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**COASTAL CHRISTMAS**

Foley Art Center's 6 week Trim-A-Tree continues thru Dec. 21

The Foley Art Center's 50th Annual Trim-A-Tree, its annual six week holiday fine arts and crafts event, continues at its location in Suite 446 in the Tanger Outlet Center in Foley through Dec. 21 from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday thru Saturday and 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Sundays.

Trim-A-Tree features wonderful creations by over 200 artist & craftsmen from throughout the southeast. All vendors are members of the Foley Art Center, and their work has been juried to participate.

Gifts and Holiday decorative items for sale include ornaments, florals, wood carvings, stained glass, fused glass mosaics, textiles, driftwood trees, quilts, rugs and jewelry. Original art in oils, watercolors, mixed media, prints, photographs, gourds and hand woven textiles will also be on sale.

For more info, call 251-943-4381 or visit foleyartcenter.com. Like Foley Art Center on Facebook

Since 1966 The Foley Art Center, formally named The Performing Arts Association has served the Gulf Coast area with programs in local schools, scholarships for students seeking advanced degrees in the arts and art classes for children and adults. From the dreams of fifteen local citizens, it has become a vital force in the cultural development of Baldwin County. Trim-A-Tree and its annual Mother's Day weekend Art in the Park in the John B Foley Park are its two primary fundraisers.


For more info, call 251-943-4381 or visit foleyartcenter.com.

Sights & Sounds of the Season Dec. 1 at P-Cola Little Theater

The Gulf Coast Chorale announces that tickets are now available for Sights and Sounds of the Season. The show will be performed on Friday, Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Pensacola Little Theatre, located at 400 S. Jefferson St. in Pensacola. Doors open at 7. Tickets are $10, and are available through the Chorale website (gulfcoastchorale.org), at the door, and from Chorale members. For more info, 850-496-2046, or 850-492-1367.

The show is filled with much-loved music evoking images of Christmas past, present and future. Special guest groups include Gulf Breeze School of Music, under the direction of Miquel Alda-honda, and Ballet by the Sea Dance Studio, under the direction of Elise Preston. “We love featuring young performers to give them an opportunity to perform with experienced musicians,” said Brenda Smith, Artistic Director of the Gulf Coast Chorale.

“The minute the doors open, you will walk into a Christmas wonderland. You can take your Christmas card picture at our ‘selfie’ station.” added Smith. “There will be great choral music, humor, drama, emotion and lots of audience interaction.”

Jazz Pensacola's Jingle Jazz Christmas Show Dec. 4 at Seville

Jazz Pensacola’s Jingle Jazz Christmas show is scheduled from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 4 at Phineas Phogg’s, Seville Quarter at 130 E. Government St. in Pensacola. Admission is free, and drinks and dinner will be available.

The festive evening features jazzy holiday tunes by Dharma Beats - Fred Domulot, Cynthia Domulot and Bob Andrews - plus Joe Occhipinti’s Holiday Sax Four Fun. Guests include jazz vocalists Crystal Joy, Kathy Lyon and Saundra Daggs.

“We’re going on a ‘Holiday Big Band Sleigh Ride,’” said Occhipinti. “Come get into the holiday spirit with us.”

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.

**The Wharf transforms to winter wonderland with holiday events**

The Wharf in Orange Beach will kick off the holiday season with its annual Winter at The Wharf with activities for the entire family. The property will transform into a winter wonderland with events all season long, including the Christmas Tree Lighting on Nov. 28 and great views of the Lighted Boat Parade on Dec. 9.

- Ice Skating Rink: Nov. 17 - Jan. 14, Main Street front parking lot. Skate on real ice Monday through Friday from 4 to 10 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and enjoy Christmas Break (Dec. 16 to Dec. 31) hours from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Admission to the rink is $10 and $13 for the skating and Ferris wheel package. Again this year, you can purchase a frequent skater pass for $80, which includes 10 skate entries.
- Photos with Santa: Nov. 17 – Dec. 24 located in the former Cow-girls space. Santa Claus will visit The Wharf every weekend including Fridays from 3 to 7 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays from 12 to 6 p.m. Various portrait packages will be available for purchase onsite.
- Horse & Carriage Rides: Nov. 18-19, Nov. 26, Dec. 1-3, Dec. 8-10, Dec. 15-17, across from ice skating rink. Enjoy the scene of lights and decor down Main Street with horse and carriage rides from 6 to 10 p.m. for $20 (group of four) or $5 for a single rider.
- Holiday Shopping: The Wharf tenants will participate in special hours and offer deals to help accommodate everyone's gift giving needs. Holiday Open House - Nov. 19, 12 to 6 p.m.; Black Friday - Nov. 24, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Small Business Saturday - Nov. 25, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- 12 Days of Christmas Shopping: Dec. 13 – Dec. 24. For 12 consecutive days, The Wharf will announce extra special deals from various tenants including lodging, food and retail.
- Holiday SPECTRA: Nov. 28 – Dec. 31, Main Street. A special holiday production of the SPECTRA Sound & Light Spectacular will be performed each night at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. down Main Street.
- Happy Howlidays Kid & Pet Parade: Dec. 10. Kids and pets dressed in holiday attire will travel parade-style down Main Street at 2 p.m. FurreverHome Rescue will be onsite with adoption opportunities.
- Jingle Jubilee Kids Craft Day. Dec. 16. This event is a kids crafting dream with art contests, stations, musical performances and face painting from 12 to 4 p.m.

For more information and a full list of upcoming events, visit al-wharf.com.

**GCAA Christmas Market Dec. 2 at G.S. Presbyterian**

The Gulf Coast Art Alliance Christmas Market will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Gulf Shores on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Give the gift of art this year and stop by to stroll through this indoor/outdoor market and enjoy classic pieces made by local and regional artists. The market will feature handmade ornaments, note cards, jewelry, pottery, wood art, scented candles, paintings and textile art. These items make the perfect gift for anyone on your list! For more info, call 251-455-7458.

**Pleasure Island Junior Woman’s Club collecting children’s pajamas this season**

The Pleasure Island Junior Woman’s Club collected children’s pajamas for foster children in our area for Christmas. For more information on how to get involved, please email the club at pleasureislandjwc@gmail.com. Saturday – December 9 – 1 p.m.
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Pirates of Lost Treasure need Secret Santa sponsors

The Pirates of Lost Treasure, the Perdido Key based Mardi Gras krewe, is continuing its 20 plus year tradition of raising money for its Secret Santa program to provide a Merry Christmas to needy families. A member of the Pirates of Lost Treasure takes the parent shopping and spends $100 on each child. Sometimes these are the only gifts these children receive and they often ask for things like shoes and coats. The Pirates usually help around 100 children.

“Our goal is to help 100 children each year,” said Secret Santa coordinator Bill Stromquist. “The year of Ivan (2004), FEMA came to us and asked if we could do more and I went to (Flora-Bama co-owner Joe Gilchrist) Joe and he wrote us a check for $5,000.

Tax deductible donations can either be dropped off or mailed to The Perdido Key Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center, or mailed to the Visitor’s Center, 15500 Perdido Key Dr., Perdido Key, FL 32507.

Stromquist said the recipients are mostly referred to the program by Southwest Escambia County churches and schools. “We also hear about kids by word of mouth about the program,” he said. “We just picked up a family of five where the husband was in a motorcycle accident. They are in a tough position.”

For more Pirates of Lost Treasure Secret Santa info, call Stromquist at 850-324-3679.

Perdido Ecumenical Choir’s Christmas concert is Dec. 3

The Perdido Ecumenical Choir presents Sing We Now of Christmas, a collection of fun Christmas songs and beautiful sacred selections, on Sunday, December 3 at 3 p.m. in the Holy Spirit Catholic Church sanctuary. All are welcome. Please stay for a reception in the Family Life Center afterwards. The church is located at 10650 Gulf Beach Hwy. in Pensacola.

Billy Claus & The LuLuBelles at LuLu’s Dec. 9

Enjoy a memorable family holiday experience at LuLu’s Annual Billy Claus and The LuLuBelles free event the afternoon of Saturday, Dec. 9 at 1 p.m. The event will be held on LuLu’s Restaurant beach, located at 200 E 25th Ave. in Gulf Shores.

Billy Claus is Santa’s warm weather-loving brother who lives in the Caribbean and comes this way to help Santa during the Holiday season. The LuLuBelles are Billy’s version of Santa’s elves. Billy will visit with the children to hear their wish list to pass on to Santa. Billy and the LuLuBelles will be available for photos with the children.

In addition to kid’s arts & crafts activities, there will also be a reading of Billy Claus and the Spirit of Christmas children’s book written by Lucy Buffett. Stick around for the Nautical Night of Lights Boat Parade starting at dusk. For more info, visit lulubuffett.com or call (251) 967-5858.

Pictured: Family fun at 2016 LuLu’s Billy Claus event.

Nov. 30 Christmas By The Bay benefits Bald. Humane Society

The 22nd Annual Christmas By The Bay, a fundraiser for the Baldwin County Humane Society, will be held on Thursday, November 30 at The Venue, located at 105 South Section St. in Fairhope, from 6-9 p.m. Food will be provided by Tamara’s, a renowned Fairhope restauranteur. J.D. Crowe is Master of Ceremonies, and The Sicily Swing Band from Ocean Springs will provide toe tapping dance music.

Wonderful rescue animals will help in a Twas the Night Before Christmas rendition. Tickets are $50 in advance or $60 at the door. For more info, call 251-928-4585 or visit Christmasbythebay.BPT.Me.

“It’s all about the animals,” said Cheryl Rooker, the event chairperson.

Swift-Coles Historic Home Christmas Open House Dec. 2

Swift-Coles Historic Home in Bon Secour presents A Merry Musical Christmas Open House on Saturday Dec 2 from 10 a.m. ‘til 3 p.m. Admission is $15 at the gate and includes an appetizer buffet and music from Jam N Folk Dulcimer at noon and the Sandspur Bluegrass Band at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Arts & crafts vendors will also be at the event. The home is located at 17424 Swift-Coles Ln. Info: 251-949-5550 or SwiftColesHistoricHome.com.
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St. Andrew by Sea’s Dec. 3 concert segues into nativity

A local Christmas tradition will take on a new dimension this year, as the annual Service of Lessons and Carols at St. Andrew by the Sea will segue into a live Nativity. Each year, the choirs at St. Andrew, under the direction of Dr. Roger Jones and Joan Hand, share a sacred concert. This year’s program will include organ, piano, a bell choir, a children’s choir, a youth band, strings, and flute. The concert will be Sunday, Dec. 3, at 4 p.m.

Immediately following, attendees will find a live Nativity outside with sheep, goats, donkeys, a camel, as well as holiday refreshments for all ages. "Our children look forward to the music and animals," says Sara Hunter, assistant pastor, "and telling the story of that holy night."

Dr. Jones, a gifted arranger, has been rehearsing with the choirs since September. The evening is free to all. Child care will be provided. For more information, call the church at 968-3900.

Foley United Methodist Pancakes w. Santa Dec. 9

The annual Foley United Methodist Women’s Christmas Extravaganza Pancakes with Santa will be Saturday, December 9, from 9am until 11am in the church Spirit Center. For $5, you can purchase pancakes and sausage, with your choice of drink. Santa will be present for pictures. You may purchase a 3# coffee tin decorated with Christmas paper for $10 and fill it with homemade Christmas goodies of your choice. Gift boxes that are filled and ready for gift giving, will be available also.

Knitted and crocheted gifts by the Prayer Shawl Group, along with Christmas crafts will be available. Bring a friend, have breakfast, and shop with us. Profits will support projects of United Methodist Women mission programs.

Nativitys From Around World at First Baptist Church of G.S.

First Baptist Church Gulf Shores invites The Gulf Coast community and visitors to enjoy a time of peace and reflection while visiting Miracle in a Manger. The exhibit, now in its fourth year, features Nativities displayed from around the world. All the displays have a story to tell. The free display is open daily from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., Friday, December 1 through Sunday, December 17. It is the church’s gift to the community. First Baptist Church Gulf Shores is located at 2200 West First St. For more info, call 251-968-7369 or visit fbcgulf.com.

Family Promise Chocolate Affair Dec. 7 in Daphne

Family Promise of Baldwin County, a homeless shelter program for families with children, will host its 10th Anniversary Event - The Chocolate Affair on Thursday, Dec. 7 from 6-9 p.m. at the Daphne Civic Center.

Tickets are $25 and sponsorship packages are available. For more info, call 251-947-5641 or visit familypromisec.org. The event includes live and silent auctions, chef’s choices, live music by Bo Grant (formerly from the Platters), heavy hors d’oeuvres and desserts galore!

Family Promise of Baldwin County’s mission is to provide shelter and case management services to homeless families with children.

St. Patrick’s Christmas Bazaar Dec. 1-3 in Robertsdale

The St. Patrick’s Ladies Auxiliary invites you to its yearly Christmas bazaar. The bazaar will take place on December 1 – 3, and opens at 8:00 a.m. at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, 23035 AL 59, in Robertsdale. The bazaar features approximately 130 gift baskets, unique hand crafted items, needlework, baked goods, and much more. Tommy Cain, a member of the Parish, donated 76 hand crafted pens made from various woods and epoxy. Judy Jar molinski constructed a rocking horse which will be sold in a silent auction. Other items available for purchase include bird feeders, wooden spoons, Afghans, scarves and caps and other unique items. Proceeds from sales benefit community charities, St. Patrick’s church and school.

Pictured: Back Row – Felicia Weimer, Carolyn Bell, Karen Beierlein, Fran Frayne; Front Row – Heidi Childress, Cheryl Connor, Pam Ackis.

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The season's celebrations include Magic Christmas in Lights at Bellingrath Gardens and Home, a classical Christmas concert, events at the Gulf State Park, ice skating, an arts and crafts show, the lighted boat parade and much more.
11th Annual Taste of the Islands Dec. 1 at O.B. Event Center

The Mystical Order of Mirams will sponsor the 11th Annual Taste of the Islands on December 1 at the Orange Beach Event Center at the Wharf. A few tickets are still available, so get yours now.

The Taste is the event of the year featuring local cuisine from over 30 restaurants, live music by the Webb Dalton Band, cocktails and a silent auction. Do your Christmas shopping while enjoying a fun and festive evening. Ring in the Christmas season with your friends.

Tickets are $60 each or $600 for a reserved table of ten. To purchase, please contact any Miram member or go to the Mirams website at mirams.info, Taste of the Island page and fill out the request form. The Mirams look forward to seeing you there.

Pictured: Holiday party fun at the 2016 Taste of the Islands.

Authors to sign copies of O.B. history books on Dec. 2 & 9

Just in time for Christmas, Orange Beach historian Margaret Childress Long will sign copies of her two books, “The Best Place to Be – The Story of Orange Beach, Alabama” and “Orange Beach, Alabama – A Pictorial History” at St. Charles Cards & Gifts on Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. ‘til 2 p.m. and The Emporium on Dec. 9 from 10 a.m. ‘til 2 p.m. Co-author, Michael D. Shipler, (pictured with Long) will also be at the signings.

St. Charles Cards and Gifts is located next to Wal-Mart Shopping Center on Perdido Beach Blvd. in Orange Beach, and The Emporium is located just to the east in the Winn-Dixie Shopping Center.

Having already collected hundreds of pictures from people wanting to share their local history following the 2006 publication of “The Best Place To Be,” Long and Shipler released their follow-up, a condo style-coffee table book, in 2016.

Some of the more than 600 photographs in the book date back to the 1880’s. The book also includes “then and now” pictures, as reflected on the front cover. Those pictures uniquely illustrate the incredible changes Orange Beach has experienced through the city’s growth.

“There were very few people living here when we came down from Evergreen in 1949,” Margaret said.

Margaret said the authors thought their picture book would top out at 80 pages. They ended up with a major editing job just to get it down to 192 pages.

Long moved to Orange Beach from Evergreen when she was just two months shy of her second birthday. She went to Foley High and Auburn, and despite 12 years teaching school in Creola, she has always called Orange Beach home.

She and her husband (Buddy) live in the same house where Margaret’s parents lived for more than 50 years. Her dad paid $12,500 to Dr. Amos Garret of Robertsdale, her mom’s first cousin, in 1949 for the 300 ft. waterfront parcel. A teacher at Fairhope Middle and High Schools and Elberta Middle School, Margaret served the island as school board representative for six years after her mother died in 2000. Her father died less than a year before that. A fisherman, hunter and farmer, her father also owned a farm in Silverhill. Sons Wesley and Brooks have turned the farm into the popular Alligator Alley tourist attraction.

Pet Photos in the Sand All About Dogs fundraiser Dec. 2 at Gulf State Park

The 6th Annual Pet Photos in the Sand event, a fundraiser for All About Dogs Coastal Rescue, is scheduled on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 9 a.m. ‘til 1 p.m. at Gulf State Park Beach Pavilion (22250 East Beach Blvd., Gulf Shores). For a $25 donation to the all volunteer group, patrons will receive an 8” by 10” photo or a digital download that can be used for Christmas cards. Professional photography will be provided by Lightwave Photographs.

For more info, email allaboutdogscr@gmail.com, visit allaboutdogscr.com or call Beverly at 843-813-1291. In six years, All About Dogs has rescued 560 dogs of which half have gone to wonderful, loving homes on the East Coast and New England.

With the help of American Lab Rescue, many beautiful and well deserving large dogs have been given a chance to survive.

Other fundraisers include yard Paws Meet Claus at Magnolia by the Gulf Veterinary Clinic and the Going to the Dogs Golf Tournament at Craft Farms. “We are an all volunteer rescue and adoption organization. Every dollar donated to the charity goes directly to care for its rescue dogs,” said coordinator Beverly Hicks. “We owe a huge thank you to Mark Worden of LightWave Photographs for his amazing photography and the many long hours he puts in to help our rescue dogs and to make this a successful fundraiser.”

Pictured: Pets & owners from past Pet Photos in the Sand fundraisers.
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DINE

Get ready to party all night to the sounds of The Travis Thibodaux Band, who feature a set list of incredible classic rock selections as well as flavors of country, soul, and Southern style influenced by the front man’s Louisiana upbringing and experiences touring with Journey!

DANCE

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PARTY

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Call For Reservations  |  PerdidoBeachResort.com/holidays-and-events
Foley Christmas in Park
& tree lighting Dec. 1

Foley's Annual Christmas in the Park will be held on Friday, December 1 at 6 p.m. in Heritage Park. The event includes the lighting of the city Christmas tree, holiday songs and a visit with Santa, complete with elves. The mayor lights the official Christmas tree, local groups sing Christmas songs and the Foley Caboose Club provides free train rides on the Ébert Express around the park for children of all ages to enjoy. Folks can stroll through a miniature Christmas Village and Christmas Tree Lane while enjoying free treats and hot cocoa. Go to visitfoley.org for more details.

Robertsdale Christmas
in Park & Parade Dec. 2

The 2017 Robertsdale Christmas Parade and Christmas in the Park will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2 beginning in the Robertsdale High School Parking Lot at 6:30 p.m. The parade route begins on Fairground Rd., goes north on Hwy. 59 and disperses at Honeybee Park. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available for pictures in Honeybee Park after the parade. The event is sponsored by the Robertsdale Rotary Club. For more info, call 251-947-2626.

Silverhill Christmas Parade slated Dec. 1

The 2017 Town of Silverhill Christmas Parade will be held on Friday, Dec. 1 at 6:30 p.m. The parade line-up will be in front of Silverhill Elementary School on 4th Ave. beginning at 6 p.m. For parade information or an application to participate, call 251-945-5198.

Fraternal Order of Eagles
craft & bake sale Dec. 9

The Coastal Alabama Fraternal Order of Eagles will sponsor a craft & bake sale on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 10 a.m. 'til 2 p.m. at its Gulf Shores headquarters at 3859 Gulf Shores Parkway, Suite 6. It's time to pick up that special gift for Christmas or get your baking done early. For more info, go to Facebook at Coastal Alabama Fraternal Order of Eagles or the club website.

Breakfast with Mr. & Mrs. Claus
Dec. 2 in Magnolia Springs

Santa & Mrs. Claus will meet the children and hear their Christmas wishes at the Town of Magnolia Springs Community Hall from 8-11 a.m. on Dec. 2. Cost is $5 per person including pancakes galore and pictures at the family event. Magnolia Springs Community Hall is located at the corner of Oak St. and County Rd. 49. All proceeds benefit the historic preservation of the town's community hall. For more info, call 251-965-9888.

Polar Express reading &
train ride Dec. 9 & 23

The Foley Depot Museum located at Heritage Park and the Copper Kettle Restaurant will present The Polar Express on Dec. 9 and Dec. 23. Patrons will meet at the museum and travel by train to the restaurant to visit with Santa Claus, enjoy treats, listen to a reading of The Polar Express and meet characters from the movie. Tickets are $15 and 2:30 p.m. & 3:45 p.m. slots are available for reservations on each date. Tickets are $15. Call 251-943-1818 or 251-609-2832 for more info.

Christmas Celebration Dec. 3
at Baldwin Heritage Museum

Baldwin County Heritage Museum in Elberta will host a Christmas Celebration on Sunday Dec. 3 from 5 - 7 p.m. Enjoy decorations and traditional heritage Christmas time themes from a wide variety of cultures. The BCHM tradition - the Angel Memory Tree lighting - is also part of the event. This tree is filled with tributes in memory or in honor of friends, family and loved ones. For a donation of $10 each, an Angel will be named and placed on the tree for the one you want to remember or honor. The St. Mark's Lutheran Church Handbell Choir will perform immediately following the tree lighting ceremony. Refreshments will be available. You may bring your favorite homemade treats to share. The museum is located at 25521 Hwy. 98. Admission is free. For more info, call 251-986-8375.

Santa will “drop into”
The Flora-Bama Dec. 9

Santa Claus has made time in his busy schedule to “drop in” and visit local girls and boys on Saturday, December 9 at the Flora-Bama Lounge & Oyster Bar on Perdido Key. Festivities begin at 11 a.m. with children's activities, free eats and hot drinks. Weather permitting, Santa will parachute in later with a bag of Christmas presents. Otherwise, he may arrive by fire engine. Bring a non-perishable food item for the local food bank or a new unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots and receive a free beverage. The Flora-Bama is located on Perdido Key at the Alabama-Florida line. For more info, call 850-492-0611 or 251-980-5118.

Other Christmas festivities at the Lounge on the Line include The Thanksgiving and Christmas Day potluck, which start at noon and are open to everyone and the 30th Make It To The Line 4-Mile Run/Walk & One Mile Fun Run on Dec. 30 at 10 a.m.
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Early Bird Menu 3-6 & $3.50 Wine Specials All Day Long!
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Frankie G & Leanne Creswell 6:30

Tuesday Nights
Frankie G on Piano 6:30

Wednesday Nights
Frankie G on Piano 6:30

Thursday Nights
The Beautiful & Talented Ladies
Leanne Creswell & Lisa Zanghi 6-9

Friday, Saturday & Sunday Nights
The Very Talented
James Proctor Aka J.P. &
The Beautiful & Classy Kathy Lyons
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Best New York Style Pizza
On The Beach by Chef Rocco!

La Famiglia!
Mangia Tutti!
(Everybody Eat!)

People's Choice Award Best Italian On The Gulf Coast!

We Now Deliver!
Coastal Ballet presents Nutcracker Dec. 3 at Erie Meyer Civic Center

Performances also scheduled Dec. 9-10 at Foley Civic Center

The Coastal Ballet Academy presents the Nutcracker on Sunday, December 3 in Gulf Shores and Dec. 9-10 in Foley. Under the direction of Madame Rio Cordy Barlow, the ballet academy will bring this classic holiday ballet to life. The Gulf Shores event begins at 2 p.m. inside the Erie H. Meyer Civic Center located at 1930 West 2nd Street in Gulf Shores. The Foley shows are scheduled at the Foley Civic Center on Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 10 at 2 p.m.

Christmas Lighted Boat Parade slated Dec. 9

The Coastal Alabama Business Chamber’s 32nd Annual Christmas Lighted Boat Parade will take place on Saturday, December 9. The flotilla will take off from Lulu’s at Homeport Marina in Gulf Shores at around 5 p.m. and finish at Cobalt Restaurant in Orange Beach. There are great viewing areas along Canal Road, at The Wharf and at Cobalt Restaurant, which will host a special flotilla party with live music.

The Parade will travel down the Intracoastal Canal, passing The Wharf, rounding Bear Point and heading South toward Ono Island where it will make a westward turn heading toward Perdido Pass. The Parade will then head up Ole River to the Flora-Bama Ole River Br & Grill for the after party at approximately 8:30 p.m. To sign up to participate call the Coastal Alabama Business Chamber at (251)-968-6091. Additional info on the parade route, viewing stations and registration is at mygulfcoastchamber.com.

Breakfast with Santa Dec. 16 at Erie Meyer Civic Center

Children will have one last minute chance to visit with Santa on Saturday, December 16 as Gulf Shores hosts Breakfast with Santa at the Erie H. Meyer Civic Center. Beginning at 8 a.m., families can dive into a wholesome breakfast complete with sausage, bacon, eggs and pancakes before having pictures taken with Santa. Admission for Breakfast with Santa is $5.00, while children 3 and under are free. The first 50 children will receive a complimentary photo. Info: 251-968-1171 or visit gulfshoresal.gov.

Brett/Robinson’s Annual Charity Rummage Sale Dec. 9

Brett/Robinson’s 10th Annual Charity Rummage Sale will be held at the company’s laundry at 25050 Canal Road in Orange Beach on Dec. 9 from 7 a.m. ‘til 3 p.m. All items must go. The sale includes items donated by employees, condo owners, friends and people in the Pleasure Island community, including furniture, household goods, home accessories, clothing and toys. Anyone interested in donating, or would like to schedule a time for pick-up of items, please contact Angela Carrel at 981-6901 ext. 17933 or 251-228-0928. The rummage sale will also include a split-the-pot raffle with tickets selling for $1 each.

Rock painting Christmas event Dec. 9 at Foley Library

A community sponsored “Rockin’ Round the Christmas Tree” rock painting event will be held at the Foley Public Library on Saturday, December 9, from 1:30 to 4:30 pm. Families are encouraged to attend and paint rocks for the holidays with others in the community.

Painting rocks is both a joy for those who create them and for those who find them. Posting a photo of both hides and finds on the Foley Rocks Facebook page is encouraged. All supplies will be provided at this event and everyone will receive 3 rocks to paint. Feel free to bring your own rock painting supplies with you, too. Light refreshments will also be served. For the safety of your child, children 12 and under are requested to have adult supervision with them.

Seating is limited so reservations are required. Please call Melanie at 251-943-1031 to place your reservation or for further information. You can also look for the “Rockin’ Round the Christmas Tree” event page on Facebook and post there if you plan to attend.

Merry Market Dec. 8-9 at O.B. Event Center

The 6th Annual Merry Market returns to the Orange Beach Event Center at The Wharf Dec. 8-9. The hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 8 and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9.

Over 70 vendors participate in this two-day event that includes unique gifts, arts & crafts, jewelry, apparel, baked goods, personal items, children’s games and more.affle, baked goods, personal items, children’s games and more.

Christmas Service for families who lost children Dec. 10

A Blue Christmas candle lighting service for families who have lost children to disease, accidents, overdose, suicide, or murder will be held beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 10 at Grace Lutheran Church, located at 491 West 23rd Ave. in Gulf Shores. For more info, call (251) 968-5991.

Wales West Arctic Express opens Nov. 24 in Summerdale

All aboard the Arctic Express at Summerdale’s Wales West RV Resort and Light Railway. Ride an authentic steam train through a wonderland of lights, snow, and decorations to the North Pole. Visit with Santa in the winter-wonderland barn and receive a free wooden toy. Staff can take your family photo with Santa. Free refreshments, mini-train ride, hayride, playground, and bounce house. Enjoy the petting zoo, pony rides, and snowball cannon for a slight fee. Try the cafe’s new menu options, and visit a gift shop full of train items ideal for Christmas presents! Arctic Express opens on weekends beginning Nov. 24 from 4 to 9 p.m. Beginning Dec. 11, Arctic Express is open nightly from 4 to 9 p.m. Admission is $15 per person, and children 2 and under are admitted free. Group rates, field trips, and parties can be booked in advance. Wales West is located on County Rd. 9 between Fairhope and Silverhill. For information call 888-569-5337 or go to waleswest.com. Experience the wonder!
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Nightly from 4-9pm

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Fish & Chips
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Monday
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Tuesday
Taco Tuesdays & 99¢ Margaritas
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Happy Hour!
Enjoy Daily Specials
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Burgers & Brews
1/2 off all AL Craft Beers
$6.95

Thursday
Seafood Lasagna
& House Salad
$12.95

Friday
All You Can Eat Shrimp Boil
$17.95

Saturday
50¢ Wings
1/2 Off All Draft Beers
**COASTAL CHRISTMAS**

Dec. 1 costume walk at Tanger benefits Miracle League

Tanger Outlets in Foley will sponsor an after-hours holiday costume walk, with all proceeds going to the Miracle League of Coastal Alabama, on Dec. 1 from 9 p.m. to midnight. Entry fee is a $20 donation. Walk day registration begins at 9 p.m. and the costume walk starts at 9:30 p.m. (Rain or Shine)

Dress as Santa Claus, Frosty the Snowman, Elf, Grinch, Gingerbread Man, Candy Cane, Christmas Tree, Reindeer or any other holiday themed costume that strikes your fancy. Judges will be roaming the crowd and giving prizes for most impressive costumes. The vent will include musical entertainment.

The Miracle League of Coastal Alabama, has already procured municipality sponsored land in South Baldwin County to build a park that accommodates wheelchairs, walkers and other assistive devices while helping to prevent injuries. This park will eliminate barriers that prevent our special needs residents and guests from playing side by side with family and friends. Help the Miracle League make “Dreams Come True.” Info: email miracleleagueca@gmail.com or visit miracleleaguecoastalalabama.com.

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**New route for Dec. 1 Gulf Shores Lighted Christmas Parade & Beach Celebration**

Gulf Shores will kick off its holiday festivities on Friday, December 1st with the Annual Lighted Christmas Parade and Beach Celebration on a reversed route from the Public Beach to Johnnie Sims Park.

The evening parade will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will feature festive lighted floats, as well as appearances from holiday characters and marching bands. Large crowds of spectators looking to bask in the holiday spirit are anticipated along Highway 59 as parade entries make their way from the Gulf Shores Public Beach to Johnnie Sims Park near the David L. Bodenhamer Recreation Center.

The magical atmosphere from the parade will roll continuously into the night as a celebration at Johnnie Sims Park will kick off immediately following the parade. Families can enjoy pictures with Santa, holiday treats, crafts, a snowball drop with prizes and much more.

“We want to make sure everyone is aware the parade route is reversed this year,” said Programs and Events Manager, Brigette Reynolds. “Due to construction taking place at Gulf Place, the floats will make their way from Gulf Shores Public Beach to West 19th Avenue and end at Johnnie Sims Park.”

Reynolds noted that anyone interested in entering the parade can do so by registering online at www.gulfshoresal.gov/christmasparade or by contacting Erica Bassett at 251-968-1434.

On Thursday, December 7 the Baldwin Pops Band will be at the Gulf Shores Cultural Center on County Rd. 6 West for a traditional Christmas Concert. The Baldwin Pops is an organization of volunteer musicians whose mission is to share music in a concert band format free of charge to the citizens of Baldwin County. This is their 20th concert season and the performance will begin at 7 p.m. Baldwin Pops Concerts are a collection site for the US Marine Corps Reserve’s Toys for Tots program. Patrons are encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped gift. This is a free event and will not require a ticket - first come, first serve.

Children will have one last minute chance to visit with Santa on Saturday, December 16th as Gulf Shores hosts Breakfast with Santa at the Erie H. Meyer Civic Center. Beginning at 8 a.m., families can dive into a wholesome breakfast complete with sausage, bacon, eggs and pancakes before having pictures taken with Santa. Admission for Breakfast with Santa is $5.00, while children 3 and under are free. The first 50 children will receive a complementary photo. For more info, call 251-968-1171 or visit gulfshoresal.gov.
SBCT's A Christmas Story opens Dec. 1

The South Baldwin Community Theatre in Gulf Shores will present A Christmas Story Dec. 1-2 & Dec. 8-9 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 3 & Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. The play is the first of three Young Artist Series (YAS) plays for the 2017-2018 season. The director is Julie Wessler and the assistant director is Brandi Wittman.

Based on the humorous writings of author Jean Shepherd, this beloved holiday movie follows the wintery exploits of youngster Ralph Parker, who spends most of his time dodging a bully and dreaming of his ideal Christmas gift, a “Red Ryder air rifle.” Frequently at odds with his cranky dad but comforted by his doting mother, Ralphie struggles to make it to Christmas Day with his glasses and his hopes intact. Ralphie pleads his case before his mother, his teacher and even Santa Claus himself, at Higbee’s Department Store. The consistent response: “You’ll shoot your eye out!”

Enjoy all the elements from the beloved movie, as well as additional scenes and new characters. A Christmas Story is sure to get you in the holiday spirit.

Admission is $15 for adults and $9.95 for children. South Baldwin Community Theater is located at 2022 West 2nd St. in Gulf Shores. For more info or to buy tickets, visit sbct.biz or call 251-968-6721.

Annual Coastal Christmas Dec. 3 at Gulf State Park

Gulf State Park’s Annual Coastal Christmas will be held on Sunday, Dec. 3 from 1-3 p.m. at the Gulf State park Pavilion, located at 22250 E. Beach Blvd. in Gulf Shores. Bring the family for photos with Santa, marshmallows by the fire, hot chocolate, a children’s choir performance and holiday crafts. Admission and activities are all free. Info: .alapark.com or gulfbatepark on facebook.

Christmas Through The Ages Dec. 9 at Ft. Gaines

The 34th Annual Christmas through the Ages, a living history day for the whole family, is scheduled at Dauphin Island’s Fort Gaines on Saturday, December 9 from 9 a.m. ‘til 5 p.m.

Experience an 1861 Christmas with the Confederate garrison during this living history weekend for the whole family. A letter home from James M. Williams with the 21st Alabama Infantry Volunteers stationed at Fort Gaines in 1861 provides the blueprint for this event. Enjoy the magic of Christmas with a guided candlelight tour. Join the soldiers from the 1700’s through the 1900’s and their families as they celebrate a non-commercial Christmas. Visiting children will have the chance to make a seashells ornament and other decorations. Admission for those 13 and over is $8. Children 5-12 will be admitted for $4, and children 4 and under are admitted free. For more info, call 251-861-6992 or visit dauphinisland.org.

Baldwin Pops Christmas Concerts Dec. 4 in Foley & Dec. 7 in Gulf Shores

The Baldwin Pops Band, conducted by Dr. Jason Rinehart, will present “A Gulf Coast Christmas” in both Foley and Gulf Shores. Both the Dec. 4 show at The Foley Civic Center and the Dec. 7 show at Gulf Shores Cultural Center Auditorium start at 7 p.m. and are free.

The concerts continue the 20th Anniversary Season of the Baldwin Pops Band. New conductor, Dr. Jason Rinehart, Associate Director of Bands at the University of South Alabama will lead the band, as it performs a family friendly, festive concert featuring the following pieces and more: Christmas on Broadway, arranged by John Higgins, Sleigh Ride by Leroy Anderson, The Little Drummer Boy抯 Bolero, arranged by Julie Giroux, White Christmas by Irving Berlin, and was the Night Before Christmas, arranged by Jack Bullock and narrated by Kenny Graves.

Santa plans to drop in for a short visit with the children during the concert. A Toys for Tots representative from the U.S Marine Corps Reserve will be available to collect new unwrapped toys for those who wish to contribute.

This concert is sponsored by the cities of Daphne, Foley, and Gulf Shores. In addition, the Baldwin Pops Band is sponsored by a grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts.

Information on the Baldwin Pops Band can be found at www.baldwinpopsband.com, by searching for Baldwin Pops Band on Facebook, or by calling 251-987-5757.

O.B. Tree Lighting Nov. 28 at The Wharf

Ready or not, it’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Orange Beach! Decorations are going up all across town and the holidays will get a lot brighter on Tuesday, Nov. 28 with the annual tree lighting at The Wharf. The public is invited to join the city at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 28 as it celebrates the beginning of the Christmas season with hot chocolate, cookie decorating, letters to Santa, Christmas carols, the tree lighting at The Wharf’s Marlin Circle and a visit by Santa Claus. The community event is free for the whole family and will include caroling, performances by local youth artists, and Christmas medleys. For more information and a full list of upcoming Wharf Christmas events, visit alwharf.com.
Rhonda Hart’s Barbie Christmas fundraiser Dec. 6 at ‘Bama

Participants are encouraged to dress up like their favorite toys or dolls for a good cause and join Rhonda Hart for her 9th Annual Barbie fundraiser on Wednesday, December 6 in the main room at the Flora-Bama. The party on the state line is scheduled from 6-10 p.m., and guests are asked to bring a toy for distribution to Toys For Tots and Secret Santa.

There is no cover charge and prizes will be presented in several categories for both men and women, including Ugliest Boy Barbie.

The Grammy nominated entertainer first organized the party as a way to turn her birthday party into a charity event and it has now become a Christmas tradition. Hart and her invited friends will be on stage throughout the party.

“Everybody likes dressing up in the outfits, even the guys,” Hart said. “It will be fun. It alway is fun.”

Holidays in the Park
Dec. 2 at Big Lagoon

Holidays in the Park 2017 at Big Lagoon State Park will be held on Saturday, December 2 from 5-7 p.m. Park entrance fees are waived for this event, which is a free gift to the community for all of their support over the last year to sponsors Big Lagoon State Park and The Friends of Pensacola State Parks. The event will feature a vibrant light display and free snacks and beverages. Santa will be available for take your own pictures.

For more information, call Emily Price at 850-492-1595. Big Lagoon State Park is located at 12301 Gulf Beach Hwy. in Pensacola, about 1.5 miles east of Perdido Key.

Friends of Pensacola State Parks is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to generating support for Big Lagoon, Perdido Key, and Tarklin Bayou Preserve State Parks. The focus of the organization is to provide assistance and seek funds for park needs. The scope of activities includes supporting the park and staff, education and fostering an understanding and appreciation for nature and the environment.

Fairhope Christmas Parade scheduled Dec. 1

Fairhope’s magical Christmas Parade will take to the city’s downtown streets on Friday, Dec. 1 beginning at 7 p.m. at the intersection of Morphy and Section Street. The parade continues down Section to Oak Street and back up Church St. Handicap parking will be available at the Fairhope Civic Center.

In addition, Santa will be visiting Fairhope on Dec. 2 and Dec 7 for Fairhope’s Santa Saturdays. Santa will be in front of the Fairhope Museum of History on Section St. from 10:30 a.m. until noon for children to visit. Parents may bring their cameras to take pictures.

Downtown Pensacola Christmas Parade Dec. 9

The Annual Downtown Pensacola Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 5:15 p.m. on Palafox Street. The parade draws over 50,000 people and has grown to over 80 entries, including more than 50 floats! It is televised live on WKRG-TV5, pays tribute to the Navy’s Blue Angels and hosts all five local high school bands.

Each year, the parade organizers use profits from the parade to help local high school band booster organizations. Nearly $25,000 has been donated to the five area high schools.
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Gulf Shores pares school board hopefuls to 20, applies for grant for more sidewalks near beach

By John Mullen
The City of Gulf Shores has winnowed the list of applicants for the new Gulf Shores School Board from 34 to 20 and will present the final five members at a council meeting on Nov. 27, Mayor Robert Craft said.

“We’ve just finished 20 interviews of some of the most capable people,” he said. “We never have dreamed we had that degree of talent that was willing to volunteer their time in this community for nothing. They don’t get a fee for this, just for love of the community, love of the community.

“We will do this with names on Monday.”

Also Monday’s Gulf Shores council work session the city announced it is seeking to acquire a Transportation Alternatives Program grant to build an additional 6,600 feet of sidewalks in the Gulf Beach Walking District.

Gulf Shores is seeking $640,000 from the Alabama Department of Transportation for the project and would have to put up a $160,000 match. The new walkways, if the grant is approved, would be along East First Avenue, East Second Avenue, East First Street, East Second Street and West First Avenue.

In recent years the city used TAP grants to build sidewalks on Alabama 59 from the beach to the Intracoastal Waterway bridge and TAP grants were used to help fund the current sidewalk project on Alabama 182.

In other city news, citizens and visitors should prepare for a holiday about-face this year at the Gulf Shores Christmas Parade. Also during the Nov. 14 meeting, the council heard a report on the Shrimp Festival from Chairman Spencer Cade and honored the Original Oyster House for winning a statewide Retailer of the Year award.

NEW CHRISTMAS PARADE ROUTE
Because of construction on the Gulf Place Revitalization Project at the public beach, the end-of-parade celebration will change locations. The city council approved an assembly permit for the annual parade for Dec. 1 during the Nov. 14 regular session.

ORIGINAL OYSTER HOUSE EARNS STATE AWARD: The Original Oyster House, with locations in Gulf Shores and on the Mobile Causeway, was named the Retailer of the Year as the Gold Winner by the Alabama Retail Association. They were named tops in the $5 million to $20 million category. “Coastal Alabama Business Chamber for four out of the past five years has had a winner at the state level for Retailer of the Year,” Yo Johnson of the chamber’s Small Business Committee said.

Pictured: The Original Oyster House team members pictured are from right: Marketing Assistant Rebecca Walter, Dennis Sadler, Meghan Knight (buyer), Gulf Shores General Manager Bud Morris, Co-founder David Dekle, Mobile Causeway General Manager Jim Harrison, Marketing Director Cecilia Mace holding the award, Trading Co. General Manager Jackie Reeves, Controller Karen Joseph and Human Resources Manager Sheila Hare. The other two winners in the Annual Sales $5 Million to $20 Million category are from left, David Oliver with Dave’s

MARSH LANDING VENDOR COURT ON HWY. 59: Pictured is the proposed Marsh Landing Mobile Vendor Court on Alabama 59 just north of Windmill Ridge on the east side of the road in Gulf Shores. The court would straddle a canal there and have 10 mobile food trucks on the north side and parking on the south side. A pedestrian bridge over the canal from the parking area is also part of the proposal. G.S. City Council approved a Conditional Use Permit for the mixed use development project featuring, in addition to a mobile vendor court, an open air bar, kayak rentals, kids play areas and retail opportunities. The site plan has implanted sustainable development practices and has several educational art installations spread throughout.
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Retired FBI agent Shepard speaks Dec. 7 at Foley Library

David Shepard, retired FBI Agent, will present a program on Thursday, Dec 7 at 2 p.m. at the Foley Public Library entitled The Mission of the FBI Abroad. Mr. Shepard is an energetic and engaging speaker. He will share stories about his time abroad as an FBI agent and all that entailed.

David made a wonderful donation to the Foley Public Library a few months back and as a result, a conversation about his adventures was had. His enthusiasm and wit make him a very entertaining speaker so he has been invited to share his stories with the public.

Seating is limited for this special program which will held upstairs in the library’s meeting room. Please call 251-943-7665 to reserve a seat and for further information. You can also get more information on this and other events from foleylibrary.org.

Optimist Club of Perdido Bay presents $18,000 to community groups

The members of the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay hosted their favorite Saturday morning event recently. This was the day that more than $18,000 was distributed to local organizations that service children in Baldwin County. The funds are raised by the "Streets of Red, White and Blue" program and sales of lunches at the Wood Boat Show and Illuminating Autism events at Pirate’s Cove. The majority is raised at the annual Mullet Festival held on Labor Day.

In addition to cash contributions, the club also offers free events for boys and girls, such as Christmas Parade, Breakfast with Santa, Fishing Rodeo, Easter Egg Hunt, Fun Day in the Park, and special lunches for third grade students after their testing. Some members read to kindergarten and first grade students, tutor math and mentor at Elberta Schools. The OCPB hosts essay and oratorical contest, provide food for needy families at Christmas, and organize the annual Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service.

This year the club provided four $1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors and sponsored four students to attend the National Flight Academy on NAS Pensacola. One student attended the Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership conference (HOBY). Those receiving the Youth Appreciation Awards were Baldwin County Special Olympics, Alabama Sheriff’s Boys Ranch, Baldwin Tech Center, Elberta Elementary School, Elberta High School, Foley middle and high schools special needs program, My Community Mentoring.

Also, Lillian Perdido Bay Library, Lillian Recreational Park, Robertsdale High School Special Education, Ecumenical Ministries, Summerdale Elementary School Special Needs, turkeys for the ARC Thanksgiving dinner for special need children and adults, Miracle League of Coastal Alabama, Project Reach at Foley Elementary School, And Good Counsel Mary’s Shelter, Habitat for Humanity Women’s Build program, High Hopes autistic program, Lillian Recreational Center and Park, Starfish Special Olympics Swim Team, Care House, Youth Reach, St. Benedict School, Jennifer Clair Moore Foundation Peer Helps Program.

Men and women who are interested in "Bringing Out the Best in Kids" are invited to attend the OCPB breakfast and meeting held at 8 a.m. every Saturday morning at the Lillian Community Club. For more information contact President Jeff Keener, 850-998-3377 or email jeffreyakeener@gmail.com.

Pictured: The Optimist Club of Perdido Bay recently honored valued Mullet Festival sponsors and distributed checks to local organization that help to "Bring Out the Best in Kids." Front row from left are Mark Bohlin, Angela Foley, Vicki Nelson, Mary Collier, Niki Whitaker, Sissy Flanigan, Lucy Matier, Kay Trattles, Kelly Henderson, Janet Lewis, and Monica Leonard. Back row are Jenny Williams, Jenny Breaux, Cliff Collier, Dana Jetson, Jean Kellis, Andy Wilkinson, Josiah Holmes, Rev. Daniel Randall, Jack Poland, Larry Bedwell, Mary Coleman, Jared Linne and Jessica Linne.

Orange Beach Elementary School Terrific Kids

Orange Beach Elementary School Terrific Kids (Above) Pre-K - 2nd Grade: Front Row (left to right) Kayleigh Jones, Taylor Malone, Anna Elise Ellsworth, Sadie Bullock, Elizabeth Ivie; Back Row (left to right) Katelyn Clark, Stella Spriggs, Madie Grace McGatha, Cooper Clark, (Not pictured – Lydia Haber). Orange Beach Elementary School Terrific Kids (Below) 3rd – 6th Grade: Gatha, Cooper Clark, (Not pictured – Lydia Haber). Orange Row (left to right) Katelyn Clark, Stella Spriggs, MadiGrace McOne, Anna Elise Elsworth, Sadie Bullock, Elizabeth Ivie; Back 2nd Grade: Front Row (left to right) Kayleigh Jones, Taylor Malone, Niki Whitaker, Sissy Flanigan, Lucy Matier, Kay Trattles, Kelly Henderson, Janet Lewis and Monica Leonard. Back row are

Romar Beach access will be closed to public through Jan. for Phase II of Beach Rd. Median enhancement project

On Monday, Nov. 20, the Alabama Department of Transportation will begin Phase II of Perdido Beach Boulevard/State Highway 182 Median Enhancement Project that will stretch from westerly Loop Road to the Romar Beach Access. Hosea O. Weaver and Sons Inc. was awarded the low-bid contract of $2.7 million. Shoulder work will begin on the south side near the Romar Beach Access and progress eastward, and then loop back on the north side, with intermittent lane closures. The pedestrian/bike lane will be closed while work is ongoing.

Beginning on Nov. 27, the Romar Beach Access will be closed to the public through the start of the new year but beach goers can enjoy the Cotton Bayou Beach Access.

While the project is ongoing, the speed limit will be reduced to 35 mph along that mile stretch of roadway. Work through December will include widening of the shoulder on the south and north side of Perdido Beach Boulevard. Starting in January, weather permitting, areas of roadway will begin to be milling, leveled and paved. Work will stop briefly for the city’s Mardi Gras parades between Feb. 9 and Feb. 13 and resume afterward.

The final leg of work will include milling and curbing of the median. The temporary U-turn at Loop Road is expected remain until the median work begins in early spring. New U-turn areas, with traffic signals, will be at the Romar Beach Access and just west Avalon Avenue near the new Dollar General. The project is expected to be finished well before Memorial Day, weather permitting Phase II follows last year’s work between the Walmart Neighborhood Market and the Cotton Bayou Beach Access.
WHAT’S HAPPENING

**SUN, NOV 26**
- **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.

**SUN, NOV 26**
- **Christmas Calendar**: Please turn to pages 6-24.
- **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; The Royal Oyster, Hwy. 59, three blocks 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.
- **Lisa Christian**: 2 p.m.; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
- **Steve Wilkerson**: 1 p.m.; Lucy Buffett's LuLu's, Gulf Shores.
- **Cadillac Attack**: 5; Lucy Buffett's LuLu's, Gulf Shores.
- **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.

**MON, NOV 27**
- **Christmas Calendar**: Please turn to pages 6-24.
- **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.
- **Flora-Bama Bingo**: free; 1-4 p.m.; great prizes, family friendly; 17401 Perdido Key Dr., Perdido Key.
- **NAIA Women's Soccer National Championship**: Orange Beach Sportsplex; (816)

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**Coastal Half-Marathon, 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run is Nov. 25**

Families planning Thanksgiving vacations along Alabama’s beaches are invited to incorporate fitness into their holiday routine with the Kaiser Realty by Wyndham Vacation Rentals Coastal Half-Marathon, 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run on Saturday, Nov. 25. Late registration and packet pick-up will take place Friday, Nov. 24 at the Orange Beach Event Center at The Wharf from 3-6 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 25 at the Orange Beach Sportsplex from 6:30-7:30 a.m. Participants may get their fill of food and drinks provided by Cosmo’s Restaurant & Bar, Krispy Kreme, Publix and Coca-Cola immediately following the race. Tying into the season of giving, participants are encouraged to donate canned goods to benefit the Christian Service Center in Gulf Shores. Visit Team-Magic.com for more info.
BOGO Free!

BUY ONE ENTRÉE, GET ONE FREE!

Entrée of equal or lesser value. Valid with purchase of two beverages. Valid Sunday through Thursday Only. Must present coupon at time of purchase. Not valid with any other discounts or specials.

Expires: 12/7/17

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VOTED BEST STEAKS
7 YEARS AND RUNNING

251.981.9268
Young firefighter recruits find brotherhood in Orange Beach

By Marc Anderson

One by one, task by task, dressed in full firefighting gear with air tanks, the recruits pressed on through the course. Climbing flights of stairs, pulling a hose up four stories. Chopping wood to simulate cutting through a roof. Crawling across wood framing and then through a tunnel. Carrying weights, collecting and then laying out a hose. Tying a knot. Over and over again.

Nine weeks prior to this breezy November day, 10 young men could barely go three laps on what’s called the “Consumption Course” at the fire department’s training tower. Now, they go until the air tanks run out.

“We’ve all come a long way,” said recruit Trey Williams, 19, of Orange Beach. “I’ve lost almost 15 pounds. But shoot, this consumption course, we couldn’t even finish three rounds without coming off air. The first time a lot of us had been on air packs was during the consumption course. Now we’re so comfortable we could probably sleep in these things. It’s awesome. I’m so lucky and blessed to be able to participate in this. All of these guys, I know, feel the same way.”

On Sept. 11, Williams and nine others, mostly from Gulf Shores and Orange Beach, began the 10-week fire recruit school that has its curriculum dictated through the Alabama Fire College, according to Battalion Chief Kevin Lanford, the lead trainer.

“It’s been a good class,” Lanford said. “It’s a good group of young men. We do a lot of classes such as fire service history, communications, chain of command and then we move into protective clothing, fire gear they’ll wear, and the breathing apparatus. Then we learn some skills with the breathing apparatus to get them used to it. Then we move onto fire behavior, forcible entry, fire control, search and rescue, salvage and overhaul, loss, ground ladders, auto extraction, vehicle rescue, we do some ropes and knots. It’s a nationally accepted textbook that we follow.”

Lanford said the group is the first full recruit school, covering 10 straight weeks, that the Orange Beach Fire Department has done in about 20 years. The class is part of the department’s Resident Firefighter Program which started in 2014. All of the recruits have been provided living quarters and a small stipend for the duration of the 10-week course. “They get room and board,” Lanford said. “They fill a position for us and they get experience and training. This is easily a $2,500 course, so they’re getting education in exchange for their commitment to serve with us for awhile.”

Fire Chief Justin Pearce said he hopes the recruit school graduates spend a year with the residency program and then get hired by Orange Beach or local department.

“We’ve had firefighters from the resident program get hired in place like Mountain Brook, Mobile, Gulf Shores, Foley, Daphne, so all over the area,” Pearce said. “It’s definitely been a huge success with the program so far.”

According to Lanford, about a dozen current Orange Beach firefighters are graduates of the department’s recruit school.

For Trey Williams, he said he’s always wanted to be a firefighter. "We all hang out in the common area," Keith said. "We play pool. We play ping pong. We watch movies. We study together. We cook together. We have dinner. We built a very tight bond very early, which is pretty awesome."

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Winter Invitational is Dec. 9-10 at Glen Lakes

Foley’s GlenLakes Golf Club will host its annual Winter 2-Player Invitational Dec. 9-10. The entry fee is $100 per team and play starts at 8:30 a.m. both days in men’s, women’s and coed divisions. Players must have handicap or verification.

Cart fee is not included.

Entry deadline is Dec. 6 and play is limited to 60 teams.

For more info, call David Musial, PGA General Manager, GlenLakes Golf Club, 251-955-1220 or email musialgolf@yahoo.com.
Wine Dinner Series

December 1st
The Cru’s

February 2nd
Southern Hemisphere Summer

March 2nd
To Oak Or Not To Oak

April 6th
Not Your Everyday Effervescence

May 4th
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Dinner and a View

The Perfect Pairing

Join Chef Brody Olive each month for a four-course dinner and wine pairings.

Perdido Beach Resort | 27200 Perdido Beach Blvd. | 251.981.9811 | Open Nightly to the Public
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<th>THURSDAY</th>
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<td><strong>Thursday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Membership Night 6 pm&lt;br&gt;Members get a chance to win Hawaiian vacation and get first drink free (up to $5 value)&lt;br&gt;6:00 Not the Real Band&lt;br&gt;10:15 Jo Jo Pres&lt;br&gt;Deck Stage 1:00 J Hawkins Trio&lt;br&gt;5:30 Hung Jury&lt;br&gt;10:00 Foxy Iguanas Tent 1:00-3:00 Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner</td>
<td><strong>Friday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Military Night 6 pm - til&lt;br&gt;Free Admission to military &amp; veterans with ID&lt;br&gt;2:00 Dave McCormick&lt;br&gt;6:00 Last Honky Tonk Music Series&lt;br&gt;10:15 Bruce Smelley Duo&lt;br&gt;Deck Stage 1:00 Rebecca Barry Trio&lt;br&gt;5:30 Big Earl (Jack Robertson) Show&lt;br&gt;10:00 Yeah, Probably&lt;br&gt;Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Bingo Yacht Club 5:00 Lee Yankie Ole River Grill 7:00 Adam Brown Duo</td>
<td><strong>Saturday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Good Times&lt;br&gt;2:00 Lea Anne Creswell &amp; Darrel Roberts&lt;br&gt;6:00 Alabama Lightning&lt;br&gt;10:15 Smokey Otis Trio&lt;br&gt;Deck Stage 5:30 Big Earl (Jack Robertson) Show&lt;br&gt;10:00 Red Clay Strays&lt;br&gt;5:30 Big Earl (Jack Robertson) Show&lt;br&gt;9:00 &amp; 11:00 Worship on the Water</td>
<td><strong>Sunday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Good Music&lt;br&gt;1:30 Songs of Rusty McHugh with Jason Justice&lt;br&gt;8:00 Petty &amp; Pace&lt;br&gt;Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Bingo</td>
<td><strong>Monday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Hospitality Industry Night 6 pm&lt;br&gt;First drink free (up to $5 value) &amp; employee prices&lt;br&gt;1:00 Gove Scrivenor&lt;br&gt;6:00 Kevan Swanson&lt;br&gt;Top Deck 8:00 Dave McCormick&lt;br&gt;Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Bingo</td>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Hospitality Industry Night 6 pm&lt;br&gt;First drink free (up to $5 value) &amp; employee prices&lt;br&gt;1:00 Tony Ray Thompson&lt;br&gt;6:00 Rick Whaley Duo&lt;br&gt;Top Deck 8:00 Dave McCormick&lt;br&gt;Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Bingo</td>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Wacky Women Night 6-9 pm&lt;br&gt;First Drink Free (up to $5 value) for the Ladies&lt;br&gt;2:00 Neil Dover&lt;br&gt;6:00 Rhonda Hart Duo&lt;br&gt;Tony Ray Thompson&lt;br&gt;10:15 Johnny Barbato Duo&lt;br&gt;Tent Stage 8:00 Lee Yankie Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Bingo</td>
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Santa to Drop In
Saturday, December 9th
Festivities begin at 11 am with
childrens' activities, snacks, and hot drinks.
Bring a nonperishable food item for the Bay Area Food Bank or
an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots & Receive a Free Drink

MAKE IT TO
THE LINE
4-MILE RUN/WALK
& 1-MILE FUN RUN
DECEMBER 30th
@ 10 AM

Register Online at active.com

Thanksgiving Day
Potluck Dinner
Thursday, November 23rd
1 pm - 3 pm
Flora-Bama will provide the turkey and ham.
Please bring a side dish to share.

SHUTTLE SERVICE
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$5 PER PERSON
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THE MOLLY RINGWALDS
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November 25th
8 pm

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SPECIAL ORDERS ON
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17395 Perdido Key Drive, Pensacola, FL 32507
Located Across From the Flora-Bama Lounge & Oyster Bar
What’s Happening

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting at The Wharf: 5:30; The Wharf in Orange Beach.
* Frankie G. On Piano: 6:30; Franco’s Italian Restaurant; Orange Beach.
* Scott Koehn, Lisa Zanghi: 6:30; Flipper’s, Orange Beach.
* Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde: 8; Pappa Rocco’s; Gulf Shores.
* Karaoke: 5:30; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
* Karaoke: 5; Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5659; Elberta.
* Sam Glass: 6; The Purple Parrot; Perdido Key.
* JW Karaoke: 6; Hub Stacy’s At The Point, Innerarity Point.
* Coastal Alabama Farmer’s & Fisherman’s Market: 2-6 p.m.; 20733 Miflin Rd., Foley.
* Bowling Tourney: 7; Snapper’s; Orange Beach.

NAPA Pool League: 7:30; The Office, Foley.
* Coastal Photography Club: 6:30 p.m.; Foley Senior Center (304 East Rose Ave.).
* Bingo: 10 to 2; Gulf Coast Elks Lodge 2782, Foley: 251-971-2782.
* South Baldwin Republican Women: Gift Horse Rest., 11:30 a.m.; 4th Tuesday of Every Month, public invited, Info: 251-978-6178.
* GriefShare Support Group: For men and women; 6-8 p.m.; Point Church, 13801 Innerarity Point Rd. Info: Shirley Johnson, 601-278-6973.
* 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; sonora655.com.
* Orange Beach Bridge Club: Tue. &
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**At the beach, on the Alabama - Florida state line.**

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Unity Church Gulf Shores and Orange Beach

**On the Water**

Reverends Jim & Donna Mullis

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**Y'ALL MEANS ALL**

**GREAT LOCAL MUSIC!**

November 19th & 26th: John Lee Sanders

John Lee Sanders with cool jazz & hot gospel on keyboards and vocals. Ya'll come!

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**TOYS FOR TOTS DROP OFF LOCATION**

For More Info: Call/Text: 251-223-9774 • Revdonna@me.com • www.unitygulfshores.com

facebook/UnityChurchGulfShores

Beat the after-church crowd. Come to church. Stay for lunch!
Dec. 12 training for volunteers for bird stewardship program

A training session for volunteers interested in being part of the Alabama Coastal Bird Stewardship Program can attend a training class from 9 a.m. on Tuesday, December 12 at Gulf State Park Nature Center, located at 20115 State Highway 135 in Gulf Shores.

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, in partnership with Birmingham Audubon, has established the program to provide critical protection and monitoring of Alabama’s sensitive beach nesting birds in Mobile and Baldwin counties.

ACCBSP is implemented by science staff based at the Birmingham Audubon Coastal Programs Office in downtown Mobile and additionally supported by Mobile Bay Audubon Society and other volunteers. The program focuses on continued breeding and overwintering success of the following 11 focal species of concern: Wilson’s Plover, Snowy Plover, Piping Plover, American Oystercatcher, Red Knot, Sanderling, Short-billed Dowitcher, Least Tern, Black Skimmer, Reddish Egret and Brown Pelican.

The ALCBSP will help the declining populations of shorebirds and waterbirds by training volunteers to steward and monitor these targeted species and their habitats at key nesting sites along the coast. During the nesting season, volunteers are also needed to maintain the health and safety of nesting colonies through public outreach and the installation of symbolic fencing at colony locations. Educating beachgoers through print materials and scope-based viewing opportunities is critical to helping the public become more aware of wildlife and habitats in coastal Alabama.

For more info, visit卷AF.C.org or call 251-990-6002.

Gulf Shores/Orange Beach Rotary Jambalaya Take-Out Nov. 30

Gulf Shores/Orange Beach Rotary Club will host a fundraiser for schools in Honduras on Thursday, Nov. 30, selling jambalaya lunches for $10 each. If you have a business that would like to have the lunches delivered to you, please call Joe Phillips at 251-747-2696.

Flora-Bama hosts annual community Thanksgiving Day potluck

The community is invited to join Flora-Bama Lounge friends and family for the Lounge on the Line’s annual Thanksgiving Day potluck beginning at 1 p.m. in the Flora-Bama Tent. Bring a covered dish and get all the turkey and ham your belly can stand for free or pay only $3 and enjoy a spectacular buffet. The Flora-Bama helps take the stress out of your holiday cooking. So throw those pans out and do it on the line at this wonderful feast. And, of course, just like during the other 364 days of the year, the Flora-Bama’s possible-probable musicians will be playing tunes.

Author Talk with Lester Morris Nov. 30 at Foley Public Library

Lester Morris, author of The Violets are Mine, will give an author talk on Thursday, Nov. 30 at 2 p.m. at the Foley Public Library. Morris (pictured) will describe the degradation and violence he suffered in England’s orphanages during and after World War II. He has the ability to share these stories in a touching and matter-of-fact way, always with warmth and a ready sense of humor.

Mr. Morris is a charismatic speaker who recently moved to our area. He originally grew up in England and came to us from Austin, Texas. Morris has ultimately triumphed in his life and he wants to share this joy and relief with all who attend.

Morris has authored two books including The Violets are Mine and Did You Know? Of England. He has also authored a children’s book entitled Harry the Invisible Cricket. He will have books for sale at this presentation.

Seating is limited. Call 251-943-7665 to reserve a seat or for further information. Visit foleylibrary.org for info on this and many other events.

WED, NOV 29

• Christmas Calendar: Please turn to pages 6-24.
• Flora-Bama Possible Probables: 2 p.m. ‘til (Sched. on pages 32-33), Flora-Bama, Perdido Key.

The Molly Ringwalds, a New Orleans based band that has made a career covering the music of the 1980s, will play on the Flora-Bama Big Tent stage on Saturday, Nov 25 at 8 p.m. Cover is $8 for adults and $10 for patrons under 21. Expect to hear songs from Duran Duran, Culture Club, Flock of Seagulls, David Bowie and Adam Ant from a band that performs in costumes and makeup inspired by the era when Prince, Michael Jackson and Madonna ruled radio and MTV launched stars. The Flora-Bama is located on the Gulf of Mexico at the Al-F1 state line.
Honours Classic Benefits Christian Service Center: The Christian Service Center is very thankful to be the beneficiary of the 2017 Honours Golf Charity Classic. One hundred golfers of all ages and abilities gathered for a day of fun and prizes. Honours Golf presented the Christian Service Center with just over $38,000. In addition to Honours Golf, the Christian Service Center thanks our many sponsors and CSC volunteers. The sponsors were: Title Sponsors - Erie Hall Meyer Charitable Fund and LuLu’s Gulf Shores; Lunch Sponsor - Bill and Hope Becklund; Beverage Cart Sponsor – Whittaker Sales, Inc.; Driving Range Sponsor – Sugar Sands Realty Company; Hole-in-one Sponsors – Hold Spirit Episcopal Church, Hart’s All Service Plumbing & Gas, Inc., Southern Chevrolet, Judie & Sissy Flanigan in Memory of Matt Flanigan; Hole Sponsors- DeSoto’s Seafood Kitchen, T&J Electrical & Maintenance Company, Inc., National Bank of Commerce, Drew and Christy Flanigan, John and Kathy Oehlke. The Christian Service Center is a “Hand Up” rather than a “Hand Out” agency. Clients are given immediate emergency aid as well as guidance on finding solutions to their problems. The CSC is a 100% volunteer agency funded by the churches of Pleasure Island, various community organizations, including the United Way of Baldwin County, and interested individuals. For more information please call the CSC at 251-968-5256 or visit cscgs.com.

Free USA Lecture Nov. 30 at G.S. Cultural Center

The University of South Alabama Gulf Coast Campus 2017-2018 Distinguished Lecture Series continues Nov. 30 and Dec. 7 with one hour lectures at the Gulf Coast Campus Cultural Center Auditorium in Gulf Shores. All lectures start at 6:30 p.m. and are free. To register for any and all lectures call 251-460-7200, email lsimon@southalabama.edu or visit usacontinued.com.

The USA Gulf Shores Campus is located at 19470 Oak Rd W. (County Rd. 6 West) in Gulf Shores, about a half-mile east of the Gulf Shores Sports Complex.

- **Nov. 30** - Cyber-Security: Protecting Your Family and Your Finances presented by Kevin R. Levy, Commander of Technology & Cyber-Intelligence Section, Mobile Police Department.
- **Jan. 11** - Mardi Gras in Mobile: America’s Original Mardi Gras presented by Craig Roberts, historian and author.
- **Feb. 22** - Sharks! Dispelling Myths Through Research presented by Dr. Marcus Drymon, Mississippi State University, Coastal Research and Extension Center.
- **March 15** - Protecting Our Sea Life From Environmental Stressors presented by Dr. Ruth Carmichael, Associate Professor, University of South Alabama, Senior Marine Scientist II, Dauphin Island Sea Lab.
- **Flora-Bama Bingo**: free; 1-4 p.m.; great prizes, family friendly; 17401 Perdido Key Dr., Perdido Key.
- **NAIA Women’s Soccer National Championship**: Orange Beach Sportsplex; (816) 595-8153.
- **Open Mic**: 5:30; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
- **Kraoke 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.
- **Kraoke w. Jeremy Pickins**: 6; Margarita Loca; Gulf Shores.
- **Adam Holt**: 5; Lucy Buffett’s LuLu’s; Gulf Shores.
- **Lisa Zanghi & Scott Koehn**: 6:30; Flippers, Orange Beach.
- **Derrick & Travis**: 5; Lucy Buffett’s LuLu’s; Gulf Shores.
- **Kraoke & Dance Party**: 6; The Purple Parrot; Perdido Key.
- **Kraoke**: 10; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- **Kraoke**: 6; American Legion Post 44, Gulf Shores.
WHAT’S HAPPENING

• 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.
• 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.
• Gulf Shores Lions Club: noon; 2nd & 4th Wednesday; noon; Gulf Shores Community House, 300 E. 16th Avenue; 251-968-2823.
• AA: Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

THU, NOV 30
• Christmas Calendar: Please turn to pages 6-24.
• 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.
• NAIA Women’s Soccer National Championship: Orange Beach Sportsplex, (816) 595-8153.
• Open Mic: 7; Snapper’s, Orange Beach.
• John Lee Sanders: 6; Voyagers Restaurant at Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
• John Brust: 6; Lobby Bar at Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
• LeAnn Creswell & Lisa Zanghi: 6:30; Frano’s Italian Restaurant; Orange Beach.
• Derrick & Travis: 5; Lucy Buffett’s Lulu’s; Gulf Shores.
• Alabama Lightning: 6:30; Flippers, Orange Beach.
• Karaoke: 6; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
• Raising Karma: 7; Hub Stacy’s, Innerarity Point.
• Karaoke: 8; Tacky Jacks, Ft. Morgan.
• Rick Whaley & Tommy Masullo: 6; The Purple Parrot; Perdido Key.
• Karaoke: 10; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
• Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde: 8; Pappa Roco’s; Gulf Shores.
• 8 Ball APA: 7:30; The Office, Foley.
• Marine Corps League of South Baldwin County: 6 p.m. on 4th Thursday; The Gulf Bowl, 2881 S. Jupiter St., Foley; current and former Marines and Corpsman welcome.
• 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 Crossroads; 251-968-2411.
• South Alabama Senior Travelers: 9 a.m.; Foley Senior Center; visitors welcome; 251-929-4494.
• South Baldwin Amateur Radio Club: 7 p.m. 4th Thurs. of every month; Baldwin County Emergency Operations Center, McAuliffe Rd., Robertsdale; 251-943-2953.
• Bingo: Bear Point Civic Association on Bay La Launch Rd. in Orange Beach; doors open at 6:30 p.m.; games at 7 p.m.; hotdogs, drinks and snacks available; all invited; 981-5734.
• 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.

FRI, DEC 1
• Christmas Calendar: Please turn to pages 6-24.

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Early registration for Feb. 8 Lifestyles EXPO

Early bird registration is now open for the 26th Annual Alabama Lifestyles EXPO, scheduled Feb. 8 at Caribe Resort in Orange Beach.

The free event annually attracts more than 3,700 mostly Snowbird attendees, and exhibitor slots often are filled before the event.

“At the current rate of exhibitor registrations, we may run out of exhibitor space by mid-November,” said EXPO coordinator Bill Meadows. “We suggest registering now and making a payment later.”

Payments postmarked before Dec. 18 will receive an early bird discount, and full refunds will be granted through Jan. 15, 2018.

Registration is $210 (Early Bird) thru Dec. 18, $240 thru Jan. 15, and $260 after Jan. 15.

EXPO Exhibitors receive a complimentary listing on the EXPO website (16,000 unique visitors) and a mailing list of attendees.

“If you have never participated in an effort to attract winter visitors take note that, they will visit communities traveling through and from the Gulf Coast,” Meadows said. “They also take mini-trips. Last year, I met a couple who stayed 28 days in a north Alabama city and visited surrounding areas. Winter visitors are great candidates for relocation. In 2016, a United Van Lines survey showed that Alabama had a 6.4% gain in people moving to Alabama for retirement.”

For more registration information, log on to AlabamaAdvantage.com or call 205-222-2862 or email info@AlabamaAdvantage.com
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Beginning Oct 30th, both restaurants closed on Mondays.

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Cookin’ With Carolyn
By Carolyn Godfrey

Creamy Chicken, Green Chile and Ziti Casserole

2-1/2 cups ziti pasta, uncooked
1 can (10.75 oz.) reduced-sodium cream of chicken soup
1 container (8 oz.) sour cream
1 can (7 oz.) chopped green chiles, undrained
1/2 tsp. ground cumin
3 cups cooked chopped chicken
1 pkg. (8 oz.) Colby Jack Cheese slices
2 Tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro

Cook pasta as directed on package, omitting salt. Meanwhile, mix soup, sour cream, green chiles and cumin in large bowl until blended. Drain pasta. Add to soup mixture along with the chicken; mix well. Spoon half the pasta mixture into 15x9-inch baking dish sprayed with cooking spray; top with half the cheese slices. Repeat layers. Cover with plastic wrap, then foil. Freeze up to 1 month.

Heat oven to 350 degrees F. Remove plastic wrap from casserole; re-cover with foil. Bake (frozen) casserole 1 hour or until heated through, uncovering after 45 min. Top with cilantro before serving.

Note: Be sure baking dish can be taken from freezer to oven.
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The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) National Soccer Championship started on November 27 in Orange Beach, Alabama. Fifteen teams punched their ticket to next week's 2017 NAIA Women's Soccer National Championship at the Orange Beach Sportsplex during opening round games on college campuses around the country. The 15 first-round winners will join host institution Mobile College for the remainder of the single-elimination championship from Nov. 27 - Dec. 2, including 15 of the top 16 seeds. Single day passes can be purchased for $9.95, while an all-championship tournament package is $29.95.

The only upset came via No. 6 Keiser (Fla.) going down at the hands of Tennessee Wesleyan by a 2-1 score. Tennessee Wesleyan notches its first-ever championship win in its third trip.

Defending national champion University of Northwestern Ohio handled Williams Woods (Mo.) by a 5-0 score today. Led by a pair of goals by Camilla Andersen, the Racers poured in four second-half goals in the victory.

Unseeded Tennessee Wesleyan was the lone visiting team to win today. The Lady Bulldogs knocked off host No. 6 Keiser. Coming into today's match, Keiser had won seven of their previous eight Opening Round home contests.

After Vanguard (Calif.) recorded a 4-0 shutout of Northwest (Wash.), the Lions moved their Opening Round record to 5-0-2 all-time. The Lions boast the longest active Opening Round unbeaten streak at seven.

With three champions today, the Golden State Athletic Conference and Southern States Athletic Conference send the most representatives to the final site 16-team championship field Overall No. 1 seed Martin Methodist (Tenn.), who boasts the top seed for the first time since 2005 when it was the national champion, survived a 1-0 overtime victory against Bryan (Tenn.). The RedHawks improve to 9-1 in the Opening Round, with all of the matches coming at home. Host teams went 14-1-0 overall in the opening round. In those 14 wins, the hosts out-scored the visiting club by a 38-2 margin. Since the Opening Round format began in 2008, the hosts improve to 122-19-11 all-time. Last year, the hosts went 13-2-0. Martin Methodist is the only program in history to host opening rounds each previous year -- 2017 marks the 10th-consecutive home match for the RedHawks. The 3-0 Oklahoma Wesleyan victory over Lindsey Wilson (Ky.) today snapped the Blue Raiders nine-straight Opening Round win streak.

**Tickets on sale for Alan Jackson's June 23 gig at Wharf Amphitheater**

Tickets for newly-minted Country Music Hall of Fame inductee Alan Jackson's June 23 Honky Tonk Highway Tour stop at The Wharf Amphitheater are now on sale.

With a year of sold-out shows and packed houses in the rearview mirror, the tickets, priced from $27 to $79.50 plus fees will not last long. Tickets and more information are available at Ticketmaster.com, by phone 800.745.3000 or at The Wharf Box.

Alan Jackson's Honky Tonk Highway Tour will find the country icon performing hits that have gained him legions of longtime fans, songs that continue to draw new crowds as a younger generation discovers his music.

Jackson's repertoire stands the test of time; it has impacted a field of artists who cite Jackson as an influence. It's these same songs -- many written by Alan -- that earned him his newfound place alongside country music's greatest names and cemented his place in its history with membership in the Country Music Hall of Fame. Fans will hear the songs they love from the man who wrote them and made them famous, including his debut hit "Here in The Real World"...signature songs such as "Chattahoochee," "Drive" and "Gone Country...party anthems "It's Five O'Clock Somewhere" and "Good Time."

Jackson's concert announcement comes on the heels of his show-ending CMA Awards performance celebrating his 2017 induction to the Country Music Hall of Fame. Alan and his band, The Strayhorns, reminded fans what they'll enjoy on the Honky Tonk Highway Tour in 2018 as he closed out "Country Music's Biggest Night" with back-to-back performances of "Chasin' That Neon Rainbow" and "Don't Rock the Jukebox," bringing the star-filled audience to its feet as the likes of Luke Bryan, Keith Urban, Eric Church and others were seen singing along to Alan's memories of "livin' that honky tonk dream."

Jackson's long line of career-defining accolades that include three CMA Entertainer of the Year honors, more than 25 years of membership in the Grand Ole Opry, a 2016 billboard ranking as one of the Top 10 Country Artists of All-Time, induction to the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame, and the Heritage Award as the most performed country songwriter-artist of ASCAP's first 100 years.

The man from rural Newnan, Ga. has sold nearly 60-million albums worldwide, ranking as one of the best-selling male vocalists of all-time in all genres. He has 50 Top Ten hits and 35 #1s.
Congratulations Chef Rudy Rudolph

Bill's By The Beach is proud of Chef Rudy's performance and professionalism at the 6th annual World Food Championships. The World Food Championships is the largest Food Sport tournament in history with over 2800 contestants from all 50 American states and 16 countries. Rudy placed in the top 10 of the Chefs category. In 2016, he placed in the top 10 of the seafood category. View photos of the event at bbtb.com/bills-blog.

Chef Rudy is preparing special Weekly Features with so many delicious choices. Signature steak, seafood, pasta, appetizer and dessert recipes will rock your palate. Make Thursdays even better with our Steak Night Specials. Sink your teeth into a Filet Mignon, Rib Eye or New York Strip and pair with your favorite glass of wine. View specials on our blog. Make reservations today 251-948-5227.

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Monday-Thursday 11:00 am - 9:00 pm • Friday & Saturday 9:00 am to 10:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 am to 9:00 pm
The final concert of the three-part Blueberry Sessions at Weeks Bay Plantation, with songwriter Griffin House, is scheduled for Thursday, December 7. Tickets $20. Tickets are $20 and available online, at The Fairhope Store and Dr. Catherine Hackett (not pictured). Also pictured is Principal Robert McCartney and Coach Victoria Roberson.

Lee Adams of Cosmo’s has Island Spirit

The Coastal Alabama Business Chamber recently presented its Island Spirit Award for October to Lee Adams of Cosmo’s Restaurant & Bar. Adams was cited for her dedication to her job and the Coastal Alabama area. The person who nominated Ms. Adam’s had this to say about her, “Lee goes above and beyond in her job and represents our area in a very positive manner. She is southern hospitality.” 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. Pictured: Penny Groux, chair of the Island Spirit Committee, Adams, Brian Harsney of Cosmo’s.

Griffin House plays Dec. 7 at Weeks Bay Plantation

The Nashville-based House spikes his pop/rock songwriting with a dose of rootsy, atmospheric Americana. Born and raised in Ohio, House’s music is inspired by Bruce Springsteen, Woody Guthrie, Billy Bragg and Wilco. His mix of sentimental melodies, ambient guitars, and sparse arrangements are evident on his first album for RCA, Flying Upside Down, recorded with members of Tom Petty’s Heartbreakers. That 2007 release was followed in 2010 by The Learner.

GSUMC invites singers to join

Mark Hayes at Dec. 9 workshop

Popular church anthem composer/arranger Mark Hayes will be at Gulf Shores United Methodist Church December 9-10, where he will direct an all-day rehearsal/workshop on Saturday, Dec. 9 as well as conduct the Chancel Choir’s annual Christmas concert in a program of all Mark Hayes music on Sunday, Dec. 10.

There are several opportunities for area singers to participate. For those who wish to join the choir for this event, rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 are beginning now, along with additional rehearsals scheduled on some Fridays and Saturdays. The Saturday rehearsal/workshop on December 9 will include time to visit with Mark Hayes as well as listen to him coach and direct the choir. Lunch will be available along with new choral anthems, sheet music and CDs available for purchase.

A visit to MarkHayes.com lists several upcoming visits to Carnegie Hall in New York City along with other churches throughout the country.

South Baldwin Democrats host

Nov. 30 social in Foley

The South Baldwin Democrat Club will host a social & meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 30 at 8110 Bay View Dr. in Foley.

The entire community is invited to attend. Bring a drink and a snack to share. Call 901-488-8973 for more information about the club or the social.

Luncheon fish-fry Dec. 1 at

Foley United Methodist Church

A fundraising fish-fry is scheduled on Friday Dec. 1 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Foley United Methodist Church Spirit Center, located at 901 North Pine St. in Foley. Featuring deep fried white fish with homemade coleslaw, baked beans, hush puppies, dessert and drink. For more information or directions call Foley United Methodist Church at 251-961-9999.
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Presenter: Dr. Marcus Drymon Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center

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Skins Game returns Dec. 3 to Orange Beach Golf Center

The City of Orange Beach Golf Center will hold its first Skins Game tournament of the 2017/18 winter season on December 3, and then on the first Sunday of each month through April, with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Each player places $5 to a pot for Skins and $2 in a pot for closest-to-the-pin on a designated hole.

There are nine Orange Beach merchants sponsoring a hole-in-one, which pays $250. Free hot dogs will be served prior to the tournament. The Orange Beach Golf Center is located at 4700 Easy Street, off of Canal Road. The 9-Hole, Par-3 Course is open daily from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the lighted Driving Range is open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call 251-981-GOLF (4653).

What’s Happening

May 18: The Killers triumphant return

“The only recurring dream I’ve had is I’m on one side of the street and Brian Eno is on the other,” Brandon Flowers told Rolling Stone of a song on the Killers’ first album in five years. The band’s first Number One album on the Billboard 200, Wonderful Wonderful, comes 13 years after the Las Vegas rockers debut LP. Sales were buoyed by a combo album/concert tour promotion. This is the second time headlining Hangout Fest for a band that has been favorably compared to U2 for its sing-along anthems, beginning with “Mr. Brightside” from its 2004 debut album, Hot Fuss.

May 19: The Chainsmokers are very hot right now

Like The Killers, The Chainsmokers bundled their most recent release, Memories...Do Not Open, with tour ticket purchases, helping them become the first dance artist to top the Billboard 200 in three years. The New Yorkers first promoted single, “Selfie,” started their run to stardom. Described as 2016’s defining song, “Closer,” featuring vocals from Halsey, who will also play this year’s fest, spent 12 weeks atop the Billboard Hot 100. “Don’t Let Me Down” won the Grammy Award for Best Dance Recording. Chris Martin of Coldplay performed the song with The Chainsmokers on stage at 2017 Brit Awards.

May 20: Is Kendrick Lamar best of his generation?

Kendrick Lamar’s “Humble,” from his summer release DAMN, was a No. 1 pop hit this past summer. Always in the conversation for best rapper of his generation, he’s been selling out arenas since the release of his debut album, 2012’s good kid, m.A.A.d city. Growing up surrounded by Compton gangbangers, he is a sure thing sell out at every arena he plays. “If I can make one person — or 10 million people — feel a certain type of euphoria in my music, that’s the whole point,” said Lamar, 30, in Rolling Stone. “Being on that stage, knowing that you’re changing people’s lives, that’s a high.”

Killers, Chainsmokers, Kendrick to headline May 18-20 Hangout Fest VIP & general admission tickets on sale for beach party’s 9th year here

Just in time for Black Friday, tickets - priced at $259 for general admission and $1,099 for VIP - are now on sale for the 2018 Hangout Music Festival, which runs May 18-20 at Gulf Shores Public Beach. Shuttle passes are $50 for the fest, which has booked The Killers, The Chainsmokers and Kendrick Lamar as headliners. An EZ-Pay payment plan to pay in four monthly installments is available online at hangoutmusicfest.com.

Tickets for the May 17 Thursday kick-off party, usually priced at $50, will go on sale when that line-up is released early next year.

The line-up is subject to change, according to the Hangout Fest website, and more acts are expected be added in the coming months for the fest that will also feature sets from ODESZA, Halsey, Logic, Zedd, Portugal. The Man, St. Vincent, SZA and Foster the People.
**ONGOING EVENTS**
- 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 gulfoastartsalliance.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 available 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.

**ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC SCHOOL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN:**
Friends and faculty of St. Benedict Catholic School in Elberta met recently to kick off the yearly fundraising campaign. The school has been serving the community for 94 years, inspiring spiritual growth, intellectual challenge, community service and compassion for others. It serves boys and girls from PreK3 to eighth grade. Donations may be made by check or credit card, in one-time gifting, monthly installments and endowments. Info: 251-583-6352 or 251-986-8143. **Pictured:** St. Benedict Teachers & Staff- Back row, Rhonda Krehling, Marlene Dekok, Cookie Krehling, Sherri Shutt; Front row, Jessica Owen, Kelly Rohe, Mary Corcoran, Susanne Roman.
Alabama black bears found primarily in south end of state

By Thomas Harms

Historically, Alabama's black bear population only occurred in the southwest portion of the State, primarily in Mobile, Washington and Clarke Counties. The bears of this region of the State are of the Florida subspecies, Ursus americanus floridanus, and while in low numbers here, are quite abundant throughout many areas of Florida. In recent years, black bears have steadily immigrated into northeast Alabama from northwest Georgia, primarily to Dekalb, Cherokee and Etowah Counties, and have established a small, but viable population in that region of the State. While these bears look very similar to the Florida bear, they are classified as a different subspecies, the American Black Bear, Ursus americanus americanus. In addition to these core areas, sporadic bear sightings have been documented in other areas throughout the State, which may indicate that Alabama's black bear populations are slowly increasing.

The Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division is currently working with Auburn University to conduct research on black bears within the state. Data collected will yield information on black bear population size, density, basic demographics, confirmation of the subspecies, and will provide insight on the mechanics of re-colonizing large carnivores. This information will also help with future black bear management practices for our growing population.

The future of Alabama's black bears lies with its citizens. It is the responsibility of Alabamians to take proactive measures to avoid creating situations that could encourage them to become habituated to humans. Bears are easily attracted to residential areas where easy sources of food are available such as pet food, bird feeders and household garbage. When humans live within bear country, these easy food sources must be removed to decrease conflicts between people and bears. Place trash outside on pick-up days, not left overnight. Move deer and bird feeders at the first sighting of bear activity. Feed pets inside or if fed outside, only feed the amount that will be consumed by your pet in a short time. Storing grills and smokers inside when not in use can avoid damage to your cooking equipment. These simple efforts can lead to maintaining bears in their wild state and avoid human/bear conflicts.

If you see a bear in your area, remain calm and don’t approach the bear. The fact that you have seen a bear doesn’t necessarily represent a problem, it may simply be passing through the area. It will most likely not stick around long if there is no available food source. During the spring and summer months, adult males increase their ranges dramatically in search of receptive females and young subadult bears are dispersing from their mothers territory. These two situations will most likely be responsible for the majority of sightings during this time of the year.

If you do encounter a bear at close range: 1. Do not run from the bear but back away slowly; 2. Stand tall and upright; 3. Avoid direct eye contact; 4. Make sure the bear has a free direction to escape; 5. Never purposely feed a bear.

Pictured: A 112lb female black bear that was captured and radio-collared as part of a research project with Auburn University.

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, 251-968-5731.

Baldwin Museum of Art: 111 W. Laurel Ave. (Hwy.90) in Foley. Hours: 10am-4pm. Monday through Friday (211) 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; 12001 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.

Fraternal Order of Eagles/Auxiliary accepting members

The Fraternal Order of Eagles, Coastal Alabama #4549, Aerie and Auxiliary are now accepting new members. Stop by 3859 Gulf Shores Parkway, Suite #6, Gulf Shores on Tuesdays 2 to 8 p.m., Wednesdays 2 to 6 p.m., Thursdays 2 to 8 p.m and Saturdays 2 to 6 p.m. or call Terry at 21-550-5184 or Katie at 251-424-7550. The FOE is about people helping people. The organization that has been around for over 100 years. Stop by and check it out! The FOE also accepts dual members from other Aeries and Auxiliaries. Come be a part of an organization that believes in helping its community.

Friends of Southwest Library sponsor Manna Food Drive

The Friends of the Southwest Branch Library are sponsoring a Manna Food Drive at Southwest Library during November and December. Southwest will be a drop off location for non-perishable items Monday – Thursday 10am to 8pm, Friday-Saturday 10am to 4pm. The library is located at 12248 Gulf Beach Hwy. in Pensacola. Call 850-453-7780 for more info.

The drive is being coordinated by new Director of Special Projects August Schmidt.

Most Needed Items: Breakfast Foods (individually packaged oatmeal and grits); Canned Fruit (15 oz. can, in natural juice);

GSMS Art Students Earn Fest Awards: Congratulations to the two Gulf Shores Middle School 8th grade art students that placed in the 2017 National Shrimp Festival Youth Art Contest. Fernanda Larenas won Best of Show and Abrianna Madden won 1st place. The Gulf Shores Middle School art program received $500.

GSMS All County Football Selections: Congratulations to the GSMS football players who earned All County. Top Row - left to right: Kolton Holland, Charlie Hollis, Devin Polk, Brett Stephens, Coach Joshua Cobb. 2nd row - Tyler House, Mattox Johnson, Micah Parker, Jay Gonzalez. 1st Row - Sol Baranovics, Nathan Higginson, Jud Keel. Not Present: Tanner Enry.
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251-968-9325
The City of Orange Beach has officially launched its new website, orangebeachal.gov, with the assistance of Shelley Piraino of Shazam Interactive. The completely redesigned website has a fresh new look, improved navigation, up-to-date news, a dynamic events listing and an overall goal of keeping the public informed and engaged.

“The new website and domain name give the City of Orange Beach a new start as the official source for governmental information,” City Administrator Ken Grimes said. “Targeting our citizens, property owners and businesses, the new site takes another big step toward transparency like our Town Hall meetings, which offer an ‘open mic’ for any question to be asked and answered. The website gives another means to ask questions or voice concerns, which are always answered within 24 hours and often within the hour the email is sent. Our staff takes customer service as a top priority and the site is another tool in providing communication and information to our community.”

New features like the city’s News page give up-to-date information on key community events, projects and decisions. Watch for this as an information tool, along with details like daily beach report flag conditions, trash pick up, and weather reports.

“The site is a work in progress with many new ideas planned, so let us know what you would like to see and we will try to develop ways to make it happen,” Grimes said.

It’s time to explore, ask questions and get the most out of the new website. Find agendas for upcoming City Council meetings or answers to frequently asked questions, listen to recordings of past meetings, sign up for city alerts through text messaging and emails, and explore the many facilities in the city such as the Coastal Arts Center, Golf Center, Recreation Center, Aquatic Center, Tennis Center, Indian & Sea Museum, Library, Adult/Senior Activity Center, and Sportsplex, among others.

Under City Departments, learn about storm preparedness or find planning commission agendas and recordings, business license information, annual finance reports, information on trash & recycling, beach safety and Molly’s Patrol, along with many other city services.

AROUND TOWN

**Orange Beach introduces new orangebeachal.gov website**

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**Foley Tourism Complex has 5 year deal to host Alabama Soccer Association State Cup**

Foley Sports Tourism Complex will be the home of the Alabama Soccer Association State Cup for the next five years. ASA returned for a second year November 4-5 and again had such a great experience they signed on to hold the event in Foley through 2022.

The State Cup brings the best youth soccer teams from around Alabama. ASA Executive Director Tom Condone said they are excited to bring this kind of quality soccer to Foley for years to come.

“We are thrilled to continue our great partnership with the Foley Sports Tourism Complex,” said Condone. “The complex is state of the art and the ability to bring our state championships to the Alabama Beaches as a destination is very exciting.”

Both in 2016 and 2017 more than 100 teams competed at the State Cup. With age divisions ranging from U14 to U19, players traveled with their families. This caused Foley hotels to be at or near occupancy when the event was in town.

Foley Sports Tourism Complex Director, David Thompson said State Cup and events like it are the reason the complex was built in the first place.

“We’re very proud of how far we’ve been able to bring the Foley Sports Tourism Complex,” Thompson said. “We know that once an event comes to Foley that we can win them over with our special brand of hospitality.”

The contract extension is the second soccer event extension to come this year. Back in June, the Sun Belt Conference signed on to host their special brand of hospitality.

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Thompson said he is working to work with key events rightsholders to secure long-term contracts for economically-impactful events, like State Cup, so there is some regularity to the complex schedule that both spectators and local businesses can count on.

“Now our community can count on seeing visitors in early November,” said Thompson. “This helps us become more consistent economically throughout the year.”

For more on the State Cup or any FSTC events, visit our website at FoleySportsTourism.com.

**Big Lagoon Kiwanians accepting donations for Wreaths Across Barrancas program through Nov. 28**

The Kiwanis Club of Big Lagoon is spearheading a drive to participate in the Wreaths Across America program to remember and honor our fallen veterans. The club is taking orders for wreaths specifically for Barrancas National Cemetery at NAS Pensacola.

Since 2008 Congress has issued a proclamation each year officially recognizing Wreaths Across America Day in December. This year the ceremony and placement of wreaths will be on December 16 beginning at 9 a.m. Wreaths are $15 and payment can be made online with credit card or by check using the downloadable mail-in order form. You may pick up the wreaths on Dec 17 or we will place it for you. Last day to order wreaths is Nov 28. For more information call 850-207-1217. The Kiwanis Club of Big Lagoon Foundation Inc. is a 501-C entity.

For the past three years, Big Lagoon Kiwanis, Bailey Middle School Builder's Club and the K-Kids Club, along with several other local area non-profits, placed wreaths at veterans' head stones. It was an excellent opportunity to teach younger generations about the value of their freedoms and the importance of honoring those who sacrificed so much to protect those freedoms.

Approximately 11,000 wreaths were placed at Barrancas. An inspiring sight, but still leaving nearly 40,000 grave sites undorned. This year we will work hard to improve those numbers while we Remember, Honor, and Teach. You can help—order wreaths online at Barrancaswreaths.com.

**Pictured:** Kiwanis Key Club members help lay wreaths at Barrancas Cemetery onboard NAS.
VOTED ‘TOP 10 PUBLIC LIGHT DISPLAYS IN AMERICA’

Advance tickets available online and at the Gardens.
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Waterway District

Orange Beach—(981-4144)
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Ft. Morgan—(968-8341)
Famous for its Sunsets.
1 mile from Ft. Morgan On Mobile Bay

Magic Christmas in Lights

A Holiday Tradition Unlike Any Other
November 24 — December 31 • 5-9 PM
Closed Christmas and New Year’s Day

Voted ‘Top 10 Public Light Displays in America’
95-year-old Welton Hance continues to work fulltime & volunteer in community

By Carolyn Brady

Normally, after the initial introduction of someone in an article, we refer to that person by their last name only.

However, for 95-year-old Welton E. Hance, we are going to call him by his preferred title and surname, “Mr. Welton.”

Mr. Welton doesn’t consider himself to be much, but after a few minutes around him, one discovers that he is truly a very special person. He just lives his life, loves his wife, goes to work, volunteers, and generally helps others.

A typical trip to at Lowe’s in Foley where Mr. Welton has worked for the last eighteen years, will go something like this.

Suppose you have several items to pick up for various home projects. You spy Mr. Welton and ask him where to find one of the items. Mr. Welton will likely respond, “Let me see your list.” He will then proceed to lead you on an expedition to different departments to pick up each item on the list with no backtracking.

During the month of November, we remember our veterans, and our nation has set aside the thirteenth as Veteran’s Day to honor the men and women who have served in The United States Armed Forces, and to thank them for their time sacrificed away from family.

Mr. Welton is one of those men in our community who stands out in the minds of many when they think about Veteran’s Day.

When he was nineteen-years-old, on December 10, 1941, just three days after the Japanese attacked The United States at Pearl Harbor, Mr. Welton signed up for military service.

“The war had just started. I was young, single, and healthy as were millions of others. I just became part of the group,” he said. “Nothing special.”

His actual enlistment was not finalized until December 17. “The ads enticed young men to join the Marines,” Mr. Welton said, “I had no idea what I was signing up for.

“The Marines promised travel and adventure and they kept their word. It was very intense. Not at all like the movies. You are not crying in a foxhole. It’s nothing like that. You are suddenly in circumstances. You are not thinking about being afraid. You aren’t planning anything, you are reacting to the circumstances. If someone is about to shoot you, you have to shoot first. You don’t have to train for that. I just did what they told me to do.”

He can tell you detail after detail about his time spent in places like Peleliu Island, where 40 percent of the 28,000 Marines and infantry troops who fought there died or were wounded.

He was in the battle for Guadalcanal. He can talk about the Amtrak landing craft (amphibious tractor) and Washing Machine Charlie’s nightly flights over the island to harass the troops and keep them awake.

As he talks about his experiences, sometimes he throws in some of his dry-quick humor.

He once captured an enemy solder. They were behind enemy lines and went into a village. The soldier was sitting with his rifle leaned nearby. When he saw Mr. Welton, he threw his hands up and surrendered.

“That is what happened, but I tell people that I wrestled with him for two hours and he finally surrendered,” Mr. Welton said.

He says soldiers could mail anything home at no cost. Once he wrote his little sister’s name and address on a coconut and she got it. He had mailed home some of his war souvenirs. Years later he gave them to the Pensacola War Museum.

Mr. Welton said that women first were allowed to join the Marines during his time of service. When he returned to the United States after his wartime service, he engaged the first woman Marine he saw in conversation. Her name was Phyllis and he married her.

“We were married at Camp Lejeune (North Carolina) and the camp bakery made us a cake. The only person not in uniform was the minister,” he said.

Mr. Welton was released from active duty at the end of the WWII but remained in the Marine Reserves. In 1950, Uncle Sam called again and requested that he return to active duty for the duration of the Korean conflict. He received his final discharge papers in 1953.

After their military time ended, the family moved to Cincinnati, where Mr. Welton went to school to learn how to work with glass.

After school, they moved to about ten miles outside of Sioux Falls, North Dakota and raised a family of four, three girls and a boy. He went to work blowing glass and serving the community in law enforcement and as city councilman. He says the councilman’s pay was $228 per year.

He worked there for 42 years until his wife became a semi-invalid. He said the winter weather made it difficult to get her to doctor’s appointments so they decided to consider changing to a better climate.

When Mr. Welton first arrived in South Baldwin county when he was five-years-old, moving to Magnolia Springs with his parents, grandparents, and three brothers.

His grandmother had Tuberculosis and three of the boys had symptoms of the beginnings of it. There was no medicine to treat it in those days and most people went to a Sanitarium for help. Mr. Welton’s dad quit his job and moved the family.

Mr. Welton remembered his days as a boy here and that the climate was good, so he moved his wife here. It was much better for a while he said.

After 62-years of marriage Phyllis passed away.

He continued to live here, work and help in the community. He let his beard grow and worked helping Santa out whenever he was needed.

“I was over at Ryan’s walking around talking to the kids. I got tired so I sat down to rest. That is where I met Wilma. She was there to pick up her son and we started talking. After about a week or so, I kept thinking about her. I found her son and gave him my phone number. I said, ‘See if she will call me.’ The rest is history. I am very blessed.”

“I agreed when I married her it was for better or worse,” he added. “At the time I had no idea it was going to be so good. When I tell her that, I get a hug.”

Wilma and Mr. Welton have been happily married for ten years. He calls her, “Sweetheart,” and she calls him, “Darling.”

At 95, Mr. Welton has no plans to slow down or retire. He continues to work 40-hours a week at Lowe’s in Foley where they have provided him with his own reserved parking spot. He is often found near the area where keys are made.

He says he works in hardware because he is a nut and screws things up. Everything hangs on a hinge, but he usually nails it.

Wilma adds, “He never meets a stranger, and everybody is his friend. Everybody loves him. Living with him is an experience you can’t explain. You never know from one minute to the next what is going to come out of his mouth or what he is going to do.”

After work (Wilma is a cashier at Wal Mart), the couple goes home to start their second shift.

Mr. Welton continues making jewelry from mashed up colored bottles he forms into small sizes and shapes to make jewelry. Wilma works with her sewing projects.

Carl Smith, a fellow veteran, has known Mr. Welton for several years. “If anybody needs counseling, spend a few hours with him in his shop,” he said. “I am a better man for every hour I have spent with him.”

Pictured: Mr. Welton and Wilma, his wife; Mr. Welton helping Brandon Sellers find the items he needs at Lowe’s in Foley where Mr. Welton has worked 18 years; Vets Carl Smith (Seabee), Gen. Ben Pellegrini (Army), Mac Frey (Navy) & Bob Duke (Marines) showed up during a Veteran’s Day lunch sponsored by Tacky Jacks to honor Mr. Welton for his service to his country and his continuing service as a volunteer in the Pleasure Island community (Mr. Hance said he wanted a standing picture so people wouldn’t think he needed the wheel chair).
www.goodtimetours.com

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One Day Biloxi Casino Trips - $15 to Ride

Get $15 Free Slot play plus senior get a half price lunch buffet

Wednesday November 29th - IP Casino
Thursday November 30th - Hard Rock

Wednesday December 6th - Golden Nugget
Thursday December 7th - Hard Rock

All passengers must be 21 year of age or older and bring a valid picture ID

Catch the bus in Elberta 7:30am, Gulf Shores 8am, Foley 8:15am & Fairhope 8:45am

Biloxi Overnight Trips (3 casinos)

December 24th-25th, 2017 (Christmas Eve)
February 14th-15th, 2018 (Valentine's Day)

Get a total of $60 in Free Play and a $15 Food Voucher

Spend the Night at the Scarlet Pearl Casino

Bus departs Loxley, AL at 9:30am

$99 per person double occ. $129 single
Mobile-Tensaw Delta’s fall magic happening now

By David Rainer
Al. Dept. of Cons. & Nat. Resources

Fall is a magical time on the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. The white pelicans execute their synchronized flying patterns as mullet leap for the sky for no apparent reason. In the distance, the spray from their spouts reveals a pod of dolphins on the hunt as they surround a school of baitfish.

Oh, and the best part – the fish are biting. The inshore fish like speckled trout, redfish and flounder travel up Mobile Bay and even up on either side of Battleship Parkway (Causeway) this time of year as the salinity slowly increases in parts north, and the baitfish and shrimp head into the estuaries.

Patric Garmeson of Ugly Fish- ing Charters is from the young generation of guides who take full advantage of this fishing opportunity in the fall. Savvy in all things social media, Garmeson spreads the word about the fishing in the Delta through platforms like Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

In the Delta proper, where the five rivers – Mobile, Tensaw, Spanish, Apalachee and Blakeley – form the area rich in natural resources and unparalleled biodiversity, the fishing is dictated more by river flow than cold temperatures. If upstate rain causes the Tombigbee and Alabama rivers to rise significantly, that freshwater flushes through the Delta and will chase the saltwater species back into Mobile Bay and points south.

If the winter rains hold off, the saltwater will continue to inch northward, and the fish will follow.

On our trip last week, Garmeson and I found fish mainly within sight of the Causeway because of a recent rain event that dropped up to 6 inches on Baldwin County. The good news is that freshwater went away fairly rapidly, but it did keep the inshore species from advancing very far up the Delta.

“Typically, we see this fishing in the Delta lasting until Christmas,” Garmeson said. “When it gets cold, then you’ll see the deeper-water areas like Theodore Industrial Canal and the Mobile River start to be productive.”

“If you’re tough enough and can handle the cold, you can catch fish all winter. I love fishing this time of year. If the water isn’t pouring out of these rivers on these big rises, you can catch these fish until March. I know guys who have caught fish in Raft, Tensaw and Spanish in that February-March timeframe.”

Garmeson said we started our trip in the channels just south of the Causeway because of a little higher salinity level and an abundance of baitfish.

“You’ve got pogey’s (menhaden), shad and glass minnows, so there’s a lot more forage in that area right now,” he said.

We threw grubs on lead-head jigs, tandem Road Runner rigs designed for crappie, and grubs a couple of feet under popping corks. While the jig-grub combination produced slightly larger fish, including a beautiful, 25-inch redfish, better numbers came on the jig under a popping cork, which produces a noise that sounds like trout feeding. The popping cork rig produced trout when the plain grub was ignored.

“We caught them from the bottom of the water column to the top in 7 to 10 feet of water this morning,” Garmeson said. “That bite could last well into December, but those fish may shoot up the rivers following the bait. There are a lot of fish staging up, getting ready to move into the Delta.

“Cold weather seems to be a big factor. They’re going to follow the salinity, but they’re going to move every time you get a cold front.”

Those larger fish get active when it gets below 62, and that’s when I feel like I can catch big fish.”

“Topwater fishing was pretty good until the sun came up. Then you had to have something live to get a bite. On the last couple of trips, we’ve been catching them on a Yum Mud Minnow (plastic minnow bait).

“In September, you could catch a few on the Mud Minnow to find out where the fish were, but you caught more fish on live bait. Now, it seems to have swapped around.”

Garmeson admitted his choice of bait colors happened by laziness. He had asked one of his friends who fishes one of the redfish tournament tours what grub color to use to catch fish in the Louisiana marsh. The grub had black sides, a glitter belly and a chartreuse pad.

Before the water temperature cools much more, anglers will likely encounter quite a few fish under the 14-inch minimum on speckled trout. As the temps continue to fall, the fishing gets even better.

“My magic temperature range is 52 to 62 for bigger fish,” Garmeson said. “Until it gets down to that range, you may catch fish on flocks of birds around schools of trout. Most of those fish may be undersized. Those larger fish get active when it gets below 62, and that’s when I feel like I can catch big fish.”

Garmeson and his family can catch some good fish before that perfect temperature range arrives. Just last weekend, his son, Cooper, took first place in redfish and second place in speckled trout in the junior division at the Marsh Madness Fall Fishing Tournament in the Delta.

Pictured: Patric Garmeson un-hooks a nice speckled trout that was fooled by a plastic grub during a recent trip on the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. The trip also yielded a 25-inch redfish and numerous keeper trout.
Home Style Lunch

Choices-Includes Tea & Bread
Served with your choice of two sides

- Fried Shrimp - tail less ........................................... $8.25
- Blackened Catfish - dusted w/Creole spices & lightly seared ........... $8.25
- Fried Catfish - corn meal battered .................................. $8.25
- Broiled Flounder - broiled in lemon butter & topped with roasted almonds .. $8.25
- Fried Flounder - lightly battered and fried golden brown .......... $8.25
- Grilled Chicken - with a light touch of lemon-herb olive oil ........ $8.25
- Chicken Creole - smothered in a spicy tomato & vegetable sauce. Served on yellow rice .......... $8.25
- Fried Chicken Tenders - batter-dipped tenders, deep-fried. Served w/honey mustard .... $8.25
- Country Fried Steak - served w/cream gravy ......................... $8.25
- Hamburger Steak - (6 oz) char-grilled & served w/brown gravy .... $8.25
- Pork Chops - two tender chops grilled or fried ....................... $8.25
- Country Ham - char-grilled ........................................... $8.25
- Vegetable Plate - your choice of four (4) side dishes ................ $8.25

Senior Menu
SERVED DAILY 3:00PM - CLOSE
Served with your choice of two side dishes
Includes Iced Tea

- Coconut Shrimp with spicy orange marmalade: $12.99
- Stuffed Shrimp bacon wrapped with crabmeat dressing 
  & monterey jack cheese : $12.99
- Grilled Shrimp over yellow rice: $11.99
- Fried Shrimp $9.99
- Fried Oysters with cocktail sauce: $14.99
- Fried Seafood Platter flounder, shrimp, crab claws & oysters $15.99
- Broiled Seafood Platter shrimp, scallops & flounder $14.99
- Fried Chicken Tenders with honey mustard $8.99
- Grilled Chicken Breast w/ a light touch of lemon herb oil: $8.99
- Yellow-Fin Tuna grilled or blackened: $11.99
- Mahi-Mahi grilled, blackened, broiled: $11.99
- Flounder fried or broiled: $9.99
- Grouper grilled, blackened, broiled or fried: $12.99

Side Dishes
- Sweet Potato Casserole • Cole Slaw • Baked Potato
- Steamed Vegetables • French Fries • Yellow Rice
- Substitute House or Caesar Salad for a side dish Add $1.99

Lunch Specials $7.99
Includes Tea & Bread
Monday: Fried Chicken 2 Sides
Tuesday: BBQ Meatloaf 2 sides
Wednesday: Chicken & Dumplings 2 Sides
Thursday: Beef Tips over White rice 2 Sides
Friday: Chef’s Special
A husband and wife had a big argument. Frustrated and fed up, the wife called up her mom and said, "We fought again, I can't do this anymore. I am coming to live with you."

Mom said, "No darling, he must pay for his mistake. I am coming to live with you."

The husband thought for a moment and replied, "Well, I can drop her off here on Mondays and Wednesdays, but on Friday's, I fish!"
Downtown Mobile’s OK Bicycle Shop and Orange Beach’s Wolf Bay Lodge earned two top awards each during the recent Hangout Oyster Festival & Craft Beer Weekend. The Bicycle Shop won Best Overall and Best Cajun, and Wolf Bay Lodge, last year’s overall winner, won for Favorite Restaurant and Best Booth.
4th Annual A Pink Event Zumba Fundraiser at Bodenhamer Center

4TH ANNUAL A PINK EVENT ZUMBA FUNDRAISER AT BODENHAMER CENTER

$150 BUYS 2 HOURS OF FUN FOR EVERYONE! CARICATURES BY ALONZO

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Clean mobile home in Orange Beach on Canal Road about 1 mile from Wharf and Downtown Orange Beach
FOR RENT


DOWNTOWN ORANGE BEACH

Clean mobile home in Orange Beach on Canal Road about 1 mile from Wharf and Downtown Orange Beach
FOR RENT

Newcomers’ Toast To Coast

Jan. 25 at O.B. Event Center

The South Baldwin Newcomers Club is once again having a fun filled evening of spectacular food and festive music at the Toast To The Coast 2018 at the Orange Beach Event Center from 6-9:30 on January 25. The theme this year is Out of Africa and sure to be the best one yet. There will be food samples from many local restaurants, beer and wine available, and dancing to the wonderful music of the Tommy Morse Band! Many fun and exciting raffle prizes will be awarded as well. Raffle tickets will be sold at the door.

Tickets are on sale now for $50 per person or tables of 10 for $500. All proceeds from the event are given to local charities in Baldwin County. Tickets may be purchased from Janetta Bell 702-499-9385 or netterbell@gmail.com. There may be some tickets available at the door if the event does not sell out.
Seafood • Salads • Burgers • Steaks • Chicken

Outrageous Deals!

Sun... 50 Cent Jumbo Wings
Mon... 50 Cent Jumbo Wings
Tues... Beef Brisket Dinner
With 2 Sides $8.99
Wed... All Entrees 1/2 Price
Thur... BozRib Eye Steak
And 2 Sides $9.99
Fri... Fried Fish, Shrimp
And Fries Platter $8.99
Sat... 50 Cent Jumbo Wings

MUST PURCHASE TWO BEVERAGES.

These Deals Are Not Offered in Connection with Other Discount.
Deals Exp. March 10, 2018

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