



## May 2026

### **Possible Hotel for Perdido Key**

Heron Hotels of Tennessee hopes to build a 17 story hotel with 271 rooms on four lots of Perdido Key beachfront. While still in the planning stages, the hotel would be located at 14125 Perdido Key Drive just east of La Riva condominiums. According to Rich Chism – a managing partner of Heron Hotels: “It’s a beautiful quiet beach surrounded by natural resources, I think it’s going to be a great amenity for the area.” The referenced article also noted little information was available on the 2024 proposal for the Valencia Center development at 13585 Perdido Key Drive that included a hotel. For more on these issues, see the April 27, 2026 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Could Perdido Key see its first hotel built in many years?” by Tom McLaughlin at [Perdido Key beach front hotel development would be an island first.](#)

### **May 2 Rosamond Johnson Beach Day**

Rosamond Johnson Beach Day will be held at the Perdido Key Area of Gulf Islands National Seashore (Johnson Beach) on Saturday, May 2, 2026 beginning at 10:00 AM. The event honors young African-American Private Rosamond Johnson who, during the Korean War, carried two wounded soldiers to safety before being “fatally wounded attempting to save a third wounded man.” To help honor Private Johnson and his family, entrance fees to Johnson Beach will be waived from 8:00 AM until Noon on May 2. This is a wonderful opportunity to pay tribute to a local hero. Drawn from April 9, 2026 *Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce* news release.

### **Beach Issue Zoom**

Escambia County District 1 Commissioner Steve Stroberger participated in an April 28, 2026 Zoom discussion with dozens of Perdido Key residents and owners on Perdido Key beach access issues. These included the need for increased parking, possible shuttle bus service and improvements to Beach Access #3.

### **Johnson Beach Parking Sign Installed**

The promised sign to indicate available parking spaces at the Perdido Key Area of Gulf Islands National Seashore (Johnson Beach) has been installed and is expected to be operational in the near future. The relatively small sign is located on the north side of Johnson Beach Road not far from the park entrance and just before a turnaround space next to the north traffic lane.

If no parking is available at the park, vehicles can use the turnaround to reverse direction to leave the park area and hopefully reduce congestion at the park entrance.

### **Perdido Key Lifeguards**

Lifeguards will be on duty near Perdido Key Beach Access #2 beginning Friday, May 23, 2026 at the start of Memorial Day weekend.

### **Pensacola Beach Demographics**

Of the 4,500 residential properties on Pensacola Beach, there are more than 1,000 short term vacation rentals but only about 1,000 homesteaded properties. Many who work on Pensacola Beach can no longer afford to live there. Some worry the decline in local residences may change the character of the island. For more on this issue, see the April 20, 2026 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Losing its charm? Pensacola Beach has more visitors than residents.” by Mollye Barrows at [Pensacola Beach short term rentals outnumber homestead exemptions.](#)

### **Florida is Expensive**

Florida is the fourth most expensive state in the South and 18<sup>th</sup> most expensive in the United States. “Florida’s regional price growth averaged about 1.3% per year in the 2010s, but jumped to nearly 5.8% per year in the 2020s” with housing cost a “primary driver.” For more on this issue, see the April 23, 2026 *Pensacola News Journal* article “How Florida became one of the South’s most expensive states to live in” by Brandon Girod at [Florida's cost of living is rising 5 times faster than before.](#)

### **Pushback to Development Action Failed**

Passed in the 2025 Florida legislative session, SB 180 “is a broad emergency management measure that bars local governments from enacting planning requirements seen as ‘more restrictive or burdensome’ than those already on the books.” Opponents of the law believe the law will be used by developers “to fight restrictions on growth” but judge they have failed to reduce its possible effects through their various legislative and legal initiatives. For more on this issue, see the April 14, 2026 *USA Today Network – Florida* article “No fix for law limiting local planning” by John Kennedy at [Florida law freezes local planning decisions.](#)

### **Earth Day 2026**

Earth Day was founded in 1970 following the disastrous 1969 oil spill off Santa Barbara, California – a calamity leading to the formation of the modern environmental movement. With perhaps 10,000 events worldwide, it is celebrated on April 22 each year and includes “community cleanups, teach-ins, peaceful demonstrations, tree planting, voter registration, town hall meetings, community organizing — every action strengthens the movement.” Pensacola’s Earth Day was held on April 18 at Bayview Park with music, arts, local bands, vendors, yoga and education stations. It was a great way to spend a day focusing on our wonderful planet. For more on Earth Day, go to [Earth Day: The Official Site | EARTHDAY.ORG](#), for more on Earth Day in Pensacola, go to [Earth Day Pensacola | Visit Pensacola.](#)

### **Rotary Mac & Cheese Cookoff**

The Mac & Cheese Cookoff held on April 11, 2026 at The Point Church on Innerarity Point Road and sponsored by the Rotary Club of Perdido Key was a great success. Several tasty varieties of the family food favorite were available for sampling including ones with crawfish, chicken, cordon bleu, gouda and even mac & cheese cookies! The winner of the event's "People's Choice Award" was the tangy "Stroberger" entry while the "Grande Lagoon Yacht Club" took the "Judges Choice Award."

### **Perdido Palooza**

Locals gathered on April 9, 2026 at the Warrior Beer Company on Sorrento Road for the Perdido Palooza Vendor and Craft Market sponsored by the Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce. Plentiful food and drink were available while a lively band provided entertainment. The next Perdido Palooza will be on May 14, 2026 where PKA will host a table.

### **Tanger Outlet Renovations**

Substantial renovations to Tanger Outlets in Foley on Rt. 59 are ongoing and will continue until late 2027. "The heart of this will be a centralized area with over 40,000 square feet of dining and family amenities," said Tanger Outlets Marketing Director Debra Brown. "Our goal is to serve as more than a shopping center—we're creating an inviting place for our community to come together to make memories, share experiences and enjoy even better shopping, food and fun." For more on this issue, see the April 15, 2026 article [Mullet Wrapper: Tanger Outlet in Foley will undergo extensive renovation in Gulf Shores & Orange Beach.](#)

### **Alabama Red Snapper Season Opens May 22**

"The Marine Resources Division (MRD) of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) announces that Alabama state waters and federal waters will open to private and state-licensed charter vessel anglers for red snapper harvest on Friday, May 22, 2026" until the end of the year or when the yearly quota is met. Fishing will be allowed 7 days a week. For more information, go to the April 20, 2026 *Outdoor Alabama* article [Red Snapper Season Opens 7 Day a Week Starting May 22 | Outdoor Alabama.](#)

### **Ocean Current Collapse Studies**

Two recent studies have added to concerns about the often cited possibility of "current collapse" due to climate change, specifically the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) of which the Gulf Stream is a part. Its collapse "could change the climate and weather for hundreds of millions of people." A study from the University of Miami showed weakening of the current at four difference locations in the Atlantic while one by European scientists predicted a 50% weakening of the current by 2100. For more on this issue, see the April 16, 2026 *USA Today* article [2 studies warn infamous AMOC ocean current is in trouble](#) by Doyle Rice.

### **Beach Vitex Reminder**

Beach vitex is one of the "Dirty Dozen" invasive species on our area's "Early Detection Rapid Response" list. Beach vitex can take over sandy areas like dunes in a short time and have caused significant problems in North and South Carolina beach communities. The plant was

first detected in the Pensacola area in 2012 and currently has 108 identified populations spread across the area, including Gulf Breeze, Pensacola Beach, Naval Live Oaks, Ft. Pickens, Perdido Bay, Navarre Beach along with three areas on Perdido Key. Beach vitex is incredibly robust and can require years of cutting and herbicide treatment to eradicate. Blooming season is beginning and will continue for the next few months so please be alert for the plant's attractive purple flowers. Drawn from Escambia County Sea Grant representative Rick O'Connor April 15, 2026 e-mail.

### **Chemical Recycling?**

Mechanical recycling chops or grinds material like paper, plastic and glass making it into new products of similar material. Chemical recycling (also called "advanced recycling" and "molecular recycling") promoted by the oil industry uses non-mechanical means, such as heat, pressure, and chemicals to turn plastics into materials such as oil and gas. According to critics of chemical recycling, the process is energy intensive and creates toxic residue that can pollute the environment. For more on this issue, see the *Ocean Conservancy* article "Learn more about the process of chemical recycling and its impact on our ocean" at [Chemical Recycling - Ocean Conservancy](#).

Blue Angels practice at NAS Pensacola May 5,6,12,13,27

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

### **May Calendar**

May 1-2 – Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival in Foley

May 1-3,5-10,19-24 – Pensacola Blue Wahoos at Blue Wahoos Stadium in Pensacola

May 1-10 – Great Bavarian Circus at Pensacola Interstate Fairground on Mobile Highway

May 2 – Fiesta Pensacola 10K (PSU start) and 5K (12<sup>th</sup> Ave/Fisher start), Seville Square finish

May 3 – Cinco de Mayo Festival downtown Pensacola near Seville Square

May 3 – Alice Cooper at the Pensacola Bay Center

May 8 – Battle of Pensacola Commemoration/Galvez Day Celebration in downtown Pensacola

May 8-10 – New Production of Disney on Ice at Pensacola Bay Center

May 8-10 – Coast Guard Cutter tours at Plaza de Luna downtown Pensacola

May 9 – Navy Day 4K & Walk, Fun Fest, Parade and other events in downtown Pensacola

May 9 – Pensacola Beach Art & Wine Festival

May 10 – Local restaurant Mother's Day events

May 14-16 – Orange Beach Billfish Classic

May 16-17 – Asian-Pacific American Festival at Fil/Am Cultural Center in Pensacola

May 16-17 – Emerald Coast Open Lionfish Festival in Destin

May 23-25 – Coast Guard Barque Eagle (tall ship) at Plaza de Luna downtown Pensacola

May 25 – Memorial Day

May 29 – Grande Fiesta Parade in downtown Pensacola

May 30 – Gulf Coast Culture Fest at Seville Square in downtown Pensacola

The following websites provide additional information about events on our great Gulf Coast:

<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