

KEY NOTES

NEWS FROM
THE PERDIDO KEY ASSOCIATION



February 2018

2018 PKA Annual Membership Meeting

The Perdido Key Association's Annual Membership Meeting will take place on February 24, 2018, from 10 AM until Noon, at the Eden Condominium, [16281 Perdido Key Drive](#). All PKA members are invited to attend. If not already in hand, you should soon receive a packet of material by US Mail with information about the meeting. The packet includes the meeting agenda, current Perdido Key and PKA issues, a 2018 membership application, and proxy instructions. If you are not planning to attend the meeting, please complete the proxy form and mail to PKA as soon as possible.

The 2018 Board of Directors, including a new member, will be presented at the meeting as will PKA and Perdido Key issues and challenges for the future. We are delighted to have Steve Hayes, the President of Visit Pensacola as the meeting's featured speaker. He has been with Visit Pensacola, our region's Destination Marketing Organization (DMO), since 2014 and has broad experience in the tourism and marketing industry, particularly in the Tampa Bay area. We are sure he will broaden our perspective on the future of Perdido Key and the Pensacola Gulf Coast area.

More Offshore Drilling?

In early-January 2018, US Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced a plan to expand offshore drilling on the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf coasts of the United States. The plan was met with opposition from many state governors, including Florida governor Rick Scott who expressed concern for Florida's natural resources. Following a meeting between Secretary Zinke and Governor Scott, Florida was granted an exemption from offshore drilling. For more on the issue, see the January 8, 2018 article

by Sam Ori "Why Trump's Offshore Drilling Expansion Won't be so 'Yuge'" in *Fortune* at <https://www.forbes.com/sites/ucenergy/2018/01/08/why-trumps-offshore-drilling-expansion-wont-be-so-yuge/#3f230a643029>; the January 10, 2018 article by Ledjard King "After Interior drops Florida from offshore drilling plan, other states say 'me too'" in *USA Today* at <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2018/01/10/after-trump-administration-excludes-florida-offshore-drilling-other-coastal-states-seek-similar-reli/1019966001/>; and, the January 15, 2018 article by *Associated Press* journalist Matthew Daly "Senator Questions Protecting Only Florida from Drilling" in *Tampa Bay Times* at <http://www.tampabay.com/senator-questions-protecting-florida-from-drilling-ap-national0623e019fb03491da2e25d450e626d60>.

Comments on the proposed offshore drilling plan to the Department of the Interior can be made until March 9, 2018 by mail or online through the following procedures:

Mail: Comments can be mailed in an envelope labeled "Comments for the 2019-2024 Draft Proposed National Oil and Gas Leasing Program" and mailed (or hand delivered) to Ms. Kelly Hammerle, Chief, National Oil and Gas Leasing Program Development and Coordination Branch, Leasing Division, Office of Strategic Resources, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (VAM-LD), [45600 Woodland Road, Sterling, VA 20166-9216](https://www.bureauofenergymanagement.com/locations/45600-woodland-road-sterling-va-20166-9216).

Online: Comments can also be made through the *Regulations.gov* web portal. Navigate to <http://www.regulations.gov> and under the Search tab, in the space provided, type in Docket ID:BOEM-2017-0074 to submit comments and to view other comments already submitted. (Drawn from <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/01/08/2018-00083/notice-of-availability-of-the-2019-2024-draft-proposed-outer-continental-shelf-oil-and-gas-leasing>)

Opinions can also be expressed to elected officials, some of whom are listed in the Government Contacts page of the PKA website.

Northwest Florida to Eastern Time?

A bill called the "Sunshine Protection Act" is moving through the Florida legislature that would shift Northwest Florida from the Central to the Eastern Time Zone. Sponsored by Sarasota Representative Greg Steube, the proposal includes a provision to retain daylight savings time year-round. For more on these issues, see the January 24, 2018 article "Bill Could Move Northwest Florida to Eastern Time" at <http://pulsegulfoast.com/2018/01/bill-could-move-northwest-florida-to-eastern-time> and the January 30, 2018 article "Northwest Fla. State Senators Oppose Eastern Time Proposal" at <http://pulsegulfoast.com/2018/01/northwest-fla-state-senators-oppose-eastern-time-proposal>, both by Derek Cosson and published in *The Pulse*.

Pensacola Downtown Fish Hatchery Project Stalled

The planned construction of the \$19 million Gulf Coast Marine Fisheries Hatchery & Enhancement Center" on Main Street between Joe Patti's and Blue Wahoos Stadium is on hold. Responding to "pending litigation" and likely the removal of some local support, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has canceled "the solicitation for construction bids on this project until further notice." For more on this issue, see the January 31, 2018 article by Derek Cosson "Florida DEP Cancels Bid Solicitation for Pensacola Hatchery" in *The Pulse* at <http://pulsegulfcoast.com/2018/01/florida-dep-cancels-bid-solicitation-for-pensacola-hatchery>.

USA Today Panel Selects Gulf Islands National Seashore as Best Florida Attraction

The Gulf Islands National Seashore was voted as the *USA Today*/10 Best Readers' Choice Best Florida Attraction for 2018. It was selected by a panel of experts from among 20 other destination nominations. Gulf Islands National Seashore Superintendent Dan Brown said: "Being voted #1 Best Florida Attraction confirms what most of us already know - that the Gulf Islands National Seashore is a phenomenal place, with its incredibly beautiful beaches and fascinating forts." "The best part is that it belongs to all of us to experience and enjoy." For more on this issue, see the January 20, 2018 article by Derek Cosson "Gulf Islands National Seashore Named Best Florida Attraction" in *The Pulse* at <http://pulsegulfcoast.com/2018/01/gulf-islands-national-seashore-named-best-florida-attraction>.

Perdido Key and Its Mouse

For an informative article on the Perdido Key beach mouse, the Escambia County Habitat Conservation Plan, and how it has all worked out over the past couple of years, see the December 13, 2017 article by Dan Chapman "The mouse that roared: On a Florida beach, builders and conservationists join forces to save an endangered species" on the US Fish & Wildlife website at <https://www.fws.gov/southeast/articles/the-mouse-that-roared/>.

Pensacola: An Affordable Beach Town

For the third consecutive year, Pensacola has been judged the 2nd most affordable beach town, behind Gulfport, MS, and just ahead of Biloxi, MS. The analysis was done by the personal finance and technology website SmartAsset.com. For more on this issue, see the January 18, 2018 article by Derek Cosson "Pensacola Named One of the Most Affordable Beach Towns in America" in *The Pulse* at

<http://pulsegulfcoast.com/2018/01/pensacola-named-one-of-the-most-affordable-beach-towns-in-america>.

See you at the PKA Annual Membership Meeting!

February Calendar

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- Feb 1: Snow Bird Roost at Skopleos in downtown Pensacola
- Feb 1-28: Winter Camellia and Cold Hardy Displays at Bellingrath Gardens and Home
- Feb 2: Glenn Miller Orchestra at the Naval Air Museum
- Feb 2-3, 16-18: Pensacola Ice Flyers at Pensacola Bay Center
- Feb 3: Pensacola Double Bridge Run (15K/5K) downtown Pensacola/Gulf Breeze
- Feb 3: Mozart Madness at the First United Methodist Church downtown Pensacola
- Feb 9-10: Mardi Gras Parades in Orange Beach
- Feb 9-10: Mardi Gras Parades in downtown Pensacola
- Feb 10-11: Coastal Hunter Jumper Association horse show at Escambia County Equestrian Center
- Feb 11: Mardi Gras Parade in Pensacola Beach
- Feb 12: Moon Pies on Main: Mardi Gras Parades at The Wharf
- Feb 13: Mardi Gras Parade in Gulf Shores and Fat Tuesday celebration in several locations
- Feb 14: Valentine's Day, many restaurant options
- Feb 19: Harlem Globetrotters at Pensacola Bay Center
- Feb 24: Emerald Coast Parrot Head Chili Cook-Off, Harborwalk Village, Destin

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

www.visitpensacola.com/
<http://mygulfcoastchamber.com/>
www.visitperdido.com/
www.mulletwrapper.com
[www.myescambia.com\](http://www.myescambia.com)
www.emeraldcoastfl.com/
<http://alabama.travel/festivals-and-events>
www.cityofmobile.org/calendar/

Perdido Key Association Board of Directors