

# KEY NOTES

NEWS FROM  
THE PERDIDO KEY ASSOCIATION



## July 2021

### **Tropical Storm Claudette**

Packing winds of up to 81 mph, Tropical Storm Claudette made a June 19 landfall in Louisiana but significantly impacted the Pensacola area as well with flash flooding, power outages, cancelled events, road closings including the I-10 bridge between Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties, and a waterspout at Perdido Pass and suspected tornado near Copter Road. Nearby Brewton, Alabama saw 50 homes destroyed or damaged by a suspected tornado; 13 lives were tragically lost in Alabama during the storm, including ten (of whom nine were children) in a vehicle accident on I-65 south of Montgomery. For more on Claudette, see the June 19, 2021 *Pensacola News Journal* article “‘Really, really scary’: Tropical Storm Claudette punch caused unexpected damage” by Emma Kennedy at <https://www.pnj.com/story/weather/2021/06/19/tropical-storm-claudette-unexpected-damage-flash-flooding-tornadoes-to-pensacola-pace-florida/7755951002/>; the June 19, 2021 *AP News* article “Major damage to Alabama mobile home park amid tropical storm” by Kevin McGill and Russ Bynum at <https://apnews.com/article/la-state-wire-health-coronavirus-pandemic-business-storms-2a55717d3441af8d128a476932aeaca2>; and, the June 21, 2021 *Weather Channel* article “Tropical Storm Claudette Blamed in 13 Deaths in Alabama” by Ron Brackett and Jan Wesner Childs at <https://weather.com/news/news/2021-06-20-tropical-storm-claudette-two-deaths-alabama-florida-homes-damaged-flooding>.

### **Sea Turtle Nesting Damage by Claudette**

Tropical Storm Claudette damaged sea turtle nests in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties, but on the bright side the Escambia County Sea Turtle Patrol subsequently reported the first loggerhead sea turtle nest on County land in the 2021 season. To celebrate Clean Beaches Week which runs July 1-7, the County also provides a reminder that keeping “beaches free of debris and obstacles are vital for the success of all our coastal wildlife, including sea turtles.” Unfortunately a nest on Perdido Key was

recently disturbed by young adults, resulting in some arrests. For more on sea turtle nesting, see the June 23, 2021 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Tropical Storm Claudette erodes loggerhead sea turtle nests in Escambia, Santa Rosa” by Jake Newby at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/2021/06/23/tropical-storm-claudette-erodes-sea-turtle-nests-escambia-santa-rosa/5304936001/> and the June 29, 2021 Escambia County news article “First Sea Turtle Nest Recorded on Perdido Key in Time for Clean Beaches Week” at <https://myescambia.com/news/news-article/2021/06/29/first-sea-turtle-nest-recorded-on-perdido-key-in-time-for-clean-beaches-week>.

### **World Oceans Day 2021**

The June 8 celebration of World Oceans Day 2021 at the Perdido Key Community Center was a considerable success. Organized by the Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce, the event hosted many family groups who visited the educational displays and presentations by Florida Fish and Wildlife, Niuhi Dive Charters, Ocean Strike Team, Escambia County Marine Resources, Pensacola and Perdido Bays and Estuaries staff, Alabama Gulf Coast Zookeepers, Clean Horizons, Florida State Parks, Friends of Pensacola State Parks, Friends of the Southwest Library and the Perdido Key Association. ECUA's "Quench Buggy" provided water and information on protecting the aquifer.

The event also featured the Community Center's just constructed Solar Windmill. As stated in a June 7, 2021 Escambia County media release:

A PrimoEnergy EnergiPlant solar windmill was installed today at the Perdido Key Community Center, in time for World Ocean Day on June 8. The windmill, equipped with a 1200W wind turbine and four 50W solar panels, will also provide seating and phone charging capabilities. Funds to purchase the windmill were provided by Escambia County Commissioner Doug Underhill's District 2 discretionary funds.

The windmill is part of a larger effort to provide amenities along the future Perdido Key Multi-Use Path. When complete, the multi-use path will extend approximately 6.2 miles from the Alabama-Florida state line, eastward through Perdido Key State Park to River Road along the north side of Perdido Key Drive and provide safe access for cyclists and pedestrians.

For more on the solar windmill, go to the Escambia County news article “Solar Windmill Installed at Perdido Key Community Center” at <https://myescambia.com/news/news-article/2021/06/07/solar-windmill-installed-at-perdido-key-community-center>.

### **Biden Administration and Oil and Gas Exploration**

In one of its first actions, the Biden Administration imposed a 60-day pause on the issuance of new leases and permits for oil and gas drilling on federal lands and offshore. Additional action was taken on June 1, 2021 when the Administration suspended oil and gas leases in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. For more on the issue, go to the June 2, 2021 *USA Today* article “Biden suspends oil leases in Alaska's Arctic refuge” by Matthew Daly of the *Associated Press* at <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2021/06/01/president-joe-biden-suspends-oil-leases-alaskas-arctic-refuge/7499711002/>.

## July Calendar

July 01 – Pepsi Beach Ball Drop at The Wharf

July 01-04,13-18,27-31 – Blue Wahoos at Blue Wahoo Stadium

July 03 – Firecracker 5K road race in downtown Pensacola

July 03 – Independence Day Street Party at The Wharf

July 02-04 – Fourth of July Weekend at OWA

July 04 – Flora-Bama Fourth of July Party and Shark Run

July 04 – Fireworks at Pensacola Beach and elsewhere

July 07-10 – Pensacola Beach Blue Angels Beach Air Show

July 09,23 – Hill-Kelly Movies in the Park at Community Maritime Park in Pensacola

July 16 – Gallery Night in downtown Pensacola

July 14-18 – Blue Marlin Grand Championship in Orange Beach

July 16-18 – Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo on Dauphin Island

July 17 – Escambia County's Bicentennial Celebration at Museum Plaza in Pensacola

July 23-26 – Bud Light Fishing Rodeo at Pensacola Beach

July 24 – Cleanup Rodeo at Park West in Pensacola Beach

Blue Angels practice at NAS Pensacola July 07,13,14,20,21

Bands on the Beach every Tuesday evening at 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>

Perdido Key Association Board of Directors