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AROUND TOWN

Bon Secour's St. Peter's hosts monthly fish-fry on Aug. 4

Historic St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Bon Secour will host its monthly summer fishfry on Aug. 4 from 5-7 p.m. A hugely popular monthly community event, the fish fries will also be held on the beautiful St. Peter's campus on September 1 and October 6. Fried fish plates are available for dine-in or take-out. Cost is \$12. St. Peter's is located on the corner of County Rd.10 & County Rd. 49 at 6270 County Road 10.

Community market slated at GSP's Lake Shelby July 16

The next community markets along the beautiful shores of Lake Shelby at Gulf State Park will be on July 16 from 3-7 p.m., with plans to continue holding markets at that beautiful public site the first and third Saturday of each month. Glenn Torrico will provide entertainment.

In addition to various vendors market visitors will be able to check out the just opened unique gift shop at Lake Shelby. Plans are for the market to eventually grow to include 62 vendors, special events such as car shows and assorted food trucks. For more info, call Cindy Langston at 251-424-0036 or email Cindy.Langston@dcnr.alabama.gov

Pet photos w. Santa on July 31 benefits Save Underdogs

Perdido Key's Artworks, located in the Villagio Town Centre, is hosting a Christmas in July fundraiser for Save Underdogs Pet Rescue. Pet photos with Santa Claus may be scheduled from 9 a.m. until noon on July 31. To schedule an appointment, call (850) 485-2507. The digital photo fee is \$15 payable at the appointment, with all proceeds benefiting Save Underdogs. Come on out and see Santa's unique photo backdrop complete with traditional or coastal Santa attire for this event and get your pet decked out for the holidays.

Lillian's Bayside Baptist Church bible school July 18-22

Bayside Baptist Church in Lillian will host its annual vacation bible school for the week of July 18-22 and also a BIsat-Off to Vacation Bible School on July 16. Sessions will be held nightly from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The church is located at 33677 Hwy. 98, across from the Chevron Station. Children ages 4 years through 6th grade are welcome. For more info, call (251) 961-1731.

Central Baldwin Chamber Flavors of the South July 21

The annual Central Baldwin Chamber of Commerce Flavors of the South will be held on July 21 from 5:30-8 p.m. at the Baldwin County Coliseum in Robertsdale. The event features food, beer & wine, a silent auction and a small business expo. Tickets are \$45 per person or \$325 for a table of eight. For info, call 251-947-2626. Awards will be presented to the winner and runner-up. And 10 chefs will compete in the Culinary Fight Club competition, with the top two advancing to the finals in Chicago.

Baldwin County Virtual School Open House July 26

The Baldwin County Virtual Secondary School will host an Open House on July 26 at 605 US Hwy. 98 in Daphne, AL. Two sessions will be held from 10-11 a.m. and 2-3 p.m. Learn more about the school, activities, clubs, and curriculum, meet the teachers, take a tour, and participate in a question/answer meeting. BCSS offers an award-winning virtual school option, the first of its kind in Alabama.



Blue Marlin Grand Championship weigh-ins July 22-23 at The Wharf

The "Greatest Show in Sportfishing," the Blue Marlin Grand Championship, originally scheduled July 14-16 at The Wharf in Orange Beach, has been re-scheduled due to weather concerns. Teams will now depart for Perdido Pass from The Wharf at 10:01 a.m. on Thursday, July 21.

"The threat of severe lightning and offshore thunderstorms this weekend is most concerning to us," said tourney director Jim Cox. "The feedback we have received from the teams committed to fish this tournament shares our concerns."

Weigh-ins are set for 5-8 p.m. on July 22 and 5-9 p.m. on July 23 or until the last eligible fish has been weighed under the marlin on Main St. at The Wharf.

For more info, visit gulfoasttriplecrown.com or call Ashley at 850-252-2592.

Tourney divisions include Sailfish, Blue Marlin, Dolphin, Wahoo, Spearfish, Yellowfin Tuna and White Marlin. There is also an unidentified billfish category. Blue marlin must be 110-inch minimum size to be weighed. Weighed blue marlin will be awarded one point for each pound up to 499.9 pounds.

Any blue marlin 500 pounds or larger will be awarded two points per pound. In the catch-and-release category, each blue marlin gets 501 pounds, while white marlin and spearfish are awarded 250 points, and sailfish or unidentified billfish earn 200 points.



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AROUND TOWN

Aug. 13 MAAAC gala supports Orange Beach schools

By Jean Hogue

The Orange Beach Makos Academics, Arts, and Athletics Club (MAAAC) will host its 3rd Annual MAAAC Gala in the Grand Ballroom of Perdido Beach Resort on August 13th at 6 p.m. It will be a fun-filled party to remember as they kick-off their fundraising for the year in support of Orange Beach Schools. Attendees will enjoy the luxury resort atmosphere, exquisite dining, cash bar, music, dancing, and a silent auction. The doors to the Ballroom Foyer will open at 6 p.m. with the silent auction available for all guests to bid on throughout the evening. This spectacular night of fun and fundraising will celebrate the new Orange Beach School Board, Superintendent, and school staff while thanking all in the community that have supported the MAAAC over the past year.

The MAAAC is a non-profit organization that represents and funds the interests of children at the Orange Beach Elementary, Middle, and High School. MAAAC's core mission is to raise funds that directly support and enhance our children's experiences in academics, arts, and athletics. The Club is deeply committed to providing children with the best education possible with a full focus on our children's future. Single Admission - \$125 | Group Admission - \$1,500. Group Admission includes a table reservation with 12 seats.

Foley Main Street receives national accreditation

Foley Main Street has been designated as an Accredited Main Street America program for meeting rigorous performance standards. Each year, Main Street America and its partners announce the list of Accredited programs to recognize their exceptional commitment to preservation-based economic development and community revitalization through the Main Street Approach.

Since its inception in June 2018, Foley Main Street has recorded 38 net new businesses, \$1,038,298 public dollars invested, \$6,313,254 private dollars invested, and 2,896 volunteer hours. 2021 was a year to not only recover from COVID but from Hurricane Sally. Promoting Downtown Foley was a priority with money and time spent with traditional and social media advertising. In 2021 Facebook followers grew to 5,000 and Instagram followers almost doubled to 1,600.

Economic interest in downtown is increasing. Façade grant requests grew by 50% and Foley Main Street helped secure the first Historic Tax Credits for a downtown historic building. Fifty-five meetings revolving around economic growth were held in 2021. 2022 has begun with over 48 businesses wanting to either move, expand or open businesses in Downtown Foley.

Completion of the Envision Downtown Foley plan in late June will help guide business owners, developers, and the city into the future direction of our downtown.

"Accreditation adds accountability and credibility to any organization," said Chad Watkins, volunteer president of Foley Main Street.



Groundwater testing results from Lagoon watershed to be presented July 21

Little Lagoon Preservation Society opposes expansion of sewer treatment plant on Ft. Morgan Rd.

By Fran Thompson

Results from two studies of the groundwater around Little Lagoon will be presented during the Little Lagoon Preservation Society's July 21 meeting at 6 p.m. (5:30 p.m. social time) at the Gulf Shores Activity Center.

The studies, funded by the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program in late 2020, were very timely and pertinent given the controversy generated by the proposed Baldwin County Sewer System permit request to increase its discharge at its Fort Morgan wastewater treatment plant. The permit requested by the BCSS would allow a 65 percent increase in the volume of wastewater to be treated at its plant.

Little Lagoon is classified for swimming and whole-body contact. But it has had a long history of water-quality problems related to restricted flow and nutrient enrichment, resulting in excessive algae. It was placed on the 2006 Alabama Department of Environmental Management list of impaired waters for pathogens and currently remains on that list.

Considerable documentation of water quality within Little Lagoon spanning more than 14 years clearly indicates that Little Lagoon would benefit from no additional increases in the amount of permitted wastewater treatment at the Fort Morgan BCSS plant, according to LLPS president Dennis Hatfield.

Hatfield noted that data already collected indicates a high nutrient zone exists in the area south of the BCSS plant, and the results from the studies that will be presented on July 21 may help determine the source of nutrient point sources, pathogens and other harmful chemicals within the Little Lagoon watershed.

At the meeting, Dr. Alex Beebe (University of South Alabama, Groundwater Hydrologist) will present a program titled "Little Lagoon Watershed Nutrient Assessment and Source Tracking" and Marlon Cook (University of Alabama, consulting geologist) will present a program titled

"Assessment of Water Quality, Groundwater Contributions, and Land-Use Impacts in the Little Lagoon Watershed."

Cook's study investigated general water quality, contaminant sources (including fertilizer, toxic metals and pesticides), measured surface water runoff and ground water flows, and characterized fecal bacteria in Lagoon waters. Monitoring sites included drainage canals, the channel connecting Little Lagoon with Lake Shelby, accessible wells and strategic surface water sites in the Lagoon.

Dr. Beebe investigated groundwater in various locations around Little Lagoon to characterize and identify sources of nutrients (fertilizer). Ground water data taken downstream of golf courses, subdivisions, freshwater input points and the wastewater treatment plant were evaluated in his study.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) will have to approve the BCSS discharge permit seeking an increase in discharge capacity at the Fort Morgan plant from 1.2 million gallons per day to 2 million gallons per day.

Additionally, Lagniappe first reported that Gulf Shores has filed a cease and desist order to stop BCSS, the state's largest private sewer utility, from using an unpermitted sludge pond it constructed at its Fort Morgan treatment plant in 2021. According to the city's filing, the pond, located adjacent to residential housing, violates the city's zoning ordinance and the offensive, noxious odors emitted from the pond are permeating outdoor and indoor air within homes in the area.

"These odors cause unreasonable interference with neighboring property owners' abilities to enjoy their properties and constitute both a public and private nuisance," zoning administrator Andy Bauer wrote. "The construction of the sludge pond represents an expansion of a non-completing use, and operation of the pond shall be discontinued immediately."



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AROUND TOWN

\$5.9 million earmarked for Little Lagoon restoration

At the June 13 City Council Meeting, Gulf Shores City Council voted to execute an agreement with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ACDNR) for the Little Lagoon Restoration Project.

Due to the direct and significant impact the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill had on Little Lagoon and adjacent coastal areas in 2010, the City was awarded \$5.9 million in RESTORE funding for the project.

During the five-year project, the City will partner with Auburn University, the University of South Alabama, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, and Mississippi State University to implement several environmental programs that will improve water quality, increase and enhance habitat areas and improve ecological productivity. In addition, the project will have secondary beneficial impacts on the region, including more resilient and sustainable infrastructure and increased recreational and ecotourism opportunities.

SPECIFIC GOALS OF PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- The construction of approximately 1000 feet of living shorelines and shoreline habitat
- Improvements to the hydrology of the existing canal system
- The connection of roughly 200 individual septic systems within the Little Lagoon watershed to the city sewer
- The establishment of an oyster restoration program.
- Marsh and seagrass bed restoration
- Hydrodynamic modeling of Little Lagoon
- Ecological research and long-term monitoring by university partners

As the sole sub-recipient, the City will administer funding and provide oversight to the sub-awardees throughout the project, and act as the overall program manager for the seven individual programs.

Project teams will also work with local community groups, including the Little Lagoon Preservation Society and Gulf Shores High School's Sustainability Academy, to develop volunteer and public outreach opportunities.

LLPS President Dennis Hatfield said he is especially optimistic about growing the oyster restoration program, connecting septic tanks to the city sewer system and the construction of living shorelines as an alternative to bulkheads and a more efficient way of protecting shorelines while providing numerous habitat benefits to Little Lagoon.

"I certainly wouldn't discount the other items in the project. They are all pretty well thought out and most important," he said. "But educating the next generation to understand the importance of preserving and protecting the Lagoon would be real high on my list. We are working hard on that with City Schools and that seems to be real important to COGS and Gulf Shores City Schools leaders."

Will drone shows replace fireworks?

Can we expect to see more star-spangled celebrations involving drones rather than fireworks?



More cities are embracing drone shows over fireworks on Fourth of July, and it's not just

in western states where wildfires run rampant.

Single-use fireworks can cause air pollution, leading to opposition from environmental activists and the noise upsets some pets.

Mainly because most communities didn't know it was an option before this year, companies offering the shows were unable to accept a vast majority of the requests for this year when compared to 2021.

Typically, between 100 and 500 drones are used to create shows that last 10 to 12 minutes. Fees start at around \$25,000 compared to a small fireworks display that can cost \$2,000. One drone option selling point is that each show can be customized to simulate fireworks, create patriotic images, spell out messages and tell a unique story.



Illuminating Autism FUNraiser July 22-24 at Pirates Cove

The draw down board has been dusted off and tickets offering the opportunity to win two 2022 Jeep Wranglers are completely sold out for the 16th Annual Autism FUNraiser at Pirates Cove in Josephine July 22-24. Separate drawdowns for the jeeps start at noon on Saturday and Sunday. More info: HighHopes4Autism.org.

The FUNraiser features three days of food and fun, a local art walk, and live music from an eclectic assortment of local musicians beginning at 7 p.m. on Friday and 11 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Artwalk participants in 2021 included Nick Cantrell, Aaron Lynn, Frankie Crawford, Loretta Brown, Maya Blume-Cantrell, Anne Webb, Erick Olsen, Melanie Klass, Caitlin McCann, Kevin Cobb, Ryan Caver, Tara Gifford, Amy Osborn and Talia Lumpkin.

The highlight of the weekend will be the drawdowns for the 2022 Jeeps, provided by Gulf Chrysler Dodge Jeep in Foley, especially when negotiations start and tension mounts during the final few rounds. For volunteer info, call 251-986-7007.

High Hopes is the local nonprofit specializing in language development and social behavior therapy for school-age children. Founded in 2009, the school is located on the campus of Saint Benedict Catholic School in Elberta. The organization serves preschool age children and families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder, specializing in language development and social behavior necessary for integration in a traditional classroom environment.

The fundraiser annual raises around \$60,000 for the non-profit, and, like the school itself, has continued to expand since 2009. "So many people look forward to this each year, and we couldn't be more pleased with the community support," said High Hopes Director Rachael Mueller. "Not only is it a fun beach weekend, but it is our center's only fundraising source throughout the year."



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It's Official!

Orange Beach City Schools ribbon cutting

Orange Beach City Schools is officially the newest city school system in Alabama.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Friday morning at Orange Beach Middle/High School to mark the historic day in Orange Beach - July 1, 2022.

It was also officially Superintendent Randy Wilkes first day on the job and what a way to start.

"It is a great day in Orange Beach, Alabama. Can we agree?" Wilkes said, kicking off the ribbon-cutting ceremony with a round of applause and cheers. "It is absolutely fantastic to see everyone today."

He followed by rattling off the timeline of how the state's newest school system formed in record time. From the City Council's unanimous approval on March 15, 2022 to separate from Baldwin Schools to July 1, 2022, the official separation day.

"I have a degree, two actually, in mathematics," Wilkes said. "According to my calculation, that is 107 days in which this school system was created."

Here's a little bit of perspective because we're in Andy Andrews territory, it only took God six days to create the heavens and the earth, just saying, but 107 days to create a school system is remarkable. And what gives me just a little bit of angst is that it's 41 days until we open our doors for students. That's less than 150 days from start to service. That's pretty remarkable people. Pretty remarkable. It's been an amazing journey thus far and there's no doubt that the best is yet to come."

Orange Beach City Schools Board of Education President Robert Stuart began by wishing everyone a "Happy Separation Day" and talked about an early conversation that he and Mayor Tony Kennon had.

"There's no telling what we were talking about, it was something about the schools, and what the conversation was about was this is a God thing," Stuart said. "So before I thank anyone else, I want to thank my Lord and Savior. Then after the Lord blessed it, I really appreciate the mayor and council for

their vision and courage to make this happen. You know, it hasn't been the easiest thing but with this leadership, their determination, their drive, there is no way that this will fail. So thank you, thank you very much...everyone that stood with us and that are excited about making this not just the best school in the county, the state, but a premier school in this nation. And we are on the way."

Stuart added that the mission of the school board is very simple: "We want Orange Beach to be the best and we are going to do everything we can to make that happen."

Following up on Stuart's thoughts, Mayor Kennon said what was accomplished in just over 100 days should not have been humanly possible.

"It was divine intervention, divine providence, divine fill-in-the-blank, it doesn't matter, it was of the good Lord above and I believe that with all of my heart," Kennon said. "To see this mayor and council be in place at this time, the right minds, and this board come together with a commonality that I just never in a million years thought five people would have because they know where we're going - and we're all going in the same direction - and then for Randy to show up and all of the other hires - it is just the Orange Beach version of the parting of the Red Sea."

With that, Mayor Kennon added, comes a demand for greatness. "Because He expects greatness. The good Lord expects greatness from us and I don't think we can settle for anything less. The pressure is on and we are starting today. We will be greater than great."

After the blessing of the school system was led by Pastor Jim Kinder of Orange Beach UMC, Mayor Kennon took time to recognize one individual.

"There is one person that I think was instrumental and this is the second time this person has held things together when it was falling apart. And that's Robbie Smith. Thank you, Robbie. We couldn't have done it without you."



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July 26 is deadline to apply for O.B. Police Citizen's Academy

July 26 is the deadline for citizens to apply for the 2022 Orange Beach Citizens' Public Safety Academy that is set for Aug. 9 - Sept. 13. Classes are free and will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at OBPD headquarters on Hwy. 161.

The academy is designed to provide an overview of the police and fire department's operations to increase the level of understanding and cooperation between the community and departments.

Topics include: Patrol Operations, Narcotics, Investigations, Police Records, Dispatch, Officer Training

Program, Traffic / DUI Enforcement, School Resource Officer Program, Marine Division, Vehicle Extrication Demo, Medical Response Demo, Live Fire Demo and Apparatus Display.

All applicants must be at least 18 years of age and a background check will be completed prior to acceptance. Contact Sgt. Joey Brown at 251-923-5805 to apply.

Applications available for Freedom Fest vendors

Applications are being accepted from artists, crafters and food vendors for the 2nd Annual Orange Beach Freedom Festival scheduled Sept. 30-Oct. 2 at

The Wharf from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m both days. Email Jeanne Fitzgibbons at jfitz@orangebeachal.gov for more info.

Entertainment on Friday and Saturday, children's activities, and lots of food choices are other attractions.

The inaugural fall edition of Bama Coast Cruisin' will line Main Street on Friday and Saturday. For those wanting to sign up for this fall car show, visit bamacoastcruisin.com. Early registration is suggested to ensure a good spot on Main Street for the show.

The Marshals Mardi Gras group sponsored Let Freedom Roar Run and Rally with a motorcycle and Jeep parade will be held for the benefit of Youth-Reach Gulf Coast on Saturday at noon beginning at the O.B. Event Center parking lot. The group will stage in the Event

Center parking lot. Register at eventbrite.com.

Announcements about a special keynote speaker, and benefit concerts at the Wharf are forthcoming.

All vendor fees will benefit the Alabama Chapter of Folds of Honor, which is a nonprofit that helps provide families of fallen and disabled service members with educational scholarships (foldsofhonor.org).

The weekend will also include fundraisers by Makos Academics Arts and Athletics Club (MAAAC), other Orange Beach school groups, and military organizations. It's shaping up to be an unforgettable patriotic weekend with many community and military support groups benefitting.

It was the best life he ever lived: Memorial For Flora-Bama's Joe Gilchrist draws friends old and new





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Mobile councilman arrested in O.B. is “confident justice will be served” Ben Reynolds allegedly disrupts field sobriety test on boat near Boggy Point

Although it must be noted that anybody who is arrested is presumed innocent until a conviction or a guilty plea, if what allegedly occurred during his arrest for public intoxication while he was a passenger in a boat in Orange Beach is true, then Mobile City Councilman Ben Reynolds owes and apology to Jeffrey Bartlett, the driver of the

boat.

According to the police report, Reynolds was a passenger on a boat that was stopped near Boggy Point boat launch on July 2 just after 7 p.m. for failure to turn on navigation lights after dark and traveling too fast in a no-wake zone.

While an Alabama Law Enforcement Agency trooper was administering a field sobriety test to Bartlett, Reynolds interrupted the officer, according to the police report.

The first term city councilman continued to interrupt the trooper even after being told several times to stop. Noting that his breath smelled strongly of alcohol, the trooper asked Reynolds if he had anything to drink that day. Reynolds allegedly responded that he had and the trooper then arrested him

for public intoxication and arrested Bartlett for boating under the influence of alcohol and operating a vessel without a license, in addition to the tickets for the two minor offenses.

In a statement released before the July 5 Mobile City Council meeting, Reynolds was less than conciliatory.

According to his statement, he seems to either refute the information in the police report or somehow not believe that interrupting a police officer trying to conduct a field sobriety test is not an arrestable offense.

“I would like to acknowledge the very difficult job our law enforcement officers are charged with and the fact that many of their decisions have to be made in less-than-optimal situations,” Reynolds stated.

“As I move forward in this process and the judicial system is able to take a more deliberate, thorough view of the evidence, I am confident justice will be served.”

According to his arrest warrant, Reynolds was arrested because he was publicly intoxicated and considered to be a danger to himself. He spent the night in the O.B. jail and was transported to the county jail in Bay Minette the next morning before being released shortly thereafter.

West 4th St. Bridge & Windmill Rd. safety info meeting July 20 at G.S. City Hall

The City of Gulf Shores will host a public information meeting on July 20 to discuss proposed solutions for the West Fourth Street bridge and recommended pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements along Windmill Ridge Road and surrounding areas on Wednesday, July 20 at 5:30 p.m. in the Gulf Shores City Council Chambers (1905 West 1st St.). After the presentation, attendees can ask questions and provide feedback on the project to City staff.

For additional info, contact the City Engineering Department at (251) 968-6583 or email macreman@gulfshoresal.gov.

Due to deteriorating conditions and public safety concerns, the canal bridge on West Fourth St. was closed to vehicular traffic.

In 2021, Gulf Shores hired Skipper Consulting, a transportation engineering firm, to complete a traffic study that evaluated the feasibility of constructing a new bridge on West Fourth St. and reopening it to vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian traffic. City Staff will present the findings of this study and recommendations provided by Skipper Consulting at the public information meeting.

In 2014, the city paid Lucido Engineer-

ing \$26,500 to redesign the West Fourth Street Bridge and the same resolution accepted a grant from the Alabama Department of Transportation for the replacement of the bridge through the Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program. It was later discovered the bridge was a few feet longer than eligibility requirements for receiving the grant and the plan was scuttled.

Since that time the bridge has been closed to vehicular traffic and the city has discussed rehabilitating the bridge for other public use including adding a pocket park in the area.

City spokesman Grant Brown said earlier this year that there are many options on the table and the public will be able to view the different options and add their input.

“The pedestrian access, of course, is important but if this is something that becomes a vehicular bridge again or not those are the type of things, we’ve got to take a look at and then gauge the public to have input,” Brown said.

“We don’t want the public to think that we’re moving forward one direction or the other without them having an opportunity to tell their side of the story.”

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AROUND TOWN

Bids, Brews & Beats Secret Meals fundraiser Aug. 27

The 8th annual Bids, Brews, and Beats to benefit Secret Meals For Hungry Children will be held on Saturday, August 27 at the Foley Farmers Market from 5 - 9 p.m. The free event will consist of a live auction, refreshments, and a live music performance from Journey to Mars. An online silent auction will also be held from August 13-27. Businesses are invited to sponsor this event.

Over the last 8 years, this event has raised more than \$150,000 for Secret Meals For Hungry Children. In South Alabama, this program serves approximately 250 children each weekend in 8 elementary schools. 100% of all funds raised from this event will purchase weekend food packs for children living in food insecurity in our community.

Across Alabama and Northwest Florida, the Secret Meals For Hungry Children Program provides 2,500 students with vitamin-fortified food packs. Each food pack contains two breakfasts, two lunches, and two snacks. All items include pull-tab containers, straw-penetrating juice boxes and bite-sized crackers. Best of all, the food packs are 3.5 pounds and can be easily carried in their backpacks. For more info, visit our Facebook or email SecretMeals@AlabamaCU.com.

John Hart will play free July 21 show at Meyer Park

The City of Gulf Shores will again sponsor Summer Music at Meyer Park concert series returns for the second of its three summer offerings on July 21 with (pictured) John Hart and his band playing a free concert beginning at 6 p.m. and Meyer Park (400 E 22nd Ave.) The series concludes with Wes Loper on August 18. In the event of rain, the back-up location will be Big Beach Brewery. The Bleus Burger food trucks will be serving at both concerts for those who come with an appetite and Coastal Alabama Business

Chamber workhorse Steve Jones will be onsite selling beverages. For more information, visit gulfshoresal.gov or call 251-968-1171.

Tickets on sale for SBCT's 50th anniversary gala on Sept. 30

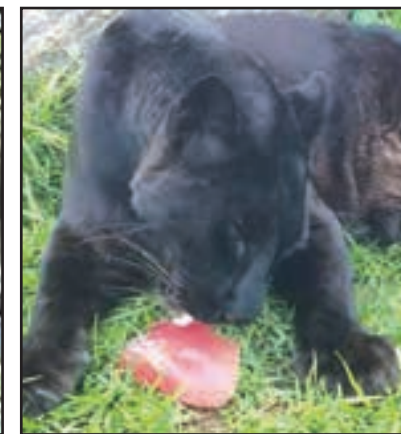
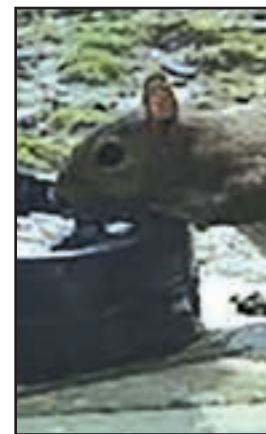
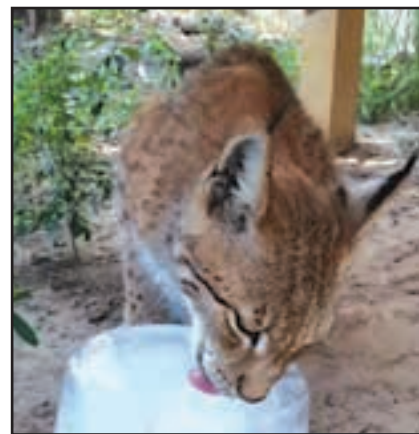
South Baldwin Community Theater will celebrate its 50th anniversary with That 70's Gala on Friday, September 30 at 7 p.m. Cost is \$30 per person or \$50 per couple and attendees are encouraged to show up in their grooviest 70's attire. In addition to a mortgage burning celebration, the event will feature door prizes specialty drinks, and live entertainment with Wingbeat and Marsha Guyer & Friends. Sponsorships are available. Contact Pam Livingston at sbct.biz@gmail.com for sponsorship info. For more gala info, visit sbct.biz or call 251-968-6721.

Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation Rodeo Aug. 4-6 in Foley

The 24th Annual Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation Professional Rodeo returns to the City of Foley Horse Arena on August 4-6.

Come and watch some of the nation's professional cowgirls and cowboys compete for prize money. Rodeo action begins nightly at 8 p.m. at the City of Foley Horse Arena with children's activities starting at 6 p.m. Rodeo tickets are \$15 for adults, \$8 for children ages 3-12 years old, and free for ages 2 and under. Ticket price includes all kids zone activities and the rodeo.

Tickets will go on sale July 11 and can be purchased in at Sumnerdale Western Store and Frances Holk-Jones - State Farm Agent Insurance. Tickets will also be available each night at the gate of the Rodeo. Info: PeerHelpers.org for more info!



How do animals at Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo stay cool in the heat?

Keepers at the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo in Gulf Shores provide ice enrichment through ice blocks, bloodsicles, and frozen fruit. They also provide sprinklers and shade cloths to offer some much-needed relief from extreme temperatures. Water is supplied by water dispensers providing fresh, clean water on demand. Open Daily from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., the zoo is located at 20499 Oak Rd. in Gulf Shores (Admission: Adults \$19.95, Seniors & Military \$16.95, Children (3-11) \$14.95 and Kids 2 and Under free). The zoo's exotic animals include lions, tigers, bears, macaws and reptiles. It also features a domestic barn, daily animal encounters and interactive animal shows. For more info, visit alabamagulfcoastzoo.com or call 251-256-7008. **Pictured:** Katrina, an African Leopard, munches on a bloodsicle; Contessa, a Eurasian Lynx, licks his way through a large ice block; A resident squirrels sips from a water dispenser that includes ice.

Gulf Shores-Orange Beach Tourism purchases land for future sports tourism development Land is located on Coastal Gateway Blvd. between Gulf Shores & Orange Beach

Gulf Shores & Orange Beach Tourism recently closed on 111 acres of land in north-east Gulf Shores to be used for future sports and event tourism development.

With a growing population in the cities of Gulf Shores and Orange Beach and two city school systems comes a greater need to help alleviate sports tourism play from the local sports complexes and school facilities to leave room for residential use.

Sports and event tourism remains a key economic driver in Gulf Shores and Orange Beach, particularly outside of the peak summer season.

"As field use increases for the city school systems and local youth sports, there is shrinking space to maintain and grow sports and event tourism," said Beth Gendler, president and CEO of the tourism bureau.

"There is very limited real estate of any sizable portion left in south Baldwin County, so we knew we needed to purchase a large parcel of land before it was gone. With guidance and direction from our board of directors, we were able to find and secure this land to insure the future of sports tourism along the Gulf Coast"

The parcel of land is located to the west and north of the Auburn University satellite facility at Coastal Gateway Boulevard (County Road 8 East) and the Foley Beach Express. The far north end of the property meets the city of Foley line and is close to

the Orange Beach city limits. The next step for the organization is to source a research firm to conduct a sports facility feasibility study, which will determine the needs of the community, what should be built and how to manage it.

The goal of this project is to fill the facility gap to grow sports and event tourism while enhancing residential needs.

To that end, Gulf Shores & Orange Beach Sports & Events has also partnered with The City of Gulf Shores to build 12 pickleball courts at the Gulf Shores Sportsplex.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the project was held for the lighted regulation-size pickleball courts on the east side of the Mickey Miller Blackwell Stadium on June 22, with the \$780,000 cost for the project to be split between the two sponsors. The courts should be open for play by the end of this year.

"As pickleball emerges into one of the fastest-growing sports in the United States, we are excited to bring these much-needed courts to our community," said Grant Brown, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Director, "Right now, pickleball players in Gulf Shores have limited options for play. These new courts will provide our residents the opportunity to play year-round and will be a tremendous asset to our community."

"We are excited for the sports tourism opportunities these new pickleball courts will bring," said Gendler.





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Puzzle pieces added to protect Weeks Bay Watershed

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

Protecting a nationally recognized estuary in a rapidly developing coastal area can be a bit like putting together a puzzle where the pieces are constantly being shuffled and changed. This is exactly the challenge faced by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Managed by the ADCNR State Lands Division and funded in part through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Weeks Bay Reserve is part of a network of thirty protected estuaries around the country. The Reserve System was established to provide research, education, and outreach related to understanding the function and management of estuaries, which provide important ecosystem services such as protection from storm surge, removal of nutrients and pollutants from coastal waters, and serving as a nursery ground for recreationally and commercially important fish and shellfish.

Will Underwood, Coastal Section Administrator with the ADCNR SLD, said that part of the long-term strategy for maintaining the health of the waters of Weeks Bay includes willing-seller land acquisition.

“Successful acquisition of land in a rapidly growing area such as Baldwin County requires a great deal of teamwork with partners,” said Underwood. “We have been fortunate to have access to a variety of funding sources over the last decade that have allowed for acquisitions in the Weeks Bay watershed.”

Flexibility is the name of the game, says Underwood, when it comes to leveraging available funding. For example, when a parcel initially slated for purchase with NOAA funding fell through, ADCNR quickly pivoted and identified other willing-seller tracts in the Meadows (County Rd 1) and Sunset Shores/Swift Tract areas surrounding the Weeks Bay project area. Working with matching funds from the Forever Wild Land Trust, these parcels were ultimately acquired for the benefit of future generations.

Many recent acquisitions resolved critical gaps that have long made land management extremely challenging.

“We are always looking for ways to make our land management efforts at the Reserve more efficient and effective,” Underwood said. “Tying these parcels together allows us to conduct prescribed fire activities in a manner that better mimics natural burns and reduces the cost of installing and maintaining duplicative fire breaks.”

The three most recent acquisitions in the watershed include the Holmes Tract, 90 acres on Magnolia River at the intersection of Weeks Creek and Magnolia River; the East Gateway – Williams Tract, a 163-acre parcel at the mouth of Weeks Bay; and the Lloyd-Worcester Tract, a 60-acre parcel on Waterhole Branch and Green Branch on Fish River. These purchases were primarily funded

through the ALTIG as part of Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment funding. Additional funding was provided through a NOAA competitive grant opportunity. Underwood said the three parcels will protect over 3 miles of shoreline in the watershed and, with these parcels, the families made the decision that they wanted to be involved in conservation as part of their family legacy.

“We have some family history on the Holmes Tract,” said Underwood. “It’s a family connection of long-term ownership. Broox Holmes, who is in his mid-90s, is really proud of the heritage there. His father, Dr. W.C. Holmes, a local physician and Alabama State Senator, was instrumental in the state’s purchase of land in the 1920s for the establishment of Gulf State Park. Dr. Holmes and his wife, Philomene, once planned to build a family home on the parcel, so the family was very happy to see it preserved.”

Underwood said the 90-acre Holmes Tract on Magnolia River includes the peninsula on Bemis Bay.

“There’s a lot of history in that area as well,” he said. “There was actually a hotel across the river, the Woodbound Hotel, which was a resort at the turn of the 20th century.

“That tract has some really nice ground with old longleaf pine with intact understorey, and then it grades down to the river. There’s some really nice habitat. The ecological benefit of that purchase is that it preserves longleaf pine habitat, but there’s also bay swamp and Atlantic white cedar, which is a boat-building wood, but there’s a butterfly (Hessel’s Hairstreak) that uses it almost exclusively. And there are gopher tortoises on that site as well. It’s a unique habitat in a compact area.”

Underwood said the Holmes Tract will be managed with prescribed fire to maximize the longleaf pine habitat.

“The prescribed fire will be done after very careful planning because it’s been a long time since there’s been a fire,” he said. “We’re going to do some careful entry burns to reduce the heavy duff layer so we can do regular growing season fires. We’ll start with some cold season burning to reduce the duff and reduce possible mortality of the mature longleaf. I think the last fire on that tract was in the ‘70s. We’ll have to work really hard to do fire the right way on that tract.”

The East Gateway – Williams Tract is a mix of tidal marsh with a tidal creek and an adjacent upland that has enough elevation that it could have attracted possible developers.

“This tract provides a space for marsh migration so that marsh can move up slowly as sea levels rise and can move into that adjacent upland,” Underwood said. “It basically provides a buffer at the mouth of Weeks Bay to maintain ecological function. That marsh is so important in filtering nutrients, providing a buffer from storm surge and provides nursery grounds for many of our commercially and recreationally important fish and shellfish species. And it preserves the entrance from Mobile Bay into Weeks Bay.”

The Lloyd-Worcester Tract is 60 acres at the confluence of Waterhole Branch and Green Branch on the west side of Fish River.

“It, too, is a peninsula, so it has intact forest edges with bay swamp and white cedar,” Underwood said. “There’s an old pasture on the property that we will convert back into longleaf pine. There will be a reintroduction of

fire there as well. It also has gopher tortoises.”
“The area is growing so rapidly; it’s important to protect areas of shoreline with significant ecological and aesthetic benefits,” he said. “We can see the river as it looked almost 100 years ago.”

Underwood said the South Alabama Land Trust (SALT), formerly Weeks Bay Foundation, played a crucial role in the purchase of these most recent tracts.

“On all three parcels, SALT worked with the landowners through the negotiations process, secured purchase agreements with the landowners, and supported ADCNR with due diligence, surveying and appraisals,” he said. “They also provided a cash contribution for the purchase of the Holmes Tract. SALT was a vital partner in bringing these acquisitions to closing.”

Underwood said the Weeks Bay Reserve team also worked closely with ADCNR’s Deepwater Horizon Restoration Section, headed by Dr. Amy Hunter.

“Amy’s team did the lion’s share of the work behind the scenes to make these acquisitions happen,” Underwood said. “There was a lot of environmental review. It was a long process to get each parcel finished. We are grateful for their hard work and for the support of Commissioner (Chris) Blankenship in supporting these important additions to the Weeks Bay Reserve.”

ADCNR Commissioner Blankenship added, “With the rapid growth and development we are seeing in Baldwin County, when a parcel becomes available for conservation, it takes everybody coming together and pooling all our resources to make all these acquisitions a reality. We are also very appreciative of the landowners and their families who demonstrated a commitment to land conservation and stewardship by making these valuable coastal properties available to ADCNR.”

Visit outdooralabama.com for info about the Weeks Bay visitor center, the pitcher plant bog and education programs available.

Pictured: (Daniel Galbraith, Will Underwood) The Lloyd-Worcester Tract includes this beautiful vista on Waterhole Branch on the west side of Fish River. The Weeks Bay complex includes tidal marshes and upland areas with longleaf pine stands. The spider lily is one of the many species of flora in the Weeks Bay watershed

“With the rapid growth and development we are seeing in Baldwin County, when a parcel becomes available for conservation, it takes everybody coming together and pooling all our resources to make all these acquisitions a reality.”

“His father was instrumental in the establishment of Gulf State Park. Dr. Holmes and his wife, Philomene, once planned to build a family home on the parcel, so the family was very happy to see it preserved.”



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Sharks return to July 14-17 AL. Deep sea Fishing Rodeo on Dauphin Island

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

At the request of anglers and spectators, the Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo (ADSFR) will again have a shark category for the 89th annual event, scheduled July 14-17 at the rodeo site on Dauphin Island.

Of course, ADSFR officials checked with marine scientists to ensure bringing the category back was ecologically sound.

"It's been about 7 years since we had a shark category," said Mark Schambeau, this year's rodeo president. "We had a lot of requests from anglers and spectators to bring sharks back. So, we started talking to Dr. Sean Powers with the University of South Alabama (USA), Dr. Marcus Drymon of Mississippi State and a few others. We wanted to know about the stock assessment for sharks and how their numbers look in the Gulf of Mexico. They told us they were back to good numbers. They gave us a go-ahead to consider bringing the shark category back.

"We talked to a lot of anglers about bringing it back. They were all excited and wanted to help fund bringing it back. We have shark as an open category, but we also have a shark jackpot, sponsored by Gulf Hauling and Construction, which is funded through a lot of the anglers. This year we are giving away a guaranteed \$12,000 for first place."

The shark category will only include four species; tiger, bull, hammerhead (greater and scalloped) and blacktip. The rodeo's minimum sizes for tiger, hammerhead and bull sharks is 80 inches total length. The minimum size for blacktip sharks is 60 inches total length.

Anglers who participate in the rodeo's shark categories are required to possess an Atlantic HMS (highly migratory species) permit with a shark endorsement (hmspermits.noaa.gov) from NOAA Fisheries.

"We only want the large sharks, the mature sharks," Schambeau said. "We don't want small sharks. We put large minimums on those sharks because we don't want a free-for-all. We will be making regular posts on our social media to educate anglers on the legal sizes and species for our tournament.

"Another reason to have larger minimums is to make it easier to identify. That's why we selected certain species, to help reduce any misidentification. We won't allow any of the protected shark species to be brought to our

docks."

Anglers aren't the only ones excited about the return of the category. Marine scientists will be able to obtain valuable information from the sharks brought to the rodeo.

Powers, professor and director of the new USA School of Marine and Environmental Sciences and head rodeo judge, said the top comment from anglers and spectators at the rodeo was about bringing the shark category back. He said the timing is right.

The spectators enjoy seeing them," said Powers. "The fishermen, not so much that they want to fish for them, but they have seen sharks in this area increase dramatically in abundance. Fishermen, especially snapper fishermen, are experiencing a lot more bite-offs because of sharks. We, as scientists, call it depredation. That's when you hook something and another species that you don't mean to hook comes and eats it."

Powers said the likely culprits in the depredation are sandbar and bull sharks. The sandbar is one of the protected species except for limited scientific collection.

"The rodeo came to us and wanted to know if we agreed with their decision to bring the shark category back," he said. "I told them, yes, because I trust the science that goes behind management. As long as you are harvesting within the regulations in terms of species and size limits, then, yes, you can harvest them. That's what the best science tells us. My big thing is to make sure we educate the fishermen on the regulations."

The benefit of harvesting the sharks during the rodeo is that the specimens will be used to advance the data collection of the species. Marine scientists will collect vertebrae, stomach contents and reproductive organs to conduct a battery of tests.

"These sharks will not be wasted," Powers said. "They will be used for science."

While anglers may complain about the number of shark encounters on a fishing trip, Powers assures everyone that an increase in shark numbers is a good thing.

"This is what a healthy Gulf looks like," he said. "We've been fishing for the past 40 years with a shark population below where it should be. It's frustrating to lose a snapper or tuna to a shark, but it's a healthy ecosystem when we have lots of sharks in it.

"To eliminate killing a lot of sharks for no

reason, the rodeo went with a higher size limit than the regulations. We just want people to bring in sharks that are really large and can compete for prizes."

Powers said the species were chosen because they are easier to identify, and they grow to larger sizes.

"Anyone can catch a blacktip shark," he said. "We're really looking for the big tiger and bull sharks. Those are the ones that are really going to challenge the anglers, and we can harvest them sustainably."

As far as identifying the species, Powers said some anglers may confuse blacktips with spinner sharks, but he said spinners don't grow large enough to meet the minimum size.

He also said the way to differentiate between a sandbar shark and a bull shark is found on their backs.

The thing is everybody calls everything, except a tiger or a hammerhead, a bull shark," Powers said. "They need to make sure they know the difference between a bull shark and a sandbar shark. One thing is the bull shark is stocky and the dorsal fin is not as big. But the main difference is a sandbar shark has a ridge down its back from its dorsal fin to its caudal fin. A bull shark does not have a ridge. If it has ridges, it better have stripes (tiger shark) to keep it.

"We're excited to have sharks back. We want to get those specimens."

In previous years, sharks were displayed on a rack between two pilings on the south end of the rodeo site. This year, Killer Dock has constructed a large hanging rack on the north side of the property that will be a significant upgrade.

"The old shark rack has always been a traditional sight at the rodeo," Schambeau said. "We are not bringing that down. With the Killer Dock hanger, we will be able to display the sharks in a better way and allow the spectators to get a better view. It has a shaded canopy, and hopefully it will keep the sun off them a little longer."

The rodeo will also add a red snapper jackpot to this year's event to go with the regular category and cash prizes division.

The red snapper harvest, as of June 20 this year, was estimated at only 175,619 pounds. Weather conditions and high fuel prices have reduced the fishing effort so far this summer, which means the snapper season could last into the fall if the quota of 1,122,662 pounds is

not projected to be met.

Billfish has also been added to the open categories, bringing the total number of fish categories for the rodeo to 33.

Schambeau, who has been a part of the rodeo crew for 14 years, said rodeo participation continues to climb despite the COVID pandemic and other factors.

"We set the Guinness World Record for the number of anglers in 2011 or 2012 with just over 2,200 anglers," he said. "Last year, we sold more than 4,200 tickets. The numbers have always gone up. The interesting thing during COVID for the 87th rodeo is we still had a high number fishing the tournament.

When you're out fishing, you're not in large groups, so they still participated in the tournament. We didn't have the music or big crowds, but the actual angler participation was very high."

The rodeo kicks off at 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 14, with the Captain T-Bone's Liars Contest, followed by music from Trotline. Friday's music will be provided by the Velcro Pygmies, while

Blackwater Brass will be on the stage at 5 p.m. Saturday.

The Mobile-Area Children's Charity Expo will also be held in the sponsors tent from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. during the Roy Martin event.

"We have invited area charities involved with children and young families to come down," Schambeau said. "We will give them this space for free to show the good they are doing in our community, possibly raise funds and recruit people to their good causes.

"That's one thing about our tournament. We're community-minded and want to continue to help."

Visit adsfr.com for details about the event, including tickets, rules and regulations.

Pictured: A bull shark is weighed in during a past ADSFR; tuna depredation; beautiful red snapper catches will rule the day.

The shark category will only include four species; tiger, bull, hammerhead (greater and scalloped) and blacktip. The rodeo's minimum sizes for tiger, hammerhead and bull sharks is 80 inches total length.

The benefit of harvesting sharks is that the specimens will be used to advance the data collection of the species. Marine scientists will collect vertebrae, stomach contents and reproductive organs to conduct a battery of tests.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING



Trips To Discover includes O.B. on vacation list for couples on a budget

Orange Beach was included among the Trips To Discover website list of the "14 Best Vacation Spots For Couples on a Budget" along with international cities Montego Bay, Jamaica; Lisbon, Portugal; Cuenca, Ecuador; and Puerto Escondido, Mexico. Other U.S. cities on the list include Key Largo and Seaside, Oregon.

Included along with the picture above in the digital travel magazine's described Orange Beach was the following description: "Its glistening white sands are made up mostly of quartz, causing them to sparkle in the sunshine while beautifully contrasted by brilliant turquoise water. Enjoy swimming, beach strolls and walks on nature trails to see ospreys, owls, turtles, and bullfrogs. As there are plenty of budget-friendly hotels and vacation rentals here, you might be able to splurge a bit for a guaranteed dolphin sightings. Look forward to cheap or free live entertainment, and a bounty of fresh seafood in this haven for foodies, with many dining spots featuring waterfront views.

Pensacola no. 81 on Resonance Consultancy "Top 100 Best Cities" list

Pensacola has made the top 100 list in the 2022 America's Best Cities Report, ranking among many of the nation's most well-known metropolitan cities including New York City, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Washington, D.C. and more.

The smallest city on the list, Pensacola ranked 81st in the 2022 report, which was conducted by Resonance Consultancy. Using consumer research and market analysis, the report evaluates cities in six categories: place, product, programming, people, prosperity and promotion.

In addition to ranking 81st overall, Pensacola ranked 10th in income equality and 20th in parks and outdoors. Pensacola also ranked 46th in place and 51st in prosperity. The place category analyzes weather, safety, neighborhoods, parks and outdoors, and the prosperity category analyzes household incomes, unemployment rates, income equality, and the number of Fortune 500 headquarters.

Registration open for Rouses Kids Fishing Tourney Aug. 19-20 at Wharf

Registration is now open for the Kids Win Fishing Tournament presented by Rouses Markets. Fishing begins Friday, August 19 at 5 p.m. and ends Saturday, August 20 at 10 a.m. The tourney makes every kid a winner with the chance to collect tons of prizes and trophies. This event is great for first-time or experienced young anglers and costs \$30 per entrant to participate. There are only 100 spots available. Any species fish may be caught and weighed, and fishing must take place within three miles of any shore.

Weigh-ins will be held at The Wharf Marina in Marlin Circle on Saturday, August 20 from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

Children ages 3 to 10 will compete in two age groups — small fry (3-6) and large fry (7-10). Every kid's a winner and will have the chance to collect prizes and trophies. Kids' activities, snacks and drinks for entrants to enjoy are all courtesy of Rouses during the weigh-ins in Marlin Circle. Proceeds from the tourney will benefit Make-A-Wish® Alabama.

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- Tyler Ward: 5; Carvers; Orange Beach.
- The Permanent Grins: 5; Angry Crab Shack; Orange Beach.
- Robert Broom: 5; American Legion Post 99; Foley.
- Rock Bottom: 5; Pleasure Island Tiki Bar; Orange Beach.
- Davo: 4; Woodside Restaurant at Gulf State Park, Gulf Shores.
- Art Al Fresco: 11 a.m.; Tacky Jacks Gulf Shores; RSVP at tackyjacks.com.
- Pickerwoods: 6; Tacky Jacks, Fort Morgan.
- Gambino Duo: 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- Robert Bloom: 5; American Legion Posts 99; Foley.
- Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables: Schedule on Pages 28-29; 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).
- Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde: 7; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- Open Jam: 7:30; Good Time Charlie's; Foley.
- John Brust: 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.
- Open Mic: 6; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
- Gary Story & Friends: 8; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- John Joiner & Darrel Roberts: 7; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
- 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.
- Karaoke & League Pool: 7:30; The Office, 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 interested women invited to attend; 251-980-5722.
- Gulf Shores Lions Club: noon; 2nd & 4th Wednesday; noon; Adult Activity Center, Gulf Shores; 251-968-2823.

THU, JULY 14

- Gary Story Open Mic: 6; Front Porch, Lillian.
- Scott Koehn Project: 6:30; Sassy Bass Tiki & Cook-Out Bar; Fort Morgan.
- Kelly Poole: 5; Carvers; Orange Beach.
- Spicy Danger: 5; Angry Crab Shack; Orange Beach.
- Tim Robinson: 7; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- Jimmi G: 6; Sunset Cork Room; Gulf Shores.
- Broke & Done: 5; Pleasure Island Tiki Bar; Orange Beach.
- Tyler Ward: 4; Woodside Restaurant at Gulf State Park, Gulf Shores.
- Nigel Dickie: noon; Splash Pool; Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- Beach Games: 11 a.m.; Tacky Jacks Gulf Shores; RSVP at tackyjacks.com.
- Ligvht Travelers: 5; LuLu's at Homeport Marina, Gulf Shores.
- JJ Mack: 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- Brian Hill: 6; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
- Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables: Schedule on Pages 28-29; Perdido Key.
- Flora-Bama Family Friendly Bingo: 1-4 p.m.; free; family friendly; Flora-Bama; Perdido Key.
- Andy Andrews Live: 12:15; Andy Andrews General Store & Museum; The Wharf, Orange Beach.

- Bama Beach Pickleball Club: 9-noon; Church of Christ, 2414 West 1st St., Gulf Shores; (new members welcome).
- William Gibson: 5; The Perch, Gulf State Park Lodge, Gulf Shores.
- John Brust: 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.
- Karaoke: 6; Tacky Jacks; Gulf Shores.
- Karaoke: 7; Tacky Jacks, Ft. Morgan.
- Karaoke w. Kelly: 8; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- Karaoke: 9; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- Bridge: 11:30 a.m.; Orange Beach Senior Center, 251-981-3440.
- 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.
- Al-Anon: 7; Orange Beach Presbyterian Church, 26640 Canal Rd.

FRI, JULY 15

- J Hawkins: 4; Front Porch, Lillian.
- Rock Killough & Darrel Roberts: 6; Front Porch, Lillian.
- Live Music Jam w. Host Dan Plante: 6:30; Sassy Bass Tiki & Cook-Out Bar; Fort Morgan.
- Brittany Grimes: 5; Carvers; Orange Beach.
- Savage: 5; Angry Crab Shack; Orange Beach.
- Milton Faustino: 6; Sunset Cork Room; Gulf Shores.
- Tim Spencer: noon; Splash Pool; Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- Bo Grant (formerly of The Platters): 7; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- JERI: 5; Pleasure Island Tiki Bar; Orange Beach.
- Lefty Collins: 5; LuLu's at Homeport Marina, Gulf Shores.
- Destiny Brown: 4; Woodside Restaurant at Gulf State Park, Gulf Shores.
- Gringo Fife: 6; Tacky Jacks, Fort Morgan.



LEGION POST 99 AWARDS: Judi Wheat was recognized as the American Legion Post 99 Caregiver of the Year, and Rene Schoetzow was named the Auxiliary Member of the Year during a recent ceremony at Post 99 in Foley. Rene was also selected Dept. of Alabama Auxiliary Member of the Year, and Judi was named Dept. of Alabama Caregiver of the Year. President Sharon Bunton presented the awards. SAL Commander Scott Commache presented Don Madden with the Member of the Year Award for SAL Squadron 99, and Commander Van Hubbard presented Leonard Neese a plaque as Member of the Year for Legion Ridewr Chapter 99 during the banquet.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



- John Brust: 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.
- 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.
- T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly); weigh-in 9; meeting 9:30; Foley Sr. Center, 304 E. Rose Ave.; 251-979-1075.
- Al-Anon: noon; Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church, Gulf Shores.

- Rock Bottom: 5; Pleasure Island Tiki Bar; Orange Beach.
- Shawn Williams Trio: 6; Big Beach Brewery; Gulf Shores.
- JERI: 5; LuLu's at Homeport Marina, Gulf Shores.
- Chase Brown: 4; Woodside Restaurant at Gulf State Park, Gulf Shores.
- False Identity: 9; The Office, Foley.
- James Cook: 3; Tacky Jacks, Fort Morgan.
- Strickly Rivers: 6; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
- Stone Country: 6:30; American Legion Posts 99; Foley.
- JJ Mack: 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- The Blenders: 7; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
- Mid-Life Crisis: 9; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- Davo at the Piano: 5; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables: Schedule on Pages 28-29; Perdido Key.
- Destiny Brown: 5; The Perch, Gulf State Park Lodge, Gulf Shores.
- Karaoke w. Bree & David: 7; American

SAT, JULY 16

- False Identity: 9; The Office; Foley.
- Wire Jam: 1; Front Porch, Lillian.
- John Joiner: 5; Carvers; Orange Beach.
- The Permanent Grins: 5; Angry Crab Shack; Orange Beach.
- Lisa Christian: 6; Sunset Cork Room; Gulf Shores.
- Bo Grant (formerly of The Platters): 7; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- Southern Star: 6:30; American Legion Post 99; Foley.
- Rhonda Hart Band: 7; Playa Del Rio RV Park; Perdido Key.

- False Identity: 9; The Office; Foley.
- Wire Jam: 1; Front Porch, Lillian.
- John Joiner: 5; Carvers; Orange Beach.
- The Permanent Grins: 5; Angry Crab Shack; Orange Beach.
- Lisa Christian: 6; Sunset Cork Room; Gulf Shores.
- Bo Grant (formerly of The Platters): 7; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- Southern Star: 6:30; American Legion Post 99; Foley.
- Rhonda Hart Band: 7; Playa Del Rio RV Park; Perdido Key.

More than 1,500 teams will play ball here this summer

Home runs are in season this summer as more than 1,500 baseball and softball teams – along with their coaches, families and fans – travel to Gulf Shores and Orange Beach for the Perfect Game Gulf Coast Baseball World Series and the USSSA Fastpitch Softball National Championships at the Gulf Shores, Orange Beach and Foley Sportsplexes.

“Youth sports is our ‘bread and butter,’ and these teams traveling to the beach showcases our core audience – families,” said Michelle Russ, vice president of sales, sports and events for Gulf Shores | Orange Beach Sports & Events. “It’s heartwarming to see many travel ball families revisiting the Alabama Gulf Coast as their home away from home and a true joy to witness families experiencing the area for the first time. These sports families and fans leave behind millions in economic impact for our local economy and take home lifelong memories from on and off the fields.”

In 2021, Perfect Game and USSSA summer championships contributed 94,895 room nights and \$76.77 million in economic impact for the cities of Gulf Shores and Orange Beach. The 2022 lineup features the following events:

Opening ceremonies for most events – as well as pin trading for baseball and parades for softball – will take place at The Wharf Amphitheater in Orange Beach. Learn more about Perfect Game at PerfectGame.org and USSSA at USSSA.com/Fastpitch.

USSSA Fastpitch Softball National Championship 8U-18U (A, B Class & Open): July 10-16; National Championship 8U-18U (A, B, C & Open Classes): July 17-23; National Championship & Showcase 14U-18U: July 24-30.

United Way hosts bus tour to its beneficiaries

United Way of Baldwin County will host an agency tour of its beneficiaries on Tuesday, July 26 from 8:30 a.m. - noon. The tour will start at United Way’s Foley office at 700 N. McKenzie St. and visit ARC of Baldwin County, CARE House, Boy’s Ranch, Family Promise and Baldwin Youth Services.

The purpose is to allow participants to see first hand the good work being done across our community. Participants will travel on an air conditioned BRATS bus. More info: info@united-way-bc. or 251.943.2110.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sea turtle presentation at Foley Library July 19

Alabama Coastal Foundation's Sara Johnson will be giving a presentation at the Foley Public Library on Tues, July 19 at 2 p.m. on Sea Turtles and the "Share the Beach" program. Johnson is the director of this program which seeks to mitigate human-related impacts to sea turtles along our Alabama coast. Seating is limited and reservations are required. RSVP online at foleylibrary.org or call 251-943-1031.

Joel Potter named Gulf Shores' first ever arborist

Gulf Shores has hired the city's first ever official arborist. Joel Potter comes to Gulf Shores with more than 15 years of experience in urban forestry and will manage the protection of trees and overall beautification of the city while serving as an advocate for trees and their environmental, economic, and social benefits to a community.

Last year, Gulf Shores City Council amended the City's Tree Protection Ordinance to increase regulation on removing and destroying protected trees to preserve the existing tree canopy and all of the naturally occurring benefits that come with it.

Potter's duties also include reviewing landscaping plans for new developments, making recommendations for revisions to the City's code for governing protected trees and preferred street trees, and ensuring private property maintenance standards are sustained.

Potter has in-depth experience practicing urban forestry, evaluating tree health and conducting tree risk assessments. He received his Bachelor of Science in Greenhouse and Nursery Production and Management and his Master of Science in Fruit and Nut Production from Auburn University.



Rhonda Hart plays free July 16 at Playa Del Rio RV Park Donations will be accepted on behalf of FBISF Foundation

Playa del Rio's summer concert series continues at the Playa Del Rio RV Park on Perdido Key in July with Rhonda Hart and her band on July 16 and the Southern Riptide Band on July 23. There is no admission fee for the concerts. But donations to the Frank Brown Songwriters Fest Foundation and the musicians are appreciated. Dates are subject to change and weather conditions may cause cancellations. The concerts are bring your own chairs and BYOB. No pets are allowed, and there is free parking in the gravel parking lot behind Snappy Foods. Playa del Rio RV Resort is located at 16990 Perdido Key Dr. on Perdido Key. Concerts are from 7-11 p.m.

The concert series lineup also includes: Nomadic Mate on Aug. 6, Johnny Hayes Band on July 20, Tyler Livingston and the Absolutes on Sept. 3 and the Amanda Pruitt Band on Sept. 5. **Pictured:** Justin Forbes, Rhonda Hart, Robin Kingry.



3rd Annual Caribbean Day Celebratin July 16 at OWA

The 3rd annual Caribbean Day, a celebration of music, art and family fun, is scheduled July 16 at Downtown OWA in Foley. Festivities include a sidewalk chalk art competition for cash prizes, traditional Caribbean music and the Afro-Cuban drum clinic. Live music on OWA Island starts at 5 p.m. with the Sandy Roots band playuing its blend of rock, reggae, funk, and country. Flip Flop Republic takes the stage at 8:30 p.m. Caribbean-style stilt walkers will dance through the streets of Downtown OWA in the midst of a hula hoop contest, sand art, and face painting. More info: VisitOWA.com.

Legion Post 199; Fairhope.

- Wiley Pete: 7; Stephi Cocktails-Cuisine; Orange Beach.
- The Defrosters: 2; Flying Harpoon II; Orange Beach.
- Karaoke: 9; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- Karaoke w. Howard: 7; Tacky Jacks, Ft. Morgan.
- Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermen's Market: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.; 20733 Milflin 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.
- Ladies AA: 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

SUN, JULY 17

- Darrell Roberts: 1; Front Porch, Lillian.
- Johnny Barbato: 4; Front Porch, Lillian.
- Greg Brown: 6:30; Sassy Bass Tiki & Cook-Out Bar; Fort Morgan.
- Phillip Savell: 5; Carvers; Orange Beach.
- Naked Spur: 5; Angry Crab Shack; Orange Beach.
- ATB: 5; Pleasure Island Tiki Bar; Orange Beach.
- Charlie Wilson: 4; Woodside Restaurant at Gulf State Park, Gulf Shores.
- Lee Carreon: 5; Tacky Jacks, Fort Morgan.
- Brooks Johnson: 5; LuLu's at Homeport Marina, Gulf Shores.
- Brittany Grimes: 6; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
- Gingo Fife: 11; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- Zack Chavers: 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange

Beach.

- Doc Johnson Duo: 4; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- Brittany Grimes: noon; Tin Top Restaurant; Bon Secour.
- Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables: Schedule on Pages 28-29; Perdido Key.
- Bends & Brews Yoga: 11 a.m.; in the courtyard; Big Beach Brewery; Gulf Shores.
- Lisa Zanghi: 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.
- The Defrosters: 2; Flying Harpoon II; Orange Beach.
- Rodger & Elaine: 6; American Legion Post 44, Gulf Shores.
- John Joiner & Friends: 4; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
- League Pool: 7; The Office, Foley.

MON, JULY 18

- Tim Spencer: noon; Splash Pool; Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- Tyler Wilson & James Cook: 6; Tacky Jacks, Fort Morgan.
- Mac Walter: 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- Albert Simpson: 5; LuLu's at Homeport Marina, Gulf Shores.
- Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables: Schedule on Pages 28-29; Perdido Key.
- Flora-Bama Family Friendly Bingo: 4-10 p.m.; free; family friendly; Flora-Bama; Perdido Key.
- 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).
- Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde: 7; Papa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- Sparks After Dark Fireworks: 8:45; The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- Open Mic w/Davo: 7; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- Key Songwriter's Open Mic: 7; The



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JULY 14 - JULY 27						FLORA-
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Membership Night 6-9 PM Members get first drink free! (Up to \$5.75 value)	Military Night	Good Times & Good Music	Service Industry Night 6 PM Hospitality Industry gets free admission, 1st drink free (\$5.75 value), & employee prices	Service Industry Night 6 PM Hospitality Industry gets free admission, 1st drink free (\$5.75 value), & employee prices	Service Industry Night 6 PM Hospitality Industry gets free admission, 1st drink free (\$5 value), & employee prices	Ladies' Night 6-9 PM Ladies get first drink free (\$5.75 value)
Main Room 2:00 - J Hawkins Duo 6:00 - Mark Sherrell & Friends 10:15 - David Duvaent	Main Room 12:00 - Lea Anne Crawford Duo 4:00 - Early Rogers 6:00 - Scott Keshin Project 10:15 - Ryan Oyer Duo	Main Room 12:00 - J Hawkins Duo 4:00 - Chad Wilson 7:00 - Eric Roberts 10:15 - Brian Hill Duo	Main Room 1:30 - Rick Whaley & The Perdido Brothers 6:00 - Tyler Ward 10:15 - Chad Wilson	Main Room 2:00 - Mike Diamond 6:00 - Open Mic w/ Cathy Pace 10:15 - Petty & Pace	Main Room 2:00 - T Bone Montgomery 6:00 - Rick Whaley & The Perdido Brothers 10:15 - Kyle Wilson	Main Room 2:00 - Mike Diamond 6:00 - Rhonda Hart Duo 10:15 - Wes Loper
Dome Stage 5:30 - Kristen Kelly 10:00 - Shackelford Lane	Dome Stage 4:00 - Chad Wilson 5:30 - The Big Earl Show 10:00 - Shackelford Lane	Dome Stage 4:00 - Zach Pedrich 5:30 - The Big Earl Show 10:00 - Shackelford Lane	Dome Stage 1:00 - Al & Cathy 5:30 - Albert & John 10:00 - Clay Barker Band	Dome Stage 5:30 - Jobe Fortner 10:00 - Chris Beverly Experience	Dome Stage 5:30 - Isaac Moore 10:00 - Tim Roberts Band	Dome Stage 5:30 - Willie Trzymick 10:00 - Justin Johnson Trio
Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Free Bingo w/ Sam 6:00 - Chad Wilson 10:30 - Black Eyed Blonde	Tent Stage 3:00-6:00 Free Bingo w/ Sam 6:00 - Shellee Greco 10:30 - Cody Webb	Tent Stage 2:00 - Al & Cathy 6:00 - Clay Barker Band 10:30 - Cody Webb	Tent Stage 8am & 11am - Church 2:00 - Zachary Diederich 6:00 - David Chastang	Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Free Bingo w/ Sam	Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Free Bingo w/ Sam	Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Bingo with Sam
Beach Stage 12:00 - Brent Varner	Beach Stage 12:00 - Shawn Lackey 4:00 - Tom Roberts	Beach Stage 12:00 - Justin Feltes 4:00 - TBA	Beach Stage 12:00 - Wes Loper	Beach Stage 12:00 - Destiny Brown	Beach Stage 12:00 - Shawn Lackey	Beach Stage 12:00 - Jobe Fortner
Yacht Club 5:00 - Brittany Bell	Yacht Club 6:00 - Blaine Kelley	Yacht Club 12:00 - Tyler Ward 5:00 - Krista Kelly	Yacht Club 12:00 - Wes Loper	Yacht Club 5:00 - Isaac Moore	Yacht Club 5:00 - TBA	Yacht Club 5:00 - Kyle Wilson
Ole River Grill 4:00 - Justin Thompson 8:00 - Carly Rogers	Ole River Grill 4:00 - Justin Feltes 8:00 - Brooks Johnson	Ole River Grill 8:00 - Patrick Greco 8:00 - Chris Beverly 8:00 - Jonathan Puzan	Yacht Club 12:00 - Smokey Otis Duo 5:00 - Mike Diamond	Ole River Grill 6:00 - Kyle Wilson	Ole River Grill 6:00 - Justin Feltes	Ole River Grill 6:00 - Isaac Moore

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Membership Night 6 PM Members get first drink free! (Up to \$5.75 value)	Military Night	Good Times & Good Music	Service Industry Night 6 PM Hospitality Industry gets free admission, 1st drink free (\$5.75 value), & employee prices	Service Industry Night 6 PM Hospitality Industry gets free admission, 1st drink free (\$5.75 value), & employee prices	Service Industry Night 6 PM Hospitality Industry gets free admission, 1st drink free (\$5.75 value), & employee prices	Ladies' Night 6-9 PM Ladies get first drink free (\$5.75 value)
Main Room 2:00 - J Hawkins Duo 6:00 - Mark Sherrill & Friends 10:15 - Justin Johnson Trio	Main Room 12:00 - Lea Anne Greenwell Duo 2:00 - Maria Nita & Bonner Rhoe 6:00 - South Beach Project 10:15 - Trevor Finlay	Main Room 12:00 - J Hawkins Duo 4:00 - TBA 7:00 - Maria Nita & Bonner Rhoe 10:15 - Jessica Wilson & Kristian Foreman	Main Room 1:30 - Rick Whaley & The Peridito Brothers 6:00 - Dew Pendleton 10:15 - Brandon Blackburn	Main Room 2:00 - Mike Diamond 6:00 - Open Mic w/ Cathy Pace 10:15 - Petty & Pace	Main Room 2:00 - T Bone Montgomery 6:00 - Rick Whaley & The Peridito Brothers 10:15 - Dew Pendleton	Main Room 2:00 - Justin Jeansonne 6:00 - Rhonda Hart Duo 10:15 - Tim Roberts
Dome Stage 5:30 - The Steve & Joe Piano Show 10:00 - Blake Rudd Band	Dome Stage 1:00 - Jessica Wilson & Kristian Foreman 5:30 - The Big Earl Show 10:00 - Blake Rudd Band	Dome Stage 1:00 - Justin Johnson Trio 5:30 - The Big Earl Show 10:00 - Johnny Money Band	Dome Stage 1:00 - Trevor Finlay 5:30 - JB Elston 10:00 - Johnny Money Band	Dome Stage 5:30 - Tim Roberts 10:00 - Tony Ray Thompson Trio	Dome Stage 5:30 - Zachary Diedrich 10:00 - Saucy Fuzz	Dome Stage 5:30 - Tony Brook 10:00 - Bruce Smally Band
Tent Stage 1:00 - 4:00 - Bings with Sam 6:00 - Zachary Diedrich 10:30 - Yeah, Probably	Tent Stage 1:00 - 4:00 - Bings w/ Sam 6:00 - Justin Johnson Trio 10:30 - Cale James Band	Tent Stage 2:00 - Al & Cathy 6:00 - Smokey Otis Band 10:30 - Everyday People Band	Tent Stage 9:00 & 11:00 - Central Church Service 2:00 - Patrick Cross 6:00 - David Chastang	Tent Stage 1:00 - 4:00 - Bings w/ Sam	Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Bings with Sam	Tent Stage 1:00-4:00 Bings with Sam
Beach Stage 12:00 - Brent Varner	Beach Stage 12:00 - Miss Lager 4:00 - Johnny Money	Beach Stage 12:00 - Patrick Cross 4:00 - Brandon Blackburn	Beach Stage 12:00 - Mason Henderson	Beach Stage 12:00 - Tony Brook	Beach Stage 12:00 - Ryan Oyer	Beach Stage 12:00 - Brandon Blackburn
Yacht Club 5:00 - Trevor Finlay	Yacht Club 6:00 - Jake Fortner	Yacht Club 6:00 - Brian Hill Duo 9:00 - Trevor Finlay	Yacht Club 12:00 - Mason Henderson	Yacht Club 5:00 - Presley Aaron	Yacht Club 5:00 - Tony Brook	Yacht Club 5:00 - Johnny Hayes
Ole River Grill 4:00 - Ryan Balthrop 8:00 - Brooks Johnson	Ole River Grill 4:00 - Chris Beverly 8:00 - Mason Henderson	Ole River Grill 1:00 - Robert Link 5:00 - Tyler Ward 9:00 - Zachary Diedrich	Ole River Grill 1:00 - TBA 5:00 - Zachary Diedrich	Ole River Grill 6:00 - Brittany Grimes	Ole River Grill 6:00 - Presley Aaron	Ole River Grill 6:00 - Christina Christian

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Chris Stapleton, Keith Urban among upcoming Wharf shows

Upcoming concerts at the Wharf Amphitheater include Chris Stapleton's All-American Road Show on July 15, The Doobie Brothers on July 23, UNITED, Tauren Wells, Andy Mineo, TAYA and Ryan Ellis on July 30, Keith Urban on August 6 and Parker McCollum on Sept. 2. Tickets for all shows at the (almost) 10,000 seat amphitheatre are available through Ticketmaster.com, The Wharf Box Office, and numerous secondary markets.

Innerarity's Canal Dr. at Perdido Key Dr. closed 'til July 22

Canal Dr. at Perdido Key Drive on Innerarity Point will remain closed to through traffic until 5 p.m. Friday, July 22 to reconstruct Canal Dr. as part of the S.R. 292 (Perdido Key/Sorrento Road) improvement project, according to the Florida Department of Transportation.

Canal Drive traffic will be detoured to Innerarity Point Road, then south on Monterrey Drive to Canal Drive. Construction signs will be in place to alert drivers of the road closure and detours.

All activities are weather dependent and may be delayed or rescheduled in the event of inclement weather. Drivers are reminded to use caution when traveling through a work zone, especially at night, and to watch for construction workers and equipment entering and exiting the roadway. More info: nwlroads.com

Free Cole Harris, Will Wesley show at OWA Island on July 26

Country and blues music is on full display at the OWA Island Amphitheater on Saturday, July 26, with Cole Jones performing at 5:30 p.m. and the Will Wesley Band taking the stage at 7:30 p.m. Wesley's set will include music from his most recent album, Both Sides of the Tracks, an album that has garnered both national and international rave reviews.

Slated to perform at the Foley entertainment & restaurant complex on Saturday, July 30 is This Side of 49 playing at 5:30 p.m. and Ryan Dyer taking the stage at 7:30 p.m. Dyer's Mobile based band claims influence from country and southern rock icons. Their new single is "Hurt this good."

Grab your dancing shoes and join us Saturday, August 6, for a high-energy night of music featuring Yeah You Right at 5:30 p.m. and Flow Tribe at 7:30 p.m. Founded in 2004, Flow Tribe is a fixture on the New Orleans music circuit. The band's new toe-tapping single, "Keep Pushing," features Ivan Neville. The upbeat funk/soul anthem celebrates the good things that come out of never giving up. The concert series winds down on Aug. 13 with Nashville South kicking off the party at 5:30 p.m.

Breakfast Club; Perdido Key
 • Bridge (11 a.m.) & Bingo (6 p.m.): 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.; Island 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 99, Gulf Shores.
 • Al-Anon: 7; Orange Beach Presbyterian Church, 26640 Canal Rd.

TUE, JULY 19

• Rhonda Hart & Elaine Petty: 6; Front Porch, Lillian.
 • David Wiley Duo: 6:30; Sassy Bass Tiki & Cook-Out Bar; Fort Morgan.
 • Lisa Christian: 6; Sunset Cork Room; Gulf Shores.
 • Wes Loper: 5; Pleasure Island Tiki Bar; Orange Beach.
 • Brent Varner: noon; Splash Pool; Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
 • Hands On Habitat: 11 a.m.; Tacky Jacks Gulf Shores; RSVP at tackyjacks.com.
 • Albert Simpson: 5; LuLu's at Homeport

Marina, Gulf Shores.
 • Ashley & Colby: 6; Tacky Jacks, Fort Morgan.
 • Greg Brown: 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
 • Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables: Schedule on Pages 28-29; 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).
 • John Brust: 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.
 • Andy Andrews Live: 12:15; Andy Andrews General Store & Museum; The Wharf, Orange Beach.
 • Lisa Christian: 6; Sunset Cork Room; Gulf Shores.
 • Karaoke: 6; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
 • JW Karaoke: 6; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
 • Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde: 7; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
 • Danny Grady: 3; American Legion Post 44; Gulf Shores.
 • Bridge: 11:30 a.m.; Orange Beach Senior Center, 251-981-3440.
 • 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.
 • Manna Center Food Pantry: 9-11 & 2-4; First Baptist Church of Gulf Shores; 2300 West 1st St.; also adult & children's clothes, computer access, limited financial assistance. Info: 251-948-2485.
 • GriefShare Support Group: 6; Point Church, 13801 Innerarity Point Rd, Pensacola; 601-278-6973.
 • 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 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.
 • Foley Kiwanis Club: noon; Vallarta's, 1145 S. McKenzie St., Foley; 859-771-6091.
 • Al-Anon: 7 p.m.; Lillian United Methodist Church, 12770 N. Perdido St.

WED, JULY 20

• T-Bone Montgomery: 6; Front Porch, Lillian.
 • Tyler Ward: 5; Carvers; Orange Beach.
 • Platinum Premier: 5; Angry Crab

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Swanky Gala Aug. 12 at Orange Beach Event Center Order of Aurora fundraiser benefits Youth-Reach Gulf Coast

By Nancy McMeekin

The 2022 Mystical Order of Aurora Swanky Gala will be held on Friday, Aug. 12 at the Event Center at The Wharf in Orange Beach. The annual costumed dance, silent auction and all-around “swanky-fun” evening donates all proceeds to Youth-Reach Gulf Coast, a full-time residential ministry in Summerdale, which provides a fresh chance to young men ages 18-22 who are struggling with physical and emotional addictions and have nowhere to turn. The program does not charge residents and depends on donations. A silent auction of local and regional items will also be held during the event. Donations to that auction by businesses and individuals may be made by contacting Kendall Hoffman at (205) 492-8285.

The Mystical Order of Aurora in 2021 raised \$68,000 through the Swanky Gala and is planning an “Evening at Casino Royale” for this year’s party. This is a charitable event open to everyone in our community. Tickets are \$110 per person and includes \$250 in “play money”. Tables of 12 are available for \$1600, which includes \$500 “play money” per person.

Tickets are available at swankygalatickets.eventbrite.com.

Shack; Orange Beach.
 • Rock Bottom: 5; Pleasure Island Tiki Bar; Orange Beach.
 • Art Al Fresco: 11 a.m.; Tacky Jacks Gulf Shores; RSVP at tackyjacks.com.
 • Robert Broom: 5; American Legion Post 99; Foley.
 • John Keuler: 5; LuLu’s at Homeport Marina, Gulf Shores.
 • Charlie Wilson: 4; Woodside Restaurant at Gulf State Park, Gulf Shores.
 • Robert Bloom: 5; American Legion Posts 99; Foley.
 • Adam Tyler Brown: 6; Tacky Jacks, Fort Morgan.
 • Colby Girard: 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
 • Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables: Schedule on Pages 28-29; Perdido Key.
 • Flora-Bama Family Friendly Bingo: 1-4 p.m.; free; family friendly; Flora-Bama; Perdido Key.
 • Bama Beach Pickleball Club: 9:00; Church of Christ, 2414 West 1st St., Gulf Shores; (new members welcome).
 • John Brust: 6; Ms. Nancy’s Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.
 • Open Jam: 7:30; Good Time Charlie’s; Foley.
 • Open Mic: 6; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
 • Gary Story & Friends: 8; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.

• John Joiner & Darrel Roberts: 6; Hub Stacy’s, Innerarity Point.
 • Karaoke & League Pool: 7:30; The Office, 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.
 • Al-Non: 12:30; Live Oak AFG, St John’s Episcopal Church, 401 Live Oak Ave., Pensacola.

• Gary Story Open Mic: 6; Front Porch, Lillian.
 • Tiki Howel and Burt: 6:30; Sassy Bass Tiki & Cook-Out Bar; Fort Morgan.
 • Brittany Bell: 5; Carvers; Orange Beach.
 • Cat Daddu Blues Band: 5; Angry Crab Shack; Orange Beach.
 • John Kruler & Co.: 5; Pleasure Island Tiki Bar; Orange Beach.
 • Beach Games: 11 a.m.; Tacky Jacks Gulf Shores; RSVP at tackyjacks.com.
 • This Side Of 49: 6; Sunset Cork Room; Gulf Shores.
 • GypsyPearl: 5; LuLu’s at Homeport Marina, Gulf Shores.
 • Nigel Dickie: noon; Splash Pool; Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
 • Jesse Buman: 4; Woodside Restaurant at Gulf State Park, Gulf Shores.
 • JJ Mack: 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
 • Skyline Kings: 6; Hub Stacy’s, Innerarity Point.
 • Free Summer Concert Series w. John Hart Band: 6; Meyer Park; Gulf Shores.
 • Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables: Schedule on Pages 28-29; Perdido Key.
 • Flora-Bama Family Friendly Bingo: 1-4 p.m.; free; family friendly; Flora-Bama; Perdido Key.
 • Andy Andrews Live: 12:15; Andy Andrews General Store & Museum; The

THU, JULY 21



MAIDENS IN PINK STILETTOS GOLF TOURNEY: The recent Maiden’s in Pink Stiletto’s Golf Tournament raised \$5,000 for the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind thanks to the 30 participating teams, 100 local sponsors and the gracious hosts at Soldier’s Creek Golf Course in Elberta. The Maiden’s in Pink Stiletto’s was started as an organization for beautiful, fun-loving women to enjoy themselves in a social setting. It is a society for like-minded women to get together and have a good time in the spirit of Mardi Gras and give the ladies of Pleasure Island and the surrounding areas a way to network while giving something back to the community. The Stiletto’s organization strives to facilitate both personal and business relationships among our members. More krewe info: 334-450-9646.




Beginner pickleball days twice a week in G.S.

Each Thursday and Friday, from 1-4 p.m., the Bama Beach Pickleball Club offers a beginners’ play day at the Church of the Shores so newbies can come and play with each other and practice their games. Once they get proficient at playing, they can then move on to the regular play schedule at the church from 9 a.m.-noon Monday through Saturday. Come learn the fundamentals of the fastest growing sport in the USA. For more info, call Sam Strite at samcstrite@gmail.com or 251-965-5122.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

- Wharf, Orange Beach.
- Bama Beach Pickleball Club: 9-noon; Church of Christ, 2414 West 1st St., Gulf Shores; (new members welcome).
 - Karaoke: 6; Tacky Jacks; Gulf Shores.
 - William Gibson: 5; The Perch, Gulf State Park Lodge, Gulf Shores.
 - John Brust: 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.
 - Karaoke w. Howard: 7; Tacky Jacks, Ft. Morgan.
 - Tim Roberts: 6; The Tin Top Restaurant, Bon Secour.
 - Karaoke: 9; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
 - Bar Trivia Night: 5; Bar 45 Lounge at ONE CLUB, Gulf Shores.
 - Karaoke w. Kelly: 8; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
 - Bridge: 11:30 a.m.; Orange Beach Senior Center, 251-981-3440.
 - 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.
 - Al-Anon: 7; Orange Beach Presbyterian Church, 26640 Canal Rd.
 - AA: Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point)

FRI, JULY 22

- Live Music Jam w. Host Dan Plante: 6:30; Sassy Bass Tiki & Cook-Out Bar; Fort Morgan.
- J Hawkins: 4; Front Porch, Lillian.
- White Sands: 6; Front Porch, Lillian.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



- Kelly Poole: 5; Carvers; Orange Beach.
- Savage: 5; Angry Crab Shack; Orange Beach.
- Milton Faustino: 6; Sunset Cork Room; Gulf Shores.
- Tim Spencer: noon; Splash Pool; Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- Davo: 4; Woodside Restaurant at Gulf State Park, Gulf Shores.
- Ryan Balthrop: 5; LuLu's at Homeport Marina, Gulf Shores.
- Shaggy D: 5; Pleasure Island Tiki Bar; Orange Beach.
- Hollard: 9; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- Delta Donnie & Cathy Pace: 6; Tacky Jacks, Fort Morgan.
- Soul Food Junkies: 6; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
- Brittany Grimes: 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- Hollard: 9; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables: Schedule on Pages 28-29; Perdido Key.
- Flora-Bama Family Friendly Bingo: 1-4 p.m.; free; family friendly; Flora-Bama; Perdido Key.
- Rodger & Elaine: 7; American Legion Post 44, Gulf Shores.
- Bama Beach Pickleball Club: 9-noon; Church of Christ, 2414 West 1st St., Gulf Shores; (new members welcome).

- Open Mic: 7; American Legion Post 199; Fairhope.
- Chase Brown: 5; The Perch, Gulf State Park Lodge, Gulf Shores.
- Darrell Roberts: 7; Stephi Cocktails / Cuisine; Orange Beach.
- John Brust: 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.
- Karaoke w. Kelly Ann: 6; American Legion Post 99; Foley.
- Karaoke: 8; Snapper's; Orange Beach.
- Open Mixed Doubles Tennis: 7:15 a.m.; all levels welcome; Gulf Shores Tennis

Center; corner of West 19th Ave. and West 2nd St.
 • T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly); weigh-in 9; meeting 9:30; Foley Sr. Center, 304 E. Rose Ave.; 251-979-1075.
 • Al-Anon: noon; Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church, Gulf Shores.

SAT, JULY 23

- Gypsy Pearl: 9; The Office; Foley.
- Wire Jam: 1; Front Porch, Lillian.
- Brandon Giles: 6; Front Porch, Lillian.
- Lyda Plummer: 5; Carvers; Orange Beach.

OBFD BLESSES NEW LADDER, BREAKS GROUND ON STATION 3: Paradise is a little more protected now as the new Orange Beach Fire Department Ladder Truck 3 went into service on June 28 at Fire Station No. 3, next to Orange Beach Middle/High School. A blessing of the engine was led by Fire Chaplain Fred Franks. The \$1.25 million fire engine has a 110-foot ladder extension with a platform at the end. By next summer, Ladder Truck 3 will be housed at the new Fire Station 3 that is under construction on Canal Road, south of The Wharf. The foundation for the four-bay station is expected to be poured in early July, with building completion by next summer. In January, M. W. Rogers Construction was awarded the contract to build the station with a low bid of \$5.4 million. McCollough Architecture is the project engineer.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

PIER & SHORE FISHING OUTLOOK

By DAVID "THE PIERPOUNDER" THORNTON

Our typical summer-like weather pattern remains entrenched along the coast with pretty much a chance of rain any day or night. At least that keeps air temperatures from reaching triple digits, even though it feels that way at times in this tropical humidity. The wind is generally more tolerable (and welcome) this time of year, barring any brisk breezes that spring up in the vicinity of thunder-showers. Plus we are entering the period of hurricane season when our attention reaches farther out into the Atlantic.

Though rare, occasional July hurricanes have crossed our shores throughout history. But with the exception of occasional tropical waves or storms we should continue to see more great weather with lots of bright summer sunshine that keeps the Gulf and back bay waters in the middle to upper 80s.

Consequently such warm water fuels rapid growth in sealife. Many spring spawning forage fish species like Scaled and False herring (locally called "LYs") are already an inch or so long now. They will continue to develop about an inch per month, providing sustenance for other species in the meantime. Anglers can cash in on this feeding activity with small silver spoons and jigs in the ¼ to ½ ounce sizes on light or even ultralight tackle (8 to 4 pound class). Ladyfish (called "skipjack"), and a variety of other small jack species take advantage of this rich food source. Providing in turn near limitless amusement to fishermen along the calm gulf beaches, as well as passes and back waters like Little Lagoon and Perdido and Mobile Bay.

Stronger incoming tides will prevail during the early daylight hours at the beginning and end of this fortnight, coincident with the Full moon (on the 13th) and the New moon (on the 28th). The NEAP tide period around the 19th will provide much less general water movement but that is often a favorable period for anglers to concentrate on the passes. Of course night fishing for "white" and spotted seatrout and slot-sized redfish around 'quiet' dock and pier lights can be quite productive this time of year, as well as more comfortable. Live shrimp or minnows are practically a 'slam dunk' to produce fish, and a great way to keep kids interested and awake. But three inch long artificials are often just as good or even better, because you can cover more water with them.

Soft plastic lures like D.O.A. Shrimp, Zoom Fluke or Tiny Fluke, and small hard lures like Yo-Zuri Crystal Minnow or Rapala X-Rap (#8) work great on light tackle even near structure, though a few may be sacrificed for the cause. Morning incoming tides might be especially productive for Spanish mackerel, bluefish and such from the pier, seawall or jetty. Look for large scale bait movements at dawn to signal feeding activity into the morning. There are currently LOTS of herring schooling around the Gulf State Park Pier. So many in fact, that the annual die-off is occurring en masse. The outgoing tide during the afternoon/evening hours tends to favor action for ladyfish, bluefish and redfish. Larger spoons (1 to 2 ounces) and medium sized plugs (like #10 or #12 X-Rap) will work best for these larger predators, especially in low light conditions or 'dingy' water. Some 'keeper' mangrove snapper are hanging around the Gulf State Park Pier, Little Lagoon Pass, Perdido Pass seawall and Alabama Point (west) jetty now. Just be sure you have the \$10 Reef Fish Endorsement license to legally target or retain them in Alabama. Also, regulations state "anglers must use non-stainless steel circle hooks when fishing for, retaining, possessing or landing gulf reef fish when using natural bait."

The list of "reef fish" includes mangrove snapper, even when caught from land, pier, jetty or inland waters. Best bait for mangroves is live shrimp (small) or minnows (bull or finger mullet) fished on a small circle hook with just enough weight to keep it within reach of the snapper school. Bycatch of a variety of species from jacks and bluefish to flounder often result.

bbSurf fishers are still finding occasional pompano, and a few more "whiting" (Gulf kingfish). But the calm, clear Gulf waters have been more conducive for speckled trout or spanish mackerel and bluefish caught on lures (spoons and plugs) cast from the beach or wade fishing. Some fisherman looking for even bigger sport-fish throw larger plugs or swimbaits for bull redfish, sharks, and jack crevalle in the surf around Fort Morgan and Perdido Pass jetties. These brutes are also available from the State Pier, as well as hard fighting tarpon and fast-running king mackerel. Several nice king mackerel have been landed from the pier already this month, and dozens more sacrificed to the 'shark gods' that prowl around it. These aren't just our standard 4 to 7 foot Blacktips and Spinner sharks, or even the slightly larger Sandbar or Bull sharks. With the annual LY die-off and turtle nesting season occurring, there have been a lot of large Tiger sharks active in the surfzone and just beyond. In fact, Captain Ritchie Russel (known as "the shark whisperer") reports his charters have caught over 20 of these double digit feet long behemoths within a mile of shore!

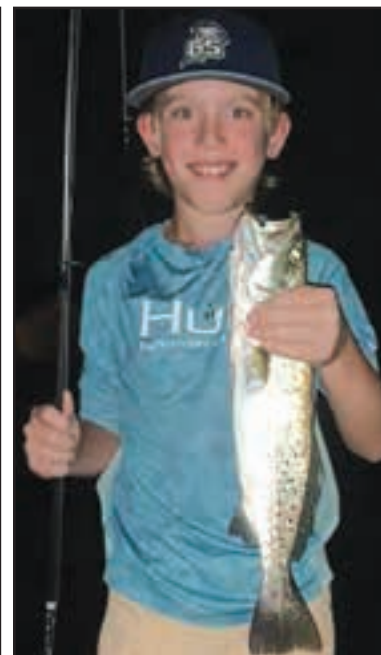
This should make for an interesting Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo later this month, with the shark category returning to that event.

- Spicy Danger: 5; Angry Crab Shack; Orange Beach.
- Davo at the Piano: 5; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- Bruti: 6:30; American Legion Post 99; Foley.
- This Side Of 49: 6; Sunset Cork Room; Gulf Shores.

- Hollard: 9; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- Southern Riptide Band: 7; Playa Del Rio RV Park; Perdido Key.
- Rock Bottom: 5; Pleasure Island Tiki Bar; Orange Beach.
- Chase Brown: 4; Woodside Restaurant at Gulf State Park, Gulf Shores.



MANATEES & LUNKER FISH: Chandler Boyington caught a nice speckled trout night fishing with his dad Matt and Ken Holiday celebrates landing a fine king (intact) from the Gulf State Park Pier. Tommy Nelson from Fairhope has been catching Spanish mackerel from the pier for almost 50 years. A manatee was recently captured swimming along the shore underneath the pier. If you spot a manatee, do not approach it. But do contact the Manatee Sighting Network, 866-493-5803 or manatee.DISL.org.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

COOKIN' WITH CAROLYN

BY CAROLYN GODFREY

Sesame Cucumber Salad

- 1 Tbsp. sugar
- 1 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 cup rice vinegar
- 2 Tbsp. water
- 2 large unpeeled cucumbers (with small seeds), very thinly sliced
- 1 cup diagonally sliced celery
- 1/4 pound cooked small shrimp
- 1/4 pound cooked small scallops
- 1 Tbsp. toasted sesame seeds

Combine sugar, cornstarch and salt in small saucepan; stir in vinegar and water. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture comes to a boil and thickens. Cool completely. In large bowl, combine dressing with cucumbers, celery, shrimp, scallops and sesame seeds. Refrigerate 2 hours or overnight. Stir before serving. Yield: 6 servings. Enjoy!

- Doug Alvie: 3; Tacky Jacks, Fort Morgan.
- Byall's Karaoke: 9; The Office, Foley.
- Three Bean Soup: 6; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
- Robert Broom: 6:30; American Legion Posts 99; Foley.
- JJ Mack: 11; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- Damian Lamb Duo: 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables: Schedule on Pages 28-29; Perdido Key.
- Cristi Dees Band Juju: 7; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
- Wiley Pete: 8; Stephi Cocktails-Cuisine; Orange Beach.
- Karaoke: 6; American Legion Post 44, Gulf Shores.
- Karaoke w. Bree & David: 7; American Legion Post 199; Fairhope.
- Destiny Brown: 5; The Perch, Gulf State Park Lodge, 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: 9; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- Karaoke w. Howard: 7; Tacky Jacks, Ft. Morgan.
- Texas Hold 'em: 7; The Office, Foley.
- Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fisher-

mans Market: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.; 20733 Milflin Rd. (County Rd. 20), Foley.

SUN, JULY 24

- Darrell Roberts: 1; Front Porch, Lillian.
- Johnny Barbatto: 4; Front Porch, Lillian.
- David Wiley Duo: 6:30; Sassy Bass Tiki & Cook-Out Bar; Fort Morgan.
- College Reunion Tour Featuring Teluride: 4; American Legion Post 199 Beach; Fairhope.

- Lyda Plummer: 5; Carvers; Orange Beach.
- Kelly Poole & The Swingset: 5; Angry Crab Shack; Orange Beach.
- Strictly Rivers: 7; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- Brent Varner: 5; Pleasure Island Tiki Bar; Orange Beach.
- Tyler Wilson: 5; Tacky Jacks, Fort Morgan.
- Josh Newcom: 5; LuLu's at Homeport Marina, Gulf Shores.
- Charlie Wilson: 4; Woodside Restau-



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WHAT'S HAPPENING



Two local women earn pickleball indoor national championships

Cindy Ross says the fastest growing sport in the country, pickleball, may have started as a way for seniors to get exercise.

"Pickleball is not just for old people but that's what everybody thinks," Ross said.

Recently, at a tournament in Hoover she another local woman, Adela Umannova, brought home indoor national championships and qualified for the largest pickleball tournament in the country in November in San Diego. Ross, who has social media business, is a physical trainer and medical doctor, won the singles title in the 35-and-older 3.0 division. Umannova won singles gold in the 35-and-older 4.0 division and the doubles title in the 19-and-older 3.5 division.

"National Indoor Championship and also a golden ticket qualifier for California," Ross said.

"That's the biggest tournament of the year and you qualify only when you win first place," Umannova said of the San Diego tournament.

Gulf Shores recently broke ground on 12 new lighted courts to be built at the city's Sportsplex. Foley is planning to build some at the Coastal Alabama Farmer's and Fishermen's Market site.

"It's a huge sport and people are always saying it's for old people," Ross said. "I was playing 20-somethings in Hoover in the singles. But literally It's the fastest-growing sport in the U.S."

After the Hoover tournament the pair was asked to spend the day at Camp MASH or Make Arthritis Stop Hurting at a camp for those battling juvenile rheumatoid arthritis.

"I've been involved with them for years and we got to go teach pickleball with 80 kids for the whole entire day out there," Ross said. "It was lots of fun."

Baldwin Education Coalition Golf Tourney slated Sept. 8

The 10th Annual Baldwin County Education Coalition Golf Classic will be held on Sept. 8 at Rock Creek Golf Club in Fairhope. Presented by Baldwin County Sewer Service, the tourney is the Coalition's only fundraising event. One of Baldwin County's premiere tournaments, players enjoy complimentary lunch, dinner, beverages, and exceptional prizes. More info: 251-989-2262 or info@betterbaldwin.com.

Silverhill will host annual Back To School Bash Aug. 5

The Town of Silverhill will host its annual Back to School Bash to kick off the new school year on Friday Aug. 5 at 6 p.m. The party will feature skating, bounce houses, food and an outdoor movie.

Alligators & Ale 5K & Cornhole Tourney Oct. 1 in Summerdale

The Central Baldwin Sunset Rotary Club's Alligators and Ale 5K/Fun Run & Corn Hole Tournament, a fundraiser for Miracle League of Coastal Alabama, will be held on Oct. 1 at 8 a.m. at Alligator Alley in Summerdale.

Race registration will begin at 7:00 am. 5k race at 8 a.m., followed by 1 mile fun run. Awards and alligator feeding demonstration will begin at 10 a.m. Cornhole tournament to start at 11 a.m. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

Alligator Alley is located at 19950 Co. Road 71. Info: athlinks.com/event.

Proceeds from the event will be used to complete the building of a ball park and playground for special needs children and adults in South Baldwin County. This family fun annual event has raised over \$75,000 for The Miracle League.

rant at Gulf State Park, Gulf Shores.

- Tim Robinson: 6; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
- Hottie Jim: 11; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- Les Linton: 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- Doc Johnson Duo: 3; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- Al & Cathy: noon; Tin Top Restaurant; Bon Secour.
- Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables: Schedule on Pages 28-29; Perdido Key.
- Rodger & Elaine: 6; American Legion Post 44, Gulf Shores.
- Bends & Brews Yoga: 11 a.m.; in the courtyard; Big Beach Brewery; Gulf Shores.
- Lisa Zanghi: 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.
- The Defrosters: 2; Flying Harpoon II; Orange Beach.
- John Joiner & Friends: 4; Hub Stacy's; Innerarity Point.
- League Pool: 7; The Office, Foley.

MON, JULY 25

- Tim Spencer: noon; Splash Pool; Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.
- Wes Loper: 5; Pleasure Island Tiki Bar; Orange Beach.
- Mac Walters: 6; Tacky Jacks, Fort Morgan.
- Steven Sylvester: 5; LuLu's at Homeport Marina, Gulf Shores.
- Zoe Burdett: 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.
- Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible

Probables: Schedule on Pages 28-29; 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).
- John Brust: 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.
- Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde: 7; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- Sparks After Dark Fireworks: 8:45; The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- Open Mic w/Davo: 7; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- Key Songwriter's Open Mic: 7; The Breakfast Club; Perdido Key
- Bridge (11 a.m.) & Bingo (6 p.m.): 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.
- Overeaters Anonymous: 6; Holy Spirit Episcopal Church; Gulf Shores, 616 Ft. Morgan Rd.; 251-709-5907.
- Celebrate Recovery: (Christ centered 12 step program); Monday evenings at 6 p.m.; Island Church in Orange Beach; 251-967-4840.
- Al-Anon: 7; Orange Beach Presbyterian Church, 26640 Canal Rd.

TUE, JULY 26

- Rhonda Hart & Elaine Petty: 6; Front Porch, Lillian.
- Greg Brown: 6:30; Sassy Bass Tiki &

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- cherries

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



State catfish industry does face serious issues

In the early 2000s, more than 25,000 water acres were in production in Alabama, including approximately 250 catfish farms in western Alabama and four processors. By 2020, this declined to 66 farms; 16,146 water acres; and two remaining catfish processors in the state.

There are multiple reasons for the decline, including rising feed prices and competition from inexpensive imports, mainly from Vietnam and China, flooding the U.S. marketplace with alternative catfish-like products, such as tra, swai, basa, and tilapia.

Another factor was the the COVID-19 pandemic and the decline in food service and restaurant sales. But in early 2021, that situation began improving.

Surprisingly, larger catfish are also a factor, as catfish included in the harvest recently have included excessive amounts of large fish too big for the processors to accept.

But the biggest challenge to the Alabama catfish industry is disease losses. Production losses have been greater than \$13 million annually over the last 13 years due to bacterial diseases. Losses have been particularly heavy due to a virulent strain of *Aeromonas hydrophila* bacteria introduced from China.

Alabama ranks just behind Mississippi in catfish production

By Wes Ellard

Alabama has a reputation for cooking and serving delicious food. Barbecue, coleslaw and fried chicken are all southern staples. In the summer, though, nothing really beats a plate of fried catfish.

The state's affinity for catfish goes beyond just cooking and eating. Alabama is the second highest catfish producing state in the United States, behind Mississippi.

The West Alabama Black Belt region is prime catfish farm territory, according to Luke Roy, an Alabama Cooperative Extension System associate aquaculture professor.

"The high concentration of clay in the soil makes the region a great place to build ponds that hold water well," Roy said.

The state's long agricultural history and warmer climate also make Alabama a desirable place for catfish farming. Alabama is home to 66 catfish farms, with more than 15,000 water acres of ponds. Hale, Dallas, Greene and Perry counties produce the most catfish in the state.

Catfish production isn't too different from any other type of animal agriculture. "Producers purchase catfish fingerlings from fish hatcheries in Mississippi and Arkansas," Roy said. "There are no commercial catfish fingerling hatcheries in Alabama."

The fingerlings are stocked in ponds at near 7,500 head per acre. Once stocked, they receive a high protein diet for one to two years. Aeration is important, and farmers often use electric or PTO-driven aerators to ensure proper oxygen levels in the water.

Preferred market size of the fish is between 1.5 and 2 pounds when they are harvested with large nets and transported to a processing plants and eventually grocery stores and restaurants.

Farmers choose catfish for more than just their sweet, mild flavor. "The catfish industry is green and sustainable," Roy said. "Most catfish food is plant-based, and the fish is packed with protein. It's also a long-standing southern tradition."

Cook-Out Bar; Fort Morgan.

• Lisa Christian: 6; Sunset Cork Room; Gulf Shores.

• Brent Varner: noon; Splash Pool; Perdido Beach Resort; Orange Beach.

• Rock Bottom: 5; Pleasure Island Tiki Bar; Orange Beach.

• Hands On Habitat: 11 a.m.; Tacky Jacks Gulf Shores; RSVP at tackyjacks.com.

• Wes Loper: 5; LuLu's at Homeport Marina, Gulf Shores.

• Josh Drake: 6; Tacky Jacks, Fort Morgan.

• Damian Lamb: 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.

• Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables: Schedule on Pages 28-29; Perdido Key.

• Flora-Bama Family Friendly Bingo: 1-4 p.m.; free; family friendly; Flora-Bama; Perdido Key.

• John Brust: 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.

• Andy Andrews Live: 12:15; Andy Andrews General Store & Museum; The Wharf, Orange Beach.

• Karaoke: 6; Tacky Jacks, 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.

• JW Karaoke: 6; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.

• Danny Grady: 3; American Legion Post 44; Gulf Shores.

• Lisa Christian: 6; Sunset Cork Room; Gulf Shores.

• Bridge: 11:30 a.m.; Orange Beach Senior Center, 251-981-3440.

• Bingo: 10-2; Gulf Coast Elks Lodge; Foley.

• Pool Tourney: 7; Snapper's; Orange Beach.

• Karaoke w. Kelly: 8; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.

• Texas Hold 'em: 7; The Office, Foley.

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

• GriefShare Support Group, 6; Point Church, 13801 Innerarity Point Rd, Pensacola; 601-278-6973.

• South Baldwin Republican Women: Gift Horse Rest., 11:30 a.m.; 4th Tuesday of Every Month, public invited, Info: 251-978-6178.

• Manna Center Food Pantry: 9-11 & 2-4; First Baptist Church of Gulf Shores; 2300 West 1st St.; also adult & children's clothes, computer access, limited financial assistance. Info: 251-948-2485.

• Orange Beach City Council Meeting: 5 p.m.; City Hall; 980-INFO.

• Overcomers Outreach: 7 p.m.; First Baptist Church of Orange Beach; 980-1705.

• Kiwanis Club of Big Lagoon: 7:30 a.m.;

(1st, 3rd, and 4th Tue); Point Church, 13801 Innerarity Point Rd., Pensacola.

• Foleys Kiwanis Club: noon; Vallarta's, 1145 S. McKenzie St., Foley; 859-771-6091.

• Al-Anon: 7 p.m.; Lillian United Methodist Church, 12770 N. Perdido St.

WED, JULY 27

• Tyler Ward: 5; Carvers; Orange Beach.

• Gypsy Pearl: 5; Angry Crab Shack; Orange Beach.

• Funky Lampshades: 5; Pleasure Island Tiki Bar; Orange Beach.

• Austin Thompson: 4; Woodside Restaurant at Gulf State Park, Gulf Shores.

• Art Al Fresco: 11 a.m.; Tacky Jacks Gulf Shores; RSVP at tackyjacks.com.

• Robert Broom: 5; American Legion Post 99; Foley.

• Ryan Balthrop: 5; LuLu's at Homeport Marina, Gulf Shores.

• Robert Bloom: 5; American Legion Posts 99; Foley.

• Mac Walters: 6; Tacky Jacks, Fort Morgan.

• Gambino Duo: 6; Tacky Jacks, Orange Beach.

• Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables: Schedule on Pages 28-29; Perdido Key.

• Flora-Bama Family Friendly Bingo: 1-4 p.m.; free; family friendly; Flora-Bama; Perdido Key.

• Island Quilters Guild: 9:30; Gulf Shores Activity Center, Gulf Shores.

• Bama Beach Pickleball Club: 9-noon; Church of Christ, 2414 West 1st St., Gulf Shores; (new members welcome).

• Open Mic: 6; Tacky Jacks; Gulf Shores.

• John Brust: 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.

• Gary Story & Friends: 8; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.

• John Joiner & Darrel Roberts: 6; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.

• Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde: 7; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.

• Gulf Shores Lions Club: noon; 2nd & 4th Wednesday; noon; Adult Activity Center, Gulf Shores; 251-968-2823.

• BBRC Running Club: 5:30 p.m.; Big Beach Brewery in Gulf Shores.

• Karaoke & League Pool: 7:30; The Office, Foley.

• Open Jam: 7:30; Good Time Charlie's; 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.

• 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.



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Funny Bones

By Ron "Bones" Jones



.....

"Dad, sell my new car, take my front door key away from me and throw me out of the house. Then disown me and never talk to me again. And don't forget to write me out of your will."

Well, she didn't put it quite like that. What she actually said was, "Dad, this is my new boyfriend, he is an Auburn fan."

.....

Husband to wife: "Maybe I wouldn't have such a bad tem-

per if you'd make up your mind once in awhile.

.....

Trainer: "Jab him and get away or he'll use his right. Don't let him get set up to use his right."
 Fighter: "Suppose he does get his right going and hits me clean. What do I do?"
 Trainer: "Just relax and the referee and I will carry you to your corner."

.....

Patrons at the zoo were astonished to see an old man jump over the bars of the lion's cage. "What in the world is he doing?" shouted one.

"Don't worry about him," replied the man's son. "That's just my dad. He likes to read between the lions."

.....

One morning a local highway department crew reaches their job site and realizes they have forgotten all their shovels.

The crew's foreman calls the office and tells his supervisor the situation.

The supervisor says, "Don't worry, we'll send some shovels... just lean on each other until they arrive."

.....

• What did the fish say when he hit a concrete wall?

"Damn."

- What do Eskimos get from Smiths on the ice too long? Polaroids.
- What do prisoners use to call each other? Cell phones.
- What do you call cheese that isn't yours? Nacho Cheese.
- What do you call Santa's helpers? Subordinate Clauses.
- What do you call four bull fighters in quicksand? Quatro sinko.
- What do you get from a pampered cow? Spoiled milk.
- What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? Frostbite.
- What has four legs, is big, green, fuzzy, and if it fell out of a tree would kill you? A pool table.
- What lies at the bottom of the ocean and twitches? A nervous wreck.
- What's the difference between roast beef and pea soup? Anyone can roast beef.
- Where do you find a dog with no legs? Right where you left him.
- Why are there so many

Smiths in the phone book? They all have pipenes.

- Why do bagpipers walk when they play? They're trying to get away from the noise.
- Why do gorillas have big nostrils? Because they have big fingers.
- What do you get when you cross a pit bull with a collie? A dog that runs for help ... after it bites your leg off.
- What does it mean when the flag is at half mast at the post office? They're hiring.
- What kind of coffee was served on the Titanic? Sanka.
- Why don't canibals eat clowns? They taste funny.
-
- You are participating in a race. You overtake the second person. What position are you in? Answer: If you answered that you are first, then you are absolutely wrong. If you overtake the second person and you take his place, you are second.
- Mary's father has five daughters: 1. Nana, 2. Nene, 3. Nini, 4. Nono. What is the name of the fifth daughter?

Answer: Nunu? Of course not. Her name is Mary.

.....

Q: What do you call a funny mountain?
 A: Hill-arious.

.....

Q: What do you call a boomerang that doesn't come back?
 A: A stick.

.....

Q: What do you call a factory that manufactures products that are just OK?
 A: A satisfactory.

.....

Q: What do you call a bagel that can fly?
 A: A plain bagel.

.....

Q: What do you call a banker with a briefcase in a tree?
 A: Branch manager.

.....

Q: What do you call someone who cleans the bottom of the ocean?
 A: A mer-maid.

.....

Q: What do you call a doctor who fixes websites?
 A: A URL-ologist.

.....

- I take my wife everywhere, but she keeps finding her way back.

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- Stuffed Shrimp** - bacon wrapped, baked w/crabmeat dressing & Monterey jack cheese 21.99
- Shrimp Scampi** - sauteed in garlic, mushrooms, scampi butter w/Fettuccine Alfredo. Served with one side 25.99
- **Blackened Catfish** - two delicate filets, sprinkled with Cajun seasonings and lightly seared 21.99
- Coconut Shrimp** - dipped in beer batter, rolled in coconut flake and flash fried 20.99
- **Grilled Skewer Shrimp** - basted w/butter & served over yellow rice 20.99
- Shrimp Creole** - Stewed tomato, sweet peppers, celery, onion and flavored w/ sausage 20.99
over yellow rice. Served with one side dish
- Crawfish Etouffee'** 20.99
Served with one side dish
White onions, sweet bell peppers, and celery simmered in a spicy Cajun roux over yellow rice.
- Crab Cake Dinner** - 3 Southern style lump crab cakes, fried and sprinkled with parmesan cheese 21.99

Home-Style Lunch Specials

(Served with your choice of two side dishes)

- Fried Shrimp** - tail-less 10.00
- Blackened Catfish** - dusted w/Creole spices & lightly seared 10.00
- Fried Catfish** - corn meal battered 10.00
- Broiled Flounder** - broiled in butter & topped with roasted almonds 10.00
- Fried Flounder** - lightly battered and fried golden brown 10.00
- Grilled Chicken** - with a light touch of Greek seasonings 10.00
- Chicken Creole** - smothered in a spicy tomato & vegetable sauce. Served on yellow rice 10.00
- Fried Chicken Tenders** - batter-dipped tenders, deep-fried. Served w/ honey mustard 10.00
- Country Fried Steak** - served w/ cream gravy 10.00
- Hamburger Steak** - (5 oz) char-grilled & served w/brown gravy 10.00
- Pork Chops** - two tender chops grilled or fried 10.00
- Country Ham** - char-grilled 10.00
- Vegetable Plate** - your choice of four (4) side dishes 9.50

Senior's Menu

(Reserved for 55 & over)

*Served with your choice of two side dishes & iced tea
(SPLIT PLATE CHARGE \$ 2.00)*

- Coconut Shrimp** with spicy orange marmalade 15.99
- Stuffed Shrimp** 15.99
bacon wrapped, stuffed with crabmeat dressing & monterey jack cheese
- Fried Shrimp** tail-less 11.99
- Grilled Shrimp** over yellow rice 13.99
- Fried Oysters** with cocktail sauce 17.99
- Fried Seafood Platter** shrimp, oysters, flounder, crab claws 18.99
- Broiled Seafood Platter** shrimp, scallops, flounder almondine 16.99
- Fried Chicken Tenders** with honey-mustard 10.99
- Grilled Chicken Breast** with a light touch of lemon-herb oil 11.99
- Yellow-Fin Tuna** grilled or blackened 14.99
- Trigger** grilled, fried, blackened or broiled almondine 14.99
- Flounder** fried or broiled almondine 11.99
- Grouper** grilled, blackened, broiled almondine or fried 14.99

Side Dishes

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Sweet Potato Casserole | Cole Slaw | Baked Potato |
| Steamed Vegetables | French Fries | Yellow Rice |
| | Fried Green Tomatoes | Hush Puppies |

Substitute House or Caesar Salad for a Side Dish - Add \$2.75

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Friday : Chef's Special

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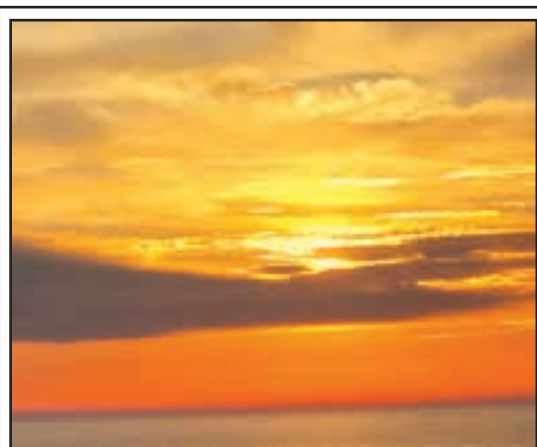
PICTURES OF THE WEEK



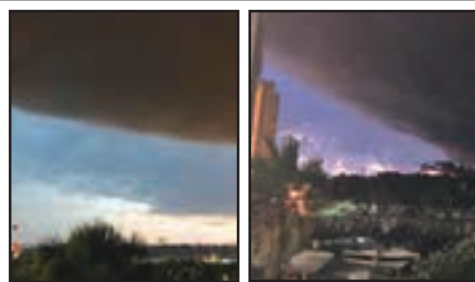
Full moon rising over West Lagoon Ave. from Phillip Thomas.



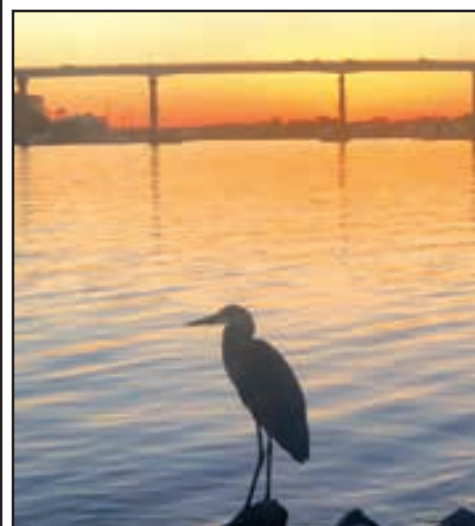
"BamaHenge in Elberta under the beautiful Alabama sky," writes Patricia Burdette of Carrollton, GA.



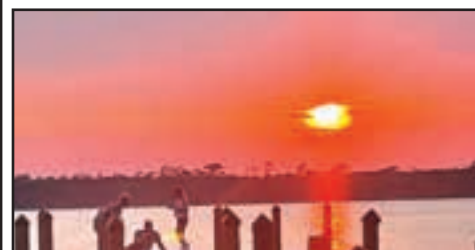
"Love our vacation here," writes Phyllis Rozinski of Wisconsin.



Donnie Canaan shares pictures of a beachside summer storm.



From Cynthia Whitehead.



Diane Farnham's Bear Point sunset.



"A beautiful monarch butterfly was feeding on our milkweed flower & let me take its picture with my iphone," writes Cathy Deal.



Bambi Carlson shares a picture of a "fire breathing dragon."



Cathy Deal shares pictures from a Blue Angels flyover during a funeral for her friend, Commander Gilbert Boggs, at Barrancas Cemetary.



Gorgeous Gulf Shores sunset from Diane Cargin.

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MISCELLANEOUS

COMMUNITY YARD SALE
Community Yard Sale ; July 23; 8 am; Ancient Oaks Circle, Gulf Shores.

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