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Gulf Coast

Snow BIRDS

A Winter Visitor
Publication
Spring 2015

Snaps! pages 13-15

Spring Calendar
pages 16-17



**St. Patrick's
Day Festivities**
page 24

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Gulf Coast Snow BIRDS



ON THE COVER

Leanna and Mel Trombley found the perfect place to nest this winter at the Staybridge Suites in Gulf Shores, Ala. They are so happy that they've delayed their trip home to snowy upstate N.Y. by a month.....8

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Welcome!

Look who has learned how to take selfies! Here I am pictured with two of the entertainers from Hofbrau Beer Garden in Panama City, Beach, Fla., where I had a rockin' good time in late January.

Our Spring edition wraps up our ninth season publishing Snowbirds Gulf Coast – and that's hard to believe!

This edition has an end-of-April shelf life for those of you who aren't quite ready to go home yet.

And, who could blame you?

Our cover couple, Leanna and Mel Trombley, hail from upstate New York near Syracuse. Their friends told them "don't come back" because the winter there had been so harsh. The Trombleys took that advice to heart and were able to book another month (through April) at their winter home at the pet-friendly Staybridge Suites in Gulf Shores, Ala. There they have a one-bedroom unit with free maid service once a week, full kitchen, daily breakfast and dinners four nights a week served with complimentary beer and wine, exercise room, social events and free business center.

Can I move in too?

This edition we fill three full pages with our photo galleries called Snaps. We've traveled from Lakeland to Gulf Shores this month capturing your smiling faces.

Our Spring calendar is full of great things to do and be sure to don your green on St. Patrick's Day and head out to one of the area's great events. Our casino calendar is full of great entertainment and it will be time to play ball again in April.

If you have company in town be sure to check out our Things to Do story for ideas. We are co-sponsoring a seven-day cruise out of New Orleans next Valentine's Week with Tammy's Journeys. Port stops are Montego Bay, Jamaica, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands and Cozumel, Mexico.

Doesn't that sound like fun? We hope you join us! But, don't delay. Reports are cabins already are filling quickly. Transportation will be provided to and from the port. See the ad on page 20.

The winter weather has been so harsh in some regions this year that some schools – as far south as Nashville – are saying they may have to use some spring break days to make up for snow days.

Aren't you glad you are here? As always, WE are glad you are here.

Safe travels home. Be sure to sign up for our e-newsletter and let us hear from you.

All the Best,

Karen Harrell, Publisher@SnowbirdsGulfCoast.com

850-291-1266

Be sure to sign up for our e-newsletter "Seasons" online at www.snowbirdsgulfcoast.com and stay up-to-date year-round.

DISCOVER OUR
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UWF Historic Trust brings to life the long romantic heritage of the Florida Gulf Coast. Featuring Historic Pensacola Village, the Pensacola Children's Museum, the T. T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum, and the Voices of Pensacola presented by Gulf Power Multicultural Center, there's something for every visitor.

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Sweet (Snowbird) Home Alabama



Although they have been traveling to the Alabama Gulf Coast for some 20 years, Leanna and Mel Trombley finally made the decision this season to become actual "Snowbirds."

The Trombleys, both 63, hail from Harrisville, N.Y., located near Syracuse, N.Y., where winters can be harsh. This year has been especially brutal so the couple opted to extend their stay through April at the urging of friends who told them "don't come back home."

The couple have two daughters and six grandchildren, including Katherine and Kevin Curran of Albany, N.Y., and Amy and Jason Bonesteel of Dawsonville, Ga.

The couple became small business owners after retiring (Mel in the paper industry and Leanna as a chiropractic assistant) and will reopen them in late spring.

Q. Can you tell us about your the businesses.

In 1995 we brought an old farm with 56 acres on a tourist route into the Adirondacks to open an antique shop called Antiques by the Lake so we moved 18 miles to Harrisville from Carthage.

In 1997 we were offered a beeswax candle business. We had been selling them in our store because they went well with antiques. We called the new business Bonaparte Candle Co. after Lake Bonaparte which is located close to us. After a year we added scented jar candles, votives, pillars, t-lights,

tarts and candle accessories. The business grew and we started doing candle parties and selling wholesale to other stores around the country.

In 2009 we had the opportunity to open a wine & liquor store because the one near us was closing. We named this business Bonaparte Wine & Spirits and located it in an 1800's barn located on our property.

Q. How did you discover the Alabama Gulf Coast and how many visits did you make before this year?

Part of the family had relocated here and we have been visiting here for 20 years.

Q. What led you to make the plunge into becoming actual Snowbirds this year?

We had been thinking of selling our property and businesses and retiring but decided that we love where we live and doing what we do. What we really didn't like was the long winters. It was decided to take the business's seasonal and spend the winters in Alabama.

Q. How did you find the Staybridge Suites and why did you choose to stay there?

We chose Staybridge Suites because we have two cats. Most rentals do not take pets especially cats. Leanna googled pet-friendly hotels and Staybridge came up. It looked like a nice place, close to the beach and everything else, we called for rates and here we are.

Q. Tell us a little about the atmosphere and activities there at the Staybridge Suites

The management and staff are excellent and strive to make you feel like this is your home. They take great strides to maintain the cleanliness and maintenance of the property. They provide a daily breakfast every morning and a meet and greet dinner Monday through Thursday. We meet people every day and have become good friends with a lot of them. There are a lot of folks who winter here every year.

Q. How often do you keep in touch with folks at home?

We keep in touch with friends a couple of times a week at home giving them our condolences about the weather.

Q. When you worked on your budget did you figure in the cost of running the utilities at your home and business had you stayed there this winter into your overall budget?

In planning our budget we looked at using less fuel by keeping our heat at a minimum temperature suspend our cable, internet, phone, no trash service and less plowing of the driveway. Our light bill has been cut in half. Our vehicle gas costs less in Alabama. But most important we are actually warm, something you never are back home.

Q. What will keep you coming back to the Alabama coast?

We will keep coming back because we have family here, the dining, beaches, friendly people and being close to everything. We would recommend that everyone back home get away from the harsh winter and enjoy the southern hospitality.

Q. Would you recommend the Alabama coast to others?

Yes, Alabama has a beach 30 some miles of sugar white sand better known around here as paradise.



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Perdido Key Events

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Perdido Bay Community Center

3/4 Welcome Wednesday Potluck Lunch
Flora-Bama

4/3-5 Perdido Key Wine & Art Festival
Perdido Key Visitor Information Center

VisitPensacolaBeach.com



Pensacola Beach Events

3/10 Snowbird Express Trolley Tour
Pensacola Visitor Information Center

3/25 Snowbird Games
Pensacola Beach Community Church

4/7 Bands on the Beach
Gulfside Pavillion

Find Snowbird Deals, area events and visitor center locations at visitpensacola.com/snowbirds.



Snowbird Clubs

Send your club news to Publisher@
SnowbirdsGulfCoast.com

PUBLISHER'S NOTE:

Stay in touch throughout the year!

Sign up for our new e-newsletter "Seasons" to stay up to date. We reach more than 5000 Snowbirds in each edition. Each year new Snowbirds find the Gulf Coast through this magazine and are looking for places to stay, things to do, people to meet and recreational opportunities.

Email items to:
publisher@snowbirdsgulfcoast.com.
Questions? Call Karen Harrell at 850-291-1266

VOLUNTEER! Nearly all of the Snowbird clubs and organizations listed here are volunteer based. One of the best ways to meet people and give back to your winter home is to volunteer with one of the clubs or events that are staged throughout the winter. Most organizations have unfilled needs. Don't wait to be asked! A little time is usually all that is needed. Make a difference!

FLORIDA

PENSACOLA: Visit Pensacola has introduced a free "Snowbird Savings Cards" available at visitor centers in Perdido Key, Pensacola and Pensacola Beach. The card features discounts for area attractions, retail outlets, golf courses, restaurants and more. The list and directions are available at: www.visitpensacola.com/snowbirds.

CANADA DAY: Tickets for the annual Canada Day sold out this year - the 12th and final year for the celebration. Committee members say they want to take a break and let others come up with different ideas to gather and celebrate with their countrymen. This year marked the 50th anniversary of the launch of a new Canadian flag and the seamstress who sewed the original flag, Joan O'Malley, led the flag procession. Details: CanadaDayPCB1@gmail.com

WALTON COUNTY SNOWBIRDS: Volunteers are needed in many areas for next season. Snowbird activities are many from golf, recreation and fitness to a singles group, arts, crafts, computer club, day trips and more. Details: www.waltoncountysnowbirds.com.

DESTIN: The Roost is located at the Destin Community Center, 101 Stahlman Ave, Destin, Fla. Membership was recorded at 2128 this season. The club sponsors many activities including mixers, golf, fashion show, craft show, bowling, casino trips, chorale and Christmas party. Details: <http://destinsnowbirds.org>

FORT WALTON BEACH: The Fort Walton Beach Snowbird Club is located on Okaloosa Island in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. With over 600 hundred members, the club offers many activities and events to its members besides the camaraderie and fellowship of others who are in Fort Walton Beach

area to enjoy the warmer weather and beautiful beaches during the winter months.

Final registration is March 3 at The Elks Club from 10 a.m. to noon. Two breakfast meetings are set at 9 a.m. at the Ramada Beach Resort for club subgroups including: March 4 - Michigan and March 10 - Minnesota. Registration and meetings are at the Elks Club, 1335 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach, Fla. The club sponsors craft, cards, games, golf outings and social events. Details: information@FWBSBC.com or www.fwbsbc.com/.

NAVARRE BEACH: A new Snowbird club for Navarre Beach Snowbirds was launched in February at the Snowbird Social co-sponsored by the Santa Rosa County Tourist Development Council and The Club at Hidden Creek.

Upcoming remaining events this season include ballroom dance classes March 4 (West Coast Swing & 2-Step) and March 11 - Tango. Open dance time is available before and after the sessions. There is also a special Monday golf "play day" on March 9 with special rate of \$35 including cart and lunch.

The club plans to host a variety of events in 2015-16. Details: 850-939-4604. Hidden Creek Golf Club, 3070 PGA Blvd. Navarre, Fla. Details: 850-939-8666.

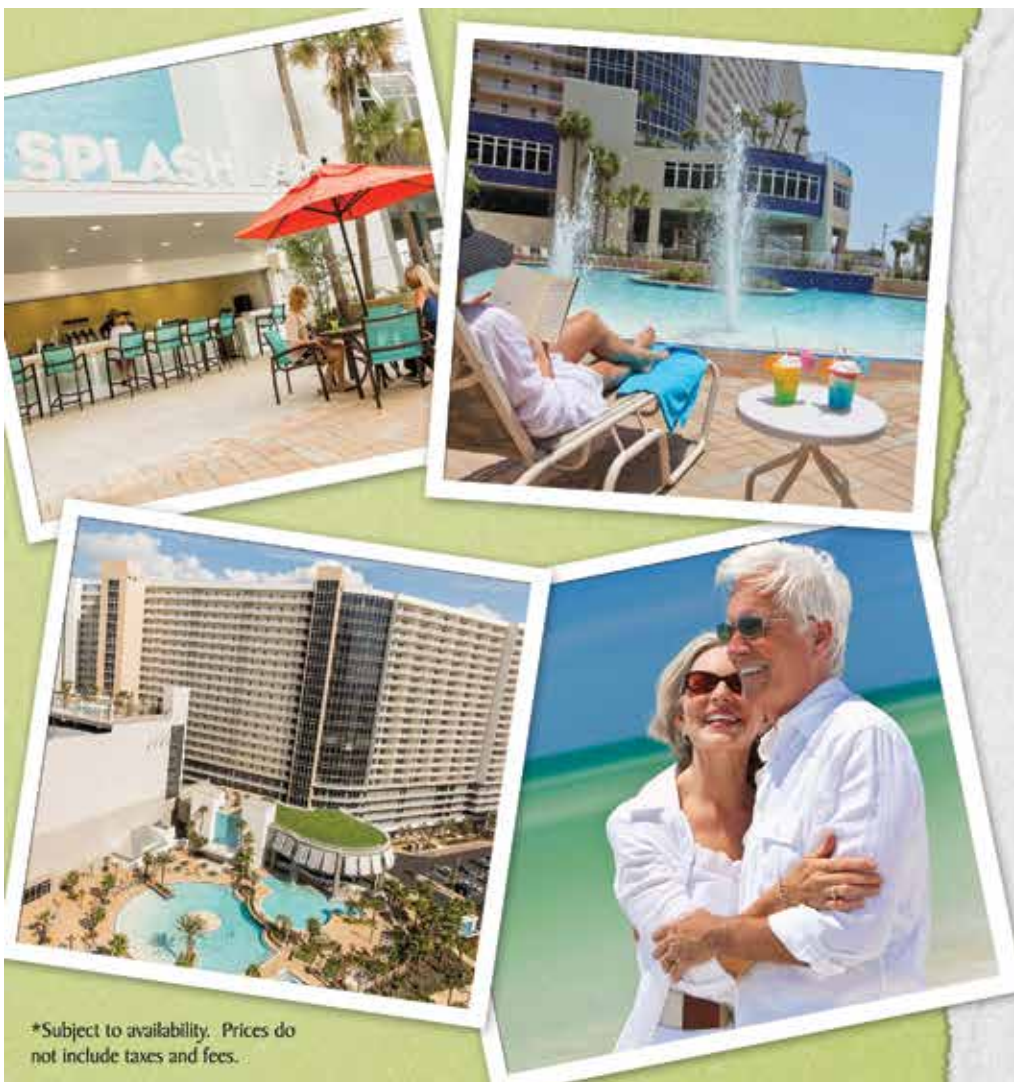
PANAMA CITY: The Ark, formerly Noah's Ark is again welcoming Snowbirds. Classes such as woodshop and art are being offered along with crafts and other activities. Details: 850-234-6062.

PENSACOLA BEACH: The Pensacola Beach Community Church welcomes Snowbirds to its monthly potlucks always held on the fourth Sunday of the month plus other church activities to include social events, weekly Wednesday game day and more. Details: 850-932-6628 or <http://www.thebeachchurch.com/>

PERDIDO KEY: Perdido Key's final 2015 Snowbird Roost is March 5 at the Perdido Bay Community Center on Innerarity Point Road in Perdido Key. The afternoon feature a \$5 lunch and tons of fun and helpful vendors! Doors will open at 11 a.m. and lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. Call the Visitors Center at (850) 492-4660 for more information.

ALABAMA

FUNDRAISERS: The annual Bratfest earned more than \$5400 which was evenly split between the Fort Morgan, Gulf Shores and Orange Beach fire departments. The Gulf Shores Fire Department Pancake Breakfast raised about \$3300 from a variety of sources at the event. Several other Snowbird fundraisers hadn't yet been staged by our publication



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deadline but we will be updating the results through our e-newsletter (sign up online at www.snowbirds-gulfcoast.com)

CANADIAN LUNCHEON: A group of more than 100 Canadians gathered for lunch in February. Organizers plan to sponsor the event next year and possibly others.

GULF SHORES MEN'S COFFEE CLUB: The club meets at Gilbey's Restaurant at 25775 Perdido Beach Blvd in Orange Beach. The club will meet at the restaurant every Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. for coffee. The club also throws horseshoes on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays at noon at Meyer Park in Gulf Shores.

ILLINOIS: Two remaining meetings are Feb. 27 and March 13 at Lulu's on the north side of the Intracoastal Canal Bridge in Gulf Shores. Contact Glenn Philpott 618-978-1897.

INDIANA: Indiana Club meets Feb. 26, and March 12 at Lulu's (200 East 25th Avenue, Gulf Shores) on the north side of the Intracoastal Canal Bridge in Gulf Shores. Contact Bev Lockhart at 317-432-8708 for reservations.

IOWA: The 2015 Iowa-Alabama Snowbird Club will meet for breakfast (8:30 a.m.) at Perdido Beach Resort on 27200 East Beach Blvd. Perdido Ballroom, Conference Center, 1st floor. Feb. 25. Details: Shari DeCook at 641-521-0929 or Sharon Hesselmann at 563-357-2721 for reservations.

MICHIGAN: The Michigan Snowbird Club will meet at the Erie Meyer Civic Center, 344 West 19th Avenue, Gulf Shores at 9:30 a.m. with a final meeting March 5. www.michiganclubalabama.com.

MINNESOTA: Meetings continue through mid-March, Tuesday morning meetings will be at Lulu's 200 East 25th Avenue, Gulf Shores, Ala. Also join us for twice weekly golf! Details: [/www.mnal.org](http://www.mnal.org)

MISSOURI: The Missouri Snowbird Club will meet for breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Feb. 25 at Perdido Beach Resort (27200 Perdido Beach Boulevard, Orange Beach). A farewell potluck is Feb. 28 at Phoenix V and the final event is March 5, a Scenic Magnolia River Boat Ride. Results from Trivia Night will be posted online. Details: Bob Moore 225-937-4785. www.mosnowbirds.org.

NEW YORK: The New York Snowbird Club will meet for lunch at 11 a.m. March 5 at Cayman Grill (26189 Canal Road, Orange Beach). Reservations required. Contact Frank Panczysyn 251-981-3120.

NORTH DAKOTA/SOUTH DAKOTA: Meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in February and the 2nd Tuesday of March at 9 a.m. at Hazel's Seafood Restaurant, 25311 Perdido Beach Blvd., Orange Beach, Ala.

OHIO: The 2015 Ohio Snowbird Club has wrapped up its meeting for the season. For information call Gayle Hofacker at 937-447-3795.

PENNSYLVANIA: Breakfast meetings are 8 a.m. Wednesdays at Hazel's Seafood Restaurant, 25311 Perdido Beach Blvd, Orange Beach, Ala. Upcoming dates include: Feb. 25 and March 4, 11. Richard K. Smith: Contact person year round at: 908-420-8806 and/or bettyrich@rcn.com

SENIOR SNOWBIRDS: A casual weekly potluck gathering of Snowbirds runs through March. Participants are asked to bring a dish to feed 10 and the cost is 50 cents. Table service and drinks are provided. Weekly at 12:30 at the Adult Activity Center, 260 Clubhouse Dr., Gulf Shores, Ala. Table service and drinks provided. Details: Michael O'Rourke 251-981-6060

WISCONSIN: The Wisconsin Snobird Club boasts a membership of over 700. Activities are open to all winter visitors in the southern Alabama and northern Florida areas. The club is for the recreational, social, fellowship, travel and enjoyment of all who participate. The final two meetings are 9 a.m. March 4 and 18 at the Orange Beach Community Center. The club sponsors many luncheons and social outings. A full meeting and activity schedule is available at the club's website at <https://sites.google.com/site/wisconsinsnowbirdclub/> or Kenn Krouse, 251 967 2463.

SNOWBIRD CRUISE: Snowbirds Gulf Coast has teamed with Tammy's Journeys to co-sponsor a Valentine's Cruise from New Orleans Feb. 14-21, 2016 aboard the Carnival Dream. Ports of call include Montego Bay, Jamaica; Grand Caymen, Cayment Islands and Cozumel, Mexico. Transportation from Florida and Alabama are included in the price.

Inside cabins start at \$662.64. Final payment is due Nov. 23.

Contact Tammy@tammysjourneys.com or 850-243-3809.

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Things to Do

Are you going to play host to visitors this March and April?

If so, it's time to put together a list of things for them to do.

SEA LIFE

There are a variety of interactive ways to learn about the Gulf of Mexico marine life.

Two of the oldest marine attractions are the Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park located on Okaloosa Island (Fort Walton Beach, Fla.) and Gulf World Marine Park in Panama City Beach.

Both parks feature marine life shows suitable for all ages, interactive encounters and exhibits. Both parks feature a camps and opportunities for group fun.

Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park: 1010 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548 (850) 243-9046 or www.gulfarium.com

Gulf World Marine Park: 15412 Front Beach Rd, Panama City Beach, FL 32413 (850) 234-5271 or www.gulfworldmarinepark.com

ALSO CONSIDER:



Gulf Coast Discovery Center: The Navarre Beach Marine Science Station, Navaree Beach Marine Sanctuary and and Navarre Beach Sea Turtle Sanctuary bring visitors close to nature. Camps and workshops offer interactive opportunities to learn more about sea life, including protecting endangered animals. Details: www.floridasplayground.com.

Dauphin Island Estuarium: Alabama's public aquarium is located on a small barrier island best reached by ferry. That, in itself, is part of the adventure. The Estuarium features numerous stations and touch tanks with tours led by experienced educators.

ADVENTURE

Tough Mudder: One of the fastest-growing rugged challenge adventures will have its first event March 7 at the Ates Ranch in East Milton, Fla.

Tough Mudder attracts thrill-seekers worldwide to its 100+ events. The 10-12 mile course this year features "Obstacle Innovation Lab" with a set of new challenges. TDetails: www.toughmudder.com or 850-939-8666.

Canopy Zipline: Ziplining has gained steam in the region. One of the best known and a special treat is ZipAdventures at Adventures Unlimited, located near the Blackwater River State Forest in northern Santa Rosa County. Participants have a choice of four canopy zipline tours from two to five hours soaring over white-sand bottomed creeks and streams and through the forest. Details: www.floridaziplineadventures.com or 850-623-6197.

Some other ziplines:

Hummingbird Ziplines: at Gulf State Park on the Alabama Gulf Coast. Details: www.gulfadventurecenter.com.

Emerald Grande at Harborwalk Village. On the Destin Harbor. Details: www.emeraldgrande.com

Baytowne Zipline: The Village at Baytowne Wharf, Sandestin, Fla. Details: www.baytownewharf.com.

CRITTERS

Gulf Breeze Zoo: located in an area known as "Midway" between Pensacola and Fort Walton Beach, Fla., the zoo is a regional attraction. Take the Safari Line Limited Train to get up close views of chimps, gorillas, huge Nile hippos and more.

Details: Breeze www.gbzoo.com



Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo: Known as "The Little Zoo That Could" Snowbirds have supported this zoo's efforts to rebound from Hurricane Ivan with an annual Low Country Boil. This zoo offers a number of "encounters" that thrill all ages. Details: www.alabamagulfcoastzoo.com

MATH AND SCIENCE

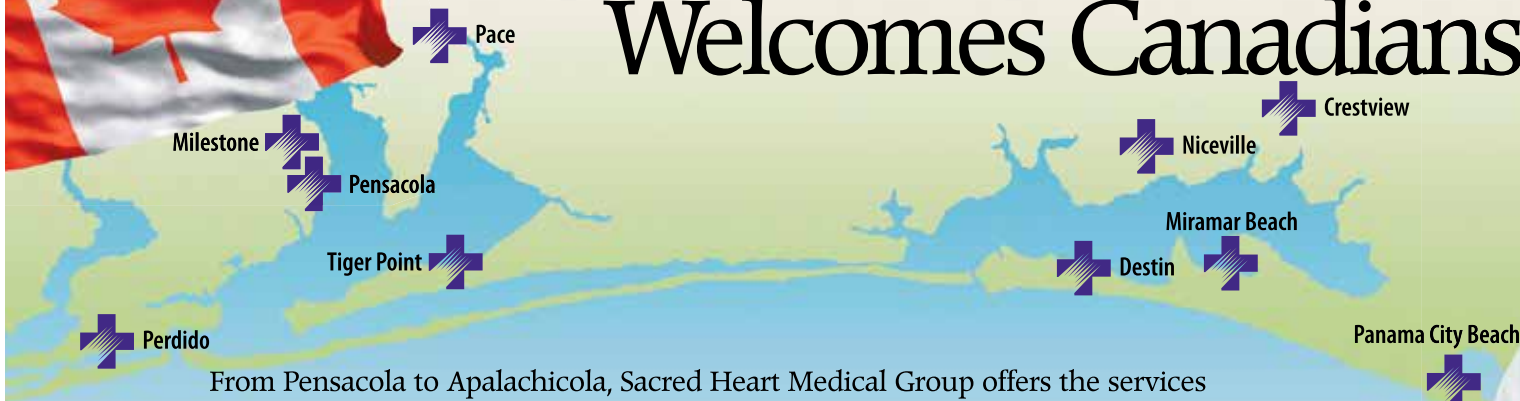
The Gulf Coast Exploreum: in downtown Mobile, Ala., features interactive attractions, camps, feature exhibits and an IMAX theatre sure to thrill. Details: www.exploreum.net

Emerald Coast Science Center: recently moved to 31 Memorial Parkway in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., where it not only has new headquarters but new exhibits including a major new robotics exhibit. Details: ecscience.org

National Naval Aviation Museum: Adults and kids both are astounded at this Gulf Coast treasure located aboard Naval Air Station Pensacola. There is no entry fee charged (donations encouraged) to the museum which hosts more than 150 restored aircraft, vintage uniforms, documents and dioramas. An IMAX theatre (fee charged) and flight and motion based simulators (fee charged) provide thrills and chills. NAS Pensacola just marked its 100th anniversary as the "Cradle of Naval Aviation." Details: (850) 452-3604 or www.navalaviationmuseum.org.



Sacred Heart Medical Group Welcomes Canadians



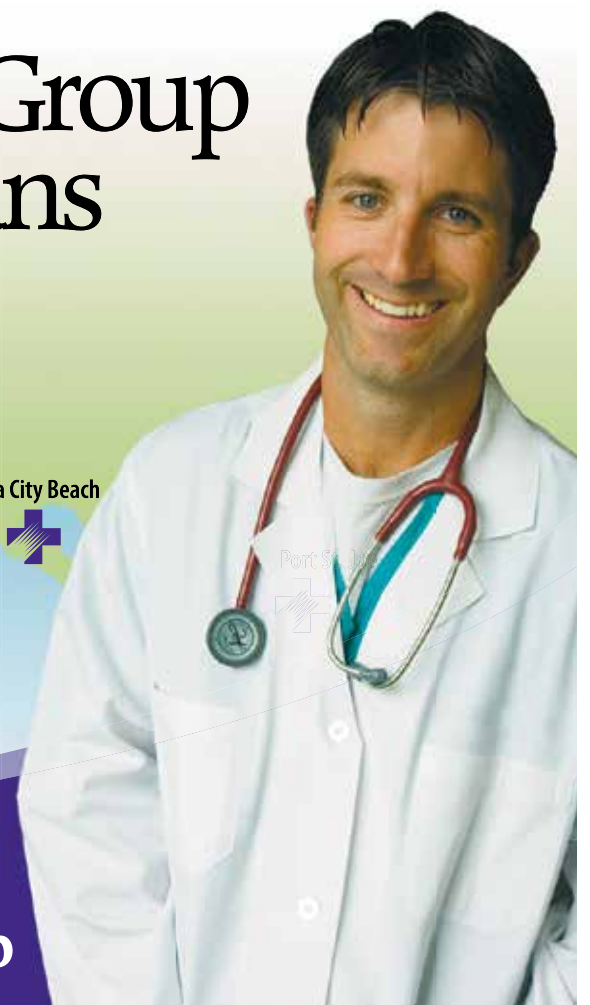
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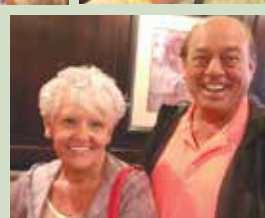
CANADIAN LUNCHEON ORANGE BEACH



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PENSACOLA BEACH BASH



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ROYAL AMERICAN OPEN HOUSE



KOA LILLIAN TOGA PARTY



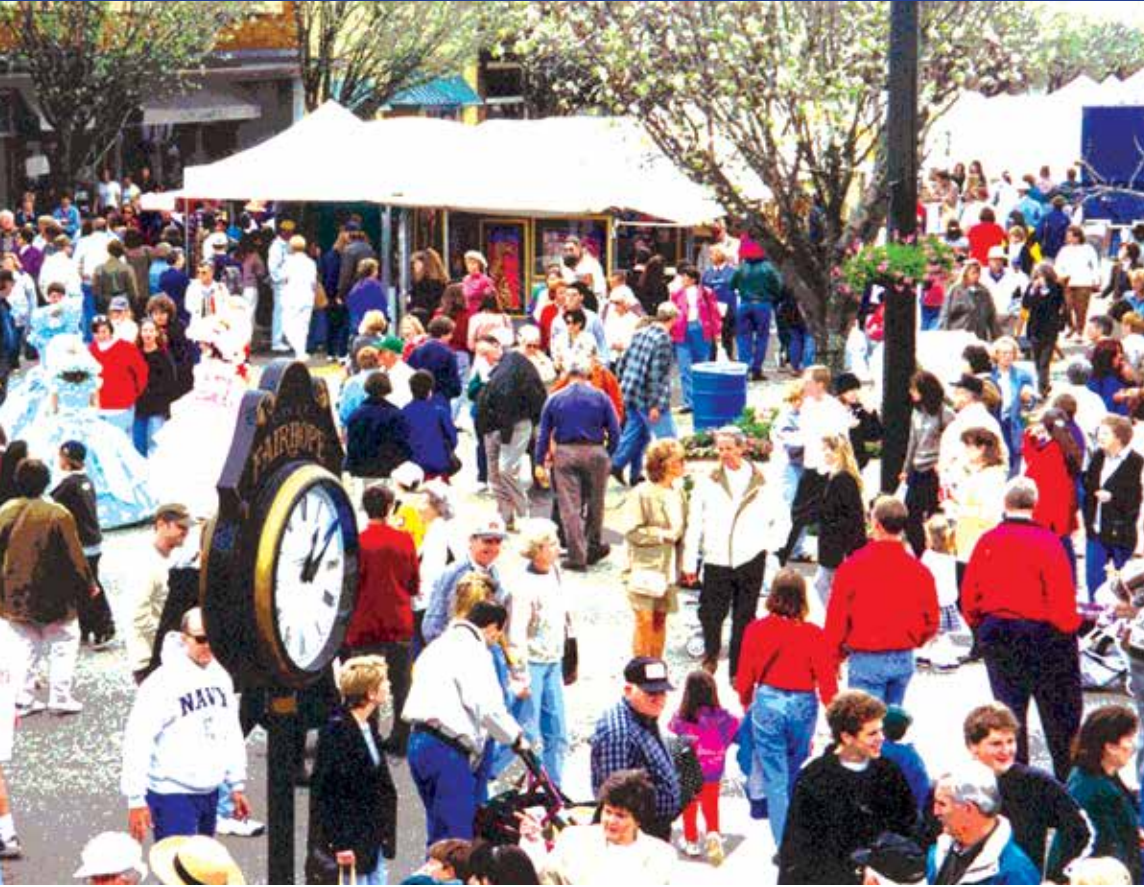
ROUSES SNOWBIRD COOKING CLASS



FORT WALTON BEACH WINTER GUEST FEST



Events CALENDAR



3/20-22 62nd Annual Arts and Crafts Festival, Fairhope, Ala. More than 230 exhibitors from around the nation will showcase their best work at this prestigious juried art show. The event also includes live entertainment and food booths in one of the region's most picturesque settings. A shuttle service is available for \$2. This festival is ranked as a top 20 Event in Southeast Tourist Society. Details: (251) 621-8222 or www.eschamber.com.

Tuesdays & Wednesdays (most)

Blue Angels Practice National Naval Aviation Museum - viewing area, 1750 Radford Blvd, Pensacola, Florida 11:30 a.m. The Museum of Naval Aviation at NAS Pensacola has a viewing area for visitors to watch the team practice. The team visits the museum to answer questions and sign autographs after Wednesday practices. FREE. Details: 850-452-3604 or <http://www.navalaviationmuseum.org>

Tuesdays & Thursdays

City Trolley Tour, Pensacola Visitor Information Center, 1401 East Gregory St,

Pensacola, FL, All aboard the Snowbird Express for a narrated tour of historic downtown Pensacola. Tuesdays and Thursdays only. Reservations are required, as seating is limited. Trolley departs 10 a.m. & 2 p.m. Details: 850-941-2876

thru 3/4

Senior Wednesdays Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park, 1010 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach, Florida Park admission for visitors age 62+ is only \$5. Great opportunity for seniors to enjoy marine animal shows for a fraction of the regular park admission. <http://www.gulfarium.com>.

thru 3/11

Seniors Softball, 1 p.m., Frank Brown Park, 16200 Panama City Beach Pkwy, Panama City Beach, Florida 55+ non-competitive afternoons of Seniors Softball! Just bring your glove and join in the fun! Seniors Softball takes place every Wednesday at 1pm at Frank Brown Park. Details: 850-238-0549

thru 3/31

Spring Azaleas Bellingrath Gardens and Home, 12401 Bellingrath Gardens Rd, Theodore, AL Enjoy blooms of more than 25,000 vibrant azaleas in an explosion of color throughout the 65 acres of

Bellingrath Gardens. Details: 251-973-2217 or www.bellingrath.org

thru 4/4

Color in Freedom: Journey Along the Underground Railroad Pensacola Museum of Art, 407 S. Jefferson St., Pensacola, Florida The exhibition consists of four movements that track the moments lived along the journey of the underground railroad and the powerful instinct toward freedom; the unknown world, living in bondage, the journey of escape, and the color in freedom. Details: 850-432-6247 or <http://www.pensacolamuseum.org>

3/3

Library Craft Day Thomas B. Norton Gulf Shores Library, 221 West 19th Avenue, Gulf Shores, Alabama Turn your old books into works of art. All supplies provided. 10:30 a.m - Noon, Details: 251-968-1176

3/4

Guided Bird Walk Tours at the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge

Tours will meet at 8 a.m. at the Jeff Friend Trail, 12295 State Hwy. 180, Gulf Shores, Alabama Beginner and experienced bird watchers, young and old, are welcome to come out and enjoy the beauty of birds and nature itself. Details: 251-540-7720 or www.bonsecourfriends.org

3/4

Kayak Fishing Class Wind & Water Learning Center, 26267 Canal Rd, Orange Beach, Alabama A brief introduction to kayak fishing. Focus will be given to the techniques involved. Participants will also be presented with the following information- maneuvering in a fishing kayak, using and detaching an anchor trolley, casting technique. Details: 251-424-5909 or <http://www.windandwaterlearning.com>

3/4

Guided Beach Walk at the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge Tours will meet at 11 a.m. at the Mobile Street Beach Parking Lot, 12295 State Hwy. 180, Gulf Shores, Alabama Details: 251-540-7720 or www.bonsecourfriends.org

3/5

2015 Snowbird Roost Perdido Bay Community Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Rd, Perdido Key, Florida Lunch, Meet and Greet, Club Sign-ups, \$\$\$\$ Off Coupons, Perdido Goodie Bag, Local Vendors, Area Info, Door Prizes, Live Music. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Details: 850-492-4660 or www.visitperdido.com

3/6-7

Smokin' In The Square BBQ Cookoff Seville Square, Government & Alcaniz Streets, Pensacola, FL Professional teams competing for prize money and points. Local barbecue enthusiasts also competing for prize money and bragging rights. Great food and fun. Proceeds go to local charities. 850-516-2622 or <http://www.smokininthesquare.com>

3/6-7

Spring Fest Garden Extravaganza 2015, Mississippi Coast Coliseum, Gulfport, Miss. Event features arts, crafts, garden accessories, landscape pros and more. \$8 entry fee. Details: 228-831-3020.

3/7

Heritage Arts and Camellia Festival Baldwin County Heritage Museum, 25521 US Highway 98, Elberta, Alabama Family friendly event to highlight Heritage Arts, 65+ year old Camellia Grove and benefit the Baldwin County Heritage Museum. Details: 251-986-8375 or <http://www.baldwincountyheritagemuseum.com>

3/7

DogFest Walk n Roll Frank Brown Park, 16200 Panama City Beach Pkwy, Panama City Beach, Florida DogFest is the signature event for Canine Companions for Independence. Funds raised helps support the mission to provide assistance dogs to children and adults with disabilities free of charge. Details: 407-522-3323

3/7

2015 Spring Fling, The Classiest Show on the Beach - a juried craft & art sale. Lyndell Center, 423 Lyndell Lane, Panama City Beach, Florida This Show will feature unique handmade items of art of all types. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., 850-236-0789



3/7

Forestry Conclave & Lumberjack Festival Pensacola State College Milton Campus, 5988 Highway 90, Milton, Florida Bluegrass music, nature & wildlife exhibits, firefighting equipment demonstrations, food and childrens activities. Forestry competitions include knife throwing, axe throwing, log roll, bow sawing, cross cut, pulpwood toss and more. FREE. 850-484-4436 or <http://lumberjack.pensacolastate.edu>

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3/7-8

Gulf Coast Renaissance Faire Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds, 6655 Mobile Highway, Pensacola, Florida Meet Their Majesties, see fabulous characters and experience a historically good time. Armored combat, the thunderous clash of jousts, the swirl of a dancer's costume and sample the wares of merchants from afar. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Details: 850-429-8462 or <http://www.yesteadyhands.com/GulfCoastRenaissanceFaire>

3/9

The Vienna Boys Choir will perform a concert at the Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center, 1600 Government Street, Ocean Springs, MS. Rooted in the 13th century, the Vienna Boys' Choir-one of the oldest and most famous boys' choir in the world-maintains the tradition of performing music for Sunday Mass at Vienna's Imperial Chapel, as they have done since 1498. Details: 228-818-2878 or www.themaryc.org.

3/10

Seven Brides for Seven Brothers Mattie Kelly Arts Center, 100 East College Boulevard, Niceville, Florida Set in the Oregon wilderness in 1850, the musical tells the story of Millie, a young bride and her plan to civilize and marry off her six rowdy brothers-in-law to ensure the success of her own marriage - all with hilarious results! 850-729-6000 or 888-838-ARTS (2787) or <http://MattieKellyArtsCenter.org>

3/11-22

Southern Sirens South Baldwin Community Theatre, 2022 West 2nd St, Gulf Shores, Alabama Every summer five southern ladies head to the beach together for a week of girl time. This year, the ladies learn secrets they never before knew about one another. While unpacking and settling in to the avant gard Atlantic beach house, Grace finds a pair of her husband's pants wrapped up in her sarong. Inside the pants she discovers a note from the notorious local home wrecker, Dixie Lynn Lee. The ladies become consumed with devising a plan to lure Dixie Lynn to the beach to teach her a lesson. Details: 251-968-6721

3/12

Multi-Chamber Business Expo and Taste of Okaloosa County Emerald Coast Convention Center, 1250 Miracle Strip Parkway Southeast, Fort Walton Beach, Florida Experience the latest and greatest our area businesses have to offer. Free and open to the public.

3/14

Arcadia Mill Grand Reopening Arcadia Mill Archaeological Site, 5709 Mill Pond Ln, Milton, Florida Arcadia's Grand Reopening is free to the public and fun for the whole family! This event will showcase Arcadia's newly constructed bridge and boardwalk in addition to children's activities, vendors, and site tours. Event parking will be at the Pensacola State College West Lot (Intramural Sports Field) just off Hwy 90. Trolleys will shuttle guests continuously throughout the event and the designated parking lot will be marked by signs and greeters. Details: 850-626-3084 or <http://www.historicpensacola.org/arcadia.cfm>

3/14

French Street Market 230 Eglin Parkway SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL, There will be local artisans and crafters with anything from antiques, shabby chic, re-cycled, re-purposed, hand made items and original artwork, Details: 850-543-4579

3/14

Cirque de la Symphonie, Mattie Kelly Arts Center, 100 East College Boulevard, Niceville, Florida CIRQUE D LA SYMPHONIE will present aerial flyers & silks, acrobats, dancers, contortionists, jugglers, balancers and strongmen presented by the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra. 850-729-6000 or 888-838-ARTS (2787) or <http://MattieKellyArtsCenter.org>

3/13-15

18th Pensacola Senior Follies "Those Were The Days" at WSRE-TV, Jean & Paul Amos Performance Studio on College Blvd. and 12th Ave., Pensacola State University campus. Purchase tickets at Bayview Senior Center and West Escambia Senior Center. Details: 850-453-3016 or 850-417-7736.

3/14 -15

Riverwalk Arts Festival Riverwalk Park, Downtown Milton, Florida Jam packed with visual and performing arts, live entertainment and great food! FREE. Details: 850-981-1100 or <http://www.santarosaarts.org>.

3/15

ArtWalk on the Harbor HarborWalk Village at Emerald Grande at the foot of the Destin Bridge. Dozens of artists showcase their creative artwork.

3/16

Beginner Square Dance Class The Grand Square Hall, 1105 Bob Little Rd. Panama City Fla. Details: (850) 871-2955 or (850) 265-9488 \$10 per couple.



3/16

Jekyll & Hyde, A Frank Wildhorn and Leslie Bricusse Musical Live at, 7:30 p.m. at The Marina Civic Center, 8 Harrison Ave., Panama City, Fla. Tickets: \$35-\$45. The classic story of

the epic struggle between good and evil comes to life on stage in the musical production of the phenomenon Jekyll & Hyde. Details: 850-763-4696 or www.marinaciviccenter.com

3/20

Gallery Night Downtown Pensacola, Pensacola, Florida Stroll through the charming brick walkways of Downtown Pensacola to experience an eclectic array of music, art and cuisine. Explore galleries and businesses featuring the works of dozens of local artists. Soak up the sounds of local musicians and the aromas of local cuisine as the energy of the evening carries you from venue to venue. Gallery Night is a free event and many businesses provide light refreshments. Details: 850-434-5371 or www.downtownpensacola.com

3/21

Gulf Breeze Rotary Gumbo Cook-Off Shoreline Park, 800 Shoreline Dr, Gulf Breeze, Florida More than 20 chefs both professional and amateur will serve up their special gumbo recipes and vie for Best Gumbo and Peoples Choice awards. Live music, a silent auction, burgers, beer, and sodas. Details: 850-292-7432 or <http://www.gulfbreezerotary.com/gumbo.html>

3/21

Apalachicola Art Walk & Wine Festival, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Downtown Apalachicola, Fla. Art woven around picturesque downtown Apalachicola

where artists and musicians will show, sell and demonstrate. Wine tasting and special dishes prepared by area chefs. Details: (850) 653-9419 or www.apalachicola.org

4/3-5

Perdido Key Wine & Art Festival Perdido Key Visitor Information Center, 15500 Perdido Key Dr., Perdido Key, Florida Arts and crafts booths, wine tastings! Music by well-known performers. Noon - 7 p.m. Details: 850-492-4660 or www.visitperdido.com

4/7

Bands on the Beach Emerald Coast Blues Brothers, Gulfside Pavilion (Main Parking Lot) at Pensacola Beach, Florida Terry Akens as Jake and Teddy Lehmann as Elwood have been performing tribute shows along the Gulf Coast (Louisiana to Florida) for many years. Their high-adrenaline show has opened for such acts as Percy Sledge, Bobby Blue Blend, Sugar Hill Gang and many more. Spectators are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets to the pavilion area. Details: 850-932-2257.

4/11

A Night at the Opera Mattie Kelly Arts Center, 100 East College Boulevard, Niceville, Florida Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra welcomes a stellar trio of Guest Artist soloists - German soprano Vera Schoenenberg, Boston baritone Robert Honeysucker and Korean tenor Won Whi Choi and the Northwest Florida Symphony Chorale. 850-729-6000 or 888-838-ARTS (2787) or <http://MattieKellyArtsCenter.org>

4/14

Bands on the Beach The 13th Hourglass, one of Pensacola's most popular rock bands in the 60s play classic songs from the 60s, 70s, 80s, and 90s. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. Details: 850-932-2257.

4/14,16

Celtic Woman makes a return visit to the Gulf Coast with tour stops April 14 at the Pensacola (Fla.) Saenger Theatre and April 16 at The Marina Civic Center in Panama City Beach, Fla. Part of a 10th anniversary worldwide tour. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster.com at both venues' box offices. Details: www.pensacolasaenger.com and www.marinaciviccenter.org.

4/16

Beginner Square Dance Class The Grand Square Hall, 1105 Bob Little Road Panama City Fla. Details: (850) 871-2955 or (850) 265-9488 \$10 per couple.

4/17

Gallery Night Downtown Pensacola, Pensacola, Florida Stroll through charming Downtown Pensacola to experience an eclectic array of music, art and cuisine. Explore galleries and businesses featuring the work of local artists. Soak up the sounds of local musicians and the aromas of local cuisine. Gallery Night is a free event and many businesses provide light refreshments. Details: 850-434-5371 or www.downtownpensacola.com.

4/22-26

63rd Annual Mississippi Gulf Coast Spring Pilgrimage The weeklong top-rated event is hosted by the Gulf Coast Council of Garden Clubs features beautiful homes, gardens, and historic locations along the Mississippi Gulf Coast from Pascagoula to Diamondhead. Details: 228-861-5826 or www.springpilgrimage.com.

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One Crazy Sista Heads to Destin



The name Buffett is synonymous with the Gulf Coast.

Singer Jimmy Buffett's roots run deep from the Alabama and Mississippi coasts all the way to Key West and several of his Margaritaville Restaurants dot the coast.

But his younger sister, Lucy, is a well-known name in her own right through her Lulu's restaurant in Gulf Shores, Ala., a popular Snowbird gathering spot. A second Lulu's location is set to open in late spring in Destin.

Q: What can you tell us about Lucy Buffett?

LB: For those who don't know, LuLu is actually a childhood nickname given to me by my brother and sister and it's still what they call me today. I was the "crazy sista" in the family and I've been creating new chapters of my life ever since. As Julia Child would say, "Above all, have a good time." That's what it's all about. Not in a frivolous way but in a meaningful and thoughtful way. I inherited a middle class work ethic from my parents but I'm a baby boomer with a very free spirit and rebellious nature. I believe in working hard and enjoying life. I'm an optimist but when something isn't working, I will make a change in a heartbeat. And I always, always leave an open window for the unexpected. My greatest successes have come as a result of being able to recognize an unexpected opportunity that suddenly just appears. I'm a risk taker and when something doesn't work, I find a grace or a lesson in the situation. I think

there is ALWAYS a place where I can improve both personally and professionally and I hold LuLu's and my management to those same intentions. Most importantly, I'm a stickler about respect. It's paramount in business that you have self respect first – and I'm not talking about egoist self-absorption. Then, you must have a deep respect for both your co-workers and your customers.

Q: What are you most excited about your new Destin Location?

LB: I'm most excited about taking the incredible LuLu's experience that we have created in Gulf Shores and doing the same thing in Destin ... literally spreading the Gumbo Love. This new location means growth for the LuLu's organization, advancement for some of our staff and new employment opportunities for others on the Emerald Coast. Destin has always been my first choice for a second LuLu's, not just because it is one of the top emerging tourist destinations in the country, but because the Panhandle is an extension of home for me.

Q: What is unique about this particular location in Destin?

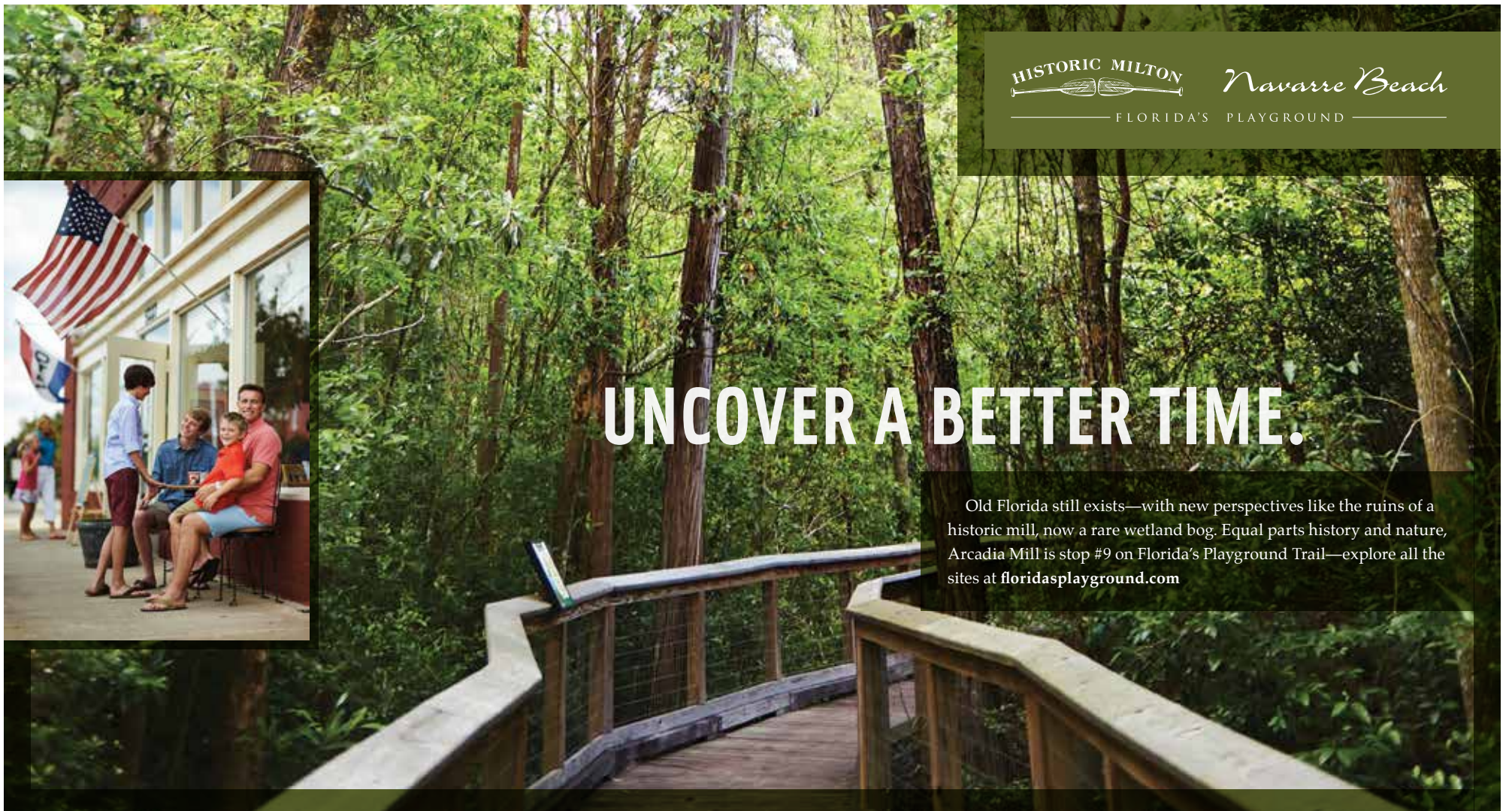
LB: It's the ideal location for what we do and I adore it for several reasons including the fact that there is a bridge. That was a good omen because all of my restaurants have been by a bridge with a beautiful water view. The Destin location has this incredible view of the Choctawhatchee Bay and 90 percent of all the traffic to Destin comes across that bridge. That is great exposure for us. Also, this location is off the beaten path, which has always worked for LuLu's. There will be plenty of parking and room for expansion.

Q: Can you describe the LuLu's experience?

LB: It's all about escapism. There are so many different elements that go into the experience – the fabulous food, great service, family friendly environment, fun shopping, a beach for the kids, live entertainment and waterfront ambience – all in a facility designed to give a taste of the authentic Gulf Coast lifestyle. Our job is to make it look really easy and to give our customer permission to take a break from life for a while. Bottom line – it's all about food, fun, and family!

Q: Do you expect Jimmy at the new place?

LB: You never know when Jimmy will stop by. I'm sure we'll see him pop in for lunch some time because he a big fan of my gumbo!



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Old Florida still exists—with new perspectives like the ruins of a historic mill, now a rare wetland bog. Equal parts history and nature, Arcadia Mill is stop #9 on Florida's Playground Trail—explore all the sites at floridasplayground.com

History tour & Tea



Southern style

By: Alice Crann Good

While studying the history of architecture is essential to preservation and restoration, it also enables us to understand the society and culture the architecture represents.

Come appreciate some of Mobile's grand historic homes and learn how to recognize various architectural styles including Colonial Revival, Spanish Colonial Revival, Greek Revival, Italianate and Gothic Revival. Presented by the Historic Mobile Preservation Society, the Mobile Historic Homes Tour is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 13-14.

"The Mobile Historic Homes Tour is a landmark event, going on its 46th year, that offers visitors an intimate look into the history and architecture of historic homes that are not open to the public," says Erica McElhaney, president of the board of directors for the Historic Mobile Preservation Society.

"We are featuring homes in the Spring Hill area of Mobile. Spring Hill is not a designated historic district, but rather, has a large concentration of individually registered homes on the National Register. This year's tour also offers behind-the-scenes passes into some of Mobile's most historic churches.

"This popular event is enjoyed by our visitors and locals alike," McElhaney says. "Enjoy the ease of traveling between homes by taking advantage of our transportation. Park centrally and ride the trolley to the homes, which are handpicked by our local architectural historians."

Tour tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 day of tour. A ticket is good for one visit at each location March 13-14, the trolley ride in Spring Hill and the price of admission to Historic Oakleigh, which just reopened after improvements. Purchase tickets online at www.historicmobiletour.com. For more tour information, call (251) 432-6161, visit www.historicmobile.org/historic-homes-tour or send an email to hmps@bellsouth.net.

"This is one of our most successful fundraisers," McElhaney says. "The proceeds go toward furthering the mission of HMPS and provide support for the development of future programs that focus on heritage tourism in this historic port city."

Tea, too

Everyone is also invited to enjoy "Spring Tea" at the Bragg-Mitchell Mansion 1 to 4 p.m. Friday, March 13. In lavish Southern style, the fundraiser promises delicious treats served in a setting reminiscent of days-gone-by. Admission is \$12 for adults and \$8 for children, 12 years and younger, and includes a tour of the mansion. Don't forget to stop by the gift shop.

Built in 1855 by Judge John Bragg, the mansion is a 13,000-square foot Greek Revival at 1906 Springhill Ave. Bragg built the home for his wife and family to enjoy Mobile's social season, Thanksgiving through Mardi Gras. Bragg family members split their time between the mansion and their cotton plantation in Lowndes County outside of Montgomery. Judge Bragg died in 1878, and four additional families have owned the home since his passing.

The long-term goal is to restore the building, grounds and furnishings to reflect lifestyles of previous owners.

Purchase tickets for the tea online at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1233543, by calling or at the door, depending on availability. All proceeds support the preservation and operation of the Bragg-Mitchell Mansion.

For more information about the Bragg-Mitchell Mansion "Spring Tea" or hosting a party at the mansion, call (251) 471-6364 or visit www.braggmitchellmansion.com.

Properties of 2015 Mobile Historic Homes Tour

Thomas Shannon Hunter House, 4058 Old Shell Road

Dating from 1923, this Colonial Revival residence was designed by George B. Rogers, a prominent Mobile architect. Of the 100-plus private homes designed by Rogers, the Hunter House is the only one to remain in the hands of descendants of the original owners. The expansive landscaped grounds surrounding the main residence date from the mid-19th Century.



Pentel-Horst House, 12 Provident Lane

Built for Russian émigré interior designer Irene Pentel in 1962, this house is one of Mobile's finest mid-20th Century modernistic gems. With her home, Pentel not only provided Mobilians with a three-dimensional calling card of her talents, but also a subtle architectural cocktail that blends two currents of modern design – Mobile's marriage of Fallingwater and Glass House.

St. Paul's Chapel, 4051 Old Shell Road

St. Paul's Chapel is the most picturesque of Mobile's historic houses of worship. Dating from 1859, this delightful building combines forms, motifs and construction methods associated with Greek Revival, Italianate and Gothic Revival. A finely scaled portico fronts a board-and-batten-sided building featuring round-headed windows with Gothic tracery. The design has long been attributed to Albert Stein, founder of Mobile's Waterworks, and John Dawson, owner of nearby Azalea Hall. The building still serves the Episcopal community of Spring Hill.

1 Country Club, 1 Country Club Road

Of all the Period Revival styles of the first half of the 20th Century, none possessed as much local nuance and mystique as the Spanish Colonial Revival and Mission styles. No building of the city's Spanish colonial era rivaled houses such as 1 Country Club. It is one of the best preserved of Country Club Estates houses showcasing a Latin flair. With their stuccoed walls, tiled roofs and exposed rafters, these houses lent an air of exoticism to Spring Hill's oldest planned development.

"Bricks and Mortar," 4670 Old Shell Road

Dating from the 1920s, this spacious 20th Century picturesque dwelling is an architectural manifestation of the Golden Age of suburban expansion in Mobile. Starting in 1900, individual dwellings and consciously planned residential developments advanced far beyond the city center into surrounding farmlands and summer communities. Built just outside of Country Club Estates, the property has a history that is only beginning to be rediscovered. The main house is this year's "bricks and mortar" tour.

Spring Hill Graveyard

Few environments are as atmospheric as Spring Hill's Graveyard. Shrouded in trees and enclosed by fencing, this hauntingly romantic landscaped setting is one of the unsung wonders of Mobile's cultural landscape. The park-like setting is filled with handsome memorials of individuals and families who defined Mobile's past and still impact the city's development and progress. A meander through Spring Hill Graveyard allows for an experiential history of Mobile.

St. Joseph's

Spring Hill College is Alabama's oldest institution of higher education. St. Joseph's Chapel is the college's spiritual and geographical center. Dating from 1909, the building perpetuates the Gothic Revival motifs of Spring Hill's monumental Administration Building. The firm of Downey and Denham, architects of numerous notable homes on North Monterey Street, designed this handsome collegiate Gothic building.

Solidarity Chapel

Dating from 1850, Solidarity Chapel constitutes the oldest surviving structure on Spring Hill College's park-like campus. The temple feel intimated by the gabled façade imparts a Greek Revival air that worked in concert with Spring Hill's early classical buildings. The elegant simplicity and amenability to wood construction were just two reasons behind the pervasive and long running popularity of Greek Revival in Mobile. Solidarity Chapel exemplifies the nobility and the practicality of the idiom.

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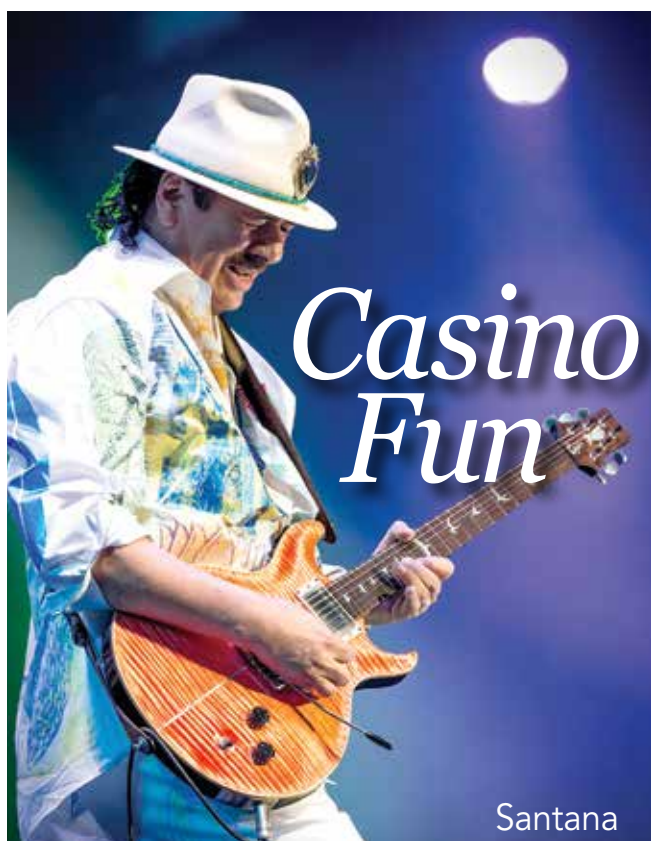
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3/6-7 Willie Nelson

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3/6-7 Rodney Carrington

Country music star and comedian returns for two shows. Beau Rivage Resort & Casino, 875 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, Miss. Details: 888-566-7469 or www.beaurivage.com.

3/13 Santana

In 2003 Rolling Stone magazine listed Santana at number 20 on their list of the 100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time. He has won 10 Grammy Awards and three Latin Grammy Awards. Beau Rivage Resort & Casino, 875 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, Miss. Details: 888-566-7469 or www.beaurivage.com.

3/13 Kansas

Progressive rock band popular in the 1970s. Hard Rock Casino 777 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, Miss. Details: (877) 877-6256 or (228) 374-7625 or www.hardrockbiloxi.com.

3/13 B.J. Thomas and Gary Puckett

Powerhouse duo from the 1970s will perform classic hits. Golden Nugget Biloxi, Miss. Details: 800-745-3000 or www.goldennugget.com/biloxi

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4/11

ZZ Top

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4/17 Billy Currington

Country music artist. Rivage Resort & Casino, 875 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, Miss. Details: 888-566-7469 or www.beaurivage.com.

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radius.

The Biloxi (Miss.) Shuckers are joining the Southern League in 2015. They are part of an I-10 connection that includes the Mobile (Ala.) BayBears and the Pensacola (Fla.) Blue Wahoos, all within 2 hours of each other.

The Shuckers' ownership bought the team from Huntsville, Ala., and are an affiliate of the Milwaukee Brewers. They will play in MGM Park, a 6,000-seat facility, that will swell to 6,500 for standing-room only crowds.

Co-owner Tim Bennett said the original plan to bring baseball to Biloxi started 11 years ago.

"But we had Hurricane Katrina (in 2005), then the recession, then the oil spill," he said. "It's hard to believe we're finally here. We had all kinds of obstacles, but now everyone is on board."

The ballpark is also a boost to the coast area. Plans are to bring in big-name concerts and the stadium will be able to accommodate 14,000 fans. A bowling complex and entertainment center, as well as a 250-room hotel will eventually be built adjacent to the ballpark.

Plus, with the nearby casinos and hotels,

there are about 2,000 hotel rooms within walking distance.

Bennett said they are on track with their season-ticket goals and all of the suites have been sold. He said watching how the Pensacola team started out three years ago and the Shuckers hiring experienced baseball people has given them information to ensure their start is just as successful.

"I've surrounded myself with the very best people," Bennett said. "We want this to be an experience where people want to come back."

BLUE WAHOOS

There's a reason why Shuckers' front-office personnel watched the Blue Wahoos. The Pensacola team opened its waterfront park three years ago and has topped 300,000 fans in each of its first three seasons.

"We are exactly where we wanted to be," said team owner Quint Studer. "Our focus wasn't going to be on the first couple of years because we knew it would be a success with the newness of being an affiliated minor-league team. Our focus was always Year 3 and beyond."

For the fourth year in a row, season tickets are sold out and there's a waiting list for businesses wanting to be a sponsor on the outfield wall.

"It's a great testament to our employees



and fans," Studer said. "We've been more aggressive in measuring the fan experience and the employee satisfaction. It's always hold what you have and give a little bit more."

The Blue Wahoos, an affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds, open their home schedule April 9 against Biloxi and will schedule buses to take their fans to games at Mobile and Biloxi. Earlier this year, the team announced that PGA Tour star and defending Masters champion Bubba Watson has purchased part of the team.

"The Southern League is a fun journey," Studer said. "Now you can go from Jacksonville to Biloxi and see four teams along I-10, then go up through Mississippi and Tennessee."

The Mobile BayBears have been playing at Hank Aaron Stadium since 1997. Winners of the Southern League championship in 2011 and 2012, the team opens its home schedule April 15 against Biloxi.

FLORIDA SPRING TRAINING

Baseball is right around the corner. And for Snowbirds in central and south Florida, it's here.

Fifteen major-league baseball teams are in spring training in Florida as they all set their sights on a World Series title. Exhibition games start March 1 and go through April 4. Opening Day is April 6.

The teams and spring locations:

Atlanta Braves – Lake Buena Vista
Baltimore Orioles – Sarasota
Boston Red Sox – Lee County
Detroit Tigers – Lakeland
Houston Astros – Kissimmee
Florida Marlins – Jupiter
Minnesota Twins – Fort Myers
New York Mets – Port St. Lucie
New York Yankees – Tampa
Philadelphia Phillies – Clearwater
Pittsburgh Pirates – Bradenton
St. Louis Cardinals – Jupiter
Tampa Bay Rays – Charlotte County
Toronto Blue Jays – Dunedin
Washington Nationals – Viera

Baseball teams have been coming to Florida for spring training for more than 125 years.

No one has a definitive explanation of how Grapefruit League, which is what spring training in Florida is called, got its name. (Spring training in Arizona is called the Cactus League.)

One story is that in 1915, an early aviator took up a Los Angeles Dodger baseball player up in the sky. The player wanted to toss a baseball from the plane to his manager.

Thinking a baseball might kill someone if dropped from a plane, they decided to toss a grapefruit, which hit the manager in the chest and exploded. The manager, thinking it was a baseball, thought he was severely injured and the juice was actually from his chest, hence the Grapefruit League. Go to mlb.com/springtraining for information on schedules and ticket prices for teams.



Champions Tour Biloxi

Snowbirds who want to watch PGA Tour stars they followed during their heyday can check them out at the 2015 Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic Presented by C Spire will take place on March 23-29 at Fallen Oak in Biloxi, Miss.

This Champions Tour event is now in its sixth year on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The tournament expects to attract another world-class field. Last year's event featured nine World Golf Hall of Fame members, 20 PGA TOUR Major winners covering 33 titles, and 22 Champions Tour Major winners covering 37 titles. Past champions include Jeff Maggert, Michael Allen, Fred Couples, Tom Lehman and David Eger.

If you want to do more than watch, you can volunteer. Volunteer registration is now open online at www.2015MGRC.com. Volunteers receive a volunteer package valued at \$350 for their registration fee of \$60.

Tickets are \$15 a day. Go to www.2015mgrc.com to buy the tickets or for more information. Fallen Oak is located just north of Biloxi, Miss.

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St. Patrick's Day Festivities

Mardi Gras may be over but the coast already is looking forward to the next big celebration – St. Patrick's Day.



Celebrations are scattered around the coast big and small geared toward all ages.

7th Annual Irish Street Fest & Grogg March: Staged at Harborwalk Village located on the Destin Harbor, this celebration seems to grow each year. The whole clan will enjoy an afternoon full of live Irish music and activities.

Wee ones will enjoy face painting, arts and crafts, and an interactive treasure hunt through HarborWalk Village, sure to lead to the Pot O' Gold!

Entertainment includes: 1 p.m. – Emerald Coast Community Band; 2 p.m. Emerald Coast Pipes and Drums; 3 p.m. Drake School of Irish Dance; 4 p.m. Joe Ashcraft and 6 p.m. Continuum.

The adults will enjoy the evening Grogg March (\$10 for a pass) with proceeds benefiting Food For Thought Outreach Inc. Bring a plastic jar of peanut butter or jelly and receive \$5 off your Pub Crawl Pass.

Details: www.emeraldgrande.com.

McGuire's Run: Few can spend much time on the Gulf Coast without making a visit to McGuire's Irish Pub in Pensacola or Destin.

Famous for the tens of thousands of dollar bills stapled on the ceilings and walls, the restaurant is a true destination.

Not surprisingly, on St. Patrick's Day the Pensacola pub celebrates the holiday in a big way. The celebration starts early in the day with the 38th Annual McGuire's 5k Prediction Run, billed as the largest in America. Participants can run or walk the event and all can enjoy the boisterous post-race party.

The event entry fee is \$35 and it serves as a fundraiser for several organizations. Participants are encouraged to dress up and the post-race party lasts until noon with an Irish Sing-a-Long, Irish fare and drinks. The race starts at 9 a.m. Details: www.850-433-6789 or www.mcguiresirishpub.com.

30A St. Patrick's Festival: An afternoon full of events fill Gulf Place along Scenic 30 in south Walton County.

The afternoon's events start at noon with a Princess Tea Party and Pirates Den; Pet Pawty costume contest. At 2 p.m. Irish entertainment starts with "Roots of Bluegrass Irish Connection" featuring jigs, reels and originals; 3:30 p.m. – Cleghorn, America's Celtic Rock Band; 5:30 p.m. Drake School of Irish Dance and 6 p.m. Canadian Sensation – Searson Band.

The parade is at 2 p.m. from The Preserve. Tickets for the day's event are \$10 adults, \$5 children ages 5-17.

Details: www.30aparade.com.

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Senior Adult Dental Health

A second-generation dentist, a mother of four and a wife to Dr. Olivier Broutin DMD, MAGD, MICOI of Bluewater Bay Dental, Dr. Wiebe is a proud graduate of the University of Notre Dame and the University of Florida College of Dentistry. She is currently enrolled in postgraduate training in multiple aspects of dentistry and cosmetic treatments. Dedicated to technology and constantly training, Dr. Wiebe attends at least 10 times more continuing education per year than what is required for dentists in the State of Florida. Since the year 2000, Dr. Wiebe has been transforming smiles and faces by providing quality, gentle dental care for the people of South Walton, Destin and surrounding areas.

Q. How does dental care relate to overall health?

A: The mouth is full of bacteria. Although most bacteria found in the mouth are harmless, daily brushing, flossing and regular visits to the dentists are key to maintaining health and quality of life. In fact, recent studies show that chronic inflammation from gum issues and cavities can actually be detrimental to artery health.



Q. What areas are overlooked by most seniors in terms of their overall dental and health care?

A: As you age, your teeth become more brittle and are more prone to breakage and cavities. Commonly we see fractured old fillings and cracked teeth. Unfortunately this can lead to root canals and even losing the tooth.

Another commonly overlooked area of dental care in most seniors tends to be root surface cavities. Most common in older adults, exposed roots are susceptible to cavities faster than other parts of the tooth because the roots do not have the protective hard enamel found on other parts of the tooth.

Q. Many seniors smoked or are lifelong coffee and tea drinkers and their teeth show the effects. What are some solutions for bringing back a whiter smile?

A: From a cup of coffee in the morning to tea with lunch, with each sip teeth come into contact with a staining agent and after a while, the effects begin to show. Dr. Wiebe has a number of suggestions for smile whitening. For individuals with history of smoking, diabetes, or gum disease, Dr. Wiebe suggests visiting every three to four months for regular cleanings. Aside from regular cleanings, Dr. Wiebe also offers advanced whitening techniques including ZOOM!2 Advanced Power Whitening, KoR Deep Bleaching and take home trays. Thanks to her training from the Las Vegas Institute (LVI) for Cosmetic Dentistry, Dr. Wiebe has advanced training and can use multiple crowns to create amazing smile makeovers, therefore changing the color, shape and alignment of your teeth.

Q. What do you see as the next frontier not just for senior dental care but overall dental health care?

A: Dental implants are rapidly becoming a popular trend in the dental community. A relatively simple innovation, dental implants can completely transform a mouth of any age. By inserting biocompatible Titanium posts into the bone, where the tooth's root was previously, the living bone is stimulated and prevents further tooth loss, keeping your face youthfully supported.

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Bowden's Legacy

The Gulf Coast lost an icon in February . J. Earle Bowden is known as the "Father of the Gulf Islands National Seashore." He also played an integral role the preserving the historical integrity of downtown Pensacola – which today is enjoying a true renaissance.

We featured Mr. Bowden on our cover in 2009 and told his story.

Fortunately, for us, he told many stories – as a longtime editor and cartoonist at the Pensacola News Journal and through his books available at area bookstores, the Gulf Islands National Seashore Visitor Center in Gulf Breeze, Fla., and other locations.

Among them is "Gulf Islands: The Sands of All Time, Preserving America's Largest National Seashore, 1994" which details the effort. Also, a PBS special "Gulf Islands National Seashore: The Treasure of the Gulf Coast" includes Mr. Bowden's legacy and it can be viewed at www.pbs.org.

Mr. Bowden and other leaders in the 1960s foresaw the rampant development that was to come along our seashores - and he fought tirelessly to preserve a piece of it for the rest of us. Gulf Islands National Seashore stretches from the Mississippi Gulf Coast to the Florida Panhandle. There you can observe nature as the first explorers did several hundred years ago.

Day visitors and campers at Fort Pickens enjoy Bowden's legacy. Visitors to the Perdido Key, Okaloosa Island, Navarre Beach and Mississippi coast areas enjoy ample trails and picnic facilities.

One of the prettiest drives anywhere is the stretch known as Earle Bowden Way on state road 399 between Pensacola Beach and Navarre Beach.

We thank you, Mr. Bowden for your foresight. You are an icon whose life has had – and will have – an effect on generations to come.



Emerald Coast History

If you enjoy reading about history, then these two books will help bring the Emerald Coast stretch between Fort Walton Beach/Okaloosa Island and Destin to life.

"Salty Memories...Along The Coastal Highway" is a loving collection of photographic historical memories compiled by Destin historian Tony Mennillo whose father, Arturo, was a professional photographer and grandfather, Capt. Reddin "Salty" Brunson, a local fishing icon.

The book also compiles memories from locals such as Peggy and Tom Rice whose family are among the earliest residents and influencers. You can pick up copies at local bookstores, at the Rice's iconic restaurant The Magnolia Grill in downtown Fort Walton Beach or online book sites such as Amazon.com. More information on the author and his family's legacy are available at www.arturosstudio.com.

Also look for a new book in the Arcadia Publishing's "Images of America" series is on the Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park. The book outlines how the new attraction, conceived and developed in the 1950s, which was set in the middle of an undeveloped spit of sand bordered by an unpaved road and sand dunes helped develop the region's tourism industry.

The book is available at The Gulfarium and at bookstores.



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Spring at Bellingrath Gardens



This spring Bellingrath Gardens and Home will be in full bloom and will offer a variety of events to celebrate the change of seasons.

3/6-31 Spring Azaleas: Enjoy the blooms of more than 250,000 vibrant azaleas in an explosion of color throughout the 65 acres of Bellingrath Gardens. Hydrangeas, Easter lilies, fuchsia, geraniums, wave petunias, cape daisies, delphinium and more will be featured throughout the Gardens.

For precise times of the azalea blooms, please check Azalea Watch at www.bellingrath.org

3/26-29 Festival of Flowers: Join us at Providence Hospital's Festival of Flowers that will feature garden displays, exhibits and seminars.

3/28 Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast with the Easter Bunny:

Grab the kids and come for our



annual Easter Egg Hunt. There will be special hunts for toddlers and older kids as well as prizes, candy, activities and pictures with the Easter Bunny. Join us for the 2nd Annual Breakfast with the Easter Bunny in the Magnolia Café.



4/5 Easter Sunrise Service: As the sun rises over Bellingrath Gardens and Home on Easter Sunday, guests are invited to come and enjoy a special Sunrise Service with friends and family on Live Oak Plaza. The service will begin at 6:30 a.m. and is open to everyone in the community. Continental breakfast available after the service.

4/7 83rd Anniversary of Bellingrath Gardens: Bellingrath Gardens and Home was the creation of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bellingrath. The Gardens first opened to the public in 1932 while a national garden club meeting was taking place in Mobile. Mr. Bellingrath placed an ad in the Mobile paper, announcing that anyone who would like to see the spring garden could do so free of charge. After an overwhelming response, the couple decided to keep the gardens open year-round, beginning in 1934.

4/11 22nd Annual Camellia Classic Open Car Show:

See hundreds of classic and vintage automobiles from the Model T to the Firebird displayed on Bellingrath's Great Lawn. Sponsored by the Mobile Bay Mustang Club, enjoy live entertainment throughout the day.



4/18-25 Roses at Bellingrath:

Tour the Bellingrath Rose Garden during its first bloom, which features more than 75 varieties of All-American Rose Selections and more than 2,000 roses. For precise times of the blooms, please check Rose Watch at www.bellingrath.org



Where Snowbirds go to Get Comfortable

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Start every day with our complimentary hot breakfast buffet. Then unwind at our complimentary Social Reception every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening where we serve light dinner, beer, wine, and sodas. You can always stop by our onsite convenience store for an easy-to-prepare meal, work out in our fitness center or use our complimentary laundry facility. Enjoy an evening outside in our outdoor living area while keeping warm next to the fireplace. Catch up with friends in the library or enjoy activities provided by the hotel. Best of all while you are out enjoying your day let us tidy up the place with our complimentary housekeeping services. We're conveniently located near hospitals and medical facilities, so you're always right where you need to be. Plus, enjoy the company of your pet just like at home, with our **pet-friendly** accommodations. That makes an extended stay an extended pleasure.



Studio, One-Bedroom and Two-Bedroom Suites Available*

- Fully equipped kitchens with refrigerator, microwave, stovetop and dishwasher
- Separate spacious living and work areas
- Expanded cable TV and more movie entertainment options
- Free wireless Internet
- Speaker phones
- Free local calls
- **Pet-friendly** accommodations**



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* Suite types vary by hotel
** Contact hotels for pet deposit and fee information

The Best Doctors Come From the Heart



From Pensacola to Apalachicola, Sacred Heart Medical Group offers the services of more than 150 board certified specialists and primary care physicians.

- | | | | |
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| ■ Bariatric Surgery | ■ Cardiothoracic Surgery | ■ Ob/Gyn | ■ Thoracic Surgery |
| ■ Emergency Medicine | ■ Endocrinology | ■ Orthopedics | ■ Weight Management |
| ■ Family Medicine | ■ General & Trauma Surgery | ■ Pain Management | |
| ■ Internal Medicine | ■ Maternal/Fetal Medicine | ■ Pediatrics | |
| ■ Cardiology | ■ Neurology | ■ Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation | |
| | ■ Neurosurgery | | |



850-416-2337
www.sacredheartmedicalgroup.org



Come as you are

Pensacola Beach Community Church

Services at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday school 8:30 a.m.

Potluck March 22
Easter Egg Hunt 9 a.m. April 4
Easter Sunrise Service 6 a.m.
April 5 Portofino Boardwalk
Fellowship Hall Available for rental
Via De Luna & Avenida 18
Pensacola Beach, Fla



850-932-6628 or thebeachchurch.com



Great Winter Rates at Your Place Under the Sun

16 Via DeLuna
850-934-3300
daysinnpensacolabeach.com

For reservations, call:
800-934-3301
Belinda Hommer,
Director of Sales, ext. 604

**Days Inn Pensacola Beachfront is offering
a discounted winter rate for Snowbirds!***

- Reserve your room from **November 1, 2015** until **February 5, 2016**
- Inland room, \$395.00 weekly rate (plus 14.3% tax)
- Beach/Gulf front room, \$535.00 weekly rate (plus 14.3% tax)
- Includes complimentary breakfast

*Some restrictions apply

SNOWBIRD Marketplace

Give a warm Snowbird welcome!

Snowbirds Gulf Coast saturates this market from the panhandle of Florida to the Alabama Gulf Coast! Reach out to Snowbirds visiting the Emerald Coast.
Call for information today! 850-291-1266

Bele Sole, Gulf Shores, Ala.
Available through April 4. Booking for 2016 also.



Upscale 3br 3ba condo. Indoor/Outdoor Pools
\$1500 per mos. Details: 251-978-0536

Pet-Friendly Cottage
Pensacola Beach, Fl



1br/1ba house, sleeps up to eight. Steps to the Gulf!
\$1500 per mos winter rate
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Natural gemstones
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Locations from Orange
Beach to Pensacola Beach



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Seasons

Have YOU Signed Up for Our popular new E-Newsletter? Each print edition will be delivered to your inbox in digital format. Be in the know before you arrive next year! Learn about great events, deals and festivals YEAR-ROUND We want your feedback!

Sign up online at: SnowbirdsGulfCoast.com

E-NEWSLETTER



Thank You Advertisers

Our warm appreciation goes to the following marketing partners who supported our effort to bring you Snowbirds Gulf Coast this year - our 9th season! Please express your appreciation is possible. Businesses who want to participate in our 2015 print and digital programs should email: publisher@snowbirdsgulfcoast.com or call Karen Harrell, Publisher 850-291-1266 to be put on a list for our new media kit.

Alabama Lifestyles/Retirement Expo
All Clear Hearing Centers
Baptist Health Care and The Andrews Institute
Beachside Bingo
Beau Rivage Resort and Casino
Bellingrath Gardens and Home
Boomtown Casino
Days Inn Pensacola Beach
Destin West
Ebro Greyhound Park & Poker Room
FWB Chamber Winter Guest Fest
Good Time Tours
Gulf Coast Dermatology
Hamilton Art Agency
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HCA/Fort Walton Beach Medical Center
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National Museum of Naval Aviation
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Palace Casino Resort
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Rouses Market
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Sail Inn Café and Sandwich Shop
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Email: advertising@snowbirdsgulfcoast.com
or call us at 850-291-1266.

Snow BIRDS

Our Network of Care



Fort Walton Beach Medical Center

- 1** 1000 Mar-Walt Drive · Fort Walton Beach **ER**
(850) 862-1111 · www.FWBMC.com
A full-service hospital offering 24/7 Adult and Pediatric ERs and Express ER 10AM to 10PM.



TWIN CITIES HOSPITAL

- 2** 2190 Highway 85 North · Niceville **ER**
(850) 678-4131 · www.TCHospital.com
An acute care hospital offering the area's only Certified Spine Surgery Program and the first Certified Orthopedic Joint Replacement Program, all private rooms, and 24/7 emergency services.



Gulf Coast Regional Medical Center

- 3** 449 W. 23rd Street · Panama City **ER**
(850)-769-8341 · www.GCMC-PC.com
The area's largest Pediatric specialty unit, Nationally Accredited Breast Center, Certified Primary Stroke Center, accredited Chest Pain Center, and 24/7 emergency services.

4 Niceville Family Practice

4400 Highway 20 East, Suite 201 · Niceville
(850) 897-3678 · Family Practice · Same day appointments available. Staffed by physicians Mon-Fri 8AM to 5PM.

5 Destin Emergency Care Center **ER**

996 Airport Road · Destin
(850) 837-9194 · 24/7 Emergency Care
Free blood pressure checks on Tuesdays from 1PM to 3PM January through March.

6 Northwest Florida Heart Institute

1032 Mar-Walt Dr, Suite 230 · Fort Walton Beach
(850) 862-3194 · Cardiovascular Surgery

7 Northwest Florida Orthopedics

341 Racetrack Road NW, Ste. B · Fort Walton Beach
(850) 862-BONE (2663) · Accepting new patients

8 The Rehabilitation Institute of Northwest Florida

996 Airport Road · Destin
(850) 863-7651 · Inpatient Rehabilitation

9 Florida Institute of Neuroscience

1032 Mar-Walt Dr, Suite 250 · Fort Walton Beach
(850) 863-3463 · Neurosurgery

10 Seawind Medical Clinic

4121 W Highway 98, Panama City
Same-day appointments; walk-ins welcome
(850) 872-9701 · Family Practice

11 Seawind Medical Clinic

16181 Panama City Beach Parkway, Panama City Beach
Same-day appointments; walk-ins welcome
(850) 249-1000 · Family Practice

12 Gulf Coast Cardiology

2202 State Avenue, Suite 303, Panama City
(850) 872-3939 · Cardiovascular Surgery

13 Gulf Coast Pediatric & General Surgery

2202 State Avenue, Panama City
(850) 784-1856 · Pediatric and General Surgery



iTriage provides access to medical information on over 300 symptoms, profiles of local doctors and more from your computer or web-enabled smart phone. You may download iTriage free from the iTunes® App store, Google Play,® or visit www.iTriageHealth.com.
A Community Service of Fort Walton Beach Medical Center, Twin Cities Hospital, and Gulf Coast Regional Medical Center.



Text "ER" to 23000 for Average ER Wait Times*

*Wait defined as arrival time until seen by a qualified medical professional.





WHERE *music and excitement* FILL THE HARBOR AIR

MARCH 1 - APRIL 30

HARBORWALK MARINA 18TH ANNUAL COBIA TOURNAMENT

Enter the ultimate cobia competition or watch the weigh-ins on the docks. There is always fishing excitement along the Destin Harbor! For registration info: 850-337-8250 or find Destin Cobia Tournament on Facebook.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15 • APRIL 19 • MAY 17

ARTWALK ON THE DESTIN HARBOR

A vibrant marketplace, bustling with street performers and live music. Spend the day browsing through this unique art market. 11am-4pm.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

TEQUILA & TACO FEST WITH CRAB ISLAND CANTINA

Tequila tastings, contests, live music and tacos of all kind. Proceeds to benefit a local charity. Event begins at 11am.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

7TH ANNUAL IRISH STREET FEST & GROGG MARCH

Wee ones can enjoy Irish music, dance, and games all day. After dark, "Sham-Rock" to each venue for live music and games.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

EASTER BUNNY BRUNCH & CELEBRATION

Easter Brunch at the HarborView Room from 10am-2pm. Hop on down to the Village for a festive afternoon with free kid's activities and pictures with the Easter Bunny. Brunch reservations: 850-424-0622

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

FINEST ON THE EMERALD COAST

With over 90 local booths showcased, enjoy an evening full of delicious food, great entertainment, and recognition of the Northwest Florida Daily News "Finest" winners! Begins at 6pm.

SATURDAY, MAY 2 & SUNDAY, MAY 3

CINCO DE MAYO FEST

Two full days of vibrant Latin music, food, dance, and more! Kids will enjoy activities and crafts.

SUNDAY, MAY 10

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Treat your mother or loved one to a fabulous brunch with a view at the HarborView Room. Reservations: 850-424-0622

*Event dates, times and details are subject to change.

HARBORWALK™
VILLAGE

Foot of the Destin Bridge Events Hotline: 850-424-0600 HarborWalkDestin.com

