



December 2025

Become a PKA Director!

With discussion swirling about beach access and other Perdido Key issues, it is a great time to consider joining the PKA Board of Directors! All Perdido Key Association (PKA) members are eligible to be Directors, even part-time Perdido Key residents since the monthly meetings are held both in-person and by teleconference. PKA has made significant inputs to past projects such as the Perdido Key Master Plan and Perdido Key Multiuse Path and is a prominent voice in current beach access discussions. 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 in being nominated for a Director position, please contact the PKA Administrator at perdidokeyassociation@gmail.com, PKA Director Charles Krupnick at charles.krupnick@gmail.com or any other PKA Director before January 18, 2026.

Continuing Discussion on Beach Access

Presentations for and against allowing public access to Perdido Key private beaches (i.e., the customary use issue) have occupied significant time during the Public Forum portion of recent Escambia County Board of County Commissioner meetings. Recent statements by Commissioners to the press have added to the mix with ideas about County use or acquisition of the Perdido Key Area of Gulf Islands National Seashore (Johnson Beach) and Perdido Key State Park. An additional issue is the recent decision by affected properties to discontinue legal proceedings against implementing a 75 foot public access easement for 1.2 miles of Perdido Key private beaches, though the decision was without prejudice and could be addressed at a later time. According to a recent *Pensacola News Journal* article, “Escambia County commissioners plan to hold a committee of the whole meeting to fully discuss the issue early in 2026, possibly as soon as January.” For more on recent developments, see the [November 20, 2025 Pensacola News Journal article Johnson Beach Perdido Key State Park take over eyed by Escambia](#) by Jim Little.

Alert – New Date for December County Commissioner Meeting!

PKA publicized a December 4, 2025 meeting of Escambia County Board of Commissioners for those who may want to express opinions on Perdido Key beach access or other issues. The

meeting has been changed to **Thursday, December 11, 2025** with the Public Forum portion beginning at 4:30 PM.

Proposed Changes to Endangered Species Act

The Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed changes to the Endangered Species Act as part of the administration's efforts to reduce "burdensome federal regulations for businesses." One change would eliminate the "blanket rule" that automatically applies endangered species protection to threatened species (species likely to become endangered in the near future); another would change considerations for designating critical habitats for a species' survival. "According to the Endangered Species Coalition, which opposes the proposed rules, hundreds of vulnerable plants and wildlife could be more at risk of extinction if they [the new rules] pass" with iconic Florida sea turtles and manatee (among others) believed at risk. The proposal is open to public comment until December 22, 2025. For more on this issue, see the November 25, 2025 *USA Today* article "Extinctions ahead? Species that may get less protection in Trump plan" by Kinsey Crowley at [Endangered Species Act changes Trump plans, possible extinctions.](#)

Drilling Proposed for Florida's Gulf

The Five Year Plan for offshore drilling recently released by the US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management includes a large area of the eastern Gulf off the coast of Florida that was previously excluded from oil and gas drilling operations. The plan is part of the current US Administration's efforts to improve America's energy independence. Negative reaction to the plan has been immediate from Florida Governor DeSantis and other public figures while many in the Perdido Key area recall effects from the massive 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The new plan has a 60 day public comment period from November 24, 2025 to January 24, 2026. For more on this issue, see the November 21, 2025 *Pensacola News Journal* article [Oil drilling in Florida Eastern Gulf in Trump plan](#) by Tom McLaughlin and the November 24, 2025 *USA Today* article [Could offshore drilling ruin America's coastlines? Some are worried.](#) by Dinal Voyles Pulver and Terry Collins

Government Shutdown

Public access to NAS Pensacola and the Naval Aviation Museum was restored on November 14, 2025 following the end of the federal government shutdown. The Perdido Key Area of Gulf Islands National Seashore (Johnson Beach) was also reopened. For more on ending the shutdown, go to the November 13, 2025 *Pensacola News Journal* article [Government shutdown ending leads to NAS Pensacola reopening to public](#) by Benjamin Johnson.

July Perdido Key Drive Pedestrian Fatalities

More information has emerged concerning the July 5, 2025 death of two young people at the Perdido Key Drive and River Road intersection. The vehicle involved was reportedly traveling east at 74 mph prior to the accident while an ambulance traveling west may have been a factor in the tragedy. For more on the accident, go to the November 21, 2025 *Pensacola News Journal* article [Former Escambia deputy facing vehicular homicide charges was speeding](#) by Mollye Barrows.

Fewer Canadian Tourists

According to a recent *BBC* report, “October was the 10th straight month of decline in the number of travelers to the US” from Canada with many Canadians reacting negatively to US actions such as tariff policies and treatment of “allies and neighbors.” The decline includes Canadian snowbirds where the number of planned baby boomer trips to the United States is 66% lower than last year. For more on this issue, see the November 13, 2025 *BBC* article [Canadian boycott of US travel shows no sign of slowing](#) by Madeline Halpert.

Florida Property Taxes

Seven amendments and one bill all with the intent to reduce property taxes were approved for consideration in the 2026 Florida legislative session. The initiatives are a response to rising property taxes from increase property values but could reduce local government revenue for essential services. For more on this issue, see the November 21, 2025 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Florida property taxes on path to partial elimination. What to know” by Brandon Girod at [These Florida property taxes might be going away.](#)

SS United States Update

The SS United States remains in Mobile undergoing preparations for sinking within the next few months as an artificial reef off the Northwest Florida coast. Purchased by Okaloosa County for \$10.1 million, current plans will place the ship 22 miles from Destin East Pass; Visit Pensacola may contribute \$1.5 million in tourist development taxes so the ship can also be located 32 miles from Pensacola Pass. This should make the SS United States and the already sunk USS Oriskany a prime location for divers. For more on this issue, see the November 20, 2025 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Visit Pensacola sinks \$1.5 million with Okaloosa County to reef SS United States” by Mollye Barrows at [SS United States reef partnership with Okaloosa Visit Pensacola.](#)

Better Fishing Days

America’s fisheries have reportedly come back from near collapse following changes in regulations. According to a recent *USA Today* article: “There are three times more red snapper in the Gulf of America than in 2009. In Cape Cod and the Gulf of Maine, stocks of adult yellowtail flounder have jumped from 218 metric tons in 2006 to 3,800 metric tons in 2020.” New procedures apparently evolved from an Environmental Defense Fund proposal to lawmakers that allows “fishermen to catch as much as they wanted on any given day, while reducing their overall seasonal catch by as much as half.” For more on this issue, go to the November 7, 2025 *USA Today* article “Nice Catch: How America’s Fisheries Rebounded from Tough Times” by Dan Morrison at [How U.S. fisheries recovered from collapse.](#)

COP30 Climate Accord

The 30th UN sponsored meeting on climate change held in Belem, Brazil concluded with a “compromise climate deal on Nov. 22 that would boost finance for poor nations coping with global warming but that omitted any mention of the fossil fuels driving it.” UN Climate Secretariat (UNFCCC) Executive Secretary Simon Stiell said: “I’m not saying we’re winning the climate fight. But we are undeniably still in it, and we are fighting back.” For more on this issue, see the November 22, 2025 *Reuters* article [COP30 seals uneasy climate deal that sidesteps](#)

[fossil fuels | Reuters](#) by Lisandra Paraguassu, Kate Abnett, William James and Sudarshan Varadhan.

November 13 Commissioner Stroberger Meeting

The Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a Brown Bag Luncheon with Escambia County District 1 Commissioner Steve Stroberger on November 13, 2025 at the Perdido Key Community Center. It was attended by about 25 individuals with discussion covering a range of topics including the Perdido Key Drive/Johnson Beach Road roundabout, roadside and beach access maintenance, underground utilities, and the proposed River Road RV park.

Perdido Key Area Holiday Events

Annual Chamber Holiday Party at Flora-Bama Yacht Club, December 5 from 5-9 PM

Christmas Boat Parade beginning at Sunset Grill, December 6 from 1-3 PM

Perdido Key Christmas Market at Warrior Beer Company, December 11&12 from 4-9 PM

More Flights from Gulf Shores

Allegiant Airlines has added Huntsville, Springfield, Missouri, Louisville, Omaha and Oklahoma City to its destinations from Gulf Shores International Airport with the new services expected to begin in time for the 2026 summer season. The addition will raise the number of direct flights from Gulf Shores to 13. For more on this issue, see the November 24, 2025 *Mullet Wrapper* article [Mullet Wrapper: Allegiant adds flights to Huntsville, Springfield, Louisville, Omaha, Oklahoma City in Gulf Shores & Orange Beach.](#)

Awards from PPBEP

The Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program (PPBEP) announced its 2025 Annual Awards at the organization's October *Evening for the Estuaries Gala*. Its ***Project of the Year Award*** was given to The Nature Conservancy in Alabama, the City of Orange Beach, and Moffatt & Nichol for the Lower Perdido Islands Restoration Project. The project addresses the "long-term degradation of Robinson and Walker Islands, caused by years of storm damage, erosion from boat wakes, and impacts from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill." Rick O'Connor, the Marine Extension Agent IV for UF/IFAS Extension in Escambia County, was presented the ***Jessica Bibza Partner of the Year Award*** that "recognizes the outstanding dedication and passion of one individual who has had an immeasurable impact on our community by bringing people together to ensure a better future for all." The ***Volunteer of the Year Award*** was presented to Diane Bolter for her "unwavering commitment, passion, and stewardship" as a Manatee Ambassador "supporting the Panhandle Manatee program, which educates the public about manatees, encourages sighting reports, and promotes seagrass-safe boating practices." For more information on the awards and other issues, see the PPBEP's [Pelican Post November Newsletter](#).

Should We Care about PFAS?

PFAS are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances found in many industrial and consumer goods such as food packaging, textiles and film-forming foams used to extinguish fires. They are nicknamed "forever chemicals" because they do not readily biodegrade. PFAS may also have possible cancer risk and problems with human immune systems, child developmental and

other health concerns. PFAS have been detected in drinking water and surface waters in Escambia County with some samples exceeding USEPA's 4 ng/L contaminant level standard. "If you want to learn more about PFAS or join community scientists' efforts to expand PFAS water monitoring, please contact Dana Stephens, Florida Sea Grant Extension Agent with the UF/IFAS Okaloosa County Extension Office." For more on this issue, go to the *UF/IFAS November 17, 2025 article [Are PFAS in Escambia County's Drinking and Surface Waters? | Panhandle Outdoors](#) by Dana Stephens.*

December Calendar

Dec 1-31 – Holiday Market at Quayside Art Gallery in downtown Pensacola
Dec 1-31 – Magic Christmas in Lights at Bellingrath Gardens & Home
Dec 1-31 – Ice Skating at The Wharf
Dec 2 – City of Orange Beach Christmas Tree Lighting
Dec 4-7 – Snowball Derby at Five Flags Speedway
Dec 5 – Lighted Boat Parade and Fireworks at Pensacola Beach
Dec 5-6 – Messiah Sing! by Choral Society of Pensacola at Cathedral of the Sacred Heart
Dec 5,6,7,12,14,19,20,21,22,23,24 – Winterfest activities in downtown Pensacola
Dec 6 – Flora-Bama Santa Drop
Dec 6 – Holly Jolly Mall Walk inside Cordova Mall in Pensacola
Dec 6 – USO Airport Runway 5K race at Pensacola International Airport
Dec 6 – Family Christmas Fest at Museum Plaza in downtown Pensacola
Dec 5-23 – Wahoos Winter Nights holiday light display at Blue Wahoo Stadium in Pensacola
Dec 5,6,11,20,23,27 – Pensacola Ice Flyers at Pensacola Bay Center
Dec 7 – Surfin' Santa Beach Parade in Pensacola Beach
Dec 12-14 – Christmas on the Coast by Pensacola Children's Chorus at the Saenger Theatre
Dec 13 – Pensacola Christmas Parade
Dec 13 – Lighted Boat Parade from Lulu's to The Wharf
Dec 19-21 – The Nutcracker by Ballet Pensacola at the Saenger Theatre in Pensacola
Dec 25 – Christmas
Dec 27 – Flora-Bama Make it to the Line Run/Walk
Dec 31 – New Year's 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>