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Snow **BIRDS**

Gulf Coast

A Winter Visitor Publication
Holiday 2014

**Sculptor
Marlin Miller**

page 17

**Snowbird
Clubs**

page 10-11

Maestro!

page 24



**Holiday
Celebrations**

pages 14-15, 18-19, 21

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ON THE COVER

Linda and Bill Fisher spent the month of October in Destin, Fla., spending time with their grandchildren and enjoying the great fall weather. 8



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Welcome!

Glad to have you back!

This time of year I hear from a lot of Snowbirds who are counting down the days until they return to their winter home.

They look forward to more than just getting away from the challenges that snowy and icy roads bring. What they look forward to most are the friendships.

When I launched this magazine in 2006 a good friend of mine gave me some advice when planning the content. She said to think "inside out."

So, what I try to do in each edition is to provide a variety of information on ways for you to make friends, discover new places, make a difference and learn something new.

Those are things I would like to do if I spent a month or more in a different locale.

Our calendar this month is packed with holiday events from the Apalachicola area of Florida across the panhandle to the Alabama Gulf Coast and the Biloxi, Miss., area.

Our cover couple, Linda and Bill Fisher, spent October in Destin, Fla., and, as they will attest, enjoyed spectacular October weather. They return each January and spend two and a half months returning to old haunts and reconnecting with friends.

The Snowbird clubs have packed schedules, and area communities also have planned some special events just for you this winter. As most of you know, summer is the high season in this region of the Gulf Coast, and vacation rental rates are at their lowest of the year. In fact, what you might pay for a month is the rate summer vacationers pay for a week! Nice to have a bargain on some truly deluxe rentals.

I love to travel the region. We often take weekend trips to nearby New Orleans, La. The Crescent City truly is a special place, but Christmas time is almost magical. If you have a chance to make even a one-day trip over, I would highly recommend it.

In the offseason we launched our new e-newsletter called 'Seasons' and have enjoyed being able to stay in touch with our winter friends. You can sign up at our website at www.snowbirdsgulfcoast.com and stay in touch.

***We love to hear from you –
and as always –
we are glad you are here!***

Safe travels everyone,

Your Publisher,

Karen Harrell, Publisher@SnowbirdsGulfCoast.com

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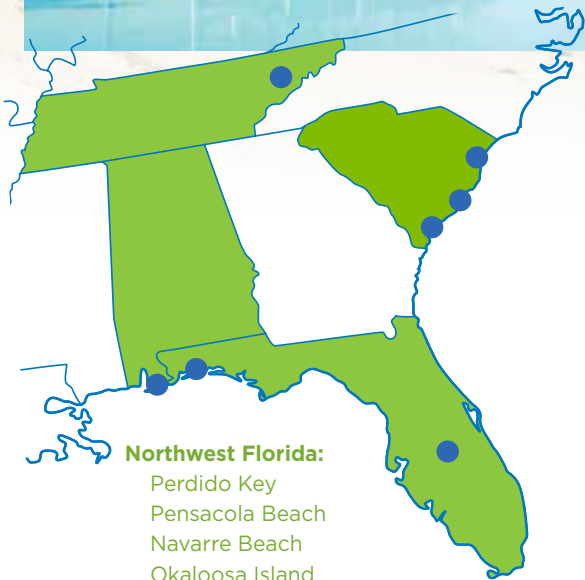
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Retirement + the Gulf Coast = A Great Time!



Our Holiday edition cover couple Linda and Bill Fisher of Indianapolis, Ind., and have been married for 47 years and clearly enjoy each other's company and they have a zest for life. Retired educators, Linda was a high school and elementary school instructional assistant for 27 years and Bill taught high school and college mathematics for 43 years. They are the parents of two daughters and four grandchildren age 10 and under. They spend their winter in Destin, Fla.

How did you meet?

Although we were from the same small town, we started dating after college and we were both teaching in different cities about an hour apart.

How did you discover Destin?

We have been coming to Destin for about 12 years; first time for a week during spring break and liked it so well, we later came for longer periods and finally for winter. We discovered Destin and Sandpiper Cove through friends and the internet. We keep coming back to Destin because we love the beautiful beach, friendly folks and the small town feel even though it has many advantages of a larger city. There are many opportunities for shopping, dining, recreation and relaxed living. We enjoy the Destin Snowbird Club meetings and activities.

Why Sandpiper Cove?

We like Sandpiper Cove because it feels like a second home. It is conveniently located in Destin with access to the beach, heated pools, tennis, 9 hole pitch and putt golf course and restaurant. We like that the condos

in Sandpiper are either first or second-floor units. We usually stay 2 1/2 months in the winter and stayed the month of October this year.

Do you tour other areas during your stay?

We have been to New Orleans twice with the Destin Snowbirds and have visited the Naval Air Aviation Museum in Pensacola, The National World War II Museum in New Orleans, the Air Force Armaments Museum at Eglin Air Force Base. We have taken side trips to Panama City Beach and St. George Island. We travel to Fort Walton to shop and eat.

We also plan to visit friends in The Villages this winter and return to historic downtown Pensacola for a visit this winter.

Do you have many visitors during your annual stay?

We have family that visit and friends from Indianapolis who stay in the Destin area and Gulf Coast that come to visit.

You came earlier this year. Why?

We were in Destin for the month of October and the weather was great. Our grandchildren were on fall break back home so our younger daughter, husband and kids visited the first full week of October and our older daughter, husband and kids visited after that.

Do you have any tips for a new Snowbird?

Join a Snowbird club that offers a variety of activities, entertainment, trips, etc. Do research on and visit areas where you like to spend the winter or locate there permanently.

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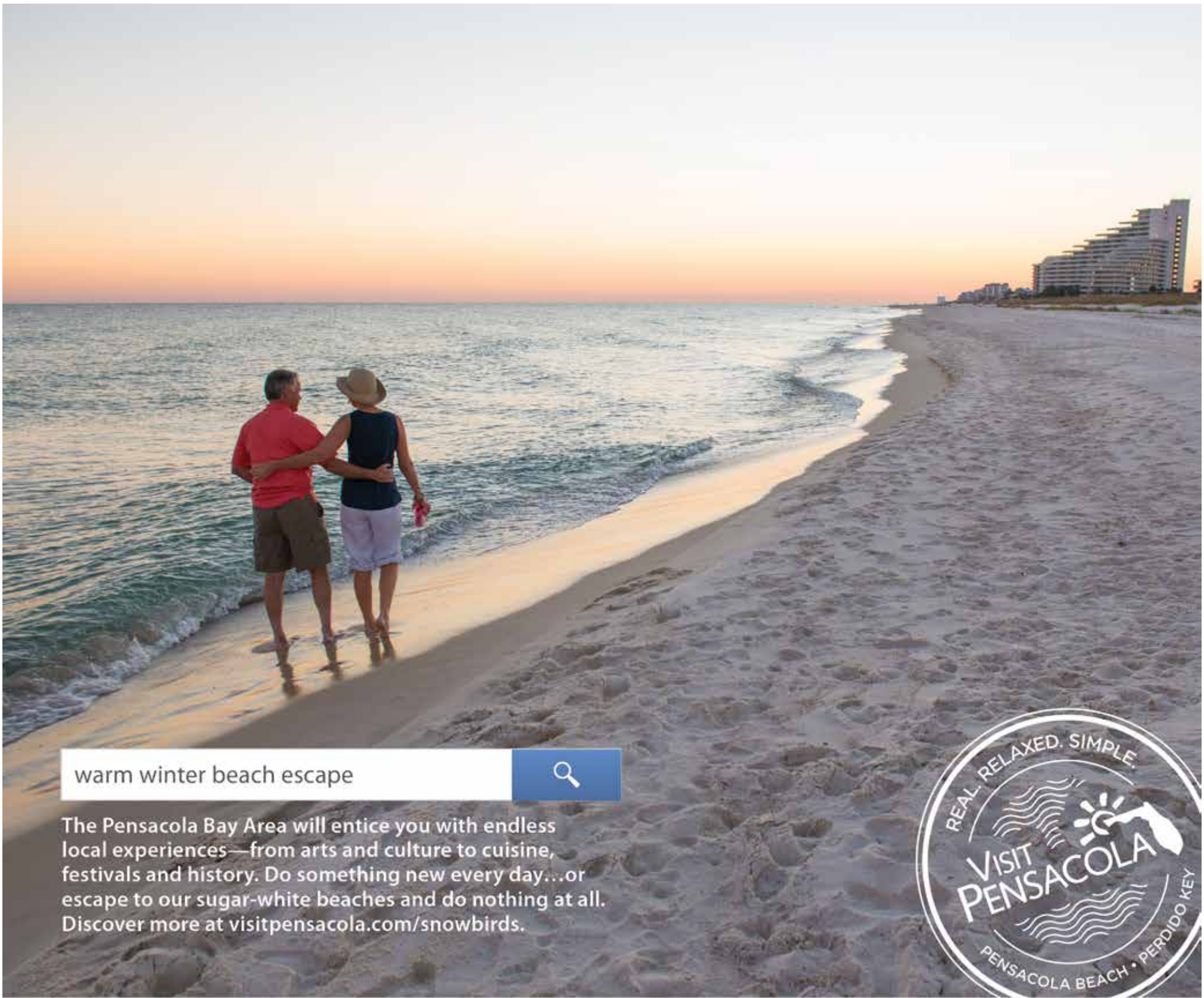
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To-Do List

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 11/18-12/20 | Victorian Holiday Traditions
Historic Pensacola Village |
| 12/6 | Lighted Boat Parade
Pensacola Beach |
| 12/19-20 | Christmas in the Park
Big Lagoon State Park |
| 12/31 | Pensacola Pelican Drop
Downtown Pensacola |

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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!

Don't forget to 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 things to do, people to meet and recreational opportunities.

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

FLORIDA

PANAMA CITY

Canada Day: The annual celebration of Canadian Snowbirds who winter in the Panama City, Fla. and surrounding areas has been set for Feb. 15, 2015. Tickets will be on sale from 9 a.m. to Noon Feb. 4 in the lobby at the Wyndham Bay Point Resort, 4114 Jan Cooley Dr, Panama City Beach, Fla. Details: CanadaDayPCB1@gmail.com

WALTON COUNTY SNOWBIRDS: Walton County Snowbird Club boasts a membership of over 2000 with activities open to winter visitors. Meeting sites vary, season dues are \$9. Registration is open 30 minutes before each meeting. Volunteers are needed in many areas

and this is a great way to meet new people and make friends. Snowbird activities include golf, recreation and fitness to a singles group, arts, crafts, computer club, day trips and more. Details: www.waltoncountysnowbirds.com.

DESTIN: The club's first event was a ribbon cutting Roost Opening Nov. 18. at the Destin Community Center, its winter home. A special registration will be held on Dec. 16 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. to allow sign ups for the Christmas Event, a trip to Bellingrath Gardens. Details: 800-476-7277. The club's iBig Registration is 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Jan. 5, 2015 and 2-4 p.m. on Jan. 12, 2015. Dues are collected at time of registration. Meetings are 10 a.m. on Nov. 25, Dec. 2 and Dec. 9. The first 2015 meeting date is Jan. 6 with two sessions sponsored: 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Each weekly meeting features live entertainment. The club sponsors many activities including mixers, golf, fashion show, craft show, bowling, casino trips, chorale and Christmas party. There will be a group cruise Jan. 25, 2015 aboard the Carnival Dream sailing out of New Orleans. Details: destinsnowbirds.org.

FORT WALTON BEACH: The Fort Walton Beach Snowbird Club is located on Okaloosa Island in Fort Walton Beach Florida. 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. Initial 2015 Registration - January 2, 5 & 6 after that Tuesday Meetings only in Jan, Feb & Mar 3. at the Elks Club from 10 a.m. to Noon. Next General Meeting - January 6, 2015. Registration and meetings are at the Elks Club, 1335 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE, Ft Walton Beach, Fla. The club sponsors craft, cards, games, golf outings and social events. Details: information@FWBSBC.com or www.fwbsbc.com.

PENSACOLA BEACH: The Pensacola Beach Community Church welcomes Snowbirds to its monthly potlucks always held on the last Sunday of the month plus other church activities to include Bingo, a winter Trivia night and other social events. Details: 850-932-6628.

PERDIDO KEY: The 2015 dates for the popular Roosts are Jan. 8, Feb. 12 and March 5. Doors open at 11 a.m. and lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. at Perdido Bay Community Center, 13660 Innerarity Point Road, Perdido Key, Fl. Includes lunch, entertainment, information from local vendors. Fee: \$5. Tickets must be purchased

in advance. Details: 850-492-4660 or www.perdidochamber.com.

ALABAMA

ILLINOIS: Illinois Club "Welcome Back" coffee is Jan. 2 at 9:30 a.m. at Orange Beach Adult Center on Canal Rd. next to Library. Breakfast Meetings are scheduled at 8:00 a.m. on January 16 & 30, February 13 & 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 for breakfast at 8 a.m. on January 8 & 22, February 12 & 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 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. January 14 and 28, February 11th and 25th. Details: Shari DeCook at 641-521-0929 or Sharon Hesselmann at 563-357-2721 for reservations. iowa-alabamagulfcoastsnowbirds.org.

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MICHIGAN: The Michigan Snowbird Club will meet at the Erie Meyer Civic Center, 344 West 19th Avenue, Gulf Shore at 9:30 a.m. for coffee with the meeting beginning at 10 a.m. on January 8 & 22, February 5 & 19 and March 5. www.michiganclubalabama.com.

MINNESOTA:

Minnesota club members along with winter visitors from other states, are active and participate in many fund raising activities that benefit local libraries, fire departments, Gulf Coast Zoo and other organizations. We are always looking for volunteers to help us with these events. Details: December Lunch - Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m., Steve's Place, 6781 State Hwy 59, Gulf Shores, AL 36542. January-Mid March Breakfast - Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. at Lulu's, 200 E 25th Ave, Gulf Shores, AL Details: www.mnal.org.

MISSOURI: The Missouri Snowbird Club will meet for breakfast at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesdays January 14 & 28, February 11 & 25 at Perdido Beach Resort (27200 Perdido Beach Boulevard, Orange Beach). Business meetings are held at Phoenix V will alternate with breakfast. A Welcome Back party is 7 p.m. Jan. 10 at Phoenix V. Trivia Night is set for 5 p.m. Feb. 21 at the

Orange Beach Event Center at the Wharf. Contact, Bob Moore 225-937-4785. www.mosnowbirds.org.

NEW YORK: The New York Snowbird Club will meet for lunch at 11 a.m. on Thursday January 8th & 19th, February 5 & 19, and March 5, at Cayman Grill (26189 Canal Road, Orange Beach). Reservations required. Contact Frank Panczynsyn 251-981-3120.

NORTH DAKOTA/SOUTH DAKOTA SNOWBIRD CLUBS:

The North and South Dakota Snowbird Club meets every second and fourth Tuesday Morning in January and February; and the second Tuesday morning in March. We gather at Hazel's Restaurant in Orange Beach at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast with a short meeting to follow at 9:00 a.m. We also hold several other social events throughout the winter season including pot lucks, dinner at local restaurants, etc. While in Gulf Shores we collect food and infant items at our breakfast meetings for the local food pantry and also contribute to the Baldwin County Historical Museum Golf Tournament. For more information contact the club president, Joyce Anderson at pdinsf@msn.com or call (605)351-0274.

OHIO:

The Ohio Snowbird Club will meet at 8 a.m. Wednesday, January 7 & 21, and February 4 & 18 at Lulu's on the north side of the Intracoastal Canal Bridge in Gulf Shores (200 East 25th Avenue, Gulf Shores). For information call Gayle Hofacker at 937-447-3795.

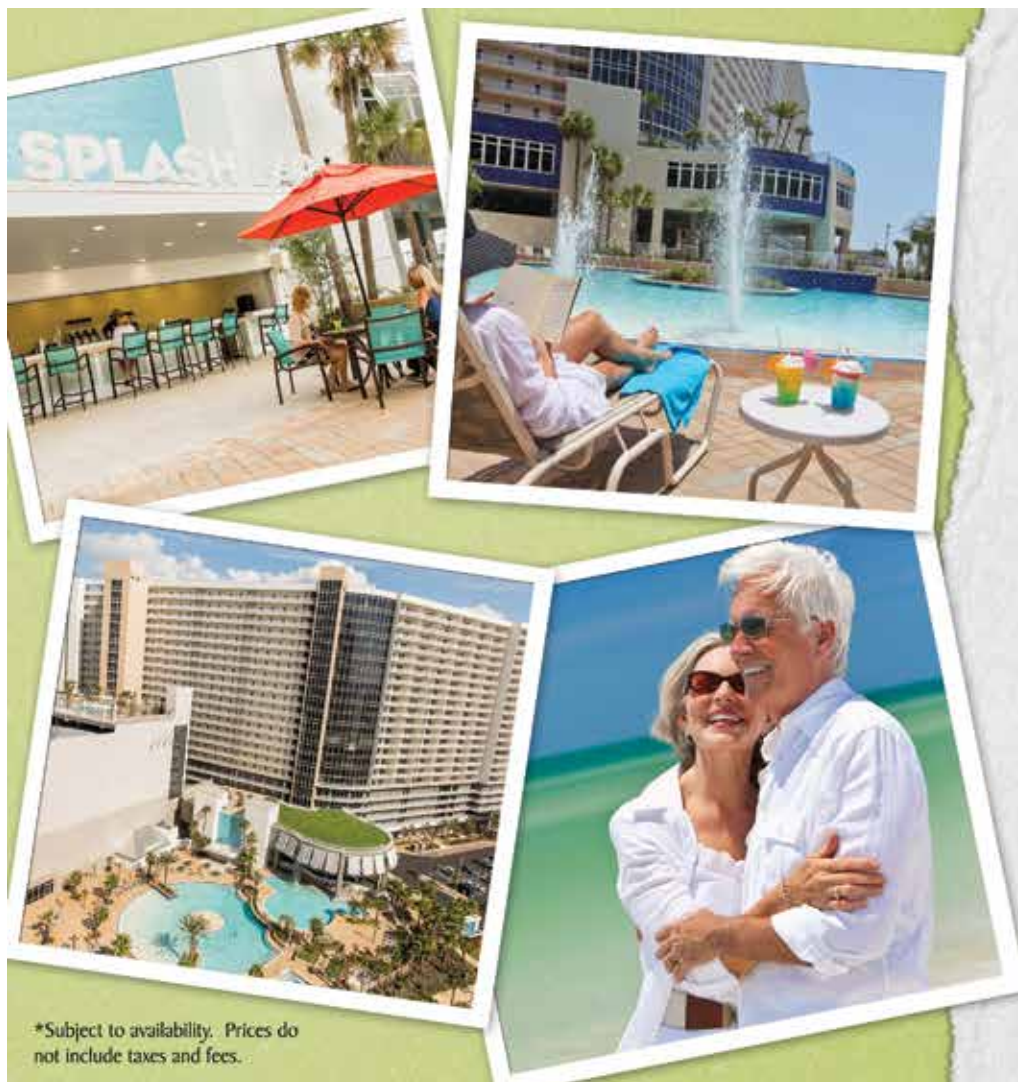
PENNSYLVANIA: Breakfast meetings are 8 a.m. Wednesdays at Hazel's Seafood Restaurant, 25311 Perdido Beach Blvd, Orange Beach, Ala. Upcoming dates include: Jan. 7, 14 and 28; Feb. 4, 11, 25 and March 4 and 11. Potluck luncheons are noon Jan. 22 and Feb. 19 at Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, 616 West Fort Morgan Road, Gulf Shores, Ala. Contact person year round: Rick Smith: 908-420-8806 and/or bettyrich@rcn.com.

SENIOR SNOWBIRD POTLUCK: A casual weekly potluck gathering of Snowbirds resumes on Thursday, Jan. 8 and 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 Snowbird Club boasts a membership of over 700 and activities



are open to all winter visitors to the southern Alabama and northern Florida areas. The club is for the recreational, social, fellowship, travel and enjoyment of all who participate. The Wisconsin Snowbirds have been meeting for breakfast and lunch since late October and activities run through April. The upcoming schedule includes: Nov. 27, Thanksgiving Dinner at Orange Beach Events Center, 12:30-2 p.m.; Dec. 3 at Kitty's Kafe 8:30 a.m.; Dec. 10 at Tacky Jack's, 8:30 a.m.; Dec. 11 at Palace/Bellingrath Lights; Dec. 17 Lunch at Original Oyster House 11:30 a.m.; Dec. 17 Beau Rivage Christmas Show; Dec. 25 Christmas Dinner at Orange Beach Events Center, 12:30 2 p.m.; Dec. 31 New Year's Eve at Beau Rivage; Jan. 7 Meeting /Board Mtg at Orange Beach Event Center, the new venue for regular club meetings in January and February in 2015. Details: 251-967.2463 or sites.google.com/site/wisconsinssnowbirdclub.



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Recipe Corner

Marie Swain's Cranberry Fluff



Looks yummy!

The Thanksgiving meal would not be complete for Wisconsin Snowbird Tina Swain without her mother-in-law Marie Swain's special dish called Cranberry Fluff. Tina said the recipe has been in the family for more than 50 years and it's so easy and tasty that her 10-year-old granddaughter, Molly Swain is now in charge of whipping up the tasty dish. The family serves the dessert in a family heirloom – a beautifully pressed glass-raised trifle bowl.



Ingredients:

- 1 bag. fresh cranberries
- 1 1/2 c. Sugar
- 1 bag mini marshMallows
- 1 16 oz. Can pineapple tidbits or chunks, drained
- 3/4 c. Chopped walnuts
- 2 c. Whipping cream, whipped

Instructions:



Grind or finely chop cranberries. Mix with sugar and marshmallows, cover and refrigerate overnight. Next day fold in pineapple, nuts and whipped cream.

SEND US YOUR FAVORITE RECIPE

Do you have a favorite recipe you like to make? Send to us and we may include it in our print edition, our e-newsletter called Seasons or our website. Tell us the story behind the recipe and what makes it special!
Email: publisher@snowbirdsgulfcoast.com.

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1910 Catalog House located at the foot of the Brooks St. Bridge in historic Downtown Fort Walton Beach Snowbird Friendly!

Lunch M-F 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dinner M-Sat. 5 p.m. Closed Sunday
Reservations: 850-302-0266
157 Brooks St. SE, Fort Walton Beach, Fl magnoliagrillfwb.com

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Winter Guest FEST

Friday, January 16, 2015
8 am to Noon, \$1 admission
Emerald Coast Convention Center
1250 Miracle Strip Parkway, SE, Fort Walton Beach

Area's largest seasonal guest Expo.
(Formerly known as the "Senior Snowbird Expo")

fwbchamber.com or 850.244.8191

The 21st Annual Alabama Lifestyles EXPO

Feb 5, 2015 – 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Admission is Free to the event.

EXPO Location: Caribe-The Resort,
28103 Perdido Beach Blvd,
Orange Beach, AL 36561

The EXPO attracts Snowbird visitors and locals to the Caribe's spacious and beautiful setting to learn more about what Alabama and the Gulf Coast have to offer. The emphasis is on the great amenities available in Alabama and the Gulf Coast. More than 70 exhibitors will provide information about community living, quality of life programs for people over 50, food samples from restaurants, hands-on-exhibits, things to do and see, and places to visit traveling to; returning from; and staying at the Gulf Coast. The EXPO offers something of interest for all ages. **Free admission, Free parking, Door prizes, Free tickets, Free consultations, Free professional services, Free food samples, and many more amenities are offered to attendees.**

For EXPO information or to receive your free copy of the Alabama relocation guide call: 1-800-235-4757 or Email: info@AlabamaAdvantage.com

Sacred Heart Medical Group Welcomes Canadians



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

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 **Sacred Heart Medical Group**





Holiday Events

thru 12/31 **Bellingrath's Magic Christmas in Lights**

12401 Bellingrath Gardens Rd, Theodore, AL 36582. Stroll through the gardens with more than three million twinkling lights in over 835 custom designed set pieces in 12 scenes. Tour the Bellingrath Home decorated in its holiday finery. 251-973-2217, www.bellingrath.org

Thursdays

First Thursday Holiday Artwalk at Grayton Artist Collective. Logan Lane, Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459. Join artists from the Grayton Artist Collective in their studios for a special Holiday Sale, and enjoy some artistic cheer.

Saturdays & Sundays

Horse & Carriage Rides at The Wharf, Palm Plaza, 23101 Canal Rd, Orange Beach, AL. \$10 per person per ride. Enjoy a unique and festive holiday experience. Take a ride throughout The Wharf enjoying holiday lights and decorations. 251-224-1000, www.alwharf.com

thru 12/19

Gardens Aglow

115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso, FL. Come visit the Heritage Museum and Gardens in Valparaiso from 4:30-8:30 p.m. Nightly during the holiday season. 850-678-2615, Heritage-Museum.org



thru 12/20

Victorian Holiday Traditions

Historic Pensacola Village, 205 East Zaragoza Street, Pensacola, FL. Learn how the Victorians celebrated the Holidays and shaped many of our modern traditions from decor to Santa Claus. www.historicpensacola.org

thru 12/27

19th Annual Niceville Christmas Display "Animation in Motion"

Former K-Mart building, Hwy 20 (John Sims Pkwy). Display features over 600 animated dolls, largest Christmas Village in town with over 1000 pieces. N-scale, H.O.-scale, O-scale and G-scale model trains. 850-865-5455, www.TheNicevilleChristmasLady.com

thru 12/31

Panama City Friday Fest

Downtown Panama City Beach comes alive every Friday night with multiple food and craft vendors, live music, and activities for kids of all ages! 850-785-2554, www.pcfriidayfest.com/

thru 12/31

Grand Lagoon Waterfront Market

Capt. Anderson's Marina 5550 North Lagoon Drive, Panama City Beach, Florida 32408. Come on down to the market Saturdays and Sundays at Captain Anderson's! www.waterfrontmarkets.org

thru December

Winterfest Trolley Tours

5 - 8:30 p.m., Downtown, Pensacola, FL 32502, 850-435-0914 pensacolawinterfest.org/2014-winterfest-calendar. Trolleys act as theaters taking passengers to a series of interactive performances along a 2 mile route in Historic Downtown Pensacola. Complete information available on the website.

thru 1/1/15

Baldwin County during the American Civil War: The War Comes Home.

Fairhope Museum of History, 24 N Section St, Fairhope, AL 36532. The Fairhope Museum of History will present a comprehensive

exhibit telling the stories of Fort Morgan, Fish River, the Grand Hotel, Deer Park, Spanish Fort and Blakeley during the Civil War. 251-929-1471

thru 1/3/15

Christmas Nights of Lights

Hank Aaron Stadium, home of the Mobile BayBears. Drive-thru 1.5 miles of lights without exiting your vehicle. Optional exit to the Santa's Village which features games, gifts, food and more. Cost: \$6 per person. Details: tracy@TitanLightShows.com www.ChristmasNightsOfLights.com.

thru 2/5/15

Beaches, Creatures, and Cowboys: Florida Movie Posters

T. T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum, 330 S Jefferson St, Pensacola, FL. Tues. thru Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The exhibit explores Florida as the backdrop for major motion pictures from Sci-Fi classics to modern favorites. www.historicpensacola.org

thru 2/28/15

Winter Camellia and Cold Hardy Annual Displays

12401 Bellingrath Gardens Rd, Theodore, AL 36582. See Bellingrath's famed Camellias and an interesting winter garden filled with the blooms of ornamental kale, mustard and cabbages, pansies and violas, primrose, cyclamen, tulips, daffodils and hyacinths. 251-973-2217, www.bellingrath.org

11/28

Cirque Dreams Holidaze

7:30 p.m., Pensacola Saenger Theatre. 118 S. Palafox Pl., Pensacola, FL CIRQUE DREAMS HOLIDAZE lights up the 2014 holiday season

with its newest stage spectacular. www.pensacolasasaenger.com

Apalachicola Annual Christmas Celebration

Downtown Apalachicola

The Apalachicola Christmas Celebration will light up the lovely historic town of Apalachicola from 4:00-8:00 p.m., the day after Thanksgiving.

11/29

4th Annual Winterfest

Downtown Panama City Marina. The festival will include live music, kid's activities, a chili cook-off, plus food and craft vendors. Stick around to watch the Boat Parade of Lights at 5:40! www.pcbeach.org/events/events-community.php

Old Florida Holiday & Winter Market

at WaterColor, 34 Goldenrod Cir, Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459. The WaterColor Community Association will host the Annual Old Florida Holiday & Winter Market in WaterColor's Town Center. Complete with falling snow, horse-drawn carriage rides around Cerulean Park, bonfires and s'mores, pictures with Santa Claus, lighting of the tree, live music, luminaries around the park, beautiful lighting around Town Center, holiday eats around every corner, hot chocolate, hot wassail and of course a Winter Market full of gifts for all ages! Admission: FREE

12/2-5

Festival of Trees

Marina Civic Center, 8 Harrison Ave, Panama City, FL 32401. Something for Everyone! Join us for a tour and auction of dozens of uniquely decorated trees, wreaths, centerpieces, and stockings created by our local community. 850-769-0783, festivaloftreespc.com/

12/3

Coastal Christmas with Aaron Neville

3325 Amphitheater Dr, Orange Beach, AL The Coastal Alabama Business Chamber on Tuesday announced a December concert by R&B and soul singer Aaron Neville that will be part of this year's Coastal Christmas holiday events schedule. 251-259-5512, www.alabamacoastalchristmas.com

12/3-7

Annual Snowball Derby

Five Flags Speedway. 7451 Pine Forest Road, Pensacola, FL 32502, 850-944-8400, www.fiveflagsspeedway.com. Auto racing fans will delight in the action at Five Flags Speedway.

12/4

A Christmas Story

Movie starts at 6 p.m. Southwest Branch Library, 12248 Gulf Beach Hwy, Pensacola, Fla. Details: 850-453-7780.

12/5

8th annual Taste of the Islands

The Wharf Conference Center, Orange Beach, Ala. Tickets to the event are \$50 per person. Reserved seating and tables of 10 are available for \$500. The Mystical Order of Mirams will be hosting the 8th annual Taste of the Islands on Dec. 5. This year they will host over 35 restaurants from Gulf Shores, Orange Beach and surrounding

areas. Complete details at www.Mirams.info

World War II Remembrance Ceremony

1750 Radford Blvd, Pensacola, FL 32506

The National Naval Aviation Museum will honor the World War II generation at 10 a.m. on Friday, December 5 in the Blue Angels Atrium at the National Naval Aviation Museum. Admission to the Museum and the WWII Remembrance event are FREE and the public is invited to attend. 850-453-2389. www.navalaviationmuseum.org/event/pearl-harbor-wwii-remembrance

First Friday ArtWalk in Seaside

Ruskin Place & Central Square, Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459. Enjoy live music and view beautiful works of art and artist demos at the galleries and shops of Ruskin Place and select Central Square merchants.

Jeanne Robertson

"The Fabulously Funny Tour"

Saenger Theatre, 118 S. Palafox Pl., Pensacola, FL. At 70 years young, Jeanne Robertson continues to charm audiences with her humorous observations about life around her. This former Miss North Carolina, standing tall at six-foot-two, has an infectious personality, heart and sense of humor. 850-595-3882, www.pensacolasasaenger.com

Christmas in the Park

Heritage Park Pavilion and John B. Foley Park. N McKenzie & E Laurel in downtown Foley, Ala. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Foley's Heritage Park, as the park transitions into a winter wonderland in preparation for Foley's annual Christmas celebrations. Free to public. 251-943-1545

Five great events happening in Historic Downtown Milton, Fla.

Happening on the same day! Make plans to join in the old-fashioned fun at: Holiday Faire at First Presbyterian Church; Holiday Gallery Night/Light Up Milton, 5:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.; Ladies Night at Hall's Hardware, 5:30 - 8 p.m.; Holiday Lighted Boat Parade on the Riverwalk, 8 p.m and Winterfest at St. Mary's Church 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. on Friday and 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. on Saturday. Details: 850-623-2339 or www.srcchamber.com

12/5-6

Sounds of the Season by Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation

A Christmas Carol, Mattie Kelly Arts Center, 100 E College Blvd, Niceville, FL 32578. Customized adaption by NWF State College brings to life the story of Tiny Tim, Scrooge, Bob Cratchitt, and the spirits of the Christmas. Included in the ticket price of \$25 will be Victorian style desserts and beverages. 7:30 p.m. Fri., and Sat., and an additional show on Sat. at 2:00 p.m. www.mattiekellyartsfoundation.org/destinfloridaeventsart.html#dec?

12/6

Sunset/Full Moon Climb

Climb to the top of the Cape St. George Lighthouse to view the sunset and full moonrise. Admission is \$15 (\$10 for SGLA members) and includes snacks and a sparkling cider toast to the full moon. After sunset, additional climbers can view the full moon as time and space allow for \$10 (\$5 for SGLA members). Call the Lighthouse Gift Shop at 850-927-7745 to

make reservations. Terry Kemp, fullmoon.sgi@fairpoint.net

Navarre Christmas in the Park and Parade

Includes annual parade, holiday marketplace, Mrs. Claus' Bakery, live entertainment and lighting of the Christmas Tree. Noon - 7 p.m. Navarre, FL. 850-939-3267

SaltAir Farmers' Market - December Christmas Market

City Commons, Port St. Joe, FL 32456 Don't miss this very special Christmas Farmers' Market! Take a morning stroll Downtown Port St. Joe and you'll be treated with fresh seasonal produce from local farmers, regional vegetables, fruit, Gulf seafood, meat, cheeses and breads that are all ready for your table! Handmade arts, crafts, jewelry, pottery and Christmas gifts highlight the market's offerings with live music and fresh air. 404-906-2637

Pensacola Beach Lighted Boat Parade

The sparkling spectacle of decorated vessels parading against a dark December sky delights those watching from the shore or a waterfront Beach business. This nautical parade, from Little Sabine Bay to Soundside at Boardwalk, officially delivers Santa Claus to the island. Parade starts at 6 p.m.

Holiday Fresh Market

Located in front of the Dixie Theatre Avenue E and Market Street in Apalachicola. Why fight the crowds and traffic at the malls? Come for the day or the weekend and find one-of-a-kind unusual presents. Shop in a relaxed, hassle free environment. Buy hand crafted Apalachicola specialties such as fresh seasonal wreaths, baked goods, artwork, wood carving, pottery, hand knitted goods. Your gift shopping has never been easier! Call (850) 653-9419 for details.

USO Runway 5k

10 a.m. Pensacola International Airport. 2430 Airport Road, Pensacola, Fla. Great way to support the USO - runners, walkers and volunteers welcome. View the airport in a way you've never seen before! Registration fee: \$25, \$35 day of race. Details: Katie Hagensick 850-435-9222 or www.runway5k.com.

Christmas Through the Ages – Fort Gaines, 51 Bienville Blvd, Dauphin Island, Ala. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. A living history day for all ages. Soldiers from the 1700s to the 1900s celebrate the holiday in period style. Cost: \$6 adults, \$4 children. Details: 251-861-6992 or www.dauphinisland.org.



Rotary Tree of Remembrance

3 p.m. Cordova Mall, Pensacola, Fla. The tree will be located inside the mall near the Dillard's entrance. A choir will provide sounds of the season. The community is invited to place ribbons bearing the names of loved ones and message on the tree and encouraged to make donations. www.facebook.com/RotaryTreeofRemembrancePensacola

12/9

Christmas with the Nelsons

Erie H. Meyer Civic Center 1930 W. 2nd St. Gulf Shores, AL 36542. Free tickets for the platinum recording artists Matthew and Gunnar Nelson show are available at the Activity Center box office on a first come, first serve basis. 251-968-1174



12/11

A Dickens Christmas

10 Harbor Blvd, Destin, Florida 32541 Experience a unique adaptation of Charles Dickens' famous story *A Christmas Carol* in this close and intimate setting. 850-687-1637

12/12

Merry Market at The Wharf

Orange Beach Events Center at The Wharf, 4671 Wharf Pkwy, Orange Beach, AL. 3rd Annual Merry Market at the Orange Beach Events Center at the Wharf. Two days of fine arts, arts & craft and unique gifts. Admission is free and it is open to the public. Be sure to check out all Coastal Christmas events at 251-968-7200, www.alabamacoastalchristmas.com

12/13

Yule of Yesteryear Celebration

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso, Fla. Enjoy traditional craft demonstrations, ornament making for children, bake sale, shopping for unique gift. Also, there is a Holiday Victorian Tea. Reservations for 9:30 a.m. or 2 p.m. Fee: \$15. 850-678-2615

29th Annual Christmas Lighted Boat Parade

The 29th Annual Christmas Lighted Boat Parade will be held on Saturday, December 13 at 5:30 p.m. beginning at LuLu's at Homeport Marina. 251-968-6904, alabamacoastalchristmas.com

Gulf Gala, An Epicurean Celebration of Alabama

Experience a night of culinary talent from well known area chefs and enjoy wine pairings with each culinary feature. 251-943-2110

Cox Pensacola Christmas Parade

5:15 p.m. Downtown, Spring & Garden Streets, Pensacola, FL 32502. 850-469-0086, www.coxpensacolachristmasparade.org. The Christmas Parade includes local bands from every high school in Escambia County, groups from around the region, and as far away as Houston and New Orleans.

A Peter White Christmas

Mattie Kelly Arts Center, 100 E College Blvd, Niceville, FL 32578. A Peter White

Christmas featuring Rick Braun and Mindi Abair. Smooth jazz and jingle bells return in this unique blend of contemporary jazz and holiday music. Presented by Seabreeze 106.3 FM. Tickets are \$80 for the main floor front section and \$40 reserved (all other seating). Purchase early - sells out! Internationally-renowned guitarist PETER WHITE is joined by trumpeter RICK BRAUN and singer/saxtress MINDI ABAIR www.seabreeze.fm

36th Annual Jingle Bell Jog - Special Forces Association Chapter 7 "The Boardwalk" on Okaloosa Island. Annual 5k run/walk and a 10k run. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to SFA7, a Veteran non-profit all volunteer organization, that provides support to families of 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), with emphasis on providing support to the families of fallen warriors. 850--885-7412, www.sfa7.com / www.facebook.com/sfa07

12/14

28th Annual Holiday on the Harbor

Destin Harbor, 102 Harbor Blvd, Destin, FL 32541. Dance with holiday lights and cheer during the 28th Annual Destin Boat Parade. Parade begins at 6 p.m. Followed by spectacular fireworks over the Harbor.

12/17

Marina Cantina's Inaugural Holiday Ugly Sweater Party

Marina Cantina, 5550 North Lagoon Drive, Panama City Beach, FL 32408. Admission: One un-opened toy for Toys for Kids Christmas Ball. Holiday & Seasonal Fundraiser. Come join us at Marina Cantina for the best Ugly Sweater Party in Bay County. Great prizes for best ugly sweater (male and female) and most original ugly sweater. For details or information please call Marina Cantina at 850.249.5500

12/19-20

"Nutcracker"

Saenger Theatre, 118 S. Palafox Pl., Pensacola, FL 32502. Audience will be enthralled during this annual classic as the music of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky accompanies the story of Clara and her dream of the Nutcracker Prince. 850-595-3882, www.pensacolasaeenger.com.

1/1/15

Polar Bear Dip

Flora-Bama Lounge, 17401 Perdido Key Dr, Perdido Key, FL 32507/ We ring in the New Year by taking a dip into the Gulf of Mexico at high noon. The Flora-Bama provides the traditional feast with black-eyed peas, cornbread, ham, and more for those who take the plunge. 850-492-0611, www.florabama.com

1/3/15

Tallahassee Swing Band

Dixie Theatre - 21 Market Street Apalachicola. Returning for their 2nd season at the Dixie Theatre, this band wowed audiences when they open the 2015 Season 17. tallahassee-swing.com, info@dixietheatre.com

thru 1/4/15

Winter Wonderland at The Wharf

New SPECTRA Show! Watch "Winter Wonderland" just in time for Christmas season. FREE nightly shows. 251-224-1000, www.alwharf.com



Demetrius Fuller
Music & Artistic Director

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ORCHESTRAL HOLIDAY

with The von Trapps

Friday, December 12, 2014 7:30pm
DESTINY WORSHIP CENTER

The great-grandchildren of Captain and Maria von Trapp carry on the family tradition. Enjoy festive holiday favorites plus more in this popular annual family concert.



SEEING IS BELIEVING

with Tracy Silverman

Friday, January 23, 2015 7:30pm
World Premiere
DESTINY WORSHIP CENTER

World-renowned electric violinist Tracy Silverman and Sinfonia perform the world premiere of the full orchestra version of American composer Nico Muhly's *Seeing is Believing*. Also on the concert is Mozart's *Overture to The Marriage of Figaro* and Stravinsky's majestic suite from *The Firebird*.

Ticket Prices: \$29.50 - \$42.50

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There's fun to be had! Events

Each year the region rolls out the welcome mat for winter visitors – more commonly known as Snowbirds – in a variety of ways. Most of these events welcome Snowbirds from across the region to participate, so gather your friends and mark your calendars:

1/16/15

FWB Winter Guest Fest 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Emerald Coast Conference Center. This annual event features businesses from Navarre to Destin/30A and includes information and goodies distributed by real estate and vacation rental companies, shops, restaurants, health care outlets and more. Free to attend. Presented by the Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce. Details: 850-244-8191.



1/24/15

Navarre Chamber's Annual Health & Business Expo 9 a.m. – 12 Noon

Navarre Conference Center. Learn about the many small businesses, restaurants and health care and lodging options available in this community located between Pensacola and Fort Walton Beach. Details: 850-939-3267.



1/29/15

Snowbird Beach Bash 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Pensacola Beach at the Pensacola Beach Community Church, 920 Panferio Dr., Pensacola Beach, Fla. Coffee and a light breakfast will be served with local businesses on hand to provide information followed by free beach trolley tours of area attractions. The event is sponsored by the Santa Rosa Island Authority and the Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce. Details: 850-932-1500 or 850-932-2257

2/5/15

Alabama Lifestyles Expo 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The Caribe Resort in Orange Beach. It is worth the drive from wherever you are to take in the views from this sprawling condominium resort complex. Vendors from along the Gulf Coast and throughout the state of Alabama are on hand to provide information and more on their particular business or community. More than 4000 people participated last year so best to get there early. Details: www.alabamadvantage.com.



Beauty Out of Chaos

The Biloxi, Miss. Visitor Center will host the work of famed sculptor Marlin Miller throughout the month of December.

Miller helped the Biloxi, Miss., area heal when he donated his time to sculpt works of art from devastation wrought from Hurricane Katrina to the Mississippi Gulf Coast's magnificent trees. Today some 20 carved sculptures line the median of Hwy. 90. Miller also recently created a magnificent work of art out of the



iconic dying Magnolia tree located in front of the sprawling Harborwalk Village on Destin, Florida's famed harbor.

Background: Marlin Miller, 53, from Fort Walton Beach, married with five children and two grandkids. I am a 4th generation artist and have been creating sculptures since I was a young child. I now enjoy working mostly w/ wood and metal.

Work on Display: I have large sculptures made from trees in many cities in the south including Ft. Myers, Fla., Destin, Fla., Fairhope, Ala., Biloxi, Miss., Hammond, La., New Orleans, La. Some of these sculptures tower over three stories tall. I also have

sculptures for sale in several galleries in the cities mentioned.

Devastation from Hurricanes: Yes, they devastated our coast and made everyone take inventory of their own lives. I personally flipped it into a lemon to lemonade story by using the downed trees and driftwood from the storms to make sculptures w/ a historical significance.

Design: I do not decide what the sculptures will be. I follow the flow of the wood and it develops on its own. Spiritually speaking, I believe there is a higher authority deciding the direction of this work and I am just kind of along for the ride.

Favorites: The images of herons, dolphins and pelicans are the most popular. Turtles, eagles and seahorses are also popular. Contemporary sculptures of violins, guitars and piano keys are also becoming popular in certain areas.

Purpose of the Biloxi Visitor Center Exhibit: I hope the display reflects the resilience and resolve of the coast residents and their determination to endure the devastating effects of the storms. The sculptures came up from the destruction of the storms. There will be many sculptures for sale at the Biloxi Visitor Center.



Where Snowbirds go to Get Comfortable

From spacious suites with full kitchens to the rich, warm décor, Staybridge Suites® hotels offer all the comforts you need.

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.



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- **Pet-friendly** accommodations**



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



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Win 2 Nights in BILOXI!

Bring in this coupon for **\$10 Free Bingo** and be entered to win 2 nights at either the **IP or GOLDEN NUGGET in Biloxi** at a drawing during session on Feb. 12, 2015 (You must be present to win).

\$10

Enter me to win 2 Nights in Biloxi

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Free Bingo!

E-mail: _____

May not be combined with other offers. Some restrictions may apply. Hotel nights are good most Sundays through Thursday through Feb. 2016. Does not include travel, play, food or other expenses. Player MUST BE PRESENT during 7 p.m. session on Feb. 12 to win.

Good Time Tours

Daily Biloxi Casino Trips
\$15 IN FREE SLOT PLAY*
Departures from:

Destin, Ft. Walton, Mary Esther, Perdido Key (800) 446-0886
Navarre, Gulf Breeze, Pensacola (850) 476-0046
Orange Beach, Gulf Shores, Foley, Fairhope
Perdido Bay (Lillian), Spanish Fort (800) 446-0886

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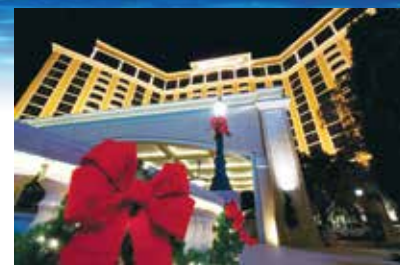
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Beau Holiday



*One of the joys
of the holiday season*

is the festivities and cheer that seem to abound.



And, of course, extravagant holiday displays.

How do you make oversize ornaments appear elegant?

This seemingly impossible feat is accomplished in a bigger way each year at the MGM-Resorts Beau Rivage Resort & Casino in Biloxi, Miss.

A giant Nutcracker greets and stands guard in the oversized grand lobby surrounded by giant ball ornaments, tasteful floral creations and the illusion that in spite of being in the deep south, you are in a winter wonderland.

The display debuts Thanksgiving weekend and runs through New Year's. Beau Rivage's horticulture team captivates the imagination with spectacular holiday displays rich in nostalgia and tradition. Elegantly decorated Christmas trees and gingerbread houses are scattered throughout and the mood is set to the sound of Christmas carols and more than 5,000 red and white poinsettias.

The elegant Beau Rivage Theatre is home to a new holiday show this year – Santa & Friends on Ice.

Yes, the big guy himself will be making an appearance along with Mrs. Claus, numerous elves and friends. World-class figure skaters, vocalists and actors present an endearing holiday storyline, guaranteed to delight audiences of all ages. Santa & Friends on Ice runs Dec. 2-28, nightly at 7 p.m. with additional matinee performances on Saturday and Sunday at 3 p.m. The show is dark on Mondays.

Santa & Friends on Ice room and show packages (promo code HOLIDAY) start at \$79 and include two tickets to the show and deluxe accommodations for one night. There are numerous family-friendly discounts available on food and drink throughout the holiday celebration. Santa & Friends on Ice tickets start at \$12.95 plus taxes and fees. A family four pack of tickets for \$40 (promo code ICE) and an offer of two tickets for \$20 (promo code SANTA), plus taxes and fees, are available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Book through the Beau Rivage Theatre Box Office. General price tickets are also available by calling 1.888.566.7469 or ordering online at beaurivage.com.

Find the perfect present Dec. 20 from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. during Beau Rivage's Annual Holiday Open House. Stroll the resort's stunning retail promenade and browse its dozen shops in search of great gifts and specials while listening to carolers. Representatives from top luxury brands will be on hand to showcase the best in classic and trendy fashion finds.

Guests can play and win during Mistletoe Money at Beau Rivage. M life members earn \$5 per 1,000 points earned on their M life Players Club account Dec. 1- 24. Mistletoe Money can be redeemed at Beau Rivage retail shops. Retail discount is not valid at the Jewelry Box or with any other discounts or promotions.

Guests can also win their share of up to \$1,200,000 in FREEPLAY and prizes including a 2014 Jaguar F-Type during the Winning Wonderland Giveaway Dec. 1 – Dec. 27 at Beau Rivage. Hourly drawings every Wednesday and Saturday from 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. and the grand prize drawing day is Dec. 27.

From a holiday ice show and exciting casino promotions, to the sampling of gourmet treats and a shopping open house, Beau has something for every age this holiday season.

Holiday Casino Fun

12/13 John Tesh

8 p.m.. Island View Casino Resort. John Tesh at one time was best known as the co-host of the popular television program Entertainment Tonight but his passion always was for music. Multi-faceted, Tesh has earned six music Emmys, four gold albums, two Grammy nominations and more. He launched "Intelligence for Your Life" radio show some 10 years ago and recently launched his own web channel. He is committed to public radio and his live concerts have raised more than \$20 million for PBS. Tickets are \$40. Details: (877) 774-8439 or (228) 314-2100

11/21 The Oak Ridge Boys

8 p.m. Golden Nugget Biloxi. Legendary American country and gospel quartet. Tickets start at \$25. Details: 800-745-3000.

11/21 Tommy "T-Bone" Pruitt

8 p.m. Murky Waters, 1212 Government St., Ocean Springs, Miss. Legendary blues and R&B performer. No cover charge. Details: 228-215-1114.

11/22 Roots and Boots Tour

Aaron Tippin, Sammy Kershaw and Darryl Worley. 8 p.m. Island View Casino Resort, 3300 West Beach Blvd., Gulfport, Miss. Tickets are \$35. Details: 877-774-8439.

11/22 Three Dog Night

Known for their 1971 hit "Joy to the World" and others. 8 p.m. IP Casino Resort & Spa, 850 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Miss. Tickets start at \$30. Details: (888) 946-2847.

12/13 Joe Bonamassa

Internationally renowned guitarist superstar. 8 p.m. IP Casino Resort & Spa, 850 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Miss. Tickets start at \$79. Details: (888) 946-2847.



12/19-20

A Blue Christmas

featuring Brandon Bennett's Elvis Christmas Show. 8 p.m. Hard Rock Casino 777 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, Miss. Tickets start at \$9.99. Details: (877) 877-6256 or (228) 374-7625



12/19 Merry Christmas Darling

A Carpenters' Christmas - Michelle Berting Brett takes center stage accompanied by a live 7-piece Nashville band directed by Harry Sharpe to perform classic Carpenters' Christmas recordings. 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$20. IP Casino Resort & Spa, 850 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Miss. Tickets start at \$79. Details: (888) 946-2847.



12/29 The Texas Tenors

Featuring JC Fisher, Marcus Collins and John Hagen, the trio have performed for more than 100 million people around the world. Tickets start at \$25. IP Casino Resort & Spa, 850 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Miss. Tickets start at \$79. Details: (888) 946-2847.



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Florida Trails



There is no question that walking and hiking are a great form of exercise and the milder Gulf Coast weather allows for more opportunities to get outside.

The Florida Trail Association's Western Gate Chapter sponsors hikes each month at various locations. Non-members are welcome to join the activities, which are free, but donations are encouraged.

The hikes and other activities are a great way to get exercise, make new friends and explore the region.

You can sign up for the hikes at: www.meetup.com/ftawesterngate and find more information on the organization and venues at: westgate.floridatrail.org

Dec 5 First Friday Dinner Walk! 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Meet in parking lot of Publix highway 98, Gulf Breeze, FL. The walk takes participants by beautifully decorated homes for the Holiday season as we walk through Gulf Breeze before going to dinner. The group will meet at the Publix shopping center and walk the Plantation Hill area to view the Christmas lights. Optional dinner at Rotolo's. Contact George Brinkman 850-932-0125.

Dec 7 Wake-up Hike 7 a.m. East Hill Baptist Church 3960 Spanish Trl, Pensacola, FL. Look for blue Honda Odyssey with Hike on the front. Contact Trudy Walden 850-434-8861 Peggy Grantham 850-982-9490.

Dec 7 Holiday Party 2 p.m. Bear Lake Pavilion Highway 4, Munson, FL. Celebrate the holiday season with Western Gate and Choctawhatchee FTA friends. Bring a covered dish to share with the group. Tableware will be provided. Hike at 2 p.m., dinner, 4 p.m. Contact Helen Wigtersma 850-484-0528.



Dec 11 & 18 Trail Work on the Florida Trail 8.30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Meet at The Harold Store U.S. Hwy 90, Harold, FL 10 miles east of Milton on U.S. 90. Western Gate Chapter of the Florida Trail Association regularly schedules trail work on the Florida National Scenic Trail and Florida Trail in Escambia and Santa Rosa County, FL., each Thursday. Contact: Ed Williamson at 850-474-5359

Dec 14 Wake-up Hike 7 a.m. Benny Russell Park 5417 West Spencer Field Road, Pace, Fla. Look for blue Honda Odyssey with Hike on the front. Brisk walk and breakfast afterward. Contact Trudy Walden 850-434-8861 Peggy Grantham 850-982-9490

Dec 20 Viewing of Christmas Lights at DeFuniak Springs 3 p.m. - 9 p.m. Meet at commuter parking lot at Avalon Blvd just north of I-10 near Milton, Fla. Will car pool and share ride to a restaurant in DeFuniak Springs and tour the Christmas Lights around Lake DeFuniak on Circle Drive. Dress warmly and bring a flash light and water. Contact Kean Engie 850-366-2328

Dec 21 Sun 7 a.m, Navy point walking trail at Sunset Ave and Syrcle Drive, Pensacola, Fla. Contact Trudy Walden, 850-434-8861 Peggy Grantham, 850-982-9490.

Dec 28 Wake-up Hike 7 a.m. A. K. Suter Elementary 501 Pickens Avenue, Pensacola, Fla. Contact Trudy Walden, 850-434-8861 Peggy Grantham, 850-982-9490

Dec 28 Naval Live Oaks hike 8.30 a.m. Naval Live Oaks 1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway, Gulf Breeze, FL Meet in front of the Visitor's Center on the south side of Hwy 98 We will walk through the Naval Live Oaks section and continue on the fishing trail towards Gulf Breeze. Contact Christine Hale, 850-723-5112.

New Orleans Holiday

With more than 100 holiday events during the celebration, December is an exciting time to visit New Orleans.

Christmas New Orleans Style includes concerts at the St. Louis Cathedral and caroling in Jackson Square to the magnificent lighting display at City Park's Celebration in the Oaks, there is wide array of holiday events for everyone. Here are some of the most popular:

Reveillon Dinners

Reveillon, an adaptation of a traditional Creole holiday dining custom, is celebrated nightly during the Christmas season in over 30 restaurants throughout the city. Menus combine ageless Creole cuisine with more contemporary New Orleans dishes, and the spirit of the past remains. In fact, three of the reveillon restaurants – Antoine's, Galatoire's, and Tujague's – are more than 100 years old! Reveillon menus are offered only once a year, during December, and guests can enjoy this authentic taste of New Orleans during Christmas New Orleans Style.

Cathedral Concerts

Throughout the month of December, jazz musicians, gospel choirs, classical ensembles and other New Orleans musical groups herald in the season with concerts in one of the country's most historic churches, St. Louis Cathedral. The cathedral sits on Jackson Square in the heart of the French Quarter and it is one of the oldest cathedrals in the United States.

Papa Noël Rates

Christmas New Orleans Style offers visitors (and locals too) an exciting and memorable holiday encounter at over 50 of the city's finest hotels with "Papa Noel discount rates" that start as low as \$69 per night.



Cooking Demonstrations

Christmas New Orleans Style also offers up a series of free cooking demonstrations by some of the finest chefs from New Orleans' most beloved restaurants. A chance to learn more about traditional Reveillon dinners, the chefs demonstrate how to cook many of the French creole dishes. The demonstrations take place at the French Market during the week in the early afternoon.

Celebration in the Oaks

For more than 20 years, City Park has turned into a winter holiday wonderland with the annual Celebration in the Oaks. Visitors can find majestic century-old oak trees draped in hundreds of thousands of lights and take a walking tour through the Botanical Gardens. There's a Christmas village along with weekly performances, a living Nativity and great local cuisine.



Christmas New Orleans Style is produced by French Quarter Festivals, Inc. in collaboration with New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation. French Quarter Festivals, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization which also produces the French Quarter Festival (April) and the Satchmo SummerFest (August). The organization promotes the city through

high quality special events and activities that showcase the culture and heritage of New Orleans and contribute to the economic well being of the community.

For a complete list of all other Christmas New Orleans Style events or to request the official Christmas New Orleans Style guidebook, call 504-522-5730 or learn more online at www.neworleansonline.com/christmas or www.fqfi.org.

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Lung Health Screenings

You may have started smoking when in the armed services or as teenager or young adult. Back in the day, smoking was glamorized in movies and heavily promoted on television. By the time the warning labels were mandated and tobacco commercials were banned on television and elsewhere, millions were hooked.

In the interim years there has been a heavy emphasis on helping people quit smoking but by the time many actually quit 30 or more years go by.

And, they often wonder – what kind of damage have I done?

Private insurers will be required in January, 2015 to cover lung cancer screenings for people who have a history of smoking for 30-pack years, still smoke or who quit within the last 15 years but it appears that Medicare will soon do the same according to news from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Pack years are determined by multiplying the number of packs smoked daily by the number of years a person smoked.

Advocacy groups said the screenings will help save tens of thousands of lives. A federally funded clinical trial, the National Lung Screening Trial, concluded four years ago that annual CT scans could reduce lung cancer deaths by 20 percent in older, long-time smokers. The results were based on the screening of more than 53,000 current or former heavy smokers aged 55 to 74.

Medicare will require people to undergo smoking cessation counseling or counseling on the importance of staying smoke-free prior to receiving the annual scan.

Look for more details in the coming months.

One simple exam that could save your life.

At Gulf Coast Dermatology, we know that when skin cancer is detected early, it's one of the easiest cancers to cure. We also know the risk of developing skin cancer increases as we get older, often revealing signs that may be more than just aging. Moles that change shape, color, or size, irritated areas that bleed or won't seem to heal, and other warning signs of skin cancer need to be examined by a board-certified dermatologist.

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12/31: Celebrate New Year's Eve Gulf Coast Style

Village of Baytowne Wharf
Sandestin Resort, 9300 Emerald Coast Parkway, West Miramar Beach, Fla. You don't have to be staying at the sprawling 2400-acre Sandestin Resort complex east of Destin to enjoy the many amenities. "The Village" has an array of activities each including dancing to live entertainment and spectacular fireworks to keep the family entertained. Details: 850-267-8000 or www.baytownnewwharf.com.

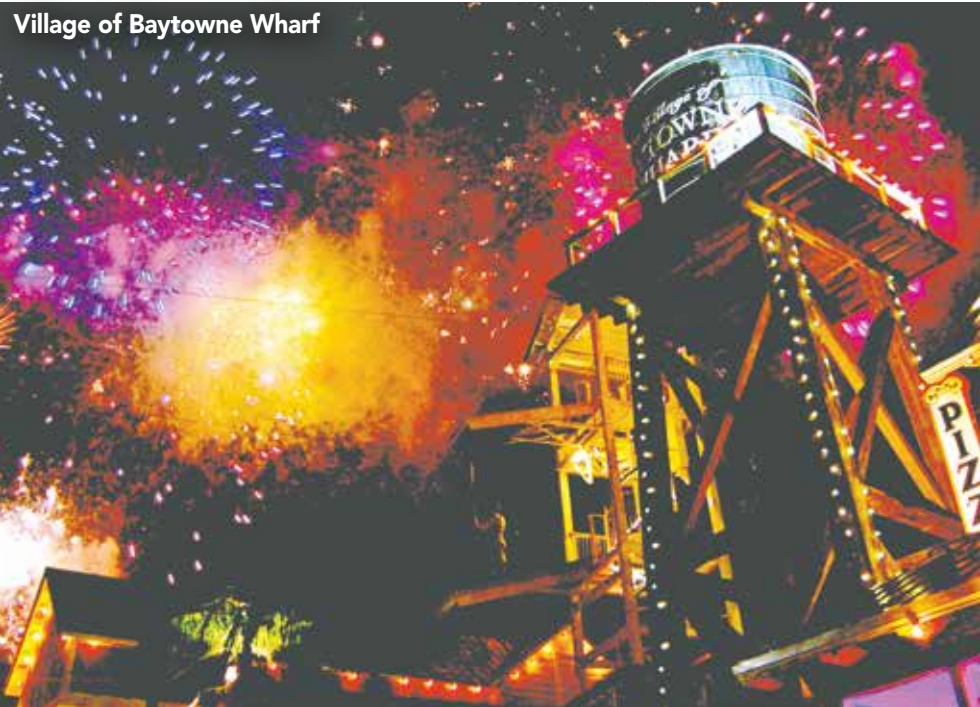
Pensacola Beach, Fla., enjoy two New Year's Eve Fireworks displays including one for early birds and young children at 8 p.m. on the Soundside and midnight from the end of the Gulf Pier.

Pensacola Pelican Drop, Downtown Pensacola, Fla. Festivities kick off at 5 p.m. on New Year's Eve and continue until 12:30 a.m. Throughout the evening the giant Pelican (14 feet tall, with a 20-foot wingspan) is perched above the celebration on a 100-foot platform at the intersection of Palafox and Government Streets. Live performances on three outdoor stages provide ongoing entertainment throughout the evening. The popular kids' area will be expanded this year and will feature the special

kids' countdown at 8 p.m. with confetti and the "bubble stomp." At the stroke of midnight, the whole city celebrates as the Pelican descends amidst fireworks and more confetti. Details: www.pensacolapelicanandrop.com

HarborWalk Village, 66 Harbor Blvd, Destin, Fla. Dine, drink and dance into the New Year. Enjoy live music in the restaurants as well as the HarborWalk Village Main Stage. Two fireworks and the 5th Annual Ball Drop descending over the Harbor.

New Year's Eve Beach Ball Drop
Pier Park 600 Pier Park Drive Panama City Beach, Fla. The New Year's Eve festivities will kick-off at 5:30 p.m. with a free family celebration along the Boardwalk on Pier Park Drive. Families will enjoy interactive activities like face painting, costumed characters and exclusive giveaways, as well as live entertainment. At 8 p.m., local dignitaries will release 10,000 inflated beach balls along Pier Park's beachfront boardwalk followed by a dazzling fireworks display. At 8:30 p.m., the official Countdown Celebration will begin with live musical performances and just before midnight, attendees will countdown to 2015 as



an 800 pound LED lighted beach ball descends nearly 100 feet followed by a stunning, second fireworks display.

Reeling in the New Year's, The Wharf
Orange Beach, Ala. 4830 Main Street, Orange Beach, Ala. 5 p.m. – Midnight. Activities include live music, beer garden, mechanical bull, kids area, main street party capped by spectacular fireworks. Details: alwharf.com.

Celebrate Twice
Port St. Joe, FL 32456. Tired of waiting another 12 months to ring in the New Year? Head to Gulf County and celebrate twice! Start in the Eastern Time Zone in Port St. Joe and St. Joe Beach, then travel west just five minutes to Mexico Beach and celebrate all over again an hour later in the Central Time Zone. Free shuttle buses run continuously from Port St. Joe to Mexico Beach and everywhere in between. Two firework shows as well, one in each time zone! (850) 229-7800

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A Conversation with Conductor Demetrius Fuller, Sinfonia Gulf Coast

Tell us about your background

I grew up in Fort Walton Beach, Florida and attended the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music for both my undergraduate and graduate degrees in music. I was fortunate to live in Europe off and on during the beginning of my career as well as guest conduct in some amazing locales like Estonia, Brazil and Iraq. It is always a treat to have the opportunity to experience different countries and cultures.

At what point in your life did music and conducting become your passion?

I started with music at an early age and it developed into a significant part of my young academic life. I always knew that it could be a lifelong career if I focused and worked diligently to persevere. I knew by high school that conducting would be my career. It was a completely inherent and organic notion that music would guide my path. There is something to be said for working in a career that you love and respect. It doesn't ever feel like work and you can bring joy and entertainment to the community.

Why did you choose Destin/Sinfonia?

Prior to founding Sinfonia, I was Music Director of the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, based at

what is now Northwest Florida State College. The group experienced remarkable growth and expansion in to the community during the four year that I was Music Director, including huge support across the bridge in Destin. When it became apparent that the college administration (no longer with the college) would not support this growth, I knew that it was time to expand separately and form what is now Sinfonia, so that our community could have a truly stand-alone professional symphony orchestra. Since 2006, we have been fortunate for incredible community support, the ability to present amazing concerts and events with incredible artists including Bernadette Peters, Patti LuPone, Pink Martini, Mary Wilson of the Supremes, to name but a few.

Our area is remarkable in the sense that our patrons appreciate what Sinfonia offers and really values the quality of entertainment and also educational initiatives that we provide to the community. Since inception, Sinfonia has reached more than 47,000 students in Okaloosa and Walton counties and has provided complimentary tickets to more than 850 families.

When you aren't working what are your favorite things to do?

I love to travel and explore new places. Wine is also a passion of mine and I am on the board of the Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation locally, but haven't been a stranger

Upcoming Performances

Dec. 12 - Orchestral Holiday with The von Trapps

The great-grandchildren of Captain and Maria von Trapp take up the family tradition. Enjoy festive holiday favorites plus more in this popular annual family concert featuring the orchestra and The von Trapps. Destiny Worship Center. 122 Poinciana Blvd. Miramar Beach, Fla.

Jan. 23 – Seeing is Believing Featuring Tracy Silverman and Sinfonia. World-renowned electric violinist Tracy Silverman and Sinfonia perform the world premiere of the full orchestra version of American composer Nico Muhly's "Seeing is Believing." Destiny Worship Center. 122 Poinciana Blvd. Miramar Beach, Fla.

March 6 – Chamber Music @ Rosemary Beach Town Hall Featuring METALES M5. Rosemary Town Hall.

April 11 – Pixar in Concert. Emerald Coast Conference Center on Okaloosa Island.

to wine-based festivities in Napa, California. I love to write about all of the above and when I find the time, I plan on studying for the level one wine sommelier course.

If there was anyone in the world you could meet who would it be and why?

I never really think about this. I have been fortunate to have met some monumental figures throughout my career and am of the notion that things happen for a reason with experiencing people from all walks of life. There are definitely people important to me that are no longer with us on this Earth that I would love more time with, but I don't really have any particular person that I am dying to meet.

Sinfonia Gulf Coast is entering its ninth season of innovative musical programming, designed to entertain, educate and inspire the community. Notable guest artists have included Broadway legends Bernadette Peters and Patti LuPone, R&B icon Roberta Flack, Mary Wilson of the Supremes, Grammy-Award winners John Pizzarelli, Howard Levy, the Parker Quartet, New York Voices and iconic big band Pink Martini. Since its founding, Sinfonia Gulf Coast has presented more than 400 concerts and events and has reached more than 47,000 children through its Sinfonia Guest Artists in the Schools program, Link Up partnership with Carnegie Hall, and free concerts for students.

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For Snowbirds who prefer watching hockey from their home base, they can view some solid minor-league

hockey in Pensacola. The Pensacola Ice Flyers are a member of the Southern Professional Hockey League.

In fact, they are the best of the SPHL, having won the league title for the last two years. With affordable ticket prices and family fun, the Ice Flyers showcase young players fresh out of college who are working on their dream to make the National Hockey League.

The Ice Flyers are off to another strong start, leading the league with a perfect 6-0 record through Nov. 15.

Check out www.pensacolaiceflyers.com for their schedule and more information.

November home dates: 21, 22, 26

December home dates: 6, 7, 11, 19, 20, 23

SNOWBALL DERBY

Stock-car racing isn't associated with winter, but the 47th annual Snowball Derby race for Super Late Model cars is the final race before the off-season rolls in.

The race at Five Flags Speedway in Pensacola attracts more than 60 drivers from across the country and Canada, vying for the coveted title.

Among the drivers expected to contend are two-time champion Erik Jones and Casey Elliott, a former winner and son of legend Bill Elliott. Casey is coming off just winning the NASCAR Nationwide Series championship.

Numerous local drivers also will compete in other divisions. Track action starts with practice and races on Thursday, Dec. 4 and follows each day until the famed Snowball Derby starts at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7.

Ticket information is available at www.fiveflagsspeedway.com

COLLEGE HOOPS

Another sport, college basketball, offers plenty of choices along Northwest Florida. In Pensacola, men and women are in action for the University of West Florida, and Pensacola State College.

In Niceville, Northwest Florida State College offers talented basketball games, as well as Chipola State College in Graceville and Gulf Coast State College in Panama City.

Snow Bird Beach Bash
on Pensacola Beach

Meet and mingle with fellow travelers also spending the winter season on Pensacola Beach!

January 29, 2015 | 9:00 - 10:30 am
Pensacola Beach Community Church
920 Panferio Drive

- Enjoy coffee and a light breakfast
- Shop local beach businesses
- Explore Pensacola Beach via trolleys beginning at 10:45 am

For more information call 850.932.1500 or 850.932.2257

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996 Airport Road · Destin
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9 Florida Institute of Neuroscience

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10 Seawind Medical Clinic

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11 Seawind Medical Clinic

16181 Panama City Beach Parkway, Panama City Beach
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(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

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(850) 784-1856 · Pediatric and General Surgery



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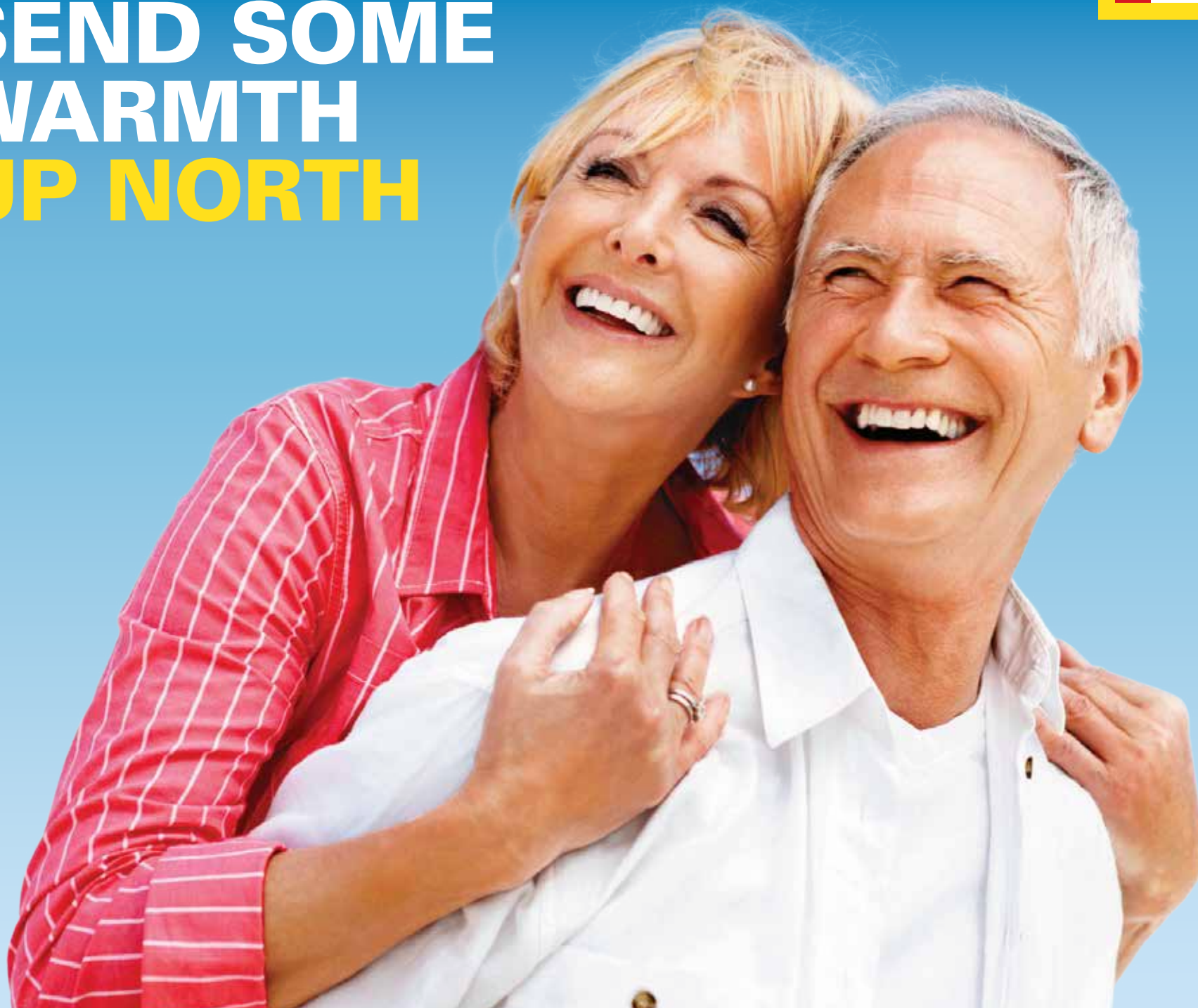
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