

KEY NOTES

NEWS FROM
THE PERDIDO KEY ASSOCIATION



June 2025

June 8 2025 World Oceans Day

The World Oceans Day celebration on Perdido Key will be held from Noon until 3 PM on Sunday, June 8, 2025 at the Perdido Key Community Center, 15500 Perdido Key Drive. The Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored event will have a number of exhibits related to the environment and our wonderful oceans, including one from the Perdido Key Association. Here are two quotes from the World Oceans Day entry on the United Nations website (<https://unoceans.un.org/unworldoceansday.org/index.html/>):

“Humanity can count on the ocean, but can the ocean count on us? Today and every day let’s put the ocean first.” António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General

“The more I see irresponsible human activity – pollution, acidification, extraction – devastating the ocean, the more I find myself asking.... Has humanity forgotten that the ocean not only covers the planet but sustains us as well?” Jason Momoa, actor and UN Environmental Program Advocate

PKA Membership Check

Have you renewed your PKA membership for 2025? If not, please do so soon; if not a member please consider joining us! PKA’s only sources of revenue are annual dues from members of \$30 (\$31 if done online) and legal fund contributions. They are used to fund the association’s role in events like World Oceans Day in June, International Coastal Cleanup Day in September and the upcoming 2025 Perdido Key Property Owners Survey. PKA Directors attend meetings and testify before the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners, Florida-Alabama Transportation Planning Organization and other organizations as appropriate to help preserve and enhance the distinctive character of the Key. We do all we can to ensure the future of Perdido Key is a very bright one!

May Road Cleanup

Area non-profits and government personnel have been working hard in recent weeks to clean up roadside trash on Perdido Key. The Perdido Key Rotary Club’s Trash Bash was held on May 17, 2025 and was followed by efforts from the Perdido Key Association and personnel from Escambia County and the Florida Department of Transportation. Areas targeted included green areas along the approaches to the Theo Baars Bridge and the Perdido Key

Drive/Johnson Beach Road roundabout. Thanks to all involved for making Perdido Key a more beautiful place to live and visit!

State Parks Preservation Act

Governor Rick DeSantis signed into law “a measure to protect Florida’s 175 state parks from development such as golf courses, luxury lodges and pickleball and tennis courts.” The “State Park Preservation Act” mandates “that DEP focus park management on passive traditional recreational activities that leaves the land mostly undisturbed. And lawmakers define what those activities are, like hiking.” For more on this issue, see the May 24, 2025 *Tallahassee Democrat/USA Today Network* article “Florida state parks saved from development as Gov. DeSantis signs protection bill” by James Call at

<https://www.tallahassee.com/story/news/local/state/2025/05/22/gov-desantis-oks-new-law-to-safeguard-florida-parks-from-development/83651122007/>.

Random Boat Checks to End

Florida’s new “Boater Freedom Act” “prohibits any law enforcement officer, including Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officers, from stopping or boarding a vessel solely to conduct a safety or marine sanitation equipment inspection.” It also establishes a “Florida Freedom Boater” decal for compliance with safety regulations, prevents local governments from banning boats based on energy sources and prohibits issuing fishing licenses for vessels owned by alien powers. For more on this issues, see the May 20, 2025 *USA Today Network* article “Some FWC, police stops of boats, boarding to be halted by new Florida law. What to know” by C. A. Bridges at <https://www.news-press.com/story/news/politics/2025/05/20/florida-boater-freedom-act-desantis-require-probable-cause/83741491007/>.

Commissioner Stroberger at Hub Stacey’s June 13

Escambia County District One Commissioner Steve Stroberger will be the featured speaker at a Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce event at Hub Stacey’s on Innerarity Point. The presentation will begin at 8 AM on Friday, June 13, 2025.

Nesting Sea Turtles and Seabirds

The first nests for the 2025 sea turtle nesting season (May to October) have already been found on Perdido Key and Pleasure Island. Volunteers in Florida and Alabama patrol area beaches each morning for “signs of nesting and hatching activity.” Seabird species such as least terns and snowy plovers also breed in our area, so remember to exercise great care in areas where turtles and birds may be nesting. For Escambia County’s “Leave No Trace Behind” policies, go to <https://myescambia.com/pensacola-beach/leave-no-trace-behind>; to report sea turtle sightings call 866 732-8878; for dead or injured sea turtles, contact Escambia County Marine Resources at 850-281-5904 or FWC Wildlife Alert line at 1-888-404-3922. For more on these issues, see the May 15, 2025 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Sea turtle nesting season kicks off with Mother’s Day sighting. Now the real work begins” by Edward Bunch III at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/2025/05/15/sea-turtle-nesting-season-2025-pensacola-beach-perdido-key-escambia-county/83619855007/> and the May 14, 2025 *Mullet Wrapper* article “Sea turtles have already started nesting on Alabama beaches” at <https://mulletwrapper.net/sea-turtles-have-already-started-nesting-on-alabama-beaches/>.

Rising Water, Sinking Land, Offshore Drilling

Human imprint of the environment and endangered species are topics important to many Perdido Key owners, residents and visitors as well as the Perdido Key Association. Two recent

articles highlighted issues of concern, the first with rising sea level and sinking land and the second with offshore drilling and its threat to endangered species. For the May 25, 2025 *USA Today* article “U.S. coasts face crisis as land sinks and seas rise” by Elizabeth Weise, go to <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2025/05/25/sea-level-rise-at-us-coasts/83817776007/>; for the *Pensacola News Journal* article “Environmental groups sue Trump Administration to protect endangered Gulf species” by Tom McLaughlin go to <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/environment/2025/05/25/earthjustice-says-trump-administration-is-out-to-get-imperiled-rices-whale/83787554007/>.

EV Charging in Orange Beach

The *Mullet Wrapper* recently listed EV charging stations in nearby Alabama. Those in Orange Beach are at the Cumberland Farms service station/store on Canal Road, The Gulf restaurant, Holiday Inn Express, Hilton Garden Inn, Phoenix VI, Phoenix VIII, The Wharf and Hampton Inn. For more on this issue, go to the May 13, 2025 *Mullet Wrapper* article “O.B. adds another EV electric charging station” at <https://mulletwrapper.net/o-b-adds-another-ev-electric-charging-station/>.

Not a Snake?

A foot-long wiggler was spotted on a River Road parking lot and thought to be a ribbon or garter snake. But Rick O’Connor – Escambia County’s Sea Grant Representative – identified it as a glass lizard (*Ophisaurus* in the family Anguidae), so named because its brittle tail can break off and the animal still function. For identification, lizards had ear openings and eyelids while snakes do not. The River Road lizard found a safe haven in some nearby pine straw. For a photo of the creature, go to the PKA website at <https://perdidokeyassociation.org>.

Worms in the Gulf!

Not to worry, according to Rick O’Connor in his article “Marine Creatures of the Northern Gulf – Worms.” “Though we may be ‘creeped-out’ about the presence of worms in the northern Gulf of Mexico, they are not threatening to us and are an important member of the marine community cleaning decaying creatures and waste material from the environment.” Our region does not have any common earthworms, but other segmented creatures like sepiolid worms can be found and may leave “small skinny calcium carbonate tubes” on shoreline features like rocks and piers. For more on Gulf worms, check out the May 16, 2025 *UF/IFAS* article at <https://nwdistrict.ifas.ufl.edu/nat/2025/05/16/marine-creatures-of-the-northern-gulf-worms/>.

Blue Angels practice at NAS Pensacola on June 3,4,10,11,17,18,24,25

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

June 2025 Calendar

June 1-15 – Gulf Coast Chinese Lantern Festival at Bellingrath Gardens

June 3 – Career Fair at Columbia Southern University campus in Orange Beach

June 3-8,17-22 – Blue Wahoos at Blue Wahoo Stadium Pensacola in downtown Pensacola

June 4,5 – Ain’t too Proud: Life & Times of the Temptations at Saenger Theatre Pensacola

June 5 – Jimmy Buffett Tribute at the Dugas Pavilion Stage in Destin

June 6-8 – Flora-Bama Fishing Rodeo at Flora-Bama’s Ole River Grill

June 7 – Hank Williams Jr. & The Nitty Gritty Dirtband at The Wharf Amphitheater

June 8 – 2025 World Oceans Day celebration at Perdido Key Community Center

June 12-15 – Bill Hargraves Fishing Rodeo at Grand Lagoon Yacht Club on Gulf Beach Hwy

June 14 – *Black Panther: Long Live the King* free movie at Community Maritime Park
June 14 – Satisfaction: The International Rolling Stones Tribute Show at the OWA Theater
June 14,15,19,20,21,22,26,27 – *Camelot* at Pensacola Little Theatre downtown Pensacola
June 15 – Father’s Day events various venues
June 17 – Perdido Key Chamber Night Out at Blue Wahoos Stadium
June 19 – Juneteenth events various venues
June 20 – The Olivia Show: Tribute to Olivia Newton John & Grease at the OWA Theater
June 20 – Perdido Key Breakfast Club 1920’s Murder Mystery
June 22 – Bride’s-Night Wedding Expo Sanders Beach Community Center in Pensacola
June 28 – Pensacola Splash Fest at Community Maritime Park downtown Pensacola

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