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Story On Page 14

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AROUND TOWN



TRUMP SUPPORTERS HOLD BIRTHDAY BOAT PARADES: Local supporters held a Boat Parade Birthday Celebration for President Trump at the Perdido Key Oyster Bar on June 14. Supporters draped an American flag (**above**) over the Theo Baars Bridge during the event. A parade was also held in the waters surrounding Robinson Island (**below**) in Orange Beach honoring the president's 74th birthday. It was part of a rally in several bodies of water across the country, including parades on the St. Johns River in Jacksonville and on a lake in Michigan. Bikers For Trump also participated in the Perdido Key event and local singer J Hawkins was the parade grand marshal. All funds raised will help veterans with voting registration.

Chris Dosev was the Panhandle event coordinator for the Perdido parade. Bill Fetke, Chapter Chairman of Trump Team 2020, spoke during to those gathered at the Perdido Oyster Bar before the parade. Trump supporters are also organizing a July 5 flotilla from Pensacola to Orange Beach. Dosev said Tom Petska is organizing that parade, but he did not provide contact info.

Trump flotillas, began May 3 in Florida, the president's newly declared home state, according to politico.com. They've been called "Trump Boat Parades" or "Trumpillas," their captains and crews nicknamed "MAGA boaters."

In Florida, Trump has a net approval rating among boat owners of about 18 percentage points — at least six times higher than his statewide net approval number — according to the campaign's voter profile models, which consist of 3,000 different public and consumer data points. Florida has the highest number of registered boats in the nation, nearing 1 million, according to politico.com.



Sirens of the Sea Island Tea Party & Quarter Auction June 27

"We want you there in your best hats & heels ladies."

The Sirens of the Sea, an Orange Beach based Mardi Gras Krewe, will host a Island Tea Party & Quarter Auction Event on Saturday, June 27 at 2 p.m. at the Senior Activities Center in Orange Beach.

The festivities will include amazing raffle prizes for just quarters! "We want you there in your best hats & heels ladies," said Siren publicity chair Stephanie Taylor.

Expect signature drinks, food and prizes.

Online tickets can be purchased at siren-sevent.ticketleap.com. Patrons must be over 21 to attend.

Pictured: The Sirens Tea Party Planning Committee includes (l to r) Stephanie Taylor, Linda Abston, Janice Krumbein (Emblem), Shelia Stephens (President), Linda Pacette, Candy Snedeker, Charlene Dody, Connie Conlon, Melissa McClure, Donna Fitts, Peggy Harrington.

Groundbreaking set for freestanding emergency room in G.S. is June 18

The groundbreaking ceremony for the South Baldwin Regional Medical Center's freestanding emergency department in Gulf Shores will be held on June 18 at 10 a.m.

The emergency facility will be located just north of Jack Edwards Airport at 3190 Airport Dr. in Gulf Shores and give South Baldwin residents a quicker option than SBRMC's facility north of Hwy. 98 in Foley.

The \$22 million freestanding emergency department will be located on 11 acres of land owned by The City of Gulf Shores next to the Jack Edward's Airport off Highway 59 in Gulf Shores.

Having a local emergency room was part of the city's 2025 Strategic Plan to improve healthcare opportunities for residents. City officials said they've been trying to come up with a good solution for emergency services for several years and its lease agreement with SBRMC is the result of those efforts.

The facility will provide eight exam rooms, a helipad, triage, imaging and lab services and an on-site pharmacy.

The Alabama Health Planning and Development Agency approved an application for the freestanding ER submitted by the Foley Hospital Corporation and South Baldwin Regional Medical Center.

Gulf Shores Mayor Robert Craft said this is an important health care initiative, as Coastal Baldwin County keeps growing and traffic on Highway 59 continues to increase.

"It's a long way for us to get anybody, residents or visitors, to South Baldwin hospital in the middle of the summer," said Craft.

The cost of the new emergency room could be as much as \$22 million.

Flora-Bama's July 4 Freedom Run registration is already near capacity

The Flora-Bama wants to make its 1st Annual Freedom Run "scream America," and the famed Lounge on the Line is taking extraordinary measures to do so. First of all, the race offers all the usual amenities from t-shirts to post race beer. But it is absolutely free to all, which is possibly unprecedented.

The race will take place on Saturday, July 4 at 8 a.m. And options include the 4-mile run/walk course or the 1-mile run/walk.

Since this is a patriotic event, participants should break out their best red, white and blue attire. Free registration is free and includes a race shirt (guaranteed to the first 500 registrants), patriotic shades & leis (while supplies last), and food & drink tickets to be redeemed post-race. All participants will receive a participant's finisher medal once runners cross the finish line. The Top 10 male & Top 10 female runners will be awarded a \$20 Flora-Bama gift card.

"Registration has been going crazy the past week," said Flora-Bama marketing director Jennifer Parnell. "We are almost full with more than two weeks left before the race. Once the race is full there will be no more online registration or race day registration."

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Orange Beach City Council

O.B. kicks in additional \$2.3 million for Performing Arts Center New school to open in Aug.; center ribbon cutting in April

By John Mullen

Orange Beach will pay an additional \$2.3 million to add features to the Performing Arts Center currently under construction at the Orange Beach High School and Middle School Campus.

School will convene in the new building in August but the center won't be completed until April 2021.

"We're putting an orchestra pit in, some additional baths and on the back, we're adding on roughly 200 feet what they call a black box theater," Mayor Tony Kennon said. "There's going to be a band room for the high school. It's going to be very, very multi-use."

The city first agreed to pay \$7.2 million toward the cost of the Performing Arts Center and in June increased it by about \$53,000 to increase the capacity of the women's restrooms. The initial cost of the center was estimated at \$8.6 million with the Baldwin County Board of Education paying \$1.4 million of that cost. The additions will push the final price close to \$11 million.

Kennon said the new center at the school will serve many functions for the city and the school. It will add

the black box theater, a dance room, band room and orchestra pit and the bathroom modifications.

"We're putting an orchestra pit in, some additional baths and on the back, we're adding on roughly 200 feet what they call a black box theater."

We're going to be bringing in country acts, maybe bringing in comedians, doing plays. All those types of things. And the school has use of it as well."

The new facility will contain a total of 28,000-square-foot facility including a 710-seat theater.

"We got so many things taking off and we've got so many opportunities to bring in acts throughout the year," Kennon said. "This is not just for the kids. This is going to be for the parents and the community in a lot of different ways. Essentially, after school and weekends, it's ours. That's the way the contract reads.



The cast of *American Fairy Tales*, Orange Beach Creative Director Jessica Langston's stage adaptation of L. Frank Baum's *American Fairy Tales*. Langston produced the play through the city's Expect Excellence After-School program. Orange Beach will open its \$11 Million Performing Arts Center, which will include a 710 seat theatre, in April.

City to rebuild its Kids Park

Concerns about the safety of some of the equipment at Orange Beach Kids Park have city administrators looking to eventually rebuild it completely. Most of it will be torn down immediately but the swings and pirate ship will stay in place through the summer with major renovations coming after the busy season.

"We are going to demolish the current kids park and rebuild it," Orange Beach Mayor Tony Kennon said. "But we decided to move forward with it immediately because it's in bad enough shape we can't take a chance on someone being injured. We're coming back with

something nicer, bigger and better and newer. In the interim for the summer, we are going to take down the structures that are dilapidated, which is the majority of it."

Business building permit moratorium is extended

During the regular June session, Orange Beach City Council passed a resolution extending the moratorium on the issuance of building permits for single and multi-family developments to be located in general business districts with a new expiration date of Sept. 30. Staff is to make recommendations by Sept. 1 on handling these permits after Sept. 30.

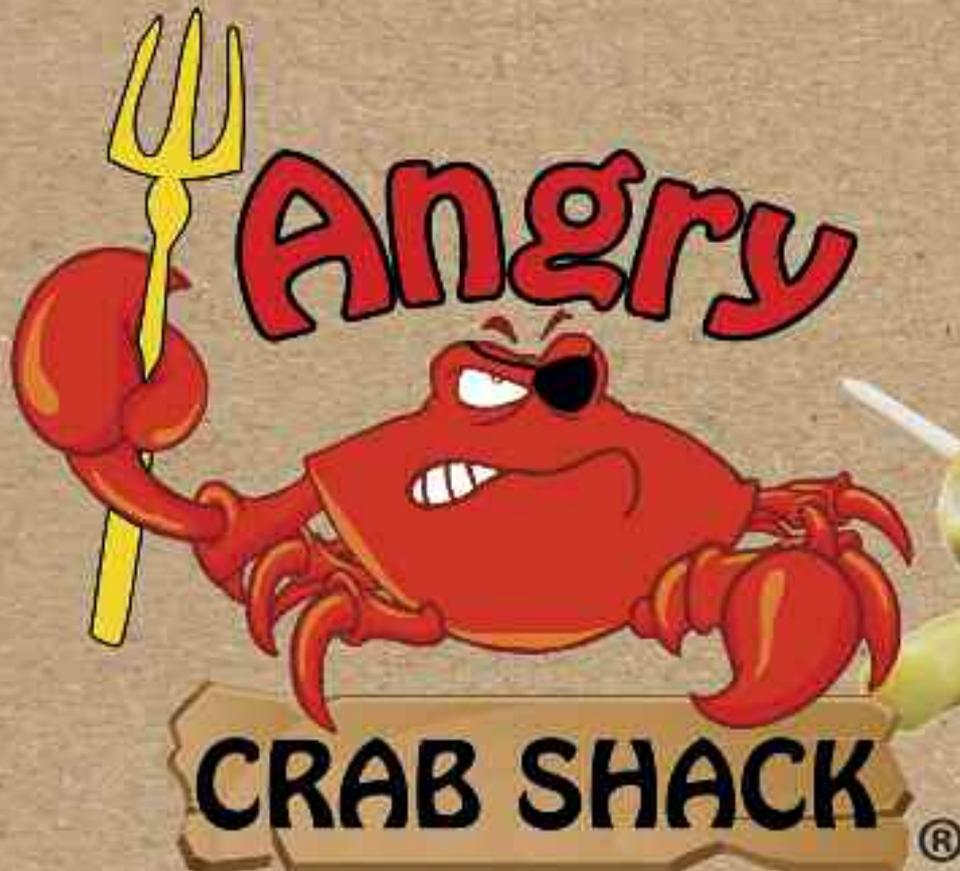
Resolutions passed, hearings set...

During June's regular and work sessions, Orange Beach City Council:

- Passed resolution authorizing the execution of a professional services agreement with Thompson Consulting Services to provide disaster debris monitoring, emergency management planning and disaster grant consulting services.
- Passed a resolution awarding the bid for Used Outdoor Modular LED Video Panels to Dorsett Productions Unlimited LLC in the amount of \$76,002.
- Set a public hearing on a planned unit development modification for Beach Village a 69-lot cottage development east of Lartigue's Seafood on Perdido Beach Boule-

vard. The suggested date is June 16.

- Considered setting a public hearing date for a modification to The Wharf's PUD to make changes to its reader board sign. The suggested date is June 16.
- Passed a resolution authorizing a contract with Thompson Engineering to perform professional construction engineering and inspection services for the proposed Lauder Lane turn lane in an amount not to exceed \$6,480.
- Three resolutions about work for Harbor Communications to connect fiber to Fire Station 2 and the new public works facility and to increase bandwidth at the Event Center.
- A resolution awarding the bid for Public Works building mechanical work.



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AROUND TOWN



June 27 ONE Foundation Tourney benefits Lone Survivor

The 3rd Annual ONE CLUB Charity Golf Event, hosted by ONE Foundation, ONE CLUB and Craft Farms, is being billed as a day “to have fun again and giving back.” A benefit for the Lone Survivor Foundation, the tourney will be held on Saturday, June 27 at ONE CLUB in Gulf Shores. Sign up is at noon. Shotgun start follows at 1 p.m. A four person scramble, cost is \$75 per person, and all contributions are 100 percent matched by One Foundation. The benefactor’s mission is to restore, empower, and renew hope for wounded service members and their families through health, wellness, and therapeutic support.

Event hosts are ONE Foundation, ONE CLUB and Craft Farms. For more information, to register, or to donate to the cause, visit oneclubgulfshores.com.

“Come join us for a great day of golf to benefit a great cause,” said Ellen M. Plunkett of host ONE CLUB Gulf Shores Realty. “Be a Hero and sign up quickly.”

Perdido Key’s first loggerhead nest discovered on June 10

The season’s first sea turtle nest on Perdido Key, the second of two loggerhead currently on Escambia County-patrolled beaches, was discovered on June 10. Heavy surf from Tropical Storm Cristobal washed away two nests on Pensacola Beach earlier in June.

Four species of sea turtle nest on Escambia County beaches May through October. Loggerheads are the most common nesters; however, greens, leatherbacks and the rare Kemp’s Ridley have also been recorded nesting on area beaches. Once the eggs are laid, they will incubate for around 60 days, after which hatchlings emerge under the cover of darkness and make their way to the Gulf of Mexico.

Sea turtles of all sizes face many threats. Excessive artificial lights can disorient both nesting and hatchling turtles, leading them away from the Gulf of Mexico and into danger. Furniture and other personal belongings left on the beach overnight can trap and injure turtles. Plastic pollution and other debris can entangle turtles and cause sickness when accidentally eaten.

Female turtles prefer dark, quiet beaches for nesting and hatchlings need dark skies to find the Gulf of Mexico. Leave the flashlights and cell phones at home or use a red flashlight when on the beach at night. Turn off beach-facing lights and close windows and curtains to keep our beaches dark.

Perdido Key will be included in Blue Angels July 8-11 airshow plans

A Santa Rosa Island Authority news release stated that it will continue to plan for a modified Pensacola Beach Air Show featuring the Blue Angels July 8-11, but geographical locations will include both

Pensacola Beach and Perdido Key.

This expanded schedule will give the public four different opportunities to view the performances at least once.

The event’s footprint has been expanded and there will be no center point at the Pensacola Beach Pier, as in years past. SRIA staff and the Blue Angels are still refining exact times and geographical locations.

The air show program this year is built around social distancing in observance of the Centers for Disease Control recommendations for the COVID-19 virus.

The program will be a four-day event, and each day will have similar flight maneuvers. This expanded schedule will give the public four different opportunities to view the per-

formances at least once. Aerial displays along the beach are scheduled to begin before noon each day. Flight maneuvers will be practiced on all four days. The full program with all the details will be published on June 26.

Social distancing guidelines ask those at the beach to leave six feet of space between others and congregate in groups of no more than 10 people.

The Blue Angels website lists Aug 5 as its first scheduled open practice date at NAS Pensacola, and even that depends on how the current coronavirus pandemic plays out this summer.

The team conducts practices in their F/A-18 Hornets over Sherman Field at NAS Pensacola as well over the Gulf of Mexico, where fans can view the aerial acrobatics from the Gulf Islands National Seashore on Perdido Key. During open practices, which are free to the public, The National Naval Aviation Museum has a viewing area for visitors to watch the team practice. The team visits the museum to answer questions and sign autographs after most of its Wednesday practices.

For more air show and practice information, visit blueangels.navy.mil.



CATHY DEAL PHOTO

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AROUND TOWN

Deadline to register for Tuberville - Sessions run-off is June 29

Secretary of State encourages absentee options amid Covid concerns

By Fran Thompson

Whether the reason is merely convenience or Covid 19 pandemic concerns, voting by mail is the suggested option from Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill, when Alabama voters will decide between former U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions and former Auburn football coach Tommy Tuberville in the Republican runoff for a U.S. Senate seat on July 14.

Gov. Kay Ivey postponed the runoff from March 31 because of the pandemic. The application deadline for absentee voting is July 9. But the last day to register for voter eligibility in the runoff is June 29.

To vote online, go to and check on the box that states "I have a physical illness or infirmity which prevents my attendance at the polls." The Alabama law requiring voters to give a reason when applying for an absentee ballot has been lifted amid pandemic concerns, said Merrill.

"Some because of the convenience of voting through the absentee process want to go ahead and exercise their right to vote by mail through the absentee application now," said Merrill.

The deadline to mail or deliver an absentee ballot to the absentee election manager is July 13. Baldwin County's Absentee Election Manager is Jody Wise. (Mailing address: 312 Courthouse Square, Suite 10, Bay Minette, Alabama, 36507. Phone: 251-937-0379). More info is also available at sos.alabama.gov or 334-242-7210.

The Republican winner will take on Democrat incumbent Doug Jones on Nov. 3. Ironically, Sessions occupied the seat that Jones held for more than 20 years. Sessions resigned in 2017 to become attorney general in the Trump administration. Luther Strange was appointed to fill Sessions' seat. But Strange lost to Judge Roy Moore in the Republican primary.

Jones narrowly defeated Moore in a special election in 2017 to become Alabama's first Democratic senator in 25 years. Moore, the former chief justice of the Supreme Court of Alabama, was backed by President Trump, but he saw his campaign founder amid allegations of sexual misconduct with teenage girls in the 1970s.

March's crowded Republican Senate primary also included the return of Moore, evangelist Stanley Adair, U.S. Congresswoman Bradley Byrne, state representative Arnold Mooney and community activist Ruth Page Nelson.

Neither Tuberville (239,173 votes) nor Sessions (226,675 votes) received 50 percent of the vote, setting up the July 14 run-off. A poll released last month showed Tuberville with a commanding 23 point lead over Sessions in the runoff.

After initially dismissing debates, Sessions has publicly challenged Tuberville to a series of debates.

"If coaching taught me anything, it's that you don't let the losing team dictate the game when you're sitting on a lead," Tuberville said in a widely reported response.

President Trump has endorsed Tuberville and is planning on hosting a rally in Mobile next month to gather support for his candidate, according to CNN White House Correspondent Kaitlan Collins.

"That's the hometown of his former attorney general, Jeff Sessions. Rally is expected to be in same stadium (Ladd-Peebles) where Sessions joined Trump on stage in 2015," Collins tweeted.

Sessions tweeted this response to the announcement of next month's rally: "The people of Alabama will not be told who to vote for by anyone in Washington. As recent experience demonstrates, in Alabama we make our own decisions on who will represent us in the US Senate. It's always a good day when the President of the United States visits Alabama. That said, Alabama will vote solidly for @realDonaldTrump this fall, so his time would be far better spent in swing states he must win to be reelected."



Harry Manning, one of Foley's first business leaders, passes

Harry Manning, who became part of the Foley community in 1949 when he and his wife Rose moved from Jennings, Louisiana, where they met, passed away on June 2 at the age of 96.

"He died peacefully in his home with his family by his side," said Glenn Manning, one of his three sons. "They founded Manning Jewelry and a wonderful life followed."

Glenn Manning continues the tradition his father started at Manning Jewelry in a building that includes an expansive showroom and a jewelry repair/custom manufacturing facility.

"I remember him telling me the story of driving through Foley and saying to my

mother 'this is a nice town, I think this is where we want to live.' He loved this community and all the wonderful people that make it up," Glenn Manning said.

"He was a registered watch maker, and he always told me how much he loved fixing watches, which he did for over 65 years. He was a devoted father of five children and a kind and generous man," Manning added.

"He will be deeply missed by his family, and all those that he worked with and touched in this community over the last 70 years."

Harry is survived by his wife of 70 years, Rose Manning, three sons, two daughters, two sisters, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

VFW quartermaster arrested for stealing \$140K from Post

A former quartermaster of a Veterans of Foreign Wars post in Milton allegedly used his position to steal more \$140,000 from the nonprofit, according to the Pensacola News Journal (PNJ).

Steven Christopher Williams, 35, of Milton has been charged with first-degree grand theft, fraud and illegal use of credit cards. He was booked and released on a \$60,000 bond on the same April day.

According to his PNJ, the president of his VFW Post contacted the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office last summer to report that Williams had stolen more than \$140,000, saying the quartermaster was one of only two people authorized to use the credit cards for preapproved VFW purchases. A total of \$140,272.79 in unauthorized funds was spent in the months.

Williams allegedly used some VFW funds to pay bill collectors, Harley Davidson Financial Services and USAA Insurance. He

reportedly bought "numerous" items from Kay Jewelers and Best Buy. He is scheduled to appear in court on Aug. 18.

Urban dictionary website spot on with its Mullet Wrapper definition

While researching something else on google I came across urbandictionary.com's definition of Mullet Wrapper. "Any number of mostly Southern coastal newspapers containing mostly inane editorial information. They are so poorly written that locals use them primarily to wrap fish like mullet. What does the local mullet wrapper have to say about the road construction on Main St?"

Well done urbandictionary.com. They even got the road construction part right, as John Mullen covers that topic in just about every O.B. and G.S. city council report.

Staying in the spirit, the website's hashtag link to our newspaper's name is "#mulletwrapper#crappy."

- Fran Thompson



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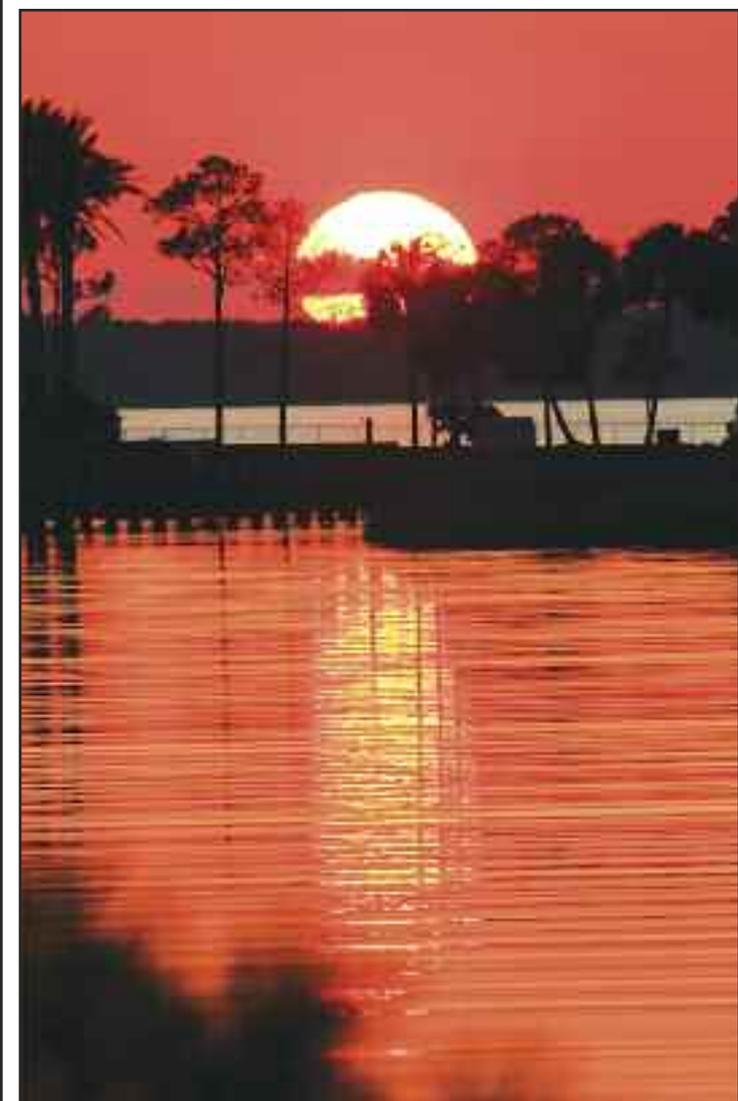
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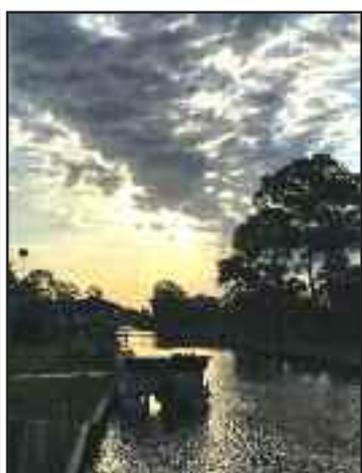


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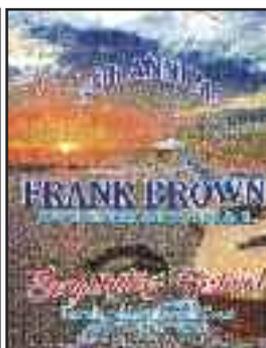
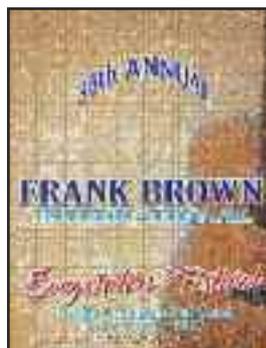
PICTURES OF THE WEEK



"Had a pretty sunset from Innerarity Point last night with deep orange color," writes Cathy Deal.



Sunrise on 6th Ave. in Gulf Shores and sunset at Bear Point from Sherry Byrd.



Mark McBride's mosaic posters raising funds for FBISF

It may have been a labor of love. But it was still time consuming work for Mark McBride and his team to go through 41,000 pictures, mostly of people on stage playing guitars, to find the 4,000 shots they ended up using for "The Stories behind the Songs," a mosaic art collection that the Frank Brown International Songwriters Festival is selling as a fundraiser for the school programs it runs through its foundation.

The mosaic art prints that were the end result are available as a 5-print set on the FBISF website for \$45, including postage. It is worth noting, that thanks to McBride's donation, 100 percent of that will go directly to the Frank Brown International Songwriters Foundation.

The pictures in the five mosaics represent the first 35 years of the fest.

McBride calls it a collaboration among photographers who worked together to create a true piece of songwriter and music history. Those photographers include Shelley Patterson, Tammy St. George, Damien Lamb, Tad Denson, Mark A. McBride and Dee Horton.

Cynthia Adams, Andy Haynes, Rusty Budde and Joe Gilchrist also helped McBride bring his project to fruition.

"Without the contributions of the photographers, there would not be a mosaic," McBride said.

The owner of Playa Del Rio RV Park, McBride was already affiliated with the Frank Brown Songwriters Festival as a sponsoring host site. For the past several years, he has also hosted a songwriters' BBQ either at his RV park or the Flora-Bama Tent, depending on weather.

"When I got this place, I thought 'why not do live music parties?'" McBride said. "This area is known for music and having so many different guitar players and different styles."

With that in mind, McBride also sponsors songwriter nights at his RV park on Ole River throughout the year.

McBride said the more involved he became in the FBISF community, the more he wanted to help.

So he came up with the mosaic idea, a riff on an earlier project he created with graphic designer Tad Denson to mark a reunion of his college fraternity.

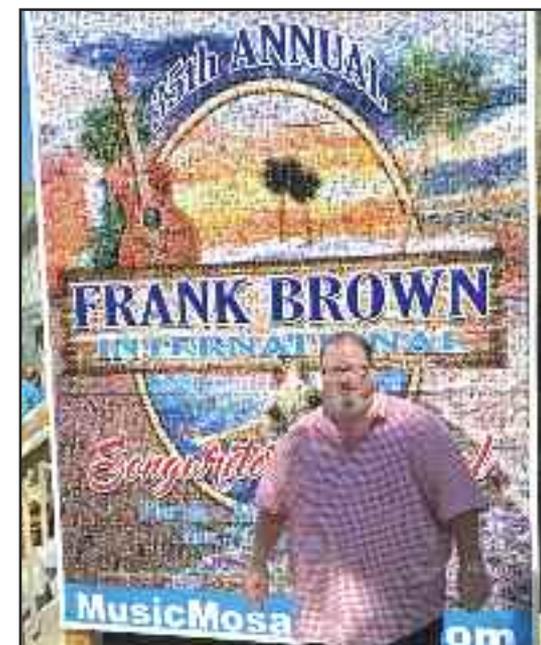
He said it was definitely time consuming, but also enjoyable, especially the time he spent listening to the stories behind the pictures provided by festival founder Joe Gilchrist.

"Joe was pulling out boxes of pictures from under his bed and he had an interesting and often hilarious story he could tell about most of the characters in the pictures.

"That's where we got the oldest ones," McBride said. "To have Joe give us these classic pics and then hear the stories about all the pickers and the people who made this fest makes this mosaic a history piece."

McBride said with parking and weather issues, he will probably move his annual BBQ for about 200 festival musicians and volunteers to the Flora-Bama tent. But he will continue to host songwriters' concerts, and he has no plans to slow down his involvement with the fest.

"Because of this fest, I've met a lot of good folks and a lot of characters," he said.





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Les Linton is living the life he chose in "Blue Collar Paradise"

By Fran Thompson

It's a story you often hear associated with the first time the Beatles played live on the Ed Sullivan Show. It's that moment when a young man (or woman) looks upon a stage and decides he wants to be that guitar player or that frontman. He wants to wear cool clothes and get lots of attention from girls. He wants to rock!

For Gulf Shores' musical mainstay Les Linton, it was a concert on the campus of Southern Miss in Hattiesburg, about 250 miles south of his hometown, Oxford.

Les was only 13. And the act on stage was Gino Vanelli.

"I grew up in a house with a bunch of kids. So I picked up on all kinds of music from my older brothers before I was even hip to it," Les said. "But the musicianship of that band was incredible. I wish I had a live version of that concert."

Les has had other jobs, including running a local zipline. He sold cars (he has a brother in the business) after Hurricane Ivan. But mostly he has made a living playing or teaching music.

"I knew ever since that concert. Ever since I was a little kid that this is what I wanted to do," Les said from the front porch of his home on East 21st St. in Gulf Shores. "I can remember telling my dad that. he said that I must love adversity."

The more popular bands with whom Les has played bass guitar include Coast To Coast and Frontrunner. Both were part of the SEC

Frathouse circuit and toured Atlantic Coast Southern Resort towns. Those Mobile based bands often stayed on the road for two months.

Another of his bands, Mr. X, was also known for its musicianship, especially George Eberlein's guitar handiwork. But that band's effect on his life was even more substantial. It allowed him the opportunity to wow his future wife, Nina.

"We recruited her to sing with Mr X in 1992," Les said. "I remember the first time I kissed her on the lips. It was electric. We had a secret affair at first.

She's been with me in hard times and good ever since."

Gulf Shores was a tour stop for all of his bands. And Les made quick friends while jamming with players such as Brent Burns, J.R. Owen and the late Shine Powell at local dives like Margartaville.

"I actually started playing in Mr. X so I could



"Live from The Drive" during the quarantine

During the Covid-19 quarantine, Les Linton started live streaming Saturday evening gigs in his driveway on East 21st St. in Gulf Shores at the suggestion of neighbor Ashley Bias. The shows garnered more than 1000 views from five different states online and Les made as much off of tips as he would have playing local restaurant gigs.

"The idea was to placate the neighborhood and have a good time," he said. "A lot of people told me they enjoyed it. I didn't realize how well it would go down and how needed it was. People have come up and told me this is what we should be doing to ease the tension. Play some music and drink a few beers. We are survivors. We've gotten through hurricanes and oil spills. This is what America is about to me. I call this neighborhood 'Blue Collar Paradise.'"

"It ain't Wedgewood. But it's my little slice of heaven," he added.

spend less time on the road," Les said about the band that spawned a Sunday afternoon tradition that at one time ranked up there with the 'Bama, The Gulfgate and Judge Roy Bean's.

Les and Stephen Harrison, the Mr. X frontman, played at the Pink Pony every Sunday afternoon for a solid 10 years. Even more than Mr. X, that duo was able to spur sales of Yeagermeister to a level that is still legendary among barkeeps and at the ABC. Thankful Jaegemeister reps even provided swag to pass out at shows.

"Club owners would tell us they sold an extra six bottles of Jaeger when Mr. X played. So the company gave us all these toys," Les said.

Les's father was a preacher and a carpenter. But he also picked. One of his sisters plays piano. Daughter Alex held the first chair in clarinet and was a drum major in the University of South Alabama band. She also plays keyboards, guitar and sings. His 18 year old son, Aaron, just graduated from GSHS and plays drums and guitar.

Les was close to Aaron's age when he was invited to audition for The Mississippians, a band sponsored by the University of Mississippi in his hometown. He said he only missed one practice and no gigs in his two years playing bass with that band.

These days, Les plays so often at its three locations, that he considers himself part of the Tacky Jacks family. He's also had a gig at the Grand Hotel for 13 years and plays regularly at Mud-

He's had stints with the Levee Band out of New Orleans and the Hurricane Horns. Yet he said his four years playing blues with the late Larry T. Wilson in Big Muddy are among his fondest musical memories. He and drummer TK Lively scheduled Big Muddy jams between their shows as a duo with the Soul Food Junkies.

Les has had some memorable nights on stage across the Gulf Coast with his musical peers. He was part of a tribute to the late bluesman Hank Becker with Wet Willie at Bayfest. He gigged with John Anthony at the Lumberyard and played all-star shows at The Blues Tavern and Veets.

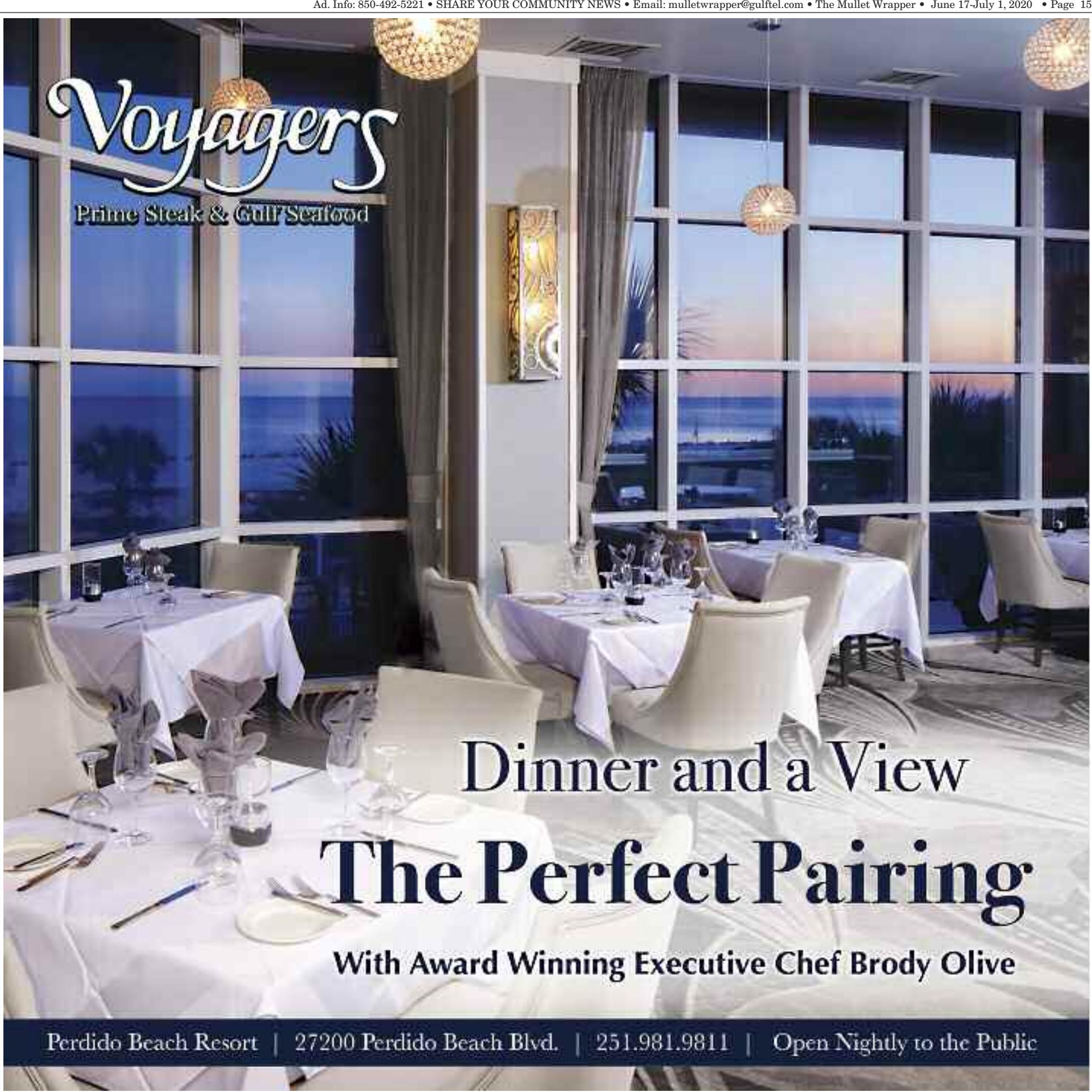
But it being able to make a living playing music in and around his home community is what he is most proud of. And he is quick to mention the support from his hometown when discussing health issues that slowed him down in the past.

"Everyone was so loyal and willing to help me in the hard times," he said. "And I am very grateful to the business owners and fans for holding me up. I don't know if there is any place else in the world like this. I know there is no other place I'd like to be."

Although he is mostly playing solo this summer, Les has succeeded in living out the epiphany that hit him during that Gino Vanelli concert many years ago.

"I think success is being able to continue to do what you love doing," he said.





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O.B. Council grants fire ravaged Moe's 6 month variance BBQ restaurant praised for its work in the community

By John Mullen

Orange Beach City Council praised Moe's Original Bar B Que for its work in the community during the COVID-19 pandemic while granting a six-month variance to operate a food truck in the parking lot of the restaurant until repairs can be made from a May 25 fire.

"Guys y'all are very loved in this community and we are very grateful for all you do," Councilman Jeff Boyd said. "The cops, the firemen, everybody loves you and we just appreciate you. Thanks for getting back up and running."

One of the co-owners, Mark White, said the outpouring of the community in the aftermath of the fire has been overwhelming.

"The support from the town and the community and everybody has been absolutely unbelievable," White said.

The variance ends in six months but council members told the owners if they haven't been able to rebuild by then it could be extended.

"We'll make it work," Orange Beach Mayor Tony Kennon said. "We'll make it happen."

The fire at Moe's occurred around 9 p.m. on May 26, as employees were closing up and late customers were finishing their meals. There were no injuries reported.

Moe's owners, who have been at the Orange Beach location for 14 years and completed a major upgrade to their restaurant facility just two years ago, are waiting for a report from insurers as to whether they will renovate the building or tear it down and rebuild.

The variance will allow Moe's to continue to serve its signature dishes daily at its Perdido Beach Blvd. location (just east of the Rouses Shopping Center) from its catering RV beginning at 11 a.m. daily.

Moe's fire started in its smoke pit and spread to the restaurant and kitchen. The OBFDD had responded and put out the fire within 20 minutes of the 911 call.

Moe's received an outpouring of support from its facebook post about the fire. Within two days, a local band, Hundred Dollar Car, was hosting a fundraiser for Moe's employees at another Orange Beach restaurant, OSO.

Pictured: Moe's owners Mark White and Matt Lovato near the pitroom where the fire at their Orange Beach BBQ restaurant started.

Art For Heart Sept. 12 at Coastal Art Center

The 2020 Art for Heart Gala has been rescheduled for September 12 at the Coastal Arts Center of Orange Beach.

The American Heart Association has hosted two virtual fundraisers this month, a virtual silent auction and a "Zoom Heart Happy Half-Hour."

Signature drink sponsor, Gelato Joe's shared created a special drink recipe for the happy half-hour.

Signature Drink Recipe:

Coconut Margarita

1.5 oz Tequila
1/4 oz lime juice
1.5 oz creme of coconut (available at Target)
1oz pineapple juice
Shake and pour over ice. Garnish with lime
- From Gelato Joe's



Magnolia Springs named Alabama's "coolest town"

Far & Wide travel site, in a story titled "America's Coolest Small Towns by State," named Baldwin County's Magnolia Springs the Alabama entry on the list. The nomination reads: "Located along the Magnolia River, Magnolia Springs dates back to 1800 and is mere minutes from Mobile, Alabama. This isn't a suburb, however. No, this is a sleepy town of adorable houses and canopies of oak trees, azaleas, wisteria, dogwoods and, of course, magnolia trees. Drive along its quiet streets and feel completely lost in an authentic Southern backdrop."

The site named Sanibel Island the coolest small town in Florida. Mississippi's entry on the list is New Albany.

Realtors report 6 % dip in residential market

Baldwin Realtors® Multiple Listing Service (MLS) reports a 0.5 percent decrease in average sales price for the traditional residential market last month, compared to May 2019, and a 6 percent year-over-year decrease in average sales price for the Resort/Island-based market.

Additionally, after breaking down the areas of our county even further, only Coastal Condos and Northern Baldwin County saw an increase in average sales price from the previous month. With these dips in pricing and ongoing great interest rates, it makes one question if Baldwin County is entering into a new era of a buyers' market.

While many of Baldwin County's beach rental companies have fully recovered from the lag in business during the statewide shutdown, the resort/island-based housing market is slower to catch back up. In comparing May 2020 to May 2019, both average sales price and total number of closed sales saw significant decreases, and the average days on market increased.

However, when comparing May 2020 to April 2020, glimmers of improvement can be found. The average sales price between April 2020 and last month still decreased, but only by 0.6 percent.

Average days on market reduced from 101 in April to 85 last month -15.8 percent less time on the market. And the total number of properties sold increased by 10.8 percent from 120 in April to 133 this past month. Baldwin County's Traditional Residential housing market for last month also falls short when compared to 2019's May.

Along with the average sales price decreasing half a percent, the total number of properties sold decreased by 15.4 percent compared to May 2019. On the flip side, average days on market reported well in comparison to both the previous year and the previous month at just 64 days for May 2020. When comparing last month to April 2020, average sales price has decreased by 5.4 percent but total number of closed sales increased by 5.7 percent.

Residential MLS Stats by Area

Central Baldwin

Residential Properties sold in May 2020: 203
Average Sales Price: \$171,817
Average Days on Market: 83
Days on Market from May 2019: Decreased 13.5 percent

Coastal Condos

Residential Properties sold in May 2020: 82
Average Sales Price: \$407,917
Average Days on Market: 63
Days on Market from May 2019: Decreased 18.2 percent

Coastal Homes

Residential Properties sold in May 2020: 75
Average Sales Price: \$397,967
Average Days on Market: 104
Days on Market from May 2019: Increased 14.3 percent

Eastern Shore

Residential Properties sold in May 2020: 217
Average Sales Price: \$304,330
Average Days on Market: 76
Days on Market from May 2019: Decreased 2.6 percent

North Baldwin

Residential Properties sold in May 2020: 19
Average Sales Price: \$185,188
Average Days on Market: 34
Days on Market from May 2019: Decreased 29.2 percent

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 12.44 Plus 10% at checkout 750ml Whitehaven Sauv Blanc	 7.88 Plus 10% at checkout 750ml Apothic Red	 16.98 Plus 10% at checkout 3lt Black Box	Prices Good During June		

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WEDNESDAY 8 pc Mixed Fried Chicken.....\$5
THURSDAY Kings Hawaiian 12 ct Rolls.....\$3
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1/2oz Triple Sec
1oz Sweet Sour Mix
1oz Cola
Lemon

Fill shaker with ice.
Pour vodka, rum, gin, tequila, triple sec and sour mix.
Cover and shake.
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OPTIMIST CLUB OF PERDIDO BAY GARDEN PARTY

Photos By Sally McKinney

The Optimist Club of Perdido Bay hosted a Garden Party recently to raise funds for their community projects. The evening featured a gourmet meal and music for dancing. The funds will help pay for projects such as college scholarships for high school seniors, a scholarship to the National Flight Academy, Christmas gifts for special needs classes and Breakfast with Santa.



Hannah & Mike Gale;



Char & Roger Kuhr;



Joanne Matthews;



Daryl & Jean Reed;



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Larry & Ruby Wellman;



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GULF SHORES CITY COUNCIL

18 city employees earn disinfection technique certificates

Many city amenities updated during mandated quarantine

By John Mullen

Gulf Shores recognized 18 city employees who completed certification on proper cleaning and disinfection techniques to fight the spread of COVID-19. The training, at \$100 per employee was done through GreenCo of Foley and Columbia Southern in Orange Beach.

The certification program focuses on identifying and thoroughly cleaning high-touch surfaces to ensure that when the public enters a facility, they feel safe and assured that the location has been disinfected to reduce the likelihood of the spread of the

COVID-19 virus. These benefits include:

- Providing standardized training and education for all employees cleaning the establishment.
- Demonstrating to employees and the public that organizations are committed to their health and safety.
- Providing customers with assurance that the facility has been thoroughly cleaned.
- Ensuring that customers feel confident to enter the facility.

“That’s what we really wanted to hit home hard with to make sure that we’re doing it right and that everything that we’re doing is safe,” Assistant Public Works Director Noel Hand said.

Mayor Robert Craft praised those who received the training certification.

“We decided to have our staff participate in this program to ensure city facilities were as clean and safe as possible for our residents and visitors in preparation for when the governor lifted restrictions,” Craft said. “I am extremely proud to see how our staff has implemented these practices as

we continue to open up our facilities to public access.”

Those certified from Public Works Custodial Department are Gary Ross, Christina Wall, Barbara Conner, Isadore Ervin, Noelle Cornely, James Stevenson, James Stacey, Brittany Diem, Debbie Knighten and Noel Hand.

Those receiving certification from Parks and Recreation Department are Charles Phipps, Brad Pethel, Lyubov Tozier, Randall Carlson, Jeff Hopkins, Ken Ard, Jennifer Morgan and Grant Brown.

“I’d like to recognize them for going above and beyond,” Hand said. “We felt it was really important for everyone to have a good understanding of cleaning these facilities above and beyond and get that to all of our staff members and employees to be able to go behind ourselves and be able to go behind patrons to make sure it’s high-end cleaning for disinfecting.”

The city recognized the employees during the June 8 combined council regular session and work session at Erie Meyer Civic Center. During the meeting Recreation and Cultural Affairs Director Grant Brown also gave a timeline on the city’s action of first closing and then reopening the city’s facilities during the past few weeks.

“We are nowhere near finished dealing with the pandemic and the problems associated with it,” Brown said. “Starting on March 13 we started understanding that something was in our country, California and Washington areas of our country started to have significant influxes of this COVID-19 and significant problems associated with it. Gary Ross and I along with other folks in our purchasing department very quickly started to look for hand sanitizing dispensers knowing there would be a run on these types of machines and equipment that are necessary in order to be able to provide these sanitizing stations.”

The city began closing facilities the public would interact with most on March 18.

“The facilities that were closed first were those that invited the public in in order to participate in programs or take advantage of opportunities that



the city provides,” Brown said.

“We changed how we provided services to the public,” Brown said. “We didn’t close facilities but we did restrict them so no public access was allowed. It was truly amazing how quickly we were able to adapt to this online type of business. I think after we’re through all this and COVID is hopefully gone we will have gained an awful lot of knowledge both in technology as we’re using today to stream these meetings today to Facebook and others. And use the public input portion. But also, how we could more efficiently do our jobs with city workers and city employees.”

Gulf Shores closed all city-owned beaches and Gov. Ivey closed all Alabama beaches on March 19. That same week, the city moved to virtual online meetings as large public gatherings were prohibited.

“Even though we have an audience today I’m hoping the public will still be able to tune in and watch it on Facebook and this will be stored and saved on Facebook so this presentation can be seen later,” Brown said. “We’ll have an opportunity to give more of a feeling of what the city does on a regular basis and how the mayor and council interact and the decisions that are made that really affect their lives.”

With facilities closed, Brown said the city was also able to easier work on several projects during the weeks of the shutdown.

Projects undertaken during pandemic included:

- Sportsplex shade sails
- School landscape irrigation

- Parking lot striping
- West 13th Street beach access
- Repaired Gulf Place concrete boardwalk
- Re-oiled wood at Gulf Place restrooms
- Deep cleaning of beach from Gulf State Park to Laguna Key
- West Lagoon Avenue resurfacing and pathway
- Coastal Gateway Boulevard construction.

The city allocated about \$355,000 to redo surfaces around the pool at the Bodenhamer Recreation Center during the shutdown. The pool remains temporarily closed to complete expedited deck renovations.

“This is a fantastic project that’s long overdue if you’ve been to our pool and now we’re excited to jumpstart it and get it going a little sooner than we expected,” Brown said.

Gulf Shores also made improvements to its well used Adult Activity Center and the dog park across the street.

“Now we have a brand-new commercial prep kitchen for people when they come back and start utilizing the Activity Center. The bridge at the dog park had significant rot and that was completely renovated and repaired and replaced.”

Brown said crews had unfettered access to Gulf Place in repairing a cracked concrete boardwalk while the area was off-limits to the public.

Pictured: Brad Pethel was among the 18 GS employees recently certified on proper cleaning and disinfection techniques

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Orange Beach

O.B. going to get tough on golf cart drivers not yielding to pedestrians

Eventually, city plans golf cart path from Bear Point to State Rd. 161

By John Mullen

Orange Beach recently added signs along the sidewalk on Canal Road to alert golf cart drivers to yield to those walking or walking dogs along the roadway.

“You just can’t run people off the sidewalk. That’s just not the right thing to do.”

“All golf carts they really need to remember that pedestrians have the right of way on the sidewalk,” Mayor Tony Kennon said. “We put the signs up. We’re going to have to get tough on them because they have got to allow the pedestrians to have the right of way. You just can’t run people off the sidewalk. That’s just not the right thing to do.”

But relief may be on the way soon. Included in the engineering contract for the widening Canal Road is a golf cart path along most of Canal Road east of Doc’s

Seafood Shack and Oyster Bar.

Orange Beach is also planning another sidewalk on the west side of town connecting Oak Street, or where the Undertow is, to The Wharf. Both projects are under contract for engineering and design work.

“Actually, it’s going to be from Bay La Launch in Bear Point all the way to (State Route) 161,” Kennon said. “There’s a lot of variables in it because we tied it in with widening of Canal Road but you could probably look at \$1 million for the golf cart path improvement.”

Canal Road will be widened to three lanes from Doc’s to Wilson Boulevard using mostly money from BP oil spill fines. It will add a much-needed center turn lane as well as a roundabout in the area of the Senior Center and library.

“The widening of Canal Road which is roughly \$2 million in Restore Act money,” Kennon said. “Then we’re paying to put in the roundabout and do all of the golf cart path. I think we’re going to end up in the \$4 million give or take range for all of it with \$2 million of it being Restore Act money. Could be a little bit more or a little bit less.”

The end result will give the city its first designated golf cart path connecting Bear Point where golf carts are prevalent to the center of town at the Canal Road and State Route 161 intersection.

“Once we get this golf cart path what we’ll do is take the sidewalk and widen it to 10 feet,” Kennon said. “By going 10 feet you’ve got room for both.”

The original contract with Thompson Engineering for the entire work on Canal East of Doc’s was

approved in April, Finance Director Ford Handley said.

“We approved not to exceed \$45,700 with Thompson on April 21 to provide engineering and land surveying services for the addition of a roundabout from (State Route) 161 to Wilson,” Handley said. “The cart path was examined in part of this task order.”

Community Development Director Kit Alexander said work won’t start until after the summer of 2020 and the target date for completion is the fall of 2021.

Sidewalk will extend from Oak St. to Wharf

At the June 3 council meeting, Thompson Engineering was hired to design and oversee construction of a sidewalk from The Wharf to Oak Street on the north side of Canal Road at a cost of about \$128,000.

“We’ve got multiple options we’re working on,” Kennon said. “The continuation of frontage road down to right before you get to Dr. Brown’s office and then the sidewalk from that point all the way to Wharf Parkway East. The other option is not to continue frontage road but just a sidewalk from where it ends there at Captain’s Cove. But either way, there’s going to be connectivity from Oak Street westward to the Wharf Parkway East so



that you can get to The Wharf.”

Alexander said the timetable on this project hasn’t been set and there are many issues to resolve before it can move forward.

“A lot of it depends on the availability of right-of-way, amount of utility relocation, and ALDOT permitting,” Alexander said. “We also need to apply for a TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) grant and that award won’t happen until late fall of this year.”

Pictured: A rendering of what the traffic circle on Canal Road will look like; Orange Beach is adding signage to remind those riding golf carts to yield to pedestrians on paths.



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Coconut Shrimp

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Blackened Catfish - dusted w/Creole spices & lightly seared.	\$8.75
Fried Catfish - corn meal battered	\$8.75
Braised Flounder - broiled in lemon butter & topped with roasted almonds.	\$8.75
Fried Flounder - lightly battered and fried golden brown.	\$8.75
Grilled Chicken - with a light touch of lemon-herb olive oil.	\$8.75
Chicken Creole - smothered in a spicy tomato & vegetable sauce. Served on yellow rice.	\$8.75
Fried Chicken Tenders - batter-dipped tenders, deep-fried & served w/honey mustard.	\$8.75
Country Fried Steak - served w/cream gravy.	\$8.75
Hamburger Steak - (6 oz) char-grilled & served w/brown gravy.	\$8.75
Pork Chops - two tender chops grilled or fried.	\$8.75
Country Ham - char-grilled.	\$8.75
Vegetable Plate - your choice of four (4) side dishes.	\$8.75

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Includes Iced Tea

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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

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Thursday - Beef Tips over Rice

Friday - Chef's Choice Entree Served with bread & tea

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AROUND TOWN

Hybrid plan not an option when Baldwin County schools reopen

Baldwin County Superintendent Eddie Tyler said in a June 10 press release that despite media reports to the contrary, he does not expect to see a hybrid plan for Baldwin County Public Schools this August.

"I don't see a circumstance where we would have a student going to school one day and doing distance learning the next," he said. "I can't predict the future, but that is not something for which we are planning. My goal is to provide consistency. I hope we can provide some sense of normality for your children."

Tyler says he expects school to start as scheduled on August 12 either classrooms or by distance learning. Virtual school will continue to be an option for those with coronavirus concerns.

"I don't see a circumstance where we would have a student going to school one day and doing distance learning the next," he said.

"There have been numerous calls about what school might look like this fall and when we will start," Tyler added. "I do not intend to release any specific plans until after the Fourth of July. But make no mistake, we have several plans being considered. We are already acquiring new software and programs. We are implementing new training and evaluating all of our protocols. We will be ready for whatever is sent our way."

"Information surrounding this virus changes daily," Tyler added. "How our country responds to the virus also changes daily. As a result, I want to wait until we have as much information as possible before locking in on any specific plan."



City of Gulf Shores cancels July 4 fireworks over coronavirus concerns

Due to potential health risks related to COVID-19, the City of Gulf Shores has canceled the 2020 Fourth of July fireworks. The decision was made in accordance with the current Safer at Home Health Order issued by Governor Kay Ivey, said G.S. Mayor Robert Craft.

"Unless we get some changes from the state and from the governor's office about social distancing and us trying to get a permit to do that in the public waters and state waters and state beaches. Trying to get a permit we had to certify that we were able to monitor public safety," Craft said at the June 8 Council meeting.

"When its dark and we've got specific corridors that people will funnel through to walk in and out we didn't feel like there was any way we could safely certify that would could properly monitor social distancing. We're able to watch during the day on the beach. We've got our police patrol going up and down, we've got our lifeguards going up and down and we're asking people that aren't separated to separate. Are they always social distanced? No, but we're doing the best we can."

Angie Swiger of Swiger Properties addressed Council about the lack of public input involved in the decision to cancel the fireworks show.

"I think it's a very big decision that impacts our locals, impacts our tourists in a big way and also impacts our businesses in a big way," she said. "It was disappointing to hear that the fireworks were going to be canceled

as a result of the virus because I felt like that we had done a very good job with (social distancing at the beach) that.

"I didn't know if that was something that might be open to more consideration," she added. "There are a lot of people who watch from balconies and cars. It seems like there ws maybe a way, there was some middle ground."

"We couldn't get ourselves comfortable to sign a certification to the governor that we were going to monitor and make sure we had conditions where people could stay social distanced. We couldn't do it as a municipality and weren't willing to sign that document for a permit," Mayor Craft said.

"That was the reason it didn't come to the public debate. It wasn't a public decision. We looked at it every way we could and other than leaving people in their cars which they wouldn't stay. I would be afraid that we couldn't come up with any process that was functional and still have it."

Craft said the city still has funds in its 2020 budget for fireworks and it could sponsor a fireworks show after the Covid pandemic restrictions ease.

"Maybe create another weekend of significance. Fourth of July hopefully will be busy and packed anyway," he said. "I apologize. I wish we could have done something different but we just couldn't find a way to make it happen safely."

The City still plans to celebrate July 4 by flying American flags and lighting up the city in red, white and blue.



GATOR CROSSING IN O.B.: According to the Orange Beach Community's Twitter, an alligator made its way to the middle of the road on William Silvers Parkway. A man by the name of Derek Righter captured the event on video, according to FOX10TV.com.

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Beach Club, OWA, Flora-Bama, Perdido Beach Resort are July 4 fireworks options

By John Mullen

Peasure Island and South Baldwin County will have several options to view fireworks on Fourth of July weekend.

Making plans for their celebrations are the Perdido Beach Resort on the beach near Perdido Pass, and OWA on County Road 20 in Foley. The Flora-Bama on The State Line, and The Beach Club in Gulf Shores will also shoot fireworks starting at 9 p.m. on Saturday, July

4.

Additionally, the Flora-Bama will sponsor a popular Ms. Firecracker Bikini Contest at 3 p.m. (Sign-ups begin at noon). The 'Bama is also hosting a free Freedom Run race entry - complete with all the usual amenities - for its four-mile run and one-mile fun run at 8 a.m. on July 4. T-shirts are guaranteed for the first 500 registrants. The Wharf in Orange Beach also has plans in the works for Independence Day.

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AROUND TOWN

Canal Rd. project will require lane closure beginning June 22

Well, it was fun while it lasted and it provided a great preview as to what is to come, but beginning on Monday, June 22, ALDOT's Canal Road widening contractor is scheduled to start widening operations on the south side of the roadway. A lane closure will be required between Gulf Bay Road and Hwy. 161/Orange Beach Blvd. in the eastbound outside lane.

The contractor will attempt to work in 1000-foot lane closure segments. It is anticipated that this phase of the project will take several weeks. The speed limit through the construction zone is 40 mph.

City officials asked the state to reconfigure the existing roadway to get an extra eastbound lane on the road even as work continued over Memorial Day Weekend and early June, even though the entire five lane project won't be completed until later this fall.

"We were only going to have the one lane," Orange Beach Mayor Tony Kennon said of the eastbound traffic flow at the time. "We measured the width. We said if we reduced the lane width, we could get five. We took a shot and ALDOT jumped right on board with the contractor and helped us. We did not expect five lanes this summer."

Traffic flowed freely on Canal Rd. while two lanes were open in both directions. "It's been a Godsend," Mayor Kennon said after Memorial weekend. "We had no real backups at all. We had one fender bender right down by the Tom Thumb that backed it up

Farm Fresh Meats back open after closing as safety measure

All employees test negative at the beloved Robertsdale market

Farm Fresh Meats, a Childress family institution and good neighbor in Robertsdale since 1976, temporarily closed its doors from June 10-16 to allow its employees to be tested for the coronavirus after one of its employees came into contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.



"The market will be professionally cleaned and sanitized while employees await the results of their tests," company owners posted on Facebook earlier this month. "This is the first time in over 43 years that we have had to close the shop for an extended period of time. We are heartbroken but we know that this is 100 percent the right thing to do for everyone's sake.

Farm Fresh later reported that all of its employees tested negative for COVID-19 and it was back open for business as usual.

"We are so thankful for each and every one of our wonderful customers that have shown us the utmost support during this extremely difficult time," the company posted on June 15. "Y'all made us feel so loved and appreciated and we can't thank you enough for that! As you can see, we are having our building professionally cleaned and sanitized by the professionals at SERVPRO today so; you can rest easy knowing that our building is super clean and germ free! Excited is an understatement. We seriously can't wait to get back to "normal." (Whatever that means... haha!) Again, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you so much for all of your support. We love you all."



Christian Service Center offers summer breakfast & lunch backpack program

The Christian Service Center is again offering its Summer Food Program for Orange Beach and Gulf Shores school children. Any student who qualifies for subsidized breakfast and lunch is eligible. The Summer Backpack Program provides an easy to prepare breakfast, lunch and two snacks for each day, five days a week.

Sign up by calling the Center at 251-968-5256. Then parents can come by the Center once a week between 9 am - Noon, Monday-Friday, to pick up a bag for each of their children. Even though the Gulf Shores schools have a summer lunch program in place, any family unable to take advantage of that program is welcome to come to the Center. We are located at 317 Dolphin Ave., Gulf Shores.

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.

Pictured Above: Christian Service Center volunteers Kathy Heyniger, Kate Poll, Marinda Barbaree.

Gulf Shores Schools providing multiple meals 3 days per week

Although the number of students served weekly has decreased from a high of 400 per week to its current total of 200 daily, Gulf Shores Schools continues to provide meals to any child under 18 from south Baldwin County through its Gulf Shores School System Child Nutrition Program. The free program will continue at three locations until school starts in August.

Meals at the three locations – St. Andrews by the Sea on Ft Morgan Road, Gulf Shores Cultural Center on County Road 6 and Gulf Shores High School - are served from 11:30 a.m. 'til noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

- On Monday and Wednesday, students receive four meals when they arrive: hot meal and cold lunch meals and two breakfast meals. On Friday, students receive a hot lunch and a breakfast for Saturday.

Prodissee Pantry open in Spanish Fort every Tuesday

Prodissee Pantry will continue to offer drive-up food distribution from 9 to 11 a.m. every Tuesday at Spanish Fort High School through June.

"We understand that many families are still not back to work as the community begins to assess how to operate under the new normal," said Deann Servos, Prodissee Executive Director.

"Starting in July, we will continue to assess the COVID-19 pandemic and are planning to resume some inside client family activity and open up to a larger but still limited volunteer crew."

Volunteers and recipients will continue to maintain social distancing and client families and volunteers are asked to wear a face covering/mask while at the pantry.

"We encourage everyone to wear a face mask when out and about in our community to help stop the spread of COVID-19 to high risk populations," Servos said.

Prodissee Pantry has always run on the energy of volunteers, the power of prayer and the community's support. Donations can be made through prodisseepantry.org.

GULF SHORES CITY COUNCIL

Coastal Gateway Blvd. project scheduled for Sept. 30 completion

Gulf Shores Public Works Director Mark Acreman told City Council the Coastal Gateway Boulevard project, budgeted for \$4.8 million in 2020, is scheduled to be completed Sept. 30. Major improvements include widening the road to four lanes with landscaped center medians, added additional lanes to the State Route 59 intersection, and a closed drainage system and sidewalks to allow for bike lanes.

A traffic signal at the Beach Express intersection has been functioning since May 11. The the left turn signal at the the Foley Beach Express intersection was confusing to some drivers. "We addressed those concerns that came in through (the council) and the emails you received," Acreman said.

"Last Thursday we actually shifted all of the traffic to the two recently paved southern lanes of Coastal Gateway," Acreman told G.S. City Council on June 8. "We'll start the rebuilding and construction of the two northern lanes which will ultimately become the westbound lane. In addition to that, we've also completed most of the sidewalk on that southern side and we will be completing that sidewalk as we go through."

Acreman said the two lanes that are open now from Hwy. 59 to The Foley Beach Express have been completely rebuilt.

"This is not an overlay of the old road. This is a complete rebuilding of what used to be County Road 8," he said. "It was in such substandard continue it could not come anywhere close to handling the volume of traffic that we were seeing on that roadway."

Acreman said traffic delays getting out of neighborhoods on the north side of Coastal Gateway Blvd. was, unfortunately, unavoidable during roadwork. Gateway Blvd.'s two southern lanes did not receive the final wearing surface of asphalt and that will result in occasional standing water.

"That will all go away when we do the final wearing portion. That will be at the end of the project," he said. "The reason we're doing that is as we're still building out the north side there's bound to be construction traffic on that roadway. We don't want to go and put on construction activities over brand new paved road because the asphalt is going to be fairly soft for a couple of months. We're going to wait until all of the construction work's done and we'll do the final paving and final striping job on that whole roadway."

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

WED, JUNE 17

- **Art al Fresco:** 11 a.m.; price varies; tie dye; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores; reservations at tackyjacks.com.
- **Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables:** 11 a.m. 'til; (includes Ole River Grill & Flora-Bama Yacht Club, Flora-Bama), Perdido Key.
- **Bama Beach Pickleball Club:** 9-noon; Church of Christ, 2414 West 1st St., Gulf Shores; (new members welcome).
- **Karaoke:** 7:30; Live Bait, Orange Beach.
- **Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermen's Market:** 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.; 20733 Milfin Rd. (County Rd. 20), Foley.
- **Gary Story & Friends:** 8; Sandshaker at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- **SanRoc Cay Art & Farm Market:** 11 a.m. 'til; Orange Beach.
- **Brent Burns:** 5; Doc's Seafood, Orange Beach.
- **Shelby Brown:** 6; Tacky Jack's, Gulf Shores.
- **Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde:** 9; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- **Adam Holt:** 5; Lucy Buffett's Lulu's at Homeport Marina; Gulf Shores.
- **Scott Koehn:** 6; OSO, Bear Point.
- **Artie Hopkins:** 5; American Legion Post 99; Foley.
- **Troy Martin:** 1; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.
- **Tiki Karaoke:** 6; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.
- **Pepsi Treasure Hunt:** 5-8; free; check-in at the ship tent behind the marlin; The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- **Trivia (7:30) Karaoke (9):** The Office, Foley.
- **Karaoke:** 10; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- **Wonderful Wednesdays:** Bellingrath Gardens and Home; Theodore.
- **BBRC Running Club:** 5:30 p.m.; Big Beach Brewery in Gulf Shores; lafleet-foot.com.
- **Knights of Columbus:** 6 p.m. potluck; 7 p.m. meeting; Our Lady of the Gulf Church; 404-386-9859.
- **Open Mixed Doubles Tennis:** 7:30 a.m.; all levels welcome; Gulf Shores Tennis Center; corner of West 19th Ave. and West 2nd St.
- **Food Ministry For Hungry Families:**

noon-1 p.m.; Grace Lutheran Church, corner of West 23rd Ave. and West 4th St. in Gulf Shores; 251-968-5991.

- **Food Bank:** 9 - 11 a.m every Wednesday, Perdido Bay Baptist Church, 12600 Sorrento Rd. Pensacola; call for eligibility requirements at (850) 492-2604.
- **Bread Ministry:** 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Orange Beach United Methodist Church Brook's Center.
- **Perdido Key Rotary Club:** 7:30 a.m.; every Wednesday at Triggers. 850.492.8335.
- **AARP Lillian Chapter:** 10 a.m.; Lillian Community Club; 961-3430.
- **AA:** Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

THU, JUN 18

- **Beach Games For Kids:** 11 a.m.; free; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores; reservations at tackyjacks.com.
- **Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables:** 11 a.m. 'til; (includes Ole River Grill & Flora-Bama Yacht Club, Flora-Bama), Perdido Key.
- **Bama Beach Pickleball Club:** 9-noon; Church of Christ, 2414 West 1st St., Gulf Shores; (new members welcome).
- **Mel Knapp:** 4; Woodside Restaurant at Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores.
- **Karaoke DJ Party w. Kelly:** 8; Sandshaker at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- **Karaoke:** 7:30; Live Bait, Orange Beach.
- **Artist Showcase w. Mary Streu (copper repousse):** Live demos; Coastal Art Center, Orange Beach.

- **JERI:** 5; Lucy Buffett's Lulu's at Homeport Marina; Gulf Shores.
- **Tim Roberts:** 6; The Tin Top Restaurant, Bon Secour.
- **HartStrings:** 6:30; The Point; Innerarity Point.
- **Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde:** 9; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- **Pale Moon Rising:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- **Brennan Crim:** 1; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.
- **Rick Whaley & Tommy Mazzulo:** 6; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.
- **Karaoke:** 8; Tacky Jacks, Ft. Morgan.
- **Delta Donnie:** 6; Bier Shack Taproom; Foley.
- **Bell & Bull:** 6; OSO, Bear Point.
- **The Favorites Band:** 7; Alabama Gulf Coast Music Hall; Foley.
- **Karaoke:** 10; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- **8 Ball APA:** 7:30; The Office, Foley.
- **Foley Garden Club:** 3rd Thursday of each month, Sept. - May; 12:30 p.m. at the Foley Public Library conference room on East Laurel St.; 251-972-8721.
- **Gulf Shores United Methodist Church Bread Ministry:** 9-10; every Thursday; room 103 on the south campus, next to Crossroad; 251 968-2411.
- **AA:** Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

FRI, JUNE 19

- **Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables:** 11 a.m. 'til; (includes Ole River Grill & Flora-Bama Yacht Club, Flora-

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The Mobile Bay Ferry is open and running daily on a two ferry schedule for its 40 minute boat trips between Ft. Morgan to Dauphin Island. The ferries depart Fort Morgan 11 times daily beginning at 8:45 a.m. Cost is \$18 for cars, trucks and vans. The additional \$6 per person charge for those six and over covers all ferry trips on the same day. There is a \$5 discount if you return on the same day. Please ask that travelers be at the dock at least 30 minutes to 1 hour prior to departure.

Mobile Bay Ferry operates on a first come, first served basis. No reservations allowed. During busy summer months, you should build an extra two hours into your schedule to accommodate the heavy ferry use and potential vehicle screening.

Check the company website for fees associated with other vehicles and trailers. RVs 25 feet and vehicles with low ground clearance allowed on the first ferry.

The Dauphin Island Sea Lab is open for tours and there are several restaurants near the ferry landing. Dauphin Island also has a bike path that runs the length of its beach road and the Audubon Bird Sanctuary, which includes a three-mile trail within its 137 acres of maritime forest, marshes and dunes.

The historic Civil War forts, Fort Morgan and Fort Gaines, are both a short walk from the ferry landings.





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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Venturing Out? Be Prepared and Stay Safe

Consider these tips to keep you and others safe when you venture out. For more info, visit cdc.gov.

• Going to the Bank:

- Ask about options for telephone or virtual meetings to use banking services.
- Use drive-thru banking services, automated teller machines (ATM), or mobile banking apps for routine transactions that do not require face-to-face assistance as much as possible.
- Look for any extra prevention practices being implemented by the bank, such as plexiglass barriers for tellers or bankers, staff wearing cloth face coverings, or physical distancing signs in the lobby.
- Wear a cloth face covering when doing any in-person exchanges and unable to stand at least 6 feet apart from other people – and make sure that bank employees and other people inside the bank are also wearing cloth face coverings.
- Use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol after any deposit, withdrawal, exchange, drive-thru visit, or use of an ATM.
- Wash your hands thoroughly when you arrive home or to your destination where a restroom is available.

• Dining at a Restaurant

- Check the restaurant's website and social media to see if they have updated their information to address any COVID-19 safety guidelines.
- Before you go to the restaurant, call and ask if all staff are wearing cloth face coverings while at work.
- Wear cloth face coverings when less than 6 feet apart from other people or indoors.
- Take precautions – like wearing a cloth face covering as much as possible when not eating and maintaining a proper social distance if you are dining with others who don't live with you.
- Ask about options for self-parking to remove the need for a valet service.
- Maintain a social distance of 6 feet or more in any entryway, hallway, or waiting area.
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds when entering and exiting the restaurant. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- When possible, sit outside at tables spaced at least 6 feet apart from other people.
- When possible, choose food and drink options that are not self-serve to limit the use of shared serving utensils, handles, buttons, or touchscreens.
- Before using the restroom, make sure there is adequate soap and paper towels or hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.

• Hosting Gatherings or Cook-Outs

- Remind invited guests to stay home if they have been exposed to COVID-19 in the last 14 days or are showing COVID-19 symptoms. Anyone who has had close contact with a person who has COVID-19 should also stay home and monitor their health. Invited guests who live with those at higher risk should also consider the potential risk to their loved ones.
- Host your gathering outdoors, when possible. If this is not feasible, make sure the room or space is well-ventilated (for example, open a window).
- When guests arrive, minimize gestures that promote close contact. For example, don't shake hands, do elbow bumps, or give hugs. Instead wave and verbally greet them.
- Wear cloth face coverings when less than 6 feet apart from people or indoors.
- Consider providing face coverings for guests or asking them to bring their own.
- Consider providing hand sanitizer in addition to clearly marked hand washing areas.
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds when entering and exiting social gatherings. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Arrange tables and chairs to allow for social distancing. People from the same household can be in groups together and don't need to be 6 feet apart – just 6 feet away from other families.
- Encourage guests to bring their own food and drinks.
- If serving any food, consider identifying one person to serve all food so that multiple people are not handling the serving utensils.
- If you choose to use any shared items that are reusable (e.g., seating covers, tablecloths, linen napkins), wash, clean, and sanitize them after the event.
- Use single-use options or identify one person to serve sharable items, like salad dressings, food containers, and condiments, so that multiple people are not handling the items.
- Limit people going in and out of the areas where food is being prepared or handled, such as in the kitchen or around the grill, if possible.
- Remind guests to wash their hands before serving or eating food.
- If planning activities for adults and/or kids, consider those where social distancing can be maintained, like sidewalk chalk art or frisbee.
- Use touchless garbage cans or pails.
- Use gloves when removing garbage bags or handling and disposing of trash. Wash hands after removing gloves.
- Clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces and any shared items between use when feasible.
- Make sure there is adequate soap or hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol available in the restrooms and encourage guests not to form a line at the door.
- Consider also providing cleaning supplies that allow guests to wipe down surfaces before they leave.
- Use single-use hand towels or paper towels for drying hands. Do not share a towel.
- Consider keeping a list of guests who attended for potential future contract tracing needs.

Bama), Perdido Key.

- **Bama Beach Pickleball Club:** 9-noon; Church of Christ, 2414 West 1st St., Gulf Shores; (new members welcome).
- **Karaoke:** 7:30; Live Bait, Orange Beach.
- **Crab Riot:** 6; Big Beach Brewing Company; Gulf Shores.
- **Bo Grant (formerly of The Drifters):** 9; Papa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- **Hired Guns:** 5; The Angry Crab; Orange Beach.
- **The Redfield:** 5; Lucy Buffett's Lulu's at Homeport Marina; Gulf Shores.
- **Kelley Pressley Band:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- **Three Bean Soup:** 6; Tacky Jack's, Gulf Shores.
- **False Identity:** 8; Perdido Sports Bar, Perdido Key.
- **Doc Johnson Band:** 9; Sandshaker at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- **Royal Horses:** 7; OSO, Bear Point.
- **Karaoke w. Kelly Ann:** 6; American Legion Post 99; Foley.
- **Justin Fobes:** 1; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.
- **Rhonda Hart & Justin Fobes:** 6; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.
- **Open Jam w. Rhonda Huette:** 7; American Legion Post 199; Fairhope.
- **Dancin' in the Street DJ Night:** 7-10; The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- **The Favorites Band:** 7; Alabama Gulf Coast Music Hall; Foley.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



Fairhope installs handicapped accessible beach mat near pier

The City of Fairhope has added a new handicapped-accessible beach mat to the area north of the Fairhope Pier at the city's public beach (above). The 150-foot, ADA-compliant access mat was donated to the City by the Fairhope Sunset Rotary Club. The water pervious mat provides a safe, enhanced grip and reduces risk of injury to bare feet for all beach-goers.

The City of Gulf Shores installed access mats at the west and east ends of the Gulf Place Public Beach (below) parking area in 2018. The mats stop short of the water, and the Gulf Shores Beach Safety Office, located at Gulf Place, has beach wheelchairs for the public to use on a first-come-first-served basis. For more info, call 251-978-0607.



- **Pool Tournament:** 6; The Office, Foley.
- **Open Mixed Doubles Tennis:** 7:30 a.m.; all levels welcome; Gulf Shores Tennis Center; corner of West 19th Ave. and West 2nd St.
- **Bingo:** 5:30; Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5659; Elberta.
- **Foley Rotary Club:** 12:15 p.m.; Gift Horse Restaurant in Foley; foleyrotary@gulftel.com.
- **Alcoholics Anonymous:** noon; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center; 13660 Innerarity Pt. Rd.; 850-492-3056 or 492-6362.

SAT, JUNE 20

- **Free Milk Giveaway:** 9 a.m.; Foley United Methodist Church, 915 N Pine St.
- **Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables:** 11 a.m. 'til; (includes Ole River Grill & Flora-Bama Yacht Club, Flora-Bama), Perdido Key.
- **Bo Grant (formerly of The Drifters):** 9; Papa Roccas; Gulf Shores.
- **Open Mic at The Sand Bar:** 1 p.m.; Pirates Cove; Josephine.
- **Destiny Brown:** 4; Woodside Restaurant at Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores.
- **Karaoke:** 7:30; Live Bait, Orange Beach.
- **American Idol's Brandon Elder:** 3-7; Sandshaker at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- **Porch Ninjas:** 6; Big Beach Brewing Company; Gulf Shores.
- **Jay Williams Band:** 9; Sandshaker at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- **The Rowdies:** 5; The Angry Crab; Orange Beach.
- **False Identity:** 9; The Office, Foley.
- **Beach concert w. Gypsy Pearl:** 4-8 p.m.; American Legion Post 199 Beach; Fairhope.
- **Kaitlin Jewell Music:** 5; The Office, Foley.
- **Brandon & Carl:** 5; Lucy Buffett's Lulu's at Homeport Marina; Gulf Shores.
- **Bad JuJu:** 8; Perdido Sports Bar, Perdido Key.
- **Hippie Jim:** 11 a.m.; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- **Chris Beverly:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- **Camille:** 6; Tacky Jack's, Gulf Shores.
- **Hollywood Vagabonds:** 7; OSO, Bear Point.
- **Southern Star:** 6:30; American Legion Post 99; Foley.
- **Open Jam w. Donnie Mills:** 8; American Legion Post 199; Fairhope.
- **Darrell Roberts:** 1; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.

- **Anthony Oliver Duo:** 6; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.
- **Dancin' in the Street DJ Night:** 7-10; The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- **Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermen's Market:** 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.; 20733 Mifflin Rd. (County Rd. 20), Foley.
- **The Favorites Band:** 7; Alabama Gulf Coast Music Hall; Foley.
- **Brandon Styles Magic Show:** 7 & 8:15; OWA, Foley.
- **Baldwin County Republican Executive Committee:** 10 a.m.; Robertsdale City Hall Building; 251-379-0748 or don@mc-griffaw.com
- **Optimist Club of Perdido Bay:** breakfast every Saturday at 7 a.m. at the Lillian Community Club in Lillian; (251) 961-2620.
- **AA:** 10 a.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.
- **Ladies AA:** 9 a.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point

Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

SUN, JUNE 21

- **The Church at the Flora-Bama:** 9 a.m.; Flora-Bama Tent Stage, Perdido Key.
- **Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables:** 11 a.m. 'til; (includes Ole River Grill & Flora-Bama Yacht Club, Flora-Bama), Perdido Key.
- **Red & The Revelers:** 4; Big Beach Brewing Company; Gulf Shores.
- **Open Mic at The Sand Bar:** 1 p.m.; Pirates Cove; Josephine.
- **Strickly Isbell:** 9; Papa Roccas; Gulf Shores.
- **Beach concert w. The Modern Eldorados:** 4-8 p.m.; American Legion Post 199 Beach; Fairhope.
- **Karaoke:** 7:30; Live Bait, Orange Beach.
- **Melodious Allen:** 5; The Angry Crab; Orange Beach.
- **Chris Beverly:** noon; OSO, Bear Point.
- **Sticky Too:** 5; Lucy Buffett's Lulu's at

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The Bama Beach Pickleball Club offers play Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. 'til noon 9-12 at Church of Christ, located at 2414 West 1st St. in Gulf Shores. Play is for members only, but immediate membership available every weekday at church for \$20. Court surfaces are disinfected each day, but players should feel free to bring hand sanitizer. Social distancing protocols will be in place. **Picture:** Bama Pickleball Club also sponsors several tournaments each year.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Homeport Marina; Gulf Shores.

- **Amanda Pruitt:** 11:30; The Tin Top Restaurant, Bon Secour.
- **The Blue Levee Band:** 7; OSO, Bear Point.
- **J Hawkins:** 1; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.
- **Gary Story & Rockstar:** 5; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.
- **Lisa Christian:** 4; Tacky Jack's, Gulf Shores.
- **Neil Dover:** 11 a.m.; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- **Damian Lamb:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- **John Joiner & Friends:** 4; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
- **9 Ball APA:** 6; The Office, Foley.
- **AA:** 5 p.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

MON, JUNE 22

- **Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables:** 11 a.m. 'til; (includes Ole River Grill & Flora-Bama Yacht Club, Flora-Bama), Perdido Key.
- **Bama Beach Pickleball Club:** 9-noon; Church of Christ, 2414 West 1st St., Gulf Shores; (new members welcome).
- **Brent Burns:** 5; Ginny Lane, Orange Beach.
- **Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde:** 9; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- **Wes Loper:** 5; Lucy Buffett's Lulu's at Homeport Marina; Gulf Shores.
- **Clay Connor & John Cook:** 6; OSO, Bear Point.
- **Jesse Burmann:** 1; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.
- **Anthony Oliver:** 10; Sandshaker at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- **Sandy Roots Songwriters Night:** 6; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.
- **Bingo:** 6; American Legion Post 44, Gulf Shores.
- **Big Beach Trivia:** 7; Big Beach Brewing Company; Gulf Shores.
- **Open Mixed Doubles Tennis:** 7:30 a.m.; all levels welcome; Gulf Shores Tennis Center; corner of West 19th Ave. and West 2nd St.

- **Sparks After Dark Fireworks Show:** 8:45; The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- **8 Ball League:** 7:30; The Office, Foley.
- **Overeaters Anonymous:** 6; Holy Spirit Episcopal Church; Gulf Shores, 616 Ft. Morgan Rd.; 251-709-5907.
- **Celebrate Recovery:** (Christ centered 12 step program); Monday evenings at 6 p.m.; Christian Life Church in Orange Beach; 251-967-4840.
- **T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly):** weigh-in 5:30; meeting 6; First Presbyterian Church of Foley; (Berry & Highway 59).
- **Alcoholics Anonymous:** noon; Perdido Bay UMC Activities Center; 13660 Innerarity Pt. Rd.; 850-492-3056 or 492-6362.
- **Alcoholics Anonymous and Alanon:** Holy Spirit Episcopal Church in Gulf Shores at noon; Alanon at Orange Beach Presbyterian Church in Orange Beach at 7 p.m.; 800-477-1104.
- **Ladies AA:** 10 a.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Activities Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.
- **AA:** Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

TUE, JUNE 23

- **Hands on Habitat;** 11 a.m.; free; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores; reservations at tackyjacks.com.
- **Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables:** 11 a.m. 'til; (includes Ole River Grill & Flora-Bama Yacht Club, Flora-Bama), Perdido Key.
- **Bama Beach Pickleball Club:** 9-noon; Church of Christ, 2414 West 1st St., Gulf Shores; (new members welcome).
- **Mel Knapp:** 4; Woodside Restaurant at Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores.
- **Brent Burns:** 5; Doc's Seafood, Orange Beach.
- **Light Travelers:** 5; Lucy Buffett's Lulu's at Homeport Marina; Gulf Shores.
- **Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde:** 9; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

- **Corey Reznor:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- **Austin Thompson & Brent Varner:** 6; OSO, Bear Point.
- **Jonathon Puzan:** 1; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar, Perdido Key.
- **Tiki Trivia:** 7; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.
- **Karaoke DJ Party w. Kelly:** 8; Sandshaker at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- **Pool Tourney:** 7; Snapper's; Orange Beach.
- **Open Mic (6), UPA 8 ball & Texas Hold (7:30):** The Office, Foley.
- **Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermans Market:** 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.; 20733 Mifflin Rd. (County Rd. 20), Foley.
- **Brandon Styles Magic Show:** 7 & 8:15; OWA, Foley.
- **South Baldwin Republican Women:** Gift Horse Rest., 11:30 a.m.; 4th Tuesday of Every Month, public invited, Info: 251-978-6178.
- **Orange Beach City Council Meeting:** 5 p.m.; City Hall; 980-INFO.
- **Overcomers Outreach:** 7 p.m.; First Baptist Church of Orange Beach; 980-1705.
- **Kiwanis Club of Big Lagoon:** Breakfast meeting each Tuesday at 7:30 a.m.; speaker first three Tuesdays and a business meeting the fourth Tuesday; Perdido Bay UMC Activities Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Road, Pensacola, 262-749-4241.
- **Kiwanis Club of Foley:** Noon on Tuesdays at Ryan's in Foley; 251-968-6288.
- **AA:** Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.
- **Al-Anon:** Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Activities Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

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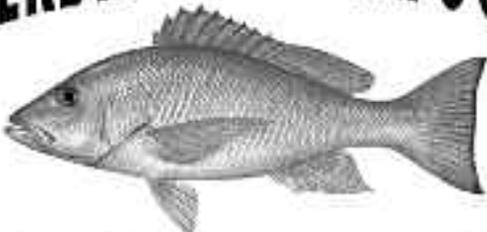
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

WED, JUNE 24

- **Art al Fresco**; 11 a.m.; price varies; sandcastle University; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores; reservations at tackyjacks.com.
- **Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables**: 11 a.m. 'til; (includes Ole River Grill & Flora-Bama Yacht Club, Flora-Bama), Perdido Key.
- **Bama Beach Pickleball Club**: 9-noon; Church of Christ, 2414 West 1st St., Gulf Shores; (new members welcome).
- **Mel Knapp**: 4; Woodside Restaurant at Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores.
- **Wonderful Wednesdays**: Bellingrath Gardens and Home; Theodore.
- **Karaoke**: 7:30; Live Bait, Orange Beach.
- **Brent Burns**: 5; Doc's Seafood, Orange Beach.
- **Greg Brown**: 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- **Open Mic Night**: 6; Tacky Jack's, Gulf Shores.
- **Artie Hopkins**: 5; American Legion Post 99; Foley.
- **Brandon Blackburn & Willie Traywack**: 6; OSO, Bear Point.
- **Pepsi Treasure Hunt**: 5-8; free; check-in at the ship tent behind the marlin; The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- **Adam Holt**: 5; Lucy Buffett's Lulu's at Homeport Marina; Gulf Shores.
- **John Fowler**: 1; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.
- **Tiki Karaoke**: 6; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.
- **John Joiner & Darrel Roberts**: 7; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
- **Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde**: 9; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- **Trivia (7:30) Karaoke (9)**: The Office, Foley.
- **BBRC Running Club**: 5:30 p.m.; Big Beach Brewery in Gulf Shores; lafleet-foot.com.
- **Open Mixed Doubles Tennis**: 7:30 a.m.; all levels welcome; Gulf Shores Tennis Center; corner of West 19th Ave. and West 2nd St.
- **Grief Support Group**: 10 a.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Activities Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pen-

sacola; 850-492-2135

- **Food Bank**: 9-11 a.m. every Wednesday, Perdido Bay Baptist Church, 12600 Sorrento Rd. Pensacola; call for eligibility requirements at (850) 492-2604.
- **Bread Ministry**: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Orange Beach United Methodist Church Brook's Center.
- **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.
- **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, JUNE 25

- **Beach Games For Kids**: 11 a.m.; free; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores; reservations at tackyjacks.com.
- **Bama Beach Pickleball Club**: 9-noon; Church of Christ, 2414 West 1st St., Gulf Shores; (new members welcome).
- **Karaoke Night**: 6; Bar 45 Lounge at ONE CLUB, Gulf Shores.
- **Mel Knapp**: 4; Woodside Restaurant at Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores.

- **Karaoke**: 7:30; Live Bait, Orange Beach.
- **Artist Showcase w. Jessa Pippin (acrylics)**: Live demos; Coastal Art Center, Orange Beach.
- **Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables**: 11 a.m. 'til; (includes Ole River Grill & Flora-Bama Yacht Club, Flora-Bama), Perdido Key.
- **Tim Roberts**: 6; The Tin Top Restaurant, Bon Secour.
- **Lefty Collins**: 5; Lucy Buffett's Lulu's at Homeport Marina; Gulf Shores.
- **Karaoke DJ Party w. Kelly**: 8; Sandshaker at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- **The Favorites Band**: 7; Alabama Gulf Coast Music Hall; Foley.
- **Corey Reznor**: 6; OSO, Bear Point.
- **Brandon Black**: 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- **Karaoke**: 8; Tacky Jacks, Ft. Morgan.
- **Delta Donnie**: 6; Bier Shack Taproom; Foley.
- **Brennan Crim**: 1; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.
- **Rick Whaley & Tommy Mazzulo**: 6; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.
- **HartStrings**: 6:30; The Point; Innerarity Point.
- **Karaoke**: 10; The Undertow; Orange Beach.



Kaitlin Jewell Music plays early June 27 gig at The Office

The stage will be set a earlier than usual at The Office when Kaitlin Jewell Music brings its swamp rock sound from the Mississippi Gulf Coast (Necaise to be exact) to Foley for a 5 p.m. show on June 27 at that popular bistro at 122 County Rd. 20 (251-970-0043).

"You don't want to miss this amazing band from Mississippi," said Debra Slaughter of The Office about the six piece outfit (including sax) that will command The Office's expansive stage.

Self described as "just a small town girl with big city dreams," the band's name sake, Kaitlin Jewell (pictured), has played an acoustic set in Gulf Shores before, but this is her first time playing over here with a full band.

She said the band has been together for more than two years and plays a variety of genres ranging from country and swamp pop to southern rock. She added that it is the band's 80's rock covers, especially Journey, that get the audience on its feet.

"But I love to play anything and everything," she said. "I don't really have a specific song. I love them all.

"I've always sang in school and at church, talent shows and different things, but around two years ago I decided I wanted to branch out and start a band of my own," she added.

The band plays regularly in and around Bay St. Louis, but this will be their first time on the road, said Kaitlin, who released one self titled EP in 2017 and has a second EP of original music due for release later this year.

"This is our first time to venture out of Mississippi and we are very excited about it," she said.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

- **Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde:** 9; Pappa Rocco'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 Crossroad; 251 968-2411.
- **AA:** Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660

- Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.
- FRI, JUNE 26**
- **Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables:** 11 a.m. 'til; (includes Ole River Grill & Flora-Bama Yacht Club, Flora-Bama), Perdido Key.
 - **Bama Beach Pickleball Club:** 9-noon; Church of Christ, 2414 West 1st St., Gulf Shores; (new members welcome).
 - **Soul Food Junkies:** 6; Tacky Jack's, Gulf Shores.
 - **Open Mic at The Sand Bar:** 1 p.m.; Pirates Cove; Josephine.
 - **Karaoke:** 7:30; Live Bait, Orange Beach.
 - **Ronnie Pressley:** 5; Lucy Buffett's Lulu's at Home-





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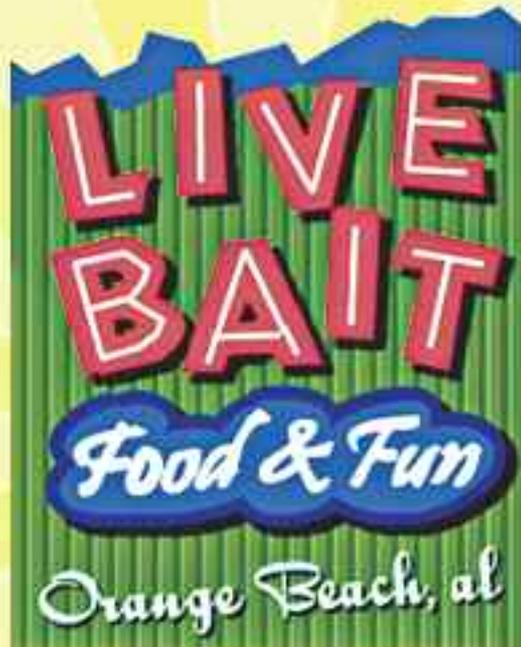
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COOKIN' WITH CAROLYN BY CAROLYN GODFREY

Cheese 'n Bacon Stuffed Mushrooms

- 12 large fresh mushrooms (1 lb.)
- 4 oz. (1/2 of 8 oz. pkg.) cream cheese, softened
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 4 slices bacon, cooked, crumbled
- 1/2 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley

Heat oven to 350 degrees F. Remove stems from mushrooms; discard or save for another use.

Mix remaining ingredients; spoon into mushroom caps. Place filled-sides up, in shallow baking dish. Bake 18-20 min. or until heated through. Yield: 12 servings.

Enjoy!



Mullet Toss Weekend is postponed, not cancelled

The Flora-Bama Mullet Toss has been postponed until later this year. But events associated with the Gulf Coast's Greatest Beach Party - The Mullet Man Triathlon and Mullet Classic Golf Tourney - will not be held. Along with the Toss, those events raise more than \$25,000 for local schools, sports associations and charities every year. It is the main fundraiser for the Pirates of Lost Treasure Mardi Gras krewe's Secret Santa fund.

port Marina; Gulf Shores.

- **Hartstrings:** 5; The Angry Crab; Orange Beach.
- **Tyler Mac Band:** 7; OSO, Bear Point.
- **Brent Varner:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- **Karaoke w. Kelly Ann:** 6; American Legion Post 99; Foley.
- **Class X:** 9; Sandshaker at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- **Karaoke:** 8; Snapper's; Orange Beach.
- **Karaoke:** 10; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- **The Favorites Band:** 7; Alabama Gulf Coast Music Hall; Foley.
- **Justin Forbes:** 1; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.
- **Dan Milicevic:** 6; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.
- **Open Jam:** 8; American Legion Post 199; Fairhope.
- **Dancin' in the Street DJ Night:** 7-10; The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- **Pool Tournament:** 6; The Office, Foley.
- **Open Mixed Doubles Tennis:** 7:30 a.m.; all levels welcome; Gulf Shores Tennis Center; corner of West 19th Ave. and West 2nd St.
- **Bingo:** 5:30; Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 5659; Elberta.

- **Alcoholics Anonymous:** noon; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center; 13660 Innerarity Pt. Rd.; 850-492-3056 or 492-6362.

SAT, JUNE 27

- **3rd Annual Charity Golf Tournament:** ONE Club Golf; 20050 Oak Road East, Gulf Shores, (251) 968-3232.
- **Free Milk Giveaway:** 9 a.m.; Foley United Methodist Church, 915 N Pine St.
- **Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables:** 11 a.m. 'til; (includes Ole River Grill & Flora-Bama Yacht Club, Flora-Bama), Perdido Key.
- **Kaitlin Jewell Music:** 5; The Office, Foley.
- **Open Mic at The Sand Bar:** 1 p.m.; Pirates Cove; Josephine.
- **Rock Bottom w. Roger Bailey:** 6; Big Beach Brewing Company; Gulf Shores.
- **Karaoke:** 7:30; Live Bait, Orange Beach.
- **Tyler Mac:** 5; The Angry Crab; Orange Beach.
- **Gypsy Pearl:** 5; Lucy Buffett's Lulu's at Homeport Marina; Gulf Shores.
- **Funky Lampshades:** 6; Tacky Jack's, Gulf Shores.

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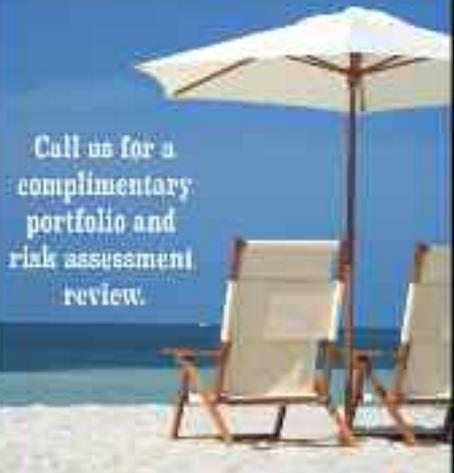
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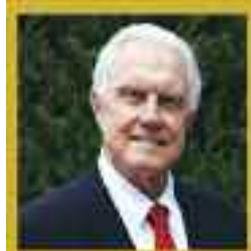


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WHAT'S HAPPENING

COASTAL WILDLIFE & NATIVE PLANTS

BY JOHN MARSHALL

Armadillos are not native, but they've carved out a niche

The Spanish Conquistadors called them “little armored ones”, or “armadillos”. Of the 20 species of armadillos in the Western Hemisphere, only one is found in the United States in the nine banded armadillo (*Dasypos novemcinctus*). First documented in Texas in 1846, they have spread north to Nebraska and east across the Mississippi River to the Carolinas. Many of the armadillos in the southeast are descended from animals introduced to south Florida in the 1920s.

Nine banded armadillos get their name from the nine folds, or bands, in their skin that allows it to be flexible. Their armored skin is composed of bony plates, called scutes, covered with horn. Their underside is not armored, being covered with thick, coarse hair.

The armored skin protects them from all but the largest predators. They cannot, however, roll into a ball for protection, although some other armadillo species can. When threatened, they run for thick vegetation or one of their burrows. Another defense is to jump straight up into the air, apparently to startle a would-be attacker long enough to make a get away. This however, does not work well against on-coming cars and trucks, with hapless armadillos jumping right into the bumper or underside of a vehicle.

Nine banded armadillos are digging machines. They have strong claws and legs (especially the front ones) for digging the burrows in which they live and for finding food, like insects and worms. One of the limiting factors to their distribution is soil they cannot easily dig in, such as those with lots of rocks.

The armadillo's diet consists of soft bodied animals like grubs, worms, centipedes and the eggs of lizards and turtles. They especially seem to like ants, eating them by the thousands. Since they feed in soft-bodied animals, armadillos don't have to chew a lot. Their teeth (always 32) are small, peg-like with no enamel (the hard, outer covering). They depend mostly on their long sticky tongue for capturing prey.

Within their territories, nine banded armadillos dig numerous burrows with multiple entrances in case an escape is needed. Burrows may be as long as 20 feet. Female armadillos often construct nests of vegetation in their burrows where they give birth. Nine banded armadillos have a lot of peculiar traits. One, is that they are the only other species of animal besides humans that can contract leprosy. For this reason, they have been used in medical research.

Another trait is that after a female armadillo mates, it can delay implanting the fertilized egg for up to two years. This way it can put off having babies if environmental conditions are bad, like droughts or food shortage. Once the the fertilized egg implants, it divides into 4 identical embryos. After about 8 months, the female will give birth to quadruplets of the same sex. They are the only species of mammal known to do this.

Armadillos are not native to our area, but it looks like these little four-legged backhoes have carved out a niche for themselves and have “dug in” as a permanent residents of the Gulf Coast (and beyond).

- **Dirty Mirrors:** noon; OSO, Bear Point.
- **Strange Roux:** 7; OSO, Bear Point.
- **Karaoke:** 8; Tacky Jacks, Ft. Morgan.
- **JJ Mack:** 11 a.m.; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- **Beave & Cleave:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- **American Idol's Brandon Elder:** 3-7; Sandshaker at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- **Class X:** 9; Sandshaker at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- **Open Jam:** 8, American Legion Post 199; Fairhope.
- **Tiki Tunes:** 1; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.
- **Clear Motive:** 6; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.
- **The Favorites Band:** 7; Alabama Gulf Coast Music Hall; Foley.
- **Stone Country:** 6:30; American Legion Post 99; Foley.
- **Karaoke:** 10; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- **Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermen Market:** 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.; 20733 Milin Rd. (County Rd. 20), Foley.
- **Dancin' in the Street DJ Night:** 7-10; The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- **Brandon Styles Magic Show:** 7 & 8:15; OWA, Foley.

“Rossen Reports” risk levels for most popular summer activities

Birmingham newsstation wvtm13.com, its “Rossen Reports Summer Vacation Survival Guide,” ranked the risk of the 10 most popular summer activities with medical experts. Go to the website to find out what makes these activities riskier than others. Jeff Rossen (pictured) is the company's chief national consumer & now coronavirus correspondent.

Low Risk

- Vacation with another family
- Rental cars
- Staying in a hotel
- Swimming at the beach
- Outdoor seating at restaurants

Medium Risk

- Outdoor sports
- Swimming in a pool
- Backyard barbecue
- Indoor seating at restaurants
- Public restrooms

High Risk

- Haircuts
- Air travel

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

SUN, JUNE 28

- **The Church at the Flora-Bama:** 9 a.m.; Flora-Bama Tent Stage, Perdido Key.
- **Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables:** 11 a.m. 'til; (includes Ole River Grill & Flora-Bama Yacht Club, Flora-Bama), Perdido Key.
- **The Six Piece Suits:** 5; The Angry Crab; Orange Beach.
- **Adam Tyler Brown:** 9; Papa Roccas; Gulf Shores.
- **Karaoke:** 7:30; Live Bait, Orange Beach.
- **Rock Bottom w. Rick Carter:** 5; Lucy Buffett's Lulu's at Homeport Marina; Gulf Shores.
- **Mike Diamond:** 11:30; The Tin Top Restaurant, Bon Secour.
- **Lisa Christian:** 4; Tacky Jack's, Gulf Shores.
- **Shelby Brown:** 11 a.m.; Tacky Jacks, Or-

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

- Orange Beach.
- **Gambino Duo:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- **Darrell Roberts:** 1; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.
- **Gary Story & Rickstar:** 6; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.
- **The Chris Beverly Experience:** all day long; OSO, Bear Point.
- **John Joiner & Friends:** 4; Hub Stacey's at the Point; Innerarity Point.
- **9 Ball APA:** 6; The Office, Foley.

MON, JUNE 29

- **Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables:** 11 a.m. 'til; (includes Ole River Grill & Flora-Bama Yacht Club, Flora-Bama), Perdido Key.
- **Bama Beach Pickleball Club:** 9-noon; Church of Christ, 2414 West 1st St., Gulf Shores; (new members welcome).
- **JERI:** 5; Lucy Buffett's Lulu's at Homeport Marina; Gulf Shores.
- **Brent Burns:** 5; Ginny Lane, Orange Beach.
- **Mark Laborde & Smokey Otis:** 9; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- **Brittney Grimes:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- **Brandon Blackburn & Willie Traywick:** 6; OSO, Bear Point.
- **Tiki Tunes:** 1; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.
- **Anthony Oliver:** 10; Sandshaker at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- **Sandy Roots Songwriters Night:** 6; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.
- **Open Mixed Doubles Tennis:** 7:30 a.m.; all levels welcome; Gulf Shores Tennis Center; corner of West 19th Ave. and West 2nd St.
- **Sparks After Dark Fireworks Show:** 8:45; The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- **8 Ball APA:** 7:30; The Office, Foley.
- **Bingo:** 6; American Legion Post 44, Gulf Shores.
- **Big Beach Trivia:** 7; Big Beach Brewing Company; Gulf Shores.
- **Celebrate Recovery:** (Christ centered 12 step pro-

- gram); Monday evenings at 6 p.m.; Christian Life Church in Orange Beach; 251-967-4840.n.m
- **Overeaters Anonymous:** 6; Holy Spirit Episcopal Church; Gulf Shores, 616 Ft. Morgan Rd.; 251-709-5907.
- **T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly):** weigh-in 5:30; meeting 6; First Presbyterian Church of Foley; (Berry & Highway 59).
- **AA:** Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.
- **Ladies AA:** 10 a.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

TUE, JUNE 30

- **Hands on Habitat:** 11 a.m.; free; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores; reservations at tackyjacks.com.
- **Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables:** 11 a.m. 'til; (includes Ole River Grill & Flora-Bama Yacht Club, Flora-Bama), Perdido Key.
- **Bama Beach Pickleball Club:** 9-noon; Church of Christ, 2414 West 1st St., Gulf Shores; (new members welcome).
- **Mel Knapp:** 4; Woodside Restaurant at Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores.
- **Brent Burns:** 5; Doc's Seafood, Orange Beach.
- **Justin Yawn:** 5; Lucy Buffett's Lulu's at Homeport Marina; Gulf Shores.
- **Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde:** 9; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- **Tonya Gallagher:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- **Austin Thompson & Adam Tyler Brown:** 6; OSO, Bear Point.
- **Karaoke DJ Party w. Kelly:** 8; Sandshaker at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- **Jesse Burmann:** 1; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.
- **Tiki Trivia:** 6; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.
- **Pool Tourney:** 7; Snapper's; Orange Beach.
- **Open Mic (6), UPA 8 ball & Texas Hold (7:30):** The Office, Foley.

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Alabama Snapper have a taste for pogeys

By David Rainer
Al. Dept. of Conser/Nat Resources

While the second weekend of the private recreational red snapper season in Alabama saw near perfect conditions, the opening weekend proved why state management of the red snapper is so important to ensure maximum access to this treasured fishery.

“People were just glad to have the opportunity to get out. They were tired of being at home. They felt this was a safe and enjoyable outdoor activity. And we agree.”

Bannon. “Even though the weather was a little rougher, the harvest was almost the same as the 2018 numbers. People were just glad to have the opportunity to get out. They were tired of being at home. They felt this was a safe and enjoyable outdoor activity. And we agree. “When I got to Dauphin Island at 8 o’clock on opening day, the trailers parked alongside the road were already backed up 7/10ths of a mile from the ramp (Billy Goat Hole). Saturday was another busy day. With the winds picking up Sunday and Monday, the activity was down a good bit.”

The 2018 and 2019 seasons were conducted under an EFP (exempted fishing permit) to allow state management and significantly increased the number of days private recreational anglers were allowed to catch red snapper over recent years.

With the approval of regional management beginning in 2020 for the five states on the Gulf of Mexico, each state sets its season, bag and size limits under certain parameters.

Because Alabama closely monitors the red snapper harvest through its Red Snapper Reporting System, Snapper Check, Marine Resources can adjust the seasons to allow anglers to catch as many fish as possible while staying within the state’s quota. Alabama’s private recreational season is set to run each Friday through Monday with a closing date tentatively set for July 19. The closing date may be adjusted to ensure the state’s quota of 1,122,662 pounds is met but not exceeded. Snap-

per Check numbers indicated 176,782 pounds of red snapper were harvested opening weekend.

Bannon and Chris Blankenship, the Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, ventured out on opening weekend with old friends Brian and Daniel Rowe and crew and came back with a box full of red snapper.

“I had some concerns that the seas were going to be a little choppy,” Bannon said. “We had been talking to some boats that were struggling, so they stayed close and came back pretty early.

“In the afternoon, the wind died down. The bite was not hard and fast, but we caught big fish. We only caught a few undersized fish that had to go back. We caught everything from just over legal (16 inches total length) to a few just over 20 pounds. It was a real good trip.”

From a management perspective, Bannon said that’s what marine scientists like to see on a reef, a variety of sizes of snapper. He also said some of the relatively small reefs held good-sized fish.

On opening day, Bannon said the anglers used a variety of baits to target the red snapper and definitely saw a preference.

“They seemed to like the whole pogeys (menhaden) better than cigar minnows on that day,” he said. “People caught a lot of big fish that opening weekend, which generally happens in a season. People reported catching legal-size fish relatively quick. They didn’t have to throw many undersized fish back.”

By the time the seas got rough on that opening weekend, Bannon could see how the state management of the season was paying dividends.

“That Monday of opening weekend, we only had a handful of reports through Snapper Check,” he said. “I think that was honest. People really paid attention to the weather and didn’t put themselves in harm’s way. People now realize it’s about the pounds caught and there will be more opportunities to catch snapper later. Of course, that all goes back to the reporting through Snapper Check and getting accurate numbers.”

One thing Bannon did on that opening Friday was to check to see if anglers had the Snapper Check app loaded on their smartphones.

“I, along with other Division employees, helped the ones that didn’t have it get the app loaded on their phones,” he said.

Bannon also discovered that many people are still unaware of the Reef Fish Endorsement that went into effect for the 2020 season. Anglers who catch any fish that are considered a reef fish species are required to purchase the \$10 endorsement.

Visit outdooralabama.com/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-reef-fish-endorsement for a list of fish species the endorsement covers.

“Nobody seemed overly concerned the endorsement was in place, but they were unaware they needed it,” Bannon said. “Some people purchased it on the Outdoor Alabama app while they were launching the boat.”

The reef fish endorsement provides a source of funding to continue to maintain the research and monitoring for populations in Alabama’s artificial reef zones that is required to continue state management of the red snapper fishery.

“We had been using federal funds,” Bannon said. “We needed a source of funds to continue that work. Also, other than Snapper Check, we didn’t have way to determine how many people are participating in the reef fish fishery. The endorsement helps us to determine the effort.”

Bannon pointed out that if you’re fishing for saltwater species on the Causeway and you don’t catch reef fish, you don’t need to purchase the Reef Fish Endorsement.

“But if you’re participating in the fishery offshore, these funds help us pay for Snapper Check and the monitoring through Dauphin Island Sea Lab and the University of South Alabama,” he said. “Now that we do have state management, we are obligated to manage the fishery to the best of our ability. The endorsement helps provide funds to do that.”

Because the reef fishing endorsement is new, Bannon said Marine Resources Enforcement will issue warnings right

now. On opening weekend, 11 warnings were issued for no reef endorsements.

“Our Enforcement staff wrote 12 citations for not reporting their snapper harvests,” he said. “We only had one over-the-limit case. We had no undersized fish citations and only one over-the-limit of all the people that were checked on opening weekend. I consider that a successful weekend. And people used good judgement for the smaller boats to not go on Sunday and Monday.

“I am a little concerned that our (Snapper Check) reporting is down just a little bit. That is the driving force of our management goal to give people the most opportunities to catch red snapper.”

Meanwhile, the charter-for-hire season opened Monday for a straight 62-day run through August 1, 2020. The charter boat section is still under federal management.

“A couple of different charter captains I’ve spoken with said bookings are up,” Bannon said.

Bannon is excited that it appears the red snapper season will be successful now that restrictions on Alabama’s beaches have been lifted.

“Alabama is definitely a fishing destination,” he said. “I’ve talked to folks who used to go to Destin to go fishing until they discovered Alabama. Now they make plans to go charter fishing in Alabama.”

Pictured: Conservation Commissioner Chris Blankenship reeled in a big red snapper on the opening weekend of the Alabama private recreational season. (Photo by Brian Rowe)



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Funny Bones

By George Ridder



Has anyone else's gardening skills improved during this quarantine like mine have? I planted myself on the sofa at the start of April and I've grown bigger ever since.

I came home from work this

evening and said to my wife, "Are we having salad for dinner?"

"Yes we are, how did you know?" she asked.

I replied, "Because I can't hear the smoke alarm."

Look, Charlie," the coach said, "you know the principles of good sportsmanship. You know the Little League doesn't allow temper tantrums, shouting at the umpire, or abusive language."

"Yes sir, I understand."

"Good, Charlie. Now, would you explain that to your father?"

Wife: I'm mad

Husband: Again or still?

"You see, doctor, I'm always dizzy for half an hour after I get up in the morning," said Carla. "Well, try getting up half an hour later," said the doctor.

"What kind of pie do you call this?" one student indignantly asked the cafeteria cook.

"What's it taste like?" asked the cook.

"Glue!"

"Then it's apple pie. The plum pie tastes like soap."

His girlfriend's father was interviewing Young Charles.

"So," said the father, "you want to be my son-in-law, do you?"

"No, not particularly," said Charles, "but if I want to marry your daughter I haven't much choice, have I?"

My girlfriend isn't talking to me because apparently I ruined her birthday.

Not sure how I did that. I didn't even know it was her birthday!

A male crab met a female crab at a party and asked her to marry him. She noticed that he was walking straight instead of sideways. Wow, she thought, this crab is really special. I can't let him get away. So, they got married immediately.

The next day she noticed her new husband walking sideways like all the other crabs, and got upset.

"What happened?" she asked.

"You used to walk straight before we were married."

"Oh, honey," he replied, "I can't drink that much every day."

The quarantine made me feel 16 again. Gas is cheap and I'm

grounded!

I've been saying "mucho" to my Spanish friend a lot more often lately. It means a lot to him.

A man having lunch at a Chinese restaurant noticed that the table had been set with forks, not chopsticks. He asked why. The waiter said, "Chopsticks are provided only on request."

"But," the man countered, "if you gave your patrons chopsticks, you wouldn't have to pay someone to wash all the forks."

"True," said the waiter, "but we'd have to hire two more people to sweep the floor."

Young Maiden: "Yes, I've been asked many times to get married."

Friend: "Really, who's asked you?"

Young Maiden: "My mother and father."

An old man was a witness in a burglary case. The defense lawyer asked Richard, "Did you see my client commit this burglary?"

"Yes," said Richard, "I saw him plainly take the goods."

The lawyer asks Richard

again, "Richard, this happened at night. Are you sure you saw my client commit this crime?"

"Yes," says Richard, "I saw him do it."

Then the lawyer asks Richard, "Richard listen, you are 80 years old and your eye sight probably is bad. Just how far can you see at night?"

Richard says, "I can see the moon, how far is that?"

Cop: So, I'm writing you a ticket for driving alone in the carpool lane.

Criminal: You're going to feel really stupid when you look in my trunk!

Ever wonder why...

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• Why can't women put on mascara with their mouth closed?

• Why don't you ever see the headline 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?

• Why is 'abbreviated' such a long word?

• Banks leave vault doors open and then chain the pens to the counters.

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