

KEY NOTES

NEWS FROM
THE PERDIDO KEY ASSOCIATION



January 2019

PKA Website Hacked

About midway through December 2018, the Perdido Key Association website was hacked by the malicious “Legion Bomb3r” operating out of the UAE. The hack was first evident when the site’s pages appeared in what seemed to be the Japanese language. The hack was accompanied by hundreds of thousands of access requests that further disrupted the site. For now PKA’s webmaster has overcome the attack and restored the site to normal or near-normal operation. There should be no danger to accessing the PKA website, but please inform PKA president Charles Krupnick at charles.krupnick@gmail.com if difficulties are experienced. The *Quartz* online article “The newspaper hack is a reminder of all the US infrastructure that’s vulnerable” by Annalisa Merelli details recent US problems with hacking and can be accessed at <https://qz.com/1511654/all-the-us-infrastructure-hacks-of-2018/>.

Change to Commissioner Meeting Public Comment Policy

The Escambia County Board of County Commissioners has changed its policy on public comments at their meetings. As cited in the *Pensacola News Journal* December 10, 2018 article “Escambia County Commission changes public comment policy at meetings” by Jim Little, the County’s written policy allows people three minutes to speak, but “the commission has allowed people to donate their three minutes to another person.” At his first meeting as Board chairman, Commissioner Lumon May changed the procedure so that time may not be donated to others, a change accepted by the other commissioners. Members of the Perdido Key Association as well as other interested residents often speak at Commission meetings on issues affecting Perdido Key. To access the article, go to <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/2018/12/10/escambia-county-commission-changes-public-comment-policy-meetings/2267863002/>.

Volunteers Needed for Beach Profile Program

Volunteers are requested to help with a "Shoreline Monitoring Citizen Science Program" on Perdido Key as part of research being conducted by the University of New Orleans and Owens Coastal Consultants. The program would extend the work begun in March

2018 on Dauphin Island and involves taking periodic profiles of several portions of Perdido Key's beaches to determine the "seasonal beach and sediment dynamics" so researchers and officials can be better prepared for oil spills in the future. The sample frequency, number of sample locations, and project duration are still to be determined, but Dauphin Island volunteers collect data at seven locations two or three times a month. Having 10 or so volunteers would allow a rotation of sample duties. If interested, please contact Charles Krupnick at charles.krupnick@gmail.com.

February 23, 2019 PKA Annual Membership Meeting

Please add the Saturday, February 23, 2019 PKA Annual Membership Meeting to your calendars. The meeting will be from 10 AM until Noon at the Eden Condominium, 16281 Perdido Key Drive on Perdido Key. Further information on the meeting will be distributed in the near future.

Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce Leadership

The Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce announced new leadership at its Annual Meeting & Awards Brunch on November 30, 2018. Jim Beran of Gilmore Services took over as Chairman of the Board of Directors from Cameron Price of the Flora-Bama; Dana Pagador continues as President of the Chamber Staff along with Staff members Emily Etscheid, Crawford McWilliams, and Jo Ann Slaydon.

Florida's Toxic Waters

The *Treasure Coast Newspapers* December 21, 2018 article "This is why 'Toxic 2018' was a game-changer for Florida water" by Eve Samples summarizes the year's "environmental devastation" in Florida waters. Red tide along Florida's Atlantic and Gulf coasts killed hundreds of sea turtles and seabirds, thousands of fish, and stranded many dolphins; blue-green algae covered 90% of Lake Okeechobee and endangered humans, manatee, and other wildlife in its outflow waterways; and, sewage pollution affected Indian River Lagoon and other parts of the state. The article considered 2018 a tipping point for needed change to Florida's water policy but was uncertain about the prospects. To access the article go to <https://www.tcpalm.com/story/opinion/columnists/eve-samples/2018/12/21/toxic-2018-worst-record-florida-water-algae-red-tide/2282017002/>.

Gulf Breeze Beach Access

After decades of dispute and legal proceedings, the Florida Court of Appeals on November 28, 2018 upheld a lower court's decision that the owners of a 20 by 50 foot portion of land at the end of Catawba Street in Gulf Breeze could prohibit the public from using the property for beach access. The property had been used as public access for decades, but the property owners disputed the practice in legal action against the city of Gulf Breeze. During the dispute the city sought to establish "eminent domain" over the property and also made a "community access" argument, but decided to end its legal battle after losing the latest appeal. Incoming Gulf Breeze Mayor David Landfair expressed concern that the ruling may provide a precedent for other challenges "to the public's right to access the land." For more on this issue, see the December 05, 2018 *Pensacola News Journal* article "Gulf Breeze ordered to pay \$250,000 to private

property owners over public access battle” by Annie Banks at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/2018/12/05/legal-battle-over-gulf-breeze-public-water-access-coming-end/2201728002/>.

More Oyster Reefs Expected

Approximately \$15 million from the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (Deepwater Horizon liabilities) will be used to construct 33 oyster reefs involving 6.5 miles of the East Bay in Santa Rosa County. One of 21 such projects along the Gulf coast, the reefs should help clean and filter East Bay waters, increase marine habitat, and provide buffer zones in storms. Construction should begin in summer 2019. For more on this issue, see the November 26, 2018 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Pensacola area expected to receive more oyster reefs funding for East Bay oyster habitat” by Melissa Nelson Gabriel at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/pensacola/beaches/2018/11/26/more-oyster-reef-funding-headed-pensacola-area/2092069002/>.

An Exciting Dollar General Bowl!

Those who attended the Dollar General Bowl in Mobile on Saturday, December 22, 2018 or watched the football game on television were treated to an entertaining matchup. Buffalo University and Troy University traded leads and touchdowns a number of times before Troy pulled away in the last few minutes for a 42 to 32 victory. The 3rd quarter was unusual with Buffalo not running an offensive play; Troy had three long drives, recovered an onside kick, but also lost a fumble and allowed a 93 yard defensive touchdown run by Buffalo. Ladd-Pebbles Stadium in Mobile will also host the Senior Bowl on Saturday, January 26, 2019.

Construction at Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo

The Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo on the Intracoastal Waterway will move to a new facility being constructed about four miles north of the current location later in 2019. Located off County Road 6 on 25 acres of land donated by the Weir family, the new zoo will be on higher ground and have more space for its over 600 animals. For more on the zoo, go to the March 13, 2018 *Mullet Wrapper* article “Construction begins for new Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo” at <http://mulletwrapper.net/construction-begins-new-alabama-gulf-coast-zoo/>.

Have a Wonderful New Year!

January Calendar

Jan 01: Polar Bear Dip, Flora-Bama, Paradise Bar Pensacola Beach, and Gulf Shores Public Beach
Jan 01-13: Ice Skating at the Wharf
Jan 01-31: First City Lights Festival, Downtown Pensacola
Jan 05: Mardi Gras Kickoff, Downtown Pensacola
Jan 05, 08, et al.: Brandon Styles Impressions & Magic at OWA every Tuesday and Saturday in January

Jan 04, 05, 25, 26, 27: Pensacola Ice Flyers at Pensacola Bay Center
Jan 10: Science Hour on Local Water Quality Issues at Escambia County Central Office Complex
Jan 12: Pensacola Beach 10K, 5K, and Half Marathon
Jan 13: Kevin Hart at the Pensacola Bay Center
Jan 15: Glenn Miller Orchestra 2019 at Naval Air Museum
Jan 19: E-Cycling and Shred Day at Gulf State Park Pavilion
Jan 19: Arbor Day Tree Giveaway and Public Workshop at Escambia County Extension Service in Cantonment
Jan 25: 8th Annual Gulf Coast Snowbird Fest at The Wharf
Jan 26: Senior Bowl in Mobile
Jan 27: Big Beach Marathon and Half Marathon at The Hangout

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