

# KEY NOTES

NEWS FROM  
THE PERDIDO KEY ASSOCIATION



## **June 2017 Keynotes**

### **News from the Perdido Key Association**

#### **Perdido Key Issues**

#### ***PKA Co-Sponsoring World Oceans Day Event on June 10!***

Educational displays, a sand sculpture competition, Maverick the Ice Flyer, colorful kites and a bird of prey are just a few of the attractions to enjoy at the family friendly World Oceans Day Event at Perdido Key State Park West Use Area on June 10 from 9 a.m. until noon. Free park admission will be offered to the first 50 vehicles. World Oceans Day provides an opportunity to honor, protect, and conserve the world's oceans. This year the focus is on preventing marine litter, particularly plastic pollution. To that end, a beach clean-up will be held from 8-10 a.m.

Educational displays will include a presentation by the National Parks Service on turtle nesting, displays by members of the Dept. of Biology at the University of West Florida on various aspects of ocean health, and a raptor introduced by the Northwest Florida Wildlife Sanctuary. Ocean Hour, Florida Sea Grant Extension, and possibly the Audubon Society will also be on hand. Along with the sand sculpture competition, a bean bag game and volleyball will be set-up on the beach. The Perdido Key Association, the Friends of Pensacola State Parks, and the Staff of Perdido Key State Park are co-sponsoring the event. Bring the family to what should be an enjoyable and educational event.

#### ***Recycling is Back!***

On May 1, 2017, Escambia County entered into an agreement with ECUA whereby ECUA would assume the County's recycling needs. For Perdido Key residents, this means that the recycling drop-off facility behind the Escambia County Sheriff's Precinct 2 location on Gulf Beach Highway just past the Winn Dixie plaza (called the Baars Softball Field location in the recycling directive) is again open for business - now with new recycling containers. The Escambia County directive on the topic, located at <https://myescambia.com/our-services/waste->

services/waste-services-recycling/educational-information, provides the location of all recycling drop-off sites in the County and the material that can and cannot be recycled. Note that glass is among the material that can be recycled.

### ***The Meridian Construction to Begin***

According to the Pensacola News Journal May 22, 2017 article "New Perdido Key development set for 2019" by Joseph Baucum, developers have closed on the property and are set to begin construction of The Meridian condominium at 14009 Perdido Key Drive in fourth quarter 2017, with completion in late-2019. According to Curt Boisfontaine, CEO of Meridian Realty Advisors, as cited in the article: "This project is much different than anything that's been developed on Perdido Key to date." "If you look at the front of the building, you see that a lot of attention was put into designing a very modern, current building that had architectural significance. We're very proud of that." Prices for the 41 units of the condominium begin at \$1.25 million, with the development reportedly 40% pre-sold. To view the article, go to <http://www.pnj.com/story/money/business/2017/05/24/new-perdido-key-development-set-2019/339616001/>.

### ***Lionfish Festival a Success!***

The Annual Lionfish Removal and Awareness Day held on May 20-21, 2017 in downtown Pensacola was a considerable success with an estimated five thousand visitors to the many exhibits on display. In the spear fishing tournament associated with the event, a total of 6043 lionfish were submitted - with one diver turning in 451! Though the event on May 21 was marred by rainfall, attendees were able to taste lionfish and certainly made aware of the threat the fish posed to the Florida Panhandle. Research has determined, for example that lionfish are not just a problem in the Gulf of Mexico but are also moving into estuaries such as Perdido Bay, Escambia Bay, and Mobile Bay. According to research done by University of West Florida student Amy Brower, traces of lionfish DNA have been found in these and other areas indicating that lionfish can survive in waters with lower salinity than the Gulf. For more on this issue, see The Pulse article "UWF Research Shows Invasive Lionfish are Moving into Local Estuaries" at <http://pulsegulfcoast.com/2017/05/uwf-research-shows-invasive-lionfish-moving-local-estuaries>.

### ***Homestead Exemption Amendment***

Florida lawmakers approved placing a constitutional amendment to increase the homestead exemption from \$50,000 to \$75,000 on the November 2018 ballot. According to the May 10, 2017 Pensacola News Journal article "Santa Rosa, Escambia brace for effect of homestead exemption amendment" by Anne Delaney, while homeowners would enjoy a tax break, Escambia County would lose about \$4.7 million in revenue if the measure is approved. As cited in the article, District 2 Commissioner Doug Underhill said: "As we go and have this discussion and citizens talk about it at coffee shops and churches, they should be aware and think about what \$5 million of services in Escambia County do you not want the year after this passes." "That's the hard part of the discussion when you're talking about voting yourself a tax break." To view the article, go to <http://www.pnj.com/story/news/2017/05/10/santa-rosa-escambia-homestead-exemption-amendment/101472844/>.

## ***Hurricane Season is Here!***

With hurricane season beginning on June 1, we are all advised to take stock of our preparations for these dangerous storms. The Pensacola News Journal in its May 28, 2017 edition published a handy guide and Escambia County has a number of resources on its website, including the page titled "Tropical Storms and Hurricanes at <https://myescambia.com/our-services/public-safety/beready/natural-disasters/tropical-storms-hurricanes> with links to other resources. As PKA members undoubtedly know, now is the best time to prepare for these incredible natural events.

## ***Drilling off Florida's Coast?***

According to a May 13, 2017 editorial "Our View: Keep Florida closed to off-shore drilling" by the Treasure Coast Newspaper Editorial Board published in USA Today, recent executive orders by the Trump Administration could lead to drilling off the coast of Florida. The article argues for vigilance by Florida lawmakers "to protect Florida's beaches, marine life, and coastal communities." To view the article and video, go to <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/editorials/2017/05/11/our-view-keep-florida-closed-offshore-drilling/101506658/>.

### June Calendar

June 1-3, 9-13, 28-30 - Blue Wahoos at Blue Wahoos Stadium

June 2 - Fiesta Day Parade in downtown Pensacola

June 2-3 - Annual Plow Days, Summerdale, AL

June 2-4 - Annual Fishing Rodeo, Flora-Bama

June 3 - Fiesta Boat Parade on Pensacola Bay

June 5 - Billy Bowlegs Torchlight Parade, Ft. Walton Beach

June 6 - Jimmy Buffet at the Wharf Amphitheater

June 8-11 - Elite Show Jumping Pensacola Series, Escambia County Equestrian Center

June 10 - Tri The Island Triathlon at Pensacola Beach

June 20 - North vs. South All Star Game at Blue Wahoos Stadium

June 20 - Song Writing Series at The Point Restaurant

June 24-26 - Northwest Florida Quarter Horse Association Horse Show, Escambia County Equestrian Center

June 28-30 - Pensacola International Billfish Tournament

Blue Angels practice on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, NAS Pensacola

Bands on the Beach every Tuesday, Pensacola Beach

The following websites provide additional information about events taking place in our great Gulf Coast region:

<https://www.visitpensacola.com/>

<http://mygulfcoastchamber.com/>

<http://www.visitperdido.com/>

[www.mulletwrapper.com](http://www.mulletwrapper.com)

[www.myescambia.com](http://www.myescambia.com)

<http://www.emeraldcoastfl.com/>

<http://alabama.travel/festivals-and-events>