

KEY NOTES

NEWS FROM
THE PERDIDO KEY ASSOCIATION



May 2018

Focus on Perdido Area Events

Rosamond Johnson Remembrance Ceremony May 5 – The public is invited to help commemorate the heroism of Private Rosamond Johnson during the Korean War. The annual event will begin at 10 AM on Saturday, May 5, 2018, on Johnson Beach at the Perdido Key Area of the Gulf Island's National Seashore. Superintendent Dan Brown of the National Seashore is the featured speaker.

Golf Tournament to support Military Appreciation Day May 17 – The Perdido Key Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the Red, White, and Birdies Spring Classic golf tournament on Thursday, May 17, 2018 at the Perdido Bay Golf Club to help fund its area military support efforts, including the "Star Spangled Salute" military appreciation day on Saturday, May 19. Registration can be done online through the Chamber's website. For more on the event, go to <http://business.visitperdido.com/events/details/red-white-birdies-spring-classic-11779>.

Star Spangled Salute: Festival in Appreciation May 19 – The Perdido Key Chamber of Commerce along with the NAS Pensacola MWR is sponsoring the Star Spangled Salute: Festival in Appreciation from 3:30 PM to 8:30 PM for all active and retired military members and their families at the Bayou Grande Marina on NAS Pensacola. There will be food and entertainment for children and adults. For more on the event, go to <http://business.visitperdido.com/events/details/star-spangled-salute-festival-in-appreciation-13203>.

Lionfish Removal and Awareness Day Festival May 19 & 20 – Lionfish are a worrisome invasive species and have been making their way into area estuaries; they have been caught in Big Lagoon, for example. The Lionfish Removal and Awareness Day Festival 2018 to raise public awareness of the threat will be held this year at the Flora-Bama

Yacht Club beginning at 10 AM on Saturday and Sunday, May 19 and 20. The free event will feature lionfish delicacies and a variety of family activities. PKA Board members are among the many volunteers assisting with the event.

World Oceans Day June 8 – PKA, along with the Friends of Pensacola State Parks and Florida State Park personnel, are sponsoring a World Oceans Day event at the West Use Area of the Perdido Key State Park on Friday, June 8, 2018, from 10 AM until 2 PM. Various exhibits and presentations will be available along with other activities, such as a sand sculpture demonstration by a local artist and sand sculpture contest for children. Park admission to the West Use Area will be free that day, so please plan to support this environmentally focused PKA event.

Volunteer for Emergency Support System

Tropical storm season is just a few weeks away. Last year's season was disastrous for many area of Florida, other part of the United States, and many Caribbean islands. Perdido Key was spared the brunt of major stores, but was still affected by Hurricane Nate and placed under an evacuation order. The Escambia County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is staffed by professionals but supported by volunteers from its Emergency Support Function (EFS 18) Business and Industry Unit. EFS 18 helps the EOC connect with the business community to "respond and recover" when a "major disaster impacts the community." Perdido Key could use at least one more volunteer for its contribution to EFS 18. During an emergency, volunteers will be working at the County's EOC on a rotating shift. Some training and considerable commitment are required for the position; if interested, please contact Dana Pagador, Assistant Director of the Perdido Key Chamber of Commerce at 850 492-4660 or 850 619-5975.

Perdido Bay ER Now Open

West Florida Hospital's free-standing emergency room at Rt. 98 and Blue Angel Parkway had its grand opening on April 17, 2018. Called the Perdido Bay ER, the 24 hour facility has 11 beds, a dedicated trauma room, diagnostic imaging equipment and laboratory capabilities. For more on the facility, go to

<https://westfloridahospital.com/about/newsroom/west-florida-healthcare-to-begin-construction-of-new-freestanding-emergency-room-in-perdido-bay-area>.

National Park Ferry Delayed Again

The National Park Service announced another delay in the start of ferry service from downtown Pensacola to Pensacola Beach and Ft. Pickens. Its contract with Gulf Coast Maritime Services, Inc., the firm selected to operate the two 150 passenger ferries, has not been finalized and employee training and US Coast Guard trials must still be conducted. Pricing and scheduling have not yet been announced. See the April 27, 2018 *Pensacola News Journal* article "Pensacola Bay ferry service start delayed by National Park Service" by Melissa Nelson Gabriel for more on the issue at

<https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/pensacola/beaches/2018/04/26/pensacola-ferry-service-start-date-pushed-back-gulf-islands-national-seashore/554648002/>.

When to Vote?

Media coverage of the upcoming elections is increasing, so here are some relevant dates: the Florida voter registration deadline is July 30, 2018; the Florida Primary Election will be on August 18, 2018; and, the General Elections will be on November 6, 2018.

Possible Study of Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety on Theo Baars Bridge

At its April 11, 2018 meeting, the Florida-Alabama TPO (Transportation Planning Organization) authorized that a letter be sent to the Florida Department of Transportation to conduct a “bicycle/pedestrian safety analysis on the Theo Baars Bridge...”

Even More National Area Recognition!

Perdido Key was recognized as one of MSN.com’s “40 Most Underrated Small Towns in America” because it has: “Everything you love about the state in general, nice weather, pristine beaches and water, wildlife preserve, unspoiled parks, etc. – you find in Perdido Key, minus the crowds,” wrote Hristina Byrnes. See the April 12, 2018 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Perdido Key dubbed one of most underrated small towns in American” by Jake Newby at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/2018/04/12/perdido-key-dubbed-one-most-underrated-small-towns-america/511026002/>.

And Florida placed 11 cities in the US News & World Report “Top 125” cities to live in the United States – Pensacola ranked 53. See the April 19, 2018 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Pensacola makes U.S. News & World Report ‘Top 125’ cities to live in the U.S.” for more information at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/2018/04/19/pensacola-makes-u-s-news-world-report-top-125-cities-live-u-s/533278002/>.

Notes on the Environment

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill – April 20 was the 8th anniversary of the BP oil spill 110 miles south of Pensacola in the Gulf of Mexico. A coalition of local leaders and residents planned to mark the occasion on Pensacola Beach at the exact time of the explosion and spill. See the April 19, 2018 *Pensacola News Journal* article “On BP oil spill anniversary, Pensacola residents take stand against drilling” by Kevin Robinson at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/2018/04/19/bp-oil-spill-anniversary-pensacola-residents-take-stand-against-drilling/515795002/>. The anniversary is occurring at the same time that debate continues on offshore drilling for oil and gas. A detailed study of the effects of the spill on Gulf of Mexico species and habitats, called “Impacts of the

Deepwater Horizon oil spill evaluated using an end-end ecosystem model” authored by a number of experts, including Cameron H. Ainsworth, is available at <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0190840>.

Red Snapper Seasons –The Florida red snapper season for 2018 will be from June 11 until July 21 in both Gulf State and Federal waters. Go to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission website at <http://myfwc.com/fishing/saltwater/recreational/snappers/> for more information. The Alabama season for both charter and private fishing is scheduled to start on June 1, 2018. For Alabama dates and requirements, see the *Outdoor Alabama Weekly* article “Red Snapper Recreational Seasons Open June 1” by David Rainer at <http://www.outdooralabama.com/node/2268>.

National Seashore Changes Sea Turtle Monitoring Policy – In order to minimize human interaction, the Gulf Islands National Seashore is eliminating its nighttime activities that might disturb sea turtles and hatchlings. It will also no longer relocate nests that might be vulnerable to flooding or predators. See the April 24, 2018 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Gulf Islands National Seashore will stop night monitoring of sea turtle nests” by Melissa Nelson Gabriel at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/pensacola/beaches/2018/04/24/gulf-islands-national-seashore-stop-night-monitoring-sea-turtle-nests/545709002/>.

Too Many Water Moccasins? – Escambia County Sea Grant representative Rick O’Connor has been investigating reports of numerous water moccasin sightings on Perdido Key, primarily in the western portion of the island. He does not believe there has been a major increase in their numbers, but provided precautions to minimize their presence and deal with them if sighted. See the April 20, 2018 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Spike in water moccasin sightings worries Perdido Key homeowners” by Melissa Nelson Gabriel for more on this issue at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/2018/03/22/clemson-universitys-project-pelican-tracks-banded-birds-along-gulf-coast/446009002/>.

May Calendar

May 2-6, 17-21, 23-27: Blue Wahoos at Blue Wahoo Stadium in Pensacola
May 3: Innerarity Park Groundbreaking ceremony
May 3-6: National Collegiate Beach Volleyball Championship at Gulf Shores
May 4-5: Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival in Foley
May 4-6: Pensacola Crawfish Festival at Bartrum Park
May 5: Cinco de Mayo, various events
May 5: Rosamond Johnson Commemoration at Perdido Key Area National Seashore
May 12-13: Northwest Florida Quarter Horse Show Escambia County Equestrian Center
May 12-13: Heyday Pro Watercross National Tour at Pensacola Beach
May 13: Mother’s Day, various events
May 17: Red, White, and Birdies Spring Classic at Perdido Bay Golf Club
May 17: Google’s/Intro to Online Marketing in Robertsdale

May 18-20: Hangout Music Festival in Gulf Shores

May 19: Star Spangled Salute - Military Appreciation Day at NAS Pensacola

May 19-20: Lionfish Removal and Awareness Event at Flora-Bama Yacht Club

May 19-29: Gulf Breeze Optimist Family Fishing Rodeo in Gulf Breeze

May 31: Circus on Main at The Wharf

Blue Angels practice on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, NAS Pensacola

Bands on the Beach Tuesdays at the Gulfside Pavilion, 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/>

<http://mulletwrapper.net/>

<https://myescambia.com/>

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

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

<http://www.cityofmobile.org/calendar/>

Perdido Key Association Board of Directors