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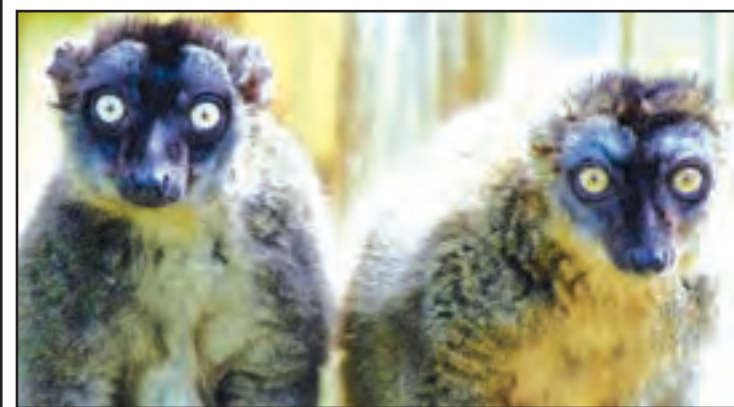
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AROUND TOWN



Art on the Wild Side Gulf Coast Zoo March 23

The Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo's Art on the Wild Side will be held on Saturday, March 23. VIP entrance is at 5:30 p.m., and general admission is at 7 p.m. The evening will include food from the finest local restaurants, drinks, live entertainment from the ISING Live Band and photo ops with the zoo's animal ambassadors. Attire is safari theme or cocktail.

VIP tickets include access to the entire zoo from 5:30-7 p.m., giraffe feeding, keeper chats, exclusive hors d'oeuvres, drink stations, and other event activities. General admission tickets are \$125 or \$100 for zoo members. Contact the zoo directly for VIP tickets and sponsor info.

The fundraiser's online auction is from March 16 until March 23 at 9 p.m. and includes exclusive artwork from zoo animal artists, adventure packages from the zoo, local attractions, and other exquisite items. Whether they were painted with paws, claws, fur, footprints, or nose boops, the art created by your favorite zoo animals is a true masterpiece. Info: algulfcoastzoo.org or call (251) 256-7008 or email development@algulfcoastzoo.org.

"The support we receive from this fundraiser is critical for the zoo's animal care and educational programs," said Paula White, AGCZ's Director of Development. "This year, your support is even more exciting, the Zoo Board of Directors have chosen to designate a portion of the proceeds to help expand the zoo's big cat collection, with the possibility of bringing a new pair of tiger cubs or cheetahs to the zoo in the future."

- The Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo is home to more than 300 animals. Your support of this event helps provide continual care and enrichment to all of the animals who call it home.

- At the heart of the zoo's mission is education. Your support of this event helps expand the hearts and minds of students of all ages through enriching hands-on experiences and engaging programs.

Ronald McDonald Rubber Ducky Regatta at OWA March 23

The Rubber Ducky Regatta, benefiting Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mobile, is back this year in a brand-new location - OWA Parks & Resort in Foley. On March 23, 10,000 adopted ducks will be dropped into the lake at OWA and will race to the finish line, where the top three ducky adopters will win fabulous prizes.

Festivities will begin at 11 a.m. with family-friendly activities and games, bounce houses, vendors, specials at Downtown OWA stores and restaurants, and more. The race will begin at 1 p.m., followed by the awards ceremony. At 2 p.m., Nashville country music star Tyra Madison will take the stage on the OWA Island. This concert is free to the public. Throughout the day, participants and spectators can purchase Chance to Win tickets for great prizes.

Rubber Ducky adoptions directly benefit the hundreds of families who call Ronald McDonald House of Mobile their home away from home while their sick or injured children receive life-saving medical care at one of the area hospitals.

Duck adoption packages range from one duck for \$5 to 100 ducks for \$350. Visit rubberduckyregatta.com to adopt your duck(s) and support the hundreds of children who need their families by their side while they get well. For more info, contact Diana Brewer, diana@rmhcmobile.org or call 251-694-6873.

Every year, more than 650 families from Baldwin and Mobile counties, and surrounding areas, count on RMHC of Mobile so they can be steps away from their child in the hospital. Without Ronald McDonald House, this would not be possible.

Youth-Reach Golf Tourney April 12 at Peninsula

The 12th Annual Youth-Reach Gulf Coast Golf Tournament will be held April 12 at Peninsula Golf and Racquet Club in Gulf Shores. Check-in and breakfast start at 8 a.m., and the tourney kicks off with a 9 a.m. shotgun start. Format is four-man scramble and tourney competitions include closest to the pin, longest drive, straightest drive and longest putt. The entry fee is \$800 per team or \$200 per player and includes breakfast, a great lunch, golf towel nice tumbler, green fees and range balls. Tournament sponsorship ranging from hole to title are also being solicited. Call (251) 967-4809, email caleb@youth-reach.org or visit youthreachgc.org or more info.

Youth-Reach Gulf Coast is a non-profit Christ-centered home set on a beautiful 81-acre campus east of Summerdale. The program is designed to remold the values and turn around the lives of at-risk young men, ages 18-22. Founded in 1984, the program's focuses on structure and a balanced family and home life. It is a long-term program intended to heal past wounds and restore families.

The 3rd Annual Joey Jones Celebrity Golf Tournament at Kiva Dunes in Gulf Shores on May 14 will also serve as a Youth-Reach fundraiser.

ACF Good Life Bicycle Rides this May at GSP

The Alabama Coastal Foundation Good Life Bicycle Ride will feature four options originating from The Lodge @ Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores in May. Take a relaxing, scenic bicycle ride through the beautiful backcountry trails of Gulf State Park on Life Ride on Saturday, May 4; Tuesday, May 7; Thursday, May 9 and Saturday, May 11. Riders will meet at 8:30 a.m. in parking lot to the east of Lake Shelby Playground (20110 AL-135, Gulf Shores) and the ride will begin at 9 a.m. A suggested rest/hydration stop is the GSP Nature Center, where visitors can learn about the coastal environment from a naturalists. Please click the sponsor button at the top of the page if you are interested in supporting this fun event in 2024! (Sponsor deadline is noon on March 21. For more info, email apryor@joinACF.org or visit joinACF.org.)

200 Foley residents receive smoke detectors

More than 200 Foley residents are living in safer homes after the start of a program to install smoke detectors in the city. The Foley Fire Department, American Red Cross and members of a local church recently distributed and installed smoke detectors in the Beulah Heights community as part of the Red Cross's Sound the Alarm campaign intended to get smoke detectors into homes.

"Saturday was our first effort," said Foley Fire Chief Joey Darby. "We focused on Beulah Heights, because we've had some fires over there. We had one in particular last year. And there's been some tragedy in Beulah Heights going way back long before my time."

Darby said many residents in the area do not

speak English. Members of the local church, IMP Jesucristo Es El Camino, worked with firefighters and Red Cross members to talk to residents about the program and convince them to have the smoke detectors installed.

"Our Hispanic community continues to grow and there are certain areas in Beulah Heights that are predominantly Hispanic areas that don't speak English at all. They were great partners to really help us get out and educate the public about what we were doing," Darby said.

"We're already talking about other areas of town that we're going to work through," Darby said. "Working smoke alarms save lives. The key word there is working smoke alarms. A lot of places have one, but they don't work. It was quite interesting and, unfortunately, somewhat alarming for us to see the number of residents that didn't have them at all. Educating those folks was extremely important, and we're gonna continue to work on that."

PK Public Garden Help & Learn March 22

Escambia County will host volunteer workdays at the Perdido Key Coastal Demonstration Garden (15500 Perdido Key Dr.) March 22, April 26 and May 17 from 9-11 a.m. Workdays are great opportunities to become familiar with native species and gardening techniques, including how to care for and maintain coastal species. County staff will provide all necessary tools and equipment. Volunteers should wear comfortable clothing and bring a water bottle. The Perdido Key garden was installed in 2021 to highlight native coastal species and exhibits various landscape techniques suited for the barrier island. All plants are approved under the Perdido Key Habitat Conservation Plan and provide benefits to native wildlife and pollinators. More info: smpitts@myescambia.com.

G.S. places defibrillators at 22 locations

Gulf Shores City Council will place Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) at 22 strategic locations across the city at a cost of \$34,485.66. To ensure accessibility and prompt intervention during cardiac emergencies, the AEDs have been strategically placed at key locations where community members gather, including Gulf Shores City Hall, Bodenhamer Recreation Center, Erie H. Meyer Civic Center, Gulf Shores Sportsplex, and Gulf Shores Public Library.

"With these devices readily available, we empower our community members to take immediate action in critical situations, potentially saving lives," said EMS Officer Nick Russell.

AEDs are portable electronic devices designed to deliver a therapeutic dose of electrical energy to the heart in cases of sudden cardiac arrest. These user-friendly devices analyze the heart rhythm and, if necessary, administer a controlled electric shock to restore normal cardiac function. Rapid access to AEDs significantly increases the chances of survival for individuals experiencing cardiac emergencies. See the full AED list at gulflife.gov/Fire.



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Services at Noon and 6:00 PM

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O.B. Coast Guard Auxiliary Safe Boating Class March 23

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 3-10 is partnering with the City of Orange Beach to present a Safe Boating class on March 23 at the Orange Beach Fire Department, 25855 John M. Snook Drive (off Hwy 161).

Course material is from the National Association of Safe Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and Alabama supplemental material with a final quiz and Certificate for the Alabama boat operators' certification. The class will start promptly at 8 a.m. and is expected to complete about 3 p.m., with pizza provided for lunch.

If available, Orange Beach Marine Police will present a short discussion on area waterways and safe boating. The course covers Boat Familiarization, Trip Planning, Safe Boat Operations, Legal Boat Operation Requirements (Life Jackets, navigation lights, sound devices, fire extinguishers, etc., Boating Emergencies, and Enjoying Water Sports. Additional material on local Law Enforcement (LE), area waterways, the IntraCoastal Waterway (ICW), and boating knots will be covered. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$35 for materials, payable by cash or check at the class with additional family members, First Responders and military \$15. To register, email Boat-Safe310@gmail.com or contact Glenn Conrad, Flotilla 3-10 Public Education at 850-786-7566.

13th Annual PIJWC Bunny Hop 5K/Fun Run April 6 Wharf

The Pleasure Island Junior Woman's Club will host the 13th Annual Bunny Hop 5K and Fun Run on Saturday, April 6th at the Wharf in Orange Beach. Register for the race on runsignup.com or contact kray413@gmail.com for info. Proceeds raised from this event are part of the Ann Reese Grote Memorial Scholarship that is given to Pleasure Island graduating high schoolers.

Foley will buy land to expand Graham Creek Preserve

By GuyBusby

Foley City Council voted to accept a \$5 million grant through the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act to buy land to add to the Graham Creek Nature Preserve. The grant was announced in August, but the funds have now become available.

The GOMESA program shares revenues from offshore oil and gas leases in the Gulf of Mexico with four participating states, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

The preserve is now about 660 acres in size. The exact size of the expansion has not been determined. The goal of the land use will be conservation with habitat restoration and management as well as some public access in the future for passive recreation.

The preserve, located near Wolf Creek Drive in southeast Foley, includes 10 miles of hiking trails, two handicap-accessible boardwalks, a kayak launch and four disc golf courses.

GSHS's Amanda Talantis earns "Best of Green Schools" Award

Gulf Shores High School educator Amanda Talantis has been named a Best of Green Schools Award recipient for the K-12 Educator category by the Center for Green Schools.



A highly respected teacher for 17 years, Talantis teaches in the Sustainability and Hospitality and Tourism Academies at GSHS.

In her courses, she focuses on ecotourism and sustainability to help create a more sustainable and green school system, community, and region. Talantis has been instrumental in transforming Gulf Shores City Schools into a district that prioritizes all tenets of sustainability and she lives by the belief in helping develop responsible young citizens who will promote sustainability for future generations.

Talantis also leads the "Small Town, Big Garden" Project, and the vegetables her students grow are prepped and served in a variety of recipes in the culinary kitchen and in the district's cafeterias. The director of the school's extensive Earth Day program, she also teaches yoga to students and faculty. Her many innovative programs include a farm-to-table community event; a greenhouse with hundreds of hydroponic plants; recycling initiative; raised beds and gardens; fresh student lunches, salad bars, snacks, and smoothies from the student-grown gardens; the Dolphin Walk program for fitness; yoga classes; sand dune restoration at Gulf State Park; and standing desks for interested teachers.

"Amanda and her students often work after school and on weekends to maintain projects and plan for events, collaborating with other departments to offer sustainability-related projects within our school system," said Jessica Sampley, Academic and CTE Director at GSCS.

“She connects with community partners, including local farms and nonprofits, to provide additional opportunities for students to learn how to live sustainably. She also collaborates with teachers across the school district to vertically align sustainability projects and initiatives.”



Elberta to celebrate sausage on March 30

Combine 8,000 pounds of sausage made from a secret recipe developed by the founding fathers of Elberta with 200 vendors selling everything from custom belt buckles to french roasted peanuts. Throw in a few hundred kegs of beer – both domestic and German – served in the festival's own Bier Garten.

Add entertainment, a full fledged carnival and almost years of tradition and you have it – The Bi-Annual Elberta Original German Sausage Festival, scheduled next on Saturday, March 30 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. in Elberta Town Park. The park is located just north of Elberta's only traffic light on Hwy. 98 (just follow the crowd or 13052 Main St. on GPS).

Besides Elberta's famous German sausage & sauerkraut, the event will include continuous entertainment for adults and children. Other scrumptious foods will include German style filled cabbage, potato salad, goulash, red beans & rice, hamburgers, hot dogs, BBQ sandwiches, ice cream, popcorn and peanuts.

There will be baked goods as well as arts & crafts for sale, and volunteers will serve plenty of other non-alcoholic beverages in addition to beer. The Bellview Stumpfiddle Band and the North End Stompers traditionally perform. Cloggers. Polka, country and German music are also part of the entertainment line-up.

The festival usually attracts close to 30,000 visitors. Public parking will be available and those with disabilities can get access from the west side of the festival, where volunteers with golf carts will be on hand to help them get into the festival grounds. Call 251-986-5805 or visit sausagefest.elbertafire.com or facebook for more info.

The sausage festival is a town fund-raiser, first spearheaded by Elberta's Volunteer Fire Department in 1978. Proceeds are used for improving not only the fire department, but the town as well. Although the recipe has changed somewhat over the years, the original secret recipe for Elberta's famous sausage is credited to Alfred Stucki, who managed Elberta's Locker Plant from 1953 until his death in 1973. Local non-profits also benefit from the festival through booth sales and parking lot fees. The city's signature event is held the last Saturdays in March and October.

Downtown Foley walking tours severy Saturday in April

More than a century of local history will be on display in April when Foley conducts free walking tours of the downtown historic district at 10 a.m. each Saturday of the month throughout April beginning at the Foley Welcome Center at the intersection of Alabama 59 and U.S. 98.

Highlights of the tours will include Centennial Plaza, the Holk Building, Magnolia Hotel, Holmes Medical Museum – the site of Baldwin County’s first hospital, Foley Hotel building and other historic sites in the downtown area.

The tours last about one hour and cover about five city blocks and are conducted by local community members.

For more information about the Foley walking tours, call 251-943-1200.

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Tickets for April 27 Bald Eagle Bash are now on sale

Tickets are now on sale for the 14th annual Bald Eagle Bash, scheduled on Saturday, April 27 from 4-7 p.m. at Tonsmeire Weeks Bay Resource Center at the mouth of the Fish River and Weeks Bay.

The \$82.50 per person tickets will not be sold at the gate. This signature annual fundraiser for SALT has earned a reputation for providing great food, great music, and a great time, all on the edges of beautiful Weeks Bay. The menu includes fresh Gulf shrimp, a low country shrimp boil, delectable desserts, beer from Braided River Brewing Company and Fairhope Brewing Company (serving the event signature brew - Bald Eagle Blue). There will also be a great selection of wine and a silent auction. This year's musical entertainment will feature The Dial Street Band. For more info or tickets, call 251-990-5004, email salt@southalabamalandtrust.org or visit southalabamalandtrust.org.

The event is SALT's largest event and raises funds to restore vulnerable coastline, protect wildlife, and promote environmental education in coastal Alabama so current and future residents can enjoy clean water and the marine life, wildlife, and outdoor recreation that define our area.

Pensacola Jazz Fest is April 1-2 in Seville Square

Jazz Pensacola will celebrate the 39th Annual Pensacola Jazz Fest April 1-2 in historic Seville Square in downtown Pensacola. Enjoy stellar jazz 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. The free, two-day festival will feature national and regional jazz bands, plus many area school and college bands.

National and regional headliners include 4 Korner, ZAZU East, Matthias Williams, and Pat Casey and the New Sound. Cheryl Jones and Co. and Nobius are among the local bands performing.

Sunday afternoon features the Band Director's Band consisting of the area's high school band directors as well as the Downbeat Jazz Orchestra from Fort Walton Beach before the headliners finish the evening. Mid-morning both days brings performances by the local and area middle, high school and college bands. More info: pensacolajazzfest.com.

Krewe of the Island announces a membership drive

The Krewe of the Island, established in 2017, is in the midst of a membership drive for its fun loving Mardi Gras krewe. Inclusive and welcoming to all, the krewe is accepting new members through March. Registered as a non-profit, the organization participates in community volunteerism while at the same time having some fun at social events, a ball and parades. For more info, email kreweoftheisland@gmail.com.

Backcountry Trail nominated for USA's top recreational trail

Gulf State Park's Hugh S. Branyon Backcountry Trail is nominated for the second consecutive year for USA Today's 10Best Readers' Choice "Best Recreational Trail" Award category. The 28 mile trail winds through nine ecosystems through Gulf Shores, Gulf State Park and Orange Beach.

Online votes can be submitted once daily through April 8 at

usatoday.com/awards/travel/best-recreational-trail-2024/.

"This trail, which began just over 20 years ago, has proven to be a game-changer for our area, creating jobs, growing tourism and enhancing the daily lives of our residents," said Phillip West, Coastal Resources Director for the City of Orange Beach. "We are particularly proud of the fact that this unique recreational trail system is so wonderfully accessible to people of all physical abilities and affords everyone the chance to get outside and explore the backcountry environs."

"The trail system is an amazing buffer to the developed coast and creates a vital balance between the natural environment and our developed communities," added Gulf Shores Mayor Robert Craft.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church hosts April 5 family bingo night

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Foley (400 N. Alston St.) will host a bingo night in the parish hall on Friday, April 5 from 6-8 p.m., with proceeds going to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Tickets for 10 bingo sheets for the family event are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 10 to 17. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Six and under free. Come hungry, as hotdogs, popcorn, large cookies and drinks will be served.

Midday Melodies at Heritage Park March 20 & 27

Midday Melodies, a music-at-lunchtime event in Foley's Heritage Park, will continue on consecutive March 20 and March 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Josh Chavers will play on March 20 and Zack Chavers on March 27. Info, visit visitfoley.org or call 251-943-1300.

Midday Melodies will take place entirely outdoors near the fountain in the park. Picnic blankets or lawn chairs are welcome. Pick up a lunch from one of Foley's many restaurants or bring your own. Free parking is available around the perimeter of the park located at 104 N. McKenzie Street, just across the pedestrian bridge on Hwy. 59.

St. Michael's Cardinals in the Courtyard will be on March 23

St. Michael Catholic High School in Fairhope (11732 St. Michael Way) will host the Eighth Annual Cardinals in the Courtyard on March 23 at 7 p.m. The theme is Paint The Town Red and all proceeds directly benefit the SMCHS Cardinal Fund, which supports faculty needs, supplements financial aid, and enhanced campus security measures. Last year's event raised over \$150,000. The evening will include a special performance by The Six Piece Suits, Caricatures by Kathy, and showcase an auction of art from well-known local artists. A variety of sponsorship packages are available at stmichaelschs.org or by emailing ashleybonner@gmail.com or andrea@kaisersir.com.



Authors, Music, Laughter April 1 at 'Bama inside stage

Listen, laugh, and mingle with Andy Andrews, Michael Perry, and Austin Gray and stick around for a book signing afterward during the Authors/Music/Laughter event in the Flora-Bama main room beginning at 6 p.m. on April 1.

Andrews, the Orange Beach New York Times best selling author (The Teacher's Gift & The Noticer among others) will tell stories and read some of his funniest passages. Michael Perry is the author of Population 485 - Meeting Your Neighbors One Siren At A Time. The humorist is also a musician and will be singing what are sure to be hilarious songs. Austin Gray is a singer/songwriter from Memphis with a sweet sound that fuses country and Americana. He will open the event with a few of his songs. Seating is first come-first serve and there are no additional cover charges for the event. For all things Flora-Bama, visit florabama.com. **Pictured:** (l to r) Gray, Andrews, Perry.

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AROUND TOWN

First Blue Angels practice at NAS is March 26

The world's best flight demonstration team, Pensacola's own Blue Angels, are back in Pensacola and will host their first open practice onboard NAS Pensacola on March 26. Gates open at 9:30 a.m., and the Blues take off at 10:30 a.m.

The Blue Angles will sign autographs in the Naval Air Museum atrium following many of trhe shows. Visit for more info.

Blue Angels 2024 practice schedule: March 26, 27; April 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30; May 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 28, 29; June 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 25, 26; July 16, 17, 23; August 21, 27; September 4, 10, 11, 17, 24; October 16, 22, 23. The Blue Angels Pensacola Beach show is July 13 and the team's homecoming shows at Naval Air Station Pensacola are Nov. 2-3.

All U.S. citizens or U.S. nationals 18 and older must have a state-issued identification card or passport to enter NAS Pensacola.

The world famous Blue Angels were formed 1946 to raise the public's interest in naval aviation and boost Navy morale. In the 1940's, its pilots thrilled audiences with precision combat maneuvers in the F6 Hellcat, the F8 Bearcat and the F9 Panther. During the 1950's, aerobatic maneuvers and the six-plane delta formation flown to this day were added in the F9 Cougar and F-11 Tiger. Fat Albert was added as a support aircraft to move personnel and equipment between show sites in 1949.

Re-scheduled Ballyhoo Fest April 6-7

Beachbillies, Molly Thomas added to line-up

The tribal dancers from the Poarch Creek Indians will still be the major attraction when the re-scheduled Ballyhoo Fest returns to the shores of Lake Shelby (20115 State Park Rd.) at Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores April 6-7. But fest music coordinator Andy Haynes has also added the Beachbillies and Molly Thomas and the Songbirds to a Saturday line-up that also includes The Destinations. Fest hours are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Sunday.

A showcase for fine artists from all over the Southeast, the Gulf Coast Art Alliance sponsored fest includes fiddler and banjo competitions on Sunday.

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians will perform traditional dances dressed in spectacular ceremonial regalia at noon and again at 4 p.m. on Saturday, and each of the dances are performed by descendants of the original Creek Nation, which once covered almost all of Alabama and Georgia. Unlike many southeastern tribes, the Poarch Creeks were not removed from their tribal lands. They have lived together for over 150 years as the only nationally recognized tribe in Alabama. The

audience will be invited to join the tribe for this last dances of this spectacular cultural exchange.

The fest's Sunday banjo and fiddle competitions are sponsored by Flora-Bama and the Frank Brown International Songwriters Fest. Both competitions include separate youth and adult divisions and will award cash prizes totaling \$3,000. Fiddler Gram Rae will get the party started on Sunday at 10 a.m.

Other fest attractions include a children's art tent, live art demonstrations and unique food. Parking is available across from the Lake Shelby fest site at Gulf State Pier for \$5, and limited handicapped parking is available on festival grounds. Attendees can also drop off and pick up at the park entrance, then park across the street and walk over the bridge to the festival. Shuttles and parking will also be available at both the Gulf State Pavilion and The Gulf State park Fishing Pier. For more fest info, visit ballyhoofestival.org.

BALLYHOO SCHEDULE

April 6: 9 -11 a.m. - The Destinations; 11 a.m.-noon - Poarch Creek Indians; Noon-2 p.m. - Beachbillies; 2 - 4 p.m. - Molly Thomas & The Rare Birds; 4 - 5 p.m. - Poarch Creek Indians.

April 7: 10 -11 a.m.-Gram Rae Duo; 11 -11:30 a.m. Banjo and Fiddle Judges; 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. - Banjo and Fiddle Compeition; 2 - 4 p.m. Selma Boys.



BBQ & BLUES: Despite an early storm delay, the 16th Annual Foley BBQ & Blues Cook Off at Heritage Park in downtown Foley was still one of the South Baldwin Chamber Foundation's biggest fundraisers.. The 30 backyard division cook teams from across the Gulf Coast competed for Grand Championship and People's Choice titles in several categories. Foley High School art students (**pictured**) painted the awards for the annual event. Lance Lipscomb and students Aspen Holmes and Gracelyn Patterson made the Grand Champion trophy. Winners included: 1st Best Butt-Laila Al-Biyati; 2nd place - Jaylan Shoots; 3rd place - Zack Martone; 1st place best chicken - Lauren Morse; 2nd place - Demaris Simon; 3rd place - Andrew Story; 1st place ribs - Austin Guidry; 2nd place - Libby Bonifay; 3rd place - Kaylie Halkey; 1st place sauce - Bri Border; 2nd place - Jasmine Goff; 3rd place - Lysander Van den Nieuwenhof; 1st Anything Butt -Horatio Knight; 2nd place - Kris Navas; 3rd place - Ixa Chirinos; 1st Best Dessert- Alessa Wells; 2nd Place -Riley Johnson; 3rd Place - Karol Munguia-Martinez.





The Lodge

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UNIVERSITY

EASTER BRUNCH BUFFET

SUNDAY MARCH 31st

In Our Gulfview Ballroom



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Bacon & Country Sausage
Hashbrown Potatoes Casserole
French Toast Casserole
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Orange Cinnamon Rolls)

CARVING STATION

Prime Rib of Beef
(Rosemary Au Jus, Creamy
Horseradish)
Assorted Mustards,
Classic Parker Rolls
Shrimp & Grits
(Delta Grind Grits, Spiced Cajun
Cream Sauce)

COLD BUFFET

Seasonal Fruit Display
(Honeydew, Cantaloupe, Pineapple,
Seasonal Berries)
Strawberry & Spinach Salad
(Baby Spinach, Red Onion, Goat
Cheese, Strawberries)
Caesar Salad
(Romaine lettuce, Herb Croutons,
Garlic Caesar Dressing)
Deviled Eggs
(Southern Style, Avocado Stuffed,
Sundried Tomato Filled)
Ambrosia Salad
(Mandarin Oranges, Pineapple,
Miniature Marshmallow)

HOT BUFFET

Roasted Sweet Corn Chowder
(Sweet Corn, Yukon Potato, Crispy Onion)
Baked Ham
(Brown Sugar Glaze, Clove, Cherries)
Roasted Salmon
Dill Dijon Cream
Crispy Brussels Sprouts
(Double Smoked Bacon, Peppadew Peppers, Fresh
Herbs)
Green Beans
(Shaved Garlic, Sundried Tomatoes)
Four Cheese Scalloped Potatoes
(Southern Style)
KIDS BUFFET
Crispy Chicken Tenders
(Ketchup, Honey Mustard, Ranch Dipping Sauce)
Potato Barrels (Ketchup, Mustard)
Creamy Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich
Mac & Cheese (Cavatappi Pasta, 3 Cheeses)
Mini Corn Dogs
(Assorted Dipping Sauces)
Assorted Cookies, Candies, Holiday Treats

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PERDIDO & SOUTH BALDWIN EASTER EVENTS

Father Will Lowry officiates sunrise service at Hangout

Celebrate Easter at a special Easter sunrise service at The Hangout main stage on March 31 at 6:30 a.m. Father Will Lowry from Holy Spirit Episcopal Church will officiate along with servers from the church. All faiths are welcome and encouraged to attend. The Hangout will have breakfast available afterwards, and the Easter bunny will be there to greet families and pose for pictures. Come celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and end of the Lenten season. More info: 251-968-55988 or 251-948-3030.

Island Church plans March 30 Easter Egg Hunt at The Wharf

In grand style, Marina Lawn at The Wharf in Orange Beach will be speckled with more than 5,000 colorful eggs - including several golden eggs - for youngsters to claim during its The Island Church sponsored Easter egg hunt on March 30. The egg hunt starts at 11 a.m. and the Easter egg hunt is at 11:30 a.m. There will be separate age group areas designated for the hoppy hunt: 0-2, 3-4, 5-7 and 8-10. A special section for children that are sensory sensitive or have special needs requiring guardian assistance will be available as well.

A wide variety of free kids' activities will be offered onsite, including bouncy houses, giant coloring sheets, and DJ Matt playing dancing tunes. Pony rides and face painting will be available for \$10 each. Kiddos can also cuddle up with live rabbits and snap a photo with the Easter Bunny.

Breakfast photos with Bunny March 23 at Tacky Jacks O.B.

Breakfast on the Bayou with the Easter Bunny will be held on Saturday, March 23 from 8 a.m. 'til noon at Tacky Jacks Orange Beach (27206 Safe Harbor Dr.). Enjoy breakfast specials, a live DJ, games and prizes, a free photo booth, and have a free photo taken with Tacky Jacks Easter Bunny on the pier overlooking beautiful Perdido Pass.

Easter Sunrise Service at Pirates' Cove Marina

By Carolyn Armstrong
Patrick Higgins of Gideons International is set to speak at the March 31 Sunrise Service at Pirates' Cove. Everyone is invited to come early to watch the sunrise and have coffee and pastries before a short Easter service at 7 a.m.



March 30 Easter Egg hunt & Kids' Fun Day at 'Bama

Bring the kids for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Kids' Fun Day from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 30 at the Flora-a-Bama on Perdido Key. Arts and crafts begin at 11 a.m., The Easter egg hunt on the beach starts at noon, and the Easter bunny will be sky diving in at 12:30 p.m. This event is free and all ages are welcome with more than 10,000 eggs hidden in the sand for kids to search for. Have a picture taken with the bunny after he lands on the beach. Kids should bring their own baskets to fill up with all eggs.

Music will be provided by the Josephine Singers. In case of a big crowd, bring a folding chair. For more information, call or text Carolyn Armstrong of Josephine Baptist Church at 251-269-0484. Come worship the Savior in the most beautiful place in the world!

Sunrise service at GSP Pavilion

The Pleasure Island Ministerial Alliance will host a Community Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. at Gulf State Park Beach Pavilion in Gulf Shores, with a special offering to benefit the Christian Service Center. The Gulf State Park Pavilion is located on Hwy. 182 adjacent to the GSP Fishing Pier. The service includes special music and inspiring messages.

Seaside service & fun at PBR

Celebrate Easter Sunday, March 31, at Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach! Enjoy a Seaside Service at Paradise Point from 10-11

a.m., followed by a scrumptious Easter Brunch buffet seating at 11:30 a.m. in the Grand Ballroom. Don't miss out on the fun-filled activities throughout the day including live music, kids crafts, and photos with the Easter Bunny! Tickets available at perdidobeachresort.com.

Bear Point Egg Hunt March 30

On Saturday, March 30, the Easter Bunny will be visiting the the Bear Point Community Assn. Community Center at 1 p.m. There will be an egg hunt for children 0-10 years of age. Prizes will be given for each group (0-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10). Please arrive with your child by 12:30 p.m. Bring your friends and neighbors and come enjoy the fun! Punch and cookies will be available for the kiddies.

March 23 East egg hunt at Gulf Shores Presbyterian

Children toddler through elementary ages and their parents are invited to a community Easter egg hunt hosted by Magnolia United Methodist Church and First Presbyterian Church of Gulf Shores on Saturday, March 23, from 10 a.m. to noon on the campus of First Presbyterian Church of Gulf Shores, 309 E 21st Ave.

Central Church O.B. sunrise service will be held at The Gulf

Central Church Orange Beach will host an Easter Sunday sunrise service on the Beach at 6:30 p.m. at The Gulf Restaurant overlooking Perdido Pass at 27500 Perdido Beach Blvd. A second service will be held at the same location at 10 a.m. and an Easter egg hunt will be held following the 10 a.m. service. Info: 251-256-0858 or OrangeBeach@CentralChurch.online.

Central Church Orange Beach will also host a night of worship in the Sanroc Cay courtyard in Orange Beach at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 29.

Big Lagoon Kiwanis Egg hunt March 30 at Perdido Kids Park

The Perdido Kid's Park Annual Easter Egg Hunt with the Easter Bunny and the Kiwanis Club of Big Lagoon will be held on Saturday, March 30 at 10 a.m. The park is located at 10004 Gulf Beach Hwy. Children will be separated into three ages groups. The "real" Easter Bunny will be there and there will be prizes for the kids' game-winners.

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PERDIDO & SOUTH BALDWIN EASTER EVENTS

Easter Bunny & eggs March 30 at Lillian Recreational Park

By Sally McKinney

The Optimist Club of Perdido Bay has invited Mr. Easter Bunny to visit Lillian on Saturday, March 30 at the Lillian Recreational Park for the club's annual Easter egg hunt. Boys and Girls up to age 12 and their families are invited to gather at the pavilion by 10:15 a.m. to receive instructions on locating many prize-filled eggs. The hunt begins at 10:30 a.m. The Easter Bunny will be available for photos throughout the event. All are invited to enjoy free hot dogs and beverages after the hunt. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Special thanks to area churches for donating the stuffed eggs. For additional information, call 251-234-1122. This is a free event.

Easter bunny at CoastAL Restaurant March 30-31

Easter weekend at CoastAL Restaurant in Orange Beach will include visits from the Easter bunny on March 30 from 11 a.m. 'til 1 p.m., and March 31 from 11 a.m. 'til 2 p.m. Also Sandcastle University will be out on the beach creating something fabulous beginning at 11 a.m. on March 30. Come out and join in the fun! The Easter Bunny will also be hopping around for photo ops with guests. Coastal is located directly on the Gulf of Mexico adjacent to Hwy. 161. Info: coastalrestaurant.com.

Sunrise service in Bon Secour

Morgan's Chapel, located at 6325 Co Rd 10 in Bon Secour, will host an Easter sunrise service and community breakfast beginning at 6:30 a.m. For more information or to view the service online, visit the church's facebook page.

G.S. Breakfast w. Bunny March 23 at Erie Meyer

The Easter Bunny will make a special appearance in the City of Gulf Shores to enjoy breakfast with families on Saturday, March 23, at the Erie H. Meyer Civic Center. Beginning at 8 a.m., a traditional pancake breakfast with sausage, eggs, and bacon will be served, and children will have an opportunity to meet and take photos with the Easter Bunny. The Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo will also be onsite with a few of their furry friends from the zoo! There will also be raffle ticket drawings." Admission is \$5 each, while children 3 years old and younger are free. Tickets can be

purchased at the door. The Erie H. Meyer Civic Center is located at 1930 W 2nd St. Info: gulfshoresal.gov or call 251-968-1171.

O.B. Kids Easter Egg Hunt at Back Country Trail March 28

On Thursday, March 28th, during spring break week for local schools including Orange Beach City Schools, and families can join in the fun at the Backcountry Trail trailhead at the Orange Beach Sportsplex for an Easter Egg Hunt at 11 a.m. The event is recommended for children 10 and under.

March 23 fun at O.B. Kids Park

Oasis Church and Orange Beach Community Church are hosting Easter at Kids Park (26425 Canal Rd.) at Orange Beach Waterfront Park on Saturday, March 23. There will be lots of fun activities and food for everyone including an egg hunt at 10:30 a.m. The event is free. Bring the whole family and join the fun.

O.B. Methodist Easter egg hunt

Make sure your kids don't miss the eggciting Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday at Orange Beach United Methodist Church (28751 Canal Rd.) The hunt will be held between services in the Brooks Center and start promptly at 10 a.m. Children will be separated in age appropriate areas for safety. Parental supervision is required. For more info: orangebeachumc.org.



Ella Wills visited with Mr. Easter Bunny at last year's Easter Egg Hunt hosted by the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay. This year's event will be held on Saturday, March 30 at the Lillian Recreational Park beginning at 10:30 a.m. The Easter Bunny will be available for photos throughout the event, which includes free hot dogs and beverages after the hunt. Info: 251-234-1122.



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 Call 251-967-5858 for more info

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PERDIDO & SOUTH BALDWIN EASTER EVENTS

Easter Sunday is always fun at LuLu's

The Annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt at LuLu's Gulf Shores is scheduled on Easter Sunday, March 31 from noon 'til 2 p.m. You never know who is going to stop by LuLu's, but how can anyone resist the opportunity to meet the Easter Bunny and see what is in the 6,000 eggs that LuLu's staff will hide around the property? Divided by age groups for safe full for all, as well as some "golden" eggs with prizes from the gift shop! The fun will also include LuLu's usual family fun activities. The Easter egg dash starts at 2 p.m. and the Easter Bunny will be available for pictures from noon until 2 p.m.

LuLu's is located at 200 E 25th Ave. in Gulf Shores (under the Intracoastal Bridge). For more info, call 251-967-5858.

Flora-Bama beach tent services at sunrise, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Flora-Bama Church, a non-denominational Christian church invites the entire community to join them in the celebration of Easter at a sunrise service on the beach inside the largest tent available in the sand behind the Flora-Bama at 6:30 a.m. The church will also host 9 & 11 a.m. services in the beachside tent. Attendance may exceed the number of

chairs offered and everyone is invited to bring along folding chairs or blankets. The church maintains its slogan "It's OK to not be OK," which means everyone is welcome just as they are.

Flora-Bama Church holds regular Sunday experiences at 9 & 11 a.m. every week except Mullet Toss weekend in the Flora-Bama tent stage.

Elberta community egg hunt March 23

On Saturday March 23 @ at 10 a.m., Elberta Church will host its annual community Easter egg hunt at Elberta Town Park. There will be over 5,000 eggs to look for, so come out and bring the whole family for this exciting morning of Easter egg hunting. Elberta Church is a family of authentic Christ followers who exists to love God and love people. More info: (251) 202-3087.

Church of the Shores hosts March 24 egg hunt and lunch, inflatables, fun

The community is invited to join the Church at the Shores congregation for its Sunday Funday Easter egg hunt on March 24 after the church's 10 a.m. service (around 11:30 a.m.) on its campus at 541 Cotton Creek Dr. in Gulf Shores.

Families are invited to make memories and enjoy hot dogs & hamburgers, inflatables and, of course, an egg hunt. For more info, contact Lauri at lauri@churchattheshores.com or ryder@churchattheshores.com.



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AROUND TOWN



Orange Beach will dedicate Danny Martin Field at Sportsplex

Opening day for the Orange Beach Sports Assn. baseball and softball programs will be a special one as Field 1 will be dedicated to the late Danny Martin. Martin, who died this past August, served Orange Beach for more than 20 years in the Parks & Recreation Dept. and was the first manager of the Orange Beach Sportsplex. He retired from the City in 2016 but remained active in the sports tourism community in Foley. Martin was instrumental in the growth of the Orange Beach Sportsplex and the City will honor his legacy by dedicating Field 1 in his name, forever to be known as Danny Martin Field.

A native Mobilian, Martin first moved to Orange Beach in 1982 and was also an EMT and a member of the Orange Beach Volunteer Fire Department. In early 1994, he began his career in recreation, helping with the development of the first baseball park in Orange Beach. Giving local children a place to play ball was something that Danny took special pride in. This was the beginning of what would eventually become a youth sports boom for the city.

"In the spring of 2001, the Orange Beach Sportsplex was opened. At that time, there was nothing else like it in the area. This facility would ultimately be where Danny poured all his heart and soul. He wanted it to be the best facility anywhere and a place that all the area children and families could enjoy for generations to come," his obituary states.

"There weren't many days that you would go by the Sportsplex and not find Danny there working to ensure everything was right for everyone, even into the early hours of the next morning. To him, it wasn't just a job; it was his passion to ensure it was the best in the land. His sons often refer to it as being his baby. He loved nothing more than seeing the park full of children playing the games that he himself loved so much growing up, and it also brought in thousands, of teams from across the nation to play in tournaments hosted there."

Pictured: Martin bled Crimson Tide red; Martin pictured with his good friend Bob Baumhower, with whom he organized and directed an SEC women's soccer invitational in Orange Beach for several years. The relationships with SEC coaches that emerged from those games led to Orange Beach securing a contract to host the SEC Women's Soccer Championship Tourney back in 2003 and then every year from 2005 until 2015.

April 1 O. B. Community Potluck is spaghetti night

By Dianne McElroy

Greetings. We will have the next dinner on Monday, April 1 at 6 p.m. at the Orange Beach Community Center (27235 Canal Rd.) The entree' will be spaghetti and meatballs. We invite you to bring a side dish or dessert to compliment our entree'. Look forward to seeing everyone on April Fools Day for a great meal.

Walks & Talks in March at Bon Secour Refuge

The Walks and Talks educational program continues thru March at Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge: For more info or to sign-up, call (251) 269-7307 and leave a message with your name, number, and the size of your party. Staff will call back to confirm.

Scheduled Programs: Wednesday, Mar. 20 – 10 am- I SPY- Pine Beach Trail Observation Tower (No Reservation Needed); Thursday, Mar. 21 – 12 pm- Sea Turtle Ecology Walk- Jeff Friend Trail; Friday, Mar. 22 – 8:30 am- Bird Walk- Jeff Friend Trail; Friday, Mar. 22 – 10 am- 12 pm- Creatures of Little Lagoon- Jeff Friend Trail; Saturday, Mar. 23 – 1 pm- Dune and Beach Ecology Walk- Burgoyne Road; Monday, Mar. 25 – 10 am- Guided Nature Hike- Jeff Friend Trail; Wed., Mar. 27 – 11 am- 1 pm- Snowy Plover Craft- Refuge Visitor Center (No Reservation Needed); Thursday, Mar. 28 – 1 pm- Dune and Beach Ecology Walk- Burgoyne Road; Thursday, Mar. 28 – 3-5 pm- Creatures of Little Lagoon- Jeff Friend Trail; Friday, Mar. 29 – 8:30 am- Bird Walk- Jeff Friend Trail.

April 13 Rainbow Run at OWA will be colorful

A \$10 discount registration fee is available thru April 5 for the April 13 Rainbow Run at OWA in Foley on Saturday Apr 13. Event hours are listed as 7:30-11 a.m. Participants can jog, walk, or sprint through OWA in either the 5K or 1-mile Winners Walk while neon powder fills the air.

For more info, go to Visit OWA.com.

Well, Yeah! Southern Living names Flora-Bama best dive bar

"You don't become the Gulf Coast's most hallowed beach bar without a bit of divine intervention," writes Betsy Cribb Watson in her Southern Living story about our beloved lounge-on-the-line being voted the best dive bar in Alabama in the magazine's 2024 South's Best issue published this month.

"When you look at where God put the Flora-Bama, it's in the middle of where all kinds of demographics gather—that's what makes it special," said co-owner John McInnis III. "You'd have fishermen and locals mixed with tourists, bikers, and military personnel from the Navy base. All of a sudden, they were hanging out together in this little shack by a liquor store. That's what it looked like in the late seventies and early eighties."

A fixture on the Alabama-Florida line since 1964, the Flora-Bama, like most of Perdido Key, was leveled after absorbing Hurricane Ivan's northeast quadrant on Sept. 16, 2004. For about three years, the bar operated out of a collection of tents and trailers. But the faithful patrons still kept showing up.

"You probably had close to a million people a year going through there and having the times of their lives," said McInnis, who became a majority owner along with Cam Price in 2009. "Our goal was to make it better without changing it, because it's such an iconic establishment."

"You're more a shepherd of the Flora-Bama than you are an owner of it," added Price. "When you look at all the people who have made memories here over the years, that's the magic of this place. Every single person who walks into the Flora-Bama wants to have a good time."



BOOZY BEE SPELLING BEE: The format for Flora-Bama's annual Boozy Bee Spelling Bee is simple: 10 contestants, 5 rounds, 1 lucky winner. Contest points are cumulative, and the words become more difficult each round. So, you can get by in the first round spelling cinnamon, psychology and genuine. But final round words may include ostentatious, lachrymose and contemporaneous. (Players don't have to slug a drink, if they misspell a word). Emcee Steve Powers, the Bama's director of entertainment, was the total pro while running contestants smoothly through rounds sporting a very appropriate (above) costume that looked totally natural on him. On their best day, Barker, Trabek and Sajeck would have been hard pressed to match Steve's on-stage verve.

Master Gardeners Plant Sale April 4-6 under Fish River Bridge

The Baldwin County Master Gardeners Spring Plant Sale will be held April 4-6 at Weeks Bay Reserve from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Reserve is located just west of the Fish River Bridge on Highway 98 at Safe Harbor, directly across from the Weeks Bay Reserve Visitor Center, 11300 U.S. Highway 98, Fairhope. This sale will offer a big selection of annuals, perennials, herbs, shrubs, trees, hummingbird attractors, heirloom and rare plants. Experts, including several growers and the Baldwin County Master Gardeners, will be on hand to help with selections and to answer questions. Info: visit baldwincountymastergardeners.com.

Ad. Info: mulletwrapper.com

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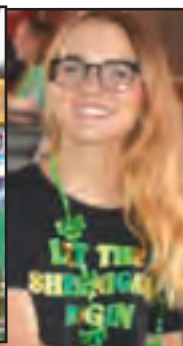
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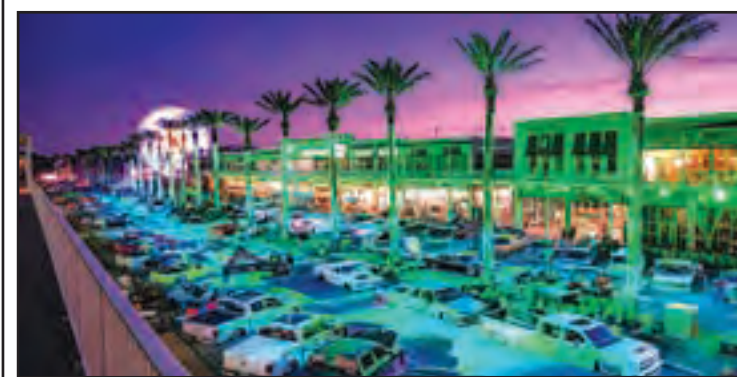


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WHAT'S HAPPENING



Orange Beach Invasion returns to The Wharf March 22-24

Orange Beach Invasion returns for its 8th year in Orange Beach March 22-23 after setting a record for attendance last year with more than 72,000 spectators on hand to view specialty bikes, trucks and autos from all over America. Hours are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 9 a.m. - noon on Sunday.

Presented by American Force Wheels, The Invasion showcases an impressive array of hot rigs, from lowriders to muscle cars and vintage hot rods. The event also includes live music, family entertainment and booths from top industry names exhibiting cutting-edge products and the latest in automotive innovations.

chrome-plated world of graphics, big wheels and sky-high lift kits. Tricked-out and jacked-up trucks, cars and motorcycles are all part of the Orange Beach Invasion at The Wharf this weekend.

Although Orange Beach and Gulf Shores police received numerous complaints from locals about how loud Invasion attendees were (mufflers, horns, stereos) while driving on local roads, there were fewer problems reported in 2023

City Rhythm Big Band hosts dance on March 23 at Loxley Civic Center

The City Rhythm Big Band will host a Mar 23 St Patrick's Dance at The Loxley Civic Center from 2-5 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person, and the event is byob beverages and snacks. Water/cups and ice will be provided. The Loxley Civic Center is located at 4198 Municipal Park Dr. on the westside of Hwy. 59. Future dances will also be from 2-5 p.m. Dates include: Apr 27 - Spring Dance; Jun 22 - Summer Dance; July 27 - Late Summer Dance; Oct 26 - Fall Dance; Nov 23 - Thanksgiving Dance. Holiday Performances: May 27 - Memorial Day Dance.; July 4 - Independence Day Dance; Sept 2 - Labor Day Dance; Dec 28 - Christmas/New Year's Dance.

Vietnam Vets Memorial replica & exhibit stops in Robertsdale May 9-12

The Wall That Heals exhibit, which includes a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. along with a mobile Education Center, will be at the Baldwin County Coliseum in Robertsdale from May 9 until May 12 (at 2 p.m.). Open to the public 24 hours aday, the exhibition is free and all ages are welcome.

This is the 29th season of The Wall That Heals and it will be on display in 31 communities during the year. Since its dedication, The Wall That Heals has been displayed in nearly 700 communities throughout the nation.

The replica is 375 feet in length and stands 7.5 feet high at its tallest point. Visitors have the opportunity to do name rubbings of individual service member's names on The Wall. In addition, the 53-foot trailer that carries The Wall transforms to become a mobile Education Center featuring a timeline of the war and a collection of items that have been left at The Wall.

WED, MARCH 20

- Midday Melodies w. Josh Chavers: noon; Heritage Park; Foley.
- JB Dyess: 8; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- Shawn Lackey Duo: 8; SanBar at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- John Kueler: 5; Lucy Buffett's LuLu's; Gulf Shores.
- Adam Tyler Brown: 6; Tacky Jacks, Fort Morgan.
- Zach Chavers: 5; CoastaAl Restaurant; Orange Beach.
- Chris Hergenroder: 5; Carver's Steak House; Orange Beach.

- Bad Bones; 5; The Angry Crab Shack; Orange Beach.
- Midlife Crisis: 6; The Hangout; Gulf Shores.
- T Bone & Bo: 5; Front Porch, Lillian.
- Chris Beverly: 7; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- Just Roger: 5; Live Bait; Orange Beach.
- Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables: see florabama.com; Perdido Key.
- Flora-Bama Family Friendly Bingo: 1-4 p.m.; free; family friendly; Flora-Bama; Perdido Key.
- Saucy Fuzz: 10; The Undertow; Orange

- Beach.
- Jeremy Russow: 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.
- Bingo w. Tim Roberts: 5; Tacky Jacks, Fort Morgan.
- Karaoke: 9; The Office, Foley.
- Karaoke: 7; Al.Gulf Coast Music Hall, Foley.
- Open Jam: 7:30; Good Time Charlie's; Foley.
- Open Jam w. Nigel Dickie: 6; Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
- Karaoke: 6; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
- BBRC Running Club: 5:30 p.m.; Big

Pat Crumby is the Godmother of the South Baldwin dance scene

By Fran Thompson

Pat Crumby was not destined to be the Godmother for those of a certain age that make up the South Baldwin dancing community.

She didn't even dance in her younger years. She was too busy building a business empire and raising a child as a single mom in her native Kansas. She is not even sure how it happened. But it is a fact that she is our dancing queen.

She has her hand in as many as four dances each week. If there is a dance being held in South Baldwin County, Pat is almost always involved.

She dances at the Gulf Shores American Legion on Sundays and the Elks Club on Fridays and Saturdays. She goes to the Foley Senior Center for dances twice a month. On the third Wednesday of each month, she dances at Water's Edge Dance Hall in Robertsdale. She has hosted dances at The Big Red Barn in Foley. She and her friends also take line dancing lessons twice a week.

"I've slowed down a bit," Pat said. "Instead of five times a week, sometimes I only dance three times. But I never get tired of going to dances."

There are even dances named after her held every year in Loxley on Memorial Day, July 4 and Labor Day, and that does not count the hundreds of dance outings she organized in the Perdido Beach Resort Lobby Bar prior to local piano legend John Brust's death.

At PBR, she led a mostly snowbird group of dancers that included as many as 30 couples.

"We would go dance at Perdido Beach Resort four nights a week," she said. "Many of those people have passed or can't dance anymore, and it wasn't

the same once John died."

Pat prints up a dance schedule and takes copies with her whenever she goes out. But that is about as technical as she gets. She does not have a computer. She does not have a cell phone.

Orange Beach/Gulf Shores Tourism printed 3,000 of the schedules to pass out at its visitor centers and another 5,000 to put in welcome snowbird packages.

Self made, Pat entered the male dominated paper product sales business in 1979. She climbed the sales ladder with several companies before hanging her own shingle by opening a computer form company that occupied two buildings that took up most of a downtown Kansas City block. She built a cedar wood home on top of one of her buildings that was written up in Architecture Digest. For awhile, she also lived in the house.

She and her mate Bob owned several vacation homes on The Lake of the Ozarks before they eventually settled on a large home with 3,100 ft. of shoreline on 17 acres with a 28 ft. cabin cruiser docked behind it.

The couple planned to retire there, but fate intervened during a golfing trip to check out courses along the Gulf Coast.

They found themselves heading south on Hwy 59 and, after a night at the old Holiday Inn on East Beach Blvd., they drove to Glenlakes to golf.

They saw a man working on a house. He said that house was sold, but he could build them another on a lot he owned nearby.

In late fall of 1990, Bob and Pat moved into their new home planning to stay for three months. They stayed for six. The next year, they brought their boat and planned to stay

for six months. They stayed for nine. Like so many others, they were hooked on the Alabama Gulf Coast.

When Bob and Pat bought their home in 1990, there were only 71 others in the subdivision. They paid \$72K, including appliances.

"We just fell in love with this place, especially Bob," Pat said. "We didn't want to leave."

Pat dabbled in real estate when she first moved here. She developed The Villas at Glenlakes and her portfolio at one time included nine condos.

But her main focus was hosting parties. They were not the huge affairs she regularly organized in Kansas City. But it was not unusual for her to lead a group on a bus to the Mississippi casinos or set up the draw for a golf outing for 50 friends.

"Every place I've been I've gotten groups together for socializing," she said.

Pat has a group of good friends that she enjoys car pooling to dances with and she even dances by herself in the living room.

"I think it's the best exercise you can have," she said. "I don't dance as much now, but I still enjoy going around hosting and passing out my dance schedule. If people want to know anything about dances, they can ask me."

Pat's helpful hints even include teaching her girlfriends how to ask men to dance. Just in the past three years, three couples she has introduced have gotten engaged.

"It's a wonderful life and this has really helped me through the past three or four years. I am glad for my friends," Pat said. "God has been good to me and he is still being good to me."

In case you were wondering, Pat just turned 88 on March 1.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

COOKIN' WITH CAROLYN

By CAROLYN GODFREY

Penne with White Beans

8 oz. uncooked penne pasta
2 (16-oz.) cans cannellini beans, drained
1 (7 oz.) jar chopped roasted red bell peppers, drained
1/2 cup chopped fresh basil
1/4 cup balsamic vinegar vinegar
1 Tbsp. olive oil
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. ground black pepper
1/3 cup crumbled basil-and-tomato-flavored feta cheese
Cook pasta according to package directions, including salt. Drain and return pasta to saucepan. Add beans and next 6 ingredients to saucepan; toss gently. Spoon mixture onto individual serving plates, and sprinkle evenly with feta. Serve immediately. Yield: 7 servings.



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Beach Brewery in Gulf Shores; laffleet-foot.com.
• Pickleball: 12:30-3:30 p.m.; Church of Christ, Gulf Shores.
• Al-Non: 12:30; Live Oak AFG, St John's Episcopal Church, 401 Live Oak Ave., Pensacola.

THU, MARCH 21

• Phil & Ced: 8; SanBar at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
• Jamell Richardson & Joslyn & The Sweet Compression: 5:30; free concert; Waterway Village; Gulf Shores.
• Ronnie Presley: 5; Lucy Buffett's LuLu's; Gulf Shores.
• Josh Chavers: 5; Tacky Jacks; Orange Beach.
• Johnny Hayes: 5; CoastaAl Restaurant; Orange Beach.
• Twelve II: 6; The Hangout; Gulf Shores.
• Eddie 2 Kool: 5; Carver's Steak House;

Orange Beach.
• Tyler Ward: 5; Carver's Steak House; Orange Beach.
• Tim Helfco: 5; The Angry Crab Shack; Orange Beach.
• Just Roger: 4; Ice House; Gulf Shores.
• Karaoke: 5; Tacky Jacks; Gulf Shores.
• Stormfolk: 7; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
• Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables: see florabama.com; Perdido Key.

• Flora-Bama Family Friendly Bingo: 1-4 p.m.; free; family friendly; Flora-Bama; Perdido Key.
• Tim Robinson: 8; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
• Funky Lampshades: 10; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
• Jeremy Russow: 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.
• Karaoke: 6; Tacky Jacks, Fort Morgan.
• Elaine Petty: 7; Gelato Joe's; Foley.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

- Andy Andrews Live: 12:15; Andy Andrews General Store & Museum; The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- Grief Support Group: 1-3; Gulf Shores First Baptist Church; 251-968-7369.
- Trivia Night: 6; Towne Tap, Foley.
- Tim Roberts: 6; The Tin Top Restaurant, Bon Secour.
- Jason Abel: 10; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- Karaoke w. Kelly: 8; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- Bridge: 11:30 a.m.; Orange Beach Senior Center, 251-981-3440.
- Karaoke: 9; The Office, Foley.
- Gulf Shores Methodist Church Bread Ministry: 8am; every Thursday; South Campus; (251) 968-2411.
- Pickleball: 8:30-11:30 a.m.; Church of Christ, Gulf Shores.
- Al-Non: noon; Perdido Bay Community Center; 13660 Innerarity Rd., Pensacola
- Al-Anon: 7; Orange Beach Presbyterian Church, 26640 Canal Rd.
- AA: Noon; Perdido Bay UMC Worship Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point)

FRI, MARCH 22

- Dustin Lee Guedry: 8; The Cove; Gulf Shores.
- Still Standing: A Tribute to Elton John; 7:30; OWA Theater; Foley.
- Bo Grant: 8; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- Johnny Hayes Duo: 6; SanBar at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- High Cotton: 10; SanBar at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- Blue Molther Tupelo: 6; Big Beach Brewery; Gulf Shores.
- Shawn Lackey: 10; The Undertow; Orange Beach.

- Delta Donnie & Elaine Petty: 6; Tacky Jacks, Fort Morgan.
- Jonas Woodstock: 5; Tacky Jacks; Gulf Shores.
- Tyler Ward: 4; Woodside Rest. at Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores.
- Jesse Perry: 5; Carver's Steak House; Orange Beach.
- Mel Knapp: 5; CoastaAl Restaurant; Orange Beach.
- Kelly Poole: 5; The Angry Crab Shack; Orange Beach.
- Identity Theft: 9; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- The Midnight Shepherds: 7; The Hangout; Gulf Shores.
- Lee Yankee Band: 7; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
- Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables: see florabama.com; Perdido Key.
- Flora-Bama Family Friendly Bingo: 1-4 p.m.; free; family friendly; Flora-Bama; Perdido Key.
- Cedrick Brooks: 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.
- Pickleball: 6-9 p.m.; Church of Christ, Gulf Shores.
- Davo: 7; Gelato Joe's; Foley.
- Bubba 'N Them: 6; The Point; Innerarity Point.
- Rodger & Elaine: 7; American Legion Post 44, Gulf Shores.
- Open Mic: 6; American Legion Post 199; Fairhope.
- Karaoke w. Kelly Ann: 6; American Legion Post 99; Foley.
- Pickleball: 8:30-11:30 a.m.; Church of Christ, 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.
 • 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, MARCH 23

- Rubber Ducky Regatta For Ronald McDonald House: 11 a.m.; OWA, Foley.
- Still Standing: A Tribute to Elton John; 7:30; OWA Theater; Foley.
- Bo Grant: 8; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- Midnight Shepherds: 6; SanBar at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- Midlife Crisis: 10; SanBar at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- Talismen: 6; Big Beach Brewery; Gulf Shores.
- Phil J & The Collective: 10; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- Stephen Sylvester: 5; Sassy Bass Amazin' Grill; Fort Morgan.

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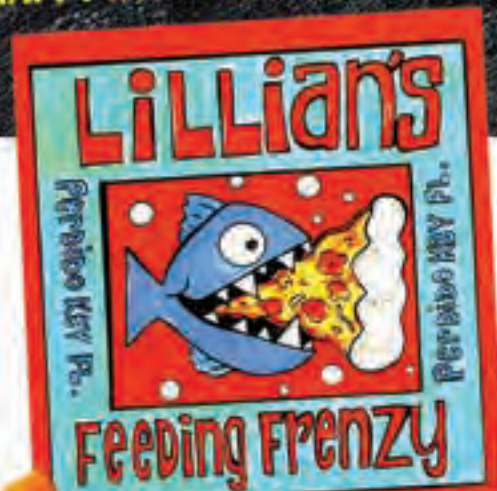
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Little Lagoon Preservation Society seeks help at March 25 meeting to stop BCSS sewer plant

The Little Lagoon Preservation Society is urging South Baldwin County residents to attend a public hearing on March 25 at 4 p.m. at the Gulf Shores City Council meeting in which the city will consider approval of and vote on a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application by Baldwin County Sewer Service (BCSS). At the end of the Public Hearing, the Mayor and City Council will vote on approving or not approving the application.

BCSS is asking for City approval to operate their plant at a higher volume (1.8 MG/D vs current 1.2 MG/D) and keep their sludge lagoon which is currently shut down due to a city cease and desist order.

The city's planning department is recommending the Council not approve the BCSS application. If you want to see their narrative they will present to the Mayor and Council click on this link 12629 (gulfshoresal.gov). There will not be a vote by the Mayor and Council at this meeting, it is informational.

"The LLPS BCSS Evaluation team has provided considerable analysis and detail on our evaluation of the Ft. Morgan Plant, their sludge lagoon, and their proposed increase," said LLPS President Dennis Hatfield. "

Hatfield added that LLPS is recommending denial of the application unless BCSS does several things:

- Finish abandonment of the sludge lagoon and re-establish the buffer they clear cut when they built the lagoon.
- Reduce the amount of Phosphorus in processed effluent which is injected into the surface water table and then flows to Little Lagoon, adequate monitoring and reporting, and include permit discharge limits.
- Change back to a NPDES permit that expired in January 2024.
- Install additional water table monitoring wells.
- Agree to enhanced local oversight by the City of Gulf Shores."

"We really need to let the City know we care about this by having as many people as possible show up for the March 25 hearing," Hatfield said. "People are welcome to comment at the hearing, but that is not as important as just showing up."

To view the BCSS site plan, go to gulfshoresal.gov/AgendaCenter.

Fort Morgan Coastal birdbanding April 15-20

Alabama Audubon's Coastal Bird Banding event will return to historic Fort Morgan April 15-20. The Bird Banding event is free and open to the public from 10 a.m. 'til 3 p.m. daily, but there is a \$5 fee to get into Fort Morgan.

Alabama Audubon will host guided bird walks in concert with the bird banding event April 15 & 16 from 2-4:30 p.m. Led by the organization's expert team, the walks will offer a unique opportunity to explore the rich avian diversity of

Alabama's Gulf Coast during the peak of spring migration. There will be 3 opportunities for visitors to participate in these add-on activities. The area's strategic location makes it an ideal spot for witnessing the spring migration, offering sightings of both common and rare species.

Alabama Audubon's mission is to promote conservation and a greater knowledge of birds, their habitats, and the natural world since our inception in 1927, helping to protect the natural heritage of America's fourth-most biodiverse state. More info: Alabamaaudubon.com.

Free concerts at Waterway Village set for March 22 & 28, April 4 & 11

The City of Gulf Shores free concert series at Waterway Village continues March 21 with Jamell Richardson & Joslyn & The Sweet Compression and March 28 with Everette and Crawford & Power before finishing with a flourish in April with Rosie Ledet and Chubby Carrier on April 4 and Grayson Capps on April 11. Concerts start at 5:30 p.m.

The concerts will be held on the lawn in front of the White Knight Seafood building on the Intra-coastal Waterway just west of Acme Oyster House and across from the city owned parking lot on East 24th Ave. Food trucks will be onsite at each event, and the Coastal Alabama Business Chamber will be selling beverages.

The adjacent Gulf Coast Arts Alliance gallery will extend hours on concert nights. For more information, please visit gulfshoresAL.gov or call 251-968-1171.

Gulf Shores Lions Golf Tourney April 5

Registration and sponsorship opportunities are open for the 49th Annual Gulf Shores Lions Club Charities Max Wilson Memorial Golf for Sight Tournament scheduled for Friday, April 5 at Gulf Shores Golf Club.

The club's largest fundraiser of the year, the 4-ball tourney utilizes a blind draw to pair up two person teams to give everyone a fair chance to win regardless of handicap. Registration starts at 10 a.m., with a shotgun start slated at 11:30 a.m.

The \$200 per person (\$400 per two man team) entry fee includes a post tournament meal, fabulous prizes and supports the many Lions Club charities. The entry fee also includes green fees, cart rental, range balls, a raffle ticket, and three beverage tickets. Cash Prizes will be awarded on each and every hole in addition to prizes for the top three teams.

Various levels of sponsorship opportunities are also available. For more information and to reserve your spot in the tournament, please contact Kew Taybi at (859) 380-0781 or Bruce White at (251) 967-3323.

All money raised will be used to support charities for the visually impaired and blind and the Miracle League of Coastal Alabama baseball field and boundless playground being built in Summerdale.

Gypsey Pearl: 5; Lucy Buffett's LuLu's; Gulf Shores.

- Lex & The Luthers: 7; The Hangout; Gulf Shores.
- Gambino Duo: 11 a.m.; Tacky Jacks; Orange Beach.
- Sean Michzle kaye: 5; Tacky Jacks; Gulf Shores.
- The Groovinators: 7; Magnolia Hotel; Foley.
- Mac Walter: 4; Woodside Rest. at Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores.
- Brooks Johnson: 1; CoastaAl Restaurant; Orange Beach.
- Dixon Darling: 5; CoastaAl Restaurant; Orange Beach.
- Opera "Romeo et Juliette" by Gounod, in high definition from The Metropolitan Opera: 11:55 am, CMX Pinnacle 14; Gulf Shores. Radiant soprano Nadine Sierra and tenor sensation Benjamin Bernheim star as lovers in a sumptuous Shakespeare adaptation.
- City Rhythm Big Band St Patrick's Dance: 2; Loxley Civic Center.
- Rob Joyner: 5; The Angry Crab Shack; Orange Beach.
- Identity Theft: 9; Sandshaker at The

Wharf; Orange Beach.

- Just Roger: 5; Live Bait; Orange Beach.
- Kristi Dees Bad Juju: 7; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
- Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables: see florabama.com; Perdido Key.
- Cedrick Brooks: 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.
- The Defrosters: 2; Flying Harpoon II; Orange Beach.
- Karaoke: 6; Tacky Jacks, Ft. Morgan.
- Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermen Market: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Foley.
- Texas Hold'em: 7; The Office, Foley.
- Pickleball: 8:30-11:30 a.m.; Church of Christ, Gulf Shores.
- 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 Inner-



SNOWBIRD COFFEE CLUB SUPPORTS CSC: Before departing until next winter, the GS Snowbird Coffee Club presented a \$1,550 check to the Christian Service Center. Their long term support of the CSC mission is greatly appreciated. **Pictured:** Larry Cole, Club Charity Committee Chair; Stan and Janice Moss, CSC; Tom Williams, Club Treasurer, Mike Culverhouse, Club President, Dale Orchard, Club Vice President. The Christian Service Center is an all volunteer organization that provides food and emergency financial aid to low income families in Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, and Ft. Morgan. The Center is located at 317 Dolphin Avenue, Gulf Shores; P.O. Box 882, GS 36547; website cscgs.com; Facebook; phone 251-968-5256.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

arity Point Rd., (Innerarity Point) Pensacola.

SUN, MARCH 24

- Strictly Rivers: 8; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- Kyle Wilson: 1; SanBar at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- Brandon Giles Band: 8; SanBar at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- Brooks Johnson: 5; Lucy Buffett's LuLu's; Gulf Shores.
- Funky Lamphshades: 5; Tacky Jacks; Gulf Shores.
- Brittany Bell: noon; CoastaAl Restaurant; Orange Beach.
- Christina Crystal: 4; CoastaAl Restaurant; Orange Beach.
- Brent Varner: 11 a.m.; The Tin Top Restaurant; Bon Secour.
- Thomas Jenkins: 4; Woodside Rest. at Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores.
- Steven Wade Scott; 5; Carver's Steak House; Orange Beach.
- On The Fex; 5; The Angry Crab Shack; Orange Beach.
- David Wiley: 9; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.

- Thin Ice: 6; The Hangout; Gulf Shores.
- Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables: see florabama.com; Perdido Key.
- Trivia Night: 6; Towne Tap, Foley.
- Sunday Potluck: 12-2; Fraternal Order or Eagles Lodge; Hwy 98, east of Beach Express; Foley.
- 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.
- The Hubmeister: 5; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
- League Pool: 7; The Office, Foley.
- Al-Anon: 6; Grace Lutheran Church, Gulf Shores.

MON, MARCH 25

- Saucy Fuzz: 8; SanBar at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- Ty Taylor Trio: 8; SanBar at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- Ryan Balthrop: 5; Lucy Buffett's LuLu's; Gulf Shores.
- Tyler Ward: 5; CoastaAl Restaurant; Orange Beach.

- Open Mic: 7; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- Twelve: 6; The Hangout; Gulf Shores.
- Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables: see florabama.com; Perdido Key.
- Flora-Bama Family Friendly Bingo: 1-4 p.m.; free; family friendly; Flora-Bama; Perdido Key.
- Square Dancing: 6:30; Fairhope Christian Church, Fairhope, 850-206-5084.
- DJ Hank: 7; Gelato Joe's; Foley.
- Lisa Zanghi: 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.
- 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.
- Pickleball: 8:30-11:30 a.m.; Church of Christ, Gulf Shores.
- 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.; Isle

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



Lost Key Lighted Night Market March 28 at Villagio

The Perdido Key Area Chamber sponsored Lost Key Lighted Night Market will feature 25 unique businesses and take place at Villagio, 13700 Perdido Key Dr. on Thursday, March 28 from 5-8 p.m. Each vendor will decorate their tent with unique lights and Mike Diamond and Brittany Grimes will entertain. More at perdidochamber.com.

Pictured: Unapologetically proud of his southern heritage, Mike Diamond's music is reflective of how he is and the values he holds dear. Born into a family of musicians, he was constantly exposed to a diverse variety of music. His grandfather was a minister of music as well as jazz musician. His father a Flora-Bama possible/probable performer from its early days, introduced him to honky-tonk and traditional country. Through his mother, he found rock n' roll. His appreciation of good music is genuine, no matter the genre. His sets include songs that go back nine decades, his own original songs and a few unexpected but pleasant surprises.

Pictured: Brittany Grimes is a singer/songwriter proudly hailing from South Baldwin County. By age 15, she was writing songs and performing in Nashville on Broadway. In the years since, in addition to earning a degree at Auburn, she has performed at Nashville's CMA Fest, and numerous venues from small towns to big cities. Her influences range from the classics such as Dolly Parton and Loretta Lynn to the local musicians and songwriters she's proud to call friends. Brittany has an EP and a single available for download on all platforms.



ELBERTA FCCLA CHAPTER SHINES AT STATES:

The Elberta Middle School Chapter of FCCLA attended the Alabama FCCLA State Leadership Conference and STAR Events Competition and received the Alabama Prescription for Healthy Living Award for their work bringing awareness to the dangers of vaping. They also achieved the Gold Level Award for having a balanced program of work, participation in state and national leadership events, conducting community service projects, and promoting FCCLA. Adviser, Alyssa Corbitt was also awarded the FCCLA Adviser Mentor award. Eight students competed in the state level and all did extremely well! Seven have the opportunity to compete at Nationals this summer in Seattle: McCoy Ezell, Brylee Householder, Maggie Thorjusen: Event Management, 2nd place, National qualifiers; Blakely Kichler: Food Innovations, 3rd place; Avie Busby, Ryleigh Fogos: Hospitality, Tourism, and Recreation, 1st place, National qualifier; Emma Franks, Michlynne Shaver: Sports Nutrition, 1st place, National qualifier.



Mrs. Jean Taylor to compete for Ms Super Senior Alabama

Mrs. Jean Taylor of Orange Beach has been selected to represent the city in the competition for the title of Ms. Super Senior Alabama 2024. Recently retired from a real estate career in Birmingham, Taylor lives at Sugar Beach condos and works alongside her husband (Don Taylor) and family in their vacation rental business. The state pageant will held on June 1 at the Daphne Civic Center. and also include a Ms. Senior Alabama (60-69) in addition to the Ms. Super Senior Alabama (70 plus) competition. Cheryl Ritchie will represent Gulf Shores in the Ms. Senior Alabama pageant.

The women in the pageant serve as shining examples of the remarkable senior women who are making a positive impact throughout Alabama, showcasing the invaluable contributions of empowered senior women, according to Ms. Senior Alabama Inc.

Ms. Senior Alabama Organization is dedicated to enriching the lives of senior women, providing them with opportunities to share their experiences, wisdom, and interests with others. Through initiatives aimed at promoting confidence and building self-esteem, MSA, Inc. empowers senior women to embrace their full potential and make meaningful contributions to society. The group fosters camaraderie, personal growth, and community engagement among its participants.

land Church in Orange Beach; 251-967-4840.

TUE, MARCH 26

- Trivia: 6; SanBar at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- Ty Taylor Trio: 8; SanBar at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- Rickie Joe Wilson: 5; Lucy Buffett's LuLu's; Gulf Shores.
- Henry Burt: 6; Tacky Jacks, Fort Morgan.
- Jonathan Puan: 5; CoastaAl Restaurant; Orange Beach.
- Just Roger: 5; Live Bait; Orange Beach.
- Midlife Crisis: 6; The Hangout; Gulf Shores.

- Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables: see florabama.com; Perdido Key.
- Flora-Bama Family Friendly Bingo: 1-4 p.m.; free; family friendly; Flora-Bama; Perdido Key.
- Gage & The Get Downs: 10; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- Jam Night: 6; Big Beach Brewery; Gulf Shores.
- Danny Grady: 3; American Legion Post 44; Gulf Shores.
- Lisa Zanghi: 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.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

PIER & SHORE FISHING OUTLOOK

By DAVID "THE PIERPOUNDER" THORNTON

Spring has sprung loose along the lower Baldwin Coast does not just refer to the hordes of Spring Breakers descending upon the beaches and fishing venues. Most of the time our weather has been seasonably pleasant, especially when we experience several sunny days with light winds. But there are still intermittent cool snaps that put us back in jackets for a couple of mornings. Still that hasn't prevented the Gulf water temperature from flirting with 65 degrees recently.

Not quite warm enough to bring in Spanish mackerel in numbers yet, but plenty comfortable for sheephead to commence their annual spawning rituals. So far most of that action has been centered around the southern tip of the west jetty at Perdido Pass, but don't be surprised if more show up along the seawall through the coming fortnight too.

The next NEAP tide period centers on March 24th coincidental to the full moon. That usually triggers the spawn to commencing for sheephead as the days following the NEAP usually have a midday high tide. The water has been mostly clear recently as we have lacked any really severe storms that create extremely rough surf and turbid water as we saw too much of last month. This tends to work in fisher-men's favor and can expect the temperature of shallow waters to rise above 65 and stay there by the end of this month.

Since the Gulf State Park Pier remains closed, most fishing activity seems to have been centering around the recently opened Seawall Park under the Perdido Pass Bridge and north along the curve. A fine place to fish, but catching has not equaled effort. More success has been found near the south end of the west jetty, and on nearby beaches. The sandy area underneath the east end of the bridge in Gulf State Park's Alabama Point East will remain closed through next month to discourage teenage shenanigans there. But the good news is, fishing along the Gulf beach near the east jetty and along the beach all the way east of the Shell Parking lot has been pretty good to surf casters already this month. Some pompano and fair numbers of whiting have been caught there, mostly on pompano rigs and shrimp. The mild weather has allowed some sandbars to develop along that stretch that are inviting places for these fish to feed. A little research along that stretch of beach should reveal the more advantageous spots to set up your surf casting equipment.

Be aware with warmer water more people on the beach during Spring Break will be swimming, and that means they will be packed densest near the beach access points. Anglers are less likely to encounter less interference from swimmers the farther from these access points they decide to travel. The same goes for the beaches in Orange Beach,

Gulf State Park, Gulf Shores, and off Fort Morgan Road. If you have to resort to using public access to get to the Gulf, try to walk a way to find less crowded beaches, with a nice sandbar you can cast to where pompano, whiting, redfish and drum may be waiting.

Progress continues as weather has allowed at the Gulf State Park Pier, with the most notable feature being the number of piling set so far, and remaining to be set in order to reconnect the whole pier. Giant waves from Hurricane Sally in September 2020 tore a 205 foot breach in the just renovated pier north of the octagon at the end. Red tape delayed the start of the repair project until November 2023, and uncooperative winter weather has hampered the pace of repairs. Mainly driving new 90 foot long pilings through the debris now buried beneath 8 feet or so of soft sand on the bottom. Still crews from MD Thomas have now managed to place four of the seven sets of piling. The liftboat RAM XIX joined the effort and has helped the pace of progress. Meanwhile work is ongoing in the parking lot at the pier where crews are preparing hundreds of 6 foot by 6 foot ipe (pronounced ee-pay) wood deck panels to expedite the process once all the piling are set in place. Still plenty of other work remains including placement of new piling caps and span girders. Plus concrete repair work on an undetermined number of damaged pilings, new railing, electric and water lines, and get the elevator on the octagon running. So it is still too early to tell how long it will be before the pier reopens. Hopefully late this summer according to early estimates.

Access to the beach at Mobile Street off Fort Morgan Road is still restricted for the next few months while the boardwalk is being replaced. Though surf anglers may access the beach by using the Emergency Vehicle sand trail west of the current boardwalk. Just be aware beach erosion in that area sometimes leaves a beach scarp (cliff) with a dropoff as much as several feet. And the beach from the toe of the sand dunes may be quite steep, making egress with a beach cart more difficult than usual. The Project also includes improvements to the 30 vehicle parking lot to allow better drainage so rainwater will not stand for days as it now does.

Maintenance dredging at Little Lagoon Pass continues to make headway by deepening the channel closer to it's mandated 6 foot depth. Fishing there should improve as more water flow is restored, but be vigilant of drop offs and deep holes while wading in the area, especially when the water is dingy. And keep an eye out for the kids! But the pass is a historically good fishing spot, even though you have to pay to fish there now. Speckled trout are already active early and late in the day along the drop off from the shallow sandbars. Lures are your best bet to target trout while avoiding bycatch like pinfish, croakers and lizardfish. Topwater lures can be quite effective before sunup and after sundown, or on cloudy days. Twitch baits like the sinking Mirrodine MR 18 the classic 52M or MR series do a great job of imitating the small fish these trout are feeding on. Waders will still be needed and the first or last light of the day is usually best, but if you are not afraid to work at it hard, there are some good fish to be caught.

- Bridge: 11:30 a.m.; Orange Beach Senior Center, 251-981-3440.
- Pool Tourney: 7; Snapper's; Orange Beach.
- Karaoke w. Kelly: 8; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- Texas Hold 'em: 7; The Office, Foley.
- 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.
- Beginner's Pickleball: 1-4 p.m.; Church of Christ, Gulf Shores.
- Pickleball: 8:30-11:30 a.m.; Church of Christ, Gulf Shores.
- Orange Beach City Council Meeting: 5 p.m.; City Hall; 980-INFO.

WED, MARCH 27

- Midday Melodies w. Zack Chavers: noon; Heritage Park; Foley.
- Delta Donnie: 8; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- Shawn Lackey Duo: 8; SanBar at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- Tim Roberts: 6; Tacky Jacks, Fort Morgan.
- Destiny Brown: 5; CoastaAl Restaurant; Orange Beach.
- Ben Stack; 5; Carver's Steak House; Orange Beach.
- Gypsy Pearl; 5; The Angry Crab Shack; Orange Beach.
- Chris Beverly: 7; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- Davis & The Love: 6; The Hangout; Gulf Shores.
- Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables: see florabama.com; Perdido Key.
- Flora-Bama Family Friendly Bingo: 1-4 p.m.; free; family friendly; Flora-Bama; Perdido Key.
- Saucy Fuzz: 10; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- Jeremy Russow: 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.

- Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.T
- Bingo w. Tim: 6; Tacky Jacks, Fort Morgan.
- Open Jam w. Nigel Dickie & Company: 6; Tacky Jacks; Gulf Shores.
- Just Roger: 9; Cohiba Dunes Night Club, Gulf Shores.
- Jeremy Perkins: 7; Gelato Joe's; Foley.
- Karaoke: 9; The Office, Foley.
- Karaoke: 7; Al Gulf Coast Music Hall, Foley.
- Karaoke: 6; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.

THU, MARCH 28

- Phil & Ced: 8; SanBar at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- Everette and Crawford & Power: 5:30; free concert; Waterway Village; Gulf Shores.
- Justin Colvard: 5; Lucy Buffett's LuLu's; Gulf Shores.
- Kyle Brady: 5; Tacky Jacks; Orange Beach.
- Jesse Duncan: 5; CoastaAl Restaurant; Orange Beach.
- Tyler Ward: 5; Carver's Steak House; Orange Beach.
- Jim Sloan: 5; The Angry Crab Shack; Orange Beach.
- Just Roger: 4; Ice House; Gulf Shores.
- Karaoke: 5; Tacky Jacks; Gulf Shores.
- Jason Abel: 7; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
- Gypsy Pearl: 6; The Hangout; Gulf Shores.
- Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables: see florabama.com; Perdido Key.
- Flora-Bama Family Friendly Bingo: 1-4 p.m.; free; family friendly; Flora-Bama; Perdido Key.
- Backstreet Drivers: 10; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- Tim Robinson: 8; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- Jeremy Russow: 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.
- Karaoke: 6; Tacky Jacks, Fort Morgan.



FISHING FUN: (left to right) Too bad it wasn't open season when TC Mehmet Sengul caught this keeper sized red snapper at Seawall Park; Ed Govett welcomed March with this nice sized redfish on salted shrimp and a green bead with green Fishbites; Meagan Leigh Edwards landed her biggest black drum from shore (so far) using a single drop rig. She also caught some pompano and whiting on light tackle.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

- Elaine Petty: 7; Gelato Joe's; Foley.
- Andy Andrews Live: 12:15; Andy Andrews General Store & Museum; The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- Grief Support Group: 1-3; Gulf Shores First Baptist Church; 251-968-7369.
- Tim Roberts: 6; The Tin Top Restaurant, Bon Secour.
- Trivia Night: 6; Towne Tap, Foley.
- Bridge: 11; American Legion Post 44; Gulf Shores.
- Karaoke w. Kelly: 8; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- Bridge: 11:30 a.m.; Orange Beach Senior Center, 251-981-3440.
- Karaoke: 9; The Office, Foley.
- Pickleball: 8:30-11:30 a.m.; Church of Christ, Gulf Shores.
- Marine Corps League of South Baldwin County: 6 p.m. on 4th Thursday; The Gulf Bowl, 2881 S. Jupiter St., Foley.
- Gulf Shores Methodist Church Bread Ministry: 8am; every Thursday; South Campus; (251) 968-2411.
- Al-Non: noon; Perdido Bay Community Center; 13660 Innerarity Rd., Pensacola
- Al-Anon: 7; Orange Beach Presbyterian Church, 26640 Canal Rd.

FRI, MARCH 29

- John Hart Trio: 6; SanBar at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- Lee Yankie Trio: 10; SanBar at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- Winston Wamble: 10; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- Shawn Lackey: 10; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- The Groovinators: 7; Magnolia Hotel; Foley.
- Wes Loper: 5; Lucy Buffett's LuLu's; Gulf Shores.
- Ashley Raines & Elaine Petty: 6; Tacky Jacks, Fort Morgan.
- Damian Lamb: 5; Tacky Jacks; Orange Beach.
- Patrick Wall: 5; Tacky Jacks; Gulf Shores.
- Buzzcut: 9; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.

- Phil & the Collective: 6; Big Beach Brewery; Gulf Shores.
- Mike Diamond: 5; CoastaAl Restaurant; Orange Beach.
- Basch Jernigan: 4; Woodside Rest. at Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores.
- Tyler Ward: 5; Carver's Steak House; Orange Beach.
- Matt Brooks: 5; The Angry Crab Shack; Orange Beach.
- Mo Giles: 7; The Hangout; Gulf Shores.
- Hung Jury: 7; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
- Tim & Drake: 8; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables: see florabama.com; Perdido Key.
- Flora-Bama Family Friendly Bingo: 1-4 p.m.; free; family friendly; Flora-Bama; Perdido Key.
- Cedrick Brooks: 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.
- Pickleball: 6-9 p.m.; Church of Christ, Gulf Shores.
- Bubba 'N Them: 6; The Point; Innerarity Point.
- Rodger & Elaine: 7; American Legion Post 44, Gulf Shores.
- Open Mic: 6; American Legion Post 199; Fairhope.
- Karaoke w. Kelly Ann: 6; American Legion Post 99; Foley.
- Pickleball: 8:30-11:30 a.m.; Church of Christ, Gulf Shores.

SAT, MARCH 30

- The Original German Sausage Festival: 9 am.; Elberta Town Park.
- Rob Aldridge: 6; SanBar at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- Rockstar Fish: 10; SanBar at The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- Backstreet Drivers: 10; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- Gringo Fife: 5; Tacky Jacks; Orange Beach.
- Chico: 7; Magnolia Hotel; Foley.
- Brittany Bell: 1; CoastaAl Restaurant; Orange Beach.

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- 4 oz vodka
- 3 cups lemonade
- fresh mint
- ½ cup sliced
strawberries
- lime

Combine vodka,
lemonade, half the
strawberries and half the mint in bowl.
Muddle until mashed.
Fill jar with ice.
Add remaining mint and berries to the jar.
Pour in vodka lemonade mix over the ice.
Garnish each glass with lime.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER SPAGHETTI DINNER



700 TICKETS. 114 VOLUNTEERS SERVING. \$44K RAISED: February's Christian Service Center Spaghetti Dinner at Gulf Shores Methodist Church was a great success with more than 700 tickets sold and with 114 volunteers serving. More than \$44,000 was raised. We give a big Thank You to all our generous sponsors and to those who provided raffle prizes. Thank you to the entire community for your continued support of the Center's mission to provide food and emergency financial support to low income families in Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, and Ft. Morgan.

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Silver:

Gulf Coast Elks Lodge; Ethel's Girls, St. Athanasios GOC; Shirley Barbour

Bronze:

Beach House Boutique; Al & J.R. Bedel; Cadence Bank; Cosmos; GNG Plumbing; Gulf Shores Woman's Club; Lulu's; Mary's Shelter; Our Lady of the Gulf Altar Rosary Society; Publix Grocery; St. Andrew by the Sea; Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Terry, III; St. Thomas by the Sea Altar Rosary Society; Dr. Bob Abney; Lagoon Baptist Church

Raffle:

Peninsula Golf & Racquet Club; Doris Piland; The Royal Standard; Tallulah's; Texas Roadhouse; Think Outside; Tino's Art & Frames; Too Hot Mamas; Zoe Saltzman; Shrimp Basket; A Specialty Bakery & Party Shoppe; St. Charles Place; Wacked Out Weiner; Beach Bum Outdoors; Bodenhamer/City of Gulf Shores & Rec Dept.; Coastal Mortgage; Craft Farms Golf Resort; Creative Needle Art; Glitter and Dirt Boutique; Gulf Shores Golf Club; Honey Baked Ham Company; Bente Howe; Kay Knitter; Priscilla McDonough; Mike's/The Steamer/Shrimpy's; Lindsay Palamara

- Emily White: 5; CoastaAl Restaurant; Orange Beach.
- Acoustic Soul: 4; Woodside Rest. at Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores.
- Matt Erdman 5; Carver's Steak House; Orange Beach.
- Savage; 5; The Angry Crab Shack; Orange Beach.
- Buzzcut: 9; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- Just Roger: 5; Live Bait; Orange Beach.
- Mo Giles: 7; The Hangout; Gulf Shores.
- Ashley & Alan: 5; Tacky Jacks; Gulf Shores.
- John Hart & Michael Wheeler: 7; Hub Stacy's, Innerarity Point.
- Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables: see florabama.com; Perdido Key.

- Cedrick Brooks: 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.
- The Defrosters: 2; Flying Harpoon II; Orange Beach.
- Karaoke w. Howard: 6; Tacky Jacks, Ft. Morgan.
- Texas Hold 'em: 7; The Office, Foley.
- Pickleball: 8:30-11:30 a.m.; Church of Christ, Gulf Shores.

SUN, MARCH 31

- Easter Brunch: 8 a.m.; Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.
- Jimmy Lee Hannaford: 11 a.m.; Tacky Jacks; Orange Beach.
- Mike Estep & Jeff Parson: 5; Tacky Jacks; Gulf Shores.
- Tyler Wilson & Amanda Donald: 3; Big

- Beach Brewery; Gulf Shores.
- Zach Chavers: 1; CoastaAl Restaurant; Orange Beach.
- Ryan Dyer: 4; CoastaAl Restaurant; Orange Beach.
- David Stacey: 11 a.m.; The Tin Top Restaurant; Bon Secour.
- PATRICK: 4; Woodside Rest. at Gulf State Park; Gulf Shores.
- Portersville Duo: 9; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- Ashley & Alan: 8; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- Deja Voodoo: 6; The Hangout; Gulf Shores.
- Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables: see florabama.com; Perdido Key.
- Sunday Potluck: 12-2; Fraternal Order



GSWC silent auction for signed Nick Saban football thru March 31

The Gulf Shores Womens' Club will host a fundraising silent auction for a football signed by Nick Saban through March 31. The football is onsite at the Craft Farms Golf Club Golf Shop and bidding on the keepsake will be open thru March 31. The football was procured by Linda Thacker, a Craft Farms resident and GSWC member who has worked with Saban for the past 15 years as a make-up artist helping prepare St. Nick for his TV commercials. This is the first first signed football requested after Saban retired following the 2023 season as easily the greatest college football coach ever. Bidding ends at 4 p.m. on March 31. All proceeds will benefit Gulf Shores Woman's Club charities, which include the Christian Service Center, Mary's Shelter, student scholarships and the Special Olympics.

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FOLEY NATIONAL GUARD THANKS CITY FOR SUPPORT OF 20-YEAR IRAQ REUNION: Veterans from the 2004 deployment of Company C of the National Guard 711 Signal Battalion recently presented a plaque to Foley Mayor Ralph Hellmich and the City Council in recognition of the city's support in the past and present in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the unit's deployment to Iraq. Before the unit went to Iraq in 2004, the city of Foley and Riviera Utilities helped prepare vehicles and provided other assistance. The city was also a sponsor of the company's 20-year reunion (above) held in January at the new Foley National Guard armory. "It's been 20 years since we've been deployed and we want to thank the mayor and everybody for their support and for the reunion. We had a great reunion and we enjoyed it and thank you all for your generosity," said Vernon Heard Jr. a retired first sergeant from the unit. Foley has always been a great supporter of the military and was recently recognized by the National Park Service as the American World War II Heritage City for Alabama in commemoration of the community's support for the military in the past and present. In 2004, 122 members of the Foley unit were deployed to Iraq in January 2004 and all returned safely in February 2005.

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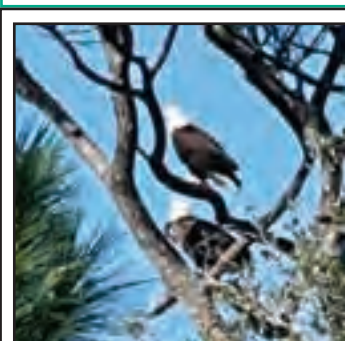


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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Email your shots to mulletwrapper@gulftel.com PICTURES OF THE WEEK



"What a beautiful sight to see two Eagles while we were riding our bicycles through the Back Country Trail," writes Gary Lipely



From Richard Weaver of Arkansas.



"Fred enjoying life on the beach in OB," writes Debra Horne



Sunset shared by Lollie Traut.



Strawberry Fest & Antique Car Show back in Loxley April 13-14

The Baldwin County Strawberry Festival, 5K Run & Antique Auto Show will be held April 13-14 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Municipal Park Dr. in Loxley. Each year, the festival raises over \$48,000 for its two beneficiaries: Loxley Elementary School and the ARC Baldwin County. More info: (251) 550-2003, baldwincostrawberryfestival@gmail.com or baldwincountystrawberryfestival.org.

The fest is a much-anticipated local tradition held annually at Loxley Municipal Park. Every year, visitors join us from all around the Southeast to enjoy the special events, music, crafts and, of course, the strawberry shortcakes. Another fest highlight is the traveling carnival featuring rides for all ages and midway games like ring toss and balloon pop with prizes ranging from stuffed animals to goldfish. Fair favorites like funnel cakes and roasted corn will among food options.

Free shuttle service is provided from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, with picks-ups at the Baldwin County Board of Education Building located at 1901 B Ave. The fest began in 1987 and has grown from a few craft and food vendors to over 180 arts and craft exhibitors, and at least a dozen food vendors. But, of course, strawberry shortcake is still king!

or Eagles Lodge; Hwy 98, east of Beach Express; Foley.

- Danny Grady: 2; Fraternal Order of Eagles Lodge; Foley.
- 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.
- League Pool: 7; The Office, Foley.

MON, APRIL 1

- Zach Chavers: 5; Coastal Restaurant, Orange Beach.
- Open Mic: 7; Sandshaker at The Wharf; Orange Beach.
- Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables: see florabama.com; Perdido Key.
- Flora-Bama Family Friendly Bingo: 1-4 p.m.; free; family friendly; Flora-Bama; Perdido Key.
- Pickleball: 8:30-11:30 a.m.; Church of Christ, Gulf Shores.

- Square Dancing: 6:30; Fairhope Christian Church, Fairhope, 850-206-5084.
- DJ Hank: 7; Gelato Joe's; Foley.
- Danny Grady: 3:30-5:30; Papa Rocco's, Gulf Shores.
- Smokey Otis & Mark Laborde: 8; Pappa Rocco's; Gulf Shores.
- Lisa Zanghi: 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.
- 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.
- 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.
- Al-Anon: 7; Orange Beach Presbyterian Church, 26640 Canal Rd.

TUE, APRIL 2

- Isaac Moore: 5; Coastal Restaurant, Orange Beach.
- Flora-Bama Rest. Complex Possible Probables: see florabama.com; Perdido Key.
- Flora-Bama Family Friendly Bingo: 1-4 p.m.; free; family friendly; Flora-Bama; Perdido Key.
- Gage & The Get Downs: 10; The Undertow; Orange Beach.
- Karaoke/Bingo: 6; Tacky Jacks; Gulf Shores.
- Jam Night: 6; Big Beach Brewery; Gulf Shores.
- Lisa Zanghi: 6; Ms. Nancy's Lobby Lounge at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach.
- Ancient Aviators Meeting: 8:30; American Legion Post 44; Gulf Shores; all are welcome.
- Andy Andrews Live: 12:15; Andy Andrews General Store & Museum; The Wharf, Orange Beach.
- Bridge: 11:30 a.m.; O.B. Senior Center,

Sandpiper Spring 5K on April 6 in Summerdale

Alabama Audubon and Baldwin County Sewer Service will host the Sandpiper Spring 5K on April 6 at 8 a.m. in Summerdale. The first annual event celebrates the birds that depend on the unique and vital habitats found in Baldwin County. From the sparrows in your backyards to the gulls on Baldwin's beautiful beaches, birds are dependent on the health of area ecosystems for survival, including that of native plants and pollinators. The birds need the insects, and the insects need native plants.

The event is open to all ages. To sign up or for more info, visit alaudubon.org/event.

Foley preparing plans for rec center at old armory

By Guy Busby

Foley City Council voted Monday, March 4, to approve funding that will allow the city to start plans to convert the space into municipal uses, including recreation spaces.

"Our armory design group was approved by the council, Mayor Ralph Hellmich said. "So we'll be moving for the expansion of our rec services."

The appropriation includes fees for the architecture firm working on the project and some funds for additional contingencies. The city already has a general conceptual plan for the building. The new plan will cover final design details in preparation for the start of construction, which will start when designers determine what needs to be done.

"The conceptual plan is really a 1,000-foot plan. This is when they get into the weeds so we'll know a little more as they do that," said David Thompson, Foley's executive director of leisure services. "It's just going to depend on how quickly they're able to work through the design process and how much work they need to do."

The armory opened in 1969. It served as the headquarters for the Foley contingent of the Alabama Army National Guard until the unit moved into a new facility near the Foley Beach Express in 2023. The city donated the land on which the new armory was built. In exchange for the property, the National Guard gave the city the former armory site.

Outdoor book festival March 23 in downtown Pensacola

Books By the Bay, the first outdoor book festival in the Pensacola area, will showcase more than 50 authors, live performances, children's activities, readings, panel discussions, and author signings on March 23 beginning at 10 a.m. at Museum Plaza, and the Voices Multicultural Center and the Bowden Building, adjacent to Museum Plaza (120 Church St.) in downtown Pensacola. Twenty-four authors will be selling and signing books under a tent on Museum Plaza. All events are free.

Fest highlights include John Patrick Green, graphic novelist and illustrator of the popular InvestiGATOR middle grade series, talking about "The Life of a Graphic Novelist" at 11 a.m. in the Voices theatre. Paula Lenor Webb, historical fiction author and research specialist from Mobile and Pensacola native Dr. Ashley Wellman are other featured speakers. Visitors can even take a literary walking tour of downtown sites mentioned in

popular fiction. More info: Booksbythebayfest@gmail.com, 850-270-8806 or booksbythebay.org.

Parking improvements slated at Foley Event Center

Visitors to the Foley Event Center and the Sports Tourism Complex will have improved parking under plans approved by the Foley City Council.

The projects include paving current parking sites and adding more spaces for vehicles.

The council voted to approve design work for the parking lots at the Event Center. David Thompson, Foley executive director of leisure services, said the first priority will be repaving the existing parking spaces.

"We're trying to do it in phases where we'll do the north parking lot and then the south parking lot," Thompson said. "The north parking lot is in a little worse shape."

He said the design work will also include planning additional parking spaces for the center.

"We are asking them to look at potentially adding some spaces as well for when we have large events," Thompson said. "We had people parking on the grass last weekend. So we're looking at potentially adding another 20 spaces on each side as we go through this process. This will actually do the design process for both of them."

Thompson said that in the current plan, the north parking lot would be improved in the current fiscal year and work would start on the south lot next year.

Mayor Ralph Hellmich said the north lot is more in need of immediate repair.

"The northern one is one that most critically needs to be done," Hellmich said. "They determined that neither one of them are to the point where there's going to have to be additional base work done, but that one's getting a little closer to potentially needing that. So we definitely know that we want to do the north side first and foremost."

The council also approved paving and drainage improvements for the gravel parking lots at the Foley Sports Tourism Complex. Thompson said the current unpaved parking areas become muddy after heavy rains.

"Our last four soccer events have been met with rain, which created a mess," Thompson said. "I would like to go ahead and do some design work to actually make those asphalt parking lots as we move forward to something for five years."

39th Silverhill Heritage Day Fest April 27

The 39th Annual Silverhill Heritage Day Festival is scheduled April 27 in the historic town's downtown area (Hwy. 104 & Hwy. 55). The festival will kick off with a 5K Race hosted by Christian Faith Assembly Church at 8 a.m. Opening Ceremonies will begin at 9 a.m.. The parade will start at 10 a.m. and festival fun will continue until 4 p.m. The fest will feature food trucks, and more than 50 arts and crafts vendors. A nice play area will be set up for kids to enjoy with all activities in the kid's area presented free of charge. Live music performances will begin around 11 a.m. from This Side of 49, John Hart Band and 7th Green. Bus tours will be offered every hour for those interested in touring our historical buildings. More info: (251) 945-5198 ie silverhillheritageday@gmail.com.



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\$11.99
11am-2pm**

Lunch Special
Beverage
\$1.59

Choose 1 Entree And 2 Sides
(\$1.50 Add'l For White Meat Chicken)

- Or -

Grilled Or Fried Shrimp Or Shrimp Salad

MONDAY

Meat Loaf • Fried Fish • Fried Chicken

Mashed Potatoes & Gravy | Butter Beans

Macaroni & Cheese | Collard Greens | Cole Slaw | Fried Okra

TUESDAY

Popcorn Shrimp • BBQ Ribs • Fried Chicken

Potato Salad | Baked Beans | Cole Slaw

Macaroni & Cheese | French Fries | Fried Okra

WEDNESDAY

Fried Fish • Fried Or Grilled Porkchops • Fried Chicken

Black-Eyed Peas Turnip Greens Macaroni & Cheese

Cole Slaw | Corn Nuggets | Fried Okra

THURSDAY

Fried Fish • Baked Chicken • Fried Chicken

Dressing | Green Beans | Cole Slaw

Macaroni & Cheese Fried Okra

FRIDAY

Fried Fish • Fried Chicken

French Fries | Cole Slaw | Fried Okra | Macaroni & Cheese

Or

Burger With Fries Add Cheese....\$1.25



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Beverage
\$1.89

\$11.99
11am-2pm

Choose 1 Entree And 2 Sides
(\$1.50 Add'l For White Meat Chicken)
- Or -

Grilled Or Fried Chicken Or Shrimp Salad

MONDAY

Meat Loaf • Fried Fish • Fried Chicken
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy | Butter Beans

Macaroni & Cheese | Collard Greens | Cole Slaw | Fried Okra

TUESDAY

Popcorn Shrimp • BBQ Ribs • Fried Chicken
Potato Salad | Baked Beans | Cole Slaw

Macaroni & Cheese | French Fries | Fried Okra

WEDNESDAY

Fried Fish • Fried Or Grilled Porkchops • Fried Chicken
Black-Eyed Peas Turnip Greens Macaroni & Cheese
Cole Slaw | Corn Nuggets | Fried Okra

THURSDAY

Fried Fish • Baked Chicken • Fried Chicken
Dressing | Green Beans | Cole Slaw
Macaroni & Cheese Fried Okra

FRIDAY

Fried Fish • Fried Chicken
French Fries | Cole Slaw | Fried Okra | Macaroni & Cheese
Or
Burger With Fries Add Cheese....\$1.25

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Funny Bones

By Ron "Bones" Jones



Here's are two good ones from fellow local funny guy, David Franks:

- What do you call it when you light a mullet on fire and throw it? A mulletov cocktail!
- Did you hear that Aquaman and his wife had a baby? Ya, they had a tadpole and he wants a paternity test. He thinks the father is a frogman!

Shared by Ricky Williams:

My neighbor yelled at her kids so loud last night... Even I brushed my teeth.

The kid had swallowed a coin and it got stuck in his throat, and so his mother ran out in the street yelling for help.

A man passing by took the boy by his shoulders and hit him with a few strong strokes on the back, and so he coughed the coin out.

"I don't know how to thank you doctor," his mother said.

"I'm not a doctor," the man replied, "I'm from the IRS."

A teacher in Columbus explains to her class that she is an Ohio State Buckeye fan. She asks her students to raise their hands if they too, are Buckeye fans. Everyone in the class raises their hand except one little girl.

The teacher asks, "Mary, why didn't you raise your hand?" "Because I'm not an Ohio State fan," she replied.

The teacher, still shocked, asked, "Well if you are not a Buckeye fan, who do you root for?"

"I am a Michigan Wolverine fan and proud of it!" Mary replied.

The teacher could not believe

her ears. "Mary, why are you a Michigan fan?"

"Because my mom and dad are Michigan fans," she answers.

"That is no reason for you to be a Michigan fan," the teacher says. "You don't have to be just like your parents all of the time. What if your mom was a thief and your dad a drug addict, what would you be then?"

"Then I'd be an Ohio State fan," she replied.

Frank goes to a store to buy a suit. He picks out one he likes, pays for it and puts it on.

So he's walking down the street and sees one of his friends. "Joe! What do you think of my new suit?"

"It's nice, but one of the lapels is higher than the other. Here, do this." Joe pulls down the left lapel and has Frank hold it with his right hand. "There you go, now it looks great."

He sees another friend. "Mary! What do you think of my new suit?"

"It's nice, but the right sleeve is too short." She pulls up the right sleeve and has him pinch it between his little finger and palm. "Now you look fantastic."

He sees a third friend. "Albert? How do you like my new

suit?"

"Well, the left side of the jacket hangs down lower than the right side." He positions Frank so he's leaned over to the right.

"Julie! What do you think of my new suit?"

"The left pants leg is way too short. So, take your left hand and pull up the right leg so they're the same length."

Now Frank is walking - or, really, kinda hobbling - down the street when he passes by an old couple.

The said to her husband, "what a poor crippled man!"

The husband said, "yeah, but his suit fits."

Guy walks into bar, pulling on a long chain.

The bartender asks him, "You come in here everyday pulling that chain, why?"

The guy replies, "You ever tried to push one?"

Two vampire bats are sitting in a cave. They haven't seen an animal for ages and are desperate for some blood to drink.

"I'm going to fly out and search high and low until I find something to drink," says one.

About an hour later he returns with his face just covered in

blood.

"What did you find?" asks the other bat.

"Well," says the first, "Do you see that house over in the distance?"

"Yes!" cries the second.

"And beyond that can you see that lake?"

"I can, I can!"

"And the other side of that do you see the church with its high steeple?"

"I see it, I see it!" shrieked the second bat.

"Well I didn't"

Why wouldn't the dentist display his awards?

He wanted to prevent plaque buildup.

How did the Dermatologist and the Dentist afford their new mansion?

By the skin of their teeth.

A man was sitting at an interview, in his new suit, looking his very best.

As he put his hands down to make a point, he and his interviewer noticed the price tag was still attached to the sleeve.

"Well," the man said, "at least I can take the suit back if I don't get the job."

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(Served with your choice of two side dishes)

Stuffed Shrimp - bacon wrapped, baked w/crabmeat dressing & Monterey jack cheese	21.99
Shrimp Scampi - sautéed in garlic, mushrooms, scampi butter w/Fettuccine Alfredo. Served with one side	25.99
**Blackened Catfish - two delicate fillets, 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/garlic butter & served on Caribbean yellow rice	20.99
Shrimp Creole - stewed tomato, sweet peppers, celery, onion and flavored w/ sausage over Caribbean yellow rice. Served with one side dish	20.99
Crawfish Etouffees - Served with one side dish	20.99
White onions, sweet bell peppers, and celery simmered in a spicy Cajun roux over Caribbean yellow rice	
Crab Cake Dinner - 3 Southern style lump crab cakes sprinkled with parmesan cheese	21.99

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14 YEARS IN A ROW
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14 YEARS IN A ROW

Home-Style Lunch Specials

(Served with your choice of two side dishes)

Fried Shrimp - tail-less	11.50
Blackened Catfish - dusted w/Creole spices & lightly seared	11.50
Fried Catfish - corn meal battered	11.50
Broiled Flounder - broiled in butter & topped with roasted almonds	11.50
Fried Flounder - lightly battered and fried golden brown	11.50
Grilled Chicken - with a light touch of Greek seasonings	11.50
Chicken Creole - smothered in a spicy tomato & vegetable sauce. Served on yellow rice	11.50
Fried Chicken Tenders - batter-dipped tenders, deep-fried. Served w/ honey mustard	11.50
Country Fried Steak - served w/ cream gravy	11.50
Hamburger Steak - (5 oz) char-grilled & served w/brown gravy	11.50
Pork Chops - two tender chops grilled or fried	11.50
Country Ham - char-grilled	11.50
Vegetable Plate - your choice of four (4) side dishes	10.50

Senior's Menu

(Reserved for 55 & over)

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

Served 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm October 15 to March 1

Served 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm March 2 to October 14

Coconut Shrimp - with spicy orange marmalade	16.99
Stuffed Shrimp - bacon wrapped, stuffed with crabmeat dressing & monterey jack cheese	16.99
Fried Shrimp - tail-less	12.99
Grilled Shrimp - over yellow rice	14.99
Fried Oysters - with cocktail sauce	market
Fried Seafood Platter - shrimp, oysters, flounder, crab claws	19.99
Broiled Seafood Platter - shrimp, scallops, flounder almondine	18.99
Fried Chicken Tenders - with honey-mustard	11.99
Grilled Chicken Breast - with a light touch of lemon-herb oil	12.99
Yellow-Fin Tuna - grilled or blackened	15.99
Trigger - grilled, fried, blackened or broiled almondine	15.99
Flounder - fried or broiled almondine	12.99
Grouper - grilled, blackened, broiled almondine or fried	15.99

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

LUNCH SPECIALS \$11.50

Includes two sides, iced tea and bread!

Monday: Fried Chicken • Tuesday: BBQ Meatloaf

Wednesday: Chicken and Dumplings • Thursday: Beef Tips over White Rice

Friday: Fried Parmesan encrusted Flounder-Topped with tarragon aioli and parmesan cheese

Sunday: Baked Parmesan encrusted Flounder-Topped with tarragon aioli and parmesan cheese

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 Saturday, June 1
 Saturday, July 6
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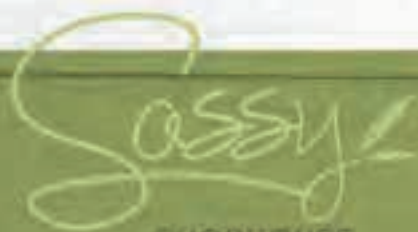
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 Saturday, April 20
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