

KEY NOTES

NEWS FROM
THE PERDIDO KEY ASSOCIATION



October 2025

Perdido Key Coastal and Road Cleanup

Nearly 70 people participated in Perdido Key's International Coastal Cleanup Day event on Saturday, September 20, 2025 and picked up considerable trash from our beautiful beaches and busy roadways. With leadership from Florida State Park Rangers, Perdido Key Association, Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce and Friends of Pensacola State Parks along with many sponsors who helped fund event t-shirts, participants were able to enjoy wonderful weather while removing unwanted debris from our island. Among the many volunteers were several young men from "Youths Left Behind." For photos of the event, go to the PKA website at <https://perdidokeyassociation.org>.

Blue Angels Homecoming Rescheduled to Nov 14-15

The Blue Angels homecoming show at NAS Pensacola as been pushed back one week from November 7-8, 2025 to November 14-15, 2025 to "accommodate an unexpected commitment." For more on this issue, see the September 18, 2025 *Pensacola News Journal* article "Blue Angels Homecoming Show at NAS Pensacola pushed back one week" at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/military/blueangels/2025/09/18/blue-angels-homecoming-show-at-nas-pensacola-delayed-one-week-nov-14/86219514007/>.

County Fire Service Fees to Almost Double

Despite opposition from many taxpayers attending the County's first public hearing on its proposed fiscal year 2025-2026 budget, Escambia County Commissioners unanimously approved a new fire service fee almost twice the current amount – increasing per dwelling unit costs from \$125.33 to \$226.78. Among other reasons, Commissioners spoke to staffing costs for five new fire stations and the real need to raise fire fighter salaries. At its final budget meeting on September 24, 2025, Commissioners affirmed their earlier votes and approved the County's 2025-2026 budget with the Fire Service Fee increase in place. For more on this issue, see the September 11, 2025 *Pensacola News Journal* article "Escambia County nearly doubles fire service fee despite community pushback" by Mollye Barrows at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/escambia-county/2025/09/11/escambia-county-doubles-fire-service-fee-despite-community-pushback/86090251007/> and the September 25, 2025 *Pensacola News Journal* article "Escambia passes nearly \$870 budget; looks to 'tighten belt'

next year amid tax outcry” by Mollye Barrows at

<https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/escambia-county/2025/09/25/escambia-county-2025-2026-budget-fire-msbu-millage-rate-prompt-angst/86325419007/>.

Pensacola Beach a City?

Some on Pensacola Beach are hoping the popular beach area will become its own municipality. *Pensacola Beach Advocates* President Rhonda Dorfman believes Escambia County and the Santa Rosa Island Authority “often neglect beach residents and don’t prioritize what’s best for the beach.” Issues of concern reportedly include beach restoration, traffic difficulties, and land title. Note that unsuccessful incorporation initiatives were pursued for the Perdido and Navarre areas in the past couple of years. For more on the Pensacola Beach issue, go to the September 26, 2025 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Should Pensacola Beach be its own city? Why some are talking about it.” by Mollye Barrows at <https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/pensacola-beach-own-city-why-090651562.html>.

RV Park Dispute in Santa Rosa County

A number of residents from the Garcon Point Road area in Santa Rosa County recently expressed their concerns about a 96-unit RV park to be constructed near them at the end of Michael Drive on Escambia Bay. The residents noted “their roads couldn’t bear the increased large vehicle traffic, that a transient RV community could endanger their quality of life and that campers cooking with propane tanks or charcoal grills could add to an already significant danger of wildfire.” Santa Rosa Commissions agreed the Park “was a bad idea, but said because the zoning allowing park development is already in place, there’s not a whole lot they can do.” For more on this issue, see the September 26, 2025 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Residents want to keep RVs from rumbling through their neighborhood. It might be too late” by Tom McLaughlin at <https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/residents-want-keep-rvs-rumbling-090702949.html>.

High Seas Treaty in Force

The multinational *High Seas Treaty* received the endorsement of its 60th country and will enter force in January 2026. “Covering more than two-thirds of the ocean, the agreement sets binding rules to conserve and sustainably use marine biodiversity,” UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said. Once in force, countries can propose areas to be protected by the treaty and “these will then be voted on by the countries that sign up to the treaty.” Although the United States has signed the treaty, its participation in the agreement has not been confirmed by the US Senate. For more on this issue, go to the September 19, 2025 *BBC* article “Key oceans treaty crosses threshold to come into force” by Esme Stallard at <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cq5j87114deo>.

Southwest Escambia Sports Complex Recognized

The Southwest Escambia Sports Complex just off Bauer Road comprises approximately 112 acres of forested lands. The Complex was recognized as a “Stewardship Forest” by the Florida Forest Service for improvements made by the Escambia County Natural Resources Conservation Division. Recent activities at the Complex included “planting of endangered White Topped Pitcher Plants, invasive plant removal, installation of educational signage and duck boxes, and forestry mulching.” For more on this issue, go to the September 24, 2025

Escambia County Newscenter news release “Southwest Escambia Sports Complex Recognized as a Stewardship Forest by Florida Forest Service” at <https://myescambia.com/news/news-article/2025/09/24/southwest-escambia-sports-complex-recognized-as-a-stewardship-forest-by-florida-forest-service>.

Upcoming Local Activities

October 18 Debris Cleanup at Gulf State Park Pier

Divers and others are invited to participate in the “Dive Against Debris” at the Gulf State Park Saltwater Pier beginning at 8 AM on Saturday, October 18, 2025. The pier will be closed while participants remove old fishing lines and other debris from beneath the pier. For more information on the cleanup, go to “Safety Teams from Gulf Shores and Orange Beach will assist volunteers” at <https://www.obawebsite.com/dive-against-debris-cleanup-planned-at-gulf-state-park-pier>; you can also call 251-948-7275 ext.62093 or go to alapark.com.

Master Gardener Lecture Series

Those with a passion for gardening might consider signing up for Okaloosa County’s “Master Gardener Lecture Series” beginning at 10 AM on Monday October 20, 2025 at 3098 Airport Road in Crestview. The topic is “designing your home landscape” and will be presented by Ms Andy Donatelli, a Master Gardener Volunteer for over 26 years. To sign up, go to MGlecture@yahoo.com.

October 27 Red, White, and Birdies Golf Scramble

Why not plan to participate in the October 27, 2025 Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce’s “Red, White and Birdies Golf Scramble” at A.C. Read Golf Course on NAS Pensacola? The Scramble is an annual event supporting our area’s former and current military families with proceeds going to the Perdido Key Area Chamber Foundation’s military appreciation programs and initiatives. For more information, go to <https://www.visitpensacola.com/events/2025-red-white-and-birdies-golf-scramble/>.

November 1 Heron Trot

Each year the Friends of Pensacola State Park organize the Heron Trot 5K Family Fun Run at Big Lagoon State Park. This year’s race will start at 7 AM on Saturday, November 1, 2025. You can sign up for the race on Everbrite.com; if interested in volunteering to help with the race, contact Vicky Haney at vickyhaney2264@gmail.com.

November 6 Military Appreciation Luncheon

To help celebrate Military Appreciation Month, the Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce is having a Military Appreciate Luncheon from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM at the Grande Lagoon Yacht Club on Gulf Beach Hwy. The featured speaker will be Commander (Ret) Brandy T. McNabb, an experienced Naval Aviator and former Executive Officer of the Naval Aviation Schools Command (NASC) at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida. For more information on the luncheon, go to <https://perdidochamberfl.chambermaster.com/events/details/2025-military-appreciation-luncheon-38830>.

Panhandle Terrapin Project

The diamondback terrapin is “the only resident turtle within brackish water and estuarine systems in the United States.” For the past 20 years, volunteers have conducted several phases of the “Panhandle Terrapin Project” to determine the population, status, activities and subspecies of the terrapins in the Florida Panhandle. From the 2025 report: “The team has captured 1483 terrapins, the majority of which were from the eastern panhandle.” For more information, go to September 19, 2025 “Panhandle Terrapin Project 2025 Report” by Rick O’Connor at <https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/escambiaco/2025/09/19/panhandle-terrapin-project-2025-report/>.

Shipping Pollution

Shipping contributes significantly to the pollution of our oceans and the air we breathe. As cited by the Ocean Conservancy, “if ocean shipping were a country, it would rank as the sixth-largest emitter of greenhouse gases worldwide.” The International Maritime Pollution Accountability Act before Congress “would require ships to pay a fee based on their emissions, and those funds would help accelerate the transition to zero-emission shipping.” Drawn from August 11, 2025 *Ocean Conservancy* e-mail by Caroline Bonfield.

What about Wind Power?

Wind power has emerged as an important alternative to fossil fuels in recent years. Over land and waters, enormous turbines create essentially pollution free electricity from the wind, but not without negative consequences such as tens of thousands of bird and bat deaths. For more on wind power, see the September 22, 2025 *UF/IFAS* article “Our Environment: Part 20 – Wind Power” by Rick O’Connor at <https://nwdistrict.ifas.ufl.edu/nat/2025/09/22/our-environment-part-20-wind-power/>.

Blue Angels practice at NAS Pensacola on October 15,21,22,28,29

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

October Calendar

Oct 1-12 – Pensacola Beach Songwriters Festival

Oct 1-31 – Destin Fishing Rodeo

Oct 4 – MarineMax Boat & Yacht Show, Cypress St near downtown Pensacola

Oct 4 – Gulf Coast Nature Expo in Fairhope

Oct 9-12 – National Shrimp Festival in Gulf Shores

Oct 10-11 – *Festa Italiana* at Fountain Park in downtown Pensacola

Oct 11 – Taste of the Beach Festival on Pensacola Beach

Oct 12 – Flora-Bama Oktoberfest

Oct 12 – Elberta German Sausage Festival

Oct 15 – Multi-Chamber Social at Flora-Bama

Oct 16-26 – Pensacola Interstate Fair at the Interstate Fairgrounds on Mobile Hwy Pensacola

Oct 17 – Beach-O-Ween on Pensacola Beach Boardwalk

Oct 17-19 – Ballet Pensacola’s *Dracula* at The Center in downtown Pensacola

Oct 18 – British Car Show in Fairhope

Oct 18,25 – Pensacola Ice Flyers at Pensacola Bay Center in downtown Pensacola

Oct 25,26 – Festival of the Arts in Destin

Oct 26 – Witches & Werewolves Halloween Paddle Ride & Bar Crawl at Galvez Landing

Oct 30-31 – Foo Foo Festival in downtown Pensacola

Oct 31 – Flora-Bama’s Halloween Costume Contest

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