

KEY NOTES

NEWS FROM
THE PERDIDO KEY ASSOCIATION



DECEMBER 2024

PKA Holiday Party on Thursday, December 12!

Please plan to join the PKA Board of Directors, other members plus neighbors and friends at this year's Perdido Key Association Holiday Party. The festivities will take place on Thursday, December 12, 2024 from 6 to 9 PM at the Palacio Resort-Perdido Key (13661 Perdido Key Drive). Food and beverages will be provided – just bring yourselves with family and friends. See you there!!

Chamber Christmas Party Friday, December 6

Another seasonal delight is the Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce Christmas Party at the Flora-Bama Yacht Club. The event will be held on Friday, December 6, 2024 from 5 until 9 PM and will have (from the Chamber) “fun surprises, door prize chances, and gifts for all attendees to make the night even more special!” Check out the event on the Chamber website and make your reservations soon!

New Escambia County Commission

Following the 2024 primary and general elections, the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners has some new faces. After the installation ceremony on November 19, 2024, District 1 has new Commissioner Steve Strohberger, District 2 remains with Mike Kohler and District 3 with Lumon May, District 4 Commissioner is now Ashlee Hofberger while District 5 remains with Steven Barry following his reelection.

Condo Collapse Effects

State law SB 4-D was passed as a result of the collapse of the Champlain Tower South condominium in Surfside, Florida in 2021 that killed 98 people. The law requires a “‘milestone inspection’ or an initial Phase One inspection of each building with a height of three stories or more by Dec. 31, 2024, in which the building reaches 30 years of age, and again every 10 years thereafter.” It also requires a Structural Integrity Reserve Study (SIRS) to identify short-term and long-range repairs and requires associations to set up financial reserves for the repairs. These financial burdens have challenged the ability of some owners to remain in their homes as well as affecting the prices of older condominiums. For more information on this issue, see the October 23, 2024 *Palm Beach Post* article “SPECIAL REPORT: Why Florida’s

new safety inspection law is creating havoc for condo owners” by Mike Diamond at <https://www.thedestinlog.com/story/news/local/2024/10/23/surfside-law-florida-condo-safety-inspections-generates-special-assessments-of-more-than-200000/74759346007/>.

Controlled Burn Season

With some rain and other favorable conditions, controlled burns are likely in the weeks ahead at Big Lagoon State Park and Tarkiln Bayou Preserve State Park. Some smoke in surrounding areas might occur but the burns remove unwanted underbrush and help preserve forest health.

Big Lagoon Campground to Close for Maintenance

The Big Lagoon State Park Campground will close in February 2025 for significant maintenance. The work will take several months with no completion date currently available.

Siquenza Cove Resurfacing Project Complete (almost)

The Siquenza Cove Resurfacing Project seems near completion after “a partial reconstruction of roadway on areas of Gongora Drive and Don Carlos Drive. The project will also include resurfacing a portion of River Road, Don Carlos Drive, Gongora Drive, and Siquenza Drive.” It is a considerable pleasure to drive on Don Carlos and adjoining roads without dodging manhole covers and annoying potholes! For more on this issue, go to <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/escambiacountyfl/projects/93578/document>.

New Bridge in Gulf Shores

The Alabama Dept. of Transportation expects to complete construction of the “Intracoastal Waterway Bridge” and a related connector to the Foley Beach Express by the summer of 2026. When completed, the bridge will carry two lanes of southbound traffic while the current Foley Beach Express Bridge crossing the Intracoastal Waterway just west of The Wharf will carry two lanes of northbound traffic. For more on this issue, see the November 13, 2024 *Mullet Wrapper* article “One-Way Waterway Bridge on-target for summer of 2026 completion” at [Mullet Wrapper: One-way Waterway Bridge on target for summer of 2026 completion in Gulf Shores & Orange Beach.](#)

More on Dead Snakes

Local researchers have been collecting dead snakes in sufficiently good condition for analysis to determine if the invasive snake lungworm (pentastome parasite) has reached the Panhandle region of Florida. According to a November 6, 2024 *Sea Grant Note* from Rick O’Connor, no parasites were found in the 15 samples collected thus far. But the project continues so residents are asked to be on the lookout for dead snakes that are not flattened by traffic. For guidance on collection and delivery of dead snakes, go to the “SLAM Project Continues...” entry on the News page of the Perdido Key Association website at www://perdidokeyassociation.org. As warned in the *Note*, do not pick up a dead venomous snake with your hands, use a rake (etc.) or contact Rick O’Connor at roc1@ufl.edu.

Climate Conference Results

The COP29 (Conference of Parties) UN climate summit completed on November 22, 2024 with richer countries promising \$300 billion a year to fight climate change going primarily to

developing countries. Negotiations were intense because developing countries wanted much more since they bare much of the damage from climate change while many argue the more developed countries are causing it. Conference attendees were also concerned the Trump Administration would be less receptive to climate change initiatives. For more information on the conference, see the November 23, 2024 *BBC* article “Huge COP29 climate deal too little too late, poorer nations say” by Georgina Rannard and Esme Stallard at <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cd0gx4przejo>.

More Microscopic Creatures in the Gulf

Continuing his series on microscopic life in the Gulf of Mexico, Rick O’Connor released recent articles on diatoms and dinoflagellates, both interesting creatures with important effects on our environment. To access the November 8, 2024 *IFAS/UFL* article “Marine Creatures of the Northern Gulf of Mexico – Diatoms,” go to <https://nwdistrict.ifas.ufl.edu/nat/2024/11/08/marine-creatures-of-the-northern-gulf-of-mexico-diatoms/>; for the November 15, 2024 *IFAS/UFL* article “Marine Creatures of the Northern Gulf of Mexico – Dinoflagellates,” go to <https://nwdistrict.ifas.ufl.edu/nat/2024/11/15/marine-creatures-of-the-northern-gulf-of-mexico-dinoflagellates/>.

Wreaths Across America

On December 14, 2024, volunteers nationwide will place wreaths on the graves of fallen US service members at national and state cemeteries, perhaps 3 million or more wreaths as in recent years. The Kiwanis Club of Big Lagoon has taken the lead locally to honor our fallen veterans with wreaths at Barrancas National Cemetery. The Wreaths Across America program traces its origins to Morrill Worcester and his efforts to honor veterans in 1992 by donating wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery. For more information on local efforts, go the November 13, 2024 *Mullet Wrapper* article “Wreaths Across America Ceremony Dec.14 at Barrancas” at [Mullet Wrapper: Wreaths Across America Ceremony Dec. 14 at Barrancas; Big Lagoon Kiwanians accepting sponsorships through Nov. 30 in Gulf Shores & Orange Beach](#); for more on the national event and its origin, go to the “Wreaths Across America” website at <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/About/OurMission>.

Wishing our wonderful PKA members and everyone else the very best of Holiday Seasons!!

December 2024 Calendar

Dec 01 – Family Christmas Fest at Museum Square in downtown Pensacola

Dec 01,06-08,13,15,20-24 – Winterfest in downtown Pensacola

Dec 01-31 – Ice Skating at The Wharf on most days/various times

Dec 02-09 – NAIA Women's Soccer Championship at Ashton Brosnham Soccer Complex

Dec 05-08 – Snowball Derby Stock Car Races at Five Flags Speedway Pensacola

Dec 06 – *Magnificat* by The Choral Society of Pensacola at Cathedral of the Sacred Heart

Dec 06,07,12 – *A Christmas Carol* by Sunshine Sights Players at Taylor Chapel in Pensacola

Dec 06,21,26,28 – Pensacola Ice Flyers at Pensacola Bay Center

Dec 07 – Santa Drop at the Flora-Bama

Dec 07 – Santa Gala at the Pensacola Light House

Dec 08 – Surfing Santa Beach Parade on Pensacola Beach
Dec 14 – Pensacola Christmas Parade in downtown Pensacola
Dec 14 – Christmas Lighted Boat Parade on the canal from Lulus in Gulf Shores to The Wharf
Dec 14 – *The Grinch in Concert* at Destin-Fort Walton Beach Convention Center
Dec 14-15,19-22 – *A Christmas Story* at the Pensacola Little Theatre
Dec 20-22 – *The Nutcracker* by Ballet Pensacola at the Saenger Theatre in Pensacola
Dec 20-22 – *The Making of Scrooge: A Christmas Carol Prequel* at the OWA Theater
Dec 25 – Christmas
Dec 28 – Make it to the Line Run/Walk at the Flora-Bama
Dec 31 – New Years Eve Fireworks on Pensacola Beach

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