

# KEY NOTES

NEWS FROM  
THE PERDIDO KEY ASSOCIATION



## JANUARY 2025

### **Have a Wonderful Perdido Key 2025!**

All of us on the PKA Board of Directors wish you and yours the very best of New Years! 2025 promises to be a year with some changes on our wonderful island as a new Escambia County Board of County Commissioners establishes itself and various legal and development issues move forward. PKA will continue to be actively engaged on these and other issues as appropriate while keeping our membership up-to-date as we work to ensure Perdido Key remains a great place to live and visit.

### **PKA Director Positions**

Want to make a difference in the future of our beautiful island? Please consider becoming a PKA Director! All PKA members are eligible to become Directors even if part-time Perdido Key residents since the monthly meetings are held in-person and by teleconference. The Perdido Key Association is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization “that operates exclusively for charitable and educational purposes in providing information needed to promote the welfare, orderly development and maintain the natural beauty of Perdido Key, Florida.” If interested, please contact PKA at [perdidokeyassociation@gmail.com](mailto:perdidokeyassociation@gmail.com), Charles Krupnick at [charles.krupnick@gmail.com](mailto:charles.krupnick@gmail.com) or any other PKA Director by January 21, 2025.

### **PKA Annual Membership Meeting**

Please mark your calendars for the 2025 PKA Annual Membership Meeting to be held on Saturday, February 22, 2025, from 10 AM until Noon at the Eden Condominium. The guest speaker will be newly elected Escambia County District 1 Commissioner Steve Stroberger.

### **PKA Holiday Party 2024**

Perdido Key Association held its annual Holiday Party on December 12, 2024 at the Palacio Resort-Perdido Key on Perdido Key Drive. Though a slim turnout this year, all who attended enjoyed wonderful decorations, great food and drink and – best of all – good company.

### **75 Ft Easement Decisions Pending**

An agenda item for the January 9, 2025 Escambia County Board of County Commissioners meeting indicates movement in litigation on the 75 foot public access easement issue for some

of Perdido Key's beachfront property. It recommends "That the Board accept for information that the Honorable Jan Shackelford granted the County's motions to dismiss for failure to join indispensable parties in the cases of ..." the condominiums associated with the legal action. For the complete agenda item, go to [Board of County Commissioners Meeting • • CivicClerk](#).

### **Over 23 Million Floridians!**

According to recent data, Florida's population grew by 467,347 in one year and now exceeds 23.3 million people – adding more to its population than any other US state except Texas. A total of 411,322 of the gain was from international immigration. For more on this issue, see the December 20, 2024 *Tampa Bay Times* article "Fast-growing Florida tops 23.3M people" by Jim Saunders of *News Service of Florida* at [Florida's fast-growing population tops 23.3M people, Census Bureau says](#).

### **Proposal on Florida State Park Use**

A Florida bill would ban building golf courses, hotels and some other sports and resort facilities in Florida's state parks, reacting to an earlier proposal in 2024 to do just that at several Florida parks – including Jonathan Dickinson State Park in Martin County. The earlier proposal surprised many including State Senator Gayle Harrell whose district included Jonathan Dickinson State Park who then vowed "to protect our parks." For more on this issue, go to the December 20, 2024 *TCPalm/Treasure Coast Newspaper* article "A deep dive into Harrell's bill to ban hotels, golf courses, pickleball in state parks" by Jack Lemnus at <https://www.yahoo.com/news/deep-dive-harrells-bill-ban-100350310.html>.

### **Plastic Caps Hard to Turn?**

Have you noticed more difficulty opening plastic bottles and cartons? "The old-style milk carton caps were 21 millimeters tall, while the new ones are 17 millimeters – a difference of about 19% that makes them harder to grip, said Min DeGruson, a professor and director of packaging at the University of Wisconsin-Stout." The shift saves plastic and weight and therefore reduces cost but at the expense of more effort by consumers. For more on this issue, see the December 4, 2024 *USA TODAY* article "It's not just you – bottles and cartons are now harder to open. We found out why." by Elizabeth Weise at [Shrinking plastic caps make bottles and cartons harder to open](#).

### **Christmas Trees for Dune Restoration**

Gulf Shores residents can drop off "live, undecorated, and unflocked trees" at the Gulf State Park Beach Pavilion during the month of January. They should be placed in the southeast end of the Pavilion parking lot and not block dumpsters.

### **Florida Panther Update**

Florida panthers seem to be increasing in numbers as determined from greater recorded road deaths. According to Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission panther biologist Dave Onorato, "... last year was a low tally at 13 mortalities; this year is back up to 28 as of today, which is more typical of the tally for panthers for the six years prior to 2023." The numbers are "closer to what biologists have recorded in the past decade or so, as the population has recovered from only a few dozen in the 1990s." For more on this issue, see the November 21, 2024 *Fort Myers News-Press* article "Panther road kills back up to typical levels this year" by Chad Gillis at [Florida panther road kills back up to typical levels so far in 2024](#).

## Iguana Boom

Green iguanas are native to Latin America and were first reported in south Florida in the 1960's. Thriving in the warm climate, the iguana population increased greatly with millions exported as pets. Their export was banned in 2021 by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission but apparently removed a "primary way of controlling the lizard[s]" that are now fouling pools, devouring gardens and creating tunnels that "topple sea walls and foundations." Pet traders and others are urging changes to current policy. For more on this issue, see the *Florida Today* article "Pet advocates say Fla. Regulations help spark an iguana boom" by Jim Waymer at <https://www.floridatoday.com/story/news/local/environment/2024/12/18/pet-advocates-florida-draconian-with-some-favorite-lizards/76946626007/>.

## Protozoans are "Before Animals"

In his latest article on microscopic life forms in the Gulf of Mexico, Rick O'Connor introduces us to protozoans. They are "single celled creatures that lack a cell wall and chlorophyll" so they cannot produce their own food like plants; and, though they must "consume foods" like animals, protozoans are not animals either because they are single celled. For more on these in-between creatures, see the December 20, 2024 UF/IFAS *Panhandle Outdoors* article "Marine Creatures of the Northern Gulf of Mexico – Amoeboid Protozoans" at [Marine Creatures of the Northern Gulf of Mexico – Amoeboid Protozoans | Panhandle Outdoors](#).

## January 2025

Jan 01 – Flora-Bama Polar Bear Dip and Pensacola Beach Polar Bear Plunge 2025  
Jan 03,12-19,31 – Pensacola Ice Flyers at Pensacola Bay Center  
Jan 04 – Pensacola Mardi Gras Kickoff on 12<sup>th</sup> Night in downtown Pensacola  
Jan 04-05 – Bee Gees Now at OWA  
Jan 05 – Coastal Weddings Expo at the Pensacola Bay Center  
Jan 07 – State Ballet Theater of Ukraine presents Swan Lake at Mobile Saenger Theatre  
Jan 09,23 – Snowbird Hootenanny at the Flora-Bama  
Jan 11 – Coastal Alabama e-Cycling & Shred Day at Gulf State Park Pavilion  
Jan 11 – Pensacola Mardi Gras Mambo at the Pensacola Bay Center  
Jan 11 – Pensacola Symphony Beethoven and Blue Jeans at the Pensacola Saenger Theatre  
Jan 15 – Harlem Globetrotters at the Pensacola Bay Center  
Jan 20 – Martin Luther King Day Parade in downtown Pensacola  
Jan 25 – Arts & Crafts Festival at OWA  
Jan 26 – Big Beach Marathon & Half Marathon at The Hangout in Gulf Shores  
Jan 28 - Perdido Key Chamber Meeting & Awards Celebration at Grand Lagoon Yacht Club

Blue Angels practice schedule will be available in February 2025

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](#)