

# KEY NOTES

NEWS FROM  
THE PERDIDO KEY ASSOCIATION



## November 2018

### Perdido Key Beach Access Update

At their October 18, 2018 meeting, Escambia County Board of County Commissioners directed an engineering study of the 4-acre beachfront property between the Seafarer Condominium and Crab Trap Restaurant for likely use as public beach access and parking – as well as retaining the larger portion for Perdido Key beach mouse habitat. They decided “To direct staff to begin to procure the planning aspect moving forward and utilize the funds that are in the Perdido Key Beach Acquisition Project of \$50,000” (minutes available at <http://www.escambiaclerk.com/BMPDF/20181018-2.pdf>). One proposal for the property calls for 24 parking spaces and another for 39. District 2 Commissioner Doug Underhill was the lone dissenting vote after substantial discussion among Commissioners and comments from attendees at the meeting. Background information on the issue is available from the *Pensacola News Journal* in the September 25, 2018 article “Three options under consideration for Perdido Key beach access” by Jim Little at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/2018/09/25/perdido-key-beach-access-escambia-county-considers-three-options/1412852002/> and the August 2, 2018 article “Perdido Key beach mouse or parking lot” by Melissa Nelson Gabriel available at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/pensacola/beaches/2018/08/02/perdido-key-beach-mouse-parking-lot-escambia-commissioner-candidates-underhill-mcmillan/872655002/>.

### Hurricane Michael

Hurricane Michael pounded our Florida neighbors to the east with Category 4 winds and storm surge, virtually leveling Mexico Beach while heavily damaging Tyndall Air Force Base, parts of Panama City, Port St. Joe, and other coastal communities, plus Marianna, FL, and numerous inland locations up to Virginia. The hurricane was catastrophic for many, but Perdido Key and most of our local area escaped significant damage. The rapid intensification of the storm as it neared landfall was a lesson for all.

While many may have intended to ride out a Category 2 Hurricane Michael as it approached the coast, the near Category 5 destruction that resulted placed those who stayed behind in grave danger. Perdido Key in Evacuation Zone A was under an evacuation order for the storm that some may not have observed. With the rapid intensification, loss of life and destruction from Hurricane Michael, great caution in the future seems appropriate.

If you would like to help those affected by the storm, the October 12, 2018 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Hurricane Michael donations should be cash – not goods – to vetted agencies” by Melissa Nelson Gabriel provides some guidance (available at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/2018/10/12/hurricane-michael-donations-should-cash-not-goods-vetted-agencies/1614686002/>).

### **Red Tide Getting Close**

A major concern in Southwest Florida for much of 2018, the red tide could be moving toward Escambia County waters. As reported in the October 25, 2018 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Red tide detected at Navarre Beach, could be headed to Pensacola Beach” by Annie Blanks, concentrations of the *Karenia brevis* algae (red tide) “have made their way to Navarre Beach and could creep west toward Pensacola Beach.” According to Escambia County’s director of marine resources Robert Turpin, however, no significant blooms have been detected close to Escambia County thus far. While always present in local waters to some extent, higher concentrations of the algae can cause fish kills and human respiratory problems. To access the *Journal* article, go to <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/2018/10/25/red-tide-detected-navarre-beach-could-headed-pensacola-beach/1755109002/>.

### **Community Events**

*Heron Trot 5K Race at Big Lagoon State Park on Saturday, November 3, 2018 with registration at 6:30 AM* – The Friends of Pensacola State Parks is sponsoring a 5K run to help support area State Parks. Registration is \$20 in advance and \$25 the day of the race. For more information call 850 776-9747 or go to <https://business.perdidochamber.com/events/details/heron-trot-5k-13553>.

*Eagles for Education Charity Golf Tournament on Friday, November 9, 2018 with check-in at 9 AM* – The Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce and many local businesses are sponsoring this event, with a portion of proceeds going to the Frank Brown International Foundation for Music. The Foundation sends songwriters into schools to make presentations where students are introduced to songwriting; it also awards scholarships to college-bound Baldwin and Escambia County high school students who display serious interest in music as well as supplying instruments to schools to support music programs. The Annual Frank Brown Songwriters Festival is the oldest festival of its kind in the country and has local events from November 8 to 18, 2018. For more information, go to <https://business.visitperdido.com/events/details/eagles-for-education-charity-golf-tournament-benefiting-the-frank-brown-foundation-for-music-13245>.

*Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida Open House* – For a terrific family event, consider attending a future open house at the Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida. Located at 105 North “S” Street in Pensacola (just east of Bayou Chico on Rt. 98 and near the Humane Society), the organization’s October 13, 2018 Open House was well attended and provided a great opportunity to see the variety of wildlife the facility was bringing back to health. This included bald eagles, hawks, owls and a variety of land animals. For more on the sanctuary, go to <http://www.pensacolawildlife.com/>.

## **Consider Becoming a PKA Director Candidate!**

The Perdido Key Association's 2019 election cycle is approaching and the PKA Board will be creating a Nominating Committee to solicit Director Candidates. After candidates are determined, ballots will be sent to PKA members approximately 30 days prior to the PKA Annual Membership Meeting (likely in late-February 2019) when the voting will take place. If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, please contact any PKA Board member. If you would like to help work toward a bright and wonderful future for Perdido Key, please consider running for a PKA Board position once the candidate determination process begins.

## **November Calendar**

Nov 02-03: Blue Angels Homecoming Show at NAS Pensacola  
Nov 02,10,16,17,21,30: Pensacola Ice Flyers at Pensacola Bay Center  
Nov 03: Heron Trot 5K at Big Lagoon State Park  
Nov 03: Bruce Beach Inaugural Paddle Fest, West Main Street Pensacola  
Nov 07: 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of World War 1 at USS Alabama  
Nov 08: Science Hour lecture on “Bayou Chico Managed Aquatic Plant System” at Escambia County Central Office Complex  
Nov 08-11: 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Fairhope Film Festival in downtown Fairhope  
Nov 08-18: 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Frank Brown Songwriters Festival at various Gulf Coast venues  
Nov 09: Eagles for Education Golf Tournament at Perdido Bay Golf Club  
Nov 10: Pensacola Stomp Fest 2018, 3200 W. De Soto Street, Pensacola  
Nov 11: Pensacola Marathon at Veterans Memorial Park  
Nov 14: Mannheim Steamroller Christmas Touring at the Saenger Theater Pensacola  
Nov 22: Thanksgiving  
Nov 23: Black Friday at The Wharf  
Nov 24-25: Creek Indian Celebration Days in Milton

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](#)