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[Coverage on Pages 4-14]

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Only families will be allowed to watch the tourney live

By Fran Thompson

The 5th Annual National Collegiate Beach Volleyball Championship at Gulf Shores Public Beach May 7-9 will not include fans.

The tourney, hosted by the City of Gulf Shores, UAB and Orange Beach Sports Commission, will be closed to the public. But the NCAA will allow around 700 spectators per day for the three-day championship so family and friends of student-athletes and coaches can attend. Each of the eight schools will receive an allotment of tickets. But there will definitely be no general ticket sales.

Two time defending champion UCLA enters the tourney as the top seed. USC, the team that won the first two titles, is just behind the Bruins.

The sport's two southern powers, Florida State and LSU, are seeded third and fourth, respectively. TCU, seeded eighth, is the third mandated eastern college in the tourney. California schools Loyola Marymount, Stanford and Cal Poly round out the draw.

All matches will be either televised live or streamed by ESPN networks. The championship match will air on ESPN2 Sunday at 12:30 p.m. Live streaming of every match on every court throughout the tournament will be available on ESPN3.

Gulf Shores will also host the tourney in 2023 and 2024, before the event moves to Huntington Beach for 2025 and 2026.

Gulf Shores Public Beach has been the tourney site for nine years, including four AVCA Championships before the sport earned its NCAA sanction. The city will try to negotiate a contract to permanently host the event beginning in 2027, giving it a signature spring family alongside the sam weekend's national qualifying junior tourney that will draw 480 teams to Gulf Shores Public Beach this weekend.

Pictured: (Right) USC's Sara Hughes and Zo Nightingale head for the Gulf following the Trojans' 2016 championship; UCLA players celebrate winning the national championship in 2019.



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Gulf Shores a huge part of beach volleyball's emergence as an NCAA sport

AVCA Collegiate Sand Volleyball National Championship in 2012 was impetus for all that followed

By Fran Thompson

In April 2012, Pepperdine won the inaugural AVCA Collegiate Sand Volleyball National Championship.

Four years later, with the sport now fully sanctioned by the NCAA and its name changed from sand to beach, USC found a home on the volleyball trivia circuit by winning the first ever NCAA Beach Volleyball title.

“It took a long time to amortize that money, but if it had not been for the infusion of funds from the Gulf Coast Region, that tourney would have been one and done.”

Both teams celebrated by cutting down nets at Gulf Shores Public Beach. This was not a coincidence.

Led by USA Volleyball Gulf Coast, local volunteers, businesses, Orange Beach-Gulf Shores Tourism and the City of Gulf Shores created the momentum that allowed beach volleyball to become the fastest sport to ever go from emerging status to a full NCAA sanction.

The NCAA had already declined to make beach volleyball an emerging sport at the

2011 NCAA Congress in Atlanta by the time the AVCA held the first of four consecutive championship tourneys in Gulf Shores. The vote was not even close.

The designation would have kept beach volleyball solvent. As an emerging sport, it would have eight years to prove that it would not lose momentum and vanish like women's water polo and equestrian before it.

AVCA powers had gathered for a pseudo-championship tourney in San Diego in August of 2011. But the following spring, during that first championship weekend in Gulf Shores, the sport's guiding forces saw how the venue, the weather, the sand, the sponsors and multiple hosts could work in sync to create an event that fit perfectly what Gulf Shores was looking for as its springtime answer to October's National Shrimp Fest. The weekend was almost the antithesis of the controversial Hangout Fest, which came a week later at the same location.

As the story goes, that first national tourney may not have even come to Gulf Shores if Southern Cal president Max Nikias did not nix it on his campus because he did not want trucks dropping loads of sand on Trojan greenspace.

USA Volleyball Gulf Coast directors Phillip

Bryant and Shawn Weaver were then and still are Mount Rushmore busts among volleyball hierarchy in this region. They already knew most of the AVCA coaches. Bryant coached at UAB, one of the first schools in the nation to sponsor a beach program.

Kathy DeBoer, a world class athlete herself (see page 14 story), and coach Nina Matthies of Pepperdine first broached the idea of bringing the tourney to Gulf Shores with the two local coaches.

Presented with the opportunity to host the best college beach volleyball players in the nation, Volleyball Gulf Coast's board stepped into the void that Southern Cal left and started building the symbiotic relationships between volleyball associations, volunteers, The City of Gulf Shores, coaches, fans and players that remain strong 10 years later.

DeBoer, a former volleyball coach at Kentucky and the executive director of the American Volleyball Coaches Association, already knew Billy Payne, the head poobah at CBS Sports, whom she cajoled into covering her 2011 tourney on tape delay.

Shaul Zislin, owner of The Hangout, also sat in on the conference calls with Payne, DeBoer and Bryant.

Zislin agreed to sponsor team banquets and the hospitality tent and, with the promise of national TV coverage as a carrot to dangle, help find other sponsorships. But despite his connections, Zislin was unable to solicit additional sponsors that first year, according to Bryant.

Orange Beach/Gulf Shores Tourism kicked in a \$15K media buy, and the City of Gulf Shores kicked in \$30K and helped with everything from security to labor to clean-up, according to Bryant.

But it was left for USA Volleyball Gulf Coast, already committed to coordinating volunteers, officials and most of the tourney's logistics, to commit the money to make the tourney happen.

“It was well over \$95K (to put the tourney together). But we had been good stewards with our money. We had reserve funds and we were not going to let it go down,” Bryant said.

“It took a long time to amortize that money, but if it had not been for the infusion of funds from the Gulf Coast Region, that tourney would have been one and done.”

Bryant said the tourney committee went all out with swag bags for players, and spent \$20K just on apparel for its volunteers and officials.

Pepperdine was crowned champion in 2012, and coach Matthies, a Bear Bryant in the sport, said the beaches in Gulf Shores were the nicest she had ever seen when she accepted the championship trophy on behalf of her team.

“We threw the biggest party they had ever been to,” Bryant said.

The AVCA Championship was under no obligation to return to Gulf Shores in 2013, but the AVCA committee, with Gulf Coast Region representatives Weaver and (South Alabama coach) Nicole Keshock in attendance, voted 8-0 to come back to Gulf Shores the following year.

“We swagged the whole thing out. We knew as a region we were dedicated to the growth of volleyball,” Bryant said. “We wanted to dramatically grow the sport. We ended up getting a three year contract and you know what happened in the fourth year. The NCAA made it a championship





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sport.”

During the next year’s indoor volleyball championship weekend, which always includes, symposiums, clinics, workshops, and speakers like Karch Kiraly, the Pepperdine coach again raved about the hospitality she found in Gulf Shores. This time in front of hundreds of her peers.

“At the ninth hour, she was putting flyers under doors to get them to at least recognize it as an emerging sport.”

“In that hall full of people, Nina had everybody’s attention, and she praised Gulf Shores as a perfect place to hold the tourney,” Bryant recalled.

“She said we had the first AVCA tourney there and you will not find city services anywhere like you will find in Gulf Shores. You could have heard a pin drop. She said it was a marvelous, grand tourney with the greatest volunteers. She said we really knocked it out of the park.”

Bryant said a big increase in sponsorship money from the City of Gulf Shores and Orange Beach-Gulf Shores Tourism was directly responsible for the tourney remaining here. Each kicked in \$60K during the tourney’s second year and \$85K in the third.

“It went up a little more after that and then it became a bid process when it went to the NCAA,” he said. “The leadership in Gulf Shores understood where we were going with this. In a lot of cases, we taught volleyball to their kids. They understood that this was an opportunity that was not going to happen again and they stepped up.”

Turner Sports was the first TV Network to broadcast the tourney live, and when the NCAA put its name behind it, national TV coverage jumped to 28 hours of live programming.

Olympic Beach champions Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh Jennings were already media sensations after winning consecutive Olympic titles and that certainly helped with the sport’s profile.

But it is also certain that the road to NCAA sanctioning included a stop light in Gulf Shores. Momentum built here led DeBoer to take another shot at petitioning the NCAA legislative council for emerging sport status.

“At the ninth hour, she was putting flyers under doors to get them to at least recognize it as an emerging sport,” said Bryant. “She ended up knocking on a door because she couldn’t get a flyer under it early one morning, only to wake the athletic director inside.”

DeBoer convinced that athletic director to call his colleagues from the Atlantic 10 Conference and recruit the votes needed for the resolution to pass.

Bryant marvels at how fast the sport has grown on the junior and college level since then.

“It took us only four years to get to 40 fully funded schools. This was unprecedented,” he said. “We were at wharp speed, and that is what

needed to happen.”

A volleyball lifer as a coach and administrator, Bryant said he had to first assure people that Alabama had beaches when he started organizing tourneys on the sand here.

He said Gulf Shores City Services helped assemble eight beach volleyball courts for a tourney

Beach volleyball easily made the quickest transition from emerging to championship sport in NCAA history.

back in 2004. There are now eight permanent courts at the beach.

There will be 50 courts at the public beach for this weekend’s national qualifier, and 480 teams from all over the country will play matches on those courts.

The first USAV Gulf Coast Region Beach National Qualifier drew a couple dozen teams. “Right now it is the largest national qualifier in the nation for beach volleyball,” said Weaver.

Bryant said that even though the championship is moving to Huntington Beach for two years after the 2024 championships here, he expects a more permanent return to Pleasure Island.

“The NCAA wants to advertise the sport in the California market, but (USC coach) Donna Collier said that she can’t get her girls fired up to go to Huntington Beach, but she can get them fired up by saying, ‘let’s go win a championship in Gulf Shores.’”

“Just think of it,” he added. “The NCAA Championship is here just by the virtue of Kathy DeBoer looking for a place that would be passionate about the event.”

Beach volleyball easily made the quickest tran-

sition from emerging sport to championship sport in NCAA history. It’s the fastest growing NCAA sport over the last five years in Division I.

DeBoer saw it coming back in 2017 when told Lee Feinswog of VolleyballMag.com that beach volleyball’s growth would skyrocket.

“Beach went from zero programs to 53 in Division I in six years. There’s not an NCAA sport on record that’s picked up 50 Division I programs in six years. The next closest sport was like 17 years to pick up 50 new programs,” she said.

Bryant said he can still picture coach Matthies speaking at the NCAA volleyball convention about standing on her Phoenix Suites condo balcony looking at row after row of volleyball courts just a few hundred yards west of the college championship courts on the crystal white Gulf Shores beach at sunrise.

“There were a lot of factors involved, and it’s a good story about a sport that is going to keep growing,” Bryant said. “This is something that was born on this island with 11 teams. There are now 360 colleges playing beach volleyball, including jucos. And we are looking to do for the men what we did for the women.”

Don’t bet against that happening. More than half of the participants at the May 2 High Performance Beach Tryouts at Gulf Shores Public Beach were boys.

“That is the first time that has happened,” Bryant said.

Pictured: (Page 6) The AVCA Championship Tourney circa 2013. (Below) Pleasure Island Volleyball Club coaches helped coordinate last month’s FSU hosted collegiate tourney at Gulf Shores Public Beach. Volunteers included (front) Weaver, (back) Michelle Douty, Madison Wichterman, Billy Eubanks, Maddie Rictich-Watts, Alex Hamrick, Carely Kleinschmidt, Kristin Weaver, Bobby Kleinschmidt and Stephen Tirador. Founded by Weaver in 2004, PIVC includes 120 advanced junior players.



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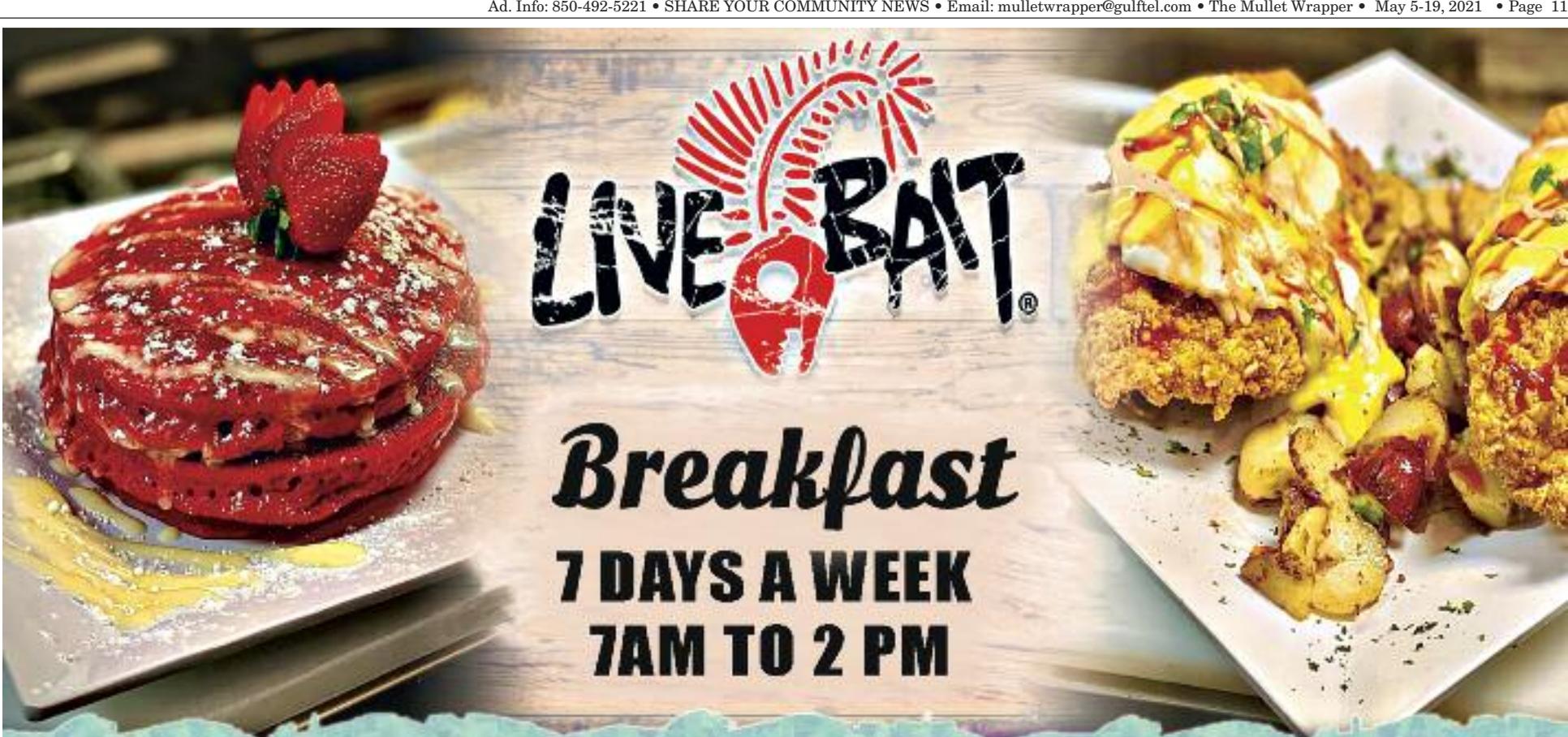
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Zero to Forty: Chronicling the Growth of Collegiate Sand (now Beach) Volleyball

Below are excerpts from a first hand account that Director Kathy DeBoer wrote along with a collection of memorable moments for the American Volleyball Coaches Assn. magazine in March of 2014.

By Kathy DeBoer

From the onset, 40 was recognized as the number of programs that the NCAA required in order to consider sponsoring an official national championship. The path to 40 programs wasn't an easy one, and the tireless efforts of many unsung heroes were, in many cases, the only thing driving the momentum onwards and upwards.

The growth of sand volleyball at the collegiate level is historically unprecedented, and by reaching the magic number in 2014, the game is the fastest-growing emerging sport in history. Even more exciting is the fact that the sport not only continues to grow regionally, but more programs around the entire country are considering the addition of a sand program with every passing month.

The growth of sand volleyball didn't happen when someone flipped a switch; rather, its ascension is one that was fought for with great perseverance and determination, defended vigorously in committee meetings and supported by unlikely players throughout the athletics community.

September 2006: AVP televises a reality beach volleyball event for college players called "Go Pro or

"Go Home" on CSTV. Both groups approach AVCA about helping to create a college event in the spring of 2007.

December 2006: T.J. Meagher, AVCA Board Representative for Legislation, visits with Lynn Holzman, NCAA Associate Director of Membership Services, on the rules ramifications of running a spring beach event for college players with the AVP and CSTV.

April 2007: Nebraska, Penn State, Stanford, Texas, Minnesota, Florida, San Diego and Cal Poly compete in the first Collegiate Beach Nationals, a CSTV event, held in San Diego.

June 2007: AVCA does a membership survey of DI women's coaches on beach volleyball as a collegiate sport. 74% said adding more scholarship and participation opportunities for women would be good for volleyball generally.

July 2007: NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics assesses emerging sports program and reviews a preliminary report on beach volleyball as a potential addition.

Sept 2007: CWA meeting focuses on lack of growth in emerging sports of archery, badminton, team handball and synchronized swimming, all on the list for more than 10 years without growth in sponsorship.

March 2008: Sunshine State Conference and SEC hold unofficial beach championships.

June-July 2008: AVCA collects Letters of Endorsement

from colleges and is also endorsed by the USOC, USAV, AVP and several conferences.

July 2008: NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics recommends that beach volleyball be added to the emerging sports list for women. CWA changes the name to sand volleyball to make the sport more appealing to non-coastal areas of the country.

October 2008: NCAA DIII Management Council decides not to recommend adding sand volleyball to the emerging sports list for their division.

January 2009: Over 90 percent of NCAA DII schools vote to add sand volleyball to their emerging sports list; DI Legislative Council votes by 62.9 percent to add sand volleyball, a percentage that triggers a second vote in April.

April 2009: NCAA DI Legislative Council approves adding sand volleyball to the emerging sports list.

June 2009: 63 schools in DI sign a petition to override the decision and remove sand volleyball from the emerging sports list.

October 2009: USC announces that they will add sand volleyball as a varsity sport if the override is defeated, making them the first school to announce a varsity program. Southern Cal Coach Mick Haley said that having a Pac-10 Conference Championship in sand to televise

shows that his school was correct in leading the way. Sand is everywhere out here."

January 2010: Override is defeated by 12 votes; sand volleyball stays on the emerging sport list in DI beginning in August of 2011.

February-April 2010: NCAA appoints a committee to write the DI legislative regulations.

May 2010: Florida State announces they will add sand volleyball as a varsity sport and hires Danalee Corso, making her the first full-time collegiate sand coach.

June 2010: Championships Cabinet runs out of time on a conference call and doesn't pass playing and

practice season legislation. The Sun Belt Conference rescues the legislation by getting proposal sponsored before the July 15 deadline.

For an Emerging Sport to be considered for an NCAA Championship, forty schools must add programs with in a ten year period.

July 2010: Tulane and Louisiana-Monroe announce they will add sand volleyball as a varsity sport.

November 2010: AVCA starts keeping a list of schools that have confirmed and schools that are considering sand volleyball.

January 2011: Legislation governing the sport is passed by DI; scholarships are phased in starting with three in 2011-12 and adding one annually to six in 2014-15; DI also authorizes 16 maximum/eight minimum playing dates and a two-coach limit on staff.

May 2011: A Sand Volleyball Coaches Committee is formed.

October 2011: AVCA sends out an RFP for a host for a National Collegiate Volleyball Championship; Nina

Matthies of Pepperdine takes over as DI Sand Volleyball Coaches Committee Chair.

November 2011: Gulf Shores selected as the site for the first AVCA Collegiate Sand Volleyball National Championships April 27--29, 2012.

February 2012: 15 NCAA schools and one NAIA school set to play first season.

March 3, 2012: Florida State and University of Alabama at Birmingham play in first collegiate sand volleyball dual match.

April 2012: Atlantic Sun Conference hosts the first official Sand Volleyball Conference Championship.

April 27-29, 2012: The 2012 AVCA Collegiate Sand Volleyball Championship consisted of both a team championship for the top four women's sand teams and a pairs championship consisting of the top 16 collegiate doubles teams.

April 29, 2012: Pepperdine wins inaugural AVCA Collegiate Sand Volleyball National Championships event televised by CBS Sports Network.

August 2012: NCAA DII Grand Canyon University announces they will add a sand volleyball team.

September 2012: Georgia State adds the first sand volleyball team that all separate players from the court team.

November 2012: Gulf Shores & Orange Beach Sports Commission awarded the AVCA Sand Volleyball Collegiate National Championships for three more years.

January 2013: Nebraska becomes first Midwest team to add a sand volleyball team.

February 2013: A group of seven northern California DI colleges for a consortium to play sand volleyball in the spring.

March 2013: One DII, one NAIA and 13 NCAA DI varsity programs start their first season of sand volleyball, joining the 16 of 2012.

May 2013: Long Beach State wins the second AVCA Collegiate Beach National Championship and USC win the Pairs Championship.

August 2013: Boise State becomes first Northwest program to announce a sand team.

September 2013: Oregon becomes the seventh Pac-12 team to add a team.

January 2014: Texas Christian University announces they will add a sand team in 2014-15, becoming the first Texas program. Washington makes it eight in the Pac-12 playing in the spring of 2014.

September 2015: NCAA Sand Volleyball officially recognized as an NCAA sport, and changed the

name from sand volleyball to beach volleyball.

April 2016: Turner Sports agrees to telecast the inaugural NCAA Women's Beach Volleyball Championship Game live.

May 2, 2016: USC defeats Florida State 3-0 to win the first ever Beach Volleyball Championship at Gulf Shores Public Beach.

May 2017: USC beats Pepperdine 3-2 in the title match to repeat as NCAA Beach Volleyball Champion.

December 2017: The NCAA and ESPN reach a multiyear agreement to telecast the NCAA Women's Beach Volleyball Championship through 2022.

May 2, 2018: UCLA defeats Florida State 3-1 to win the NCAA Beach Volleyball Championship at Gulf Shores Public Beach.

2014

The growth at the collegiate level is historically unprecedented, and by reaching the magic number in 2014, the game is the fastest-growing emerging sport in history.

2016

USC defeats Florida State 3-0 to win the first ever Beach Volleyball Championship at Gulf Shores Public Beach.

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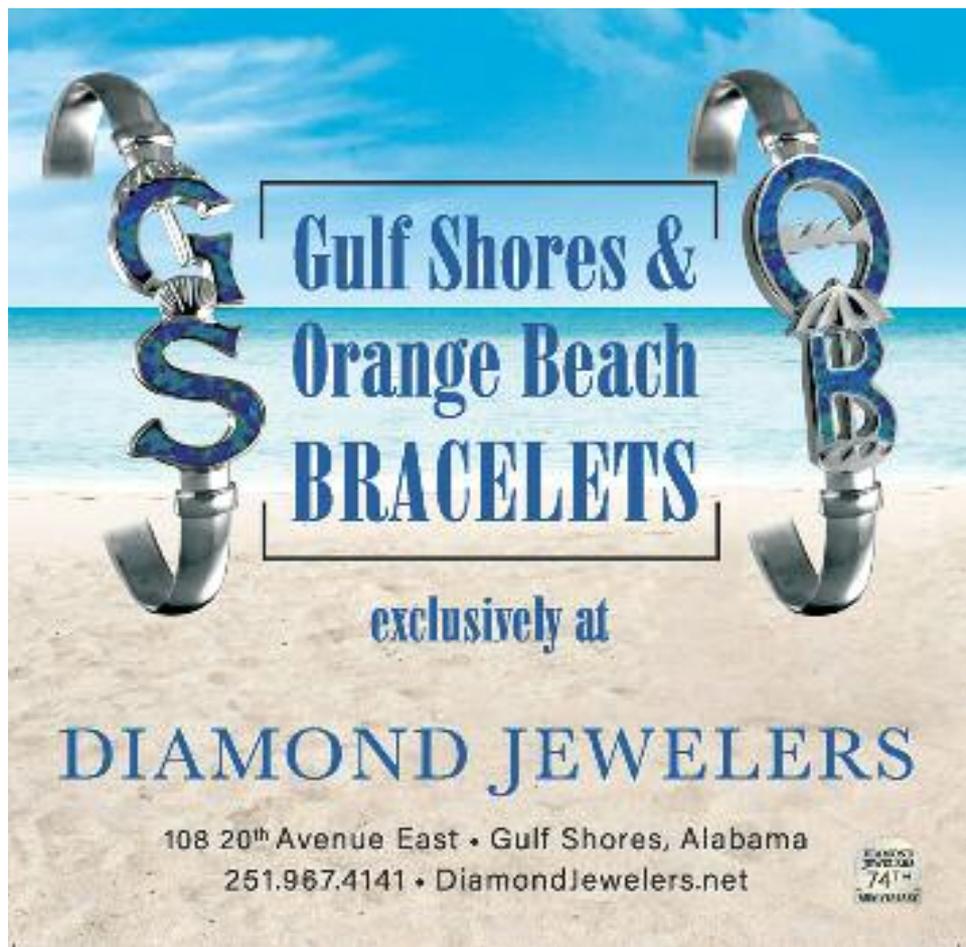
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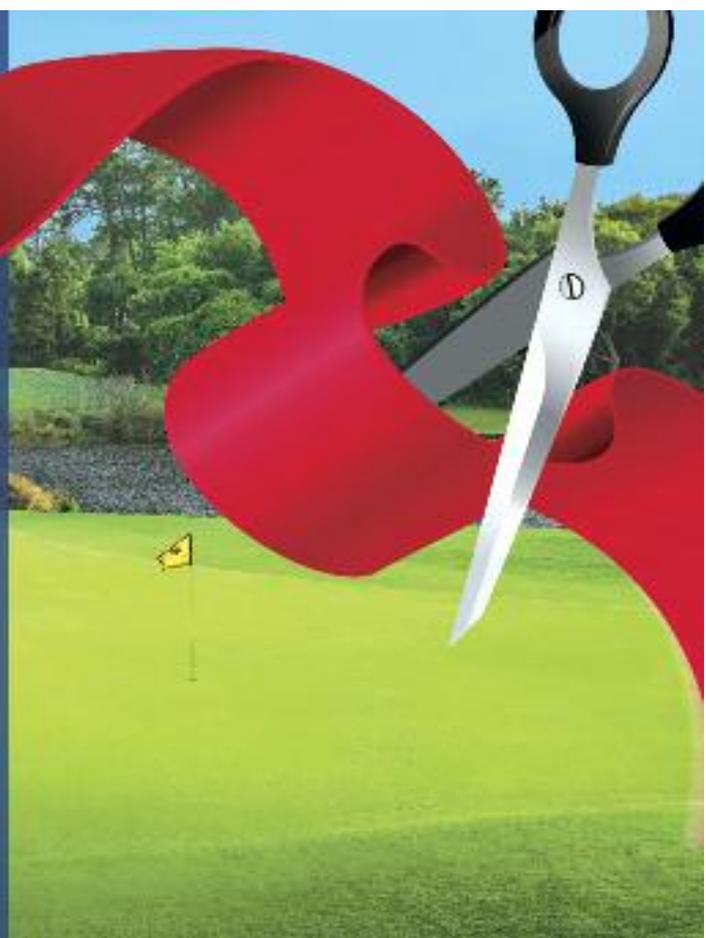
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480 teams on 50 courts for Beach Bash '21 National Qualifier

By Fran Thompson

The final count (we think) has been tallied. Including some of the best U-18 and U-16 players in the country, there will be 480 junior beach volleyball teams playing in a May 7-9 tourney just west of the concurrent NCAA Championship. The USAV Gulf Coast Region Beach Bash is the largest national qualifier in the nation, according to Shawn Weaver, Gulf Coast Region Director.

Weaver said around 20 players in the U-16 division have already committed to college programs. Many more than that playing U-18 until play beach in college.

Louisiana will be highly represented and is already a recruiting hotbed for its Division 1 college teams. In addition to powerhouse LSU, the state boasts sand volleyball programs at emerging Tulane, Louisiana Monroe and UNO. Spring Hill College in Mobile also draws from Louisiana's solid junior programs.

At 480 teams, the tourney is at its brim. But it is certain that the City of Gulf Shores and Gulf Coast Volleyball will work together, as they do every year.

"People tell us all the time how well this tourney is run. The same with the National Championship," Weaver said.

Pictured: (l to r) Coaches Shawn Weaver, Billy Eubanks & Phillip Bryant have helped spur volleyball's incredible grow in South Baldwin County for 30 years.



Godmother of beach volleyball Kathy DeBoer was also a pro hoopster

Kathy DeBoer always thought she was better at basketball than volleyball. And she was probably right.

She was a finalist for the Wade Trophy as the top female college basketball player in the country when she played at Michigan State. She went on to play professionally for two years.

She received early volleyball training from Mick Haley, who eventually served as the 2000 U.S. Olympic Women's Volleyball head coach, which put her on a career path that put her among those that shaped beach volleyball into an NCAA sport (See page 6-8 story).

"Just think of it," said Phillip Bryant, commissioner of USA Volleyball Gulf Coast Region. "The NCAA Championship is here just by the virtue of Kathy DeBoer looking for a place that would be passionate about the event."

DeBoer, who played in her first USVBA Adult National Tourney when she was 16, broke into coaching by leading Ferris State to three conference championships and two NCAA appearances.

She coached at Kentucky for nine years, leading the Wildcats to three SEC Championships and four NCAA Tourneys. The National Volleyball Coach of the Year in 1987, she was named president of the American Volleyball Coaches Association in 1990.

She's also written a well regarded coaching

manual about the difference between coaching men and women titled "Gender and Competition."

She helped create USA Volleyball's coaching accreditation program, was an advisor to the U.S. national team from 1988 to 1996 and coached several developmental teams.

DeBoer's impact in the developing beach volleyball into an NCAA sport started when she became executive director of AVCA in 2006.

After lobbying to secure a men's Division III volleyball championship in 2012, she set her sights on women's sand volleyball, which she helped steer towards Gulf Shores.

"When we first started talking about beach volleyball, people laughed. Beach volleyball as a college sport was a joke. It was like, 'What are you talking about?' This is never gonna happen," DeBoer told volleyballmag.com in a 2017 interview.

"Because of Kerri Walsh and Misty May, you have a whole generation of kids who grew up watching them win Olympic medals. They knew who they were. They knew what this sport was about. I said this to (Kerri) yesterday, what we were smart enough to do was see that there was a boogie board out there called Misty May and Kerri Walsh and we were able to get on it and ride it into the beach. Those two started the wave. They created it. We just rode it."



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GULF COAST HOT AIR BALLOON FEST • MAY 6-9 AT OWA



Keep your eye on the sky to see Laska & Sunny Boy

Keep your eyes on the skyline over OWA during the 17th Annual Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Fest. You may just see Laska the Unicorn or Sunny Boy gracing the festival grounds. Special-shaped balloons are always the stars of the show at ballooning events. Both special shapes this



year are flown by repeat pilots of the fest. Laska the Unicorn is traveling to us from Land O' Lakes, Florida, flown by Tom Warren, and Sunny Boy is piloted by Benjamin Drennan of Cordele, Georgia.

Over 50 beautiful hot air balloons will be participating in this year's festi-

val and at dusk and dawn, wind and weather permitting, they will be rising to fly in South Baldwin skies. Along with balloons at dusk and dawn and balloon tethered rides (both weather permitting), there are lots of activities for everyone.

Voice finalist Kirk Jay plays fest on Sunday

Kirk Jay, a Bay Minette native who made a run to the finals during Season 15 of "The Voice," will take the Balaloon Fest stage at noon on Sunday. Voice judge Adam Levine said he sounded like a cross between Shelton and



Cee Lo Green. Since finishing third on The Voice, Jay has continued to travel and perform country classics that allow him to stand out from other independent artists. Continuing to use the advice from his former coach and mentor Blake Shelton, Jay released his debut EP Temporary Pain on Feb. 1.



May 15 HoodStock will raise funds for FBISF Foundation

Playa del Rio RV Resort on Perdido Key will host HoodStock Music Fest on May 15 beginning at noon.

A fundraiser for the Frank Brown International Songwriters Fest Foundation, the fest kicks off with a VIP party on May 14 beginning at 4 p.m. VIP passes are \$100 and general admission passes are \$50

The fundraiser also includes a fest t-shirt sale, and a raffle for \$5,000 in merchandise and gift cards. The silent auction includes Abe Partridge's artwork on an antique fiddle, a Martin guitar, a guitar autographed by all performers, a Christina Christian house concert, a week's stay at Playa del Rio, a framed FBISF print signed by performers at 2020 festival, and an unframed HoodStock 2021 print signed by performers.

"I reached out to a small group of folks that shared the same love for music, songwriting and our local music community as me, while reaching out to every songwriter and musician that had ever performed at the Playa del Rio," said Mark A. McBride, HoodStock founder and Playa del Rio owner. "The response was overwhelming."

For tickets or more info, visit hoodstockmusicfest.com

Hoodstock Schedule

MAY 14

- 4 p.m. - Brandon Whyde & Johnny Holland
- 5 p.m. - Cass Hunter & Friends
- 7 p.m. - Dark Waters Project w/ Adam & Cherish Hamby

MAY 15

- 12 p.m. - Christina Christian, Jonathon Newton, Justin Touchette
- 1 p.m. - Rusty Budde, (pictured) Neil Dover, Daryl Roberts & Mark Dreyer
- 2 p.m. - Smokin Elvis' w/ Rhonda Hart, Elaine Petty & Doug Habbena
- 3 p.m. - Sean Gasaway, Brandon Green & Jim St. James
- 4 p.m. - Jan Cook, Jay Megginson & Matt Prater
- 5 p.m. - Saucy Fuzz w/ Mason Henderson, James Earl Henson, Kyle Thornton & Nick Prentice
- 6 p.m. - John Joiner, Tommy Mazzullo & Rick Whaley
- 7 p.m. - Nikki Nelson of Hwy. 101, Steve Oliver & Bobby Keel
- 8 p.m. - T-Bone Montgomery, Mark Sherrill, Johnny Holland & Bo Roberts
- 9 p.m. - Josh Newcom, Jonathon Newton, Jason Justice & Justin Headley.

Glows, tethered rides, mass ascension part of festivities

The South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with OWA, will relocate to 17th annual Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival to OWA's state-of-the-art property located at 100 North OWA Boulevard in Foley.

"It's going to be a spectacular event and we can't wait to see you all there," said Chamber. Enjoy a DJ Party in Downtown OWA and a few limited hot air balloon glow appearances on Thursday, May 6. This sneak preview event will kick off the 17th annual Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival.

Schedule of Events

(Balloon Flight Events are weather & wind permitting)

Thursday, May 6

- 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm – DJ Patrick; The Park at OWA
- 7:30 pm – 8:00 pm – Balloon Glow (weather permitting)

Friday, May 7

- 2:00 pm – 10:00 pm – Festival Hours
- 2:00 pm – 9:00 pm – Food vendors, arts and crafts, vendors
- 2:00 pm – 9:00 pm – Kids Inflatables
- 2:00 pm – 9:00 pm – Pony and Camel Rides
- 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm – Molly Thomas & the Rare Birds
- 7:30 pm – Tethered Rides, Balloon Glow, Ascension
- 8:00 – 10:00 pm – Tobacco Rd. Band

Saturday, May 8

- 9:00 am – 10:30 pm – Festival Hours
- 9:00 am – 9:00 pm – Food vendors, arts and crafts, retail
- 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm – Dare Devil Dog Show in The Park
- 11:30 am – 11:45 am – Legends Sneak Peek - National Anthem
- 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm – Tobacco Rd. Band
- 12:00 pm – 9:00 pm – Kids Inflatables
- 12:00 pm – 9:00 pm – Pony and Camel Rides
- 2:30 pm – 2:45 pm – Legends Sneak Peek
- 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm – Magnolia Dance Company
- 5:00 pm – 5:45 pm – Comedian Brad Tassell
- 7:00 pm – 10:30 pm – B Street Benny
- 7:30 pm – Tethered Rides, Balloon Glow, Mass Ascension

Sunday, May 9

- 12:00 pm – 8:00 pm – Festival Hours
- 12:00 pm – 8:00 pm – Food vendors, arts and crafts, vendors
- 12:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm – Dare Devil Dog Show in The Park
- 12:00 pm – 7:00 pm – Kids Inflatables
- 12:00 pm – 7:00 pm – Pony and Camel Rides
- 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm – Kirk Jay
- 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm – Roman Street
- 7:30 pm – Balloon Glow

Pictured: Molly Thomas & The Rare Birds will be onstage Friday, May 7 at 4 p.m. Born in Ocean Springs, Thomas calls her passionately homegrown songs Indie Swamp Pop, and she has a band to prove it with live with Rick Hirsch (guitar), John Milham (drums), and John Keuler (bass), the same Gulf Coast royalty that played on her most recent release, Honey's Fury.



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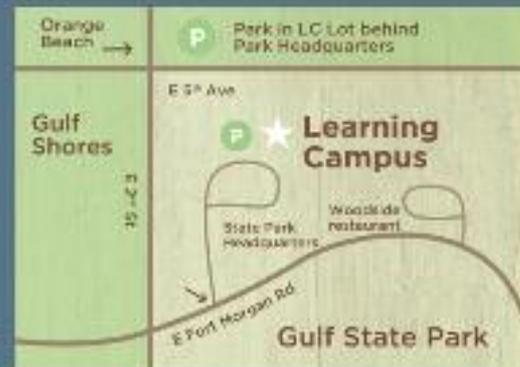


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WHAT'S HAPPENING

PIER & SHORE FISHING OUTLOOK

BY DAVID "THE PIERPOUNDER" THORNTON

Most anyone recently walking the sandy white beaches of Perdido Key or Baldwin County would ponder what is going on in those mysterious green waters lapping at the shore. The sheer number of anglers surf fishing has been exceeded only by the multiple numbers of rods staked out in rodholders, and fortunately, the great numbers of pompano migrating along the coast.

The annual spring ritual of pompano to flood the surfzone all long the Emerald Coast is in effect prior to their upcoming spawn in the coming weeks. By the next full moon (later this month), most will be gone. In fact savvy pompano anglers have already reported a slight drop in the average size of the pompano they have been landing in the past week or so.

That has been the trend ever since Jason Motes landed his 6 pound 14.6 ounce Alabama record tying 'pompa-saurus' on April 18 (Google mulletwrapper for the story). It seems the water level in the Gulf may have dropped a bit after that fish was removed. But still plenty of legal sized pompano continue to be landed all along the north central Gulf coast. Be aware of the size and creel limits for the beach you are fishing from, as Alabama and Florida regulations differ a good bit.

We are at the height of the period most surf anglers wait all year for. And the pompano have not disappointed, even as many new anglers have been introduced to the art of pompano fishing. Many have already checked them off their bucket list, and may have even partaken in the delights of eating these hard-fighting fish. They can be baked, broiled, smoked, pan seared, or used to make ceviche or sashimi. Many local restaurants offer 'catch and cook' options to customers who bring their own fillets.

Not to be overlooked is the plethora of incidental species landed by these fishermen using the popular double dropper rigs baited with pieces of dead shrimp, tipped with Fishbites or Fishgum. Everything from hand sized spadefish weighing a few ounces, to arms length cownose rays exceeding 30 pounds have been caught lately with this method.

Well, only some of those bigger fish have actually been put on the beach. Often to the delight of

a large audience, and relief of the exhausted angler.

Blue runners, locally called "hardtails" have made their appearance recently, and their numbers increase almost daily. Their cousins the ladyfish (locally called "skipjack") will soon follow as the water temperature climbs from the low 70s through the mid 70s during the upcoming fortnight. By the end of this month, these jack species will replace pompano as the predominant surf zone species. Though edible in their own right, and lacking no fighting ability for their size, these jacks have a much different diet from pompano, and do not share the same delectable firm, white flesh of pompano.

Other from-shore anglers at the Gulf State Park Pier, Alabama Point jetty and seawall have also been catching some pompano. Most by free lining live shrimp on light tackle.

Though spanish mackerel are getting a lot more attention now, as the larger female mackerel in the plus three pound range have been showing up. These can also be caught drifting live shrimp, though a heavy monofilament leader (40 or 50 pound test) is recommended to prevent most cut-offs from those sharp mackerel teeth. More mackerel are caught using lures though. Gotcha plugs are popular because they are effective, but the two swinging treble can be dangerous. As are the ever popular Bubble rigs and Rapala X-raps. So for safety sake, the pier asks mackerel anglers to refrain from overhand casting while mackerel fishing.

The water has warmed enough for the schools of scaled sardine and false herring (locally called "LYs") to hold around the pier. These plankton eating baitfish are primarily attracted to the pier as refuge from the larger predatory fish like mackerel, bluefish, jacks and red drum. In fact there have been several recent 'blitzes' when hundreds of these large red drum and jack crevelle would erupt to the surface in pursuit of the LYs. Anglers with large jigs, spoons and plugs with heavy line and rods have landed quite a few bull reds from the nub. That's how fishermen refer the 105 feet open south of the middle platform. There's not a lot of fishing room, but anglers have made the best of it!

Pictured: Comparing bull reds caught during a 'blitz' near the pier recently; A large school of jack crevelle and bull redfish feeding on the surface near the pier

(Photos by video blogger Bama Beach Bum)

FRI, MAY 7

- **National Collegiate Beach Volleyball Championship:** Gulf Shores Main Public Beach (Gulf Place).
- **Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival:** OWA, Foley.
- **Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables:** Schedule on Page 28; Perdido Key.
- **Flora-Bama Family Friendly Bingo:** 1-4 p.m.; free; family friendly; Flora-Bama; Perdido Key.
- **Bo Grant:** 7; Papa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- **JB Dyess:** 8; Stephi Cocktails-Cuisine; Orange Beach.
- **Yeah Probably:** 7; Big Beach Brewery; Gulf Shores.
- **Mel Knapp:** 5; Woodside Rest. at Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores.
- **Jay Williams Band:** 9; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- **Soul Food Junkies:** 6; Tacky Jacks; Gulf Shores.
- **Shelby Brown:** 6; Tacky Jacks; Orange Beach.
- **Delta Donnie:** 6; Tacky Jacks; Fort Morgan.
- **John Brust:** 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.
- **Bama Beach Pickleball Club:** 9-noon; Church of Christ, 2414 West 1st St., Gulf Shores; (new members welcome).
- **Charlie & The Hammerheads:** 7; Live Bait; Orange Beach.
- **Late Night DJ's:** 9; The Club at Live Bait; Orange Beach.

- **Mark Kaul:** 5; Angry Crab Shack, Orange Beach.
- **Charlie Wilson:** 5; Carver's Steakhouse, Orange Beach.
- **Karaoke on the Tiki Deck:** 7 'til; Live Bait; Orange Beach.
- **Karaoke w. Kelly Ann:** 6; American Legion Post 99; Foley.
- **Platinum Premier:** 7; Hub Stacey's at the Point; Innerarity Point.
- **Open Mixed Doubles Tennis:** 7:15 a.m.; all levels welcome; Gulf Shores Tennis Center; corner of West 19th Ave. and West 2nd St.
- **First Friday Art Walk:** 7 p.m. 'til; historic downtown Fairhope.
- **AA:** Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.
- **AA:** 7 p.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

SAT, MAY 8

- **National Collegiate Beach Volleyball Championship:** Gulf Shores Main Public Beach (Gulf Place).
- **Brett/Robinson Annual Rummage Sale:** 7-3; Brett/Robinson Laundry; 25050 Canal Rd., Orange Beach.
- **49th Annual ART in the Park:** John B. Foley Park; downtown Foley.
- **Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival:** OWA, Foley.
- **12th Annual Good Life Bicycle Ride:** The Lodge at Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores, (251) 948-7275.
- **Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables:** Schedule on Page 28; Perdido

Alabama Opens for Red Snapper Fishing on May 28

Alabama state waters and federal waters will open to private vessel anglers for red snapper fishing on Friday, May 28. The season will consist of four-day weekends, Friday through Monday, beginning Friday, May 28, and continue until the private angler quota is projected to be met.

These dates only apply to anglers fishing from recreational vessels and state-licensed Alabama commercial party boats that do not hold federal for-hire fishing permits. Anglers fishing from federally permitted for-hire vessels have their own 63-day season beginning June 1 at 12:01 a.m. local time through August 3 at 12:01 a.m. local time.

As in recent years, Alabama will use Snapper Check to monitor landings during the season and will provide semi-weekly updates at www.outdooralabama.com. The exact Alabama private angler quota has not yet been provided by the National Marine Fisheries service but is anticipated to be similar to the 2020 quota which was 1,122,662 pounds. When the quota is anticipated to be met, MRD will announce a closure date.

Weekends are defined as 12:01 a.m. Friday through 11:59 p.m. Monday. The daily bag limit will be two red snapper per person, per day with a minimum size limit of 16 inches total length. Anglers over the age of 16 must have an Alabama saltwater fishing license, and even Alabama residents 65 or older and lifetime saltwater license holder must have a current saltwater angler registration. The saltwater angler registration is free and available at outdooralabama.com.

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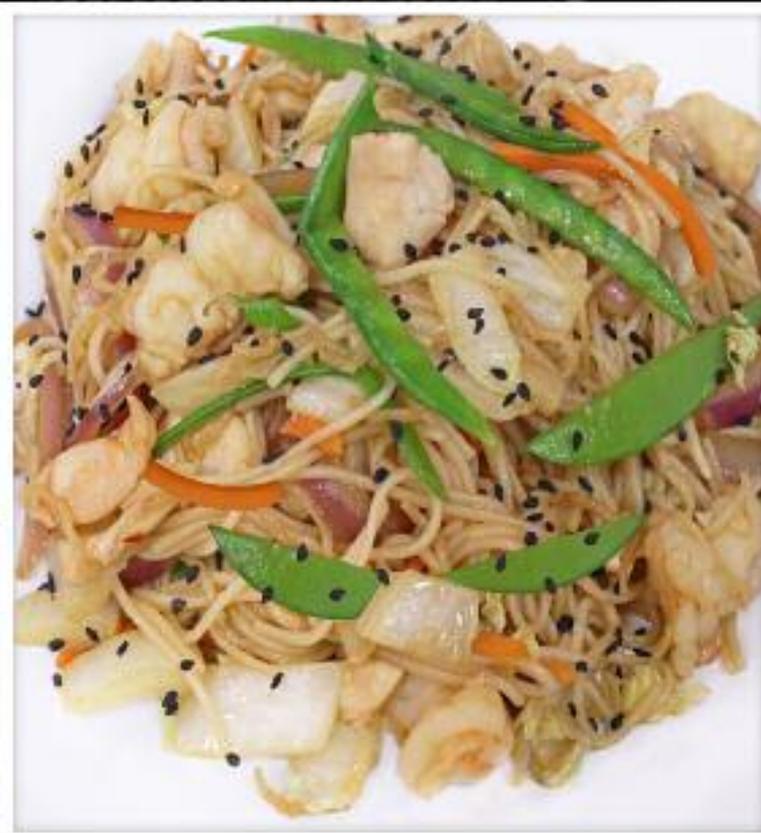
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

COOKIN' WITH CAROLYN

BY CAROLYN GODFREY

Wild Rice Salad

- 1 c. uncooked wild rice
- Seasoned salt, opt.
- 2 c. diced cooked chicken
- 1-1/2 cups halved green grapes
- 1 c. sliced water chestnuts, drained and chopped
- 3/4 cup reduced-fat mayonnaise
- 1 c. cashews, opt.
- Lettuce leaves

Cook rice according to package directions, omitting salt or substituting seasoned salt if desired. Drain well; cool to room temperature. Spoon into a large bowl; add chicken, grapes, water chestnuts and mayonnaise. Toss gently with a fork. Cover and chill. Just before serving, add cashews if desired. Serve on lettuce leaves or line a bowl with lettuce leaves and fill with salad. Yield: 6 servings.

Enjoy!

Pensacola lawyer charges \$28K to help client collect \$496.62

Jeremiah J. Talbott's license suspended for 60 days for running up fees

The Florida Supreme Court suspended Pensacola based personal injury lawyer Jeremiah J. Talbott's license for 60 days for running up his attorney's fee to more than \$28,000 in a case in which his client recovered \$496.62 from his former employer.

According to a Florida Bar press release, Talbott was guilty of churning legal fees by performing unnecessary work to run up the bill for his services. Talbott's client, Christopher Moss, was a driver-operator at a local construction company, Pav'R Construction Inc. and quit his job rather than pay for equipment his employer claimed he broke while on the job. After he quit, his wages were withheld for one pay period to compensate the company for some of the broken equipment. Moss hired Talbott to argue in court that he was due \$496.62 in withheld wages. After several months of back and forth legal filings, Breton and PRC agreed to pay Moss the \$496.62. After several months of haggling, the company paid Moss the full amount that he asked for.

A complaint filed by the Florida Bar to the Florida Supreme Court stated that Talbott 'exaggerated the amount of fees owned by claiming he did numerous secretarial tasks and paralegal tasks at his \$350 per hour legal rate rather than delegating those tasks to his legal staff, according to the Florida Bar.

Talbott was charged with conducting frivolous litigation, failing to expedite litigation, filing exaggerated billing sheets with the court and filing extensive and unnecessary discovery to increase attorney fees without a reason, according to the Florida Bar.



Cancer Can Kiss My A\$\$ slated May 7-9 at SBCT

Cancer is the scariest word in the English language. It's a word and a diagnosis that has touched us all.

Local playwright Laura Pfizenmayer (pictured) recruited a cast from the South Baldwin Community Theater to address the topic directly in "Cancer Can Kiss My A\$\$," an original play that made its world premiere at SBCT on April 30.

The dramedy, which chronicles the journey of Jean's battle and triumph over anal cancer, is based on Laura's own story.

The play's six run premiere in Gulf Shores includes 7:30 shows on May 7 & 8 and a 2:30 p.m. matinee on May 9. For tickets and more info, visit sbct.biz.

"During lockdown I wrote a dramedy recounting my own cancer journey and now South Baldwin is giving it a world premiere," Laura said. "The theatre is thrilled to be welcoming back our patrons while still observing all COVID guidelines."

Directed by Jan Hinnen, the cast includes Ann Gaynor, Mel Middlebrooks, Barbara Campbell, Steve Henry, Rio Cordy and Robert Gardner.

Come on the journey with Jean and Joseph as they face her diagnosis and with pain, laughter, and love, watch them conquer and overcome.

Key.

- **Wylle Pete:** 8; Stephi Cocktails-Cuisine; Orange Beach.
- **Funk House Trio:** 9; The Office, Foley.
- **Funky Lampshades:** 7; Big Beach Brewery; Gulf Shores.
- **Kelly Poole:** 5; Angry Crab Shack, Orange Beach.
- **Mark Kaul:** 5; Carver's Steakhouse, Orange Beach.
- **Bo Grant:** 7; Papa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- **Mel Knapp:** 5; Woodside Rest. at Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores.
- **Nashville Track Club Festival:** Mickey Blackwell Stadium, Gulf Shores.
- **Tim Spencer:** 3; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- **Jay Williams Band:** 9; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- **Strickly Isbell:** 6; Tacky Jacks; Gulf Shores.
- **Damian Lamb:** 11; Tacky Jacks; Orange Beach.
- **JJ Mack:** 6; Tacky Jacks; Orange Beach.
- **Hollywood Vagabonds:** 8; The Groovy Goat; OWA; Foley.
- **Bruit:** 6:30; American Legion Post 99; Foley.
- **Charlie & The Hammerheads:** 7; Live Bait; Orange Beach.
- **Destiny Brown:** 5; Perch Restaurant at The Lodge at Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores.
- **John Brust:** 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.
- **The Defrosters:** 2; Flying Harpoon II; Orange Beach.
- **Karaoke w Howard:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Ft. Morgan.
- **Late Night DJs:** 9; The Club at Live Bait; Orange Beach.
- **Karaoke on the Tiki Deck:** 7 'til; Live Bait; Orange Beach.
- **Karaoke:** 9; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- **Coastal Fire:** 7; Hub Stacey's at the Point; Innerarity Point.
- **Free Veteran's Breakfast:** 9-10 a.m.; American Legion Post 44, Gulf Shores.

- **Texas Hold 'em:** 7; The Office, Foley.
- **Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermen Market:** 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.; 20733 Mifflin Rd. (County Rd. 20), Foley.
- **Baldwin County Genealogical Society:** 10 a.m.; public invited; Foley Library; 319 East Laurel Ave.
- **Optimist Club of Perdido Bay:** breakfast every Saturday at 7 a.m. at the Lillian Community Club in Lillian; (251) 961-2620.
- **AA:** 10 a.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.
- **AA:** 7 p.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.
- **Ladies AA:** 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Activities Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

SUN, MAY 9

- **Mother's Day Brunch Buffet:** Foodcraft; The Lodge at Gulf State Park; (251) 923-2950.
- **National Collegiate Beach Volleyball Championship:** Gulf Shores Main Public Beach (Gulf Place).
- **49th Annual ART in the Park:** John B. Foley Park; downtown Foley.
- **Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival:** OWA, Foley.
- **Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible**

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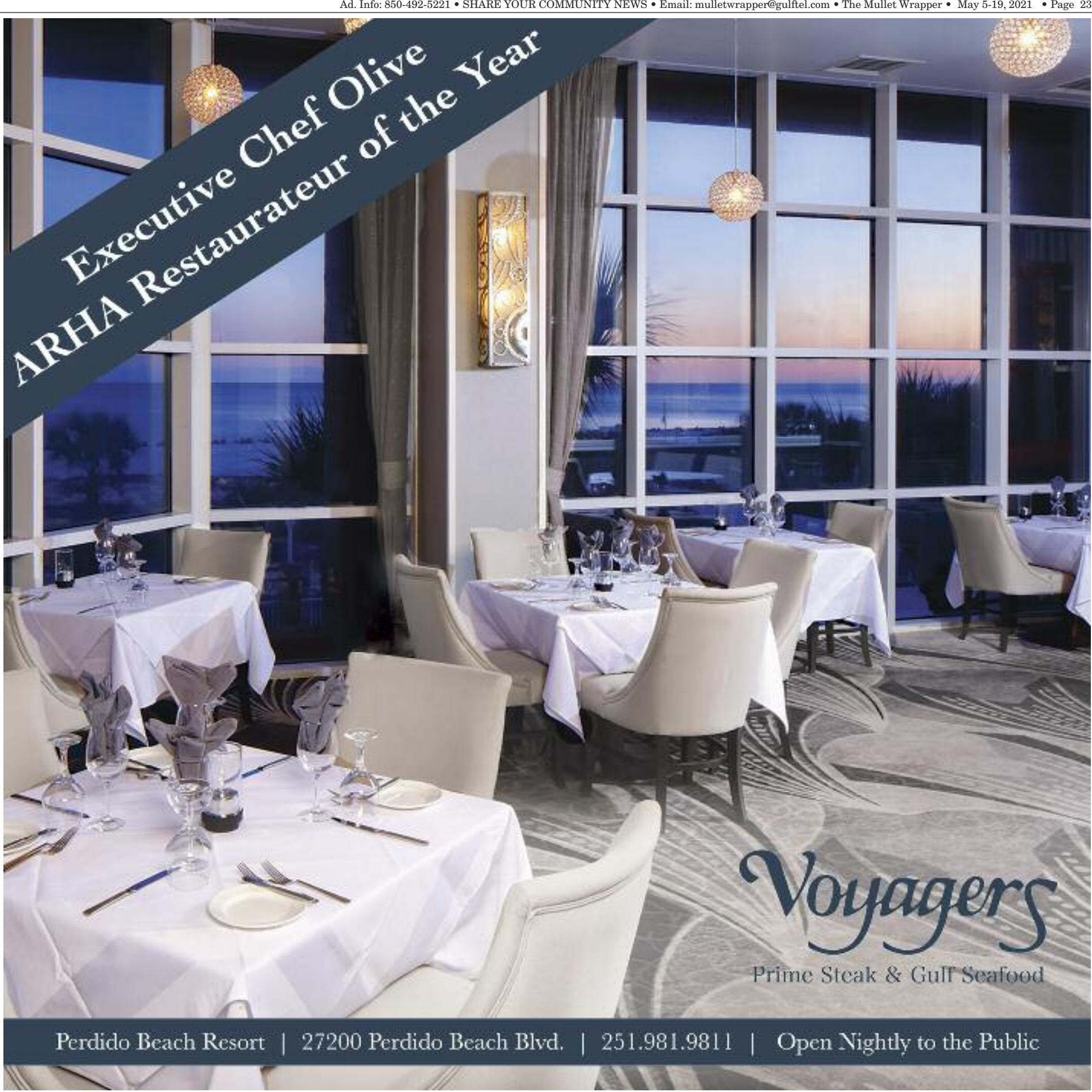
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WHAT'S HAPPENING



#SBAWESOME WINNERS: The South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce awarded its monthly #SBAWESOME award this month to (l to r) Stacy Waters of Century 21 J. Carter & Company in Foley, Tra Wiggins of Piggly Wiggly in Foley and Ramona Brown of The Gulf Bowl & Captain's Choice Restaurant.

- Probables:** Schedule on Page 28; Perdido Key.
- **Jonathan Puzan Duo:** 4; Big Beach Brewery; Gulf Shores.
 - **Brittany Grimes:** noon; Tin Top; Bon Secour.
 - **Chase Brown:** 8; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
 - **Chicken On The Bone:** 5; Angry Crab Shack, Orange Beach.
 - **Ted Hefco:** 5; Carver's Steakhouse, Orange Beach.
 - **Brittany Grimes:** 5; Woodside Rest. at Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores.
 - **Greg Brown:** 4:30; Sassy Bass; Ft. Morgan.
 - **Nashville Track Club Festival:** Mickey Blackwell Stadium, Gulf Shores
 - **Karaoke on the Tiki Deck:** 7 'til; Live Bait; Orange Beach.
 - **Hippie Jim:** 11; Tacky Jacks; Orange Beach.
 - **Marty McIntosh:** 6; Tacky Jacks; Orange Beach.
 - **Matt & Candy:** 4; Tacky Jacks; Fort Morgan.
 - **Liza Zanghi:** 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange

- **Beach.**
- **Josh Newcom:** 5; The Daquari Bar; Wharf in Orange Beach.
- **The Defrosters:** 2; Flying Harpoon II; Orange Beach.
- **Glow Yoga Bend & Brews:** 11 a.m.; community yoga; Big Beach Brewery; Gulf Shores.
- **Danny Grady:** 2; Fraternal Order of Eagles; Foley.
- **John Joiner & Friends:** 4; Hub Stacey's at the Point; Innerarity Point.
- **League Pool:** 7; The Office, Foley.
- **AA:** 5 p.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

MON, MAY 10

- **Orange Beach Planning Commission:** 4 p.m. (work session at 3 p.m.) Orange Beach Council Chambers.
- **Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables:** Schedule on Page 28; Perdido Key.
- **Flora-Bama Family Friendly Bingo:** 1-4 p.m.; free; family friendly; Flora-Bama; Perdido Key.
- **Hippie Jim:** 6; Live Bait; Orange

- **Beach.**
- **Austin Thompson:** 5; Woodside Rest. at Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores.
- **Bama Beach Pickleball Club:** 9-noon; Church of Christ, 2414 West 1st St., Gulf Shores; (new members welcome).
- **Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde:** 7; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- **Open Mic w/Davo:** 7; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- **Sandy Roots Records Songwriters Night:** 6; Purple Parrot Tiki Bar; Perdido Key.
- **Bingo:** 6; American Legion Post 44, Gulf Shores.
- **Open Mixed Doubles Tennis:** 7:15 a.m.; all levels welcome; Gulf Shores Tennis Center; corner of West 19th Ave. and West 2nd St.
- **League Pool:** 7; The Office, Foley.
- **Celebrate Recovery:** (Christ centered 12 step program); Monday evenings at 6 p.m.; Christian Life Church in Orange Beach; 251-967-4840.
- **Overeaters Anonymous:** 6; Holy Spirit Episcopal Church; Gulf Shores, 616 Ft. Morgan Rd.; 251-709-5907.
- **T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly):**

Hurricane Sally survivor Chris Harper is paying it forward with donation to two children's hospitals

Even if you don't remember Chris Harper by name, you may recall the picture of him that circulated widely on social media in the aftermath of September 16's Hurricane Sally.

In the picture, Harper was sitting atop a Theo Baars Bridge piling about seven hours after he abandoned a boat docked at the Oyster Bar Marina. Just like the 30 other boats, including the sailboat he lived on, and the dock at the marina, Harper took a severe beating during Sally.

He said then it was the grace of God and his physical fitness – in that order – that kept him from joining his sailboat and a vast majority of the marina's other vessels either at the bottom of the Intracoastal Waterway or piled up in pieces against the shore.

Almost eight months later, the 61-year-old is ready for this week's surgery that will allow him to return to an active lifestyle that has always included riding a bicycle along the beach road, swimming a couple of miles a week in the Intracoastal Waterway and fishing for blackfin sharks on his kayak by the second sandbar in the Gulf.

Harper's son, Adam, started a GoFundMe account to help his dad cover medical costs. But Harper said insurance has covered most of the cost of his upcoming shoulder operation, and it was more important for him to pay it forward. He decided to donate the money to USA Children's and Women's Hospital in Mobile and St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis.

"St. Jude's does so many miracles and they do so much for small children," Harper said. "I wanted to do whatever I can to help their lives become better."

In many ways, Harper surviving Hurricane Sally's wrath was a miracle. He had been living on his 41 foot sailboat, Due South, for 18 months. But he had been around boats and the Gulf for 40 years. He had already ridden out two tropical storms when, at the request of its owner, he moved his gear to the 56-foot Sea Ray that was docked next to Due South to ride out Sally.

As the wind picked up and swells increased throughout the early evening, Harper was not concerned. By 1 a.m. on Sept. 16, the water in the marina had risen above the boardwalk adjacent to his

boat. Still, all the marina's boats remained securely tied.

If this was the extent of the storm, he would be fine. But it was not. The situation got exponentially worse in a hurry. Waves began crashing over the Sea Ray and the boat listed. He grabbed onto an adjacent pier pole and planned his next move. Winds were already blasting above 100 MPH.

By then, the only visible part of the abandoned Sea Ray was its black hull. His own boat was well secured and doing pretty well until the poles holding up the dock came loose. Eventually, Harper decided to let go of the pole and swim with the current through the marina to the first floor of the Oyster Bar Restaurant. He was pulled under the water by what he suspects was an undertow twice. Boats, including his own, were crashing into the marina in front of him. At one point, he was almost crushed by his friend's 33 foot Morgan.

He was constantly being stung by jellyfish and rain

pellets. Hanging onto a PVC pipe conduit with a nipple to secure himself in the corner of the restaurant, he dodged boats that were slamming into each other in front of him. So, separated shoulder and all, he let go of the pvc conduit and grabbed onto a piece of floating dock that he was somehow able to climb upon. He followed the current out into the Intracoastal Waterway and ended up near one of the bridge's tenders. Thanks to a utility ladder, he was able to pull himself up out of the water with just his one arm.

With dry land under him for the first time since he jumped off the Sea Ray three hours prior, he knew he had survived the storm. His next step was to wait for daylight and for help, which came in the way of Josh McGee, a former Green Beret staying at an RV Park by the bridge.

"Everything good started happening for me once I got out of the water," Harper said. "From the minute I got out of the water, the goodness I found in people to make all of this happen was unbelievable.

"A lot of people have less than I do. I will be OK," he added.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING



GCAA Wild Things Zoo Art Fest May 22 at Little Zoo That Could

Art and wild things fit together perfectly as the Gulf Coast Arts Alliance joins the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo for the Wild Things Zoo Art Fest, a day of artists, music, family fun and, of course, exotic animals on Saturday, May 22 beginning at 9 a.m. A maximum of 40 artists will be set up in different places throughout the zoo until 4 p.m. closing time. Those attending will have to pay only the normal admission to the zoo located at 20499 Oak Rd East in Gulf Shores.

Pictured: GCAA members during December's outdoor art market at First Presbyterian Church in Gulf Shores.



OPTIMIST ESSAY & ORATORICAL CONTEST WINNERS: Although the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay has had to adjust some of its events in the past year, they participated in two yearly events hosted by Optimist International, the Essay and Oratorical contests. This year's winners of the Essay Contest (**above**) are Elberta Middle School students Hartley Gunderson, Gold; Riley Anne Pugh, Silver and Avery Pickle, Bronze. Hartley went on to the District competition. This year's theme was Reaching Your Dreams by Choosing Optimism. The 2021 Oratorical Contest winners are (**below**) Ashton Haygood, Gold; Analeigh Behrendsen, Silver and Mia Edwards, Bronze. Ashton placed third in the district competition. The theme was Healing the World with Optimism. All are students at Elberta High School.



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, MAY 11**
- **Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables:** Schedule on Page 28; Perdido Key.
 - **Flora-Bama Family Friendly Bingo:** 1-4 p.m.; free; family friendly; Flora-Bama; Perdido Key.
 - **Bama Beach Pickleball Club:** 9-noon; Church of Christ, 2414 West 1st St., Gulf Shores; (new members welcome).
 - **Jayson Harper:** 6; Live Bait; Orange Beach.
 - **Paper Dolls:** 5; Woodside Rest. at Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores.
 - **Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde:** 7; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
 - **Bingo:** 5; 45 Restaurant & Bar; One Club, Gulf Shores.
 - **Chris Beverly Experience:** 9; The Underdirt; Orange Beach.
 - **Karaoke w. Kelly:** 8; Sandshaker at The

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6 Main Room 2:00 J Hawkins Duo 6:00 Mark Sherrill & Friends 10:15 Mario Mena Deck Stage 5:30 The Steve & Joe Piano Show 10:00 Summer 97 Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Bingo Beach Stage 12:00 Adam Tyler Brown Yacht Club 5:00 Zachary Diedrich Ole River Grill 6:00 Clay Barker	7 Main Room 11:00 Lea Anne Creswell Duo 3:00 Lance Dubroc 6:00 Scott Koehn Project 10:15 Bill Roemer Deck Stage 1:00 Jonboy Storey 5:30 Big Earl Show 10:00 Mario Mena Band Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Bingo 6:00 Clay Barker Band 10:30 Summer 97 Beach Stage 12:00 Clay Barker 4:00 Chris Beverly Yacht Club 6:00 J Edwards Ole River Grill 4:00 Alexa Burroughs 8:00 Tim Roberts	8 Main Room 11:00 J Hawkins Duo 3:00 J Edwards 6:00 Dalton Bush Duo 10:15 Jonboy Storey Deck Stage 1:00 Lance Dubroc 5:30 Big Earl Show 10:00 Ryan Dyer Band Tent Stage 2:00 Jamell Richardson 6:00 Smokey Otis Trio 10:30 Yeah, Probably Beach Stage 12:00 Jonathan Puzan 4:00 David Chastang Yacht Club 12:00 Jonboy Storey 5:00 Ryan Balthrop Ole River Grill 4:00 Electric Blue Yonder 8:00 Bill Roemer	9 Main Room 1:30 Perdido Brothers 6:00 Rhonda Hart Duo 10:15 Jonboy Storey Deck Stage 1:00 David Dunavent 5:30 J Edwards 10:00 Chris Beverly Trio Tent Stage 12:30 Al & Cathy 4:00 Lance Dubroc Beach Stage 12:00 Bill Roemer Yacht Club 12:00 Dalton Bush Duo 5:00 Destiny Brown Ole River Grill 2:00 Davis Nix & Joe Brantley	10 Main Room 2:00 Mike Diamond 6:00 Open Mic with Cathy Pace 10:15 Petty & Pace Deck Stage 5:30 Tim Roberts 10:00 Justin Fobes Trio Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Bingo Beach Stage 12:00 David Dunavent	11 Main Stage 2:00 T-Bone Montgomery 6:00 Perdido Brothers 10:15 Tim Roberts Deck Stage 5:30 Davis Nix 10:00 Lex & the Luthors Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Bingo Beach Stage 12:00 Johnny Hayes	12 Main Room 2:00 Neil Dover 6:00 Rhonda Hart Duo 10:15 Justin Jeansonne Deck Stage 5:30 Mike Diamond 10:00 Unfortunate Sons Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Bingo Beach Stage 12:00 Brooks Johnson
13 Main Room 11:00 J Hawkins Duo 3:00 Big Earl (Jack Robertson) 6:00 Mark Sherrill & Friends 10:15 Bruce Smelley Deck Stage 5:30 Steve & Joe Piano Show 10:00 Shea White Trio Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Bingo Beach Stage 12:00 Anthony Oliver Yacht Club 5:00 David Chastang Ole River Grill 6:00 Brittany Grimes	14 Main Room 11:00 Lea Anne Creswell Duo 3:00 Skyelor Anderson Duo 7:00 Scott Koehn Project 10:15 Ryan Dyer Deck Stage 1:00 Chad Wilson Duo 5:30 Smokey Otis Trio 10:00 Bruce Smelley Band Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Bingo 6:00 Cole Jones Band 10:30 Jenna McClelland Band Beach Stage 12:00 Chris Beverly 4:00 Tony Ray Thompson Yacht Club 6:00 Destiny Brown Ole River Grill 4:00 Dan Alley 8:00 Brandon Blackburn	15 Main Room 11:00 J Hawkins Duo 3:00 Dan Alley 6:00 Chad Wilson Duo 10:15 Skyelor Anderson Duo Deck Stage 1:00 Al & Cathy 5:30 Brandon Giles 10:00 Johnny Hayes & the Loveseats Tent Stage 2:00 Beachbilly's 6:00 Craig Gerdes Band 10:30 Oliver's Twist Beach Stage 12:00 Patrick Cross 4:00 Brent Varner Yacht Club 12:00 Zachary Diedrich 5:00 Rob Aldridge Ole River Grill 4:00 Skyelor Anderson Duo 8:00 Mason Henderson	16 Main Room 1:30 Perdido Brothers 6:00 Scott Koehn Project 10:15 Skyelor Anderson Duo Deck Stage 1:00 Johnny Barbato 5:30 Johnny Hayes Trio 10:00 Rob Aldridge Band Tent Stage 9:00 & 11:00 Church 2:00 Southern Standards Beach Stage 12:00 Craig Gerdes Yacht Club 12:00 Brandon Blackburn 5:00 Rhonda Hart Duo Ole River Grill 2:00 Rob Aldridge	17 Main Room 2:00 Mike Diamond 6:00 Open Mic with Cathy Pace 10:15 Petty & Pace Deck Stage 5:30 Alabama Lightning 10:00 Southern Standards Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Bingo Beach Stage 12:00 Rob Aldridge	18 Main Room 2:00 T-Bone Montgomery 6:00 Perdido Brothers 10:15 Trevor Finlay Deck Stage 5:30 Johnny Barbato 10:00 Unfortunate Sons Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Bingo Beach Stage 12:00 Jonathan Puzan	19 Main Room 2:00 Neil Dover 6:00 Rhonda Hart Duo 10:15 Dew Pendelton Deck Stage 5:30 Trevor Finlay 10:00 Chris Beverly Trio Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Bingo Beach Stage 12:00 Mike Diamond

*Except for some special events.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



Helping Hands G.S. hosts May 8 fundraiser for Theodore Prive

On Friday, May 8 from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m., Helping Hands Gulf Shores will hold a donation drive for Theodore Prive at Happy Pappy's Coffee House. Due to complications with Covid, we were unable to complete our event from last year.

Theodore is a 4-year-old who has been fighting bravely since he was 4½ months old. He was diagnosed with a rare type of leukemia called Infant Pre B ALL + KMT2A, which affects only about 150 documented infants each year. He loves veggie straws and playing outside. Theodore is currently in Philadelphia going through a bone marrow transplant and will remain there for the next 3 ½ to 5 months, depending on complications.



The donation drive will be a silent auction, featuring many local businesses, restaurants, and artists. You can bid at anytime between 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., and the winners will be contacted if they are not present at the end of the event. Some featured items are art by Nick Cantrall, a \$50 gift card from Tuscan Grill, and many, many more.

There will be live music throughout the event, including local artists such as Andy and Chris Carstains, Christina Christian, and Lisa Christian. You're welcome to enjoy the variety of refreshments sold by Happy Pappy's Coffee House during the auction and bid at your leisure.

The goal is to raise \$2,000 for Theodore and his family, to help pay for their recent medical expenses. If you are unable to make it to the event you can deposit check or cash to any PNC bank. The account name is Theodore Prive Donation Drive.

Helping Hands was created by Kaysheri Haffner, in 2016, when she was a Gulf Shores Elementary School student. The team also includes Lauren Calvert, Cade Whitman, and Bailey Oldhan. The Helping Hands Team raised almost \$6,000 for a seven-year-old Devan Willis during their first donation drive, in 2017. They continued by raising \$5,000 for Taylor Wilson in 2018, and \$5,000 for Clayton Ladd in 2019.

Feel free to come to the event on May 8 at Happy Pappy's Coffee House (1550A West 2nd Street, Unit 5, Gulf Shores) for a good cause and family fun! It doesn't matter if you donate a penny or a million dollars, you're making a difference. For more info, call or text (251) 609-1251, e-mail helpinghandsgulfshores@gmail.com, or visit kidshelpinghands.wixsite.com/helpinghands.

Pictured: Lauren Calvert, Kaysheri Haffner, Cade Whitman, Bailey Oldhan.



Addison Smith earns GSGC scholarship

The Gulf Shores Garden Club has named 2021 Gulf Shores High School grad Addison Smith the recipient of its annual \$1,000 scholarship.

To qualify, a GSHS grad or student must major in a field related to horticulture. Smith will study biology with a concentration in environmental science at the University of South Alabama next fall. Her goal is to work in conservation as a way of giving back to her community.

"Any career that has to do with the environment requires a lot of knowledge and care. By being able to go to college, I will be able to give back later when I begin this (environmental preservation) work," she said.

Smith added that she hopes to begin working in the field even before she graduates.

"With my knowledge of the area and the local ecosystem, I'll be able to work with conservation in ways many others can't," she said.

The Gulf Shores Garden Club provides members with opportunities to gain new ideas in gardening, floral arrangement and landscaping. Members place a premium on having fun and community service. Besides raising funds for a host of local charities, club members participate in local civic projects such as Coastal Clean-up and the Gulf Shores Christmas Celebration.

Its primary fundraiser is the annual floral seminar held the first Wednesday of February. The next seminar is Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at the Erie Meyer Civic Center in Gulf Shores.

Club meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month September through May at the Gulf Shores Adult Activity Center, 260 Clubhouse Dr. Refreshments and social time begins at 9:15 a.m., the program is presented at 9:45 a.m., with a business meeting following the program.

For more club info, visit gsgardenclub.com, go to facebook or email c.s.higgins@gmail.com or dhfarnham54@gmail.com.

Pictured: GSGC Treasurer Charlotte Higgins, scholarship recipient Addison Smith, GSGC President Diane Farnham.

Wharf; Orange Beach.

- **Bingo:** 10-2; Gulf Coast Elks Lodge; Foley.
- **JW Karaoke:** 6; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
- **Texas Hold 'em:** 7; The Office, Foley.
- **Baldwin Senior Softball Group:** 10 a.m.; 50 and over; 10 a.m.; call 225/313-8516 for info & location.
- **Orange Beach Grief Support Group:** 10 a.m.; Orange Beach Senior Activity Center, 26251 Canal Rd.; 251-943-5015.
- **Celebrate Recovery Meeting:** 6; in-

- cludes free dinner; open to all; Orange Beach United Methodist Church; 251-981-6751 or 850-419-1141.
- **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.
- **Foley Kiwanis Club:** noon; Vallarta's, 1145 S. McKenzie St.; Foley; 859-771-6091.
- **Foley Lions Club:** noon; Wolf Bay Lodge, Foley.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING



Andrew Meza awarded \$5,000 LLPS scholarship

Andrew Meza, a 2021 Gulf Shores High School grad, is the recipient of this year's Little Lagoon Preservation Society Barney and Maxine Gass Scholarship. The \$5,000 award is spread over four years. Andrew participated in the oyster gardening project on Little Lagoon with GSHS classes and he recently completed the first ever GSHS Capstone Steam Project by documenting habitat in addition to oysters that thrive in the gardens. He is a National Honor Society member, a GSHS band member, and on the varsity soccer team. His nomination stated, "Andrew is a very nice guy, extremely polite, very hard working, extremely bright and loaded with potential." He will attend Auburn this fall and intends to pursue a degree in Fisheries. The scholarship fund is the result of a very caring and generous donation by Barney and Maxine Gass. Recipients are evaluated and selected by a team of teachers with additional input from LLPS Board member, Dr. Ron Phelps.

Pictured: Andrew Meza and LLPS President Dennis Hatfield.



Erie Hall Meyer Fund donates \$100K to Christian Service Center

The Board of Directors of the Erie Hall Meyer Charitable Fund, Inc. established a Matching Grant for the Christian Service Center agreeing to deliver \$1 for each \$1 CSC raised, up to \$100K by Oct. 13, 2021. That amount has now been raised through donations from individuals, businesses, and other grants. Thus, on April 21, a check in the amount of \$100,000 was presented to the Center by Erie Hall Meyer Charitable Fund Chairman Herb Malone.

The Christian Service Center is immensely grateful to the Board Members for this matching grant. Due to COVID 19 and Hurricane Sally, the last year has been like no other in terms of the level of funding needed to meet the needs of families in our community. At times both the number of clients and the amount of expenditures for assistance have been two to three times greater than any previous year. These funds will enable the Center to continue serving families in need in Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, and Fort Morgan. We are truly thankful for the Board's financial blessing and continued support of CSC.

Pictured (left to right): Stan Moss, CSC Food Pantry Chairman; Linda Chappelle, CSC Board President/Center Director; Herb Malone, Erie Hall Meyer Charitable Fund Chairman

- **AA:** Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.
- **Al-Anon:** Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Activities Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

WED, MAY 12

- **Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables:** Schedule on Page 28; Perdido Key.
- **Flora-Bama Family Friendly Bingo:** 1-4 p.m.; free; family friendly; Flora-Bama; Perdido Key.
- **Bama Beach Pickleball Club:** 9-noon; Church of Christ, 2414 West 1st St., Gulf Shores; (new members welcome).
- **Lee Yankie 5:** Woodside Rest. at Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores.
- **Tim Roberts:** 6; Tacky Jacks; Orange Beach.
- **Delta Donnie:** 6; Tacky Jacks; Fort Morgan.
- **Anthony Oliver:** 6; Live Bait; Orange Beach.
- **Lisa Zanghi:** 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.
- **Open Mic:** 5; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
- **Mason Henderson's Saucy Fuzz:** 9; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- **Jenna McClelland:** 8; Stephi Cocktails-Cuisine; Orange Beach.
- **Gary Story & Friends:** 8; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- **Scott Koehn Project:** 6; OSO; Orange Beach.
- **Karaoke:** 7; Bar 45 at ONE CLUB, Gulf Shores.
- **Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde:** 7; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- **John Joiner & Darrel Roberts:** 7; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
- **Artie Hopkins:** 5; American Legion Post 99; Foley.
- **BBRC Running Club:** 5:30 p.m.; Big Beach Brewery in Gulf Shores; lafeetfeet.com.
- **Karaoke & League Pool:** 7:30; The Office, Foley.
- **Bingo:** 10 a.m.; American Legion Post 99; Foley.
- **Open Mixed Doubles Tennis:** 7:15 a.m.; all levels welcome; Gulf Shores Tennis Center.
- **Orange Beach Friends of the Library:** 10; Library meeting room; 978-4106.
- **Food Ministry at Morgan's Chapel United Methodist Church:** 8-9 a.m.; 6325 Cty Rd 10, Bon Secour, (across from Swift School); 251-979-2005.
- **Food Ministry For Hungry Families:** noon-1 p.m.; Grace Lutheran Church, corner of West 23rd Ave. and West 4th St. in Gulf Shores; 251-968-5991.
- **Bread Ministry:** 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Orange Beach United Methodist Church Brook's Center.
- **Food Bank:** 9 - 11 a.m every Wednesday, Perdido Bay Baptist Church, 12600 Sorrento Rd. Pensacola; call for eligibility requirements at (850) 492-2604.
- **Gulf Shores Woman's Club:** 11 a.m.; Palmer Room at Craft Farms; all inter-



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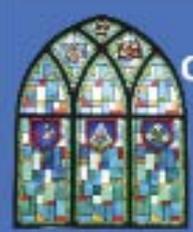
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

First responder meet 'n greet part of Chamber's May 14 Flicks on the Field

The Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce is inviting local residents to the Pensacola Greyhound Track (951 Dog Track Rd.) for the first annual First Responder Friday followed by Flicks on the Field on May 14. Bring the family to get up close and personal with our brave first responders and their amazing rescue and re-sponse equipment.

Families are encouraged to bring the camera and catch some great shots of your youngsters posed in or with the vehicles and officers. The Escambia County Sheriff will be cooking up hamburgers and hotdogs for attendees starting at 6 pm. The K-9 officers will show off their partners and the equestrian unit will be there with their horses. Coast Guard Auxiliary will have their new fast boat on display and Lillian Fire and Rescue will have all types of rescue vehicles present for photo opportunities. At 8 p.m., stay for Flicks on the Field free drive-in movie Max, the story of four legged military hero.

Guests can enjoy the movie from their vehicles or bring your blankets and lawn chairs to spread out on the grass under the stars. In the event of inclement weather, the event will be rescheduled. More info: VisitPerdido.com.

In-person activities return to Foley Library in May

Looks like it is time to "Come On Back" to the Foley Library and join, as the staff is offering three different programs in May.

On May 6 from 4-5 p.m., the library will host Makersaurus Time for children ages 6-16 with a parent or guardian. This will be held in the

upstairs meeting room of the library. Reservations are required to attend this program as space and supplies are limited. Please call 251-943-7665 to reserve a spot for you and your child/children to attend. Family groups will be spaced 6 feet apart and masks are encouraged.

On May 12 from 4:30-6 pm, at the Heritage Park Gazebo, the library will host a meeting of the Doki Doki Anime Club. This is for young adults ages 10-18 who are already signed up as members of the Doki Doki Anime Club. Should you be interested in more info on the Doki Doki Anime Club, please email mschnieder@cityof-foley.org.

On May 15 from 9:30-11 a.m., the library will host a Mardi Gras Bead Art class in the upstairs meeting room. Attendees are asked to bring any extra Mardi Gras beads plus a hot glue gun if they have one. Call 251-943-7665 to reserve a spot. Visit foleylibrary.org or Facebook for more library info.

The Island Church's May 14

Golf Tourney supports pantry

The Island Church is hosting its annual golf tournament to benefit the Island Mobile Food Pantry on Friday, May 14 at GlenLakes Golf Club. The fundraising event supports the Island Mobile Food Pantries offered to Baldwin County residents.

Teams of four golfers will tee off at 8 a.m. for a chance to win great prizes. Breakfast and a sack lunch will be provided as part of the \$85 registration fee per player. Many sponsorship options are also available.

The Island Church is dedicated to fighting hunger and food poverty for all of Baldwin County. For more details or to register for the golf tournament, call Lisa at 251.967.4840.

ested women invited to attend; 251-980-5722.

- **Gulf Shores Lions Club:** noon; 2nd & 4th Wednesday; noon; Adult Activity Center, Gulf Shores; 251-968-2823.
- **AA:** Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

THU, MAY 13

- **Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables:** Schedule on Page 28; Perdido Key.
- **Flora-Bama Family Friendly Bingo:** 1-4 p.m.; free; family friendly; Flora-Bama; Perdido Key.
- **Bama Beach Pickleball Club:** 9-noon; Church of Christ, 2414 West 1st St., Gulf Shores; (new members welcome).
- **Chase Brown:** 5; Woodside Rest. at Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores.
- **Karaoke & Dance on The Deck:** 7; Live Bait; Orange Beach.
- **Elaine Petty:** 6; Live Bait; Orange Beach.
- **John Brust:** 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.
- **Karaoke:** 6; Tacky Jacks; Gulf Shores.
- **JJ Mack:** 6; Tacky Jacks; Orange Beach.
- **Late Night DJ's:** 9; The Club at Live Bait; Orange Beach.
- **Karaoke:** 7; Tacky Jacks, Ft. Morgan.
- **Karaoke w Howard:** 5; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
- **Bar Trivia Night:** 5; Bar 45 Lounge at ONE CLUB, Gulf Shores.
- **Karaoke w Kelly:** 8; Sandshaker at

The Wharf; Orange Beach.

- **Karaoke:** 9; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- **Tim Roberts:** 6; The Tin Top Restaurant, Bon Secour.
- **Danny Grady:** 2; Fraternal Order of Eagles; Foley.
- **Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde:** 7; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- **The Favorites Band:** 7; Gulf Coast Music Hall, Foley.
- **Mel Knapp:** 6; Hub Stacey's at the Point; Innerarity Point.
- **Fairhope Outdoor Farmers Market:** 3-6 p.m.; behind Fairhope Public Library.
- **Texas Hold 'em:** 7; The Office, Foley.
- **Bingo:** 5; open to all; Amvets Post 2018; 13085 Wisconsin St.; Elberta.
- **Texas Hold 'em:** 7; The Office, Foley.
- **Baldwin Senior Softball Group:** 10 a.m.; 50 and over; 10 a.m.; call 225/313-8516 for info & location.
- **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, MAY 14

- **Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables:** Schedule on Page 28; Perdido Key.
- **Flora-Bama Family Friendly Bingo:** 1-4 p.m.; free; family friendly; Flora-Bama; Perdido Key.
- **Tyler Ward:** 5; Woodside Rest. at Gulf

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Spicy tomato and vegetable sauce over yellow rice. Served with one side dish. \$17.99

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Fried Shrimp - tail less.....	\$8.75
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Fried Catfish - corn meal battered.....	\$8.75
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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
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Vegetable Plate - your choice of four (4) side dishes.....	\$8.75

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Tickets now on sale for Summertide at SBCT

Tickets are now on sale for Summertide, the University of Alabama's professional summer theatre, which returns to Gulf Shores for its eighteenth season at South Baldwin Theatre from June 4 to July 2. This year's offering is Starting Here, Starting Now Starting Here. Tickets are currently available at SummerTide.org or by calling the SBCTnbox office after May 25 at 251-968-6721.

"We are excited for SummerTide Theatre to return to Gulf Shores after last year's hiatus," said director Matt Davis, assistant professor at The University of Alabama Department of Theatre and Dance.

Since 2004, SummerTide has brought shows such as Ring of Fire, The Marvelous Wonderettes, and Pump Boys and Dinettes to entertain audiences in Gulf Shores and the surrounding areas.

With Music by David Shire and Lyrics by Richard Maltby, Jr., each song tells a story of modern romance or finding oneself. The audience is taken on a tour of love, heartbreak and self-discovery with subjects ranging from loneliness and love triangles to anticipation and adventure.

"This is a great show for today, as it explores the excitement of young love and the importance of human interaction. This bold journey takes the young cast through all the highs and lows of relationships in a very can-

did and personal way," the director said. "Maltby and Shire's songs tell perfectly crafted stories. They're unique, exciting, filled with interesting characters, and they really showcase the versatility and talent of our performers."

For the past 40 years, UA Theatre and Dance has produced student and faculty-directed, performed and designed work and cultivated the next generation of performing arts professionals through comprehensive programs. Info: theatre.ua.edu.

Whyte Caps reunite May 8 for Musicians fundraiser

Whyte Caps, a Pleasure Island based band originally formed in 2011, will reunite on Saturday, May 8 at The Point Restaurant on Innaruary Point for a show to benefit the Gulf Coast Musicians Medical Fund, which was formed to assist local musicians with medical expenses.

Josh Newcom will kick off the evening at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at The Point, through Venmo App @whytecaps-band or at the door.

A power trio consisting of Chris Beverly on lead vocals and guitar, Kyle Thornton on drums, and Ryan Hensley on bass and vocals, the band had a large local following during its heyday. The band released an inaugural EP, "Four in the Van," produced by the late Matt Roberts, guitarist for 3 Doors Down.

State Park; Gulf Shores.

- **JB Dyess:** 8; Stephi; Orange Beach.
- **Charlie & The Hammerheads:** 7; Live Bait; Orange Beach.
- **Tbone Montgomery & Johnny Barbato:** 5; Angry Crab Shack, Orange Beach.
- **Nerf The World:** 6; Big Beach Brewery; Gulf Shores.
- **Jessie Howell:** 5; Carver's Steakhouse, Orange Beach.
- **Tim Robinson:** 7; Papa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- **Mid-Life Crisis:** 9; Sandshaker at The

Wharf; Orange Beach.

- **Karaoke & Dance on The Deck:** 7; Live Bait; Orange Beach.
- **Travis Bowlin:** 6; Tacky Jacks; Gulf Shores.
- **Beave & Cleave:** 6; Tacky Jacks; Orange Beach.
- **Les Linton:** 6; Tacky Jacks; Fort Morgan, Gulf Shores.
- **Hollywood Vagabonds:** 7; The Hangout; Gulf Shores.
- **Late Night DJs:** 9; The Club at Live Bait; Orange Beach.
- **John Brust:** 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby



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WHAT'S HAPPENING



Food Pantry scheduled May 22 at O.B.'s The Island Church

The Island Church in Orange Beach will host its next Island Mobile Food Pantry on Saturday, May 22. Baldwin County families that would like to receive a 50 pound box of food are asked to call Lisa in the office at 251.967.4840 to receive more details. The food will be distributed at 8:30 a.m. with a drive thru. Space is limited to the first 200 families that register through the office. The church is located at 25550 Canal Rd. in Orange Beach.

Pictured: Island Church Orange Beach Food Pantry volunteers preparing packages. For info about how to volunteer with the program visit theislandchurch.tv.



Free Fishing Day is June 12

This year's Alabama Free Fishing Day is set for June 12 and is part of National Fishing and Boating Week, which runs June 5-13, 2021.

U.S. News ranks Fairhope 9th best AL. high school

Fairhope High School, at no. 9, was the only Baldwin County school to crack the top 25 of Alabama High Schools in a 2021 rankings report released by U.S. News & World Report this week.

Montgomery's Loveless Academic Magnet School, Huntsville's New Century Tech High School and Mountain Brook High School were the respective top three ranked Alabama high schools.

No Pensacola area schools were on the list of top 25 Florida high schools.

The rankings include data on almost 24,000 public high schools and K-12 schools across the country.

Pensacola High School was the highest ranked Escambia County school at No. 113 in the state. Thomas Jefferson High The School for Advanced Studies in Miami ranked No. 1 in Florida and No. 5 in the nation.

The School for Science and Technology in Virginia ranked No. 1 in the country.

Alabama sea turtle nesting season begins

Alabama's sea turtle nesting season is starting, and Share The Beach volunteers are out daily looking for mama turtle tracks. Help out by filling in any holes before and bringing belongings when leaving the beach for the day. If you see a sea turtle, stay back at least 30 feet, stay low, stay quiet, and call the Alabama Sea Turtle Hotline: 1-866-732-8878 (1-866-SEA-TURT). Enjoy the experience and remember to not use a flash when you photo or video.

Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.

- **Karaoke on the Tiki Deck:** 7 'til; Live Bait; Orange Beach.
- **False Identity:** 7; Hub Stacey's at the Point; Innerarity Point.
- **Bama Beach Pickleball Club:** 9-noon; Church of Christ, 2414 West 1st St., Gulf Shores; (new members welcome).
- **Karaoke w. Kelly Ann:** 6; American Legion Post 99; Foley.
- **Open Mixed Doubles Tennis:** 7:15 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, MAY 15

- **Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables:** Schedule on Page 28; Perdido Key.
- **Byalls Karaoke/DJ:** 9; The Office, Foley.
- **Rebecca Barry & Gerry Gambino:** 3; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- **Jenna McClelland Band:** 9; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- **Wylle Pete:** 8; Stephi Cocktails-Cuisine; Orange Beach.
- **John Brust:** 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.
- **Skyline Kings:** 7; Live Bait; Orange Beach.
- **Porch Ninjas:** 6; Big Beach Brewery; Gulf Shores.
- **Vickie Bailey:** 5; Angry Crab Shack, Orange Beach.
- **Joey Collins:** 5; Carver's Steakhouse, Orange Beach.
- **Mel Knapp:** 5; Woodside Rest. at Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores.
- **Funky Lampshades:** 6; Tacky Jacks; Gulf Shores.

- **Hot Rod Ron:** 11; Tacky Jacks; Orange Beach.
- **JJ Mack:** 6; Tacky Jacks; Orange Beach.
- **Austin Thompson:** 3; The Sandshaker at the Wharf, Orange Beach.
- **Destiny Brown:** 5; Perch Restaurant at The Lodge at Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores.
- **Late Night DJ's:** 9; The Club at Live Bait; Orange Beach.
- **Karaoke on the Tiki Deck:** 7 'til; Live Bait; Orange Beach.
- **Bruiti:** 6:30; American Legion Post 99; Foley.
- **The Defrosters:** 2; Flying Harpoon II; Orange Beach.
- **Karaoke:** 9; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- **Brent Varner:** 1; Tacky Jacks; Fort Morgan.
- **RazorHawk:** 7; Hub Stacey's at the Point; Innerarity Point.
- **Karaoke w. Donnie:** 6; Tacky Jacks, Fort Morgan.
- **Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermen Market:** 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.; 20733 Mi-flin Rd. (County Rd. 20), Foley.
- **Texas Hold 'em:** 7; The Office, 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. & 11 a.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

SUN, MAY 16

- **Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables:** Schedule on Page 28; Perdido Key.



Junior golf clinics and league play start in June at GlenLakes

PGA Golf Pro David Musial will be hosting junior clinics at GlenLakes Golf Club in Foley beginning in June. Cost is \$105 per student for five instructional clinics held on Fridays at five playing opportunities on Saturdays. Students, including beginners, will also play league matches at GlenLakes on June 5, June 19, June 26, July 10 and July 17. The clinics and league are geared for boys and girls 8 to 16 who want to learn how to golf in a low-pressure environment. For more info, call (251) 955-1220.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



Foley's Coastal AL. Farm & Fish Market earns national recognition

The Coastal Alabama Farmer's and Fisherman's Market in Foley has been selected as a Readers' Choice award winner for Best Farmers Market by USA TODAY. CAFFM garnered the number nine spot beating out markets in major cities including Seattle and New Orleans. CAFFM is located at 20733 Mifflin Rd. (County Rd. 20), just west of Wolf Bay Restaurant. It is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"It was amazing to have been nominated out of all the incredible markets across the United States, but to make the top ten? It's breath-taking. These vendors put their heart and soul into providing for our community. It's not easy work," said CAFFM Operations Manager Alescia Forland.

CAFFM was built in 2013 and includes farmers providing an abundance of fresh fruits, vegetables, and farm eggs that change with season, fishermen providing fresh Gulf-caught shrimp and fish and Artisans selling craft hand-made one-of-a-kind treasures. Mouth-watering breads, pies, cakes and crispy spicy empanadas are also available at the ever expanding market.

CAFFM is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. To see a full list of the 2021 USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice Award Winners visit their website at <https://www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-farmers-market-2021/>. Please direct any additional questions to Alescia Forland at loxleyfarmmarket@gmail.com.



Welcome Sign workshop May 15 at Office Lounge

The Office Lounge in Foley will host a welcome sign party on May 15 from 1-4 p.m. For \$60, participants will be provided with all the supplies needed, including your choice of color palettes, and a double sided mini squeegee. Personalize your sign to fit to your style and home with a great accent piece. The Office, located at 122 County Rd. 20, will have White Claws on special for \$3 to all who participate in the workshop. For more info, call (251) 970-0043

- **Skyline Kings:** 7; Live Bait; Orange Beach.
- **Coconut Radio:** 4; Sassy Bass; Ft. Morgan.
- **Jarod Higgenbotham:** 6; Tacky Jacks; Gulf Shores.
- **Hippie Jim:** 11; Tacky Jacks; Orange Beach.
- **Blue Electric Duo:** 4; Big Beach Brewery; Gulf Shores.
- **KR Herrin:** 5; Angry Crab Shack, Orange Beach.
- **Gary Story:** 5; Carver's Steakhouse, Orange Beach.
- **Al & Cathy:** noon; Tin Top; Bon Secour.
- **Mel Knapp:** 5; Woodside Rest. at Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores.
- **Tyler Ward:** 6; Tacky Jacks; Orange Beach.
- **Marty McIntosh:** 4; Tacky Jacks; Fort Morgan.
- **Lisa Christian:** 2; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
- **Strictly Rivers:** 8; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- **Karaoke on the Tiki Deck:** 7 'til; Live Bait; Orange Beach.
- **Josh Newcom:** 5; The Daquari Bar; Wharf in Orange Beach.
- **Lisa Zanghi:** 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby

Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.

- **Glow Yoga Bend & Brews:** 11 a.m.; community yoga; Big Beach Brewery; Gulf Shores.
- **The Defrosters:** 2; Flying Harpoon II; Orange Beach.
- **Danny Grady:** 2; Fraternal Order of Eagles; Foley.
- **John Joiner & Friends:** 4; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
- **League Pool:** 7; The Office, Foley.
- **AA:** 5 p.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

MON, MAY 17

- **Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables:** Schedule on Page 28; Perdido Key.
- **Flora-Bama Family Friendly Bingo:** 1-4 p.m.; free; family friendly; Flora-Bama; Perdido Key.
- **Bama Beach Pickleball Club:** 9-noon; Church of Christ, 2414 West 1st St., Gulf Shores; (new members welcome).
- **Damian Lamb:** 6; Tacky Jacks; Orange Beach.
- **Tyler Ward:** 5; Woodside Rest. at Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores.

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WHITE LION

- 1.5oz light rum.
- 1oz lemon juice.
- .25oz grenadine.
- 2 dashes aromatic bitters.
- 1 tsp. powdered sugar.

Pour all ingredients into shaker filled with ice and shake. Strain into cocktail glass.

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1.75lt Dekuyper Triple Sec	\$7.15	15pk cans Natural Light cans	\$7.99
750ml Fireball Whisky	\$18.55	12pk White Claw	\$14.60

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

- **Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde:** 7; Papa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- **Open Mic w/Davo:** 7; 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.
- **League Pool:** 7; The Office, Foley.
- **Open Mixed Doubles Tennis:** 7:15 a.m.; all levels welcome; Gulf Shores Tennis Center; corner of West 19th Ave. and West 2nd St.
- **Celebrate Recovery:** (Christ centered 12 step program); Monday evenings at 6 p.m.; Christian Life Church in Orange Beach; 251-967-4840.

- **Overeaters Anonymous:** 6; Holy Spirit Episcopal Church; Gulf Shores, 616 Ft. Morgan Rd.; 251-709-5907.
- **Bingo:** 6; American Legion Post 44, Gulf Shores.
- **Take Off Pounds Sensibly:** 5-7 p.m.; Foley Presbyterian Church; 965-2737.songwriters all original open mic from 9:00-12:00 pm.
- **AA:** Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

TUE, MAY 18

- **Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables:** Schedule on Page 28; Perdido Key.

- **Flora-Bama Family Friendly Bingo:** 1-4 p.m.; free; family friendly; Flora-Bama; Perdido Key.
- **Bama Beach Pickleball Club:** 9-noon; Gulf Shores; (new members welcome).
- **Jayson Harper:** 6; Live Bait; Orange Beach.
- **Paper Dolls:** 5; Woodside Rest. at Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores.
- **Jay Megginson:** 6; Tacky Jacks; Orange Beach.
- **Chris Beverly Experience:** 9; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- **JW Karaoke:** 6; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
- **Bingo:** 5; 45 Restaurant & Bar; One

- Club, Gulf Shores.
- **Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde:** 7; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- **Bingo:** 10-2; Gulf Coast Elks Lodge; Foley.
- **Karaoke w. Kelly:** 8; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- **Pool Tourney:** 7; Snapper's; Orange Beach.
- **Texas Hold 'em:** 7; The Office, Foley.
- **Baldwin Senior Softball Group:** 10 a.m.; 50 and over; 10 a.m.; call 225/313-8516 for info & location.
- **Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermen's Market:** 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.; 20733 Mifflin Rd. (County Rd. 20), Foley.
- **Foley Kiwanis Club:** noon; Vallarta's,

1145 S. McKenzie St., Foley; 859-771-6091.

- **Kiwanis Club of Big Lagoon:** 7:30 a.m.; (1st, 3rd, and 4th Tue); Point Church, 13801 Innerarity Point Rd., Pensacola.

WED, MAY 19

- **Orange Beach Billfish Classic:** The Wharf Marina, Orange Beach.
- **Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables:** Schedule on Page 28; Perdido Key.
- **Flora-Bama Family Friendly Bingo:** 1-4 p.m.; free; family friendly; Flora-Bama; Perdido Key.
- **Bama Beach Pickleball Club:** 9-noon; Church of Christ, 2414 West 1st St., Gulf

Bauer highlights G.S. bike lane improvements at start of city's Bike Month

By John Mullen

Bike enthusiast and Gulf Shores city planner Andy Bauer asked City Council during a work session on April 19 to declare May National Bike Month by highlighting recent improvements to bike lanes and paths in the city.

"I'd like to thank the mayor and city council for investing millions of dollars over the past several years improving the bicycle facilities in the city of Gulf Shores," Bauer said. "Your investment has greatly enhanced the livability for the residents of the city and also the tourists who visit Gulf Shores. It offers both mental and physical benefits. Also, a lot of people rely on bicycling to bike to work or bike to do some of their chores and some people just like to ride a bike because it's a lot of fun."

One of the main areas of bike access improvements came in the renovation of West Lagoon Avenue.

"This is improvement is important to the residents of this area and the tourists who stay in this area because West Lagoon Drive now is connected to the beach access at Little Lagoon Pass Park," Bauer said. "There are also multiple other beach accesses along West Beach Boulevard that this trail can connect to."

Recent improvements to bike trails and paths in Gulf Shores include:

- Coastal Gateway Boulevard added 1.7 miles of bike lanes
- Wedgewood Drive added one a one-mile bike lane
- Fort Morgan Road's multi-use trail had 3.3 miles of trail resurfaced and was expanded from eight to 10 feet wide
- West Lagoon Avenue added two miles of multi-use trail and two miles of bike lanes

At the regular meeting on April 26 the council passed a declaration to make May Bike Month in the city, including sponsoring Bike to School Day on May 5.

Bauer said he and organizers were looking forward to restarting Bike to School Day after the 2020 event was canceled due to COVID-19.

"We typically get a lot of kids to participate in Bike to School Day," Bauer said. "It's a lot of fun. I'd like to en-

courage our citizens to get out and bike to school, bike to work or just bike around town this month."

The Gulf Shores Police Department will be assisting with Bike To School Day. There will be two meeting locations where children can meet to depart for school: Kids Park playground area (located in Sims Park) and Meyer Park. Participating students will arrive to school at approximately 7:45 a.m. There will be a return ride held after school. Participants should wear a helmet.

National Bike to Work Week will take place on May 17-23, and the official Bike to Work Day is Friday, May 21. The public is encouraged to put on their helmets and make their trip to work on their bike during this day and week to celebrate National Bike Month.

The city of Gulf Shores was designated as a Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly Community in 2018 and re-designated to the bronze level

in 2020 and is only the second city in Alabama to achieve this status. Bike month was first established by the League of American Bicyclists and is celebrated each year to showcase the many benefits of cycling, Bauer said.

"Our goal is to achieve the platinum level which is the highest level that you can attain," Bauer said. "Gulf Shores has over 50 miles of bike trails and bike lanes that connect the city with the Alabama Gulf State Park, the city of Orange Beach and points beyond."

Baur said sponsoring Bike Month events will help the city maintain its bronze-level designation as a bicycle friendly community b

"This is an opportunity for us, the City of Gulf Shores, to further invest in our residents, both adults and children, by promoting a healthy lifestyle as we encourage a more active bicycling community," he said.

National Bike Month, established in 1956, is sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists. This month presents a chance to showcase all of the benefits of bicycling and encourage the public to participate.

For more information on the listed events for Bike Month, visit gulfshoresal.gov or contact Bauer at 251-968-1151.



Brett/Robinson Charity Rummage Sale May 8

The Brett/Robinson Annual Charity Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday, May 8 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the company's laundry facility at 25050 Canal Road in Orange Beach.



The sale includes items donated by employees, condo owners, friends and people in the

Pleasure Island community, including furniture, household goods, home accessories, clothing and toys. Anyone interested in donating, or would like to schedule a time for pick-up of items, contact Angela Hendricks at 251-228-0928. The charity fundraiser also includes a Split the Pot 50/50 raffle. The most recent raffle winner received approximately \$2,000.

Memorial Day ceremony in Foley

A Memorial Day ceremony, sponsored by American Legion Post 99, will be held on May 31 at 11 a.m. at Max Griffin Park in Foley. The park is located at 300 W. Roosevelt St. Memorial Day honors the men and women who died



while serving in the U.S. military. Join Post 99 members at Max Griffin Park to honor our fallen veterans. If

weather is bad, ceremony will be held at the Post 99 bingo hall. Info: 251-943-3114. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. The public is welcome at Post 99.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Shores; (new members welcome).
 • **Sound Decision:** 6; Tacky Jacks; Orange Beach.
 • **Chase Brown:** 5; Woodside Rest. at Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores.
 • **Tim Roberts:** 6; Tacky Jacks; Fort Morgan.
 • **Anthony Oliver:** 6; Live Bait; Orange Beach.
 • **Lisa Zanghi:** 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.

• **Jenna McClelland:** 8; Stephi Cocktails-Cuisine; Orange Beach.
 • **Open Mic:** 5; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
 • **Mason Henderson's Saucy Fuzz:** 9; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
 • **Gary Story & Friends:** 7; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
 • **Scott Koehn Project:** 6; OSO; Orange Beach.
 • **Karaoke:** 7; Bar 45 at ONE CLUB, Gulf Shores.
 • **Tim Richardson:** 5; American Legion

Post 99; Foley.
 • **John Joiner & Darrel Roberts:** 6; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
 • **Karaoke & League Pool:** 7:30; The Office, Foley.
 • **Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermen Market:** 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.; 20733 Miflin Rd. (County Rd. 20), Foley.
 • **Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde:** 7; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
 • **Bingo:** 10 a.m.; American Legion Post 99; Foley.

• **BBRC Running Club:** 5:30 p.m.; Big Beach Brewery in Gulf Shores; lafleet-foot.com.
 • **Open Mixed Doubles Tennis:** 7:15 a.m.; all levels welcome; Gulf Shores Tennis Center.
 • **Food Ministry at Morgan's Chapel United Methodist Church:** 8-9 a.m.; 6325 Cty Rd 10, Bon Secour, (across from Swift School); 251-979-2005.
 • **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.
 • **AA:** Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.



49th Art in the Park May 8-9 in Foley

The 49th Annual Art in the Park will be held May 8-9 in John B. Foley Park, located at the intersection of Highways 59 and 98 in historic Downtown Foley. Hours are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Sponsored by Foley Art Center and chaired this year by Linda Koniar and Kelly Crosby, Art in the Park is a competitive juried fine arts show. Around 60 artists showcase their talents while providing unique, hand crafted cultural experiences and shopping opportunities.

This is a free outdoor event in a beautiful setting. Bring your mother, or someone else's mother, and stroll through the picturesque park as you enjoy the sites from one of Alabama's Top Ten Events for May. Discover one of a kind creations in mediums such as pen & ink, oil, watercolor, pottery, stained glass, wood, porcelain, fused glass, hand woven textiles, jewelry and children's clothing.

The littlest members of the family can enjoy the free, hands-on children's area offering a variety of fun artistic activities and face painting.

Another fest highlight is the local children's art exhibit featuring work from students from elementary to high school.

Since 1966, the Foley Art Center has served the Gulf Coast area with cultural enrichment programs in the local schools, grants to art teachers and art classes for children and adults. From the dreams of fifteen local citizens, it has become a vital force in the cultural development of Baldwin County. The FAC sponsors outstanding performances and special events in the Foley area to eleven schools with over 5,000 students. Its continued growth and progress has only been realized through the steadfast support of caring businesses and individuals over the past forty years. For more info, visit foleyartcenter.com or call 251-943-4381.



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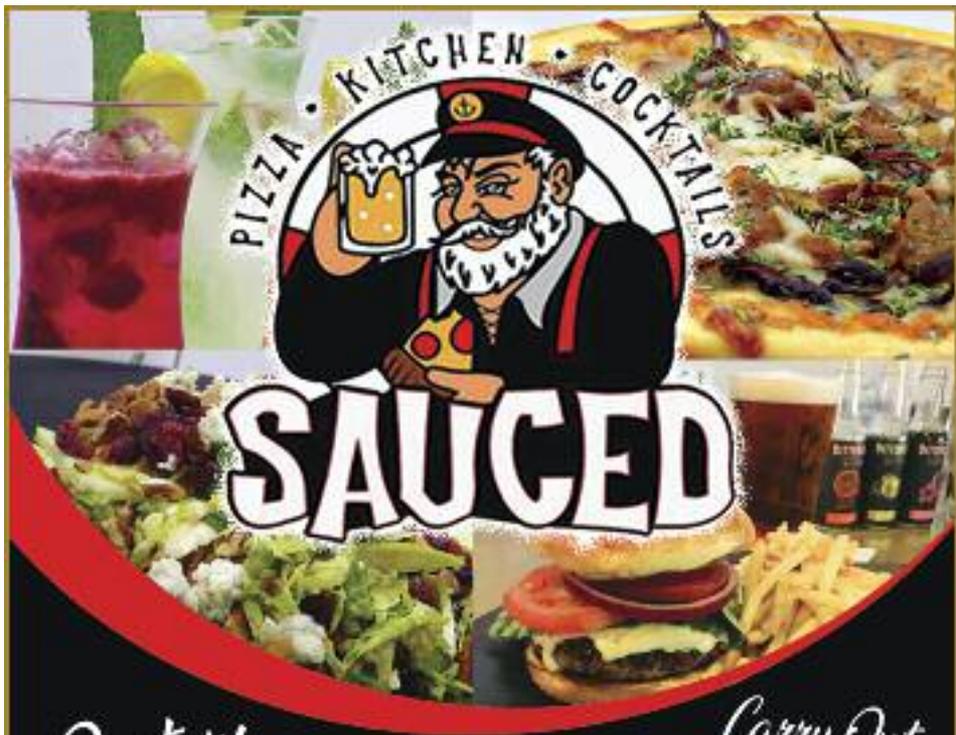
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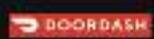
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Funny Bones

By Ron "Bones" Jones



The golfer sliced a ball into a field of chickens, striking one of the hens and killing it instantly. He was understandably upset, and sought out the farmer.

"I'm sorry," he said, "my terrible tee-shot hit one of your hens and killed it. Can I replace the hen?"

"I don't know," replied the farmer. "How many eggs a day do you lay?"

Anyone want to buy some exercise equipment?
I'm having a going-out-of-fitness sale.

To the optimist, the glass is half full.
To the pessimist, the glass is half empty.

To the IT guy, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.

I caught my son sneaking on electrical cords. So I had to ground him. He's doing better currently. And conducting himself properly.

Someone broke into my garage last night and took my limbo stick! How low can you go?

My sister has a lifesaving tool in her car which is designed to cut through a seat belt if she gets trapped. She keeps it in the trunk.

Why did the PowerPoint Presentation cross the road? To get to the other slide.

I accidentally used the dog's shampoo this morning. Now I feel like a good boy.

Wife: you're not a smart person.

Me: You married me.

Golfer: "You must be the world's worst caddy!"

Caddy: "No, that would be too much of a coincidence."

Two Eskimos in a boat were chilly so they lit a fire and it sank proving, once and for all, that you can't have your kayak and heat it.

A librarian slipped and fell on the library floor. She was in the non-friction section.

An archaeologist. Someone whose career lies in ruins.

I've used saccharine for years my doctor told me I had artificial diabetes.

Arriving at work today a clown opened the door for me. I thought, "That's a nice jester, isn't it?"

Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day.

Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.

A restaurant sign advertised

fat-free French fries. So, I ordered some to go.

The potatoes were dripping with oil when the cook put them into the container.

"Those don't look fat-free," I said.

"Sure they are," the cook said. "We charge only for the potatoes. The fat is free!"

What's the leading cause of dry skin?
Towels.

The strong young man at the construction site was bragging that he could out-do anyone in a feat of strength. After several minutes, one older worker had had enough.

"I bet a week's wages that I can haul something in a wheelbarrow over to that outbuilding that you won't be able to wheel back," he said.

"You're on, old man," the braggart replied. "Let's see what you got."

The old man grabbed the wheelbarrow by the handles and said, "All right. Get in."

Is there rehab for gossiping? I don't need it, but I'll tell you who does.

Customer: I'll have a hamburger.
Waiter: With pleasure.
Customer: No, with pickles and onions.

- Some days you're the bug; some days you're the windshield.
- Everyone seems normal until you get to know them.
- The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it back in your pocket.
- A closed mouth gathers no foot.
- Duct tape is like 'The Force'. It has a light side and a dark side, and it holds the universe together.
- There are two theories to arguing with women. Neither one works.
- Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your lips are moving.
- Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
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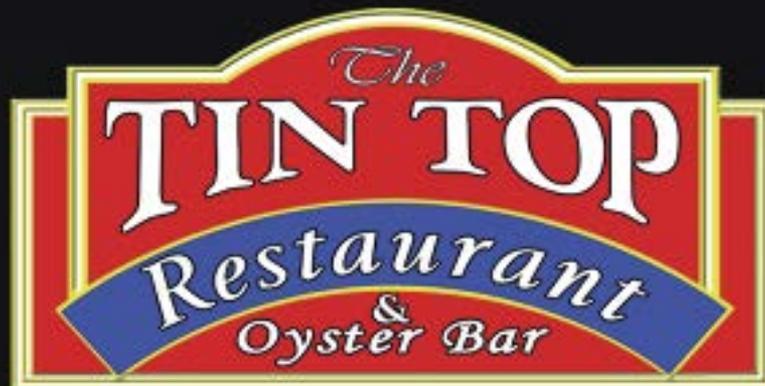


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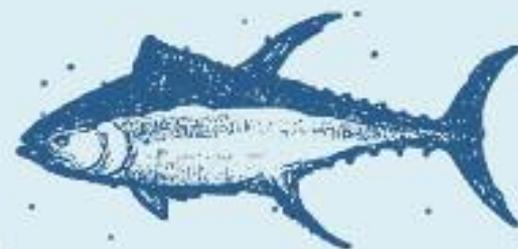
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PICTURES OF THE WEEK



"Sunset is lovely," writes Diane Folio.



"Beautiful cloud formation and rain across Little Lagoon, out over the Gulf," writes Dennis Hendrickson.



Moon set and seagulls on West Beach by Phillip Thomas.



Gulls & clouds shot on Orange Beach by Melody Franks from Birmingham.



Sunset on Little Lagoon by Charlene Smalley.



From Scott Hankins, Gulf Shores.



Osprey on alert from Pat Thornton.



Little Lagoon sunset from Sylvia Little.



From Michael Chiodo.



Sundown over Little Lagoon & hungry gulls from Phillip Thomas.



Cathy Deal happened upon this Blue Angels fan following a recent practice at NAS Pensacola. "She was there when I arrived and when I left," Cathy wrote.

Florida's red snapper season slated June 4 thru July 28

Florida's Gulf red snapper recreational season is set to open June 4 and run through July 28, with a possible fall reopening if quota is available.

"This will be the longest summer season anglers will have since the FWC started setting seasons for fishing in the Gulf state and federal waters off Florida," Gov. Ron DeSantis said in a news release.

The season is open to those fishing for red snapper from private recreational vessels in Gulf state and federal waters and those fishing from charter vessels that do not have a federal reef fish permit and are limited to fishing in state waters only.

"Anglers across the state look forward to red snapper season each year," Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Chairman Rodney Barreto said. "Our agency looks forward to providing 55 days of



red snapper opportunities in Gulf state and federal waters."

Those wishing to participate must sign up as a State Reef Fish Angler at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com.

According to the Governor, this will be the longest summer season anglers will have since the FWC started setting seasons for fishing in the Gulf state and federal waters off Florida. The State continues to provide access and opportunities for Florida families to enjoy the Fishing Capital of the World.

Those fishing for red snapper in state or federal waters from a private recreational vessel, even if you are exempt from fishing license requirements, must sign up as a State Reef Fish Angler at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com.

For more on recreational snapper regulations, visit MyFWC.com.

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GULF SHORES HIGH SCHOOL EARTH DAY

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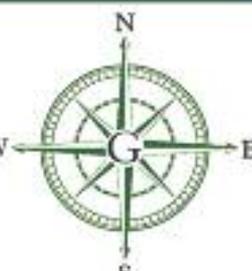
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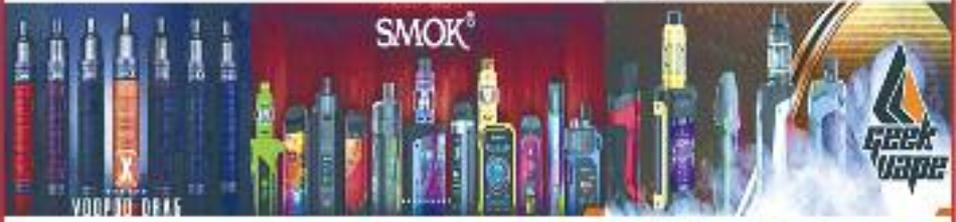


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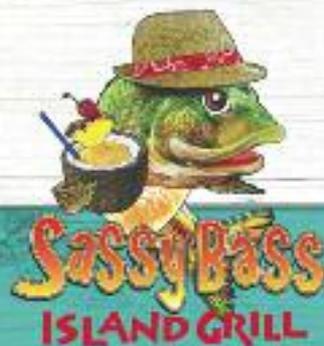
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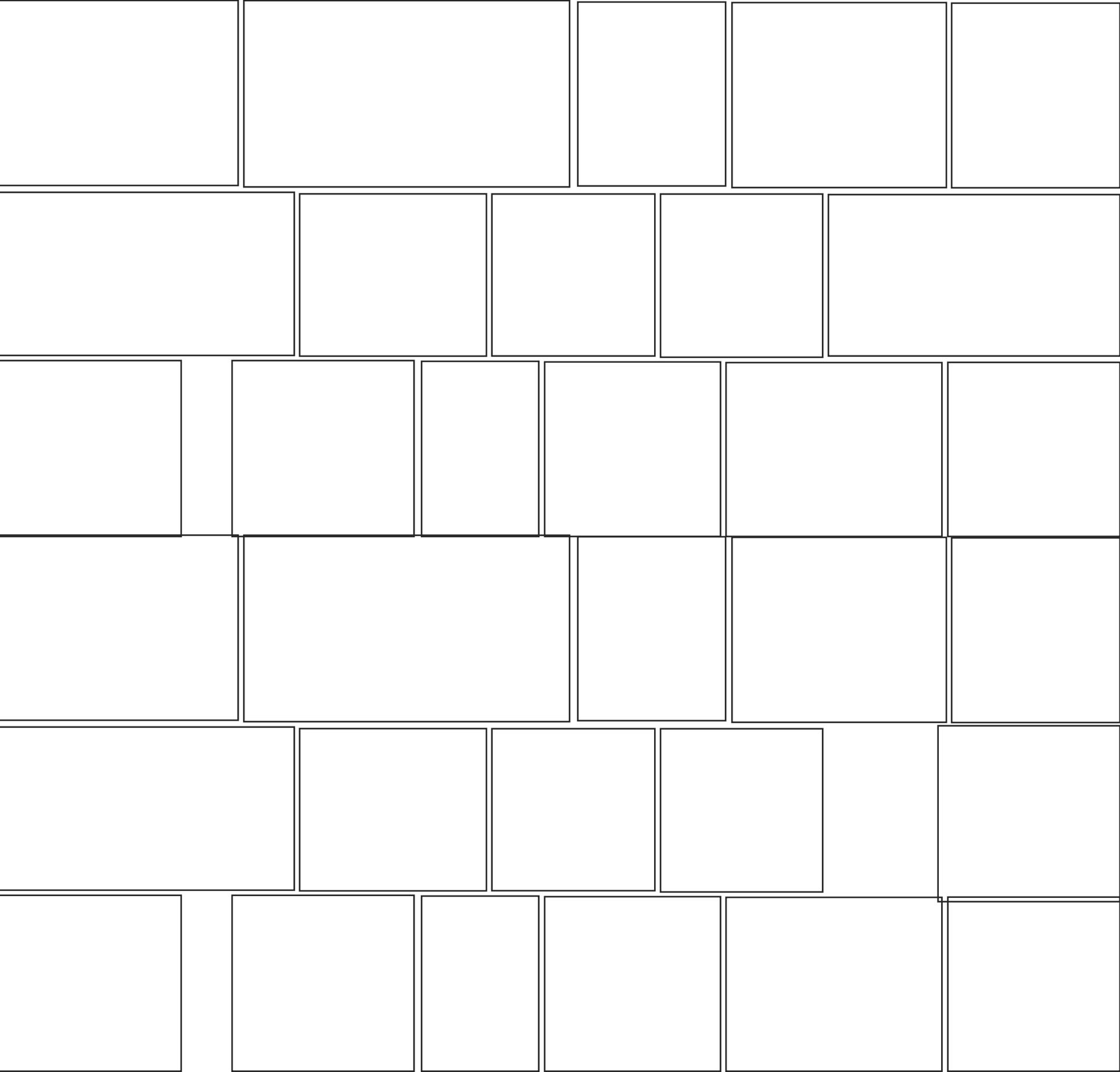
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City to break ground on several public safety projects

By John Mullen

New Orange Beach Fire Engine 4 was dedicated at Fire Station 4 on Ono Island on the morning of Monday, March 22, 2021, with an official blessing and push-in ceremony.

See photos from the blessing and push-in ceremony for new Fire Engine 4 on the Orange Beach Fire Department's Facebook page.

After a few words from Chief Mike Kimmerling and city officials, Capt. Jeremy Lewis of Fire Station 4 doused the new Pierce Enforcer Fire Engine with water and then Pastor Fred Franks followed with a blessing before firefighters pushed it into its bay.

“Every time you turn around there’s something else that’s priority related to education or the schools. Thankfully, public safety’s continued to be very patient and need capital projects.”

The city and Ono Island have a fire protection and emergency services agreement in place since Ono is not in the city limits of Orange Beach. As part of the agreement, the city purchased the new engine and equipment for approximately \$550,000 with Ono repaying the cost over 10 years.

Both the police and fire departments in Orange Beach are getting a handful of vehicles of several varieties but both are also finally getting in line for work on brick-and-mortar upgrades as well.

“We’ve had a lot of priority shifts,” City Administrator Ken Grimes said. “Every time you turn around there’s something else that’s priority related to education or the schools. Thankfully, public safety’s continued to be very patient and need capital projects.”

At a recent council meeting, the police department’s purchase of six new vehicles was OK’d by the council including a pickup and five SUVs. The fire department recently drove its new fire boat from an outfitter in Texas and it’s now at the new city marina at the Coastal Resources office east of Sportsman Marina. It is a \$1 million purchase with 75 percent of the cost being paid through a grant from Homeland Security and is a serious upgrade over the current vessel.

In the past couple of months, it received the OK for a new \$500,000 fire engine that will be stationed at the new Ono Island fire station. The homeowners’ association is paying for the construction and the new engine through its annual payment to the city for fire and police services.

In the coming months, the fire department will also add another ladder/platform truck to its inventory and that cost will be about \$1.2 million as well.

Additionally, the police department is also getting a Homeland Security grant for a similar boat but equipped for law enforcement and Grimes hopes it might be delivered by the end of the year.

New Fire Buildings

On the building side, besides the new Ono station, Station No. 5 will move from the old Wharf sales office on Canal Road a few hundred feet east to the south side of Canal at Powerline Road. The new station is

nearing completion of the design phase.

“It actually will model the Ono Island fire station that’s being built but will be a little bit bigger,” City Administrator Ken Grimes said. “As we look at that project, Sted McCollough got the contract with the Ono Island POA and he’s been designing that one. We went through the condemnation process and acquired that land, Powerline Road down past the sewer plant and that’s where we’ve got a number of projects with the sewer plant, the wildlife area with Coastal Resources and all of that will be on what we now own on Powerline Road.”

Fire Chief Mike Kimmerling said the new Station No. 5 is still in the pre-planning stages and hopes to break ground on the site before the end of the year.

“I would say it’s probably close to a two-year project,” Kimmerling said. “It could move along a little faster but I think in reality by the time that we get the design work and all the things done – it’ll probably take a good six months to get the design work done on it. They have to do geo on the site, clear the site. I don’t know when we’ll even break ground but I’m hopeful that maybe by fall and you’re looking at about a year to build.”

One question to solve is how the fire vehicles will enter Canal Road but Kimmerling is aiming for direct access.

“We’re hopeful that we can get access directly onto Canal,” Kimmerling said. “That would be my preference. There’s plenty of visibility there. If you get on the side road and try to respond from there it becomes a visibility issue. ALDOT will have to tell us if we can or can’t. Those are all conservations we are just beginning to have.”

On Ono, the property owners association is paying for the new building and will also eventually pay for a new truck to be housed at the station.

“We have a new agreement with Ono and it’s part of our contract with them for the services we provide out there,” Kimmerling said. “They pay the city a certain amount of money, we staff it with three personnel, they are building us a new building.”

Justice Center Renovations

The Justice Center, which houses the police department, will get a renovation with the goal of expanding space for not only officers but the courtroom and space for courtroom staff.

“You have a very limited site that the Justice Center sits on,” Grimes said. “The Justice Center would include your court, it would include your police department, it would include your 911 dispatch for police calls and then it would include your jail. In the mix of all that is where we take animals for the kennels until we find their owners, people may go there to drop off pharmaceuticals out of date. There’s all kinds of activities going on.”

Grimes said the plan will likely be to build a new courtroom space on the east side of the current courtroom and then have the police department expand into the old space.

“One of the discussions has been does it make sense to look at building another courtroom and let the police expand into that and everything shifts accordingly,” Grimes said. “So, a connection with the jail on the back of the building down a corridor into the new courtroom would bring inmates in for court so they are not going through the general public.”

Additional parking will be provided as well, likely on land the city owns north and east of the Justice Center

including the former auto parts store on the property. “We’ve got the land west of Callaway Drive that backs up to the Circle K,” Grimes said. “We’ve got that whole block so basically, we’re going to begin to look at how we adjust by adding more parking behind the old Auto Marine building.”

Fire truck in Orange Beach, Alabama.

New Fire Vehicles

The fire department is really scoring big with a new fire boat, the Ono Island engine upgrade, a third ambulance and a new platform/ladder truck to be stationed at the new Station No. 5.

Perhaps the big get is the new fire boat that came in at close to \$1 million but the city’s 25 percent match is only \$247,000.

“There’s two 1,500-gallon-a-minute pumps on it so it can pump 3,000 gallons a minute,” Kimmerling said. “Our existing Fire Boat 2 which was a fairly new boat had a 500-gallon pump. When we were assisting Escambia County at the Perdido Key fire we sent Fire Boat 2 down there. The 500-gallon pump we found it really didn’t do what we needed it to do.”

It will extend capabilities and coverage with the old boat stationed on the north side of the island and the new one on the south side.

“The other boat is at The Wharf now,” Kimmerling said. “We had an old fire boat there but because of the distance you have to travel all the around to get into the ICW we ran into some really long response issues and we’ve had some really significant incidences on the north side. Having that boat at The Wharf that Station 5 can get to cuts that response time. It gives us resources on both sides of the island.”

It brings a new versatility along with the increased pumping capacity.

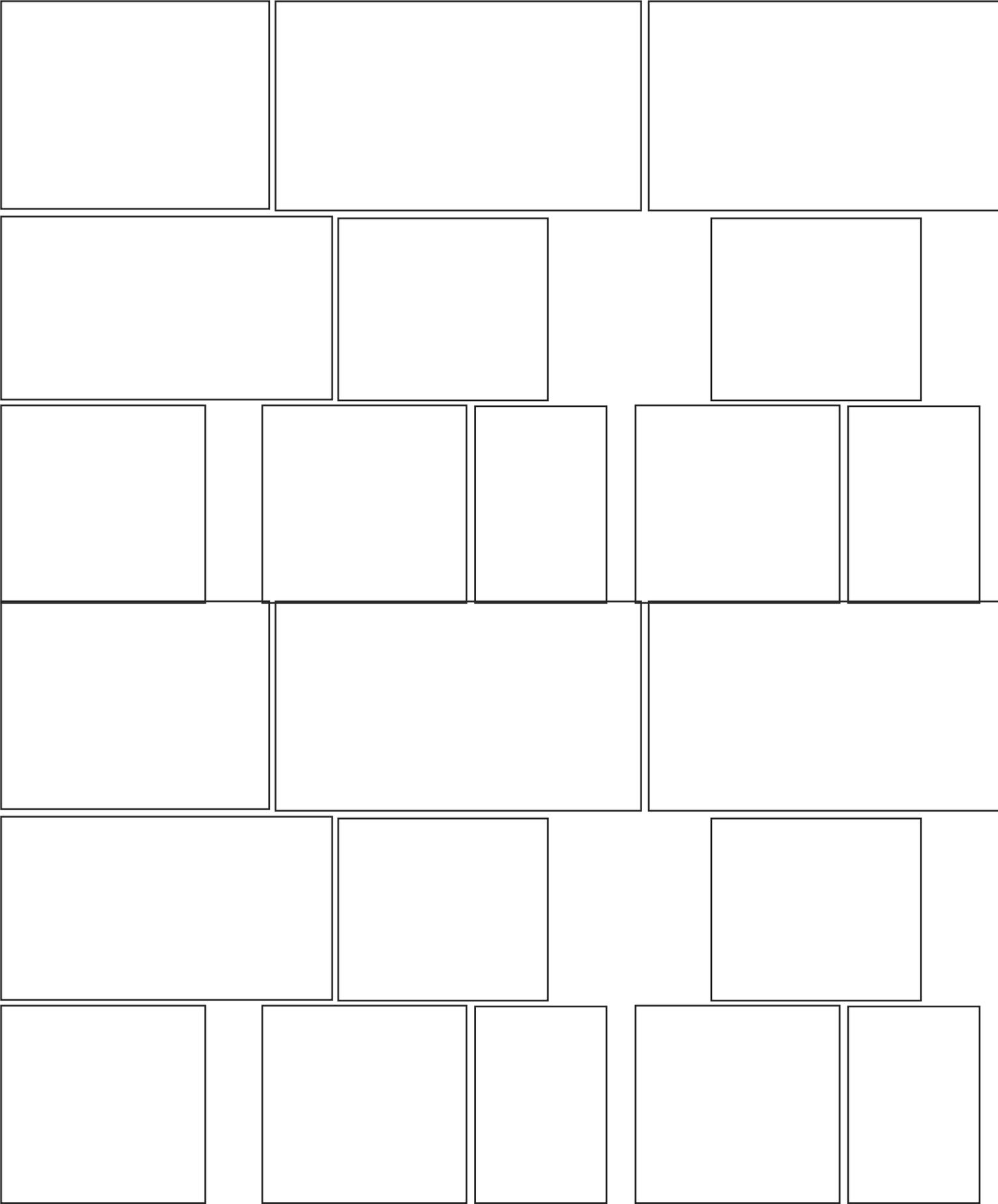
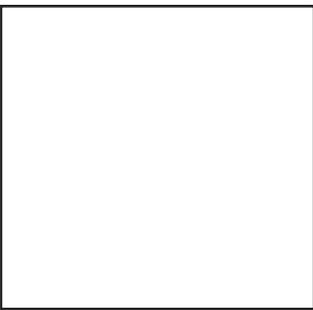
“It’s a much different boat and these are unique to Orange Beach,” Grimes said. “People are used to seeing what we’ve had in the past but now the pumping capability of this boat and the shallow draft and everything is kind of going to help us on a response especially fire response where they can actually pump water from the water side versus just the hydrant side. In the past, we’ve had boats with pumps but typically there would be one pump and it wasn’t near the capacity of these pumps. So, if you had a fire on a waterfront property you just might get a little bit of help but not necessarily everything you needed from capacity of water. This is a big deal.”

The new fire engine for Ono Island is now in Mobile getting retrofitted with equipment. Personnel have bringing the equipment over to the shop where the work is performed and helping place the equipment on the truck.

“There was a smaller truck out there, it really didn’t meet the needs,” Kimmerling said. “It was designed for two people and we’ve increased the number of staff out there to three. Most of our big residential fires lately have been on Ono.”

A third new ambulance is being fitted with equipment and is expected to be in service soon. The city bought two new ambulances in 2019 and has always had an old one to use in reserve if Medstar wasn’t able to respond.

“We’ll put it in the front-line service but one of the two new ones will actually move down to reserve,” Kimmerling said. “The ambulance we have in reserve is 22 years old. We staff two per day but if we get at third call for service, we let guys jump from a different truck and get on the third ambulance. The goal really is to get people transported as soon as possible to the most appropriate facility.”



GULF SHORES HIGH SCHOOL EARTH DAY
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