



## December 2022

### Perdido Key Beach Signage

The recent *Pensacola News Journal* front page article about “No Trespassing” signs on Perdido Key beaches tells only part of the story. Unlike public beaches on Pensacola Beach and Orange Beach but like 60% of other beaches in Florida, Perdido Key has about four miles of privately owned beaches along with miles of public beaches at Perdido Key State Park and the Perdido Key Area of Gulf Islands National Seashore. Escambia County policy from 2019 specifies Perdido Key beachfront property owners can post up to three single post signs along the borders of their property “at the base of the dune, mid-point of the beach, and at the southern corners of the property” (the mean high water line). The policy also states neighboring properties should use a single post with back-to-back signs. These rules are being followed with only a few exceptions (more than three signs, two posts instead of one and not back-to-back). Many properties have just one or no signs but those nearest Escambia County’s four public beach access locations understandably have the most. Reducing allowed signs to one as some advocate would significantly reduce the ability of property owners to retain the privacy of their beaches. A number of speakers are expected to present arguments against current Perdido Key beach signage at the Escambia County Board of County Commissioner’s Public Forum beginning at 4:30 PM on December 8, 2022 at the downtown County Office building. This is a discussion in which the Perdido Key community must participate! See the November 21, 2022 *Pensacola News Journal* article “‘No trespassing signs’ taking over Perdido Key beaches. Local visitors want them gone.” by Jim Little at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/2022/11/21/no-trespassing-signs-on-perdido-key-beaches-upset-surfers-visitors-who-say-they-hurt-sea-turtles/10714057002/>.

### More Hurricane Damage

Following the devastation of Hurricane Ian in southwest Florida and other locations, rare November tropical storm Hurricane Nicole brought even more damage to Central Florida. For more on Nicole’s aftermath, see the November 11, 2022 *Reuters* article “Nicole leaves ‘unprecedented’ building damage along part of Florida coast” by Rich McKay and Brendan O’Brien at <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/storm-nicole-drenches-georgia-carolinas-after-wreaking-destruction-florida-2022-11-11/>.

## **Charter School Status Likely for Warrington Middle School**

With Warrington Middle School facing possible closure for failing to meet Florida academic requirements, the Escambia County School Board recently approved “an educational review agreement with Charter Schools USA” to move forward with the organization. Charter Schools will conduct a review of the school and submit an “official charter application” for the Board’s approval in January 2023. As stated by District 1 school board member Kevin Adams: “I have always said it is not in the best interest of children to close that community school and have them on buses for four or five hours a day being bused out... It is in our best interest for this to be a success.” For more on this issue, see the November 16, 2022 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Warrington Middle School clears last hurdle to become charter school” by Brittany Misencik at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/education/2022/11/16/warrington-middle-school-escambia-county-charter-schools-usa/10698933002/>.

## **PKA Board Member Receives Award**

Perdido Key Association vice president Connie Walker was awarded the “Bill Stromquist Community Service Award” at the Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Keys to Success Award Banquet on November 15, 2022 at the Grand Lagoon Yacht Club. The award is “given to an individual who advocates for the Perdido Key Area through community involvement, civic engagement, volunteerism, and building partnerships for the greater good.” Ms. Walker is enormously energetic and works constantly for the betterment of Perdido Key. Well done Connie!

## **Perdido Key Area Chamber Honored**

The Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce was voted a “Best of Florida” recipient for 2022. Winners are chosen “by a combination of readers’ votes and editors’ input, and are vetted through several ranking sites, Better Business Bureau complaint reports, and voting pattern analysis reports.” Chamber President Tammy Thurow said: “We want to thank all of the local residents, businesses and the many visitors to our beautiful area that voted for us.” For more information, see the November 16-30, 2022 *Mullet Wrapper* article “Perdido Key Chamber is Best of Florida recipient” at <https://mulletwrapper.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Mulletwrapper-11-16-22.pdf>.

## **Pensacola a Good Place to Retire**

*U.S. News & World Report* recently named Pensacola the No. 3 best place to retire in the United States. Competing with 150 metro areas in categories such as job market and health care, Pensacola may have done particularly well in the cost of living category. For more on this issue, see the November 2, 2022 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Pensacola named No. 3 best place to retire in the U.S. What makes us stand out?” at [https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/pensacola/2022/11/02/pensacola-named-no-3-best-place-retire-u-s-news-world-report/8246487001/?utm\\_source=ourcommunitynow&utm\\_medium=web](https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/pensacola/2022/11/02/pensacola-named-no-3-best-place-retire-u-s-news-world-report/8246487001/?utm_source=ourcommunitynow&utm_medium=web).

## **Orange Beach “Beach” Replenishment**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently dredged more than 250,000 cubic yards of sand from Perdido Pass. The sand was deposited on the west side of the pass helping to replenish

Orange Beach beaches. For more information, see the November 16-30, 2022 *Mullet Wrapper* article “Sand dredged from Perdido Pass also replenishes O.B. beaches” at <https://mulletwrapper.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Mulletwrapper-11-16-22.pdf>.

### **Lionfish Removal Volunteers Needed**

As promulgated by Escambia County Sea Grant Representative Rick O’Conner and available at <https://oceanstriketeam.org/fort-pickens-lionfish-dives>:

Sea Grant and the Ocean Strike Team are planning two lionfish survey/removal dives at Ft. Pickens between now and Christmas.

Dive 1

Training will be Wed Nov 30 downtown Pensacola (TBD) at 6:00pm

Dive will be Fri Dec 2 at the Ft. Pickens fishing pier – exact time TBD

Dive 2

Training will be Fri Dec 16 downtown Pensacola (TBD) at 6:00pm

Dive will be Sun Dec 18 at Ft. Pickens (exact site TBD) in the afternoon (exact time TBD)

Registration for these events will be posted on the Ocean Strike Team webpage

- <https://oceanstriketeam.org/>.

### **More on Manatees**

Manatees are unfortunately still suffering from a severe lack of food, but here are a few interesting facts about these gentle giants. They eat about 120 pounds of food a day (10% of their body weight) and can stay submerged for up to 20 minutes! They are also distant cousins of elephants. Drawn from August 10, 2022 and November 10, 2022 *Ocean Conservancy* e-mails by Jon Paul “J.P.” Brooker.

### **Sharks granted new Protection**

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora added a number of shark and ray species to its CITES Appendix II making “it easier for customs and enforcement officials to ensure legal and sustainable trade” according to conservation groups. Sharks under the new restrictions can be threatened by the “shark-finning trade” and include “dozens of species of requiem sharks [such as bull sharks and some reef sharks] and rays, hammerheads and guitarfishes” For more on this issue, see the November 29, 2022 *USA Today* article “Sharks, a frog that looks like Kermit and other species get new protections from powerful international organization” by Dinah Voyles Pulver at <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2022/11/26/conservation-organizations-cheer-more-protection-sharks/10730940002/>.

### **Holiday Greetings!**

The PKA Board of Directors wishes you and yours the very best of Holiday Seasons! We hope to see you at the PKA Holiday Party from 6 to 9 PM on Monday, December 12, 2022, at the Palacio Resort-Perdido Key (13661 Perdido Key Drive). Stay safe!

## December Calendar

Dec 01 – Snowball Derby at Five Flags Speedway  
Dec 01-31 – Pensacola Winterfest and First City Lights Festival  
Dec 01-31 – Magic Christmas in Lights at Bellingrath Gardens  
Dec 01-31 – Ice Skating at The Wharf  
Dec 02,03 – Coastal Ballet Nutcracker in Orange Beach  
Dec 02,03,16,23,27,30 – Pensacola Ice Flyers at Pensacola Bay Center  
Dec 03 – Pensacola Beach Lighted Boat Parade  
Dec 03 – Holiday Market at Seville Square downtown Pensacola  
Dec 04 – Surfing Santa Beach Parade at Pensacola Beach  
Dec 09 – Tacky Tinseltown Holiday Party at Flora-Bama  
Dec 10 – Flora-Bama Santa Drop  
Dec 10 – Spirit of Christmas Parade in Spanish Fort  
Dec 10,11 – Holly Days on Main Festival at The Wharf  
Dec 12 – PKA Holiday Party at Palacio Resort-Perdido Key  
Dec 16-18 – Ballet Pensacola Presents The Nutcracker at Saenger Theatre Pensacola  
Dec 17 – Wreaths Across America at Barrancas National Cemetery  
Dec 25 – Christmas  
Dec 26 – Holiday Dreams-A Spectacular Holiday Cirque at Saenger Theatre Pensacola  
Dec 31 – New Year's Eve celebrations

The following websites provide additional information about events 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