

KEY NOTES

NEWS FROM
THE PERDIDO KEY ASSOCIATION



OCTOBER 2024

Hurricanes Francine and Helene

September 2024 saw hurricanes challenge Perdido Key with dangerous waters off its beaches but Francine passed to the west of us and Helene to the east. Francine caused considerable damage at its landfall and inland, but Helene has become an enormous disaster for many locations. With over 100 deaths reported by the end of September, coastal towns like Cedar Key and Steinhatchee in Florida along with inland metropolitan areas like Asheville NC and Greenville SC have been without power, water and even Internet connections. Relief may be days or even weeks away while rebuilding will undoubtedly take years – if at all in some areas. The Cedar Key and vicinity have had three hurricane landfalls within the last 18 months. For more on these storms, see the September 13, 2024 *CNN* article “Francine’s heavy rainfall forces dramatic water rescues as even more flooding is on the horizon” by Dalia Faheid and Mary Gilbert at [Hurricane Francine: After Louisiana, storm unleashes flooding rainfall and gusty winds in South | CNN](https://www.cnn.com/2024/09/13/us/hurricane-francine-louisiana/index.html), the September 30, 2024 *Topeka Capital Journal* article “NC picking up the pieces after disaster” by N’dea Yancy-Bragg, Will Hofmann, Josh Meyer and Dinah Voyles Pulver at https://www.pressreader.com/usa/the-topeka-capital-journal/20240930/281689735226638?srsItd=AfmBOorU_KCbGR6dLN7eJLCCWSN5FvSEAwWhGesaQW9QamBFRt6xuK-o and the September 29, 2024 *USA Today* article “Hurricanes on repeat: Natural disasters 'don't feel natural anymore'” by Trevor Hughes at <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2024/09/29/hurricane-helene-climate-change-florida-storms-intensify/75429855007/>.

20 Years after Ivan

While dodging recent storms, many remember Hurricane Ivan that struck Perdido Key and surrounding areas on September 16, 2004 taking several lives and causing tremendous property damage. Bare concrete slabs are still visible near Perdido Key beaches where businesses and condominiums once stood giving witness to Ivan’s fury. For more on Ivan, see the September 16, 2024 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Hurricane Ivan still haunts Escambia, Santa Rosa counties after 20 years.” by Troy Moon at [Hurricane Ivan devastated Pensacola, surrounding communities 20 years ago. \(pnj.com\)](https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/2024/09/16/hurricane-ivan-20-years-ago/75429855007/).

A Great Perdido Key Beach and Road Cleanup!

Perdido Key celebrated International Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 21, 2024 with a terrific turnout that helped cleanup our beaches and major roadways. Working from 8 AM to Noon, 65 volunteers hit the beaches and 40 took to the roads collecting trash they then deposited in containers provided by ECUA. Event sponsors included Florida State Parks Rangers, Perdido Key Association, Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce and Friends of Pensacola State Parks with many additional donors helping fund the commemorative t-shirts provided to cleanup volunteers.

SS United States Fate Uncertain

Some hope remains for those who want to bring the legendary ocean liner SS United States to the Pensacola area to become a shipwreck dive site, along with the USS Oriskany already offshore. The recent Escambia County TPC proposal to fund the ship acquisition with tourism tax revenue was part of a controversial funding proposal to upgrade the Pensacola Bay Center as well as build a new indoor sport facility near 10 Mile Road. Escambia's bid for the SS United States faces competition from Okaloosa County which already has a "tentative purchase agreement" for the ship. For more on this issue including disputes between the current ship owner and its berthing landlord, see the September 10, 2024 *Pensacola News Journal* article "Despite pushback, TDC approves \$90 million for indoor sports hall and Bay Center upgrade" by Mollye Barrow at [Escambia TDC agrees to spend \\$90 million sports hall Bay Center \(pnj.com\)](#) and the September 16, 2024 *USNI* article "Legal Struggle Over SS United States Drags On – USNI News" by John Grady at [Legal Struggle Over SS United States Drags On - USNI News](#).

A Plan for Warrington

Escambia County has adopted a 30 year plan for improvements in its Warrington district as a follow on to the 1995 plan that will expire soon. Using "certain tax monies" through the Warrington Community Redevelopment Agency, many improvements have been made under the earlier plan such as "adding sidewalks, street lighting and parks, as well as drainage, sewer extensions, and upgraded streets." Warrington and NAS Pensacola are in Escambia County Commissioner Mike Kohler's District 2 who has made "cleaning up the community [Warrington] a priority not just for people who live and work there, but also to help relations with NAS Pensacola." For much more on this issue, see the September 10, 2024 *Pensacola News Journal* article "Building a brighter future for Warrington. What Escambia County has planned for the community." by Mollye Barrows at [Warrington gets new 30-year CRA plan for improvements \(pnj.com\)](#).

Alabama Coastal Birdfest & Nature Expo

The annual Alabama Birdfest will be held October 4-6, 2024 at various locations in or near coastal Alabama. The festival takes "attendees into the Mobile Delta, to the Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuary, historic Fort Morgan, and the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge, among other locations" and includes workshops on various species and other subjects. Registration for most events is required. For more information and to register (required for most events), go to [Alabama Coastal BirdFest - South Alabama Land Trust](#).

Alabama's Beaches

Gulf Shores & Orange Beach Tourism will now be promoting their area as "Alabama's Beaches" to help ensure people in their target markets are well aware "that Alabama has beaches." For more on the issue, see the September 18 – October 4, 2024 *Mullet Wrapper*

article “We will now be billed as “Alabama’s Beaches” at Mullet Wrapper: We will now be billed as “Alabama’s Beaches” in Gulf Shores & Orange Beach.

Panthers on Florida Golf Courses?!

Some Florida panthers are raising their young on golf courses in Collier and Palm Beach counties in Florida. While normally elusive, continued development and habitat loss have increased the likelihood of panther interaction with humans. For a summary of the current well being and disputes over these magnificent but endangered Florida panthers, go to the September 14, 2024 *Palm Beach Post* article “The Florida panther. No, not the hockey team, the state’s biggest cat. Can it Survive?” by Amy Bennett Williams at Florida’s largest county home to largest number of endangered panthers (palmbeachpost.com).

Climate Change Scenarios

Scientists keep close track on three developments that could radically change the earth’s climate in the next few decades. One is a rapid melting of the Thwaites Glacier (the so-called Doomsday Glacier) in Antarctica; another the melting of the Greenland ice sheet; and third, the collapse of the “Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)” (of which the Gulf Stream is a part) that brings warm water from the tropics to the North Atlantic Ocean (the disaster was depicted in the movie *Day After Tomorrow*). For a brief overview and status of each scenario, see the August 22, 2024 *USA TODAY* article “Scientists closely watch 3 climate change catastrophe scenarios” by Doyle Rice at Scientists closely watching these 3 disastrous climate change scenarios (yahoo.com).

What about Styrofoam?

Plastic foam (brand name “Styrofoam”) “is extremely lightweight and is easily blown by the wind and dispersed as pollution, so it is nearly impossible to clean up after it makes its way into our environment and our ocean.” It is also “not recyclable, compostable or biodegradable.” There has been some movement to eliminate its production and distribution, but until then consumers should exercise care in the use and disposal of this often helpful but potentially detrimental material. Drawn from a September 30, 2024 *Ocean Conservancy* e-mail by Claudia Godreau.

Blue Angels practice at NAS Pensacola on October 16, 22, 23

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

October 2024 Calendar

Oct 01-06 – Pensacola Beach Songwriters Festival various venues

Oct 01-31 – Destin Fishing Rodeo

Oct 04-05 – Freedom Fest car show, arts & crafts, food, music, etc., at The Wharf

Oct 04-05 – Pumpkin Patch Event at First City Art Center in downtown Pensacola

Oct 05 – Flora-Bama Paddle Dash at the Flora-Bama

Oct 05 – Pensacola Symphony Opening Night at the Saenger Theatre downtown Pensacola

Oct 05 – Oktoberfest at OWA

Oct 10-13 – National Shrimp Festival in Gulf Shores

Oct 11 – Red White and Birdies Golf Scramble at A.C. Read Golf Course NAS Pensacola

Oct 12,13,19,20,26,27 – Boo at the Zoo at Gulf Breeze Zoo

Oct 12 – Taste of the Beach Festival at Pensacola Beach

Oct 12 – Pensacola Dragon Boat Festival at Bayview Park

Oct 12 – National Shrimp Festival 5K/10K Run & Walk at Orange Beach Sportsplex

Oct 17 – Lost Key Lighted Market at Villagio shopping area on Perdido Key
Oct 17 – PPBE Evening for the Estuaries at Coastal Arts Center in Orange Beach
Oct 18 – Gallery Night-Fright Night in downtown Pensacola
Oct 18 – Beach-O-Ween at Pensacola Beach
Oct 18-19 – Gulf Coast Summer Fest Jazz Edition at Pensacola Community Maritime Park
Oct 18-25 – Pensacola Interstate Fair at Interstate Fairgrounds on Mobile Highway
Oct 19 – British Car Festival in Fairhope
Oct 19, 26 – Pensacola Ice Flyers at Pensacola Bay Center (opening night event on the 19th)
Oct 26 – Pensacola Race for Inclusion 5K and Fun Run at Bayview Park in Pensacola
Oct 26 – German Sausage Festival in Elberta
Oct 26 – Festival of the Arts at MKAF Cultural Arts Village in Destin
Oct 27 – Perdido Key Witches & Werewolves Halloween Paddle at Galvez Landing
Oct 31 – Halloween Custom Contest at the Flora-Bama

<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