

KEY NOTES

NEWS FROM
THE PERDIDO KEY ASSOCIATION



April 2023

Beach Sign Ordinance

Escambia County is completing an ordinance addressing “No Trespassing” signs on Perdido Key private beaches. Unlike the 2019 direction allowing three signs on each side of private property, the ordinance will likely allow only one sign on each side of the property – probably on the northern edge near the dune line. Perdido Key property owners did a terrific job defending the three sign policy in December 2022 when the issue was addressed at a Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Public Forum. The BOCC will likely decide on whether and when to vote on the ordinance in early April 2023 with approval or denial likely in May. PKA will inform members when BOCC meeting dates to address the ordinance are available.

River Road Closure for Culvert Replacement

Storm surge from 2020’s Hurricane Sally raised the River Road wooden bridge several inches. Located about 2000 feet from Perdido Key Drive, the bridge was repaired but with FEMA funding Escambia County will replace the bridge with an asphalt path and rebuild the culvert structure beneath River Road. The project is scheduled to begin on May 16, 2023 and will require a number of months to complete. River Road will be closed during the construction. For more on the project, go to Escambia County article “River Road Culvert Repair to Begin May 16” at <https://myescambia.com/news/news-article/2023/03/28/river-road-culvert-repairs-to-begin-may-16>.

Beach Access #4 Lawsuit Denied

An Escambia County judge denied the Seafarer Condos Owners Association effort to prevent Beach Access #4 from being developed “stating the development was legal.” The beach access east of the Crab Trap Restaurant was opened in 2021 and provided an additional 35 parking spaces for public use. The attorney for the Seafarer noted his clients “look forward to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services holding the County to the specific requirements of the grant and the Habitat Conservation Plan.” For more on the issue, go to the March 21, 2023 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Judge rules public beach access in Perdido Key can stay open to the public” by Mollye Barrows at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/escambia->

[county/2023/03/21/judge-favors-of-escambia-in-dispute-over-perdido-key-beach-access-4/70030133007/](https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/escambia-in-dispute-over-perdido-key-beach-access-4/70030133007/).

More Seaweed?

Most years Perdido Key beaches have a bout with seaweed lasting a few weeks. With a 5,000 mile swath of seaweed meandering westward in the Atlantic Ocean, one can only hope the seaweed (sargassum macroalgae) does not come ashore in the northern Gulf of Mexico. According to the latest NOAA and University of South Florida prediction, our region has a low probability of impact. For more on the issue, see the March 22, 2023 article “Escambia, Santa Rosa ready for 5,000-mile-wide sargassum blob moving toward Florida” by Benjamin Johnson at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/pensacola/beaches/2023/03/22/sargassum-seaweed-blob-florida-how-are-escambia-santa-rosa-preparing/70031137007/>.

Blue Angels 2023

The Blue Angels Navy flight demonstration team has its first women F-18 pilot, Lt. Amanda Lee. Air shows at Pensacola Beach will be on July 9 and at NAS Pensacola November 3-4. For the Blue Angels 2023 schedule, go to <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/2023/03/20/blue-angels-2023-practice-schedule-in-pensacola-and-where-to-watch/70030551007/>; for more on Lt Lee, go to <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/military/blueangels/2023/03/30/first-female-blue-angels-jet-pilot-amanda-lee-begins-2023-season-in-el-centro-california/70056803007/>.

Proposal to Remove Rice’s Whale Protection

Rice’s Whales inhabit the northern portion of the Gulf of Mexico and were identified as a separate species in 2021. Only 51 remain and are protected under the 1972 Marine Mammal Recovery Act from activities that might result in their “unintentional harming or killing,” possibly from Eglin Air Force Base exercises. Local congressional representative Matt Gaetz has proposed removing the protection. For more on this complicated issue, see the March 29, 2023 *Pensacola News Journal* article “There are only 51 Rice’s Whales left in the Gulf. Matt Gaetz wants to lift their protections.” by Tom McLaughlin at [https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/2023/03/29/matt-gaetz-wants-endangered-rices-whale-protections-removed-for-military-weapons-testing/70053519007/#:~:text=Matt%20Gaetz%20wants%20to%20lift%20their%20protections.&text=Congressman%20Matt%20Gaetz%20has%20his,Rice's%20Whales%20make%20their%20home](https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/2023/03/29/matt-gaetz-wants-endangered-rices-whale-protections-removed-for-military-weapons-testing/70053519007/#:~:text=Matt%20Gaetz%20wants%20to%20lift%20their%20protections.&text=Congressman%20Matt%20Gaetz%20has%20his,Rice's%20Whales%20make%20their%20home.).

Manatee Appreciation Day

March 29 was Manatee Appreciation Day: “a day dedicated to raising awareness about the plight of manatees and promoting their conservation”... “with the aim of educating the public about the importance of protecting manatees—large, gentle marine mammals that are found in warm waters around the world, including Florida, the Caribbean, South America, and West Africa and their habitats.” Drawn from <https://www.savethemanatee.org/news/2023-03-28-celebrate-manatee-appreciation-day-on-march-29th/>.

Facts on Recycling

Among the data in the March 17, 2023 *BBC News* article “How recycling can help the climate and other facts” was information that 53.6 million tonnes (a tonne is 1,000 kilograms/2,205 pounds) of electronic waste (phones, TVs, etc.) was discarded worldwide in 2019 with only 17.4% recycled. One tonne of smartphone waste contains “154 pounds of copper, 33 pounds of lithium, 2.2 pounds of silver and 8.2 ounces of gold – enough gold for 26-78 wedding rings.” For more information, go to the referenced article at <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20230317-how-recycling-can-help-the-climate-and-other-facts>.

Fewer Monarch Butterflies in Mexico

The number of monarch butterflies wintering in Mexican mountains has dropped by 22%. This is measured by the number of acres with trees covered by monarchs. The loss of trees is caused by several factors, including illegal logging and decline from disease, pests and fires. Monarchs are also threatened by the loss of milkweed plants along their migration routes in the United States and Canada. For more on the issue, see the March 22, 2023 *Associated Press* article “Number of monarch butterflies wintering in Mexico drops 22%” by Mark Stevenson and Armando Solis at <https://apnews.com/article/mexico-monarch-butterflies-report-e03c8d43df1872b645c7083a6ae3e691>.

April Calendar

Apr 01 – Navy Federal 5 K in downtown Pensacola
Apr 01,02 – Pensacola Jazz Festival at Seville Square in downtown Pensacola
Apr 08 – Navy Point Art and Crafts Show at Triangle Park in Pensacola
Apr 08 – Baldwin County Strawberry Festival in Loxley
Apr 09 – Easter
Apr 14 – Pensacola Beach Firefighters Challenge
Apr 15 – Pensacola Kidney Walk on Pensacola Beach
Apr 15 – Pensacola Bay Music Fest at Community Maritime Park in downtown Pensacola
Apr 16 – Fred Levin Way Fest Museum Plaza in downtown Pensacola
Apr 21 – Crawfish Festival at Pensacola Beach
Apr 21 – Waterway Village Zydeco & Crawfish Festival in Gulf Shores
Apr 22 – Flora-Bama’s Mullet Man Triathlon
Apr 22 – Earth Day Festival at Bayview Park in Pensacola
Apr 22 – Discovery Day at Dauphin Island Sea Lab
Apr 27-30 – Tall Ships Challenge at Port of Pensacola
Apr 28 – Pensacola Crawfish Festival Seville Square in downtown Pensacola
Apr 28-30 – Interstate Mullet Toss at the Flora-Bama
Apr 29 – Perdido Key Area Chamber Spring Craft & Vendor Fair at Innerarity Point Park

Blue Angels practice at NAS Pensacola April 4,5,11,12,18,19,25,26

Bands on the Beach at Pensacola Beach every Tuesday, 7-9 PM April to October

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](#)