulf Shores Public Beach. The Back to School Beach Bash will feature music, campfires and all of the makings for s'mores. These family-friendly events started in 2010 and have quickly become the perfect recipe for families of all ages who are looking for a little free fun and excitement.

"Families are encouraged to bring their blankets, chairs, friends and family to join the fun and relax on the beautiful, white sand of the Gulf Shores Public Beach," said Programs and Events Manager Brigette Reynolds. "This event is free and open to the public."

For more information about the Back to School Beach Bash, contact the Special Events Division at 251-968-1172.

Shop For A Cause Aug. 12 at The Royal Standard

The Royal Standard in Gulf Shores, in cooperation with Liberty Church, The Bay Area Food Bank and Feeding The Gulf Coast, will host the Shop For A Cause fundraiser on Saturday, Aug. 12 from 10 a.m. 'til 6 p.m.

Ten percent of all sales at Royal Standard, located at 3769 Gulf Shores Pkwy. in Gulf Shores, will benefit the backpack program at Liberty Church in partnership with Feeding The Gulf Coast.

The event also includes a raffle (\$1 per ticket of three tickets for \$5) and kids' face painting from 2-4 p.m.

In addition, The Royal Standard is offering 20 percent off and free monogramming on kids' merchandise, and 50 percent off end of season styles.

The Backpack Program provides weekend meals to students who have been identified as in need by their teacher or counselor.



About Boating Safely Class Aug. 5 in O.B.

The About Boating Safely Class is being presented by Flotilla 3-10 of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary on Saturday, August 5 from 7:45 a.m. 'til 4 p.m. at the Orange Beach Community



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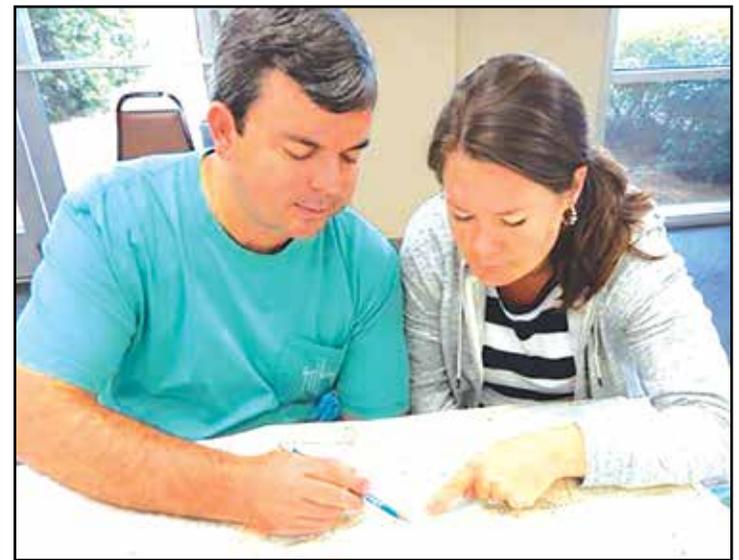
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AROUND TOWN



Sandstock returns to Flora-Bama Aug. 5

Wear your favorite "hippie" attire on Saturday, August 5, as the Flora-Bama goes back in time in a tribute to celebrate the anniversary of the "3-day festival of Love and Music" that would come to define the "hippie" generation.

Festivities begin at noon with all your favorite artists dressing up while performing renditions of their favorite songs made famous by Creedence Clearwater Revival, The Grateful Dead, Joe Cocker, Janis Joplin, Bob Dylan and other greats from that fabulous era!

Featured artists to include The Stolen Faces, Lee Yankee & The Hellz Yeah, Jack Robertson's Big Earl Show, Ja "Rhythm, Dallas Moore, and Federal Expression.

The first 100 folks will receive complimentary "Love Beads" and "Flora-Bama Brownies" while they last. Souvenir "Tye-Dye" shirts will also be available in the Gift Shop with a portion of proceeds to benefit the local Community Drug and Alcohol Council. For more information, contact Jenifer Surface at jenifer@florabama.com or visit florabama.com or facebook. The Flora-Bama is located on the Gulf of Mexico at the Alabama-Florida state line.

Pictured: (Beth Childs photo) Christian Grizzard of the Nashville based Grateful Dead cover band The Stolen Faces, a band that deftly captures the spirit of the Dead, covering a wide variety of songs from the band's expansive catalog and delivering them with the sort of energy and spontaneity that might have you thinking you're standing in the Fillmore West in 1971. Led by bassist Christian Grizzard, the group features guitarist Jack Silverman, drummer Matt Martin, and a rotating cast of some of Nashville's top session and touring musicians. The members of The Stolen Faces all share a love for the Dead, and for the freeform jamming and good vibes that music entails. The group puts a high premium on nailing the vocal harmonies, and has the instrumental firepower to take the extended jams into some seriously trippy sonic territory. In a short time, touring through Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas, they've begun to establish a reputation as one of the Southeast's most solid and rockin' Dead bands.

O.B. Library sets hours for Makerspace program

The Orange Beach Library will have staff available to assist children participating in its Makerspace program on Mondays from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 5 p.m.- 6 p.m. in the Orange Beach Library Meeting Room

"We've had so much fun making T-shirts on our t-shirt press, using our button maker, demonstrating how to use our 3D Printer, and seeing the excitement and creativity of our patrons as they learned how to use everything our MakerSpace has to offer," said Lisa Leinhos, O.B. Library Reference Librarian. For more info about the program, call (251) 981-2923 or E-mail lleinhos@cityoforangebeach.com.

South Baldwin Literacy Council Trivia Night Aug. 19

South Baldwin Literacy Council will host its annual Trivia Night on August 19 at the Foley Civic Center. Doors open at 5 p.m., and games begin at 6:30 p.m.

A table of eight players is \$160 for the table. Patrons can bring food and drink, and decorate their tables with the theme representing any book where the title begins with the letter C. Dress in costumes that represent your theme. Prizes will be awarded for the winning trivia table, best table decoration and best costumes. Pick-A-Pot, a live auction and other activities are planned between rounds.

Email Cathy Rogers at literacy@gulftel.com for more info.



Willie Sugarcapps play Big Lagoon State Park Concert Series finale on Aug. 5

Willie Sugarcapps, 2013 Independent Music Award winners for Best Americana Album, will perform their original music live in the beautiful waterside amphitheatre at Big Lagoon State Park on Saturday, August 5. Opening for Willie Sugarcapps is **(pictured)** Bear With Me.

The concert is from 6:30-9 p.m. and tickets start at \$15 (plus \$2 park entry). For an additional \$10, VIP ticket holders enjoy early entry, pre-show meet and greet with artists and front row seating. For more information, call (850) 377-5603. Purchase your tickets at biglagoonstatepark.com. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Friends of Pensacola State Parks. The concert is a rain or shine event. No outside coolers allowed, however beer, wine & refreshments will be available for purchase. Park entrance gate is closed at sunset, so please allow time to arrive before sunset. Big Lagoon State Park is located at 12301 Gulf Beach Hwy. in Pensacola.

Birthered from a songwriter-in-the-round jam session at Cathe Steele's Frog Pond in Silverhill, Willie Sugarcapps is an organic outgrowth of the chemistry between five distinct musicians. Within these sessions, among the pot luck dishes served and a stage built to resemble a back porch, a connection brewed between Will Kimbrough, Crawford, Lee, Capps, and Hughes. Individually, these musicians have written, recorded, and toured throughout the US, with the likes of Jimmy Buffett, Emmylou Harris, Neil Young, Kate Campbell, Dwight Yoakam, and Steve Winwood, to name a few.

Bear With Me is a Folk/New Grass band from Pensacola featuring Joseph Seely on Banjo/Guitar/Vocals, Ryan Bilbrey on Guitar/Drums/Vocals and Walter Weakley, III on Double Bass/Vocals. Blending styles from folk, bluegrass, country, with a touch of blues and Rock N' Roll. Bear With Me has created their own style solely dubbed, Folk New Grass. Along with the plethora of experience and knowledge the three members bring to the stage, comes a form of expressive emotional lyricism, clearly understood in the groups three-part harmonies.

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AROUND TOWN



Alabama's Strongest Man/Woman Contest Aug. 19-20 at Hangout Proceeds from 5th annual event will benefit McKinley Turner Fund

Alabama's Strongest Man/Woman contest will be held August 19-20 beginning at 9:30 a.m. each morning in the courtyard at The Hangout at Gulf Shores Public Beach. Admission is free to the public and a portion of the event proceeds will be going to the family of McKinley Turner, who is currently fighting a rare case of childhood brain cancer (see below).

The competition will include five events: max axle press (for state record), axle deadlift for reps, duck walk, sandbag carry for max distance, and keg carry and load. There are six divisions competing: Women, Novice, Masters, Lightweight Open, Middleweight Open and Heavyweight Open. It is an amateur event.

Festivities on Sunday, Aug. 20 include an atlas stone-loading event for cash prizes.

"We have athletes coming from Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida and Louisiana," said Chris Slater, owner of Alabama Strength in Foley and the state chair for Alabama with the North American Strongman Corp. "Part of my job is to host a contest every year and also try to promote the sport of strongman in the area. This is our 5th year running this contest and we went from 14 athletes in year one to 73 last year. Both days are family friendly, and we would like a big crowd."

For more event info, call 517-812-4143 or visit facebook page.

McKinley's Story

On January 24, 2017, three year old McKinley Turner was diagnosed with a brain tumor. On February 1, she underwent an extensive surgery to remove approximately 70% of the tumor. Shortly after, McKinley was diagnosed with Anaplastic Ependymoma, Stage 3, a rare childhood brain cancer, which is very aggressive in McKinley's case.

Between February and May, McKinley underwent several more surgeries to include a port placement, a shunt placement, feeding tube placement, several lumbar punctures, and two cycles of chemotherapy.

In May, McKinley underwent two more extensive brain surgeries to remove more of the tumor. After the second surgery, the neurosurgeon was confident that he has removed almost all of the tumor, but a follow-up MRI revealed that McKinley's tumor had grown exponentially between mid-April and early May.

After recovering from her 3rd major brain surgery on May 5, McKinley was referred to MD Anderson in Houston, where doctors discovered that McKinley's cancer had metastasized to her spine and she had a new spot on her brain that was not there two weeks prior. She has gone through six weeks of Proton Therapy (5 days a week) to her entire brain and spine to try and eliminate her tumors and kill the cancer.

The results of her radiation treatment have not been confirmed. In the meantime, McKinley continues to receive speech therapy on a weekly basis while she is evaluated for any long-term damage that has occurred as a result of her condition and the extensive treatment that she has received.

Jazz Pensacola on Aug. 21 part of Seville Quarter's 50th anniversary celebration

Jazz Pensacola joins in the festivities of Seville Quarter/Rosie O'Grady's 50th Anniversary celebration with its Jazz Gumbo, featuring Charles Cetti and The First City Dixieland Jazz Band.

The fun runs 6:30 to 9 p.m. Monday, Aug. 21, in Phineas Phogg's, Seville Quarter, 130 E. Government St. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Seville Quarter began in 1967 as the dream of Bob Snow, a Minnesota native, who was a virtuoso trumpet player, Dixieland band leader, naturally gifted designer, builder and energetic entrepreneur. Snow fell in love with Pensacola while in Navy Flight training. Starting with \$1,100, his horn and his heart, Snow started Rosie O'Grady's in the old Pensacola Cigar & Tobacco Co. warehouse on Government Street. Opening night was Aug. 16, 1967. Lili Marlene's was added next, followed by the other distinctive rooms that now make up the Pensacola entertainment and dining complex,

Seville Quarter.

Jazz Gumbo is \$10 each for Jazz Pensacola members and guests, \$12 for non-members, free for students with ID and military in uniform. Also, join Jazz Pensacola at this event, and admission is free.

Admission includes a cup of seafood gumbo, and you can order from the menu and cash bar. Hold onto your admission tickets for Door Prize drawings. Attendees can also purchase 50/50 tickets for a cash drawing. The winner gets half, and Jazz Pensacola gets half to benefit its music program.

Jazz Pensacola is a non-profit organization of business and professional people, musicians, teachers, students and listeners working together for the purpose of advancing jazz music and education in Pensacola and the surrounding area.

For membership and information, call (850) 433-8382, or visit jazzpensacola.com.



Sirens of the Sea Football Tailgating Drawdown is Sept. 15

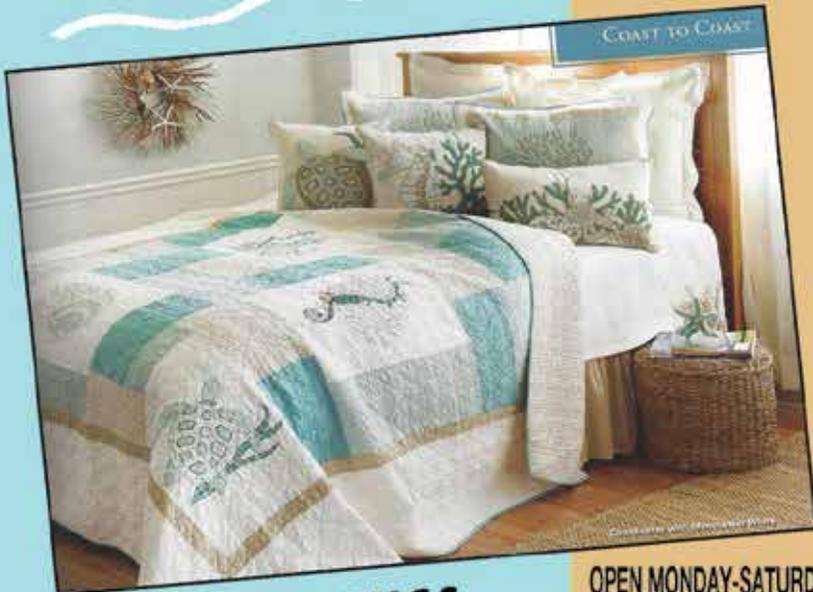
Football Season is almost here, so mark your calendar for the Sirens of the Sea Football Tailgating Drawdown. Sirens of the Sea, a local women's Mardi Gras Krewe, has lots in store for this event. It is their annual fundraiser and promises to be bigger and better than ever. It is going to be held at the Orange Beach Event Center at The Wharf on September 15. Doors open at 6 p.m. The Grand Prize is a hefty \$5000. There will be a Silent Auction with many valuable items to bid on. There is also a Raffle with great prizes to win. Raffle Tickets are only \$2. The prizes this year include a Crewed Inshore Fishing Package, a Golf Package for 2 and the popular Dining Out Basket. The band STORMY, a full sound 8 piece band from Louisiana will complement the night with horns, keyboard and vocals. Dinner is included and will be catered by Down South BBQ. Everyone is invited to come out and join the Tailgate Party Drawdown and wear their favorite NCAA College or NFL Pro Football team fanfare. Sirens of the Sea support our local communities throughout the year. A portion of the proceeds support several selected local charities, and previously include Sea, Sand and Stars Science Center. Their Annual Sirens Scholarship Fund is awarded to a local high school senior for college tuition. Tickets are \$50 and are now on sale. For more information or tickets contact Linda Pacatte at 251-402-2218 or Judy Hamby 270-887-9691 or any Siren member.

Pictured: Sirens (left to right) Judie Hooper, Dot Bailey, Marcia Middlebrooks, Nancy Pickering, Deb Windham, Ann Morrison, and Jennifer McEvoy

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AROUND TOWN



OBES TEACHER SELECTED TO ATTEND SPACE ACADEMY: OBES Teacher and Director of The Steven W. Baker, Sea, Sand, & Stars Science Center at Orange Beach Elementary School, Mrs. Nicole Bryant, had the honor of being the only Alabama teacher to be selected to attend the Honeywell Educators Space Academy at the Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama, this summer on a full scholarship from Honeywell. While there she attended classes, completed missions to the moon and Mars, met astronauts, and so much more! This picture is from her experience on the 1/6th gravity chair which allows you to see what it would be like to walk on the moon. Honeywell selects 130 teachers from around the globe to participate in their week-long educator's program.

St. Peter's in Bon Secour hosts Aug. 3 fish-fry

St. Peter's Episcopal Church will host an old fashioned fish-fry on the first Thursday of every month on its beautiful campus in Bon Secour from 5-7 p.m. The next feast is August 3, and fish-frys are also scheduled on Sept. 7 and Oct. 5. Fried fish plate includes sides of hushpuppies, baked beans, coleslaw, potato salad and dessert all for \$10. Eat in or take out. St. Peter's is located on the corner of County roads 10 and 49 at 6270 County Road 10 in Bon Secour. For more info, call 251-949-6254 or visit stpeters-bonsecour.diocgc.com.

Today's Grandparenting class meets at GSUMC

Gateways to Grandparenting - Information & Resources For Today's Grandparenting is the title of a class that meets the first Thursday of each month from 11 a.m. 'til noon in Room B-206 at Gulf Shores United Methodist Church Thee Coffee Chop, Winn Dixie Shopping Center. Info: 251-968-2411.

The Hangout is 2nd in state in liquor sales

The Hangout at Gulf Shores Public Beach bought the second most liquor wholesale in 2016 for on-premise consumption (not including beer or wine) from the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, according to a July 21

al.com story. The Hangout finished behind Aluburn's Sky Bar Cafe, which bought a whopping \$627,196 worth of wholesale liquor from ABC last year, according to al.com. That was almost \$300,000 more than second place Hangout.

Other South Baldwin establishments on al.com's top 25 ABC customers included The Grand Hotel in Point Clear at no. 4, Josephine's Pirates Cove at no. 11, Lulu's Restaurant in Gulf Shores at no. 19 and Orange Beach's Cobalt Restaurant at no. 21.

Sparks after Dark every Thursday at Wharf

Sky rockets. Pyrotechnics. Fire flowers. Light showers. It doesn't matter what you call 'em, fireworks are pretty much loved by one and all. They are the exclamation point at the end of any special event or commemoration. That's why The Wharf is transforming every average Thursday evening into a glittering, gleaming celebration.

Following the first light show (around 8:47ish) every Thursday, the skies over Main Street at the Orange Beach shopping, dining & entertainment district will be ablaze with bursts of technicolor flare, illuminating The Wharf in a kaleidoscope of hues.

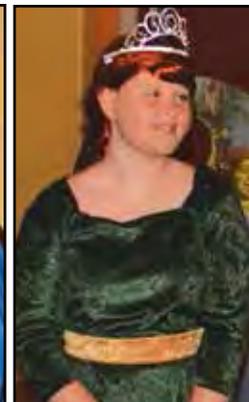
Now you won't have to wait impatiently for that once-a-year occasion to witness the magic of fireworks. Each Thursday, The Wharf will highlight one of its sponsors, including My Phone Accessories on Aug. 3.

SBCT's Shrek, The Musical opens Aug. 4

Tickets are on sale now for the South Baldwin Community Theatre's six run production of Shrek, The Musical. To purchase online, go to sbct.biz. (\$18 for adults & \$12 for students). An SBCT Young Artist production, the play runs from Friday, Aug. 4 thru Sunday, Aug. 13. Friday and Saturday evening shows start at 7:30 p.m., and the curtain rises at 2 p.m. for the Sunday matinees. Based on the Oscar-winning DreamWorks Animation film, Shrek the Musical is a Tony Award-winning fairy tale adventure featuring all new songs from Jeanine Tesori and a sidesplitting book by David Lindsay-Abaire. Shrek brings all the beloved characters you know from the film to life on stage, and proves there's more to the story than meets the ears.

Tickets are also available at the theatre box office (2022 W. 2nd St. in Gulf Shores the week of the show Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and at the door. Call 251-968-6721 for more info.

Pictured: The SBCT hosted a Breakfast with Shrek on July 29.





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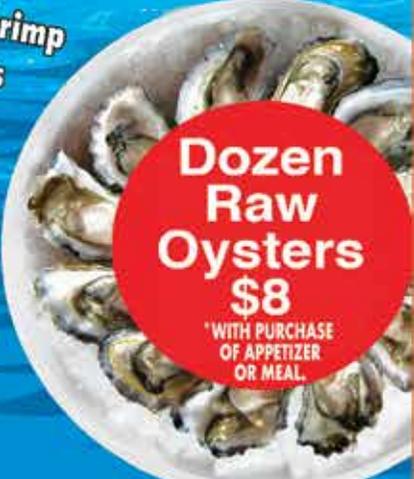
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Funny Bones

By George Ridder



I have been in many places, but I've never been in Kahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Kahoots with someone. I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there. I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have

made several trips there, thanks to my children, friends, family and work.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often.

I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favorite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenaline flowing and pumps up the old heart!

I may have been in Continent, but I don't remember what country that was in.

A wife got so mad at her husband she packed his bags and told him to get out.

As he walked to the door she yelled, "I hope you die a long, slow, painful death."

He turned around and said, "So, you want me to stay?"

A woman ran a red traffic light and crashed into a man's car. Both of their cars are demolished but amazingly neither of them was hurt.

After they crawled out of their cars, the woman said, "Wow, just look at our cars! There's nothing

left, but fortunately we are unhurt. This must be a sign from God that we should meet and be friends and live together in peace for the rest of our days."

The man replied, "I agree with you completely. This must be a sign from God!"

The woman continued, "And look at this, here's another miracle. My car is completely demolished, but my bottle of 75 year old scotch didn't break. Surely God meant for us to drink this vintage delicacy and celebrate our good fortune." Then she handed the bottle to the man.

The man nodded his head in agreement, opened it, drank half the bottle and then handed it back to the woman. The woman took the bottle, immediately put the cap back on, and handed it back to the man.

The man asks, "Aren't you having any?"

She replies, "Nah. I think I'll just wait for the police."

A very beautiful woman was grocery shopping at a new supermarket that just opened in town when a man approached her.

He said, "You're really beautiful. Can you talk to me for a couple of minutes?"

The woman was surprised and asked, "Sure, but why?"

The man responded, "I lost my wife here a few minutes ago and every time I talk to a beautiful woman my wife appears out of

nowhere."

Paddy was making his first visit to a hospital where his teenage son was about to have an operation. Watching the doctor's every move, he asked, "What's that?"

The doctor explained, "This is an anesthetic. After he gets this he won't know a thing."

"Save your time, Doc," exclaimed Paddy. "He don't know nothing now."

One day, after a man had his annual physical, the doctor came out and said, "You had a great checkup. Is there anything that you'd like to talk about or ask me?"

"Well," he said, "I was thinking about getting a vasectomy."

"That's a pretty big decision. Have you talked it over with your family?"

"Yeah, and they're in favor 15 to 2."

Death and taxes are inevitable. But at least death doesn't get worse every year!

Went to my eye doctor the other day. Guess who I bumped into? Everyone!

Two friends, Joe and Charlie, are playing in the playground, hanging off monkey bars and constantly having to swat at the flies that buzz around the playground.

At one point, Charlie hits one and

kills it. He says proudly, "Did you see that?"

Joe replies, "That's nothing, I killed 5 flies yesterday at home, 3 males and 2 females."

"How could you tell them apart?" asks Charlie.

"Easy - the 3 males were sitting on a case of beer, and the 2 females were on the phone."

I took my wife to a restaurant. The waiter, for some reason, took my order first. "I'll have the rump steak, rare, please."

He said, "Aren't you worried about the mad cow?"

"Nah, she can order for herself."

My wife and I were sitting at a table at her high school reunion, and she kept staring at a drunken man swigging his drink as he sat alone at a nearby table.

I asked her, "Do you know him?" "Yes," she sighed. "He's my old boyfriend. I understand he took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear he hasn't been sober since."

"My God!" I said, "Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?"

A tourist asks a man in uniform, "Are you a policeman?" "No, I am an undercover detective."

"So why are you in uniform?" "Today is my day off."

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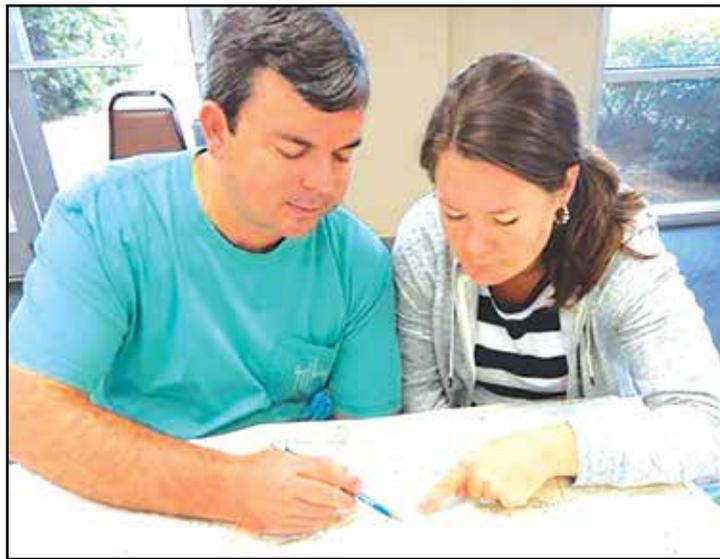
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About Boating Safely Class Aug. 5 in O.B.

The About Boating Safely Class is being presented by Flotilla 3-10 of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary on Saturday, August 5 from 7:45 a.m. 'til 4 p.m. at the Orange Beach Community Center. Upon completion of this 8 hour boat safety course you will receive a boating safety education certificate that satisfies the Alabama requirements for a boating license. The course provides instruction in types of boats, boating law, boat safety equipment, boat handling, and navigation. The course is open to ages 12 and above at a cost of \$35 per student or \$50 for two family members sharing a book. The cost includes a textbook, instructional materials, and lunch. Registration is required. To register for the course contact Malcom Chase via phone at 251-284-1461 or via Email at malinmo@yahoo.com. Information is also available on the Coast Guard Auxiliary web site cgaux.org. **Pictured:** Wes and Mindy McKenzie locate a navigation aid during a lesson of the About Boating Safely course.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Mystics \$5K Thunder Run & Poker Showdown Aug. 11-12

The Mystics of Pleasure, a Pleasure Island based Mardi Gras krewe, will offer a \$5,000 grand prize at its 17th Annual Thunder Run & Poker Showdown August 11-12. In addition to the grand prize, the krewe will draw two \$500 cash drawings from sponsor receipts.



The captain's party is slated on Friday evening at 6 p.m. at The Intra-coastal, located at The Wharf in Orange Beach. In addition to live entertainment, the party will feature a cash bar, packet pick-up table and light hors d'oeuvres.

Saturday's after-party and poker showdown will begin at 5 p.m. at GT's on The Bay in Orange Beach. That party will also feature food and live entertainment.

The event is being promoted as a fun day on the water poker run rather than a fast boat poker run, and participants are even welcome to drive to the different stops to pick up playing cards.

Stops this year will include Tacky Jack's (all three locations) Lucy Buffett's LuLu's, Bayes Southern Bar and Grill, Island Time Daiquiri Bar, GT's on the Bay, Pirates Cove, Webb's Hardware, Flora Bama Yacht Club, Cobalt, Pleasure Island Tiki Bar, The Anchor, Fisher's Dockside and Wolf Bay Lodge @ Zeke's Landing.

Join the party. Call 251-981-4552, visit the Mystics on facebook, at mysticsofpleasure.org, or email davidmcclure078@gmail.com for more info.

THU, AUG 3

- **Flora-Bama Possible Probables:** 2 p.m. 'til; (Sched. on pages 32-33), Flora-Bama, Perdido Key.
- **Flora-Bama Bingo:** 1-4 p.m.; Flora-Bama Loung Tent Stage; Perdido Key.
- **Southern Grace Celebrity Chef Dinners with Levon Wallace:** 6:30; Fisher's at Orange Beach Marina; (251) 981-7305.
- **St. Peter's of Bon Secour Episcopal Church Fish Fry:** 5 p.m.; St Peter's Episcopal Church, 6270 Bon Secour Hwy.
- **20th Annual Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation Professional Rodeo:** 6 p.m.; Foley Horse Arena.
- **The Velcro Pygmies:** 10 p.m.; Live Bait, Orange Beach.
- **National IPA Day Triple Beer Release:** 11 a.m.; Big Beach Brewery; Gulf Shores.
- **Adam Holt Duo:** 6; Lucy Buffett's LuLu's, Gulf Shores; 251-948-8881.
- **Sparks After Dark:** 8:45 p.m.; fireworks show; The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- **Platinum Premier Duo:** 6; San Bar Courtyard, Orange Beach.
- **Open Mic:** 7; Snapper's; Orange Beach.
- **Broken Down Car:** noon; poolside; Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- **Matt Slowick:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- **Logan Spicer:** 6; The Tin Top, Bon Secour.
- **Knee Deep:** 7; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
- **Alabama Lightning:** 6:30; Flippers, Orange Beach.
- **John Lee Sanders:** 6; Voyagers Restaurant at Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- **John Brust:** 6; The Lobby Bar at Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- **LeeAnn Creswell & Lisa Zanghi:** 6; Franco's Italian Restaurant, Orange

Beach.

- **Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde:** 8; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- **Rick Whaley & Tommy Mazullo:** 6; The Purple Parrot; Perdido Key.
- **Karaoke:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
- **Karaoke:** 8; Tacky Jacks, Ft. Morgan.
- **Karaoke:** 10; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- **8 Ball APA:** 7:30; The Office, Foley.
- **Rotary Club of Gulf Shores/Orange Beach:** noon; Gulf Shores Golf Club; visiting Rotarians and guests invited.
- **Gulf Shores United Methodist Church Bread Ministry:** 9-10; every Thursday; room 103 on the south campus, next to Crossroad; 251 968-2411.
- **Grief Support Group:** noon-1:30 p.m.; First Presbyterian Church of Foley; 195 E. Berry Ave.; for all who are grieving; 943-8325.
- **Adult Bible Study:** 10 a.m.; Gulf Shores Presbyterian Church; all welcome; (251) 968-7720.
- **Gulf Shores Library Pre-school (3-5) Story Time:** 10:30 a.m.; 251-968-1176.
- **Orange Beach Bridge Club:** Tue. & Thur at noon; Orange Beach Senior Center; 251-981-3440.
- **AA:** Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.
- **AA:** 7 p.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

FRI, AUG 4

- **Flora-Bama Possible Probables:** 2 p.m. 'til; (Sched. on pages 32-33), Flora-Bama, Perdido Key.
- **Flora-Bama Bingo:** 1-4 p.m.; Flora-Bama Loung Tent Stage; Perdido Key.
- **Rat Pack & Motown w. James Proctor**

& Kathy Lyons: 6; Franco's; Orange Beach.

- **First Friday Art Walk:** 6; Downtown Fairhope.
- **20th Annual Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation Professional Rodeo:** 6 p.m.; Foley Horse Arena.
- **Cool Rayz:** 6; Lucy Buffett's LuLu's, Gulf Shores; 251-948-8881.
- **The Velcro Pygmies:** 10 p.m.; Live Bait, Orange Beach.
- **Shrek the Musical:** 7:30; South Baldwin Community Theater; Gulf Shores; (251) 968-6721.
- **Scott Koehn / Lisa Zanghi Duo:** 6; San Bar Courtyard, Orange Beach.
- **Lisa Christian:** 6:30; Big Beach Brewery, Gulf Shores.
- **Open Jukebox:** 7; The Office, Foley.
- **Retribution:** noon; poolside; Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- **Shiny Objects Trio:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- **John Lee Sanders:** 6; Voyagers Restaurant at Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- **Crosstown:** 7; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
- **Music Man & Company:** 7; American Legion Post 44, Gulf Shores.
- **This Side of 49:** 6; Sassy Bass Caribbean Grill, Marina Rd., Orange Beach.
- **Soul Food Junkies:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
- **Adam Tyler Brown:** 4; poolside; Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- **Rhonda Hart & Friends:** 6; The Purple Parrot; Perdido Key.
- **DJ-Karaoke:** 9; The Jellyfish, Perdido Key.
- **Karaoke:** 8; Snapper's; Orange Beach.
- **Karaoke:** 10; The Undertow; Orange Beach.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Wharf Uncorked announces culinary lineup for Sept. 14-16 event 4th annual food & wine fest to feature more than 20 chefs & restaurants

The Wharf Uncorked Food & Wine Festival will bring a dynamic roster of culinary talent from the Gulf Coast and beyond Sept. 14-16 at The Wharf in Orange Beach. Chefs will serve samples of their signature dishes, demonstrate their skills and compete for the ultimate prize.

The three-day experience will begin at 4720 Main Street from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursday Sept. 14. Reigning showdown champion, Brody Olive (Perdido Beach Resort), will be joined by two mystery chefs for this year's competition to create the best dish with Alabama Gulf Seafood fueled with culinary challenges and roadblocks. James Briscione and Brooke Parkhurst, authors of The Couples Kitchen, will emcee as they race against the clock. There will be select vendor wine and spirits tasting, an auction preview, an open bar, food samples and giveaways. Individual tickets for the kickoff event are \$35. Combo tickets for the Chef Showdown and Grand Tasting are \$80. Ticket prices will rise on Sept. 1 to \$40/\$95.

Local Wine Dinners will be held on Friday Sept. 15. The Wharf is home to more than 10 unique restaurants with a robust range of fare. Participating venues along with others along the Gulf Coast will curate individual menus with specials and wine pairings. Guests can make reservations directly through the restaurant of their choice.

The Wharf Entertainment District will be lined with vendors serving more than 100 labels of wines, craft beer, spirits and small bites on Saturday, Sept. 16 during the The Grand Tasting. The Rouses Market Culinary Experience Tent will be back.

Participating restaurants include: • Bayes Southern Bar & Grill • Blue Water BBQ Company • Cobalt • Cosmo's • Driftwood Steakhouse • Fisher's at Orange Beach Marina • Flora Bama Yacht Club • Ginny Lane Bar & Grill • GT's On The Bay • Luna's Eat & Drink • Master Joe's • Ronin Sushi Bar • Villaggio Grille • Voyagers • Wolfe Bay Lodge.

Guests cast a vote for their favorite dish, and the night will close with a ceremony of awards. Again this year, The Wharf Uncorked champion will qualify for the World Food Championships in November at The Wharf.

- **Terry Causey:** 6:30; Flippers, Orange Beach.
- **Open Jam:** 8, American Legion Post 199; Fairhope.
- **Open Jukebox:** 7; The Office, Foley.
- **Open Mixed Doubles Tennis:** 7:30 a.m.; all levels welcome; Gulf Shores Tennis

- Center; corner of West 19th Ave. and West 2nd St.
- **First Friday Art Walk:** 7 p.m. til; historic downtown Fairhope.
- **Bingo:** 5:30; Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5659; Elberta.
- **Foley Rotary Club:** 12:15 p.m.; Gift

- Horse Restaurant in Foley; foleyrotary@gulftel.com.
- **AA:** Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.
- **AA:** 7 p.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (In-



Sand Sea & Spirit Retreat Sept. 9-19 in Orange Beach

The Sand Sea and Spirit Retreat will celebrate its 27th year of sharing ways of keeping self and community healthy and balanced from Sept. 9-19 from its headquarters at Phoenix VI and various other venues (including the beach) around Orange Beach.

A long list of presenters will share wisdom and experience about topics ranging from wholesome nutrition, healing modalities, T'ai Chi, meditation, yoga, reiki and massage to diet and diverse modalities.

The premise behind the retreat is to help attendees find a balance of body, mind and spirit through a holistic approach to life.

The retreat will include opportunities for creative expression through watercolor, crafting jewelry and making masks. Daily entertainment includes some of the finest singers and songwriters in the country.

A diverse group of vendors will offer crystals, hand crafted jewelry and artisan crafts. Holistic practitioners such as massage therapists, reiki masters and aromatherapists will also share their gifts and talents.

Even though this is a ten-day event, participants can customize their experience from one class, one day, to the entire event.

"By finding our unique balance in our own personal reality, we can then return to our life path/purpose revitalized and refreshed," said event coordinator Karen Rollins, who has facilitated Sand Sea and Spirit since 2009.

For more retreat info, contact Rollins at 337-794-0062, or sandseaandspirit@gmail.com or visit SandSeaAndSpirit.com. Condo Reservations are made directly with Brett Robinson Reservations at brett-robinson.com. Condo reservations may also be made 24/7 by calling 800-221-0258. **Pictured:** Group photo from a past retreat.

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September, 9th-19th, 2017
www.sandseaandspirit.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING

nerarity Point) Pensacola.

SAT, AUG 5

- **Sandstock 2017:** 1 p.m. til; Flora-Bama Lounge & Oyster Bar, Perdido Key.
- **Flora-Bama Possible Probables:** 2 p.m. til; (Sched. on pages 32-33), Flora-Bama, Perdido Key.
- **Summer Concert Series at Big Lagoon State Park Amphitheatre:** 6 p.m.; Willie Sugarcaps, Pensacola; BigLagoon-StatePark.com.
- **Shrek the Musical:** 7:30; South Baldwin Community Theater; Gulf Shores; (251) 968-6721.
- **The Velcro Pymies:** 10 p.m.; Live Bait, Orange Beach.
- **Kenny Chesney with Special Guests Midland:** 7:30; The Wharf Amphitheater; Orange Beach.

- **Light Travelers:** 6; Lucy Buffett's LuLu's, Gulf Shores; 251-948-8881.
- **Rat Pack & Motown w. James Proctor & Kathy Lyons:** 6; Franco's; Orange Beach.
- **20th Annual Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation Professional Rodeo:** 6 p.m.; Foley Horse Arena.
- **Matt Slowik:** 7; Papa Roccos; Gulf Shores.
- **DJ-Karaoke:** 9; The Jellyfish, Perdido Key.
- **John Brust:** 6; Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- **The Blenders:** 7; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
- **Rock Bottom:** 6:30; Big Beach Brewery, Gulf Shores.
- **Gino Rosaria /Carlos Vizoso:** 6; San Bar Courtyard, Orange Beach.

- **John Henry Karaoke:** 9; The Office, Foley.
- **Damian Lamb:** noon; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- **Shiny Objects Trio:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- **Karaoke By Kelly:** 9; Island Time Daquari Bar, The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- **Retrobution:** noon; poolside; Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- **Three Bean Soup:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
- **Raising Karma:** 6; The Purple Parrot; Perdido Key.
- **Two of Hearts:** 7; American Legion Post 44, Gulf Shores.
- **Karaoke:** 8; Tacky Jacks, Ft. Morgan.
- **Flip Flop Mafia:** 7; Flippers, Orange Beach.
- **Open Jam:** 8; American Legion Post

- 199; Fairhope.
- **Karaoke:** 10; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- **Midnight Confessions:** 7:30; Nolan's, Gulf Shores.
- **Coastal Alabama Farmer's & Fisherman's Market:** 9-2; 20733 Miflin Rd., Foley.
- **Optimist Club of Perdido Bay:** Breakfast every Saturday at 7 a.m. at the Lillian Community Club in Lillian; (251)

- 961-2620.
- **AA:** 10 a.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.
- **AA:** 7 p.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.
- **Ladies AA:** 9 a.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.



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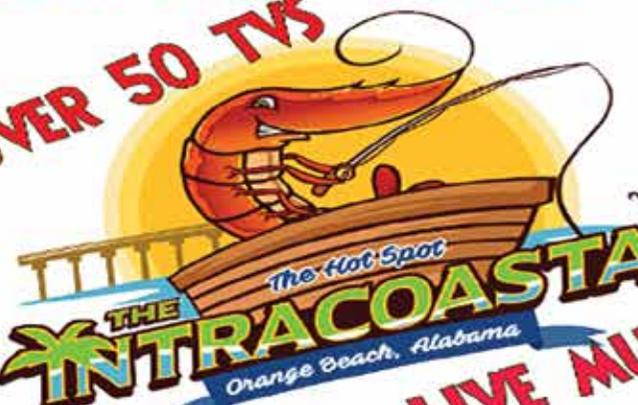
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

SUN, AUG 6

- **Flora-Bama Possible Probables:** 2 p.m. 'til; (Sched. on pages 32-33), Flora-Bama, Perdido Key.
- **The Church at the Flora-Bama:** 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.; Flora-Bama Tent Stage, Perdido Key.
- **Unity Church Service:** 9:45 a.m.; Papa Rocco's, Hwy. 59, one block from beach in Gulf Shores.
- **Full Moon Paddle:** 6:15 p.m.; Relay For Life fundraiser; 26267 Canal Rd.; (251) 981-1524.
- **Shrek the Musical:** 2 p.m.; South Baldwin Community Theater; Gulf Shores; (251) 968-6721.
- **Destiny Brown:** 7; Papa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- **Greg Brown:** noon; Lucy Buffett's LuLu's, Gulf Shores; 251-948-8881.
- **Grits n Pieces:** 6; Lucy Buffett's LuLu's, Gulf Shores; 251-948-8881.
- **Rat Pack & Motown w. James Proctor & Kathy Lyons:** 6; Franco's; Orange Beach.
- **Sunday 2-Person Scramble:** Every Sun. at 2 p.m.; Glenlakes Golf Club, Foley, (251) 955-1220.
- **Turkey Shoot:** sign-up at 11 a.m.; Elberta VFW, Elberta.
- **Dueling Pianos:** 3p.m.; Big Beach Brewery, Gulf Shores.
- **Pierce Parker:** noon; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- **Les Linton:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- **Lisa Christian:** noon; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
- **Jim Andrews:** 11 a.m.; The Tin Top, Bon Secour.
- **Musical Man & Company:** 5; American Legion Post 44, Gulf Shores.
- **John Joiner & Friends:** 4; Hub Stacey's at the Point; Innerarity Point.
- **Gary Story:** 5; The Purple Parrot; Perdido Key.
- **John Lee Sanders:** 6; The Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- **Scott Koehn:** 5:30; Flippers, Orange Beach.
- **Open Mic Karaoke:** 6; American Legion Post 99, Foley.
- **9 Ball APA:** 6; The Office, Foley.
- **Blind Draw Dart Tournament:** 5; American Legion Post 99, Foley.
- **AA:** 5 p.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center,

13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

MON, AUG 7

- **Flora-Bama Possible Probables:** 2 p.m. 'til; (Sched. on pages 32-33), Flora-Bama, Perdido Key.
- **Flora-Bama Bingo:** free; 1-4 p.m.; great prizes, family friendly; 17401 Perdido Key Dr., Perdido Key.
- **Brent Burns:** 5; Lulu's at Homeport Marina, Gulf Shores.
- **Frankie G & LeaAnn Creswell:** 6:30; Franco's Italian Restaurant; Orange Beach.
- **Guided Pier Walk:** 10 a.m.; free; Gulf State Park Fishing Pier, Gulf Shores.
- **Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde:** 8; Papa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- **Alabama Lightning:** 6:30; Flippers, Orange Beach.
- **Open Mixed Doubles Tennis:** 7:30 a.m.; all levels welcome; Gulf Shores Tennis Center; corner of West 19th Ave. and West 2nd St.
- **L.A. Fleet Feet Running Club:** 6 p.m.; Orange Beach Marina on Marina Rd.; lafleetfeet.com.
- **Bingo:** 6; American Legion Post 44, Gulf Shores.
- **8 Ball APA:** 7:30; The Office, Foley.
- **Overeaters Anonymous:** 6; Holy Spirit Episcopal Church; Gulf Shores, 616 Ft. Morgan Rd.; 251-709-5907.
- **Orange Beach Community Center Association Monthly Covered Dish Dinner:** social at 5, dinner at 6:30 p.m.; all winter guests welcome; Canal Road next to the Recreation Center; 251-981-1942.
- **T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly):** weigh-in 5:30; meeting 6; First Presbyterian Church of Foley; (Berry & Highway 59).
- **AA:** Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.
- **AA:** 7 p.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.
- **Ladies AA:** 10 a.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



GULF S.B. CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S OUTREACH: From left, Jo Roy, Arlene Grimes, Micki Korn and Carolyn Robertson participated in the recent South Baldwin Christian Women's Outreach held in Foley at the Gift Horse Restaurant. The South Baldwin Christian Women's Outreach meets monthly at the Gift Horse Restaurant for a buffet luncheon. This month's program "Perfect Pieces" will begin at 11 a.m. on Thursday, August 10, 2017 and will feature Paparazzi Jewelry with Janet Whitney and Iris Chandler. Music will be provided by Caitlin Sommerville. Guest speaker Becky Miller of Donalsonville GA will present "Perfectly Fit Together Pieces By The Master Quilt Designer." Cost of the luncheon is \$10.00 per person. No membership or dues are required. To make a reservation for the August 10th luncheon, email emuddconnelly@gmail.com or call Elizabeth at 251-943-7142.



FAIRHOPE CHRISTIAN CHURCH PROVIDES BLESSING BOX: Fairhope Christian Church has started a Community Blessing Box to help those in our community who are in need. Filled with non-perishable food items, paper products and hygiene items, the box is unlocked and available to anyone in need, free of charge day or night. The box is on the Fairhope Christian Church campus, 349 Fairwood Blvd., directly across the street from the Fort Riel Armory. The church, through its outreach mission, seeks to find ways to make a difference in the community and this box is the latest example of reaching out and providing for the needs of those in our community. The items in the box are available 24/7 and will continue to be restocked by volunteers. Fairhope Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was begun in September of 1896 and served as the first church in Fairhope. It remains true to its earliest mission and believes its current tagline 'Reach up to God, Reach into our hearts, Reach out to others,' says much about the work it does in the Fairhope community. It is not a building, but a body of believers seeking God's will for their lives. Members of the community are encouraged to help in this ongoing endeavor. **Picture:** Fairhope Christian Church Pastor Rick Malugani introduces the newest Blessing Box; Volunteers prepare to fill the Blessing Box at 349 Fairwood Blvd.; Church members load the box with the first items donated.



TUE, AUG 8

- **Flora-Bama Possible Probables:** 2 p.m. 'til; (Sched. on pages 32-33), Flora-Bama, Perdido Key.
- **Flora-Bama Bingo:** free; 1-4 p.m.; great prizes, family friendly; 17401 Perdido Key Dr., Perdido Key.
- **Claudia Hodges Exhibition Reception:** 6 p.m.; Gulf Coast Arts Alliance, Gulf Shores, 251-948-2627.
- **Tuesday Evening Civil War Tour:** 7 p.m.; Fort Morgan Historic Site Fort Morgan, 51 Hwy 180, Gulf Shores, 251-540-7665.



NEW CHURCH MEMBERS: Rosinton United Methodist Church recently brought three youth into the Church through profession of faith, after completing a series of confirmation classes. After the ceremony, youth Olivia Bundy was baptised. The Church is located at 26011 Baldwin Beach Expressway, on the corner of CR 62, in Robertsdale. For more information please call the newly appointed Pastor, The Reverend Taylor Bean, at 251-964-5598 or visit rosintonumc.com. Rosinton UMC is also on Facebook! **Picture:** Fulton, Olivia Bundy and Jay Racine with former Pastor Kevin Krist in the back.

- **Ronnie Presley:** 6; Lucy Buffett's LuLu's, Gulf Shores; 251-948-8881.
- **Frankie G On Piano:** 6:30; Franco's Italian Restaurant; Orange Beach.
- **Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde:** 8; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- **Coconut Radio Open Jam:** 6; Sassy Bass Caribbean Grill, Marina Rd., Orange Beach.
- **Brent Burns:** 6; The Dinner, Gulf Shores.

- **Sam Glass:** 6; The Purple Parrot, Perdido Key.
- **John Lee Sanders:** 6; The Lobby Bar at Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- **Karaoke w. John Henry:** 5:30; American Legion Post 99, Foley.
- **Lisa Zanghi, Doug Habbena, Scott Koehn:** 7; Flippers, Orange Beach.
- **Pool Tournery:** 7; Snapper's; Orange Beach.
- **JW Karaoke:** 6; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
- **Karaoke:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.

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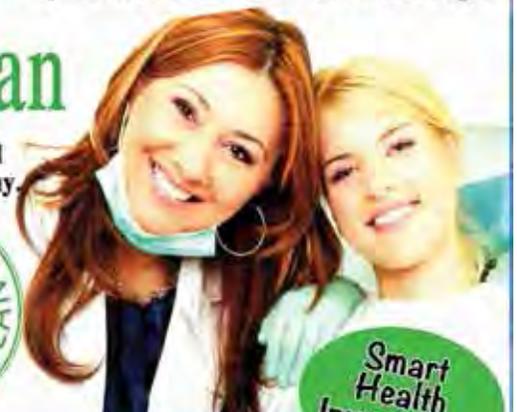
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Lifters McGuire & Wedgeworth bring home gold

Two South Baldwin County based Olympic weightlifters, both members of A.B.B. CrossFit and Ace's Better Bodies in Gulf Shores, won the USAW Louisiana State Championship in their divisions on July 29 in Mandeville. Brandy McGuire and Berlyn Wedgeworth (pictured) brought home the gold with great performances on the snatch and clean and jerk lifts.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



Bo Grant of The Platters set for August shows at Papa Rocco's Mobile resident will play in Gulf Shores Aug. 11, 12, 25 & 26

As a member of the Platters, Charles "Bo" Grant traveled all over the country and the world from 1981 to 1998. The last performer to replace an original member of the group, Grant said those years leading the band that defined the doo-wop era of pop music in the '50s and '60s were among his most memorable.

"They were some enjoyable, entertaining and awesome, wonderful years," said. "The music of the Platters is some of the greatest ever recorded, it can't be duplicated."

A Mobile resident, Grant, while looking to establish a relationship with a venue in Baldwin County, kept hearing the name Bill McGinnis, owner of Papa Rocco's in Gulf Shores.

"He came by and we had a good conversation," McGinnis said. "He knew that Johnny Williams (formerly of the Drifters) sang here for years, and he was looking to establish something similar to that. We decided to schedule four dates to see if it works out for him and for us and see where it goes from there."

Grant will play beginning around 7 p.m. at Papa Rocco's on August 11-12 and August 25-26.

"I listened to him on youtube and he was great. People are already calling to see if they can get reservations," McGinnis said. "I love all those Platters songs. I think this is something that could really work."

Grant has released two solo albums since his Platters days, but he still sings all of the group's standards such as "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes," "The Great Pretender," and "Only You." He also sings other hits from the '50s and '60s.

The Platters' distinctive sound was a bridge between the pre-rock Tin Pan Alley tradition and the burgeoning new genre. The group had 40 charting singles between 1955 and 1967, including four no. 1 hits. For a period of time, they were the most successful vocal group in the world.

Formed in Los Angeles in 1952, the original group consisted of Alex Hodge, Cornell Gunter, David Lynch, Joe Jefferson, Gaynel Hodge and Herb Reed. In June 1953, Gunter left to join the Flaires and was replaced by lead vocalist Tony Williams.

"Only You" was the group's first Top Ten hit. The follow-up, "The Great Pretender," with lyrics written in the washroom of the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas by Buck Ram, became the Platters' first national #1 hit, with an 11-week run atop the charts. The Platters' unique vocal style had touched a nerve in the music-buying public, and a string of hit singles followed, including three more national #1 hits and more modest chart successes followed.

The group was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1990 and into the Vocal Group Hall of Fame in its inaugural year of 1998. The Platters were the first rock and roll group to have a Top Ten album in America. They were also the only act to have three songs included on the American Graffiti soundtrack that fueled an oldies revival already underway in the early to mid-1970s.

The group's line-up changed many times over the years, and the splintering of the group's line-up led to wrangling over the Platters' name, with injunctions, non-compete clauses and multiple versions of the act touring at the same time. Gaynel Hodge is the only original member of the Platters still alive. Herb Reed died in June 2012 at 83. Reed was the only group member to appear on every original Platters recording.

Fairhope Museum hosts Elderberry Fest Aug. 12

The Fairhope Museum will host the 9th annual Elderberry Festival at the Fairhope Museum of History on Saturday August 12, 2017. Festivities begin at 10:00 a.m. with demonstrations, tastings, a pie-eating contest, music and more throughout the day.

The music will once again be from the Kracker Dan Band performing from 11 to 2.

The public is invited to submit their favorite elderberry pies, cakes, breads, jams, jellies and juice as well as other elder-flower creations for the Elderberry Cook-off Contest. The deadline to submit elderberry goodies is 5 p.m. on Friday August 11. The event is free and open to the public. For additional info, call the museum at (251) 929-1471.

Sing is Aug. 3 movie at Fairhoppers Park

The City of Fairhope's Glow in the Park Summer Movie Series concludes on Thursday, August 3 with a showing of Sing at Fairhoppers Community Park on Church St. in downtown Fairhope. Moviegoers are encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chair and a picnic and relax with the whole family. The movies will begin at 8 p.m. The Fairhope Business Association will be giving away glow-in-the-dark items, and popcorn and refreshments will be available. Info: 251-929-1466.

- **Karaoke:** 5; Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5659; Elberta.
- **Coastal Alabama Farmer's & Fisherman's Market:** 2-6 p.m.; 20733 Mifflin Rd., Foley.
- **UPA 8 ball & Texas Hold (7:30):** The Office, Foley.
- **Bingo:** 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; The Gulf Coast Elks Lodge 2789, Foley; 251-550-1060.
- **Orange Beach City Council Meeting:** 5 p.m.; City Hall; 980-INFO.
- **L.A. Fleet Feet Running Club:** Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at Kids Park by Bodenhamer Rec. Center; 5K, 10K, or walk; Info: visit lafleetfeet.com.
- **Sonora Masonic Lodge:** 7 p.m.; 202 E. Jackson Street in Summerdale; sonora635.com.
- **Orange Beach Bridge Club:** Tue. & Thur at noon; Orange Beach Senior Center; 251-981-3440.
- **Orange Beach Library Children's Story Time:** 10 a.m.; preschool; 981-2923.
- **Southwest Branch Library Children's Story Time:** 10:30 a.m.; preschool; 12248 Gulf Beach Hwy, Pensacola; (850) 453-7780.
- **Gulf Shores Kiwanis Club:** Palmer Dining Room at Craft Farms; noon; new members and guests always welcome; 251-981-9999.
- **Kiwanis Club of Big Lagoon:** Breakfast meeting each Tuesday at 7:30 a.m.; speaker first three Tuesdays and a business meeting the fourth Tuesday; Perdido Bay UMC Activities Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Road, Pensacola, 262-749-4241.
- **Kiwanis Club of Foley:** Noon on Tuesdays at Ryan's in Foley; 251-968-6288.
- **AA:** Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.
- **Al-Anon:** Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Activities Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

WED, AUG 9

- **Flora-Bama Possible Probables:** 2 p.m. 'til; (Sched. on pages 32-33), Flora-Bama, Perdido Key.
- **Flora-Bama Bingo:** free; 1-4 p.m.; great prizes, family friendly; 17401 Perdido

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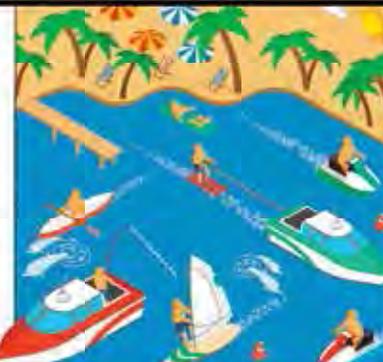
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WHAT'S HAPPENING



Triathlon and "Tri-It-On" Sept. 9 at Gulf Shores Public Beach "If you are not having fun, you're doing it wrong."

The Brett/Robinson Alabama Coastal Triathlon celebrates its 11th year on Alabama's beaches on Saturday, Sept. 9, and local racers are passionate that others join in the fun.

Helena Smith, a native of Mobile, frequently participates in local and regional marathon and triathlons. Smith was encouraged by a coworker to participate in her first race, a half-marathon. After that race, she was hooked and signed up for her first marathon the next day. A self-proclaimed science nerd and former marine biologist, Smith now spends much of her time training, participating in group rides with her local cycling community and encouraging friends and family members to get out and get active through the Fleet Feet Sports No Boundaries mentorship program.

"If you are not having fun, you're doing it wrong," Smith said. "If you are too hard on yourself, it will just make life and training miserable."

Locals and visitors are invited to participate in the long-course triathlon that will feature a 1.5K swim in the Gulf of Mexico, 40K bike ride through the Gulf State Park and 10K scenic run, or the "Tri-It-On" consisting of a 300-yard swim, 10-mile bike ride and 2-mile run. Pre- and post-race activities for both events will take place at The Hangout.

"Because of local supporters like Helena, as well as visitors that to return to the destination each year for this race, the Brett/Robinson Alabama Coastal Triathlon continues to grow," said Beth Gendler, vice president of sales for the Gulf Shores & Orange Beach Sports Commission. "This race offers both veteran triathletes and beginners the ability to accomplish something so tremendous while also enjoying our beautiful beaches here in Gulf Shores and Orange Beach."

Register for the triathlon by Aug. 20 for \$120 for individuals, \$170 for two-person relays and \$200 for three-person relays. "Tri-It-On" registrations received by Aug. 20 cost \$70 for individuals, \$90 for two-person relays and \$105 for three-person relays. Prices will increase on Aug. 21. To register, please visit <http://team-magic.com/events/67/contents/register>.

There is also a heavy need for volunteers during this race. The Sports Commission Volunteer Incentive Program supports civic groups by contributing \$40 per volunteer for each shift worked at designated sporting events. To learn about volunteering with the Sports Commission, contact Sarah Cooper at 251-947-4611 or Scooper@GulfShores.com.

For information on upcoming athletic events along Alabama's Gulf Coast, visit GulfShores.com/Sports/Media-Room, or call 1-800-745-SAND.

Pictured: Athletes will be compete in the Brett/Robinson Alabama Coastal Triathlon on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017 in Gulf Shores.



Galloway-Whelan named ESAC Executive Director

Bryant Galloway Whelan (pictured) will join the Eastern Shore Art Center as Executive Director, on September 18, succeeding Kate Fisher, who is retiring after a seven-year tenure. Whelan comes to ESAC with a rich history of professional success in the arts and in marketing and business development. She served for several years as Executive Director of the Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center of Arts and Education, where she created programs that increased membership, secured new grant funding for the center, and developed new education programs, outreach opportunities and fundraising events. A life-long artist, Whelan has also taught classes in painting, printmaking, graphic design, and children's art and is a member of a number of arts associations across the south. Whelan holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Auburn University with a concentration in Visual Communications.

In addition to her background in art and arts administration, Whelan has served as Vice President of Business Development at Red Square Agency in Mobile, and Managing Director of The Focus Group in Gulfport. She also ran her own marketing and consulting firm for clients in four states and Brazil. Board President Gaye Lindsey said "her wide-ranging experience in business, marketing, and the arts makes Whelan the ideal candidate as we embark on a major exterior renovation, following significant interior upgrades performed over the summer."

Whelan, who grew up in Mobile, is looking forward to settling in Fairhope and to connecting with the arts and business communities along the Eastern Shore.

"As an artist and a girl who grew up sailing on Mobile Bay out of Fairhope, the opportunity to do what I love and make an impact in this community is a dream come true," she said.

Key Dr., Perdido Key.

• **Rat Pack to Motown favorites J.P. and Kathy Lyons:** 6; Franco's; Orange Beach.

• **Open Mic Night:** 5:30; Tacky Jack's, Gulf Shores.

• **Frankie G On Piano:** 6:30; Franco's Italian Restaurant; Orange Beach.

• **John Lee Sanders:** 6; Voyagers Restaurant at Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.

• **John Brust:** 6; The Lobby Bar at Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.

• **Southern Fried Voodoo:** 6; Big Beach Brewery, Gulf Shores.

• **Broken Down Car:** noon; poolside; Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.

• **Lisa Zanghi & Scott Koehn:** 6:30; Flippers, Orange Beach.

• **Karaoke:** 7; American Legion Post 44, Gulf Shores.

• **John Joiner & Friends:** 7; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.

• **Karaoke & Dance Party:** 6; The Purple Parrot; Perdido Key.

• **Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde:** 8; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.

• **Karaoke & Dance Party:** 6; The Purple Parrot; Perdido Key.

• **Trivia (7:30) Karaoke (9):** The Office, Foley.

• **Open Mixed Doubles Tennis:** 7:30 a.m.; all levels welcome; Gulf Shores Tennis Center; corner of West 19th Ave. and West 2nd St.

• **Veteran's Bingo:** 10 a.m. -2 p.m.; American Legion Post 99, Foley.

• **Trivia Night:** 6:30 p.m.; The Gulf Coast Elks Lodge 2789, Foley; 251-550-1060.

• **Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Activities Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

• **Bingo:** 6 p.m.; American Legion Post 240; 8666 Gulf Beach Hwy.; Pensacola.

• **South Alabama Senior Travelers:** 9 a.m.; Foley Senior Center; visitors welcome; 251-928-4494.

• **Orange Beach Friends of the Library:** 10; Library meeting room; 978-4106.

• **Food Ministry For Hungry Families:** noon-1 p.m.; Grace Lutheran Church, corner of West 23rd Ave. and West 4th St. in Gulf Shores; 251-968-5991.

• **Bread Ministry:** 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Orange Beach United Methodist Church Brook's Center.

• **Food Bank:** 9 - 11 a.m every Wednesday, Perdido Bay Baptist Church, 12600 Sorrento Rd. Pensacola; call for eligibility requirements at (850) 492-2604.

• **Gulf Shores Woman's Club:** 11 a.m.; Palmer Room at Craft Farms; all interested women invited to attend; 251-980-5722.

• **Perdido Key Rotary Club:** 7:30 a.m.; every Wednesday at Triggers. 850.492.8335.

• **Gulf Shores Lions Club:** noon; 2nd & 4th Wednesday; noon; Gulf Shores Community House, 300 E. 16th Avenue; 251-968-2823.

• **Storytime at Pensacola Southwest**

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Branch Library: free; infant to 5; 10:30-11; 12238 Old Gulf Beach Hwy; (850)453-7780.

• **AA:** Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

THU, AUG 10

- **Flora-Bama Possible Probables:** 2 p.m. 'til; (Sched. on pages 32-33), Flora-Bama, Perdido Key.
- **Flora-Bama Bingo:** free; 1-4 p.m.; great prizes, family friendly; 17401 Perdido Key Dr., Perdido Key.
- **Sparks After Dark:** 8:45 p.m.; fireworks show; The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- **Open Mic:** 7; Snapper's; Orange Beach.
- **Lefty Collins:** 6; Lucy Buffett's LuLu's, Gulf Shores; 251-948-8881.
- **Raising Karma:** 7; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
- **Damian Lamb:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- **Logan Spicer:** 6; The Tin Top, Bon Secour.
- **Jim Andrews:** 6; San Bar Courtyard, Orange Beach.

ange Beach.

- **Karaoke:** 10; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- **Alabama Lightning:** 6:30; Flippers, Orange Beach.
- **John Lee Sanders:** 6; Voyagers Restaurant at Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- **Broken Down Car:** noon; poolside; Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- **John Brust:** 6; The Lobby Bar at Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- **Rick Whaley & Tommy Mazullo:** 6; The Purple Parrot; Perdido Key.
- **LeeAnn Creswell & Lisa Zanghi:** 6; Franco's Italian Restaurant, Orange Beach.
- **Karaoke:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
- **Karaoke:** 8; Tacky Jacks, Ft. Morgan.
- **Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde:** 7; Papa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- **8 Ball APA:** 7:30; The Office, Foley.
- **Rotary Club of Gulf Shores/Orange Beach:** noon; Gulf Shores Golf Club; visiting Rotarians and guests invited.
- **Gulf Shores United Methodist Church Bread Ministry:** 9-10; every Thursday;

room 103 on the south campus, next to Crossroad; 251 968-2411.

- **Adult Bible Study:** 10 a.m.; Gulf Shores Presbyterian Church; all welcome; (251) 968-7720.
- **Orange Beach Bridge Club:** Tue. & Thur at noon; Orange Beach Senior Center; 251-981-3440.
- **Gulf Shores Library Pre-school (3-5) Story Time:** 10:30 a.m.; 251-968-1176.
- **Western Gate Chapter of the Florida Trail Association Monthly Meeting:** 6:30 p.m. Monthly meeting; visitors welcome. Details: (850) 932-0125 or westgate.floridatrail.org
- **AA:** Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

FRI, AUG 11

- **Flora-Bama Possible Probables:** 2 p.m. 'til; (Sched. on pages 32-33), Flora-Bama, Perdido Key.
- **Flora-Bama Bingo:** free; 1-4 p.m.; great prizes, family friendly; 17401 Perdido Key Dr., Perdido Key.

- **Shrek the Musical:** 7:30; South Baldwin Community Theater; Gulf Shores; (251) 968-6721.
- **Sounds of Summer Outdoor Summer Concert Series:** 6:30 p.m.; Pelican Place Shopping Center, Gulf Shores.
- **Charles Grant (formerly of The Platters):** 7; Papa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- **Albert Simpson:** 6; Lucy Buffett's LuLu's, Gulf Shores; 251-948-8881.
- **Bruni & Danny:** 6:30; American Legion Post 99, Foley.
- **Rat Pack & Motown w. James Proctor & Kathy Lyons:** 6; Franco's; Orange Beach.
- **Rhonda Hart & Friends:** 6; The Purple Parrot; Perdido Key.
- **Christiana Christian:** 6:30; Big Beach Brewery, Gulf Shores.
- **Platinum Premier Duo:** 6; San Bar Courtyard, Orange Beach.
- **Tommy Morse:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
- **Moderate Chops Duo:** 7; The Office, Foley.
- **Jason Justice:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.

- **Retrobution:** noon; poolside; Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- **Beyond The Break:** 7; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
- **John Lee Sanders:** 6; The Lobby Bar at Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- **Midnight Confessions:** 7:30; Nolan's, Gulf Shores.
- **Music Man & Company:** 7; American Legion Post 44, Gulf Shores.
- **Lisa Zanghi Duo:** 4; poolside; Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- **DJ-Karaoke:** 9; The Jellyfish, Perdido Key.
- **Open Jam:** 8; American Legion Post 199; Fairhope.
- **Karaoke:** 10; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- **Karaoke:** 8; Snapper's; Orange Beach.
- **Open Jukebox:** 7; The Office, Foley.
- **Terry Causey:** 7; Flippers, Orange Beach.
- **Open Mixed Doubles Tennis:** 7:30 a.m.; all levels welcome; Gulf Shores

OPTIMIST CLUB OF PERDIDO BAY FASHION/LUNCHEON SHOW



The Optimist Club of Perdido Bay had another successful luncheon/fashion show. The 9th Annual event featured local "models" wearing clothing from Cato's in Foley and Van Heusen in the Tanger Outlet Mall. Members of the club decorated their tables in various themes from casual to formal, from Hawaiian to country farm. They also provided a variety of food for the buffet and a supply of door prizes. Thank you to all who participated, providing funds to help the club in their mission "Bringing Out the Best in Kids." Proceeds from the event help to provide a variety of programs and special events for local children. Other fund-raising projects include The Streets of Red, White and Blue program and the annual Mullet Festival on Labor Day. The Optimist Club of Perdido Bay meets every Saturday morning at 8 a.m. in the Lillian Community Club. Those who are interested in helping kids, should drop in one Saturday morning to see what the club is all about, and, to make new friends.



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Membership Night 6 pm Members get a chance to win Hawaiian vacation and get first drink free (up to \$5 value)	Military Night 6 pm - 'til Free Admission to military & veterans with ID	Good Times & Good Music	Service Industry Night 6 pm Hospitality Industry gets free admission, 1st drink free (up to \$5 value) & employee prices	Open Mic Night 6 pm	Taco Tuesday 6 pm - 'til 2 Tacos & 1 PBR Draft Beer For \$6	Wacky Women Night 6-9 pm First Drink Free (up to \$5 value) for the Ladies
3 Main Room 2:00 Dave McCormick 6:00 Mark Sherrill, Chris Newbury, Mel Knapp, James Daniel 10:15 Mario Mena Duo Deck Stage 5:30 Dueling Pianos with Frankie Golden & Steve Wilkerson 10:00 River Dan Band Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Bingo 6:00 Jo Jo Pres 10:30 Yeah, Probably Yacht Club 5:00 Zachary Diedrich	4 Main Room 2:00 Lea Anne Creswell Duo 6:00 Brian Hill Duo 10:15 Davis Nix Duo Deck Stage 1:00 J Hawkins Duo 5:30 Big Earl (Jack Robertson) Show 10:00 Dallas Moore Tent Stage 6:00 Big Muddy 10:30 Foxy Iguanas Yacht Club 6:00 Dave Chastang Ole River Grill 4:00 Pale Moon Rising 9:00 River Dan Duo	5 Main Room 11:00 Lea Anne Creswell Duo 2:00 Fuzzy Iconic Duo 6:00 Al & Cathy 10:15 Alabama Lightning Deck Stage 1:00 The Stolen Faces 5:30 Big Earl Show 10:00 Dallas Moore Tent Stage 2:00 Lee Yankie & the Hellz Yeah 6:00 Ja' Rhythm 10:30 Federal Expression Yacht Club 1:00 Jay Williams Duo 5:00 Kyle Wilson Ole River Grill 4:00 Bruce Smelley 9:00 Brian Hill Duo	6 Main Room 1:30 Songs of Rusty McHugh with Jason Justice 6:00 Perdido Brothers 10:15 Mario Mena Duo Deck Stage 1:00 Kyle Wilson 5:30 Jezebel's Chill'n 10:00 Dallas Moore Tent Stage 9:00 & 11:00 Worship On the Water 2:00 Luther Wamble Celebration of Life Yacht Club 12:00 Foxy Iguanas Trio 5:00 Mason Henderson Ole River Grill 2:00 Dave McCormick	7 Main Room 2:00 Founders & Friends with Gove Scrivenor 6:00 Open Mic with Cathy Pace 10:15 Petty & Pace Deck Stage 5:30 Albert Simpson 10:00 Lee Yankie & the Hellz Yeah Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Bingo	8 Main Room 2:00 T-Bone Montgomery 6:00 Perdido Brothers 10:15 Albert Simpson & John Kulinich Deck Stage 5:30 Dave McCormick 10:00 Jason Abel Project Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Bingo	9 Main Room 2:00 Neil Dover 6:00 Rhonda Hart & Jonathan Newton 10:15 Albert Simpson & John Kulinich Deck Stage 5:30 Al & Cathy 10:00 Whyte Caps Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Bingo
10 Main Room 2:00 Zach Diedrich 6:00 Mark Sherrill, Chris Newbury, Mel Knapp, James Daniel 10:15 Brian Hill Trio Deck State 5:30 Dueling Pianos with Frankie Golden & Steve Wilkerson 10:00 Andy Brasher Band Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Bingo 6:00 Ben Gallaher 10:30 Oliver's Twist Yacht Club 5:00 Brittany Bell Duo	11 Main Room 2:00 Lea Anne Creswell Duo 6:00 Bruce Smelley Duo 10:15 Alabama Lightning Deck Stage 1:00 J Hawkins Trio 5:30 Big Earl (Jack Robertson) Show 10:00 Andy Brasher Band Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Bingo 6:00 Mary Sarah 8:00 Ben Gallaher 10:30 Mario Mena Band Yacht Club 6:00 Dave McCormick Ole River Grill 4:00 Greg Lyons 9:00 Fuzzy Iconic Duo	12 Main Room 2:00 J Hawkins Duo 6:00 Davis Nix Duo 10:15 Brandon White Duo Deck Stage 1:00 Rollin' In the Hay 5:30 Big Earl (Jack Robertson) Show 10:00 Andy Brasher Band Tent Stage 12:00 Hung Jury 4:00 Big Muddy 8:00 Ben Gallaher 10:30 Foxy Iguanas Yacht Club 1:00 Mario Mena Duo 5:00 Tim Kinsey Ole River Grill 4:00 Destiny Brown 9:00 Kevin Swanson	13 Main Room 1:30 Songs of Rusty McHugh with Jason Justice 6:00 Perdido Brothers 10:15 Brian Hill Duo Deck Stage 1:00 Al & Cathy 5:30 Jezebel's Chill'n 10:00 Yeah, Probably Tent Stage 9:00 & 11:00 Worship on the Water 2:00 Alabama Lightning Yacht Club 12:00 Foxy Iguanas 5:00 Davis Nix Ole River Grill 2:00 Dave Chastang	14 Main Room 2:00 Founders & Friends with Gove Scrivenor 6:00 Open Mic with Cathy Pace 10:15 Petty & Pace Deck Stage 5:30 Lee Yankie 10:00 Ja' Rhythm Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Bingo	15 Main Room 2:00 T-Bone Montgomery 6:00 Perdido Brothers 10:15 Alabama Lightning Deck Stage 5:30 J Hawkins Duo 10:00 Yeah, Probably Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Bingo	16 Main Room 2:00 Neil Dover 6:00 Rhonda Hart & Jonathan Newton 10:15 Bruce Smelley Duo Deck Stage 5:30 Tony Ray Thompson 10:00 Red Clay Strays Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Bingo

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AUGUST 5, 2017



WHAT'S HAPPENING

COOKIN' WITH CAROLYN

BY CAROLYN GODFREY

Fresh Corn, Hash Brown and Zucchini Casserole

- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) shredded sharp cheddar cheese, divided
- 8 slices cooked bacon, crumbled, divided
- 1 pkg. (30 oz.) shredded hash brown potatoes, thawed
- 1 c. ranch dressing
- 4 cups fresh corn kernels
- 2 zucchini, shredded
- 1 container (8 oz.) sour cream
- 4 green onions, chopped
- 1 tsp. coarse ground black pepper

Heat oven to 375 degrees F. Reserve 1/2 cup cheese and 1/4 cup bacon for later use. Combine remaining cheese and bacon with remaining ingredients. Spoon into 13x9-inch baking dish sprayed with cooking spray; top with reserved cheese and bacon. Bake 40-45 min. or until heated through. Let stand 10 min. before serving.

Enjoy!

Special extra: Add 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh thyme leaves to vegetable mixture before spooning into baking dish and baking as directed.

Tennis Center; corner of West 19th Ave. and West 2nd St.

• **Bingo:** 5:30; Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5659; Elberta.

• **Foley Rotary Club:** 12:15 p.m.; Gift Horse Restaurant in Foley; foileyrotary@gulftel.com.

• **AA:** Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

• **AA:** 7 p.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

SAT, AUG 12

• **Flora-Bama Possible Probables:** 2 p.m. 'til; (Sched. on pages 32-33), Flora-Bama, Perdido Key.

• **Shrek the Musical:** 7:30; South Baldwin Community Theater; Gulf Shores; (251) 968-6721.

• **USS ALABAMA 75th Anniversary Commemoration:** 8 a.m.; Battleship Memorial Park; Mobile Causeway.

• **9th Annual Elderberry Festival:** 10 a.m.; Fairhope Museum of History, 24 North Section St.

• **Charles Grant (formerly of The Platters):** 7; Papa Roccas; Gulf Shores.

• **Rat Pack & Motown w. James Proctor & Kathy Lyons:** 6; Franco's; Orange Beach.

• **Albert Simpson:** 6; Lucy Buffett's LuLu's, Gulf Shores; 251-948-8881.

• **John Brust:** 6; Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.

• **Karaoke By Kelly:** 9; Island Time Daquari Bar, The Wharf, Orange Beach.

• **Flip Flop Mafia:** 7; Flippers, Orange Beach.

• **John Henry Karaoke:** 9; The Office, Foley.

• **Lefty Collins:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.

• **The Chillbillies:** 6:30; Big Beach Brewery, Gulf Shores.

• **Christina Christian:** 6; San Bar Courtyard, Orange Beach.

• **Platinum Premier:** 7; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.

• **Jamie Anderson:** noon; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.

• **Pierce Parker:** 5; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.

• **Retrobution:** noon; poolside; Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.

• **Karaoke:** 8; Tacky Jacks, Ft. Morgan.

• **DJ-Karaoke:** 9; The Jellyfish, Perdido Key.

• **Karaoke:** 10; The Undertow; Orange Beach.

• **Midnight Confessions:** 7:30; Nolan's, Gulf Shores.

• **Open Jam:** 8; American Legion Post 199; Fairhope.

• **Two of Hearts:** 6; American Legion Post 44, Gulf Shores.

• **Bubba & Them Bluegrass Band:** 6; The

Original Point; Innerarity Point.

• **Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermen Market:** 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.; 20733 Mifflin Rd. (County Rd. 20), Foley.

• **Baldwin County Genealogical Society:** 10 a.m.; public invited; Foley Library; 319 East Laurel Ave.

• **Optimist Club of Perdido Bay:** breakfast every Saturday at 7 a.m. at the Lillian Community Club in Lillian; (251) 961-2620.

• **AA:** 10 a.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

• **AA:** 7 p.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

• **Ladies AA:** 9 a.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Activities Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

SUN, AUG 13

• **The Church at the Flora-Bama:** 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.; Flora-Bama Tent Stage, Per-

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



GULF COAST LODGE HOSTS VETERANS TRIP TO AIR MUSEUM:

Gulf Coast Lodge members hosted a day trip to the National Naval Air Museum on NAS Pensacola for a group of veterans and their caregivers from the William F. Green Alabama State Veterans Home in Bay Minette. The veterans represented conflicts from World War II (4), the Korean War (1), the Vietnam War (1) and Desert Storm (2). Hosted by the lodge Exalted Ruler, Ralph Alore and narrated by member and museum volunteer, Mike Forrester, the veterans were shown many aircraft, and heard history and background about the aircraft and equipment as were used in the various conflicts. Active Military members welcomed the vets and joined in the tour. Toward mid-morning, the vets were invited to watch a loud practice session of the awesome Blue Angles. The vets were then treated to a private lunch in the historic Cubi Bar Cafe which was once the Officers Club in Subic Bay, Philippine's. During the tour, Lt. General Duane Theissen cordially greeted each vet and welcomed them to the museum. After lunch, the vets visited Hanger 1, which, with many other artifacts, houses Richard Nixon's helicopter. Prior to departure, the vets were presented with gifts from the lodge. The vets and their staff expressed thanks for the special event and to the lodge members who hosted. This was the sixth time the Gulf Coast Lodge has hosted the event.

dido Key.

- **Unity Church Beach Service:** 9:45 a.m.; Papa Roccas, Hwy. 59 - one block from beach in Gulf Shores.
- **Flora-Bama Possible Probables:** 2 p.m. 'til; (Sched. on pages 32-33), Flora-Bama, Perdido Key.
- **Customer Appreciation Night:** 6; Free food; 1st drink free; 25% off gift shop; Flora-Bama, Perdido Key.
- **Shrek the Musical:** 2 p.m.; South Baldwin Community Theater; Gulf Shores; (251) 968-6721.
- **Strickly Isbell:** 7; Papa Roccas; Gulf Shores.
- **Greg Brown:** noon; Lucy Buffett's LuLu's, Gulf Shores; 251-948-8881.
- **Cadillac Attack:** 6; Lucy Buffett's LuLu's, Gulf Shores; 251-948-8881.
- **Rat Pack & Motown w. James Proctor & Kathy Lyons:** 6; Franco's; Orange Beach.
- **Mac Walter:** 3; Big Beach Brewery, Gulf Shores.
- **Jerry Gambino:** noon; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- **Matt Slowick:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- **Lisa Christian:** noon; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
- **Jim Andrews:** 11 a.m.; The Tin Top; Bon Secour.
- **Couples Sunday 2-Person Scramble:** Every Sun. at 2 p.m.; Glenlakes Golf Club, Foley, (251) 955-1220.
- **Jim Andrews:** 11; The Tin Top, Bon Secour.
- **Scott Koehn:** 5:30; Flippers, Orange

Beach.

- **John Lee Sanders:** 6; The Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- **Southern Star:** 5; Monthly Birthday Potluck; American Legion Post 99, Foley.
- **Music Man & Company:** 5; American Legion Post 44, Gulf Shores.
- **Gary Story:** 5; The Purple Parrot; Perdido Key.
- **John Joiner & Friends:** 4; Hub Stacey's at the Point; Innerarity Point.
- **Blind Draw Dart Tournament:** 5; American Legion Post 99, Foley.
- **9 Ball APA:** 6; The Office, Foley.
- **AA:** 5 p.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (In-

nerarity Point) Pensacola.

MON, AUG 14

- **Flora-Bama Possible Probables:** 2 p.m. 'til; (Sched. on pages 32-33), Flora-Bama, Perdido Key.
- **Flora-Bama Bingo:** free; 1-4 p.m.; great prizes, family friendly; 17401 Perdido Key Dr., Perdido Key.
- **Brent Burns:** 5; Lulu's at Homeport Marina, Gulf Shores.
- **Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde:** 7; Papa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- **Frankie G & LeaAnn Creswell:** 6:30; Franco's Italian Restaurant; Orange Beach.



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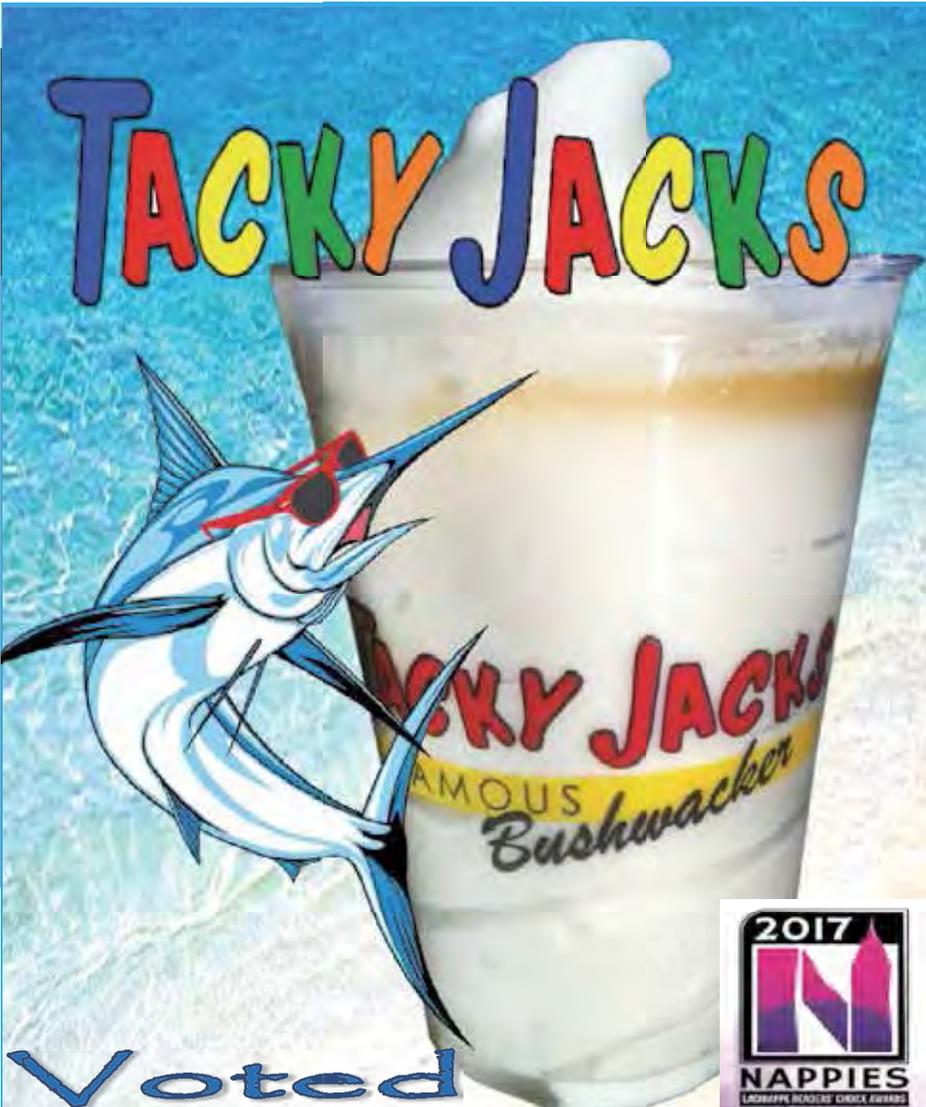
OBES WORKING ON READING PLANS FOR 3RD GRADERS: Orange Beach Elementary teachers are planning an exciting reading curriculum for their third graders this year. Students will have many more books to fit their interests and increase their knowledge. Taking time from their summer days to plan are, left to right, Jeannine Noonan, Curriculum Coach, and third grade teachers, Lynette Peterson, Brandy Reeves, and Abby Bauer.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



Guided walks at Gulf State Park Pier every Monday morning

One hour guided walks at Gulf State Park Pier in Gulf Shores are scheduled every Monday at 10 a.m. through Sept. 4. Meet at the Gulf State Park Fishing Pier concession stand where a park naturalist will talk about some amazing facts about the pier as well as point out wildlife in the water and around the pier.

- **Guided Pier Walk:** 10 a.m.; free; Gulf State Park Fishing Pier, Gulf Shores.
- **Bingo:** 6; American Legion Post 44, Gulf Shores.
- **L.A. Fleet Feet Running Club:** 6 p.m.; Orange Beach Marina on Marina Rd.; lafleetfeet.com.
- **Open Mixed Doubles Tennis:** 7:30 a.m.; all levels welcome; Gulf Shores Tennis Center; corner of West 19th Ave. and West 2nd St.
- **8 Ball League:** 7:30; The Office, Foley.
- **Celebrate Recovery:** (Christ centered 12 step program); Monday evenings at 6 p.m.; Christian Life Church in Orange Beach; 251-967-4840.
- **Overeaters Anonymous:** 6; Holy Spirit Episcopal Church; Gulf Shores, 616 Ft. Morgan Rd.; 251-709-5907.
- **T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly):** weigh-in 5:30; meeting 6; First Presbyterian Church of Foley; (Berry & Highway 59).
- **AA:** Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.
- **Ladies AA:** 10 a.m.; Perdido Bay UMC

Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

TUE, AUG 15

- **Flora-Bama Possible Probables:** 2 p.m. 'til; (Sched. on pages 32-33), Flora-Bama, Perdido Key.
- **Flora-Bama Bingo:** free; 1-4 p.m.; great prizes, family friendly; 17401 Perdido Key Dr., Perdido Key.
- **Tuesday Evening Civil War Tour:** 7 p.m.; Fort Morgan Historic Site Fort Morgan, 51 Hwy 180, Gulf Shores, 251-540-7665.
- **Sandy Roots Songwriters Series:** 6; The Point, Innerarity Point.
- **Yoga In The Taproom:** 5:30; Big Beach Brewery; Gulf Shores.
- **Frankie G On Piano:** 6:30; Franco's Italian Restaurant; Orange Beach.
- **Brent Burns:** 6; The Dinner, Gulf Shores.
- **Jimmy Lumpkin:** 6; Lucy Buffett's LuLu's, Gulf Shores; 251-948-8881.
- **Sam Glass:** 6; The Purple Parrot; Perdido Key.
- **Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde:** 8;

- Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- **Lisa Zanghi, Doug Habbena, Scott Koehn:** 6:30; Flippers, Orange Beach.
- **JW Karaoke:** 6; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
- **Coastal Alabama Farmer's & Fisherman's Market:** 2-6 p.m.; 20733 Mifflin Rd., Foley.
- **Pool Tournery:** 7; Snapper's; Orange Beach.
- **UPA 8 ball & Texas Hold (7:30):** The Office, Foley.
- **Karaoke:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
- **Karaoke w. John Henry:** 5:30; American Legion Post 99, Foley.
- **Karaoke:** 5; Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5659; Elberta.
- **Bingo:** 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; The Gulf Coast Elks Lodge 2789, Foley; 251-550-1060.
- **L.A. Fleet Feet Running Club:** Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at Kids Park by Bodenhamer Rec. Center; 5K, 10K, or walk; Info: visit lafleetfeet.com.
- **Lillian Women's Club:** third Tues. of month; 11:30 a.m., Lillian Community Club; lunch & meeting at noon; 251-961-1449.



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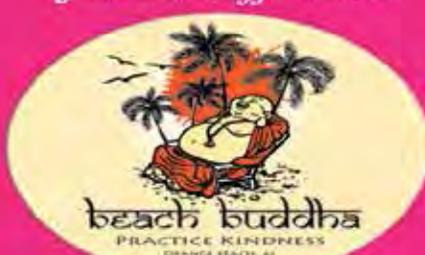


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July 21	Peter Rollins
Aug. 4	Diana Butler Bass



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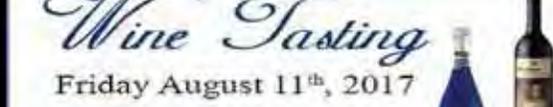
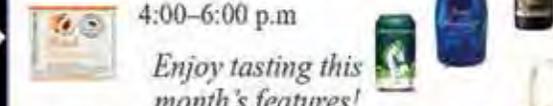
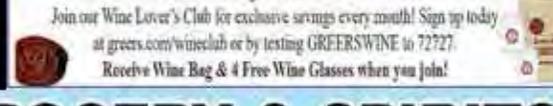
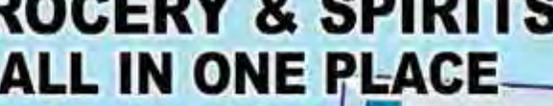














WHAT'S HAPPENING

GULF COAST FISHING REPORT

BY DAVID RAINER

You don't have to get far from beach to catch Spanish mackerel

With many anglers headed offshore to enjoy the extended red snapper season, quite a few fish are being bypassed on the way out, including the abundant Spanish mackerel.

What's so great about Spanish fishing this time of year is you don't have to get out of sight of the beach to enjoy the fishing, and sometimes the fishing occurs very near the beach.

Slow-trolling for Spanish mackerel and small king mackerel just off the beach is very productive during the summer months on the Gulf Coast.

While there are several charter boats offering trolling trips for a nominal fee, it doesn't take a large boat to enjoy the Spanish bite. Any saltwater boat that is seaworthy can be used for trolling. Numerous rod holders are a plus in your quest to get many baits in front of the fish. Forget bringing your bass boat down, because it's too easy for a trailing wave to wash over the transom and cause problems.



Trolling at seven to 10 knots outside the second sand bar to about a mile offshore will likely result in numerous hook-ups. Halco and Clark spoons work well on the mackerel when deployed at different depths behind the boat. I like to have a couple of spoons near the surface and several down in the six-foot range. You'll probably need to pick up some planers at the local sporting goods store to make sure the spoons stay at the desired depth.

Some mackerel fishermen use a different tactic called bump and drift, which can be highly productive at times. They bump the throttle to get the lures moving behind the boat and then kick the motor into neutral to let the baits slowly drift toward the bottom.

Also, be on the lookout for birds diving along the beach. It could be a school of Spanish dining on baitfish as the birds pick off the missed morsels. Keep a rod or two ready for casting spoons or lures into the middle of the feeding frenzy.

And don't forget about the Gulf State Park Pier. Casting Gotcha plugs or cigar minnows from the pier will usually yield great catches. Spanish and king mackerel have mouths full of sharp teeth, so you'll need heavy monofilament, 30-pound, or small-diameter steel leaders, either solid or Sevenstrand. Don't use gold swivels when fishing for mackerel. The fish might mistake the flash for a small baitfish, and you'll lose your whole rig if they hit it. Use high-quality, black swivels to ensure your fishing line doesn't get twisted.

If you're not having much luck with the artificial lures, you may need to change to natural bait, either fresh or frozen. If you can get them, hardtails (blue runners), finger mullet or menhaden fit the bill for live bait. If you can't get live bait, head to the store and get fresh frozen cigar minnows or ribbonfish (silver eels). The Gulf Shores-Orange Beach area has numerous tackle/bait shops that will have the frozen bait and terminal tackle needed for mackerel fishing.

Anglers who don't regularly catch mackerel can sometimes be mistaken about the species that was just hauled into the boat. A small king mackerel and a mature Spanish mackerel look very similar. The easiest way to tell is to raise the dorsal (top) fin. If it is dark, almost black, near the long spine, it's a Spanish. It's a king if the dorsal fin is solid gray.

The king mackerel daily limit has been increased this year to three per person with a 24-inch fork length minimum. The daily creel limit on Spanish mackerel is 15 per person with no size limit.

It's best to prepare Spanish fresh, and several restaurants provide hook and cook service in a variety of delicious ways.

David Rainer has written about the great outdoors on the Alabama Gulf Coast for more than 20 years. He serves on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's Outreach and Education Advisory Panel and the Gulf Coast Reef & Restoration Foundation board.



Free Bellingrath admission Aug. 6 celebrates founder

Founder's Day is Sunday, August 6, at Bellingrath Gardens and Home. By tradition, Bellingrath Gardens and Home celebrates (pictured) Mr. Bellingrath's birthday on August 6 by admitting residents of Mobile and Baldwin Counties at no charge.

"Over 85 years ago, Walter Bellingrath opened the Gardens to the citizens of Mobile," said Dr. William E. Barrick, Executive Director of Bellingrath Gardens and Home. "To honor his birthday, we are offering free admission to the citizens of Mobile and Baldwin Counties. Even though we are in the heat of summer, his Gardens are lush and full of color."

The Founder's Day tradition dates back to 1949, when Mr. Bellingrath invited local residents to come and enjoy the Gardens as part of his 80th birthday celebration. Admission to the Gardens is free to all Mobile and Baldwin County residents on Aug. 6, but there is an additional charge of \$9 to tour the Bellingrath Museum Home.

During the month of August, Bellingrath Gardens and Home is also offering an Anniversary Special, a discount rate to those touring the Gardens and the beautiful Bellingrath Home. Throughout the month, Gardens and Home tickets for adults are \$16.50 (regular fee: \$21), and Gardens and Home tickets for ages 5-12 are \$11.50 (regular fee: \$13).

Born in Atlanta on August 6, 1869, Bellingrath was Mobile's first Coca-Cola bottler. He and his wife, Bessie, created Bellingrath Gardens from a former fishing camp along the Fowl River, which Bellingrath purchased in 1917. The Bellingraths opened the Gardens to the public for the first time on April 7, 1932.

"Those few of you who have felt the satisfaction of celebrating an 80th birthday with friends and neighbors will understand the gratification which I shall enjoy in having you visit the Gardens and join in observing the occasion with me," wrote Mr. Bellingrath in an open invitation published in The Mobile Press on Aug. 6, 1949.

The day was declared "Walter Bellingrath Day" in Mobile.

- **South Baldwin Numismatic Society:** 7 p.m.; second Tuesday of each month; Foley High School cafeteria; 251-943-1486.
- **Pleasure Island Junior Women's Club:** 6 p.m.; Gulf Shores Adult Activity Center; enjoy meeting other ladies from our area; food & beverages provided; 251-213-3757.
- **Foley Lions Club:** noon; Wolf Bay Lodge; 987-5471.
- **Southwest Branch Library Children's Story Time:** 10:30 a.m.; preschool; 12248 Gulf Beach Hwy, Pensacola; (850) 453-7780.
- **Orange Beach Bridge Club:** Tue. & Thur at noon; Orange Beach Senior Center; 251-981-3440.
- **Orange Beach Library Children's Story Time:** 10 a.m.; pre-school; 981-2923.
- **Orange Beach Fisherman's Assn.:** Meets the second Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. at the Orange Beach Community Center.
- **Gulf Shores Kiwanis Club:** Palmer Dining Room at Craft Farms; noon; new members and guests always welcome; 251-981-9999.
- **Kiwanis Club of Big Lagoon:** Breakfast meeting each Tuesday at 7:30 a.m.; speaker first three Tuesdays and a business meeting the fourth Tuesday; Perdido Bay UMC Activities Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Road, Pensacola, 262-749-4241.

WED, AUG 16

- **Flora-Bama Possible Probables:** 2 p.m.

'til; (Sched. on pages 32-33), Flora-Bama, Perdido Key.

- **Flora-Bama Bingo:** free; 1-4 p.m.; great prizes, family friendly; 17401 Perdido Key Dr., Perdido Key.
- **Frankie G On Piano:** 6:30; Franco's Italian Restaurant; Orange Beach.
- **John Brust:** 6; The Lobby Bar at Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- **John Lee Sanders:** 6; Voyagers Restaurant at Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- **Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde:** 8; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- **Broken Down Car:** noon; poolside; Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- **Karaoke:** 6; American Legion Post 44, Gulf Shores.
- **Karaoke & Dance Party:** 6; The Purple Parrot; Perdido Key.
- **Trivia (7:30) Karaoke (9):** The Office, Foley.
- **Karaoke:** 10; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- **Open Mic:** 5:30; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
- **John Joiner & Friends:** 7; Hub Stacy's At The Point, Innerarity Point.
- **Lisa Zanghi, Scott Koehn:** 6:30; Flip-pers, Orange Beach.
- **L.A. Fleet Feet Running Club:** 5:45 p.m.; Big Beach Brewery in Gulf Shores; lafleetfeet.com.
- **Knights of Columbus:** 6 p.m. potluck; 7 p.m. meeting; Our Lady of the Gulf Church; 404-386-9859.
- **Open Mixed Doubles Tennis:** 7:30 a.m.;

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LIVE MUSIC: Lisa Christian, 8/4: 6:30-9:30pm
LIVE MUSIC: Rock Bottom, 8/5: 6:30-9:30pm
LIVE MUSIC: Dueling Pianos w/Frankie G and Steve Wilkerson, 8/6: 3-6pm
LIVE MUSIC: Southern Fried Voodoo, 8/9: 6-9pm
LIVE MUSIC: Christina Christian, 8/11: 6:30-9:30pm
LIVE MUSIC: The Chillbillies, 8/12: 6:30-9:30pm
LIVE MUSIC: Mac Walter, 8/13: 3-6pm
LIVE MUSIC: Big Daddy Mac, 8/18: 6:30-9:30pm

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



GEORGIA ON OUR MIND BENEFIT RAISES OVER \$10,000: The Georgia on Our Mind Benefit, held July 24 at the Mobile Causeway Original Oyster House, raised \$10,356. All proceeds from the event went directly to the medical fund of Georgia Byrd, a 13-year old girl fighting synovial sarcoma, an extremely rare soft tissue cancer. Georgia has undergone two major surgeries to remove cancerous masses, has had multiple rounds of chemo and is currently going through radiation. The early sell-out event and the outpouring of generous donations were a testament to the customer service, longevity and tireless generosity of the Byrd family who owns Nall Printing in Fairhope. The event included a seafood banquet, a public silent auction with over 80 items including golf packages, artwork, casino and spa packages, wine baskets, gift baskets, restaurant gift certificates and a Wind Creek Package Raffle won by Jim Rillo of Fairhope. Thirty volunteers collaborated on the benefit. Volunteers included Allie Adams, April Glass, Buddy Byrd, Bud Morris, Dr. Tony McLaughlin, Lyn Fogarty, Mary Byrd, John Strope, Carolyn McLaughlin, Cecilia Mace, David Dekle, Rebecca Walters, Theresa McGonagle, Lillian Martin, Kelly Risk, Maegan Lynch, Margaret Harkness, Frank Leatherbury, Jamie Leatherbury, Deanna Cox, Susan Cox, Jim Harrison, Frank Kustura, Sandi Adams, Suzanne Savelle, John Strope, Sheila Hare, Karen Joseph, Isabella Leatherbury, Raegan Yenewine, Michelle Bossard, Emily McKinney and Anne Riley. For more information on Georgia Byrd or to make a donation please visit creativetribute.com/georgia. **Pictured:** (above) Although Georgia Byrd was not able to attend her benefit, Georgia's family including Buddy Byrd, who runs Nall Printing, enjoyed the event. Seated from left are Georgia's grandparents: Sam McClinton, her Aunt Sheena Byrd and standing from left are Jo Ann Byrd and Buddy Byrd; (below) Reverend Dr. Rob Haynes provided a moving invocation and shared stories of Georgia Byrd. Seated with his family at the Georgia on Our Mind benefit are Dr. Haynes, Josh Haynes, Beth Haynes, Meg Haynes, Julianna Byrd, and Anna Lee Fowler.



GCAA Gallery hosts Hodges Art Exhibit

Gulf Coast Arts Alliance will be hosting an exhibition featuring the wood sculptures of member Claudia Hodges from Aug. 7-26. The public is welcome to attend a reception on Tuesday, Aug. 8 at 6 p.m. Hodges' uses pieces of driftwood to create sculptures that are filled with life and movement. Her work is inspired by the natural beauty of the Fort Morgan peninsula and the Gulf of Mexico.

GCAA is located at 225 East 24th Ave. in Gulf Shores. Regular gallery hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. For more information, call GCAA at (251) 948-2627.

A Christmas Story auditions Aug. 26-27

Auditions for the comedy "A Christmas Story" will be held at South Baldwin Community Theatre on Saturday, August 26 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and again Sunday, August 27, from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Even though this is a Young Artist Series production, there is a need for adults to audition. The play will run December 1-10. To see a list of cast requirements, go to the theatre website and click on the auditions tab. You can also schedule and date and time to audition. The theatre website is sbct.biz

all levels welcome; Gulf Shores Tennis Center; corner of West 19th Ave. and West 2nd St.

- **Veteran's Bingo:** 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; American Legion Post 99, Foley.
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Activities Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.
- **Orange Beach Sportfishing Club:** social at 6 p.m.; meeting at 7 p.m.; downstairs at Tacky Jacks in Orange Beach. Info: 251 980-1585.
- **The Island Quilters' Guild:** 9:30 a.m.; third Wednesday of month at the Harry Roberts Community House in Gulf Shores.
- **Food Ministry For Hungry Families:** noon-1 p.m.; Grace Lutheran Church, corner of West 23rd Ave. and West 4th St. in Gulf Shores; 251-968-5991.
- **Food Bank:** 9 - 11 a.m every Wednesday, Perdido Bay Baptist Church, 12600 Sorrento Rd. Pensacola; call for eligibility requirements at (850) 492-2604.
- **Bread Ministry:** 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Orange Beach United Methodist Church Brook's Center.
- **Perdido Key Rotary Club:** 7:30 a.m.; every Wednesday at Triggers. 850.492.8335.
- **Storytime at Pensacola Southwest Branch Library:** free; infant to 5; 10:30-11; 12238 Old Gulf Beach Hwy; (850)453-7780.
- **AARP Lillian Chapter:** 10 a.m.; Lillian Community Club; 961-3430.
- **AA:** Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

THU, AUG 17

- **Flora-Bama Possible Probables:** 2 p.m. 'til; (Sched. on pages 32-33), Flora-Bama, Perdido Key.

- **Flora-Bama Bingo:** free; 1-4 p.m.; great prizes, family friendly; 17401 Perdido Key Dr., Perdido Key.
- **Sparks After Dark:** 8:45 p.m.; fireworks show; The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- **Adam Holt:** 6; Lucy Buffett's LuLu's, Gulf Shores; 251-948-8881.
- **LeAnne Creswell & Lisa Zanghi:** 6; Franco's; Orange Beach.
- **Matt Slowick:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- **Brandon Styles Impressions & Magic Show:** 8; Live Bait, Orange Beach.
- **Jim Andrews:** 6; San Bar Courtyard, Orange Beach.
- **Broken Down Car:** noon; poolside; Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- **Logan Spicer:** 6; The Tin Top, Bon Secour.
- **Open Mic:** 7; Snapper's; Orange Beach.
- **Knee Deep:** 7; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
- **Alabama Lightning:** 6:30; Flippers, Orange Beach.
- **John Brust:** 6; The Lobby Bar at Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- **John Lee Sanders:** 6; Voyagers Restaurant at Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- **Rick Whaley & Tommy Mazullo:** 6; The Purple Parrot; Perdido Key.
- **Karaoke:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
- **Karaoke:** 8; Tacky Jacks, Ft. Morgan.
- **Karaoke:** 10; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- **Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde:** 7; Papa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- **8 Ball APA:** 7:30; The Office, Foley.
- **US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 3-2:** 11:30 a.m.; Wolf Bay Lodge (Foley); 3rd Thursday of the month; (251) 533-5593.
- **Pensacola Numismatic Society (Coin Club) Meeting:** 6:30 p.m.; Sonny's Bar-beque, 630 North Navy Blvd.; (850) 332-6491.

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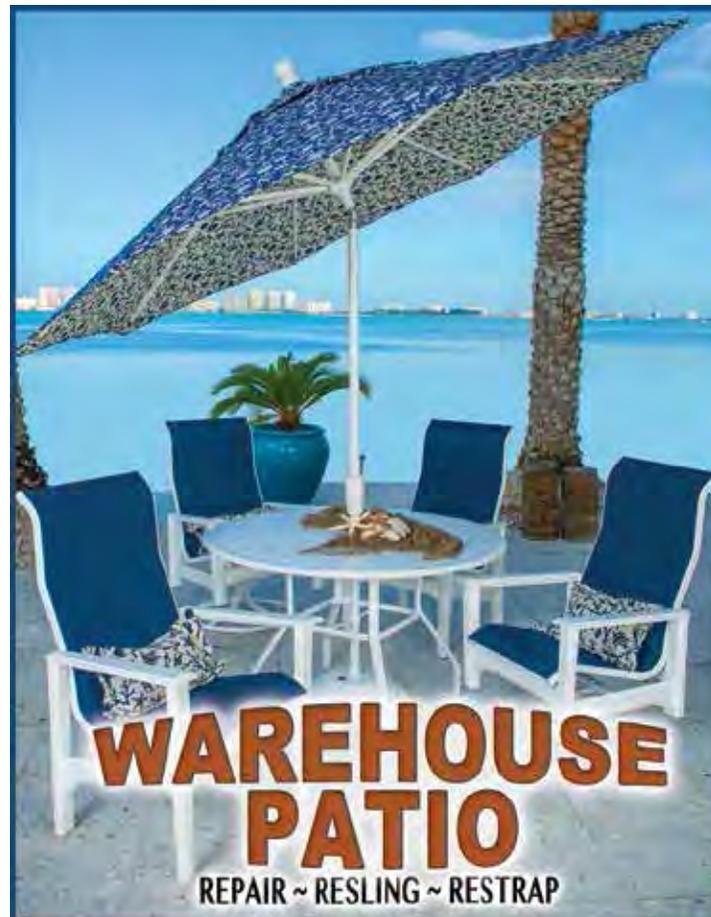
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WHAT'S HAPPENING



John Nunnari of Paris Ace Hardware has Island Spirit

The Coastal Alabama Business Chamber recently presented its Island Spirit Award for July to John Nunnari of Paris Ace Hardware. Megan Smith, VP of Business Development for the Coastal Alabama Business Chamber, cited Nunnari's dedication to his job and the Coastal Alabama area. The person who nominated Mr. Nunnari had this to say about her, "He is incredibly knowledgeable, friendly, and has great patience. He will spend tons of time to help out with even the smallest of projects and always greets everyone with a smile and is truly 'The Helpful Hardware Man!'"

The Island Spirit Award is presented monthly by the Coastal Alabama Business Chamber. It has been a tradition since the mid-1980's. The award was designed to give recognition to individuals who make special contributions to the quality of life we enjoy in the Coastal Alabama region. Penny Groux chairs the Island Spirit Committee. Anyone can nominate a people they feel provided excellent customer service to our residents and visitors alike.

Baldwin School Board passes \$60 million construction plan

The Baldwin County Board of Education has passed the \$60 million financing plan it earlier outlined that would make way for two new schools and the construction of additions on five other campuses. The plan does not require any new taxes, and would be paid for in four years with an interest rate that is around two percent - in what's described as a "pay-as-you-go" capital construction program.

One of the new schools is a K-6 elementary school in Foley estimated to cost \$15.55 million with a capacity for 1,200 children.

A middle school addition to Orange Beach Elementary will be for 7th & 8th grade students and include a gym, a cafeteria and major renovations at a cost of \$6.34 million.

A new larger gymnasium and 12 new classrooms are in the plan for Gulf Shores Elementary School at a cost of \$3.8 million.

The largest line item in the plan is a \$15.4 million elementary school on the Eastern Shore that will have a capacity for 1,200 students.

A \$9.35 million elementary school expansion in Bay Minette includes a 35 classrooms and a new cafeteria, media center and administration room.

The current K-6 school in Fairhope will add 14 classrooms and a new gymnasium. The \$4 million planned expenditure also includes \$150,000 for demolition of the city's old middle school.

Daphne Middle School was allotted \$2.75 million in the plan for 14 additional rooms and additional parking.

The debt service on the plan will be paid for with a 1 percent sales tax that was set to expire in 2018, before the Baldwin County Commission stepped in to make the tax permanent.

Ribbon cuttings for additions at Elberta Elementary, Elsanor and Central Baldwin Middle School are scheduled on Aug. 14.

"It seems like it was just yesterday that we were breaking ground," said Eddie Tyler, Baldwin Schools Superintendent.

- **Lyons:** 6; Franco's; Orange Beach.
- **Phil & Foster:** 6; Lucy Buffett's LuLu's, Gulf Shores; 251-948-8881.
- **John Lee Sanders:** 6; Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- **JJ Revial:** 9; The Office, Foley.
- **Flip Flop Mafia:** 7; Flippers, Orange Beach.
- **The Blenders:** 7; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
- **Delta Donnie:** 7; Papa Roccas; Gulf Shores.
- **David Jones Jazz:** 6; San Bar Court-yard, Orange Beach.
- **Three Bean Soup:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
- **Raising Karma:** 6; The Purple Parrot; Perdido Key.
- **Broken Down Car:** noon; poolside; Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- **Karaoke By Kelly:** 9; Island Time Daquari Bar, The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- **Brandon Styles Impressions & Magic Show:** 8; Live Bait, Orange Beach.
- **Two of Hearts:** 6; American Legion Post 44, Gulf Shores.
- **Karaoke:** 8; Tacky Jacks, Ft. Morgan.
- **Charlie Hudgins:** 11 a.m.; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- **Gringofife:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- **DJ-Karaoke:** 9; The Jellyfish, Perdido Key.
- **Karaoke:** 10; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- **Open Jam:** 8; American Legion Post 199; Fairhope.
- **Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermen Market:** 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.; 20733 Milfin Rd. (County Rd. 20), Foley.
- **Baldwin County Republican Executive Committee:** 10 a.m.; Robertsdale City Hall Building; 251-379-0748 or don@mc-griffaw.com
- **Optimist Club of Perdido Bay:** break-

PENSACOLA ATHLETIC CENTER HOSTS PERDIDO KEY CHAMBER AFTER HOURS



The Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce celebrate the Grand Re-Opening of the Pensacola Athletic Center during its monthly Business After hours Networking Social hosted by the newly remodeled Pensacola Athletic Center owners. The family owned PAC has been serving Pensacola since 1985. Until 2017, Nancy Norman and White Wise had been the owner/operators. What started as a simple indoor fitness facility, quickly grew into a full service fitness facility; complete with an Olympic pool and and nine tennis courts (3 hard and 6 clay courts). In January, Mark Downey purchased the business. Having attended and graduated from local schools, including UWF, Mark and his family realized that SW Pensacola desperately needs a family-style facility, he completely renovated the PAC and is working hard to create more programs to serve the residents of Pensacola.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

fast every Saturday at 7 a.m. at the Lillian Community Club in Lillian; (251) 961-2620.

• **AA:** 10 a.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

• **Ladies AA:** 9 a.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

ONGOING EVENTS

• **Coastal Alabama Pickleball Club:** Sun., Tue., Wed., Thu., Sat. in Gulf Shores; Info & Schedule: 619-321-7325.

• **Gulf Coast Arts Alliance Gallery:** 225 East 24th Ave. in the Waterway Village

neighborhood of Gulf Shores; 30 local and regional artists have their works on display; 251-948-2627 or gulfcoastartsalliance.com.

• **The Susan N. McCollough Gallery/Studio:** 350 Cypress Bend Blvd. (at the McCollough Institute in Gulf Shores); 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday; admission free; weekends with appointments; 251-967-7677.

• **Daily Guided Tours of Ft. Morgan:** 10-11 a.m. daily in June & July; Fort Morgan State Historic Site, 18 miles west of Hwy. 59 on Ft. Morgan Rd. (Hwy. 180); 251-540-5257.

• **Old River Optimist Club:** Monthly meeting locations and times are avail-

able online at OldRiverOptimistClub.org or by email at HelpingKids@OldRiverOptimistClub.org.

• **Swift-Coles Historic Home:** Located at 17424 Swift Coles Lane in Bon Secour; open for tours Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. last tour at 3 p.m. Adults-\$10; Children 6-12-\$5; Under 6 Free; Sandy Forsman, 251-949-5550.

• **Orange Beach Indian & Sea Museum:** Discover local history including Indian culture and the importance of fishing to the area. Free admission.

• **Baldwin County Heritage Museum:** 25521 Highway 98, Elberta, 10am-3pm, Wednesday-Saturday; free; exhibits that highlight the heritage of the area; 251-

986-8375.

• **City of Foley Museum Archives and Model Train Exhibit:** All aboard for fun! Model trains are operated on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10am to 2pm. Free admission.

• **Mobile Bay Ferry:** (Seasonal) This auto/passenger ferry connects Fort Morgan to Dauphin Island. Call 251-540-7787 for rates and schedule.

• **Fort Morgan:** History echoes off brick walls at this pre-Civil War fort. Designed to control the shipping channel into Mobile Bay, today the mission is to share lessons from the past. Adults-\$7; Child-\$4; 65 and older-\$5.

• **Gulf State Park Pier:** See what's biting

with a visit to the longest pier on the Gulf of Mexico. Sight-seeing passes are available for those who don't want to drop a hook. Children under 12 admitted free with paying adult.

• **Hugh S. Branyon Backcountry Trails at Gulf State Park:** Hike or cycle into the wilderness of the Alabama Gulf Coast with trails that guide you along marshes, secondary sand dunes, swamps and creeks. Free.

• **U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla vessel safety examinations:** Arrange for a free examination by calling Wayne Kindred at 251-965-3100.

• **Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo:** downtown Gulf Shores, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily, 251-968-

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



Sandy Roots Songwriters Series Aug. 15 on Innerarity

Amanda Pruitt, Sam Glass, Kevin Swanson, Michael Peterson, Brooke Brown, Dave Meadows

Amanda Pruitt, Sam Glass, Kevin Swanson, Michael Peterson, Brooke Brown and Dave Meadows will take Nick Biebricher's Sandy Roots Songwriters Series into the fall with an Aug. 15 at The Point Restaurant on Innerarity Point. Shows last approximately three hours. Cover charge is \$5.

A three hour open mic night for local original songwriters follows each showcase, which are held the third Tuesday of each month at the Point.

Biebricher put together the series to give local singer/songwriters the opportunity to showcase their talents with peers from around the southeast.

There are limited slots for the post concert open mic. Writers can register in advance. More info: Sandyrootsmusic@gmail.com or (251) 284-2443. The Point is located at 14340 Innerarity Point Rd.

Pictured: Amanda Pruitt released a new 6-song EP in June. The title for the EP, Strong, is apt, as Amanda has overcome many obstacles and has worked her way up the ladder of the "5-year-town" in just a short five months. After movinb from East Texas to Nashville, she is proving her ability one stage and one project at a time. If the strong country roots of Tammy Wynette and Lucinda Williams, the soulful sounds of Janis Joplin and the modern flow of Carrie Underwood or Miranda Lambert could be melded together into one unified sound, you'd have a voice like Amanda's. Her sound mixes classic and tradition country, rock, modern country, blues and even some good ole' southern gospel. "Not Turning Back", released in 2016, is a gospel album inspired by events of her own life. Growing up in Louisiana, she does not have any positive influences in her life, and music helped her to deal with pain, hurt and abandonment. Many close to her said she'd never make it, but Amanda followed her heart. She is one of the faces of Women of Music - Music of Women of Nashville. Amanda continues to travel and play shows as a solo act and with a band of seasoned musicians across Texas and Nashville.

Beach Express owners take steps to alleviate backups

The new Beach Express GO! program is proving to be a huge success, offering much needed relief to the heavily trafficked Highway 59 in Gulf Shores, according to Neal Belitsky, CEO of bridge owner, American Roads.

Summer toll rates have been reduced from \$3.50 to \$2.75. Registered voters in Orange Beach pay \$1.25 (cash) and \$1 (electronic). Since June 28, the Beach Expressway has seen an a 9 percent increase in bridge traffic.

In addition to lowering tolls and providing a plan to move traffic more freely over the bridge during periods of high demand, the design and engineering is progressing on the scheduled \$5.3 million in work for 2018 to include adding a third, reversible lane to accommodate two lanes of traffic in one direction and electronic tolling to help eliminate the need to stop for toll payment.

"We have had no plaza related delays since the program began, and we have also seen an increase of 38% in travelers opening new accounts and a 19% increase in existing customers expanding their accounts allowing users to take advantage of even lower fares," said Belitsky.

Visit beachexpress.com for more info.

5731.

• **Baldwin Museum of Art:** 111 W. Laurel Ave. (Hwy.98) in Foley. Hours: 10am - 4pm. Monday through Friday (251) 970-1818. Admission is free.

• **The Hot Shop & The Clay Studio:** Classes, & workshops. Info: 251-981-ARTS.

• **Performing Arts Association:** exhibits by local artists; free; 119 West Laurel Ave. in Foley; 251-943-4381.

• **Gulf Shores Museum:** Special Exhibit-From Sea to Shining Sea: 200 Years of Charting America's Coast. Museum also features a backyard "Grandma's Garden," shrimping and hurricane picture exhibits and gift shop; 244 West 19th Ave., Gulf Shores; 251.968.1473

• **Big Lagoon State Park:** 'til dusk; 12301 Gulf Beach Hwy.; nature trails, beach, picnic area, scenic look-out; \$4 admission; (850) 492-1595.

• **Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge:** 12295 State Hwy. 180 in Gulf Shores; Enjoy more than six miles of hiking trails and beach access. Open from sunrise to sunset; (251) 540-7720.

• **Perdido Key State Park:** Covered picnic tables overlooking the beach provide a great place for family outings.15301 Perdido Key Dr.; \$3 per car; (850) 492-1595.

• **Tarkiln Bayou Preserve State Park:** Home to four species of endangered pitcher plants. A boardwalk offers visitors a view of the wild and beautiful Tarkiln Bayou; Bauer Rd.; 2 miles south of US 98; (850) 492-1595.

• **National Museum of Naval Aviation:** Free admission. Open 7 days a week from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. See more than 170 aircraft on display. IMAX theater every hour; onboard NAS Pensacola. Info: 850-452-3604.



Pool team fundraiser Aug. 5 at The Office

A shrimp boil & basket of cheer fundraiser to offset travel expenses to send 8's r Us, the champion APA Pool League team from The Office to the National Championship Tourney in Las Vegas will be held on Saturday, Aug. 5 beginning at 2 p.m. at the Foley bistro. Plates of shrimp, corn, potatos and sausage will be sold for \$12, with deliveries available for two plates or more. The drawing for the basket of cheer (three tickets for \$5 and seven tickets for \$10) will be held at 9 p.m. 8's r Us will represent The Office in the National APA 8-Ball Tournament scheduled Aug. 14-19. The Office is located at 828 S. McKenzie St. (251-943-2210). **Pictured:** (left to right) Gary Slaughter, Joey Brannan, Reecie Brannan, Rodney Ewing, Andy Schneider, DJ Robinson, Dave Lindermuth, Alonzo Jones.



Maker Fun Factory Visits visits Vacation Bible School

Maker Fun Factory VBS with First Presbyterian and St. Andrew by the Sea completed their Mission Project on Friday with a field trip to donate their gifts and enjoy a wonderful tour of the center. The students were informed by workers during the week about their jobs at the center and about how important the center is to our community. The workers also explained how the process works when visitors go to the center for help. The center treated each student with a delicious cookie! The students returned to their fun filled morning with a Pizza lunch and ice cream for dessert. All involved were thankful for the week together learning about God's love and spreading His love throughout the community.

Yates Lake BioBlitz documents 250-plus species

By David Rainer

Al. Dept. of Conser. & Nat. Resources

On numerous trips outdoors, I've often wondered about the extent of the flora and fauna in the surrounding areas, but I don't have the background to identify all the different species.

On a recent trip to the Forever Wild Gothard-AWF Yates Lake Wildlife Management Area near Tallassee, Ala., I was among a group of Alabama residents who found out, thanks to the biologists from the Alabama State Lands Division, Auburn University, Cherokee Ridge Alpine

Trail Association (a local association of trail and hiking enthusiasts) and interested volunteers.

The trip was part of the Yates Lake BioBlitz, an event that scoured the 5,933-acre complex over two days to determine what species of plants and animals were identifiable on the property in the middle of May.

Dr. Wayne Barger, a botanist with the State Lands Heritage Section, said the Yates Lake BioBlitz is the second BioBlitz conducted by the division.

"Last year we held the event on the Dothan Trail Park Forever Wild tract," Barger said. "The event at Yates Lake was organized so that it was more centrally located and we could involve the general public as citizen scientists. We're hoping that by inviting, not just the general public, but the professionals from the many different realms of biological sciences, that we can discover some species we didn't know were on the tract."

After all the species of plants and animals were totaled, more than 250 species were documented with the identification of a few species continuing.

"There is a diverse set of habitats at Yates Lake from upland, drier habitats to mesic drains," Barger said. "And of course, we also have Yates Lake that is located between Martin Dam and Thurlow Dam on the eastern side of the property. We have a wide array of habitats where we

were hoping to find a variety of different species. There are many common species that we were able to document, like box turtles and pines and several species of beetles, things people don't normally get out and look for. We're hoping to find more of the uncommon species that occur here as well."

More than 120 plant species were identified, several of special interest. The team was also able to add 25-plus species of lichens and fungi to the list.

"As far as plant life, we know that there are a few uncommon species that occur on the property, like bay star-vine and croomia," Barger said. "On the lake, an uncommon floating plant is yellow spatterdock (also known as nuphar)."

In terms of animal life, Brian Holt, a herpetologist with State Lands, said quite a few species were observed at Yates Lake, including six-lined racers, loggerhead musk turtles, box turtles, black racers, smooth

earth snakes, ringneck snakes, copperheads, timber rattlesnakes, cottonmouths and gray rat

snakes. Although they were not observed, snapping turtles and softshell turtles are likely present in the lake.

"We found the southeastern five-lined skink, which is an uncommon species," Holt said. "We also observed a red eft, the juvenile phase of the eastern newt. As for other reptiles, the Yates Lake property is too far north for eastern diamond-backed rattlesnakes, but you could see a pygmy rattlesnake."

Eric Soehren, who manages the State Lands Division's Wehle Land Conservation Center in Bullock County, took par-

ticipants on a hike to observe the bird life at Yates.

"We conducted the bird survey, both visually and aurally, which is typical in these forested settings," said Soehren, who helped conduct the Fort Morgan bird-banding project earlier this spring. "Just walking to the creek and back, we documented 27 species, providing a quick snapshot of the species present. We're just past migration and well into the breeding season now. Typically, you'll have your resident species and neotropical breeders that are here right now. The bird diversity is slightly down because the winter species are gone and the migrants have already passed through."

One of the highlights of the effort was the discovery of a chuck-will's-widow nest. These birds are a member of the nightjar family, which also includes the eastern whip-poor-will.

"This is one of those birds that is only active, at least singing, during the dusk and dawn periods or during nights with bright lunar periods," Soehren said.

"The chuck-will's-widow sounds a little like a whip-poor-will, but it's a little bigger in size and a little more abundant in this part of Alabama. Many people

mistake it for a whip-poor-will, but their calls are different. The female we found was incubating two eggs.

This is prime nesting season for this and other bird species around here."

"This is a team effort where you have authorities in different taxa groups leading trips to not only gather the diversity of species but also have the public participate, to learn and be engaged in our conservation lands."

For the weekend, the count was 44 bird species documented on the Yates Lake property.

"What's interesting about this property is we are near the fall line," Soehren said. "You've got aspects of the Piedmont and the



aspects of the Coastal Plain merging together. You've got montane longleaf pine sections here, which is a unique community type and a rare community type. Then you've got bottomland hardwoods. You've got the mixed hardwoods and pines. And then you've got these creeks that dissect the areas. You've got hickory, oak, tulip poplars, red maple, sweet gum and pines. What's interesting is the Channahatchee Creek. It has some bedrock interface lying in there that is right on the cusp of the Piedmont. An interesting example of this is finding bald-cypress (a Coastal Plain species typical of alluvial substrates) growing along the margins of creeks with exposed bedrock, which serves as a natural boundary for this species, making it kind of a unique feature to see."

Soehren said Yates Lake is also excellent habitat for the alligator snapping turtle, which is a species of concern.

"It's a species that is a slow reproducer and slow to mature so it's susceptible to decline," he said. "The stumps of cut cypresses and other trees under the impounded sections of the river create submerged struc-

tures ideal for species like the alligator snapping turtle. If you happen to encounter one while fishing for catfish on limb lines and stuff like that, just cut the line and let it go."

Channahatchee Creek was also the site of an interesting discovery by the team that had erected a mist-net over the creek. A Seminole bat was captured, the first time this species has been encountered on the tract.

Go to alabamaforeverwild.com for information about outdoors activities available at the Forever Wild Gothard - AWF Yates Lake Wildlife Management Area, including fishing, hunting, hiking, mountain biking and birding, just to name a few. No overnight camping is allowed.

Pictured: (Kenny Johnson 2, David Rainer) A chuck-will's-widow was accidentally flushed from her nest near a trail at the Yates Lake complex during the recent BioBlitz; A box turtle was among the amphibians found; Wayne Barger, a botanist with the State Lands Division, discusses the common species of plants and trees found in the area, like this silverbell tree.

AROUND TOWN



Velcro Pygmies at Live Bait Aug. 3-5

The Velcro Pygmies will bring their take-no-prisoners hard rocking show to The Club at Live Bait in Orange Beach for Aug. 3-5 shows beginning around 10 p.m. each night (24281 Perdido Beach Blvd.: 251-974-1612).

Covering the likes of Poison, Van Halen, Aerosmith, KISS, Def Leppard and any other band "that is larger than life," the Kentucky based Pygmies consistently deliver high-energy melody driven, larger than life rock to audiences all through the south. "We take our cues from the actual trenches of rock n roll. People still want David Lee Roth style rock n roll heroes," said Pygmie frontman Cameron Flener. "Bands these days just can't pull that off so rock's entertainment value has diminished to virtually nothing." The Pygmie sound isn't something that requires a Ph.D. to enjoy. It's based on subject matter such as Girls, Girls and (you guessed it) Girls. (Joe Phillips photo)



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Congratulations 2017 Rodeo Queens

Congratulations to the Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation Rodeo 2017 Queens, including Emalie Holcomb: Princess, Madison Dees: Queen, and Danielle Heil Bolton: Sr. Queen. "All of our contestants did an amazing job this evening! A big thank you to all of our supporters who helped make this event possible again this year," said Megan Melvin, Administrative & Marketing Coordinator for the Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation. The Rodeo starts on Aug. 3.



Moore Foundation Rodeo is Aug. 3-5

The 20th Annual Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation Professional Rodeo will be held Aug. 3-5 at the City of Foley Horse Arena. This



Rodeo features exciting events including bull riding, barrel racing, bare-back riding, calf roping, team roping,

steer wrestling and break away roping. The Rodeo kicks off each night at 8 p.m. with free children's activities beginning nightly at 6 p.m. Limited Reserved preferred seating tickets are \$35 and will allow guests to experience the action within twenty feet of the contestant gates and will include a souvenir seat cushion. General admission tickets are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children ages 4-12 years old, and free for ages 3 and under. Tickets are sold in advance at the Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation at 819 North McKenzie Street in Foley, Summerdale Western Store on Highway 59 in Summerdale, Circle V Saddlery in Robertsedale, and Frances Holk-Jones State Farm Insurance at 315 E. Laurel Avenue in Foley. Tickets will also be available each night at the gate. Visit peerhelpers.org, follow on Facebook or call 251-971-3633 for more info about sponsorship and volunteer opportunities.

All proceeds benefit the Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides training, funding and support to 50 Peer Helper Programs in public and private schools across Baldwin County impacting the lives of children pre-k through 12 grade facing academic or personal struggles.

Pre-rodeo festivities in conjunction with the rodeo at the Foley Horse Arena included The Queens' Horsemanship Contest and the crowning of the queens.



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Record setting Gulf Shores High grad Brandon Silvers ready for year 4 as Troy's starting quarterback

Orange Beach native has already been named to the Maxwell Award, Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award and Davey O'Brien Award watch lists

By Fran Thompson

Brandon Silvers, a 2012 Gulf Shores High School grad now entering his fourth year as Troy University's starting quarterback, won't be sneaking up on any defenses this fall.

The Orange Beach native has already been named to the Maxwell Award, Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award

and Davey O'Brien Award watch lists.

And that is in addition to being the pre-season pick as the Sun Belt All-Conference First Team Quarterback.

The O'Brien award is presented annually to the nation's best college quarterback, and the Maxwell Award to America's College Player of the Year. The Unitas Award is selected based on accomplishments both on and off the field, and candidates must be a college senior or fourth-year junior on schedule to graduate with their class.

That is not an issue for Brandon. He graduated from Troy last week with a degree in sport & fitness management, celebrating on the water in Cotton Bayou with at least 15 family members and lunch at Tacky Jack's in Orange Beach.

Silvers has amassed 7,394 passing yards and 54 touchdowns in his Troy career, while completing 64.7 percent of his passes. A versatile threat under center, he has also rushed for 365 yards and 11 touchdowns in his career.

A first team All-Conference

selection in 2016, Silvers led the Sun Belt with 23 touchdown passes and completed 63.7 percent of his attempts to lead Troy to its first 10 win season since joining the FBS in 2001.

The record breaking season included a win against Ohio University in the Dollar General Bowl at Ladd-Peebles Stadium in Mobile. Brandon

threw for a career-high 395 yards to lead Troy to a win against South Alabama in that same stadium last October.

The NCAA record holder with his 69.5 completion percentage as a freshman, Silvers ranked sixth in the nation for completion percentage for quarterbacks with at least 450 attempts last year.

"As Brandon has matured off the field, his in-game decision making has also improved," said third year Troy head coach Neal Brown during Sun Belt Media Day.

"Physically, he has the tools. He's big guy - 6'2 plus, 225 lbs.

"The thing that probably separates him from a lot of Division I quarterbacks is his release," the coach added. "He gets the ball out really fast."

Considered one of the top young minds in college football, Brown, was the offensive coordinator at Texas Tech and Kentucky before replacing Larry Blakeney, who retired after 24 seasons at Troy and gave his successor his first chance as an offensive coordinator in 2008.

Brown was just 25 at the time.

"This is a league of really good quarterbacks, and he was named pre-season All-Conference," Brown said.

"For him to repeat as first team All-Conference, he is going to have to raise his level of play, because I know those other guys will.

"What he has to do is play at a consistent level in big games, and I think he's ready to take that next step."

In addition to spots on the post season award watch lists and his pre-season all-conference selection, Brandon's summer included his first invite to the legendary Manning Passing Academy in Thibodaux, Louisiana, where he joined some of the most successful and brightest coaches and players from the professional and college ranks for a week.

"That was a good time - a

really good experience,"

Brandon said. "There were something like 43 quarterbacks there, including guys you see on TV all the time. It was a fun atmosphere being around all those guys and getting to compete with them.

"I felt like I could throw with any of them," he added.

"I think the camp showed him personally that he has the NFL talent to have a chance at the next level," added Sean Reagan, the Troy quarterback coach. "He has heard it a lot, but seeing it in person goes a long way."

Brandon has showed improvement in each of the three years he has started under center at Troy, earning a spot on the 2014 Sun Belt Conference Newcomer Team as a freshman and All-Conference Honorable Mention as a sophomore.

His breakout 2016 season also included a 133.05

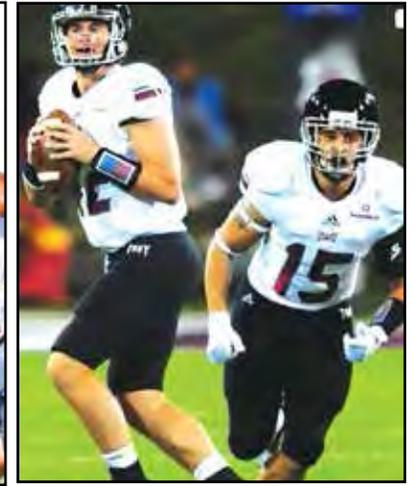
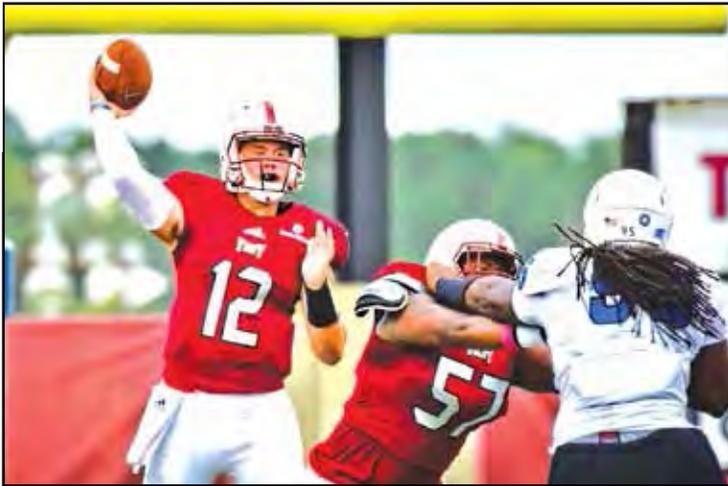
passer rating (3rd best in the league). He threw multiple touchdown passes in eight games and had three touchdown passes against Southern Miss, Idaho and UMass. His touchdown total ranked 35th in the country.

He led the Sun Belt with 129 passes of 10 or more yards and posted the fifth-most yards of total offense in a game in Troy history with 413 at South Alabama.

On the single-season Troy leaderboard, his season totals ranked fourth for completions (293), fifth for attempts (460), fifth for passing yards (3,180), fourth for passing touchdowns (23), sixth for completion percentage (63.7) and fifth for total offense (3,308). His 26 total touchdowns rank as the fifth most in a season in Troy history. He even caught a two-point conversion pass from John Johnson at South Ala-

bama.





Rather than rest on those past successes, Brandon stepped up his training since last season and is expecting the results to be evident when Troy opens the season Sept. 2 at Boise State.

"I worked to get more power in my drop during spring practice and I worked real hard this summer to get more velocity on the ball. I feel really good about going into the first game," Brandon said.

"His top strength is how fast he can get the ball out. He has also improved on getting his pre-snaps to have a better idea of where he might go with the ball," Reagan said. "We led the country in fewest sacks allowed, and Brandon and the offensive line had a lot to do with that."

Brandon and Reagan have set goals of earning All-American and Sun Belt Player of the Year honors, but Brandon also knows exactly how he wants to end his Troy career.

"I want to win the Sun Belt Championship and get to one of the big bowls," he said.

"We give him some fundamental goals to reach and concentrate on as well as a

couple statistical goals before we get to game one," Reagan said. "These goals are set for him to compete within himself on a daily basis."

At Gulf Shores, Brandon played for three football coaches – Duane Davis,

Mark Freeman & Ben Blackmon – in his three varsity seasons and also played

for three basketball coaches in three seasons at GSHS.

Guiding Freeman's spread offense as a GSHS junior, Brandon put up amassed 2,468 yards passing and threw for 26 touchdowns. He was slotted in at number 16 in his class's ESPN high school quarterback rankings.

Blackmon took over at GSHS during Brandon's senior year, and Brandon completed 108-of-201 pass attempts for 1,400 yards and six touchdowns. He ran for 410 more yards on 116 carries and scored nine rushing touchdowns.

ESPN ranked him the 27th best quarterback in the nation and a three-start recruit out of high school.

Brandon was recruited by most SEC schools and had offers from just about every team in the Sun Belt Conference, among others.

"This guy may be the most under the radar quarterback prospect in this class," noted ESPN.com when he signed with Troy.

Brandon continued a family legacy when he selected Troy. His athletic mother, Roz Ann Silvers, attended Troy, and his uncle, Carey Christensen, played quarterback on Troy's 1984 national championship squad.

Sports is definitely in his gene pool. His aunt, Metta Roberts, played basketball at South Alabama. His grandfather, Raymond Christiansen, was one of Kenny Stabler's football coaches at Foley High.

An all around athlete in his youth, Brandon once played for a Baldwin County AAU basketball team in a national tournament in Atlanta, then immediately drove with his mom to Orlando to pitch and play outfield for an elite baseball team in a national tourney.

Brandon's father, Jeff Silvers, is on the Orange Beach City Council. He and Brandon's mom, Roz Ann, knew each other at Foley High School, but they didn't start dating until Jeff ran into Roz Ann a few years later at the old L.A. Pub & Grub in Gulf Shores.

Brandon's Troy highlights as a first year starter in 2015 included five touchdown passes in the first half at New Mexico State, tied for the fourth-most in a game in Sun Belt history. he completed 22-of-33 passes for

326 yards and four touchdowns against ULM. He ended the 2015 season on a high note as he completed 22-of-28 passes for 320 yards and four touchdowns in the season finale at Lafayette.

He broke Sam Bradford's NCAA record for completion percentage and finished third in the Sun Belt with a 138.6 passer rating during his freshman year. he also set the Troy record for consecutive passes to open a career without an interception.

As he enters what should be the most exciting fall of his life, Brandon said he knows his family, friends and hometown are all behind him.

"It's been great seeing the

joy on my family's faces when they learn that I've been named to a watch list," he said.

"Growing up, I was always a family guy, and I always liked staying close to home. So it's been great going to a school that's only three hours away," he added. "I see a lot of Troy stickers when I'm home, and I have friends that have bought season tickets this year. I get lots of positive feedback every time I go home."

"He has been working really hard," Reagan said. "I believe he truly gets that this is his final run with his teammates to try and win a championship. Winning one means a lot to Brandon."

"I have friends that have bought season tickets this year. I get lots of positive feedback every time I go home."



AROUND TOWN

Weeks Bay Foundation Pelican Paddle Aug. 5

The Weeks Bay Foundation will host the 5th Annual Pelican Paddle Canoe and Kayak Race on Saturday, August 5, at the Tomsmeire Weeks Bay Resource Center on Highway 98 in Fairhope. For more information and to register, call 251-990-5004, or to register online, visit weeksbay.org. Advance registration will close August 4, at 4 p.m. Race-day registration begins at 7:30 a.m.

Pelican Paddle is a fun, family-oriented, 3.5-mile canoe and kayak race that's open to all ages and skill levels. Plus, there's a seven-mile pro option for the serious paddlers, and a non-competitive Eco-Tour of Weeks Bay, guided by Weeks Bay Foundation Executive Director Yael Girard. And this year, for the first time in its five-year history, Pelican Paddle will include live music, local beer, and local food trucks, for spectators and racers alike.

Advance registration for Pelican Paddle is \$30 per paddler or \$70 per family. Day-of-race registration is \$35 per paddler and \$85 per family. A family can include up to two adults and up to four minors under age 18.

Race divisions are: Men's Kayak, Women's Kayak, Junior Kayak, Pro Kayak, Tandem Craft, Non-Traditional (single canoes, pedal kayaks, etc.), and Stand Up Paddle Board. The Eco-Tour begins shortly after the racers take off.

The Eco-Tour winds its way through the salt marsh edges of Weeks Bay. It's suitable for paddlers of all ages, and participants often see dolphins, Bald Eagles, and numerous shore birds. Stops will also be made along the way to discuss watersheds, estuaries, and flora and fauna.

Loaner gear will also be available but must be reserved in advance. Participants interested in borrowing gear must call the Foundation at 251-990-5004 before registering.



Gulf State Park earns TripAdvisor awards

TripAdvisor, an industry leader in online travel reservation services and user reviews, has presented 17 Certificate of Excellence awards to 11 Alabama State Parks, including Gulf State Park, which was honored for its overall park, its piers and boardwalks, its campground and for the Hugh Branyon Backcountry Trail. The 17 awards are the most ever for Alabama's State Parks, tying last year's number of honors from the world's largest travel site.

"We're thrilled that TripAdvisor users love our parks as much as we do," said Greg Lein, Alabama State Parks Director. "Our staff works hard to make sure visitors have first-class experiences enjoying our beautiful state and it's nice to be recognized."

Every park in the Alabama State Parks System is also now benefiting from the passage of Amendment 2 in last November's election, which by prohibiting parks' funds from being transferred allows for renewed maintenance projects. Regular maintenance and other improvements help influence visitors to make Alabama State Parks their outdoors recreation destination.

Pictured: Primitive camping tents with four cots, water station and fire ring makes the camping experience easy at Gulf State Park's newest editions.



Alan Woolford of Grand Lagoon designs this year's FBISF poster art

Frank Brown International Songwriter's Festival administrators looked only a few miles from the event's epi-center to find the right artist, Alan Woolford, to design the poster and t-shirt art for the 33rd annual event.

"One of our board members suggested that I contact Alan to see if he would be interested," said Andy Haynes, director of the FBISF. "It turns out that Alan had designed the poster for the festival about 20 years ago."

"We all really like it and we hope festival attendees will. We have already received a lot of inquiries concerning availability and hope to have posters and t-shirts available for sale at the Flora-Bama by October 15."

Scheduled Nov. 9-19 nightly at its Flora-Bama home base and at multiple nights at least 20 other venues between Pensacola and Silverhill, the FBISF will feature more than 200 seasoned and aspiring songwriters and musicians from all over the world. The artists participate to have their songs heard and to network with peers, and the public will hear the stories behind the lyrics that only the song's author can express.

Woolford has been working as a professional commercial illustrator and fine artist since 1981. He has held the positions of screen printer, darkroom technician, production artist and art director. He started working in the field of marine art around 1992, when he was approached to create t-shirt designs and paintings for local blue marlin, cobia, and kingfish tournaments.

He has produced hundreds of designs for fishing tournaments, marine oriented businesses, and special events in the USA, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Australia. His artwork has appeared in numerous publications, and he has many collectors nationally.

Alan's philosophy is that he has been given a gift and that one day he will be held accountable for his life as an artist. "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required" is the Bible quote he uses to sum up that philosophy on his website (alanwoolfordart.com).

"I would like to be able to express appreciation for all the submissions we received," Haynes said.

Pictured: Woolford, a Pensacola native, lives in Grand Lagoon with wife Vicki, daughter Hannah, and son Wade. He owns and operates Big Lagoon Designs and works on commission from his home studio.



COASTAL PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB'S SPECIAL EFFECTS: Special effects was the theme for the Foley Coastal Photography Club's June photo competition. The club meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Foley Senior Center, located at 304 East Rose Ave. in Foley. For more club info, email gskgaston@aol.com. **Pictured:** John Stetz, Bowl of Fractals; Jeane Carlson, Mushroom Pony; Jeane Carlson, Bull Cat.



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AROUND TOWN



Optimists host 31st Mullet Fest Labor Day in Lillian

The 31st Annual Mullet Festival hosted by the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay will be held on Labor Day, Sept. 4 at the Lillian Community Club, Lillian. The event begins with presentation of the colors at 7:15 a.m. by the American Legion. Registration for the 5K Run/Walk begins at 6 a.m. with the run stepping off at 7:30. Participants receive the famous Mullet T-shirt and are eligible for awards in 78 separate age groups. Sign up prior to the event on the website, www.ocpb.org. The Runners Party is held from 8 to 10:30 a.m. and includes the Awards Ceremony, beverages and snacks. A one-mile Fun Run/Walk begins at 8:30 a.m. The first 40 finishers receive a Participant Award.

The famous Optimist Breakfast will be held from 7 to 9 a.m., featuring pancakes, sausage, biscuits and sausage gravy, grits and eggs. The charge is \$5 per person; kids 2 through 8 eat free.

Plan on attending the Mullet/Catfish Dinner served from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Also included in the \$8 fee are hushpuppies, baked beans, grits, coleslaw, dessert and iced tea. Once again, kids 1 to 8 eat free.

If breakfast and dinner aren't enough, you can always take home some home-baked items, courtesy of the best cooks in the area, the women of OCPB and their friends.

Join the fun and games outside where kids can frolic in the inflatables from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The famous Mullet Toss will be held during the same time period. Will last year's winners return to take home another trophy or will first-timers take the prizes?

Inside from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Silent Auction will be in full swing, along with the Deja Vu Market. New and almost new items, as well as gift certificates from area businesses will be on the auction block. Gently used and unique treasures are featured in the Deja Vu Market.

There will be two contests inside this year. The winner of the Hula Hoop Contest that begins at 1 p.m. will receive a crisp \$20 bill and \$10 will go to second place. Contestants must bring their own hoops. The Electric Slide Contest will begin at 2 p.m., also with \$20 and \$10 cash prizes.

Outside the vendors will be selling their wares, including arts and crafts. To participate as a vendor, contact Ken Sanders, (251) 961-1530, or email sandbama@gulftel.com.

The drawing for the Raffle will be held at 3 p.m. Prizes are \$1,000, \$400, \$200, and \$100. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. Purchase them before the event from your favorite Optimist member. They will also be on sale at the Mullet Festival.

Music from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. will be provided by Big Jake & the Tag-A-Longs, a favorite in the area, especially for their line dance music and of course, the famous chicken dance.

Proceeds from the Mullet Festival are used to fund dozens of programs and projects for kids, as well as honoring Elberta schools teachers and law enforcement officers. Last year \$25,000 was donated to local organizations and approximately 10,000 hours were expended by club members to help children. In addition to fun activities for the boys and girls, the club awarded four \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors and four scholarships to the National Flight Academy in Pensacola.

It's a fun day for the whole family. For more information contact Ken Sanders (251) 961-1530, Mary Collier (251) 962-3704, Lee Hoffman (251) 962-3339 or Andy Wilkinson (251) 961-1343.

Aug. 6 blood drive at St. Patrick's Church

St. Patrick Catholic Church in Robertsedale is hosting a Blood Drive on Sunday, August 6 from 7 a.m. to noon. The church is located at 23035 State Highway 59 South. Call 251-947-5054 for more info.

Beta Sigma Chi sisters invite all to join them

Sisters of Beta Sigma Chi, if you are new to the Gulf Shores area and looking for a new chapter to join, Theta Master (Alabama's newest chapter) would love to have you come join us. We meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month @ 6:30 PM in a members home. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Gloria @ gd1965@centurylink.net for info.

Congressman Byrne's G.S. town hall meeting Aug. 3

U. S. Congressman Bradley Byrne will host a town hall meeting at Gulf Shores City Council Chambers, located at 1905 West 1st St., on Thursday, Aug. 3 at 3 pm.

A Mobile native, Congressman Byrne was elected to Congress in December 2013, to complete the term of Congressman Jo Bonner. He was elected to his first full term 10 months later. As a member of the House Committee on Armed Services, Byrne has been an outspoken supporter for a strong national defense and improved quality of care at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). He also led the charge for reforms to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act which would give more power over the Red Snapper fishery to the Gulf States.

"When I took office, I promised my constituents I would put together an aggressive outreach operation," he said. "One of the best ways to do that is through town hall meetings."



It's always best to leave animals right where they are found

By Marianne Hudson

The more time you spend outdoors, the more likely you are to eventually encounter a wild animal that appears to be in need of rescue. If you discover wildlife that seems to be in need, the first thing to remember is that, despite appearances, this is very rarely the case. Many mammals leave their young alone for the majority of the day, and fledgling birds are on the ground for a period of time being fed by their parents before they take flight. This means that a young, uninjured bird or mammal is not in need of rescuing. The best thing to do in these instances is to leave the animal where it was found. If it has already been moved from its point of origin, it is still okay to return the youngster to its capture site, even hours later. The notion that a mother will reject babies after being touched by humans is a myth.

Many people make the mistake of monitoring the baby animal to see if mama returns. If you can see the area, this means that the parent can also see you, and will not return because of your proximity. Leave the area and keep in mind that some species are only visited by their mother twice in a 24-hour period. This is normal, and not cause for alarm. If the animal is at risk from dogs or cats, it is the responsibility of the pet owner to control domestic animals – this is not an acceptable reason to remove wildlife from nature.

If you discover injured wildlife and feel the need to assist the animal, it is important to be aware of the legal and practical issues involved in "rescuing" wildlife.

In Alabama, native wildlife cannot be held in captivity, even for the purposes of medical assistance, without proper permits. There are licensed wildlife rehabilitators throughout the state, and these individuals and facilities have the experience and enclosures necessary to tend to and house convalescing wildlife. Wounded and ailing animals must be transported as quickly as possible to those with a permit, and may not be kept in the care of the finder or even a local veterinary clinic that lacks a Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit. All native wildlife, from backyard birds to rabbits and deer, are covered by this regulation. A complete list of permitted persons and their contact information is organized by county at outdooralabama.com/current-wildlife-rehabbers.

A truly injured animal (hit by car, etc.) may be a candidate for transport to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. Even then, the mortality rate for these animals is often very high. Wildlife generally birth large numbers of offspring in their lifetime to compensate for losses and for natural predation.

Leaving nature to the natural cycles of birth, growth and renewal is an appropriate way to appreciate wildlife. Allowing the natural parents of a young animal to care for their offspring is the best way to ensure its healthy development. If you find a fawn, rabbit or other species alone in the woods, remember that they are right where they belong. Leave them as you found them.

Pictured: Fawn in pine straw.

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Carolina Chickadee photo by Jeff Drake.



Steve Ward shares a picture of "beautiful Monkey Island at the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo."



"We are in town visiting and my daughter, Jana Mims, looks newsworthy with her Cobalt Banana Pudding," writes Toni Mims. Feel free to run this pic, if it fits into any story. I think it is magnificent!"



"July Sunset on my favorite bayou off Innerarity Point," writes Cathy Deal.



"Morning on our canal," from Dennis Whitney.



An advertisement for Orange Beach Golf Center. It features a large sign in the background that reads "ORANGE BEACH GOLF CENTER Orange Beach, Alabama". Below the sign, there are three smaller images: a house, a golfer on a green, and a golf course. The text on the ad reads: "You'll love our greens." followed by "9 Hole Par 3 Course Open to the Public Tee times not required", "Lighted Driving Range Covered mats • Practice bunker", "Daily Green Fees: \$15.00 to walk 9 \$20.00 to ride 9", and "Play all day for \$30.00 Membership & Lessons Available". At the bottom, it says "(251) 981-GOLF/4653 • 4700 Easy Street (off Canal Road)".

PICTURES OF THE WEEK

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Carolina Chickadee photo by Jeff Drake.



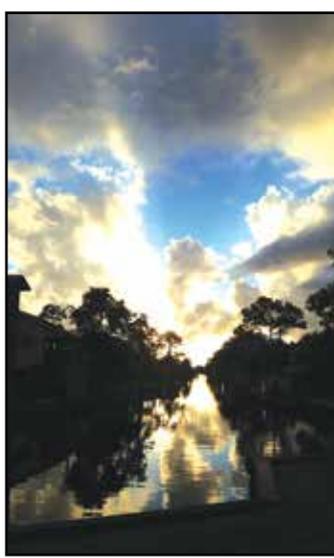
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Wednesday: Chicken & Dumplings 2 Sides

Thursday: Beef Tips over White rice 2 Sides

Friday: Chef's Special

Triggerfish on rapid rebound after season closures

By David Rainer
Al Dept. of Conservation/Nat Resources

Plenty of red snapper, the Alabama Gulf Coast's premier reef fish, crossed the scales at the 84th annual Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo (ADFSR) at Dauphin Island last weekend, but one reef species was conspicuously absent for the second year in a row.

The gray triggerfish season is closed for all of 2017 because NOAA Fisheries determined that the recreational sector exceeded its quota for the past several years.

Triggerfish recreational landings in the Gulf were estimated to be 422,436 pounds in 2016. The annual catch limit was 201,223 pounds.

If an annual catch limit is exceeded, then the following year's annual catch limit must be reduced to account for the overage. Because the 2016 estimated triggerfish catch was double the annual catch limit, the payback clause in the regulations left the recreational sector with zero quota for 2017.

However, encouraging evidence indicates that triggerfish

stocks may not be in the dire straits some suggest.

Dr. Sean Powers, head of the Marine Sciences Department at the University of South Alabama (USA) and one of the ADFSFR judges, said the research work done with grants from the Alabama Marine Resources Division shows a resilient triggerfish population. "We've been watching the

stock and watching a couple of indices that we measure in state waters," Powers said. "So, in 2015, it started showing an increase. By 2016, we had a tripling of the level, and so far this year, we expect that it's just as high."

Powers said two to four triggerfish are found on each of the reefs the USA research team studies. He said triggerfish will be a little higher in the water column and will eagerly take just about any bait dropped down in front of

them.

A couple of weeks ago, several friends went snapper fishing and had

to throw back numerous triggerfish before they hooked their first red snapper.

"Triggerfish and snapper are very aggressive," he said. "Of the two, the triggerfish is going to be the most aggressive, so it makes sense that some anglers are dropping down and catching triggerfish on their red snapper spots."

For the past eight-plus years, the USA Marine Sciences team has deployed an ROV (remotely operated vehicle) to explore the offshore reefs to determine what species inhabit the reefs and in what

abundance.

"One of the reasons we use video is that video gives us an unbiased view of

what's going on on the reefs because of the competition for the bait," Powers said. "We use catch data, but we also use the data from the remotely operated vehicles."

Powers said he's not sure exactly why the triggerfish population off the Alabama coast

appears to be rebounding so quickly.

"I'm sure the catch limit had something to do with it, but it also may have been that our population of triggerfish off Alabama might have been healthier than what (NOAA Fisheries) expected," he said. "Remember, the assessment is Gulf-wide. We focus our sampling off Alabama, and Alabama has terrific habitat (more than 15,000 artificial reefs) for reef fish out there."

Another reason Powers is confident with their assessment of the triggerfish is the fish's proclivity to remain close to structure, whether it's artificial reefs, petroleum platforms or natural bottom.

"You're not going to see triggerfish free-swimming away from the reefs," he said. "You'll

see big red snapper free-swimming sometimes, but we've probably had 3,000 longline sets during our research, and we've never collected a gray triggerfish away from structure."

Powers hopes NOAA Fisheries will use the data collected by the USA team and incorporate it into the management plan for triggerfish so at least there can be a season in 2018.

"I'm not sure what that catch limit might be, but hopefully we'll get the return of the triggerfish season," he said. "Triggerfish are out there. But that's what you expect when you ease up fishing pressure with these reef fish populations. We see it with red snapper. We see it with gray triggerfish. They have the ability to rebound a lot quicker than most scientists thought a decade or two ago."

"The state has sponsored a

large monitoring effort offshore since 2010 with the idea that it would help inform the federal models, but also give the states data if they ever get to manage their reef fish on their own. The thing about our data is that it is near real-time. We'll be able to provide the data to the state by the end of that year. A lot of times with stock assessments, that data is two or three years old before they enter the model. A much more timely assessment can be done if you focus regionally, because the turnaround of the data is so much quicker."

Recreational anglers and charter boat captains have reported catching huge triggerfish during red snapper trips this year, which is encouraging to Powers.

"That's a great sign, because the larger ones are going to produce more eggs," he said. "Our average size has also in-



creased.”

Powers said there may be a connection between the availability of sargassum seaweed and survivability of the juvenile fish.

“Triggerfish are nest guarders,” he said. “The female will lay eggs in the mud or sand around the reef. Those eggs will hatch and float up in the water column. What they really need for protection is floating sargassum. Once they live in the sargassum for the first six months of their lives, then they’re going to recruit to the structure habitat. A lot of us think the ups and downs of the triggerfish fishery can probably be correlated to good and bad sargassum years.”

“The partnership with Dr. Powers and the University of South Alabama has been very rewarding,” said Acting Conservation Commissioner Chris Blankenship. “In 2010 when I became Marine Resources Division Director, my staff and I worked with Dr. Powers to formulate the research priorities that needed to be done to better assess the population of red snapper and other reef fish in our extensive artificial reef zones. Now in our seventh year, we are really seeing dividends from his work. We are very fortunate to have a marine scientist of his caliber here in coastal Alabama.”

Some anglers have also posed the possibility that the triggerfish populations have suffered because the abundant red snapper are preying on triggerfish eggs and juvenile fish. Powers, however, said they don’t have the data to support that theory.

“We haven’t seen that in the snapper guts we have checked,” he said. “We’ve seen very few triggerfish or vermilion snapper in the red snapper gut contents. It’s been hypothesized that’s been occurring, but the data so far shows that is an infrequent occurrence.

“But, gut contents are just a snapshot

in time. You really need to be out there when the vermilions or gray triggerfish really recruit heavily to see if they’re part of the prey. Given the gut contents we’ve collected, it doesn’t appear to pose a problem.”

However, another species does potentially pose a problem. When the ROV camera dropped down on reefs on a recent research trip, lionfish, an invasive species, were hanging tightly on the reefs. Lionfish only grow to about 18 inches, but they are very aggressive feeders that compete with the other reef species for prey.

“Just as we’ve seen a tripling of triggerfish, we’ve seen a quadrupling of lionfish numbers,” Powers said. “If they’re not preying on juvenile reef fish, they’re at least outcompeting them for food.”

With that in mind, the ADSFR created a special category for lionfish, which are rarely caught on hook and line and most often speared by divers. The winner was based on the number of lionfish brought to the scales to promote the removal of as many lionfish as possible. Steve Houghland ran away with the rodeo’s top prize in the category by dropping off an incredible 334 lionfish at the weigh station.

Pictured: Research done by the University of South Alabama Marine Sciences Department indicates the triggerfish population has rebounded significantly in the last two years. Richard Rutland, past Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo president, and Chris Garcia, first mate on the charter boat Escape, show the big triggers caught on a recent research trip out of Dauphin Island. Chris Blankenship, Acting Conservation Commissioner, holds the invasive lionfish, a species that could pose a threat to reef fish throughout the Gulf. **(David Rainer, Alabama MRD)**



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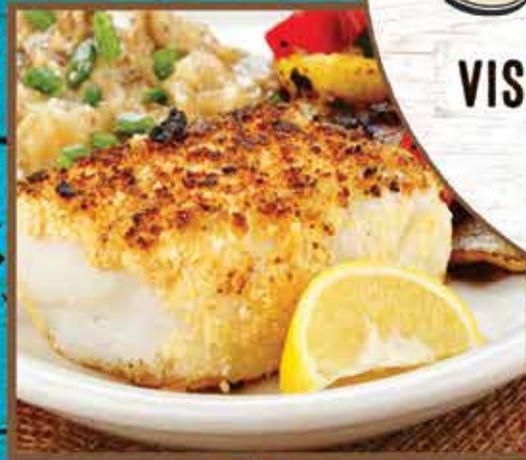




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